

BRUSH PILES

NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT

SPRING 2003

PLANT REFUGEES - SAVED

On Friday, December 6, Jack Pizzo's troops rode to the rescue of the North Branch Restoration Project's seed garden. For the past 10 years, North Branch has maintained a seed garden on the grounds of the Forest Preserve District's Skokie Division Maintenance Headquarters. With just a couple of weeks notice, we learned that the District was planning to erect a tower right where the garden was. There were 88 beautiful Dropseed plants, plus Bottle Gentian, Smooth Blue Aster, Wild Indigo and several dozen Little Bluestem plants that would have been destroyed. A half dozen intrepid volunteers rallied to dig up many of the plants by hand, including around 50 of the Dropseed, with their massive root balls. But with the construction due to start as soon as Dec 9, and with frozen and snow covered ground, it was clear we would not be able to save the remaining plants.

So we contacted Pizzo and Associates. Jack, on very short notice, generously donated a two-man crew with a bobcat and truck to dig and move the plants to Glenview's Air Station Prairie. The crew spent a solid four hours, working through their lunch hour, to dig and haul the plants. The plants have gone in many different directions -- to several home seed gardens where they will continue to produce seed for restoration, and to a new home on the Air Station Prairie. A happy ending, indeed!

Jack, many thanks to you and your crew for your quick action on behalf of nature and biodiversity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WILLIAM CRONON, author of *NATURE'S METROPOLIS*, will speak on "humanist environmentalism" at DePaul University on the evening of Monday, April 28. For more information, please call the Environmental Science Program at 773-325-7447.

KETTLE MORaine WEEKEND at the Chens. Nancy Freehafer and T.T. Chen are inviting North Branchers to their cabin in the southern Kettle Moraine area of Wisconsin on the weekend of April 5th. You can camp "out" on their 10-acre brush and prairie land, or "in" (sleeping space is available inside). If the weather cooperates, we might burn the land. Otherwise, we'll cut brush and probably burn some brushpiles. Other possible activities include listening to (and maybe seeing) woodcocks, hiking in the 1000+acre Scuppernong Prairie, and searching for the mysterious and beautiful pasque flowers.

The Chens will provide soup, coffee, tea, etc. We can also potluck and buy good espresso and sandwiches at the nearby General Store. The Chen property is a two-hour drive from Chicago. For more information (including directions) and to RSVP, please call Nancy at 773-342-6665.

WILDFLOWER TOUR May 18th, 1:00 pm

Hungry for some eye candy? Neil Peck will lead a wildflower tour at Harms Flatwoods. See the Workday Schedule directions on where to meet.

Linne North Workday, January 2003



Hot, Hot, Hot



Morton Grove Trustee
Rick DiMaria



Happy Volunteers

RAY SCHULENBERG

One of the great joys of life is to soak up the spirit of inspiring people. One individual that nurtured the North Branch is Ray Schulenberg. He made the region's first major prairie recreation at the Morton Arboretum, and did so with such creativity and generosity that ripples of his efforts curved out in all directions.

John and Jane Balaban were two of the people who attended his famous "slide-ins." In order to teach people to help weed the ambitious project now called the Schulenberg Prairie, he gathered groups of students who drilled passionately on plant identification from projected slides. Steve Packard later received generous advice and a manuscript of restoration techniques from Schulenberg that enriched the North Branch from our very earliest days.

We also studied the Flora of the Chicago Region - the great work by Floyd Swink and Gerould Wilhelm. The first edition is dedicated to Schulenberg who did much of the work of conceiving this great tool - and carrying out much of the field work and other support that made the book happen.

Even after Schulenberg retired from the Arboretum, he accepted individual students who journeyed to his home in Plainfield and hiked his prairie restoration, learning plants, sharing ideals and dreams, and just enjoying this noble and learned spirit. Some of the North Branch volunteers who were recent students included John Johnson and Elizabeth Plonka. Every flower that waves and every bird that sings on the North Branch owes a little bit to him. Ray Schulenberg: 1921 - 2003.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

With sadness we note the loss of another good friend, Deb Petro.

Deb was a long-time steward with the Palos Restoration Project. She fought a courageous battle with breast cancer for the last two years; she died Friday, February 14th. Deb will be remembered by her many friends in the Chicago Wilderness conservation community as we continue the good work about which she cared so deeply. Each time we cut a buckthorn or pull garlic mustard, it will be a thank you to people like Deb Petro.

SKOKIE LAGOONS WORKDAYS

Saturdays - March 8, April 12, May 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.

BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

Sundays - March 2, April 13, May 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 over the railroad overpass). NOTE: until road construction is done, follow the detour signs to get to Hastings. Construction should be done in early summer and Hastings Rd. should be reopened. 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.

GLENBROOK PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

Thursdays - March 20, April 24, May 15

6:30pm to dark, (31 Flavors afterwards!) We will be burning the prairie during the last week in March. The actual day will be based on weather. Meet in the northwest corner of Glenbrook North High School north side parking lot. For more information contact Rob Sulski at rob.sulski@epa.state.il.us or 847.998.3425.

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 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!

All photos by Herbert Carl Meyer. Thank you!

NBRP Workday Schedule - Spring 2003

March

1	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
2	Sunday	9:00-4:00	Harms Woods
8	Saturday	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods
9	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
15	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
16	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
23	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
29	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
30	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve

April

5	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
6	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
12	Saturday	9:00-noon	Linne North
13	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
19	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
20	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
26	Saturday	9:00-noon	Wayside/RR/Linne
27	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods

May

3	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
4	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
10	Saturday	9:00-noon	Harms Woods
11	Sunday	9:00-4:00	Harms Woods
18	Sunday	9:00-noon	Harms Flatwoods
18	Sunday	1:00-4:00	Harms Woods/Evanston Sustainability Circle
24	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
25	Sunday	9:00-noon	Bunker Hill/Oxbow
31	Saturday	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.

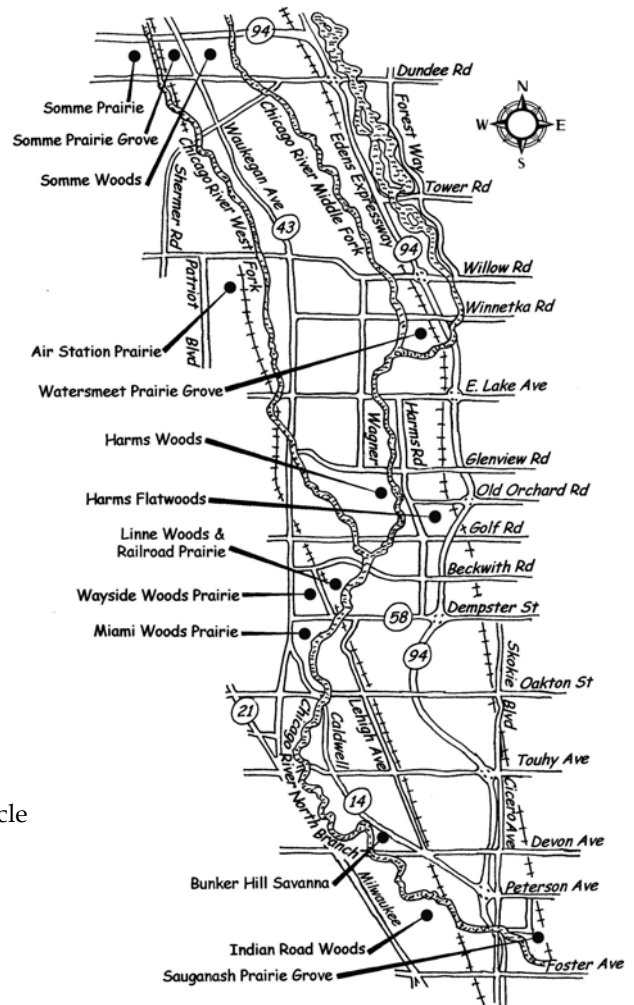
Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow, Chicago – Off Caldwell between Devon and Touhy; entrance located just opposite Tonty Street. For Bunker Hill Meet in first section of parking lot; for Oxbow, follow road until it turns north, then park along the west side.

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 ½ 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 2½ 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 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.

North Branch Restoration Project Annual Potluck 2003



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