

*For Immediate Release
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Ingleside, IL*

Volo Bog & Moraine Hills/McHenry Dam Volunteers Honored

On Thursday, December 10, Illinois Department of Natural Resources staff honored ninety seven volunteers who donated their services to Volo Bog State Natural Area and Moraine Hills State Park/McHenry Dam in 2009. Together they contributed 5764 hours to these Illinois Department of Natural Resources sites!

Special Recognition was given to three individuals as Volunteer of the Year at their respective sites.

Carol Shaffer of Grayslake and **Trisha Steele of Round Lake** shared the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award for Volo Bog State Natural Area. Each contributed about 330 hours to the State Natural Area in 2009. Both are weekday docents - Carol on Wednesdays, Trisha on Thursdays. Docents are volunteers who greet visitors, answer questions about Volo Bog and the site in general, assist with program registration and other tasks associated with the Visitor Center, and operate the Tamarack Shop - the Friends of Volo Bog's book & gift shop. In addition to their docent contributions, each also assists with interpretive office support and mailings of the quarterly newsletter - The Bog Log.

Carol began volunteering at Volo Bog in late 2006. In the past three years, she has helped out with the site's prairie gardens, monitored bluebird trails, participated in special events and was elected to the board of directors of the Friends of Volo Bog. Early this year, Carol was appointed as the FOVB's Treasurer.

Trisha began volunteering at Volo Bog in January 2009. Her thoughtfulness and enthusiasm quickly earned her a spot on the board of directors of the Friends of Volo Bog. Trisha can also be found helping out at Volo Bog's special events such as WinterFest, International Bog Day and Ghost Stories where her novel ideas add new twists to these annual favorites.

Bob Vetter of Grayslake was named Volunteer of the Year for Moraine Hills State Park/McHenry Dam for the second year in a row. Bob's tireless devotion of about 100 hours to the complex located in McHenry, Illinois, spanned multiple duties and talents. Bob coordinates the Native Gardeners - a team of ten gardeners who tend to the site's Native Plant Demonstration Gardens. Bob is a founding member of the Friends of Moraine Hills State Park (founded in 2007) where he serves as treasurer & membership secretary. Bob also manages the FOMHSP web site which can be visited at www.FriendsofMoraineHillsStatePark.org. Mr. Vetter is a resident of Saddlebrook Farms, a retirement community in Grayslake, where he often promotes the programs at Moraine Hills as well as Volo Bog State Natural Area where he also volunteers.

Volunteer-of-the-Year plaques were presented to Carol , Trisha and Bob by Site Superintendent Greg Kelly and Site Naturalist Stacy Iwanicki. Each also received a Certificate of Appreciation and a Centurian Award Plaque which is presented to all volunteers contributing over 100 hours for a given year.

Also Receiving Awards:

The following individuals also received Certificates of Appreciation and Centurian Award Plaques for contributing over 100 hours each in 2009:

Nancy Bodinet of Lake Zurich

Bill Ewert of Ingleside

Jim Hegarty (Intern) of Fox Lake

John Holmes of Lake Villa

Carl Krautwurst of Grayslake

Merry Miller of Lake Villa

Nancy Schietzelt of Crystal Lake

Katerina Stepanikova (Intern) now back home in the Czech Republic

Neil Whitman of McHenry

The following received Certificates of Appreciation for contributing 50 - 99 hours each to Volo Bog and/or Moraine Hills/McHenry Dam in 2009:

Chris Brenner of Grayslake

Jerry Donahue of Mundelein

Nancy Doughty of Barrington

Mark Ginger of DesPlaines

Gail Goeke of McHenry

Rob Gough of Johnsburg

Amy Henschen of Libertyville

Pat Henschen of Lake Villa

Jim Horton of McHenry

Mike Iwanicki of Wonder Lake

Brian Janus of Deer Park

Billie Kocal of Antioch

Kathy Kozacky of Roselle

Esther Larson of McHenry

Yvette Liautaud of Streamwood

Karen Lund of Genoa

Meg Macdonald of Lake Bluff

Myrna Nelson of McHenry

Joel Orlinsky of Ingleside

Joan Proell of Wauconda

Ray Purcell of Grayslake

Jane Richards of Wauconda

Leticia Romero of Cary

Randy Schietzelt of Crystal Lake

Jan Wemple of Ingleside

Eighteen additional volunteers received certificates for contributing between 25 - 49 hours each, with another 43 folks offering their help on smaller (often one-time) projects.

Volunteers contribute in numerous ways to educational programming, public relations and habitat restoration at Volo Bog State Natural Area and Moraine Hills/McHenry Dam State Park. Trained volunteer naturalists lead tours of Volo Bog for individuals and small

groups on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Youth Program Naturalists lead environmental education programs including Bog Life tours. Nearly 5,000 school and youth group children are introduced to Volo Bog each year. Special events such as International Migratory Bird Days, International Bog Day, Ghost Stories and WinterFest rely heavily on volunteers. Volunteer Docents greet visitors in both sites' Visitor Centers, while others lead Bird Walks at both Volo Bog & McHenry Dam. Volunteers tend the demonstration Prairie & Woodland Gardens at each site and others monitor bird nesting programs. In 2009, the Habitat Restoration and Stewardship Team was established with over 40 volunteers committing to help on one or more workdays held the fourth Saturday of most months. Many volunteers from the sites are members of the Friends of Volo Bog and/or the Friends of Moraine Hills State Park but membership is not required - the two groups are separate.

Volo Bog State Natural Area is an Illinois Department of Natural Resources site located on Brandenburg Road in Ingleside, Illinois west of U.S. Highway 12 between State Routes 120 and 134. The Friends of Volo Bog, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and may be visited at www.friendsofvolobog.org . For information on Volo Bog or volunteer opportunities, please phone site Naturalist Stacy Iwanicki at 815-344-1294.

Moraine Hills State Park and McHenry Dam are Illinois Department of Natural Resources sites located in McHenry, Illinois on River Road south of State Route 120 and north of State Route 176. The Friends of Moraine Hills State Park is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2007 and expecting approval of their 501(c)(3) application in early 2010. FOMHSP may be visited at www.friendsofmorainehillstatepark.org . For information on volunteer opportunities, please phone site Naturalist Stacy Iwanicki at her main office at Volo Bog - 815-344-1294. For general information on Moraine Hills or McHenry Dam, please phone 815-385-1624.

For more information on either Illinois Department of Natural Resources site and others, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R2/region2.htm>