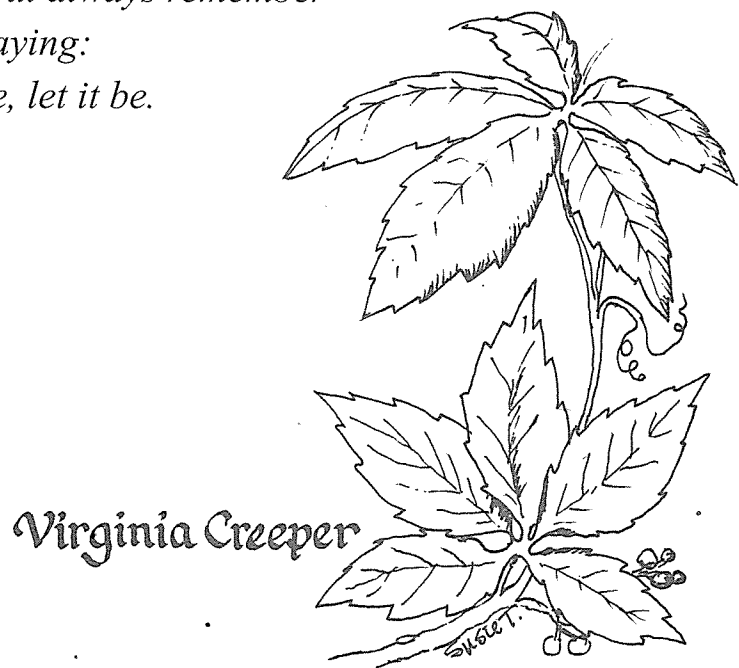
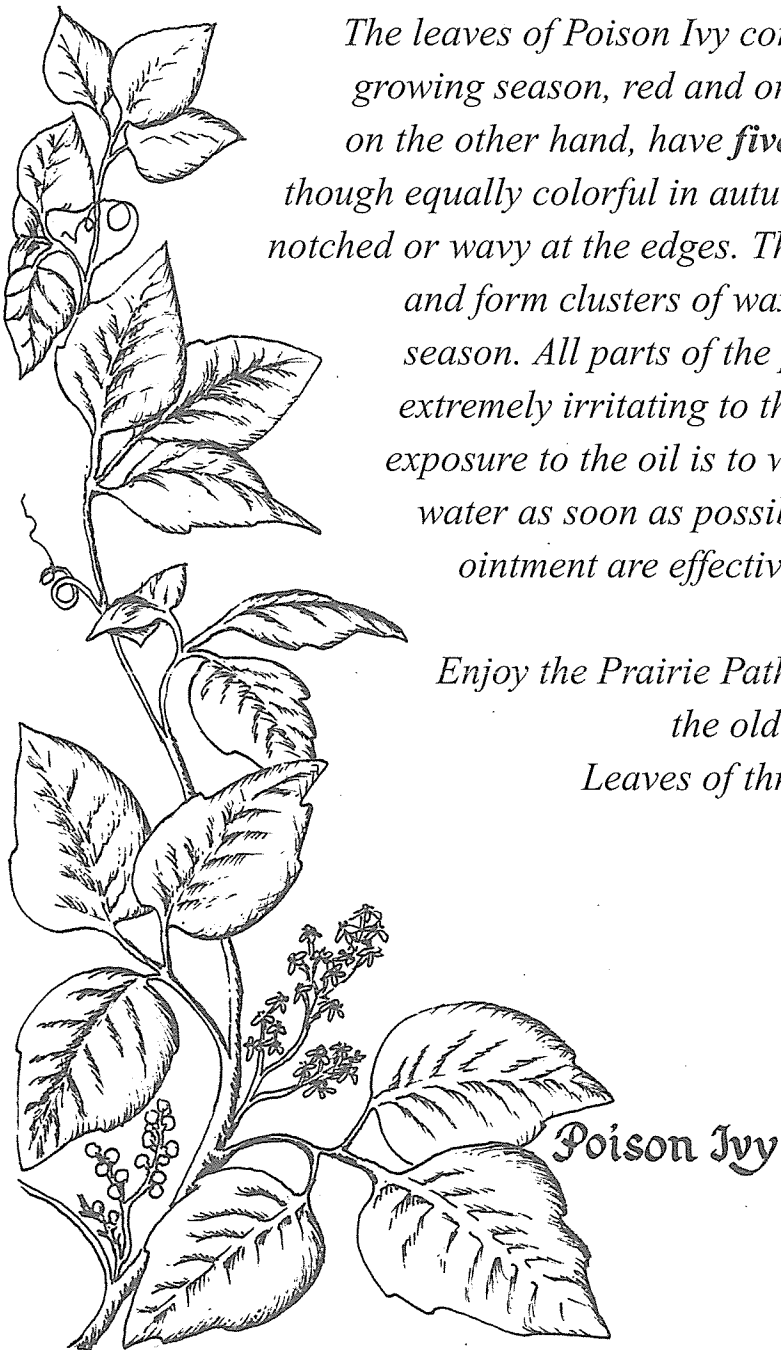


What to look out for: Poison Ivy.

Poison Ivy is a handsome plant and grows as a vine or shrub in many places along the Illinois Prairie Path. It is sometimes confused with Virginia Creeper, an equally attractive but harmless vine which is also common along the Path.

*The leaves of Poison Ivy consist of **three leaflets**, shiny green in the growing season, red and orange in the fall. Virginia Creeper's leaves, on the other hand, have **five leaflets** and are less shiny in summer though equally colorful in autumn. Poison Ivy's three leaflets are generally notched or wavy at the edges. The flowers are greenish and inconspicuous and form clusters of waxy, whitish berrylike drupes later in the season. All parts of the plant contain a poisonous oil which is extremely irritating to the skin. Good first aid treatment after exposure to the oil is to wash the affected area of skin with soap and water as soon as possible. An antihistamine and hydrocortisone ointment are effective if the characteristic blistery rash develops.*

*Enjoy the Prairie Path but always remember
the old saying:
Leaves of three, let it be.*



REPORTS ON SPRING CLEANUP

The weather was good, clear and cool, for the April 17 Illinois Prairie Path cleanup, a fitting start for Earth Week. IPP board members who helped lead the volunteers in various sections have sent in the following reports:

Jim Stewart, western DuPage County. “A beautiful sunny day when Dave Martin of Forest Park and I arrived at North Avenue and the IPP Elgin Branch at 9:00 a.m. We found that the path was quite clean until we got to the area behind the K Mart plaza (Oliver Square). At that location we could not believe the amount of trash blown by the wind over the berm and down into the ditch along the Path.* We made two trips back to the car to separate recyclable items like glass, aluminum and plastic. We got all the plastic bags out of the hawthorn trees (!!!, Ed.) but decided to skip the worst area and get the lightly littered areas first. We pressed on to Rte. 59, where we filled the trash barrel 3/4 full and completely cleared the area and loaded two dumpsters behind the plaza 1/2 full each! After lunch we went to Ferry Road on the Aurora Branch and worked east to the Rte. 59 underpass. The Path was quite clean here and the new Cafe 59 has done a fantastic job of landscaping and drainage. What a welcome improvement from years past. A couple from Naperville (last name unknown) was going to work from Ferry Road to Diehl. We then went to Bilter Road on the Batavia Spur and found it free of the flydumping we have seen there in years past. We picked up trash that had floated onto the road when the ponds overflowed during the spring rains. In all we picked up 20 gallons of plastic and glass and 5 gallons of aluminum cans, all of which was taken home to Shabbona and recycled. Other participants were Ken and Jo Ann Haines and family of West Chicago, who did the Geneva Spur from Reed Kepler Park to Industrial Drive, and also Boy Scout Troop 5 from Geneva who did the Batavia Spur from the Fox River to Kirk Road in Kane County. It was a good cleanup, thanks to all these people who care about the Path.”

**Editor's Note:* This trash problem is unacceptable and surely violates county and municipal zoning ordinances. We trust our members will complain to the DuPage County Division of Transportation, which maintains the Prairie Path, and also to the DuPage County Zoning Department and the City of West Chicago.

Bob Rawls, Warrenville. “The Warrenville section of the IPP Aurora Branch (Winfield Road to Rte. 59) was cleaned up by Mrs. Mary Marzano and her son Billy; Mrs. Sharon Booth and her son Jonathan; and Bob Rawls with his children Greg, Laura, and Meagan. Approximately nine 32-gallon plastic bags of trash, litter and debris were retrieved from the Path. We have noticed that with each

year the amount of ordinary trash has decreased, together with unusual items like toilets, windows, typewriters and bicycles that have been recovered in past cleanups. Path users today seem to be more conscious of their responsibility to keep the Path clean.”

Chris Joyce, Wheaton. “This year as in recent years Ray Holdsworth and the Wheaton Environmental Commission cleaned the Path in the Wheaton downtown area to Jewell Road on the north, Orchard on the south, and the city limits on the east. It appears that the Path was kept pretty clean during the year, as there were not many bags at the intersections.

Gail McBirney and her Cub Scouts cleaned from Jewell to Geneva Road as they did last year. Larry Rabe and his Boy Scouts cleaned from Winfield Road to Madison by St. James Farm. Debbie Tiernan and her young son covered most of the stretch from Orchard to Wiesbrook. I came across her on Saturday afternoon hauling garbage in her son's wagon. My sons Joel and Patrick and I worked both Saturday and Sunday and covered Wiesbrook to Madison on the Aurora Branch and Geneva to North Avenue on the Elgin Branch. There was probably only half as much litter as last year and a lot fewer cans and bottles.”



Jean Mooring with village employees and brush-filled dump truck near Prospect Ave. during Glen Ellyn's Prairie Path cleanup. Photo by Joe Wark.

Jean Mooring, Glen Ellyn. “More than 30 persons turned out for Glen Ellyn's Prairie Path cleanup this year, including Joe Wark, village trustee; Jim Tuinenga, chairman of the environmental protection commission; Carrie Burrows, new park board member and her family;