



GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

SAVE THE QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE!

THIS UNCOMMON PRAIRIE PLANT IS LISTED AS 'THREATENED' IN ILLINOIS AND NEEDS YOUR HELP

PLAY QUEEN OF HEARTS WITH GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS!

Tuesday nights starting July 2nd

GUIDO'S

2 E. Main St., Champaign

5-7pm, ticket called at 7pm
\$1/ticket or \$5/6 tickets

SELECT THE QUEEN OF HEARTS:
WIN 60% OF JACKPOT!
(30% if not present)

ANY OTHER QUEEN:
\$100 and jackpot continues

JOKER:
\$50 and jackpot continues

ALL OTHER CARDS:
\$25 and jackpot continues



GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

Conserve. Protect. Restore.

WWW.GRANDPRAIRIEFRIENDS.ORG

Photo Credit: daveyjane on Flickr

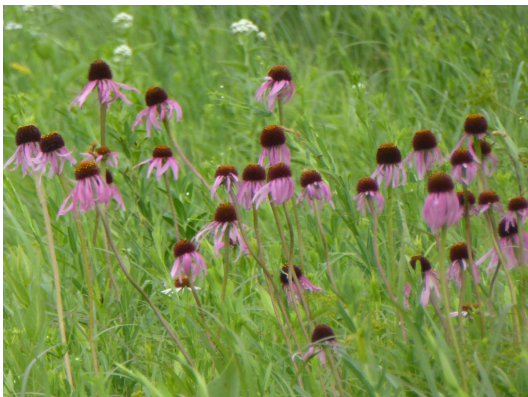
Have you found the Queen of the Prairie plant while visiting a natural area? If so, consider yourself lucky!

Grand Prairie Friends' properties are home to **many** threatened and endangered species, but we have not yet found the Queen!

Your support helps GPF conserve, protect and restore natural areas across East-Central Illinois so that maybe someday soon, she will grace us with her presence.

All proceeds from Queen of Hearts Fundraiser will benefit the work *you* do on GPF natural areas, see *you* there!

Railroad Right-of Ways & Cemeteries: Where GPF Prairie Management *Lives*



As many Midwestern prairie enthusiasts know, original remnant prairies have a close partnership with cemeteries and railroads. These natural areas were often the sections left undisturbed by the plow and as a result, they hold some of our most important prairie remnants.

Four of Grand Prairie Friends' preserves, Loda, Prospect, Fairchild and Warbler Ridge, include cemeteries. The Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve is a 14 -

acre natural area which surrounds the Pine View Cemetery. GPF Railroad prairies include Shortline Railroad Prairie just outside of Gifford. It was the desire to preserve Shortline Prairie that first began the Grand Prairie Friends organization back in 1984. Just to the north, Paxton Railroad Prairie hosts the Prairie Cicada in the deep heat of July.

On June 20, GPF organized an educational tour for East-Central Illinois Master Naturalists to better understand the origin and current-day work involved in prairie restoration, which included visits to our cemetery and railroad sites. Longtime stewards and volunteers including Mary Kay Solecki, Bob Reber, John Griesbaum and Beckie Green shared their knowledge to show that there is certainly a lot of life in these cemeteries.

Visit the GPF website for directions and maps to create your own tour this summer.

TREE-mendous Planting Season The Spring of 24,000!





Yes! You read that correctly, 24,000 trees have been planted over the last few months at Grand Prairie Friends' Warbler Ridge Conservation Area in Charleston.

As part of the on-going bat habitat restoration, our friends at Eco Logic Restoration started in the deep months of winter to plant a combination of 22,000 containerized and bare root hickories and oaks. These are adjacent to the new artificial bat habitat structures in the north bottoms area of Warbler Ridge.

As the season progressed, we changed gears to our south field in the Warbler Bottoms area. For this project, our restoration team at Forest Resources Restoration stepped in and planted 1,500 big beautiful containerized native trees along with a 10-acre monarch pollinator planting! The field is already alive with blooming trees, making our bees and butterflies very happy. As with all of our projects, deer management is an essential component of our work and will continue to evolve as the plantings progress.

Thanks to a donation of oak trees from Living Lands & Waters, GPF held our finale to

the tree planting season on April 16. On this morning, a dedicated team of GPF volunteers hand-planted 500 bur oak trees to various new homes throughout the preserve. A TREE-mendous season, indeed.

Upcoming Events, Join US!

Contact volunteer@grandprairiefriends.org



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Photo Credit: daveyjane on Flickr

Queen of Hearts Raffle Fundraiser

Tuesdays Beginning July 2 (5-7pm), Guido's Bar & Grill, Champaign:

Meet your Grand Prairie Friends at Guido's for the classic Queen of Hearts lottery to support this important work!



FIRST Saturday of the Month Stewardship

Saturday July 6 (9-11am): Stewardship workdays are held the first Saturday of each month March- November at the Warbler Ridge Conservation Area. All ages welcome, equipment provided. Meet at Daileyville Road parking area.



First Master Naturalist Course Begins for Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie & Shelby Co.

Tuesdays August 13-October 15 (5:30-8:30pm):

[Register today](#) for the course that will change the way you look at the natural

world. Enjoy evening sessions with biologists and a few Saturday field days to learn about the plants and animals of your region. **Applications by August 2**



Fall Fête at Warbler Ridge

Saturday September 28 (1-5pm):

Celebrate fall with guided walks, music and nature activities for the family. Free and open to all ages.



GPF 35th Anniversary Celebration & Fall Meeting:

Saturday November 16 (2pm-4pm):

Celebrate 35 years of Grand Prairie Friends at the beautiful Bluestem Hall at Barnhart Prairie in Urbana. Ticketed event, stay tuned!



Happy Summer from Grand Prairie Friends

Left: Executive Director, Sarah Livesay; Natural Areas & Operations Tech, Cecilia Boyd; Natural Areas Intern, Megan Lomas; Natural Areas Manager, Jeff Peyton



**GRAND
PRAIRIE
FRIENDS**

Be a Part of this Good Work! Become a Member or Donor!

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