



The Illinois Prairie Path **NEWSLETTER**

www.ipp.org

Winter / Spring 2006

Your Help Needed for the Annual Trails Cleanup Saturday, April 22nd

In observance of Earth Day 2006, The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation, in cooperation with the Friends of the Great Western Trail, has scheduled its annual trail cleanup for Saturday, April 22nd - 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 results of previous years. We need 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 22nd, beginning at 9AM.

How do I participate?

You can call one of our cleanup coordinators (see list on page 2) 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!

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 trails.

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. Notify your cleanup coordinator of the location of filled trash bags.

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 signup table will be open from 8AM to Noon, and is located at Lincoln

Continued next page...

Des Plaines River Bridge

Extending the Illinois Prairie Path farther east has always been a goal for The IPPc. For Board Member and past IPPc President Paul Aeschleman, this has been a personal mission. Paul's almost decade-long effort in helping to bring the many necessary governmental agencies together on this addition is now finally paying off.

For 27 years, the east end of the IPP Main Stem has been at First Avenue in Maywood. Soon, the IPP will stretch another mile east to Des Plaines Avenue in Forest Park via the new Des Plaines River bridge.

At Legal Grounds Coffee on the Maywood side of the river, this new project was kicked off with a ground-breaking ceremony on

Continued on back page...

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 7:00 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 2006

*Don Kirchenberg, President
Glendale Heights*

*Dick Wilson, Vice President
DesPlaines*

*F. Paul Mooring, Treasurer
Glen Ellyn*

*Nancy Becker, Secretary
Willowbrook*

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

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

Annual Earth Day TRAIL CLEANUP

of the Illinois Prairie Path
& the Great Western Trail
Saturday, April 22, 2006

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**

If you, your family and/or co-workers are interested in helping us, please contact one of the cleanup coordinators listed below.

Illinois Prairie Path

Aurora / Aurora Branch
Batavia Spur
Elgin Branch at Rt. 59
Elgin Branch @ Prince Crossing
Elgin Branch @ Army Trail
Elmhurst
Geneva/Geneva Spur
Glen Ellyn
Hillside
Lombard
Maywood & Bellwood
Naperville
Villa Park
Warrenville
West Chicago-Geneva Spur/east
West Chicago-Geneva Spur/west
Wheaton
Winfield - Geneva Spur

IPP Coordinator

Jessi DeMartini
Ray Bartels
Dick Wilson
Dave & Kandy Jedlicka
Joan Duma
Stella Banak
Tim Klimowski
Don Pellico
Nancy Becker
David Gorman
Paul Aeschleman
Sharon Kirkland
Pride Commission
Doug Henk
Jodi Brodbeck
Steve Senthoff
Helen Bartlett
Erik Spande

Phone Number

(630) 871-7548
(630) 606-8851
(847) 299-7882
(630) 293-7214
(630) 205-5312
(630) 971-3835
(630) 232-6304
(630) 854-5067
(630) 654-1019
(630) 620-5700
(708) 848-6023
(630) 983-9939
(630) 834-8500 x6059
(630) 291-9124
(630) 876-6435
(630) 293-1627
(630) 668-1759
(630) 871-6640

Great Western Trail

Great Western Trail

GWT Coordinator

Don Kirchenberg

Phone Number

(630) 682-9297

For additional locations or questions: Email: FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com or call home office at 630-682-9297, Don Kirchenberg, President, IPPc

Cleanup continued from page 1...

Avenue on the Elgin branch,
about 2 blocks north of Volunteer
Park (mile zero), in Wheaton.

Glen Ellyn: The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission manages the cleanup for the Village. Their table location this year is at Prairie Path Park, across the tracks from the commuter rail station. 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.

A Sight Along the IPP: West Chicago Prairie

by Steve Sentoff, President, West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group

Located just west of the city of West Chicago on the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur, the West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve is the finest example of a native prairie along the IPP.

The preserve is over 300 acres and supports multiple plant communities, including pond, marsh, wet prairie, sedge meadow, mesic prairie, savanna and dry-mesic woodlands. It is a haven for several endangered and rare species and provides incredible diversity for a site of this size.

To date, nearly 600 different plant species have been identified at the West Chicago Prairie, more than 60% of the flora known to exist in DuPage County. And the prairie bird count is now at 180 different species.

For some eighty years, the site was operated as a stockyard,

serving the railroads in West Chicago. Cattle and sheep grazed and were fed at the site. Remnants from the stockyard operation can still be found on the preserve. About half of the preserve was never plowed and so much of the original vegetation survived in spite of the heavy grazing. In 1979, The Nature Conservancy bought the property and held it a short time while DuPage County and the city of West Chicago approved the funds to purchase it.

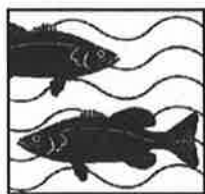
The West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group was formed by Mel Hoff in 1983, dedicated to restoring the preserve to a healthy ecosystem, and works in close coordination with the management provided by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The stewardship group organizes volunteer work days and leads a number of



field trips as well. More information, including a schedule of events, can be found on their web site, www.wcpsg.org. Visitors are also welcome to hike the footpaths of the preserve on their own, any day, dawn to dusk. Next time you're on the IPP Geneva Spur, take some time to appreciate "the Prairie on the Prairie Path". In every season, you'll find something of interest in this natural treasure.

The IPP provides access to the West Chicago Prairie for birders and other nature enthusiasts.

Get Your Feet Wet With Our Active Group of River Caretakers!



Here's your opportunity to roll up your sleeves and help improve the health of

the Fox River. Friends of the Fox River, the river's primary advocacy group, invites you to monitor water quality, help at a Fox Rescue cleanup, or plant water willow to improve wildlife.

Last year alone over 400 volunteers collected 12 tons of

debris covering 25½ miles of river and bike trails from McHenry County down to Kendall County. Our next Fox Rescue will be May 20th. Check our website for places and times in April!

To learn more about these opportunities and many more, visit Friends of the Fox River's website at: www.friendsofthefoxriver.org or call Sue Bennett @ 815-356-6605.

Got a Question?



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

Report on The Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting

by Jean Mooring, IPPc Board Member

The 41st annual meeting of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation was called to order at 2:00PM, November 6th, at The Abbey Leisure Center on St. Charles Road in Elmhurst. Approximately 70 members and friends attended.



IPPc President Don Kirchenberg opens the meeting

Illinois Prairie Path President Don Kirchenberg first introduced current and past board members who were present and then several government officials who have helped the trail movement and especially the Prairie Path in various ways throughout the year. Among them were sheriff's officers Stelter and Burgomeister; Deborah Fagan, DuPage County senior planner; "Doc" Hensley, Villa Park trustee; Roger Kotecki, DuPage Forest Preserve Commissioner, District 6; Gwen Henry, Forest Preserve commissioner running for DuPage County treasurer; and Christine Cegelis, information technology consultant, who is running for Congress in District 6.

In his president's report, Don mentioned many activities of Prairie Path members and friends during 2005:

- The April 23rd cleanup brought

out about 1,000 people who did a great job.

- The Sierra Club River Prairie Group and volunteers from the Prairie Path spent many hours working on the "Special 8" area now officially called the Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve. Bruce Blake and his team planted a variety of native plants to enhance this unique glacial kame natural area and to control erosion caused by motorcycles and people.

- Ryan Kuntz of Carol Stream and his family with Scout Troop 191 from Fellowship Church of Carol Stream did wonderful work assembling and installing display case stands (prefabricated by Paul Mooring and Mark Newell) at various locations along the trail and repairing the stand at Volunteer Park.

- Dasani Company donated Blue Bikes with lockers to Villa Park to be lent to trail users.

- The *Chicago Wilderness Magazine* did a nice article about the Illinois Prairie Path.

Next on the agenda was Paul Mooring, who presented the treasurer's report (see page 10).

He was followed by office manager Dave Watts, who reported that the current membership is 1229, down slightly from the 1296 that we had in 2004. Dave is advocating a membership drive.

Vice President Dick Wilson, Chair of the nominating committee, presented the names of four current board members whose terms were expiring and who had

agreed to serve again: Paul Aeschleman, Bob Bernero, Paul Mooring, and Jan Stortz; and one new candidate, artist, marathon runner and longtime friend of the Illinois Prairie Path - Susan Terwedow. Susan had agreed to run as a replacement for Paul Didzerekis, who was stepping down because of other responsibilities. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected by acclamation.

Former President Paul Aeschleman of Oak Park then introduced the guest speaker, State Representative, District 7 Karen Yarbrough of Chicago, whose district includes Hillside, Bellwood, Maywood, Forest Park and River Forest.

[The full text of Karen's speech is on page 8]



Karen Yarbrough, State Representative from District 7

Karen mentioned a new way to enjoy the Path in Maywood: visit the brand new gourmet coffee shop Legal Grounds near the Cook County Courthouse on Maybrook Square whose future deck will overlook the scenic and long-planned Illinois Prairie Path Des Plaines River bridge about twenty-five feet away.

The last featured item on the program was the 28th annual Mooring slide show (beginning in

...Continued next page

Annual Meeting-continued...

1978), shot and narrated by Jean but was organized and written by Paul. Included were pictures of volunteers burning prairie remnants, picking up trash, assembling display case stands (Eagle candidate Ryan Kuntz and members of Boy Scout Troop 191 of Carol Stream), installing new benches, repairing and replacing benches and the eight mile marker, battling Canada thistle, burdock, giant ragweed and invading mulberry trees at Volunteer Park, replacing a rotted timber, and straightening up the teetering display case there. Three DuPage County DOT projects were pictured. They included relocating Electric Avenue and Silverleaf Boulevard in connection with widening of Jewell Road and thus saving a beautiful memorial sugar maple tree planted by IPP friends, widening and improving the Diehl crossing of the Aurora Branch, and installing new green and white logo signs at all street intersections in the county.

The meeting ended with conversation and refreshments — cider, cakes and cookies provided by board members. The educational centerpiece was an impressive candleholder made from a three-part CA&E RR insulator assembly, which originally held the electrified third rail.

**Moving?
Please let us know**

The Post Office doesn't always notify us of your new address

Winter / Spring 2006

2005 IPPc Membership Stats

Average membership contribution in 2005 was \$30.11

1,229 current members on the books as of Oct. 31, 2005

Membership numbers were down by 67 compared to 2004, but the average membership contribution was higher in 2005

Where do Illinois Prairie Path members live? 97% of our members reside in Illinois. Locally, the top 10 towns are:

<u>By Town</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wheaton	14%
Lombard	7%
Naperville	7%
Glen Ellyn	6%
Elmhurst	6%
Chicago	4%
Villa Park	4%
West Chicago	3%
Aurora	3%
Winfield	3%

30 Years Ago

A horrific train crash occurred in Glen Ellyn forcing thousands from their homes due to deadly anhydrous ammonia leaking from tanker cars. The train cars and locomotives careened while making the turn into Glen Ellyn from Wheaton. Most landed north of the tracks, across Pennsylvania Avenue between Kenilworth and Western Avenue.

The IPP, on the south side of the tracks, was shut down for months during the cleanup and repairs of the tracks and nearby area.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 22
Annual Earth Day Trail Cleanup

Saturday, April 22
Household hazardous waste collection and recycling extravaganza, College of DuPage (see page 7)

Saturday, May 20
Bellwood & Maywood prairie planting and cleanup
Paul Aeschleman
(708) 848-6023

Saturday, April 29
Wheaton recycling extravaganza (see page 7)

Sunday, May 7
Green Earth Fair
McDonald Farm, Naperville
The Conservation Foundation

Saturday, May 20
DuPage Co. Bike Day
www.bikeday.org

Saturday, June 3
National Trails Day
www.trails.com/national-trails-day.asp

Keith Olson has monthly volunteer workdays at the Elmhurst Great Western Prairie. 630-834-7357 or email KeithOlson@usa.net



Photo from the collection of Mark Llanuza

Prairie Path Glacial Kame Native Plant Restoration

by Bruce Blake, Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve Steward, DuPage Forest Preserve District

On the east side of Glen Ellyn, the IPP runs through a glacial kame. This unique geological feature was formed thousands of years ago, when the glaciers melted and mounds of water-sorted sand and gravel were pushed along and deposited in ridges. The Aurora & Elgin RR excavated the south side of the ridge to provide a level bed for its tracks. The eight acres that form a triangle north of the IPP and south of the Union Pacific RR are now a part of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (the District), thanks to a very aggressive appeal by The IPPc members. The new acquisition will be called Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve. One of the many interesting features of this area is that it has never been developed and contains over 232 different types of native plants that have been growing there since pre-settlement days. There are very few remnants of this type left.

The District has put a high priority on maintaining the original native plants. Pat Armstrong, Prairie Sun Consultants, and Marlin Bowles from the Morton Arboretum inventoried the native plants. Later, Scott Kobal, the District's plant ecologist, updated it. Currently, a cooperative program exists between the District, the County of DuPage, (which owns the Illinois Prairie Path property) and The IPPc, to restore native plants. Using only native vegetation helps to preserve the fragile

balance. As part of this cooperative, the forest preserve provided us with seeds collected from plants that were genotypes to the area.

On a sunny November day last year, a group of volunteers from the Illinois Prairie Path and Sierra Club's River Prairie Group raked in a blend of Native American flowers and grasses on the eroded slopes of the Glen Ellyn kame. These seeds should be sprouting this spring. Later in the year, when plants are established, we plan to fill in the bare spots. Hopefully, we will not have such dry weather as in 2005, which was hard on last year's spring plantings. We also ask for your consideration; we discourage foot and bicycle traffic on the newly planted ridge.

There are several other eroded, washed out sections on the IPP that we would like to restore with native plants before the existing

growth becomes too large. To this end, we are asking for volunteers. Our first work day will be on April 29, (Saturday) from 9:00AM until noon. The site is about 2 blocks east of Walnut Glen Park (Glen Ellyn Park District - corner of Walnut St. & Longfellow Ave.). Please dress for outdoor work and bring gloves. We will be doing some planting, and removing brush and invasive plants. Other workdays will be scheduled to meet volunteer schedules. If you are interested in learning or helping at the site, or need more information, please call or e-mail me.

We thank the District for the time and effort they have put into this project, and give a special thank you to the volunteers who gave their time to greatly improve the Illinois Prairie Path landscape.

Bruce Blake can be contacted at 630-629-2520 or Rllnstns1@aol.com

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

Winter/Spring 2006

Jim Lamb Honored

Congratulations to Jim Lamb and thanks again for his assistance with installing a new mile marker and moving several others along the IPP's Elgin Branch! The following story is an excerpt from *The Sun*, Nov. 13th, 2005.

Teen Earns Eagle Scout Award

Jim Lamb, 18, was awarded the Boy Scout of America's highest rank, Eagle Scout, at a Court of Honor on Nov. 26.

Lamb, the son of Tom and Cynthia Lamb, is a member of Troop 106, sponsored by American Legion Post 43 in Naperville.

He attended summer camp at Camp Freeland Leslie in Oxford, Wis., for three years. He attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2001 and went on a 50-mile high adventure hiking trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. He earned 21 merit badges, attended Junior Leader Training, and held the positions of patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, chaplain aide and librarian.

For his Eagle Project Lamb moved mile markers on the Elgin branch of the Illinois Prairie Path so they would accurately mark distance. The markers were off by 355 feet due to a change in a nearby road crossing.

He was involved in cross country and was the editor of a student-run periodical, *Gadfly*, at Benet Academy in Lisle. He is currently a freshman at Marquette University in Wisconsin.

Winter / Spring 2006

Earth Month Events April 22 and 29

from Kay McKeen

Saturday, April 22 Household Hazardous Waste
8AM - 3PM College of DuPage
Lambert and Fawell

Accepting - fluorescent light bulbs, oil based paints, car fluids, mercury thermometers, old medicines, varnish, mercury thermostats, propane tanks from grills.

8AM - 3PM Glen Ellyn Recycling Extravaganza
College of DuPage
Lambert and Fawell

Accepting - gym shoes, cell phones, household keys, American flags, hearing aids, eye glasses, scrap metal, any books - hardcover, text books or paper backs, laser and ink jet cartridges, bikes, garden tools, home repair tools, lawn mowers, juice pouches and bottle caps and fire extinguishers.

8AM - 2PM Electronic Recycling Collection
United Recycling Industries
1600 Harvester, West Chicago

Accepting - old computers, televisions, scrap metal, telephones, VCRs, fax machines, scanners, answering machines, printers, electronic games.

Saturday, April 29 Wheaton's Recycling Extravaganza
9AM - 3PM Carlton and Liberty
Commuter Parking Lot

Accepting - any and all books - hardcover, paperback, text; scrap metal - swing sets, railings, washers, dryers, rusty pots and pans, metal hangers - no refrigerators, no air conditioners, no motors; torn/faded American flags - for proper retirement; eye glasses, hearing aids, house/car keys, gym shoes, cell phones, lawnmowers, garden tools, home repair tools, bicycles - working or broken.

**For more information - go to the SCARCE website -
www.bookrescue.org or call us at 630-545-9710**

Help Keep the Trails Free of Landscape Waste

*a note from Deborah Fagan, Chief Planner and DuPage County
Trail System Coordinator*

While the vast majority of our neighbors that border the trail system are great stewards of this wonderful facility, each spring and summer we have a few exceptions with residents who dump yard waste, branches and grass clippings over their fences and onto the trail property.

If you witness dumping in progress of such waste on the trails, please call the DuPage County Sheriff's office at 630-407-2400 (emergencies: Dial 911).

State Representative Dist. 7 Karen Yarbrough's Speech at The Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting

I want to thank the Board of the Illinois Prairie Path for inviting me to speak today.

I am here today because I believe in the mission of the Prairie Path and I also use the Prairie Path. It is clear that the work done by your organization has made our communities a better place.

The literal history of the Prairie Path reflects what it actually accomplishes. As we all work together to extend the path, connect it to other existing paths, we connect communities and like-minded community activists.

It is not hard to see how this path brings us together.

But the winding journey of the Prairie Path is not one without roadblocks, as you can all attest to. Those who have been around this for a long time can look at a map of the Path and recall the starts and stops and hurdles along the way.

But this process has taught us all a great deal. It has shown us the importance of communities working together to build one big final product. We've cobbled together old rail lines into a recognized preservation and celebration of what Illinois once was.

Everyone involved in the day-to-day struggles are probably experts on local government, at this point.

One specific roadblock in my district is the Des Plaines River. It is not only a hurdle made by God, it has proven to be a logistical tangle as well. Although this issue predates my tenure as State Representative, I have made it a commitment to see this Path go through.

Our efforts have paid off, and we are cautiously awaiting a February ribbon-cutting for this project, with construction beginning within a few months after that.

WHAT THE PATH DOES FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

To me, the Prairie Path does a lot of things, but I have broken them down into 3 main areas.

1. PRESERVES GREEN SPACES AND CONNECTS US TO WHAT ILLINOIS WAS

As our communities continue to grow and expand, we run the risk of slapping a home or building on every inch of green space. The Prairie Path took something old and made it new. As it snakes across Cook County and the collar counties, it brings with it a strip of green to areas that might otherwise be without. This is especially true for parts of my district.

Green spaces like the Prairie Path that connect us to nature are important for new generations. For some, it would seem strange that children could grow up only seeing the few trees that may be planted in the town square. Green spaces reflect the quality of life in a community, and no matter how big our towns get, we should always set aside some space for nature.

2. ENCOURAGES EXERCISE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

One of the most important issues facing our society, especially our young people, is obesity. A poor diet, which can be attributed to the trend of our foods becoming unhealthier each year, combined with a lack of exercise, is resulting in a generation that will be more dependent on health care.

Health care costs are possibly THE greatest challenge facing states. If we don't do something about them, they will eventually eat up our entire budget. While we have many economic options and tinkering that can be done, wouldn't it be easier if everyone made a conscious decision to be healthy?

Many times, health problems can't be prevented. That is why we have one of the most advanced health care systems in the world. But we can't ignore the fact that lifestyle choices over the last 25 to 30 years have led to increased obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and I could go on.

The Prairie Path is good for public health. For government officials to support it, we are sending a message that we support the health and well-being of our residents.

...Continued next page

Speech continued...

3 PROMOTES COMMUNITY PRIDE AND INVOLVEMENT

The Prairie Path promotes community pride and involvement.

One of my favorite things about the Prairie Path is your recognition of the users as owners. By encouraging volunteers to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the Path, we are involving the many communities in a hands-on way.

The Prairie Path depends on the communities it serves. And the work that the people do in the various communities makes the Path look better and attractive to communities it does not yet touch. By making it the best we can, we are working to preserve its life and longevity.

This type of community involvement breeds a new generation of Prairie Path advocates, which will be essential for the continuation of the Path. Once we are all gone, hopefully we will have bred a new generation of people as passionate about this project as we are.

NEW T-Shirt Offered



Color is green with white logo on front and larger logo and artwork featured on the back. \$15 + \$5 S&H. Sizes XXL, XL, L, and M. Use the form on last page and write in "Green T-shirt."

WELCOME New Board Member Susan Terwedow

The IPPc is happy to welcome a new member to the Board of Directors. Susan Terwedow has been active supporting the Illinois Prairie Path for many years. As an avid runner, artist and environmentalist, she has helped the IPPc in many ways. Her art appeared in editions of the IPPc Newsletter years ago. She just finished her new artistic effort — to design our latest IPP shirt, now available via www.ipp.org, and pictured on this page. This green 50/50 blend t-shirt features a prominent IPP logo in white along with drawings of native plants found along the trail.

IPPc President Don Kirchenberg said in welcoming her that "Susan, known by many as 'Susie T,' to be a helping and cheerful runner that is always friendly when you see her on the trail." Her recent t-shirt (available for \$15 plus \$5 S&H) is sure to be a favorite of trail users and people looking for the fun and casual look. We look forward to more of Susie's contributions that will help beautify not just the trail users, but the trail and its surrounding natural areas."

Unique "Special 8" Becomes Newest Forest Preserve

by Christine McCurdy, volunteer writer

According to District Plant Ecologist, Scott Kobal, the newest stewardship site in the District is the Glacial Ridge site, located south of Churchill Woods in Glen Ellyn and bordered by the Illinois Prairie Path. It is a narrow strip of land that has fortunately never supported any agriculture or development. It remains in relatively pristine condition, geologically speaking.

"There have never been any buildings or anything else on this particular site," said Kobal. "This is a glacial kame that we are interested in preserving as a natural area. It is a unique spot, as it has not been heavily disturbed by agriculture in thousands of years. The site even contains a small amount of wetland area."

Glacial kames are isolated areas of natural materials, generally composed of gravel, sand,

and soil left by the front portions of melting glacial ice. The slopes of a kame often contain a diverse array of native plant species.

Kobal did state, however, that though the kame has not been disturbed by buildings or other structures, or tilling of the soil, it has become an attractive spot for children and teens to ride their bikes and party.

"We need to work with the authorities to enforce the ordinances that are in place so that we will be able to study the area further," he said. "A lot of younger people like to ride their bikes down the steep slopes and we need to control this so that there is no further soil erosion. Soil with a high gravel content, as is in a kame, is prone to erosion." Part of site management work will entail collecting seeds from native species in the fall

...Continued next page

Glacial Ridge continued from page 9...
and redistributing them in the spring, carrying out necessary brush cutting, and otherwise monitor the area.

The eight-acre site is situated between two railroad rights-of-way, and features a diverse collection of native plant species, along with nonnative species.

"Our volunteers remove the nonnative species of vegetation and alien shrubs, and try and promote the growth of natural plants," explained Kobal. After steward training is complete, "volunteers will be engaging in workdays at the site, even during the winter months."

The kame site was purchased by the District in early 2005, with the help and donation of \$10,000 from The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation.

"The site was originally slated for development of homes," he noted. "It's really important that it was saved."

Recently beginning work at the site is Glen Ellyn resident and District volunteer Bruce Blake, now a steward of the Glacial Ridge site. Prior to his participation at this site, he worked on a restoration area along the Illinois Prairie Path close by the site, so he knows the area and is learning about some of its special features. Blake, who works as a mechanic in a factory, is also active in the Boy Scouts of America having been with that organization since his son - now 22-years-old - was a Scout.

"I just began volunteering at the new stewardship site," he explained, "and, I am finding it really interesting. It is so important we preserve areas such as this. I am glad I have the opportunity to participate."

The Illinois Prairie Path Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year 2005

Cash Balance, November 1, 2004

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

Revenue

Donations, Grants, Bequests	\$15,567.50
Dues	\$33,260.00
Sales (Maps, Shirts, Patches, Guides, etc.)	\$2,303.50
Interest	\$2,387.78
Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$53,518.78

Expenditures

Office Manager (Contractual Stipend)	\$9,875.00
Newsletters (Producing and Mailing)	\$3,950.61
Maintenance and Repairs	\$2,092.53
Litter removal and Port-o-let	\$6,791.37
Postage	\$188.20
Telephone	\$516.94
Special Projects	\$1,735.85
Special Events	\$140.91
Prairie Restoration	\$6,275.00
Other Printing	\$3,027.40
Merchandise For Sale	\$0.00
Donations*	\$11,500.00
Travel / Board Expenses	\$65.42
Legal and Consulting	\$0.00
Petty Cash Fund (Office Supplies, etc.)	\$1,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$0.00
Insurance	\$766.00
Government Fees	\$920.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$132.97</u>
TOTAL	\$48,978.20

Cash Balance, October 31, 2005

Bank One	\$27,427.62
Liberty Funds Services, Inc.	<u>\$108,116.80</u>
TOTAL	\$135,544.42

*\$10,000 to help purchase the "Special 8" property.

Submitted by Paul Mooring, Treasurer

Drainage Culvert Improvements Along the Aurora Branch

*from Deborah Fagan, Chief Planner and DuPage County
Trail System Coordinator*

The DuPage County Division of Transportation has undertaken an engineering study to evaluate existing drainage culverts along the Aurora Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path. Earlier phases of this work have replaced failing culverts along the Great Western Trail and along the Elgin Branch of the Prairie Path in DuPage.

The first phase of the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Branch drainage improvements is a \$140,000 project to replace two culverts in the vicinity of Weisbrook Road during April and May.

This work will necessitate closure of the path system for approximately 2 weeks at these locations.

Illinois Prairie Path Store

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

Ride or walk the IPP in style! Our shirts feature The IPPc logo embroidered with green and white thread above the left breast area.



NEW! This 100% cotton polo (left) features an embroidered IPPc logo (green and white thread) with three wood-tone buttons. Sizes S, M, L, XL, (\$30) and XXL (\$35) plus \$5 shipping and handling.

The 7.26 oz. 100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt (right) is available in both natural (light khaki) and light blue denim colors. It features wood-tone buttons, double-needle stitching and a

button-down pocket. \$40.00 per shirt, plus \$5 shipping and handling. For current shirt inventory, go to www.ipp.org/GUI/ipp_store.htm

For multiple shirt orders, call 630-752-0120 for shipping price.



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.



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Ground-breaking ceremony for the new Des Plaines River bridge took place in front of Legal Grounds Coffee Shop, 1300 Maybrook Square in Maywood on March 10th. Pictured from left to right are: IPPc Board Member Paul Aeschleman, IPPc President Don Kirchenberg, Forest Park Mayor Anthony Calderone, Maywood Mayor Henderson Yarbrough, State Representative District 7 Karen Yarbrough, IDOT Secretary Timothy Martin, CTA Board Chairman Carole Brown, City of Chicago 28th Ward Alderman Ed Smith, Chicago Bicycle Federation Executive Director Rob Sadowski, Legal Grounds co-owner Karen Mondry, and Mark Lucas representing Hancock Engineering.

Bridge continued from page 1...

March 10th, hosted jointly by State Representative from District 7 Karen Yarbrough and Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Timothy Martin.

Construction will begin in early spring, with a completed pedestrian bridge ready for use sometime this summer. The next issue of this newsletter will have expanded coverage of this important project.