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Spring  
Newsletter  
May 2007



Volume 27, Issue 1

## 13th Annual Fee Hunting Workshop Held

2007 proved to be another successful year for the 13th Annual Fee Hunting Workshop! This Workshop was held March 2, 2007 at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, IL. There were around 50 registrants that participated in the workshop.

Sessions presented included Marketing and Business Management, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Liability and Risk Management and an Outfitter Panel with one experienced Outfitter and one just starting the business. Speakers on hand included the following: John Pike, U o I Extension, Kyla Kruse, U o I Extension, Mark Ludolph, Attorney, Steve Knowles and Michelle

Shipman, Citizens Insurance Services, Bob and Elaine Lowry, and Chris Lewis of Warren County Whitetails, and Brian Jones, Outfitter. Participants were invited to share their experiences and questions throughout the Workshop. The workshop provided answers to many questions to participants looking to start their own business. For those already in the business, they were able to share some of their experiences and get updated on new marketing tools, insurance needs and habitat management.

This years gun raffle was for a "Knight" 50 caliber black powder rifle in the mossy oak color. Tick-

ets went on sale in January and could be purchased at the cost of 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25.

The drawing took place at Dickson Mounds Museum at the end of the workshop. This years lucky winner was Rebecca Lewis of Roseville, Illinois! Congratulations to Rebecca and thank you to all who purchased tickets!

A big thanks to all who participated and provided assistance to make this workshop a huge success!

Please mark your calendar for next years Workshop to be held the first Friday in March, of 2008. More information will be posted at a later date along with informa-

### Special points of interest:

- Over 50 registrants in attendance
- Designed to help Landowners and Outfitters
- 14th Annual Workshop will be held the first Friday in March, 2008
- Call (309)833-4747 for more information

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## Prairie Hills RC&D Council Members

### Fulton County

Bob Champlin, Canton, IL  
Jeff Harris, St. David, IL  
Doug Mannoek, Canton, IL  
Jeff Rohlwing, Lewistown, IL  
Mark Rothert, Canton, IL

### Henderson County

Charles Bell, Stronghurst, IL  
Curt Eisenmayer, Stronghurst, IL  
Bob Livingston, Macomb, IL  
Larry Sterett, Biggsville, IL

### McDonough County

Patti Calvert, Macomb, IL  
Clee Dixon, Colchester, IL  
Jere Greuel, Industry, IL  
Alice Henry, Macomb, IL  
Gary Sherer, Macomb, IL

### Staff

David King, Coordinator  
Tracy Meredith, Program Assistant

### Hancock County

Charles Bair, Carthage, IL  
Steve Bolton, Hamilton, IL  
Charles Gilbert, Nauvoo, IL  
Mary Holmes, Augusta, IL  
Brenda Pyatt, Carthage, IL

### Knox County

David Asbury, Galesburg, IL  
Diane Bruening, Galesburg, IL  
Dale Parsons, Galesburg, IL

### Warren County

Michael Pearson, Monmouth, IL  
Karen Starbuck, Roseville, IL  
Carol Stombaugh, Monmouth, IL  
Rick Winbigler, Monmouth, IL  
Jolene Willis, Monmouth, IL

**Mission:** Helping communities help each other.

**Vision:** Sustainable growth-productive ecosystems.

## Annual Council Meeting

On January 25, 2007, Prairie Hills Council met at Roseville Lanes in Roseville for their Annual Council Meeting.

Guest Dan Moorehouse of Lamoine River Ecosystem Partnership and Jeff Boeckler of IDNR spoke to the council about the Partnership and it's current activities. The mission of the Lamoine River Ecosystem Partnership (LMREP)

is to preserve protect and enhance the natural resources of the Lamoine River watershed area as a sustainable ecosystem. To date the LMREP has secured funding for prairie restoration, watershed management plans, tree planting equipment, aerial surveys, research and monitoring, and education efforts within the partnership region. For more information please visit their website at [www.lamoineiriver.org](http://www.lamoineiriver.org).

In other business, the 2007 Plan of Operations and Budget for Prairie Hills was adopted. New and on-going projects were discussed. Prairie Hills Council also welcomed on 6 new members. Please refer to the article on page 2 for more information.

The next council meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2007, so mark your calendar and plan to attend!

## Prairie Hills Welcomes New Members!

On January 25, 2007 Prairie Hills RC&D held its annual Council Meeting in Roseville at the Roseville lanes.

At the meeting six new members were seated on the council from various counties. The new members included the following: David Asbury, Knox SWCD, Steve Bolton, Hancock County Board, Charles Gilbert, Hancock County, Alice Henry, McDonough County, Bob Livingston, Henderson County, and Karen Starbuck, Warren County. Welcome to the

Council! Awards were presented to two outgoing Council Members. Don Walker of Hancock County served as a President, Executive Board, and Council member. Ed Owen of Hancock County served on the Executive Board and Council. Their work for Prairie Hills over the years is greatly appreciated! Thank you Don and Ed!

In other news, Rick Winbigler was voted in as the new President of Prairie Hills! Rick Winbigler is from Warren County and is a current

SWCD employee! Congratulations and welcome! The previous president, Larry Sterett of Henderson County will remain on the executive Board. Larry has provided many years of leadership and has provided a great service to Prairie Hills!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Prairie Hills Council, please contact the office at (309)833-4747.

For current events or to view a current or previous newsletter, visit our website at [www.prairiehillsrcd.org](http://www.prairiehillsrcd.org)



**Pictured from left to right back row:** Curt Eisenmayer, Mike Pearson, Patti Calvert, Steve Bolton, Carol Stombaugh, Bob Livingston, Clee Dixon, Mary Holmes, Rick Winbigler, Alice Henry, Bob Champlin, Jere Greuel. **Front Row left to right:** Tracy Meredith, Karen Starbuck, Jolene Willis, Dale Parsons, Brenda Pyatt, Larry Sterett and Chuck Gilbert.

## Prairie Hills' Small Business Loan Program—Employing People and Creating Businesses

This highly successful loan program has provided \$11.6 million for new or expanding businesses in our six county area since June 1998. Four grants and a loan from the USDA Rural Development Agency totaling \$1.5 million plus \$760,000 "revolved" Prairie Hills funds allowed us to leverage \$9.4 million in private and public sector funds for 41 businesses, which 35 are either wholly or partially minority owned.

Prairie Hills has been able to help small businesses employ 248 people with an expected 50 more to be hired during the life of the loans. A dedicated Revolving Loan Committee makes this program a truly locally lead effort.

Partners providing assistance to loan applicants include the Illinois Small Business Development Center in Macomb, Western Illinois Economic Development Partnership in Monmouth, Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development in Canton, Macomb Area Economic Development in Macomb, Henderson County Economic Development Corporation, Carthage Community Development, and Galesburg Regional Economic Development Association in Galesburg.

Prairie Hills submitted a \$750,000 application to USDA Rural Development for recapitalization of the loan program. The Small Business Loan program allows qualified applicants to borrow funds for job creation or retention at below market rates with flexible terms.

Four new businesses created this year include: Midwest Bridge and Crane, Good Hope; Grisham's Diner, LaHarpe; All Pets Veterinary Clinic, Macomb; and TRAC Equipment, Canton.



Two more minority owned businesses financed by Prairie Hills Small Business Loan Program.

## Council Member Spotlight

Each quarter, Prairie Hills RC&D will profile members of the Council to give you an opportunity to learn more about these leaders! This quarter we have selected the following two Council members: Larry Sterett, Henderson County, and Clee Dixon, McDonough County.

Larry Sterett and his wife currently reside in Biggsville, Illinois. They have four grown children, two boys and two girls.

Larry was born and raised in Biggsville, Illinois. Larry graduated from Monmouth College and has done graduate work at several universities to include University of Illinois, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Illinois, Missouri, Northern Iowa, Federal Staff College, Bemidji State, Western Illinois, Langly Research Center in Ohio, Argonne Research Laboratories and Wright State in Ohio. He is currently an outdoor writer in which he has done for over 51 years. He is also a retired teacher and farmer. Larry has volunteered on several projects to include the County Soil and Water, Church, Community and School. Some of

Larry's interest include hunting, cooking and writing.

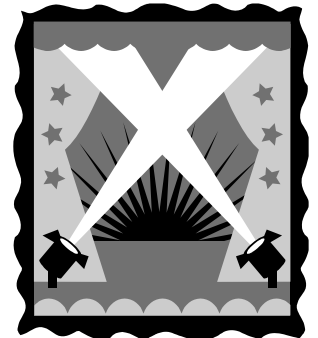
Larry has been with Prairie Hills Council since 1996 and is currently on the Executive Board, and was our past President.

The second member is Clee Dixon. Clee and his wife Linda reside outside of Colchester, Illinois. They have two children Andrea and Austin.

Clee was born and raised in the Tennessee Illinois area. He graduated from Colchester High School and currently farms in the Tennessee Township area. Clee has volunteered for the Church Camp, Local Lead Spring Lake and the Lamoine River Ecosystem Partnership.

Clee joined Prairie Hills Council in July of 2006.

Thank you to both members for sharing your information and for your hard work on the Council. We appreciate all the work our members do! IF you would like to be in the spotlight, please contact Dave or Tracy at the office.



This issue features Larry Sterett and Clee Dixon.



Have a safe and Happy Spring!

## Upcoming Events

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for upcoming meetings. More information will be sent out at a later date and posted on our website. If you have any questions in regards to these dates or anything else, please feel free to contact the office at (309) 833-4747.

### Upcoming Council Meetings

- Thursday July 12, 2007
- Thursday December 13, 2007

### Upcoming Executive Board Meetings

- Thursday June 14, 2007
- Thursday August 9, 2007
- Thursday October 11, 2007
- Thursday December 13, 2007