

# BRUSH PILES

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NORTH BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT

SUMMER 2003

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**KENT FULLER**

## ***GLENVIEW CITIZEN OF THE YEAR***

Born and raised in Glenview, Kent Fuller has led a life of service to both the human and the natural communities. His special gift to us all is his ability to reconnect people with nature.

As a teenager, his high school and college summers were spent working as an arborist. His love of the work led him to obtain a Masters degree in Forestry & Economics from Pennsylvania State University. Following graduation, he worked at the US Department of Housing & Urban Development for seven years. In line with his life-long commitment to the environment, he took a position with the US Environmental Protection Agency shortly after that agency was established and spent the next 28 years of his career in the Chicago USEPA office, retiring in 2001.

His service to the citizens of Glenview has taken many forms. He served on the Glenview Village Plan Commission for 20 years, 7 of those years as Commission Chair. One of the causes he successfully fought for was the building of affordable senior citizen housing. During his 12-year tenure as a Trustee on the Glenview Village Board, he and his fellow Trustees oversaw the decommissioning of the Glenview Naval Air Station. Kent was instrumental in insuring the establishment and planning of the Great Park, preserving much-needed green space in the urban landscape.

As Trustee, he worked to help save the remnant of rare Illinois prairie that had persisted at the air station, and he now serves as Steward of the Air Station Prairie along with his wife Jerry. In this capacity, he devotes many hours to battling invasive species; documenting and photographing the wonderful diversity of native plants and animals protected by the prairie; leading tours for the interested public; involving youth groups; and leading volunteer workdays.

He currently serves as a citizen member on the Glen Redevelopment Commission, where he continues to be a strong advocate for the preservation of open space and green development.

Kent has been a leader in Chicago Wilderness, a coalition of conservation minded agencies - now numbering over 160. The common thread amongst members is their commitment to conserving the rich biodiversity that still exists in our region. As the USEPA representative to Chicago Wilderness, Kent chaired the task force responsible for writing the *Biodiversity Recovery Plan* - the technical reference that serves as a road map for conserving the biodiversity residing in the more than 200,000 acres of protected natural lands of the Chicago Wilderness region. The American Planners Association, an international organization of planners, named this impressive work Plan of the Year in 2001.

In the early 1990's, Kent began to volunteer with the North Branch Restoration Project. He and Jerry are stewards at Miami Woods Forest Preserve in Morton Grove, where they engage students from Baker Demonstration School, Chicago Day School, and a home school group in restoration work and nature education. Kent was one of the first volunteers to be accredited as a Master Steward under the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's innovative program that augments the District's staff in supervising restoration workdays.

The Fullers have long been active members of the Glenview New Church, where Kent currently serves as President of the Housing Committee of the church Board.

## ***VOLUNTEER STATS FOR COOK COUNTY FPD***

For the first quarter of 2003, the number of people who volunteered equaled 1,520, contributing 5,235.5 hours. These hours are worth \$86,595, which is based on a national standard of \$16.54 per hour for volunteer labor. (It's worth noting that the hours are actually under-reported - we're too busy doing the work!)

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## ECOMAN

An important part of the North Branch Restoration Project is the Ecological Management Committee, famously known as "Ecoman." This is where the group's major issues get discussed – and major decisions get made.

The North Branch has had a variety of committees and task forces in our 26-year history. New structures have arisen from time to time, as people perceived a need – and volunteers materialized to do the work and to lead. But one structure – Ecoman – seems to be indispensable.

Usually about 15 people meet every three months from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Balabans' living room. All North Branch volunteers are invited and most people who visit find the workings of the group quite interesting.

At a given meeting, some time may be devoted to planning the next season's work schedule, some to reviewing the status of apprentice stewards who seek full steward status, some to the challenges faced by the seeding of some new type of ecosystem, and perhaps some to planning an educational event.

Ecoman meetings are listed in the Brushpiles schedule. Try attending one sometime if you'd like.



## BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

**Sundays – June 8, July 6, Aug 3**

**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. 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.

## A GRAND TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Earlier this year, North Branch volunteer Rick Simkin, who works for a Goldman-Sachs subsidiary, became interested in scheduling a company service project at a NBRP site. We settled on Harms Woods on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and we chose well!

The day was beautiful and 32 energetic G-S employees came to help pull garlic mustard, cut buckthorn and enjoy the spring wildflower display. North Branch leaders Linda Masters, Kent Fuller, Jerry Fuller, Laurel Ross and Jane Balaban directed the crews in the work, talked about the ecology of the site and explained why this high quality woodland requires management.

By days' end, the crews had built several major buckthorn brush piles and pulled many bags of garlic mustard. More important, they had gained a greater appreciation for the green jewel set in surrounding Glenview. Many thanks to Rick, and North Brancher Linda Masters for organizing the outing. And a special thanks to the North Branch leaders whose knowledge, eloquence and commitment continue to inspire me!

*Jane Balaban, Harms Woods Steward*

## GLENBROOK NORTH HS PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

**Thursdays - June 26, July 17, August 21  
6:00 pm to dark. (31 Flavors afterwards!)**

Glenbrook North High School, 2300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, about ½ north of Willow. Meet in the high school's north-side parking lot in the northwest corner. For more information contact Rob Sulski at [rob.sulski@epa.state.il.us](mailto:rob.sulski@epa.state.il.us) or 847.998.3425.

## 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](mailto:jerrygarden@sprynet.com).

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# NBRP Workday Schedule - Summer 2003

## June

1	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
7	Saturday	9:00-2:00	Linne North
8	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Woods
14	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
15	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
21	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
22	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet
28	Saturday	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie
29	Sunday	9:00-noon	Bunker Hill

## July

5	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve
6	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
12	Saturday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
13	Sunday	9:00-noon	Oxbow
19	Saturday	9:00-noon	Linne North
20	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Grove
27	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve

## August

3	Sunday	9:00-noon	Wayside Woods Prairie/Linne RR Prairie
7	Thursday	7:30 pm	Ecoman
10	Sunday	9:00-4:00	Air Station Prairie
17	Sunday	9:00-noon	Watersmeet Prairie Grove
24	Sunday	9:00-noon	Miami Woods Prairie
31	Sunday	9:00-noon	Somme Prairie Nature Preserve

## 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.

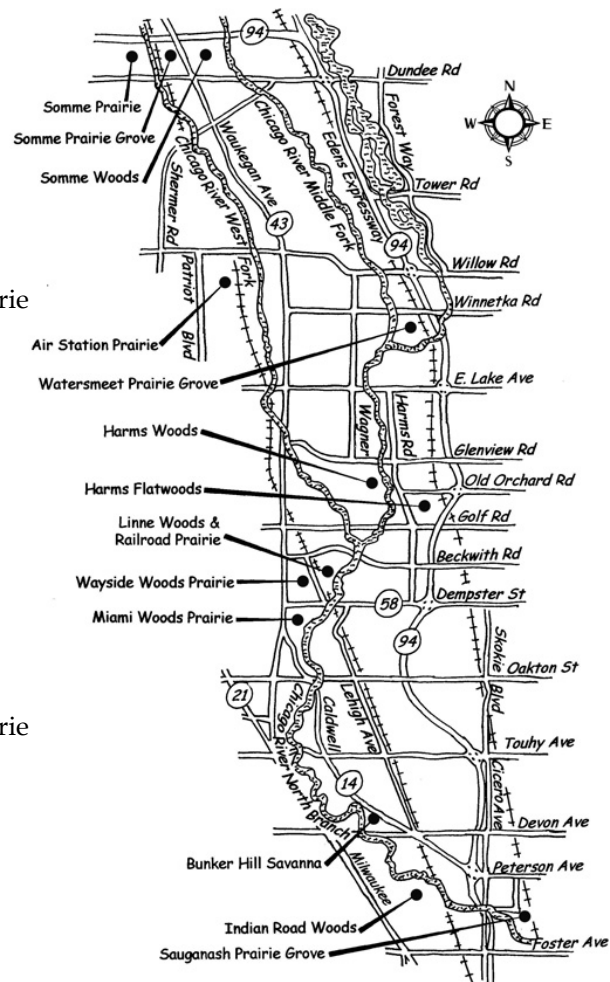
**Bunker Hill Savanna/Oxbow, Chicago** – Off Caldwell between Devon and Touhy; entrance located just opposite Tonty Street. For Bunker Hill Meet in first section of parking lot; for Oxbow, follow road until it turns north, then park along the west side.

**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 for direction.)



**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.

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## **HOW MANY GARLIC MUSTARD SEEDS IN 420 THIRTY-GALLON BAGS?**

Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserves, for the fourth year, took twelve rooms of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Park View School into Linne Woods to pull garlic mustard. During 5 days in May, these students eagerly filled 420 thirty-gallon garbage bags full of garlic mustard!!!

Some of the volunteers working with the classes were Marian Thill, Mary Busch, Gladys Bryer, John Slater, Liz Goodwin, and Milton Langer. Earlier in the month the Park View classes were taken into Linne Woods, which adjoins their school, to see the wildflowers that they have been helping to protect.

Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserves was instrumental in getting the school, the Morton Grove Park District and Cook County Forest Preserve to coordinate their efforts and open a gate from the school grounds into Linne Woods so that the classes had better access into the woods.

### **NOTE ON WEST NILE VIRUS**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin chaired a North Suburban forum on West Nile virus sponsored by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Senator Jeff Schoenberg, Representative Julie Hamos and Commissioner Suffredin.

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

**Hotline: 312-409-5831**

They were joined by Representative Elaine Nekritz, Representative Beth Coulson and County Commissioner Joan Murphy as the panel heard from various agencies about the plans for combatting West Nile virus this summer. The US Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Dept of Public Health, Cook Co Dept of Public Health and the North Shore Mosquito Abatement Districts were among the agencies making presentations. The Skokie Village Hall Council Chambers was standing room only, attesting to the intense interest in this problem.

The need for public education about this problem was stressed again and again. Two important things people can do to protect themselves is take appropriate measures to avoid mosquito bites and prevent mosquitoes from breeding. This can be done by making sure gutters, bird baths and other reservoirs don't have standing water for longer than 5 days. Contact your local or regional Health Department with any questions or concerns.

**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](mailto: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!