What To See — BUTTERFLIES

The Prairie Path is an excellent place to look for butterflies as they are attracted to blossoms along the path. Their bright wing patterns are very noticeable in flight. Their folded wings at rest appear to be dead leaves, or to so closely resemble their favorite flower as to make them appear a part of it.

Butterflies are easy to collect and mount; they make a fascinating and decorative hobby. A net can be made from an old curtain and a wire clothes hanger fastened to a long stick. A jam or pickle jar with a piece of cardboard over a wad of cotton dipped in cleaning fluid makes a killing jar. The dead butterflies are spread on a piece of corrugated cardboard with strips of paper pinned over the wings to keep them in place until they are thoroughly dry. A pin through the body mounts them in a box. There are many good books on butterfly collecting and identification in your local library.

Photographers often place a jar with a butterfly in it in the refrigerator for an hour or two. The chilled butterfly can then be placed on a flower to photograph. When the butterfly warms up, it will fly away unless it is handled carefully.
IMPROVEMENTS:

The new bridge across the East Branch of the DuPage river is in place. Delay resulted when specifications did not meet state requirements. Plans were altered to meet the requirements and the permit was granted. Additional Path improvements will be surfacing on the southwest branch between Winfield Rd. and the E.J. & E. tracks. Brush will be removed, there will be grading where necessary followed by spreading of limestone screenings. Some work has already been completed. The entire project is expected to be finished by the end of August.

Work Weekend June 10 and 11. Under the direction of Paul Mooring, Path President, two badly washed out areas were repaired. Both were near the trailer court at Geneva and County Farm Rds. Utilizing railroad ties and 48 inch reinforcing rods the danger spots were skillfully repaired.

WHEATON:

The Wheaton Public Works Department is in the process of adding limestone screening to the Path on the southwest branch which has been worn by heavy use and eroded by rain. Repairs will also be made between Hill Ave. and the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn boundary. Coarse gravel will be used to fill several large holes before a new surface of limestone is added.

Apologies came from City Manager Bill Kirchhoff after vegetation had been wiped out in two places on the southwest branch. This was, unfortunately, necessary when water pipes were placed across the Path. The City has already requested suggestions from us for appropriate shrubs and trees which will be planted as soon as possible.

Founder's Park. Mark Peterson, working on his Eagle Scout certificate, and members of his scout troop, spent 6½ hours grooming Founder's Park. Weeds were dug out of shrub beds, dead brush was removed and a mushroom compost mulch was spread in the shrub beds and around trees. Appearance of the Park was much improved. Also adding to improved appearance of Founder's Park is the City's help with a weed-and-feed program. In spite of poor soil the quality of the grass is much better.

GLEN ELLYN:

Hearings were held by the Village Board to consider using portions of the Prairie Path for parking (from Main St. to Prospect and east of Montclair). Objections were voiced by some of the Board members as well as several Glen Ellyn citizens and Prairie Path Board members. The Village decided that use of the Prairie Path as a parking lot would only be considered as a last resort. Thomas Merrion, County Right-Of-Way Agent, formally advised the Village that any alteration of the Prairie Path would have to be approved by the County.

The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors continues to seek take-over of Prairie Path management by the County Forest Preserve. The Board believes that problems that continue to threaten the existence of portions of the Path can be prevented by County administration and protection. Public use of the Path has long since proven its worth as a valuable recreation resource. The Prairie Path has served as a prototype for the development of similar trails all over the country. It is a recognized National Trail. We feel that it should no longer be necessary to fight for its existence.
LOMBARD:

A fund has been established at the Lombard Park District for Path Beautification. Also trash receptacles have been placed at Main St. and Westmore Ave - courtesy of Lombard Jr. Women's club.

ELMHURST:

Patrick Sullivan, assisted by troop 86, developed a Nature Trail on the Path to achieve his Eagle Scout certification. More than 130 hours were spent making signs identifying the trail and trees along the Path. It was a terrific idea. Unfortunately there are "the spoilers". The big effort was quickly defaced. Signs were broken and senselessly sprayed with paint.

WARRENVILLE:

Prairie Path development continues to gather interest. Most improvement was made by Warrenville Friend of the Prairie Path, Vi Kolze, who planted a row of shrubs along the Path near the City Hall.

KANE COUNTY:

We regret that Jerry Handlon found it necessary to resign from the Prairie Path Board. Appointed to replace him is Eldon Fryendall, recent past president of the Batavia Park District.

Board member, Gunnar Anderson, former Director of Kane County Forest Preserve, was honored recently when the Forest Preserve Board named a park for him.

FALL ACTIVITIES:


Sunday, October 8: Annual Fall Walk. Meet at 9:30 A.M. on the southeast corner of Batavia Rd. and Butterfield Rd. (Rt.56) in Warrenville. Bring lunch and drink. Walk will be held on the newly resurfaced Aurora Branch approximately 8 miles. Leaders: Dick Wilson 299-7882, Paul Mooring 469-4289.


Help Prevent Accidents! Bicyclists are urged to sound a bell or a horn when passing pedestrians or other bicyclists from behind. If you do not have a bell or horn please call out PASSING ON YOUR LEFT. MOPEDS ARE REGARDED MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND ARE BARRED FROM PATH USE.

The Illinois Prairie Path a Guide by Helen Turner. Describes geology and history of the Prairie Path. Includes drawings of flowers, trees, animal and bird tracks. Now available: single copy $1.25; 10 or more copies $1.00 ea.; 25 or more copies 75¢ ea. Makes a charming gift. Prairie Path patches $1.00 ea. Send orders and check to Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, Ill. 60187