

THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

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GENSBURG • PAINTBRUSH • SUNDROP • DROPSEED

VOLUNTEERING ON THE PRAIRIES

WHERE WOULD THE PRAIRIES BE WITHOUT YOU!

The dictionary defines "volunteer" as "a person who performs or gives services of his own free will, one who renders aid or assumes an obligation voluntarily."

Webster has it right; a volunteer does give of his or her free time, and does it voluntarily. Between numerous other obligations, we always make time to fight for the cause. We have a need to exercise our right as stewards of this Earth, our home, to protect what is nature. Not one person I know in The Friends can sit by and not be a part of the solution. We want to make a positive difference in helping to restore our Mother Earth.

Volunteering is not just stewarding a site, counting blooms or cutting brush. It includes many, many phone calls to editors, secretaries, presidents, city hall, and naturalists throughout the state. We're on the phone almost as much as we are on our prairies!

There are notes to keep, reports to mail, neighbors to talk to, and an occasional ATV (all-terrain vehicle) to track down. Tours and workdays fill in the rest of this time well spent.

I love what I do and love the people I work with. The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies and The Nature Conservancy are two progressive, hard-working teams of volunteers who choose to help preserve what is meant to be. I'm proud to be part of it and thankful to Cal Barber, founder of the Friends. To love nature is to love life!

Janice Graden



Dropseed Prairie Steward Pat Brownlow describes spring prairie features to rapt audience.

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT FEATURES MARKHAM PRAIRIES

The Friends are in the news again! The May 18, 1992, issue of *U.S. News and World Report* contained an article about the Markham prairies. Accompanying the article was one of Ron Panzer's photos showing Blazing Star in peak bloom on Gensburg Prairie.

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