

June 29, 1998

Dear DNR Small Project Program Grants Reviewers,

The Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois received money from two grants in 1997 through the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Small Project Program. The Grand Prairie Friends is a private non-profit conservation organization devoted to protecting and managing prairie remnants in east-central Illinois.

One grant served to help cover the costs of sponsoring a training class on the topic of fighting wildland fire. This course included S-130 and S-190 of US Forest Service wildland fire fighting training programs, adapted for use for people who would be conducting controlled burns in east-central Illinois. Among the enrollees were DNR and county and local parks system employees, as well as Grand Prairie Friends members. This course took place in September 1997.

The other grant was to cover the costs for purchasing some protective gear to be used while conducting controlled burns on sites that the GPF manages. This gear included five Nomex fire retardant jumpsuits, five protective helmets, and five pairs of leather wildland/forestry gloves. The importance of this gear was stressed during the fire training program. Because members of the Grand Prairie Friends typically conduct five to ten controlled burns during a typical burn season and may also assist others in their prescribed burning efforts, this equipment will receive quite a bit of use. More protective equipment may be purchased at a later date as funds become available.

Each of these projects required approximately \$1000. Itemized bills for expenses incurred in these projects were previously submitted by GPF treasurer Jim Payne. We truly appreciate the opportunity to apply for and to receive these Small Project Program grants to help cover the costs of projects that our small conservation organization may incur.

Sincerely,



Paul Tessene
Grand Prairie Friends Stewardship Chair

BURN TRAINING COURSE

S-130 - S-190 Firefighter Training -
Introduction to Fire Behavior
NIIMS Standards for Survival (NFES 2087)

Sponsored By:

Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois
Champaign County Forest Preserve District
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources - Natural Heritage Division

September 18 - 21, 1997

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This course was sponsored so that interested people in central Illinois could receive basic training to help them safely participate in prescribed burns of natural areas.

COURSE CONTENT

The course covered many of the basics of fire behavior: combustion, weather, fuels, smoke control. Emphasis was also placed on planning for prescribed burns: firebreak construction methods, ignition methods, and burn conduct and control strategies. Personal safety was a large portion of the material covered: planning for escape in the event the fire changes speed and/or direction, how to behave in emergency situations, proper personal protective equipment and its use, the need for communications and contingency planning to rapidly respond to situation changes that often occur during a burn. Required classroom training included three days of videos, lectures and discussions. Optional evening discussions were provided to interested participants on various topics related to tallgrass prairie burns. Testing was given on the afternoon of the third day for Standards For Survival. The next morning, review and testing for the S-130/190 course work occurred. The remainder of the last day was devoted to field training exercises including: proper use of safety clothing and equipment, ignition equipment maintenance and use, proper use and care of tools used to build a fire break, how to deploy a fire shelter in an emergency, methods of communication, the location and building of fire breaks, how to start back fires and head fires and when each is appropriate, and mopping up procedures and techniques.

AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Availability of this training was widely publicized, and we were pleased to welcome representatives from the following organizations:

- Champaign County Forest Preserve District
- Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
- Grand Prairie Friends
- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Illinois
- Urbana Park District
- Illinois Natural History Survey

In addition, several participants attended out of personal interest. Continental breakfast was provided each day, as were box lunches. As a result, participants were able to network with each other during breaks and mealtimes, and many experiences were shared. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District provided pizza in the evenings between the formal class sessions and the optional evening sessions, giving further opportunities for communication and familiarization with the use of the tools presented in the course.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In order to encourage as large an enrollment as possible, the cost to each participant was \$100.00 for the four days. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District provided use of the Izaak Walton League Cabin for the class sessions, the use of audio-visual equipment, as well as the field training site, in exchange for the registration fees of its four participants.

INCOME

Registration fees	\$2,125.00
DNR Grant	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$3,125.00</u>

EXPENSES

Instructor	\$2,340.00
Travel & Lodging	400.00
Printing of Class Materials	233.00
Food	<u>461.68</u>
Total Expenses:	\$3,434.68
Net Loss	\$309.68

The loss was covered by Grand Prairie Friends. As can be seen, without the assistance of the DNR grant, the loss would have been of a magnitude beyond the financial capability of an organization the size of GPF.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

As a result of this course, there now exists in central Illinois a body of informed people who are aware of the risks involved in prescribed burning of natural areas. These people have been trained to

minimize risk of personal injury. While they are not yet trained to lead burns themselves, they know how to function in a team under the leadership of a trained burn boss to execute a burn plan and react to sudden changes in conditions during a burn that will minimize unintended consequences. The total cost of this course is negligible when measured against the cost of a hospital stay for an injured person or damage to property resulting from a burn going out of control.

PARTIAL LIST OF SITES MANAGED BY PARTICIPATING GROUPS:

Grand Prairie Friends

- Shortline Railroad Prairie (Champaign County)
- Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve (Iroquois County)
- Fairchild Cemetery Nature Preserve (Vermilion County)
- Prospect Cemetery Nature Preserve (Ford County)
- Loda Cemetery Nature Preserve (Iroquois County)
- Paxton Railroad Prairie (Ford County)
- Pellville Cemetery
- Champaign County Humane Society Prairie Restoration
- Windsor Road Prairie Restoration
- Several Prairie Restorations at Champaign & Urbana Schools

Champaign County Forest Preserve

- Middle Fork Woods
- Middle Fork Prairie Restoration
- Lake of the Woods
- Homer Lake

Urbana Park District

- Meadowbrook Park Prairie Restoration
- Busey Woods

**PARTICIPANTS
BURN TRAINING COURSE
S-130, S-190**

**Sponsored By
Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois
Champaign County Forest Preserve District
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources - Natural Heritage Division**

September 18-21, 1997

Instructor:

**Bob Stanton
Prescribed Fire Consulting, Inc.
219 Republic Road
Batavia, IL 60510
pfcstanton@aol.com
630-761-0700**

Assistants:

**Paul Tessene
707 S. Urbana Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
ptessene@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu
217-244-7984(w), 344-4303**

**Bob Szafoni
Natural Heritage Division, DNR
217-345-2420
rszafoni@dnrmail.state.il.us**

**Earl Cruetzburg
Department of Natural Sciences
Parkland College
2400 W. Bradley Ave.
Champaign, IL 61821
217-351-2371
ecruetzburg@parkland.cc.il.us**

**John Alesandrini
320 S. Third St.
Rockford, IL 61104
jalesandrini@dnrmail.state.il.us
815-987-7398**

**Kim Cambron
Champaign County Forest Preserve
P.O. Drawer 1040
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-586-4389 (w)**

**Gene Barickman
USDA-NRCS
1902 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
217-398-5276**

**Connie Carroll
3113A N. Market St.
Champaign, IL 61821
carrollc@prairienet.org
217-244-7741 (w)**

**Steve Buck
P.O. Box 585
Sidney, IL 61877
sbuck@uiuc.edu
217-688-2689 (h)**

**Bob Edgin
Box 206
Fairfield, IL 62837
618-842-3703**

Ruth Green
1420 Rose Drive
Champaign, IL 61821
rgreen@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu
217-333-7091 (w)

Roy Heimbach
608 McHenry St.
Urbana, IL 61801
royh@uiuc.edu
217-367-5672

Mary C. Hruska
204 W. Wilson
Villa Grove, IL 61956
217-832-9433 (h)

Donald M. Humphrey
3433 County Rd. 2700E
Penfield, IL 61862
217-595-5432

Roger Kirkwood
Champaign County Forest Preserve
P.O. Drawer 1040
Mahomet, IL 61853
flowers@net66.com
217-586-4630, 4389

Tom Lerczak
18134 N. CR 1615E
Havana, IL 62644
tlerczak@dnrmail.state.il.us
309-535-2186

Heidi Leuszler
2101 Brownfield Road
Urbana, IL 61801
hleuszler@parkland.cc.il.us
217-328-1769

David Lincicome
707 W. Elm St., Apt. 5
Urbana, IL 61801
lincicom@students.uiuc.edu
217-337-5817

Alison Meanor
706 W. Hill St.
Champaign, IL 61820
meanor@geoserv.isgs.uiuc.edu
217-333-7372 (w)

Megan Nortrup
404 1/2 E. White St. #3
Champaign, IL 61820
nortrup@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu
217-355-8757

Jim Payne
103 S. Lincoln Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
m-payne@uiuc.edu
217-684-2120 (w)

Todd Peck
901 N. Broadway Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
toddpeck@mcleodusa.net
217-344-9583

Mary Kay Solecki
Box 497
Sidney, IL 61877
217-688-2622

Bob Sperl
21W176 Shelley Dr.
Itasca, IL 60143
sperl@uiuc.edu
708-771-2299

Brian Taylor
Champaign County Forest Preserve
P.O. Drawer 1040
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-586-4389

Bob Vaiden
2006 E. Main St.
Urbana, IL 61802
217-344-9042

Peggy Waltershausen
707 S. Urbana Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
217-344-4303

Tom Ward
USDA-NRCS
1902 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
tomw@george.il.nrcs.usda.gov
217-398-5266

Tim Whitfeld
2503 W. Springfield Ave. #A12
Champaign, IL 61821
twhitfie@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu
217-398-1053