

Summer '97

Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Fire Department Participates in National EMS Week

Stop at your Fire Department May 20-22 and see what your local Emergency Medical Services can do for you!

The ambulance service in Byron has not always been with the Byron Fire Protection District. Throughout the 1970's the City of Byron managed the ambulance service with some financial help from the Byron Township. In the late seventies, the city approached the fire district on taking the ambulance service over. The reason was mainly a financial one in that fire districts are able to levy a tax for ambulance service with a referendum.

In 1978 the fire district put the question on the ballot that would allow a tax rate of .3000 to be levied for ambulance service. The referendum passed by a huge margin. And in 1979, the Byron Fire District started running the ambulance service. On November 1, 1981, the Byron Fire District began running with a full-time initial response crew out of the fire station instead of personnel being on call from home. A minimum of four firefighters are on duty at the fire station at any given moment, ready to respond.

On Thanksgiving Day of 1981 the first paramedics were certified and since then, there has always been at least one paramedic on duty at all times. Today the fire district has eleven paramedics and are about to certify two more. The fire district averages 600 emergency ambulance calls per year out of a total of 900 calls.



Byron Fire District currently has 12 well-trained Paramedics to serve you. Pictured above are Lt. Jeff Hogan and Firefighter Tony Dinges, (l to r) Paramedics for the Byron Fire Department. They are looking forward to chatting with you at our "EMS Week Coffee Break".

The Byron Fire Protection District will be hosting a "Coffee Break" in support of National EMS Week. The Coffee Break will be at the fire station from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 20th, through Thursday, May 22nd. Coffee, juice, and treats will be served and a display of equipment used in today's medical field will be available for your viewing. Paramedics of the fire department will be on hand to perform free blood pressure checks and blood sugar tests. The public is encouraged to come in to see what Emergency Medical Services are available and visit the Byron Fire Protection District.

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To Our Community:

The Byron Panorama presents our *community in action* and reflects programs, staff news, and activities of contributing governmental agencies. Often community residents are unaware of local events, and it is the goal of this newsletter to disseminate efficiently and promptly important civic and cultural information to our residents. In recent years, Byron has exemplified a community vision and a collective vitality that has set the standard for progress in our area. To maintain the foresight we seek, we welcome your feedback regarding the effectiveness of our efforts. Please forward all comments, suggestions, or concerns to Byron Panorama, P.O. Box 911, Byron, IL 61010

Don't Miss Out!

The Byron Forest Preserve District and PrairieView Golf Course have many spring and summer programs for the entire family to enjoy.

There are summer camps, preschool classes, junior golf programs, golf lessons, basket weaving, ladies golf league, a new couples twilight league, canoeing workshops, junior golf benefit fund-raiser, Creative Memories workshop, Garlic Mustard marathon, nature walks, night hike, and area golf tournaments.

The Byron Forest Preserve also offers a beautiful nature center (Jarrett Prairie center) which includes a natural history museum with many exhibits, preschool playroom (Nature Nook), a theatre, banquet rooms, and a gift shop with many gift ideas and new items arriving daily.

The Jarrett Prairie Center and gift shop are now open seven days a week, so you can come and visit us anytime.

The dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve (Jarrett Prairie Preserve) is on its way to be expanded as soon as it is approved.

Come and explore the constellations, moons, planets, and much more in evening skies at the Weiskopf Observatory.

The Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center and Weiskopf Observatory are located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information, questions, or comments, please call (815) 234-8535.

PrairieView Golf Course offers a very challenging course with many amenities. PrairieView also offers discounts such as VIP Vouchers, season passes, and coupon books which are new for 1997.

PrairieView Golf Course is located on German Church Road and Illinois Route 72 in Byron. For more information, please call (815) 234-GOLF (4653).

Don't miss out on everything that is going on at the Byron Forest Preserve and PrairieView Golf Course. Be sure to turn to pages 8-16 to see what's happening!



Byron Forest Preserve News

7993 North River Road, Byron (815) 234-8535

Preservation • Education • Recreation



Summer Camps Offered

Earth Explorers Camp

Explore the big and small places at the Byron Forest Preserve. We will visit the Troll Tree. If you would like to explore nature through a magnifying lens and much more, come to Earth Explorers Camp at the Byron Forest Preserve.

Jarrett Prairie Center - For children entering 1st & 2nd grades - Mondays-Thursdays - June 23-July 3 (two-week session) - 9 am-3 pm - \$96 - Instructors Susan Kleiman and Lisa Johnson

Nature Detectives Camp

Become a detective to discover the wild and wonderful animals that share the world with us. Put on your best sleuthing hat and join us for an adventure at Nature Detectives Camp and see why Illinois has some of the most wonderful surprises hiding just under your nose at the Byron Forest Preserve.

Jarrett Prairie Center - For children entering 3rd & 4th grades - Mondays-Thursdays - July 14-24 (two-week session) - 9 am-3 pm - \$96 - Instructors Susan Kleiman and Lisa Johnson

Trekkers Camp

Join Trekkers Camp and we'll go trekking around in Northern Illinois. We will hike through cool woodlands and drink from wild springs at Franklin Creek State Natural Area. How about exploring the hidden corners of the Byron Forest Preserve to see if you can find the lost meadow? If this sounds like fun to you, then come spend a week with us and trek into the outdoors.

Jarrett Prairie Center - For children entering 5th & 6th grades - Monday-Friday - August 4-8 (one-week session) - 9 am-3 pm - \$60 - Instructors Susan Kleiman and Lisa Johnson

Canoeing Workshop

Join the Byron Forest Preserve and Northern Illinois University in a basic canoeing workshop on Saturday, June 14, & Saturday, July 12, 1997. These are primarily designed for beginners. Water safety techniques such as rescues, throw ropes, capsizing, strainers, low head dams, and broaches will be covered. River reading techniques such as eddy lines, current, downstream V's, and river signals will be explained.

You will need the following items: extra set of clothes, rain gear, lunch & snack, humor, willingness to get wet, and nose plugs (optional). Canoes, paddles, and life preservers (vest type only) will be provided or you may bring your own.

Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 N. River Rd., Byron. The workshops are from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

The cost is \$35 per person. A minimum requirement of 14 people/7 canoes must be met or the workshops will be canceled. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Fun!

Creative Memories

Safe & Creative Photo Albums - Are your photos not being displayed or enjoyed because they are gathering dust in shoeboxes...or worse, are they being stored in albums that are destroying the images they should be protecting? Come and learn how to put together creative, long-lasting family photo albums-the kind of albums that safeguard their memories and provide enjoyment for generations to come.

Beginners - \$20 - 45-minute presentation then "crop 'til you drop" with hands-on, step-by-step instruction. Materials included: 1-12"x12" album page, stickers, paper, and adhesives to complete one page. Please bring 6-10 photos.

Continuing - \$15 - work on photo scrapbooks with friends and use instructor tools and assistance.

Jarrett Prairie Center - Saturday, June 21 - 9 am-4 pm
- Instructors Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Did you know...?

- World population is growing by 92 million people annually, roughly equal to adding another Mexico each year; of this total, 88 million are being added in the developing world.
- The protective ozone shield in heavily populated latitudes of the northern hemisphere is thinning twice as fast as scientists thought just a few years ago.

New Preschool Offered

Since the Nature Preschool classes are so popular at the Byron Forest Preserve, we will begin a two-day preschool starting in September.

The classes will offer a unique combination of preschool readiness material and learning activities that use nature explorations as a springboard for learning and growing. The material is designed to focus on the basic concepts appropriate to a young child's development and ability. The concepts include color recognition, sequencing, body awareness, reading readiness, and other important skills learned through hours of learning fun. Every child should dress for the weather. Children are considered enrolled for the entire length of the respective session upon registration. Class size: 12 students maximum.

Teachers: Barb Wingert (Mrs. Barb) and Hazel Stein (Mrs. Hazel).

Choice of classes:

Monday and Wednesday - 9-11 am

Tuesday and Thursday - 9-11 am

Tuesday and Thursday - 1-3 pm

Fall session - 12 weeks -

September 15-December 8 - \$150

Winter session - 12 weeks -

January 12-March 30 - \$150

Spring session - 8 weeks -

April 6-May 25 - \$100

Summer session - 6 weeks -

June 15-July 20 - \$75

Payment options for Fall classes:

1) Paid in full at registration \$135 (discount)

2) Easy payment plan of three equal payments of \$50. First payment due at registration. Second and third payments due the first of the month. Payments may be made by cash, check, or Visa/Mastercard.



We love nature! (l-r) Kimberlee Gerardy, Hannah Kiesling, Mrs. Barb, Austin Glendenning, Phillip Godby, Ian Walters, Jordon Feste, Kayla Busser, and Jordyn Crane.

Pre-registration required. Please call (815) 234-8535 for more information.

You can register at an Open House scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 1997, from 7-9 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

From The Director...

By Edward C. Clift, Executive Director

This has been an interesting few months with the continuing decrease in the taxes collected for our agency's general fund operations. We have made our cuts in spending for a second time and are again attempting to operate with a balanced budget for 1997. We have merged three departments (Park Maintenance, Golf Maintenance, & Capital Development) into one department which has saved money in operation costs. Also the Education and Administrative staff are both now located at the Jarrett Prairie Center, which has enabled us to have the nature center open seven days a week again for the public.

The board and staff were very pleased that a process that was started in the fall of 1994 has been completed, and we now have the \$100,000 plus deficit erased and all of our funds are in the black this year (1997) for the first time in many years. The board has made many difficult decisions over the past three years, on your behalf, to put the Forest Preserve's financial house back in order. As has been the case during the previous two years, all future budgets will emphasize balanced budgets each year.

On another front, our board and staff have worked very long and hard during the past 12 months to produce a VISION DOCUMENT that will be the blueprint and direction for all future decisions at our agency. This complete document is available at my office. This process has established our two primary missions for our agency, Preservation and Education, with all other operations being support services to accomplish these two goals. Our document covers the following areas:

1. Illinois State Statutes for Forest Preserves

2. Agency Mission Statement

3. Agency Goals:

a. Preservation

b. Education

c. Recreation

d. Management

e. Local Involvement
4. Department Goals:

a. Restoration/Land Management

b. Education

c. Golf Clubhouse

d. Golf Maintenance/Park Maintenance/Capital Development

e. Administrative Services

Byron Forest Preserve Mission Statement:

"The mission of the Byron Forest Preserve District is to provide for Preservation of Open Space/Natural Resources, provide Education concerning our Natural Environment/Heritage, and provide Recreational opportunities and Golf operations that are consistent with our Preservation & Education missions."

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and staff have been working on additional Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements with Byron Township and Byron Park District in an attempt to share and therefore not duplicate items that will save the taxpayers' money. One example of this is this publication (*Panorama*) that has saved the Forest Preserve over \$820 per issue or \$3,280 per year, just by cooperating with seven other local agencies. These agreements would be in addition to the agreements we already have in force with the Byron School District and the City of Byron.

This has been a very exciting fall and winter at the forest preserve with thousands of patrons using our services. I hope that you will take the time to review the programs in this publication in which you and your family may participate. Please visit us at the Forest Preserve and take advantage of all the marvelous opportunities right here in your back yard.

Expansion - On Its Way!!

As reported in the last *Panorama*, the proposal for the expansion of the Illinois Nature Preserve at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie site has been approved unanimously. The expansion will increase the protected prairie from 140 acres to approximately 300 acres.

The Byron Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners approved the official documentation of dedication at the March meeting. This is the first step in its long journey to be "etched in stone." The next step is the presentation of the document before the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission on May 6. At this meeting, nine commissioners will, hopefully, vote the expansion to be worthy of INPC status. The document will then be reviewed by Brent Manning, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. If approved by Mr. Manning, the document will then be on its last leg of the journey to the Governor of the State of Illinois, Jim Edgar. At this point, he will sign the document and the expansion is accepted as an official Illinois Nature Preserve.

If the preserve expansion is approved, it will be a great asset to Byron and the Rock River corridor.

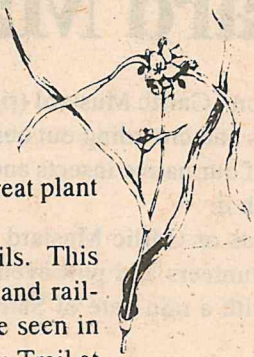
Spiderwort (Tradescantia Ohiensis)

This smooth, blue-green, spindly plant grows to three feet tall, with long, pointed, alternate leaves that sheath the stem at their bases. The leaves are up to 15" long and usually less than one inch wide.

Each flower is composed of three smooth sepals, three broadly rounded, blue to purple petals, and six yellow tipped stamens covered with long, colored hairs.

Spiderwort (right) blooms for a relatively long time (late spring to fall) and is a great plant to have as backyard foliage along fence lines and flower gardens.

Habitat/range - Common in savannas and prairies ranging from dry to mesic soils. This cool-season perennial is commonly found along pasture fences and along roadsides and railroads, found in all but the northwest part of the tallgrass region. Locally, this can be seen in bloom along the railroad tracks between Byron and Stillman Valley and along the Loop Trail at the Byron Forest Preserve.



Gift Shop News

The gift shop at the Jarrett Prairie Center has new items arriving daily. There are many gift ideas for children's birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and any other occasion. Some gift specials are already wrapped!

The Bluebird, Butterfly, and Ladybug houses are handcrafted by the volunteers at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Be sure to visit the Jarrett Prairie Center's gift shop for your next special gift need!

Jarrett Prairie Center & Gift Shop New Hours

Sunday - 1 - 4 pm

Monday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Tuesday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday - 8:30 am - 8 pm

Friday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 4 pm

Star Notes



Spring is here and we must say goodbye to the winter constellations. May is our last chance to see Orion and the Great Orion Nebula. Also on its way out is Comet Hale-Bopp. This is the last we'll see of it for the next 4,200 years.

Rising in the east now are the spring constellations, Hercules, Lyra, and Cygnus. Each brings with it a jewel box of heavenly treasures to explore. The fiery light of Arcturus will be high in the sky forming a triangle with the orange glow of Mars and the cooler light of Spica.

June brings the return of Venus to the evening sky. Often the first thing to be visible after sunset, it truly lives up to its nickname of the evening star. Antares, the heart of the Scorpion, glows red in the southeast and Leo (left) is sinking rapidly into the west.

In July, as we look at the Milky Way in Sagittarius, we are looking towards the center of our galaxy. The night sky abounds in stars, star clusters and nebula. Mercury makes a brief appearance late in the month, and Jupiter begins climbing out of the evening twilight.

The Weiskopf Observatory is open for public skyviewing on the first and third Saturdays and second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please call ahead to confirm viewing conditions as the observatory is not open if it is cloudy. The observatory is also available for private tours filled with games and activities relating to Astronomy. Call the Forest Preserve during business hours to reserve a night for your group. Come and join us to watch the ever changing dance of the night skies.

Museum Metamorphosis

Wow! Things certainly have changed at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Walls have been redesigned and moved to create a more open atmosphere, and work has begun on the habitat displays. The plan is to bring the plants and animals of local habitat types together to show people what this area looked like before the settlers arrived.

Chris Bronny is painting a wonderful backdrop for the prairie exhibit. This area will include the bison, coyotes, tall grasses, prairie flowers and other grassland animals and birds.

Around the corner will be the woodland habitat, with deer, fox, woodland birds, and trees and plants.

Follow the path between the woodland and the prairie and take a look out of the windows at the real prairie. You might see a herd of deer, a coyote hunting, turkeys gathering, or a hawk soaring.

The Wolf Den tree waits for the younger folks, and three of the historic display cases have been reunited to show the changes in this area over 12,000 summers.

If you haven't stopped by in a while, come and take a look. Bring the family and friends and see how things are developing at the Byron Forest Preserve.



Maintenance workers Bob Smith (left) and Dave Brenz prepare Jarrett Prairie Center Museum for new look.

Garlic Mustard Marathon

It's time again for the Garlic Mustard Marathon. Garlic Mustard (right) is a non-native biennial plant that is invading our woodlands and crowding out our native wildflowers. It doesn't provide food or shelter for any of our native insects and animals. In fact, nothing here eats it. Even the deer won't touch it.

Last year, volunteers pulled about 100 pounds of Garlic Mustard in about two hours. This year, we hope to have even more volunteers and pull even more Garlic Mustard. The date is set for Saturday, May 31, with a rain date of Saturday, June 7, from 1-5 p.m.

Persons interested in helping should contact Lisa at the Byron Forest Preserve to sign up. Pullers will receive a pledge sheet that they can use to gather pledges for the pull. Funds raised through this program will be used to help maintain the prairies and savannas of the Byron Forest Preserve. Come and show your support for our natural heritage and spend some time in the woods giving a little back to nature.



Night Hike

Come and explore the mysteries of the night. The light of the near full moon will guide your steps as you leave civilization behind and join the frog chorus on Saturday, June 14, 8-10 pm, with a rain date of Tuesday, June 17. The cost is \$2 per person.

Long pants, comfortable walking shoes, and binoculars are recommended. Call (815) 234-8535 to register.

Stepping Out

Education Assistant Lisa Johnson will continue to lead monthly nature walks. These morning walks focus on the birds and, during the growing season, wildflowers of the Byron Forest Preserve.

The Prairie Preserve presents an ever-changing palette of life and color. Join us for an opportunity to experience the great outdoors. Walks are scheduled for Saturdays, May 17, June 14, and July 12, 8-10 am.

Long pants, comfortable walking shoes, and binoculars are recommended. Call (815) 234-8535 to register.

Field Trips

The Byron Forest Preserve District Education staff provides one- to four-hour field trips for school age children. We have a variety of activities to choose from. For example, nature museum, sensory walk, observatory tour, treasure hunt, orienteering, and helping Mother Nature with prairie and woodland restoration.

Please call (815) 234-8535 to schedule a trip for your class or group.

Fire on the Golf Course!

Have you noticed scorched areas on the golf course? Get a little smoke in your eyes? No, there's not a pyro on the loose; it's just the maintenance staff burning off areas that are planted or will be planted to native vegetation. Once these areas are established, they will require much less maintenance and chemicals than most other areas on the golf course.

Since fires have always been a part of the Illinois ecosystems, the native plants are adapted to it. However, non-native weeds are not. The fires encourage the native grasses and wildflowers to grow and bloom while discouraging most non-native weedy plants.

In months to come, watch for an ever-changing palette of colors as different flowers bloom, each in its own time.

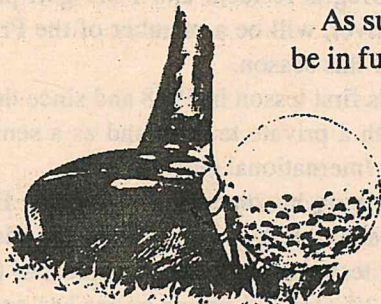
Did you know...?

Save paper bags from your supermarket and use them for your next load of groceries. One 15- to 20-year-old tree is required for every 700 bags.

PrairieView Golf Course News

North German Church Road, Byron (815) 234-GOLF(4653)

PrairieView is Ready!



As summer quickly approaches, the golf season at PrairieView will soon be in full swing. Let's hope the coming weeks are more kind to golfers than last year when, as you recall, we experienced the wettest month of May on record. PrairieView has many new events and projects kicking off in the coming weeks such as the new Tuesday ladies league, the Sunday twilight couples league, and the Ogle County Player and Team Championships. Warm, sunny weather would give us a great start to these new events and to the season.

As you will see from this newsletter, there is a lot happening in 1997 at PrairieView including improvement projects, expanded programs, as well as new events. The clubhouse staff is eager to talk to you about what's happening at PrairieView this season. Our goal is to help you get more involved, have fun, and play more golf than ever at PrairieView this summer.

Be sure to stop by the practice range and take a look at the new improvements including a shelter building, new range mats, and other equipment. You very likely will also see PGA Golf Teaching Professional Bill Driver, the newest addition to our teaching staff, giving a lesson. Stop by, say hello, and Bill will be more than happy to chat with you and offer some tips on how to improve your game.

Despite a cold snap in April, the golf season still has gotten off to a great start with over 1,200 golf rounds in late March alone. All of the PrairieView staff eagerly anticipate our best season ever. Several exciting new projects such as the forward tee expansion program and the planned clubhouse addition/renovation this fall will further help to make this a memorable year. Again, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous support as PrairieView to becoming a truly premier golf facility.

New Couples Twilight League

Everyone is reminded that Prairieview's new couples twilight golf league kicked off on Sunday, May 4. Everyone is invited to come out on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm and be a part of this casual, non-competitive league.

Make up your own foursome, or let us pair you with someone. The league is open to couples of any experience level and will run through Sunday, September 21. Playing in the league is not dependent on weekly participation; simply come as often as you like.

We encourage all league couples to stay after golf for plenty of good food, fun, and camaraderie. The cost for steak or chicken dinner for two is \$15 per couple. We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.



New 1997 Coupon Book

Thanks to everyone who purchased our first ever PrairieView coupon book with 30 coupons offering over \$500 in savings. Only a few of the limited quantity coupon books are still available.

Due to the overwhelming response, as of this time, the PrairieView staff plans to offer a special fall edition coupon book available sometime in July. Again, thank you for support as we, the staff at PrairieView, work to make special savings and promotion available to you on a regular basis.

Season Golf Passes*

By 3-25-97 / After 3-25-97

Resident - Single	
Adult	\$350 / \$395
Senior	\$225 / \$250
Junior	\$60 / \$75
College Student	\$125 / \$140
Resident - Couple/Family	
Adult	\$555 / \$595
Senior	\$360 / \$395
Out of District - Single	
Adult	\$470 / \$515
Senior	\$295 / \$325
Junior	\$90 / \$110
College Student	\$165 / \$195
Out of District - Couple/Family	
Adult	\$695 / \$725
Senior	\$495 / \$525

* Restrictions may apply to certain pass categories.

Cart Fees

	Wknd/Hol.	Weekday
	9 / 18 holes	9 / 18 holes
Daily Cart Fee:	\$16 / \$24	\$14 / \$20
Senior/Single*	12 / 16	10 / 14
Twilight**	10	10

*Single/Senior - Some restrictions apply to single rate during peak hours. Senior cart rate available during senior playing hours only.

**Twilight - after 5:30 PM Mon. - Sun.

For tee times,
call 815-234-GOLF

1997 Golf Fees

	Weekends & Holidays	Weekday Mon.-Fri.
	9 / 18 holes	9 / 18 holes
Daily Green Fee:	\$15 / \$25	\$13 / \$20
County*	13 / 21	11 / 17
Resident*	11 / 18	9 / 14
Senior**		
Daily	--	\$10 / \$15
County*	--	8 / 12
Resident*	--	6 / 10
Junior**		
Daily	\$10 / \$12	\$10
County*	8 / 10	8
Resident*	6 / 8	6
2 PM Special		
Daily	\$14 / \$22	\$12 / \$18
County*	11 / 18	10 / 15
Resident*	9 / 15	8 / 12
4 PM Twilight		
Daily	\$12	\$12
County*	10	10
Resident*	8	8
5:30 Twilight		
Daily	\$10	\$10
County*	8	8
Resident*	6	6

*Ogle County or Byron resident rates with resident I.D. cards only.

**Senior/junior rates: before 3 pm weekdays and junior rates after 3 pm weekends/holidays. Seniors 60 & over and juniors 10 & under.

Practice Range Improvements

If you haven't had the opportunity to do so, stop by the PrairieView practice range and check out the many new improvements for this season.

The most noticeable feature is the new practice range shelter which houses a brand new range ball dispensing machine, pop machine, and utility room for range ball cleaning and storage. The electrical problems that plagued last year's range equipment were remedied with a new power feed to the range. This power supply solution also conveniently offers an easy and inexpensive opportunity to provide golfers drinking fountains to three locations: the new 1st tee/putting green shelter, the driving range shelter, and a new drinking fountain at the 3rd tee.

Golfers this season can purchase range balls directly out of the ball dispenser at the range shelter by using either tokens sold in the golf shop or by using a convenient plastic "debit" card. Range debit cards are available that offer savings up to 50% off regular range ball prices. Stop by the golf shop and ask for details.

Other new range additions golfers are already enjoying are the 12 new, high quality range mats that offer a far superior playing surface than our previous mats. A new golf club cleaner is also available for those using our range facility this year.

We encourage you, your family, and friends to visit our practice area often this year. Our goal is to continue to upgrade and improve our practice facilities to the level of quality, convenience, and service golfers have come to expect from the rest of our golf facility.

Second Annual Junior Golf Benefit Fundraiser

PrairieView's annual "Alternate Challenge" event to benefit junior golf will be held on Sunday, June 29, 1997. The inaugural event held last season raised \$4,693 to benefit PrairieView's junior golf programs and activities. The event is a huge fundraising success because 100% of all proceeds go to benefit junior golf.

The format this year will again be a two-person, select your own partner, alternate shot event. Both players tee off each hole, choose the best shot, and alternate from that point throughout the hole. The unique format provides teams plenty of fun and good times.

Total cost per person this year will be \$45 (\$40 for PrairieView season passholders) which includes: golf, cart, lunch, draft beer or other beverage, and two free rounds of golf for each participant! Many volunteers are also needed to make this event a continued success. Call 815-234-4563 and ask for Ken if you would like to contribute to the fundraiser by just helping out.

Everyone who would like to give something back to golf is encouraged to join the fun and show you care about PrairieView's junior golfers, the future of golf. Registration and entries for the event will be taken starting Sunday, June 1. Sign up early, as reservations will fill quickly and the field will be limited to the first 136 paid entries.

Special hole-in-one prizes on each of the fourth par threes - up to \$5,000 in cash prizes!!

Second PGA Pro Joins Staff

Longtime Oregon resident and PGA golf professional, Bill Driver, will be a member of the PrairieView golf staff this season.

Bill gave his first lesson in 1948 and since then has taught as both a private teacher and as a senior instructor for the International Golf Schools.

When describing his teaching philosophy, Bill says, "I do not teach a style of golf so much as adapt the proper swing techniques to meet the goals of the individual. The 17-year-old junior golfer has completely different goals than his mother or grandfather. Good swings are similar in appearance, but the factors governing the motion vary from one person to another."

Bill has been fortunate to have worked with National Champions, PGA, LPGA, and Senior Tour Players as well as a great many persons who only wanted to get better. He offers both classes and clinics, with group rates available, in addition to private lessons.

Besides teaching, Bill will provide assistance in a number of areas. These will include helping with our junior golf program, organizing tournaments, and serving as an occasional starter/ranger. Bill will play a key role in helping to develop and educate PrairieView golfers about our expanded "Pace of Play" program.

We welcome Bill as a valuable new member to the PrairieView clubhouse staff and hope you have the opportunity to meet him soon.



Golf Lessons

Golf lessons are available from PGA Golf Professional Ken Ledene and our newest addition to the staff, longtime golf instructor and PGA Golf Professional Bill Driver.

Both golf instructors offer lessons to all levels of players including adults, juniors, and senior players. Private lessons are available by individual appointment. Four or six one-hour sessions, pre-scheduled group clinics for beginners, intermediates, and advance players are also available.

Private Lesson Rates by PGA Head Professional Ken Ledene:

	SINGLE 1/2 hr. / 1 hr. (1) person	SERIES (4) 3/4 hr. (1) person	SERIES 4 (3/4) hr. (2) people
Adult	\$16 / \$27	\$70	\$120
Junior	\$13 / \$22	\$55	\$90

Group Clinic: Starts Tue/Thur / May 20,22 and 27,29

- * Four one hour sessions - \$35/person
- * Six - eight students per class
- * Class #1 at 6 PM ...Beginners (never played or new players)
- * class #2 at 7 PM ... Intermediates (playing experience)
- * Call golf shop for schedule of June and July classes

Private Lesson Rates by PGA Professional Bill Driver:

Individual Adult Lessons:	1/2 hr. \$30	1 hr. \$60
Sr. and Jr. Lesson:	1/2 hr. \$20	1 hr. \$40
Private Series:	5 Lessons for the price of 4	

Group Clinic: Starts Tue/Wed/Thur / June 3,4,5 and 10,11,12

- * Six one hour sessions - \$50/person
- * Six - eight students per class
- * Class #1 at 5 PM ... Beginners (never played or new players)
- * Class #2 at 6 PM ... Intermediate (playing experience)
- * Other classes available in late June and July

Special Group rates and Clinic Rates are available for Playdays/Special Events.

PrairieView Expands Pace of Play Program In 1997

Some quick thoughts about slow play:

- * There is no such thing as slow play or fast play. There is only inconsiderate play and considerate play. Inconsiderate play is playing at a pace significantly different than the majority of the other players on the course, whether it be too slow or too fast.

- * A reasonable pace of play is very easy for anyone to achieve. The difference between fast play and slow play is just a matter of seconds. If each player in a typical foursome would take just 5 seconds less to select each club and execute each shot, they would reduce their group's total playing time by 30 minutes.

- * Crowded golf courses are like crowded freeways; once a slow spot develops, it stays there all day.

- * People just naturally function at different speeds. What's slow to one player seems fast to another. Without some point of reference there is no hope in getting everyone to play at the same pace.

- * Expecting 100 people to play golf at the same speed, with no point of reference, is like asking 100 people to drive from Byron to Chicago and all arrive at the same time...with no speedometers.

Inconsiderate pace of play is one of golf's biggest problems. It may sound like a quote from Mark Twain, but slow play is like the weather; everyone complains about it, but no one does anything about it. Well, one thing is for certain, doing nothing is not the solution.

For the 1997 golf season, PrairieView plans to do something that we hope will dramatically improve the pace of play at our course this year. The solution to eliminating player traffic congestion on any course is to simply get everyone playing at the same speed, whatever that speed is. So with this in mind, PrairieView is taking an active role in building a program to

combat slow play. The following steps outline our program to develop a considerate pace of play or "time par" for the majority of players.

Step 1 - Let PrairieView golfers know what we expect of them.

PrairieView's established pace of play is 4 hours and 12 minutes for 18 holes, including stopping between nines. This information as well as our "Keep Pace Policy" will be printed prominently on our new 1997 scorecards and will also be posted in several locations inside and outside the clubhouse.

Step 2 - Teach our golfers how to play faster.

Even seasoned golfers fall into bad habits that waste time on the course, and new players just haven't learned how to play efficiently. PrairieView will supply golfers with helpful hint sheets, booklets, free clinics, and helpful advice from clubhouse staff as part of our education program.

Step 3 - Provide PrairieView golfers with a reliable system that informs them of their pace of play throughout their round.

In an early attempt to combat the problem of slow play, PrairieView, over the last two years, implemented the concept of "pace" clocks on five of its 18 holes. While these particular clocks were often unreliable and somewhat difficult to locate, the theory behind pace clocks remains sound: provide players with a system that helps them retain their position of the course without the confrontational aspects of rangers speaking to them about their pace of play.

For 1997, PrairieView has committed to purchasing new, higher quality, weather-resistant "pace" clocks for all 18 holes. A key ingredient to making our pace of play awareness program successful is for players to know when they are falling behind. Our players need timely, accurate, and objective informa-

tion that informs them of their pace of play throughout their round. Players, for example, need to know by the 2nd tee that they took too much time on the 1st hole.

A special, prominent feature of our new "pace" clocks is the easy to understand design of the clock face. Each clock face is divided into 7 numbered brackets that coincide with PrairieView's normal 7 tee times per hour. As a group tees off on the first hole, it takes note of the numbered bracket to which the clock is pointed. If a group is playing to PrairieView's established pace of play they will see the clocks pointing to the same numbered bracket as they arrive at each tee. Players will immediately know if they are falling behind if the pace clocks point past their time bracket to a higher number.

We are very positive everyone will quickly understand this simple method of making players aware of their relative pace of play on each hole before it's too late to do anything.

Step 4 - Reward golfers who "Keep Pace."

PrairieView hopes to develop a positive incentive program to kick off our "Keep Pace" program and to periodically reward players for playing at what we have determined is a considerate pace for the majority of golfers.

One closing thought on this issue: expecting a reasonable pace of play is well within the rights of any player. It falls in the same category as keeping carts where they belong, raking bunkers, fixing ball markers, and replacing divots. It's covered by the same golf code of etiquette that makes us thoughtful of our fellow players in many other ways. It's simply considerate, sensitive, and polite.

1997 "VIP" Voucher Program

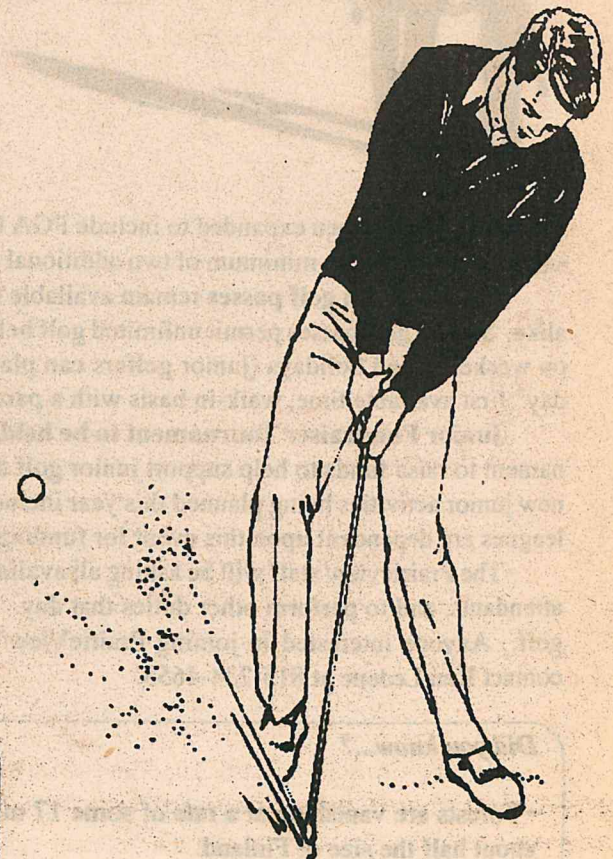
PrairieView's own in-house "VIP" voucher debit card has been a huge hit with golfers this spring. Now in its third season, more golfers than ever are starting to realize the big savings this special card offers off daily cart, green fee, and range ball use.

In addition to the convenience of use, PrairieView's "VIP" card can provide green fee discounts up to 20%, motorized cart discounts up to 30%, and range ball discounts up to 50% off regular prices. Your "VIP" card can also be used for most clubhouse purchases including golf merchandise, concession items, and golf lessons. For resident discount cardholders, all "VIP" green fee discounts are in addition to the regular resident card discounts you already receive.

Remember, too, there is never a bad time to buy a "VIP." For instance, buying one even late in the summer makes sense, because all "VIP" cards carry a two year expiration. For a much appreciated gift for any golfer in your family, a "VIP" card makes a perfect gift any time of the year. Brochures and complete information are available at the PrairieView clubhouse.

Did you know...?

The earth's surface was warmer in 1990 than in any year since recordkeeping began in the mid-nineteenth century; six of the seven warmest years on record have occurred since 1980.



New Ladies Golf League Kicks Off!

Tuesday, May 13, marks the beginning of the new Ladies Golf League and Activities Day at PrairieView. PrairieView staff including golf professional Ken Ledene, assistant clubhouse manager Karla Coy, and new staff member, golf professional Bill Driver will be on hand weekly to offer instructional clinics, lead discussions on topics of interest such as equipment, rules, and etiquette and to generally help all newcomers feel comfortable in a friendly, non-competitive golfing atmosphere.

PrairieView welcomes women golfers of any experience level to attend our May organizational and informational sessions on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM at the clubhouse. Child care services will be offered initially by prior arrangements and will be a topic of discussion at the early meetings.

Plans call for scheduling regular on-course morning golf play on Tuesday, June 10, at 9 AM. We would like to stress that the style of play in the initial start up of this league will be very casual and relaxed, especially for the very beginner golfer.

Give us a call if you have any questions and make plans now to come out, join in the fun, and learn more about the wonderful game of golf. Following is a tentative list of planned ladies golf activities through mid-June.

Tuesday, May 13 - New Ladies League/Activities Kick-Off Meeting (all activities complimentary this day)

9:00 am - sign-in, coffee and rolls at clubhouse

9:20 am - general introductions and discussion

10:15 - 11:30 - adjourn to driving range for group golf clinic

Tuesdays, May 20, 27 & June 3 -

9:00 am - meet at clubhouse for general discussion on getting started, rules, equipment, etc.

10:00 am - optional group golf instruction (\$5 per session)

10:00 am - open play on course

Tuesday, June 10 - regular weekly on course play begins

8:45 am - all players register at clubhouse

9:00 am - 1st tee off

11:00 - 11:30 - optional lunch to follow golf

Interested in playing in a similar evening league due to daytime employment commitment? Please give us a call at the clubhouse at 815-234-4653 and let us know what your first and second choices are as to the best time and day for a possible evening ladies league.



Junior Golf News

Open registration for PrairieView's summer junior golf program begins on Wednesday, May 14, at the PrairieView clubhouse. Complete information on the entire junior lesson program is also available at the course or by calling 815-234-GOLF.

The first class sessions will begin on Tuesday, June 10, and continue through the end of July. Class assignments will be determined by both age and experience. New activities and special events are also being planned for this season in addition to the regular instruction sessions.

Regular play on the golf course will again be part of the junior golfer lesson program this year. The in-

struction staff has been expanded to include PGA Golf Professional Bill Driver, as well as PGA Head Professional Ken Ledene. A minimum of two additional staff members will also help with the program this summer.

Junior season golf passes remain available for purchase and are a great bargain for parents and juniors alike. Season golf passes permit unlimited golf before 3 pm and after 5:30 pm Monday - Friday and after 3 pm on weekends and holidays (junior golfers can play on their golf pass before 3 pm on weekends on a "same day" first available time, walk-in basis with a parent or adult).

Junior Fundraiser Tournament to be held on Sunday, June 29. PrairieView's Second Annual Tournament to raise funds to help support junior golf activities is in need of volunteers for that day. Many of the new junior activities being planned this year including group trips, scholarships, new junior tournaments, and leagues are dependent upon this event for funding.

The Prairieview staff will be asking all available junior golfers to help serve as ball spotters and bag drop attendants, and to perform other duties that day. Last year, this event helped raise almost \$5,000 for junior golf. Anyone interested in joining PrairieView's junior golf committee (adults or junior golfers), please contact Ken Ledene at 815-234-4653.

Did you know...?

- Forests are vanishing at a rate of some 17 million hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres) per year, an area about half the size of Finland.
- Fix dripping faucets. A small drip can waste as much as 50 gallons of water per day.

PrairieView's Hours of Operation

PrairieView's hours of operation now through Labor Day weekend will be 6 AM to dusk Monday - Sunday. Reserve tee times are accepted for all days before 4 PM by calling 815-234-GOLF.

Residents and season passholders may reserve 8 days in advance, all others 7 days. PrairieView has eliminated the old daily reserve time fee of \$1 or \$2 for everyone starting this season.

Volunteers Needed

All ages, interests, shapes, and sizes! All are welcome to assist with prairie restoration, observatory, gift shop operation, maple syrup making, junior golf tournament, filling divots, and much more! Call Barb at 815-234-8535.

Slow Play Self-Examination

You may find that your answers hint at several ways you can speed up your game and add to your enjoyment of the game as well.

1. Do I know & understand USGA and local rules?
2. Am I at the tee for my tee time, or am I in the clubhouse or on the putting green?
3. Do I think out my next shot while others are hitting?
4. Am I decisive about which club to use?
5. When it's my turn, am I ready to play? Am I in position and ready to hit?
6. When I hit from the tee or the fairway, do I line up the ball with objects in the area where it landed to save time in searching for the ball?
7. Do I keep a second ball handy in case I need it?
8. Do I take two or three practice swings and waggle the club excessively?
9. Do I give lessons to others during a round?



PrairieView Tournament Schedule

- MAY 10 SPRING ULTIMATE CHALLENGE - 27-Hole, Two-Man Handicap Event - (9) Scramble, (9) Alternating Shot, & (9) Better Ball
- MAY 13 LADIES TUESDAY MORNING LEAGUE BEGINS - Every Tuesday through the end of September - Open to all Women
- MAY 18 NEW COUPLES TWILIGHT LEAGUE - Every Sunday through September - Open to Anyone (play starts on May 4)
- JUNE 8 OGLE COUNTY PLAYER & TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (new) - Men's 18-hole stroke play event for residents of Ogle County.
- JUNE 21/22 PRAIRIEVIEW LINCOLN HIGHWAY QUALIFYING - 36 holes modified bogey event
- JUNE 29 PRAIRIEVIEW SECOND ANNUAL JUNIOR GOLF FUNDRAISER - 18 holes two-player alternate shot - open entries
- JULY 8 IJGA JUNIOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - 18 holes - boys & girls ages 14-19
- AUG. 9/10 OGLE COUNTY JUNIOR TOURNAMENT - Open to all boys & girls residing in Ogle County.
- SEPT. 6/7 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP OF GOLF CLUB AT PRAIRIEVIEW - 36 holes flighted medal play event - open entries
- SEPT. 20 FALL ULTIMATE CHALLENGE - 27 hole two-man handicap event - (9) scramble, (9) alternating shot, & (9) better ball
- OCT. 20 SENIOR MEN 50+ - 18 hole best ball scramble

Bring On The Wood Ducks

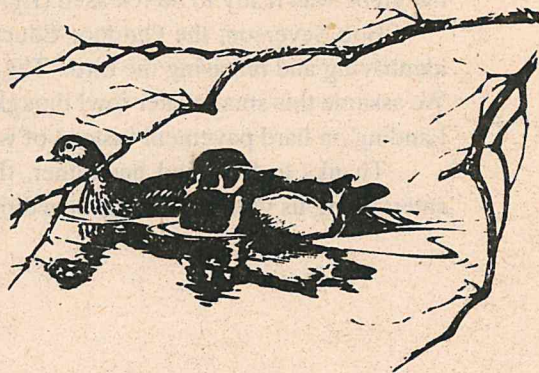


Maintenance worker Don Hayenga installs a home for wood ducks near the golf course and Heritage Farm.

Some people have noticed large wooden boxes appearing in some of the trees around the golf course. These are homes for Wood Ducks.

At one time, Wood Ducks were becoming increasingly rare due to a lack of good nesting cavities. They like to nest in holes in trees, often 20 feet or more off the ground. It seems strange to see ducks up in a tree but they devised this method to avoid predators and keep their babies safe.

Wood ducks are truly beautiful and unique and we hope that at least one pair takes up residence and is successful at raising a family. If you should see some, let the golf staff know so that we can keep an eye on them.



Major Golf Championships to be Held in Chicago Area in 1997

In the next few weeks, golfers will have an unprecedented opportunity to attend five major golf championships all scheduled for the Chicago area this summer.

- EVENT: NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS
- WHEN: May 26-31, 1997
- Monday, May 26 - Practice Round - FREE
- Tuesday, May 27 - Practice Round - FREE
- Wednesday, May 28 - Saturday, May 31 - 1st - 4th Round
- WHERE: Conway Farms Golf Club
- Lake Forest, Illinois
- TICKETS: 1-847-491-CATS (Hosted by Northwestern University)
- Volunteers Needed! See Ken for information.
- EVENT: AMERITECH MEN'S SENIOR OPEN
- WHEN: May 26 - June 1, 1997
- WHERE: Kemper Lakes
- Long Grove, Illinois
- TICKETS: 1-800-736-4671

- EVENT: U.S. MEN'S SENIOR OPEN
- WHEN: June 26-29, 1997
- WHERE: Olympia Fields Country Club
- Olympia, Illinois
- TICKETS: 1-800-338-1997
- EVENT: WESTERN OPEN
- WHEN: July 3-6, 1997
- WHERE: Cog Hill Golf and Country Club
- Lemont, Illinois
- EVENT: U.S. MEN'S AMATEUR
- WHEN: August 18-24, 1997
- WHERE: Cog Hill Golf and Country Club
- Lemont, Illinois

Turf Notes



Golf Superintendent Steve Storz

PrairieView continues on its path of improvement for the golfer. Several completed projects this spring include the driving range, vending machine shelters, and new drinking fountains.

Last fall, areas on the driving range were disturbed due to the installation of new drain tiles. This spring, the area was sodded. This should finally improve the poor drainage problems that have hampered the driving range since its inception.

Another completed project is the construction of shelters for vending machines located by the practice putting green and the driving range. The work done also involved trenching in electrical, water, and phone lines. This will give the golfers easier access to soft drinks and driving range balls.

To improve availability of fresh drinking water, the decision was made to install drinking fountains at the concession stand, located between 5 & 14 greens, by the practice putting green, by the driving range tee, and by 3, 13, and 17 tees. These new fountains will replace the current water cooler stands.

Construction is now underway on the new forward tees. Those tees that are highest priority are 12, 11, 15, 6, 2, 16, 7, and the white tee. Installation of new irrigation for each tee is included in the construction. Tees will also be sodded to help put the grass down faster. Construction will be benefited by the use of laser leveling equipment. Lasers greatly increase leveling accuracy and result in the need for fewer grade stakes, thus speeding up shaping and finish grading.

The repair of fairways is scheduled for this summer. The work will center on fixing all potholes and installing french drains in low, wet areas.

Last fall, 9,700 feet of blacktop cart paths were completed. Some of the graveled edges which are prone to erosion will be leveled with soil and then seeded. Tree plantings are a high priority. Approximately 35,000 prairie plants will be "plugged" into some areas while additional areas will be seeded. (See "More Prairie at PrairieView" in this issue.)

Continued design work will be underway for tree planting in areas that require safety or aesthetic needs. Also, landscape designs prepared for 1 and 10 tees will be installed this year. When completed, they will add beauty, plus help to better direct cart traffic flow in those areas.

Migration of a Grebe

By Cindy Storz, Audubon

Late one rainy, windy night in November, I received a call from Sara, who lives in Winnebago. She told me her father was traveling down East State Street in Rockford, he stopped at a traffic light, and he saw what he thought was a wet paper bag lying in the middle of the pavement. But as he watched, he realized it was not paper but a wing flapping each time a car passed by. He jumped out of his car, curious as to what the wing belonged to. He returned carrying a small brown "duck." Upon arriving home, Sara called, asking me how to take care of the "duck." The next day, I picked up the "duck," which actually was a pied-billed grebe. After a few days of recuperating by swimming in bathtubs and dining on minnows, the grebe was ready to be released (right).

Bob Severson, the Outdoor Education teacher at Byron School District, and a knowledgeable "birder," helped in identifying and releasing the bird. The grebe is similar to a loon, only much smaller. Grebes migrate alone and at night. We assume this small water fowl thought the wet pavement of East State Street was a perfect landing spot for a quick rest. Landing on hard pavement instead of water probably stunned the bird.

Thanks to Sara and her father, the grebe was released on one of the ponds at PrairieView Golf Course. After entertaining us with his diving, speeding across the water, and bathing activities, it continued its migration south.



The healthy and happy Grebe just after its release onto a PrairieView pond. Rehabilitated and released by Cindy Storz.

We're Putting the "Prairie" in PrairieView

Plans are underway to put more prairie into PrairieView. The areas that will be incorporated are not in the main areas. Golfers will not be slowed down by these prairie stands. The areas to be incorporated will increase visual awareness and enhance wildlife habitation. Eleven thousand plants have been ordered for the area called the "Front Door," the corner of German Church Road and River Road behind 16 green and 17 tee. Several native grasses such as Little Bluestem, Northern Prairie Dropseed, and Side Oats Gramma will be incorporated with forbs, i.e. Purple Coneflower, Flowering Spurge, Gay Feather, Shoot-

ing Star, and Wild Bergamot. This same theme will be continued at the entrance to the golf course incorporating the PrairieView sign and the split rail fence.

In the parking lot two limestone planters will be reconstructed and filled with native plants that attract butterflies and nectar-loving birds and bees.

Behind 9 green, a monoculture of little blue stem will be established. Not only will this be pleasing to the eye, it will allow for reduced mowing, water conservation, and a source of seed collection for future use on the course.

Further planting on 9 tee will result in the prairie

covering more of the slope area reducing moisture erosion, and supplementing wildlife's food source.

Another area targeted is the rough behind 16 green to be seeded into a tall grass prairie. Once established, it will be one of the most beautiful areas PrairieView has to offer.

Several other sites are also on the design boards insuring that the staff will be very busy throughout the summer months. We are excited about the plantings. This is a major undertaking of man and we are looking for help from volunteers. We would enjoy working outdoors helping us to plant and restore prairie to the PrairieView site.