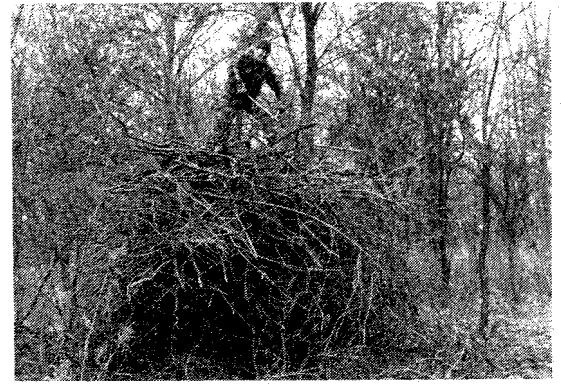


Brush Piles



NBPP's Refrigerator Door Companion

Summer 1994

YOU ARE MY HEROES

On May 7, eight North Branchers were recognized for their significant contributions toward restoring prairies and savannas. Hosted by the Brookfield Zoo and sponsored by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and The Nature Conservancy, volunteer awardees from all over Cook County were treated to a catered lunch, speeches praising their work, and a thought-provoking keynote address by Chicago Tribune columnist John Husar. "You people are my heroes," said Husar. "But I want more." Husar challenged the volunteers to further develop the Volunteer Stewardship Network by involving all citizens.

At the recommendation of the North Branch Coordinating Committee, the following North Branchers received an award: Kathy Lapinsky, Chuck Lapinsky and Joel Spears, for their layout, design, and typesetting of all North Branch publications; Marion Howard and Joan Meersman, for coordinating seed collection and distribution activities; Bill Valentine, for conducting ongoing bird nesting surveys at Somme; Drew Ullberg, for his role as Science Workgroup Chair and for helping with plant saves; and Neil Peck, for his leadership in conducting controlled burns.

Congratulations to all! Thank you for all of your hard work.

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

We've missed Brushmeister Brian at recent workdays, and want to send a truckload of KGBs (Kitchen Garbage Bags) full of good wishes his way—to Evanston Hospital, where he's set up camp for a while. Friends who'd like to drop him a line can send it to Brian Seinfeld, Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201.

Thanks to Kathy Lapinsky, who represented the North Branch at an information table at Northbrook's "Earth/Arbor Day Festivities" on April 23. Kathy met several potential new volunteers from the area, plus some already active North Branchers. Some 140 residents showed up for the event; participants in the clean-up collected 178 bags of garbage from all over the Northbrook area.

The North Branch lent its beautiful handcrafted banners and several posters on wildflowers and prairie grasses for display at the May 12 Science Fair at Greenbriar School (Northbrook). Students constructed a model "prairie" out of paper, pencils, and pizza boxes, to depict the different plants they are raising from seed to transplant into the prairie they are developing on school grounds. North Branch volunteer and Mighty Acorns docent Justine Kusner was there, too—to provide interpretation and answer questions about prairies.



NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT SUMMER WORKDAYS AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

The NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT is working to restore and manage the few remaining prairie and oak savanna 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

SUMMER 1994

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| June 4 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet |
| June 5 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Somme Nature Preserve |
| June 11 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Somme Woods |
| June 12 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods |
| June 18 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet |
| June 19 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Wayside Prairie |
| June 25 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods Prairie |
| June 26 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Bunker Hill |
| June 26 | Sunday | 1:30 p.m. | Bunker Hill |
| July 3 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Somme Prairie Grove |
| July 9 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods |
| July 10 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Oxbow Prairie |
| July 16 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet |
| July 17 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods |
| July 23 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Oxbow Prairie |
| July 24 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet/Skokie Sedge Meadow |
| July 31 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Sauganash |
| August 6 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet |
| August 7 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Somme Prairie Grove |
| August 13 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods |
| August 14 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Miami Woods |
| August 21 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Harms Woods |
| August 27 | Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | Watersmeet |
| August 28 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Somme Woods |

Directions

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

BUNKER HILL/OXBOW (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.

EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER (Skokie)—From intersection of Skokie Blvd. and Howard St., go east on Howard to first residential street, Knox. Go north on Knox to Brummel. Turn left on Brummel and go one block to Nature Center parking lot.

wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

In the summer we cut brush and plant seeds. Always dress for the weather and bring some water. Sun protection is important. When it's cold we may go out for lunch. The workday hotline is 312-878-3877.

NORTH BRANCH WORKGROUPS

The North Branch workgroups listed below need volunteers. Contact the chairperson for more information or attend a workgroup meeting.

Ecological Management

Jane and John Balaban, 708-679-4289.

Next meetings: Thursday, March 17 and Tuesday, May 17 at 5143 W. Morse, Skokie

Education/Volunteer Development:

Joanne Softcheck, 312-878-3877

Publications/Publicity:

Karen Holland, 312-929-7658.

Science:

Drew Ullberg, 708-304-6972

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8 at Emily Oaks Nature Center

CLASSES/LECTURES

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

The Nature Conservancy

79 W. Monroe, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60603

Requirements: These courses are open to active stewards, co-stewards, and monitors in the Volunteer Stewardship Network. Preregistration is required for all classes. To do so, follow the instructions within each course description. Only when no other instructions are given call 312-346-8166 to register.

A Stewardship Training Program with the Morton Arboretum and Nature Conservancy. The Morton Arboretum, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, is in the process of developing a Stewardship Training Program. The program will involve class work in field ecology, botany, and zoology, field trips to local natural areas, land-management workshops, and field practicum exercises. Tom Simpson, Arboretum Naturalist, will coordinate the development of the Program. Tom is interested in the opinions of stewards and volunteers concerning their needs and desires from such a program and will hold meetings with interested individuals early in the

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOL (Northbrook)—North of Willow Rd. on the west side of Shermer Road. Enter the parking lot at the north driveway and park by the tennis courts.

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.

PERKINS WOODS (Evanston)—From I94 exit at Old Orchard Rd., east to Crawford St., south on Crawford to Grant St., east on Grant to Ewing St., site is at the corner of Grant and Ewing.

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 NATURE PRESERVE (Northbrook)—Meet in the Post Office parking lot, Dundee and Western Avenues.

SOMME PRAIRIE GROVE, WOODS, AND SEDGE MEADOW (Northbrook)—Take Dundee Rd. two miles west from the Edens Expressway 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/SKOKIE SEDGE MEADOWS (Northfield)—Exit the Edens Expressway 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.

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.)

READING GROUP

Join us in our lively discussions!

June 21: Celebrate the Summer solstice and discuss *Young Men and Fire*, by Norman McLean. Laurel Ross, leader.

September 12: The *New York Times* Book Review says *Ismael* by Daniel Quinn is, "a thoughtful, fearlessly low key novel about the role of our species on the planet." Gladys Bryer, leader.

summer of 1994 to discuss initial program plans.

Management Seminar for Stewardship Volunteers. This class will cover a generic planning approach that can be used to develop plans of all types and levels. The specific focus will be on establishing goals and objectives and the development and evaluation of alternative plans to achieve them. You will learn to plan in terms of inputs, outputs and processes. While the process is generic, emphasis will be placed on operational and project planning. Saturday, June 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Place to be announced.

Mighty Acorns Docent Training. Volunteers are trained to lead students grades 4-7 in exploring and caring for the prairies, woodlands, and wetlands of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Docents lead small groups (5 students per group) in informal discovery activities, and guide stewardship activities such as seed collecting and brush cutting. No previous experience is required. For more information please call Diane Reckless at The Nature Conservancy (312) 346-8166. Saturdays, June 11 and 18. Locations to be announced.

Nachusa Grasslands Trip. For VSN plant monitors or anyone interested in plant monitoring. During the walk, we'll discuss various monitoring techniques and the monitoring program in general. We'll also spend some time just enjoying this beautiful place. We'll meet there at 10:00 AM and stay until about 3:00 PM, so bring lunch and a beverage. Reservations are not required, but if we know who's coming, we can try to set up carpools. Call Duane Heaton at (708) 358-5856 (eves. & weekends) or (312) 886-6399 (days). Sunday, June 12.

Determining Presettlement Communities. Learn how to determine presettlement communities using the locations of community transitions noted by land surveyors, the tree densities at posts established by the surveyors, and modern ideas about classifying plant communities with trees. Dress for the weather and be prepared for mosquitoes. Leader: Dennis Nyberg, Saturday, July 9, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM, Camp Sagawau. To register, call The Nature Conservancy at (312) 346-8166.

Exotic Species Control Workshop. Topics covered in this practical workshop include: importance of using herbicides, choosing the right chemical and equipment, safety measures, effective application methods, timing of application, treatment of specific problem weeds, storage, and sources for material. Bring questions. Note: This is not an herbicide licensing class. Instructor: Ed Collins. Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at Camp Sagawau.

Wetland Ecology. Explore the wonders of wetlands on this all-day field excursion in the Palos/Sag region. Course participants will be introduced to a broad range of topics covered under the phrase "wetland ecology," including wetland soils, fauna, hydrology, degradation, and management. Dress for the weather and bugs, and be prepared to get wet. Leader: Drew Ullberg, Saturday, August 27, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Camp Sagawau. To register, call The Nature Conservancy at (312) 346-8166.

Brush Pile Crew

Editing: Barbara Rose

Layout: Kathy and Chuck Lapinsky

NATURAL AREA NOTES

Natural Area Notes, the quarterly newsletter of The Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Stewardship Network (which encompasses volunteer groups like the North Branch Prairie Project statewide), is a forum for restoration volunteers to share news and express their views. Deborah Loeser Small, the newsletter's new editor, invites submissions of story ideas and articles from all volunteers. Possible topics include plant discoveries on a site; unusual animal sightings; major progress or accomplishments in restoration work; philosophical discussions of methods or reports on new methods tried; opinion pieces; or letters to the editor. Write or call Deborah at 305 W. Fullerton, Apt. 3E, Chicago, IL 60614 (312-868-6518) to propose story ideas or submit articles.

WOMEN OF THE NORTH BRANCH Campout at Nachusa Grasslands

Last fall the women of the North Branch adopted Dot's Knob, a prairie hill at The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands preserve. It's time to revisit the site and our friend, preserve manager Bill Kleiman, who is awaiting our help for a variety of restoration activities. We'll also be discussing women's roles in restoration. July 23 and 24. Call Karen Holland at 312-929-7658 for information.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 4th

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

REI and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, will be leading a restoration project in Deer Grove West.

Projects for the day include: Oak Rescue • Trail Clearing • Trail Use & Education

For additional information or to pre-register call: 708-470-9090

Permit Holder:
The Nature Conservancy
79 W. Monroe
Chicago, IL 60603

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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