



# PRAIRIE PROJECTIONS

Newsletter of the North Branch Prairie Project  
January 1989

## North Branch to Host 9th Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop

### Wilderness Society Leader to Talk about Yellowstone Fire

Michael Scott, regional director of The Wilderness Society for Colorado and Wyoming, is the keynoter for the Ninth Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop set for April 1, 1989. Scott will discuss "Fire in Yellowstone: A Lesson in Politics and Ecology" and will draw implications from Yellowstone for prairie and savanna restoration issues. This hot and timely topic should be of considerable interest to North Branchers and the general public.

This year's workshop, geared to both prairie experts and beginners, is hosted jointly by NBPP, Northeastern Illinois University and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It will be held on Northeastern's campus, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago. The daylong event includes sessions by ecologists and natural area management experts as well as exhibits of books, art and equipment. Co-chairs Jessica Jolly and Bev Hansen anticipate attendance may reach 1,000.

"Putting the Prairie Back in the Prairie State" continues the biennial workshop series begun in 1972 to heighten awareness of Illinois wildlands, promote the exchange of information and ideas in natural area management and restoration, and encourage volunteer support. It has become the largest and most diverse gathering of its type in the country.

Announcements with full program and registration information will be mailed in early February. Volunteers are needed to help with mailing parties and on the day of the event (see page 7 for details). WORKSHOP HOTLINE NUMBER is 869-5966.

### Stats and Numbers — What We Did in '88

NBPP coordinator, Ross Sweeny, submitted the "1988 North Branch Prairie Project Year-End Report" to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in December. The document analyzes each of 12 North Branch sites by

season and task and breaks out volunteers, workdays and workhours in a variety of ways. In the chart on page two, 1988 is compared with the four previous years.

#### Notable numbers

- ◆ Somme Prairie Grove and Somme Nature Preserve logged in the greatest number of workhours at 1472.5, followed by Indigo at 349.5.

- ◆ The greatest number of workhours was spent in cutting (1355) and weeding (574). Other tasks tallied are burning, planting, and gathering, cleaning and stratifying seed. No one will be surprised to learn that white sweet clover was the direct object of the majority of weeding hours, pulled to the cadences of the crew's favorite theme song: "I'm looking over a white sweet clover."

- ◆ The amount of seed collected (19.5 bags) was down 29% from 1987 due primarily to drought conditions.

- ◆ New volunteers were drawn from the Sierra Club, St. Ignatius H.S., Truman College and The Nature Conservancy. Twenty NutraSweet staff came out for a July workday as part of the company's volunteer program.

- ◆ Cost analysis, if anyone is calculating: at a bargain labor rate of \$10.00 per hour, volunteers contributed the equivalent of \$29,075 in workday hours alone.

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Marvin Reitman hones his scythe at Miami Woods Prairie, logging in some of the 2907.5 volunteer workhours for 1988. (photo, Jon Randolph)

## Five-Year Workday Summary

Year	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	'77 - '88 Total
# of Workdays	38	43	51	59	58	427
Total Volunteers	400	587	575	799	860	—
New Volunteers	85	95	67	134	125	885
Total Vol. Hours	1518	2250	2017	3129	2908	19370
Avg. Crew Size	10.5	13.7	11.3	13.5	14.8	12

*Stats, continued*

### 1988 milestones

- ◆ Capacity crowds attended the "State of the Prairie" lectures, marking North Branch Prairie Project's 10th anniversary, at the Chicago Academy of Sciences.
- ◆ Savanna restoration efforts at Somme Prairie Grove showed dramatic results, with second and third year plantings looking healthy and plentiful and first year plantings doing well.
- ◆ *Prairie Projections*, North Branch Prairie Project's quarterly newsletter, was launched.
- ◆ NBPP assumed leadership for planning the Ninth Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop set for April 1, 1989.
- ◆ North Branch fire management was featured in Bill Curtis' *New Explorer* series on Channel 2.

Ross commented, "I'm always surprised and impressed to see the cumulative effect of what volunteers accomplish in the course of the year. Little by little, week by week, it adds up to a fantastic contribution. We've come a long way since 1977, when we had 21 workdays and 50 volunteers with an average crew of eight."

## NBPP Monitors Housing Development next to Somme Prairie Nature Preserve

by Susanne Masi

A projected 37-acre residential development in Northbrook on the west border of Somme Prairie Nature Preserve may not pose serious pollution or flooding problems from site drainage, according to Ross Sweeny, North Branch Prairie Project coordinator. The prairie, a 70-acre dedicated nature preserve, is guaranteed the highest protection under Illinois law.

At a September 27 meeting of the Northbrook Plan Commission, the Perlman Group, Ltd. presented its preliminary development plan for approval. In preparation for the meeting, North Branch volunteer, Beverly Hansen, procured site plans to determine the impacts of construction and long range land use. Ross and Bev then arranged an advance meeting with Ray Schwarz, conservation director for the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and Joel Greenberg of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission to discuss environmental concerns with Perlman.

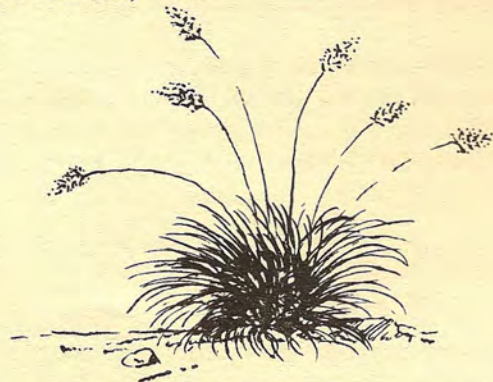
Perlman engineers demonstrated that the existing flood pattern would not change nor would the water table be lowered. Stormwater runoff will drain through a pre-existing ditch on the preserve's north end. Five detention ponds to be constructed will prevent increased flow rates. Control of sedimentation during construction is also provided for. Proposed digging, at a spot where pipes will enter a corner of the preserve that is already disturbed, would require a permit from the District and the Commission.

Ross, a hydrologic engineer, said that "Perlman used good technology and is addressing, not avoiding, problems. They're willing to spend a lot of money to make sure things go right and have done a responsible job." Bev agrees that "Perlman gives every indication they want to be good neighbors and are actually pleased to find such a natural asset next door."

At the September meeting, the Commission approved the preliminary development plan to go to state agencies for further review of transportation and drainage requirements. NBPP hopes to monitor the final engineering plan and provide input on landscaping to ensure that plants with a potential negative impact on the prairie are not used.

Ross is positive about the first public advocacy role of this type for NBPP. "We presented a united front with the Forest Preserve District and Nature Preserve Commission. The Northbrook Plan Commission wants to protect the forest preserves and encourages us to stay on top of the project. And, while we'd rather have open space than housing next to the prairie, Perlman has been very cooperative."

(If you want to help us watchdog this situation, contact Ross Sweeny at 775-5003.)



*Prairie dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis; illustration, Christopher Bronny)*

## To Make a Prairie — The North Branch Plant Propagators

by Robert Lonsdorf

*To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,  
One clover, and a bee,  
And revery.  
The revery alone will do  
If bees are few.*  
— Emily Dickinson

Some people who never tried might think to make a prairie is easy. After all, they come natural around here, don't they? Well, it ain't necessarily so — they used to, but now it takes a small scale war to make a prairie, one waged for a long time, and one run on a volunteer army. The enemies are primarily Eurasian invaders, which must be ousted from their stolen fields, and neglect.

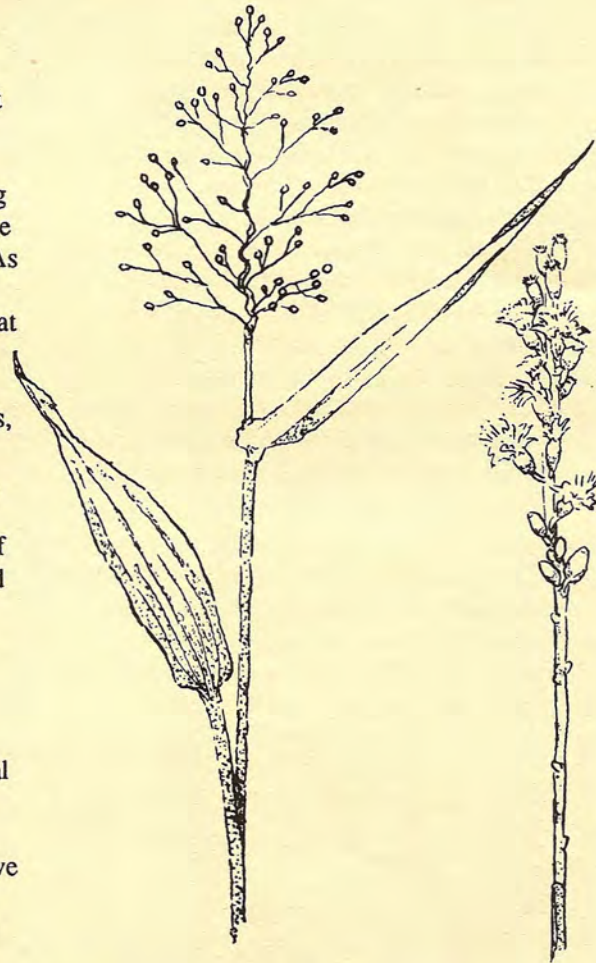
Indeed, one might well feel like a guerrilla freedom fighter after a day of slashing or burning. Yet one is being a farmer too, a restoration farmer, undoing the work of the original pioneer farmers and its unintended side effects. As a prairie restorationist, one is a kind of plantsmith, restoring the charm of an antique ecosystem, succeeding at succession.

There are many different kinds of prairies: the seven North Branch Prairie Project sites, totaling over 200 acres, have been divided into some 16 different prairie and savanna habitats or plant associations based on moisture, light intensity and soil type. Mature prairies, Dickinson notwithstanding, quietly combine an estimated average of 25 species per square meter, most of which are long-lived perennials; from seed to climax may take some 60-70 years. One thing all those statistics mean is that a lot of seeds need to be gathered and distributed to help this "repaification" process along. Pounds of seed are collected from the wild by hand as it ripens through the late spring, summer and fall. One pound of seed can equal hundreds of thousands or even millions of seeds. Many prairie and savanna species are either rare locally (the rough white lettuce and the short green milkweed), or have seeds that are hard to gather, perhaps either because the pods explode when they reach maturity (the violet wood sorrel and the downy phlox) or because the deer prefer most all the seed (the prairie lily and fire pink). These seeds are brought into home gardens to be propagated near at hand and under more controllable conditions. This is the key work of the nursery gardeners.

### Master Gardener at work

Originally the founders of the North Branch Prairie Project grew these plants on their own. Preston Spinks, the North Branch "Master Gardener," helped build up supplies of these problem species and the knowledge of how to grow them. "You learn stuff in the garden you don't learn in the prairie," he says. He sometimes lays awake at night thinking about his numerous projects and techniques. He has many. He not only coaxes the plants from their seeds

but also from their bulbs (violet wood sorrel, rough white lettuce), their root segments (members of the phlox family) and their cuttings (woodland phlox). If he can, he layers them (woodland phlox), scarifies them (many legumes) or spreads them by rhizome (Canadian milk vetch) or runner (broad-leaved panic grass). He even induces the prairie lily to break its rule of a two-year dormant period (called double dormancy) by luring its little white root out into his artificially created warm, moist fall (simulating spring #1). Then he pops it into cold storage (simulating winter #1) until spring, when it really starts growing, thinking it is spring #2. Some of his discoveries, as with many great



*Broad-leaved panic grass (Panicum latifolium), left, and rough white lettuce (Prenanthes aspera), right, prairie plants grown by Preston Spinks. (illustrations, Christopher Bronny)*

scientists, have come by accident — thus the knowledge that the hoary puccoon will grow from its rhizome sections. He inadvertently left some in a flat one year and the next year they sprouted.

His tools and equipment are pretty ordinary. Everything is grown in flats which he gets for free before a local nursery throws them out. He mixes his own soil (1/3 bucket common potting mix, 1/2 bucket ordinary peat moss and 1 bucket ancient prairie soil) and makes his own tags.

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## Indians of the North Branch Prairies

by Tim Rust

It is known that humans were already living in North America when the last glacier receded thousands of years ago. We do not know much about them. But, archeologists have found evidence of pre-historic settlers in and around the North Branch Prairies. The Bowmanville site was located on the Chicago River downstream from Sauganash prairie. Albert Scharf in 1900 created an archeological map of the area that indicates pre-historic Indian mounds at Bowmanville and on the east side of the river between Miami and Bunker Hill prairies. The mound builders disappeared from this area long before historians arrived.

The earliest European explorers knew of the Illinois people in the Chicago area. Father Louis Hennepin wrote about them. He tells us that they built long cabins covered by sewn reed mats. The women planted gardens, the men hunted, and they all foraged for food.

During their exploration of 1673-74, Marquette and Joliet were led by Illinois Indians to Chicago. In 1679, LaSalle came down Lake Michigan's shore from Green Bay, passing near the North Branch Prairies on his way to Michigan. In 1685, Henri de Tonty was forced to walk overland when ice formed on Lake Michigan in November. No doubt he passed over our prairies on his way to the French fort at Chicago. We know that Indian trails between Wilmette (Gross Point) and Lyons (the Chicago Portage) passed on either side of Bunker Hill prairie. Elston Avenue was part of a trail from what is now the Loop into Wisconsin.

### Pioneers move in

Chicago did not get much notice in the early 1700s. Our prairies continued to be winter hunting grounds. Don't forget that burning the prairies was a part of Indian hunting techniques. In the late 1740s, a group of Potawatomi citizens moved to Chicago to establish a new

community. They were joined by relatives from Wisconsin. They became the third, and last, native American nation to live on our prairies in historic times. In the 1760s, the British took control of the area. An Indian named Pontiac led the western Indians to drive them out with no success. He was murdered in 1769 by a man identified with the Illinois Indians. As a result, the Illinois nation was annihilated.

In the late 1770s, the American Revolution occurred. Many western Indians helped the British. Unfortunately for them, the British lost. In 1783, the Old Northwest became part of the United States.

The American pioneers started moving in. The pioneers were a problem. They just kept coming. Across Ohio into Michigan and Indiana and up from southern Illinois they came. In 1795, a year after the disastrous rebellion of Tecumseh and the Shawnee Prophet, the Treaty of Greenville was signed. The U.S. government took a six-mile square plot of land at the mouth of the Chicago River along with many pieces of Indian land all over.

In the War of 1812, the Chicago Potawatamie were leaders in the Fort Dearborn massacre. A repeatedly successful battle tactic used by the Indians was to burn the prairie. The flames and smoke gave them a great advantage in battle. But the British lost, and the Indians lost a valuable ally. In 1816, the Chicago Potawatamie sold a 20-mile wide tract of land extending from Chicago to Ottawa, Illinois. The Indian boundary line that marks the north edge of this land runs just north of Sauganash prairie (along Rogers Avenue).

### Billy Caldwell: two cultures meet

A mixed-blood British Indian who had worked in Chicago from at least 1803 for the fur traders, Forsyth and Kinzie, had risen to prominence before the War of 1812. He joined the British in the war and fought alongside Tecumseh. His name was Billy Caldwell. The Indians called him "Sauganash," the word used to describe English-speaking Canadians.

Caldwell returned to Chicago in 1820. He tried to establish himself as an acculturated American citizen, serving as a justice of the peace from 1825, and as an election commissioner in 1826 (the first election ever held in Chicago). But the Indian side of him proved too hard to subdue. Soon he was again identifying himself as an Indian. During the Winnebago Scare of 1827, he acted as an Indian scout. He also acted as an advisor to the Indians in several treaty negotiations. At the same time he was an employee of Forsyth and Kinzie. He was designated by the U.S. government as a Potawatomi chief. Along with Alexander Robinson, also of mixed blood, Caldwell represented the Potawatomi of the Chicago area in several treaty negotiations that made him personally well off and enriched his employers and associates. This was not an uncommon practice. It's called politics.

In the 1829 Prairie du Chien treaty, Caldwell was given a 1600-acre parcel of land extending northwest along the North Branch from the 1816 Indian Boundary Line.

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Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Miami Woods Prairie.  
(photo, Jon Randolph)

## Prairie Profile: Bunker Hill-Edgebrook Flatwoods

by Susanne Masi

Bunker Hill holds a special place in the history of the North Branch Prairie Project because it was the first of the prairies to be "discovered" in 1975. Since its initial burn in 1984, the prairie has seen a dramatic decrease of woody plants. Last winter was another turning point for the site when volunteer stewards agreed to merge Edgebrook Flatwoods and Bunker Hill Prairie into a single management unit comprising approximately 90 acres. Edgebrook Flatwoods is on the state inventory of natural areas.

In pre-settlement times, this was undoubtedly a continuous savanna grove, and, as restoration progresses, it becomes more apparent that no clearly defined line exists between the prairie and woodland. Steward John Balaban speculates that its location on the Chicago River's east bank also suggests that Bunker Hill was a savanna. Open prairies normally ended at the west banks of rivers which served as fire breaks. Recent clearing of the dense brush at the prairie edges through burning, cutting and girdling makes it possible for the first time to see through to the woods and lets in more sunlight for savanna plants. A section of the Flatwoods was first burned in fall '87 and a savanna seed mix of more than 200 species was planted. Although last year's drought undoubtedly inhibited germination, among the plants already appearing are white false indigo, wood reed, figwort and downy wild rye.

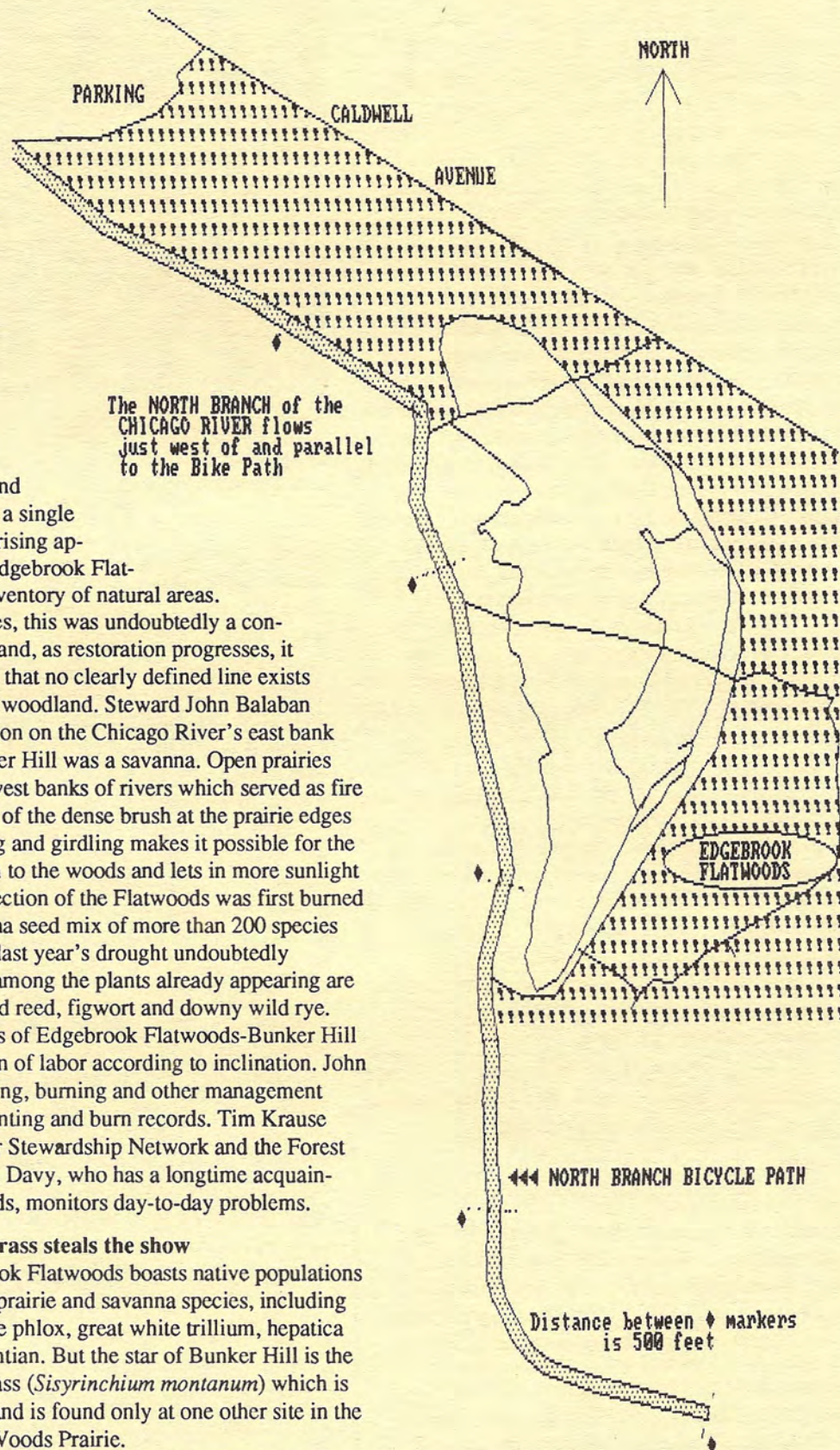
The three co-stewards of Edgebrook Flatwoods-Bunker Hill have arranged a division of labor according to inclination. John Balaban oversees clearing, burning and other management tasks and maintains planting and burn records. Tim Krause reports to the Volunteer Stewardship Network and the Forest Preserve District. Andy Davy, who has a longtime acquaintance with the Flatwoods, monitors day-to-day problems.

### Mountain blue-eyed grass steals the show

Bunker Hill-Edgebrook Flatwoods boasts native populations of several high quality prairie and savanna species, including healthy numbers of blue phlox, great white trillium, hepatica and three species of gentian. But the star of Bunker Hill is the mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*) which is endangered in Illinois and is found only at one other site in the state, our own Miami Woods Prairie.

This beautiful little relative of the iris has been getting the attention its status warrants. For the past two years John and

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**Bunker Hill Prairie Trail Map**  
(Map, John and Jane Balaban)

### *To Make a Prairie, continued*

A trowel and a hose, a little fertilizer, and that's about it. When he has several sources for the same seed, he mixes them to multiply the gene pool. No one's really counted, but Preston has probably increased the seed of over 50 species.

### **Prairie nursery gardens**

In 1986, the North Branch Prairie Project started farming out propagation work like Preston's through the Prairie Nursery Garden program, coordinated until last summer by veteran gardener Mary May. She has held workshops each late winter or early spring in which seeds, plants and how-to sheets are handed around, methods are discussed and, she relates, "stories are swapped, like about neighbors who think you're strange for growing flowers for the seeds." The home gardeners, whose ranks have grown to number 50, mainly in Chicago but also in varied suburbs, take their bits of vegetable revery home to nurture them in sickness and in health, in bad luck (cats scratching them out and flats getting knocked over) and in good.

Ideally the collected seeds are mailed in once a month as they ripen so they can be put out into their appropriate prairie habitat before they lose any viability. Most seed is planted in the fall, after the annual seed mixing party. Some of it is stored over winter for spring planting. The seeds, with their different colors, sizes and shapes, are divided into their proper community groups. Besides the divisions according to soil moisture, light intensity and soil types, there's an extra aggressive "turf" group created that's designed to out-compete the existing sod it's raked into. The others are broadcast into areas prepared by burning or brush and weed removal.

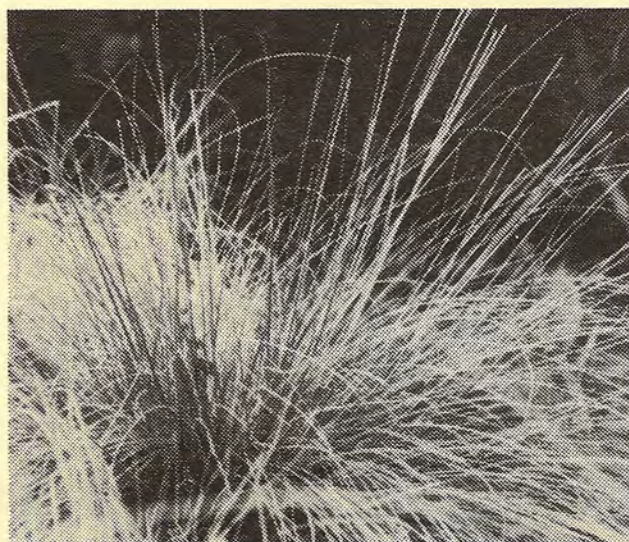
All of our native plants have their own stories they're trying to tell. Some take a few human generations to tell it. This unfinished work of allowing the earth to say "prairies" and "savannas" again is a contract of generations. The charm and revery of these powerful, vulnerable communities is returning. And if not all poets are gardeners and understand what it takes to make a prairie, hopefully all prairie gardeners are poets.

## **Nursery Garden Coordinator Needed**

### **Do you like people and plants?**

The prairie nursery garden needs a coordinator (or perhaps two would work well) to conduct the spring orientation workshop and distribute seeds and information. No special expertise in prairie plant propagation is necessary. Contact Ross Sweeny at 775-5003.

Many thanks to Mary May for getting the prairie nursery gardens off and running with humor, organizational talent and gardening skill. Fortunately for us, Mary will continue to grow prairie plants and occasionally act as consultant. She'll also share her files and written materials with her successor.



*Prairie dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis), one of the rare prairie grasses grown by Mary May. (photo, Mary May)*

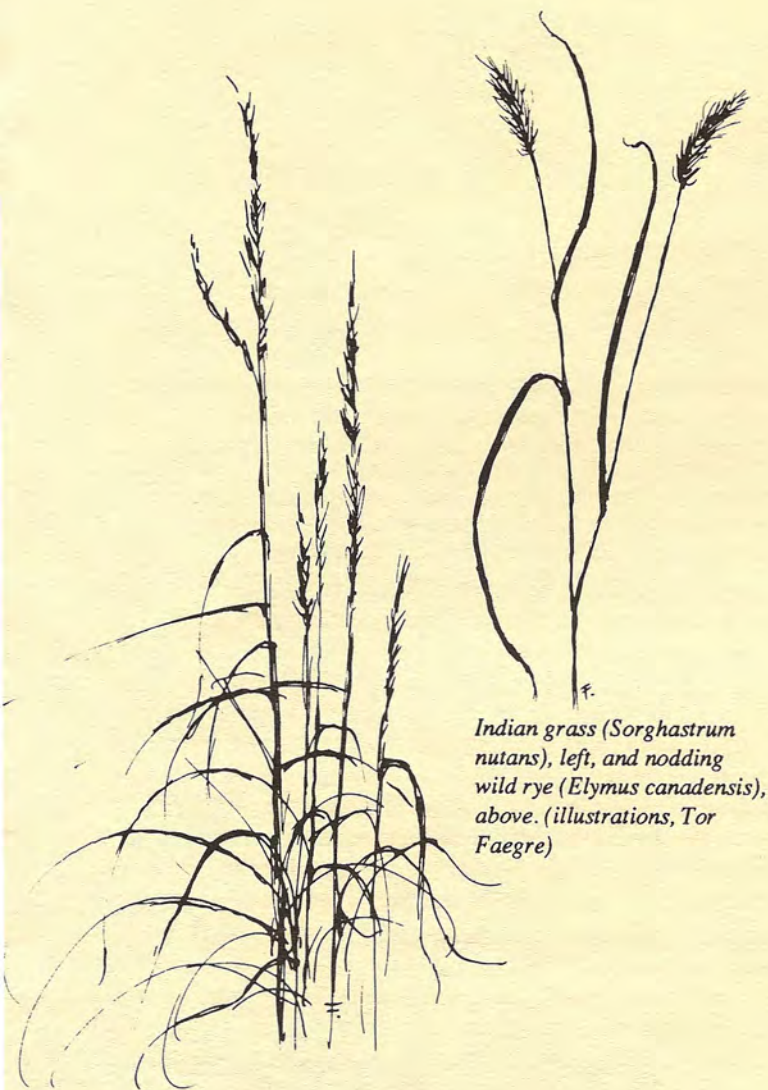
### *Indians, continued*

Bunker Hill prairie is within the Caldwell Reserve. In 1833, Caldwell was a major part of the final treaty at which the Potawatomie nation sold the last of its land in the Chicago area. In 1835, he led 700 people across the Mississippi River to a reservation in what is now northwest Missouri. They got moved into Iowa two years later. Caldwell stayed for the rest of his life with these people who trusted him. He wrote to a brother that he had led the Indians away from the "destruction" of the Chicago area.

The destruction that Caldwell spoke of stemmed from the attitudes of the American pioneers. They did not respect the Indians. They feared them. As the white man moved in the animal populations were reduced. Sometimes the Indians killed livestock for food. Then, of course, there were those prairie fires which destroyed farms. But, their biggest gripe was that Indians wasted the land. The native Americans let prime real estate grow wild instead of developing it into cropland.

Over the decades, our prairies served some Indian generations as temporary quarters during the winter hunting season. Other generations built semi-permanent villages here. The river was a source of water, a limited mode of transportation and a gathering place for animals that served as a source for food and clothing. Fruits and nuts, berries and garden vegetables were harvested along the North Branch. The river, woods, savannas and prairies together met the needs of the Indian nations who lived or hunted here.

Sources: Roberts Mann, compiler. *Origin of Names and Histories of Places in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County*. Forest Preserve District of Cook County (1965); R. Davis Edmunds. *The Potawatomies — Keepers of the Fire*. University of Oklahoma Press (1978); James A. Clifton. "Billy Caldwell's Exile in Early Chicago," *Chicago History*, Vol. VI: No. 4 (Winter, 1977-1978).



Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), left, and nodding wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*), above. (illustrations, Tor Faegre)

#### *Prairie Profile, continued*

Jane Balaban conducted a population study of *Sisyrinchium*. "We need to learn as much as possible about the plant in order to take preventive measures if it appears to become threatened at Bunker Hill," said John. But, for now we can take heart. "It is amazing how many more flowers there were in May 1988 than last year. Blue-eyed mountain grass blooms too early to have been affected by the drought and they were spectacular — literally lining the bike path."

For this study, John developed a new survey technique that will likely be duplicated in other studies. He and Jane used a roller tape (essentially a tape measure on a wheel) and a meter stick by which they recorded the precise location of individual plants.

The 1988 count of the plants along the transect was 125 plants with 403 flowering stalks — an increase of 48% from 1987. John also conducted a study that identified 30 plants growing within 20 meters of *Sisyrinchium*. Over a period of time, changes recorded in these associate plants can provide significant data about *Sisyrinchium*. He suggests that it may be 10 years before the data can yield identifiable patterns.

## Calendar

### Warm up with NBPP winter workdays

Just because winter is cold and sometimes snowy doesn't mean NBPP volunteers aren't out on the prairie for Sunday workdays at 9 a.m.! To find out if and where to meet each Sunday, call the WORKDAY HOTLINE: 869-5966.

### Workday planning meeting

If you want to help plan the year's workday schedule, a leadership and planning meeting is set for Saturday, January 28, 1:30 p.m., at 5309 N. Oconto. To learn how you can get involved in workday leadership, call Ross Sweeny at 775-5003.

### Prairie workshop volunteer opportunities

- ◆ Registration mailing: Sunday, January 29.
- ◆ Registration packet stuffing: date to be announced.
- ◆ Pre-workshop site meeting: Friday, March 31, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Northeastern Illinois University.
- ◆ Workshop day: help is needed for numerous tasks throughout the day, April 1, 1989.

For meeting times and places or to volunteer for these activities, call the WORKSHOP HOTLINE: 869-5966.

North Branch Prairie Project

## Annual Potluck Dinner



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18  
6:00 PM

747-2 BROMPTON, CHICAGO

(One block S. of Addison between Broadway and Halsted)  
RSVP CAROLYN ARONSON 327-0791

Bring something tasty to serve 4 to 8, and slides from last year.

### Prairie Projections

Susanne Masi: Editor

Jessica Jolly: Typesetting/Design

Hugh Stephens: Layout

Larry Hodak: Logo

Submit articles and graphics to:

**Prairie Projections**

6545 N. Bosworth

Chicago, IL 60626

(312) 973-2608

## A Special Summer Course—Prairie and Savanna Restoration Management

**Instructor:** Steve Packard (Director of Science and Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy)

**When:** Sundays (field days): June 18, 25; July 9, 16, 30; August 9, 20, 27

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (9 a.m. to noon NBPP workdays optional)

Wednesdays (discussions of assigned readings)

7 - 9 p.m.: June 28, July 19, August 9, 30

**Where:** North Branch Prairies in Morton Grove and Northbrook (Sunday field days)

Evening sessions to be arranged

**Cost:** \$50. Fee includes instruction, supplies and a contribution to NBPP.

Checks are made out to North Branch Prairie Project Education Fund.



*Tor Faegre*

**Who should be interested? The course is for you if you:**

- ◆ have some previous volunteer or professional experience in prairie/savanna restoration or college background in botany or ecology;
- ◆ want to sharpen your understanding of the ecological basis of prairie/savanna management as well as the skills to manage effectively;
- ◆ are willing to share your knowledge and skills through actual work in prairie/savanna restoration on public land.

**What is the course about? You will:**

- ◆ learn ecological decision-making, involving how to identify and locate plant communities and assess their management needs;
- ◆ learn theory and practice of management and successional restoration techniques, such as girdling, selective scything, and harvesting and distributing seeds;
- ◆ apply your knowledge and skills by professional work or by directing groups on North Branch or other sites.

**Enrollment is limited.** Write a brief statement describing your previous experience in prairie/savanna restoration or your academic background in science. Indicate how you see yourself putting the course to use. Include name, address and day/evening phones. Send your application, with any questions, to Susanne Masi, who will administer the course (6545 N. Bosworth, Chicago, IL, 60626).

**Application deadline is April 15**, after which we will contact all applicants. Payment can be sent after notification of acceptance to the class.

*Note: Some participants will know the major trees and shrubs of the region, as well as the major prairie and savanna grasses and forbs. Such knowledge will be an advantage. However, we encourage application from anyone committed to learning these basics as we go along. Since a part of the course's goal is for participants to improve their abilities to teach and direct others in these skills, those with more experience in some areas will have the opportunity to share their knowledge.*

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### North Branch Prairie Project

*The Sierra Club  
Suite 525  
506 S. Wabash  
Chicago, IL 60605*

*The North Branch  
Prairie Project is a  
cooperative effort  
involving The  
Nature Conservancy,  
the Chicago Audubon  
Society, and the Sierra  
Club, Chicago group.*

*We manage these sites  
as volunteers for the  
Forest Preserve District  
of Cook County.*

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 535**

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## Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop News Inside

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