



BRUSH PILES

NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT

FALL 2006

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 9:00AM-3:00PM
HARMS FLATWOODS

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 Harms Flatwoods. 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 Neil Peck at (773) 248-4817 or send an email to npeck@SNPeck.com.

NORTH BRANCH SEED PROCESSING DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Emily Oaks Nature Center
4650 Brummel St., Skokie, Illinois, 60076

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.

To contribute articles, notices, photos to Brush Piles:

Fax: 847-559-0792

Email: masters2001@comcast.net

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 2154, Northbrook, IL 60062

Deadlines: November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1

Linda Masters, editor

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 27, 2007

For the North Branch Restoration 30th anniversary
potluck celebration.

HELP WANTED

Title: Restoration Interns and Supervisor

Location: Forest preserves in Cook County

Duration: September through November 2006

Three restoration interns and one intern team leader are needed for the management and restoration this fall. Most of the work is chain sawing and backpack herbiciding. The work may be done on weekends if that schedule works for the crew. Interns will work in collaboration among Forest Preserve District and Audubon staff and volunteer Master Stewards. For more information see www.habitatproject.org

EXTREME MAKEOVER - NORTH BRANCH STYLE

By Paul Dolinko

Restore the prairies and woodlands to the pristine loveliness that existed prior to the degrading effects of such non-native plants as European buckthorn, garlic mustard, white sweet clover and other intruders. Help remove these invaders that interfere with the health and beauty of our prairies and woodlands. We needn't tolerate the degradation of these treasures when, by ridding them of those shady intruders, a sunny disposition will encourage the rebirth of the underlying wonders.

Tools in hand, let us boast that, " We came, we sawed, we conquered. " We inter-loppers do good. A little fire appropriately prescribed is also the proper medicine in preparing the makeover of the prairies and woodlands. Our native seeds, effectively applied, will make the face of the prairie and woodlands a beauty to behold once again.

Let us go in Harm's way, do Somme good, and be proud of our restyling.

NBRP Workday Schedule - Fall 2006

SEPTEMBER

NOTE: See key to abbreviations below schedule

2 Sat	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove (CB)
3 Sun	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (CB)
9 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (SPG, CB)
10 Sun	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve (CB)
16 Sat	9:00-noon	Linne Prairie (CS)
17 Sun	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods (CB, CS)
23 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (SPG, CB)
	9:00-noon	Linne Woods North (WI)
24 Sun	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie (CS)
30 Sat	9am-3pm	Harms Flatwoods (NPLD, CB, CS)

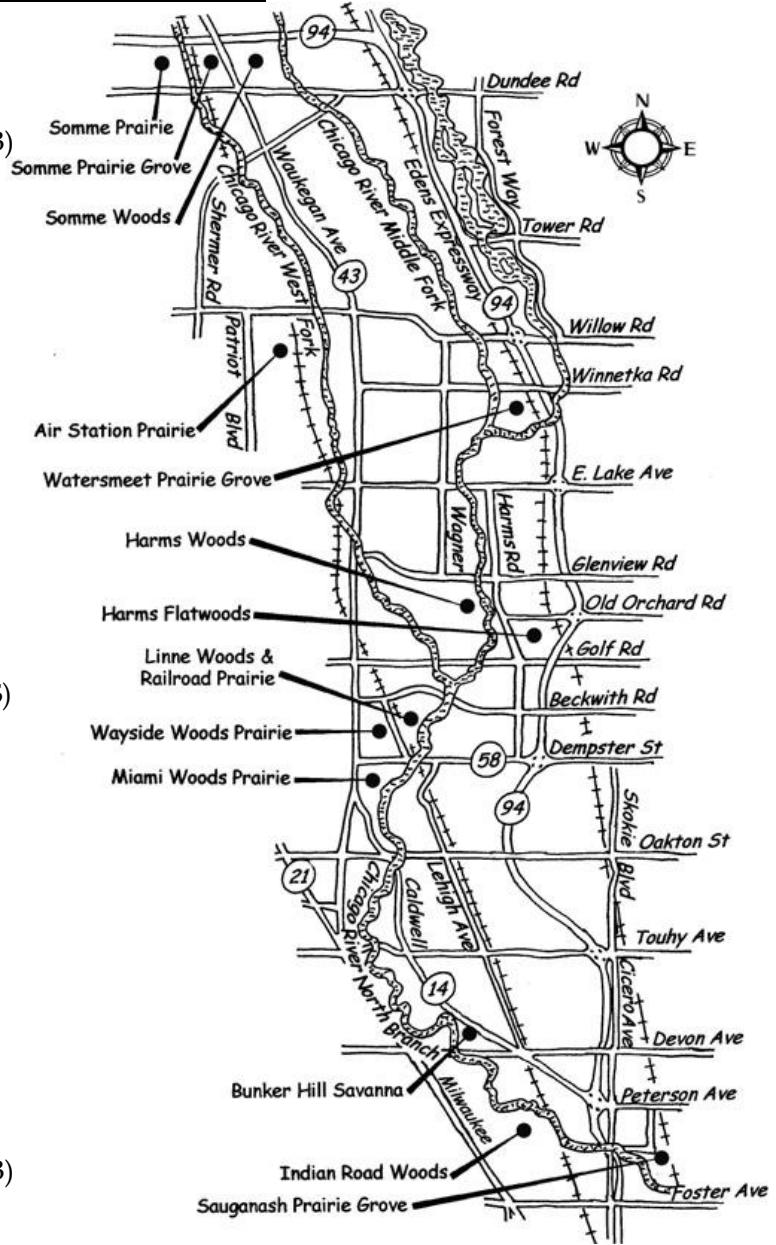
OCTOBER

7 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (CB)
8 Sun	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie (CS)
14 Sat	9:00-noon	Linne Woods North (CB)
15 Sun	9:00-noon	Somme Woods, *SPG (CB, CS)
21 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (CB)
	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove (CS)
22 Sun	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve (CS)
28 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods, *SPG (CB)
29 Sun	9:00-noon	Air Station Prairie (CS)

NOVEMBER

4 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods (CB)
	9:00-noon	Linne Woods North (CB, BP)
5 Sun	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove (CS)
11 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Woods, *SPG (CB)
	9:00-noon	Linne Prairie (CB)
12 Sun	9:00-noon	Bunker Hill (CS)
18 Sat	9am-3pm	Seed Processing at Emily Oaks
19 Sun	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods (CB)
25 Sat	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve (CB)
	9:00-noon	Watersmeet (CB)
26 Sun	9:00-noon	Somme Woods, *SPG (CB, PS)

KEY:
 BP - Burn Prep
 CB - Cut Brush
 CS - Collect Seed
 NPLD - National Public Land Day
 PS - Plant Seed
 *SPG - Workday at Somme Prairie Grove, Park at Somme Woods
 WI - Weed Invasives



BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE

Sundays, 9:00 am - Noon
 Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 3
 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 ComEd power lines.

SKOKIE LAGOONS

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9
 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.

NBRP Site Directions and Stewards

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) – **WE NOW PARK AT SOMME WOODS FOR THIS PRESERVE.** Park by the new signs, on the left, near the entrance and follow the new trail. 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).

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 & Larry Hodak – Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot on Lehigh Ave, a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS **at Somme Prairie Grove**

At first it seemed like something to fight. The Village of Northbrook posted “No Parking” signs at the dusty pull-off where we’ve left our cars for decades to visit Somme Prairie Grove. But this story turned out to have a lot more to it, and pretty soon the “Somme Team” began to think this was a good idea in disguise.

The first clue came when misuse of the preserve plummeted, and rare birds returned to nest after being gone for decades. That was probably mostly due to fewer loose dogs – since the dog walking folks went somewhere else when parking was less convenient. Among the “hot” birds to return was the black-billed cuckoo (nests two to four feet from the ground in shrubby areas) and the field sparrow (a ground nester, and, like the cuckoo, a bird of high conservation concern because its numbers have been plummeting).

Also worth considering, toll way re-engineering in a year or so may eliminate that whole pull-off. So the stewards and the Forest Preserve District agreed to a new trail system and entrance. You can find the map at www.sommepreserve.org.

To avoid confusion, for this *Brush Piles* only, all Somme Prairie Grove workdays are listed as Somme Woods *SPG. That means to park at Somme Woods, and we’ll walk the two minutes to cross at the light.

Crossing at the light? Is that fun? No, it’s a kind of an urban purgatory before the heaven of the newly wilder Somme Prairie Grove. Try it; we think you’ll like it.

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 Society, and Sierra Club. We protect and restore woodlands, prairies, and wetlands as volunteers for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and other local agencies. Working on sites 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

Brushpiles is available electronically. If you would like to receive it via email send a message to publications@northbranchrestoration.org. We will email you a “.pdf” file that can be read and printed by Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free at www.adobe.com).

VIEWS FROM WATERSMEET



Blazing star field



The Berg boys pull white sweet clover.



Photos by John ‘the Dad’ Berg.