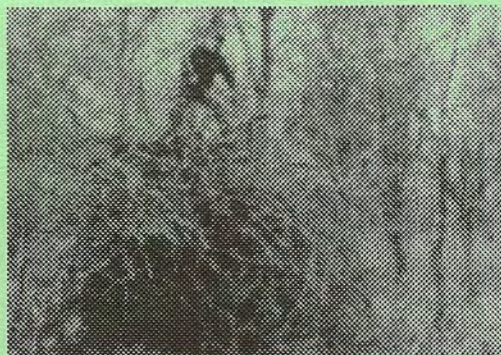


Brush Piles



NBPP's Refrigerator Door Companion

Winter 1996-97

RESTORATION PACKS COUNTY HEARINGS

Nancy Freehafer

Hearings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners on October 29, 30, and 31, marked a major hurdle in the current controversy around restoration. Rooms were full to overflowing at all three hearings—in the Loop, in Skokie, and in Markham. Almost 300 people testified, the overwhelming majority of whom spoke in favor of restoration. The longest hearing was the first, which started at 11:00 a.m. and was not finished until 6:15 p.m. The most crowded and emotional was in Skokie, with discussions running over into the hallway outside the packed room.

Jerry Sullivan of the Forest Preserve District opened the first session with a presentation of the district's management goals and program. General Superintendent Nevius made important clarifications in response to allegations that the Forest Preserves are being turned into prairie: of the 67,000 acres owned by the District, only 4.2% are to be managed as prairie, and none of those areas are currently forested. In the North Branch sites under discussion (Indian Road, Sauganash, Bunker and Miami), the total amount of prairie adds up to 42 acres. Superintendent Nevius also pointed out that the work of volunteers is saving the District \$400,000 every year.

Taken as a whole, the hearings showed an inspiring and gratifying confirmation of our efforts. Professional land managers and scientists testified, but lots of speechmakers were people whose connection with restoration is that they volunteer their labor. People who use the preserves, love them, and appreciate the beautiful restored areas constituted a large group of witnesses. The youngest was six; the oldest may have been in his 80s. There were two school classes, several teachers, and a school principal, all speaking in support of the Mighty Acorns Program. Many people took time off from work to testify. Not surprisingly, there were as many different messages in support of restoration as there were speakers, each of whom spoke about their own experiences. People talked about endangered species, about beauty, about buckthorn and oaks, about gardening, seeds, burns. Even representatives of the T.U.R.F. and R.I.D.E. bike clubs spoke in support of restoration. The last witness was a puppet, "Hody Coyote."

Of course, opposition speakers also testified. Some, apparently believing that the enormous amount of testimony and the District's presentation to the contrary were lies, continued to assert that the Forest Preserves were all being turned into prairies. Others raised more reasoned questions

about the use of herbicides and about the cutting of trees and brush in buffer zones; homeowners and horseback riders expressed concerns about prescribed burns.

By the end of the hearings, it was clear that those who oppose restoration fall into roughly two groups: a handful of people who are absolutely determined to stop it; and a larger group who have concerns but are willing to learn, discuss, and participate in future planning. These people have legitimate concerns, and we hope to develop a long-term process to include them.

Representatives of the Volunteer Stewardship Network met on November 1 to evaluate the hearings and to discuss plans for the future. The Forest Preserve District is drafting a proposal for enhanced programs and has asked us for suggestions. It was agreed that our group is eager to work with the District to develop a strategy for outreach and education. Anyone who is interested in participating in this process should call Jane Balaban at 847/679-4289, or Nancy Freehafer at (773) 342-6665.

As for the County hearing process, there will be a final session during which the commissioners can ask the District their questions. This session will not include public testimony, but will be open to the public. If you are interested in learning more about this final session, please call The Nature Conservancy, 312/346-8166, ext. 47.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Barbara Sutcliffe

Thank you, volunteers, for writing letters, making phone calls, talking to friends and neighbors, and attending and testifying at the hearings in support of restoration in the Forest Preserves.

The outcome of the hearings is not certain at this point, but your support and advocacy will have a great impact on the decision made by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County.

The next thing for all of us, of course, is to really reach out to our neighbors in the forest preserve communities.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Karen Holland

It is important to keep one thing in mind. Chicago Wilderness began as a result of a grassroots citizen effort to keep the forest preserves alive and well. No government bureaucrat documented species losses or gave us the means to protect and restore. We just did it. From the bottom up.

Now, wonderfully, 37 agencies and organizations support restoration with encouragement and dollars and science. We, the public, got involved and did what we thought was good for the environment and for our children and children's children. We may not have done everything right. But we acted and debated and researched and acted some more. The results of what we've done in the last 20-odd years may be seen in spectacular seasonal displays of rare plants and animals, all that is left, I'm afraid, of what was once boundless prairie and stately groves of oak for mile upon mile.

We proud volunteers now face a great challenge. It is to answer all questions about restoration with clarity, simplicity, and vision.

The ruckus over restoration in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County began partly because there aren't enough of us volunteers to restore and communicate at the same time to all of the neighbors, all of the people who live in Cook County, not even all of our friends. We figure we are under a sharp deadline—restore or the prairies and forests will soon die. We see them dying around us and know that our time has to be devoted to acting quickly. We concentrate our efforts on actively restoring, knowing that we don't have time to do justice to communicating to all who might care.

That doesn't mean we don't attempt to communicate. Like evangelical preachers in our zeal and enthusiasm, we try to tell people what we are up to. We get articles in the papers, on local cable TV, in journals, and speak in our rare spare time to local gardening clubs, citizens groups, and anyone who will listen. We appear before the Cook County Board on numerous occasions and plead for help, which we receive from commissioners grateful for our perseverance and caring.

We fully support the Mighty Acorns, youth education at its best. It's a balancing act sometimes. Restore or teach the children. We understand it must be both at the same time to guarantee preservation of the present landscape and pass on the methods we use to restore.

The debates about restoration must take place in a broadening arena. This is a positive turn of events. We passionate people have an opportunity to give full voice to our knowledge, the result of many years' work.

The questions being asked most recently by the public through the news media relate to two restoration issues. Some issues overlap; for example, cutting down trees and exotic species removal. However, as they may be perceived as different issues therefore must be answered separately.

Think about it from a neighboring homeowner's perspective: he/she loves the land as much as you do, only sees it in a very different way. One might say the definition of "environmentalist" has several meanings which may be confusing to those who are observing from a distance. We have always considered ourselves environmentalists because we try to preserve our natural heritage by actively managing it. The neighbors may be environmentalists even though they advocate leaving things be. After all, cutting down the rain forest is unacceptable, why is cutting down buckthorn any different?

It may be better to call ourselves "conservationists." Strictly speaking, according to my G. Tyler Miller text, *Living in the Environment*, "conservationists are people who express their concern for the present and future survival of human beings and other species by not wasting and not irreversibly depleting or degrading the biological, physical, and chemical health of the world upon which all life depends." Sounds like us, doesn't it?

Here are some questions people are asking. Tease out more. Talk about them with your fellow restorationists. Let's speak in a language everyone understands, and keep to the high ground as far as facts, figures, and our emotions. Restoration is vital to the health of the planet. Let's tell people why.

About Restoration and Its Importance

- What do we mean by ecosystem health?
- Why is maintaining biodiversity important?
- What activities are involved in restoration?
- How do we determine what plants or animals need help through restoration?
- What are the goals of restoration?

Brush Piles invites your questions and your responses to these and the other many challenging issues we face. Submit them to us. You do not have to be a great writer, just a thoughtful one. This space is yours. Send your articles to Barbara Rose, 650 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60613.

SIX NEW CREW LEADERS STEP UP

Brian (Brushmeister) Seinfeld

Not many people would take a sunny, pleasant Saturday afternoon to learn the fine and delicate points of leading work crews. Their extraordinary dedication to the restoration of the North Branch prairies, woodlands and wetlands will be appreciated by both the stewards and the newer volunteers who follow their leads. Six people completed the **Crew Leader and Advanced Volunteer Training Program**. They now possess advanced skills in crew motivation, brush removal and piling, exotic species identification and eradication techniques, volunteer safety, and they know where the bagels are.

So next time you are out on a North Branch workday look for Peter Czosnyka, Kim McFarland, Debra Shore, Mary Glenn Wiley, Terry Schilling, and Barbara Sutcliffe. They will be the ones sawing with confidence. Thank you, guys, for your time!

And—thank you Brian Seinfeld and Neil Peck for leading the training sessions. Without your commitment to the restoration of our beautiful natural areas, there would be no new crew leaders to welcome. The Editors salute you.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

North Branch Volunteer Barbara Sutcliffe will be reporting on our sites and their stewards for Brush Piles. For this issue, she interviewed Stewards Neil Peck at Oxbow Prairie and Libby Hill at Perkins Woods.

NEIL PECK AT OXBOW PRAIRIE

Neil got involved with the North Branch Prairie Project in 1990. "I had known of the project for about four years," Neil explained. "I had become involved in gardening at my home and was learning about long-term conservation and decided to get involved with this group I'd been hearing about. I got the telephone number from the Sierra Club newsletter, called, and went to my first workday in June, 1990 at Miami to pull white sweet clover.

"I went to several more workdays and, after talking with Ross Sweeney and Robert Lonsdorf, decided I would like to become a steward. In fact, I became the first apprentice in the new apprentice steward program."

Oxbow Prairie was once an old field. The 25 acre site got its name because it is in an old oxbow of the Chicago River. The river changed direction many years ago, but occasionally during a wet spring it backs up in the old oxbow.

"Oxbow was pretty overgrown when I started working there," Neil told BP. "There was some cord grass, sundrops, Indian grass, blazing star, and other native species, but the site was not of high quality. We have been doing a lot of work clearing brush, and we have had some burns, so the site is much more open now. It is an intimate space even though it's very close to a big picnic area, because it is in a low-lying area. There used to be a lot of trash from beer parties, but since we have been there, we don't see much of that going on. We hope to have a high quality area within the next 10 years, finish all the brush cutting and get rid of all the white sweet clover.

"We have a loyal following of volunteers at Oxbow. I usually have at least 6 people on workdays, if not more. The Mighty Acorns have started working at the site; they are a great group of kids, and some kids from the Academy of Sciences day camp come out to help."

"I love being steward of this place," Neil continued. "We're supposed to take care of the land and there is a tremendous sense of connection with it. We planted some cardinal plants (*Lobelia cardinalis*, one of the native species reintroduced by seeding or planting), and did not see anything for a couple of years. One day they appeared, and it was great."

LIBBY HILL AT PERKINS WOODS

Libby has been the steward at Perkins Woods since 1990. "The site is near my home and it's a place I've loved since I've been here," Libby told BP. She became involved with the North Branch Prairie Project when the Cook County Forest Preserve District included Perkins Woods in the project.

Perkins Woods totals about 8 acres, and the land was used for grazing prior to its purchase as a forest preserve. "The immediate emergency that made me become a steward was the amount of garlic mustard on the site," Libby explained. "I could see it, and I called the superintendent of conservation, and told him about the garlic mustard. He suggested I become the steward, and I did."

"The first year we had a garlic mustard pull combined with a block party. Many people came and brought wonderful food and called themselves the Perkins Pullers and were very enthusiastic. Since then, I haven't had this large a group. I don't schedule regular work days, but I do encourage groups such as the Evanston North Shore Bird Club to come out and help because it is a wonderful area for birding. Many people come and watch migratory birds during garlic mustard seasons, so I do schedule some workdays during that time. In the spring we get wood ducks and other water birds, and there are migrating warblers and redheaded woodpeckers. Kids are in the woods tracking and making paths, and I'm happy to see them there."

"My biggest obstacle is time," Libby continued. "The ubiquity of the exotics is a big problem. They are transported by wind and animals, and they have an incredible strategy for existence and reproduction. I am trying to make Perkins Woods ecologically healthy so we can continue to have wildflowers and diversity of layering in the woods to attract birds and other creatures."

I admire the people with the North Branch Prairie Project. They are hard working. They are all people that are interesting, committed, and energetic. Getting outdoors with these people is a wonderful thing. It's an association working toward a common goal—there is not enough of that in this day and age."



THE STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNITY IN THE INDIANA DUNES: LEADS TO A PARTY

Gladys Bryer

The North Branch Book Club had an outing in Indiana on July 28 at the home of activists Joan and Harold Olin in Beverly Shores. Special guests were L. Ronald Engle, author of *Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes* and Sylvia Troy, who chaired the Save The Dunes Council for ten years, the years that saw the long-sought-for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore become a reality.

The discussion ranged widely over issues, population, sustainability, the ethical dimension of conservation, and the need for public myth and stories of the conservation struggles.

Good talk was followed by a leisurely walk through dunes and swale, woodland and wetland. A great potluck and more community-building ended a wonderful summer afternoon.

A quotation from *Wisdom of the Elders*: The Yarralin community of Australia have four rules (translated by Debra Rose):

- **Balance:** a system cannot be life-enhancing if it is out-of-kilter. Each part shares the responsibility of sustaining itself and balancing others.
- **Response:** Communication is reciprocal. The moral obligation is to learn to understand, to pay attention, and to respond.
- **Symmetry:** In opposing and balancing each other, parts must be equivalent. The purpose is not to win or dominate, but to block, producing further balance.
- **Autonomy:** No species, no group, or country is "boss" for another, each adheres to its own law. Authority and dependence are necessary within parts, but not between them.

"All that preceded us and all that comes after depend on us. What we do matters so powerfully that to evade our responsibility is to call down chaos"

Permit Holder:
The Nature Conservancy
8 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603

North Branch Prairie Project
P.O. Box 74
Northbrook, IL 60065

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

*The North Branch
Prairie Project is
a cooperative effort
involving The Nature
Conservancy, the
Chicago Audubon
Society, and the Sierra
Club, Chicago Group.*

*We manage these sites
as volunteers for the
Forest Preserve District
of Cook County and
the Volunteer
Stewardship Network.*

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CLASSES

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP NETWORK 1997 PESTICIDE TRAINING & TESTING CLINIC Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 1996, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Headquarters Office

Interested in becoming certified and licensed to use herbicides on public lands? All volunteers are invited to attend this rare one-day weekend clinic that includes General Standards training in the morning and testing in the afternoon. Other Category tests will be offered as requested (see below).

- To be certified as an **Operator** (a person who uses pesticides and who is "sponsored" by a licensed Applicator), volunteers must pass the *General Standards* test.
- To be certified as an **Applicator** (the person in an organization who has responsibility for all Operators licensed under him/her with regard to the use of pesticides), volunteers must pass both the *General Standards* test and *one or more of these Category exams*. Those exams with some relevance to VSN work are listed here; choose the one you think is the most relevant to the herbicide application you will be doing:

Turf pest control: pesticide use on turf areas and sod farms.

Plant management pest control: pesticide use to portable plants used for interior landscaping and environmental enhancement.

Right-of-way pest control: chemical weed control on noncrop sites such as parking lots, along roads, in access rights-of-way, and in fence lines.

Aquatic pest control: pesticide use for weed control in standing or running water.

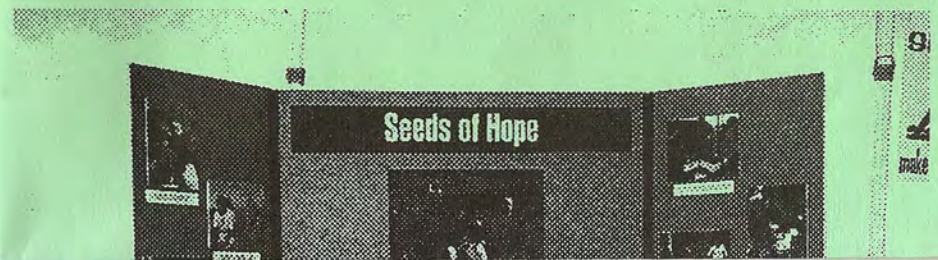
Please bring a photo ID and calculator for the testing session. The clinic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 1997. The workshop will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the testing will run from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Headquarters Office, 185 Spring Avenue, Glen Ellyn (directions below). **Please register with Betty Gathings at The Nature Conservancy at 312/346-8166 by January 3.**

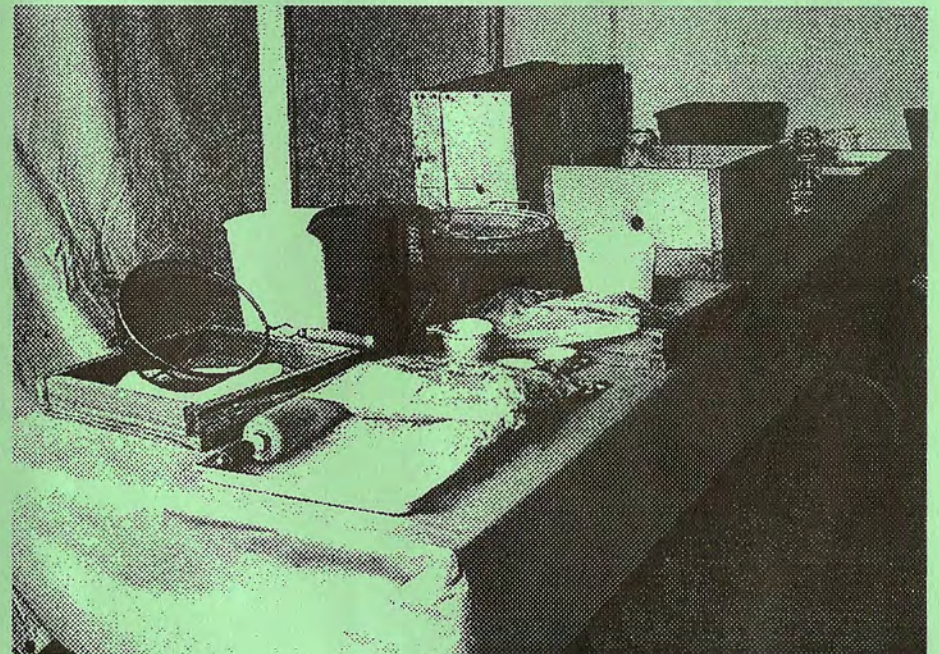
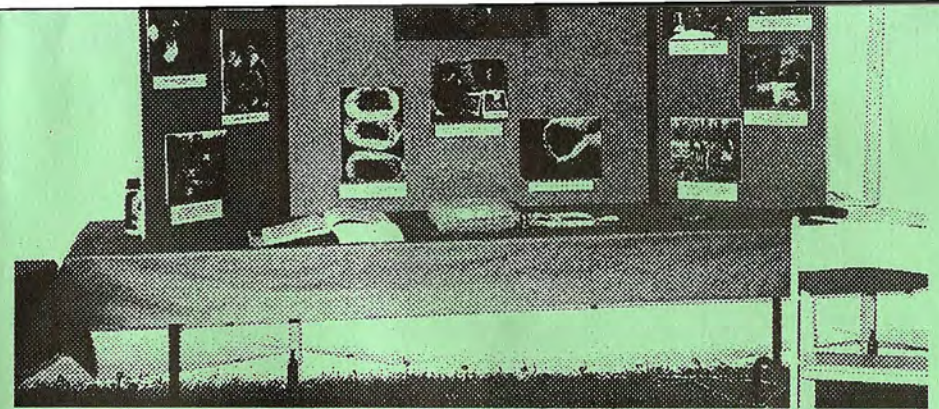
Please Note: The Department of Agriculture has sworn to never offer weekend training and testing again if we do not have at least 50 attendants at this workshop! So please (!) avail yourself of this excellent opportunity. Study materials are available through Information Services, 69PN Mumford Hall, 1301 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, 217/333-2007. Specify when ordering which study materials you would like (i.e., for the General Standards exam or for one of the Category tests).

To get to FPDDC headquarters: From Hwy. 53 in Glen Ellyn (north of I-88, west of I-355), turn north on Spring Ave. (no stoplight or stop sign). FPD headquarters are on the east side of the street, between DuPage Avenue to the south and St. Charles Road to the north.

The Nature Conservancy Prairie Festival

September 28, 1996





Photos courtesy of Barbara Sutcliffe

NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT WINTER WORKDAYS AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

The NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT is working to restore and manage the few remaining prairie and oak savanna remnants along the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Cook County Forest Preserves. These areas, once part of a vast grassland ecosystem, are under tremendous pressure from urban development and non-native species. We are working to restore conditions that will allow these natural

wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

In the winter we cut brush. Always dress for the weather and bring some water. Sun protection is important. When it is cold we may go out to lunch. The workday hotline is 312/878-3877.

FALL 1996

December 1	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
December 7	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
		11:00 a.m.	Women's Potluck
December 8	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Miami Woods/Indigo
December 10	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Coordinating Committee
December 14	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet
December 15	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
December 22	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
		1:30 p.m.	Somme Prairie Grove
December 28	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Flatwoods
December 29	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Woods
January 5	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Flatwoods
January 9	Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Publications Committee
January 11	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
		6:30 p.m.	Annual Potluck
January 12	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Bunker Hill
		1:30 p.m.	Bunker Hill
January 18	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet
January 19	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
		1:30 p.m.	Harms Woods
January 25	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Oxbow Prairie
January 26	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Woods
February 1	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
February 2	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Nature Preserve
		1:30 p.m.	Somme Nature Preserve
February 8	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Watersmeet
February 9	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Bunker Hill
		1:30 p.m.	Bunker Hill
February 15	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Flatwoods
February 16	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Harms Woods
		1:30 p.m.	Harms Woods
February 22	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Oxbow Prairie
February 23	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Somme Woods
March 1	Saturday	all day	Stewards Conference

Directions

BUNKER HILL/OXBOW (Chicago)—Meet at the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve parking lot on the west side of Caldwell Ave. about 1/4 mile north of Devon Ave.

EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER (Skokie)—From intersection of Skokie Blvd. and Howard St., go east on Howard to first residential street, Knox. Go north on Knox to Brummel. Turn left on Brummel and go one block to Nature Center parking lot.

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOL (Northbrook)—North of Willow Rd. on the west side of Shermer Road. Enter the parking lot at the north driveway and park by the tennis courts.

NORTH BRANCH WORKGROUPS

The North Branch workgroups listed below need volunteers. Contact the chairperson for more information or attend a workgroup meeting.

Ecological Management

Jane and John Balaban, 847/679-4289.

Education/Volunteer Development:

Joanne Softcheck, 773/878-3877

Publications/Publicity:

Barbara Sutcliffe, 773/775-7934

Science:

Drew Ullberg, 847/991-3671

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN OF THE NORTH BRANCH

Saturday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.

Great food and great conversation are the norm when women get together. Join us for our next potluck on December 7 at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Karen Holland in Miller Beach. Call Gladys Bryer at 847/328-9531 for directions. Are you a woman and a NBPP volunteer. You are invited!

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, January 11, 6:30 p.m.

North Branch Prairie Project's annual celebration will be held on January 11 at the Edgebrook Community Center, 6100 North Central. We'll acknowledge special volunteers for their outstanding contributions. It has been a momentous year and we have much to celebrate—and plan. 1997 is the year to reach out to the wider community. Everyone is welcome. Come at 6:30 p.m. and bring a dish and beverage to share. Please call Nancy Freehafer at 773/342-6665 for directions.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

We will plan the annual volunteer awards and potluck dinner and plan for the coming quarter. If planning and organizing is your thing, join us. Call Nancy Freehafer at 773/342-6665 for information.

HARMS FLATWOODS (Glenview)—Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Rd., just south of Old Orchard Rd.

HARMS WOODS (Glenview)—Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on the west side of Harms Rd., just south of Glenview Rd.

INDIAN ROAD WOODS (Chicago)—Meet at parking lot adjacent to Indian Road (the first picnic grove north of Elston Avenue, on Central Avenue.)

MIAMI-INDIGO (Morton Grove-Niles)—Meet at Miami Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on the east side of Caldwell Ave., two blocks north of Oakton Ave.

PERKINS WOODS (Evanston)—From I94 exit at Old Orchard Rd., east to Crawford St., south on Crawford to Grant St., east on Grant to Ewing St., site is at the corner of Grant and Ewing.

SAUGANASH PRAIRIE (Chicago)—Meet at the edge of the Forest Preserve along the south side of Bryn Mawr Ave. at Kilbourn Ave. (south of Peterson Ave. and east of Cicero Ave.)

SOMME NATURE PRESERVE (Northbrook)—Meet in the Post Office parking lot, Dundee and Western Avenues.

SOMME PRAIRIE GROVE, WOODS, AND SEDGE MEADOW (Northbrook)—Take Dundee Rd. two miles west from the Edens Expressway to Waukegan Rd. Go north a few hundred feet on Waukegan and meet at the unpaved parking area on the west side of the road.

WATERSMEET/SKOKIE SEDGE MEADOWS (Northfield)—Exit the Edens Expressway at Lake Avenue West. Go west to Wagner Rd., turn north then take Wagner to Winnetka Rd. Go east on Winnetka 3/4 mile. Park on the south side of the street.

WAYSIDE/RR PRAIRIE (Morton Grove)—Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on Lehigh Ave. (a few blocks east of Waukegan Rd. and just north of Dempster St.)

BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE WINTER WORKDAY SCHEDULE

The Buffalo Grove Prairie Guardians are volunteers working to restore the native Illinois prairie near Lake-Cook Road on the Commonwealth Edison easement. We invite you to join us as we continue in our efforts to eliminate weeds, collect and sow seeds, cut brush, and handle general site maintenance. Be sure to dress for the outdoors and for the weather. Wear long slacks, sturdy shoes and socks, sun protection, insect repellent in warm seasons, and work gloves if you have them. Tools, camaraderie, homemade goodies and beverages will be provided.

**All work days are on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
December 1 • January 12 • February 9**

DIRECTIONS: Take Lake-Cook Road to Hastings Road (first street west of the railroad overpass and one mile west of the Milwaukee Road overpass). Turn north on Hastings into the second parking lot on the right (one lot past the Computer Discount Warehouse.) Park at east end of the lot nearest the prairie.

CONTACT: Call Lee at 847/677-7001 with questions.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.

We will start planning the 20th Annual Report (yes it has been 20 years!) and plan future issues of *Brush Piles*. If you write, draw, take pictures, layout, or have great ideas for people who do, join us. Call Barbara Sutcliffe at 773/775-7934 for information.

ANNUAL STEWARDS CONFERENCE

March 1, all day

The stewards of the Volunteer Stewardship Network will convene for a day of informative and exciting workshops and talks on March 1 at Oakton Community College. Mark your calendars for this important date. If you would like to present a workshop or if you want someone else to present one on a topic of burning interest to you, call Katie Green at 312/346-8166. She is planning now and is eager for input. More information will be mailed.

MIGHTY ACORNS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

...to lead small groups of children in stewardship activities. Skilled adults are needed to teach and help with brush pile building. Children need instruction in proper construction, and help in getting the brush up on the pile a la Brushmeister Brian! Call Diane Reckless at The Nature Conservancy, 312/346-8166 for time and dates.

To contribute to *Brush Piles*.

Your photos and cartoons would look great on these pages. Your features, anecdotes, essays, announcements, requests, poems, comments, and letters are also welcome. To discuss your ideas, call Barbara Rose, 773/248-4817 or Leslie Borns 312/751-1497 *before the deadline*. Deadline for the Spring 1996 issue is **February 1** (for March, April, May).

Brush Piles Crew

Editor: Barbara Rose

Layout/Production: Kathy Lapinsky

Crew: Leslie Borns, Joanne Softcheck, Barbara Sutcliffe



a project of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and The Nature Conservancy

**Forest Preserve District of Cook County
John H. Stroger, Jr., President**



The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in 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.