

BRUSH PILES

NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT WINTER 2002

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF . . .

Would you like to know more about nearby prairies in Illinois, Indiana or Wisconsin where you could botanize, hike, or bird watch? Are you anticipating a cross-country trek, and hoping to visit prairies in distant states along the way? Do you want to know more about prairie birds, mammals, insects, and ecology?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, think about adding *The Prairie Directory of North America* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz to your bookshelf.

The directory is a 352-page guide to all kinds of wild and wonderful prairies, grasslands, and savannas in 32 states and 4 provinces of Canada, from Florida and New York, to Oregon and California. Coverage of Illinois is especially deep, with 50 pages devoted to "The Prairie State."

Sites are grouped by state, and then by county within each state. Site listings include acreage, visitation limits, and telephone contact. Descriptions give an excellent overview of the highlights of the site, including plant life, birds, Native American history, and geology.

Did you know that Long Island once included 60,000 acres of prairie, 67 of which are preserved today as Hempstead Plains? Did you know that prairie once extended continuously across the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida, and small prairie patches remain in northern and central Florida? Zumwalt Prairie in Oregon is a bunchgrass prairie on the western rim of Hells Canyon. This is just a sampling of the tidbits of information in this book.

Long-time North Branchers will remember Charlotte Adelman as one of the early advocates with the Forest Preserve District, instrumental in getting the go-ahead for us to begin the first restoration work in the forest preserves.

The Directory is \$19.95, plus shipping, handling and tax (in Illinois). To order this book, go to www.lawndaleenterprises.com, or contact the authors at Lawndale Enterprises, PO Box 561, Wilmette, IL 60091-0561.

MASTER STEWARDS

Volunteer stewards were given a vote of confidence recently by the FPD board. The Commissioners approved the Master Stewards program, which authorizes trained stewards to supervise the kind of work that in recent years required staff presence.

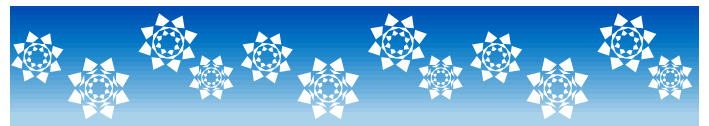
Requiring staff supervision at workdays has limited restoration activities to mostly weekends. The Master Steward program will make trained supervisors more available so volunteers can work at more flexible and convenient times.

"This program will improve land management because we won't have to walk away from something when it's not finished or not appropriate for a large group," explained Barbara Birmingham, steward at Ted Stone Woods and a board member of Friends of the Forest Preserves, which supported this step. Master Steward accreditation will include passing a written and practical field test and attending safety, risk management, and other District seminars. District staff presence will continue to be a requirement for prescribed burns, and the use of power tools is restricted to staff only.

The first group of Master Stewards was accredited in November. North Branch Master Stewards include Kent Fuller, Laurel Ross, Jane Balaban, Stephen Packard and Linda Masters.

"Habitat management is a Forest Preserve District policy," says Volunteer Coordinator Bill Koenig. "Volunteers have always provided a key element to getting that done. Whatever staff can do to help volunteers is working toward District policy."

Congratulations to Bill and all others who worked on the approval and implementation of this important new component of stewardship.



WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE

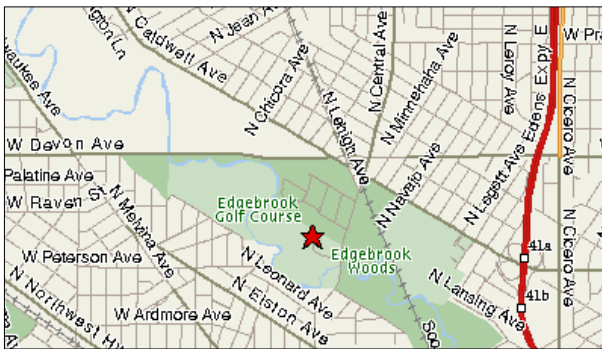
Saturday, December 21, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Celebrate the winter solstice with music, a bonfire, and friends at Somme Woods. On the darkest day of year, when the sun sets early for the last day this fall, come gather round a warm fire with a few friends and reflect on things past and yet to be. We will have spiced cider, hot chocolate, and some treats to tempt your palate. This annual event – jointly sponsored by the North Branch, the Forest Preserve District, and Friends of Northbrook Forest Preserves – is a peaceful and sweet celebration. This year a Northbrook High School *a cappella* group (trendily named Ow!) will provide a musical treat at the woodland brush pile. Neither snow nor cold ever stops this event (rain? maybe). Everyone welcome. For more information call Linda Masters at 847.509.0431.

ANNUAL NBRP POTLUCK

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

This potluck is renowned for the sumptuous food, warm greetings, friendly singing, and congratulatory awards. Please bring a dish to share (and a musical instrument if you play one) 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.



SAVE A TREE . . . ?

. . . and some postage too! Let us know if you would like to receive Brushpiles, our quarterly newsletter, electronically. If you want, we will email you a ".pdf" file that can be read and printed by the free program Adobe Acrobat Reader (download from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>). If you're interested, please send a brief message to publications@northbranchrestoration.org and we will put you on the email list. We will of course still have printed copies made for those who want them. Thanks!

BURN CREW TRAINING SESSIONS

The Chicago Wilderness Land Management Team will be hosting a volunteer **Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training Session** in February 2003. It will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden in February 15-16, 2003. A nominal cost (\$10-20) will be charged to cover the cost of printing the Training Manual.

The registration deadline is **January 31, 2003**. Please contact Diane Trgovcich-Zacok at 219-989-2015 or zacok@calumet.purdue.edu for a registration form.

You **MUST** reserve your space for this class. Space is limited. Register early. No walk-ins will be accepted. Priority will be given first to CW Biodiversity Council member organizations. **The North Branch Restoration Project is a member of the CW Biodiversity Council so you are eligible to enroll.**

ILLINOIS INVASIVE SPECIES SYMPOSIUM

An Invasive Species Symposium will be held at the Illinois State University Campus in Normal, Illinois on April 5, 2003. Additional information is available at www.bio.ilstu.edu/invsymp or by contacting:

Dr. Roger Anderson
Department of Biological Sciences
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790
(309) 438-2653
rcander@ilstu.edu

SKOKIE LAGOONS WORKDAYS

Saturdays - Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8

10:00 am - 1:00 pm. 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. For more information contact Jerry Garden at 773.545.4632 or jerrygarden@sprynet.com.

BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

Sundays - Dec 8, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2

9:00 am - Noon. Work on Sundays at this piece of virgin prairie located on Hastings Road. It is off Lake-Cook about a mile west of Milwaukee (watch for Hastings on the north after passing under the railroad overpass). Turn north on Hastings, then right into the second parking lot. The prairie is under the Com Ed power lines. Call Bev Hansen at 847.272.6211 for more information.

NBRP Workday Schedule - Winter 2002

December

1	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
7	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
8	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
14	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
15	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Woods
15	Sunday	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods
21	Saturday	2:00-4:00	Somme Woods - Winter Solstice Bonfire
22	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods
28	Saturday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
29	Sunday	9:00-2:00	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve

January

5	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
11	Saturday	9:00-2:00	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
12	Sunday	9:00-2:00	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
18	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
19	Sunday	9:00-noon	Wayside/Linne
25	Saturday	6:00-10:30	North Branch Potluck
26	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Woods
26	Sunday	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods

February

1	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
1	Saturday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
2	Sunday	9:00-2:00	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
9	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
15	Saturday	9:00-noon	Linne North
16	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Woods
16	Sunday	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods
22	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
23	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods

DIRECTIONS:

Air Station Prairie, Glenview - From the Edens expressway, go west on Willow Road, past Waukegan Road and over the RR overpass. Turn south at the new traffic signals for Patriot Blvd. (The new main road through the redeveloped Naval Air Station). Turn east on Compass to the gate at the south end of the prairie. Patriot Blvd. is also accessible from the south via Lake Ave.

Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow, Chicago - Off Caldwell between Devon and Touhy; entrance located just opposite Tonty Street. For Bunker Hill Meet in first section of parking lot; for Oxbow, follow road until it turns north, then park along the west side.

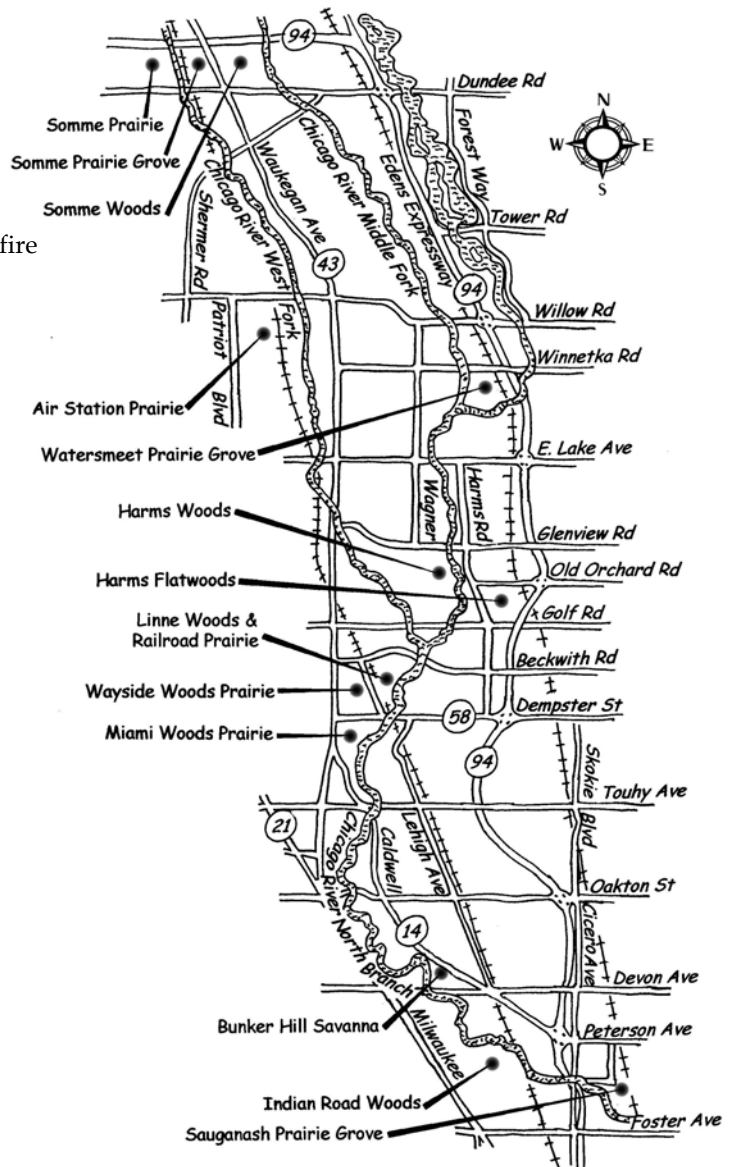
Harms Flatwoods, Glenview - Meet at the Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, directly west of Old Orchard Road.

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

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.

Linne North - Meet at the Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot. (See below.)

Miami Woods Prairie, Niles/Morton Grove - Located on the east side of Caldwell, two blocks north of Oakton. Meet in the parking lot for Miami Woods.



Sauganash Prairie Grove, Chicago - Meet at the edge of the Forest Preserve along the south side of Bryn Mawr at Kilbourn, which is south of Peterson and east of Cicero.

Somme Prairie Grove, Northbrook - From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road two miles west 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 Prairie Nature Preserve, Northbrook - From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road 2 1/2 miles west (past Waukegan) to Western. Turn north and park in the post office parking lot.

Somme Woods, Northbrook - From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road two miles west and turn right into Somme Woods parking lot (just before the light at Waukegan Road).

Watersmeet Prairie Grove, Northfield - From the Edens Expressway, take Lake Avenue west to Wagner Road. Turn north on Wagner to Winnetka Road. Turn east on Winnetka for 3/4 mile. Park on the north side of the street or a side street.

Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie, Morton Grove - Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie parking lot on Lehigh Ave, a few blocks east of Waukegan Road and just north of Dempster.

THINGS WE DID LAST FALL



Photos by Herbert Carl Meyer and Linda Masters

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The North Branch Restoration Project is a cooperative effort involving the Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club. We manage the sites as volunteers for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and other local agencies. The project works to restore and manage the few remaining woodlands and prairies along the North Branch of the Chicago River. Our goal is to restore conditions that will allow these natural wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

www.northbranchrestoration.org

Hotline: 312-409-5831