

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Danada House
3S501 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

September 13, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes for the 223rd Meeting, May 3, 2016

Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations

January 24 th , 2017	Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
May 9 th , 2017	Nachusa Grasslands, Franklin Grove, IL
September 12 th , 2017	Peoria Park District, Peoria, IL

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Tom Lerczak
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Ann Holtrop
Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Joyce Hofmann
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8: Committee of the Whole Meeting to propose nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers. (Committee Chair: David Thomas)

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Wayne A. Rosenthal IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Michael Wiant IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Misganaw Demissie Illinois State Water Survey	Dr. Thomas E. Emerson Illinois State Archaeological Survey	Ryan Prehn Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Richard C. Berg Illinois State Geological Survey	Dr. Mark Ryan Prairie Research Institute	Dr. Kevin O'Brien Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Joyce Hofmann Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board		

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Michelle Carr
Tom Clay	Harry Drucker	Kenneth Fiske
Fran Harty	Randy R. Heidorn	Kerry Leigh
Jill Riddell	Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon
Joseph Roth	John Schwegman	Valerie Spale
John White		

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: Donnie Dann

Vice Chair: George Covington

Secretary: Abigail Derby Lewis

Item 9:* Kane Co. – Trout Park River’s Edge Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The City of Elgin seeks to register Trout Park River’s Edge as a land and water reserve – its qualifying feature is that lands and waters included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory are eligible for registration. The proposed Trout Park River’s Edge Land and Water Reserve is 9.51 acres in size and encompasses the balance of the Trout Park INAI site (INAI # 0625) not already dedicated by the City of Elgin as Trout Park Nature Preserve. Trout Park River’s Edge is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Elgin (Kane County), Illinois. Trout Park River’s Edge consists largely of Grade C mesic upland forest. A small portion of the site includes Grade C dry-mesic upland forest. At least six small spring runs, emanating from groundwater discharge zones in nearby Trout Park Nature Preserve, traverse the proposed land and water reserve before entering the Fox River. Trout Park River’s Edge has been well-managed by the Friends of Trout Park with support from the City of Elgin and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Registration of Trout Park River’s Edge as a land and water reserve supports recommendations of the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*” and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities, and a recommendation to contribute to

ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Reserved rights include fishing along the Fox River and maintenance of an existing parking lot and amenities, a hiking/biking trail, and educational kiosks. Registration of Trout Park River's Edge will increase the amount of land protected within the Trout Park INAI site from 26.8 to 36.31 acres. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff recommends registration of Trout Park River's Edge as a land and water reserve.

REPORT
Steve Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration Approval

Item 10:* Kankakee Co. - Addition to Tallmadge Sand Forest Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Tallmadge Sand Forest is owned and managed by the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and was registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve in 2004. The 157-acre site, located in Kankakee County, is comprised of sand savanna, sand forest, and sand flatwoods communities, and provides habitat for 4 state-listed species: crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), Carey's heartsease (*Polygonum careyi*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and bristly blackberry (*Rubus schneideri*). Additionally, it lies within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division and the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area, and provides habitat for at least four Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy wishes to register in perpetuity eight individual parcels, which total 155.6 acres, and adjoin the existing 157-acre Land and Water Reserve. These parcels share many of the same natural features and communities as the original Land and Water Reserve, and are comprised of Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, and old field communities. A state-threatened butterfly occurs in the old field and open savanna habitats within the proposed additions. Registration of the eight parcels as an addition to Tallmadge Sand Forest Land and Water Reserve will protect additional acreage of natural communities in a regionally important landscape, protect habitat for at least one state-listed animal species, buffer habitat of known occurrences of endangered and threatened plant species within the existing Land and Water Reserve, and help complete good reserve design by nearly doubling its size. It is therefore recommended by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission field staff that the eight parcels totaling 155.6 acres be registered in perpetuity as an addition to Tallmadge Sand Forest Land and Water Reserve. Registration of these tracts will bring the total registered acreage of this site to approximately 312.6 acres.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration Approval

Item 11:* Randolph Co. – Rockcastle Creek Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Rockcastle Creek Nature Preserve (NP) is an 87.42-acre site, located in the Central Section of the Ozark Natural Division, that is part of the Rockcastle Creek Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #828). The proposed preserve includes approximately 37 acres of the 71-acre INAI site. The proposed Rockcastle Creek NP contains several

qualifying features, including 2.9 acres of Grade B dry-mesic barrens, 2 acres of Grade C dry-mesic barrens, 38 acres of Grade C dry-mesic upland forest, 8 acres of Grade C mesic woodland, ¼ acre Grade C glacial drift hill prairie, 1 acre of Grade A mesic sandstone cliff, and ¼ acre of Grade B dry sandstone cliff, two state-endangered plant species, and one state-threatened bird species. The site also contains 25 acres of cultural community, including 18 acres of planted prairie with all local ecotype seed, and 7 acres of old field. The proposed preserve has populations of 14 documented Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Besides protecting the natural communities and habitat for listed species, the proposed addition supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located in the Illinois Ozarks Resource Rich Area. The proposed Rockcastle Creek Nature Preserve is owned by Priscilla Bollinger and Tony Hernandez. The couple has a long-standing commitment to conservation. During 14 years of ownership, they've owned the property they've conducted over 40 prescribed burns, done an immense amount of exotics species control, and worked on restoration of the oak forest, barrens, and glacial drift hill prairie. They hand collected local seed for the prairie plantings. And they kept excellent records of species and restoration work. Their contribution to the restoration and protection of this natural area is significant and greatly appreciated by INPC staff.

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* Cook Co. – Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) seeks to dedicate 107.6 acres of the 250-acre Harms Woods Forest Preserve as the Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve. Harms Flatwoods consists of 97.6 acres proposed for dedication as nature preserve and the balance (10 acres) as nature preserve buffer. The proposed nature preserve lies within the boundary of the Harms Woods Forest Preserve INAI site (INAI # 1573) and supports populations of two state-listed plant species; the brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*) and dwarf raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*). Harms Flatwoods is located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northeast part of Cook County. Harms Flatwoods consists primarily of northern flatwoods (93.3 acres) that were considered Grade B/C by the Illinois Natural History Survey. The balance of the site includes Grade B/C mesic upland forest (4.277 acres) and a cultural community (10 acres) undergoing restoration. Harms Flatwoods has been managed by staff of the FPCC and volunteer stewards since the late 1970's. That effort has consisted primarily of control of invasive woody and herbaceous species. Reserved rights include the continuation of an adaptive management strategy, monitoring and restoration of the surface hydrology, and continued maintenance of the existing trail system. The proposal specifically provides the FPCC with the right to route and construct a multi-use trail along the northern boundary of the site. Dedication of Harms Flatwoods as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports recommendations of the "*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*" and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities, and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Dedication of Harms

Flatwoods as an Illinois Nature Preserve is consistent with the recommendations of the FPCC's "Next Century Conservation Plan" and the "Natural and Cultural Resource Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County." The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the FPCC recommends preliminary approval for dedication of Harms Flatwoods as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Steve Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Lake Co. – William Kurtis & Donna LaPietra Buffer Addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

William Kurtis and Donna LaPietra seek final approval for dedication of 8.08 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve. Grainger Woods Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication at the Commission's 204th Meeting in January 2010 (Resolution No. 2061). This proposal represents the second privately-owned addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve. Grainger Woods Nature Preserve (187.6 acres) and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The proposed addition includes Grade C dry-mesic upland forest located within the Grainger Flatwoods INAI site (INAI # 0667) and a cultural community that is being restored to prairie. William Kurtis conveyed a Grant of Conservation Right and Easement to Lake Forest Open Lands Association (LFOLA) in December 1995. The purpose of that easement is "...to assure that the Property will be retained forever predominantly in its natural, scenic, and open space condition and that any natural plant and animal communities located on the Property which are indigenous to northeastern Illinois will be preserved to the extent feasible." Rights reserved by William Kurtis include all rights of ownership that are not expressly prohibited and that are not inconsistent with the above-referenced purpose of the easement. The proposal provides the landowner with the right to utilize an adaptive management approach, the right to maintain and use an existing mown trail with an ATV, the right to route and construct a foot path with amenities, and the right to place and maintain 10 bee hives on the parcel with the permission of the Commission. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically the forests campaign and efforts to "...restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities." Outstanding features of nearby Grainger Woods Nature Preserve are the wet-mesic upland forest and northern flatwoods communities that are sensitive to changes in surface hydrology. Protection of the proposed William Kurtis and Donna LaPietra Nature Preserve buffer addition will further protect the existing surface hydrology upon which Grainger Woods Nature Preserve is dependent and increase its size from 187.6 to 195.68 acres. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Preliminary conferred preliminary approval of this nature preserve buffer addition at its 223rd meeting, May 3, 2016 (Resolution No. 2355).

REPORT
Steve Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Monroe Co. – Addition to Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Addition to the Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie Nature Preserve (NP) is a 7-acre site owned by JW (Bill) and Barbara Gonterman. The site is comprised of approximately 5 acres of Grade C dry, dry-mesic, and mesic upland forest, ¼ acre Grade C loess hill prairie, and Grade A limestone cliff community. Approximately 4 acres of the proposed preserve addition is part of the 232-acre Renault Herpetological Area Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#761) located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The proposed preserve contains habitat for several threatened or endangered reptiles and amphibians and an invertebrate. The state-threatened bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*) occurs just a few hundred feet from the proposed addition. The addition also provides habitat for several Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Besides protecting the loess hill prairie, limestone cliff, upland forests and habitat for listed species, the proposed addition supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within IWAP's Bluff Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan partnership. The proposed preserve addition is adjacent to the 19.5-acre Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie Nature Preserve and Buffer and the 42-acre Brickey-Gonterman at Renault Bluffs Land and Water Reserve, and the nearby 283-acre Angela's Prairie Land & Water Reserve. The proposed Addition to the Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval at the 223rd INPC Meeting May 3, 2016 (Resolution No. 2356).

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Winnebago Co. – Gorsegner Addition to Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, Dedication

Harlem Hills Nature Preserve, located within the Winnebago Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division, encompasses the largest, and perhaps the best, surviving example of a dry-mesic gravel prairie within the state. David and Kimberly Gorsegner own the last remaining unprotected relict prairie to be found at Harlem Hills. It is their intent to legally protect this prairie parcel (1.5 acres) as the Gorsegner Addition to Harlem Hills Nature Preserve. The goal of legally protecting the gravel prairies at Harlem Hills, first envisioned by George B. Fell and his father in the early 1950s, will be complete with the approval of this dedication proposal. The preserve was established in 1973 with the dedication of 52.4 acres by the Illinois Department of Conservation (as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was then known). Over the past 40 plus years, the preserve has grown as other parcels were dedicated as additions and buffer additions. While some of the gravel prairies that George Fell first saw in the early 1950s were lost to development over the same time period, most of the prairies were indeed preserved and survive today. The proposed Gorsegner Addition will bring the total acreage of land permanently protected at Harlem Hills Nature Preserve to 96.1 acres. It is fitting that private landowners are dedicating the last surviving prairie at this preserve, the legislation for which was also championed by George B. Fell and the Natural Land Institute. The dedication of this prairie is made in memory of Helen Hatfield and

Marcia Gorsegner, mothers of Kimberly and David Gorsegner, respectively. Preliminary approval of this nature preserve addition was conferred at the 223rd INPC meeting, May 2016 (Resolution No. 2357).

REPORT
John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Winnebago Co. – Stone Bridge Reserve Land and Water Reserve Use Agreement

Roscoe Township owns and manages the Stone Bridge Trail Reserve Land and Water Reserve (INAI #1042), which is located in the Winnebago Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. This site was registered by Roscoe Township at the 148th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in 1995 (Resolution# 1280). The township also owns land along a portion of the registered reserve that is used for offices, a parking lot, and a maintenance yard. These facilities are located off Elevator Road in the Village of Roscoe. Portions of the parking lot, facility fencing, and maintenance yard are located inside the legally defined boundary of the registered reserve. These areas/uses were not described, mapped, or even noted, in the original registration proposal or registration agreement presented to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in 1995, but they were, in fact, pre-existing structures and uses by the township. This fact was verified using historic aerial photography and on-site ground truthing. The Natural Land Institute also holds a conservation easement on this portion of the reserve separate from the INPC. Problems have arisen between the township, INPC, and NLI staff over the past 20 years regarding this area of the reserve and its use by the township. After lengthy discussions regarding this area of dispute, staff of the township, INPC, and NLI agreed that this area should have been excluded from the reserve and conservation easement boundaries in 1995. To resolve this issue of pre-existing use, the township requests approval of a Use Agreement that clearly defines the area in question. Another issue that has arisen over the past 20+ years pertains to public access. The Use Agreement references an updated management plan for the reserve which has been prepared and clearly identifies approved public access locations throughout the reserve.

REPORT
John Nelson and Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Use Agreement Approval

Item 17:* Update on Bee and Pollinator Protection within the Illinois Nature Preserves System

At the request of the Commissioners, staff has prepared a “white paper” on the protection of native bees and other pollinators at sites within the Illinois Nature Preserves System. Staff will present a brief summary of the problems facing pollinators including concerns over conflicts with domesticated honey bees and other factors such as pesticide over use, habitat loss, and the impact of invasive plants. Suggestions on steps to improve conditions for the protection of pollinators on preserves/reserves will be presented.

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
None

Item 18: Election of INPC Officers

REPORT
David Thomas
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Election of Officers

Item 19: Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

REPORT
David Thomas
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Election of Advisors and Consultants

Item 20: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 21: Other Business

Items may be discussed, but no final action may occur for items not previously included on the agenda.

Item 22: Adjournment