

A Prairie Rendezvous



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

FALL VOL. 6, NO. 4, 2004

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF NATURAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP

By Mary Ann Feist and Brenda Molano-Flores

On June 26th at Meadowbrook Park in Urbana, Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers celebrated a big stepping stone: 20 years of protection, promotion, and stewardship of Central Illinois natural areas. Over 30 people, including new, old, and founding members of the organization, came to share their thoughts and memories of two decades of GPF-PGV. Joyce Hoffman gave a brief history of the early years of the organization and reminded us of the bright future ahead. Photo albums with news clippings and photos from the 80s and 90s showed how much we have accomplished over the years, from getting our first site, Shortline Prairie, to the many workdays now hosted by GPF-PGV. These photos and news clippings capture the essence of what local volunteers can do: protect, promote, and steward. We would like to thank everybody that took part and



20 years have never tasted sooooo delicious!



Original and new members of the GPF-PGV board cutting the cake. From left to right: Brenda Molano-Flores, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Mare and Jim Payne, Mary Hruska, Joyce Hofmann, and Paul Marcum.



Jim Hoyt working on recruiting a new member. Yes, we never miss the opportunity to strengthen our membership.



People enjoying the food and conversation at the anniversary celebration.

(all photos by Bob Vaiden)

helped organize this celebration. Special thanks to Mare and Jim Payne for taking care of the cake, Brenda Molano-Flores for purchasing and grilling all the meat (despite being a vegetarian!),

Bob Vaiden for taking photos, and Derek Liebert for reserving the Meadowbrook Park Pavilion. Also thanks to the Volunteer Stewards' Network for providing funding for the event.

A Prairie Rendezvous

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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 PO 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 GPF-PGV, PO Box 36, Urbana, IL 61803-0036.

www.prairienet.org/gpf

GPF-PGV Board of Directors (term ends)

Jason Koontz, President (2004)

Brenda Molano-Flores, Vice-President (2004)

Jim Payne, Treasurer (2006)

Bryan Krall, Secretary (2005)

Joyce Hofmann (2004), Derek Liebert (2006), Paul Marcum (2005),

Kim Petzing (2004), Bob Vaiden (2004)

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: Paul Marcum

Education: Bryan Krall

Publicity: Joyce Hofmann

Land Acquisition: Jim Payne

Fund Raising: Derek Liebert

Submission Deadlines

✂ Winter Issue '05 (Dec., Jan., Feb.): November 1

✂ Spring Issue '05 (Mar., Apr., May): February 1

✂ Summer Issue '05 (June, July, Aug.): May 1

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Jason Koontz, President GPF-PGV

What an interesting summer we've had. The weather has been incredible; we've been pretty lucky that most of the heat and humidity has been kept to a minimum. And what is up with the record low temperatures in mid-August? Not that I'm complaining because I actually like the cooler weather. But I'm sure it will heat up once school starts. The response to the summer issue of *A Prairie Rendezvous* has been very positive and Brenda Molano-Flores and I hope you find this issue equally good. We've really worked hard to get more photos and feature stories that you can expect in future issues. As always, we can use any help in writing stories and if you have suggestions or comments, please send them to us at: gpf@prairienet.org or to the GPF-PGV PO Box.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for September 17th at which time we will elect new board members. This year we have two additional vacancies, as Kim Petzing resigned due to conflicts, and I accepted a faculty position at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. Dr. Stan Chagnon has agreed to give his presentation tying weather and prairie together in ways you may not have thought of, so it should be an excellent meeting.

I've really enjoyed my time as GPF-PGV President and know I leave the organization in capable hands. The new board will inherit a great group of people dedicated to preserving natural communities in East Central Illinois, and I look forward to reading about our activities in future issues of *A Prairie Rendezvous*!

BOOK REVIEW

by Adrienne Edwards, *Plant Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey*

Imagine if native plants were incorporated as ornamentals in every yard across the Midwest, where birds and pollinators wouldn't have to travel across sterile, chemically treated lawns edged with pollen-free exotic annuals and evergreen Asian-English hybrid yews to get to the rare prairie oasis.

Nowakowski's book is a big step towards making landscaping, with tallgrass prairie habitats in mind, accessible to even novice gardeners. His book is unusual among native plant books because it offers not just a collection of native plants suitable for use in urban and suburban gardens, but also a compendium of many aspects of gardening and landscaping with native plants.

The first chapters set the stage for bringing the prairie to your yard. The book starts with a brief description of how and why the tallgrass prairie region came to be. The second chapter spells out the advantages and benefits of planting natives. The third chapter offers advice for novices on everything from where to get more information to step-by-step instructions for how to assess your soils. The author deftly brings neophytes and more experienced gardeners to a similar level of appreciation.

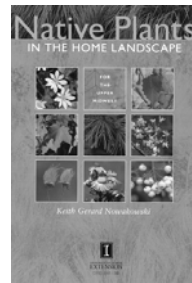
The fourth chapter contains descriptive tables and lovely color photographs of individual species, along with anecdotal and cultural information. The tables efficiently supply key information about each species, including flowering times and brief floral descriptions, yet it would have been nice to have parallel information about fruits. Better use could have been made in the text regarding closely related species suitable for gardens. The biggest complaint I have against this book, however, concerns all the nice native plants that were left out. The author states that his decisions about which plants to include were based on commercial availability, attractiveness and seasonal interest, ease of culture, and suitability to small areas. Those familiar with native tallgrass prairie species could certainly argue cases for the inclusion of many, many more species. Indeed, a book like this could impact the native plant

trade in the Midwest. Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers could play a role in increasing the palette of commercially available plants through our observations and seed collections in the field.

The last two chapters deal with the design and implementation of native landscaping. Many times I have heard the lament that "I wouldn't know how to mix native plants in with the exotic stuff I already have!" Nowakowski does a nice job in the fifth chapter of empowering the timid with five landscape designs for different tallgrass prairie "habitats": woodland, streamside, duneland, prairie, and savanna. These designs could be easily modified depending on landscaping experience and plant availability. The final chapter has general information on how to plant and maintain your plantings, information that is widely available elsewhere, but it well presented, nonetheless.

Overall, this is a handy reference to have. If stranded on a Midwestern "desert island" with only one book about landscaping with native plants, this would be the one to have. I'm hoping that the very few minor typos and typesetting errors will be corrected in the next, greatly expanded edition. Two green thumbs up!

Editor's Note: GPF-PGV is selling copies of *Native Plants in the Home Landscape* for \$20 + \$ 3 shipping. Paid members of GPF-PGV receive a 10% discount making the book \$18. Contact Jim Payne, GPF-PGV Treasurer, for ordering information (jpayne@shout.net, 217-344-7840). The book can also be ordered directly from the University of Illinois for \$26.50 online at <https://webstore.aces.uiuc.edu/shopsite/C1381.html>, or toll-free at 1-800-345-6087.



STAY IN TOUCH WITH ECOSTEWARDS LISTSERV

by Jason Koontz

Many of GPF-PGV's day-to-day activities and special announcements get posted on the Ecostewards listserv. "This list was created to facilitate communication between stewards and volunteers in the ecological restoration and conservation community of East Central Illinois," writes Jamie Ellis, manager of the listserv.

When you subscribe you will receive e-mails posted by any member of the list. We often turn to the list if we need to send a call out for volunteers for new or emergency workdays and for any corrections or updates for workdays published in *A*

Prairie Rendezvous. After you subscribe, you'll receive an e-mail with more information on managing your preferences. For example, I prefer to receive postings in "digest" mode. With this option selected, I get one e-mail a day (as long as one note is posted to the list, if no one posts anything, you won't receive anything) with a table of contents at the beginning.

To learn more about the Ecostewards listserv and to subscribe, please visit: <https://mail.prairienet.org/mailman/listinfo/ecostewards>



Prairie Grove Volunteers and Grand Prairie Friends Activity Calendar



Grand
Prairie
Friends



Prairie Grove
Volunteers

FALL 2004

Volunteer Stewardship Activities

Winter/Early Spring burns 2004/2005: Burns may be scheduled in October-February 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 Dan Busemeyer (244-2470) or Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) for more information.

Seed collection 2004

GPF-PGV Plant Sale: GPF-PGV will be collecting seeds this fall for the 2005 plant sale Saturday, October 2nd and October 9th. 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.

Buffalo Trace Prairie: Calling all volunteers to help collect prairie seeds at Buffalo Trace Prairie at Lake of the Woods Park in Mahomet. We have scheduled several times to gather seed to be used in expanding this developing prairie. Come on out to help speed its progress.

- Sunday, October 3rd, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday October 10th, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday October 24th, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Any time you can help out would be appreciated. If it is raining there will be no seed collecting on that day. Bring gloves and clippers if you have them. Directions: From Champaign take Interstate I-74 west to the Mahomet exit. Turn right at the stop sign at the end of the ramp on Rt 47 going north. Turn left at first left (County Road 2400 N) and turn left again at the next county road. Parking lot is on the left across from the cell-phone tower. Walk out on the bike path to the prairie between the 0.3-0.4 Mile mark on the bike path.

Seed cleaning 2004: GPF-PGV will be cleaning seed Monday, November 29th and December 6th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the NRSA greenhouse. Contact Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu, 244-5695) for more information.

Seed planting and transplanting 2005: 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.

Note: Exact dates for seed cleaning/planting/transplanting and burning will be announced on the ecostewards listserv.

Every Sunday: Red Bison. Workdays held every Sunday unless otherwise noted. Members and non-members welcome. Contact Paul Heiberger (pheiberger@uiuc.edu) or Lori Kae Schwab (schwab@inhs.uiuc.edu) for additional information.

- 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.

Every Friday: Champaign County Humane Society Native Garden. The Champaign County Master Gardeners will be having a worktime at the Champaign County Humane Society Native Garden each Friday from 4-6 p.m. *except* for September 20th. In case of rain workdays will be cancelled. We will be transplanting, watering, and collecting seed for use by the Urbana Park District's "Weaver Park". Wear long pants, bring hand pruners, trowels, sun screen, and drinking water. Contact Jim Hoyt e-mail jwhoyt@prairienet.org

Sunday, September 12th, with a rain date for Sunday, September 19th: Windsor Road. Brush cutting, trash pick up and herbicide spraying. Please bring water, gloves and wear heavy boots. The workday will be from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Ruth Green at 355-8125 (H) or at 649-9978 (cell). Hope to see you there!

Saturday, September 18th: Middle Fork of the Vermilion River. We will be working on honeysuckle, autumn olive, and multiflora rose. We will work for 1-2 hours and take a hike around the area to enjoy one of the nicer places in central Illinois. Meet at APNC* at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Contact Dan Busemeyer at 244-2470 (W) or 377-6589 (H) for more information.

Saturday, September 25th: Parkland College Prairies. We will be collecting prairie seeds from Earl Creutzburg and Heidi's prairies. If time permits, we will collect seed from a Butterfly Garden near the Red Barn. Bring Gloves, wear long pants, bring paper bags, sun screen, and water to drink. The

workday will start at 10 a.m. Contact Jim Hoyt at jwhoyt@prairienet.org

Sunday, October 17th with a rain date on Sunday, October 24th: Windsor Road. Brush cutting, trash pick up and herbicide spraying. Please bring water, gloves and wear heavy boots. The workday will be from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Ruth Green at 355-8125 (H) or at 649-9978 (cell). Hope to see you there!

Saturday, October 23: Middle Fork Bluffs, Kickapoo State Park (immediately east of the Salt Kettle interstate rest stop on west-bound I-74). We will be working on honeysuckle and multiflora rose. The sugar maple, ash, oaks, and dogwood should be vibrant about now. Meet at APNC* at 9:00 AM to carpool, or on at the rest stop at 10:00 AM. Contact Dan Busemeyer at 244-2470 (W) or 377-6589 (H) for more information.

Late October and early November: Windsor Road, we will be raking in seeds on the north sides of Windsor Road. Please contact Ruth Green at 355-8125 (H) or at 649-9978 (cell) for additional information.

Sunday, November 14th with a rain date on Sunday, November 21th: Windsor Road. Brush cutting, trash pick up and herbicide spraying. Please bring water, gloves and wear heavy boots. The workday will be from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Ruth Green at 355-8125 (H) or at 649-9978 (cell). Hope to see you there!

(Grant from page 10)

We will receive \$1000 to help defray the expenses incurred from the summer internship program.

Our most recent grant comes from the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) which is a not-for-profit foundation developed by the IDNR and its Conservation Congress. As with the other grants, GPF-PGV will provide a monetary and volunteer match for the \$485 the ICF

will provide. The project is entitled "GPF fully implement these grants to make Prairie Education Program," and we will use the money to develop a new table top display for GPF-PGV and a ready-to-show slide show program. Volunteers will use the display and slide show to educate interested groups in natural areas conservation, in prairie and woodland ecology, and in the work we do.

Many volunteers including Jamie Ellis and Jim Payne will be helping to success-

fully implement these grants to make GPF-PGV a stronger more visible group. A special thanks goes to those who helped with the grant writing process and those who will help with implementation. If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer with implementation, please contact Jamie at (217) 244-5695 or jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loda Steward update

David and Justine Trout and Bill Archer of Loda have agreed to serve as site stewards for Loda Cemetery Prairie! Thanks to the three of them for volunteering and we look forward to helping you steward Loda! We'll feature them in the next issue of *A Prairie Rendezvous*, so stay tuned!



GPF-PGV wish list

Our summer interns are getting a lot of use out of the GPF-PGV truck donated by Ruth Green several years ago. Over the last several months the truck has needed some rather expensive repairs and we are not sure how much longer it will last! The GPF-PGV Board of Directors asks that if anyone wishes to donate a truck, GPF-PGV could really use another one.



STEWARD SPOTLIGHT: DAN BUSEMEYER

by Dan Busemeyer

My name is Dan Busemeyer. I've been working as a botanist/wetland ecologist for almost five years at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign/Urbana. I grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. I was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago and a master's student in plant population genetics at the University of Cincinnati where I did a study of *Rubus moluccanus*, an Asian species of raspberry. I collected specimens of this plant in the Philippines where I was fortunate to spend 10 months as part of a Biodiversity documentation and collection expedition of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and the National Museum, Manila, Philippines. I also spent two years in graduate school at Texas A&M in College Station in the forestry department. I worked for 2 years as an environmental inspector during the installation of natural gas pipelines around Chicago and in Nova Scotia. Since my undergraduate days in Chicago I've been interested in botany and natural areas conservation. At that time (in the late 80's) I participated in buckthorn control workdays at Chicago natural areas.

I was introduced to GPF-PGV in late 1999 by Mary Ann Feist and Rick Larimore. Currently I am the volunteer steward for a dry-mesic 40 acre piece of woods in Kickapoo State Park along the Middle Fork of the Vermilion. For more than



four years I've had workdays to reduce the abundance of exotic plant species at the site including garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle, and autumn olive. Recently I have discovered populations of *Euonymus americanus* (strawberry bush) and *Veratrum woodii* (false hellebore), two Illinois listed plant species, at the site. Finally, I am co-burn coordinator with Jamie Ellis for GPF-PGV and since 1999 I have participated in 25 controlled burns in Illinois. I hope to see you at one of my workdays or during a prescribed burn.



One thing that Dan did not mention is that he is an avid photographer and he is the creator of a cool web page, Gallery of Illinois Plants (http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwe/illinois_plants/PlantsofIllinois.html).

RESEARCH CORNER: ASSISTED CROSS-POLLINATION

by Brenda Molano-Flores and Jason Koontz

Have you noticed that several inflorescences of milkweeds are bagged in some of our GPF-PGV sites? This is part of an ongoing research project by Lydia Miramontes, a student at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL. As many of you are aware, today less than 1% of the original prairie in Illinois remains and much of it is found in small isolated patches. Not only do we have small prairie patches, but many of the plant populations within

these patches are small and isolated. This can have many negative consequences, including loss of genetic diversity which

can lead to reduced levels of growth, survival, and reproduction. The ultimate price that small isolated plant populations can pay is extinction. Lydia's research is trying to address whether assisted pollina-

tion serves as an effective tool in restoring reproductive vigor in isolated populations. The three species of milkweed that Lydia is using are *Asclepias syriaca*, common milkweed, *A. tuberosa*, butterfly weed, and *A. verticillata*, whorled milkweed.

Lydia has bagged several inflorescences for each species and conducted different types of crosses. In one cross, Lydia has moved pollen from the same species between plants at different study sites to see if fruit and seed set will increase. This fall she will determine how successful her crosses were, and if fruits have formed she will collect them and deter-



Butterfly Milkweed (Photo courtesy Dan Busemeyer and Gallery of Illinois Plants)

(Research Corner continued on page 7)

SITE SPOTLIGHT: FAIRCHILD CEMETERY PRAIRIE AND SAVANNA NATURE PRESERVE

by Brenda Molano-Flores

Located in Vermilion County, this small pioneer cemetery is one of the few remaining savanna remnants left in Illinois. Fairchild Cemetery is owned by the Vermilion County Conservation District and was dedicated as a nature preserve in June 1986. Originally Fairchild Cemetery was 0.5 acre, but through the efforts of GPF-PGV members Jim Payne, Connie Carroll- Cunningham, and Chris Hauser, and Mary Kay Solecki of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) an additional 0.89 acre tract of land was purchased by GPF-PGV to buffer the nature preserve. It took several years to accomplish this task, but the INPC provided final approval to dedicate this addition to Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna Nature Preserve at its meeting on August 3, 2004. The dedication document has been forwarded to the Director of IDNR and the Governor for their signatures. The nature preserve dedication of the additional land will become final once the Governor signs the dedication document. This should take 4-6 weeks. The GPF-PGV acquisition and dedication of 0.89 acre at Fairchild has more than doubled the size of the nature preserve from 0.5 acre to 1.39 acres.

One interesting fact about Fairchild Cemetery is that it is one of nine nature preserves found within the Vermilion River Resource Rich Area. Some of the predominant plants of this prairie/savanna are big bluestem, Indian grass, New Jersey tea, showy goldenrod, yellow coneflower, and prairie rose. To maintain this site as a savanna prescribed burns and brush cutting have been conducted. For many years, the Vermilion County Audubon Society protected and managed the site.

Fairchild Cemetery has a new GPF-PGV steward, Bill Handel a botanist with the Illinois Natural History Survey. In a future issue of the newsletter we will tell you more about this



Bill Handel, squinting at the blazing redness from all of the Indian paintbrush at Westfall Prairie. (Photo by Greg Spyreas)

steward. If you want to visit Fairchild Cemetery from Danville, at the junction of Hwy. 1 (Hwy. 136, Vermilion Street) and Winter Avenue, take Winter Avenue west and northwest across Lake Vermilion 4.2 miles to blacktop road, then turn and go west 1.8 miles to gravel road, then turn and go north and northwest 1 mile. The nature preserve is on the northeast side of the road.

(Note: For photos of Fairchild cemetery, see page 8)



Common Milkweed (Photo courtesy Dan Busemeyer and Gallery of Illinois Plants)

(Research Corner continued from page 6)

mine seed set. You may wonder why she is doing this type of research. Determining whether cross pollination between small populations can effectively increase seed set among populations can lead to a better management of these populations. Resource managers, assisted by volunteers, may be able to conduct the type of crosses that Lydia is doing in an effort to maintain genetic diversity of small plant populations. Overall this type of supplemental pollen addition may help prevent local extinction and maintain overall genetic diversity.



Whorled Milkweed (Photo courtesy Dan Busemeyer and Gallery of Illinois Plants)

Fairchild Cemetery



Photo by unidentified GPF intern

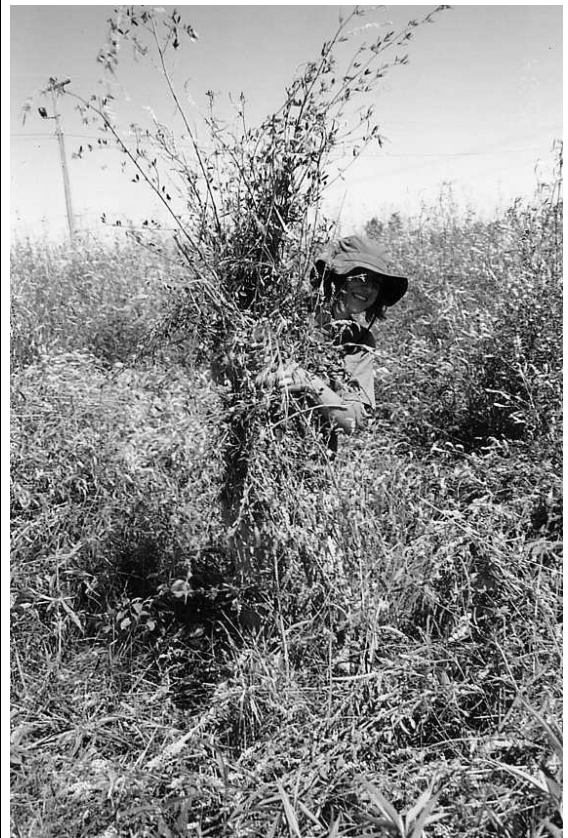


Photo by Mary Ann Feist

Prospect Cemetery



Sweet clover eradication crew at Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve on Saturday June 26, 2004. From left to right: Paul Marcum, Jim Hoyt, Mark Uchanski, Don Gardner, Mary Kay Solecki, John Taft, Vera Bojic, and Valerie Sivicek. (Photo by Jamie Ellis)



Valerie Sivicek, former GPF-PGV intern and Red Bison member, heaves an armload of recently cut sweet clover at Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve.

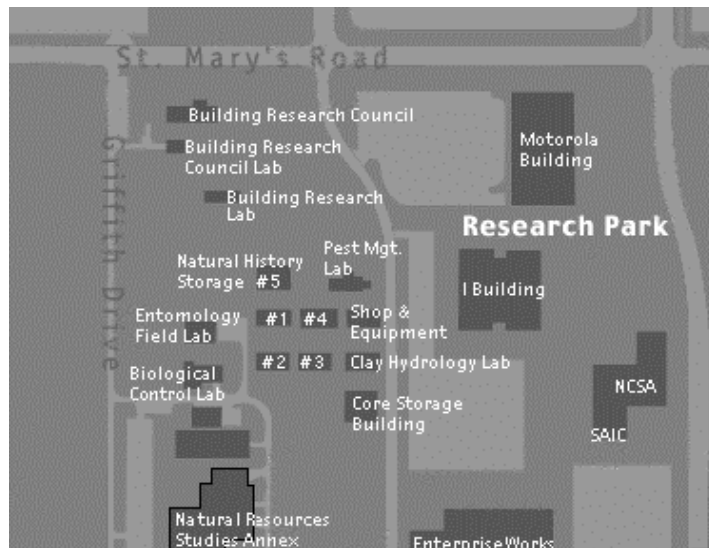
GPF-PGV TOOL SHED: WHERE IS IT?

By Brenda Molano-Flores, Mary Ann Feist and James L. Ellis

As we get new members and new stewards it is always a good idea to remind everybody about a unique facility that Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers has, the tool shed. The tool shed is owned by GPF-PGV and was purchased in December 1998. Tools and other equipment are available for natural areas stewardship as long as they are returned in a timely fashion and in working order. Tools and equipment (see list below) have been donated and purchased by GPF-PGV from generous funds provided by the IDNR Wildlife Checkoff Grant, The Nature Conservancy-Volunteer Stewardship Network (TNC-VSN), and GPF-PGV members.

The following people can be contacted if you need access to the tool shed for a workday: Paul Marcum (217-333-8459; pmarcum@inhs.uiuc.edu), Dan Busemeyer (217-244-2470; busemeyer@inhs.uiuc.edu), Derek Liebert (derekliebert@yahoo.com), Joyce Hofmann (217-244-2366; jhofmann@inhs.uiuc.edu), and Jamie Ellis (217-244-5695; jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu). Please call or email during the week before a workday to get access to the tool shed. Although we are aware that many stewards would rather have a key to the shed, the GPF-PGV board has made the decision that only this group of people should have keys. This way we can make sure that all items are returned on time and in good order. Stewards, please fill out the check-out form that is available at the shed when you borrow equipment.

The tool shed is located behind the Natural History Storage Unit #5 (see map). This storage unit is near the Illinois Natural History Survey South Annex (i.e., Natural Resources Studies Annex) 1910 S. Griffith Drive, Champaign.



Items Available in the Tool Shed

- bow saws
- chainsaw chaps
- council rakes
- diesel can
- drip torches
- flappers
- folding chairs
- folding tables
- garden rakes
- hand pruners
- handheld herbicide sprayers
- Indian backpack pumpers
- Indian bag style pumper
- leather fire gloves
- leather work gloves
- limb saws
- loppers
- Nomex jumpsuits
- orange chainsaw helmets
- orange road cones
- plastic gas cans
- post driver
- seed sorting screens
- shovels
- sledge hammer
- smoke ahead signs
- smoke goggles
- Stihl brush cutter
- Stihl chainsaw
- Stihl leafblower
- wheel barrow
- yellow fire helmets



Left: The outside of the GPF-PGV shed



Right: The inside of the shed

SUMMER INTERN PROFILE

by James L. Ellis

Albert Carbo, the newest GPF-PGV 2004 summer intern, holds a cut teasel stem. Albert, along with Vera Bojic, has spent many hours controlling invasive weeds such as teasel in local prairie preserves. He is currently an undergraduate student at the U of I, where he is majoring in Integrative Biology and Anthropology.



ANNUAL MEETING

by Jason Koontz

Please join GPF-PGV for our fall meeting on Friday, Sept. 17th at 7 p.m. at the Anita Purves Nature Center, 1505 N. Broadway, Urbana. Help us to continue our 20th year celebration! Our featured speaker will be Dr. Stan Changnon. His talk, "Climate Conditions Defining the Tallgrass Prairie," will explore the development and dominance of prairie in Illinois and will begin around 7:30 p.m.

The event will begin with a short business meeting to elect new board members. This year we are faced with five (5) open seats. If you are interested in serving, please contact Jamie Ellis (jamese@inhs.uiuc.edu or 217-244-5695).

Also, there will be a dessert potluck. Please bring some treats to share, and GPF-PGV will provide drinks (coffee, tea, soda).

GRANT SUCCESS AIDS GROUP IN CONSERVATION WORK

by James L. Ellis

Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers rely on the generosity of our members to donate time and money to fulfill the conservation and education mission of the group. This year has been especially good for GPF-PGV, as we have been the successful recipients of three monetary grants.

The largest grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is

for \$6200 and will span two years. The money will be used, in part, to fund two full-time summer interns for the summers of 2004 and 2005. Vera Bojic and Albert Carbo, our 2004 interns, have already been working hard on stewardship of our natural areas because of this grant. Typically, we have enough money to fund one full-time or two half-time interns. Hopefully when this grant is

complete, we will be able to find ways to fund two full-time interns past 2005.

Once again, we are the successful recipients of a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund. This fund administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources provides money for conservation projects around the state.

(Grant on page 5)

A Prairie Rendezvous

PO Box 36
Urbana, IL 61803-0036



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In this issue...

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... and more