



# The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

September 2014



Chuck Hunnicutt

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## Join us at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path

You, your family and friends are invited to attend the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC).

- **When:** Sunday, November 2, 2014 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Where:** Wheaton Memorial Park Leisure Center at 208 West Union Avenue
- **Parking:** There are designated street parking spaces surrounding the building and the park. Nearby *street parking is also available.*



## Featured Presentation

**Speaker:** Kim Butler, Archivist, North Central College

**Topic:** *Preserving the Legacy of the Illinois Prairie Path*

Kim will provide a guide to the Path archives that are now preserved at North Central College, and she will illuminate the legacy of the Path through a restored, historic film, and a series of stories with common themes and critical moments that tested the stamina and resilience of volunteers, landowners and all levels of government.

## ComEd Green Mapping Initiative Team donates \$2,500 to Illinois Prairie Path

By Irene Johnson

In 2012, the ComEd Mapping & Records team began work on the Green Mapping Initiative, which earned \$2,500 as an honorable mention for the Exelon Environmental Achievement Award in 2014. Exelon is the parent company of ComEd. The award has been donated to the Illinois Prairie Path.

This initiative, which started as an innovative idea to reduce the number of map pages printed and distributed to internal customers by the department, turned into a huge selling point for the team. To date, the paper distribution list has been reduced by over 95% from over 500 to only 19, with the majority of customers now opting to receive updated maps via an electronic notification system.

This enormous decrease in printing saves the Mapping & Records Department approximately 22,500 sheets of 11"x17" paper annually! In addition to the reduction in ink and associated printing costs, the cost of postage to mail paper copies to other offices has also dramatically been reduced. All things considered, the Green Mapping Initiative is saving the department almost \$20,000 per year, and preventing 5 megatons of CO2 from being released into the air.



**L to R: Nathan Rold and David Handley (ComEd Analysts), Irene Johnson (ComEd Mapping and Records Manager), Erik Spande, President, IPPc, Susie Terwedow, IPPc Director, Linas Saulys (ComEd Mapping Supervisor), Alan Bergeson, IPPc Director, Kim Saulys, frequent ComEd volunteer and Ken McClurg, IPPc Director.**



By Erik Anderson, IPPc Director

Check out our new Illinois Prairie Path map on our web site IPP. org. If you click on the map banner on the home page, it brings up an overview showing the entire Path. With all the functionality of Google Biking Maps, you can zoom into any particular area and see nearby streets, connecting trails and points of interest.

It's a great way to plan for future trips. You can expand your horizons to see where to connect to other trails and figure out where they go. You can also use it from your smart phones when you're on the path. View the nearby points of interest to see if they have something you are looking for, such as a water fountain, bathroom facility, child's play area, parking, etc. Explore the path and enjoy your trip!

# Archives Open House Celebration

On Monday, August 11 IPP's Legacy Volunteers, family members of the founders and community guests came together to celebrate the preservation of 50 years of Illinois Prairie Path archives at North Central College. Special thanks to **Kim Butler**, Archivist; Emcee **Rob Sperl**, IPPc Treasurer and presenters: **Dick Wilson, Bridget Watts, Eric Peterson, George Johnson, Don Westlake, Carol Doty, Keith Olson, Larry Sheaffer and Phil Hodge**. All of the presentations and numerous interviews with **Nancy Wilson, Susie Terwedow, Bernie Hurley, Lucy Ebisch, Sam Wright, Ron Tevonian** and **Connie and Michael Schmidt** were recorded by Naperville Community Television.



Emcee **Rob Sperl**



**Bridget Watts** shared memories of her grandmother May Watts and Helen Turner.



**Eric Peterson** (the child in the historic film) shared memories of that photo shoot and of his father and founder Gunnar Peterson.



Former Wheaton Friends of the Prairie Path members **George Newitt, Don Westlake, George Johnson and Bernie Hurley**. In 1971, they gathered neighbors and took it upon themselves to build the first mile of the Path!



**Carol Doty** shared memories and personal stories about many of the founders who worked tirelessly for three years to secure a lease to build a public path.



**Keith Olson** presented prairie locations, prairie plants, resources, and volunteer opportunities. **Larry Sheaffer** talked about prairie maintenance and continued threats to the prairies on the Path.



**Phil Hodge** presented the "Let's Build the Bridge" project – proposal, design, funding, volunteer training, construction and celebration. Bridge volunteers **Karen Fonte, Lucy Ebisch Gibson, Sam Wright, and Dee and Ron Tevonian** attended.

## Welcome new Board Members!

In 2014, three volunteers (all are trail advocates and trail users) were elected to serve on the board of directors of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC).

**Sam Pyne** lives in Glen Ellyn. As a young child, he lived two blocks away from the Path. He explains, "It was simply a place to go and explore. I participated in some of the early Clean Up days as a Cub Scout, and with my 6th grade class." Sam recalls he learned about nature on the Path (when the Path was still in its early stages) through a "Summer Outdoor Education" program of the Glen Ellyn Park District, and in an Ecology class at Glenbard West High School. When he was a young adult, Legacy Volunteer Jeannie Mooring (Sam's cousin) asked him to help with a few repair projects. "I remember painting over graffiti on concrete bridge abutments, widening a cut through an embankment, building a small retaining wall with railroad ties in the Glen Ellyn area, and putting in rock and limestone screenings in an area washed out by water."



As a young adult, he started volunteering on a more regular basis. "As somebody who has been walking and cycling the Path for most of my life, I had often thought I should be helping the IPP organization more than what I had been."

Sam became familiar with the board when he helped the Moorings set up the Annual Meetings. "People suggested that I should join the board, but I always seemed to find an excuse not to. Recently, while assisting Paul Mooring to attend some board meetings, I realized that joining the board of directors was the way for me to contribute more. My hopes for the IPP are to preserve all the hard work which has gone into this Path and the organization by so many people - and to find ways to keep up public use and interest, and work towards making sure the IPP will always have a future."

**Kurt Spurgeon**, a marathon runner, was recruited by Director Susan Degnan. He lives in Glendale Heights. "I first heard of the Path when I joined a marathon training group in 1995. I use the Path at least on a weekly basis to run and cycle."

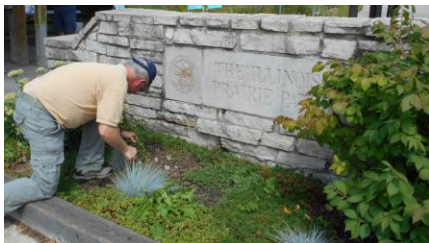
Why was he interested in becoming a board member? "I want to help the Path and increase its use and attractiveness." Kurt focuses much of his time on his business, A Complete Pest Solution LLC.



**Ken McClurg** and his wife have lived in Glen Ellyn since 1990. They have two boys – both in college. "In their youth, I enjoyed volunteering in support of their activities. Now that we're "empty nesters" my wife and I have time for other activities. We've been IPP members for 15 years. We live only two blocks from the Path. What an asset! I love bike riding, especially on trails. I've been a regular IPP user since the late 1990s. I love the Prairie Path and I ride it at least once a week. The IPP has proven to be a real resource to me, my family and my community. Recently, I have ridden on all 62 miles of the Path."

"My other hobbies include playing racquetball, cheering on the Cubs, Kane County Cougars and the Fighting Illini. I also enjoy playing bags, ping pong and pinball. I am a Mechanical Engineer employed by Caterpillar for 25+ years. I work in new product development. I am honored to serve on the Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors. The IPP is truly a treasure. I am excited and motivated to help keep it that way."

## Welcome Volunteers - Work Days on the Path!



In good weather, once a month, board members and community volunteers join forces on a Work Day to enhance specific segments of the path. Work days are announced at [IPPC.org/calendar](http://IPPC.org/calendar).

**Left photo:** Erik Spande removes weeds from Volunteer Park.  
**Right photo:** Back row: Susie Terwedow, Ken McClurg, Dick and Nancy Wilson; Front row: Susan Degnan and her grandchildren Hayden and Chase.



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**Thanks for being an IPPc member! Invite your friends and family to become members and/or volunteers.** More information is available at [www.ippc.org](http://www.ippc.org) and Facebook. Contact the IPPc at [president@ippc.org](mailto:president@ippc.org) or call **630-752-0120**, or write The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187.