



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report

February 7, 2012 – March 7, 2012

Prepared by Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator

Introduction

The following Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report describes activities of the Public Arts Program for the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The report includes information regarding projects which are in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Update on Current Projects

- **Boneyard Creek Public Art:** The Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation has committed \$32,000 toward public art in the project, which will fund street level stone markers on the Broadway bridge and wall tile elements. Jack Mackie has been completing final designs, including the attached informational plaques. The Commission should decide of the plaques should include call-in or QR codes as an additional source of information.
- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** See memo of 2012 jury recommendations. The Public Arts Intern has created a survey that will help evaluate the current application cycle.
- **Downtown Arts Planning:** The Downtown Arts Planning subcommittee met on March 6 to discuss the Urbana Sculpture Project, vinyl window art, projections, and potential partners.
- **Art in the Schools:** Staff is working on questions from the Feb. 17 subcommittee meeting.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Project Subcommittee:** Submissions for the RFQ are due by March 14, 2012 at 5:00 PM. More information is available at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artsopportunities>. Nineteen applications have been received so far.
- **Outreach:** Staff is involved in the Urbana planning committee for the 2012 Boneyard Arts Festival, to be held April 19-22, 2012.
- **Art Now!:** March's episode features multimedia artist Jamie Kruidenier, airing on UPTV Channel on Mondays at 6:30 PM and Tuesdays at 11:00 PM.
- **Art at the Market:** See attached memo on proposed increased arts programming at the Market at the Square.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current show features paintings by Betsem Benjamin and Wiley Elementary third and fifth graders, to be exhibited through April 30. The exhibit will be included as a venue for the 2012 Boneyard Arts Festival.
- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating Facebook and Twitter accounts, with 422 fans and 223 followers, respectively. An e-mail newsletter was sent to 415 subscribers on February 15, 2012. The printed promotional postcard is being distributed to area businesses and organizations. Staff has worked with Single Stereo Design to create the attached new program brochure.
- **Grants:** Staff is applying for a 2013 Illinois Arts Council Visual Arts Program Grant for general operating support, due on March 15, 2012.

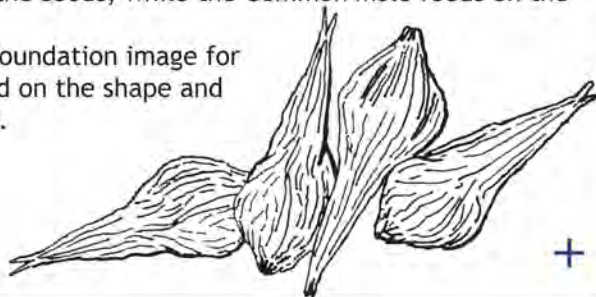
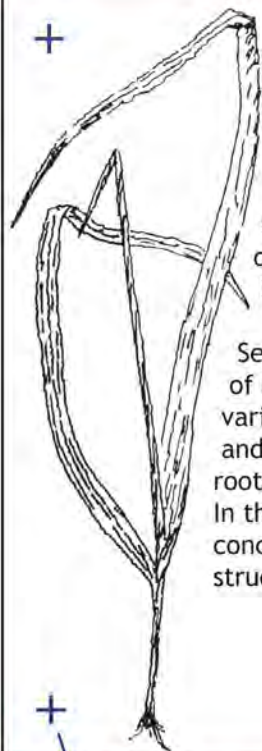
Upcoming Events

- Please note our Tuesday, March 13, 2012 meeting, will be held at 4:30 PM in the **Executive Conference Room**, on the second floor of the City building.
- 2012 Urbana Arts Grants Announcement event: **Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 5:30-7:00 PM** at Buvons, located at 203 N. Vine Street in Urbana.
- April meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 4:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

Common Sedge

The common sedge (*Carex spp*), is a family of indigenous grass-like plants vital to a healthy prairie and particularly to the floodplain forest habitat of Boneyard Creek. Sedges here are semi-aquatic growing along and stabilizing the creek edge. Collectively, sedges are an important food source to many kinds of insects, birds, and other animals. The caterpillars of the Appalachian Brown and Eyed Brown butterflies feed on their foliage. Various leafhoppers suck juices on the foliage. The stink bug feeds on the Common Woodland Sedge specifically. In woodlands, the Wild Turkey, Woodcock, and chicks of the Ruffed Grouse feed on sedge seeds. Granivorous songbirds - various sparrows, towhees, cardinals, and others - eat the seeds. Gray and Fox Squirrels also eat the seeds, while the Common Mole feeds on the roots of sedges.

In the Boneyard creek the foundation image for concrete wall liners is based on the shape and structure of the sedge seed.



1/4" — | drill 3/16 hole for mounting screw

6"

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For additional information
call 217-123-4567 or



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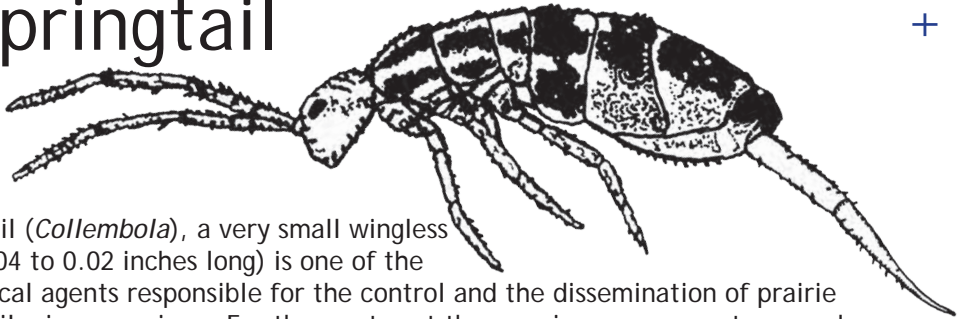
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Springtail

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The springtail (*Collembola*), a very small wingless hexapod (0.04 to 0.02 inches long) is one of the main biological agents responsible for the control and the dissemination of prairie woodland soil microorganisms. For the most part they are innocuous creatures and are seldom even noticed. Most soil-inhabiting springtails feed on decaying plant material, fungi and bacteria, and thrive in an environment that is moist or high in humidity. In sheer numbers - there are 8000 described species worldwide - they are reputed to be one of the most abundant of all macroscopic animals, with estimates of 100,000 individuals per cubic meter of topsoil. No other insect, animal, nematode or mite can boast similar numbers. Devonian epoch fossils are among the oldest known records of terrestrial animals. Based on the work that springtails, recycling and decomposing organic matter, these creatures can easily be regarded as the dirt farmers of all dirt farmers.

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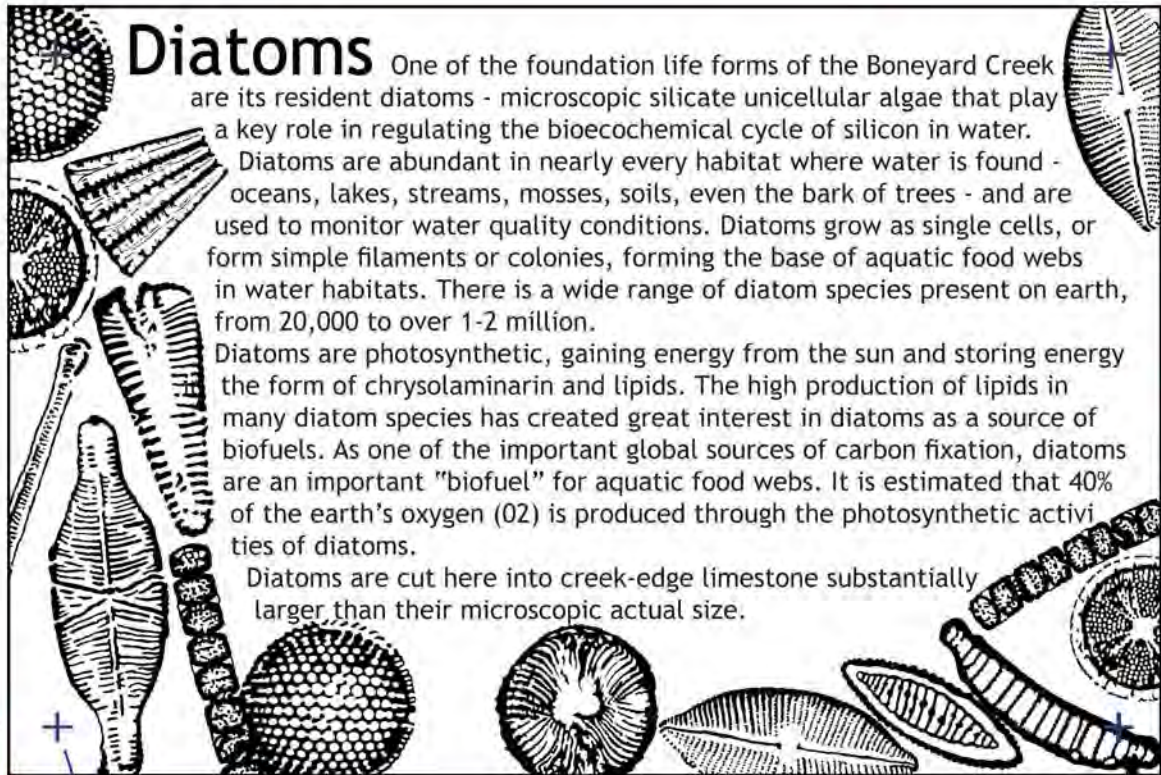
Diatoms

One of the foundation life forms of the Boneyard Creek are its resident diatoms - microscopic silicate unicellular algae that play a key role in regulating the biogeochemical cycle of silicon in water.

Diatoms are abundant in nearly every habitat where water is found - oceans, lakes, streams, mosses, soils, even the bark of trees - and are used to monitor water quality conditions. Diatoms grow as single cells, or form simple filaments or colonies, forming the base of aquatic food webs in water habitats. There is a wide range of diatom species present on earth, from 20,000 to over 1-2 million.

Diatoms are photosynthetic, gaining energy from the sun and storing energy the form of chrysolaminarin and lipids. The high production of lipids in many diatom species has created great interest in diatoms as a source of biofuels. As one of the important global sources of carbon fixation, diatoms are an important "biofuel" for aquatic food webs. It is estimated that 40% of the earth's oxygen (O₂) is produced through the photosynthetic activities of diatoms.

Diatoms are cut here into creek-edge limestone substantially larger than their microscopic actual size.



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Stay Informed

You can learn more about the Urbana Public Arts Program on our website and sign up for our e-mail newsletter, at <http://www.urbanaininois.us/arts>. You can also follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/urbanapublicarts> and Twitter at <http://twitter.com/urbanapublicart>. For further information, contact the Public Arts Coordinator at 217-384-2311.



www.urbanaininois.us/arts



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Urbana Public Arts Program

City of Urbana

Community Development Services

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<http://www.urbanaininois.us/arts>



urbana
public
arts
program

About the Urbana Public Arts Program

In 2008, the Urbana Public Arts Program was established by the Urbana City Council to foster a city where all residents — emerging artists, established artists, and “non-artists” alike — can engage in the arts and where artists can thrive and feel valued.

The program encompasses a wide variety of art forms, including music, theatre, visual arts, dance, creative writing, film/video, crafts, performing arts, spoken word, environmental arts, multimedia arts, architectural arts, landscape architecture, and emerging media. Through public support for the arts, the City of Urbana increases opportunities for the creation of art, thereby enhancing the quality of life, economic development, citizen participation, cultural awareness, and the overall vibrancy of the community.

Thanks to these efforts, Urbana was designated an Illinois Arts Friendly Community by the Illinois Arts Alliance and the Illinois Municipal League in 2008.

The Urbana Public Arts Commission

The Urbana Public Arts Commission is a nine member volunteer advisory board for the Urbana Public Arts Program. Commissioners represent various segments of the community and have experience, expertise, and/or interest in areas including the arts, arts education, planning, neighborhood organizing, entertainment, and business. Members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and are chosen from a diverse range of backgrounds, occupations, and artistic realms, with the intention of reflecting the full diversity of the Urbana arts community. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are televised on UPTV Channel 6. Those interested in applying to serve on the Public Arts Commission may find more information at <http://www.urbanaininois.us/boards>.



Current Programs

The Urbana Public Arts Program encompasses the following:

- **Urbana Arts Grants** are given annually to individual artists, groups of artists, arts organizations, and arts festivals for projects occurring in Urbana. Applicants do not have to be residents of Urbana to apply. More information can be found at <http://urbanaininois.us/artsgrants>.
- **Art at the Market** is a series of monthly performances and art workshops that feature the talents of local artists. Free for all ages, these events are held at Urbana’s Market at the Square during the market season. View the event schedule at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artworkshops>.
- **Art Now!** is a monthly television program showcasing the work of local artists. Each episode features a different artist interview. New shows are broadcast on UPTV (channel 6) on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Tuesdays at 11:00 pm; all episodes may be viewed online at <http://urbanaininois.us/artnow>.
- **Artist of the Corridor** presents art exhibitions by Urbana artists in the City Building lobby at 400 Vine Street in Urbana. Artists who are interested in participating may learn more at <http://urbanaininois.us/artexhibits>.
- **The Urbana Sculpture Project** has brought several public sculptures to Urbana. The City is also pursuing future art projects as a part of public infrastructure, and has partnered with the Public Art League of Champaign Urbana to bring additional sculptures to Urbana.
- **Municipal Building Projects** are allotted at least 1% of the original budgeted construction cost for public art. The Commission consults with the City on the art to be incorporated into or located near City of Urbana building projects.