

Stephen Packard
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For more than three decades, Stephen Packard has lectured, taught, written and founded organizations and on-the-ground initiatives - all focused on ecological conservation. He has been Director of Science and Stewardship for the Illinois Nature Conservancy and Director of Audubon Chicago Region.

Packard was the initiator of the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council (Chicago Wilderness) now a globally respected collaboration of more than 200 national and local conservation-minded agencies.

Packard has extensive experience in the restoration of prairies and oak woodlands. He initiated and helped to plan and implement a number of large ecological restoration projects in Illinois including Nachusa Grasslands, Bartel Grassland, Orland Grassland and the Spring Creek Forest Preserves restoration (4,000 acres). His work on open oak ecosystems has led to the rediscovery of these now rare communities.

In 1983 he initiated the Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN). With tens of thousands of volunteers working at hundreds of sites, the VSN has served as a model for the creation of similar projects by many agencies in other parts of the United States.

Steve has been involved in performing and organizing some form of ecological restoration, continuously, since the mid-1970s. His background and knowledge of native plants and their restoration are well demonstrated in his three blogs as noted above.

Packard for many years taught "Science and Policy of Ecological Conservation" at Northwestern University's Weinberg College. He was a founding board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and now serves on the editorial board of the journal *Ecological Restoration*.

Featured in many books and various other media, he is also an author. Most notably, Tallgrass Restoration Handbook: for Prairies, Savannas and Woodlands with Cornelia Mutel.

Steve received a Bachelor's degree in social psychology and anthropology from Harvard College in 1966.