



The Illinois Prairie Path NEWSLETTER

Winter / Spring 2005

We Saved the "Special 8"

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation wants to thank everyone who supported our efforts to stop a new street crossing on the IPP at Whittier Avenue between Taylor Avenue and Hill Avenue in Glen Ellyn.

We began the campaign to save the 8.3 acres of woodland in the fall of 2001. A pending development of that land into 15 new homes would have necessitated a new roadway to be built across one of the most continuous, beautiful and natural sections of the Path. That roadway crossing would have also created a potential safety issue with poor visibility, and damaged the largely undisturbed glacial kame bordering the Path. We knew something needed to be done to stop this.

Assistance in cataloging and identifying rare and threatened plant species found there came from Marlin Bowles, a plant biologist at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, and Patricia Armstrong of Prairie Sun Consultants in Naperville.

In December of 2004, a two-year-long court battle over this land came to an end. The DuPage County Forest Preserve Commission approved purchas-

ing the parcel from the developer for \$375,000. The Illinois Prairie Path gladly fulfilled its commitment to contribute \$10,000 towards the purchase price.

We are proud to say that with help from neighbors in the

Special 8 area, volunteer writers of letters to county officials, and countless people who showed up at the public meetings to lend their voices and concerns, all the effort has been completely successful.

Volunteers Needed for Trail Cleanup Day, April 23rd

In observance of Earth Day 2005, The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC), in cooperation with the Friends of the Great Western Trail, has scheduled its annual trail cleanup for Saturday, April 23rd - rain or shine. Your assistance is needed!

Our goal this year is to clean all 61 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path and all 11½ miles of the Great Western Trail. Hopefully, we can duplicate the excellent cleanup that was done last year for Earth Day. We want you to help us by rolling up your sleeves (but wear work gloves) and picking up litter along these trails. Bring friends and family (and garbage bags to fill) on

Saturday, April 23rd, beginning at 9 AM.

How do I participate?

You can call one of our cleanup coordinators (see list on page 3) to ask where your help is needed most, or just bring a garbage bag and join in with the cleanup.

Either way, we appreciate your generosity!

...Continued on page 3...



Photo by Helen Bartlett, Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission

The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

This newsletter is published by
The Illinois Prairie Path
Board of Directors

Editor: Dave Watts

Address correspondence to:
The Illinois Prairie Path,
P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL
60189

Phone: 630-752-0120

Web Site: www.ipp.org

Meetings: The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month except August and November, at Rathje Park Building, 616 Delles Ave., Wheaton. Members are always welcome to attend.

The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors 2005

*Don Kirchenberg, President
Glendale Heights*

*Dick Wilson, Vice President
DesPlaines*

*F. Paul Mooring, Treasurer
Glen Ellyn*

*Nancy Becker, Secretary
Willowbrook*

*Dave Watts, Office Manager, Web
Master and Newsletter Editor
Glen Ellyn*

*Paul Aeschleman, Oak Park
Ray Bartels, Lombard
Bob Bernero, Glen Ellyn
Mike Cross, Web Master, Naperville
Paul Didzerekis, Wheaton
Jean Mooring, Glen Ellyn
Tom Pedrick, Carol Stream
Erik Spande, Winfield
Rob Sperl, Warrenville
Jan Stortz, Villa Park*

Trees on the Trails are CHOPPED not Trimmed by Commonwealth Edison

This winter and early spring, Commonwealth Edison's tree cutting contractor (Asplundh) caused considerable damage to the trees on the trails. Instead of trimming the branches, Asplundh cut the tops off the trees. Along the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail, many trees are now disfigured, dozens with their crowns missing as far as 20 feet below the power lines. Many trail users and neighbors have complained about this practice.

"When you chop the tops off hardwood trees, you are killing them from the top and increasing the likelihood of disease. Not only unhealthy for trees, but removing treetops changes visual appeal. Mangled trees line the trails, which takes away from their beautiful and natural feel" stated Don Kirchenberg, IPPC President.



Trees under the Commonwealth Edison lines along the Illinois Prairie Path in Glen Ellyn

Concerned citizens are encouraged to contact their state

legislators to voice their opinions about the tree cutting directed by Commonwealth Edison. The state of Illinois has jurisdiction over the tree maintenance practices of all power companies. They can legislate better tree maintenance that will help protect the trees on the trails and anywhere near power lines. Local legislators (State Representatives and State Senators) can be found by calling the IL Board of Elections at 312-814-6440 or by going to webpage: <http://www.elections.state.il.us/DLS/PagesDLSAddressCrit.asp>

You should also express your concerns about the tree chopping versus tree trimming to Commonwealth Edison's Vice President of External Affairs, Mr. Barry Mitchell - office #312-394-4321 or email: barry.mitchell@exeloncorp.com

Thank you for your continued support of the trails and help in protecting their natural beauty.

What should I wear and bring?

Volunteers should wear work gloves, bring 2 or more large garbage bags with ties, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. There might be muddy areas at the Path's perimeter, so wear old sneakers.

What areas should be cleaned?

The rights-of-way of the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail vary in width from about 20 feet up to 100 feet in some areas. The trail parking lots should be cleaned, as well as the walkways and other paths that feed onto the path.

What do I do with filled trash bags?

In DuPage and Kane Counties, full trash bags can be left at the major road intersections along the IPP and the GWT. They will be picked up at the beginning of the next week.

Cook County trash bags should **not** be left at roadways - these should be disposed of by placing them in trash containers along the Path or could be taken home with you to be put out with your regular garbage.

Wheaton: The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission manages Wheaton's IPP cleanup. Their tent and sign-up table will be open from 8AM to Noon, and is located at Lincoln Avenue on the Elgin branch, about 2 blocks north of Volunteer Park (mile zero), in Wheaton.

Annual Earth Day TRAIL CLEANUP

of the Illinois Prairie Path & the Great Western Trail

Saturday, April 23, 2005

Starting at 9:00AM - Rain or Shine!



**Let's all pitch in to keep
the Path beautiful !**

**To volunteer, please call one of the
coordinators listed below**

<u>Illinois Prairie Path</u>	<u>IPP Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Hillside	Nancy Becker	(630) 654-1019
Villa Park	Pride Commission	(630) 834-8500 x6059
Lombard	David Gorman	(630) 620-5700
Glen Ellyn	Larry Noller	(630) 547-5205
Naperville	Mike Cross	(630) 416-1415
Warrenville	Doug May	(630) 231-2990
Wayne	Christine Cegelis	(847) 797-8317
Elgin Branch at Rt. 59	Dick Wilson	(847) 299-7882
Wheaton	Helen Bartlett	(630) 668-1759
Winfield - Geneva Spur	Erik Spande	(630) 871-6640
Batavia Spur	Ed Barsotti	(630) 820-8759
Elgin Branch @ Prince Crossing	Dave & Kandy Jedlicka	(630) 293-7214

<u>Great Western Trail</u>	<u>GWT Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Great Western Trail	Don Kirchenberg	(630) 682-9297

*** Special Trail Cleanup in Maywood & Bellwood, Saturday, May 14th ***

Maywood & Bellwood	Paul Aeschleman	(708) 848-6023
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For additional locations or questions: Email: FmndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com or call home office at 630-682-9297, Don Kirchenberg, President, IPPC

Glen Ellyn: The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission manages the cleanup for the Village. Their table is at a new location this year - in the Village's commuter parking lot, just west of the Glen Ellyn Library. Hours are from 9AM to Noon.

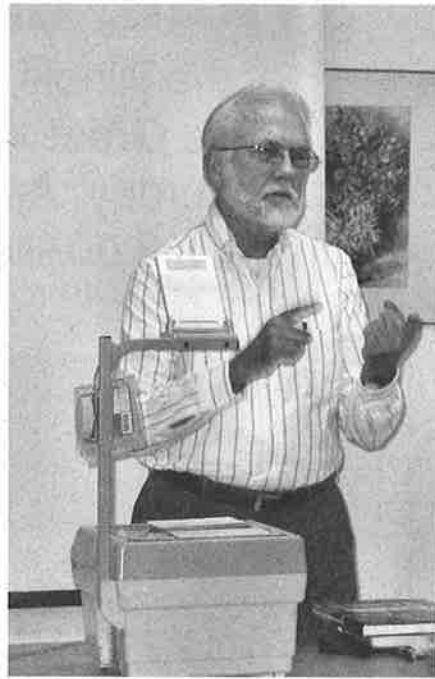
Villa Park: The Villa Park Pride Commission manages Villa Park's cleanup for both the IPP and the GWT. Their table is next to the Villa Park Historical Society's Museum on Villa Avenue, open from 9AM to Noon.

The 40th Annual Meeting

by Jean Mooring, IPPC Board Member

The 2004 Annual Meeting of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation was held on November 7 at The Abbey on St. Charles Road in Elmhurst, courtesy of the Elmhurst Park District. Some fifty-plus members and friends attended. President Don Kirchenberg opened the meeting by introducing the board members, present and past, including Bob Hargis, former IPP vice president, and Bonnie Hargis, former office manager and membership chair, visiting from their home in Charleston, Illinois. Bob, though retired, is still very active as a board member of the Illinois Trails Conservancy. Gene Pomerance, former board member from Elmhurst who oversaw the printing of the newsletter in the Path's early days, was also in the audience as was former board member Keith Olson. Don continued with a brief president's report covering major events on the Path during the year. He expressed appreciation for the very challenging Eagle Scout project of Jim Lamb, which involved the relocation of several mile markers on the Elgin Branch, made necessary by the realignment of the Path at Prince Crossing Road.

Two county officials spoke next: Deborah Fagan, DuPage County planner and trail



Keith Olson, presenter

system coordinator and Roger Kotecki, Forest Preserve commissioner, District 6. Deborah updated the enthusiastic group on new countywide trail developments and Roger highlighted the new beautiful section of the West Branch DuPage River Trail through the Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve. It now connects the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Branch to the older section of the West Branch Trail that passes through McDowell Grove Forest Preserve and continues on north to Warrenville Road.

Path Treasurer Paul Mooring reported that our financial position was good in spite of the fact that our expenditures for the fiscal year exceeded our income by \$1,451. (See the

treasurer's report on page 8). President Kirchenberg hinted that a fundraising event might be in the offing for 2005.

Office Manager and board member David Watts reported that we now have 1,296 dues paying members, down about 190 from 2003. There are 1,440 names on the mailing list, many of which are VIPs, government officials or media representatives.

The next order of business was the election of board members. The terms of four were expiring: Nancy Becker, Tom Pedrick, Rob Sperl, and David Watts. The nominating committee recommended that these four be re-elected and they all had agreed to run. With no nominations from the floor, the nominees were elected unanimously by acclamation. At the time of the meeting, one board position still needed to be filled. Eric Keeley, for personal reasons, had resigned from the board too late for a replacement candidate to be offered at the Annual Meeting.

Our principal speaker was Keith Olson, who taught natural science at York High School for many years and is now the volunteer prairie coordinator for the Elmhurst Park District and chief steward of the Great Western Prairie adjoining the Illinois Prairie Path between York Road and Salt Creek in Elmhurst. Keith, a true prairie

Salt Creek in Elmhurst. Keith, a true prairie enthusiast, pointed out that Illinois is known as the prairie state and that big blue stem prairie grass is the official state grass, not rice, wheat, or corn although they are all important to our economy. "Prairie" means



Jean Mooring, narrator

"meadow" in French and the vast and lonely but lovely tall grass prairie covered most of the state when the white man came. Now less than 1% of the original prairie is left. The principal remnants are to be found along railroads and in old cemeteries; and such favorite plants as echinacea (purple coneflower), rattlesnake master, and the sylphiums (prairie dock, compass plant, rosinweed and cup plant) still flourish there.

Dedicated prairie stewards are constantly fighting invasive weeds such as garlic mustard, multiflora rose, buckthorn,

giant ragweed and teasel. The principal management methods are cutting brush, burning, and planting seeds although herbicides may be used with great care. Keith invited his listeners to work at increasing and connecting prairies because, as Henry David Thoreau said, "In wilderness is preservation of the world." Keith recommended a good book, *Where the Sky Began: Land of the Tallgrass Prairie* by Madsen.

The formal meeting concluded with the annual Mooring slide show, which illustrated major Path projects that occurred during the year. It included repairs to drinking fountains, and to display case stands, and railings on bridges over Winfield Creek on the Elgin Branch and the East Branch of the DuPage River on the Great Western Trail; the construction of the Ferry Road bridge by DuPage County on the Aurora Branch; the National Trails Celebration at Volunteer Park; the grand opening of the Wheaton Park District skate park; various stages of the construction of the new College Avenue Metra passenger station next to the Path in Wheaton; and new lights on the Path in Lombard. Following the slide show President Kirchenberg adjourned the meeting; the members and guests then gathered to talk with the board members while enjoying cakes, cookies and cider provided by the board members and their spouses.

Some 2004 Membership Stats...

Average membership contribution in 2004 was \$26.12

1,296 paid-up members on the books as of Oct. 31, 2004

Membership numbers were down by 190 compared to 2003, but the average membership contribution dollars were up.

Where do Illinois Prairie Path members live? 96% of our members reside in Illinois.

<u>By Town</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wheaton	15
Lombard	7
Naperville	6
Glen Ellyn	6
Elmhurst	6
Chicago	4
Winfield	4
Villa Park	3
West Chicago	3
Aurora	2
All Other Towns	44

Got a Question?



Just call us at
630-752-0120
 (Voice Mail)

Public Safety Concerns Addressed

Jonathan Knoche, a representative from the Wheaton College Student Government, attended the March 1, 2005 meeting of The IPPc Board of Directors. He advised us of the need for an extension of the sidewalk along the east side of Chase Street across the Illinois Prairie Path to Crescent Street. The Board agreed with the need for this proposed sidewalk and also for a street light to make the area safer for pedestrians on Chase Street and trail users crossing Chase Street.



A sidewalk along Chase Street would address safety concerns

**National
Trails Day is
Saturday,
June 4th**
•
**Enjoy the
trails!**

The IPP is a Grand Illinois Trail

We often get calls and emails about the extensive trails system in Illinois. The Illinois Prairie Path is part of the Grand Illinois Trail (GIT). More information about the GIT and IPP's connection to it can be found in *The Complete Grand Illinois Trail Guidebook*, which is perfectly designed to open up the great Prairie State to you. You can go from the shores of Lake Michigan to the mighty Mississippi River.

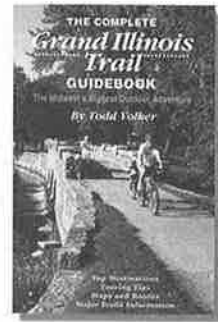
More than just another weekend trip, the GIT circuit is designed for adventure.

By linking the state's outstanding hiking and biking trails, the GIT allows over 10 million Illinois citizens easy access to many of the state's best cultural, historical, geographical and natural sites.

The 525 mile round trip trail system from Chicago across northern Illinois contains countless features for beginner, intermediate and advanced trail users.

The Complete Grand Illinois Trail Guidebook includes photography by award-winning photographers Ed Ranney and Willard Clay, with over 18 descriptive trail maps by Matt Kania. Author Todd Volker is an avid conservationist and was an early advocate of the Grand Illinois Trail.

To order your own copy of this 256-page book, contact FirstServePress at P.O. Box 494, Peoria, IL 61651 or call 800-433-8868.



New Board Member, Ray Bartels

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPc) is pleased to announce that Ray Bartels of Lombard, IL has been elected to its Board of Directors. Don Kirchenberg, President of the IPPc stated "I first met Ray at the original meeting of the

Village of Lombard's Ad Hoc Trails Committee a few years ago. He has continued to serve on that committee. With the committee he has worked to improve the trails and access to them for Lombard residents and everyone using the trails in the area.

"Ray's dedication to the trails will be a big benefit to the Illinois Prairie Path and it's users. We welcome Ray to the board."

Ken Moss Memorial

When former IPPc Board member Ken Moss passed away at an early age, many trail supporters raised a total of \$3,500 for a memorial. Five oak trees have been planted at the western edge of the Great Western Prairie in Elmhurst in his memory.

Due to a long-term construction project in the memorial area, we have experienced a delay in completing his memorial. Watch this summer for a memorial bench to be installed nearby.

Villa Park Preservation

At the March 1, 2005 meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPc), the Board of Directors voted to agree with the concerned citizens of Villa Park about preserving the historical streetscape appearance along the Illinois Prairie Path. IPPc President Don Kirchenberg stated that "the buildings and views along this area are part of the trail experience and should be protected."

Prairie Restoration

The Illinois Prairie Path has several ongoing prairie reconstruction and restoration projects along the Path. We collect seeds from different locations in the fall and transplant plants in the spring. If you would like give us some time in the fall or on a Saturday in the spring, please contact: Larry Sheaffer at 630-790-0313 or larrysheaffer@sbcglobal.net.

Special Use Permitting for Trail Events

from Deborah Fagan, Chief Planner and County Trail System Coordinator

If your not-for-profit group wants to hold an event (such as run/walk/bicycling fundraiser or school/scouting event/project) on the DuPage County trail system, please be aware that you will need a Special-Use Highway permit from the county. To obtain this permit, please contact the Economic Development and Planning Dept., Regulatory Services at (630) 407-6700.

Signage Upgrades for DuPage County Trails

from Deborah Fagan, Chief Planner and County Trail System Coordinator

The DuPage County Division of Transportation recent inventory of signage along the DuPage segments of the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail netted over 1,600 signs. With new national sign standards recently adopted, the County will be upgrading signs to meet the new standards and taking advantage of that opportunity to do some clean-up and streamlining of signage. Work has started and is expected to be completed along the entire system by year's end.

Please pass this extra membership card on to a friend...

The Illinois Prairie Path

P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton IL 60189

630-752-0120 www.ipp.org

Membership:

- I am applying for new membership
 This is a gift membership from _____

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Society \$1,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Individual \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$30.00 | |

All contributions are tax deductible



**The Illinois Prairie Path
Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year 2004**

Cash Balance, November 1, 2003

Bank One	\$27,191.18
Liberty Funds Services, Inc.	<u>\$105,263.38</u>
TOTAL	\$132,454.56

Revenue

Donations, Grants, Bequests	\$5,881.00
Dues	\$33,854.00
Sales (Maps, Shirts, Patches, Guides, etc.)	\$2,398.40
Interest	\$609.69
Miscellaneous	<u>\$103.25</u>
TOTAL	\$42,846.34

Expenditures

Office Manager (Contractual Stipend)	\$9,600.00
Newsletters (Production and Mailing)	\$2,267.81
Maintenance and Repairs	\$1,480.56
Litter removal and Port-o-let	\$6,405.03
Postage	\$597.15
Telephone	\$537.53
Special Projects	\$6,218.30
Special Events	\$470.51
Prairie Restoration	\$9,922.53
Other Printing	\$1,949.09
Merchandise for Sale	\$0.00
Donations	\$2,500.00
Travel/Board Expenses	\$66.25
Legal and Consulting	\$0.00
Petty Cash Fund (Office Supplies, etc.)	\$1,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$0.00
Insurance	\$719.00
Government Fees	\$20.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$543.30</u>
TOTAL	\$44,297.06

Cash Balance, Oct. 31, 2004

Bank One	\$25,189.99
Liberty Funds Services, Inc.	<u>\$105,813.85</u>
TOTAL	\$131,003.84

Submitted by Paul Mooring, Treasurer

Illinois Prairie Path Store

Show Your Support For The Illinois Prairie Path! Long Sleeve IPPc Shirts Now Available

Ride or walk the IPP in style! Our new shirt design features The IPPc logo embroidered (green thread) above the left breast pocket of this 7.26 oz. 100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt in both natural (light khaki) and light blue denim colors. Shirt also features wood-tone buttons and double-needle stitching. Price: \$40.00 per shirt plus \$6 shipping and handling. For multiple shirt orders call 630-232-1125 for shipping price. For current shirt inventory go to www.ippstore.com/ippstore.htm



Illinois Prairie Path Color Map 7th Edition



Only \$6 - Includes postage and shipping.

(Note: new members are sent one free map when they join The IPPc!)

- Full color illustrations and photos
- Large 18" x 24" size (folds to 3 1/2" x 9") on tear-proof, water-proof paper
- New! Includes updated information on renovated Cook County portion of the Illinois Prairie Path
- Includes full suburb/street detail of the 61-mile trail from Cook County west to Kane County
- Discover 26 points of interest along the IPP and 14 recommended bike routes
- Details train stations, prairies, parking lots, restrooms and drinking fountains
- Learn more about The IPPc's management, its history and its founder May Watts. *Published by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation*



IPP Guidebook - by Helen Turner

This 32-page guidebook contains information about the history, geology, trees, flowers, birds and animals of the Illinois Prairie Path. Cost: \$5 per copy includes shipping.

The IPPc Patch Shows You Care

The IPPc patch can be yours for \$1.50 each. Includes shipping.



Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Item(s) Requested _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send this entire order form and check to: The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60189



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter
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How you can help the Illinois Prairie Path:

Opportunities to participate in trail improvement and trail management issues coordinated by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC):

- ✓ **Help with monthly workdays.** These are usually held on the third Saturday morning of the month (spring thru fall) at a location along the trail to add, improve/maintain or change a trail amenity. For example: painting a water pump, weeding a flower box, etc. No special skills are required - just energy and a community spirit.
- ✓ **Help with prairie burns.** Burns are conducted every spring (weather permitting) to prepare the several prairies maintained by The IPPC for their annual growth. Volunteers are needed to help rake and prepare the prairies for the burn.
- ✓ **Refill map boxes.** Volunteer to watch over a map box and refill the free maps (we provide) as needed.
- ✓ **Be a trash monitor.** Watch a trashcan to check if it is being maintained by the contracted service provider (currently Waste Management). Call Waste Management if they fail to maintain the containers as scheduled.

**To help with the above tasks send an email to FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com
or call the IPPC via mail at 630-752-0120**