

20  
23

# GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS



# GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS



- **FOR**ty years and counting
- **FOR** nature and people
- **FOR** the future
- **FOR**ever



**GRAND  
PRAIRIE  
FRIENDS**



**WITH  
YOU!**

# LET'S PARTY!

Join your fellow Grand Prairie Friends to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



**When:** Thursday evening, Oct 3, 2024

**Where:** Carmon's Event Center, Champaign, IL



GPF members voted last year on our Anniversary Brew, the Invasive Sugar Maple Lager, developed by Triptych Brewing!

# WE ARE GOING FOR ACCREDITATION!

Grand Prairie Friends is a longtime member of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a nationwide organization that provides many resources to land trusts, including an accreditation process.

## Timeline:

- Application Deadline: Spring 2024
- Feedback: Summer–Fall 2024
- Decision: Summer 2025
- September 2025: Accreditations presented during LTA conference







## Sarah Livesay, Executive Director

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday GPF! What began as an all-volunteer land trust has bloomed into a staff of four full time and three seasonal positions. The original purchase, six-acre Shortline Prairie, has evolved into over 1,200 acres across six counties, congratulations! These efforts were made possible by the brave leadership of our board members and YOU! GPF grantors, members and donors have supported this mission to preserve, protect and promote east-central Illinois' nature spaces through your donation of time, talent and treasure.

Stewardship of both the land - and your financial gifts - is the highest priority at Grand Prairie Friends. We understand that a diversity of revenue sources and investments are essential to ensure longevity in this work (perpetuity is a long time away). Throughout the two-year span of 2022 and 2023, GPF applied for and received more than 23 acquisition and stewardship grants to ensure that your personal investment stretches further.

While restricted grant funding helps us meet our mission to restore specific lands, unrestricted revenue allows the actual operation and staffing of this organization to thrive. Since launching in 2019, GPF's Blazing Star Society has provided more than \$400,000 of these essential funds. Truly Amazing! If able, I urge you to consider joining this inspiring group of people today.

Let's Party! Please join me, and your fellow Grand Prairie Friends on Thursday evening, October 3, 2024, in Champaign to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Details to follow, see you there!



## Jeff Peyton, Natural Areas Manager

As we reflect on another year of conservation efforts, I am honored to convey our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support in safeguarding Illinois' natural landscapes. We could not do any of it without our valuable volunteers.

Your continued generosity and support empower us to enact meaningful change and make lasting impacts. Together, we are the guardians of these precious lands, ensuring their vitality for generations to come.



## Alissa Bell, Natural Areas & Operations Technician

My first year as Natural Areas and Operations Technician has been full of new experiences! Although I've been involved since 2020, this opportunity took my relationship with Grand Prairie Friends to a different level. It's an awesome feeling to help manage the land I fell in love with years ago. I'm looking forward to many more years spent!



## Sarah Zoppa, Community Engagement Coordinator

It has been such a joy for me becoming a part of GPF! As I meet volunteers, supporters, and friends, I continue to be amazed at the generosity and enthusiasm you all have for this organization and for land conservation. This was evident from my first day at Fall Fete, when you seamlessly welcomed me into the fold.

In the next year, I look forward to getting to know you better, experiencing the magic of this team, and sharing our mission and passion together with the community.





## Dave Easter, Board President

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you as we collaborate to steward our wonderfully diverse properties. We continue to strengthen and grow with new skills, staff, equipment, and processes. We've been selected to undergo accreditation to ensure we are working most efficiently and to best practices. We look forward to continue working with you as we move the organization ahead in the coming years.

## Thank you Dave for 4 great years as President!

Dave started in January 2020, and was soon navigating a global pandemic while continuing the good work of the Board. He also served as a board member for the Prairie State Conservation Coalition during this time.



## Welcome President Pam!

Pam Leiter is stepping into the President role in January 2024. She has been on the board 11 years, and is excited to serve in this new capacity.

Pam currently works at UIUC in the Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences Department. Previously she worked at the Champaign County Forest Preserves for 17+ years.

## 2024 Board Members

Pam Leiter (President)  
 Craig Milling (Vice President)  
 Ed Wilhite (Treasurer)  
 Valerie Sivicek (Secretary)  
 Collin Carlier  
 Fred Delcomyn  
 Dave Easter  
 North Joffe-Nelson  
 Mark Shelden  
 Tom White



## Thank you Diane Wilhite

Grand Prairie Friends would like to thank Diane Wilhite for her many years as volunteer coordinator! Diane has graciously given her time, enthusiasm, and gift for organizing to our organization for 13 years. She has sent thousands of emails, driven hundreds of miles, and shared her passion for nature with countless members and friends. We are so excited for her move into a librarian role for Grand Prairie Friends, where she will continue managing our photographs and documents.

## From Our Past GPF Interns

"Interning at GPF gave me an opportunity to learn more about conservation, which may assist me with a career in the future. I enjoyed seeing wildlife every day and had amazing interactions with the staff and volunteers who work so hard to make GPF what it is."

~ Colin Houser, GPF Intern, EIU Student in Geology



"I'm back on campus at EIU working on finishing my degree, looking forward to seeing how my experience with GPF can equip me for any future opportunities. This winter I am definitely looking back fondly on my summer with GPF, spending all my time outdoors working with some truly great people. I'm itching to get back out there for the next Stewardship Saturday!"

~ Caleb Lane, GPF Intern, EIU Student in Engineering Technology



# Blazing Star Society

Carol & Topper Steinman: Your Blazing Star Ambassadors

Together, we will continue to protect the land we treasure today and FOREVER. Blazing Stars help to ensure that the conservation work important to us all will continue.

Blazing Star Society members donate unrestricted, annual gifts at \$1,000 and above. As a Blazing Star, you are invited to participate in special members-only outings and gatherings throughout the year.

***Join others that share your passion to ensure that the beauty of the Grand Prairie region persists!***

Donate online or via check. For more information, contact Sarah Livesay, or talk to any Board member.



**BLAZING STAR SOCIETY**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS**

Since its launch in 2019,  
GPF's Blazing Star Society  
has provided more than

**\$400,000**

in essential  
unrestricted funds!

## 2023 Members:

- Anonymous (1)
- Dave & Karen Andsager
- Amber Barnhart & Stuart Frank
- Alice Berkson & Alex Scheeline
- Betty Brennan
- Clark & Irene Bullard
- Mike & Jane Cain
- Beth Chato
- Steve Childers
- Janice Coons
- Nancy Coutant
- Susan Davey & Jeff Bruninga
- Fred & Nancy Delcomyn
- Dave & Dianda Easter
- Thomas Fehrmann
- Robert Fiedler
- Sandy & Joe Finnerty
- Karen & Michael Folk
- Beverly Foote
- Eric & Jane Freyfogle
- Janet & Hugh Gallivan
- Wendy Garrison & Richard Raspet
- Michele Gurgas
- Ryan & Renee Guynn
- Wanda Haschek-Hock
- Summer & Stephen Hennessy
- Stan Herrin
- Susan & Lew Hopkins
- Phil Hult
- Jenny Hunt & Kristi Mercer
- Shirley Hunt
- Walt Hurley
- Audrey Ishii & Charlie Smyth
- Gary & Dixie Jackson
- Karen & Pat Kane
- Bev & George Kieffer
- Linda Kimmel
- Keith Kohanzo
- Peter & Betsy Kuchinke
- Diane Lathrop
- Pam Leiter
- Marilyn Lindholm
- Sarah & Jeff Livesay
- Ben & Chiara Lumpkin
- Kenton & Dorothy Macy
- David & Chris Main
- John & Diane Marlin
- Sally McConkey
- Shirley Meece
- Don Meier
- Craig Milling & Carla Cáceres
- Marian Milling
- Dirk Mol & Jerry Wray
- Sharon Monday & Jack Paxton
- Paul Nance & Glenna Spitze
- Deb & Ty Newell
- Wenche Nonaas & Bruce Karmazin
- Elizabeth & Milton Otto
- Susan Post & Michael Jeffords
- Thomas & Beverly Rauchfuss
- Jessie, Jarrod, Cadence, & Gavin Scheunemann - the ChickenLions
- Alexis Schollmeyer & Daniel Votava
- Richard Schicht
- Mark Shelden
- Trent Shepard
- Mary Kay Solecki & John Taft
- Valerie Sivicek
- Carol & Topper Steinman
- Cynthia Swanson
- Ruthann Swickard
- Judith & Dick Turner
- Gloria Valenti
- Carolyn VanBergen
- Michael Walker & Kristina Gunsalus
- William Weber
- James Webster
- Tom White
- Ed & Diane Wilhite
- Bonnie Woodyard

**79 Households!**  
**Will YOU join us?**



# 2023 Blazing Star Events

Behind the Scenes: Exploring a Potential New Prairie Site



Touring Home Native Plant Gardens



Touring a Local Prairie Restoration



Enjoying “Breakfast on the Bluff”



## Member Benefits:

- Annual Garden Party
- Members-only outings
- Native Plant Sale Pre-sale Pass
- Early notice of exciting developments
- Behind the scenes tours
- Great food & friends
- Support the work you love

## 2024 Events Sneak Peak:

- Blazing Star Social Events
- Poetry Walk with Marjorie Hanft
- Blazing Star Stargazing

## PLUS:

- Early access to the native plant sale!
- VIP perks at 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala!



**BLAZING STAR SOCIETY**  
GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

**We hope you join us!**



# Volunteers: Forever Grateful



## 2023 Volunteer Hours

1,775: Hours directly supporting our lands!  
209: Hours of communications and outreach  
499: Hours for the Plant Sale  
534: Hours for the Rattlesnake Master Run

300  
Volunteers!

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**3,352: Total Hours You Gave!**



## Habitat Maintenance & Land Stewardship

SITE STEWARDS  
WARBLER RIDGE CHAMPIONS  
INVASIVE STRIKE TEAM  
RIDGE ROVERS  
BURN CREW  
STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS  
PRAIRIE WORKDAYS  
BAT MONITORS

## Events

NATIVE PLANT SALE  
RATTLESNAKE MASTER RACE  
EVENTS COMMITTEE

## Administration

MAILINGS  
VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE





# Invasive Strike Team

Wilson Montgomery, a dedicated Grand Prairie Friends volunteer and Warbler Ridge Champion, saw the need for additional time targeted at removing woody invasive plants at Warbler Ridge. Invasive species such as bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose can outcompete desirable native species, which is counteractive to our restoration goals.

To address this need, Wilson worked with us to form the Invasive Strike Team. The first workday was July 16, 2022. Since then, Wilson has led a group of volunteers to combat invasive species on the third Saturday of each month. All are welcome to come join him!



# Bat Monitoring Updates

Efforts to protect and expand endangered bat populations on our properties is entering its fifth year with strong, measurable success. At the Warbler Ridge Conservation Area, data captured by volunteer citizen scientists showed continued high usage of the artificial bat habitat by the federally endangered Indiana Bat. Analysis by University of Illinois bat researchers has confirmed there is at least one maternity colony in the South Pod. Over 700 bats were counted exiting the pods on one evening in July!

In 2023, artificial habitat was also installed at the Burnett Land and Water Reserve.

Many thanks to the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois Bat Conservation Program, who conducted the original bat survey and continue to help us with our ongoing conservation efforts.



# Restoring the Historic Embarras River's Wooded Corridor

With help from our dedicated volunteers, we continue to help restore the vital woodland corridor that once lined the Embarras River. This important north-south wildlife 'highway' will become even more vital as the climate changes and species small and large must find pathways northward.

- Warbler Ridge floodplain restoration; 3,150 trees planted in 2023! Adding to the thousands that have already been planted over the last several years.
- Burnett Land & Water Reserve: 27,000 trees planted!

Species included: Black Walnut, Shellbark Hickory, Bur Oak, Hardy Pecan, Shumard Oak, White Oak, and others.



# The Ellen Baranowski Forever Fund

Ellen Baranowski had always been drawn to nature and this was evident in the way she lived. She spent time kayaking, creating art inspired by nature, and showcasing the joy of the natural world with others. As a teacher, she strove to instill that love of nature in her students through her curriculum.

Beyond experiencing the richness and wonder of the world for herself, Ellen sought to preserve the beauty of the environment through her service as a volunteer at many central IL natural areas.

This heart of stewardship was reflected in a generous gift given to Grand Prairie Friends in her honor. With this kind gift, The Ellen Baranowski Forever Fund was established. This fund is a donor-restricted long-term investment account designed to ensure perpetual stewardship of Grand Prairie Friends lands.

This Ellen Baranowski Forever Fund was officially announced in February 2023 at the showing of *The Magic Stump* documentary. As the movie highlights the history and importance of Illinois' Grand Prairie region, this viewing was the perfect opportunity to unveil a fund dedicated to preserving this unique landscape and its unique blend of plants and animals.

Through the support and generosity of those who share Ellen's passion for nature, the Forever Fund will continue to ensure the protection of this special land for years to come.

**Creative ways to donate to the Forever Fund include designating your annual IRA required minimum distribution. *Consider your Forever gift today!***



## The Magic Stump

The Magic Stump is a birding documentary that showcases the story of a special tree stump in Coles County, IL that draws overwintering raptor species, including two prairie falcons.

Grand Prairie Friends had the honor of supporting the making of this film and hosting a special viewing at the Virginia Theater that included a Q&A with the filmmaker, Bob Dolgan, and other key people featured in the documentary.

This event drew a remarkable crowd of over 500 people, all gathered to share in learning and celebrating Illinois land conservation.





# Forever Remembered at Mark's Point

Stan Herrin and Mark Bokenkamp shared a true and enduring friendship, forged through time spent enjoying the natural world along the Embarras River.

Stan and Mark grew up together in Champaign, IL and bonded over their shared passions for nature and scouting. When the pair attended Eastern Illinois University for college, they continued their explorations together along the Embarras River. After college, they returned to the land periodically and continued their adventures as their friendship grew.

**"A friend may  
be nature's most  
magnificent  
creation."**

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

After Mark passed in 2016, Stan discovered that Grand Prairie Friends now stewards the land that he and his friend used to explore. He was moved to donate generously to Grand Prairie Friends to support the work on this land. His gift established the Herrin Endowment—a fund devoted to supporting GPF's repair and maintenance needs.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Grand Prairie Friends dedicated an area where Stan and Mark had camped by the river as "Mark's Point" at Warbler Ridge Conservation Area. It celebrates the connection these dear friends had with this land and the generous donation Herrin gave.

The dedication ceremony was a celebration of life and memories shared by Mark's wife, Janet Marsano, Stan Herrin, and his wife Elizabeth Small as they shared with guests who came from across the U.S. Led by Stan Herrin's welcome, they shared memories and were treated to tours of the Mark's Point area, which now stands as a testament to both nature and friendship.



Mark Bokenkamp



Stan & Mark in 1992



Dedication Ceremony for Mark's Point at Warbler Ridge Conservation Area, April 2023

# Stewarding Forever

## 2023 Highlights

Together we're enhancing the health and resilience of prairie and woodland ecosystems, ensuring a thriving habitat for diverse flora and fauna that define the Grand Prairie region.

The Grand Prairie region is a unique natural ecosystem in Illinois that once consisted of thousands of square miles of tallgrass prairie and extensive wetlands, interspersed with forested river corridors and oak-hickory savannas.

### 34 Species

Hill prairie seeding project at Warbler Bluff



### 2,205 Plants

Planted in the hill prairie seep restoration; 27 species specific to seep ecosystems!



### 3,500 Trees Planted

Tree plantings to reforest 15 acres of old field



### 500 Acres

Expanded prescribed fire for our prairies & woodlands



### 2<sup>ND</sup> Staff

Second staff member received Illinois prescribed burn manager certification



### 40 Acres

Invasive brush removal



### 500+ Acres

Swept by volunteers for garlic mustard removal



### 1 New Staff Position

Sarah Zoppa, our new Community Engagement Coordinator



### 1 Prairie Added

After stewarding the site for many years, Grand Prairie Friends now owns Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve!



### 27,000 + 60 Trees Planted + Pollinator Acres

Along the Embarras River at Edna Burnett Land & Water Reserve



### BIG Goal!

By 2025 GPF hopes to achieve accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance





# Forever Ours: Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve

After many years of faithfully stewarding this historic tallgrass prairie remnant gem, GPF now officially owns Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve in Paxton!

At the fall 2022 membership meeting, many of you joined us as we held a ribbon cutting onsite to celebrate this momentous achievement.

"To passersby, it was a collection of curious weeds, but it was amazing to Prairie Enthusiasts."

Bob Reber speaks passionately about Prospect Prairie. As a child, he and his father would explore the grounds, his father sharing the names of all the plants. Now, he has the opportunity to share the wonder of Prospect Prairie with his children and grandchildren—an endeavor that he strongly believes in.

**"The prairie is  
our roots - and  
they go deep."**

To Bob, the prairie is also a window to the history and wisdom of the land. He states, "Once you get to appreciate prairies and how they developed, it gives you a sense of who we are, how we got here, and how to plan for the future."



Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve Ribbon Cutting



Bob Reber, Prospect Prairie Steward, and his wife Pam, his "best help in protecting Prospect Prairie." Bob was instrumental in community outreach that led to GPF's purchase of this precious prairie.

## Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve

Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve near Watseka, IL is GPF's northern-most property. It includes the only sand pond and wet sand prairie protected as a nature preserve in east-central Illinois.

In our work to protect this unique ecosystem, we removed brush and weedy trees and planted one acre of specialized sand prairie seed mix. This was done through a specialized grant from One Tree Planted.



A volunteer crew from Caterpillar, Inc helps remove woody invasive plants at Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve.



# Warbler Bluff Hill Prairie & Seep Restoration

Warbler Bluff is a high quality woodland that also includes an open hillside where soil had been scraped many years ago to use as fill in the construction of a bridge over the Embarras River.

The excavation exposed significant areas of groundwater seepage that were incorporated into a planting plan to convert the upper two-thirds of the hillside into a hill prairie and planting the seepage areas with plant species typical of fens. The lower portion of the slope and the flat area at the base were reforested with a variety of native hardwoods and understory species.

Eight species of canopy trees and five species of understory trees were included in the planting. Plugs of fen species such as Riddell's goldenrod, swamp aster, autumn sneezeweed, and tussock sedge were planted. Later, prairie forb species were sown on the dryer well-drained portions of the hillside.

- **Seep Plants:** 2,205 plants (27 species) specific to fen wetlands
- **Hill Prairie Seeding:** 34 species
- **Trees Planted:** 131 trees (13 species)



## What is a Seep?

A seep is a wetland formed where water flows through limestone out onto the earth's surface, resulting in an alkaline pH. A variety of unique plants are adapted to thriving in these conditions.

# The Fallen Outdoors Hunting Program for Wounded Veterans

Navy veteran Ashtin Bader has long enjoyed the skills and quietness involved with archery, an interest that led her to become a bowhunter a few years ago. Now, she is a volunteer with The Fallen Outdoors, which works to help veterans find healing from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, loneliness, and other issues.

Grand Prairie Friends now has a new partnership with The Fallen Outdoors at Warbler Ridge Conservation Area, where nine veterans took part in a 15-day bow hunt in fall 2023.

GPF has opened Warbler Ridge to public-access hunting for four years now through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) for privately-owned land. Welcoming The Fallen Outdoors this year has helped relieve the pressure caused by the large number of deer on the conservation area's plant life.

*(Excerpted from an article by Rob Stroud published in the Journal Gazette & Times Courier, Nov. 13, 2023)*





# Celebrating 25 Years: Rattlesnake Master Run for the Prairie

The inaugural Rattlesnake Master Run for the Prairie was hosted in 1997. This event, aimed at fundraising and increasing awareness of prairie conservation, was founded by Dave Monk. In 2005, as the race changed leadership, Grand Prairie Friends became the beneficiary of this fundraiser.

Since then, the Rattlesnake Master Run and Grand Prairie Friends have become inextricably associated, and the race remains one of our biggest annual fundraisers. In 2012, we saw the biggest year, with more than 300 runners.

Through course changes, hundreds of runners, and countless volunteers, the Rattlesnake Master Run continues to thrive to this day.

In 2023, we celebrated our 25th annual race. Volunteers and runners alike enjoyed the beautiful November morning. We cheered on 257 race participants and welcomed them to the finish line with snacks and the music of John McMahon.

Thank you again to all our wonderful and dedicated volunteers who make this race possible every year, from course-markers to snack distributors!



## EIU Students Take On GPF History Project

As part of their Spring-Fall 2023 syllabus, Eastern Illinois University's Public History students, led by Dr. Camden Burd, focused on exploring the "roots" of Illinois' tallgrass prairie.

Students combined guest speakers, research, interviews, onsite prairie tours and 40 years-worth of archival document review to create exhibits and research essays on GPF's role in Illinois' prairie legacy.

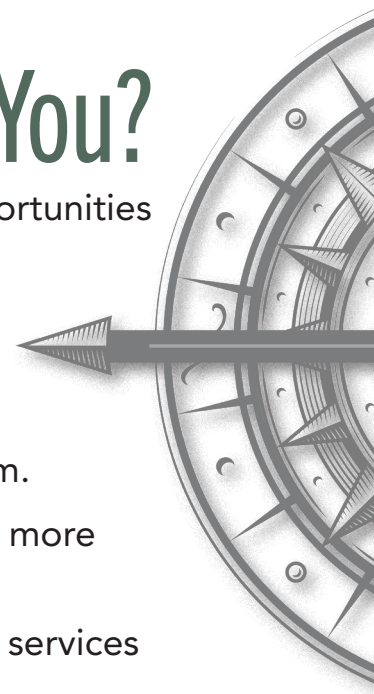
By mid-spring 2024, students will open their prairie research exhibit in EIU Booth Library. Stay tuned for an invitation to view their valuable work.



# Where is Your Compass Leading You?

As we look together at the future of Grand Prairie Friends, many opportunities lie before us.

- **Blazing Star Society members, Donors, and General Members** provide the necessary unrestricted funds needed NOW to help grow our staff team, and keep the organization running and healthy.
- **Forever Fund Donors** provide land stewardship funds in the long-term.
- **\*NEW\* General Fund Endowment Donors** commit to gifts of \$5,000 or more to invest in the long-term general operations of GPF.
- **Sponsors and other Donors** help fill in the 'gaps' to provide essential services to visitors.
- **Volunteers** do essential tasks that help move us forward all while having fun and making friends.



## You Can Help!

**S**hop for GPF! Visit [GrandPrairieFriends.org](https://GrandPrairieFriends.org) and access our *Feather Our Nest* Amazon & Forestry Suppliers Wish Lists—purchase and ship items straight to us.

**U**se our automatic recurring donation option from your bank account and stop worrying! We can set it up for monthly or annual gifts in any amount that you wish.

**P**orta-Potty Sponsorship! Join the list of “When Nature Calls” monthly sponsors for \$100 and your name will be famously recognized on signage!

**P**erpetual Giving—have you left GPF in your estate plans? Please let us know now—this helps us plan and allows us to say Thank YOU!

**O**we You Something? Friends owe you a favor or payback? Have them donate to GPF in your honor instead!

**R**etirement accounts (IRAs) can be set up with GPF as a benefactor for your required minimum distribution or other annually recurring gift! It's an easy way to donate without worry.

**T**ime and Talent! Trail monitoring? Counting bats? Technology, video, construction, real estate or baking? No matter your skill, we have a volunteer job for you!

**YOU CAN**  
help make  
**FOREVER**  
possible!



# Thank You!

## Grants and Sponsors



## Rattlesnake Master Run

- Royse + Brinkmeyer Apartments
- Prospect Bank
- Birkey's Farm Store
- Serra Ventures
- Campus Ink
- Dr. Lindsey Hans
- Illinois Native Plant Society Forest Glen Chapter
- Illinois Portable Toilets
- Iroquois Federal
- Mack's Twin City Recycling
- Meijer
- Minuteman Press
- Costco Wholesale
- Esquire Lounge



## In-Kind Services



Ryan Boske-Cox Designs  
Samantha Osborne Designs  
Quality Electrical Contractors  
Dan Deneen  
Austin Keating



## "When Nature Calls"

### Monthly Porta-Potty Sponsors

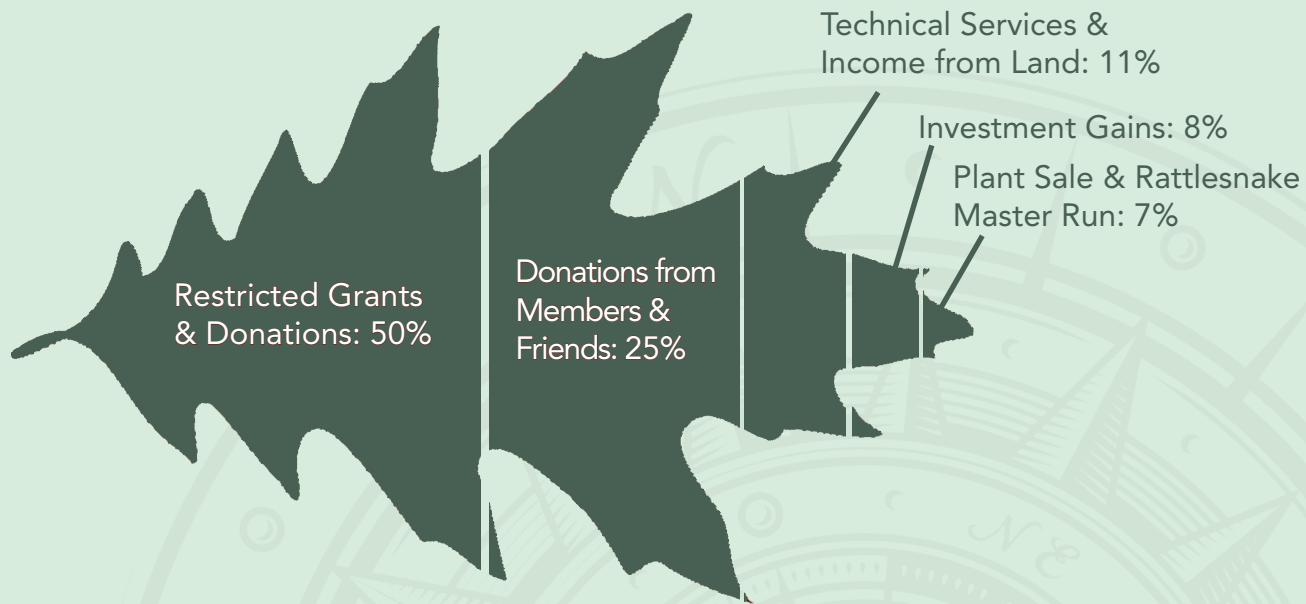
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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Michael & Jane Cain | • Corrie Appraisal  |
| • Lara & Rick Danzl   | • Standerfer        |
| • Pam Gutowski        | Construction        |
| • Don Meier           | • Central IL Hikers |
| • Bike & Hike         | • GPF Blazing       |
| Charleston            | Star Society        |

# 2023 Financial Statement

## Where Our Money Came From

Restricted Grants and Donations	\$ 267,571
Donations from Members & Friends	133,219
Technical Services & Income from Land (e.g. CRP)	60,688
Investment Gains (Losses)	41,901
Plant Sale & Rattlesnake Master Run	36,169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 539,528</b>

\$133,219  
Your  
Generosity!



## How We Spent It

Stewardship, Restoration & Maintenance	\$ 227,388
Administration	165,068
Equipment & Vehicle Purchases	68,423
Fundraising	9,766
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 470,645</b>

\$227,388  
Stewarding  
Land!





# GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

GrandPrairieFriends.org

## MISSION

Preserve and restore natural communities in east-central Illinois and promote an understanding and appreciation of natural resources.

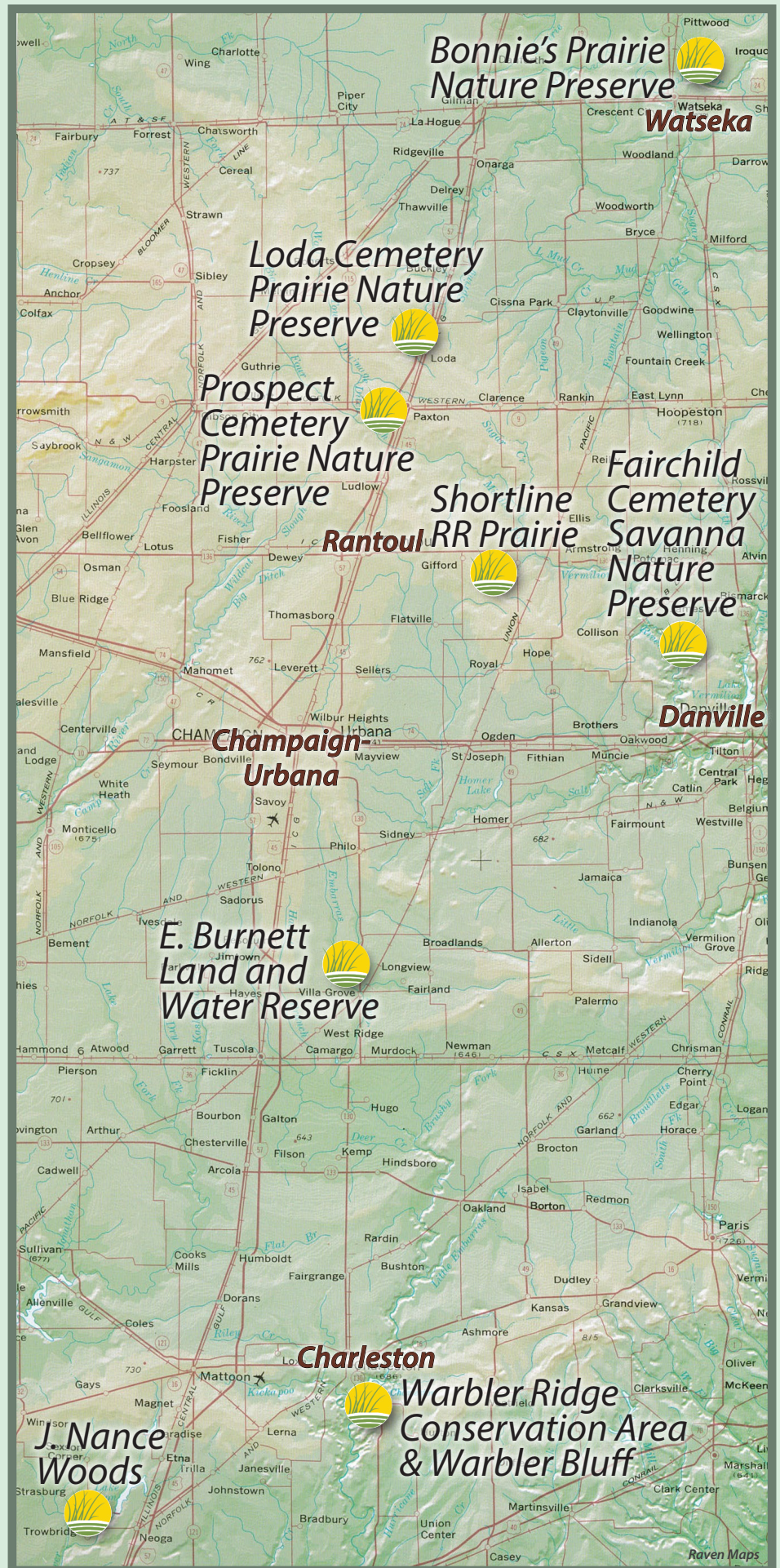
## Serving as a Board Member

GPF Board Members serve three-year terms (up to four successive terms). We invite you to consider serving! Reach out to Pam Leiter or Craig Milling for more information.

## What is the Grand Prairie?

The Grand Prairie was a unique natural ecosystem in east-central Illinois. It consisted of thousands of square miles of tallgrass prairie and extensive marshes, interspersed with forested rivers and oak savannas.

Annual Report designed and edited by: Pam Leiter







**GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS**

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# 20 23 ANNUAL REPORT



**GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS**