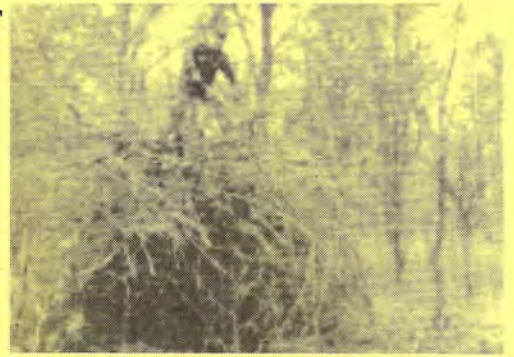


# Brush Piles



NBPP's Refrigerator Door Companion

Spring 1997

## A JOYFUL CELEBRATION

Nancy Freehafer

The annual potluck fell on one of those early January nights when the TV weather people were telling us to stay home because of the dangerous cold. Yet the seventy people who gathered again at the Edgebrook Community Center created a tremendous warmth. As always at our potlucks, children chased each other around the room, new and old friends discovered each other, and the North Branch cuisine was superb.

This year the joy at being together was more intense than usual. The year 1996 was a tough one for the restoration movement in Chicago, and we had struggled and survived. Two days before the party, Cook County Board President John Stroger announced his proposal to lift the moratorium, and we could celebrate a partial victory at least.

But the real celebration was for ourselves. At the after-dinner program, several people got up spontaneously to speak about their experiences of the previous year, of the sadness and discouragement of seeing work not getting done; of the frustration of trying to communicate in good faith and having one's words twisted; of resisting the temptation to just walk away; of the realization that the struggle would continue. None of us joined the restoration community to get embroiled in politics! And yet, speaker after speaker said, "we got involved, and we will persevere."

After the presentation of awards, people continued to talk in front of the fire, and an enthusiastic group of singers stood around the piano while Pete Leki played. Who would have guessed that we had so much musical talent? And for that matter, who would have guessed all the other talents, for writing, speaking, organizing, that have emerged during the past year? Truly, the party was a celebration of the talents and the ongoing commitment of our members and friends, those who were there that night as well as those who were not.

Many people helped to make the potluck successful, including the telephone team—Joan Meersman, Gladys Bryer, Leslie Borns, Bob Bluestone, Neil Peck, and Marjorie Marquette. Joanne Softcheck created beautiful table decorations with pots of crocus, John Balaban was a gracious master of ceremonies, Brian Seinfeld provided firewood, and many, many people helped with set-up and clean-up. Thank you all!

## AWARDS

The annual potluck is the time we give awards to people who have made special contributions to the work of the North Branch Prairie Project.

First, we gave special recognition to Kelly Treese, Land Management Volunteer Coordinator at the Forest Preserve District, for her tireless efforts to support good stewardship; for her constant cheerfulness under bleak conditions; and for being a wise counselor and good communicator within the Forest Preserve District.

To our own members we gave the following awards:

- to Debra Shore, for her eloquent interpretation of restoration through the written word, both in published articles and in countless letters to the county commissioners; for organizing dozens of her friends to write and call as well; and for testifying at hearings. Debra also recently volunteered to serve as chair of the Education/Volunteer Development work group.

- to Pete Czosnyka, for providing up-to-date information about events in the Edgebrook neighborhood; for being an advocate at community meetings and hearings and keeping accurate records; and for his work at involving the Boy Scouts in appreciation of the ecology of the forest preserves.

- to Pete Leki, for his inspiring work at Sauganash Prairie; for his leadership in the Mighty Acorns at Waters school; for bringing a class of children to testify at the hearing; for organizing influential meetings with two county commissioners; for leading us in song at the potluck dinner; and for taking responsibility for the Garden in the Sky.

- to Neil Peck, for his political savvy; for his determined organization of phone banks (set up in his own house) to urge our members to call their commissioners; for working with his own commissioner; for participating in community meetings and county hearings; and for his continued dedication to the Oxbow Prairie.

Finally, we recognized Laurel Ross and John and Jane Balaban for providing guidance, leadership and dogged determination in helping North Branchers get through the challenging times of the past year.

- to Laurel, who repeatedly faced down unfriendly crowds, patiently explaining and supporting the restoration project.

- to John, for countless projects, from collecting and processing seeds to organizing the North Branch slides, to walking North Branch sites with representatives of the opposition.

- to Jane, for her invaluable work in organizing meetings, writing meeting agendas and minutes, and making countless phone calls and arrangements that have profoundly improved the work of the North Branch.

The award to the Balabans was an original drawing of a fringed gentian by North Branch artist Bobby Sutton.



## WHEN ALIENS INVADE...

Everyone in the restoration community will want to be at the Field Museum on April 12, 1997. A symposium titled **Biological Invasions: Consequences and Ecological Restoration**. The A. Watson Armour III Spring Symposium will focus on the implications of introduced species in natural and restored landscapes and will feature both global and local perspectives.

Speakers include Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey; Jerry Wilhelm, Conservation Design Forum, Inc.; Ron Panzer, Northeastern Illinois University; Ellen Morriston, Illinois Natural History Survey.

In conjunction with the symposium and also at the museum, a public festival, "Wild in Chicago" will feature events and information about local biodiversity issues. "Wild in Chicago" will run April 10-12 and will celebrate the conservation and restoration work of the Chicago Wilderness project's member organizations and volunteer groups.

The VSN groups and other CW partners will be bringing displays about ecological restoration. The Field Museum is expecting thousands of people to work through the display, so it will be a superb opportunity to educate the public. We want lots of volunteers to help man the displays (if we get lots of people, it will only be an hour or so per person) AND lots of volunteers at the sessions. We will also need people to help set things up the day before.

There will be a special plenary session (midday) for volunteers, with Ralph Thornton talking about the geological/glacial history of the region. His title is "Mountains of ice, oceans of grass: the relationship between geology and ecology," followed by breakout sessions.

There will be a special admissions rate and a free lunch for volunteers who pre-register; volunteers who staff a display get in free.

Registration: before March 15th, \$5 for NBPP (or other VSN project) volunteers; after March 15, \$10. (This is a special price for volunteers; the general public will pay \$30 before March 15, \$40 after!)

For more information on the festival and to participate in Wild in Chicago, contact Katie Green at TNC's Illinois Field Office, 312/346-8166 ext. 31, or [kgreen@mcs.com](mailto:kgreen@mcs.com). For more information on the symposium, contact the Field Museum's Office of Academic Affairs at 312/922-9410 ext. 559, or [symposia@fmppr.fmnh.org](mailto:symposia@fmppr.fmnh.org). To help with displays, call our hotline 773/878-3877.

## THE PUBLICATIONS WORKGROUP

The Publications Workgroup provides publishing services in support of the North Branch Prairie Project. The North Branch Project's publishing program is a major channel for communication with all our members, media, policy makers, and the public, and offers publishing support services to the other North Branch workgroups.

The Publication Workgroup meets once every two months to plan upcoming issues of *Brush Piles*. The Workgroup also discusses and plans public education material and this year, the *Twenty-Year Report*. Members write, proofread, and layout each issue of *Brush Piles*. They are responsible for mailing *Brush Piles* and maintaining the mailing list. Sure, it is a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun!

Volunteers are welcome and needed. You do not have to be a writer, and you do not have to have a background in publishing. You just need to be enthusiastic. If you want to join the Publications Workgroup, or have questions about it, or if you would like to contribute to *Brush Piles*, please call the chair, Barbara Sutcliffe, at 773/775-7934. She will let you know where and when the next meeting is and looks forward to seeing you there!

## WOMEN OF THE NORTH BRANCH



Women's potluck outing to Karen Holland's.

Photo by Susanne Masi



Women's campout at Nachusa Grasslands.

Photo by Barbara Sutcliffe

## WOMEN'S JOURNAL TO APPEAR IN SPRING

Nancy Freehafer

Many North Branch women were involved in the process that led to *Seeding the Snow*, a journal of women's writing and artwork that celebrates the Midwestern landscape. Some of the pieces in the first issue were originally read at our women's potlucks. Also included will be selections from women's testimony at the hearing on restoration.

For more information, call Nancy Freehafer at 773/342-6665, or Karen Holland at 219/939-1815.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

*North Branch Volunteer Barbara Sutcliffe will be reporting on our sites and their stewards for Brush Piles. For this issue, she interviewed Steward Preston Spinks.*

### PRESTON SPINKS AT MORTON GROVE NATURE PRESERVE

Preston has been the steward at the Morton Grove Nature Preserve for the past 13 years. *Brush Piles* asked him how he got involved with the North Branch Prairie Project.

"Well, I go back approximately 18 years, which is pretty close to when the project started. I live very close to Wayside and I would see people working out there on Sundays. I decided to go over one day and see what they were doing, and that's how I first got involved.

"There is a park in my neighborhood, and I live within a block and a half of it. When Ross Sweeney and Steve Packard asked me to become the steward at the nature preserve that is located in the park, I said yes. That was about 13 years ago.

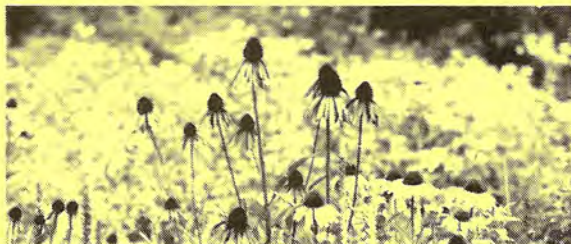
Preston continued, "The Preserve is only an acre and a half and it is completely surrounded by a park. Before I became its steward, the site was managed by Dr. Tom Conway. It wasn't in bad shape, but there was an awful lot of brush to get rid of.

Last year I put in 120 hours of work, mostly on information signs for the public. The site is surrounded by sidewalk with a lot of activity around it. We've put in a landing with a bench so people can sit and look out on the nature preserve. It's also wheelchair accessible.

The land itself is owned by the Morton Grove Park District. They acquired it from a developer who was going to put up condominiums in the mid-1970s. A legal battle ensued, partly because of the nature preserve, and fortunately the land was saved from development. "Originally, the land belonged to a local farm family and, according to them, the land was never plowed because it was too wet to farm. In fact, a small lake lay on the site, and in the early days people would cut ice blocks from the frozen lake and store them in sawdust for summer use. The lake has since been drained because of the insect problem. Of course, going from wet to dry has had a tremendous impact on the plant species. It's been changing a lot. Right now we have a lot of common prairie plants—rattlesnake master, big and little blue stem, and cord grass. We have approximately one hundred species of plants on the site."

We don't schedule workdays at Morton Grove, because the site is so small. Preston does most of the work himself but told *Brush Piles* that "Brian Seinfeld and I work on new techniques for controlling the brush, one of the biggest problems.

*Brush Piles* asked Preston what gives him the most satisfaction about the work. "I feel good about it, to be honest with you. I've loved nature all my life, and if I didn't belong to the North Branch, I'd be out there piddling around anyway, watching the wildlife and looking at the plants."



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

*Debra Shore*

Recent controversy over restoration has shown that we need to do a better job of reaching out to inform and engage those throughout the county who do not know about the work we are doing and its tangible benefits to our environment and to us. I've been asked to co-chair, with Joanne Softcheck, the Education and Outreach workgroup. We'd like to expand our efforts and the workgroup with new members (come on, come all) and fresh ideas.

Here are some possible ideas and projects for us to consider:

- Develop ways to record and communicate the results of our workdays that would be appropriate for reports to community organizations and to the media;
- Prepare a descriptive list of potential high school science projects that involve ecology, restoration and related topics;
- Develop a series of slide shows and talks on a variety of topics, such as the history of the Cook County Forest Preserves, the ecological history of the Chicago bioregion, growing native plants in your garden, etc.;
- Approach local historical societies about possible exhibits on the natural landscapes and cultural history of ecological restoration in the Chicago region;
- Create a theater group to write or find skits that animate and educate about biodiversity and, with our hammiest actors, perform them at village fairs, church picnics, parades and the like.

Hey—these are just to get you thinking. Jot down your own ideas and bring them to a planning meeting at my place on March 12, 7:00 p.m., in northwest Evanston. Call 847/869-3545 for directions.

### GARDENER GRAPEVINE

*Linda Masters*

#### News and Notes:

Preston Spinks has agreed to be the rare seed production "Answer Man." *The Wild Gardener's Newsletter* will carry answers to questions of general interest to participants in the North Branch seed production network.

Pete Leki is taking over responsibility for the Garden in the Sky at the Forest Preserve District Skokie headquarters.

The Gardeners are looking for a person who would be willing to schedule "garden walks" as a way that people doing this interesting and experimental work can learn from each other.

Joan Meersman is willing to help a person who would coordinate record keeping (anyone willing to help with this?)

In fact, there are quite a few things Lindsay McGee used to do before we lost her (only temporarily, we hope) to another quest in another biome. Available opportunities include:

- picking up seedlings from the Chicago Botanic Garden
- distributing the seedlings to gardeners
- answering day-to-day gardener questions and providing information
- maintaining the gardener mailing list
- keeping records of successfully grown seed plants
- writing a newsletter

If you're willing to take a lead in any part of The Wild Gardeners Network, call Joan Meersman, 773/763-5055, Linda Masters, 847/509-0431 or John Balaban, 847/679-4289.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Barbara Sutcliffe

As most of *Brush Piles*' readers know, the North Branch Prairie Project was named for the remnants of prairie that were discovered along the North Branch of the Chicago River by Steve Packard, Larry Hodak, and other environmental activists nearly 20 years ago.

From the start, the goal of the North Branchers was to restore these small prairie remnants to their ancient natural condition. Research and the counsel of our scientific advisors soon taught us that our natural forests and prairies were closely related. The group's work expanded to include the protection and restoration of many types of wooded communities along the North Branch—savannas, flatwoods, and many types of forests.

The North Branch Prairie Project is not just about preserving prairies. It is about restoring and preserving our remnants of ancient ecological communities before they are gone. It is about improving wildlife habitat by improving the quality of vegetation on which our local animal species depend for food and shelter. It is also about people. This project, started so long ago, has brought thousands of people together who are committed to protecting and preserving our precious forest preserves to ensure their survival. We also reach out to the public with efforts to inspire a sense of respect and wonder for these rare ecosystems. Public understanding is crucial, of course, because these preserves belong to all the people of Cook County and they will survive only if they are understood and loved.

The growth of NBPP and the recent controversy surrounding ecological restoration have sparked discussions about changing the name to reflect the diverse ecological work we do.

What are your thoughts on this subject. Do you think a name change is needed? If so, do you have any suggestions?

Please send your comments to The Editor, *Brush Piles*, North Branch Prairie Project, P.O. Box 74, Northbrook, IL 60065, or E-mail RoseyBird@aol.com.

### Dear Subscriber:

Are you surprised to be called that? Even though *Brush Piles* is free, we have a list of subscribers. If this was mailed to you, you are one. And we need to update our subscriber list. If you wish to continue to receive *Brush Piles*, fill out the coupon below. Send it to us at:

North Branch Prairie Project  
P.O. Box 74  
Northbrook, IL 60065

Name	Best Phone Number to Reach You (Optional)		
Street Address	Another Number to Reach You		
City	State	Zip	Active Volunteer or Just Interested?

Are you interested in participating with one of the workgroups? (You do not have to commit to any more time than you wish.) Let us know which one—the chair will contact you:

Workgroup interested in

### To contribute to *Brush Piles*.

Your photos and cartoons would look great on these pages. Your features, anecdotes, essays, announcements, requests, poems, comments, and letters are also welcome. To discuss your ideas, call Barbara Rose, 773/248-4817 or Leslie Boms 773/751-1497 *before* the deadline. Deadline for the Summer 1997 issue is **May 1** (for June, July, August).

#### Permit Holder:

The Nature Conservancy  
8 S. Michigan Avenue  
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 and  
the Volunteer  
Stewardship Network.*

#### Non-Profit

Organization

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# NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT SPRING 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

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

In the spring we cut brush and sow seeds. Always dress for the weather and bring some water. Sun protection is important. When it is cold we may go out to lunch. The workday hotline is 773/878-3877.

## SPRING 1997

March 2	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sauganash Prairie Grove
March 2	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Sauganash Prairie Grove
March 6	Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Coordinating Committee
March 8	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
March 9	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
March 9	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
March 12	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Education and Outreach Workgroup
March 13	Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Ecological Management
March 15	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Oxbow Prairie
March 16	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
March 16	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Harms Woods
March 22	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
March 23	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Nature Preserve
March 29	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Miami Woods/Indigo
March 30	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Bunker Hill
April 1	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Women's Group Potluck
April 5	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
April 6	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Wayside/RR Prairie
April 10	Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Publications Workgroup
April 12	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Field Museum Symposium
April 13	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
April 13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.-noon.	Wildflower Tour at Harms Woods
April 13	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
April 19	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Oxbow Prairie
April 19	Saturday	10:00 a.m.-noon	Wildflower Tour at Harms Woods
April 20	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Miami Woods/Indigo
April 26	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
April 27	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Flatwoods
May 3	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
May 4	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Wayside/RR Prairie
May 4	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Wildflower Tour at Linne Woods
May 10	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
May 11	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
May 11	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
May 11	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Mother's Day Wildflower Tour
May 17	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Oxbow Prairie
May 18	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
May 25	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sauganash Prairie Grove
May 26	Monday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Flatwoods (Memorial Day)
May 31	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
June 1	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
June 1	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Harms Woods
June 7	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Wayside/RR Prairie
June 8	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Bunker Hill
June 8	Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Bunker Hill
June 14	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
June 15	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Nature Preserve

## 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, 847/679-4289.

### Education/Volunteer Development:

Joanne Softcheck, 773/878-3877 and Deb Shore, 847/869-3545

### Publications/Publicity:

Barbara Sutcliffe, 773/775-7934

### Science:

Linda Masters, 847/509-0431

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COORDINATION WORKGROUP MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

We will be planning Spring/Summer events and identifying needs. If planning and organizing is your thing, join us. Call Nancy Freehafer at 773/342-6665 for information.

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORKGROUP

Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

New members and new ideas are eagerly sought. Call Debra Shore, 847/869-3545, for directions. We will meet in northwest Evanston.

### ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.

Stewards do management at the Balabans. Call 847/679-4289.

### WOMEN OF THE NORTH BRANCH

Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Great food and great conversation are the norm when women get together. Join us for our next potluck at the home of Marianne Kozlowski. Bring along something you have created that expresses your feeling about our habitat—writings, art, photos. And food to share! Call Barbara Sutcliffe at 773/775-7934 for directions. Are you a woman and a NBPP volunteer? You are invited!

### PUBLICATIONS WORKGROUP MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.



## Directions

**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.

**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 FLATWOODS (Glenview)**—Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Rd., just south of Old Orchard Rd.

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

**INDIAN ROAD WOODS (Chicago)**—Meet at parking lot adjacent to Indian Road (the first picnic grove north of Elston Avenue, on Central Avenue.)

**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.

## BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE SPRING WORKDAY SCHEDULE

The Buffalo Grove Prairie Guardians are volunteers working to restore the native Illinois prairie near Lake-Cook Road on the Commonwealth Edison easement. We invite you to join us as we continue in our efforts to eliminate weeds, collect and sow seeds, cut brush and handle general site maintenance. Be sure to dress for the outdoors and for the weather. Wear long slacks, sturdy shoes and socks, sun protection, insect repellent in warm seasons, and work gloves if you have them. Tools, camaraderie, homemade goodies and beverages will be provided.

**All work days are on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.**  
March 9 • April 6 • May 4

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Lake-Cook Road to Hastings Road (one street west of railroad overpass and about one mile west of Milwaukee Road overpass.) Turn north on Hastings into the second parking lot on the right (one lot past the Computer Discount Warehouse.) Park at east end of the lot nearest the prairie.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Bev at 847/272-6211.

We are planning the 20th Annual Report (yes, it has been 20 years!), a North Branch presence on the Web, and future issues of Brush Piles. If you write, draw, take pictures, layout, or have great ideas for people who do, join us. Call Barbara Sutcliffe, 773/775-7934 for information.

## BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SYPOSIUM at the Field Museum

**Saturday, April 12, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

This Chicago Wilderness symposium will be a widely publicized event and open to the general public. It will include special workshops and presentations for volunteers and a huge display session in the Stanley Field Hall.

## THIMBLES OF LIFE—NON-WILD BREEDING POPULATIONS at the Shedd Aquarium

**Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.-noon**

A Chicago Wilderness Walks and Talks program. Call The Chicagoland Environmental Network, 708/485-0463 ext. 396 for more information.

## SPRING WILDFLOWER TOURS

**Sunday, April 13, Harms, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**Saturday, April 19, Earth Day tours of Harms, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**Sunday, May 4, Linne Woods after the Wayside/RR workday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day Tour of Bunker or Harms, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

For more information, call the hotline.

## ANNUAL STEWARDS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 8, ALL DAY

The Stewards of the Volunteer Stewardship Network will convene for a day of informative and exciting workshops and talks, tentatively schedule on November 8 at Oakton Community College. This is the conference that was postponed from March 1. Mark your calendars for this important date. If you would like to present a workshop or if you want someone else to present one on a topic of burning interest to you, call Katie Green at 312/346-8166. She is planning now and is eager for input. More information will be mailed.

## MIGHTY ACORNS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

...to lead small groups of children in stewardship activities. Skilled adults are needed to teach and help with brush pile building. Children need instruction in proper construction, and help in getting the brush up on the pile a la Brushmeister Brian! Call Diane Reckless at The Nature Conservancy, 312/346-8166 for time and dates.

## Brush Piles Crew

Editor: Barbara Rose with Jane Balaban, Steve Packard, Laurel Ross

Crew: Leslie Borns, Nancy Freehafer, Joanne Softcheck, Barbara Sutcliffe

Layout/Production: Kathy Lapinsky



a project of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
and The Nature Conservancy

**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**  
**John H. Stroger, Jr., President**  
**Joseph N. Nevius, General Superintendent**



The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in District programs or services. Persons believing they have been discriminated against on the basis of color, race, national origin, sex, or disability, may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Forest Preserve District of Cook County or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C.