

# Brush Piles

North Branch Restoration Project Winter 2001-2002

## NBRP WORKDAY SCHEDULE WINTER 2001-2002

### DECEMBER

1	Sat	9:00-12:00	Somme Prairie Grove
2	Sun	9:00-12:00	Harms Flatwoods
2	Sun	1:00-4:00	Harms Flatwoods
8	Sat	9:00-2:00	Somme Nature Preserve
9	Sun	9:00-12:00	Wayside
15	Sat	9:00-12:00	Somme Woods
16	Sun	9:00-12:00	Harms Woods
16	Sun	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods
22	Sat	2:00-4:00	Somme Woods Solstice Bonfire
23	Sun	Holiday	No Workday
30	Sun	9:00-12:00	Somme Prairie Grove

### JANUARY

5	Sat	9:00-12:00	Somme Prairie Grove
6	Sun	9:00-2:00	Somme Nature Preserve
12	Sat	9:00-12:00	Harms Flatwoods
13	Sun	9:00-12:00	Harms Woods
13	Sun	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods
20	Sun	9:00-12:00	Somme Woods
26	Sat	6:00-10:30pm	NBRP Potluck
27	Sun	9:00-12:00	Somme Nature Preserve

### FEBRUARY

2	Sat	9:00-12:00	Harms Flatwoods
3	Sun	9:00-12:00	Watersmeet
9	Sat	9:00-12:00	Somme Woods
10	Sun	9:00-12:00	Harms Woods
10	Sun	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods
17	Sun	9:00-12:00	Somme Prairie Grove
23	Sat	9:00-12:00	Somme Prairie Grove
24	Sun	9:00-12:00	Harms Flatwoods
24	Sun	1:00-4:00	Harms Flatwoods

For last-minute information, call the North Branch Hotline - 312-409-5831

### BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE

Work on Sundays from 9am until noon at this piece of virgin prairie, located on Hastings Road off of Lake-Cook and about a mile west of Milwaukee (watch for Hastings on the north after passing under railroad over pass). Turn north on Hastings, then right into the second parking lot. The prairie is there, right under the Com Ed power lines. Call Bev Hansen at 847.272.6211 for more information.

### Sunday December 9

### Sunday January 6

### Sunday February 3

### Sunday March 3

### SKOKIE LAGOONS

10:00am-1:00pm. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot (east of the lagoon bridge - not the boat launch). For late arrivals, 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 when appropriate. Those wanting more information should contact Jerry Garden at 773. 545.4632 or jerrygarden@sprynet.com.

### Saturday, December 8th

### Saturday, January 12th

### Saturday, February 9th

### Saturday, March 9th

### Saturday, April 13th

### Saturday, May 11th



### DIRECTIONS

#### Glenview Air Station Prairie

From Edens Expressway, go west on Willow Road past where the road goes up and over Lehigh. At the bottom of hill turn right and circle under Willow. Go south approximately 1/2 mile to the sign for the Prairie.

#### Harms Flatwoods, Glenview

Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, directly west of Old Orchard Road.

#### Harms Woods, Glenview

Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road.

#### Somme Prairie Nature Preserve, Northbrook

Meet in the Post Office parking lot at Dundee and Western Avenues.

#### Somme Prairie Grove, Northbrook

Take Dundee Road two miles west from the Edens Expressway to Waukegan Road. Go north a few hundred feet on Waukegan and turn left into the unpaved parking area by the sign "Somme Woods Prairie."

#### Somme Woods, Northbrook

Take Dundee Road two miles west from the Edens and turn right into Somme Woods just before the traffic light at Waukegan Road.

#### Watersmeet Prairie Grove, Northfield

Exit Edens Expressway at Lake Avenue West. Go west to Wagner Road, turn north and take Wagner to Winnetka Road, go east on Winnetka 3/4 mile. Park on the north side of the street or a side street.

#### Wayside/RR Prairie, Morton Grove

Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on Lehigh Ave., a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

#### Sauganash Prairie Grove, Chicago

Meet at the edge of the Forest Preserve along the south side of Bryn Mawr at Kilborn, which is south of Peterson and east of Cicero.

#### Bunker Hill/Oxbow, Chicago

Off Caldwell between Devon and Touhy; entrance located just opposite Tony Street; meet in first section of parking lot for Bunker Hill; for Oxbow, follow road until it turns north, then park along west side.

#### Indian Road Woods, Chicago

Enter at the Indian Road Forest Preserve drive, on the east side of Central Ave, just north of Indian Road (approximately 1/2 mile south of Caldwell). Meet in the parking area at the far east end of the drive.

#### Miami Woods, Niles/Morton Grove

Located on the east side of Caldwell two blocks north of Oakton; meet in parking lot for Miami Woods.

### HELP WANTED

Our newly organized Outreach/Publications Workgroup is up and running, with lots of interesting projects planned. If you like to write articles, help design and develop brochures, work on displays, or have other great ideas for outreach, we have opportunities to fit your interests! Please call Jane Balaban at 847.679.4289 for more details.

A project of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and  
The Nature Conservancy  
John H. Stogel, Jr., President  
Joseph N. Nevius, General Superintendent  
The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not discriminate on the basis of disability  
in admissions or access to, or in treatment or employment by, 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.

[www.northbranchrestoration.org](http://www.northbranchrestoration.org)

The North Branch Restoration Project is a cooperative effort involving The Nature  
Conservancy, the Chicago Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club, Chicago Group. The  
project works to restore and manage the few remaining savannas, woodlands, forests, and  
prairies along the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Cook County Forest  
Preserves. We manage these sites as volunteers for the Forest Preserve District of Cook  
County and the Volunteer Stewardship Network. We are working to restore conditions that  
will allow these natural wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the  
metropolitan area.

**ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED**

North Branch Restoration Project  
P.O. Box 2154  
Northbrook, IL 60062-3707

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Annual NBRP Potluck

Saturday, January 26, 6:00-10:30pm

This potluck is renowned for the sumptuous food, warm greetings, friendly singing, and congratulatory awards. Please bring your musical instruments, a dish to share and partake of all these with your fellow NBRP volunteers at the Edgebrook Community Center, 6100 N. Central (located on Chicago's northwest side). To help with the potluck, call Nancy Freehafer at 773.342.6665.

### Solstice Bonfire

Saturday, December 22, 2:00-4:00pm

The Friends of Northbrook Forest Preserves is celebrating the winter solstice by hosting a bonfire at Somme Woods. At this time of year when the sun sets early and the temperatures begin to drop, come gather round a warm fire with a few of your friends and reflect on things past and yet to be. For more information call Linda Masters at 847.509.0431.

### National Public Lands Day, etc.

On National Public Lands Day, (Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>), more than 80 volunteers helped create a firebreak that extends around the entire area that is being restored at Somme Woods. Among this group was an Ecological Restoration class led by Nancy

Freehafer of DePaul University. Below are some excerpts of what these students wrote about their experiences on that day and other workdays.

"I have a natural fast pace, and since I was at the front of our group, I was able to get ahead of everyone and while waiting for them, I had some precious moments to enjoy my surroundings. It was so peaceful. I felt as though I was in a womb. That everything moved together and fit together like a beautiful cosmic tapestry and that I was a part of it. That I was not an alien just looking in, but that I was one of the many things that made it beautiful. Then the others caught up and I began to notice the sweat pouring down my face, how uncomfortable my rubber boots were, and the noise from the traffic."

"This young science of ecology will determine the future direction and health of our ecosystems, and more emphasis and education needs to be placed on its importance. We've done so little to improve our environment, but when I see how much can be done by a few volunteers, it makes me think there's hope."

"After a while, I found myself totally absorbed in the work, and when I looked around, I found myself some distance from my group. I took this opportunity to go out even further into the prairie

to soak in this magical experience. For a few minutes I was able to get a sense for what it was like in this environment before the settlers came – it gave me a feeling of completeness. It is one of those moments I shall always treasure."

"The Girl Scouts were asking me for advice on which trees were buckthorn or honeysuckle, and they also asked me for advice on how to saw the trees. The best part was that I **was** able to answer most of the questions. I did explain that I wasn't a regular or a scientist, but they kept asking and reaffirming that I was very helpful to them."

"There are so many things that people take for granted, such as nature. I think too many people feel that nature takes care of itself and that it will always be there, but that simply is not true in our world. In fact, we have done so much harm to our natural space that it will require lifetimes of intervention to preserve what's left. One issue I seem to grapple with often is how good it makes people feel to be out in nature, yet too few people really get out there and do the things that contribute to its health. I find that to be one of life's ironies."