

# Brush Piles



NBPP's Refrigerator Door Companion

Summer 1992

## Wild Garden News

### Thanks to Chicago Botanic Gardens

The Chicago Botanic Gardens offered to let the NBPP germinate seeds at its facilities again this year. This year's crop of rare plants is being watered and cared for in the Garden's greenhouses, and germinated with the help of Joan Meersman and Marian Howard. We have been particularly fortunate to receive generous and expert advice from CBG staff member Dave Sollenberger. All of the staff of the Botanic Gardens have been very helpful including Jim Steffan, Jim Epping, Susanne Masi, and many others. If you are a member of the Horticultural Society at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, you might wish to thank these dedicated folks yourself.

### North Park Village Garden

A nursery garden was planted two years ago at the North Park Village Nature Center by North Branch volunteers. Two volunteers, Carolyn and Chip, have recently agreed to become caretakers and lead workdays at the garden (hurray Chip and Carolyn!). There will be plenty of weeding, watering, and tending in the season ahead for anyone interested in participating.

### Chicago Academy of Sciences Garden

The NBPP was recently invited by the Chicago Academy of Sciences to assist in building an educational prairie in front of the Academy. There has been a "sort-of-garden" there for the past few years, but Academy staff felt it was time to make it into something more. They will use the "new" garden for educational programs, and visitors will be informed about the NBPP and encouraged to get involved. The Academy is organizing garden volunteers who will tend the garden and collect seed for the NBPP, and you are invited to participate.

## Awards! Awards! Awards!

The NBPP received a Service Award from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County on February 22. Joe Nevius, Acting Superintendent, praised North Branch volunteers for contributing almost 5,000 hours in 1991 to ecological restoration efforts.

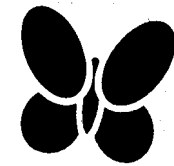
NBPP volunteers Jane Balaban, Joanne Softcheck, Gladys Bryer, and Karen Holland received awards from The Nature Conservancy. Jane's "hard work and positive attitude have been an example for all North Branch volunteers. She inspires us all to set our goals high." NBPP volunteers "have learned to count on Joanne for generous support and consistent, thoughtful participation." Gladys's efforts as a steward "are a model for volunteers working productively with private or public agencies to protect our natural areas." Karen has made *Prairie Projections* "engaging to the casual reader while at the same time providing ecological information of professional quality."

The awards were given out at a luncheon at the Brookfield Zoo, sponsored by the Volunteer Stewardship Network. Keynote speaker Gerould Wilhelm of the Morton Arboretum thanked volunteers for "working to leave something clean and whole for posterity." Good work, North Branch!

**Congratulations** on your new position as interns, John Berg and Bob Schmugge! The Forest Preserve District of Cook County generously funded 14 summer internships to work with volunteer groups. The interns will do plant inventories, site surveys, and other badly needed science projects. John will be working with the Palos Restoration Project and Bob will work with the Poplar Creek group.



# NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT



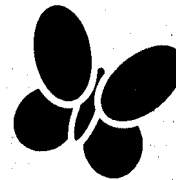
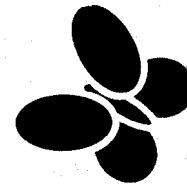
## Summer Workdays and Activities Schedule 1992

The NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT is working to restore and manage the few remaining prairie remnants along the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Cook County Forest Preserves. These areas, once part of a vast grassland ecosystem, are under tremendous pressure from urban development and non-native species. We are working to restore conditions that will allow these natural wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

In the summer we collect seeds, pull weeds, and cut brush. Always dress for the weather and bring some water. Insect repellent and sun protection are important. Bring some food if you can stay for lunch. The workday hotline is 312-878-3877.

### Summer 1992

June 3	Wednesday	6pm	Somme Prairie Grove
June 4	Thursday	6pm	Somme Sedge Meadow
June 6	Saturday	9am	Somme PG
June 7	Sunday	9am	Somme PG/Woods
June 7	Sunday	1:30pm	Miami-Indigo
June 10	Wednesday	6pm	Somme PG
June 11	Thursday	6pm	Somme SM
June 13	Saturday	9am	Somme PG
June 14	Sunday	9am	Miami-Indigo
June 20	Saturday	9am	Miami-Indigo
June 21	Sunday	9am	Somme PG/Woods
June 21	Sunday	1:30pm	SEED COLLECTING - Somme
June 27	Saturday	9am	Buffalo Grove Prairie
June 28	Sunday	9am	Harms Woods
July 4	Saturday	9am	SEED COLLECTING - Somme
July 5	Sunday	9am	Buffalo Grove
July 5	Sunday	1:30pm	Buffalo Grove
July 8	Wednesday	6pm	Somme PG
July 9	Thursday	6pm	Somme SM
July 11	Saturday	9am	Buffalo Grove
July 12	Sunday	9am	Somme PG/Woods
July 12	Sunday	1:30pm	Bunker Hill (Oxbow Prairie)
July 18	Saturday	9am	Miami-Indigo
July 18	Saturday	10am	PLANT ID CLASS AT MIAMI-INDIGO
July 19	Sunday	9am	Bunker Hill
July 19	Sunday	1:30pm	Watersmeet
July 22	Wednesday	6pm	Somme PG
July 23	Thursday	6pm	Somme SM
July 25	Saturday	9am	Somme PG
July 26	Sunday	9am	Miami-Indigo
July 26	Sunday	1:30pm	Woods PG



### NORTH BRANCH WORKGROUPS

The six North Branch workgroups listed below need volunteers. Contact the chairperson for more information or attend a workgroup meeting. The next Coordinating Committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 30 at 7:30pm, at the home of Karen Holland, 2048 W. Melrose, Chicago.

#### Ecological Management:

Jane and John Balaban, 708-679-4289

#### Education:

Joanne Softcheck, 312-878-3877

#### Publications:

Karen Holland, 312-929-7658

#### Publicity:

Gail Schmoller, 312-935-0654

#### Science:

Susanne Masi, 312-973-2608

#### Volunteer Development:

Joanne Softcheck, 312-878-3877



15 Years of Growing



August 2	Sunday	9am	Somme PG/Woods
August 6	Thursday	6pm	Somme SM
August 9	Sunday	9am	Sauganash
August 16	Sunday	9am	Miami-Indigo
August 22	Saturday	9am	Miami-Indigo
August 23	Sunday	9am	Wayside-RR Prairie
August 29	Saturday	9am	Somme PG
August 30	Sunday	9am	Somme PG/Woods

### Directions

**BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE** (Buffalo Grove) - Turn north on Johnson Drive, which is the first light west of Milwaukee on Lake-Cook Rd. Meet in the Cryovac lot, the first driveway on the west side of Johnson Dr. The prairie is under the Com Ed power lines.

**BUNKER HILL** (Chicago) - Meet at the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve parking lot on the west side of Caldwell Ave. about 1/4 mile north of Devon Ave.

**HARMS WOODS** (Glenview) - Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Rd., just south of Glenview Rd.

**MIAMI-INDIGO** (Morton Grove/Niles) - Meet at Miami Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on the east side of Caldwell Ave., two blocks north of Oakton Ave.

**SAUGANASH PRAIRIE** (Chicago) - Meet at the edge of the Forest Preserve along the south side of Bryn Mawr Ave. at Kilbourn Ave. (south of Peterson Ave. and east of Cicero Ave.

**SOMME PRAIRIE GROVE, WOODS, AND SEDGE MEADOW** (Northbrook) - Take Dundee Rd. two miles west from the Edens Expwy. to Waukegan Rd. Go north a few hundred feet on Waukegan and meet at the unpaved parking area on the west side of the road.

**WATERSMEET** (Northbrook) - Exit the Edens Expwy. at Lake Avenue West. Go west to Wagner Rd., turn north then take Wagner to Winnetka Rd. Go east on Winnetka 3/4 mile. Park on the south side of the street, between Happ and Wagner Roads.

**WAYSIDE-RR PRAIRIE** (Morton Grove) - Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on Lehigh Ave. (a few blocks east of Waukegan Rd. and just north of Dempster Ave.)



This September the North Branch Prairie Project will celebrate its 15th year "rebirthday" with activities to inspire, fascinate and please. Under the banner *15 Years of Growing, 1977-1992*, the festivities will begin at the Chicago Academy of Sciences on Friday, September 11 with a gala reception and lecture by Steve Packard about the history of the North Branch Prairie Project.

Gerould Wilhelm has promised to deliver a lecture on prairie and savanna ecology at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Thursday, September 17. Roy Schulenberg will speak on North Branch Indian History on Thursday, September 24th at Northeastern Illinois University.

Inspired yet? Here are more festival activities being planned: a Wild Garden Program at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Family Day at Emily Oaks Nature Center, Morning Workdays followed by lunchtime entertainment and afternoon "Discovery Tours" at three different sites on three consecutive Sundays, and finally, a canoe trip down the North Branch itself. Join in the planning! Join in the fun! Call (guess who) Joanne Softcheck at 312-878-3877 for more information.

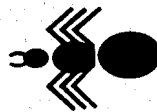
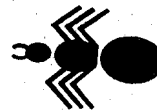
### SEED COLLECTING

Beginning June 1, every Wednesday morning at 9am. Call the NBPP information number 312-878-3877 to find out *whether* there is a collecting day scheduled and *where* to meet.



### TOOLS NEEDED

The Tool Czar needs an old 5/8" I.D. garden hose to be used as saw blade guards. His Eminence also needs to borrow a wood-burning alphabet kit. Call Brian Seinfeld at 708-679-6996.



**Brush Pile Crew**  
Writing and Editing: Karen Holland, Barbara Rose  
Layout: Joel Spears



## Field Plant Identification Class

at Miami Woods, July 18, 1992, 10am-12pm

Instructors: Laurel Ross, Susanne Masi

Designed for the serious plant identification student with some previous experience. Bring a favorite field guide, Swink & Wilhelm (if you have it), a pencil, notebook, and hand lens.

The class will include:

- Identification of flowers and grasses in the field;
- Learning to identify plants by flowers as well as other distinguishing characteristics;
- Participants will key out at least one plant;
- Worksheets and other appropriate materials will be provided.

Class size: Limit 15      Fee: \$2 per person  
See directions under the Summer Workday Schedule

### REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Night phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form & your NBPP check to:  
Joanne Softcheck, 4537 N. Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60625

### WILDERNESS DAY AT PALOS

Sunday, August 23, 1992

Celebrate the Past, Present, Future of Cook County Forest Preserves and natural areas. Located in Pulaski Woods West, 95th street and Wolf Road.

Organized by the Save the Prairie Society and the Palos Restoration Project in cooperation with The Forest Preserve District of Cook County. For more information call 708-597-5440.



### THE GREAT THISMIA HUNT II

Saturday, August 22, 1992

Become famous! Be the person who rediscovers the elusive *Thismia americana*! The Illinois Native Plant Society in conjunction with the Morton Arboretum and the Illinois Nature Conservancy will sponsor the Great Thismia Hunt II on August 22. We will convene at the Powder Horn Lake and Marsh Forest Preserve. (If the Calumet Airport is built, this Preserve will be under a runway.) Registration is required if you wish to participate in the search. The deadline for registration is August 1. For further information call Linda Wetstein at 708-719-2419.

North

Branch

Prairie

Project

P.O. Box 74  
Northbrook, IL 60065

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

*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*

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