



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

Early Spring Edition (February - March 2013)

In memory of Jean Louise Mooring, Illinois Prairie Path charter member

On Monday, February 4, the Illinois Prairie Path lost one of its legacy volunteers. For 48 years, Jean Mooring directed her brilliant mind and talents to building and beautifying the Illinois Prairie Path. "Jeanie", as she was affectionately known, was a treasure trove of IPP lore, sharing stories such as the "Saga of the Six Bridges" that were built, destroyed, and



In 1988 Jean and Paul Mooring accepted the Take Pride In America Award - Civic/Citizen Organization category, on behalf of all IPP volunteers.

rebuilt six times over the East DuPage River. Her dedication was unparalleled, with phone calls, letters and attendance at local government meetings advocating for a "public" Prairie Path that would benefit future generations of trail users. As editor of the newsletter for 16 years, she served as writer and editor, and maintained her eagle-eye editing skills throughout her lifetime. She served for 33 years as a dedicated director of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC). She, along with her husband, Paul, teamed up from the beginning of the Path's inception in 1965. They defined the selfless volunteer, working tirelessly as a team to make the world a better place. Her passion and wisdom will be deeply missed by all those who knew, respected and loved her. We offer sincere condolences to Paul and to all of their family members as they deal with her loss.

Healthy Patients 5K Run - Sunday, April 21, 2013 - to benefit Illinois Prairie Path

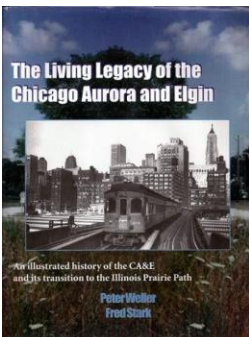


The Illinois Prairie Path Not-For-Profit Corporation (IPPC) has been chosen to be a beneficiary of the RML Specialty Hospital's Healthy Parks/Healthy Patients 5K run. **This event will take place on Sunday, April 21, 2013 in Bemis Woods Forest Preserve in Western Springs.** RML Specialty Hospital is the largest ventilator weaning hospital in the U.S., and a recognized leader in Best Practices for wound care and medically complex patient rehabilitation. RML treats patients with catastrophic or acute

illnesses complicated by multiple medical issues through a multidisciplinary team approach and 24-hour, on-site physician coverage. They have hospitals both in Chicago and Hinsdale. Please support the event by participating as a runner, walker, or volunteer. To join the Illinois Prairie Path Team fill out your personal information and make sure you choose "**Illinois Prairie Path**" as your team at <http://healthy5k.com/rml/CompleteRegistration.asp?fkroledescid=1>. It's that easy! For more information about the Healthy Parks/Healthy Patients 5K please visit www.healthy5k.com.

50th Anniversary Event

Author Fred Stark to speak about CA&E Railroad in Elmhurst - Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m.



It took nine years for Fred Stark and his cousin Peter Weller to research and write *The Living Legacy of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin*. Published in 1999, their expertly researched book has become a collector's item among train enthusiasts. Fred, who grew up in Elmhurst but currently lives in Washington, Iowa, is returning to Elmhurst to present information about the "third rail" on **Monday April 22 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This free event is open to the public.** It will take place at **Elmhurst College** in **Illinois Hall (located in Schaible Science Center)**. Fred and his brother Richard Stark will display rare artifacts from the CA&E. Mike Schmidt, IPP member will begin the evening with a special treat. **More information will be posted soon at www.ipp.org.** For a campus map go to: http://media.elmhurst.edu/documents/campus_map_010512.pdf.

More 50th Anniversary Events

IPP recognizes Earth Day - Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to Noon – Rain or Shine!



The Illinois Prairie Path along with The Great Western Trail honors *Earth Day* annually through trail cleanup, and many volunteers are needed. Regardless of weather, this global observance enhances the beauty and growth of both trails. All are welcome to take part in areas that are convenient for you, your friends, clubs and families. Illinois Prairie Path locations are along the Aurora Branch/Naperville; Elgin Branch/Oliver Square; Elmhurst; Geneva (Fox River going East); Glen Ellyn; Lombard; Maywood/Bellwood; Villa Park; Warrenville; West Chicago/Geneva Spur; Wheaton; and Winfield. **Event and community team leader contact information will soon be available at www.ipp.org - Spring Cleanup.** The Great Western stretches between Prince Crossing Road, West Chicago (1/2 mile south of Rte 64) and east into Elmhurst. Stay tuned for more information to follow in our next newsletter.

Celebrate the Illinois Prairie Path - Saturday, May 18 in Naperville



Photo of the Madden Theater courtesy of North Central College.

SAVE THE DATE! Many of the founders of the Illinois Prairie Path lived in Naperville - May Watts, Helen Turner, Jane and August Sindt, and Dr. Warren Keck. Many of their earliest meetings were held in the Student Union at North Central College. Fifty years later, the IPP will be returning to Naperville and to North Central College on **Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to Noon at Madden Theater (Wentz Hall).**

This free event is open to the public. Invite your family and friends. Experience the legacy of the Illinois Prairie Path through photographs, videos, music, stories, and poetry. More information about the event will be in the April newsletter and posted on the IPP website at www.ipp.org.

On the Path: Caribou Runners Club

This is the first of many profiles of local groups that frequently use the Illinois Prairie Path.

Jim Laubsted, member of the Caribou Runners Club explained, "We are a group from the Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) that likes to get together and run. We meet at Caribou Coffee in downtown Wheaton (390 W Front Street). Being so near the Zero mile marker on the Illinois Prairie Path, we run north, south and east on alternating weeks."

Jim added, "We have runners that run races, those that just want to be in shape and those that just enjoy going for a run with others. We have runners that are fast (7:30/mile), runners that are not as fast (12:00/mile), and those who run/walk and everywhere in between."

He noted, "We have about 100 year round runners and well over 200 runners during marathon/half marathon training. **We meet Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. except during marathon/half marathon training season (June-Sept) when we start at 6:45 a.m. and 6:15 a.m. depending on the pace you run.** We try to do our long run of the week on Saturdays. **We welcome everyone (no fees), but you need to be part of marathon or half marathon training during that season.**" Questions? Contact Jim Laubsted (jim@laubsted.com).



Photo of the 6:45 a.m. starters last summer (2012) on the Illinois Prairie Path sidewalk that runs through downtown Wheaton.

Thanks for being an IPPc member! Invite your friends and family to join as members or volunteers. More information is available at www.ipp.org and Facebook. Contact the IPPc at president@IPP.org or call **630-752-0120**, or write The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187. Articles contributed by Erik Spande, Susan Degnan, Bob Sobie, Jim Laubsted and Mary Jo Malach.