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Grand is the word in the DuPage County trail community for June 1, 1996. At 2:00 p.m. on that day at Reed-Keppler Park in West Chicago we will say thank you to the governmental agencies that are working together to build one of the grandest systems of multipurpose trails and bikeways in the United States.

Everyone who loves trails is invited, including hikers, runners, bicyclists, horseback-riders, cross-country skiers, and local homeowners, many of whom have told us they bought their house because it was near the Illinois Prairie Path. We expect that some noted trail fans will attend too: Governor Jim Edgar with his bicycle, DuPage County Board Chairman Gayle Franzen with his horse, and former Chairman Jack T. Knuepfer with his walking stick and lederhosen.

The day’s events will include:

- The Grand Opening of the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur, a long-awaited event made possible by the outstanding leadership of the DuPage County Division of Transportation with the generous cooperation of many other agencies. See Page 2.
- The official naming of the award-winning bridge over the Union Pacific and Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroads, adjoining Reed-Keppler Park. The bridge is to be named in honor of former DuPage County Board Chairman Jack T. Knuepfer, whose vision inspired the DPCDOT to build the bridge and complete the DuPage County section of the Geneva Spur as well as to assume maintenance responsibility for the entire DuPage County portions of the Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail.

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IPP President Paul Aeschleman with Mike Ulm, executive director of Illinois Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, who attended IPP board meeting to discuss plans for Grand Adventure and National Trails Day.

Beautiful Geneva Spur bridge arches over railroad tracks, which are hidden by tall grasses in West Chicago Prairie.

Site curves gracefully around Com Ed tower (right).

Mike Ulm at planning meeting with Jean Mooring, an organizer of the National Trails Day celebration.

Mississippi and link some seventeen existing or planned trails. The Grand Adventure, designed to publicize this ambitious trail project, will begin on May 11 at Navy Pier in Chicago and will end on June 1, National Trails Day, at Reed-Keppler Park in West Chicago. The leader of the tour will be Mike Ulm, Executive Director of the Illinois Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, based in Springfield. He invites trail users, bicyclists, hikers, runners, equestrians, to join him at any point on the tour and/or as he bikes into Reed-Keppler Park on June 1 for a spectacular finish. See page 6 for the tour itinerary and watch the mail and your newspaper for further information.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 11</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>Begin at Navy Pier in Chicago and end in Lockport. C*** Cities: Chicago, Lemont, Lockport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 12</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>Begin in Lockport with a stop at I&amp;M building. Then on to Joliet for another stop (late morning/early afternoon). Continue on to I&amp;M Canal. Stop at Morris for the night. C*** Cities: Lockport, Joliet, Channahon, Morris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 13</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>Travel I&amp;M Canal from Morris to Utica, making any needed stops, spend night in Utica or at Starved Rock State Park. C*** Cities: Morris, Marseilles, Ottawa, Utica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 14</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>Bicycle, Hike, Horse</td>
<td>Leave Starved Rock or Utica and get to LaSalle-Peru for morning meetings with local officials (need to make appointments). Then head to Lock 8 on the Hennepin Canal and continue to Lock 13 (access from county road 1670E). We may walk this section of the canal. Spend night in Princeton, or other nearby community. C*** Cities: LaSalle-Peru, Spring Valley, to Hennepin Canal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Horse, Hike, Bike</td>
<td>Bike or hike from Lock 13 to the visitor’s center for a stop. Horseback from visitor’s center to Lock 23. Camp here, or find other lodging. C*** Cities: All day on Hennepin Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 16</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>Horse, Canoe</td>
<td>Horseback 8 miles to Geneseo for a stop. Get into canoe at Geneseo boat ramp. Canoe 8.8 miles to Lock 26. C*** Cities: Geneseo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Hike, Bike, Horse</td>
<td>Begin at Lock 26 and use county roads for stops in Colona and Green Rock. Continue into Rock Island and the beginning of the Ben Butterworth Trail. Stop here for the day. C*** Cities: Colona, Green Rock, Quad Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 18</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>Hike, Bike</td>
<td>Begin on Ben Butterworth Trail with an event. Bicycle the trail 12 miles north to Hampton with possible stops along the way. Hire the 6.5 miles from Hampton to Port Byron along Highway 84. C*** Cities: Quad Cities, Hampton, Port Byron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 19</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>Hike, Bike</td>
<td>Hike from Port Byron to north of Cordova (5.9 miles). Bicycle from Cordova to Albany (8 miles). Hike from Albany to Fulton (7.6 miles). Make any necessary stops in these towns. C*** Cities: Port Byron, Cordova, Albany, Fulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 20</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>Hike, Bike</td>
<td>Hike from Fulton to Thompson (7.3 miles). Bike from Thompson to Savanna, with possible stops. Continue on to Mississippi Palisades State Park for the night (13.4 miles). C*** Cities: Fulton, Thompson, Savanna, Mississippi Palisades State Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 21</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>Bicycle from Mississippi Palisades through the hills to Galena, with possible stop in Hanover. C*** Cities: Mississippi Palisades State Park, Hanover, Galena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>Meetings in Galena, relax C*** Cities: Galena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 23</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>Bicycle hilly roads from Galena to Apple River Canyon State Park. Stay in the park? C*** Cities: Warren, Apple River Canyon State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 24</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>Bicycle roads from Apple River Canyon S.P. to the western terminus of the Pecatonica Prairie Path. Make a stop at Freeport. May have to put in more miles on previous day to make time for Freeport meeting. C*** Cities: Lena, Freeport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Hike, MT Bike, Horse</td>
<td>Use best method of travel to traverse the length of the Pecatonica Prairie Path, ending near Winnebago (20 miles). Possibly continue on into Rockford (additional 7 miles) depending on event schedule. C*** Cities: Freeport, Ridott, Pecatonica, Winnebago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 26</td>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>Hike, Bike, Skate?</td>
<td>Head from Pecatonica Prairie Path into Rockford for Events (could possibly cover this distance the previous day). Attend Rockford events on Rock River Recreation Path, and continue up to Loves Park. End day at Rock Cut State Park. C*** Cities: Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Rock Cut State Park</td>
</tr>
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Commonwealth Edison crews started cutting trees to make room for 85-foot steel transmission line poles on the Illinois Prairie Path at Winfield Road on January 25. In response the City of Warrenville called the police who ordered the Com Ed employees to stop.

Warrenville Alderman Bob Siebert stated that the city zoning ordinance requires the utility company to come in for permits and public hearings before construction of the 138,000-volt lines can begin. Com Ed has not even submitted a site plan showing how the Prairie Path will be landscaped and residents will be protected from electromagnetic fields after the trees are cut and the power lines are installed through the heart of the city.

Com Ed in its turn filed suit in the Illinois Appellate Court asking that the court reaffirm the utility’s right to proceed as decided by the Illinois Commerce Commission in October. Although the appellate court denied a stay of construction in January, Warrenville is standing firm in its requirement that the permitting process be followed. Siebert expects other municipalities to be concerned as well and says, “If you take away this, you take away the ability to rule and protect the welfare of the homeowners.” And the battle goes on.

Meanwhile the Friends of the Prairie Path are planning a FUNDaising weekend for their lawsuit against Com Ed, in which suit they are joined by DuPage County, the City of Warrenville, and the Citizens Utility Board. On Saturday, April 13, the Friends will hold a Walk-, Ride-, and Bike-a-thon from 10:00 to 3:00 starting at the gazebo in Warrenville. Sponsors and donations will be sought and there will be prizes. Call Mary Marzano for details at 393-1725. On Sunday, April 14, the Friends will throw a rip-roaring, rollicking dance at Synergy, 6:30 to 10:00, with the theme “Keep It Green—Stop The Chop!” Tickets will be available for $12.50 each at local park district offices after March 15. Call Connie Schmidt for information at 393-6276.

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**In Memoriam: Jane Sindt**

One of the eleven members of The Illinois Prairie Path’s first board of directors, Jane B. Sindt of Naperville, passed away on December 24, 1995, at her home. A good friend of Path Founder May Theilgaard Watts and Co-Founder Helen Turner, who were both also longtime Naperville residents, Jane Sindt played an energetic role in publicizing the fledgling trail during its early years. Her training as an actress helped greatly in developing an enthusiastic trail constituency through dramatic illustrated talks before scores of civic groups. She was a woman of wide-ranging interests and a leader in establishing local institutions, such as the Naperville Heritage Society, the Naperville Historic District and Riverwalk, the Farmers Market at Fifth Avenue Station, and the May Watts Society. Many historic structures in Naperville owe their preservation to her. Well known for her strong convictions and sense of style, she inspired respect for nature and our cultural heritage. Her vision helped shape the Naperville we know today.
Memorial Day
Monday, May 27  38.3 Miles  Hike, Bike, Skate?
Begin at Rock Cut S.P. travelling east to Boone County and the Long Prairie Trail. Traverse this trail to its eastern terminus at County Line Road. Stop in Harvard? Then continue through McHenry County to a location just south of Woodstock.
_Cities:_ Poplar Grove, Harvard, Woodstock

Tuesday, May 28  29 Miles  Bike
Begin at yesterday's stopping point just south of Woodstock. Take county roads to the McHenry County Prairie Trail South at Crystal Lake. Follow the trail south to the Fox River Trail and continue south on it to where it intersects the northern leg of the Illinois Prairie Path. End here for the day.
_Cities:_ Crystal Lake, Algonquin, East Dundee, Elgin

Wednesday, May 29  27.5 Miles  Bike
Begin the day at the intersection of Crystal Lake Road and the McHenry County Prairie Trail South and head east through Moraine Hills State Park to Libertyville. End Day in Libertyville.
_Cities:_ Crystal Lake, Moraine Hills State Park, Wauconda, Mundelein, Libertyville

Thursday, May 30  23.5 Miles  Bike, Hike or Horse
Begin in Libertyville, then get on the Des Plaines River Trail and head south into Cook County. End day on Des Plaines River Trail near the gap at Ballard Road or on Algonquin Road.
_Cities:_ Libertyville, Lincolnshire, Riverwoods

Friday, May 31  23.3 Miles  Bike, Hike or Horse
Continue south on the Des Plaines River Trail to Washington Street. From here, head to the beginning of the Illinois Prairie Path in Hillside. End here for the day.
_Cities:_ Maywood, Hillside

National Trails Day
Saturday, June 1  19 Miles  Multi Modal?
Ride the Illinois Prairie Path from Hillside to the final event in West Chicago.
_Cities:_ Berkeley, Elmhurst, Villa Park, Lombard, Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Winfield, West Chicago

Editor’s Note: This is a preliminary outline. For details contact Mike Ulm, Executive Director, Illinois Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 319 W. Cook St., Springfield, IL 62704. Phone (217) 789-4782.

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**WEST CHICAGO PRAIRIE EVENTS**

_Sunday, March 17_
**Restoration Work Day**: Raking in seed and/or clearing invading brush. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

_Saturday, March 30_
**Restoration Work Day**: Clearing invading brush and/or raking in seed. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

_Saturday, April 13_
**Birding Trip**: Good mix of winter residents and early arrivals. 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

_Saturday, April 20_
**Restoration Work Day**: Raking in seed. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

_Saturday, May 4_
**Birding Trip**: Summer residents, migrating warblers and sparrows. About 50 species. Annual DuPage County Spring Count. 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

_Saturday, May 25_
**Birding Trip**: Summer residents and migrating warblers. Should see Yellow-breasted Chat. About 50 species. 6:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

_Sunday, May 25_
**Field Trip**: Good displays of Golden Alexander, Shooting Star, Hoary Puccoon, Wild Blue Indigo, Yellow Star Grass, Prairie Violet, Cream Indigo, and many others. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

_Sunday, June 16_
**Birding Trip**: Summer residents. Should see Yellow-breasted Chat and Sedge Wren. 6:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

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**Field Trip**: Good displays of Spiderwort, Spiked Lobelia, Black-eyed Susan, Wild White Indigo, Wild Rose, Marsh Phlox, and Purple Coneflower. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

All events except the winter bird count start from the West Chicago Prairie parking lot located on the east side of Industrial Drive between Western and Downs.
Information: Mel Hoff, (708) 393-4715, or JoAnn Monge, (708) 961-2041. day or evening.
Special trips can be arranged for groups.
Saturday, March 16
*Brush clearing* on our IPP prairie south of North Ave. with Keith Olson. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in parking area on northwest corner of IPP and North Ave. Information: Dick Wilson, (708) 299-7882 (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Saturday, March 30
*Brush clearing at West Chicago Prairie* with Mel Hoff. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at MacQueen Drive and the Path. Information: Dick Wilson. See above.

Saturday, April 13
(or as determined by each municipality)
*Earth Day Cleanup* along entire length of Illinois Prairie Path. For information call:
- Maywood, Paul Aeschleman 848-6023
- Bellwood, Susan Wisniewski 493-1316
- Hillside-Berkeley, John Kacich 544-7524
- Elmhurst, Steve Plumb 279-8690
- Villa Park, Marlon Hummell 834-8525
- Lombard, Joelyn Kott 620-5718
- Glen Ellyn, Jean Mooring 469-4289
- Wheaton, Kathy Williamson 462-7846
- Winfield, David Tate 682-1449
- West Chicago, Tom Yule 293-1726
- Warrenville, Bob Rawls 393-6720
- Wayne, David Tate 682-1449

Saturday, May 18
*Bird Walk* in Pratt's Wayne Woods to look for spring arrivals. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the far back parking area. Lunch and drink are optional. Located in Wayne. From Rte. 59 go west on Arry Trail Road to Powis Road (about 2 miles); then go north to the forest preserve entrance. Leaders: Dick Wilson (See above); Paul Mooring, 469-4289.

Saturday, June 1
*Ten-mile Hike* for National Trails Day on the newly-opened Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on the northwest corner of Geneva Road and County Farm Road in Winfield. Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Dick Wilson (See above).

Saturday, June 1
**GRAND CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL TRAILS DAY** at Reed-Keppler Park, West Chicago at 2:00 p.m. Ceremony, food and fun. Y’ALL COME! See page 4.

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**Jean C. Mooring, Editor**

**MEMBERSHIP RATES:**
- Individual $10
- Family $15
- Organization/Supporting $20
- Contributing $25
- Sustaining $50
- Patron $100
- Lifetime $500

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