



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

June 2016

Antique Bicycle Events in Path communities - July 6-10



American Light Champion, 1889, made by Gormully & Jeffery in Chicago



Chicago's First Velocipede made in spring 1869 by Loring and Keene in Chicago

The Wheelmen is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping alive the heritage of American cycling, promoting the restoration and riding of early cycles manufactured prior to 1918, and encouraging cycling as part of modern living. Join The Wheelmen for their July 2016 Meet in celebration of 150 years of cycling in America. More information is at www.thewheelmen.org.

Thursday, July 7 - 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Century Run/Ride on the Illinois Prairie Path. Antique bikes will be ridden from Elmhurst College to Wheaton to Elgin and back to Elmhurst College on the Great Western Trail. This loop will be repeated three times. The ride will conclude at Elmhurst College with a lecture on the History of Illinois Bicycles by Carey Williams from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, July 8 - 7:10 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Public demonstration, oral history, junior drill team formation riding event in downtown Wheaton. This event will conclude with a lamp-lit ride on the Illinois Prairie Path back to Elmhurst College.

While in downtown Wheaton, also check out classic cars during **2016 Vintage Rides Night**. Front Street will be full of spectacular cars for people to see and admire. This event, organized by the Downtown Wheaton Association, also includes a live DJ at Martin Memorial Plaza.

Carey Williams is a collector, researcher and rider of antique bicycles since 1997. He has ridden through Europe and Australia with various International vintage bicycling organizations including the recreation of the original "road" trip of 1865 last year from Paris to Avignon on a velocipede. He has been a Wheelmen member since 1997 and is currently National Vice Commander. On May 24, he presented the History of Bicycling at the Glen Ellyn Library.



Spend a few hours, or a lifetime volunteering with the Path

If you or someone you know would like to help improve the Path, and carry on its historic legacy of volunteer leadership and advocacy, please join us at any of these events. **Many of our amazing Legacy Volunteers have shared their talents and wisdom with the Path for over 30 years!** [For up-to-date listings and locations of all Path events visit ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org). Volunteers are welcome and needed to help with these essential, on-going projects:

FERRY FOREST GARDEN

Learn about the importance of growing food security in our suburban communities.

Location: 30W060 Ferry Rd, Naperville, IL 60563. Along the north side of Ferry Road, just east of Hwy. 59 in Naperville - *before* the bridge. Parking: Turn right on **Rigi Road** and park in the grassy parking area on the right. Wear work clothes and bring gloves and garden tools.

Contact/Updates: Forest Garden Friend (volunteer) Sign-Up: <http://vols.pt/ycx7zM>
www.theresiliencyinstitute.net

Celebrate: Sunday, July 9, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Midway Potluck at McDonald Farm at 10S404Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville.

July / August/ September Work Days:
Mondays (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.)
Thursdays (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)



Staff from The Resiliency Institute and volunteers helped prepare the ground for future plantings. Staff held a learning session on permaculture. Volunteers learned about and planted Comfrey plants that will stay in place forever, and at the end of the morning, celebrated by sampling berries from the trees.

ELMHURST GREAT WESTERN PRAIRIE

Learn about this historic prairie, prairie maintenance, preservation and advocacy.

Location: In Elmhurst at Berkley Avenue and the Prairie Path (between Salt Creek and Spring Road). Bring work gloves, work clothes and sturdy shoes...and a lopper if you have one. If you become a regular volunteer, you will receive email reminders

Contacts/Updates: David Price at dprice@epd.org or Keith Olson at keitholson@usa.net.

July/August/September Work Days:

Designated Saturdays, March through November. **(9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or Noon) - July 16, August 20, and September 17.** In case of bad weather on these work days, volunteers gather on the following Saturday.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Learn about the history and legacy of the Path, and current Path initiatives and issues. Meet the volunteer board members and bring your ideas for improving the Path.

Location: The location changes every month. Click events at www.ipp.org

Contacts/Updates: info@ipp.org or call 630-752-0120. Please call ahead if you would like to attend.

July / August / September Board Meetings: The second Tuesday evening of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 or 9 p.m. **July 12, August 9, September 13.**

Twelve community groups adopt one mile of the Path

In 2014, the DuPage County Division of Transportation initiated an Adopt-a-Trail Program for the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail. The program makes it possible for civic or private interest groups to help remove litter and maintain the trail.

TWELVE groups have joined to maintain one-mile segments:

- **Advanced Chiropractic:** IPP Aurora Branch / Mile 2 to Mile 3
- **CDM Smith Inc.:** IPP Main Stem / Liberty Street to West of Orchard Road
- **CrossFit Glen Ellyn:** Great Western Trail / Bloomingdale Road to Main Street (Glen Ellyn)
- **Elmhurst Bicycle Club:** IPP Main Stem / Monterey to Pioneer Park
- **Metea Valley High School Eco Club:** IPP Aurora Branch / CN RR crossing to Old Molitor
- **Monarch Landing Bike Club:** IPP Aurora Branch / IL 59 to Rockwell Street
- **Northwestern Flavors, LLC:** IPP Geneva Branch / Yale Street to MacQueen Street
- **Sierra Club River Prairie Group:** IPP Main Stem / Montclair Street to Hill Avenue
- **Trinity Lutheran Church:** IPP Aurora Branch / Winfield Road to Rockwell Street
- **Molex** – IPP Aurora Branch from Diehl to I-88
- **Bloomingdale Earth Citizens** – Great Western Trail from Schmale Road to Bloomingdale Road
- **Boy Scout Troop 373** – IPP Aurora Branch from Mile 3 (WWSHS) to Mile 4 (Winfield Road)



Adopted trail segments are about one-mile long. The County provides work materials (work gloves, safety vests, garbage bags) and signage. Groups are required to work four times a year between March and November. Groups are asked NOT to pick up any large, heavy, or potentially hazardous items and are asked to notify the DuPage County Division of Transportation.

If you wish to participate in the Adopt-A-Trail Program, please contact Brenda Bielik at 630.407.6900 or Adoptahwy@dupageco.org. Applications and waiver forms are available on the Division of Transportation's webpage at <https://www.dupageco.or/DOT/33352>.

National and local efforts share Path information with new audiences

Thanks to **Rails-to-Trails** for posting this article: ***How May T. Watts inspired the Illinois Prairie Path and the U.S. Rail-Trail Movement***. It was posted on 03/14/16 by Amy Kapp in *Success Stories: Taking Action*.

The entire piece is on our website at www.ipp.org. Credit for this beautiful photograph goes to: Illinois Prairie Path / Trail photo courtesy of **David Wilson** - CC by 2.0/Photo of Watts by **Isabel Wasson**.



Thanks to **Chicago Parent Magazine's Going Places** for featuring the Illinois Prairie Path as a "go to" destination for families throughout the region.

Thanks to Store Manager **Joanne K. Braford** of **Elmhurst Fruitful Yield** for inviting the Path to meet customers as part of the health store's celebration of Earth Day in April. On the left is Susan Degnan from the Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors and Joanne Braford.

Annual Earth Day Cleanup Volunteers work in rain, cold weather

Earth Day trail cleanup on the Illinois Prairie Path and The Great Western Trail was another success. The April 30th event was well attended. All volunteer coordinators reported that their groups were plentiful, and the paths were "user-ready" when cleanup was complete.

Several special groups took part from many city/towns which included mayors, trustees, varied municipal departments, civic groups, scouts, equestrians, running clubs, corporate employees and a few of our own board members along with IPP legacy volunteers. A few geocachers participated in our more remote areas. Thank you to all of the volunteers.

We welcome the **new coordinators** who stepped up to the challenge at the following locations: Maywood (Joann Murphy), Elmhurst (Dr. John Jevitz, Olympia Chiro), Glen Ellyn (Brendon Mendoza), West Chicago/Geneva Spur (Rachel Miller).

Their enthusiasm and commitment to helping out was greatly appreciated. If you or your organization would like to be added to next year's list to help us out, please contact Susan Degnan at suelite97@yahoo.com



WINFIELD Boy Scout Troop 575 and Advocates of the Riverwalk



WHEATON Boy Scout Troop 23



WARRENVILLE community volunteers



MAYWOOD community volunteers



ELMHURST community volunteers