

# THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

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GENSBURG ♦ PAINTBRUSH ♦ SUNDROP ♦ DROPSEED

## MUD LOVING ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mighty Acorns is a Nature Conservancy sponsored group that helps connect children to nature. The fourth grade students of Markham Park School have been involved for several years by directly participating in restoration at Sundrop Prairie in Markham. They cut brush, pull out non-native plants and collect and spread native seeds.

As more children get involved, more adult volunteers are needed. Mighty Acorns does not require that volunteers have extensive prairie knowledge or time. Volunteers will receive one half day of training in the fall, winter, and spring. Then they may be called upon for one or two days to lead small groups of students in prairie exploration and restoration.

If helping children to appreciate the outdoors appeals to you, and you have a few hours to spare, please contact Diane Reckless at the Illinois Nature Conservancy (312) 346- 8166.



*Christina Williams of Markham Park School took time for notes on Sundrop Prairie as part of her creative writing assignment involving sensory awareness. She, her 'Mighty Acorn' classmates and their teacher were assisted by Nature Conservancy trained volunteers.*



*An appetite shaped on the prairie is best satisfied on the prairie.*

## BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS Consequences and Ecological Restoration

The A. Watson Armour III Spring Symposium at The Field Museum, Chicago Saturday, April 12, 1997.

Each spring the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago hosts a major symposium of international importance. This year's topic has timely significance to a Chicago audience given the ambitious measure of prairie restoration work being done by dedicated volunteers throughout the area.

The conference pre-registration fee is \$30 (\$15 students, \$5 Volunteer Stewardship Network volunteers). Advance registration is recommended and must be received by March 15, 1997. After March 15 the registration fee will be \$40 (\$20 students, \$10 VSN volunteers). The Field Museum is easily reached by public transportation. Low-cost parking is available in nearby lots.

**To Register by mail:** please send check payable to The Field Museum. *All payments should be received* by March 15, 1997 and should be directed to : Spring Symposium, The Field Museum, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496. Please do not send cash with your registration. Refunds must be requested in writing and will be subject to a \$5 processing fee. No refunds will be issued after March 15, 1997.

**Questions:** Contact the Office of Academic Affairs 312-922-9410 ext. 559; e-mail: symposia@fmppr.fmnh.org