

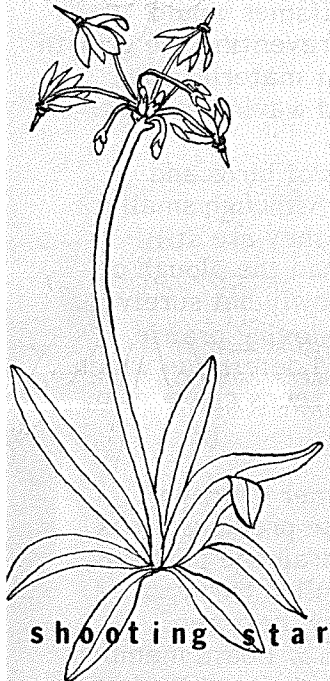
# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

Summer 1981

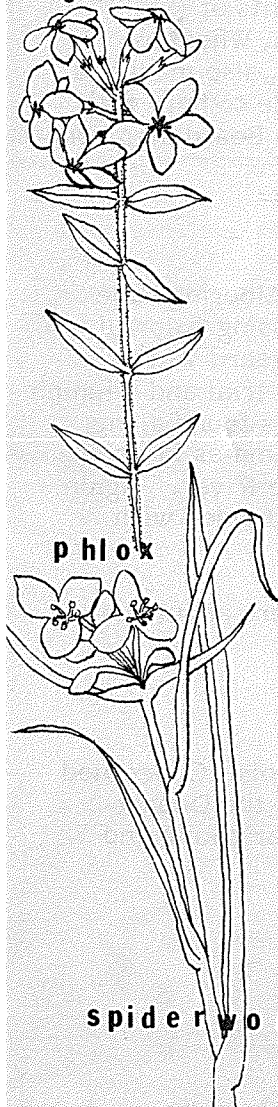
## What to look for - Prairie flowers

This summer and in the fall we will be looking for prairie flowers. The Prairie Path is an excellent place to look for these native American plants because most of it is virgin soil. The Government gave the railroads every other section of land along the right of way to encourage western expansion. The railroad went before the farmer and his steel plow especially in the northern part of the U.S. Prairie plants are deep rooted perennials who can survive almost anything except the plow or the bulldozer. The efforts of the Prairie Path members to reclaim prairie remnants by cutting trees which shade these sun loving plants and burning to get rid of old grass and weeds will make our prairie plants more visible.

Early summer the shooting star, *Dodecatheon meadii*, is a pink or white beauty resembling the hot-house cyclamen. The lavender blue blossoms of the prairie phlox, *Phlox pilosa*, last longer than their woodland cousins. Large clumps of spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, can be seen by late June with blue flowers and sticky stems. Stiff coreopsis, *Coreopsis palmata*, with its divided leaves and yellow flowers blooms with the purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, showing us how colorful the prairie was by the first of July. Prairie clover, *Petalostemen purpurea*, has tiny purple flowers on a long head. There is also a white variety. Beebalm, *Monarda fistulosa*, a lavender mint with square stems is common along the Path. The stately anemone, *Anemone canadensis*, grows in tall colonies with lovely white petals, golden centers and two fuzzy leaves clasping its stem. How many can you find?



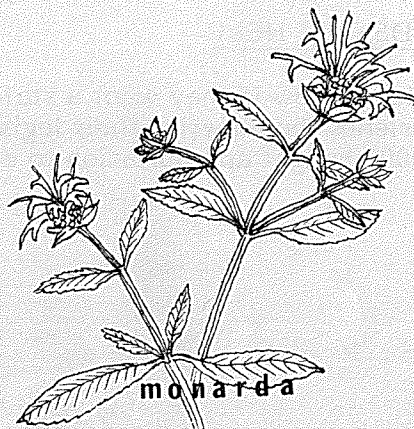
shooting star



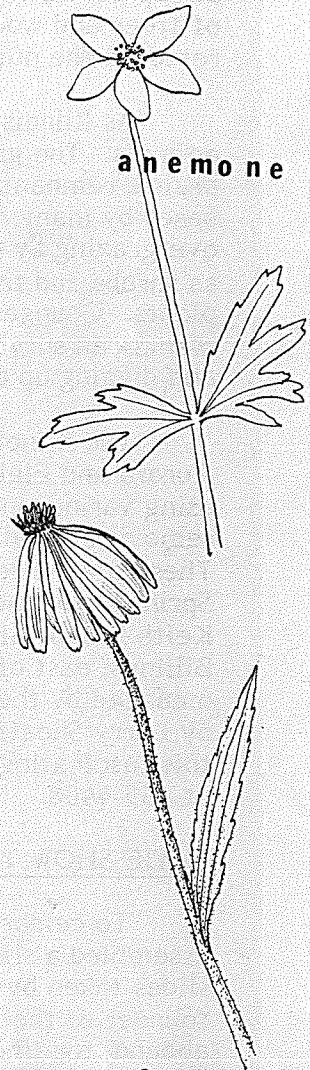
phlox



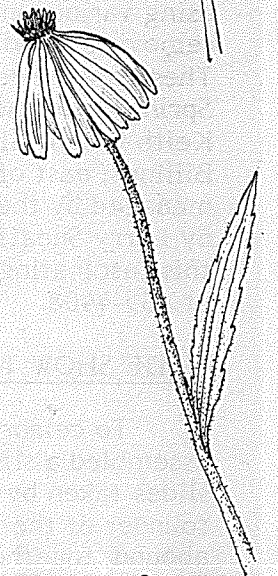
coreopsis



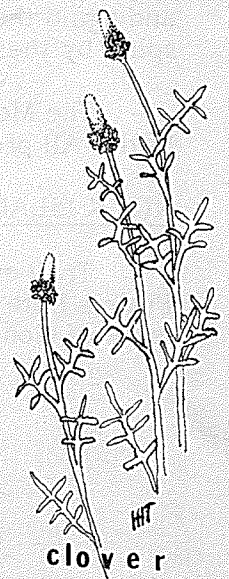
monarda



anemone



cone flower



clover