

THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

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A Chronicle Of The Indian Boundary Prairies Of Markham, Illinois

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GENSBURG • PAINTBRUSH • SUNDROP • DROPSEED

THE PRAIRIES 'SHOW OFF'

- MARKHAM PARK DISTRICT PRAIRIE AWARENESS PROGRAM
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING IN MARKHAM

The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies will remember August of 1992 with pride. First of all, the month began with our prairies and their volunteers hosting a Prairie Awareness Program for Young People. The Nature Conservancy and the Markham Park District coordinated efforts with The Friends to introduce Markham youth to the natural treasures of their community. Pat Brownlow's article in this issue gives a full account of the daily activities.

Then on August 15, the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy held its annual meeting on a site adjacent to Sundrop Prairie. The event was expertly organized by Gillian Moreland, Trish Beckjord, and Jean Gallup. Chairman Wendy Paulson called the volunteer stewardship network in Illinois "revolutionary" and thanked The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies for hosting this event. It was the first time a local group had taken on the burden of acting as hosts for The Nature Conservancy's annual meeting.

The Friends certainly rose to the occasion. Stewards and volunteers worked long and hard on restoration projects prior to the tours that were offered and then joyfully led hundreds of people out onto The Indian Boundary Prairies, which were in beautiful summer bloom.

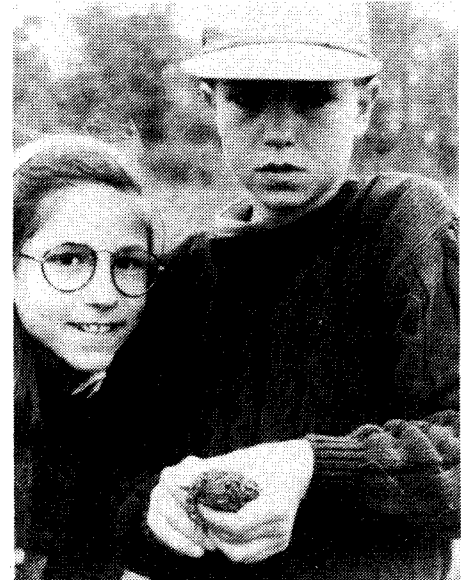
Members of The Friends also arrived very early that day to set up the tables and chairs and set out signs that had been made. Then they spent time arranging booths and displays, taking photos, work-

ing at the registration table, distributing lunches, passing information, taking newsletter subscriptions, providing entertainment, and making sure the area was clean at the end of the day.

We were all tired, but happy to have been a part of such a wonderful day and proud to have shown off The Indian Boundary Prairies to the rest of Illinois.



Fred Davis, board member of The Friends, presents a letter of appreciation to The Nature Conservancy for their efforts on behalf of the Indian Boundary Prairies.



Tim Burke

An accommodating Bufo americanus welcomes family tour participants to Markham's prairies.

FAMILIES ENJOY PAINTBRUSH TOUR

The Family Tour of Paintbrush Prairie, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy on May 23, was a great success.

Many people had registered for the tour well in advance and, in spite of threatening weather, a large group of 60 people were there. I was especially impressed by the number of people who had traveled long distances to visit Paintbrush Prairie.

We had more than enough time to complete all the tours, thanks to the help of Ron Panzer and Pat Brownlow. Bill Sluis, co-steward, also led several groups. Even after a cold front hit suddenly, he offered a tour to the hearty folks that wanted to stay. Of course, the prairie was in beautiful spring bloom and impressed everyone with its diversity. I look forward to another tour next spring.

Janice Graden
Paintbrush Prairie Steward

Tim Burke