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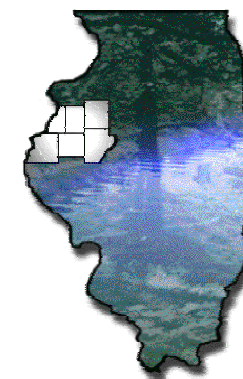


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Summer Newsletter
July 2006



PRAIRIE HILLS
Resource Conservation Development

Volume 26, Issue 3

**Special
points of
interest:**

- What is Land Conservancy?
- How does it affect you?
- What are the benefits of land conservancy?

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Prairie Hills Council Members

Fulton County

Bob Champlin, Canton, IL
Mark Rothert, Canton, IL
Erick Schenck, Canton, IL

Hancock County

Mary Holmes, Augusta, IL
Ed Owen, Carthage, IL
Brenda Pyatt, Carthage, IL
Don Walker, Carthage, IL
Charles Bair, Carthage, IL

Henderson County

Charles Bell, Stronghurst, IL
Curt Eisenmayer, Stronghurst, IL
Larry Sterett, Bigsville, IL

Knox County

Diane Bruening, Galesburg, IL
Kevan Cooper, Galesburg, IL
Dale Parsons, Galesburg, IL

McDonough County

Patti Calvert, Macomb, IL
Jere Greuel, Industry, IL
Bob Harwick, Macomb, IL
Gary Sherer, Macomb, IL

Warren County

John Ockert, Monmouth, IL
Mike Pearson, Monmouth, IL
Carol Stombaugh, Monmouth, IL
Jolene Willis, Monmouth, IL

Rick Winbigler, Monmouth, IL

Staff

David King, Coordinator
Tracy Meredith, Program Assistant

MISSION: Provide local leadership & program integration to improve the quality of life.

VISION: Putting development into rural.

Land Conservancy

On June 8, 2006 Steve Black, director of The Land Conservancy, a division of Southwestern Illinois RC&D, presented information to Prairie Hills council regarding conservation easements and land conservancy.

The Land Conservancy was designed to hold conservation easements to protect farmlands, forests, and other natural lands in order to provide for open space, landscape, diversity sustainable agriculture, wildlife habitat and conservation benefits for present and future generations. A conservation easement is a set of formal restrictions a landowner voluntarily places on his or her property in order to preserve its conservation val-



ues. A voluntary written agreement between the landowner and a qualified conservation group allows the landowner to restrict urban development that will stay with the land even through new ownership. It can be used on all or a portion of the property and it does not require public access.

Some benefits include long term land protection, financial benefits, income taxes, estate taxes and property taxes.

Prairie Hills RC&D is currently active with the Land Trust Alliance in Illinois. This organization provides the same services as discussed in the previous paragraphs. If you or someone you know is interested in more information on Land Conservancy, please contact our office at (309)833-4747.

June Council Meeting

Prairie Hills RC&D held a council meeting June 8, 2006 at the Macomb City Hall Community room. Guest speaker Steve Black, director of The Land Conservancy, was on hand to discuss conservation easements with the council.

A warm welcome to Charles Bair of Hancock County who was nominated to serve on Prairie Hills Council. Also, Mark Rothert was nominated to serve on the loan committee to

represent Fulton County.

Updates on the Small business loan program, Wind Energy feasibility study, and rural Fire Hydrants were given by Dave King. Round table discussion included interest in land conservancy, negotiations on the NRCS building lease, and information on the upcoming council Meeting August 12, 2006 in Nauvoo. More information on this meeting can be found in the inside article.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING!



Upcoming Meeting:
8-12-2006
at Hotel Nauvoo
4:30-6:00 pm

A private room has been reserved at the Hotel Nauvoo for Prairie Hills council meeting August 12, 2006 4:30 to 6:00 pm. A large buffet dinner will be available for \$12.49 per person excluding drinks. Spouses and guests are welcome.

Prior to the meeting arrangements have been made for a tour of the Nauvoo Cheese Factory for those who are interested. This factory closed a few years ago and is being opened again by a small group of Nauvoo residents. The cheese factory is located on the grounds of Baxter's Vineyard in which the winery is adjacent to the Cheese Factory and will also be open at that time for those interested in browsing their selection of wines and other items.

Following the council meeting there will be the opportunity to watch the Brigham Youth International Folk Dance ensemble, which performs dances from Asia,

Europe, Eastern Europe, and North and South America along with playing different styles of music, or you may want to attend the Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo play, presented by the missionaries in the cultural hall. Around 8:00 pm is "Sunset by the Mississippi" which is an outdoor variety show put on by the missionaries.

All events are free, but the "Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo" play requires reservations. You may reserve tickets by calling 888-453-6434.

Please plan on attending the meeting and come early or stay late to enjoy all the festivities taking place in Nauvoo. For a brochure or more information please call the office.

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 four following Council members: Eric Schenck, Fulton County and Rick Winbigler, Warren County.

Eric and his wife Jackie reside in Canton, IL. They have two daughters named Helen and Mallerie.

Eric was raised on a family farm in rural Canton, IL. He has a bachelors and Master's in Wildlife and Forest Conservation. Eric has also spent ten years as a farm policy/conservation lobbyist in Washington, DC before returning back to Canton in 1999 for quality of life and family. He currently works as a wildlife conservationist with Ducks Unlimited and also serves on the Canton City Council. Eric has experience with conservation grant applications and administration and enjoys outdoor activities. He has been a council member with Prairie Hills since January of 2001.

Rick and his wife Donna, a teacher at United Jr. High, reside in Monmouth. They have three children named Joel,

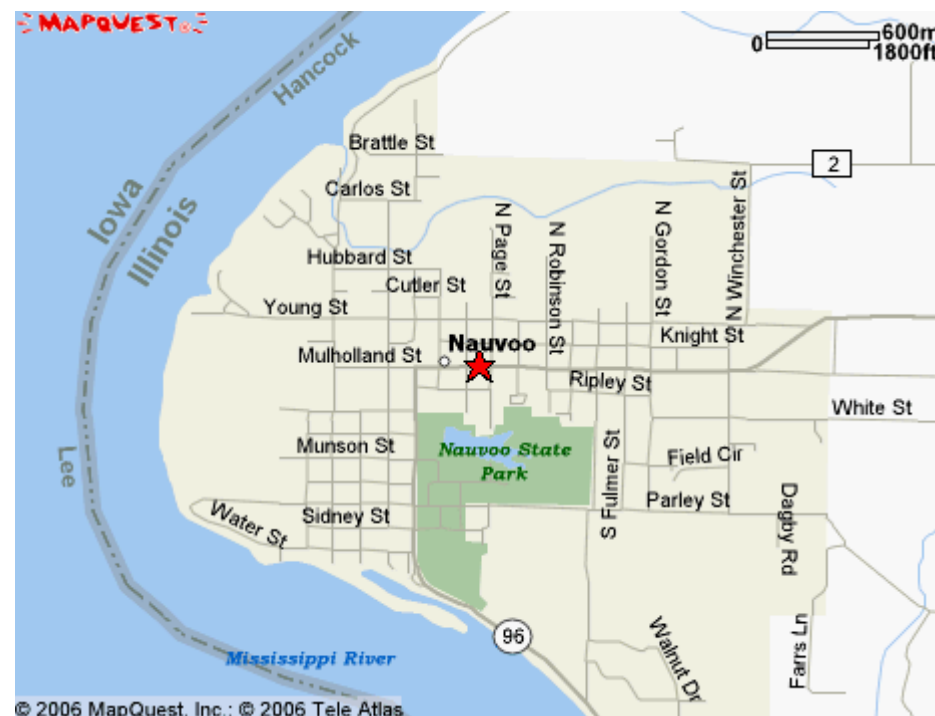
Kyle, and Jenni. Joel is a Nuclear Engineer for the US Navy, Kyle is in college, and Jenni is a freshman at Monmouth-Roseville High School.

Rick grew up on a livestock and grain farm North of Monmouth which will have been in the family for 150 years in 2007. He was a graduate of Monmouth High School and received a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture Science at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. Rick is the current Resource Conservationist for the Warren Soil and Water Conservation District and has been employed there for 17 years. He also volunteers for Diabetes Day, Trash Pick-up, and the Hearing Bus. Rick enjoys boating, hunting, travel and history. He is the current Vice President of the executive board, and has been a council member of Prairie Hills since 1996.

Thank you Eric and Rick for sharing your information. Please remember to send us your profile and biography for upcoming newsletters. Prairie Hills appreciates the time and effort put forth by it's members.

For the latest newsletter or for previous ones visit our website at
www.prairiehillsrcd.org

Follow IL-96 into Nauvoo.
Hotel Nauvoo
1290 Mulholland Dr.
Nauvoo, IL



Heritage Days Display!

June 23 and 24 was the annual Heritage Days event held in Macomb IL. Many activities were held including a parade, art and craft vendors, a flower show as well as musical performances.

Citizens National Bank holds the Heritage Days Flower show annually and invited Prairie Hills RC&D to put up a display featuring conservation. Dave King and Tracy Meredith took the opportunity and set up two displays. The first display featured backyard conser-

vation and had pamphlets providing information on how to attract wildlife to your yard. The second display had information on our McDonough County Trails and Greenways Project. The comprehensive plan was available for the public to take, along with information about Prairie Hills RC&D and the services we provide.

The display will be available for public viewing at Citizens National Bank until July 5th, 2006.

