

**NIIPP Bulletin March 2011:**

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**1. Reminder to send in your MOU signature page!** The Coordinator sent out the final version of the MOU on 14 February. Please return your signature page via email or US Postal Service to Cathy McGlynn. So far we have received five pages.

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**2. Great Lakes Restoration News:**

UP TO \$40 MILLION AVAILABLE FROM EPA FOR GREAT LAKES RESTORATION PROJECTS (CHICAGO – Feb. 25, 2011) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that the agency is requesting applications from states, municipalities, tribes and nonprofit organizations for new projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes. President Obama has proposed a total of \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in Fiscal Year 2011, with approximately \$40 million of that total allocated to EPA for distribution through this competitive grant program. The final budget is subject to Congressional appropriation.

“These grants will support critical work to protect the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to 30 million Americans and support a multi-billion dollar economy,” said EPA Region 5 Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager Susan Hedman. “This year we are particularly interested in projects that create new jobs – for instance, using a conservation corps model for environmental restoration.”

Grants are available to fund a wide range of projects, including work to target invasive species, to reduce the impact of toxic substances and nonpoint pollution, to protect public health, and to clean up heavily contaminated “Areas of Concern” around the Great Lakes Basin.

"The work funded by these grants will help to ensure that Great Lakes water is safe to drink, the fish are safe to eat, and that beaches and waters are safe for swimming and recreation," said Hedman.

Applications are due by noon on April 11. Webinars on the application process will be held at 10 a.m. on March 9 and March 17.

See more information about applying for GLRI grants at [www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2011rfa01/](http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2011rfa01/). More information about the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is at [www.greatlakesrestoration.us/](http://www.greatlakesrestoration.us/).

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### **3. Rally 2011: The National Land Conservation Conference (October 13-16, 2011)**

Are you an expert instructor on land conservation issues? Do you have a unique land trust experience you'd like to share?

If so, we're looking for experts in conservation who are interested in serving as faculty for our Rally seminars and workshops!

Submit a presentation proposal today for Rally 2011: The National Land Conservation Conference, being held on October 13-16, 2011, at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee.

**All Proposals Are Due: February 28, 2011**

"The Rally seminars and workshops benefitted our organization by introducing us to new ideas and approaches that have the potential to make us more sustainable."

-Rally Participant

Rally participants tell us that the number one reason they attend Rally is for the educational courses. At Rally 2010 in Hartford, expert faculty presented more than 350 educational hours over a four-day period.

Without the generous help from our faculty, Rally would not be the success it is, year after year. We thank them for generously giving their time to strengthen the work of land trusts throughout America.

When planning your proposal, keep in mind that Rally trainings consist of several different formats and cover a variety of land conservation topics:

#### Seminars

These are intensive trainings that delve deeper into important issues in land conservation taught by the top leaders in their field. Seminars consist of day-long sessions that are six to eight hours in length and half-day sessions that are four hours long. Seminars are scheduled for Thursday, October 13 and Friday, October 14.

#### Workshops

Diverse topics taught by the experts! Workshops run concurrently within 16 specialized tracks and are scheduled for Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16. These trainings are either 90 minutes or two hours in length and can have 10 - 200 people in attendance.

View the selection of workshop tracks

<<http://lta.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMjUxOTc3JnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg1Mzg4NDcmbGk9NTI2MjU4NA/index.html>> >>

Submitting A Proposal

To submit a proposal, visit our website

<<http://lta.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMjUxOTc3JnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg1Mzg4NDcmbGk9NTI2MjU4NQ/index.html>> for the online form or the downloadable pdf form for submission via fax.

Questions? Please contact [rally@lta.org](mailto:rally@lta.org).

Thank you for all you do to support land conservation!

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#### **4. Earth Day**

The Coordinator for NIIPP has received requests that NIIPP attend partner Earth Day events. If your organization would like to have representation by NIIPP at your Earth Day event in April 2011 please contact Cathy McGlynn at 847-242-6423 or [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net). Thank you!

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#### **5. Invasive Species Awareness Month/Garlic Mustard Challenge**

May is Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month and NIIPP is asking if its partners would like to participate in the Garlic Mustard Challenge! This challenge began in West Virginia and has expanded to the Midwest. Each year in May folks participate in volunteer workdays to pull garlic mustard and fill 13 or 33 gallons bags with this delicacy (<http://www.phcwpma.org/GarlicMustard.cfm>). NIIPP plans to be a part of this year's challenge. We are asking partners who are planning garlic mustard pulls in late April and May to let the NIIPP Coordinator know. She can help publicize your event and will keep a running list of participants. NIIPP's participation will also be posted on the Garlic Mustard Challenge website (<http://www.phcwpma.org/GarlicMustard.cfm>). She asks that you report the number of X gallon bags or buckets of garlic mustard that have been pulled during these events to her and she can compile this information and send it along to the US Forest Service. Prizes will be given out by USFS to those who pull the most garlic mustard! Please contact Cathy McGlynn at 847-242-6423 or [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net) if you are interested. Thank you!

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#### **6. Request for assistance with purple loosestrife biocontrol project**

One of our partners is looking for a reliable source for purchasing *Galerucella* beetles or for information about a site where they can be collected and someone to help ID the beetles. If you can provide any information or suggestions, please contact Cathy McGlynn at 847-242-6423 or [cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net](mailto:cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net). Thank you.