

black-winged  
damselfly 1.3"

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1984

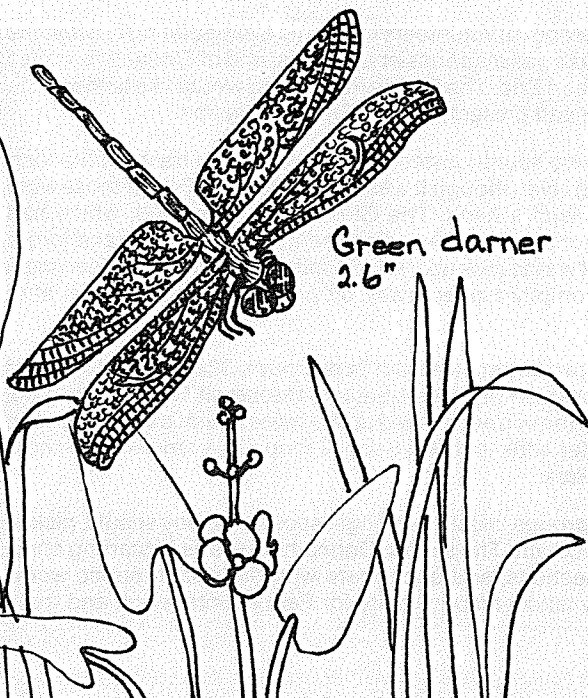
## What to look for: Dragonflies and Damselflies

Every summer pond and ditch along the Prairie Path has its resident dragonflies and their near relative, the damselflies. Members of an ancient family, damselflies are usually small and rest with their wings folded over their backs. Dragonflies are usually much larger and rest with their wings at right angles to their bodies.

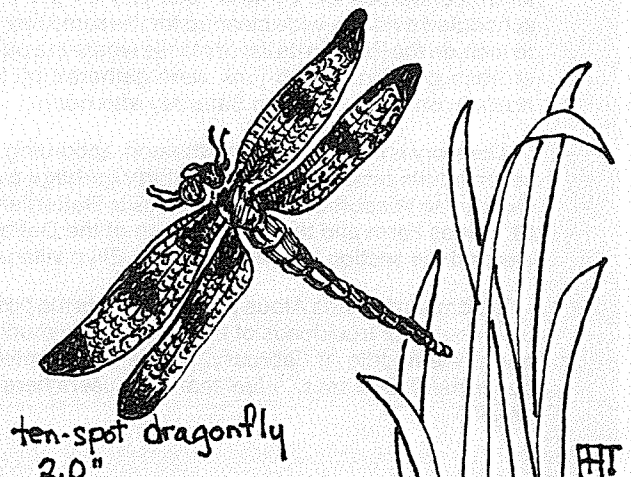
"Mosquito hawk", "snake doctor", and "devil's darning needle" are some of the names these colorful insects are called. Some species have transparent wings and some have brilliantly colored or spotted wings. Some have brilliantly colored bodies. All are superb aerialists, capable of swift flight, of a backward as well as a forward darting movement, and of hovering. The wings of a dragonfly have thickened leading edges, so that as they vibrate up and down, the hind portions of the wings flex, causing a forward thrust. Unlike most other four-winged insects, the fore and hind wings do not move in unison; but as the fore wings rise, the hind wings beat downward.

In midsummer, the adults patrol their territory, flying up and down anywhere from five to thirty feet within it. The male does his courting and if he is successful, mating occurs, and eggs are laid. The nymphs when they hatch are voracious eaters and consume quantities of mosquito wigglers. The adult hunts on the wing and helps control mosquitoes, midges, sandflies, etc.

Look for our friends, the dragonflies and the damselflies, on your next walk down the Prairie Path.



Green darner  
2.6"



ten-spot dragonfly  
2.0"

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## A New Prairie for Wheaton

On May 9, after many months of planning, volunteers under the direction of board member and botanist Larry Sheaffer began the prairie reconstruction project on the new bridge south ramp at Liberty Street, Wheaton. The first phase of the project involves planting 1,000 prairie flowers and grasses of about 50 different species in three locations along the ramp. During the second phase, seven pounds of prairie seeds will be broadcast and raked on the remaining area and a sign and bushes will be placed next to the street to serve as a buffer. The plants were purchased from Windrift Prairie, Oregon, Illinois, and from The Natural Garden, St. Charles, Illinois. Seeds were collected from local prairie remnants and from the Bower School Prairie, a project of Larry's students in Warrenville.



*Prairie expert Larry Sheaffer directs planting of prairie restoration on south ramp of Wheaton bridge.*



*Larry Sheaffer and Dee Tevonian plant seedlings.*



*Nancy Becker waters young plants.*

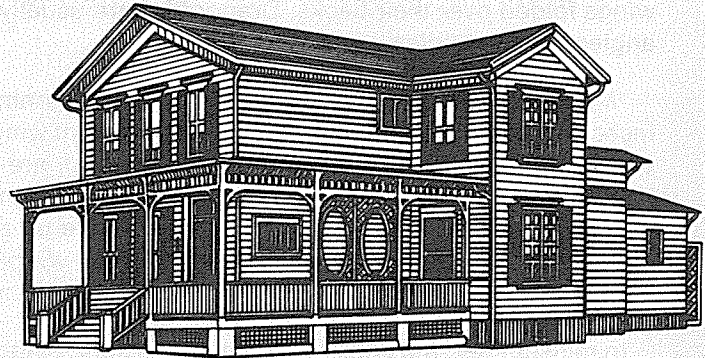
The Prairie Path board invites prairie buffs and Path fans to come and work on this beautification—preservation project. Have fun and learn about prairies at the same time! If you would like to help, call Larry Sheaffer, 665-4408, or the Prairie Path office, 665-5310, and leave your name and number as a prairie volunteer. Volunteers to date include the following: Donna Albue, Nancy Becker, Lorraine Buhl, Lynn Dostal, Karen Fonte, Phil Hodge, Jean and Paul Mooring, Larry Sheaffer, Dee and Ron Tevonian and sons, Margo Vizgirda, and Dick and Nancy Wilson.

## B and B in Lombard

In response to the request of bicycle tourists Norman and Barbara Reeder, Lansing, Michigan, for information on Bed and Breakfast accommodations near the Prairie Path, we have received the following letter from Barbara Graves, 241 W. Maple, Lombard:

*"We have entertained the idea of opening our historic home (one-half block off the Prairie Path) for B and B. This might be a nice way to break in, with Prairie Path people.*

*"If these people in Lansing are interested, please send them our name and address, and perhaps we can work something out."*



THE GRAVES' HOME • BUILT BY JOSIAH LOMBARD IN 1868

The Path has sent a copy of this letter to the Reeders, who are delighted to know about the Graves home. If there are other such B and B providers in the area, we will be happy to keep a file on them for Path users. This may be the start of a new tourism industry in DuPage County!

## Spring Cleanups

Prairie Path cleanups were held on April 28 in Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Lombard and Wheaton with varying degrees of success, according to the leader in each municipality:

Gene Pomerance, longtime Path member in Elmhurst, writes that the turnout of volunteers there was disappointing but that the six dedicated Path friends who worked did a good job nevertheless. The task was made easier at the east end of Elmhurst because that section is cleaned regularly by Dale Muhlethaler and his pre-school son Eric. The Prairie Path board would like to thank the Muhlethalers, Pomerances, Aisenbreyes, and Moes for all their help, past and present, on the Elmhurst section.

Glen Ellyn provided the fewest volunteers ever, says Jean Mooring, who spent fourteen hours picking up trash on the long cleanup weekend. Only ten people came out to help on Saturday morning, even though it was a beautiful day. Two of those were kind-hearted passers-by who took pity on the workers and stayed to lend a hand. The Glen Ellyn Lions Club, which had scheduled a village-wide cleanup for the same day and thus preempted our usual workers, didn't send anyone to help and forgot to include the Path on its list of places where the public works department was to pick up trash. In spite of this, about sixteen bags of trash plus brush and junk were gathered by the volunteers and promptly hauled away by public works personnel after notification by the Path on Saturday afternoon.

The story is much better for Wheaton, according to Bob Hargis. Thirty-two boy scouts from three troupes, 382, 365, and 364, and seven adults picked up a total of thirty garbage bags plus miscellaneous trash on three sections: Roosevelt Road to Orchard, Orchard to Wiesbrook, and Wiesbrook to Butterfield. Bob also rode to Warrenville and picked up the more obvious items between St. James Farm and the West Branch of the DuPage River. Larry Sheaffer adds that Girl Scout Troup 877 from Lowell School cleaned the section between the Glen Ellyn village limits and Hoffman Park.

In Lombard Donna Albue proudly reports the best response of all. Ten groups, mostly junior girl scouts and boy scouts, picked up a couple of truckloads of trash, including much brush and even one couch. The secret, Donna believes, is in starting early, about the middle of February, to line up volunteers, assign them to sections, and coordinate with the village public works department. She says, "I feel that Path users here in Lombard are really taking responsibility for Path maintenance, and that's great!"