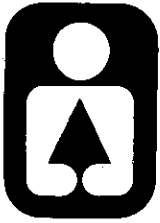


F491-024



**Illinois**  
**Department of**  
**Conservation**  
life and land together

# memorandum

## DIVISION OF NATURAL HERITAGE

to: Fran Harty

from: Randy R. Heidorn

date: July 30, 1991

reference:

subject: 1991 Non-game wildlife project: Cary Main Street Prairie/Sands Prairie Trail Guide.

Enclosed are 20 copies of the above trail guide produced for this project. A voucher has been prepared and submitted for this project.

If you have any questions please let me know.

cc. Linda Williams

*Fran sending  
in to me 8-13-91.*

SUNDAY

# Community

February 3, 1991

## Donation at tax time could benefit county

By PETER GILL  
The Northwest Herald

WOODSTOCK — It is not always easy to donate money to the state, especially after receiving an income tax refund. But donations on income tax forms can have results right here in McHenry County.

People can see the difference in the local bluebirds population, well-preserved prairie remnants, or simply a wildlife poster for their wall. All are results of past donations to the Illinois Non-Game Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Taxpayers will have a chance again to fill out line 16A of their state income tax return to fund projects recommended by the Illinois Department of Conservation.

The donations can be used for many small grants for up to \$1,000 each, and a few larger grants. Last year, the state divided \$250,000 donated to the con-

servation fund.

"This is a fairly easy way to do it — fairly painless," said Nature Conservancy official Gill Moreland of Cary. "I think it's a really important thing."

One example of the funds being used in McHenry County is a \$500 grant being used by Cary resident Lynda Wallis to create an interpretive trail guide for the Main Street/Sands Prairie in Cary. Wallis, who expects to complete the guide by June, is now a supporter of the fund.

"It'll be used right here at home," she said. "It's a really useful thing, and it's too bad more people aren't aware they can apply."

In past years, the fund has paid for research on insect populations at the Lake in the Hills Fen; to build nesting platforms at Moraine Hills State Park for the state-endangered Black Turn; for

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### Wildlife

bluebird educational workshops; and development of a Northern Illinois wetlands poster.

The bluebird workshops, which involve citizens in helping the bird to flourish, has been one of the most visible results of the non-game fund in McHenry County, DOC natural heritage biologist Randy Heidorn said. The nesting project for black terns also has seen some success.

The DOC also has been able to spend the money on equipment to use for managing local conservation areas and for printing a number of wildlife education publications.

The non-game fund is especially important to the state Department of Conservation because it is one of three major sources of income, Heidorn explained.

"Last year was one of our best

years because they allowed people to donate even if they didn't have a refund from taxes. They also removed the cap, allowing people to donate as much as they want," he said.

The result has been that the state has had an increased amount of money to use on non-game wildlife projects the last couple of years. The citizen's committee which recommends how to spend the money, usually has about 50 or 60 to choose from, said Sue Laue, marketing director for the non-game fund. They will probably be able to recommend two-thirds of those smaller projects.

Some of the proposals supported this year include a research project on the effect prairie burning has on insects, an Illinois cave inventory, a wetlands educational project, and an Illinois streams wildlife poster.