

Bartel Grassland is now recruiting new volunteers for fieldwork, organizational help and classroom support. A training session will be held on June 23 at Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland. Additional field trainings are being arranged in July. Contact Judy Pollock at jpollock@audubon.org to register and for more information. There are many ways you can help – here are the details:

Key:

Location:

I=Indoors,

O=Outdoors (requires walking off-trail on uneven ground),

O/I = both

Hours:

M=Monthly Thursday night meetings,

12 = minimum 12 hours per quarter arranged at your convenience,

A= additional hours arranged at your convenience,

S=8 hours per month during the growing season,

F= hours flexible and arranged at your convenience,

W=attend workdays and events on Saturdays or Sundays at your convenience.

Habitat Stewardship Volunteer: Stewardship volunteers implement habitat restoration projects in conjunction with the land owning agency and other volunteers. Includes cutting brush, gathering and planting seeds, controlling weeds, and planting wetland plugs. *O, W. Able to walk on uneven ground, light lifting.*

Monitor: Each year, throughout the region, volunteers are trained to monitor frogs, dragonflies, birds, butterflies and plants. Understanding the impact of stewardship actions from multiple perspectives gives us the best insight in to how we are improving the ecology of an area. Monitors work within the Team reporting on their findings in the context of the habitat management project providing interpretation as needed. Training sessions are usually held in the winter or spring. *O, S. Observant, detail-oriented person who can learn to identify various species.*

Classroom Resource: Serve as a resource person for a middle school classroom learning about Bartel Grassland or the Lake Calumet region. Visit the classroom and accompany the group on field trips. *I/O, hours to be arranged with teacher during school day. Patient, flexible person, interested in nature.*

Site Assessment Facilitator: Facilitators would work with other site team members to manage the assessment process. They would work with monitors and others to establish goals and measures of success, and with stewards to incorporate the monitors' findings into annual site work plans. *I, M, A. Organized person, strategic thinker.*

Prairie Scouts: Volunteers will assess whether habitat management actions have been successful, will search out new threats, and will communicate their findings back to the team. *O, S. Observant person who can learn to identify about a dozen plants and walk in rough terrain.*

Organizer/Communicator: Provide logistical support to group efforts, maintain mailing lists, send communications, organize meetings *I, M, A. Organized, good communication skills.*

Site Outreach Advocate: Contacts local politicians and other decision makers to educate them about the site's importance and any issues related to that site, and to garner support for ongoing actions. Reaches out to key community organizations and engages new stewardship volunteers. Seeks to engage other preserve area residents through media contacts, tours, presentations. *I or O, F. Good communication skills and judgment*

Public Relations and Reporting. Works with stewards and monitors to develop and share stories, summarizes site activities and interesting results on a regular basis. *I, F. Good writing and communication skills.*

Archivist: Maintain the records of the stewardship group in a central place, including records of work plans and monitoring results *I, F. Well-organized person.*

Computer programmer: Work with Audubon staff and volunteers to develop ways for monitoring data to be more easily accessible on-line *I, F. Programming skills*

Data analyst: Use own software to analyze monitoring data and produce reports to answer key questions from volunteers. *I, F. Data analysis skills and own software.*

Newsletter editor/reporter: Solicit and edit, or write, stories for volunteer newsletter *I/O, F. Good writing and communication skills.*

Photographer: Record site conditions in an organized fashion; record site events and nature sightings *O, F. Photographer, detail oriented.*

Mapper: Use online tools or own software to record or summarize management and monitoring information on maps *I, F. Knowledge of mapping programs.*