

Alice Hargrave: Paradise Wavering

TOURS AT THE MERWIN PRESERVE and FRANKLIN RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM

Saturday, September 23, from 8:30am-12:30pm | Merwin Nature Preserve + Franklin Demonstration Farm
See below for schedule and directions.

In collaboration with ParkLands Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, we will tour the Merwin Nature Preserve and the Franklin Research and Demonstration Farm. The Merwin Preserve, which is located in the Mackinaw Valley watershed, features 19 stations along its hiking trails. At the Franklin Farm in Lexington, Illinois, researchers from The Nature Conservancy and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are "testing a variety of conservation methods, including cover crops, constructed wetlands, and habitat restoration."

All events are free and open to the public. For more information or to arrange a special accommodation to participate in this program: 309.438.8191 or kkjohn4@ilstu.edu.

SCHEDULE AND DIRECTIONS

8:30-8:45am: Meet at McDonald's/BP in Lexington to use restrooms and organize carpools (there are no facilities at Merwin or Franklin Farm)

8:45: Leave McDonald's/BP in Lexington for Merwin Nature Preserve North Gate

9:00: Arrive at Merwin North Gate for tour with Jason Shoemaker, ParkLands Foundation Land Steward

10:30: Depart Merwin; return to Lexington BP/McDonald's for restroom break and to pick up any additional tour attendees

11:00: Depart to Franklin Farm

11:00-12:30: Tour of Franklin Research and Demonstration Farm with Krista Kirkham, Assistant Aquatic Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

12:30-12:45: Travel back to McDonald's/BP and depart

Please bring water to drink and wear pants and walking shoes.

If you have questions on 9/23, please contact Krista: 309.212.0688

To participate in only one of the two tours: instead of meeting the carpool at the McDonald's/BP, meet us at the Merwin North Gate at 9:00 or at the Franklin Research and Demo Farm at 11:00. There is very limited parking at the Merwin North gate, but you can park along the road.

Directions to Merwin North Gate from Bloomington/Normal:

- Take I-55 North to the Towanda exit.
- At the top of the ramp turn left (North) on McLean County Highway 29.
- Continue North approximately 2-1/2 miles until you reach the "T" intersection.
- At the "T" intersection, turn right (East).
- After crossing the Money Creek bridge, turn left (North) on Hwy. 29.
- Continue North on Hwy. 29 for 3-1/2 miles until you come to the 4-way stop at the intersection of Hwy. 29 and Hwy. 8 (Lake Bloomington Road).
- At the stop sign continue North on Hwy. 29.
- While driving North, you will see the Merwin Nature Preserve West Gate parking lot on your right immediately after you cross the Mackinaw River bridge; continue heading north for a half mile.
- Turn sharp right onto County Rd 2650 North, or McLean Co. Hwy 6. In approximately a half mile, the North Gate entrance will be on your right.

Directions to the Franklin Research and Demonstration Farm from Bloomington/Normal:

- Take I-55 North to the Lexington exit (178)
- Turn left onto PJ Keller Hwy
- Travel approximately one mile, and the entrance to the Franklin Research and Demonstration will be on your left. The entrance is an open metal gate to a gravel road, and there is also a sign for the Franklin Research Farm featuring The Nature Conservancy's logo.

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