

Press Release

Peoria Audubon Society
PO Box 3535
Peoria, IL 61612



Thursday, August 27, 2015

For immediate release:

The Peoria Audubon Society, acting as a land trust, accepted the gift of 22 acres of land in Marshall County as part of its efforts to protect high quality habitat along the Illinois River Bluffs ecological corridor.

This gift of high quality oak woodlands, savanna, and hill prairie included a maintenance endowment for future needs. The entire gift is valued at over \$100,000. It includes the Oak Bluff Savanna Nature Preserve, dedicates Illinois State Nature Preserve. Access to the site is by permission of the Peoria Audubon Society.

Located about 4 miles west of Henry, Illinois, the former owners, Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang worked over 20 years preserving and enhancing the quality of the natural features on the site. Maury and Emiko's enhancements included:

- Hiring a botanist to survey and document the native plants found on the property.
- Facilitating a grant from the *Midwest Foresters* to restore 9 acres of woodlands
- Received assistance from the State Wildlife Grant system of the *Illinois Department of Natural Resources*, to have a Restoration Ecologist assist in the removal of invasive, non-native plants in the prairie habitats.
- Restoring 3 acres of former farm ground to a high quality native prairie.

This high quality natural area sits on an important migratory flyway for numerous species of neotropical songbirds as they migrate from their breeding habitat in the north to their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

- Dozens of warbler species can be found in the preserve during spring and fall migration.
- Resident species such as Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Orioles are found nesting on the site.
- Recent bird surveys show that over 160 species of birds utilize this important natural area; which will be preserved for future generations.

On behalf of the residents of Central Illinois, Peoria Audubon Society is fortunate to conserve this important habitat for generations to come.

Dennis Endicott
President
Peoria Audubon Society
d.endicott@peoriaaudubon.org

Mike Miller
Sanctuary Committee
Peoria Audubon Society
wokandabirder@gmail.com