

For Immediate Release:

For Additional Information Contact:

Lea Stuckemeyer AVP, Consumer Banking
Phone: (866) 720-8662

Altamont, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Peoples Bank & Trust has selected volunteers from Ballard Nature Center as our Volunteers of the Quarter for the 2nd quarter of 2024. The Volunteers donate countless hours keeping Ballard Nature Center beautiful and enjoyable. The Volunteers are essential to Ballard Nature Center.

Volunteers host the Visitor Center on weekends, build footbridges and benches, maintain trails, conduct yard work, and help with programs and special projects. Without our volunteers, the Ballard Nature Center would not have grown into what we are today!

In the fall of 1997, the Ernie Ballard family gave the 210-acre farm to the Effingham SWCD with the purpose of developing a nature center. The Ballard's goal was to keep the grounds preserved, not wanting to see all his conservation practices turned into a possible housing development. The SWCD then developed a long-range plan on the use of the property. Prairie and wetlands were to be developed and a visitor center was to be constructed. To achieve these goals, a non-profit foundation board was created and SWCD deeded the property over to them to oversee the project. In 1999, Ballard donated the funds for the construction of the 4,300 square foot Visitor's Center. The Board of Directors have acquired funds through grant writing and fundraising events to develop trails, build pavilions, build displays, construct a fishing pond and staff the center.

Ballard Nature Center would love to help you find a way to share your time and talent with them! For more information on volunteering, please contact the center at (618) 483-6856 or by email.

Peoples Bank & Trust will be honoring Ballard Nature Center volunteers with a monetary donation to the Ballard Nature Center and their names will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with thirteen offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Arcola, Arthur, Tuscola, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.