SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY WITH AFFILIATE FRANZOSENBUSCH HERITAGE PROJECT

2011 Annual Report

SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY WITH AFFILIATE FRANZOSENBUSCH HERITAGE PROJECT

11225 Constitution Dr., Westchester, IL 60154 -- SaveThePrairieSociety.org E-mail: LawrenceGodson@yahoo.com Franzosenbuschheritageproject.org E-mail:dptreaves1@sbcglobal.net

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Wild Hyacinth in Wolf Road Prairie Savanna

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	The Field Museum
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	Services, Conservation Design Forum
Dr. Virginia Turner	Professor of Biology

Save the Prairie Society (STPS) is an all-volunteer not-for-profit 50l(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1975. STPS works in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

The Society's mission is to:

- Preserve and restore Wolf Road Prairie
- Acquire natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity
- Restore native ecosystems
- Offer field trips, prairie tours, natural, historic and cultural programs and events at Wolf Road Prairie and at the Franzosenbusch Prairie House
- Promote a connection to nature through the arts
- Work to restore the historic Prairie House as a Nature Center and Museum

Natural Areas Rescue Fund (NARF) was initiated in 1993 by STPS as a land acquisition project to save imperiled "orphan" natural areas and threatened and endangered species in Illinois.

STPS is a member of Chicago Wilderness, Earth Share of Illinois and The Land Trust Alliance. We support local, statewide and national conservation and environmental causes. STPS docents lead tours at Wolf Road Prairie, at the site of the Prairie House and at local librarys for student and adult groups by reservation. We offer monthly educational programs and events at Wolf Road Prairie and the Prairie House as a community service, and work to promote the site as a tourism destination that highlights conservation and history.



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE PARTNERS

Chicago Wilderness Consortium Forest Preserve District of Cook County Friends of the Forest Preserves Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund Illinois Department of Natural Resources Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Lower DesPlaines Ecosystem Partnership Midwest SOARRING Foundation Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Salt Creek Greenway Association Save the Prairie Society U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Cover photo: by Nate Fremont "Tiger Swallowtail coming in for a landing on Prairie Thistle"

Thank You Em! Early Hero in Fight to Save Wolf Road Prairie

Em Mitchell served as a member of Save The Prairie Society from 1975 to 1991 when she became a member of our Advisory Council. When Em came aboard, the prairie - subdivided into 600 lots - was ripe for development. Saving it meant finding and contacting the many owners, and then convincing them to sell to the society. Em, an experienced real estate broker, agreed to take on this seemingly impossible task. Knowing that the 600 lots were too small to meet local zoning standards, she realized that developers would have to combine lots before they could develop them.



Determined to beat them at their own game, she decided that the Society

should attempt to buy one or two lots in each block. So Em's first task was to identify who the owners were. This meant spending countless hours pouring over old records in the basement of the Cook County Assessor's Office. Then the owners or, in many cases, their heirs had to be located and contacted. After overcoming that hurdle, Em then had the daunting task of convincing them to sell. This is where, as Em herself explained, the human touch became important. Obviously she had the touch because according to former STPS President, Jack Shouba, she succeeded in negotiating the purchase of some 46 lots plus our three acre parcel on Hickory Lane. Through most of these activities, attorney John Vogel worked alongside of Em wading through red tape, establishing clear titles, and helping with the many intricacies of real estate law. Even though Em and John found that each case was different and that many of them had legal complications, they persisted, and in the end they prevailed.

But Em's involvement does not end there. Society President Jack Shouba asked Em if she would devote a substantial amount of her time to raising money for the purchase of land. At that time, Em was a member of the La Grange Park Garden Club, and she used her substantial persuasive talents to convince the garden club to raise a large sum of money for the purchase of land. The ladies then decided to hold a fund-raising bazaar. The bazaar turned out to be a huge success and the garden club raised enough money to buy the society's first lot. These initial efforts on the part of our founding members gave our society the all important momentum and inspiration needed for the work of purchasing the remaining lots and and the ongoing work of restoration. A note of acknowledgment: Carol Murray graciously did the research for this article. The picture was taken by STPS President Lawrence Godson. --Rita McCabe

STPS Restoration Management Wolf Road Prairie 2011

Thanks to the over 550 volunteer hours that Save the Prairie Society's dedicated, hard working management crew put in this year, many of the alien species threatening to invade and take over Wolf Road Prairie Preserve are being kept at bay. During this spring and summer Save the Prairie Society restoration volunteers met on weekday evenings once, twice, and sometimes three times a week. We managed for the control of reed canary grass



Richard Palak from LaGrange Park and LyInn Rotunno of Westchester Photo: Shonaugh Neafsay

in spring and early summer, thistles and teasels in mid to late summer, and tall boneset in late summer and autumn. National Public Lands Day as well as other management work was done on weekends (Check our website).

European Buckthorn is an ongoing management "target" for the Prairie Society as well as for State, County and Salt Creek Greenway Association crews. The Prairie Society will be funding contract herbiciding of this formidable alien invader in the coming months. We are hopeful that the weather cooperates for planned burns by the State and County for next year. Frequent control burns will destroy seedling buckthorn as well as other alien seedlings. Volunteers are welcome to assist us in preserving the prairie. Please call (708-562-3280) or E-mail Steward Larry Godson (Lawrencegodson@yahoo.com) if you would like to help. Wolf Road Prairie is a tall grass prairie that has

like to help. Wolf Road Prairie is a tall grass prairie that has existed for some 10,000 years. Join us in protecting this rare ecosystem.

Article by co-stewards John Banszak and Larry Godson.

DONORS: October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011

(Excluding "Friends" membership amounts)

Donations of \$750 or more

Thyson, Rosemary & Junius, David \$1,500.00

Donations of \$500 to \$749

Cray, Mary & Janicak, Phil Kolschowsky, Gerald & Karen Foundation Inc.

Donations \$250 to \$499

Cray, Mary & Dowd, Rita Brouk, Carol Brissenden, Mrs. Walker

In Memoriam

Boese, Steve for Pierce & Kevin McCabe - \$50.00 Almerico, Cindy, in Memory of Anne Thiele - \$25.-00 Cox, Linda, in memory of Anne Thiele - \$20.00 Heflin, Jane, in memory of Anne Thiele - 25.00 Thiele, Eric, W. in memory of Anne Thiele - \$315.00 Dumke, Pamela, in memory of Anne Thiele - \$50.00 Baker, Cynthia, in memory of Anne Thiele - \$50.00 Rita Mc Cabe, in memory of Thomas Cray - \$100.00 Metcalf, Derek, in memory of Grace Shouba - \$100.00 Mach, Anna, in memoriam - Anna -\$100.00

Donations \$100 to \$249

Rennhack, Geraldine Picha, James Nawrocki, Ronald & Diana Golland, Matthew & Kathy Tate. David Stuhlmacher, James & Alice Nollina, Elaine O'Hayer, Patrick & Karen Boyd, Robert & Laura Fanta. Barbara TTEE Adamus, Mitchell Russ, Robert & Rode Geralynne Hostetler, Laura Schmidt, Eunice Savage, Dr. Hugh Balin, Jerome, C, Murphy, Yvonne Picha. James Schmidt, Eunice M. Anos. Niki Claus, Richard Robinson. James Benedek, Roy - trust Tilley, Marion Ripple Maze, Nancy Chad Bourne Martin, Margaret Brancel. Celeste Argo, Rose Klaprat, Ann Mary Schneider, Carol Robinson. James Shouba, Jack Dowd, Rita

YOUARE IMPORTANT!

Contributions from our donors are acknowledged with gratitude and appreciation and represent crucial support for Save the Prairie Society projects and goals. This annual list represents support from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. While care has been taken to record all donors correctly, mistakes can occur. If your name is misspelled or should appear and does not, please let us know and we will correct any errors in the next listing.

In Memoriam - for NARF Fund

Cherin, Michael & Elizabeth, for Mary Frentzen Wisneski - \$25.00 Logan, Mary for Mary Frentzen Wisneski - \$20.00 Irwin, Nancy & Charles for Mary Frentzen Wisneski - \$20.00 Grutzmacher, Debora for Mary Frentzen Wisneski - \$35.00 Wheeler, Valerie for Mary Frentzen Wisneski - \$100.00

Donations under \$100

Kamen, Lawrence & Joanne Hofstra, John & Carol Workman, David & Linda Hopkins, Constance Sulak, Chris Kotsakis, Alexandra LaBelle, Jeanne & Janet LaBelle, Richard & Linda Difiore, Angeline, Paul & Ronald Smith. Eleanor Armstrong, Glen & Diane Gottwald, Wayne Zoars, Sharon & Anthony Petkovsek, Jim Gill & Elaine O"Brian, Donald & Margaret Bull, James & Kevin Pohanka, Geraldine & Rudolph Duncan. Anne Larson. Kenneth Wolak, John & Loretta Pipkin, Pamela Tocknott, William & J. Field, John Emmenegger, Edith Lucas, James & Dorothy Putman, S.J & J.A. Siebel, William and Barbara Hummer, Richard & Elaine Janiga, Philip & Pamela Nemec, Joyce Worms, Thomas & Barbara Gloghessy, Sharron & Carroll Sward, Theodore and Mary Ann Drai, George and Barbra Knight, James & Rita Rose. George & Helen Wimmer, Gertrude Schulz, Renate Widrlechner, Mark & Dragula, Sharon Kolar, Jerry Polacek, Emily Serituk, Renee Hofstra, John & Carol Alwill, James Dowd. Rita Berg, Ralph & Dorothy Ranieri, Tom Monsen, Mickey Chase, Al & Wiseman-Chase, Elizabeth Lace, Nancy & Edward Coates, Bill & Sue

Donations under \$100 Cont...

Bromann, Jennifer Thill. Marion Santerior - Trust, Lois Wieser, Jeffrey Turek, Marla & Gregory Hostetler, Laura & Leichtv. Mark Noeller, Richard Hinsdale. Janice Wade, Randall Sulak, Chris Doyle, John & Diane Schulz, Renate Robinson, Marcella Kudia, John & Bonnie Hofstra, John & Carol Knight, James & Rina Keefe. Joanne Barber, George Eichenold, Patricia Kamin, Lawrence Kokes, Jean Hilger, Timothy & Lucille Rode, Geralynne Ashman, George Wilson, Richard & Nancy Armstrong, Glen & Diane Donnelly, Suzanne & Jim Sward, Ted & Mary Kotsakis, Alexandra Hopkins, Constance

Cash Donations + sale of donated items: \$1,238.23

Matching Donations

Pipkin, Ms. Pamela \$50.00 - with IBM

Corporate or Organization Donations

Earthshare - \$2,504,60 Holby, Eric, Animal Welfare Foundation - \$300.00 Telecom "New Outlook" Poineers - \$50.00 Garden Club of LaGrange Park - \$25.00 Vern Goers Greenhouse - \$88.07 The Bouna Companies - \$58.24 LaGrange Garden Club - \$100.00 Pleasantdale Garden Club - \$50.00

Schmiz, Joanne P.

DONORS: October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011

Commemorative Bricks

\$100.00 each (in addition to other possible donations)

BRONSTEADERS **MUIRL + RAY AND FAMILY** from Ray & Muirl Bransteader **GREG HERTZ** JOEY HERTZ from Catherine Parks **RAMOND MOSTEK PIONEER CONSER** VATIONIST 1919 from Ms. Irene Mostek **ISABELLA DIANE BALIN** JAN. 14, 2010 from Jerome & Dr. Diane Balin **IN LOVING MEMORY OF** PIERCE MC CABE from Rita Mc Cabe **TO MY HUBBY** JIM TILLEY **MARYON ILENE** from Maryon Ripple Tilley **IMO - FERRRARI 10 HICKORY LN DONNELLY 2011** from Suzanne & Jim Donnelly THE JUDY BAAR These represent brick orders up **TOPINKA FAMILY** from Judy BaarTopinka

FIKARIS FAMILY

from Angeline Fikaris

W. F. BOEGER **O. HEERWAGEN FAMILIES**

from Karen Heerwagen

OLIVER, RUBY TOTO, DANNY ANGEL, SERIYAH

from Catherine Parks

IN MEMORY OF TOM CRAY

from Mary Cray & Rita Dowd

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KEVIN MC CABE

from Rita Mc Cabe

WE LOVE THE PRAIRIE AW WW YM

from Walter Wojcik & Yvonne Murphy

ENJOY & SAVE BILL MARY SUE COATES

from Bill & Mary Sue Coates

5

to Sept. 30, 2011 and they will be installed in the Spring of 2012 along with any subsequent bricks ordered. However Prairie House construction work my necessitate relocation of the brick walkway. All bricks will be reinstalled appropriately

Volunteer Power!

Well over a thousand volunteer work hours were donated in 2011 towards protecting and restoring Wolf Road Prairie, educational tours, the Prairie House and administering the Society. Thank you one and all for your selfless efforts in this great endeaver!

New Charter Memberships for Friends of The Prairie House and Membership Renewals

(up to September 30, 2011) *Individual* = \$25.00, *Family* = \$30.00 and are in addition to possible other donations Janiga, Philip & Pamela - Family Nemec, Joyce - Individual Worms, Thomas - Individual Savage, Dr. Hugh - Individual Siebel, William & Barbara - Family Gloghessy, Sharron & Carroll - Family Knight, James - Individual Porto, Susan - Family Dowd, Rita - Individual Monsen, Mickey - Individual Pona, Roger & Riordan, Kathleen - Family Chase, Al & Wiseman-Chase, Elizabeth - Family Coates, Bill & Sue - Family Smithy, Eleanor - Individual Schmiz, Joanne P. - Individual Cray, Mary - Individual Turek, Marla - Individual Puscheck, Anna Mae - Individual Sweeny, Ross - Individual Topinka, Judy Baar - Individual Borkovec, Kim - Individual O'Hayer, Karen - Individual Furey, Nancy & Warren - Family Doyle, John & Diane - Family Tormay, Margaret - Individual Brouk, Carol - Individual Magdalinos, Bessie - Individual Thill, John & Marion - Individual Lid. Carol - Family Slezak, Mildred - Individual Ranieri, Tom - Individual Atwill, James - Individual Kokes, Jean - Individual Pesek, Elaine - Family Novalich, Helen & June - Family Illyes, Robert - Individual Donnelly, Suzanne & Jim - Family Parks, Catherine & Robert - Family Bransteader, Muirl & Ray - Family Arbuthnot, James - Individual Schmid, Mary - Individual

Progress: The Franzosenbusch Heritage Project Affiliate of Save the Prairie Society



About a year-and-a-half ago the idea of a *Friends* network arose to support the efforts underway to turn the Prairie House into a first-rate nature center and museum. The finished Prairie House will then showcase the natural history preserved at Wolf Road Prairie and document the early settlement of our area. To date, we have raised about \$2,000 dollars and received another \$2000 in donations from the Friends members. (*Friends of the Prairie House* is supported and affiliated with the **Franzosenbusch Heritage Project**, as well as the umbrella Save the Prairie Society).

The Prairie House will help to preserve items of historic and scientific value while providing facilities to the general public. The plans call for a modern Activity room and Gallery, ideal for lectures, presentations and revolving exhbits. Membership in *Friends of the Prairie House* will be especially helpful in building a network needed to raise funds for the restoration of the museum portion of the building -- the original 1853 two-room schoolhouse within. To date, we have built a membership of seventy supporters. Through these members and dedicated volunteers we are now in a position to report that Franzosenbusch Prairie House plans are being finalized.

Friends members receive a special publication called *The Insider* containing the latest updates and current news related to the project. The publication has been published five times to date and some members have already reached their annual renewal time. The first one hundred members in Friends will help to get the project off the ground.

Photo by Larry Godson

Membership dues are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for families. To learn more details about the plans for the house, you are invted to join the Frends' network (See enclosed application form). *The Franzosenbusch Heritage Project Committee* also organized several exciting programs for the public, held at local libraries. A wool spinning program involved the participants in the rudiments of learning how to spin yarn, which was such a basic, everyday activity of early settlers in this country. Western Springs resident, Jack Doyle presented the history of the North American streetcars with his historic slide presentation. He shared first-hand memories and research on earlier transportation modes.

FHP Directors also presented two genealogy events, open to the public, We helped participants gain a hands-on experience in their quest to research that elusive ancestor. Passenger lists to America and routes of immigration were also explored in another one of the Sunday afternoon lectures. We are looking forward to presenting more interesting programs on local history, European immigration, and other cultural aspects that affected the vicinity of our local Illinois prairie.

Our Historical Architect, Michael Lambert of Arris Architects and Planners, has now completed over 60% of the drawings necessary for the restoration project. Several meetings with our FHP directors have resulted in what we believe will be excellent upgrades to the original design..

--FHP Chairperson, Patricia Reaves

(*above*) On Sunday, May 15, 2011 students from the Interact Volunteer Organization at Lockport Township High School (Andrea Quintinar, Sponsor) and Volunteers from Oak Lawn High School (Adam Woodworth, Sponsor) pitched in to help us move most of the remaining items in the Prairie House out to a moving van to enable our upcoming construction.

Fulfilling Our Mission to Educate in 2011 SCHOOL AND OTHER GROUPS

- The North Riverside Garden Club:

Toured the Prairie, led by docents Carol Brouk, Mary Cray, and Lawrence Godson

- Elm Middle School's 8th graders (from Elmwood): decided to raise money on behalf of STPS. Under the guidance of science teacher Geri Rode, they successfully raised dozens of house plants that were then sold to help support Prairie maintenance.

- Girl Scout Troop 2056:

guided by Scout leader, Colleen Jamison, the troup came out for National Public Lands Day. They weeded invasive plants and learned about Prairie ecosystem.

- Nazareth Academy High School,

Special thanks to Nazareth Academy students who, under the guidance of teacher, Tucker Burton, worked six Satur days clearing buckthorn. (3 in the Spring and 3 in the Fall)

- Longfellow School from Oak Park 80 students
- Polaris Charter School in Chicago 100 students **Daniel J. Corkery Elementary – PODER program** (Positive Outcomes Delivered through Education and Respect) - 50 students

VOLUNTEER DOCENTS:

Jim Hodapp, Rita McCabe, Mary Cray, Shonagh Neafsey, Carol Brouk, Vivien McDermott, Neil McDermott and Larry Godson

EARTH SHARE OF ILLINOIS Support Save the Prairie Society **Through Workplace Giving**

STPS is one of the founding members of Earth Share of Illinois (ESI). Through workplace giving campaigns ESI raises funds for more than 60 organizations working to improve the environment. Contributions received through workplace giving represent a significant portion of annual income for STPS. If you work for a company which supports annual workplace campaigns and ESI is not included, let us know. Call 708-442-9159 for more information about introducing environmental choices to your workplace campaign.



Annual Report Contributors

John Banaszak Mary Cray Nate Freemont Lana Gits Alice Ann Barnes

Larry Godson Rita McCabe Patricia Reaves **Drew Reaves** Shonagh Neafsay



High School Students from Nazerath Acedemy

PROGRAMS, PRESENTATION AND TOURS

Our sincere thanks to those who made this a year of rich, and informative programs.

Patricia Reaves - "A Traditional German Christmas" and "Dating Old Photos"

John Elliott FPDCC - "The History of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois"

Mickey Anderson - "The Use of a Spindle and a Spinning Wheel for the Making of Wool"

John Banaszak - Three Woodcock Walks and a Spring Prairie Walk Jack Doyle - "History of Chicagoland Streetcars"

Linda Padera - Spring and Fall bird walks on the Prairie Dr. John Wagner, Professor Mike Rush, and STPS President Larry Godson - "Summer and Fall Insect Safaris"

John Banaszak, Marge Hatter, Rita McCabe - Monarch Butterflies Peter Carlson - A presentaion/discussion on the Invasive Plants of our Area

Drew and Patrica Reaves - "German Genealogy"

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AND APPRECIATED!

Help maintain and restore Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the surrounding area. Work at the Prairie House and gardens, or lead groups through the prairie as a tour guide. Volunteer opportunities abound for all who are interested. Give us a call at 708-562-3280 and get involved! Eagle Scout projects are welcome!



Photo by Larry Godson

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE WORKDAYS Contact WRP Steward: Larry Godson, (708) 562-3280



Spotlighting the Prairie's Resident Artist

Alice Ann Barnes of Oak Park is a petite, delicate looking young lady. But her appearance masks both her endurance and toughness. No matter the conditions - mosquitoes, heat, high humidity, cold, strong winds, and friendly visitors curious to know what she is painting - Alice stays with her work as long as she has the light. Working with water colors, she patiently sits on the ground doing and redoing her painting until she feels she has captured the beauty, the mystery, or the mood that has inspired her. Alice has become popular with those of us who frequent the prairie not just because of her lively personality, but also because she captures the spirit of a place that has so much meaning for us. Seven of her prairie paintings are now on display in Milwaukee and an eighth painting is near completion. You can reach Ali at: violetvixen27@hotmail.com



(Above) Ali - hard at work on the Prairie

--RitaMcCabe

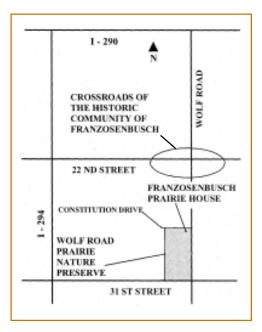
WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE & FRANZOSENBUSCH PRAIRIE HOUSE

11225 Constitution Drive Westchester, IL 60154

Located between 31st Street and Constitution Drive, west of Wolf Road, just 15 miles west of downtown Chicago.

Free parking along 31st Street or in the Prairie House parking lot.

For information, call 708-562-3280 or 708-531-1851. (The second number is the Prairie House and it may take us a few days to get back to you.)



Museum restoration.	\$1,000	\$500	\$250\$100
	\$75	\$50	Other
	`	re tax deductible to make check payable	the full extent of the law) e and mail to:
If you would like your donation used specific purpose please indicate here:	for a 1	ave The Prairie S 1225 Constitutio Westchester, IL (on Dr.,
Name			
Address		City	
	Zip	Phone	

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Valkway at the Prain Your etched, persona haracters each, will h a lines to the right - louble brick is desi ve will contact you of cription. (All contribu- xtent of the law).	Only \$100 located in the Commemorative ie House Museum/Nature Center. Il message of 3 lines of 13 become a long lasting tribute. (Fill please print). If an 8" X 8" or a red, please enclose \$200.00 and concerning the design of your in- ations are tax deductible to the full	
<u>Name</u> Address		City

type 1 return slip

,	Friends of the &	Prair	rie Hol	use H	bplicati	ion
Becom - a "	 Become a member of "Friends of the Prairie House". Your membership will entitle you to receive: a "Friends of the Prairie House Card" (your ticket to specially designated programs, events and tours). The "Prairie House Insider" - (a newsletter keeping you informed of the renovation's progress). Genealogical Assistance - (by Franzosenbusch Heritage Project family history researchers). 					
	Please make check payable to: "SPS/FHP" and mail to: Save The Prairie Society, with Affiliate Franzosenbusch Heritage Project 11225 Constitution Dr., Westchester, IL 60154					
	Membership:	\$25.00 (Individual) or \$30.00 (Fan			0 (Family)	
	Additional contributions for this f	und drive	\$1,000 \$75	\$500 \$50	\$250	\$100 -Other
Name						
Address			Ci	2		
State		Zip		Phone		
E mail _		Ple	ase check here] if you wish to r	eceive the news	sletter by e-mail.

Double sided on white stock

type 2 return slip

Friends of the Prairie House Commemorative Bricks Only \$100 buys your own brick.... Your brick(s) will be located in the Commemorative Walkway at the Prairie House Museum/Nature Center. Your etched, personal message of 3 lines of 13 characters each, will become a long lasting tribute. (Fill in lines to the right - please print). If an 8" X 8" or a double brick is desired, please enclose \$200.00 and we will contact you concerning the design of your inscription. Brick proceeds will benefit the Prairie House Restoration/Renovation fund. (All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law). Name City Address State Zip Phone E mail



Save the Prairie Society 11225 Constitution Dr. Westchester, Il 60154

900 newsletters 1800 return slips - type 1 1800 return slips - type 2 1800 return envelopes 1500 9"x12" mailing envelopes no postage imprint this time - we are doing first class now.