

# BRUSH PILES

**NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT**

**FALL 2005**

## **NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

### **SOMME WOODS**

**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - 9am-noon & 1pm-4pm**

Would you like to join a multitude of folks and have some fun doing something powerful? National Public Lands Day is an annual event where volunteers gather to care for our public lands. This year the North Branch Restoration Project will observe the day at Somme Woods. We'll be cutting brush and collecting some priority seeds to use in restoring native plants.

This event is co-sponsored by Cook County Commissioners Larry Suffredin and Greg Goslin, who will join the crews in helping take care of this beautiful woodland.

Lots of North Branch help will be needed in planning and carrying off this great event. Can you help with refreshments, lead interpretative tours, be small-group work-crew leaders, or contribute great ideas to make this day special? To sign up to help, contact Linda Masters at (847) 509-0431 or send an email to [masters2001@comcast.net](mailto:masters2001@comcast.net).

## **DEB SHORE RUNS FOR OFFICE**

Can you believe it? Our own Debra Shore is running for office. We sort of hoped she might end up on the Forest Preserve District board. But, no – for a start she's running for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. This important but little known agency manages wastewater and stormwater for the five million residents of Cook County.

To find out more about Debra's campaign, check out [www.debrashore.org](http://www.debrashore.org).

## **NORTH BRANCH INTERNS KICK BUCKTHORN**

Six college-age interns had quite a summer on the North Branch. We had the pleasure of getting to know six fine young people who wanted to do something good for the planet – and learn a bit of ecology – and perhaps it helped that they got a little stipend for it too.

The program was sponsored by the Forest Preserve District and Audubon-Chicago Region – but

the day-to-day coaches were the North Branch stewards. Since they were especially trained for it, the interns were authorized to use chain saws and other power tools, so they could do some kinds of work more efficiently

The interns were Jeff Parker, Erin Hardison, Zach Ernst, Andy Melka, Erin Haase, and Melina Milcarek (not shown). They accomplished a huge amount, and we wish them well in their studies and their futures.



**The Morton Arboretum Presents:**

## **THE VANISHING OAK - SAVING A LIVING LEGACY**

**October 6-7, 2005**

Oaks are silently disappearing from landscapes where they have stood sentinel for centuries. Oaks provided native Americans with sheltering groves, and early European settlers with building materials, fuel, and a sense of place.

Oaks today are under threat from the combined stress of changing land uses, pests and disease, and mismanagement. Now, more than ever, oaks need us to help ensure their survival.

The seminar will consider oaks, in both urban forests and natural areas.

For further information, a complete seminar description, cost for seminar, and to register; visit [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org) or contact the Morton Arboretum's Registrar's office at 630-719-2468

# NBRP Workday Schedule – Fall 2005

## SEPTEMBER

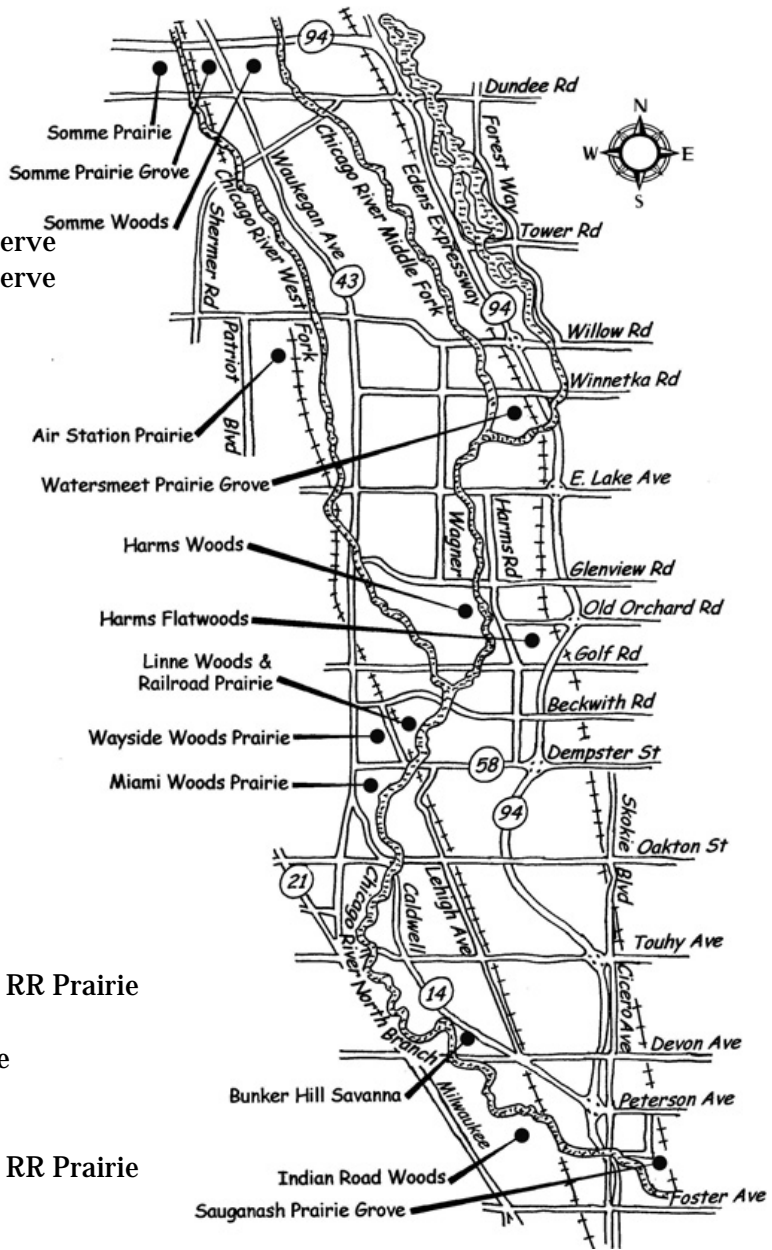
- 3 Saturday 9am – noon Linne Woods North
- 4 Sunday 9am - noon Somme Prairie Grove
- 10 Saturday 9am - noon
- 11 Sunday 9am - noon Somme Woods
- 13 Tuesday 3:30pm-5:30pm Morton Grove Nature Preserve
- 13 Tuesday 6:00pm - dark Morton Grove Nature Preserve
- 17 Saturday 9am - noon Watersmeet Prairie Grove
- 18 Sunday 9am - noon Miami Woods Prairie
- 24 Saturday 9am – noon Somme Woods (NPLD)

## OCTOBER

- 1 Saturday 9am - noon
- 2 Sunday 9am - noon Harms Woods
- 8 Saturday 9am - noon Linne Woods North
- 9 Sunday 9am - noon Somme Prairie Grove
- 15 Saturday 9am - noon Watersmeet Prairie Grove
- 16 Sunday 9am - noon Bunker Hill/Oxbow
- 22 Saturday 9am - noon
- 23 Sunday 9am - noon Miami Woods Prairie
- 29 Saturday 9am - noon Air Station Prairie
- 30 Sunday 9am - noon Watersmeet Prairie Grove

## NOVEMBER

- 5 Saturday 9am - noon Linne Woods North
- 6 Sunday 9am - noon Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie
- 12 Saturday 9am - noon Harms Flatwoods
- 13 Sunday 9am – 2pm Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
- 19 Saturday 9am – ?? Seed Processing
- 20 Sunday 9am - noon Harms Flatwoods
- 26 Saturday 9am – noon Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie
- 27 Sunday 9am - noon Somme Prairie Grove



### COLLECTING SEEDS ON WEDNESDAYS Joan Meersman 773-763-5055

One of the sweetest times to be on the North Branch preserves is autumn weekdays with Joan Meersman and her little crew of hunter gatherers who find the rare seeds needed to restore ecological health to those places where we cut the brush.

Learn to recognize plants by their remarkable seed heads. Gather the future in your hands – under beautiful skies and amid the rich colors of fall.

### BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE

Sundays, 9:00 am – Noon  
Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 11  
Bev Hansen 847-272-6211

Work on Sundays at this piece of virgin prairie located on Hastings Road. It is off Lake-Cook about a mile west of Milwaukee (watch for Hastings on the north after going under the railroad overpass). Turn north on Hastings, then right into the second parking lot. The prairie is under the Com Ed power lines.

### SKOKIE LAGOONS

Saturdays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10  
Jerry Garden 773-545-4632  
jerrygarden@sprynet.com

Meet at the Tower Road parking lot (east of the lagoon bridge – not the boat launch). There will be a sign with directions to the work site in the picnic field adjacent to the parking lot. Come dressed for the weather. We will provide waders, gloves and tools.

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# NBRP Site Directions and Stewards

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## ***DIRECTIONS:***

### ***Air Station Prairie, Glenview***

**Kent & Jerry Fuller** – 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***

**Jane & John Balaban** – 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***

**Neil Peck & Terry Schilling** – Meet at the Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, directly west of Old Orchard Road.

### ***Harms Woods, Glenview***

**Jane & John Balaban** – 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.

### ***Linne Prairie, Morton Grove***

**Mary Busch & John Thill (847-966-0231)** – Meet at the Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot on Lehigh Ave, a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

### ***Linne Woods North, Morton Grove***

**John & Marian Thill (847-966-0231, mjthill@icsp.net)**  
- 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***

**Kent & Jerry Fuller** – Located on the east side of Caldwell, two blocks north of Oakton. Meet in the parking lot for Miami Woods.

### ***Prairie View Nature Preserve, Morton Grove***

**Kent Fuller** – From Dempster, 2 blocks east of Waukegan, turn north on Oak Park Ave. Turn left on Churchill and drive to the end. Park in the parking lot on the north side.

### ***Sauganash Prairie Grove, Chicago***

**Larry Hodak & Pete Leki (watersschool@yahoo.com)**  
– 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***

**Stephen Packard (847-509-0431, spackard@audubon.org)** – 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***

**Laurel Ross (312-665-7432, lross@fieldmuseum.org) & Christiane Rey (773-478-2019)** – 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***

**Linda Masters (847-509-0431, masters2001@comcast.net)** – 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***

**John Berg (Kerg111@aol.com)** – 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***

**Gladys Bryer & Bob Bluestone** – Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot on Lehigh Ave, a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

## **WATERSMEET – FLORA & FAUNA SIGHTINGS**

by John Berg

The prescribed burn this past spring was the first one at the site since presettlement – and it produced super results!

For example, we have documented over 40 plants of the rare golden sedge – which in the past we'd be lucky to find a few.

This is the first year we have seen shooting star, purple prairie clover, and white false indigo. The amount of wild quinine and Michigan lily are 10 fold over previous years.

These photos are of the midland brown snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata*, which my son, Nick, found on the burn day.



### **ANNUAL NORTH BRANCH SEED PROCESSING DAY**

Saturday, November 19  
Emily Oaks Nature Center  
4650 Brummel St., Skokie, Illinois, 60076  
9:00am until mid-afternoon

**Directions to Emily Oaks Nature Center:** from Skokie Boulevard/Cicero, go east on Howard St. to Knox Ave. Turn north on Knox, go two blocks to Brummel St. Turn west and go one block to the parking area at the Nature Center, on the north side of Brummel. Follow the signs to the processing area.

North Branch Restoration Project  
P.O. Box 2154  
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>).

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