

Wildlife Preservation Fund

Interpretive Trail Signs at Lake Sra Flatwoods Natural Heritage Landmark, Effingham County
(03-17W)

Final Report

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FEB 19 2003

INTRODUCTION

FEDERAL AID

High quality post oak flatwoods are extremely rare in Illinois with only a few being recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Most examples of this fire dependent community have been lost to clearing or natural succession due to fire suppression. A comparative study of Illinois' flatwoods revealed that the flatwoods at Lake Sara had the most extensive fire history and the highest diversity of plant species of all of the sites included in the study. A trail has been in place at Lake Sara for several years, but no interpretive signs were available to provide visitors with an insight into the ecological significance of the site. A grant was submitted to the Wildlife Preservation Fund to purchase interpretive signs that would provide visitors with an insight into the ecological significance of the site.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 16 - 9' x 12" interpretive signs were purchased from Wilderness Graphics and mounted in frames provided by Shelby Signs. These signs were mounted on 4" x 4" posts and installed at appropriate locations along the trail (see attached supporting documents). A list of the signs installed is provided below. The mounting posts upon which the signs were installed were provided by the Effingham Water Authority who owns the site. The signs were installed by personnel from the Effingham Water Authority, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and local residents. Installation of the signs was completed on December 20, 2002.

Interpretive trail signs installed at Robeson Hills

White oak	Red-headed woodpecker	Forest layers	Fire
Mockernut hickory	Decomposers	Blue bird	Eastern fence lizard
Shagbark hickory	Post oak	Diversity	Songbirds
Big blue stem	Bracken	Habitat	Little blue stem



Photo 1. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.



Photo 2. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.



Photo 3. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.



Photo 4. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.



Photo 5. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.



Photo 6. Interpretive sign installed at Lake Sara Flatwoods on Dec 20, 2002.