



GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to 2024! We are so excited for new projects, new events, and new goals in the coming year, including...



New GPF board president, Pam Leiter!

Stewardship including Prescribed Fire Treatment on 400 acres; Invasive Plant Removal on 600 Acres!

Celebrating GPF's 40 Year Anniversary of



**Great Anniversary of
Protecting Your
Natural Areas**



**and moving toward
Land Trust Alliance Accreditation!**



Over the next two years, GPF will be working with the Land Trust Alliance to achieve national accreditation. Currently, there are only eight accredited land trusts in Illinois. As an accredited land trust, GPF will prove direct alignment with land transactions, operations and stewardship for a high-functioning land trust. We want this for the future of GPF, as well as to add transparency and comfort to you, our members and donors, that deserve assurance that your time and donations are being managed in the highest level of care.



GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**Join us for our Anniversary Gala in Champaign on
October 3rd, 2024!**



**BLAZING STAR SOCIETY
GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS**

Looking for a way to take your support of GPF to the next level in the new year?
Join our Blazing Star Society!

Blazing Star Society members donate unrestricted, annual gifts to Grand Prairie Friends at \$1,000 and above. Members will be recognized at events, in the newsletter, annual report, and more. Additionally, Blazing Star members will be invited to **exclusive members-only gatherings and events** throughout the year!

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Blazing Star Society. Please contact [Sarah Livesay](#), Executive Director, or talk to any Board member, for more information.

BLAZING STAR: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Showcasing our yesterdays and planning for our tomorrows



Mattoon, IL
March 26, 4-6pm

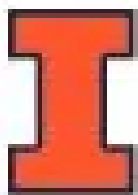


Urbana, IL
March 28, 3-5pm

Two Opportunities to Join Us!

All current and perspective Blazing Star members are welcome- bring a friend!

Upcoming Events



Illinois Extension

Herbicide Applicator Training for Volunteers 2024

Wednesday, February 21st from 4:30pm to 5:30pm

U of I Extension Office Auditorium

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL

Completion of this FREE training will allow volunteers to use herbicides under the supervision of their group leader on public lands. This training will also qualify as continuing education credit for active Master Naturalists. There will be a Zoom-in option for those that cannot attend in person.

[Register Here](#)



A NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Level 1 Training: February 29
Level 2 Training: March 1

If you're interested, please reach out for more information!
volunteer@grandprairiefriends.org

Scrutinizing the Dust Poetry Reading

Poetry inspired by Warbler Ridge and other natural places by local author, Marjorie Hanft

April 13, 3-4:30pm

Warbler Ridge

17161 Daileyville Rd.

Charleston, IL

Scrutinizing the Dust



Marjorie Hanft



2024 Spring Membership Meeting

***Fluddles* Documentary Viewing**



April 26, 4-6pm

Champaign Public Library
Featuring Filmmaker Bob Dolgan
Co-hosted with Champaign County Audubon Society

Sometimes simply described as “big puddles,” fluddles appear in the spring and fall and provide habitat and forage for a diversity of waterfowl and shorebird species. FLUDDLES takes viewers on a journey to these secret, oft-fleeting wildernesses in a time when Illinois has lost 90% of its original wetlands.

Preview Documentary

NATIVE PLANT SALE



May 5-May 18

Online sale!

Special early access for Blazing Star Members: May 3-4



Stewardship Saturdays

First Saturday of Every Month, 9-11am

Warbler Ridge

17161 Daileyville Rd.

Charleston, IL

- All ages and abilities are invited to help with general site maintenance and invasive plant removal

- Tools, treats, and training!

Invasive Strike Team

First Saturday of Every Month, 9-11am

Warbler Ridge

17161 Daileyville Rd.

Charleston, IL

- Help our forests and prairies by manually pulling, tugging and cutting invasive plants, planting trees and more!
- You bring the enthusiasm and we'll bring the tools!



Board Meetings

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

United Way Office

5 Dunlap Ct, Savoy, IL 61874

All Grand Prairie Friends Members are welcome to attend Grand Prairie Friends Board Meetings



Grand Prairie Friends

PO Box 36, Urbana, Illinois, United States of America



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