Final Report

Wildlife Preservation Fund – Small Projects FY 04

Grant Agreement Number – 04-001W
Project Title – Learn About Wetlands

Ballard Nature Center
5253 E. US Hwy 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Contact Person: Karan Greuel – Environmental Educator
618-483-6856

The Ballard Nature Center received a $1,000.00 grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund in FY 04. The funding was for the development of a wetland interpretive trail and the purchase of native seed to enhance the plant communities on a newly constructed shallow water wetland. The project has been completed and we are now requesting the funding payment. Attached you will find the final report, photo documentation, invoices, and a newspaper article.

Final Report

The Ballard Nature Center, a non-profit 501 C 3, is responsible for the management of a 210 acre nature center located between Effingham and Altamont, IL. The legal description is Effingham County, Mound Township T. 7N. – R. 4 E. Section 2. The center's primary goals are environmental education and on-site restoration and management of natural communities typical to the Southern Till Plain Division of Illinois.

Part of the center's goals for environmental education is the development of interpretive trails throughout the natural communities in existence and being restored on-site. The objective of this grant helped met this need. A trail was created along a newly restored shallow water wetland. Since Illinois has lost large amounts of wetlands, it is necessary to educate the public about the importances of them and to help foster an appreciation for wetland communities. Through this grant, eight interpretive trail signs were purchased, framed, and place along the trail. Volunteers dug the postholes, placed posts, and hung the trail signs. Also, native seed was purchased to enhance the plant communities along the newly constructed wetland. Seed was scattered by volunteers. The nature center is responsible for maintaining the trail.

Budget

Trail Signs	$255.00
Sign Posts	$40.32
Sign Frames	$280.00
Seed	$424.68
Total	$1,000.00

The new interpretive trail is being used by the general public and in the educational programs provided by the nature center. The trail signs provide visitors with information on various wetland species and the overall ecology of wetlands.

The Ballard Nature Center would like to thank the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund for providing funding to assist with this project.

Wilderness Graphics, Inc.

324-G West Van Buren Street
P.O. Box 1635
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 224-6414; FAX (850) 561-3943
F.E.I.D. 59-2176079

INVOICE

Invoice Number 03-9103

Ballard Nature Center
Karen Gruel
5253 E. US Highway 40
Altamonte, IL 62411

Date September 10, 2003

P.O. Number

Job Number

Terms 30 days net

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
(8) 9x12" trail signs	$240.00
Shipping	15.00
Total Due	$255.00

Please pay from this invoice - thank you!

Shelby SIGNS

"Since 1979"

Bob Shelby
RR#1 Box 169A
West Salem, IL 62476
Phone: 618-442-7787
E-mail: shelbysigns@hotmail.com

Date: OCT 19, 2003 No. 10193

BALLARD NATURE CENTER

Qty.	Description	Amount	
8	9"X12" TRAIL FRAMES	280.	00
	Thank You		

Your vehicle has been thoroughly washed and the lettered areas have been degreased and stripped of wax. High quality lettering enamel or vinyl has been used for the lettering. Every precaution has been taken in its application to insure maximum adhesion.

Excess chalk and layout marks can (and should) be removed with a soft wet cloth after the paint is dry to the touch. Lettering can be washed with bucket and sponge after two weeks. (During winter months, three to four weeks may be required due to colder temperatures.)

Although it can't hurt, hand waxing is not required to preserve the lettering. (Allow four weeks before waxing.) The paint becomes extremely hard when mature, insuring you years of effective and inexpensive advertising.

**Note: Automatic car washes and high pressures hoses can be damaging to enamel.*
**Not responsible in case of accident.*

454514

Bluestem Prairie Nursery
Ken Schaal
13197 East 13th Road
Hillsboro, IL 62049
(217) 532-6344

CUSTOMER'S ORDER NO. | DEPARTMENT | DATE 1-16-04

NAME Ballard Nature Center

ADDRESS 5253 E. US Hwy 40

CITY, STATE, ZIP Altamont IL 62411

SOLD BY	CASH	C.O.D.	CHARGE	ON ACCT.	MDSE RETD	PAID OUT
			X			

	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
1	218 pkts	Prairie Seeds	1.50	327 00
2		Handling		16 35
3				
4		TOTAL DUE		343 35
5				
6		NOTE SUBSTITUTIONS:		
7		0 pkts Blue ester		
8		1 pkt Scouring Rush		
9		4 extra pkts:		
10		1 extra heath aster		
11		1 " Smooth aster		
12		1 " Side-Flowered "		
13		1 " Golden Alexanders		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18		Thanks!		
19				
20				

RECEIVED BY

adams 5805

KEEP THIS SLIP FOR REFERENCE

INVOICE **DATE March 5, 2004**

EARTHSKIN NURSERY
Lou Nelms
9331 NCR 3800E
Mason City, IL 62664
Phone and FAX: 217-482-3524
E-mail: lrnelms@springnet1.com
www.earthskinnursery.com

FEIN 37-1151482

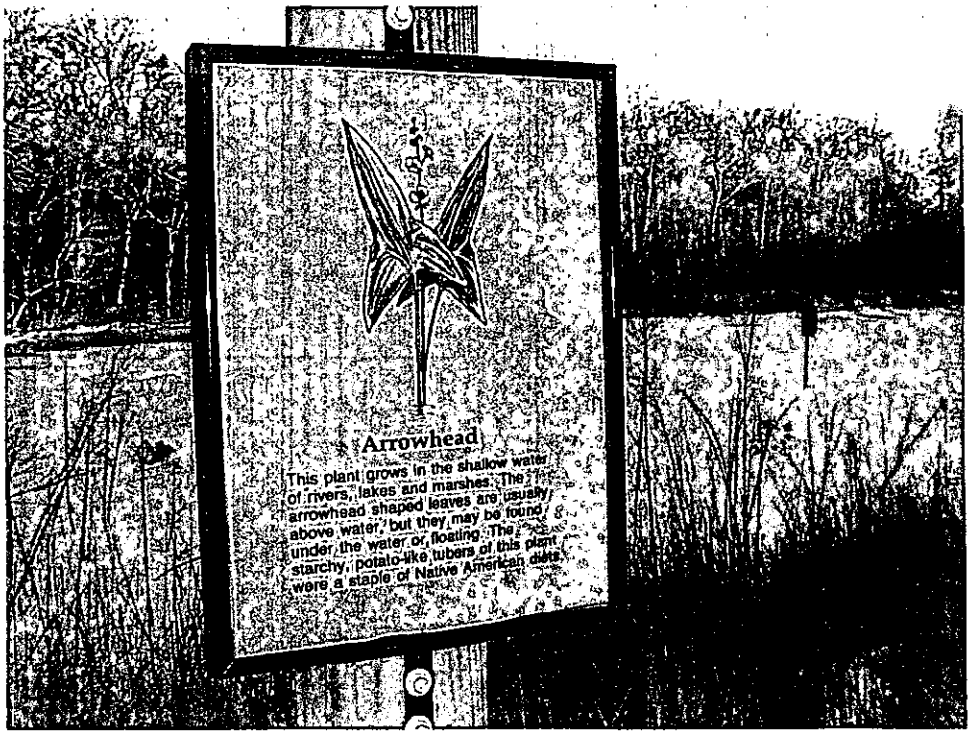
BILL TO:
Ballard Nature Center
5253 E. U.S. HWY 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Per order from Terry Esker

ORDERED	SHIPPED	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
0.25 lb.		Rattlesnake Master Seed	70.00	17.50
0.25 lb.		Prairie Blazing Star	120.00	30.00
0.348 lb.		Sweet Black-eye Susan	100.00	33.83

Subtotal	81.33
Sales tax : Illinois Residents Add 6.25% unless tax exempt (provide document)	
Shipping and Handling: Minimum $5.00, Otherwise add 5% of subtotal	
TOTAL	$81.33

Interpretive Sign



Interpretive Sign

Volunteer installing one of the interpretive trail signs

Wetland

Wetland Trail

Ballard Nature Center receives grant for the development of wetlands

The Ballard Nature Center recently received a grant for $1,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund for the development of a wetland interpretive trail and to purchase native wetland seed to enhance the plant communities on a newly constructed shallow water wetland.

The self-guided trail will feature signs that provide visitors with information on wetland species and will help educate visitors on the value of wetlands while providing a place for them to experience one.

The grant was funded through the Wildlife Preservation check-off on the Illinois state income tax return form. The voluntary check-off designation provides an opportunity for taxpayers to contribute to non-game wildlife preservation.

Arrowhead

This plant grows in the shallow water of rivers, lakes and marshes. The arrowhead shaped leaves are usually above water, but they may be found under the water or floating. The starchy, potato-like tubers of this plant were a staple of Native American diets.

Blue-winged Teal

Wood Duck

As the name indicates, the wood duck is found in wooded swamps, rivers, and ponds. The male is brightly colored with a swept back crest, while the female is duller with a tear-shaped eye patch. These ducks nest in tree cavities and in artificial nesting boxes. They feed on seeds and many kinds of aquatic plants.