



# The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

*Fairburyrotary.com*



2010 - 2011 Officers

President . . . . . Charlie McDonald  
 Pres. Elect . . . . . Becky Whitfill  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Sec/Treas/Editor . . . . . Leroy McPherson

**DATE/TIME/PLACE:** March 1, 2011 - 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

**ATTENDANCE:** 21 plus Sara Hostetter and Dave Hammer

**LOTTO:** Jon Bachtold and Deb Moran

## ***ACTION ON THE AVENUES***

### **CLUB SERVICE**

**Programs:**

- 03/08 - OSF - "Eat More and Weigh Less
- 03/15 - PCHS
- 03/22 - Rev. Jarrett Wells

**Membership:**

A motion was made by Becky Whitfil, seconded by Steve Weeks to donate a microwave to the pool.

### **Bit's & Pieces**

We're approaching spring when Mother Nature begins to liquidate her frozen assets.

### **AREA CLUB MEETINGS**

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thurs.	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:45 a.m.	Wed.	The Country Kettle
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tues.	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wed.	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wed.	Bone Student Center

### **TODAY'S PROGRAM**

DAVE HAMMER, PRESIDENT, PLF  
 SARA HOSTETTER, STEWARD, FUGATE WOODS NATURE PRESERVE



# PRAIRIE LANDS FOUNDATION

## Fugate Woods Nature Preserve

Sara Hostetter, Steward



Bud introduced Sara Hostetter, Steward of Fugate Woods.

Fugate Woods was gifted to the Fairbury area and the larger community of Livingston County/ greater Central Illinois with the specific intent of making it available for the pleasure and education of the public, and charitable and or education organizations. In short, a place to discover, explore and enjoy.

Howard and Bernadine Fugate, life-long residents of the Fairbury area, gifted their treasured native woodland along the south fork of the Vermilion River, northeast of Fairbury.

PLF received the gift in support of its mission (in part) to foster education and the support of green spaces. Upon the receipt of Fugate Woods, the forward thinking vision of the members of the PLF Board lead to the development of the Alma Lewis James Memorial Path (a 1 mile paved pedestrian and bike path), the acquisition of the James Family Woods and the Bluestem Trail. These combine to provide hiking access directly to Fugate Woods from the Stafford Pool/North Park Pavilions eastward across the northern perimeter of Fairbury, past the high school athletic fields and city water plant to Indian Creek on the eastern perimeter of Fairbury.

At Indian Creek, the first of two steel bridges garners access to James Family Woods where locals hike and jog, and kids romp from dawn to dusk on the ½ mile trail that traverses north and east through the flood-plain woodland. Large limestone boulders serve as stepping stones providing an adventuresome crossing of a shallow stream just before exiting James Family Woods where it links up with the Bluestem Trail at the corner of 900N and 2300E Roads.

In a lovely, open grassy field, perfect for flying kites or stargazing, the Bluestem Trail connects with the second steel bridge on the trails to cross the south fork of the Vermilion to enter Fugate Woods Nature Preserve...a refuge habitat for many species of wildlife.

Stewarding Preservation and Restoration efforts are ongoing. Be it a quiet solitary walk, a special event or a formally structured classroom in the woods...*each day, week, month and year is fresh with new discoveries in the dynamic state of mother nature.* The 'woods' continues to host state-standard-aligned curriculum class visits, guided wildflower and bird watching hikes are available to the public in the Spring, and Fall. A 3-day youth fishing camp, boy scout led camp fire cooking demo, kite flying fest, fall leaf-walk, prairie bloom trek and owl prowl are a sampling of the activities from the past year that tempted young and old alike out and into the natural world. As more of the public is discovering these natural areas it is important to note their development as the result of the generosity of time, goods and labor of many individuals and businesses offered in support of stewardship. In addition to boy and girl scout workdays, PLF work days, and high school student community service days, two new volunteer initiatives are beginning this year.

The Trail Stewards program offers a great opportunity, (or excuse if need be) to take a walk in the woods and provide some assistance as well. Trail Stewards are asked to 'adopt' a ½ mile of the 7 1/2 miles of 7 trails for one year. Each steward is responsible for making his/her/their trail safe and pleasant. Responsibilities include pruning back overhanging branches, clearing debris after storms, removal of invasive plants, litter control and reporting any unusual findings to the Fugate Woods Steward. Trail Stewards are encouraged to visit their trails every three to four weeks, as trail conditions permit, and follow up each visit by completing a simple and brief form. All tools are provided and as well as orientation/training. The late winter/autumn workshops will provide networking and idea sharing opportunities as well as an educational component by regional naturalists. For those who participate in like programs, trail stewardship reveals itself to be an experience rewarding far more than expected in pleasure and satisfaction, than in time or effort. The first training program is in March.

Also, Fugate Woods is establishing a summer internship, for college students enrolled in environmental studies. and in need of an opportunity to fulfill volunteer work experience requirements. Interested parties should contact Sarah, on the Fugate Woods website, or the President of PLF, Mr. David Hammer.

Dawn to dusk, visit and discover the simple, quiet, ever-changing qualities; come for your pleasure and knowledge; come join in the team effort to foster these gifts.