



The Orland Grassland

BOBOLINK

NEWSLETTER of the ORLAND GRASSLAND VOLUNTEERS

Orland Grassland is on 167th Street West of LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Il

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Drain Tiles Out--Huge Difference In

By Stephen Packard

Huddleston's crews have started to take out the drain tile. After long delays from spring and summer rain, a few weeks of dry weather was great for them. They're actually making up time and staying in nearby motels so they can get an early start and work long hours. An early visit found them driving their equipment, headlights piercing

Huge difference (Continued on page 5)

Autumn On the Grassland

By Dave Dibble

Road signs and various colored canopies beckoned travelers along LaGrange Rd. to the annual "Autumn On the Grassland" event. Once there, sunshine, strong winds, cool temperatures and volunteers with caramel corn and apple cider welcomed them.

The Orland Grassland Volunteers manned the various booths tucked in against the tree line to nullify the strong winds. The Volunteers provided information and insight to the restoration process. There were booths for species identification, seed cleaning, tools used, and many displays depicting the ongoing activity on the Grassland. The Army CORPS of Engineers and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPD) were on hand to explain their role in the restoration.

Pat Hayes, Master Steward, spoke on how Daniel Burnham's vision of open land in an urban setting was being fulfilled even today.

Nine girls and Scout leader Lisa Paciga from Girl Scout Troop # 60152 from the Cardinal Bernadine School enjoyed the displays and caramel corn but the main treat was using pruners to cut down small trees and invasive plants.



Pat Hayes, Master Steward, relates the vision of Daniel Burnham to the visitors

Small children enjoyed a beanbag game and helped build a "habitat" by placing paper insects and butterflies on a mural depicting the grassland.

Autumn (Continued on page 5)

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To report suspicious activity at the site, Call the FPD Police at 708-771-1001.

Please give as much detail as possible. (Let us know too.)

## Butterfly Monitor Report

by Gary Clinkman

Our butterfly monitor has reported his butterfly sightings:

Orland Grassland Butterflies - North End

7-9-09, Temp. 80, 1:10-3:25 P.M.  
 Partly sunny, light winds

Byssus Skipper—————1  
 Delaware Skipper—————2  
 Little Glassywing—————4  
 European Skipper—————1  
 Black Swallowtail—————2

Cabbage White—————1  
 Common/Orange Sulfur-24  
 Gray Hairstreak—————1  
 Coral Hairstreak—————2  
 Banded Hairstreak—————1  
 Eastern Tailed Blue—————3  
 Mourning Cloak—————1  
 Great Spangled Fritillary -6  
 Pearl Crescent—————4  
 Comma—————1  
 Common Wood Nymph———5  
 Monarch—————6

**Total —16 Species, 65 Butterflies**



European Skipper



Black swallowtail

## Lemont High School Visits the Grassland

By Pat Hayes

Once again, Karen Aleman brought her Lemont High School class out to Orland Grassland when school started this year. There were 15 students who hiked The Phoenix and the Marley Creek restored area. They covered a lot of ground in an hour or so, hiking through yellow coneflower, blazing star and Canadian rye along Marley Creek and then carefully stepping through The Phoenix seeing scurfy pea, prairie coreopsis, tall green milkweed, rattlesnake master and much more. They saw how the vegetation transitions from the dense, compact monocultures of invasives to the shorter and more spatial emerging prairie. They learned about seeding philosophy, when and how to harvest.

They would have stayed for more, but the bus appeared. They left their living classroom to head back to classes at school.

*Huge difference (Continued from page 1)*

through the dawn's heavy fog. They're doing the south areas first so that these areas can be planted before next spring.

This will make a huge difference: Water will stay on site much longer, less flooding and siltation downstream, more ducks, egrets, herons, rails, frogs, turtles, dragonflies, etc. etc.

New springs and temporary streams are likely to emerge. Ponds will not fill up as fast after a rain, but they'll keep their water longer, as streams and seepage will be more constant.

It also means that volunteers will start looking for wetland seed locations. It probably won't get collected until 2010, as it will take a while for the levels of wetness to become clear enough to know where to put the rare, local, hand-collected seed.

Removing these tiles will have a profound impact to the landscape. How exciting it will be to see wet meadows return to our lovely prairie, and their water-loving plants, animals and birds.

*Autumn (Continued from page 1)*

A couple of special visitors added to the education of young and old. Children spotted two praying mantises in the tall grass, one grass green and the other brown. This provided for an educational moment as Joni Marin of the FPD shared her knowledge of the mantis.

Stephen Packard and Judy Pollock of the Audubon – Chicago Region, gave a walking tour of the Grassland. This walk provided visitors with plant and bird identification and some history of the area sprinkled in. A sandhill crane was spotted by Stephen in the northeast side much to everyone's delight. The tour also provided insight into the vastness of the restoration project the volunteers have undertaken and the fact that it is going to be a long-term project.



Joni Marin and the praying mantis

All in all, it was a great day.

**Years of Wildflower Seeding is Paying Off**

*By Dave Carson*

This year, more and more wildflower seeds will be collected at Orland Grassland thanks to several years of seeding with purchased seed and seed collected by volunteers from local remnant prairie sources.

Among the most abundant plants now are



Pale purple coneflower



Compass plant on top of a rise

compass plant, monarda, yellow coneflower, rough and marsh blazing stars, wild quinine, vervain, indigo, prairie coreopsis, prairie dropseed, creamy gentian, little bluestem grass, pale purple coneflower and rattlesnake master.

As years go by, these and many more plants will multiply to produce the beautiful grassland environment that we all envision.

**Act Now to Receive Your Next Issue**

The Orland Grassland Volunteers (OGV) is looking for ways to lower its expenses while continuing to reach those that are interested in its purpose. Our biggest expense is the printing and mailing of the quarterly newsletter, the Bobolink.

**If you receive the Bobolink via U.S. mail, you must take one of the following actions to continue receiving it:**

1. If you have an e-mail address, place "E-mail the Bobolink" in the subject line and send to [GRAYWOLF9@msn.com](mailto:GRAYWOLF9@msn.com). You will then be placed on our e-mail list and will receive it electronically.
2. If you do not have e-mail but wish to continue receiving it by U.S. mail, cut your address from the last page and send it to:

OGV  
15527 S. Westminster Dr.  
Orland Park, IL 60462

**If you do not take either of these actions, you will be removed from the mailing list.**

**Note:** This notice is only for those receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail, all others no action required.

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## What's Coming Up at Orland Grassland

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**Nov. 11**  
**Sept 9**  
**Jan. 13**

### **Wednesdays at the Grassland - 2nd Wed. of each month 9:00 AM**

The specific activity depends on the best use of time. This includes cutting brush, weeding, or gathering or planting seeds. Tools and materials will be supplied. Meet at the parking lot on 167th St. just west of LaGrange Rd. at 9 am. **For more details Call Bill at 708-364-0006.**

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**Oct. 10**      **Oct. 24**  
**Nov. 14**      **Nov. 28**  
**Dec. 12**      **Dec. 26**

### **Saturdays at the Grassland - 2nd & 4th Sat. of each month 9:00 AM**

We enjoy nature while doing some work. Depending on the season we may cut brush, weed, gather or plant seeds. Tools and materials will be supplied. The group meets at the parking lot on 167th St. just west of LaGrange Rd. **Call Bill at 708-364-0006 for more details.**

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## Make Note of These Important Dates

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**Tuesday**  
**Nov. 10**  
**6:30 PM**

**Seed Preparation.** Join the Volunteers at the **Orland Park Civic Center, 147th St. and Ravinia Avenue**, as they prepare the carefully gathered rare local seeds of many varieties of prairie plants and flowers for planting. Lend a hand to this important aspect of nurturing the Grassland back to a healthy ecosystem. For more information or to RSVP, "contact us" at [www.orlandgrassland.org](http://www.orlandgrassland.org) or call Pat Hayes at 708-220-9596.

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**Saturday**  
**Nov. 21**  
**9 AM**

**Seed Planting & Potpourri Celebration.** Join us for seed planting. The gathered and prepared seeds will be sown on the earth to expand and create new wildflower areas. Afterward, we will gather in the Grassland for soups, breads and other tasty treats (weather permitting) to celebrate another successful year of moving toward our goal of developing a natural, healthy ecosystem. For more information, call Pat Hayes at 708-220-9596.

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**Thursday**  
**Jan. 7th**  
**7 PM**

**Orland Grassland Volunteer Meeting.** Everyone is welcome to join the volunteers at our quarterly meeting at the Orland Park Civic Center 147th and Ravinia Avenue at 7 PM. Status of the Corps project, volunteer progress, future activity and goals for the year will be discussed. For more info call Bill Fath at 708-364-0006 or check our website [WWW.orlandgrassland.org](http://WWW.orlandgrassland.org).

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## Orland Grassland

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### Volunteers

15527 S. Westminster  
Orland Park, IL 60462

The Orland Grassland restoration is  
sponsored by:

Audubon - Chicago Region  
Corporation for Open Lands (CorLands)  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers - Chicago District  
Village of Orland Park

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**Visit us on the Web at**  
**[www.orlandgrassland.org](http://www.orlandgrassland.org)**

**Like to be on our mailing or e-mail list?**  
**Call Jeanne at 708-349-7141**