

The Illinois Prairie Path



Fall 1999



NEWSLETTER

Indian Mounds Restoration Work Underway

*By David Tate
IPP President*

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation is financing the cost for the restoration of three American Indian burial mounds in the Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve. The IPP initiated this restoration project last year to provide IPP trail users with a new destination point along the 61-mile trail. When the project is completed next fall, we think the trail users will find the history of the Indian village and mounds rather fascinating.

The IPP's Geneva Spur runs through the Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve. The Indian village and mounds site is south of the Geneva Spur in a large oak and hickory forest. It is thought that this location was chosen as the site of the Indian village due to the nearby West Branch of the DuPage River, which provided a year around supply of water, and also due to the surrounding hickory tree forest. Indians



David Tate stands behind one of the three low-level Indian burial mounds that will be restored in October 1999. Note the large shag bark hickory trees which provided the American Indians with a critical year around source of food.

would boil hickory nuts to separate the nut from the shell, and then grind the nuts into flour. The flour could be stored and used throughout the long winters. The site was

occupied at two different time periods: about 50 A.D., the Middle Woodland period; and also about 500 A.D., the Late Woodland period.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) will install and maintain a six-foot-wide grass trail that will connect the IPP's Geneva Spur to the mounds. The grass trail will be a footpath and therefore biking will not be allowed on the grass trail due to potential erosion.

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You're Invited!

**Don't Miss IPP's Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m.!**

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