

LLELA

- *preservation*
- *restoration*
- *education*
- *research*

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exciting aspects of the restoration—observing many volunteers participating, learning and teaching others along the way. If we are to be successful in managing this property in perpetuity, we must grow this army of dedicated volunteers who have taken ownership of LLELA and understand full the management plan. An important by-product of this process is the development of many new friendships and the cross-pollination of new ideas that hasten the pace of the restoration.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to participate in our restoration efforts (or any of our other volunteer opportunities) use the information on this page to contact a LLELA staff member.



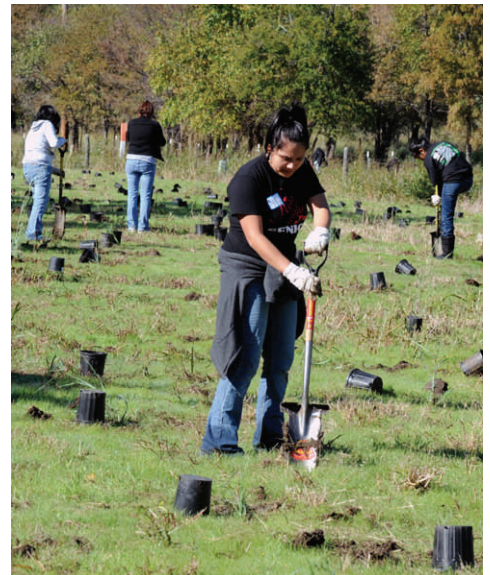
A quarterly publication for LLELA season pass members
Winter, 2010

Eating an Elephant — the Process of Prairie Restoration

Ken Steigman, Director

One of LLELA's goals is to restore our 2,000 acres to pre-settlement conditions, and upland prairie restoration has been a priority. Much has been accomplished, although the daunting scale of these projects likens them to the way one might approach eating an elephant—one bite at a time. During the last year over 5,000 container-grown native grasses and wildflowers were planted by approximately 500 volunteers on 10 acres of former prairie. The plant material came from plant rescues on local prairie remnants, grown in our own nursery with the help of many volunteers. This process involves teasing apart large clumps of native grass into separate sprigs. Each sprig is potted in a small container and later transplanted into a larger pot when the root system is well developed. In addition to the planted rootstock, hand-collected seed from many local prairies has been sown to further increase the genetic diversity of the plant communities at LLELA.

None of the planting or sowing of seeds can occur before the upland area is cleared of the forest of woody species that has invaded over the past 80 years of no management. This requires a huge effort to cut trees, treat the stumps with herbicide and burn the debris to clear the area for planting. This method was chosen because it creates far less disturbance of the remaining grasses. Just as importantly, it gives us the opportunity to involve large numbers of volunteers in the process. This is one of the most



What's Happening at LLELA?

**** Schedules are subject to change. Call the LLELA Gatehouse at 972-219-7980 to confirm.****



Homestead Open House

- December 11, 12—3 p.m.
- January 15, 12—3 p.m.
- February 19, 12—3 p.m.
- March 19, 12—3 p.m.

Walk through LLELA's restored 1870's log home and smokehouse, a replica dugout, and an unrestored barn. Friendly and knowledgeable staff and/or volunteers will be available to answer questions. Currently there is no fee for this program.



Bison Tours

- December 26, 2 p.m.
- January 30, 2 p.m.
- February 27, 2 p.m.
- March 27, 2 p.m.

Learn more about LLELA's bison herd—their natural history, management, and integral role in prairie ecology. As the bison live in a closed area of LLELA, this behind-the-scenes visit is a treat. All ages welcome, \$2 program fee required per person (season pass holders). Reservation required; call 972-219-7980.



River Trips by Kayak-Power.com

- December 18, 9 am—2 pm
- January 15, 9 am—2 pm
- February 19, 9 am—2 pm
- March 19, 9 am—2 pm

Whether you're got lots of river time under your belt or have never set foot in a kayak, you're welcome here! Kayak Power will provide equipment and instruction followed by a six-mile trip down the Elm Fork to a shuttle vehicle. Contact info@kayakpower.com or 214-669-1663 for information. Reservation required.



Bird Walks

- December 11, 7:30 a.m.
- February 12, 7:30 a.m.
- March 12, 7:30 a.m.
- April 9, 7:30 a.m.

Accompany a master birder on a guided hike. Over 275 species of birds have been documented at LLELA, so there's no telling what you might find! Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome, \$2 program fee required per person (season pass holders). Reservation required. Bring your own binoculars.

Have a Homestead Christmas at LLELA 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11

Featuring authentic music and activities including:

- **Corn husk dolls**
- **Ornament making**
- **Butter churning**
- **Candle dipping, and more!**

Enjoy Dutch oven gingerbread, hot cider, and other treats.



Photo by Lynne Richards

There is no additional fee for this program, only LLELA's regular admission. Members enter free. Bring the kids (or grandkids) to LLELA for some fun!