

2007 Report of the Director  
James Woodworth Prairie (JWP) of University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Dennis Nyberg**, Department of Biological Sciences

Highlights of 2007 at James Woodworth Prairie

The Woodworth Prairie website was revised in early 2007. Frank Mayfield completed the first book in a planned series of 3. Abundant Splendor has been sent to U of Illinois Press and hopefully will be published in 2008. Many of Frank's photos have been included in the *plant species* section of the website. A substantial financial gift was received from a colleague.

### Research

1. Wyatt Gaswick completed his MS thesis entitled, "Aquatic Invertebrates of Short-Hydroperiod Wetlands in an Illinois Prairie". A manuscript based on Wyatt's thesis is being prepared for the journal WETLANDS. We have eight years of hydrology data on the Milwaukee Swale- it has water 38% of the time. A total of 33 aquatic species were found in the 5 JWP wetlands. A map of the wetlands is on the website.
2. Jodi Leamon began a project to enhance the population of *Lilium michiganense*. Many small individuals of that species occur north of the Milwaukee swale, but they rarely flower. We decided to see if cutting the leaves of neighbors (presumably reducing competition) would enhance growth of the lilies.
3. Janet Mrowka made substantial progress on cleaning up and updating the ant list for JWP.
4. 2007 was the first year I have been Director of JWP that I have found NO plant species new to the site. I continue to accumulate data on blooming dates.
5. I was surprised that the 17 year cicada appeared at the prairie. I would say there were more of them than the prairie cicada this year. The 17 year cicada emerged from the IC garden and I infer they are not dependent on woody plants.

### Management

1. On 5 April the SW quarter was burned and on 17 Nov 07 a fall burn was attempted. On 17 Nov it began raining just after we started and only a small section at the head of the center swale was burned before the flames were extinguished.
2. I devoted significant effort to trapping medium sized mammals and removing them from the site. Six cottontails, two opossums and a woodchuck were moved from JWP to sites where those species are rare. I anticipate continued regulation of the cottontail population in 2008 and may regulate voles as well.
3. 2007 involved a significant focus on dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*. Patches of this species were cut at ground level and herbicided. 2008 should reveal how successful that action was.
4. *Kuhnia eupatorioides* was introduced into the garden. It seeded in its first year of growth. In fall 07 I found a population of *Agalinis tenuifolia* (a rare prairie annual) and I introduced seeds to the IC garden.
5. A large accumulation of cut dogwood was burned in the parking lot (supervised by Jodi Leamon). The parking lot was protected with flagstone and old Aluminum grates. The parking lot survived fine, but the Aluminum grates partially melted in the fire.

### Education and outreach

The spring potluck was held on 18 May. Janet and Wyatt reported on their research. Dr. Al Rouffa attended. The Lady's slipper had already faded by the date of the potluck.

### Building and grounds

I got rid of the land phone line to save money. The fence surrounding the site continues to degrade. The condition of the blacktop in the parking lot and driveway is a continuing problem. A big storm at the end of August not only filled the wetlands is also broke a utility pole so that it was leaning over our parking lot. We lost power and that took a long time to repair because UIC had to hire a contractor.

### Effort details

From 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, I spent 10183 minutes at JWP on 49 different dates.