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Prairie Hills

Resource Conservation and Development

PRAIRIE LAND CONSERVANCY

You and your family have kept your land free from harmful development for years. Whether a working farm, forest land, open space, or critical habitats, you would like it to remain as it is for future generations.

The good news is that **you can protect your land!**

Working through Prairie Land Conservancy, (PLC), a division of Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., there are many ways you can save land of conservation, historic, scenic or other open space value-but only if you make plans for lands protection.

The Prairie Land Conservancy is now operating within a ten county area in West Central Illinois and would like to talk with you to explore unique options for the future of your land through conservation easements, land donations, or bargain sale of land. Con-



servation easements leaves land in private ownership and can result in an income tax deduction helping reduce property and estate taxes. Land Donations can result in substantial income tax deductions and can be structured in a way that allows you to continue to live on the land or receive a life time income. Bargain Sale of Land combines income producing benefits of sale with tax reducing benefits of donation.

Currently Prairie Land Conservancy has received grants from the Land Trust

Alliance and Illinois Clean Energy Foundation. The grant monies will be used for advertising needs, training, brochures, web page development, and consultants to assist with conservation easements.

The Prairie Land Conservancy typically meets the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in attending or would like more information on the Prairie Land Conservancy, please contact the office by phone at (309)833-4747 or by email at prairie@macomb.com.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Conservation Easements and what they mean for you
- Tax deductions
- Eligible land
- PLC meetings typically held the second Tuesday of every month

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ANNUAL FEE HUNTING WORKSHOP

For the past 13 years, Prairie Hills RC&D along with the University of Illinois Extension, and Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at WIU has provided interested landowners and outfitters with much needed information about fee hunting. Prairie Hills is currently planning and preparing for the 14th Annual Fee Hunting workshop which will be held February 29, 2008 at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, Illinois.

This year a new session is in the works. Elaine Lowry of Warren Whitetails outfitting operation will cover a very important topic of housing and hospitality for hunters. Elaine and her husband Robert

Lowry have been in the outfitting business for several years. They have also attended every Fee Hunting Workshop Prairie Hills has offered providing a wealth of knowledge and information to beginning outfitters and landowners looking for supplemental income for their properties. Robert Lowry will be speaking at the workshop providing ample opportunity for attendees to get some great information and ask questions.

Along with the Lowry's, there have been several participants who have attended the Annual Fee Hunting Workshop several years in a row. These participants enjoy returning to keep up to date on new laws and

regulations, learn new information, and share their own experiences with new participants. The workshop is a fun learning event for anyone.

Please find enclosed in this newsletter a Fee Hunting Workshop registration form. If you or someone you know would be interested in attending, please fill out the form and return it to Prairie Hills at the address provided. This years workshop will provide a delicious home style meal, opportunities for learning and participation, a black powder gun raffle and plenty of fun! If you have questions, please feel free to contact the office at (309)833-4747. We look forward to seeing you there in 2008!

319 GRANT FOR LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

In September of 2007, Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., accepted a \$250,000 grant on behalf of the LaMoine River Ecosystem Partnership from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

This grant is intended to provide livestock producers alternative watering sources to the river and improved pasture grazing helping protect the river from erosion and pollution of sediment and animal waste.

Livestock graze the vegetation along the stream banks which in turn creates erosion from the loss of plant life. The vegetation also serves as a natural filtration system to the streams and rivers. Without the vegetation, waste and sediment erodes and washes into the streams and rivers. This also impacts the wildlife habitat by reducing food and shelter.

The grant monies will assist the

owner/producer fence livestock out of the streams and rivers, and provide alternative watering sources such as man made ponds, and wells, and improve pasture land by encour-



aging rotational grazing of livestock on the pastures. Best Management Practices will be provided in the upper reaches of the LaMoine River Watershed in McDonough and surrounding Counties. Installation practices will address water quality, stream bank erosion, runoff and habitat degradation through coordinated livestock management in the

targeted watershed.

Each site will be evaluated to determine which practices are necessary. Examples of practices to be implemented are fencing, watering facilities, soil testing, nutrient management plans, prescribed grazing, stream crossings, upland erosion control, stream bank stabilization, grade control, and wetland riparian re-vegetation.

Currently a producer may qualify for 100% cost share if they enrolls or are enrolled in the USDA NRCS EQIP program. IF the landowner/producer is not enrolled in the EQIP program costs incurred by the installed practices will be cost shared at 60%.

An informational meeting for interested individuals has tentatively been scheduled for January 24, 2008 at the Red Cross Center in Macomb, Illinois. Please check our website for more information or call the office at (309)833-4747.

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED DATES FOR 2008

The Following dates have been tentatively scheduled for future events. Updated information on upcoming meetings will be posted on our website at www.prairiehillsrcd.org, or you may contact the office at (309) 833-4747.

Council Meetings:
 January 17, 2008-Annual Meeting
 May 15, 2008
 July 10, 2008
 November 13, 2008

Executive Board Meetings:
 February 14, 2008
 April 17, 2008
 June 12, 2008
 August 12, 2008
 October 11, 2008
 December 18, 2008

14th Annual Fee Hunting Workshop:
 February 29, 2008



COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each quarter, Prairie Hills RC&D profiles members of the Council to give you an opportunity to learn more about these leaders! This quarter we have selected Robert Livingston, Henderson County, and Karen Starbuck, Warren County.

Robert Livingston currently resides in Macomb, Illinois. He was born and raised in Johnstown Pennsylvania. He is widowed after 53 years of marriage. He has 4 children three daughters and one son.

Robert has earned a Bachelor of Science and a Masters from University of Pennsylvania, and has earned 15 credit hours towards a PH. D at Indiana. He currently holds a valid Master Plumber License. Robert has operated a Plumbing and Heating Contracting Business. In addition to doing residential work, he was also active in construction of schools, hospitals, university

buildings, sewage treatment facilities and municipal water distribution systems. Currently Robert is the coordinator for the Henderson County Economic Development Corporation. He enjoys photography and gardening in his spare time. Robert joined Prairie Hills Council in January of 2007.

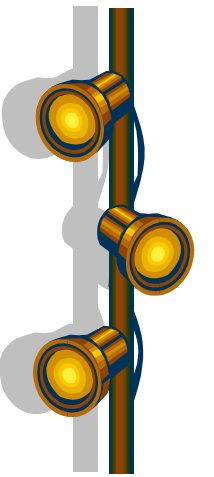
Our second Council Member is Karen Starbuck. Karen and her husband Terry currently reside in Roseville, Illinois. She was raised in Raritan Illinois attending the Media Wever High School. In 1969 she moved with her parents to Roseville, Illinois.

Karen received a Bachelors degree in Family and Consumer Science and a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Western Illinois University. She was a teacher and guidance counselor at Southern High School in Stronghurst for 27 years.

Karen currently works part time as a guidance counselor at West Central High School in Rural Biggsville.

Karen enjoys traveling, reading and gardening. She has a interest in local history and environmental issues. Karen also volunteers her free time with Western Illinois Animal Rescue. Karen joined Prairie Hills Council in January of 2007.

Prairie Hills appreciates the dedication and hard work from it's council members. If you would like to be in the spotlight, or have a story you would like to share, please contact the office at (309)833-4747 or by email at prai-



CIRCLE OF DIAMONDS

In November 2007, Prairie Hills received a certificate and letter confirmation of acceptance into the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development's Circle of Diamonds.

As a member of the Circle of Diamonds, Prairie Hills has demonstrated it's impact on the surrounding communities through it's unique programs.

Prairie Hills has shown it's ability to achieve and reach set benchmarks for it's council and the communities it serves signifying a high level of success.

A few of the programs that helped Prairie Hills achieve such an award are the Small Business Loan Program, the Prairie Land Conservancy, and the Dry Fire Hydrant Program. Prairie Hills

plans to continue bringing strong influential programs of benefit to it's communities and hopes this recognition shows it's commitment to excellence.

For more information visit the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development's website at www.rcdnet.org.