

Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Small Project Final Report

Grant Agreement #07-016W

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers
P.O. Box 36
Urbana, IL 61802

FY '07 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007)

James Ellis (grantee representative)
(217) 244-5695
jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu

Project Title: East-central Illinois Natural Areas Internship

Project Objectives:

- a) Teach two or three interns about tallgrass prairie, woodland, savanna and wetland natural areas stewardship in east-central Illinois;
- b) Teach interns how to identify native and weedy plants in natural areas in east-central Illinois;
- c) Educate and demonstrate current prairie, woodland, savanna, and wetland management and ecological restoration techniques from professional and volunteer land managers to interns;
- d) Manage natural areas by removal of exotic and woody vegetation as prescribed;
- e) Gain experience with hands-on natural areas management including safe and proper tool and herbicide use;
- f) Maintain local school prairie gardens and
- g) Coordinate with site stewards to perform other needed management activities.

Project Description:

For the summer of 2006, Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers (GPF-PGV) proposed to hire two or three interns to carry out ecological management work in about 35 prairie, woodland, savanna and wetland natural areas, both remnant and planted, around east-central Illinois. The summer internship program, started in 1994, is needed to supplement the work of volunteer stewards. Summer interns spent much of their time removing or controlling exotic invasive plant species. They also spent time in the field with various volunteers and natural resources professionals to learn about management techniques, plant identification natural areas ecology.

Summary of Project Accomplishments

Introduction

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers (GPF-PGV) is an all-volunteer not-for-profit conservation group based in Urbana, Illinois. Management of native tall grass prairie remnants

has been a focus of the group since formation and incorporation in 1984. In 2004, we joined forces and merged with another local group, Prairie Grove Volunteers, and we expanded our conservation focus to include woodland, savanna and wetland natural areas as well. We rely on many dedicated volunteers to provide the labor to steward over 35 natural areas in east-central Illinois (Figure 1.). The group also assists and relies on the expertise of professionals from various agencies such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the University of Illinois, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Urbana Park District, the Vermilion County Conservation District and others. While we steward natural areas using the wonderful efforts of volunteers and professionals, this is usually not enough to get all the work done that is needed to conserve and preserve these sites.

In 1994, GPF-PGV started a summer internship program to supplement the work of volunteer stewards. Summer interns, usually young, college students or recent graduates, are hired to help manage prairie, woodland, savanna and wetland natural areas, both remnant and planted, around east-central Illinois. At this time GPF-PGV also started growing and selling native plants to raise money to fund the summer internship program.

The bulk of the work is controlling exotic and invasive plant species as well as cutting brush, maintaining signs and collecting seed from native plants. Removal of exotic and invasive species benefits the native flora and fauna of each site. Not only do the interns provide valuable work for natural areas, they also receive an education about natural resources management. They spend quite a few days each summer with professionals in the field such as land managers, botanists and ecologists to learn about the ecology, native organisms and management of our local natural areas. The hands-on work and experiences with natural resource managers and scientists benefit the interns by providing education they can use in their future studies and career.

Materials and Methods

In January 2006, the GPF-PGV Board decided to offer two full-time positions for summer 2006. Applications for the internship were accepted from mid January to the end of March. An internship subcommittee (consisting of GPF-PGV Board of Directors members) reviewed applications and selected candidates. Candidates were interviewed in early April.

The internship program is a 90-day commitment from June 1 to August 31. Interns are given a GPF-PGV Intern Manual which consists of background information about GPF-PGV, lists of GPF-PGV sites and stewards, management needs at each site, general position information, internship goals, a calendar, and reporting forms. Two books, Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers and The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook are given to each intern. They are also allowed to borrow a copy of DeLorme's Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer to find their way around east-central Illinois. Interns provide their own auto and health insurance, but are covered under GPF-PGV's liability insurance while working on any GPF-PGV site.

Interns report weekly to the internship coordinator during the course of the summer to plan stewardship activities, turn in time sheets and ask any questions. Interns are paid \$8/hr. Work includes management activities at natural areas sites and educational activities as well as drive time to and from sites. Interns must turn in a time sheet every two weeks reporting hours worked,

mileage driven, sites visited and work performed. They are reimbursed for vehicle mileage, if they use a personal vehicle. The GPF-PGV Treasurer issues paychecks when timesheets are received. GPF-PGV owns a truck for use by interns if they choose not to use a personal vehicle. Interns are required to obtain a pesticide applicator license from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to learn how to safely apply herbicides at managed sites.

Interns are required to perform management work at sites as determined by site stewards and the internship coordinator. At the beginning of the internship they are given an orientation as to the scope of work and a tour of sites where they will be working. Educational components of the internship include time spent with professionals and volunteers from organizations throughout east-central Illinois, including the University of Illinois, Parkland College, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Urbana Park District, and others. Through these organizations, interns are exposed to a wide variety of management and educational perspectives that exist within the natural area conservation community.

Results

In April 2006, GPF-PGV hired three applicants. Christina Huck was hired to work full-time (40 hr/wk) while two part-time (20 hr/wk) positions were offered and accepted by Jason Berner and Tiffany Bone.

Formal contracts were drawn up between each intern and GPF-PGV, and they each started work on May 16, 2006 with an orientation and expectations meeting with the internship coordinator and a few volunteer stewards. They were then given a driving tour of some natural areas where they would be working.

In June, each intern successfully passed the required tests and obtained valid Illinois Pesticide Applicator Licenses.

Combined, Christina, Tiffany and Jason spent approximately 560 hours performing hands-on stewardship work at twenty sites around east-central Illinois during May, June, July and August, 2006 (Table 1.). Much of their work involved the removal of exotic invasive species from natural areas. In May, they spent time at Middle Fork Woods Nature Preserve and Jasmine Hollow pulling garlic mustard. Much of June was spent at prairie remnants pulling wild parsnip and sweet clover. They also worked on woody invasive plant species such as autumn olive, bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose. At some sites they to cut woody stems and stump treat the cut stem with glyphosate (RoundUp). At other sites, such as Horseshoe Bottoms, they applied Garlon 4 directly to stems (basal bark application) using a backpack type sprayer. In July, they tackled teasel at Loda Cemetery Prairie and Paxton RR Prairie.

Early in the season, they spent some time working in the greenhouse potting plants for GPF-PGV's native plant sale. They also assisted with installing plant seedlings at a large wetland restoration project along the Salt Fork River near the town of St. Joseph.

Some sign maintenance was needed at the Paxton RR Prairie site, and they were able to replace posts and signs designating the site as a natural area managed by GPF-PGV. They also collected

seeds of a few species throughout the summer. Christina was able to gather prairie phlox, spiderwort and cream wild-indigo. Seeds collected will be used to grow plants for the native plant sale or planted at local restoration sites.

In addition to their work time, the interns spent time with local natural resource professionals and volunteers. Illinois Natural History Survey botanists and plant ecologists including Rick Larimore, Paul Marcum, Paul Tessene, John Taft, Jamie Ellis and Bill Handel were able to spend time in the field with the interns teaching them plant ID and some ecology of natural areas. Survey botanist Dave Ketzner spent half a day with the interns teaching them how to identify grasses. Derek Liebert from the Urbana Park District showed them weed management techniques at Meadowbrook Park Prairie and Busey Woods. GPF-PGV volunteer Jim Payne led the interns on work outings to Jasmine Hollow, a woodland preserve, to control garlic mustard and woody invasive species, and Phil Hult, steward at Buffalo Trace Prairie planting, led them on outings to remove invasive species such as wild parsnip and collect seed. Volunteer Jim Hoyt assisted the interns at Parkland College Prairie. Christina and Tiffany also were able to make a trip up to see some of the prairie restoration at USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Christina, Tiffany and Jason then took a trip to see The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands near the end of the summer.

Discussion and Summary

In the summer of 2006, GPF-PGV hired three summer interns. Christina Huck, Tiffany Bone, and Jason Berner worked a total of 845.5 hours during May, June, July and August. Most of this time, 560 hours, was spent in the field at prairie, forest, wetland and savanna natural areas removing exotic, invasive plant species, collecting seed, and performing other site work. The remainder of the time was spent learning to identify plants, touring natural areas, or meeting with volunteers and professionals.

Overall, we were very happy with the effort and work accomplished by the three interns, and we feel that the project objectives were met. Due to various scheduling conflicts, the interns weren't able to work as many hours as budgeted, but this did not detract from the quantity or quality of work they accomplished.

Project Expenditures

For the summer 2006 internship, GPF-PGV spent a total of \$7,680.16 (Table 2). The three interns worked a total of 845.5 hours. At \$8/hr we spent \$6,764 in salaries. Additionally we spent another \$916 in travel, supplies and contractual services. We budgeted to pay for the internship with funds raised from our annual plant sales and received from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant (Table 3).

Figure 1. Map of project area with GPF-PGV managed natural area sites indicated.

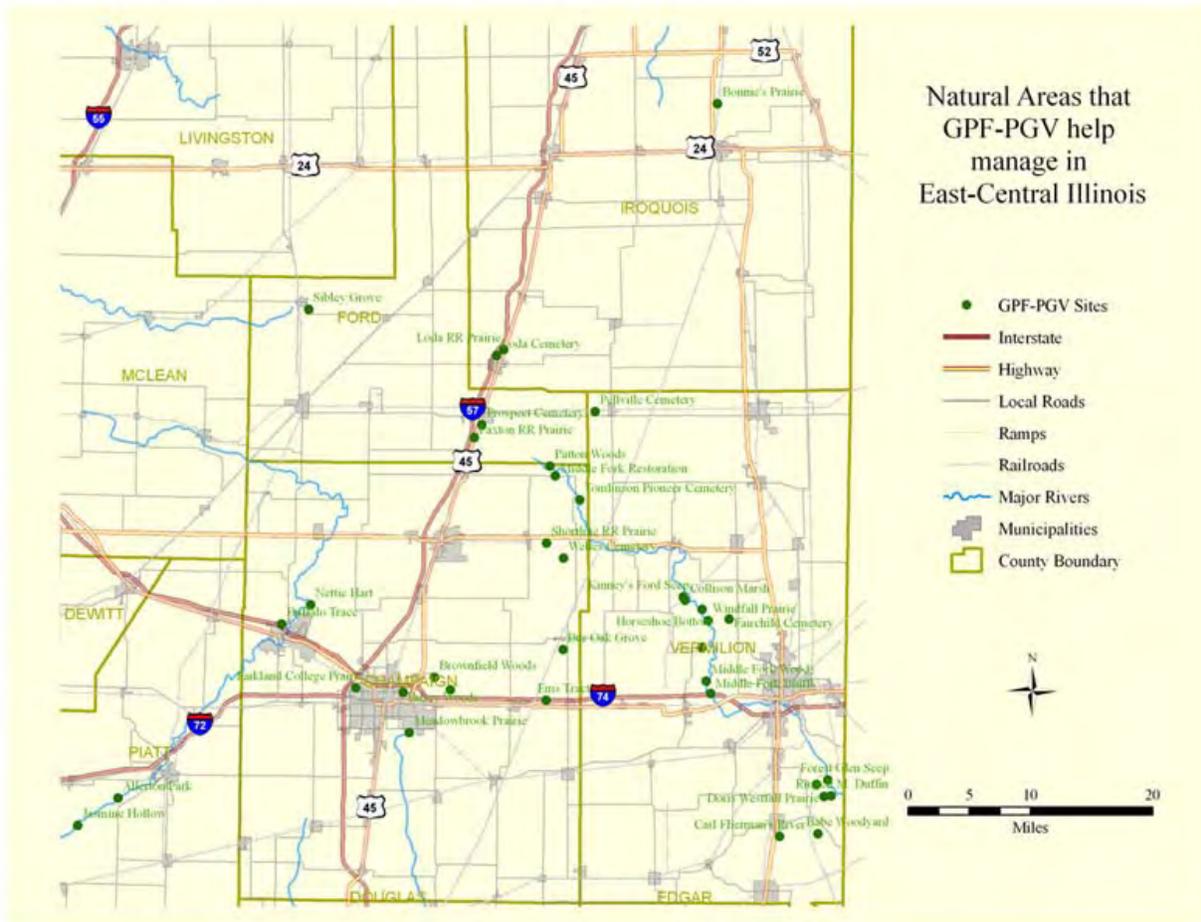


Table 1. Summary of stewardship hours worked by Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers summer 2006 interns including major stewardship tasks performed at each site. Hours are summed from each intern and may include drive time to and from sites. Ownership of site is indicated in parentheses.*

Site Name	Hours	Major Tasks
Allerton Park (University of Illinois)	6	Cut oriental bittersweet and privet
Buffalo Trace Prairie (CCFPD)	107.5	Pulled wild parsnip and sweet clover
Busey Woods (UPD)	16.2	Sprayed herbicide on honeysuckle
Fairchild Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve (GPF-PGV)	7	Pulled crown vetch; cut invasive woody plants
Horseshoe Bottoms (VCCD)	38.75	Sprayed herbicide on woody invasive species (multiflora rose, autumn olive, black locust)
Jasmine Hollow	39.75	Pulled and removed garlic mustard
Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve (GPF-PGV)	17.5	Pulled wild parsnip, sweet clover; cut and sprayed herbicide on teasel
Meadowbrook Park Prairie (UPD)	5	Removed sweet clover
Middle Fork Woods Nature Preserve (IDNR)	44.25	Pulled and removed garlic mustard
Parkland College Prairie	31.5	Removed sweet clover and autumn olive, installed prairie plants
Paxton RR Prairie (leased from Canadian National Rail Road by GPF-PGV)	54.5	Cut and sprayed teasel with herbicide, pulled sweet clover
Pellville Cemetery Prairie	23.5	Pulled wild parsnip and sweet clover; collected native plant seed
Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve	74	Removed sweet clover; sprayed white poplar and mulberry with herbicide
Dr. Howard school prairie garden	2	Weeded flower beds; installed new plants
Shortline RR Prairie (GPF-PGV)	20.75	Pulled wild parsnip and sweet clover; installed new GPF sign; collected native plant seed
St. Joseph Wetland Project	39.75	Helped plant seedlings
Tomlinson Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve (CCFPD)	23.75	Cut and sprayed herbicide on invasive woody plant species
Welles Cemetery Prairie	6.5	Removed sweet clover
Windfall Hill Prairie Nature Preserve (VCCD)	4	Sprayed herbicide on multiflora rose and autumn olive
Windsor Road Prairie (City of Champaign)	3	Pulled sweet clover; sprayed herbicide on crown vetch; picked up trash
Miscellaneous	280.3	Education time with volunteers and local experts, site tours with stewards, greenhouse work, meet with intern coordinator; trips to Nachusa Grasslands and Midewin NTP, etc.
Total:	845.5	

*Ownership is indicated in parentheses: CCFPD = Champaign County Forest Preserve District, UPD = Urbana Park District, IDNR = Illinois Department of Natural Resources, GPF-PGV = Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers, VCCD = Vermilion County Conservation District. Site is privately owned if ownership is not indicated.

Table 2. Detailed budget of expenditures

PERSONNEL			
Name or Position Title	Hourly Rate	Hours	Total
Summer Intern (Christina Huck)	\$8.00	377.5	\$3,020.00
Summer Intern (Jason Berner)	\$8.00	268	\$2,144.00
Summer Intern (Tiffany Bone)	\$8.00	200	\$1,600.00
TRAVEL			
Position/Description	Item Rate	Quantity	Total
Summer Intern Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.30/mile	863 miles	\$258.90
Summer Intern Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.30/mile	463.5	\$139.05
Summer Intern Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.30/mile	512	\$153.6
EQUIPMENT (<i>provided by applicant</i>)			
Description	Price/Item	Quantity	Total
<i>(equipment needed already on-hand)</i>	0	0	0
MATERIALS/SUPPLIES			
Description	Price/Item	Quantity	Total
Contractor bags	15.04	1	15.04
Hand sprayer	16.11	1	16.11
Leather gloves	6.43	1 pr	6.43
Hardware for sign repair	Misc.	N/A	30.32
Measuring spoon for herbicide	1.08	1	1.08
Rubber boots	23.64	1 pr	23.64
Rubber boots	17.10	1 pr	17.10
Tags	6.45	1 pkg.	6.45
Fence posts	3.17	4	12.70
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES			
Description			Total
Brush cutter repair			\$31.31
OTHER			
Description			Total
Books for interns			\$165.00
Intern manual (produced by GPF-PGV)			70.74
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT			\$7,680.16

Table 3. Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds

Funding Sources:

IDNR Wildlife Fund grant	\$2,000.00
GPF-PGV Plant Sale Proceeds	5,680.16

Total **\$7,680.16**

Funding Uses:

Personnel	\$6764.00
Travel	551.55
Equipment	0
Materials/Supplies	128.87
Contractual Services	31.31
Other	236.00

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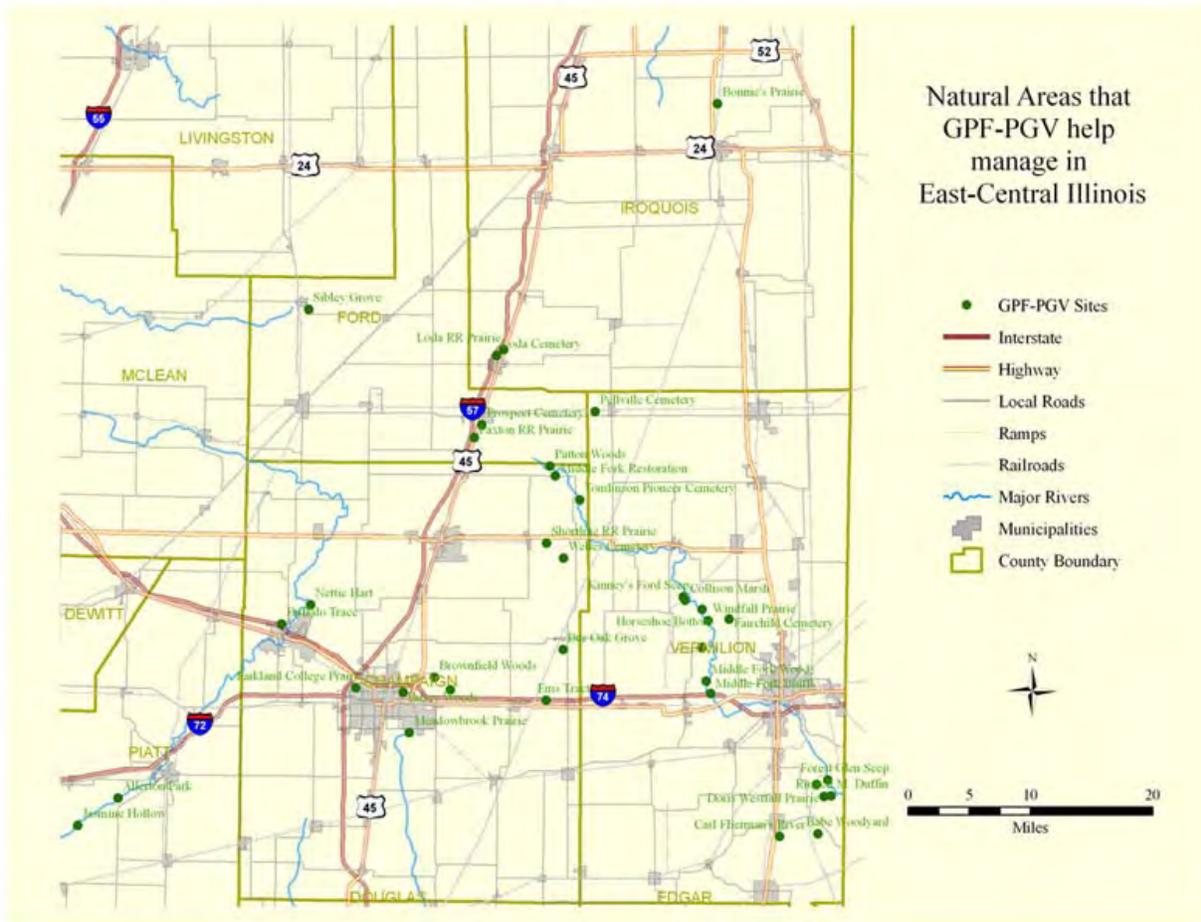


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Measuring spoon for herbicide	1.08	1	1.08
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Description			Total
Books for interns			\$165.00
Intern manual (produced by GPF-PGV)			70.74
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT			\$7,680.16

Table 3. Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds

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Total	<u>\$7,680.16</u>
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A Prairie Rendezvous



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

FALL VOL 8, NO. 4, 2006
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BOARD RETREAT AND VOLUNTEER PICNIC WRAP-UP

by Jamie Ellis



Board members and invited guests started to chart a clear course for our organization at a recent Board retreat. On Saturday, August 12, we met at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's Riverview Retreat Center along the Sangamon River north of Mahomet. At this retreat we started the task of developing a written vision and mission. We have a strong history of conservation, stewardship, and education to build upon. This history and a clear vision will lead us toward a future where we can be more active in the protection of natural areas. To help guide us, though, we need to have a clearly articulated vision of where we want to go. When drafts of the vision and mission statements are

finished, they will be distributed to the membership for comment.

Following the Board retreat, all members and volunteers were invited to the Riverview Retreat Center for a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. The Board provided pizza and drinks with many yummy side-dishes provided by attendees. This was a time for the organization to thank our many volunteers. Without volunteers, we wouldn't exist! Everyone had a good time eating and catching up on summertime activities. We hope to make this a yearly event. Thanks to all who attended!



A Prairie Rendezvous

P.O. Box 36 • Urbana, IL 61803-0036

Editor: Brenda Molano-Flores

Assistant Editors: Jamie Ellis, Mary Ann Feist, and Lynne Scott

Production Designer: Ray Meredith

A Prairie Rendezvous is a publication of Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers for the restoration community of East Central Illinois. In February 2004, the membership of GPF voted to broaden the group's Constitution and By-laws bringing the missions of GPF and PGV together and the two groups merged.

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www.prairienet.org/gpf

GPF -PGV Board of Directors (term ends)

Jamie Ellis, President (2006)

Derek Liebert, Vice-President (2007)

Jim Payne, Treasurer (2006)

Lynne Scott, Secretary (2007)

Betsy Kuchinke (2007), Nate Beccue (2008), Paul Marcum (2008), and Dan Olson (2008)

One board position is vacant and unfilled with the departure of Patrick Hubert.

Board meetings are the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Directions to the meeting location can be obtained by contacting the President.

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Stewardship: Betsy Kuchinke, Paul Marcum, and Dan Olson

Education: Lynne Scott

Publicity: Derek Liebert

Land Acquisition: Dan Olson and Jim Payne

Fund Raising: Derek Liebert and Lynne Scott

Submission Deadlines

☞ **Winter Issue 06-07** (Dec., Jan., Feb.): **November 1**

☞ **Spring Issue 07** (Mar., Apr., May): **Feb 1**

☞ **Summer Issue 07** (June, July, Aug.): **May 1**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jamie Ellis, President GPF-PGV

As I leaf through the GPF and PGV scrap-books, I am humbled by and proud of the past accomplishments of this organization. I marvel at the number of distinguished people who have served over the past 22 years. Their dedication has made a difference in conservation. I realize we haven't been able to protect or manage every natural area worth protecting, but these setbacks shouldn't dissuade us from continuing with our conservation and protection work.

I think about the past because of the Board retreat and volunteer picnic that was on Saturday August 12. The need to conserve, manage, and restore natural areas is as great as ever in our urban and ag dominated landscape. Building on the past with an eye to the future, the Board worked on vision and mission statements to guide our actions. We'll send out a draft for the membership to review soon. The dedication of past volunteers allowed us to protect and steward land, but we still need you even more to continue stewardship work. Grab a friend and ask how you can help.

I'm happy to report as the internship coordinator, that important natural areas like Loda, Prospect, and Pellville cemetery prairies, Horseshoe Bottoms, Paxton RR prairie, and Jasmine Hollow are receiving needed management by an able set of interns. Christina, Jason, and Tiffany have put in many hard hours of weed control at over a dozen sites this summer, and we couldn't have asked for a harder working, more dedicated, or resourceful group of interns. Hats off to them!

I'm sad to see the summer wind down, but I'm equally excited about the cool days of fall. We'll be seed collecting soon to get ready for the next spring plant sale. I look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting, out in the woods, or somewhere on the prairie.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: RATTLESNAKE MASTER RUN

by Lynne Scott and Derek Liebert

Grand Prairie Friends - Prairie Grove Volunteers will once again be organizing the "Rattlesnake Master Run", proceeds to benefit our efforts. The race runs through Meadowbrook Park in Urbana and includes a 5K and 10K run, a 5K walk, refreshments, and prizes! Lots of volunteers (and participants) will be needed to help it run smoothly! For those of you who have not participated in a community run before, they are lots of fun. For those interested in helping organize the

race please contact either **Lynne Scott** at 352-4102 (lscott@parkland.edu) or **Derek Liebert** at 217-417-1120 (derekliebert@yahoo.com). For those interested in participating, race forms will be available at sponsor Body n Sole in Savoy or by download at www.prairienet.org/gpf. The race is scheduled to begin at the Race Street parking lot of Meadowbrook Park at 9 a.m. Sunday November 5th, so mark your calendars and watch for future announcements!



GPF-PGV RECEIVES IDNR GRANT

by Brenda Molano-Flores

Once again GPF-PGV is the successful recipient of a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund. We will receive \$2000 in funds for a project we titled "East-central Illinois Natural Areas Internship." Money for this fund comes from voluntary check-off donations through your Illinois income tax form. Thanks to the IDNR for helping us make our summer internship program a success!



THE PARKLAND PRAIRIE

Poem by Lin Warfel

The Parkland Prairie
hidden from most
lies quietly by

The seasons speak
the plants reply
first in tender shoots
breaking winter's hold

Bold, they grow
seeking sun
nurtured by the rains
sinking roots
gainst hot days
when the soil seems dry

Flowers come
to watch the crowds
of students zipping past
colors shift and change-
the pallet's soft.
gentle, perhaps,
the breezes force their
nods

Another solstice
marks the time
the hues change once
again
fall has captured

one and all
frost and sun together
grace the plants
with morning diamonds
soon to melt away

Winter comes to Park-
land Prairie
snow begins to fall
but snug beneath
the summer plants
earth is still alive
holding, saving
next year's colors
waiting for a chance

Please come, savor
the seasons passing
through the changing
prairie
Pause to study
and remember
those who came before
who broke some winter's
hold
to grow, to flower,
then to pass, become
the soil we take for
granted.



Prairie Grove Volunteers
and
Grand Prairie Friends



Activity Calendar



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

FALL 2006

Volunteer Stewardship Activities

Winter/Early Spring burns 2006/2007: Burns may be scheduled in late October through early December and in March through mid-April for several sites. Burns are needed at these sites to discourage the competing non-native species and encourage growth of native plants. Wear natural-fiber, non-flammable clothing (long pants, longsleeves, boots, and gloves); no synthetic fabrics. Burn safety equipment will be provided. Bring drinking water and snacks. Contact Paul Marcum (pmarcum@inhs.uiuc.edu, 333-8459) or Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) for more information.

Seed collection/Seed cleaning 2006: GPF-PGV will be collecting and cleaning seeds this fall for the 2007 plant sale. Contact Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695), Paul Marcum (pmarcum@inhs.uiuc.edu, 333-8459) or Brenda Molano-Flores (molano@inhs.uiuc.edu, 265-8167) if you would like to volunteer.

Seed planting and transplanting 2007: GPF-PGV will be growing prairie plants in the greenhouse once again next year, and we need volunteers to assist in cleaning seeds, planting seeds in flats and then transplanting seedlings into pots. These volunteer worknights will take place in February, March, and April, so stay tuned. Contact Brenda Molano-Flores (molano@inhs.uiuc.edu, 265-8167) or Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) if you would like to volunteer.

Exact dates for seed cleaning/planting/transplanting and burning will be announced on the ecostewards listserv. You can sign up for the listserv on this website: <https://mail.prairienet.org/mailman/listinfo/ecostewards>.

Every Sunday: Red Bison. Workdays held every Sunday unless otherwise noted. Members and non-members welcome. Meet at the University YMCA at 1:00 p.m. Contact Michael Avara (avara@uiuc.edu) or Mike Polito (mpolito2@uiuc.edu) for more information.

Saturday, October 21: Prairie seed collection. Join us for a morning of collecting prairie plant seed. We need the seed for the spring plant sale as well as area restoration projects. Meet at APNC at 9 a.m. Bring gloves and dress appropriately for the weather. We'll provide sacks for seed collection as well as refreshments. Call/email Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695), Paul Marcum

- APNC (Anita Purves Nature Center) is located at 1505 N. Broadway Ave. in Urbana.
- NATURAL RESOURCES STUDIES ANNEX: 1910 Griffith Drive, Champaign. Griffith Drive runs south from St. Mary's Road just east of the Illinois Central railroad viaduct (next to St. Mary's Cemetery).
- Workday reminders and updates will be posted on the ecostewards listserv.
- Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not allowed on Nature Preserves. Activities such as prescribed burnings may endanger pets, even if they are on leashes or otherwise supervised.
- Please wear clean clothes and boots as a general precaution. After a workday wire brush or scrape lug soles clean. Also, do not wear the same clothes that were used to visit a site with mature exotic seed into another site before laundering them. This is to avoid becoming unwitting carriers of the very invasive species that we are trying to control!

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

(pmarcum@inhs.uiuc.edu, 333-8459) with any questions.

Saturday, November 11: Friends of Parkland College Prairies. We will be cutting Honeysuckle, Mulberry, and Autumn Olive from 10 a.m. till about noon at the prairie. Dress appropriately and bring gloves, loppers, and saws if you have them. Park at the

North end of the Soccer field Parking lot east of the College. Afterwards we plan to stop somewhere for refreshments! Contact Jim Hoyt at jwhoyt@prairienet.org for more information.

Reminder: Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not allowed on Nature Preserves. Activities such as prescribed burnings may endanger pets, even if they are on leashes or otherwise supervised.

CHAMPAIGN RAIN GARDEN PLANTING: A NEW WAY TO KEEP RIVERS CLEAN

by Cecily Smith, Connie Carroll-Cunningham, Jesse Kurylo

On Saturday, June 10th, several organizations coordinated efforts to bring a Champaign family a new feature to their property that will bring beauty to their home while helping to keep local rivers clean. Prairie Rivers Network, in partnership with the Illinois Natural History Survey, Habitat for Humanity, Illinois Native Plant Society, and Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers planned and installed a "rain garden" at one of the new Habitat homes built last year.

Rain gardens use native plants, landscaping features, and storm water retention receptacles to capture rainwater on site. They provide several environmental benefits. First, they capture stormwater that would otherwise run off the site to the nearest storm drain. The water retained by the rain garden is then available to the garden plants. In some cases it may help to recharge the local aquifer. Also, by preventing the runoff from leaving the site fewer pollutants are picked up by the storm water that would otherwise rush down the storm drain and out to a local waterway, often untreated. Retaining the water on site is also very helpful in areas where storm water goes through the local municipal water treatment facility because during big rain events the sudden amount of storm water can cause system failure with discharge of untreated waste

water and or sewage into local waterways. Finally, by using native plants in the garden, rain gardens generally require less watering because the plants are adapted to the local climate.

Rain gardens are becoming better known as a landscaping option in our area with a few already planted by residents. "The family is really excited about the project," says Cecily Smith of Prairie Rivers Network. "They are looking forward to having a unique landscape feature that provides environmental and other benefits."

Funding for the rain garden project was provided via a grant to Prairie Rivers Network from the Lt. Governor's office. The project is a joint project with Habitat for Humanity. Illinois Natural History Survey staff Jesse Kurylo and Connie Carroll-Cunningham provided volunteer assistance for the garden planning and installation.

More than 100 plants for the garden were donated by the Illinois Native Plant Society and Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers. Other local groups that supported the project by providing other needed included the City of Urbana Landscape Recycling Center for donating mulch, and Country Arbors Nursery for providing a discount for garden plants.



RESEARCH CORNER: WATER HYACINTH IN ILLINOIS AND THE LAW

by Brenda Molano-Flores and Jean Mengelkoch

Dear GPF-PGV do you have a pond in your backyard garden? Do you have aquatic plants in your pond? Is one of them *Water Hyacinth*? Did you get Water Hyacinth from outside (mail order) or (from a friend) within Illinois? If the answer to the last question is yes, then you are breaking the law. Why? The federal government has made the interstate transportation and exchange of Water Hyacinth illegal in all forms. In Illinois, the Aquatic Life Code (515 ILCS 5/1-20) regulates the propagation and sale of aquatic plants under aquaculture (515 ILCS 5/20-90). Even though Water Hyacinth is available for sale in various local stores, *their exchange* (you give it to another person after it has been purchased) is not a legal activity. The US Code, Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 3, Section 46(a), states that it is a federal offense to knowingly deliver or receive for



transportation Water Hyacinth plants or seeds. In addition, Section 46(b) also points out that it is a violation if you knowingly receive parts of Water Hyacinth



that have been transported in violation of Section 46(a). In other words, ordering Water Hyacinth plants or seeds from outside Illinois for import into Illinois is a violation of the federal code. The United State Fish and Wildlife is responsible for enforcing this Code.

At the state level the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is responsible for enforcing state laws regarding Water Hyacinth, since they hold jurisdiction over the aquaculture operations in Illinois. Distribution of Water Hyacinth produced within Illinois contrary to the Aquatic Life Code and associated administrative rules is a violation of Illinois law. In Illinois a few people hold permits to possess Water Hyacinth with the main purpose

of conducting research. These permit holders are not allowed to sell or distribute Water Hyacinth plants or seeds. In addition, after the research has been concluded the plants must be incinerated. So, one more time ordering Water Hyacinth plants or seeds that have been produced inside Illinois is not legal!

Ponds in our backyards provide habitat and resources for wildlife, so please use native aquatic plants in them.

Eichhornia crassipes or Water Hyacinth is distributed throughout southeast U.S. with possible occurrences in southern Indiana and Illinois, and southeastern Missouri. It is a perennial free-floating aquatic plant producing long pendant roots at the nodes and can grow in all types of freshwaters. A native of South America, it has been labeled as “perhaps the



world's most troublesome aquatic weed.”

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Water Hyacinth plants have showy lavender flowers, and the leaves are rounded and leathery, attached to spongy and sometimes inflated stalks. The plant has dark feathery roots.

Water Hyacinth can drastically reduce the diversity of native aquatic species. This plant can lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water so that fish die, accelerate the rate at which bodies of water fill in, and

prevent fish from spawning by covering spawning beds. Every year in the U.S. about \$100 million are spent to control aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth.

(Continued from page 8)

The broad, 1-3 inch wide leaves wither before the umbels of greenish white to pink flowers appear at the top of a naked stalk. Both the leaves and bulbs are edible.

Please remember when collecting wild foods: never take an entire stand, and be respectful of private property.

Be *positive* of correct identification of your *Coming next month*: Lamb's quarters soup plants, especially with leeks: If the onion smell is



Leek seeds and dead stalks in winter. (Source: www.wildwoodsurvival.com)

missing in the leaves or bulbs, don't try it! It could be "fly poison," "death camass," "trout lily," or "lily-of-the-valley," which all may look somewhat similar to leeks. Also, never eat plants that grow near roads or driveways. Heavy metals from car exhausts poison the ground and end up in the plants for decades.

Sorry We Missed You!

This space could have featured your news, announcement, or feature story.

THE PRAIRIE CHEF

by Betsy Kuchinke

You may ask yourself – “Self, why should I go way out in the woods and get dirty collecting wild leeks!” After all, they’re sold at the Farmer’s Market and in all the supermarkets. But what you don’t know is that wild leeks (also called ramps) are possibly the best-tasting



Wild leeks form patches in the forest. Please only remove a few individuals from each patch. (Source: www.wildwoodsurvival.com)

member of the entire onion family, wild or commercial. That’s a powerful claim, but after trying them you probably agree.

In terms of nutritional value, wild plants generally come out ahead of garden-variety relatives. Take spinach, for example; in comparison, lamb’s quarters are more than 3 times as rich in calcium!

Now let’s get back to wild leeks. The wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*) is a member of the onion/garlic family and emerges in dense stands from the floor of moist, open woodlands every spring. It prefers slopes and woods near streams. In early spring the bulbs send up a little cylinder of tightly rolled leaves. They’re very good chopped fine & added to salad, or boiled and seasoned with butter or served in a cream sauce.

(Continued on page 7)

Sesame Wild Leek Sauce

This sauce is great served on grains & veggies.

¼ cup sesame oil
3 cups ramps (wild leeks) bulbs or leaves, or 3 cups shallots
3 tbs. fresh ginger, chopped
8 cloves of garlic, chopped
2 cups stock or water
¾ cup white wine
1 cup tahini (sesame butter)
3 tbs. dark miso or 1 tsp. salt, or to taste



1. Sauté the ramps, ginger, and garlic in sesame oil for 5 minutes.
2. Add the stock and wine, bring to a boil over medium heat, then simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes.
3. Purée in a food processor with the tahini and miso.

Makes 4½ cups

Grand Prairie Friends - Prairie Grove Volunteers

A Prairie Rendezvous

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In this issue...

☞ Volunteer Picnic

☞ Board Retreat

☞ Prairie Chef

... and more

A Prairie Rendezvous



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

FALL VOL 9, NO. 1, 2007
.....

THANKS TO THE SUMMER INTERNS

by *Christina Huck, Jason Bern, Tiffany Bone, and Jamie Ellis*

The GPF-PGV summer internship program has been going strong for over 10 years. For the summer of 2006, we hired three very enthusiastic and capable interns—Christina Huck, Jason Berner, and Tiffany Bone. Together they put in more than 520 hours of stewardship at 16 sites. They pulled weeds, cut brush, and sprayed herbicide. Along the way they learned a thing or two. Let's here how they spent the summer...

Christina Huck

I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to work with GPF-PGV. To everyone who taught me the names of native plants and to notice the visible history of the land, thank you. I'll try not to forget. The other interns and I had many chances to learn plants, stewardship techniques, etc., but we spent most of our time working. We pulled wild parsnip and sweet clover at Buffalo Trace and Prospect Cemetery for what seemed like weeks. We also spent time spraying herbicide on mulberry and other woody species at Prospect. We pulled garlic mustard at Jasmine Hollow and donated a bit of blood to the mosquitoes there. We sprayed multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, and autumn olive in the fields and woods at Horseshoe Bottoms. We made some discoveries, too: a nest of baby redwing blackbirds, thickets full of ripe blackberries. Even the most experienced herbicide applicators sometimes have mishaps. Prairie cicadas never ceased to startle me with their sudden racket and alarming size. At Paxton Railroad Prairie and at Shortline Prairie we weeded and collected seeds. Seed collecting was my favorite job, because it allowed the most peaceful prairie walks. For a few weeks I did some work alone, which was unforgettable. Particularly vivid are

memories of pulling parsnip at Loda, Wells, and Pelleville Cemetery Prairies. At Wells my thighs were perforated by a thick understory of brambles, but I drove home grinning at the end of the day because I was so pleased with myself for clearing the site of parsnip. I'm proud of the work Jason, Tiffany and I did, but I wish we could have accomplished more. How frustrating to find the dried seed-heads of weeds in areas we didn't have time to work on,



poised to replace themselves innumerable next spring! I like to think about folks like Phil Hult waging a quiet war against armies of giant wild parsnip stalks, and Jim Payne stalking methodically back and forth, combing his woods for garlic mustard. I know in five years you'll still be out there because the parsnip and garlic mustard won't be gone; ten years might not even be long enough to win that fight. That's what has impressed me so much, and what I'll always remember: faith in the ability of land-

(Continued on page 5)

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☞ **Fall Issue 07** (Sept., Oct., Nov.): **Aug. 1**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jamie Ellis, President GPF-PGV

Autumn slips slowly into winter as I write this piece. On second thought, autumn has bumped, screeched, and skidded into winter with our alternating warm then cold then wet weather. I hope you've had a chance to get out into a prairie or forest natural area this fall to enjoy the beautiful sunny days and at least appreciate the cold, gray, wet ones.

I've managed to get out and collect some prairie plant seeds from some railroad prairie remnants as well as assist with a prescribed burn at Sibley Grove. My supervision of the summer internship is over, and I was very pleased with the enthusiasm and hard work of our three summer interns. The weather and turnout was great for the Rattlesnake Master Run. Three cheers for volunteers and participants. I'm already thinking of the spring plant sale, but I hope to get out on some more burns this winter and spring.

Soon we'll be asking you once again for your commitment to this organization. You show that by your membership donation and your presence at volunteer events. Natural areas in east-central Illinois need our continued management to maintain the biodiversity we deem important. I have made my commitment to GPF-PGV for 2007. I hope you will, too.

FRANKLIN'S GROUND SQUIRREL

by Jean M. Mengelkoch and Paul B. Marcum

Franklin's ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*) has a mottled gray-brown back, grayish head and tail, and yellowish belly. They are also referred to as gray gopher or whistle pig because of their vocalizations. They can be distinguished from the only other ground squirrel in Illinois, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*), by the Franklin's larger size and lack of stripes. It superficially resembles the eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), but Franklin's ground squirrel has smaller ears, a tail that is both shorter and less bushy, and has more of a salt and pepper coloring.

Franklin's ground squirrel is historically a mammal of mid-grass and tallgrass prairies. In present-day Illinois it can also be found in railroad rights-of-way, un-mowed roadsides, prairie-woodland edges, fencerows, un-mowed old fields, and cemetery prairies. Essentially, these small mammals use areas with tall, dense vegetation consisting of a mixture of forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees. They do not inhabit mowed areas, such as golf courses and mowed roadsides, like the thirteen-lined ground squirrel.

The range of the Franklin's ground

squirrel extends from northwestern Indiana, northern and central Illinois, and southern Wisconsin west to northern Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota in the United States and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in Canada. Their numbers are declining throughout much of their range in the United States. They are state-threatened in Illinois. Locally, they have been found at Barnhart Prairie Nature Preserve (<http://barnhart.naturepreserves.org/prairie/>) and along a couple of railroad rights-of-way in Champaign County. Much of the decline of this species is attributed to loss of habitat from agricultural and urban development. In addition, as with other ground squirrels they have been persecuted as agricultural pests. Ironically, there is little evidence that they will eat row crops.

Franklin's ground squirrel is an omnivore – it eats both vegetable and animal matter. It consumes seeds, fruit, and various parts of green plants. In addition, they will eat invertebrates, bird eggs, small birds, and small



Franklin's ground squirrel

Photo from INHS Report, Summer 2002, *What Happened to the Franklin's Ground Squirrel?*, by Jason Martin

mammals.

The squirrel is diurnal and is most active on clear, bright days. They spend most of their time in their burrows; it has been estimated that they spend less than 10% of their life outside their burrows. They build extensive, deep burrows and leave only a small mound of dirt at the 3-inch wide burrow entrances. A yearlong inhabitant of burrows, Franklin's ground squirrel is limited by suitable burrow habitat. The burrows must be in well-drained soil deep enough to remain cool in summer and not freeze in winter. Thus, burrows are often located in embankments to facilitate drainage.

Adult Franklin's ground squirrels hibernate extensively and are only aboveground from mid-April to August; juveniles do not enter hibernation until September to November. They mate in the spring and have 6-8 young on average. The young are weaned at about 40 days old. After weaning, they remain with their parents for another few weeks before dispersing to find their own territories.

(Continued from page 5)

ited them and realized that each prairie is unique in some way. Overall, the internship enabled me to learn about the dynamics and rules that govern the tallgrass prairie, forest, and wetland areas of East-Central Illinois. I also gained a broader understanding of what is involved in the proper management and care of these areas. I truly enjoyed working with all of the stewards who offered a wealth of information, enthusiasm, and hope for the lands they manage.

More Thanks

A word of thanks also goes to many individuals who gave time to spend with the interns teaching them plants, management techniques, or some natural history of our landscape. Those who helped include Paul Marcum, Rick Larimore, Paul Tessene, Nate Beccue, Jim Payne, Bill Handel, Phil Hult, and others who we may have forgotten. Keep up the good work.

Yes, we'll be offering the summer internship once again in 2007. Watch for details in the next newsletter and on our website.



The Steward's Luncheon is set for Saturday
February 17, 2007, at Urbana's Crystal Lake Park
lakehouse, (tentative)

Prairie Grove Volunteers
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WINTER 2006-2007

Volunteer Stewardship Activities

Winter/Early Spring burns 2006/2007: Burns may be scheduled in early March through mid-April for several sites. Burns are needed at these sites to discourage the competing non-native species and encourage growth of native plants. Wear natural-fiber, non-flammable clothing (long pants, longsleeves, boots, and gloves); ***no synthetic fabrics***. Burn safety equipment will be provided. Bring drinking water and snacks. Contact **Paul Marcum** (pmarcum@inhs.uiuc.edu, 333-8459) or **Jamie Ellis** (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) for more information.

Seed planting, transplanting, and cleaning 2007: GPF-PGV will be growing prairie plants in the greenhouse once again next year, and we need volunteers to assist in cleaning seeds, planting seeds in flats and then transplanting seedlings into pots. These volunteer worknights will take place in February, March, and April, so stay tuned. Contact **Brenda Molano-Flores** (molano@inhs.uiuc.edu, 265-8167) or **Jamie Ellis** (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) if you would like to volunteer.

Exact dates for seed cleaning/planting/transplanting and burning will be announced on the ecostewards listserv. You can sign up for the listserv on this website: <https://mail.prairienet.org/mailman/listinfo/ecostewards>.

Volunteer Stewardship Website: For additional stewardship opportunities, please see the Urbana Park District web site, <http://www.urbanaparks.org/>. Click on *parks* then *natural areas*.

- APNC (Anita Purves Nature Center) is located at 1505 N. Broadway Ave. in Urbana.
- NATURAL RESOURCES STUDIES ANNEX: 1910 Griffith Drive, Champaign. Griffith Drive runs south from St. Mary's Road just east of the Illinois Central railroad viaduct (next to St. Mary's Cemetery).
- Workday reminders and updates will be posted on the ecostewards listserv.
- Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not allowed on Nature Preserves. Activities such as prescribed burnings may endanger pets, even if they are on leashes or otherwise supervised.
- Please wear clean clothes and boots as a general precaution. After a workday wire brush or scrape lug soles clean. Also, do not wear the same clothes that were used to visit a site with mature exotic seed into another site before laundering them. This is to avoid becoming unwitting carriers of the very invasive species that we are trying to control!



Winter Membership Meeting

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers annual Winter Membership Meeting. Please join us at the Anita Purves Nature Center (1505 N. Broadway, Urbana) on Friday March 9, 2007 at 7 p.m. for food, fellowship, and an educational speaker (TBA). The meeting will start with a dessert potluck to be followed by organizational announcements, and then the featured speaker. Please bring your favorite desserts and goodies to share. Drinks and eating utensils will be provided.

(Continued from page 1)

scapes to recover; belief that even the smallest, tamest wild places are worth saving; patience and strength to work at the same problem for seasons, for years. I hope you'll always have plenty of help.

Jason Berner

Hello GPF-PGV folks! I'm glad to talk a little bit about the work I did as an intern this past summer '06. To tell you the truth, we did a lot of cool things, and it seems like a distant memory with all this darn school work. Things started off with a lot of garlic mustard pulling at Jasmine Hollow and



near Kickapoo State Park. At the beginning of the summer Tiffany and I were able to help out with plant installation at the St. Joe wetland. It was a lot of fun to see a site change by planting so many different kinds of wetland plants. Jamie also gave us a lesson or two with helping out with native plants at the greenhouse. We soon moved onto wild parsnip and sweet clover control. A lot of our parsnip time was spent at Buffalo Trace. Phil showed us how to kick some parsnip butt. We collected a lot of seed from Shortline Prairie on cool summer afternoons after working hard at Loda or Prospect.

Christina refreshed us on how to drive stick, and the GPF-PGV truck is one sweet ride in the summer. We definitely made a lot of progress at Prospect and Loda prairies. Prospect was a lot of work, removing mainly sweet clover and wild parsnip. We also managed some woodlands, including Horseshoe Bottom and Allerton Park. We took out multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle. We also helped collect a lot of

seeds towards the end of the summer. Throughout the summer I took about 100 pictures of different places we worked at and visited. If you're interested in looking at any of the pictures check out this website (download any that you'd like): <http://new.photos.yahoo.com/jaylogger/albums>. We were fortunate enough to see some very large prairie restorations including Nachusa Grasslands and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Jamie was kind enough to teach us a lot of native plant identification skills and we learned through many others about prairie grasses and site management history of many GPF-PGV sites.

Thanks for letting me get more hands-on experience with managing natural areas in east central Illinois.

Tiffany Bone

Working as an intern with Grand Prairie Friends–Prairie Grove Volunteers over summer 2006 was a great opportunity. I was able to work in the tallgrass prairies, forests, wetlands, and park areas in east-central Illinois, and I learned to recognize each of these systems while observing how each operates. I was also able to observe problems faced by these systems, understand what effects these problems have, and learn the best management techniques used to deal with these problems.

A lot of the time was spent working with several knowledgeable individuals, including the stewards of the sites and other volunteers. They taught us how to identify prairie, forest, and wetland plants and provided advice and guidance about the types of management required to maintain healthy systems. Learning the names of the native and non-native plants was essential for this job. It was required for the control and eradication of invasive species, as well as for the conservation of native species. The majority of our time was spent controlling invasive species, but we also worked in the greenhouse transplanting native prairie plants, collecting seed from the field, and taking several field trips to familiarize ourselves with different prairies.

The internship provided a valuable learning experience. Never before had I had the chance to visit the prairie remnants in this area and I was very happy to have this opportunity. I gained a greater appreciation for the diversity of these areas as I vis-

(Continued on page 3)

RUN FOR THE PRAIRIE - 2006 RATTLESNAKE MASTER RUN

by Derek Liebert

The 2006 Rattlesnake Master "Run for the Prairie" enjoyed the participation of 105 individuals: 51 5K runners, 33 10K runners, and 21 walkers. Thanks to these participants and our sponsors, the race is expected to gross approximately \$1,150.

The race would not have been a success without the help of over 35 volunteers. Key among these were Lynne Scott and Derek Liebert who acted as co-race coordinators and assisted with so much of the early race organization, Jesse Kurylo who was the race announcer and registration coordinator along with Mike Avara of Red Bison, Brenda Molano-Flores who was the course set-up coordinator, Connie Carroll-Cunningham who provided the initial course layout and was the food and beverage coordinator, and Betsy Kuchinke

who was the awards coordinator. Other volunteers included Molly McNicoll and Stacey James who along with 20 parkland students provided on course direction, Grant Cunningham, Dan Olson, and Kevin Saylor who assisted Jed and son from Body n Sole with timing and tending the fire circle, the Red Bison team of Mike Polito, Lara Bredberg, Justin Meiseen, James Kraus, and Eric Johnson who assisted Jesse and Adam with registration, Kannan Puthuval of the IMC Bike Project who provided the 10K pace bike lead, Lori Kae Schwab who provided general race assistance, Mindy Ellis who provided the t-shirt design, and Tom Rice who provided the registration flyer



layout. Many, many thanks to all who helped out!

The race also benefited from the support of **20 sponsors:** Body n Sole, Campus Sportswear, Macks Recycling, Mike

and Molly's, Jupiters, HDC Engineering, Rick Orr, Esquire, Red Bison, Strawberry Fields, Dandelion, Kinkos, Curtis Orchards, Aroma, WildCountry, Great Harvest, Midwest Potty House, Premium Brands, Road ID, and Cliff Bar. HDC, Aroma, and Great Harvest, were new sponsors, and Premium Brands returned after a one-year hiatus.

Photos and race results will be posted on the GPF-PGV web page.

Thank you !!!! Thank you !!!! Thank you !!!!

GPF-PGV SITE UPDATE: EMS TRACT UPDATE

by Jim Hoyt and Jamie Ellis

We are at a turning point in our ecological and cultural history. You are by now very well aware of the loss of genetic diversity of our native plants. You have been deluged by terrible news of how we are losing our ecological remnants and their dwindling plant populations.

We still have a chance to collect the seeds and develop native plant nurseries which will nurture future prairie restoration and prairie plantings. We are learning to preserve and restore the insect pollinators to our restorations. As they grow our preserves are attracting grassland nesting birds.

My hope is that you will help support Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers in its efforts to create a nursery of prairie plants at a tract of land donated to GPF-PGV by Ms. Frieda Ems Tract. This 1.7 acre parcel of land was given to our

group in 2000. It is an old field that sits along I-74 and CR 2500E between St. Joseph and Ogden.

Our progress of converting this piece of land into a prairie nursery garden has been slow. Some weedy trees have been cut down, stumps sprayed with herbicide, and brush piles made. We still need to burn the brush piles, brush mow the site, spray herbicide to kill back the brome and fescue, and till some ground in preparation for seeds or seedlings. We thank all of the volunteers who have helped in this effort and those who donated money to dedicate this prairie nursery to Mary Hruska.

We still need your help. If you live in the St. Joseph or Ogden area or you just have a desire to see this project happen, please contact **Jim Payne** (344-7840) or **Jamie Ellis** (244-5695) to see how you can help.

OUR MISSION, OUR DREAM

by Daniel J. Olson

When Martin Luther King announced, “I have a dream...” he was poetically referring to a nation-wide mission statement. But how far would his philanthropy have carried if he announced, “I have a mission statement...”? No matter what you call them, mission statements are a crucial part of any organization’s uniqueness and purpose. With your help, we hope to formally adopt a mission for GPF-PGV that will let the world know who we are. The GPF-PGV board has been hard at work revisiting our by-laws, our purpose, and other mission examples, in order to bring you three mission statements for your consideration (listed below). Our ultimate goal is to have three mission statements at the Spring Membership Meeting *for you to vote on*. Your attendance at that meeting is crucial to the future of GPF-PGV!! If you have any comments on the three proposed statements, please send them to dolson@ccfpd.org. Until then, take some time to consider the following characteristics and reflect on the proposed mission statements.

Characteristics of a Mission Statement:

- ☞ Answers the questions: Who are we? Who do we serve? What do we offer? How do we serve?
- ☞ Brief, memorable and inspiring.
- ☞ Reflects the organizations values and purpose.
- ☞ Gives a sense of timelessness.
- ☞ Serves as a decision making template for the organization.
- ☞ Must be understood by those that are unfamiliar with the organization’s purpose.

Proposed Mission Statements for GPF-PGV (subject to further refinement)

- Grand Prairie Friends – Prairie Grove Volunteers...
- ☞ Preserves and restores native lands and waters in east-central Illinois and fosters a healthy sense of community among nature and people.
 - ☞ Preserves and restores native lands and waters in east-central Illinois and promotes an understanding and appreciation of the value of our resources.
 - ☞ Preserves native plants, animals, and natural communities in east-central Illinois by conserving the lands and waters they need to thrive.

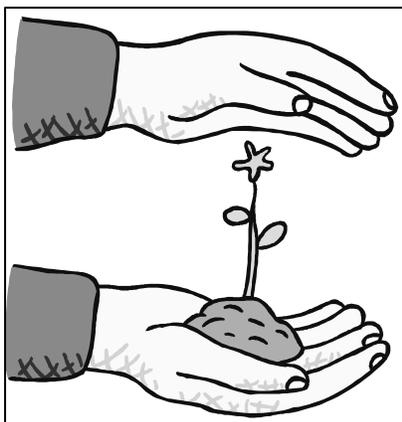
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR 2007 NATIVE PLANT SALE

by Jamie Ellis

Now’s the time to mark your calendar for next spring’s native plant sale—May 12, 2007. Wild bergamot, purple coneflower, orange butterflyweed, little bluestem, and many other of your favorite

prairie wildflowers as well as a selection of woodland wildflowers will be available. We are tentatively set to hold the sale inside Lincoln Square Village as we have done in years past.

we’ll need to pot them, and we’ll meet each Monday evening in April through the beginning of May. Here’s the schedule: April 9, 16, 23, 30, and May 7. Set-up for the sale needs to be Friday evening May 11 with the sale on May 12. Not only will we need



Volunteers Needed

Before we can actually sell the plants, we need to grow them. We need volunteers to help plant and transplant seeds and seedlings. The first planting date will be Monday February 27, 2007 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the NRB and Pennsylvania in Champaign. Once the plants are growing,

we’ll also need volunteers to help with publicity, make and stick pot labels, transport plants, set-up for the sale, volunteer the day of the sale, and help clean-up afterwards. Please call Jamie Ellis (217-244-5695) or gpf@prairienet.org if you can help.

FIRST MASTER NATURALIST CLASS GRADUATES

by Daniel J. Olson

Congratulations are in order for 40 Master Naturalist interns that have completed their seventy hours initial training for the East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program. This rigorous two month program combined classroom and outdoor education on a variety of natural resource related topics including botany, geology, archaeology, ornithology and much more. Armed with an understanding and an appreciation of Illinois natural resources, these Master Naturalist interns are now ready to complete 40 hours of natural resource volunteer work in order to become Certified Master Naturalists. This means that the

next time you are assisting in local natural areas management; giving demonstrations or interpretive tours for adults and children; assisting professionals with natural areas inventories; writing newsletter articles or collecting native plant seeds, you may be standing next to a Master Naturalist. So, in typical graduation ceremony tradition, we must say that it is time to spread your wings, leave the nest, plant the seeds of tomorrow, grow with each learning experience, and foster a greater understanding of the world around you. Congratulations!!

The East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program is spon-

sored by the Champaign County Extension Office, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, and the Urbana Park District.



To learn more about the Program and upcoming classes, please visit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/mn/index.html>

Grand Prairie Friends - Prairie Grove Volunteers

A Prairie Rendezvous

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In this issue...

- ✂ *Draft Mission Statement*
 - ✂ *Ems Tract Update*
 - ✂ *Franklin's Ground Squirrel*
 - ✂ *Words of Thanks to
Summer 2006 Interns*
-

A Prairie Rendezvous



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

SUMMER VOL 8, No. 3, 2006
.....

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS

by Lynne Scott

Grand Prairie Friends (PF-PGV) is once again excited to hire three young people as summer interns. These summer internships provide crucial management—invasive plant removal, brush control, seed collection, and other tasks—for many natural areas we steward. The internship also gives these young folks a chance to learn about hands on natural area management. We also try to provide other educational opportunities by sending them in the field with local stewards, biologists, and resource professionals. They get a chance to learn plants, birds, bugs, and the ecology of our remaining prairies, forests, and wetlands.

Christina Huck, Tiffany Bone, and Jason Berner will be working for us over the summer. Hopefully you'll get a chance to meet them. Until then, I'll let them tell you a bit about themselves...

CHRISTINA HUCK

I am a senior in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. I will graduate in December 2006. I love traveling, especially road trips, camping, and hiking. I live in Champaign with my cat, Peckerwood, and I enjoy a lot of cooking, baking, and reading. My favorites right now are Barbara Kingsolver and Tom Robbins. My sister will be living with me for a few months this



summer, so she can work at the University. During school I work as a research assistant at a soybean pathology lab. After graduation I'm really not sure what I want to do; I'm considering grad school, Student Conservation Association, or Peace Corps. I am very interested in native plant communities, and am hoping to learn more about prairie plants through the internship. I'm also interested in desert restoration, ethnobotany, sustainable agriculture, and heirloom vegetables.

TIFFANY BONE

I am currently working to obtain a masters of science degree from the Department of Plant Biology at UIUC and plan to defend my thesis by December of this year. My project focuses on the obscure genus *Lilaeopsis* (tribe Oenantheae, family Apiaceae). I am conducting a phylogenetic and biogeographical study of this group, which consists of fourteen species of small, perennial rhizomatous herbs that occupy moist to truly aquatic habitats. This genus has been considered taxonomically difficult, as a result of its greatly simplified and generally similar vegetative morphology. For these reasons molecular data are essential to examine the species relationships and new species and hybrids are being discovered.



(Continued on page 6)

A Prairie Rendezvous

P.O. Box 36 • Urbana, IL 61803-0036

Editor: Brenda Molano-Flores

Assistant Editors: Jamie Ellis, Mary Ann Feist, and Lynne Scott

Production Designer: Ray Meredith

A Prairie Rendezvous is a publication of Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers for the restoration community of East Central Illinois. In February 2004, the membership of GPF voted to broaden the group's Constitution and By-laws bringing the missions of GPF and PGV together and the two groups merged.

A Prairie Rendezvous is published quarterly. Article submissions should be sent electronically to the editor at gpf@prairienet.org or by mail to the GPF -PGV P.O. Box (above). Member submissions are gladly welcomed.

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to natural community preservation, restoration, and education in East Central Illinois. Our stewards help coordinate volunteer workdays at native prairie, savanna, wetland, and woodland remnants. Inquiries and tax-deductible donations should be sent to the GPF -PGV P.O. Box (above).

www.prairienet.org/gpf

GPF -PGV Board of Directors (term ends)

Jamie Ellis, President (2006)

Derek Liebert, Vice-President (2007)

Jim Payne, Treasurer (2006)

Lynne Scott, Secretary (2007)

Betsy Kuchinke (2007), Nate Beccue (2008), Paul Marcum (2008), and Dan Olson (2008)

One board position is vacant and unfilled with the departure of Patrick Hubert.

Board meetings are the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Directions to the meeting location can be obtained by contacting the President.

GPF -PGV Committees

For information on volunteering and getting involved with any committees, please contact the following:

Membership & Volunteerism: Brenda Molano

Stewardship: Betsy Kuchinke, Paul Marcum, and Dan Olson

Education: Lynne Scott

Publicity: Derek Liebert

Land Acquisition: Dan Olson and Jim Payne

Fund Raising: Derek Liebert and Lynne Scott

Submission Deadlines

☞ **Fall Issue 06** (Sept., Oct., Nov.): **August 1**

☞ **Winter Issue 06-07** (Dec., Jan., Feb.): **November 1**

☞ **Spring Issue 07** (Mar., Apr., May): **Feb 1**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jamie Ellis, President GPF-PGV

By this time the annual prairie flames are extinguished, bloodroot and spring beauties have finished their show, shooting stars are blooming at Loda, and the NRB greenhouse is full of plants ready for a garden home. Yes, spring is a wonderfully busy time of year, but I feel that it sometimes goes by too fast. I hope that in your busy life, you can take the time to stroll through the woods or prairie to enjoy what nature has to offer.

What have I been doing during this busy time? Besides responsibilities with family, work, and church, I have managed to plant and grow many native prairie plant species in preparation for the native plant sale on May 13. Of course I couldn't do this without our many wonderful volunteers. A big thanks goes to Lynne Scott for her time. I managed to get out on a few burns with folks like Derek Liebert, Paul Marcum, and Eric Smith. Paul Marcum and I selected three interns to work for us this summer. I feel really good that these young folks will do a good job of prairie and forest stewardship this summer. I traveled to Chicago to pick up a \$2500 check from Earth Share to be spent on our stewardship activities.

That's it for now. Keep up the good work you're doing. I hope to see you this summer...

Jamie

RESEARCH CORNER: 2006 NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE

by Brenda Molano-Flores

The 20th North American Prairie Conference will be held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, 23-26 July. For those who wish to experience prairies in other states, learn from prairie experts, go on interesting field trips, and hear informative presentations, this conference will be the one to attend this year. The theme of the conference will be "Invasive Species" as they affect the prairie ecosystem. This will include but is not limited to:

Plants such as Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Downy Brome or Cheat Grass (*Bromus tectorum*), Invasive Cattails (*T. angustifolia* and *T. glauca*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*), Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*);

Animals such as European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), House Mouse (*Mus musculus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*).



University of Nebraska at Kearney
July 23-26, 2006

Other topics are:

- ⌘ Anthropology (Cultural Aspects of Prairie)
- ⌘ Fire & Soil in Prairies
- ⌘ Landscape Ecology (Various Aspects of Prairie as an Ecosystem)
- ⌘ Management of Prairies
- ⌘ Plant Physiology & Botany
- ⌘ Prairie Climatology and Drought
- ⌘ Prairie Education
- ⌘ Prairie Entomology (& other Arthropods)
- ⌘ Prairie Exhibits, Literature & History
- ⌘ Prairie Restoration
- ⌘ Prairie Wetlands
- ⌘ Prairie Zoology (Herptiles, Birds & Mammals)

Please visit the following website for more information: <http://NAPC2006.org>.

THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE ILLINOIS

by Jamie Ellis

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers received \$2500 as an Earth Share of Illinois 2006 Extra Award Recipient. Jamie Ellis traveled to Shedd Aquarium in Chicago on May 4 to participate in a small awards ceremony. GPF-PGV was one of three groups to receive an extra share grant. Shedd Aquarium was awarded \$15,000 to help with their 'Great Lakes Forever' program. A big thanks goes to Doug Chien, GPF-PGV member and former Board member, who nominated our group. Doug works in Chicago for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Earth Share of Illinois facilitates workplace giving. They represent over 60 leading environmental and conservation organizations in Illinois making a difference locally, nationally and internationally. Learn more about Earth Share at <http://www.earthshare-illinois.org/>.



Prairie Grove Volunteers
and
Grand Prairie Friends



Activity Calendar



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

SUMMER 2006

Volunteer Stewardship Activities

Urbana Park District Workdays: Enjoy a natural area close to home. Help remove invasive species, improve trails, collect seed, and plant native species. Tools and refreshments will be provided. Call 384-4062 to register or contact Derek Liebert at 344-9583 for more information.

Second Saturday of every month:

9-11 a.m.: Busey Woods — Meet at APNC*.

1-3 p.m.: Weaver Grove — Pull off south of intersection of Main St. and Smith Rd

Fourth Saturday of every month:

9-11 a.m. Meadowbrook Prairie — Meet at Race St. parking lot.

Every Sunday: Workdays for Red Bison held every Sunday unless otherwise noted. Members and non-members welcome. Meet at the University YMCA at 1:00 p.m. Contact Michael Avara (redbison@gmail.com) for more information.

Saturday, June 10: Shortline Railroad Prairie. Help restore GPF-PGV's first prairie remnant by removing non-native vegetation. Wear long sleeves and bring gloves and drinking water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at ANPC (see inset box) to carpool or 9:45 at the site. For more information contact Paul Marcum (333-8459, 390-6141).

Sunday June 11: Buffalo Trace Prairie. Help pull parsnip!. Bring gloves, drinking water, and wear long sleeves. Bring a snack too if you'd like. Workday will start at 8:30 a.m. (latecomers are more than welcome). Directions to Buffalo Trace Prairie: From I-74, take Route 47 North away from Mahomet. At first asphalt road to the left, turn left (2100N) and turn left again at the next intersection (300E). Drive south to the parking lot on the left across from the cell-phone tower. Walk out on the bike path to the prairie between the 0.2 and 0.3 Mile mark on the bike path. Contact Phil Hult and Gail Snowden for more information (217-586-4511).

Saturday June 17: Ems Tract. Help install native prairie plant seedlings as we develop a prairie nursery! Meet at APNC (see inset box) at 9 a.m. to carpool to this site east of St. Joseph. Gloves and kneepads may be helpful. Snacks provided. For additional information call or email Jamie Ellis

- APNC (Anita Purves Nature Center) is located at 1505 N. Broadway Ave. in Urbana.
- NATURAL RESOURCES STUDIES ANNEX: 1910 Griffith Drive, Champaign. Griffith Drive runs south from St. Mary's Road just east of the Illinois Central railroad viaduct (next to St. Mary's Cemetery).
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- Please wear clean clothes and boots as a general precaution. After a workday wire brush or scrape lug soles clean. Also, do not wear the same clothes that were used to visit a site with mature exotic seed into another site before laundering them. This is to avoid becoming unwitting carriers of the very invasive species that we are trying to control!

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

(jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695).

Sunday June 18: Buffalo Trace Prairie. Help pull parsnip!. Bring gloves, drinking water, and wear long sleeves. Bring a snack too if you'd like. Workday will start at 8:30 a.m. (latecomers are more than welcome). Directions to Buffalo Trace Prairie: From I-74, take Route 47 North away from Mahomet. At first asphalt road to the left, turn left (2100N) and turn left again at the next intersection (300E). Drive south to the parking lot on the left across from the cell-phone tower. Walk out on the bike path to the prairie between the 0.2 and 0.3 Mile mark on the bike path. Contact Phil Hult and Gail Snowden for more information (217-586-4511).

Saturday, July 1: Shortline Railroad Prairie. Help restore GPF-PGV's first prairie remnant by removing non-native vegetation. Wear long sleeves and bring gloves and drinking water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at APNC (see inset box) to carpool or 9:45 at

the site. For more information contact Paul Marcum (333-8459, 390-6141).

Sunday July 9: Buffalo Trace Prairie. Help pull sweet clover! Bring gloves, drinking water, and wear long sleeves. Bring a snack too if you'd like. Workday will start at 8:30 a.m. (latecomers are more than welcome). Directions to Buffalo Trace Prairie: From I-74, take Route 47 North away from Mahomet. At first asphalt road to the left, turn left (2100N) and turn left again at the next intersection (300E). Drive south to the parking lot on the left across from the cell-phone tower. Walk out on the bike path to the prairie between the 0.2 and 0.3 Mile mark on the bike path. Contact Phil Hult and Gail Snowden for more information (217-586-4511).

Reminder: Please leave your pets at home. Pets are not allowed on Nature Preserves. Activities such as prescribed burnings may endanger pets, even if they are on leashes or otherwise supervised.

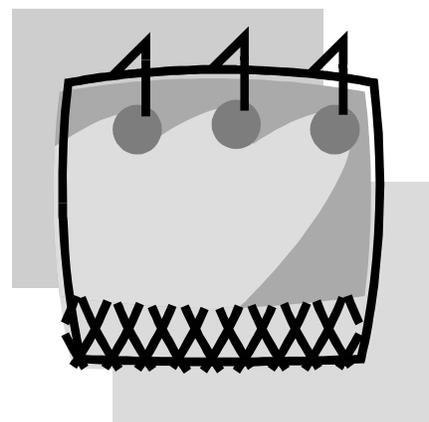
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by GPF-PGV Board

A name is an immediate source of information. It tells people of bit of who you are and what you do. A name also has identity and history. That's why we chose to keep a hyphenated name for our expanded organization—Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers. This compromise keeps the identity and history of the two groups who came together.

Well, it's time to re-think our name. This long, hyphenated name has led to some confusion, and it's just a plain mouthful. As a member, volunteer, and supporter, we need your help. We need to shorten our name, get rid of the hyphen, and reduce the redundancy of the word prairie. What should we be called?

This is your chance to suggest a name. The Board will be taking name suggestions over the course of the summer. The most commonly suggested names will then be put up for a vote by the membership to be adopted at the Fall Membership meeting in September. Please email your suggestions to Rick Larimore (rlarimo@inhs.uiuc.edu) or mail them to GPF-PGV at P.O. Box 36, Urbana, IL 61801. Rick will then compile the names to present to the Board and ultimately for a vote by the membership.



(Continued from page 1)

I have served as a teaching assistant for the past four semesters and I spent my breaks working in the Plant Biology Greenhouse and Conservatory. Though my present research takes place primarily in the lab, I also consider myself an ecologist, and I miss working outdoors in the field. This is one of the main reasons I applied for this job. I also have experience working with the invasive *Lonicera mackii* (Amur Honeysuckle), parasitic plants, bryophytes, and mushrooms. My hobbies include hiking, traveling, reading, and exercising. I look forward to working with the Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers (GPF-PGV) this summer and visiting the prairie remnants of the area. I hope by summer's end to have a better grasp of both native and non-native flora of the region and look forward to working with other individuals who share my love of plants.

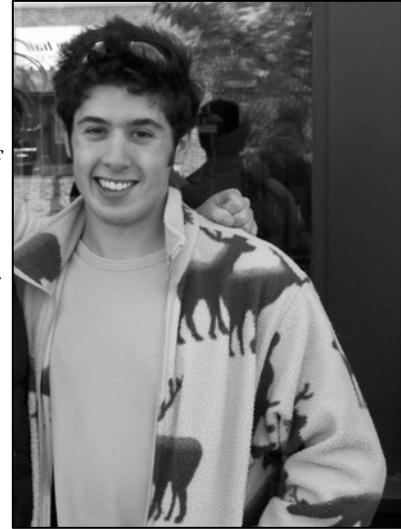
JASON BERNER

I'm Jason Berner, a landscape architecture graduate student at UIUC. Last spring I graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and became very interested in restoration ecology. Originally I'm from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, but now I reside in Urbana. My thesis project

is going to focus on how community stakeholders' values influence implementation of ecological restoration work on the rural-urban fringe.

It's a pleasure to get the opportunity to participate in ecological restoration this summer with GPF-PGV. I'm looking forward to working with the other interns, volunteers, and others with an interest in native flora. I've heard great things about this program from my friends. I hope to learn a lot and have many fun experiences. Doing field-work is one of the most enjoyable things to do in the summer, and I love being outside for the season.

In my free time I enjoy mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, going to rock shows, drawing, and hanging out at coffee shops. I look forward to meeting many of you this summer.



(Continued from page 12)

Americans support the Endangered Species Act

- ☞ Nearly all voters (90%) recognize as important that the Endangered Species Act provides a safety net for wildlife, plants, and fish that are on the brink of extinction.
- ☞ Understanding the importance of habitat protection, fully 95% of voters agree that one of the most effective ways to protect species is to protect the places they live.
- ☞ Most voters are aware of the ESA, and fully 86% of voters nationwide support the Endangered Species Act.

Funding for the Endangered Species Act:

- ☞ In 2005, Congress gave the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a mere \$143 million to implement the Endangered Species Act—the same cost as approximately 18 miles of a four-lane federal highway. This represents an average of merely 48 cents cost per American per year.

On the Economic Benefits of Species:

- ☞ Protecting endangered species isn't just the right thing to do—it makes economic sense too. Extinc-

(Continued on page 7)

THE PRAIRIE CHEF

by Betsy Kuchinke

Persimmons... the beautiful rusty orange fruits are richly sweet and wonderful. But – if they're not fully ripe, watch out! "Yuk" you'll say, because they are unpleasantly astringent and are sure to make you pucker.

The persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), a member of the Ebony Family, has bark that is nearly black with characteristically small rectangular blocks. We do have persimmon trees in our area, but you may have to do some hunting to find them. Hint: they are abundant in southwestern Indiana.

A general rule of thumb is to pick them around the time of the first frost. Just spread a sheet under the tree and give it a shake; the ripe fruits will fall and can then be easily gathered up. They should be soft and gooey.

Push the fruit through a

colander to remove the seeds. The pulp can be used in puddings, cobblers, pies, and especially this wonderful Nut Bread.

Also, don't forget the tea! Gather some leaves in the summer and spread them on newspapers in a warm attic until they seem thoroughly dry. It makes an excellent tea rich in vitamin C.

Please remember when collecting any wild foods to be mindful of how much you gather, and where you are collecting the plants. Never take an entire stand, be respectful of private property, and be POSITIVE of correct identification of your plants.

Caution: Never eat plants that grow near roads or driveways. Heavy metals from car exhausts poison the ground and end up in the plants for decades.

Persimmon Nut Bread

2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. sugar
1½ sticks butter
2 eggs, beaten
½ pint persimmon pulp
½ c. nuts, chopped



Sift the flour and baking soda together. In a separate bowl cream the sugar and butter, add the beaten eggs, & then stir in the flour mixture. Finally, stir in the pulp and nuts. It makes a stiff batter that you then divide into 2 small loaf pans (lined with wax paper). Bake 1 hour at 325°. The persimmons darken as they cook, so the bread will be a moist dark brown, like gingerbread, and totally delicious.

(Continued from page 6)

tion is something we can't afford. Diverse plants, wildlife and fish provide us with priceless benefits—from supplying lifesaving drugs to maintaining natural ecosystems for flood protection, drinking water, recreation and eco-tourism.

- ☞ Recreation in healthy wildland ecosystems, including hunting, fishing and wildlife watching produces \$108 billion in annual revenues, equivalent to the 7th largest corporation in America.
- ☞ Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching employs nearly as many people—2.6 million—as in the computer industry in the United States.
- ☞ There are approximately 44.3 million anglers in America, which produce \$41.5 billion in retail sales, 1,068,046 jobs and \$116 billion in overall economic impact.
- ☞ Once extirpated from Yellowstone National Park, the reintroduction of the gray wolf in 1995 pursuant to the Endangered Species Act has boosted revenues in local communities by \$10 million annually and total benefits are expected to reach \$23 million a year.

For more information, contact Sarah Matsumoto, Endangered Species Coalition, (510) 486-0567 or smatsumoto@stopextinction.org.

Wildland Ecosystem Services: Did YOU Know?

- The annual economic value for global ecosystem services is estimated at **\$33 trillion!**
- Nearly **1/4** of prescriptions written in the U.S. are derived from wild species.
- Soil erosion leads to losses of services, such as nutrient storage valued at **\$27 billion** per year for the United States alone.



POLLINATION

- For the U.S. alone, pollination of agricultural crops by wild pollinators has an estimated value of **\$4.1 to \$6.7 billion** per year.
- **80%** of the world's crop species (fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea, cocoa, spices) are pollinated by wild and semi-wild pollinators.
- Honeybee crop pollination services are **60-100 times** more valuable than the honey they produce.



WETLANDS

Water Purification, Commodity Production, Flood Control

- A Presidential science commission calculated that it would cost **\$6 - 8 billion** to construct a water treatment plant for New York City to replace wildland water purification services.
- A minimum of **\$5 million** would be required to replace the water purification services of the Congaree Bottomland Hardwood Swamp in South Carolina.
- The marshes of Louisiana produce over **\$200 million** in annual commercial fish and shellfish harvest.

The Ecological Society of America defines Ecosystem Services as the processes by which the environment produces goods and benefits often taken for granted, such as clean water, fertile soils, timber, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, and pollination.

- The Army Corps of Engineers estimated **\$17 million** in flood damage if wetlands in the Charles River watershed in Massachusetts were destroyed.



RECREATION

- **77 million** Americans spent **\$101 billion** in 1996 on wildlife-associated recreation, including bird watching, wildflower viewing, and hiking.
- Wildlife-associated recreation supported over **1 million full and part time jobs** nationwide in 1996.



FORESTS

- A 1989 study found that in the Pacific Northwest, harvest and sale of mushrooms and other non-timber forest products was a **\$128.5 million** industry employing more than **10,000** people.
- National Forest roadless areas in the 48 contiguous states have a value of **\$1 - \$1.5 billion** per year in ecosystem services such as carbon storage, water purification and waste treatment.
- An average acre of sustainably managed tropical forest is worth approximately **\$220 per year**. This includes: \$69 from non timber forest products (mushrooms, fibers), \$17 from recreation, \$10 from watershed functions including flood control, and \$110 from timber.

Native Plant Conservation Campaign

www.plantsocieties.org Ph: 415 970 0394 E-mail: eroberson@biologicaldiversity.org



Wild Lands, Plants and Animals: NATURE'S PHARMACY, OUR TREASURE CHEST



WILD SPECIES PROVIDE MEDICINES WE DEPEND ON

- 56% of the 150 most popular prescribed drugs are derived from compounds found in the wild, with an annual economic value of \$80 billion.
- Nearly 1/4 of prescriptions written in the U.S. are derived from wild species.
- At least 13% of flowering plants – 53,000 species globally – are used medicinally.
 - BUT - less than one percent (1%) of tropical plant species have been screened for pharmaceutical applications.
 - SO - At current extinction rates, experts estimate that we lose one major drug source every 2 years. Cures for cancer or AIDS may be waiting to be discovered in an imperiled plant or animal.



EXAMPLES

- The bark of the Pacific Yew, a tree found in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, contains the substance marketed as Taxol®—approved for treatment of ovarian, breast, and lung cancer.
- Quinine, used to prevent malaria, is derived from the bark of the Cincona tree, native to South America.
- The Rosy Periwinkle provides the cure for Hodgkin's disease and some forms of leukemia. This plant was on the brink of extinction from deforestation in its native Madagascar until scientists discovered its medicinal value.
- Digitalis, derived from Purple Foxglove, extends the life span of an estimated 3

million Americans who suffer from heart disease.

- Star Anise, a Chinese herb long used to treat infants for colic, provides a key ingredient in the anti-viral drug Tamiflu®. The plant is thus at the center of the worldwide search for a cure for avian flu and the threatened global flu pandemic.
- Microorganisms are the source of more than 3,000 antibiotics including penicillin, produced by the fungus *Penicillium*
- Native forests in Belize are estimated to be worth between \$726 and \$3327/hectare for their medicinal plants alone.
- Rooibos, a member of the pea family from South Africa, is a concentrated source of antioxidants.
- Aspirin, also known as acetylsalicylic acid, comes from the bark of the willow tree.
- Devil's Club, native to Pacific Northwest old growth forests, is used to treat a range of problems from arthritis to indigestion. It is particularly useful against infections and diabetes.



ANIMALS HELP TOO!

- Tests in Australia have shown that Crocodile blood may contain compounds that kill the HIV virus.
- Gila Monster saliva helps diabetics. The drug Byetta®, recently given U.S. approval for treatment of diabetes, is made from Gila Monster saliva. The drug can control blood sugar for longer periods than older diabetes drugs, and helps with weight loss.

Native Plant Conservation Campaign – A Project of the Center for Biological Diversity

www.plantsocieties.org * Pnt: 415 970 0394 * E-mail: emberson@biologicaldiversity.org

A GARDENER'S DELIGHT! GPF-PGV ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY NATIVE PLANT SALE

by Jamie Ellis

Outside Lincoln Square Village the weather was cold, rainy, and gray, but inside the atmosphere was warm and bustling with excited gardeners! They were shopping at the GPF-PGV annual Mother's Day Native Plant Sale. Almost 40 species of native prairie grasses and forbs as well as woodland wildflowers were for sale. Estimates show that over 1600 pots of plants went home with lucky gardeners. Proceeds raised will be used to fund the summer internship and other conservation efforts.

Besides native plants, shoppers also picked up herbs and associated plants from the Champaign-Urbana Herb Society, and they bought vegetable, annual, and bedding plants from the Champaign-Urbana Business and Professional Women. Thanks to members of both of these organizations

for making a great sale.

Thanks also goes to our many dedicated volunteers who spent their valuable time collecting, cleaning and planting seed; transplanting seedlings; and hauling and selling plants. Our organization couldn't function without these volunteers. Thanks to Lynne Scott for working with Lincoln Square to secure the space. A special thanks goes to John E. Marlin and John C. Marlin for providing woodland wildflowers for sale. Phil Hult and Gail Snowdon were able to once again provide some interesting or hard to grow prairie plants from their garden. Thanks also to Andy Coyle for donating a nice selection of native woodland plants, and to Ruth Walker for bringing in some native roses. We'll do it again next year!

Thanks to these dedicated volunteers

Ansel Anderson
Michael Avara
Steve Buck
Dan Carocci
Cassie Connor
Nancy Coutant
Nancy Delcomyn
Sadie Dizney
Sharon Dorsey
Michelle Downs
Connor Dugan
Brian Eddings
Jamie Ellis
Jim Fay
Steph Fetzner
Peter Frank
Nick Halloran
Kerry Helms
John Hilty
Megan Hoffert
Matt Hohmann
Jim Hoyt
Phil Hult
Eric Johnson
Liz Kely
Sarah Ketchum
Carolyn Knox
James Kraus
Betsy Kuchinke
Jon Kupja
Jesse Kurylo
Keuleena Lee

Robert Lewis
Derek Liebert
Sam Lurry
Paul Marcum
John Marlin
Nohra Mateus-Pinilla
Molly McColl
Dirk Mol
Matt Montgomery
Erika Moran
Travis Murphy
Michael Murphy
Dan Olson
Mike Polito
Jackie Potter
Alan Rider
Lynne Scott
Gail Snowdon
Valerie Sivicek
Larry Smith
Ingrid Swanson
Cynthia Swanson
Sierra Trame
Tjelmeg Uizibayan
Jeff Ungrund
Bob Vaiden
Bill Wasson
Mindy Watts-Ellis
Jolene Wright
Jerry Wray
Rose Yaguchi

PUBLIC RELATIONS VOLUNTEER NEEDED

GPF-PGV relies on volunteers to provide natural area stewardship and raise money for those efforts. We also need a way to tell the public who we are, what we're doing, and when we're doing it. Are you someone who's organized and able to articulate the work we do? Then maybe you're the right person to help us with public relations. We're looking for a volunteer who can spread the word about upcoming workdays and events through the appropriate venues (email, newspaper, radio, TV). If you're interested in volunteering for this task, please contact Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu).



**GPF-PGV volunteers
assisting during
the plant sale and
prairie lovers
buying plants!**



photos by Jim Payne

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act is a safety net for wildlife, plants and fish that are on the brink of extinction. It has been successful in preventing the extinction of the American Bald Eagle, as well as many other species of fish, plants and wildlife.

One of the most effective ways to protect species is to protect the places where they live. The Endangered Species Act protects the critical habitat that is needed to prevent the extinction of endangered fish, plants and wildlife.

The Endangered Species Act requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use the most rigorous science available when developing common sense solutions to prevent the extinction of endangered fish, plants and wildlife.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home. We have a responsibility to prevent the extinction of fish, plants and wildlife because once they are gone, we cannot bring them back.

The Endangered Species Act works to protect species on the brink of extinction.

- ∞ According to the National Research Council, the Endangered Species Act has saved hundreds of species from extinction.
- ∞ According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Act has saved 99.3% of its listed species from extinction.

(Continued on page 6)

A Prairie Rendezvous

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Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

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- ∞ *Prairie Chef*
- ∞ *Native Plant Sale*

... and more
