

21 July 2004

Mr. Eric Smith  
District Heritage Biologist  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Springfield IL 62702

Dear Eric,

In fiscal year 2004 I received Illinois Wildlife Preservation funding to relocate populations of four species listed on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources threatened or endangered species list at three natural areas sites. The four species are: *Sparganium americanum*, *Rubus setosus*, *Polygala incarnata*, and *Tomanthera auriculata*.

I made three trips to one or more of the sites where these species had been found 10-70 years ago. The three sites visited were: Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve 281 (Watseka Sand Pond Natural Area 1363), Iroquois County for *Sparganium americanum* and *Rubus setosus* on 16 July 2003 and 11 June 2004 (4.0 hours searching), Watseka Railroad Prairie Natural Area 1362, Iroquois County for *Polygala incarnata* on 16 July 2003 and 11 June 2004 (2.5 hours searching), and the Heartland Prairie Pathways natural area, Champaign County for *Tomanthera auriculata* on 16 July 2003 and 18 September 2003 (2.5 hours searching). A total of nine hours were spent searching for the listed plants at these sites. Ten hours were spent driving to and from the three sites.

After visiting Bonnie's Prairie and collecting vouchers of all the *Sparganium* species present, I compared these to specimens found in the Illinois Natural History Survey Herbarium (ILLS). I found specimens matching *Sparganium eurycarpum* and *Sparganium androcladum* but none matching *Sparganium americanum*. I spoke with John Taft, botanist from the Illinois Natural History Survey, about the *Sparganium* spp. from Bonnie's Prairie. He informed me that he had made a thorough study of the area approximately 15 years ago and also found no *Sparganium americanum* and reported such to the Department of Natural Resources at that time. Apparently the information that *Sparganium americanum* is not present at Bonnie's Prairie was not entered into the threatened and endangered Department of Natural Resources database. The database is reported to be corrected now.

*Rubus setosus* was located and vouchered on 11 June 2004 from 40.8279 N, -087.7359 W, immediately south of Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve in mesic/wet-mesic old pasture (in an area not currently fenced for livestock). Because the area is thickly covered with grasses, sedges, and, especially, *Rubus allegheniensis*, it is difficult to quantify the amount of *Rubus setosus* present at the site although I believe that several dozen to several hundred or more stems are probably present in the area.

On 16 July 2003 and 11 June 2004, I searched for *Polygala incarnata* in the Watseka Railroad Prairie Natural Area for approximately 2.5 hours and didn't find any.

On 16 July 2003 and 18 September 2003, I searched for *Tomanthera auriculata* in the Prairie Pathways abandoned railroad prairie natural area in western Champaign County for approximately 2.5 hours and didn't find any.

In summary I searched for four plants listed on Illinois' threatened and endangered list. I relocated one of the listed plants, *Rubus setosus*, at Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve. I determined that a second listed plant, *Sparganium americanum*, was never actually present at Bonnie's Prairie. I searched for two other listed species, *Polygala incarnata* and *Tomanthera auriculata* and did not locate any individuals of either species. With this search I have updated four element of occurrence (EO) records in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources threatened and endangered species database.

Sincerely,

Dan Busemeyer  
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## COSTS

### Mileage

Trips to Watseka to survey *Polygonum incarnata* and *Rubus setosus*:

5 trips @ 172 miles round-trip = 860 miles  
860 miles @ .32 cents/mile = \$275.20

Trips west of Champaign to survey *Tomenthera auriculata*

2 trips @ 15 miles roundtrip = 30 miles  
30 miles @ .32 cents/mile = \$ 9.60

**Total Mileage Costs = \$ 284.80**

### Labor

24 hours @ \$14.25/hr = \$ 342.00

**GRAND TOTAL = \$ 626.80**

**Illinois Natural Heritage Database  
Endangered/Threatened Species Occurrence and Sighting Report Form**

**Species:** *Rubus setosus* Bigelow (syn. *Rubus schneideri* Bailey)

**Date observed:** 11 June 2004

**Location\*:** 40.8279 N, -087.7359 W, South of Bonnie's Prairie Nature Preserve (Watseka Sand Pond Natural Area)

**Nature of observation** (number of nests, flowering plants, etc.): Found growing together with many *Rubus allegheniensis*. Because there were many thousands of stems of *Rubus allegheniensis* it is difficult to quantify how much *Rubus setosus* is present at the site. I would estimate several dozen to several hundred stems of *Rubus setosus* are probably present at the site (and maybe more over a wider area of private property and the south end of Bonnie's Prairie).

**Naturally occurring or introduced location?** Naturally occurring

**Description of area/habitat:** Mesic sand prairie which has been lightly or moderately grazed sometime in the past but not currently (the cattle fence is currently down and the plants do not look recently disturbed). The area is south of Bonnie's Prairie Sand Pond Nature Preserve on the edge of black oak savanna.

**Species associates:** *Rubus allegheniensis*, *Rosa carolina*, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, *Rudbeckia* sp.,

**Comments:** Map will be mailed.

**Specimen/Voucher number(s):** Busemeyer 1864, deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey Herbarium (ILLS)

**Name, affiliation, and phone number of observer:**

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**Illinois Natural Heritage Database  
Endangered/Threatened Species Occurrence and Sighting Report Form**

**Species:** *Polygala incarnata* Linnaeus

**Date searched for:** 16 July 2003 and 11 June 2004

**Location searched:** Watseka Railroad Prairie, east of town of Watseka near intersection of IL 1 and U.S. 24

**Nature of observation** (number of nests, flowering plants, etc.): None Found

**Naturally occurring or introduced location?**

**Description of area/habitat:** Mesic sand prairie next to east-west rail line

**Species associates:**

**Comments:** Searched for a total of 2.5 hours along the whole length of the railroad prairie. This area is quite thick with both natural and exotic vegetation. One or a few individuals of *Polygala incarnata* could have been missed. Also this species could have disappeared due to thick competition. At the western end of the railroad prairie near the junction of IL 1 and U.S. 24 is a stand of *Phragmites australis* approximately 150' long. This invasive species has forced almost all other vegetation out of this area.

**Specimen/Voucher number(s):**

**Name, affiliation, and phone number of observer:**

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**Species:** *Tomanthera auriculata* (Michaux) Rafinesque

**Date searched for:** 16 July 2003 and 18 September 2003

**Location searched:** Heartland Pathways abandoned railroad prairie, west of Champaign near Bondville

**Nature of observation** (number of nests, flowering plants, etc.): None Found

**Naturally occurring or introduced location?**

**Description of area/habitat:** Mesic prairie next to abandoned east-west rail line

**Species associates:**

**Comments:** Searched for a total of 2.0 hours along the whole length of the railroad prairie. This area is quite thick. One or a few individuals of *Tomanthera auriculata* could have been missed. Also this species could have disappeared due to thick competition.

**Specimen/Voucher number(s):**

**Name, affiliation, and phone number of observer:**

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