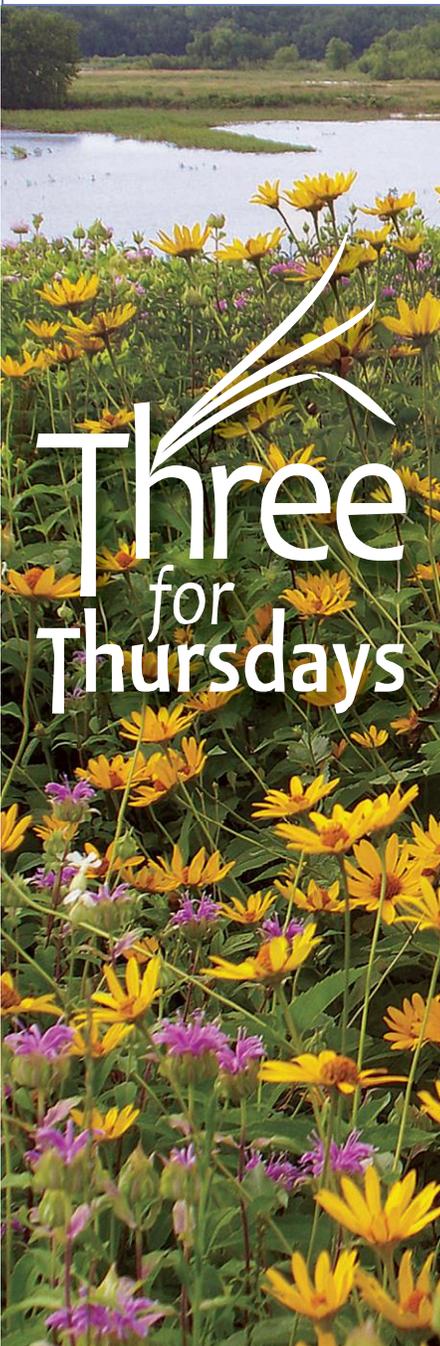


# NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land  
in Northern Illinois



Three  
for  
Thursdays



## [May is Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month](#)

Below is a link to an interesting blog on the recent history of bringing the effects of invasive species into our awareness across the state. The goal of Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) is to provide resources and opportunities to help stop the spread of invasive species in Illinois.

<http://illinoisiam.blogspot.com/2015/05/isam-history-by-numbers.html>

You can sign up for the free webcast of the 2015 Invasive Species Symposium on May 28<sup>th</sup>. NLI does so much work restoring biological diversity to our preserves that you may find this of interest.

<http://www.invasive.org/illinois/2015InvasiveSpeciesSymposium.html>

## [Dandelions...Friend or Foe?](#)

According to this author, "Dandelions are quite possibly the most successful plants that exist, and are masters of survival worldwide. Nowadays, they're also the most unpopular plant in the neighborhood – but it wasn't always that way. Only in the twentieth century did humans decide that the dandelion was a weed. Before the invention of lawns, the golden blossoms and lion-toothed leaves were more likely to be praised as a bounty of food, medicine and magic. Gardeners used to weed out the grass to make room for the dandelions." Hmmmm.....Find out more here...

<http://www.mofga.org/Publications/MaineOrganicFarmerGardener/Summer2007/Dandelions/tabid/756/Default.aspx>

## [Introduced Predator Populations that 'Naturalize' can act as Genetic Arks](#)

I think they are mixing up 'alien' or non-native species with *invasive* species in this article, but that's not the point. Using an introduced, alien, non-invasive species to control an invasive species with its natural enemy, called a *biological control* (such as the introduced beetle to control purple loosestrife in our wetlands) has long been a technique used, although if not carefully researched, it can have disastrous results. The concept, however, of these introduced and subsequently naturalized predator populations acting as genetic arcs to the original or source populations is an interesting twist.

<http://conservationmagazine.org/2015/05/invasive-species-might-not-be-entirely-awful-after-all/>

Enjoy! Kerry

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