

# BRUSH PILES

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## NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT      SPRING 2004

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### WONDERFUL WINTER POTLUCK

by Jerry Fuller

The North Branch annual potlucks get better and better. This year's was held on January 17, 2004 at the Edgebrook Community Center. But this year the Volunteer Coordinator of the forest preserves, Bill Koenig, to what is now the newly dedicated Volunteer Center - a place we can call home for our volunteer activities.

One highlight of the evening was the participation of the forest preserve's new General Superintendent, Steve Bylina, Cook County Commissioner Greg Goslin, and Jean Sellar of the Corps of Engineers, who were all recognized with applause.

After feasting a bit on all the delicious entrees, we were serenaded by the North Branch nightingales who call themselves, The Bullfrogs. Their songs ranged from holy to irreverent and got wild applause.

Laurel Ross and Kent Fuller emceed the evening and kept us moving along. Next on the agenda was presenting awards. Debra Shore presented the first award to General Superintendent Steve Bylina for all the listening, the reordering and the education of staff, and the new programs he has brought to the Forest Preserve in the five months he has been on board. His award was a three panel drawing of restoration work by Bobby Sutton.

Laurel then proclaimed Bobby Sutton the official North Branch artist. Dennis Dreher presented a book on campfire cooking to master chef Joe Walsh, who has shared many a bonfire-cooked bratwurst with fellow workers. Kent presented the Documenter Extraordinaire Award to Carl Meyer who has photographed many restoration activities and put them on the web for all to admire. Then the Unsung Hero Award was presented to Joyce Givurna who has been a stalwart with the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserves.

Jane Balaban announced an award to Larry Suffredin and his staff for all the support and work they have given to the volunteers and the forest preserves generally. It was a nice brass plaque on a large slice of Harms Woods buckthorn to hang on their office wall.

John McMartin then came forward to proclaim an award to all the patient spouses that support our work without complaining, and he gave a plant identification book to his wife, with much laughter and applause. Kent announced an award to Albert Pritchett for coming out of retirement to improve professionalism in the FPD and for helping it return to its core mission.

The final award was presented by Jane Balaban. It honored the volunteers for a variety of education programs that have been quietly taking place. Linda Masters, Pete Leki, Steve Packard, the Balabans and the Fullers have supported school groups doing hands on work.

The event was a grand success, thanks to all who worked on it and came to enjoy the evening. It was one of the best!



John McMartin's wife Chris presented him with a forest preserve birthday cake at the potluck. (photo by Jane Balaban)

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### SPRING WILDFLOWER CLASS

Now that spring is just around the corner (really!) and you've been looking at those gardening catalogues that seem to sprout in your mailbox this time of year and thinking that you'd really like to learn more of our native spring flora -- we'd like to invite you all to a spring wildflower class. Firm dates have not been set yet but a combination of indoor classes at the new

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Volunteer Resource Center and field trips to several North Branch sites are planned for April and May. Watch for announcements on the NBRP Web Page or at upcoming workdays.

**BUTTERFLY MONITORING WORKSHOP,  
March 6, 2004**

For both beginners and experienced monitors. Saturday, March 6, time and location to be announced. Please contact Mel Manner for details, at [manner@foxvalley.net](mailto:manner@foxvalley.net) or 847/464-4426.

**DRAGONFLY MONITORING WORKSHOPS,  
March & April 2004**

Affiliated with the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, this program trains monitors to find and identify damselflies and dragonflies. The data will help us assess the status of insect populations and natural areas health throughout the region.

Dragonfly monitoring for beginners

Wednesday, March 3, 6-8 pm

Wednesday, March 10, 6-8 pm

Wednesday, April 7, 6-8 pm

Saturday, April 10, 10 am to noon

Workshops will be held at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Please pre-register, by contacting Gareth Blakesley at [gblakesley@naturemuseum.org](mailto:gblakesley@naturemuseum.org) or 773/755-5100 x3032.

**PLANTS OF CONCERN WORKSHOPS,  
Spring 2004**

Plants of Concern, a rare plant monitoring program in Northeast Illinois, depends on trained volunteers to gather standardized, regional monitoring data to better understand the relationships between population trends and various management practices (or lack thereof). For more information, contact coordinator Susanne Masi at 847/835-8269 or [smasi@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:smasi@chicagobotanic.org).

**12TH ANNUAL CHICAGO RIVER DAY  
Saturday, May 8, 2004**

The Friends of the Chicago River has come a long way since this event was founded as River Rescue Day in 1992 with 25 volunteers at one location – last year's event attracted 2,700 volunteers to 56 sites along the Chicago River, and cleared more than 38 tons of trash!

Friends invites all to participate in our 12th annual Chicago River Day - individuals, families, schools, groups, service learning students, corporate teams, community groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, conservation societies and more. Participants will remove invasive vegetation, sprucing up river-edge

paths, planting native seedlings, river art, education projects on top of collecting for garbage and sorting for recycling.

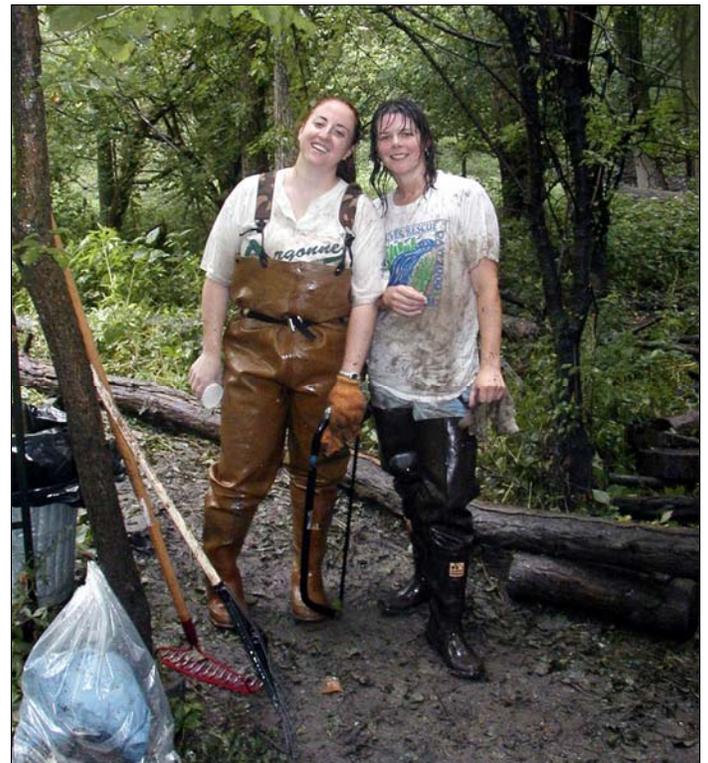
On May 8th, volunteers work at a site of their choosing from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Afterwards, all volunteers are invited to attend the Chicago River Day Festival and picnic to celebrate all their hard work. At the Festival, volunteers will enjoy live music, live animals, a free barbecue for volunteers, canoe rides, and education environmental booths.

The event flier will be published at the beginning of March and the information will be posted on the Friends' website as soon as the information becomes available. In the meantime, to learn how you can participate in this fun day of service for the Chicago River, contact Sarah Beazley, Chicago River Day Coordinator, at 312-939-0490, ext. 23.

**Also from Friend's of the Chicago River – our own  
Mary Busch is named "Volunteer of the Year"!**

"Mary Busch is a remarkably devoted volunteer for Friends and the Chicago River. She is a regular River Rescue Day site captain and Adopt-A-River steward for the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserve, and a general event volunteer. She recently took out a number of students to stencil messages near storm drains in Morton Grove that reminded people that what goes down the drains flows to the river."

The River Reporter Winter 2003



Two wet workers, including Mary Busch (right), at a Chicago River clean-up.  
(photo by Herbert Carl Meyer)

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**PRESCRIBED FIRE FIELD TRAINING  
AT NACHUSA GRASSLANDS**

**Saturday, April 17, 2004 - 10:00am to 3:00pm**

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy and the Volunteer Stewardship Network. (*Cancelled if weather is poor. No rain date.*)

**Leader:** Bill Kleiman, Preserve & Fire Manager

**Location:** Nachusa Grasslands Preserve. (*Two hours west of Chicago.*) 8772 S. Lowden Rd., Franklin Grove, IL 61031, 815-456-2340

This is a five-hour hands-on, in the field training that covers fire planning, tools, safety equipment, suppression exercises, and usually a prescribed fire. This is a good workshop for people new to fire or fire training, although experienced practitioners are welcome and have enjoyed this in the past. You need enough physical fitness to walk off trail, carry a tool or pack a distance, and be expecting to use this training on a crew.

*The workshop is FREE to volunteers and agency staff.* (Note: this is not S-130/190 or the CW Crew Training.) **RSVP** to Karen Billo at 866-VSN-LINE (876-5463) or kbillo@tnc.org. First come, first served and limited registration for 15 participants, due by April 5.

**HABITAT FOR ILLINOIS WILDLIFE**

For anyone interested in Illinois wildlife and their habitats, there's a new book published by the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Illinois called "*Creating Habitats and Homes for Illinois Wildlife.*" With more than 200 color photographs, the book exquisitely depicts Illinois wildlife, but it's also chock full of accessible scientific information about the status of wildlife habitat in Illinois. "The key to making successful wildlife management decisions is to use the best scientific information available. This book compiles, in a user-friendly way, what is known about major habitat issues in our state today," said primary author of the book Debbie Scott Newman, preservation specialist for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Her coauthor is Richard Warner, University of Illinois professor of wildlife ecology. Individual copies cost \$25.00 plus shipping and handling and can be obtained by contacting: Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1270 or 1-800-720-3249.

**NEW ADDITIONS TO THE ILLINOIS EXOTIC WEEDS LIST**

On July 10, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed a bill into law that added Buckthorn to the Exotic Weeds list. This list is part of the Illinois Exotic Weeds Act which makes it unlawful to buy, sell, or distribute these plants without a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Adding this species to this list is a

critical step forward to preventing its spread in Illinois. Many people called, wrote letters, and voiced their support of this legislation.

**SKOKIE LAGOONS WORKDAYS**

**Saturdays - March 13, April 10, May 8**

**10:00 am - 1:00 pm.** Meet at the Tower Road parking lot (east of the lagoon bridge - not the boat launch). For late arrivals, 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 when appropriate. For more information contact Jerry Garden at 773.545.4632 or jerrygarden@sprynet.com.

**BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE WORKDAYS**

**Sundays - March 14, April 18, May 16**

**9:00 am - Noon.** Work on Sundays at this piece of virgin prairie located on Hastings Road. It is off Lake-Cook about a mile west of Milwaukee Road. Turn north on Hastings, then right into the second parking lot. The prairie is under the Com Ed power lines. Call Bev Hansen at 847.272.6211 for more information.

**2003 notes on Buffalo Grove:** Buffalo Grove had a successful prescribed burn on Dec 3rd. It was a cold day and coupled with the necessity of keeping the burn cool resulted in a burn that was not as hot as the volunteers would have liked. Buffalo Grove also has a new chain link fence thanks to a grant Bev Hansen wrote to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, the completed plant survey and transects have helped to illustrate the worth of this little site. The Floristic Quality turned out to be 68 - a very high rating. ComEd paid for the study and continues to be very cooperative. It was a good year in many ways for Buffalo Grove. However, it also saw negative impact from Metra and the Cook County Highway Dept. The damage they did was serious. The Stewards are looking forward to great things in 2004.

**GLENBROOK PRAIRIE WORKDAYS**

**Thursdays - March 11, April 8, May 20**

**6:00pm to dark.** Remarkable changes have occurred and new opportunities and challenges exist at the preserve. For those who haven't been there in awhile, it's located at the now wide-open northwest corner of the Glenbrook North High School property, north of Willow Road on the west side of Shermer Road. Follow the north parking lot past the tennis courts and walk along the north side of the football field until you see us. Call Rob on his cell phone (847/337-0471) if you're running late or are lost finding the place.

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## GREAT MUNCHING – ON GARLIC MUSTARD!

Eating wild garlic mustard won't put much of a dent in the invasion by one of this region's worst weeds – but it could be good for our soul, and give us energy to pull more!

### Teriyaki Garlic Mustard Stir Fry

1 cup young garlic mustard leaves, washed  
½ tsp grated ginger root  
Pinch sugar  
2 tbsp cooking oil  
Chinese vegetable  
1 tbsp teriyaki sauce

Drop garlic mustard leaves into boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain. Pour oil into pan and add ginger root and Chinese vegetable. Sauté lightly. Add cooked garlic mustard greens and teriyaki sauce to coat vegetables. Serve warm over rice.

### Garlic Mustard Salad

½ to 1 cup washed garlic mustard small leaves, tender tips with flowers or buds

Add to your favorite salad

Some suggestions include:

- Lettuce, leeks, and hardboiled eggs
- Lettuce, tomato, and cucumber
- Chickweed, wild carrot, and mushrooms

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, Audubon, 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 some of the best 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)

### Honey Mustard Salad Dressing

2 tbsp white wine vinegar  
Freshly ground black pepper  
6 leaves garlic mustard torn into ¼ inch pieces  
Dash salt  
1 tbsp honey  
4 tbsp olive oil

### Garlic Mustard Chicken

1 chicken, cut up  
1 can beef broth  
Flour, salt, and pepper  
½ to 1 cup chopped garlic mustard greens

Combine flour salt and pepper and use to coat the chicken. Brown chicken in frying pan. Add can of soup and mustard greens. Simmer 20 minutes and serve.



*Alliaria Petiolata*  
garlic mustard

All of these recipes came from the *Wild Plant Family Cookbook* by Pat Armstrong. To order your own copy of this fun cookbook which includes recipes of more than 100 other wild plant species, contact Pat Armstrong at 630-983-8404.

Brushpiles is now 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 the free program Adobe Acrobat Reader (download from [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html)).

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# NBRP Spring 2004 Workday Schedule

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## MARCH

6	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Woods
7	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Miami Woods Prairie
13	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
14	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Harms Woods
		1:00 – 4:00	Harms Woods
20	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Woods
21	Sunday	9:00 – 2:00	Somme Nature Preserve
27	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
28	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Somme Prairie Grove

## APRIL

3	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Prairie Grove
4	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairies
10	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Harms Flatwoods
11	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Somme Woods
17	Saturday	9:00 – 2:00	Somme Nature Preserve
18	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Somme Prairie Grove
24	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
25	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Somme Woods

## MAY

1	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Miami Woods Prairie
2	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
8	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Woods
9	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Harms Flatwoods
15	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Prairie Grove
		9:00 – noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
16	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Harms Woods
		1:00 – 4:00	Harms Woods
22	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Harms Flatwoods
		9:00 – noon	Somme Nature Preserve
23	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Miami Woods Prairie
29	Saturday	9:00 – noon	Somme Prairie Grove
30	Sunday	9:00 – noon	Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow
		1:00 – 4:00	Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow
31	Monday	9:00 – noon	Harms Woods: Memorial Day

Throughout the inspiring emergence of spring, we run through the whole gamut of restoration. In the early weeks, we're still cutting brush and burning brushpiles. But as soon as the ground thaws, we plant seed side-by-side with the brush bashing. Next, garlic mustard kicks in, and for a few weeks the work at many sites will focus on weeding between the trilliums. By the end of spring, we'll already be harvesting and spreading the seeds of the plants that bloomed first – spring beauty, false mermaid, and toothwort. It's a great season! (But aren't they all?!)

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# NBRP Site Directions & Map

## 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.

**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 North** – Meet at the Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot. (See below for direction.)

**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 the Edens Expressway, take Lake Avenue west to 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.

