

# BRUSH PILES

**NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT**

**WINTER 2004**

## **NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

Kudos to all who helped make National Public Lands Day at Harms Woods a wonderful success! Approximately 55 people came to cut buckthorn, collect seed and enjoy a splendid fall day. And what better place to be on such a day than Harms Woods, which gets more beautiful every year because of the good work of the North Branch.

At day's end, we had cut prodigious amounts of buckthorn, throwing the wood on six burning brush piles. A dark, brush choked stretch of woods along the creek is now open and sunny, ready – with the help of some native seed and fire – to begin the process of recovery to a healthy woodland.

A big “thank you” goes to **Commissioner Larry Suffredin** for sponsoring a great day and for his unfailing support of the North Branch volunteers. Staff member **Michelle Devine** was a constant resource, providing great T-shirts, snacks, publicity and just in general “being there”!

Special thanks are due the following North Branch leaders, without whom no workday – especially a large one like NPLD – could be successful!

**Dennis Dreher, Joe Walsh, Laurel Ross, Linda Masters, Debra Shore, Stuart Goldman, Marianne Kozlowski, Rett Donnelly, John Thill** for expertly leading the crews that cut huge amounts of buckthorn (safely!);



Stalwart North Branch leaders relax after a fun, productive, and educational day.

**John McMartin** for coming early to help start and then tend the six brushpiles (while downing a lot of buckthorn, too);

**Mary Busch** for the great banners and for helping direct people at the alternate parking lot;

**Mary Glenn Wiley** for leading the crew of seed pickers;

**Bill Koenig** for shuttling people to and from the work sites (and still having energy to cut buckthorn after just returning from Quetico!);

**Marian Thill** for doing important outreach to the many passersby who stopped at the table to ask questions and pick up literature;

...and finally, a huge thank you to **Kent and Jerry Fuller**, who were just awesome – spending hours to provide us with new sharp saws, carting tools and other equipment to the workday, picking up bagels and helping us remember all the various details that needed to get done to make the day go smoothly.

Since that NPLD workday, additional groups of Harms advocates have continued the work of freeing beautiful oaks and hickories from the buckthorn's embrace. Sincere thanks to the Evanston Circle of the Sustainability Project; New Trier High School students; St Ignatius College Prep students (2 workdays); and Shedd Aquarium staff (2 workdays). We're still beaming!

Grateful stewards John & Jane Balaban



Stalwart youth volunteers kicked buckthorn's butt, and had a great time doing it.



# NBRP Workday Schedule – Winter 2004

## **DIRECTIONS:**

**Air Station Prairie, Glenview** – From the Edens expressway; go west on Willow Road, past Waukegan Road and over the RR overpass. Turn south at the new traffic signals for Patriot Blvd. (The new main road through the redeveloped Naval Air Station). Turn east on Compass to the gate at the south end of the prairie. Patriot Blvd. is also accessible from the south via Lake Ave.

**Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow, Chicago** – Off Caldwell between Devon and Touhy; entrance located just opposite Tonty Street. For Bunker Hill Meet in first section of parking lot; for Oxbow, follow road until it turns north, then park along the west side.

**Harms Flatwoods, Glenview** – Meet at the Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, directly west of Old Orchard Road.

**Harms Woods, Glenview** – Meet at the Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road and north of Old Orchard Road.

**Indian Road Woods, Chicago** – Enter at the Indian Road Forest Preserve drive, on the east side of Central Ave, just north of Indian Road (approximately ½ mile south of Caldwell). Meet in the parking area at the far east end of the drive.

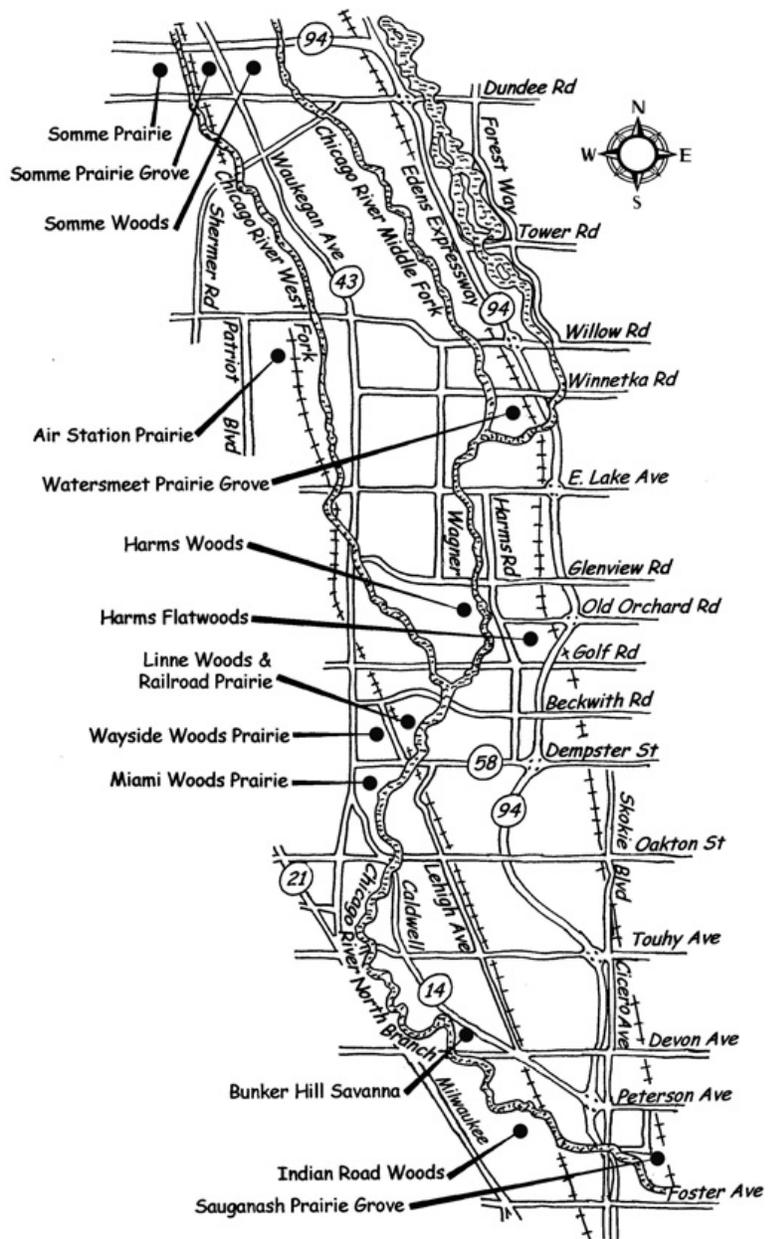
**Linne Prairie, Morton Grove** – Meet at the Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot. (See Wayside for directions.)

**Linne Woods North, Morton Grove** - From Edens go west on Dempster street about 1.5 miles. The forest preserve entrance will be on the north side of the street directly across from McDonalds. Follow the winding road all the way back until it dead-ends at the turn-around circle.

**Miami Woods Prairie, Niles/Morton Grove** – Located on the east side of Caldwell, two blocks north of Oakton. Meet in the parking lot for Miami Woods.

**Sauganash Prairie Grove, Chicago** – Meet at the edge of the Forest Preserve along the south side of Bryn Mawr at Kilbourn, which is south of Peterson and east of Cicero.

**Somme Prairie Grove, Northbrook** – From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road two miles west to Waukegan Road. Go north a few hundred feet on Waukegan and turn left into the unpaved parking area by the sign “Somme Woods Prairie.”



**Somme Prairie Nature Preserve, Northbrook** – From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road 2½ miles west (past Waukegan) to Western. Turn north and park in the post office parking lot.

**Somme Woods, Northbrook** – From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road two miles west and turn right into Somme Woods parking lot (just before the light at Waukegan Road).

**Watersmeet Prairie Grove, Northfield** – From Lake Avenue and Wagner Road, turn north on Wagner to Winnetka Road. Turn east on Winnetka for ¾ mile. Park on the north side of the street or a side street.

**Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie, Morton Grove** – Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot on Lehigh Ave, a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Hey! Save the date for a big Chicago Wilderness wildlife and restoration conference on Saturday, February 26, 2005. Stewards, monitors, interpreters, advocates, citizen scientists, land managers and people who love nature from all across the region will be there.

### **"WILD THINGS" A Chicago Wilderness Conference for People and Nature**

Saturday, February 26, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago

"Wild Things" will feature more than 75 workshops, speakers and seminars on wildlife, restoration techniques, outreach, advocacy, nature in your backyard, and more.

Mark your calendars and spread the buzz to all your colleagues and friends who could get excited about a day of building skills, sharing discoveries, and getting inspired! And if you have skills or knowledge to share, consider submitting a proposal for a presentation. For more information check out [chicagowildernessmag.org](http://chicagowildernessmag.org).

North Branch Restoration Project  
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Northbrook, IL 60062-3707

The North Branch Restoration Project is a cooperative effort involving the Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club. We manage the sites as volunteers for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and other local agencies. The Project works to restore and manage the few remaining woodlands and prairies along the North Branch of the Chicago River. Our goal is to restore conditions that will allow these natural wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

[www.northbranchrestoration.org](http://www.northbranchrestoration.org)

Brushpiles is available electronically. If you would like to receive it via email send a message to [publications@northbranchrestoration.org](mailto:publications@northbranchrestoration.org). We will email you a ".pdf" file that can be read and printed by Adobe Acrobat Reader (download from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).

## **GARDEN UPDATE**

In the summer issue of *Brush Piles*, we reported on plans for a woodland seed garden at the Volunteer Resource Center. We have since selected the first area, encircling a stately white oak that sits on the bluff overlooking the golf course. Ken Schaefer, Marianne Kozlowski and Bill Koenig have done an impressive job of preparing the ground, and we are ready to germinate seeds of some wonderful native grasses and forbs to plant in the spring of 2005. As the garden becomes established, we would welcome volunteers to help weed, monitor for ripeness and then collect the seed. If you're interested, please give Joan Meersman a call at 773-763-5055.



Fringed Gentian—George Olson

God made a little gentian;  
It tried to be a rose  
And failed, and all the summer laughed.  
But just before the snows  
There came a purple creature  
That ravished all the hill;  
And summer hid her forehead,  
And mockery was still. . .  
Emily Dickenson