



# Back to Basics

*The Nature Institute*

*2014 Year in Review*



*The Nature Institute works to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education.*

#### **Board of Directors**

Sue Weber, president  
Patrick Dailey, vice pres.  
Felicia Breen, treasurer  
Tina Murphy, secretary  
Victoria Burns  
Craig Dixon  
Steve Mottaz  
Charles Norman  
Mike Siemer

#### **Staff Members**

Angela Moan, executive dir.  
Tim Schofield, stewardship dir.  
Patricia Brown, education dir.  
Amy Curry, outreach coord.  
Scott Logan, land steward  
Ramona Puskar, education assist.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work throughout the year. Special gratitude is given to these previous volunteer directors for assisting in 2014:

Tom Doyle  
Nan Adams  
Sara McGibany  
Barb Callahan  
Robert Diaz  
and Paul Edelman

*Board of Directors and Staff lists are current as of July 2015*

## From the Executive Director



As I reflect on this past year, my first year at The Nature Institute, I am completely overwhelmed! In a few short months I had to learn to think differently. We are a standout nonprofit like no other. We are a privately owned nature preserve that is open to the public. We maintain over 450 acres with hiking trails, waterfalls, and the most beautiful bluff top views along the Mississippi River. We have a full time education center that is busy year-round with a summer day camp, field trips, adult education, and nature clubs. We host guided Moonlight Hikes, astronomy clubs, and special events such as the Riverbend Earth Day Festival and the very popular Enchanted Forest.

This is not a typical 9-5 job, and truly a job like no other. As I started here I thought to myself, "Where do I begin?" TNI is very diverse with so many different priorities. So I pulled out our mission statement and wrote it on the wall. This is where our focus has to be: to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education.

This has truly been the most challenging, yet fulfilling, job I have ever held. Our organization is making positive contributions to our community. There is such an overwhelming feeling of satisfaction with every "thank you" hug from a child at camp, an adult complimenting us on the programs list, or seeing students get awarded our college scholarships.

We are accomplishing great and exciting things here! Not only are we educating the community we live in, but we are having fun as we do it. We are restoring wildlife habitats as well as eradicating exotic and non-native species from our preserve. We hope to be able to build on our foundation as we make plans for the future.

What's in store for our future you may ask? Good question! Our future is costly. By December 2015, we are adding to our new Talahi play area, constructing a new boy's bathroom, replacing the roof at the Mississippi Sanctuary office, conducting several controlled burns on the Olin Nature Preserve, and adding a patio to the former Olin skeet range. As if that wasn't enough, we would also like to update the Talahi Lodge with a much needed new roof, build a centralized maintenance shed, purchase a new tractor, and purchase a multi-passenger vehicle to allow the elderly and disabled to be able to enjoy our beautiful scenic river views.

We believe that EVERYONE can make a difference. Please support The Nature Institute and help support our community. We accept and are gracious of donations of any size! We need volunteers at our greenhouse and during our stewardship workdays at the Olin Nature Preserve and Heartland Prairie. Come visit and see all of the exciting things we have going on at The Nature Institute.

Angela Moan, *executive director*



## *Hiking Tips*

From sunrise to sunset, come out and enjoy the great outdoors at The Nature Institute any day of the year. If you plan to hike, be sure to wear supportive shoes, let someone know you are going, and use extreme caution around the bluffs. Hikers should also be aware of poison ivy and the various wildlife that live in and around TNI. Several tracts of our property are dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves and are permanently protected under state law due to the rare plants and animals that are present.

Please observe the following rules when accessing the preserves:

No pets allowed

Pack out what you pack in. There are recycling and trash bins located at the Lodge

No picking or collecting (flowers, mushrooms, rocks, etc.)

No fires, fireworks, or smoking

No motorized vehicles or bicycles on trails

*Find official TNI trail maps on our website at [www.TheNatureInstitute.org](http://www.TheNatureInstitute.org). Questions before you come? Call 618-466-9930.*

# Educate Future Generations



Patricia Brown

*Teach a child about nature, teach them about life. -Aune Nelson, Discovery Day Camp Benefactor*

Environmental education continues to be a core focus of our organization. In 2014, we were able to continue with great programs and add more tools for the community. School field trips continue to be a strong part of our education plan. We saw roughly 50 classes in 2014. Pre-school to high school classes have come to learn about our preserves through interactive, inquiry-based learning, and life-long learning strategies set up by our naturalists and former retired educators. We would not be able to provide award winning programs without our team of naturalists: Dale Albers, Linda Arbeiter, John Hoenig, and Brent Schindewolf, with the assistance from our newest employee, Ramona Puskar, education assistant.

Last year marked three years of working with several local home school groups to provide monthly outdoor education programs from September to May. We have supplemented the students' science curriculum to introduce them to environmental education. Just like our formal education counterparts, we use differentiated instruction and utilize cooperative learning and parent interaction. Students and parents added to their repertoire: biomimicry, Leave No Trace principles, Aldo Leopold Education Project, flint knapping and atlatl with the Center for American Archeology, geology, wild edibles, and local history about the Piasa Bird, Underground Railroad, and Mound builders.

Of course, we continue to be known for our summer program, Discovery Day Camp. Last year we saw over 346 campers and over 1,500 family members attended each week's family picnic to see what their child has learned. We looked to our neighbors and friends at LaVista Community Supported Agriculture Farm to provide a new program. Eric and Crystal Stevens opened their farm each week and campers picked, ate, and took home some fresh vegetables and they were able to learn about sustainable living first hand. We even had one parent comment about how their child never wanted anything to do with a fresh garden of veggies, but after they visited the farm, their child couldn't get enough of them! Guest speakers entertained and taught campers about fish, fur traders, Conservation Police Officer duties, and the work done by TreeHouse Wildlife Center and the Lewis and Clark Community College Occupational Therapy program.

As a tradition with our 5th and 6th grade camp, we will have our annual Change for Change event to help raise funds for local charities to teach the importance of giving back to your community (last year \$1,000 was raised).

In total, 42 junior camp staff gave over 4,400 volunteer hours during the 2014 camp season. Great work and big thank you goes out to all of our summer staff. Without these dedicated individuals, TNI Discovery Day Camp would truly not be the same.

The monthly Knee-High Naturalist program is our long time running nature education program for children three to five years of age. Every year during the months of September through April, we host dozens of children and their parents to a one-hour, nature themed program that includes a lesson, small walk, snack, and book to take home. Our friends at Kohl's have helped fund this program and the books provided each month.

During the year some may ask what else we do in the education component at TNI. We hosted and held seven teacher/naturalist workshops. We are particularly excited to bring pre-service teachers to our workshops that provide these students with national curriculum such as Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) or Project Learning Tree. These curricula help teachers prepare for lesson plans and are all correlated to the Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards and Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM).

Our entire staff and board of directors at TNI help with our largest educational and public programming throughout the year. Our annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Enchanted Forest hosts hundreds of families and help promote our mission. The TNI Astronomy Association and the Moonlight Hike, both meeting monthly, continue to be a crowd favorite. Our mission continues with our efforts, but of course we cannot do it alone.

Are you thinking about becoming involved? This year, restoration and preservation is our focus with our new monthly volunteer workdays at the Olin Nature Preserve. Come out to help restore our 450 acres every third Saturday of the month. We will be learning to identify invasive plants; eliminating these using pruners, saws, and loppers. We also need greenhouse volunteers to help grow native prairie plants and trees. We hope to plant them in new prairie plots established by our stewardship crew last fall and to spread the word of the fight against losing the milkweed plant (*Asclepias*); which is the main food source for our state insect, the monarch butterfly. We will continue our educational walks through Heartland Prairie twice a month and you can volunteer there every first Saturday of the month.



## 2014 Education Highlights

Education staff hosted 57 field trips and 10 homeschool groups

10 monthly Knee High programs with 139 kids and parents attended.

7 workshops facilitated, 141 attended Workshops included:

Growing Up WILD,  
Becoming an OUTDOORS Woman,  
Earth Science,  
Water Festival,  
Guided Hike,  
Master Naturalist  
Teacher Resource Fair and  
Project WET

Eagle Scout Projects:

Nathan Backstrom- finishing Gator Pit,  
Jerald Bemis, Jr. - Pond box and garbage boxes,  
David Mathus- started the foundation for the newly constructed burrow.  
In total, 154 Volunteers gave over 4823 hours



# Preserve and Restore

Tim Schofield



As we get ready for the much anticipated future blooms, we look back to see the many things we accomplished in this past year. Many of you outdoor enthusiasts may have noticed our new trail signs. After a few trials and errors, we hope these signs will save some hikers many hours of wandering in the wild. As an addition to the trail signage, we have erected kiosks on most of the entrances to our properties, all of which showcase our logo and preserve names. We hope these are informative and can answer some of your questions while you are visiting. The uniformity will also help visitors know what is TNI property and what is private neighboring property.

Many of you have noticed the tilled soil at the Mississippi Sanctuary and Cypress Pond. These are a part of the first phase of a continuing program of turning lawn grass into prairie. The result will be short grass prairies with most plants being less than three feet tall. A large assortment of forbs will hopefully create a nice scenic area. Native insects and birds will appreciate the prairies over the mowed grass and it will cut fuel expenses and time. The largest of these plantings is at Cypress Pond and will cover about one and a half acres. It will also have an added benefit of many different types of milkweed plants and within time, will eventually become a showy display prairie. This area will come in handy for future greenhouse sales in the newly constructed TNI greenhouse. The goal of this structure is to provide an area for us to experiment with cultivating native plants, using them on our own property for restoration, and to share with the community.

Although our invasive fight continues, we have made great strides in the fight with the terrible bush honeysuckle. Along many of our trails, you can see an eye popping difference between the treated side and the other side that will eventually get freed of the great menace. Our list of invasives is a very long one, many that often go unnoticed to the average hiker. Always be on the lookout for the following: bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, ailanthus tree, garlic mustard, hop vine, Chinese yam, Asian bittersweet, just to name a few. We consistently defend our trails from these contenders and we hope that our neighbors can help us in the fight.

With the help of a grant from the Woodmen of America, we were able to plant over 20 trees on three of our properties. Mostly in savanna areas, we planted bur, white, red, chinquapin oaks and a few hickory trees. These trees were planted at Cypress Pond; Freeman, Metzger, Larson Savanna; and The Nursery, which is the last piece of TNI property on Levis Lane.

The work of our fine volunteer crew at Heartland Prairie continues to make this property a supreme example of a recreated prairie. If you get the itch, join them on one of their many workdays or simply stop by and enjoy a self-guided hike with one of our trail brochures on site.

We too have outreach duties as a stewardship crew. Some of these activities included planting trees at a wetland mitigation site for Great Rivers Land Trust, advising areas like Watershed Nature Center on prairie burns, the City of Glen Carbon Parks Department on creating a prairie, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) on prairie restoration on campus, and assisting in burn training workshops with the Ecological Restoration Department of Lewis and Clark Community College.

We take pride in the example our property sets for the Riverbend region and we continuously challenge each other year after year to make improvements. One improvement that you will be able to experience at TNI soon is the planned, updated play area. Our organization hopes to construct a uniquely sustainable, hand-made playground that parents can mimic in their own back yards.

All of the work we do on the preserve maintains a natural habitat for our native plants and animals, but in return, we strive to create a co-existence between them and our human friends. We invite you to come out to explore.

As I guided a hike this past fall I discovered a rather rare plant on our preserve, doll's eyes, (*Actaea pachypoda*). Documenting this plant is exciting because it shows our restoration plans are working  
-Patricia Brown, education director



# Memorable Moments



Patrick Dailey

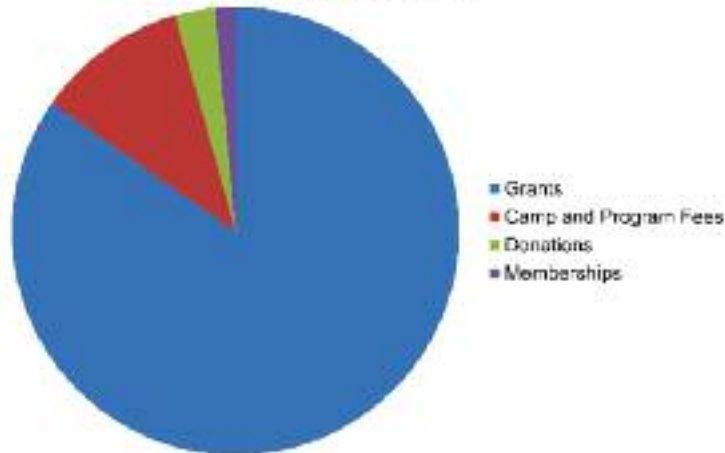
Much of what I think to be a memorable moment associated with The Nature Institute could be considered mundane by most of my peers, but, nonetheless, it is of great importance to me and to the sanctuary and preserve. The moment that comes to mind relates to a response from the director of the Arthur L. and Elaine Johnson Foundation, which provides opportunity for nonprofit organizations like The Nature Institute to apply for grants in the subject area of "Wildlife & the Environment". The response was for TNI Education Director Patricia Brown and I to resubmit a grant next year with some modifications. That is especially exciting due to the competitive atmosphere of grant writing.

The grant we proposed had three components. The first component was to re-examine the species of plants and animals present within the 450-acre preserve and other properties owned or maintained by The Nature Institute. This 'bioblitz' would take place within a two to three day time frame and will draw naturalists and specialists from local research institutions with close proximity to our preserve. The second component of the grant was to request money for annual burning of TNI prairies, which improves wildlife habitats and perpetuates plant species that are fire-dependent. The third component of the grant requests money to purchase and plant native species of plants that are no longer present in the Oak-Hickory preserve. This part of the grant will replant native understory species of wildflowers and shrubs which will, in turn, attract species utilizing these components in their special niche. We also will be establishing a pollinator garden, herb garden, and an edible native plant and wildflower garden. Keep your fingers and toes crossed and hope that we will be rewarded this \$20,000 grant within the next year.

## 2014 Financials

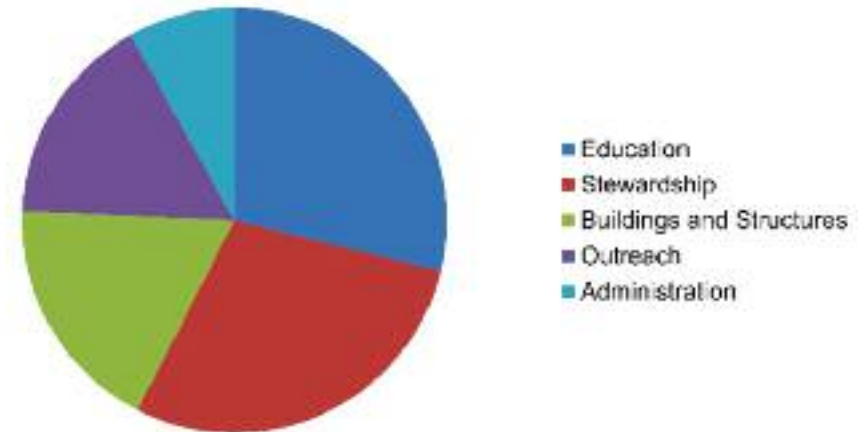
Based on a 15 month audit: Oct. 2013 through Dec. 2014

### Income by Source



	2014 Income Percent	2014
Grants	85%	\$513,571
Camp and Program Fees	11%	\$66,692
Donations	3%	\$17,338
Memberships	1%	\$9,067
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$606,668</b>

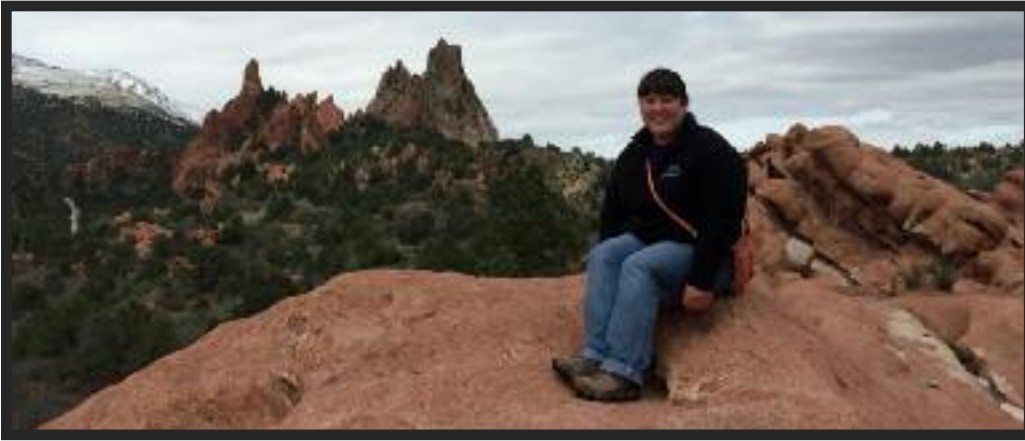
### Operating Expenses



	2014 Expense Percent	2014
Education	29%	\$171,402
Stewardship	29%	\$170,633
Building and Structures	18%	\$108,208
Outreach	16%	\$96,080
Administration	7%	\$48,330
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$594,653</b>



# New Faces of TNI



Meet the newest TNI staff member, Ramona Puskar. Ramona was hired as education assistant in the summer of 2015 and is very excited to become a part of the educational team. Ramona works hand in hand with Patti Brown to help facilitate field trips, naturalist programs, teacher workshops, Discovery Day Camp, and much more. Ramona has brought years of experience and many new ideas to the organization.

Ramona received a degree in Biology from McKendree University and has over four years of experience in environmental education. In 2014, she became a Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) through the National Association of Interpretations. Ramona has interned at the Cincinnati Nature Center in Milford, OH, and the Dunes Learning Center in Chesterton, IN. She also served as a seasonal interpreter at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, IL for two seasons.

Ramona loves working as an environmental educator and believes that the best way to save our planet is to instill a love and respect for nature in children and adults of all ages through firsthand experience and exploration.

There are a few additions to TNI's Board of Directors as well. Help the organization in welcoming our new members: Victoria Burns, Craig Dixon, and Steven Mottaz.

## Coming Soon:

- Geo-trail in honor of Judy Hoffman
- Improved website
- Modernized play ground
- Green house work
- Enriched Heartland Prairie entrance
- Updated boy's restroom
- Completion of ONP wall/patio restoration
- Talahi Lodge upgrades

## 2016 Events Calendar

*Below is an exclusive sneak peek, but is not an enclusive list as some events may be added or deleted. Check out our website for further details!*

### JANUARY- Trails closed until March 1

- 1/13- Knee High Naturalist
- 1/21- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 1/23- Winter Tree ID & Pruning Workshop
- 1/23- Moonlight Hike
- 1/25- Adult Discovery Nature Club

### FEBRUARY- Trails closed until March 1

- 2/6- Maple Sugaring at LaVista CSA
- 2/10- Knee High Naturalist
- 2/18- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 2/22- Moonlight Hike

### MARCH

- 3/1- Greenhouse Volunteer Day
- 3/17- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 3/18- Open Camp Registration
- 3/19- Owl Prowl
- 3/23- Moonlight Hike
- 3/25- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

### APRIL

- 4/2- Heartland Prairie Restoration Day
- 4/6- Songs of the Frog & Toad
- 4/16- Riverbend Earth Day Festival
- 4/23- Wildflower Hike
- 4/24- Spring Migration Bird Hike

### MAY

- 5/1- Spring Migration Bird Hike
- 5/19- Astronomy Association
- 5/21- Moonlight Hike
- 5/24- Heartland Prairie Walk
- 5/30- Adult Nature Club

### JUNE

- 6/4- Heartland Prairie Restoration Day
- 6/14- Heartland Prairie Walk
- 6/16- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 6/20- Moonlight Hike
- 6/28- Heartland Prairie Walk

### JULY

- 7/2- Heartland Prairie Restoration Day
- 7/12- Heartland Prairie Walk
- 7/19- Moonlight Hike
- 7/21- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 7/26- Heartland Prairie Walk

### AUGUST

- 8/4- Ice Cream Social
- 8/6- Heartland Prairie Restoration Day
- 8/18- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 8/20- ONP Restoration Day
- 8/29- Adult Nature Club

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/13- Heartland Prairie Walk
- 9/14- Knee High Naturalists
- 9/15- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 9/26- Adult Nature Club
- 9/27- Heartland Prairie Walk

### OCTOBER

- 10/10- Heartland Prairie Walk
- 10/12- Knee High Naturalist
- 10/21- Enchanted Forest
- 10/22- Evil Forest
- 10/24- Heartland Prairie Walk

### NOVEMBER

- 11/9- Knee High Naturalists
- 11/15- ONP Restoration Day
- 11/15- Moonlight Hike
- 11/20- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 11/28- Adult Nature Club

### DECEMBER

- 12/3- Candy Cane Challenge
- 12/13- Moonlight Hike
- 12/14- Knee High Naturalists
- 12/15- Astronomy Association Meeting
- 12/26- Adult Nature Club

See the complete events list at: [www.TheNatureInstitute.org](http://www.TheNatureInstitute.org).

# Members & Donors

Thank you to all of our donors and members in 2014. Because of you, we are able to continue our mission of preservation, restoration, and education.

## Mississippi Sanctuary Society (\$100+)

Albers, Dale  
Alyea, Daniel & Celeste  
Bosovhe, Spencer  
Breen, Felicia & Chad  
Callahan, Jim & Barb  
Cronin, Fred  
Curry, Cynthia & Steve  
Diaz, Sue  
Florists' Mutual Insurance Co.  
Fosha, Jon & Sandy  
Larson, Richard  
Maher, Brad  
McDonald, Lacy & Jeffery  
Mississippi Mud Pottery  
Norman, Anna Louise  
Norman, Charles & Bonnie  
Pepper, Paul & Susan  
Piasa Net  
Redd, Michael  
Sampson, Maurice  
Siemer, Mike & Betty  
Stinson, Lewis & Cynthia  
Taul, Edward & Gabrielle  
Taylor, Jan & Michael  
Wallace, Dennis  
Warford, Ian  
Weber, Jeff & Sue  
Willis, Reuben  
Yarosevich, Joseph & Kathryn

## Family Members (\$50+)

Abbajay, Stephanie  
Albrecht, Jen  
Allen, Terry & Linda  
Anderson, Ryan & Shannon  
Arbeiter, Linda  
Arnold, Amy  
Audubon Society- Great Rivers  
Bassett, Kathie  
Bosoluke, Marcy  
Bowen, Andy

Bray, Mary Ann  
Bunt, Rebecca  
Cain, Tony & Katie  
Carty, Tammy  
Caughran, Tim & Kimberly  
Clancy, Clare  
Cooper, Anita & Family  
Cope, Jim & Mary  
Copple, Christa  
Cousley, Mary Lou & Steve  
Cowan, Ben & Megan  
Davis, Jon  
Davis, Mildred  
Dennis, Kurt & Amie  
Dinkela, Christina  
Dixon, Amelia  
Donnelly, Mary Ruth  
Dooling, John & Ann  
Ebbeler, Karen  
Eberlin Family  
Evans, Meme  
Evola, Amanda  
Fitzgerald, Stephanie  
Freer, Margaret & Mike  
Freer, Tim & Carrie  
Fry-Hilgert, Toni  
Gargac, Michael & Jenny  
Gelsthorpe, Cindy  
Giertz, Cami  
Gittinger, Eric & Lori  
Haine, Sen. William & Anna  
Hamilton, Robert & Charlene  
Hampton, Shane & Erin  
Hanebutt, Sara  
Henesey, Katie  
Hill, Laura  
Hoffman, AB & Nancy  
Holbrook, Randy & Tara  
Honke, Maleana & Robert  
Jamison, Michelle  
Johnson, Jason & Emily

Jones, Dude & Family  
Kane, David  
Kleinschnittger, Ginger & Steve  
Kollmar, Billy & Brandy  
Konkol, Eric & Jennifer  
Kuykendall, Kelly & Gabriel  
Kwas, Destiny  
Lappin, Rachel  
Larson, Robert  
Lewis, Amy  
Livingstone, Kathy  
Lowe, Robert & Karen  
Lubinski, Ben  
Macias, Lori  
Maddox, Lola  
Maggos, Mark & Meladee  
Malenic, Matthew & Christina  
Matis, Jeffrey & Nancy  
McCall, John & Virginia  
Mendenhall, Douglas & Stephanie  
Miller, Bob & Adele  
Milnor, George & Laurie  
Monroe, Stephanie  
Murphy, Lety  
Myers, Megan  
Newman, Debbie  
O'Neill, Nikke & Tim  
Parr, Charles & Susan  
Plummer, Stephanie  
Politsch, Wayne & Jen  
Provenzano, Nolen & George  
Pytlinski, Tricia  
Reedy, Matt & Noelle  
Riney, Kate  
Schindewolf, Brent & Dee  
Schmit, Robert & Patricia  
Schmitz, Melissa  
Schrumpf, Patrick  
Schuenke, Cynthia  
Schuneman, Debbie & Chris  
Schwager, Wilson

Schwegel, Kelly  
Seehausen, Amy  
Sowers, John & Ellen  
Spain, Tom & Erin  
Sprague, Colby & Valerie  
Stemm, Jay & Amie  
Stork, Laura  
Strack, Barbara  
Sutton, Jeffery & Emily  
Towey, Jim & Rose Mary  
Trout, Keith & Joy  
Tueth, Jill  
Village of Godfrey  
Wagnon, Steve & Beth  
Waters, Brandon  
Waters, Matt & Lindsay  
Weiner, Jennifer  
Weirich, David & Kelly  
Wertman, David & Daina  
Williams, Amy  
Williams, Tina  
Wills, Thomas  
Wilson, Karen  
Woody, Carol  
Woulfe-Beile, Virginia  
Wrischnik, Pat & Jan

## Individual Members (\$25+)

Anderson, Emily  
Baggio, Sara & Nicholas  
Batz, Roger & Gretchen  
Bayer, Susan  
Borman, Cynthia  
Burns, Victoria  
Carll, John  
Clutts, Nicole & James  
Colclasure, Mary  
Cooke, Sara & Dwight  
Darr, Sara  
Davis, Lois  
Emons, Shirley  
Favilla, Christine

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. - Dr. Seuss

Godar, Nancy  
Goetten, Thomas & Nancy  
Graser, Frank  
Harrison-Gunter, Karen  
Hausman, Brian  
Jun, Elizabeth  
Lahr, George  
Maddox, Teri  
Mandrell, Lois  
Massalone, Carole  
McGibany, Sara  
Miler-Lyles, Rebekah  
Mollet, Valerie  
Novak, David  
Owczarzak, Janet  
Porter, Debbie  
Sable, Garry Nelson & Donna  
Smith, Mary  
Springgate, Steve  
Struif, Shirley  
Whitesell, Jean  
Yaeger, Bonnie  
Zerow, Sondra  
Zumwalt, Betty

Donors (\$500)  
Dynergy Midwest Generation, LLC

Donors (\$150-\$250)  
Virginia Long  
William "Red" Schmitt

Donors (\$51-\$100)  
Allen, Ben & Trudi  
Cousley, David & Carla  
Darr, Mark & Terri  
Dixon, Bob & Mary  
Elias, Rod  
Gaskill, John & Marcia  
Hill, Linda  
Johnson, Sue  
Kamler, David

Klope, Linda  
Kuhn, Marilyn  
Maley, Paul & Mary Lou  
Massey, Donna  
Mechanical Inc, Kane  
Norman, Robert & Mary Sue  
Panfile, Barb  
Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab Inc.  
Worthen, Richard & Sherrill

Donors (\$50)  
Allen, David  
Blackwell, Donna K.  
Carrow, Martin & Margaret  
Green, Judy  
Haine, William & Anna  
Hargrove, Keith & Bonnie  
Kennedy, Stephen & Mary  
Luly, Keri

Donors (\$15-\$25)  
Agha, Eddie  
Archangel, Rosemarie  
Baggio, Bruce and Vicki  
Batchelor, Steve & Barb  
Coleman, Lisa  
Crivello, R. J. & Julia  
Dailey, Patrick  
Houck, Barbara  
Kennedy, John  
McDowell, Reid & Angela  
McElhattan, Tina  
Metzger, Dorothy  
Nickell, Robert & Mary  
Rogers, John L  
Schranck, Charles Jr.  
Schwegel, James & Susan  
Sheppard, Joan  
Sinclair, Jim & Sue  
Smith, Amy  
Tueth, Jack



## Accolades Received in 2014

In 2014, The Nature Institute's staff and board of directors were honored to accept the following awards on behalf of all of the volunteers that have assisted by lending a helping hand:

*Godfrey Women's Club's Golden Leaf Award*

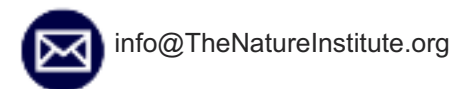
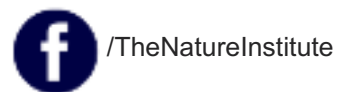
*Pride Inc.'s Outstanding Citizens Award*

*St. Louis Magazine's A-List Award  
for Best Scenic View*

Thank you to these organizations for the recognition and to the Riverbend community for their ongoing support!

## Get involved and remain informed

Keep in touch with The Nature Institute for information on upcoming events, stewardship news, and more!



Be sure to check out our new website: [www.TheNatureInstitute.org](http://www.TheNatureInstitute.org)

Share your experiences with us by using #NatureInstitute

### Photo Credits

Cover: Kemp and Cora Hutchinson Bird Sanctuary

Page 1: Angela Moan, executive director behind Mississippi Sanctuary Office

Page 2: Beaver Falls taken by Rochelle Siegel

Page 4: (Top) Talahi Lodge, (Bottom) Patti Brown, education director with class field trip taken by Barb Callahan

Page 6: Tim Schofield, stewardship director during a prescribed burn in the ONP



*TNI works to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education.*

2213 South Levis Lane in Godfrey, IL  
(618) 466-9930

**Check out our improved website at:  
[www.TheNatureInstitute.org](http://www.TheNatureInstitute.org).**

