

BRUSH PILES

NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT SUMMER 2002

SAUGANASH PRAIRIE GROVE

Larry Hodak, Site Steward

We had a pretty good Workday at Sauganash Prairie Grove on Saturday, April 27 – despite the rain. We had to range far a field to find any garlic mustard to pull. Pete's Mighty Acorns have practically eliminated it from the managed areas.

The other reason it was such a pleasure was evidence of the remarkable recovery of the white-flowered trillium. The last blooming trillium I remember at Sauganash, was the spring of '95. There was one lonely plant hanging on. The deer had pretty much eaten the small population. It was probably a beer party that finally did in that station later that summer.

On Saturday there were at least a dozen trillium in bloom. They were all on the slope to the west of the bluff trail and they had all come from the seed we distributed in the spring of '98 or '99. Each seed of trillium and bellwort was hand planted individually in the cracks in the clay slope. The bottom of the slope was favored because it was wetter and richer, but it seems that most of the blooming plants were higher up the slope.

There are a couple of blooming bellworts that have been hanging on these last years. There does not appear to be as much deer pressure this spring, although we did see a red trillium patch with maybe a dozen stems eaten. It was an unusual workday in that no deer were sighted.

The bluebell display in the floodplain seems above average this year as does the dutchman breeches. This may be preaching to the choir but this stuff we're doing works!

HOT OFF THE PRESS !!

The Chicago Botanic Garden recently held a book-signing to celebrate the publication of an exciting new book about the Composites – a plant family that constitutes a significant part of our local flora. The Sunflower Family in the Upper Midwest: A Photographic Guide to the Asteraceae in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, by Thomas M. Antonio and Susanne Masi (a name many of you will recognize as a long-time North Branch volunteer!).

The book, published by the Indiana Academy of Science in collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden, covers 150 different species, roughly half of the Asteraceae (Compositae) found in our region. Each species account is illustrated with exceptionally clear photographs with identifying characteristics, range maps, and text that is chock-full of interesting information. Besides the standard information on each species (color, height, flowering period, habitat, root type and garden use), discussion includes a variety of topics such as pollination, reproductive biology, and ecology. Copies are available for purchase from CBG at \$48.00 + tax, with a 10% discount for CBG members. This

is one you'll enjoy just paging through and browsing!

Susanne generously donated a copy to the North Branch Restoration Project, with the following inscription: "To my North Branch Restoration Project friends – your stewardship and love of our native landscape and its wonderful plants have inspired and supported me in countless ways." Thank you, Susanne, for helping produce this excellent new resource for us "plant nerds."



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Many of the early spring wildflowers are already forming seed that will soon be ripe, so Joan Meersman and her seed-collecting crews are getting ready. Have some free time in the middle of the week? Join the volunteer seed collectors on Wednesday mornings from 9:00am until noon. Learn to identify native plants in seed and impress your friends! Call Joan Tuesday evening (773.763.5055) to find out which beautiful North Branch site they will visit the next day and where to meet.

AIR STATION PRAIRIE WILDFLOWER WALKS

Kent and Jerry Fuller will be leading a series of wildflower walks throughout the growing season at the Air Station Prairie. Join them for one or all to see the amazing changes in the prairie flora that takes place throughout the growing season.

Meet at the Air Station Prairie (see directions on the Workday Schedule page.) The tours will take place from 9 - 11 am on June 22nd, Aug 3rd, and Sep 14th. You are also welcome on July 28th when there will be a work day pulling white sweet clover from 9 am to 12 noon followed by a walk through the prairie.

NEW NBRP MAP!

Through the help of Jordan Kamen, we have an updated NBRP Map. (See Workday Schedule page.) The previous maps had some problems, such as missing sites and wrong preserve names. We hope that this map proves easier to use.

SKOKIE LAGOONS

Saturdays - June 8, July 13, August 10

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.

COOK COUNTY FPD

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER PICNIC

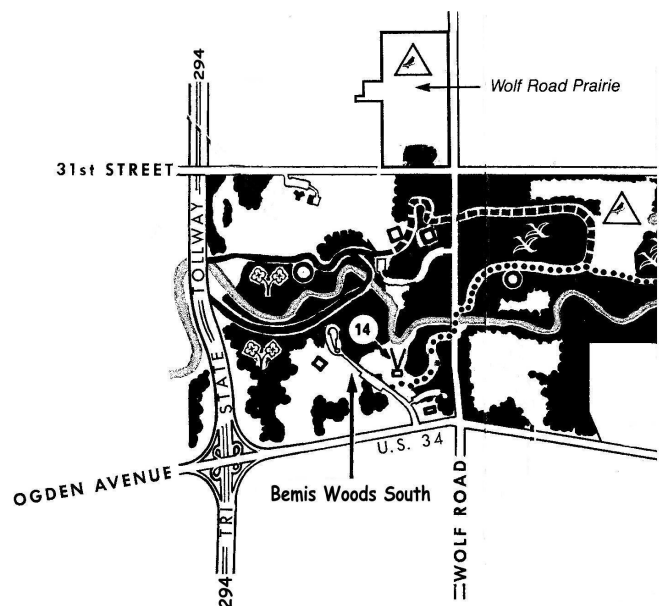
SUNDAY, JULY 14, STARTS AT 1 PM

BEMIS WOODS SOUTH, GROVE 7

Food, fun, and games for us volunteers and our friends and family! Bring what you would like to drink. Start training now for the Buckthorn Olympics and Garlic Mustard Twister. RSVP to the Conservation office by July 8 708.771.1330.

There will be a Bemis Woods workday from 9am-Noon beforehand for those interested, call Dave Lloyd at 708.485.2296 for more information.

Directions: The entrance to Bemis Woods South is located on the north side of Ogden Ave (Rt 34) between 294 and Wolf Rd.



BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE

Sundays - June 9, July 7, August 4

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 - Summer 2002

June

1	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
2	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
9	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
15	Saturday	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/RR Prairie
16	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
22	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
23	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
30	Sunday	9:00-noon	Air Station Prairie

July

7	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
14	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
14	Sunday	1:00 pm	FPD Volunteer Picnic
20	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
21	Sunday	9:00-noon	Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow
27	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
28	Sunday	9:00-noon	Air Station Prairie

August

3	Saturday	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/RR Prairie
4	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
11	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
18	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
24	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
25	Sunday	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/RR Prairie

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.

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

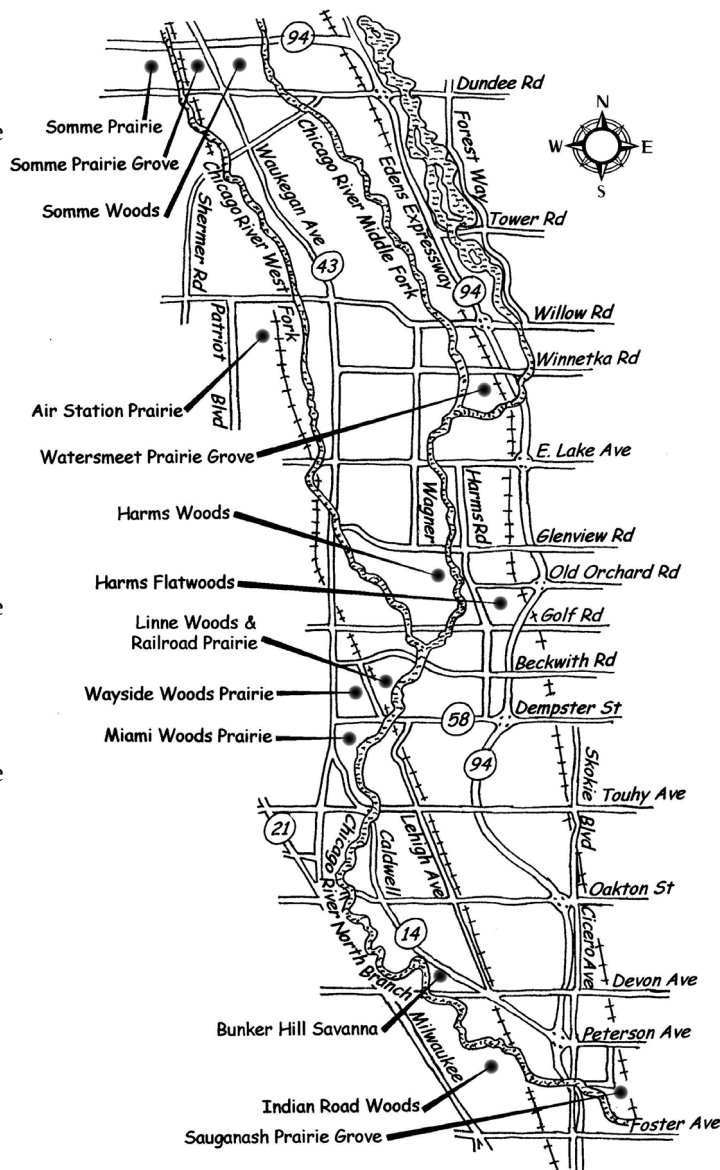
Harms Woods, Glenview – Meet at the Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Road, just south of Glenview Road.

Somme Prairie Nature Preserve, Northbrook – From the Edens Expressway, take Dundee Road 2½ miles west (past Waukegan) to Western. Turn north and park in the post office parking lot.

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 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 ¾ 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.

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 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.

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 ½ mile south of Caldwell). Meet in the parking area at the far east end of the drive.

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.

A FROG'S EYE VIEW

The ancient Chicago region was a mosaic of prairie, woods, savanna, and marsh. But which types predominated where?

Biologists Ellin Beltz and Ken Mierzwa used data on the current and historic distribution of frogs to make this map of how the region looked prior to its transformation by Euro-american farmers.

Note how the Fox River brings a ribbon of savanna through the prairie – and how the DesPlaines Valley allowed a ribbon of prairie to cross the Valparaiso Moraine.

SAVE A TREE ... ?

... and some postage too! Let us know if you would be willing 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 it. Thanks!

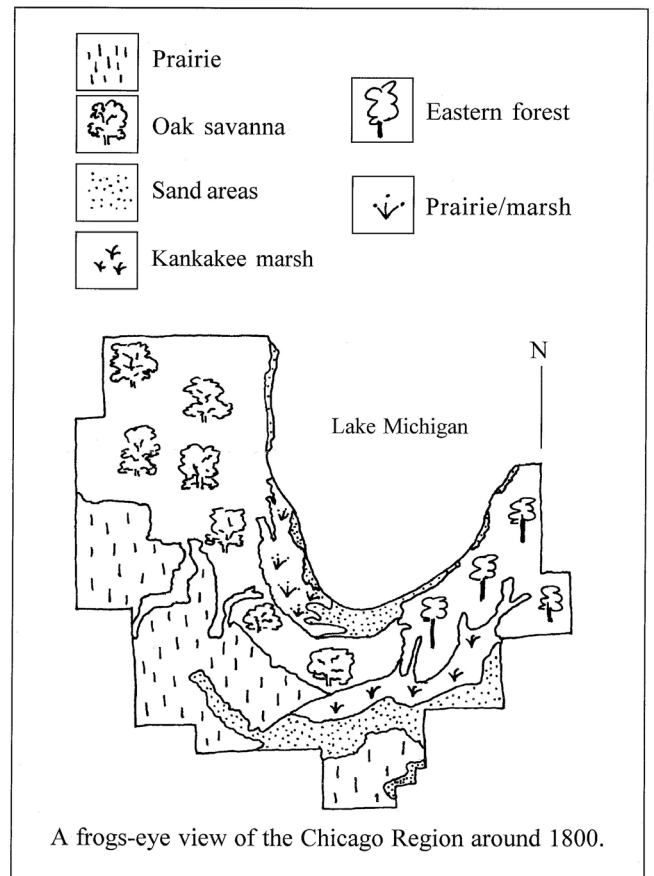
North Branch Restoration Project
P.O. Box 2154
Northbrook, IL 60062-3707

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



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