



Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

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Franklin Grove, IL 61031
www.illinoisprescribedfirecouncil.org

December 30, 2022

The Illinois Prescribed Fire Council (IPFC) would like to recognize Brad Woodson for his contributions to the IPFC and the larger conservation community in Illinois. As of December 16th, 2022, Brad has officially retired from the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) to accept a position in Iowa, and thus is also resigning as a Director of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council.

Brad Woodson has served on the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council as a member of the Board of Directors since 2011, including a term as President in 2013-2014. That year, the IPFC would produce its successful Fire Needs Assessment and went on to organize the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council Symposium which hosted 170 participants in McHenry County.

Brad got his start in the conservation field back in 1989, when he graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. Shortly after, Brad began his conservation career as an intern with the Illinois Nature Conservancy and as a Roadside Management Specialist with the Lee County Conservation Board in Iowa.

Over the past three decades, Brad has served as a Restoration Ecologist (1991-2003), Natural Resource Supervisor (2003-2013), and finally as Natural Resource Manager (2013-2022) for the McHenry County Conservation District's Land Preservation and Natural Resource Division. Under Brad's leadership the McHenry County Conservation District has planned and implemented a number of large-scale ecological restoration projects including the Lost Valley Marsh, the Nippersink Creek dechannelization Project, Goose Lake, Pleasant Valley and School Springs wetland restorations, and numerous other prairie, wetland and savanna restoration projects.

Moreover, throughout his 31-year career Brad has been a true leader in the prescribed fire program for McHenry County Conservation District. Brad participated in his first prescribed burn 1988 and since 1992 he has been on 1,058 prescription burns with the McHenry County Conservation District across 12,600 acres of McHenry County Conservation District holdings with a combined total of over 23,000 acres burned. Brad is an Illinois Certified Prescribed Burn Manager and has presented programs at numerous professional fire conferences and symposiums on prescribed fire operations and program management. During his tenure he has provided valuable insight, professional expertise and positivity while forging many friendships with staff and volunteers.

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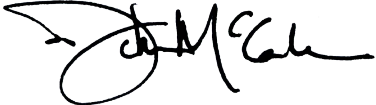
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Mission:

To promote the safe and continued use of prescribed fire on the Illinois landscape

Brad is recognized as an exceptional expert in the craft of prescribed burning in the Midwest region. He has left his mark on the culture of the prescribed fire program of his home organization, and greatly contributed to wider education, advocacy, and acceptance of prescribed fire through his role on the IPFC. The Illinois Prescribed Fire Council wishes to thank Brad Woodson for his dedication, leadership and outstanding service towards promoting prescribed fire in Illinois, and we wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McCabe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

John McCabe
President
Illinois Prescribed Fire Council