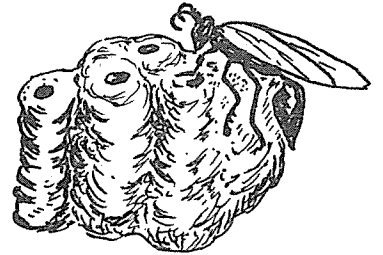


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER  
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WHAT TO SEE *COMMUNITIES ALONG THE PATH*

Perhaps you think the word *community* refers only to our urban towns, occupied by the people who once rode the old C.A.&E. But there are rural communities too.

Have you seen the "pueblos" built by the mud-dauber wasp? They have found the backs of our signs excellent places for their nests.



Or how about the woodchucks? You seldom find just one burrow. One area, a few feet from the Path, near *South Elgin* is so riddled with their holes that you must step with care through their town.

But the commonest communities you will see are not animal communities; they are sunflowers and other members of the family *Compositae*. This is their season and they are everywhere. Examine closely the flower head of one (a lens or magnifying glass will add to your enjoyment) and note the tiny, close-packed individual flowers that make up the inner city, and those of the outlying district, the ray-flowers. The colorful ray-flowers serve to attract the bees. There are many other more loosely assembled flower communities, too; the clovers, mints, and milkweeds to mention a few.

It is interesting to think of the influence man has had on each of these. The woodchucks originally lived in the woods eating roots and bark. They found the farmer's vegetables more tasty and so moved closer to the cultivated fields. The honey bee, pollinator of the sunflower and close relative of the mud-dauber, once lived in "bee trees" but is now more often a resident of a hive. Volumes have been written about the way in which man has altered the flowers by hybridizing. Are the "man-made," foot-wide sunflowers growing on their 10 or 12 foot stalks the housing developments of the plant world -- with so many residents they hang their heads?



One flower



Community of flowers



## THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRAILS

Those of us who attended this symposium in Washington, D.C. on June 2-4, came away with a feeling of unbounded pride - pride in our Path and pride in our leaders. We learned that we were the first to apply for *National Trail* designation. We are unique, too, in that we have the only path planned and operated by volunteer private citizens who have faced almost insurmountable problems in an urban area without federal or state assistance.

You surely have seen some of the many reports in the newspapers telling of Secretary of the Interior *Rogers Morton's* address specifically honoring *Mrs. Watts*. As he presented her with the certificate of National Trail designation for our Path he said, "In honoring this woman, we reflect honor on all those like her. She is, today, symbolically representing a growing community of concerned citizens." You know, too, that she shared with Mr. Morton the ribbon-cutting symbolizing the opening of 27 trails.

We were proud, too, of our president, *William Nemeo*. He was the moderator of a panel on Establishing National Recreation Trails and he was great, not only in the formal part of his meeting but in fielding questions from the floor.

*Gunnar Peterson*, executive director of *Open Lands Project*, in his remarks closing the 3-day session again praised the Path. Surely everyone of the hundreds attending the symposium now knows about the Illinois Prairie Path!

If you were watching the evening news on CBS on June 2, you saw Mrs. Watts and heard her tell of the Path. We saw her the same day in the dedication and ribbon cutting on a Washington TV station.

### WORK OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Only 12-1/2 miles of the Prairie Path within DuPage County (all of the *Elgin* branch and the part of the *Aurora* branch from *Wheaton* to the West DuPage River, *Warrenville*) has been designated as a *National Recreation Trail*. But with the continued work of our many volunteers we can foresee an early acceptance of the other 18 miles. There have been and still are many clean-up crews at work. The one on May 1st in *Glen Ellyn* was a great success; 200 people including village officials and one man from as far away as *Michigan City* took part in cleaning the Path and installing signs and barricades. In *Lombard* a 4-foot path has been mowed and some lilacs have been planted. A new organization, *The Lombard Environmental Council*, is spearheading work on the Path in that city. They had a clean-up day June 26. The *Warrenville* group is still active. A Gravel Gertie coffee was held at the home of Mrs. Player; more than \$60 was raised to buy gravel for the Path in Warrenville. The *Elmhurst Jaycees* have put up rustic fences at the street intersections and the *Elmhurst Garden Club* has planted appropriate shrubs. The *Wheaton Friends of the Prairie Path* had a clean-up day on June 19.

### WALKS

The Members' walks this spring were well received; one on April 24 led by *Mr. Wason* and *Mrs. Lively* and one on May 22, a bird walk, led by *Mr. and Mrs. Mooring* and *Mr. Judd*. They saw a total of 44 species. The Sunday walk on June 6 was hampered by 97 degree heat. *Mr. Wilson* led the 9 hardy hikers.

The *Elmhurst AAUW* had a family walk, bicycle excursion and picnic in May. This was organized by *Mrs. Incopero*. A census was taken at several places of those using the Path.

The next Members' walk will be in mid-September. It will be led by *Bill Masters* and *Jon Duerr*. Specific information and date for this walk will be mailed to all members at a later date.