

# Wild Things



## A CHICAGO WILDERNESS CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

Saturday, February 7, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Student Center East  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
750 South Halsted, Chicago, Illinois**

Please join us at a day-long conference that brings together the region's best experts, most dedicated volunteers and anyone interested in nature. Technical presentations and interactive workshops will explore the latest in natural areas preservation, wildlife protection and monitoring. The conference is organized in "tracks" designed for everyone from beginners to experts. There is special focus on empowering citizen scientists, stewards and advocates with information, networking and good ideas.

Wild Things will feature more than 70 large and small-group sessions drawn from real-life experiences with everything from the nitty gritty of habitat management and wildlife conservation to advocacy, education, art, culture, history and backyard and neighborhood ecology. It's a great opportunity to listen, ask questions, and contribute to the effort to conserve the natural ecosystems and habitats of the greater Chicagoland area.

Our keynote speaker this year is Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science, Missouri Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. He will share reflections—inspirational, humorous and a little philosophical—from his many years of experience in natural areas management in our region.

We look forward to an inspiring day!

**Questions? Call 847.328.3910 ext. 21**

### REGISTRATION:

You may register one of three ways:

1. Register online at [www.habitatproject.org/WildThings](http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings)
2. Mail the form on page 3 to:

1718 Sherman Avenue #210  
Evanston, IL 60201.

Make checks payable to *National Audubon Society*.

3. Fax the form on page 3 to: 847-328-4146.

*Audubon accepts only Visa, Mastercard, or American Express credit cards.*

### GETTING THERE:

The conference will be held in the Student Center East at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Student Center East is located at 750 South Halsted (between Harrison and Taylor.) Directions to the University (including public transportation) and a map are available from the UIC website:

[www.uic.edu/depts/oar/undergrad/visit/sce.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/undergrad/visit/sce.html).

A parking garage is located just across Halsted from the Student Union and costs \$6 for the day.

### TRACKS

Most sessions are organized by topic according to this track lettering system. However, because the number of sessions in each topic varies, some sessions have letters that are inconsistent with the track topic.

- A. Advocacy/Constituency Building
- B. Arts/Culture/History
- C. Backyards/Neighborhoods
- D. Birds/Bird Conservation
- E. Land Management and Restoration
- F. Monitoring
- G. Sustainability
- H. Natural History of the Chicago Region
- J. Volunteers/Community Building/Outreach
- K. Education
- L. Prairies/Grasslands/Shrublands/Savannas/Wetlands
- M. Woodlands/Forests

### SCHEDULE

#### **8:00AM REGISTRATION OPENS**

#### **8:45 – 9:45AM WELCOME & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science, Missouri Field Office of The Nature Conservancy

#### **10:00 – 10:45AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1**

- A1 How to engage (and lobby) your local elected officials to benefit biodiversity - *Doug Chien and Benjamin Cox*
- B1 Making Buckthorn Work for You - *Sean Shaffer*
- C1 Panel Discussion: Making conservation inclusive and affordable - *Jessica Cañas, Naomi Davis, Michael Howard, Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington*
- D1 Learning to Bird by Ear: Recognizing and Identifying Birds by Their Vocalizations - *Geoffrey A. Williamson*
- E1 Ecological Restoration—Building on the Past, Adapting to the Future - *John D. Rogner and Justin Pepper*
- F1 Citizen Science: Tracking Nature in Chicago Wilderness - *Karen Glennemeier and Susanne Masi*
- G1 The Urban Game Park: Fox Squirrels and Gray Squirrels of Chicago - *Dr. Joel S. Brown*
- H1 Working with the Government - *Dick Riner and John Elliott*
- J1 Recruiting Church Groups and Other Faith-based Organizations as Volunteers in Natural Areas - *Jack Speer, Monica Drane*
- K1 Twenty-eight Years of Restoration and Monitoring at Somme Prairie Grove - *Stephen Packard*
- L1 Significant declines of wetland birds in an urbanizing landscape - *Brad Semel*
- M1 Panel: Oak Regeneration In Chicago Wooded Lands - *Greg Spyreas, Ken Klick, Scott Kobal, Greg Nowacki*

*"Wild Things" is co-sponsored by: Audubon Chicago Region, the Volunteer Stewardship Network, and Chicago Wilderness.*

*This project was funded through a grant program supported by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, in support of ChicagoWilderness.*

*USFWS grants of federal monies are administered by the Illinois Conservation Foundation.*

## 11:00 – 11:45AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

- A2 Restoring Sustainability to Human Landscapes - *Judy Speer*
- B2 Land Ownership History - *David Lloyd*
- C2 Back Yard Gardening for Birds and Butterflies - *Marian Thill*
- D2 100 Years of Changing Bird Communities in Illinois - *Jeff Walk*
- E2 Habitat Restoration in an Altered Landscape: Looking Beyond Invasive Species - *Debbie Maurer*
- F2 Oak and Fire: Past, current and future trends of oak in the eastern United States – *Gregory Nowacki*
- G2 History of The Plants of the Chicago Region, including a description of the forthcoming edition - *Gerould Wilhelm*
- H2 Why Prairies?—Factors that shaped grassland ecosystems - *Dr. Thomas Simpson*
- J2 Reaching the Community through Organization of Festivals, Events, and Lectures - *Becky Hartman and Jane Balaban*
- K2 Simplifying the technique of digital photography - *Charles Peterson*
- L2 The Springbrook Meander Project - *Leslie A. Berns*
- M2 Creating a doorway to Nature in the City: Eden Place and Fuller Park Community Development Corporation - *Michael Howard*

## 11:45 – 1:15PM LUNCH

*Includes exhibits, posters, an art fair, & book signings*

Multimedia: Impressions of the Woodworth Prairie, making the prairie experience available electronically - *Dennis Nyberg*

## 1:15 – 2:00PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

- A3 Economics and the environment: Opportunities for conservation finance and constituency building - *Ken Bagstad*
- B3 Art & Nature: An Intersection Worth Visiting – *Andrea Harris*
- C3 When your closest neighbor isn't human—learning to co-exist with backyard wildlife – *Beth Flitz*
- D3 Raptors of Illinois - An Overview - *Vic Berardi*
- E3 Site-based Restoration Planning and Prioritization - *Steve Flexman, Conrad Fialkowski*
- F3 Restoring habitat for amphibians: Translocation, effects of herbicides, and other factors. - *Robert Brodman and Allison Sacerdote*
- G3 The current status of Illinois lichens - *Richard D. Hyerczyk*
- H3 Nesting Biology of Grassland Birds in Northeastern Illinois - *Jim Herkert*
- J3 People's Changing Relationship with Nature - *Dr. Oliver Pergams*
- K3 Illinois Master Naturalists Come to Cook County - *Nancy Pollard and John Elliott*
- L3 Roger Tory Peterson: No Person Left Inside—How one man and his book changed the way we look at the natural world - *Joe Lill*
- M3 Distribution of Oak-Dominated Ecosystems in McHenry County 1837-2005 - *Edward Collins*

## 2:15 – 2:45PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4

- A4 Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity in the Chicago Region - *Robert Sullivan*
- B4 Natural Transition: Bridging art and science through the illustrated diary - *Diane Huebner*
- C4 How to Set up Vegetation Monitoring at Your Site - *Karen Glennemeier*
- D4 Wooded Island: The Development and Implementation of the Management Plan to Enhance Wildlife Habitat - *Zhanna Yermakov*
- E4 The Ecology and Culture of Water - *James Patchett*
- F4 Especially for Bird Monitors—turning monitoring data into management recommendations - *BCN Census Monitors*
- G4 Keys to Nature: Author-friendly, web-based tools for identification of regional plants and animals - *Bil Alverson*

- H4 Prairie Mushrooms: a unique set of challenges - *Leon Shernoff*
- J4 Create Awareness while Raising Money for Stewardship - *Karen Hunter, James Ellis and Derek Liebert*
- K4 Deer as Keystone Herbivores in the Chicago Metropolitan Area - *Dr. Clayton K. Nielsen and Rachael E. Urbanek*
- L4 Prairie Wolf Slough Wetlands Demonstration Project: A Case Study Illustrating the Need for Incorporating Soil and Water Quality Assessment in Wetland Restoration Planning, Design and Monitoring - *James Montgomery*
- M4 Oak Keepers of Project Quercus Survey Private Woodlots - *Gregory T. Rajskey and Lisa Haderlein*

## 3:00 – 3:30PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5

- A5 The Last 4 Miles—Completing Chicago's Lakefront Parks - *Eleanor Roemer*
- B5 The Ecology of Design - *Mike Iversen*
- C5 Ten Years of Regional Bird Monitoring - What We Have Learned - *Judy Pollock, Doug Stotz, Eric Secker*
- D5 Backyards provide safer nesting sites: Avian nest predation across the urban-rural gradient - *Amy Hank*
- E5 The Ecology and Culture of Water (*continued from E4*)
- F5 Sustainable Practices and Rain Gardens at Shedd Aquarium - *Christine Nye and Cecelia Ungari*
- G5 CW's Shrublands: Restoring a forgotten habitat for birds and other animals - *Bob Fisher and Karen Glennemeier*
- H5 Captive Rearing for Conservation: Techniques for Raising Imperiled and Endangered Butterflies - *Vincent Olivares*
- J5 Reaching the Community by Engaging Schools, Community Leaders, and Corporations - *Kent and Jerry Fuller, Roger Keller, Patricia Hayes, Emily Kenny and Michelle O'Connor*
- K5 Expanding the Scope of Volunteer Stewardship in Chicago - *Becky Schillo*
- L5 Wetland and Buffer Vegetation Management Techniques - *Robert P. Sliwinski*
- M5 Evaluation of an Oak Woodland Restoration at Deer Grove Forest Preserve - *Pete Jackson*

## 3:45 – 4:30PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6

- A6 Confessions of a Nature Lover: How I finally learned to connect kids and nature - *Katie Slivovsky*
- B6 Finding the Still Point... Writing and Publishing the Wetland Memoir - *Laurie Lawlor*
- C6 Conservation @Home—Helping homeowners build eco-friendly yards that benefit people, water and wildlife! - *Jim Kleinwachter*
- D6 Ecology and Conservation of Migrant Landbirds of the Chicago area - *Doug Stotz*
- E6 Releasing the Sprit of Place: Treading the Ancient Pathway between Land and Self- *Edward Collins*
- F6 Singing Insects - *Carl A. Strang*
- G6 One Size Does Not Fit All: Conservation Challenges Related to Amphibian and Reptile Life Histories - *Mike Redmer*
- H6 Leave No Child Inside: Regional Efforts & National Strides - *Sean Shaffer, Liza Fischel, Jessica Soto, and Lauren Plescia*
- J6 Using Technology in Community Conservation Projects - *Emily Kenny and Michelle O'Connor*
- K6 Fox River Curriculum - *David Rigby*
- L6 Restoring Prairies and Managing Stormwater and Local Waterways with Environmental Stewardship Vision: The MWRD Leading By Example - *Dr. Lakhwinder S. Hundal and Dr. Sam Dennison*
- M6 Effects Of Overstory Stand Density And Fire On Ground Layer Vegetation In Oak Woodland And Savanna Habitats - *Dr. John Taft*

# Wild Things 2009

## REGISTRATION FORM

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1718 Sherman Avenue #210  
Evanston, IL 60201

or fax it to:

847.328.4146.

Make checks payable to *National Audubon Society*. Audubon accepts only Visa, Mastercard, or American Express credit cards.

Registration fees are non-refundable. If you need a reduced rate because of special circumstances, leave a message at 847.328.3910 ext. 21.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Address

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City State Zip

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Telephone

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Name as it appears on card

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Signature

### PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:

Registration:  \$27 on or before 1/24  \$35 after 1/24

\$15 student

Box Lunch:  \$10 (*includes vegetarian option*)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the codes (e.g. A1, D2, etc.) of the sessions you might attend so that we can assign room sizes. *Sessions may be changed, added, or dropped prior to the conference. You will receive an updated schedule on the day of the conference. There is limited room for all sessions.*

1	2	3	4	5	6

**You may register two other people than yourself:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of 2nd Registrant

### CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES FOR THE 2ND REGISTRANT:

Registration:  \$27 on or before 1/24  \$35 after 1/24

\$15 student

Box Lunch:  \$10 (*includes vegetarian option*)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the codes (e.g. A1, D2, etc.) of the sessions that the **2nd registrant** might attend so that we can assign room sizes:

1	2	3	4	5	6

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of 3rd Registrant

### CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES FOR FOR THE 3RD REGISTRANT:

Registration:  \$27 on or before 1/24  \$35 after 1/24

\$15 student

Box Lunch:  \$10 (*includes vegetarian option*)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the codes (e.g. A1, D2, etc.) of the sessions that the **3rd registrant** might attend so that we can assign room sizes:

1	2	3	4	5	6

**Total Fees For All Registrants:** \_\_\_\_\_