

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

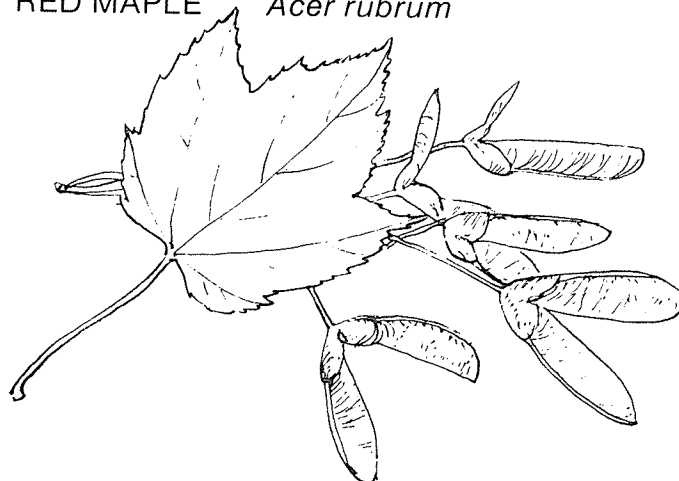
SPRING 1984

What to look for. . .red maples

The red maple is easy to see even in the winter because of its fat red buds on opposite branching limbs. By March the promise of spring swells the buds and the tree is among the first to bloom. The most conspicuous feature of the showier male flowers is the long scarlet stamens. The pedals and sepals scarcely count. Unlike the sugar or yellow maple, which doesn't develop its seeds till almost fall, the scarlet maple has clusters of long stemmed "keys", or samaras a month after flowering. The early leaves are reddish and the leaf stems stay red all summer. In fall the tree turns crimson or wine red.

The red maple likes a lot of moisture and in the wild seeks out ravines and valleys, but it will grow almost anywhere. The wood is softer than the sugar maple and does not produce as sweet a sugar sap nor grow as tall. But in late winter the tinge of red against the grey sky, like the song of the cardinal, lifts our hearts by its assurance of warmer weather to come.

RED MAPLE *Acer rubrum*



PATH FAME IS SPREADING

The February, 1984, issue of *Bicycle Sport* magazine published by Wizard Publications, Torrance, California, has a splendid feature article on the Prairie Path called "Keeping History Alive". Author Robert McQuilkin faithfully captures the down-home folksy atmosphere of the Path, and his lively writing and enticing photography will make even the most lethargic reader want to hop on a bike and experience the old-fashioned delights of the trail. This article is so compelling that the Prairie Path office has already received over 100 requests for information from all over the United States, and they are still coming in. There is even one from a planning consultant in Calgary, Alberta, working on a feasibility study for a similar pathway system in the Canadian Rockies!

The magazine is on sale at some local bookshops for \$2.50 and may also be obtained by writing to *Bicycle Sport*, P. O. Box 315, Mount Morris, Illinois 61054.

"DAVEA BRIDGE AND IRON WORKS" SEEKS ANOTHER PROJECT

Al Barczak, welding instructor at DAVEA, DuPage Area Vocational Education Authority, reports that his students are eager to tackle another major welding project after successful completion of the three new spans for the Prairie Path bridge in Wheaton. The Cor-Ten steel bridge is so well built, says Barczak, that it actually exceeds the tolerances and specifications set by industry. All students involved in the project met the welding certification requirements established by the American Welding Society Bridge Certification Code. "Involvement in an endeavor of this type is the best training a student can get," he says. In addition, the Prairie Path saved at least \$20,000 in labor costs, thanks to DAVEA students.

The members of the Prairie Path Board of Directors enthusiastically support the welding students in their search for a new project. In fact, we have one in mind: a bridge for Path users over Taylor Avenue in Glen Ellyn to eliminate a steep hill and dangerous street crossing. Path members and friends should bring this need to the attention of the Glen Ellyn Village Board, who would have to provide the funding. Estimated cost for a steel bridge similar to the new Wheaton spans is \$50,000. DAVEA participation would bring the cost down substantially.

STOPLIGHT AT ROOSEVELT

Grateful Prairie Path users have been calling and writing to us about new stoplights, which became operational on December 27, on the Path at the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Carlton Avenue in Wheaton. According to John Schwarz of the Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Traffic this is now a fully signalized intersection for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic; and the lights are synchronized by means of an interconnecting cable with those at West Street, Main Street, and Naperville Road to facilitate traffic flow along Roosevelt. Thorne Electric Company was the contractor for the \$48,000 project to be paid for as follows: 85% Federal; 10% State; and 5% Wheaton. The Illinois Department of Transportation will also pay two thirds of maintenance costs and Wheaton, one third. Schwarz explained that the Bureau of Traffic made a study of the intersection and found that signals were warranted because of vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume, accident statistics, and the need for safer vehicular access to Roosevelt from Carlton.

Wheaton City Engineer Ken Murzyn said that Wheaton proposed the IDOT study at the request of Bonnie Melvin and other local residents and Prairie Path members, who were concerned about accidents involving children in that area.

The Prairie Path Board of Directors commends the City of Wheaton, IDOT, and the U.S. Department of Transportation for this long-sought improvement at what has been for many years one of the most dangerous intersections on the Path. This is a fine example of intergovernmental cooperation for the public benefit.

PRAIRIE PATH ATTRACTS TOURISTS

We have received the following letter from Norman and Barbara Reeder of Lansing, Michigan:

"As out-of-state members of The Illinois Prairie Path almost from its start, the Reederes are always delighted to get the Newsletter. Congratulations on continuing the distinctive format with those fetching drawings of 'What to look for. . .'

"Our visits to the Path are always enjoyable, even—as once happened—in the rain. Especially appealing are the sections of wilderness-within-suburbia and the prairie restorations. Being ardent bicycle tourists, we like to cover all the bikeable portion at each visit.

"A problem for us has been to find a good place to stay for two or three days. Ideally we would like to put up at a bed and breakfast inn at Wheaton. If such there be, we haven't found it. Second choice would be an economy rate motel not far from Wheaton and no more than two or three miles off the Prairie Path. At such a location we would set out on our bikes rather than bringing them in to Rathje Park by car as we have in the past.

"Are there tourist accommodations at Wheaton or elsewhere convenient to the Path that you could recommend?"

Editor's Reply: Henrietta Tweedie, artist-naturalist who does text and drawings for the first page is pleased that you like her work. Your letter is also welcome proof of our frequent assertion that the Prairie Path attracts tourists to DuPage County and thus provides economic as well as recreational benefits to county residents. Trails are good business as well as great fun and deserve strong public support.

As for your question, we know of only two moderately-priced motels near the Path in the vicinity of Wheaton. They are the Coachlight Motel, 27 W.010 North Avenue, West Chicago (near County Farm Road) and the Du-Wayne Motel, North Avenue, West Chicago (near St. Charles Road). However, we have heard that members of the League of American Wheelmen, a national bicycling organization, open their homes to other members touring the area. For information you may write to them at P. O. Box 988, Baltimore, Maryland 21203. If any of our readers are aware of any inexpensive tourist homes in the Wheaton area, we hope they will write to The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, Illinois 60189; and we will pass the information along to you.

FAP 431 — CAUSE FOR CONCERN

At the regular monthly meeting on January 3, the Board of Directors of The Illinois Prairie Path voted to monitor closely the environmental impact studies for FAP 431, the proposed north-south tollway which will parallel Rte. 53. We want state and local officials to know of our concern that the highway might cut the main stem of the Path for an indefinite period during construction unless maintenance of Path continuity at all times is specified in the contract. We will also insist upon a bridge for Path users over the highway if it is actually built.

Members and friends of the Prairie Path may wish to attend a public meeting at the Morton Arboretum Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m. on April 14 to find out more about the environmental and economic impacts of this project.

AURORA BRANCH TO BE COMPLETED

The February 6, 1984, issue of *Outdoor Highlights*, published by the Illinois Department of Conservation, contains good news for the Prairie Path. The Department announces that a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in the amount of \$24,540 has been awarded to the Fox Valley Park District, Kane County, for acquisition of 10.8 acres that will complete both the public acquisition on the Aurora Branch of The Illinois Prairie Path and the link-up of the Prairie Path and Fox River Trail.

According to Conservation Director David Kenney, LAWCON grants compensate sponsoring agencies for approximately half of project costs. The balance of expenditures will be provided by the agencies themselves. The federal funds, administered in Illinois by the Department of Conservation for the U.S. Department of the Interior, come from off-shore oil leases, federal land-use fees, and the sale of federal property.

Fox Valley Park District Director Chuck Hoscheit invites area bicyclists and trail fans to the official dedication of the recently-completed section of the Fox River Bicycle Trail along the west side of the river. This new 7.5-mile link runs from McCullough Park in Aurora to Fabyan's Forest Preserve in Geneva. Bridges at Illinois Avenue, Aurora, and Fabyan's will connect to other portions at the regional trail system, including the Prairie Path.

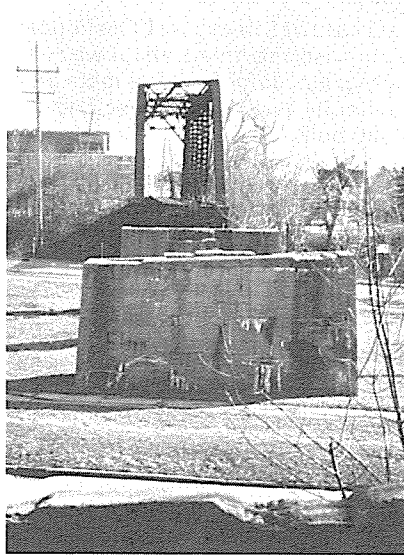
Remember, folks, dedication ceremonies begin at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 20, McCullough Park, Aurora. Bring your bikes!

SPRING ACTIVITIES, Rain or Shine

Saturday, April 28	Annual Prairie Path Cleanup in all villages and along entire length of Path. Wear gloves and bring garbage bags. Coordinator: Larry Sheaffer, 665-4408.
Sunday, April 29	Spring Wildflower Walk. Meet at 1:00 p.m. in parking lot at Glen Ellyn's new Walnut Glen Park (north of Walnut at end of Longfellow and 2 blocks east of Bryant). Easy one-mile hike through flower-carpeted woods. Leader: Larry Sheaffer, 665-4408
Sunday, May 6	Horseback Ride. Leisurely ride to Pratt's Wayne Woods and Prince Crossing. Meet at 10:00 a.m., Smith Road and Path. Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Jerry Martin, 927-5382 or 289-1983.
Saturday, May 12	Work Day. Pruning at Smith Road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Wear gloves and bring saws and pruning shears. Leader: Nancy Hesler, 293-1062
Saturday, May 19	Bird Walk in Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in far northwest parking lot. Bring binoculars, bird book, lunch and drink. Leader: Paul Mooring, 469-4289.
Sunday, June 3	Spring Hike. Hike on Batavia Spur (on newly-surfaced section) and along Fox River Bicycle Trail to Island Park in Batavia and return. Ten-mile round trip. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Bilter Road and the Path. (Butterfield Road to Butterfield development entrance road, called DuPage Parkway. South to Bilter. West ½ mile to Path.) Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Dick Wilson, 299-7882.
Saturday, June 9	Work Day. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Nancy Hesler's, Oak Meadows. For information call Nancy at 293-1062.
Saturday, June 16	Bridge Dedication. Festivities begin at 2:00 p.m., Liberty Street and Path, Wheaton. Coordinator: Phil Hodge, 627-7362.
Saturday, June 23 Sunday, June 24	Two-Day Bike Trip Overnight. Experienced bikers only. Bring 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.

More Wheaton Bridge Pictures

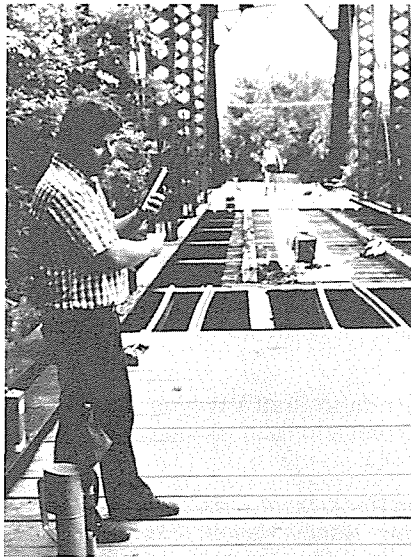
*Three
years ago...*



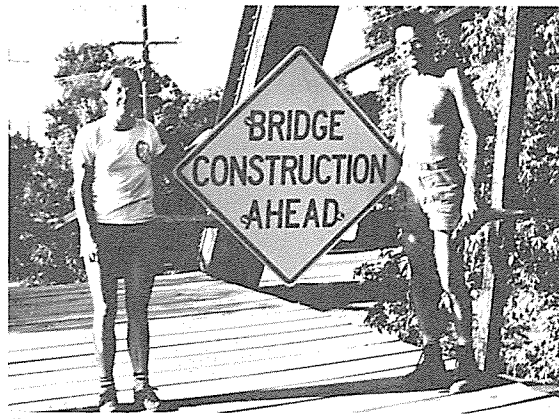
Bridge out. Detour.



Bicyclists struggle up steep
and badly eroded north
embankment.



Chicago and North Western
Railroad flagman with walkie-
talkie warns passing trains dur-
ing decking of old bridge.



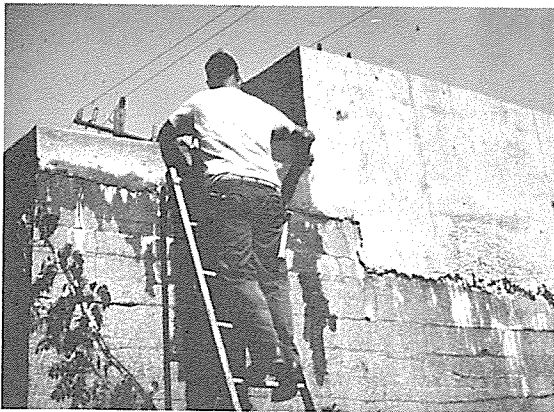
First assistant Lucy Ebisch and
project director Phil Hodge,
professional engineer with
Ceco Corp., Oak Brook, check
out new deck.



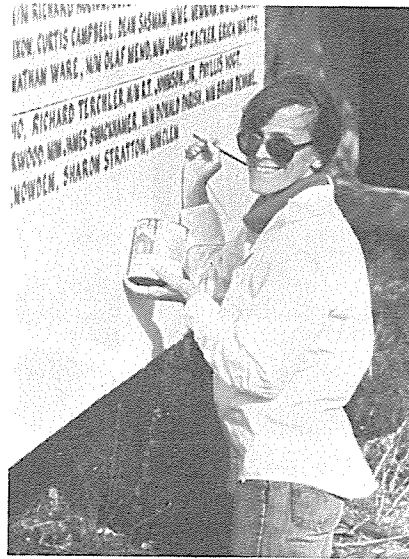
Crane operator Ron Woodward
with crane donated by F.J.A.
Christiansen Roofing Corp.,
Carol Stream, pours concrete.



Husband and wife engi-
neering team, Jim and
Carol Schumann, remove
bolts from concrete forms.



Volunteer Al Billingsley finishes concrete cap on bridge pier.



Calligrapher Susan Terwedow paints names on donor sign.



Commonwealth Edison crew raises power lines.



Tom Mueller (left) contracting representative for U.S. Steel Corp. - Cyclone Fence Division, lends volunteers a hand after checking chain link fencing.



Ron Prochazka, supervisor, and Tom Merrion, right-of-way agent, DuPage County Highway Department, review plan for grading south ramp. Gene Noffsinger operates tractor in background.



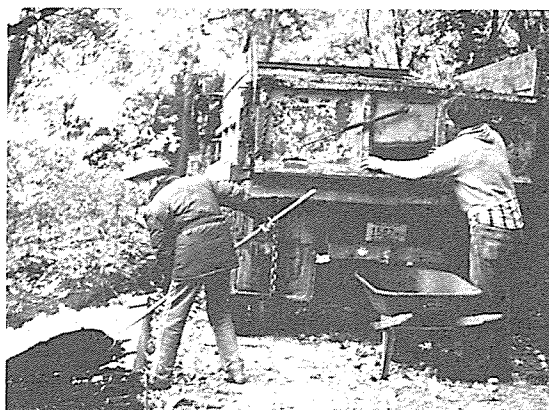
Fritz Schieve, DuPage County Highway Department, operated grader on south ramp.



Tom's Towing, Wheaton, hauled three bridge spans from DAVEA in Addison to Wheaton.

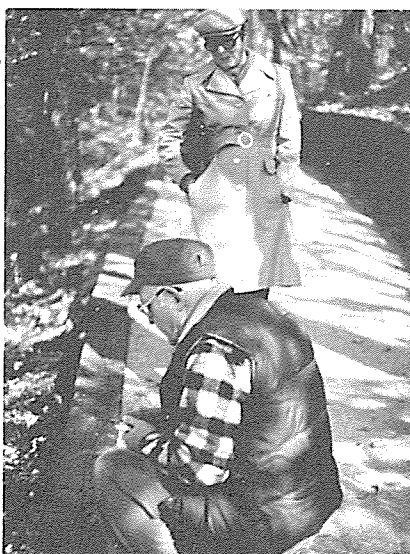


Wheaton Police Department escorted bridge spans through town and controlled traffic during installation.



Jean Mooring and Dennis O'Neill (A-1 All American Services, Glen Ellyn) spread black dirt over crushed limestone, both donated by Jean, to rebuild north bridge embankment.

...Today



Paul Mooring nails steel connecting straps on railroad ties edging new access ramp at north end of bridge. Louise Headen, who handled publicity for the bridge project, looks on.



Bridge is finished. An impossible dream comes true.

Major "Angels" of the bridge project

Arveda Allen Estate (Allen Cyclery), Villa Park
Bersted Foundation, Wayne
Svend and Elizabeth Bramsen Foundation,
Glen Ellyn
Cecil B. Carpenter, Madison, Wisconsin
C.B.I. Foundation, Oak Brook
DuPage Audubon Society, Wheaton
Gary-Wheaton Bank, Wheaton
Happy Hollow Fund, Wayne
Phil Hodge, Lombard

Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Oak Brook
Margaret Lobik Memorial Fund, Glen Ellyn
Brooks and Hope McCormick Foundation,
Chicago
Jean and Paul Mooring, Glen Ellyn
Motorola Foundation, Schaumburg
Barbara C. Rettgen, Madison, Wisconsin
St. Paul Federal Savings and Loan Association
Chicago
Harold Byron Smith, Barrington

The following individuals have donated professional services to the bridge project.

Phil Hodge, P.E., Senior Project Engineer, Rebar and Joist Division, Ceco Corporation, Oak Brook, designed bridge and supervised project.
Art and Elaine McCluskey, P.E., checked drawings.
Carol Schumann, Project Engineer, Concrete Construction Division, Ceco Corporation, surveying and concrete form design.
Jim Schumann, Civil Engineer, Wheaton Engineering Department, surveying.
Susan Terwedow, calligrapher, hand lettered donor signs.
Ron Woodward, crane operator, F.J.A. Christiansen Roofing Corporation, Carol Stream, (and part-time member of famous Wheaton Police Department Prairie Path bicycle patrol), operated crane pouring concrete.

The following companies and municipalities have made significant donations of materials and/or services to the bridge project.

ABS Graphics, Wheaton — second printing of bridge brochure.
Airco Corporation, Aurora — welding supplies.
Anderson Graphics, Wheaton — typesetting for bridge brochure.
Anonymous — hardware.
Cable TV Supply, Addison — climbing belt and pole climbers.
Castle A.M. & Company, Franklin Park — steel.
Ceco Corporation, Oak Brook — steel.
Chicago and North Western Railroad, West Chicago — flagman.
Chicago Flame Proof and Wood Preservers, Inc., Chicago — decking lumber at generous discount.
Christiansen F.J.A. Roofing Corp., Carol Stream — crane for pouring concrete.
Commonwealth Edison Company, Lombard — light fixtures, crew to install pole and raise overhead wires.
Connors Steel Company, Birmingham, AL — steel.
DuPage Area Vocational Education Authority, Addison — fabrication of new spans, certification studies, transportation of components, carpentry, blueprints, printing of brochures and T-shirts.
DuPage County Highway Department, Wheaton — signs, fill, trucking and grading at south ramp.
G & T Welding Supply, Inc., Brookfield — welding machine.
Grafic Foto, Wheaton — processing photographs for brochure.
Great West Electrical Supply, Inc., Berwyn — electrical supplies.
Hammerschmidt Lumber Company, Lombard — lumber and supplies at generous discount.
Illinois Bell, Chicago — utility pole.
Kenny Paper Company, Melrose Park — paper for bridge brochure.
Levinson Steel Company, Pittsburgh, PA — steel.
Lombard True Value Hardware, Lombard — washers and rope.
McCann Construction Specialties Company, Addison — core drill and bit.
Mees Engineering, Inc., Western Springs - Structural Engineering stamp.
National Trust For Historic Preservation, Washington, DC - paint.
Poole Truck Line, Evergreen, AL - trucking of steel from Alabama and Pennsylvania.
Precision Brand Products, Downers Grove — anchor bolts, nuts and washers.
Rust-Oleum Corporation, Vernon Hills — paint.
Standard & Specials, Inc., Addison — bolts, nuts and washers.
Sullair Industrial Sales and Service, Brookfield — jackhammer and compressor.
Terrace Supply Company, Villa Park — welding supplies.
Tom's Towing Service, Wheaton — tow truck.
United States Steel Corp., Cyclone Fence Division, Chicago — chain link fencing below cost.
Webster, McGrath and Carlson, Ltd., Wheaton — survey of property south of bridge.
Westmont Interior Supply House, Inc., Elk Grove Village — trucking of rebars and forming lumber.
Wheaton Center, Wheaton — electricity.
Wheaton, City of:
 Engineering Department — surveying equipment and consulting.
 Fire Department — hoses and fittings.
 Police Department — bridge escort and security.
 Public Works Department — signs; razing of center pier - final stage; hauling of debris; grading and surfacing at north ramp.
Wheaton, F.E. Lumber Company, Wheaton — trucking, storage, and lumber and supplies at generous discount.
Windy City Fasteners, Inc., Downers Grove — bolts, nuts and washers.

PRAIRIE PATH T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

—Good quality white cotton, short sleeved, knit shirts. Green trim on neck and sleeves. Prairie Path logo on left front. Sizes: Children - medium and large; Adults - small, medium and large. Extra Large, special order. Each \$6 plus \$1 for handling and postage. Please send check payable to the Illinois Prairie Path and order to Hillside Cyclery, 4049 Washington Street, Hillside, Illinois 60162.

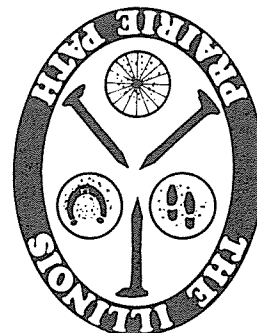
—Prairie Path Patches \$1.25 each.

—*The Illinois Prairie Path - A Guide* by Helen Turner. Gives history, geology of Path. Many illustrations of wild flowers, trees, animal tracks seen on the Path. Each \$1.50. For quantities of 10 to 20 \$1 each; 20 or more \$.75 each. For patches and book please send order to Illinois Prairie Path, Box 1086, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

— Jean C. Mooring, Editor —

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