



The Nature Conservancy
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Midwin's volunteer program is possible because of a partnership between the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy

12.10.2012

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie
Welcome Center Hours 8am-4:30pm (Mon-Friday)
Trail hours 4am-10pm

30239 South State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
Phone: 815/423-6370

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/midwin>

MIDEWIN MEADOWLARK MESSENGER JANUARY 2012

Here's what the bird is bringin'

- ☆ [Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff: Autumn](#)
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☆ Reminiscing with the Volunteer Staff: Autumn

Thanks to volunteers Christine Riley, Laura Haldeman, Debbie Pohlmann, Iza Redlinski and Jerry Heinrich for contributing these photos.

We had our largest ever National Public Lands Day event on September 29 with over 140 volunteers completing 6 projects. We were thankful to have so many groups here to take care of their public lands. Community volunteers included Robert Morris University (right), Lewis University, St Francis University, Plainfield HS BioExplorations Club, Chicago Backpackers, Scout Troop 131, packs 411 and 428 and many core individuals. What a turn out!



☆ Reminiscing continued, NPL Day.....

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The Wetlands Initiative staff along with the Chicago Backpackers (below) had a very successful harvest. In fact, if we would have had to purchase all the seed from local nurseries, we would have spent almost 20,000 dollars! And this was a group of 25 volunteers for only 3 hours. Imagine the savings on our full harvest!!



The mulching crew (below) was blazing fast and efficient in getting the Prairie Creek Woods Loop completed. It looks beautiful, check it out!

On your way to the Prairie Creek Woods Loop or Henslow Trail, stop by and look at the 35 new shrubs, purchased by Lowe's, at the River Road Trailhead parking lot (above). Volunteers planted elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*) and smooth rose (*Rosa blanda*). These shrubs will be seen by thousands of visitors and enjoyed by wildlife. Thanks everyone!



☆ Reminiscing continued, NPL Day.....



Plainfield Central High School BioExplorations Club (above) was the perfect group to test water quality. Everyone is certainly welcome to dance at Midwin, but this is also a very helpful way to rustle up stream insects. These critters along with some other measurements are common ways to test the water.



Midwin now has a new place for equestrians to tie their horses to take a relaxing break after riding south on the Henslow Trail. This system is where the trail meets Boathouse road on the east side of the road.

Thanks to volunteers like Bolingbrook troop 131 (above) and Joe & Brenda Occhiuzzo (left), projects like these can be finished in a day or two.

Enjoy the public trails and what it takes to improve them!

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With 35 volunteers, these plants were transferred into the bunkers rapidly!!

☆ Volunteer Awards

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We are grateful for everyone's time, contribution and friendship at Midewin. The volunteer recognition dinner is one way that we can say Thank You to everyone!! We also presented special awards to a few volunteers that really shined this year.



L to R: Dr. Jerry Kavouras accepted a restoration award for **Lewis University**, presented by Eric Ulaszek. Jennifer Durkin presented a restoration award to **Sally Wieclaw**. Jeff Tepp presented an award to dedicated stream monitors, **Lynn Dempsey and Brian Musker**. Not Shown, **Tom Biskie and Moira Isenman** received awards for plant monitoring and **Cindy Alberico** received an award for her longevity as a frog and bird monitor.



L to R: Wendy Tresouthick presented interpretation and education awards to **Barb Kappel, Don Grisham, Diane Kurtz and Lorin Schab**. Our first ever non-human award went to **Harvey the horse** for bringing so much joy to people at several events this year.



Allison Cisneros and Gemma Guenther presented extraordinary effort awards to **Pat Pierce** (left middle) and **Linda Maydew** (right middle)



L to R: Jamie Hutter presented awards to the original **trail stewards** for getting this program off the ground. **Steve Coons, Kristine Peterson, Larry Costain, Milan Horak, Mary Dyer, Jerry Heinrich**. Not Shown: **Jim Burke, Margaret Kelly, Shannon Lawless and Rich Hickson**



The following people received a patch and very special certificate, signed by the Chief of the Forest Service, Tom Tidwell for contributing well over 1000 hours of service. **Jerry Heinrich, Don Nelson, Espie Nelson, Mike Rzepka, Gail Pyndus, Trish DeLucas, Carol Fence, Lorin Schab, John Field, Don Grisham, and Connie Heinrich.** - 5 -



Gemma and I also presented an extraordinary leader award to **Jeff Tepp**, Midwin's hydrologist for his outstanding work with stream monitors and students.

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☆ Calendar of Workdays/ Events for December-February

FREE Public Tours and Presentations	Volunteering for Restoration	Volunteer Training Workshops	Special Events		Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
	Volunteering for Education				

Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
20 December Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
25 December Tuesday			OFFICE AND WELCOME CENTER CLOSED, Trails open as usual 4am-10pm.
27 December			Volunteer Workday CANCELED FOR HOLIDAY BREAK
29 December Saturday 	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	River Rd Seedbeds Parking Lot	Building and mending the waddle fence at the River Road seedbeds/ Trailhead parking lot
1 January Tuesday			OFFICE AND WELCOME CENTER CLOSED, Trails open as usual 4am-10pm.
3 January Thursday 	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
10 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
12 January Saturday 	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Cleaning the annual native seed harvest with specialized equipment and manually
17 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
17 January Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation, Save the Date! Topic to be announced
22 January Tuesday	9:00am –Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: St Rose School, 6th grade. New Volunteers are invited to watch and learn.
24 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
28 January Monday	11:45am –2:45pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: LJ Stevens, 4th grade. New Volunteers are invited to watch and learn.
29 January Tuesday	11:45am –2:45pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: LJ Stevens, 4th grade New Volunteers are invited to watch and learn.
31 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
31 January Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation, Save the Date! Topic to be announced
2 February Saturday	8:00am – 5:00pm	University of Illinois at Chicago	Wild Things Conference 2013: Early Bird Registration before December 24! http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2013
7 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
14 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
14 February Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation, Save the Date! Topic to be announced
21 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
28 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
28 February Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation, Save the Date! Topic to be announced

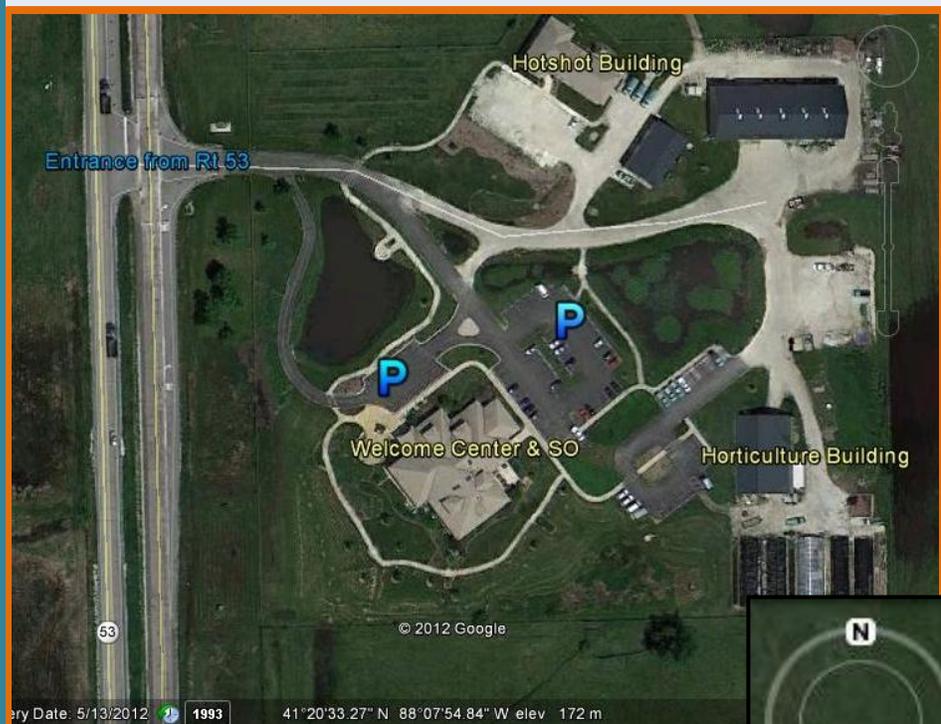
To RSVP for workdays: Please contact Gemma Guenther, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 815/423-2148, email gguenther@fs.fed.us or use [Volgistics](#).

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To RSVP for Tours/Presentations: Advance registration is recommended to **guarantee** your spot either by calling our main number 815/423-6370 or at Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us

Half days are optional for certain workdays, please call and ask. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend an event allows Midewin staff to better organize the event, and we can inform you of any Changes or Cancellations.

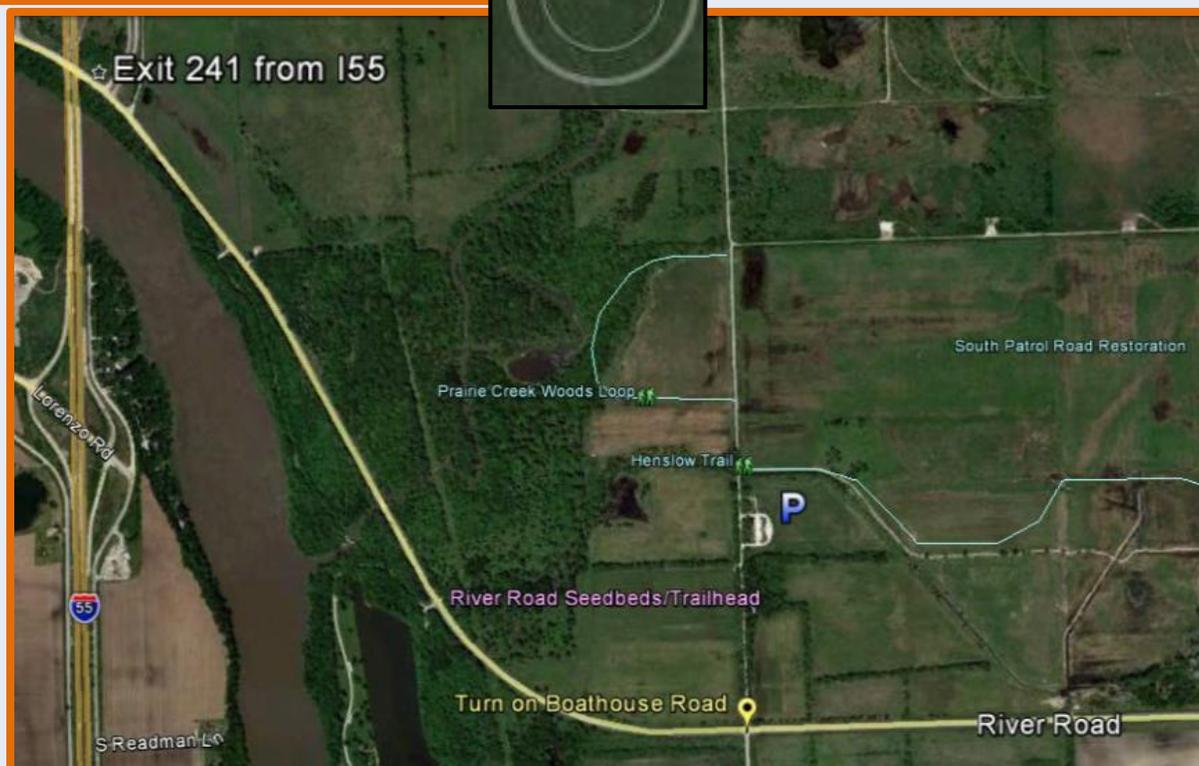
Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian. Youth groups must come with chaperones. Please do not bring pets to workdays.



****General Restoration Workday**

The activities for these days won't be planned until a couple days beforehand and will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities will contribute to the overall restoration of Midewin and may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a workday.

Click for Directions & Map:
[Supervisors Office \(SO\) and River Road Seedbeds](#)



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