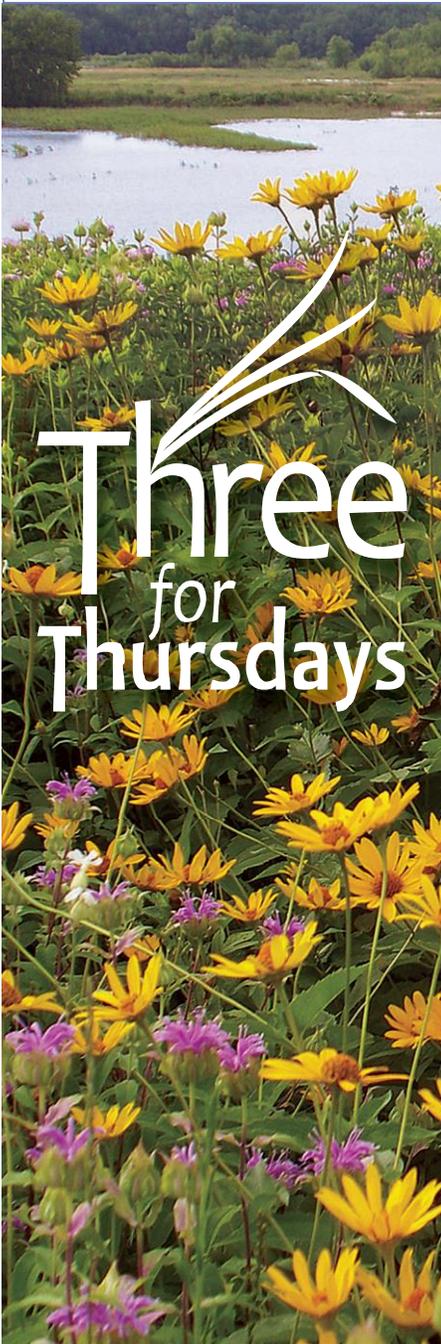


NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land
in Northern Illinois



Three
for
Thursdays

More on Connections & Collaborations...

Higher Ground: Where Land Trusts & Religious Groups Meet

The Land Trust Alliance magazine 'Saving Land' has an article on faith based groups facing declining congregations and fiscal challenges. Many of these groups are landowners who may have land available for protection, and who have an ecological ethic. Expanding our service opportunities to specifically engage a diversity of faith based organizations has always been an interest of mine. Caring for the land promotes the sense of interconnectedness as well as implementing a vision of caring for God's creation. NLI began the conversation last year with the *Greater Rockford Clergy Assoc.* and our challenge is to identify how we can be a resource for people of different cultural backgrounds and faiths to engage with our mission and vision. We are ready to explore with others how we can integrate what we know to be the healing power of nature.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about/saving-land/spring-2015/higher-ground>

Pro-Environmental Behaviors

Well, I think we intuitively and experientially know that both birders and hunters are protectors of the natural environment, one use is 'non-consumptive' and one is 'consumptive'... *and* that they both fund land and habitat protection, albeit in different ways. This link, and the one embedded within it linking you to the *Journal of Wildlife Management* may be a resource you might like to explore. I'd like to initiate a conversation at some point about a deeper connection between the two, creating more birdwatching hunters and what that might look like, and what it could mean for the future of maintaining quality habitat in our region. Let's talk!

<http://conservationmagazine.org/2015/03/birders-and-hunters-could-be-partners-in-conservation/>

Landowner Collaborations.

The boom/bust cycle of farming has in the past opened up opportunities for land conservation. Farming may be about to go through another cycle... what are some of the conservation opportunities? A recent innovation in conservation is a focus on the benefits of leveraging efforts of groups of landowners in critical landscapes. Such efforts are often labeled as "conservancies," "land trusts," or "watershed projects". Current CRP scoring systems provide additional points for applicants with lands in priority watersheds (usually with water or soil quality issues). A possibility for the future would be to give landowners additional points if they work with conservation planners to develop a conservation plan for their watershed & who apply as coordinated groups. Here is the full article:

<http://www.iswconline.org/content/70/2/39A.full.pdf+html>

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