

# THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

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GENSBURG • PAINTBRUSH • SUNDROP • DROPSEED

ANNUAL SPRING SLIDE SHOW

## NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA ON THE MARKHAM PRAIRIES

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR "BACKYARD" BONANZA

Presented by Steward ERIC SCHIAVI

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30 - 8:30 pm ALL ARE INVITED

### Report from Gensburg-Markham Prairie

The Nature Conservancy was given a grant by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work on increasing the population of the white fringed orchid (*Plantanthera leucophaea*) where necessary. One site that benefited from the grant was the orchid population on the Gensburg-Markham Preserve. Seeds were collected from the Chiwaukee Prairie in Wisconsin and dispersed near the small existing population on Gensburg. It will take about 5-10 years before we'll know if these efforts were successful.

The State of Illinois Department of Conservation granted a permit to Ron Panzer and George Derkovitz to begin another population of the rare moth *Papaipema eryngii* at the Gensburg-Markham Preserve. The host plant for the moth is the rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). Many adult moths were released into the preserve where there were large concentrations of rattlesnake master plants. We will know by early June if the introduction was successful.

Mr. Bobbie Faulkner of Faulkner Enterprises has graciously given The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies permission to manage the five acres of prairie adjacent to the south boundary of the Gensburg-Markham Preserve. Management will begin in earnest this spring to reclaim this tract of high quality prairie.

Finally, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with brush control this winter. Over 200 hours were spent cutting non-native shrubs from the Gensburg site. G.D.

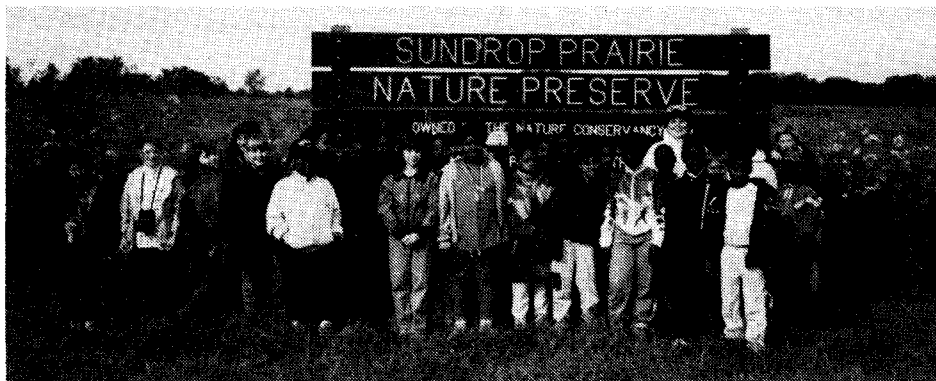
### STATE REP. STECZO SCHEDULED FOR MARCH MEETING

Thurs. March 10, 7:00 pm

Illinois State Representative, Terry Steczo, has contacted The Friends about speaking to our group. The Illinois General Assembly has convened for the Spring, 1994 Session and many decisions that will be made during this session may have an impact on the work done by The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies. Plan to be at the March meeting to listen to what Representative Steczo has to say and to respond with your opinion.

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Markham Park 4th, 5th and 6th grade students were treated to a fall tour on Sundrop Prairie by The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies. Approximately 165 budding prairie scholars were shuttlebussed to waiting tour guides. See p. 3.