

# Site Manager Photo Album 2009

These are pictures Eric Doerzbacher, our site manager, has collected. This is a great way of seeing some of the cool things at the bog. And a way to log some of his finds and share them with others.

**April 2009**



The first big event of the year was supposed to be the opening of the Educational Center April 18. However, it got bumped by a fire in the North end of the bog sparked by a brush fire that a neighbor had. The fire had been out for two days, but an ember down below threw a spark that burned 25 acres. Luckily, nothing endangered was damaged and the area that burned will come back better than ever, as fire is not always a bad thing in nature. Just better when controlled and planned.



The fire department in Urbana was called in and had their challenges. Water had to be carried in in back packs because the trucks just sank in the muck of the bog.



Picture on the left shows the area burned after all the fire was out.



When the fire started all the animals in the area fled to other areas of the bog or anyplace else that was safe. Many of the smaller mammals like the shrews, voles, and mice actually hid under the snake tins that are spread around the bog for the massasauga.

This shrew chose Eric's pants as a safe haven while the fire raged. Eric caught him once he got home later that night.

Along the boardwalk you will see Crayfish holes. Eric found these two poking their heads out of their holes. He grabbed them and took pictures. They are on his desk in the Educational Center in this pic. They are large enough to be baby lobster. Apparently our crayfish population is healthy.



May 23 – Blue flag iris and a snake skin found in the bog.

