

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

Winfield Road

SUMMER 1983



glacial boulders  
yucca

sol. seals  
buckthorn

elms

Sumac

Sumac

elms

huge  
cotton wood

cherry

Sumac

elm

box elder

Sumac

box elder  
elm



true  
Solomon seal

HT

aspens  
grove  
white oak

large  
elm

white  
poplar

glacial  
boulders

hawthorn

cherry

grove of  
box elders

cotton  
wood

large  
hawthorn

small +  
large  
cherry

white  
poplar

hawthorn

black  
cherry

sol.  
seals  
cotton  
wood

blackberry canes

white poplar

honey suckle

What to look for along the Prairie Path from Winfield Road to Warrenville - greenery. The walk along the Path here is through a tunnel of green with a large bird population. Red-winged blackbirds, starlings and grackles abound, but meadow larks and brown thrashers can be seen; at the edge of the fields, cardinals, catbirds and robins; and on the river at Warrenville -Canada geese and mallards. On our walk at the end of May we saw all of these plus orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, downy and red-headed woodpeckers.

The white wildflower blooming all along the Path is the prolific garlic mustard. The most common tree is the box elder with its many samaras - seed pods - like its cousin the maple. True and false solomon seals bloom in June. There are many choke cherry trees and a few black cherries both with racemes of small 5 petaled flowers. The cottonwoods are releasing their seeds to blow down the Path. Hawthorns have white blossoms and sharp thorns.

Warrenville bridge is beautiful and just south of the Path in Warrenville is a lovely small park. East of Winfield Road the Path goes along side of St. James Farm with its ponds, manicured lawns and well kept elegant barns.

DuPage River

Warrenville

**PROGRESS REPORT ON WHEATON BRIDGE**

Phil Hodge, Path vice president and engineer-in-charge of the Wheaton bridge project, reports delivery to the DuPage Area Vocational Education Association, Addison, on April 14th of 16 tons of cor-ten steel beams worth \$14,400. Phil, the Moorings, and student Steve Joslyn were on hand to take pictures and welcome James McBride, the driver for Poole Truck Line, Evergreen, Alabama. Fabrication of the three new bridge spans by certified welders at DAVEA can now proceed. The Prairie Path was able to purchase the steel below cost, saving \$6,000, from Connors Steel Company, Birmingham, Alabama. and from Levinson Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

To date, the following companies have donated goods or services for the bridge project:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Kenny Paper Co., Melrose Park, Illinois                 | paper for brochure       |
| Anderson Grapics, Carol Stream, Illinois                | typesetting for brochure |
| Graphic Photo, Wheaton, Illinois                        | photo processing         |
| Chicago and North Western R. R., West Chicago, Illinois | right-of-way license     |
| Rust-Oleum Corp., Vernon Hills, Illinois                | paint                    |
| Commonwealth Edison Co., Lombard, Illinois              | lights                   |
| Illinois Bell, Chicago, Illinois                        | electric poles           |
| Wheaton Center, Wheaton, Illinois                       | electricity              |
| Cable Television Supply, Addison, Illinois              | electrical equipment     |
| Terrace Supply Co., Villa Park, Illinois                | welding supplies         |
| Airco Corp., Broadview, Illinois                        | welding supplies         |
| DAVEA, Addison, Illinois                                | labor                    |
| Poole Truck Line, Evergreen, Alabama                    | trucking                 |
| Ceco Corp., Oak Brook, Illinois                         | steel                    |
| Connors Steel Co., Birmingham, Alabama                  | steel                    |
| Levinson Steel Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania            | steel                    |
| A.M. Castle Co., Franklin Park, Illinois                | steel                    |

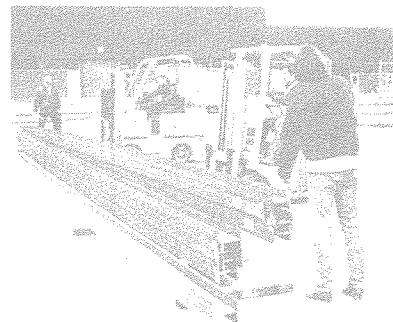
Path treasurer Joan Hamill reports that cash contributions have been received from the Brooks and Hope B. McCormick Foundation and from the Motorola Foundation.

The members of the Prairie Path Board of Directors would like to thank all the friends of the Path for their help so far. Much has been accomplished; but donations of money, materials, equipment, and labor are still needed to do the following:

- Modify existing concrete piers and adapt to new bridges
- Raze and remove one pier
- Transport three new spans from DAVEA
- Purchase and install lumber to deck all four bridges
- Sandblast, prime and paint old bridge
- Purchase and install chain link fencing for old bridge
- Build ramp on south and improve approach on north
- Install bridge lighting
- Landscape site



POOLE TRUCK LINE DELIVERS STEEL BEAMS TO DAVEA.



DAVEA STUDENT FORKLIFT OPERATORS UNLOAD STEEL BEAMS.

**BRIDGE BROCHURES READY**

"Let's Build the Bridge" is the title of the new brochure just off the presses. Path secretary Donna Alhue, who chaired the brochure committee, says, "We hope the brochure will generate enthusiastic support from local citizens. After all, the Prairie Path belongs to everybody. We are thinking of awarding a special plaque to donors of \$1,000 or more and perhaps of engraving their names in a place of honor on the bridge. Any donation of whatever size will be gratefully received, however; and the giver will have the satisfaction of knowing that he or she has helped the Path."

A bridge brochure is enclosed with each Summer NEWSLETTER.

## **"THE OLD IRON BRIDGE", a poem by Edward Happel, Wheaton**

Right beside a busy road  
behind tall trees is a bridge,  
a rusting iron railroad bridge  
now way overgrown by nature  
now uncared for and unseen by most  
except an adventurer or two  
who'll cross it just for the experience  
who'll investigate it thoroughly  
who'll absorb the atmosphere  
of the old iron bridge  
standing firm and tall  
connecting the two sides  
offering safe passage  
blessing the earth with  
indestructible character;  
relic of the past  
showing history in progress  
linking pathways to the future.

## **NEW HONOR FOR HELEN TURNER**

Helen Turner's many friends in the Chicago area, where she taught in the science department in Oak Park High School and at the Morton Arboretum, will be glad to know that she is still going strong at the age of 85. Co-Founder of The Illinois Prairie Path and first editor of the NEWSLETTER, Helen lives now in retirement in Hendersonville, North Carolina. She has recently received the prestigious Second Wind Hall of Fame Award following nomination by the Western Carolina Botanical Club. The citation reads:

Let it hereby be known that HELEN TURNER has been elected to the Second Wind Hall of Fame. Because of a long and useful life, continuing productive beyond retirement, while others paused to rest, this dedicated person caught a second wind and began a new career of service to mankind. May God give this servant the strength to continue constructive work, radiant with courage and an inspiration to all.

Helen now edits the Botanical Club newsletter SHORTIA and has developed a nature trail through the woods at Carolina Village. Long the heart of the Prairie Path, she is still leading the way for us who follow in her footsteps.

## **PRAIRIE PATH PICTURES ON DISPLAY**

Paul and Jean Mooring announce completion of a portable four-panel folding screen, which was designed by both Moorings and hand-crafted by Paul, to display pictures from the extensive Prairie Path collection. Included in the current exhibit now on view at the Villa Park Library are scenes from the Path's early days, close-ups of prairie flowers found along the way, and candid shots of volunteers working on Path maintenance, and users enjoying the trail. Most of one panel is devoted to the Wheaton bridge project.

Library patrons will also find a separate case containing Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railway artifacts and pictures of Villa Park's historic Ardmore Avenue station, which is being restored by volunteers under the direction of Prairie Path board member Dick Diebold. If all goes as planned, the grand opening of the refurbished station is scheduled for the Fourth of July.

The portable display will remain in Villa Park during May and will then be moved to the Wheaton Public Library for a month or two. Later in the summer it will be available by the month for approved groups upon request.

## **GLEN ELLYN RESURFACING, PART II**

As promised, Glen Ellyn has paid for a second resurfacing project for fiscal year 1982. This one is at "Pins Park" on Main Street north of the Glen Ellyn Savings and Loan. On April 20 and 21 a distance of approximately 300 feet of trail was covered with 32 tons of stone, grade #8 crushed limestone and a topping of limestone screenings. Total cost was \$780 from the 1982 Glen Ellyn Revenue Sharing allocation for the Path. The work was done by contractor Dennis O'Neill and Jean Mooring with one paid assistant and two spur-of-the-moment volunteers.

Note: This project contains a drainage swale made of flagstone to demonstrate a practical way of allowing stormwater run-off from the Savings and Loan parking lot to flow across the Path without washing it out. We may use this same technique on other sections of the Path where installation of culverts is not possible.

## **TRAIL ETIQUETTE**

The Illinois Prairie Path is, and has always been, a multipurpose trail designed for all types of non-motorized use by the general public. Surveys show that 80% of Path users are bicyclists, 15% are joggers, and the remaining 5% are hikers, horseback-riders, dogsledders and cross-country skiers. Most of these people are nature lovers and many are also students of natural history. Because the Path is so popular, users should know and follow these simple rules of courtesy so that a trip on the Path will be equally safe and enjoyable for everyone:

All bicycles should be equipped with a bell or horn which should be sounded when overtaking another person. Bikers may also call out, "Passing on left (or right)!"

Bicyclists should not speed.

Equestrians should keep to the side of the trail and off the limestone screening surface, especially when it is wet, to minimize damage to the surface and keep droppings away from joggers and bikers.

Equestrians should walk their horses, not gallop, canter or trot.

Bicyclists and equestrians should ride single file because in many places the Path is too narrow for others to pass.

Hikers should not block the trail but should leave room for others to pass.

Radios and headsets should be left at home. They are annoying to others and may cause accidents.

No firearms, kites or model airplanes.

No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.

No littering.

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES, rain or shine**

- Saturday, June 4 — **Two-Day, Long Distance Bike Ride.** Sixty miles per day; 120-mile round trip; camp overnight; must carry own gear. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Nancy Hesler's in Oak Meadows. Leaders: Phil Hodge, 627-7362 and Nancy Hesler, 293-1062.
- Sunday, June 5
  
- Saturday, June 11 — **Backpack and Campout.** Meet at 12:00 noon, Sat., Pleasant Hill Road and Path, Wheaton. Backpack to Pratts Wayne Woods. Camp overnight and return by 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Bring own food and gear. Leader: Phil Lacivita, 595-9547.
- Sunday, June 12
  
- Sunday, June 19 — **Hike to Warrenville Grove.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. Members' Room in Rathje Park, Wheaton (Delles and Roosevelt). Eleven-mile round trip. Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Dick Wilson, 299-7882.
  
- Saturday, June 25 — **Work Day,** to build railings and shore up approaches to Warrenville bridge. Meet at 9:00 a.m., Batavia Road and Path, Warrenville. Bring pruning saws, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, lunch and drink. Leader: Paul Mooring, 469-4289.
  
- Sunday, June 26 — **Purple Coneflower Prairie Walk.** Meet at 1:00 p.m., Elmer J. Hoffman Park in Wheaton (North on Prospect from Hill Ave., #11 on Prairie Path map). Leader: Larry Sheaffer, 665-4408.
  
- Sunday, July 10 — **Bicycle Ride.** Meet at 9:00 a.m., Ardmore Ave. and Prairie Path, Villa Park. #7 on map. 15-mile round trip ride to Rathje Park, Wheaton. Leader: Dick Diebold, 469-6465.
  
- Saturday, July 16 — **Bicycle Ride.** Meet at 10:00 a.m., Leroy Oakes Forest Preserve on Dean Street, St. Charles. Ride Great Western Bicycle Trail, swim in Sycamore and return. 34-mile round trip. Leader: Nancy Hesler, 293-1062.
  
- Saturday, July 23 — **Work Day,** Wheaton bridge. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers needed. Coordinator: Phil Hodge, 627-7362.

- Jean C. Mooring, Editor -

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
DATED MATERIAL

P.O. Box 1086  
616 Delles Road  
Wheaton, Illinois  
60187

