



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

December 2015

Visit and vote for IPP's community tree at the McCormick Museum



Photo by Ken McClurg

Help support the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation this holiday season by visiting the McCormick Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton by December 30. You will see seven special Christmas trees each decorated by a different local nonprofit. We are proud to say, our Christmas tree is trimmed and ready for your vote!

Each nonprofit received a donation from the McCormick Foundation for participation. The tree with the most votes after the close of December 30th will receive a significant additional donation.

After viewing all seven trees, there will be a voting table as well as literature on each nonprofit. You may further spread holiday cheer by donating to any of the organizations during your visit. Donations are optional.

Illinois Prairie Path(c) Board Members that served on the decorating/trimming committee were **Susie Terwedow** of Warrenville, **Susan Degnan** of Winfield, **Heather Mahler** of Batavia and **Erik Spande** of Winfield. The seven competing nonprofits are: **Illinois Prairie Path; DuPage County Historical Museum Association; The Garden Works Project; Friends of Wheaton Public Library; Operation Care Package; DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation; Ray Graham Association.** These nonprofits beautifully enhanced the Christmas trees placed throughout the museum.

Each nonprofit serves DuPage County and the mission of each is an issue or cause that was meaningful to Robert R. McCormick. Please visit www.ipp.org for additional information and history on the Illinois Prairie Path.



Robert R. McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park hours in November and December:

- Tuesday - Friday 10 AM to 4 PM
- Saturday - Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM

CLOSED: December 24 and December 25

COMMUNITY TREE EXHIBIT
Closes on Wednesday, December 30

Winter on the Path...



Thanks to photographer Christine Foley who took these photos for the Path's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2013. ©Copyright Christine Foley.

Thanks to all who attended the Path's Annual Meeting in November

The Annual Meeting of the Path, always held on the first Sunday in November, provides Path members, volunteers and the public with the opportunity to learn about Path issues and improvements, finances, and future plans.

Erik Spande, President of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation, welcomed all in attendance, and acknowledged Legacy Volunteers, members of the Board of Directors, and Annual Cleanup Team Coordinators. Path Treasurer **Rob Sperl** provided the Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2015.



Dan Thomas, DuPage County



Steve Tiwald

Presenter **Dan Thomas**, Principal Planner /Trails Coordinator for DuPage County, explained improvements that were made this year, and the county's plan for future improvements. His *2015 DuPage County Trail Report* is online at www.ipp.org.

Keynote speaker, **Steve Tiwald**, founder and executive director of the Green Earth Institute in Naperville, was introduced by board member **William Kovacs**. Tiwald explained how organic food is grown, and how programs at the Institute give people of all ages an opportunity to learn and to connect with nature by growing food. Those present enjoyed

learning the behind-the-scenes information about how the Path continues to improve, after 50 years of being available to the public.



Keynote speaker Steve Tiwald, Executive Director, Green Earth Institute



Legacy Volunteers Paul Mooring, Nancy and Dick Wilson and Member Alan Bergeson (retired board member)



Legacy Volunteer Don Westlake and Member/Musician Roger Kotecki



Legacy Volunteer Susan Terwedow and Eric Peterson, Lifetime Member, and son of founder Gunnar Peterson



Legacy Volunteers Larry Sheaffer, Connie Schmidt and Michael Schmidt

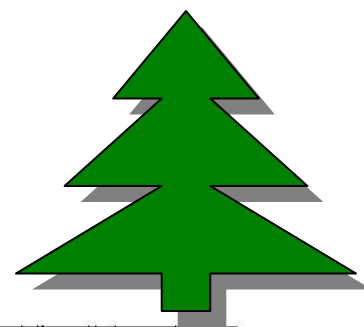


Member Joseph Heniff and Lifetime Member Vicky Franzese



Member Bill Sinner, Susan Degnan, Tracy Vought (Wheaton Annual Cleanup Coordinator) and Member John Marconnet

**The Illinois Prairie Path
Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year 2015**



Cash Balance, November 1, 2014

Checking - Chase	\$ 12,849.38
High Yield Savings	\$ 15,003.38
Office Manager's Account	\$ -
Petty Cash	\$ -
Community Bank	\$ 18,009.50
Chase Bond Fund	\$ 49,648.00
TOTAL	\$ 95,510.26

Revenue

		Budget	
Donations, Grants, Bequests	\$ 12,241.62	\$ 6,000.00	204%
Dues	\$ 25,935.00	\$ 32,000.00	81%
Sales (Maps, Shirts, Patches, Guides, etc.)	\$ 6.00	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Interest	\$ 491.40	\$ 550.00	89%
Miscellaneous	\$ 600.00	\$ -	#DIV/0!
TOTAL	\$ 39,274.02	\$ 38,550.00	102%

Expenditures

Office Management	\$ 9,425.00	\$ 6,000.00	157%
Newsletters	\$ 3,337.17	\$ 2,000.00	167%
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 202.07	\$ 500.00	40%
Litter Removal and Port-o-let	\$ 9,685.79	\$ 8,000.00	121%
Post Office	\$ 581.20	\$ 1,700.00	34%
Telephone	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0%
Special Projects	\$ 3,719.81	\$ 2,500.00	149%
Special Events	\$ 102.00	\$ 1,000.00	10%
Prairie Restoration (Contract)	\$ 9,422.00	\$ 13,000.00	72%
Sign Replacement	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0%
Scout Projects	\$ -	\$ 300.00	0%
Printing (inc. maps)	\$ 1,658.00	\$ 8,250.00	20%
Merchandise For Sale	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Donations	\$ 600.00	\$ 5,000.00	12%
Travel/ Board Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0%
Legal and Consulting	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0%
Office Supplies, etc.	\$ -	\$ 250.00	0%
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 312.00	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Insurance	\$ 1,085.00	\$ 1,200.00	90%
Web Page Maintenance	\$ 1,094.00	\$ 4,000.00	27%
Government and Service Fees	\$ 29.00	\$ 25.00	116%
Miscellaneous (PayPal)	\$ 362.00	\$ 700.00	52%
TOTAL	\$ 41,615.04	\$ 58,325.00	71%

Cash Balance, October 31, 2015

Checking - Chase	\$ 18,067.96
High Yield Savings	\$ 58,125.06
Office Manager's Account	\$ -
Petty Cash	\$ -
Community Bank	\$ 16,976.05
Chase Bond Fund	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 93,169.07

On the Path to becoming an Eagle Scout – the Hiking Merit Badge



“Hiking is a terrific way to keep your body and mind in top shape, both now and for a lifetime. Walking packs power into your legs and makes your heart and lungs healthy and strong. Exploring the outdoors challenges you with discoveries and new ideas. Your senses will improve as you use your eyes and ears to gather information along the way.” - Boy Scouts of America website – Hiking Merit Badge

On any given day, you may pass a few scouts or an entire troop on the Illinois Prairie Path, moving one step at a time, toward their personal goals. For people of any age, walking 20 miles in one day is an accomplishment. For young scouts, it requires preparation, practice, determination and LOTS of support. If you, or someone in your group of friends or family, of any age, would like to set a goal to achieve a 20 mile hike in one day, here are some time-tested steps developed by the Boy Scouts of America to achieve your goal. As always, begin with a health checkup with your doctor. Here is how one local family supported both of their sons as they followed all the *steps* to earn a Hiking Merit Badge.

It takes a village to raise a hiker. Kelly Hickey credits her husband Jim Hickey for helping their family develop an early appreciation for nature. Their sons Tom, 21, and Will, 17 both became scouts when they were in first grade. Both have been part of Boy Scout Troop 597 of the Three Fires Council in the Indian Prairie District. The troop is based in the Alleluia Lutheran Church. They are very grateful to the church for providing meeting space, to all the scout families who provided support, and to Scoutmaster Mr. Mark Niederschulte who began, led and inspired the scouts in Troop 597 through this fall.

It takes preparation and practice to hike 20 miles in one day. Scouts pass through a series of ranks, at their own pace, and earn badges along the way. Every Eagle Scout must achieve a Merit Badge either in Hiking, Cycling or Swimming. To earn the Hiking Merit Badge, a Scout must complete five 10-mile hikes, and one 20-mile hike. Additionally, the Scout must study and demonstrate acknowledge of hiking safety and preparation.

Tom Hickey, a cross-country runner in high school, was one of the first scouts in Troop 597 to achieve a Hiking Merit Badge. A few years ago, Tom walked the Illinois Prairie Path with his dad and two other scouts and their dads.

To prepare for his hike, Will had to identify all the things he would bring and map out his route. Will wore a light sweatshirt, t-shirt, shorts, athletic shoes and - most importantly, two layers of socks to reduce friction; one pair had a special toe sock to prevent blisters. Will carried a backpack with protein bars, a refillable water bottle, a first aid kit, a phone and a map.

One step at a time. On Saturday, October 10 Jim drove both Tom and Will to the head of the Path’s Aurora Branch at the Fox River. It was a perfect day – sunny and 60 degrees. The boys stopped every 4 miles for a brief time, sitting on a grassy area adjacent to the Path. Jim and Kelly met the boys as they completed their thirteenth mile - on the main branch between Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. The family had a picnic. Will swapped out his socks and shoes for fresh pairs.

Kelly took over as Will's walking partner. She explained, “We doubled back toward the trail head. Will and I saw many folks enjoying the prairie path. All were courteous and shared the path generously. We hiked to the Warrenville Public Library and our spirits were bolstered by the sculptures and flags placed near the Warrenville City Hall. We met up with Jim, who partnered with Will on his last miles.

In order to end up at the Warrenville Public Library as Will had planned, they doubled back on the trail once again. Will used the pedometer app on his phone to ensure he met his distance requirement. Will's exuberance at finishing his hike led to him running the last half mile with a huge smile on his face. Will says that he learned that he can accomplish a daunting task by taking it one step at a time.”



Will on the Path at St. James Farm



Will salutes the finishing of his 20 mile hike!