

Chicago EXPLORING NATURE & CULTURE WILDERNESS

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CLASSIC RESTORATIONS • SEX PISTILS

What is Chicago Wilderness?

Chicago Wilderness is some of the finest and most significant nature in the temperate world, with a core of roughly 200,000 acres of protected natural lands harboring native plant and animal communities that are more rare—and their survival more globally threatened—than the tropical rain forests.

CHICAGO WILDERNESS is an unprecedented alliance of 107 public and private organizations working together to study and restore, protect and manage the precious natural ecosystems of the Chicago region for the benefit of the public.
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Chicago WILDERNESS is a quarterly magazine that celebrates the rich natural heritage of this region and tells the inspiring stories of the people and organizations working to heal and protect local nature.
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CHICAGO WILDERNESS

A Regional Nature Reserve

Prairie Rex

Did you know that the gripping story of the discovery of Sue, the skeletal T. rex debuting at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, has a prairie counterpart? Sue's story belongs to Sue Hendricksen, a fossil hunter with a commercial fossil collecting team from the Black Hills Institute of South Dakota, who was out on a dig 10 years ago. While other members of her team went into town one hot August morning, Sue hiked over to some sandstone bluffs that had previously caught her attention. There, protruding from the cliffs above she saw bones, big bones, what turned out to be the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus skeleton ever found.

When Dr. Robert Betz wandered through an open area in suburban Markham in the 1960s, his eye searched for another kind of relic. Today, twenty-two million acres of Illinois are corn and soybean fields. A mere one hundredth of one percent of original prairie now remains. Dr. Betz was searching for something that was on the verge of becoming extinct.

Sue Hendricksen, scanning the cliffs of South Dakota, knew what she was looking for: bones. Dr. Betz, scanning those brushy fields, also knew what to look for: the species of the tallgrass prairie. Relic plants living together as they had for many millennia – a healthy remnant of things past. Midwest wilderness.

Dr. Betz knew that the informed eye could recognize an ancient ecosystem that, to others, looked like an average field of brush. He knew he wasn't seeing the postcard perfect Kodak picture of ancient nature but, rather, the disrupted but surviving biota, the tightly woven, pulsing and throbbing, decaying and renewing biota: whole complexes of species interacting, interdependent, in magnificent array above and below ground.

Dr. Betz believed that if one found the remnant core of a native ecosystem, people could learn to restore it to

health, could regain not just the skeleton but essentially the whole flourishing natural community. As the stories that unfold beginning on page 4 will show, this was visionary indeed. Dr. Betz gradually demonstrated that nature needs more care than anyone had thought, and that good care would, in fact, produce dramatic results.

As Dr. Betz and others demonstrated, we won't have to bear witness to the extinction of ancient ecosystems. At least in the case of the Midwest's prairies, wetlands, and woodlands, we can work the wilderness and bring them back.

Most of the rare nature we have today – at least in this region – is due to the care of generous people. People who conceived of and fought to establish the forest preserve districts that bought the land that harbored the natural communities that contained the grassland and forest and marsh remnants that constitute our wilderness. Only recently came other visionaries – the first people who recognized what was needed to save the dwindling species and

restore health to those wild places.

This issue of *Chicago WILDERNESS* describes so many pioneers. The folks who labored to save the endangered peregrine learned from falconers how to restore a noble falcon to nature – and to do it in cities and suburbs across the country. Torkel and Diane Korling's pioneering books and exhibits (see page 27) helped launch the appreciation of our local wild nature. Mayor Daley's green roof, treaty with birds, and urban habitat initiatives are pioneering in their own right. Pioneers? I nominate this magazine's writers and photographers, and all the Chicago Wilderness communicators and educators who seek to create a culture of conservation. The policy advocates and sustainable development planners who are increasingly incorporating nature into the fabric of our metropolitan lives – we're all pioneers.



Debra Shore
EDITOR



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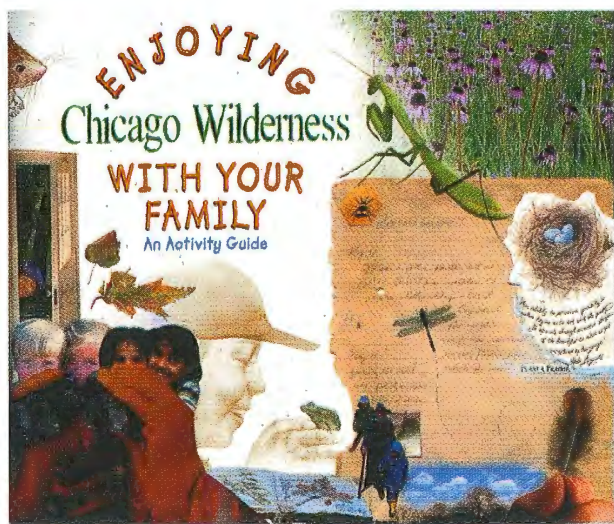
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ABOVE: Chicago WILDERNESS has published a fun-filled wilderness companion for families. See page 34.
OPPOSITE: Smooth phlox bloom among the prairie dock leaves in Gensburg-Markham prairie. Photo by Willard Clay.

COVER: Prairie gayfeather, early goldenrod, and flowering spurge run riot after 20 years of restoration at Gensburg-Markham Prairie. Photo by Willard Clay.



Photo: Ron Pariser



Photo: Stephen Packard



Photo: Michael Reimer

Chicago WILDERNESS

Volume III, Number 4

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Chicago WILDERNESS is published quarterly.
Subscriptions are \$14/yr. Please address all subscription correspondence to Chicago WILDERNESS, P.O. Box 5054, Skokie, IL 60076-5054. (847) 965-9253.
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Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned without a self-addressed stamped envelope. Chicago WILDERNESS is printed on recycled paper and should be passed around from friend to friend. Chicago WILDERNESS is endorsed by the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council. The opinions expressed in these pages, however, are the authors' own.

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ISSN 1097-8917. Postmaster, address service requested to Chicago WILDERNESS, P.O. Box 5054, Skokie, IL 60076

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CLASSIC RESTORATIONS

by Ray Wiggers



SCHULENBERG PRAIRIE: *setting a high standard*

When first-time visitors explore the august, wooded terrain of The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, they may not realize that one of its most popular and intriguing aspects is a largely treeless expanse on the southwestern corner of the grounds. This section, Schulenberg Prairie, has been the region's archetypal proving ground for the kind of restoration that starts with nothing but the soil. The Schulenberg Prairie has demonstrated that land devoted to farming for 100 years can be successfully transformed into a model of healthy grassland.

While almost everyone who walks or works on this rolling stretch of waving grasses and wildflowers regards it as a prairie in its own right, the reconstruction's founder and namesake, retired Arboretum curator Ray Schulenberg, often avoids the term. He prefers to call it, simply enough,

a planting of prairie species. At first glance, this may seem a definition driven merely by modesty, but Schulenberg here also reveals a hard-earned lesson – that the re-creation of an absolutely authentic prairie ecosystem, with all its soil, plants, animals, and microorganisms, is an enterprise that requires more than a few decades to complete.

The Morton Arboretum has had a powerful influence on this region. It has worked to build a conservation ethic, sometimes with too little fanfare, ever since its founding almost 80 years ago. And there is ample proof of that commitment. In 1921, for example, one early staff member, Henry Teuscher, carefully listed existing native species in his index of Morton plantings – a good indicator that the Arboretum's interest in Chicagoland's native ecological communities coexisted with its horticultural mandate even then.

In 1961, Arboretum director Clarence Godshalk considered what should be done with a newly acquired 55-acre parcel of land. Very much aware of Schulenberg's interest in the native grasslands of the Midwest, he suggested that the latter take charge of a prairie planting there.

At the time, most people thought that weeds would overwhelm the prairie species, unless the latter were given a great deal of help. Originally, the most prized sections of the prairie were done one planting at a time (consisting of two or three seedlings grown together in small greenhouse container). Then, throughout the growing season, Schulenberg painstakingly removed dozens of weed species from the scores of prairie species, which meant that he and his Arboretum crew had to learn to distinguish all the young native flowers and grasses from the unwanted invaders.

And so it began. Schulenberg, by that time a friend of prairie conser-



Photo: Clarence Godshalk

Ray Schulenberg in the greenhouse.



Photo: Ray Schulenberg

Knowing no other way to succeed, Schulenberg's staff planted thousands of plants by hand.

vation pioneer Dr. Robert Betz, tried a number of planting techniques, from laying sod taken from an old "remnant meadow" elsewhere on the Arboretum grounds, to introducing greenhouse-raised seedlings, to spreading seed gathered from Gensburg-

Markham. Over the years, Schulenberg and his Arboretum crew further established their reputation for meticulous attention to detail, but as in all early efforts of this kind, they learned by trial and effort. There were no guidebooks, no seminars, no established procedures for seed collection or prescribed burns. One learned in part by fruitful and carefully documented failure. The result to date, whether one calls it a planting of prairie species, or the prairie itself, is an overt educational success. Having grown to more than 100 acres, the Schulenberg Prairie now incorporates oak-savanna communities as well. Each year, thousands of students and visitors gain insight into the region's past, and perhaps into its future, by first-hand contact with this most beautiful of planned landscapes.

GENSEBURG -MARKHAM: *expanding a remnant*

In the south suburban town of Markham stands Gensburg-Markham Prairie. It is a classic of restoration rather than of reconstruction, for it was discovered and saved before its high-quality prairie community had vanished. The discoverer and savior was Northeastern Illinois University biochemist Dr. Robert Betz, a Bridgeport native who'd been fascinated by Illinois' native grassland communities ever since he'd hunted down small remnants of them surviving in farm-country cemeteries. Back in the 1960s, on a day he was visiting relations in Markham, Dr. Betz took a stroll and accidentally came upon this precious island in time. Convinced that it was of immense biologic importance, Dr. Betz enlisted the help of colleagues and secured crucial assistance from the Markham Garden Club and the Openlands Project. By 1971 the Gensburg family,



Photo: Jim Machel

After four decades of restoration, Schulenberg Prairie draws visitors from around the world.



Photo: Ron Panzer

When Betz discovered the Gensburg Markham Prairie, it looked more like a woods. But Betz saw ancient prairie surviving under the young brush. Hundreds of volunteers like George Derkovitz (above), have in three decades cut brush off more than 200 acres.

which owned a 60-acre section of the prairie, agreed to donate their holding to The Nature Conservancy. Later, other pieces of surrounding land were added to the preserve. The method Dr. Betz formulated here – to proceed outward from the prairie's high-quality core and restore the more degraded outer sections – has become the preferred strategy at countless other sites since.

Here, on this sandy strand of ancient Lake Chicago, Dr. Betz claimed that he'd found a large patch of original prairie. Others disputed that claim by insisting that the land had too many trees and shrubs to be a real prairie, or by noting that large parts of the land were given over to weeds. Dr. Betz saw that. But he also recognized that beneath all the evidence of degradation there survived the remnants of an ancient ecosystem that, with care, could come back to life.

From the beginning, he cut brush, pulled weeds, and burned. Few people at the time recognized that such care was truly necessary: wasn't nature something that was most authentic if left completely alone? But Dr. Betz recognized that this prairie had much in common with a sick human being. For its health to be restored, it needed skilled attention, and therapy. And the therapy worked. The best parts of the site responded quickly with a profusion of rare grasses, wildflowers, insects, birds, snakes, and other characteristic prairie organisms. But large weedy areas

remained much as they were. Soon Dr. Betz was harvesting seed from the healthy prairie core to restore the rest.

"When we cut the brush, it would just come back if there was no other plant to fight it," says Dr. Betz. "We'd cut and burn and throw in seed. The brush would kill off the seedlings and retake control of the ground. So we'd cut and burn again, and throw in even more seed. It was a battle.

But wherever the native grass took, the fire would then keep the brush at bay."

At first, Dr. Betz was not sure that his efforts would truly succeed. Still, after a few years, he noticed prairie betony returning to the areas he'd reseeded. Then came isolated pink phlox plants, and white prairie

clover, and wild quinine. Not only could he save the core, he could help it grow.

Gensburg-Markham is now a National Natural Landmark, and deservedly so. In a pattern common to other, younger restoration projects, this prairie has expanded gradually into a composite holding of more than 100 acres, owned and administered by Northeastern Illinois University, the Natural Land Institute, and The Nature Conservancy.

Undoubtedly, the decades-long success of Gensburg-Markham and its companion sites has been partly due Northeastern Illinois conservation biol-



Photo: Ron Panzer

Visitors to Gensburg Markham may not see the Franklin's ground squirrel (above right) or the Aphrodite butterfly (next page). But they know they're in a rare and special place.



At Gensburg Markham, bulldozer scars have nearly healed. The outlines of a platted road are only faintly visible as the prairie vegetation restores itself.

Photo: Bill Glass



Photo: Ron Panzer

ogist and local resident Ron Panzer, who first volunteered at the site in 1977 and who, a year later, became its paid naturalist, a position he retains to this day. A student of prairie fauna generally and insects specifically, Panzer has conducted substantial research at this site and others, and has here reintroduced selected native animals, ranging from the rare

Franklin's ground squirrel to the rattlesnake-master borer moth. He has also noted the unplanned return of a few other animal species, including a breeding community of the Henslow's sparrow. Over the years of work, he has learned that restoration cannot be driven by some preconceived notion of what the grand result will be. "I have a fundamental respect for the laws of biologic succession. Things change here naturally, and they should." He has learned that prescribed burning – the modern, planned version of prairie wildfires of past centuries – does not solve all problems. "Some people think that burns are a cure for everything. But fire is not helpful in curbing all invading species. We must also hand-cut, apply herbicide when necessary, and be very vigilant."

Recently, three white-fringed orchids bloomed for the first time, in the sixth year after seeding – as part of a species recovery program sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. But the greatest unsolved problem is the difficulty of restoring a vibrant and diverse animal component to complement the more easily reintroduced plants. From fringed orchids to moths and squirrels, a prairie is coming back to its full richness at Gensburg-Markham.

FERMILAB: experiment in expansiveness

A small plot of rehabilitated ground may sustain a surprisingly diverse plant community, but a fully functioning prairie ecosystem is predicated on wide-open spaces. After all, expansiveness was one of the defining aspects of the original Illinois prairie, and the one most impressive to early explorers and settlers. But in modern times, restorers who have too little elbowroom for the animals they wish to reintroduce soon discover a crucial problem. As seasoned zoologists can testify, it does little good to release members of the native fauna, only to see them leave the prairie grounds on a one-way journey to the local strip mall.

Largely for that reason, Dr. Betz was on the lookout, in the early 1970s, for tracts of land that could serve as the



Photo: Mike Becker, Fermilab

Tractors for nature? But there was no other way to restore a site this big.



Gathered by volunteers from nearby remnants, rare prairie seeds will soon start new lives as prairie returns to the hundreds of acres of former cornfields at Fermilab.

world's first large-scale prairie reconstruction. When he heard that Robert Wilson, director of the huge Fermilab research complex in Batavia, was seeking Morton Arboretum advice in landscaping his facility's grounds, Betz contacted the Fermilab administration. Soon thereafter, he presented Wilson with a visionary plan: to adorn the research facility not with horticulture but with ecosystems, not with landscape trees and garden beds, but with megaprairie. According to Dr. Betz, Wilson was attracted to this radical notion from the start, yet was concerned about how long the establishment of native grassland would take. When Betz admitted, accurately enough, that the job could take decades, Wilson responded with elegant decisiveness: "Then we'd better get started this afternoon."

Securing Wilson's approval was no small victory in the history of restoration politics. But there was still the matter of convincing the facility's grounds crew. Fermilab services manager Bob Lootens, a Kane County native whose family had farmed a portion of the Fermilab property before it was acquired by the government, was one of the skeptics. "They notified us that this professor from Chicago was coming out to tell us what to do. We started the project thinking it was crazy to plant wildflowers on land that could produce 100 bushels of corn per acre. And now we're more pro-prairie than anyone else."

By inspiring the enthusiasm of Fermilab crew leaders Bob Lootens and Mike Becker – who in turn have inspired their crew members to become excellent restorers and naturalists – Dr. Betz unleashed, among other things, plenty of mechanical creativity. Because restoration undertaken on foot is largely impractical over such a large an area, the Fermilab crew tinkered with existing agricultural equipment – everything from combines and seed drills to seed-sorting mills and the "cultipackers" that tamp down disked and sown soil. The result of this pooling of agricul-

With its world class physics lab in the background, Fermilab Prairie is quintessential Chicago Wilderness.

tural know-how was the development of a highly specialized technology that lets a handful of human beings, who have many other things to do as well, transform a town-ship-sized domain. "That was the turning point," says Dr. Betz, "when we could do things on a mechanized basis." And Bob Lootens cites a statistic that is remarkable to anyone who has seen the extent of the Fermilab preserve: prairie-related work now takes up only about one-twentieth of his crew's average workweek.

The realization of Dr. Betz's Fermilab vision began in 1974 with a trial plot of a little over nine acres, situated within the lab's great accelerator ring. Twenty-six years later, the reconstruction encompasses more than 1,100 acres in various stages of development. In one sense, it is Schulenberg Prairie stretched out on a canvas 10 times as large – unabashed reconstruction, the planting of prairie seeds in disked-up cornfields. Of this total, one 90-acre section, containing the Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail, is routinely accessible to the public. In the fall, hundreds of volunteers, heeding the siren call of Fermilab press releases, take part in hand-collecting seed from species of plants not easily reached by the mechanical harvesters.

Any newcomer who tours the project as a whole in mid-summer is apt to wonder why big bluestem and Indian grass dominate so thoroughly, especially in the newer sections. The forbs – the wildflower species – almost seem to have been forgotten. But this approach is the embodiment of Betzian technique. Each new reconstruction section begins with what the Fermilab team calls the Prairie Matrix: a basic selection of the hardiest, most tenacious prairie plant species, the most visible of which are the tall grasses. Once these colonists have set the stage by altering the soil profile and outcompeting Eurasian weeds, the other, less tolerant native plants will supposedly take hold, too. In the time it takes the Prairie Matrix to do its pioneering work, the main human effort (so Dr. Betz contends) should be directed toward continued seeding and periodic prescribed burns.

The belief that the reconstructed prairie will develop and defend itself well against all invaders must be understood in the context of Dr. Betz's almost geologic view of



Photo: Fermilab Visual Media Services

Photo: Fermilab Accelerator Lab

time. Still, his noninterventionist, let-nature-do-the-work doctrine raises the eyebrows of colleagues intent on more decisive results in shorter timeframes. And this is an important debating point. Dr. Betz rightfully points with pride to the substantial wildflower populations now blooming in the older Fermilab plots. He notes that the big bluestem grass, once eight feet tall, now grows two feet shorter—a sure sign that the other prairie plants are getting a greater percentage of the nutrients in the soil. In other words, they're competing successfully with the plants that

the North Branch. Their efforts both secured official permission from District officials and attracted more volunteers. In 1977 the first work began, with seed collection at what is now part of Somme Prairie Nature Preserve (at the time it was an abandoned military installation). A week later that seed was planted at three of the original North Branch locations – the Wayside, Miami Woods, and Bunker Hill Prairies. The volunteer restorers, with no way to till the ground prior to seeding, experimented with the technique of planting the collected prairie in a less inva-



Though once besmeared by brush and garbage, the North Branch sites included tiny gems of ancient nature, like these three prairie acres in Somme Woods.



once served as the playground bullies. "And so they should," he says. "The forbs have coevolved with the grasses for several million years. They know how to make a go of it."

THE NORTH BRANCH: *Forest Preserve prairies and woodlands*

If the Schulenberg and Gensburg-Markham Prairies stand as a testament to what can be done to rebuild prairies on private land, the restoration work under way along the Chicago River's North Branch reveals both the added advantages and the added challenges of such efforts undertaken in public preserves. They also show how a self-sustaining network of volunteers, working in partnership with public officials, can expand the scope of restoration from prairies alone to other ecosystems as well. They also are a proving ground on the potentials and challenges of appealing to a broad constituency.

Beginning in 1975, Stephen Packard and other volunteers began identifying degraded prairie communities in a number of Cook County Forest Preserve District sites along

sive way, just putting the seed in the ground among the well-established invader species. While the positive results of this approach sometimes took years to fully manifest themselves – and while the volunteers had to develop a special fund of faith and patience – they learned, like Dr. Betz at Gensburg-Markham, that the technique ultimately did work in most situations. As this success became more apparent and the Forest Preserve District increasingly respected the group for their knowledge and dedication, more sites were entrusted to their care. Now there are 15.

They work closely with Forest Preserve staff who review and approve all plans and who supervise parts of the work. Although the group relies almost entirely on muscle power, they have to date restored well over 100 acres of land to good or high quality. They gather more than 150 species of seeds for use in restoration. These are combined into a dozen custom mixtures for varied conditions. The seed bags are marked with names like MOS, WMP and TURF – for mesic open savanna, wet mesic prairie, and a "turf" mix of the rarest prairie species, which do best if raked into an already good quality prairie turf.



Restoration "work parties"— cut brush, plant seed, eat, drink and be glad.

Among the longest active and most expert of the North Branch leaders is Larry Hodak, who, together with his wife Chris, joined the effort in 1978. The North Branch sites were gradually selected on the same principle Dr. Betz had used at Gensburg-Markham, far to the south: in each case, there was a surviving core of native species from which the volunteers could work to restore a greater area.

Hodak has been the volunteer steward of Sauganash Prairie Grove since 1988. This project, situated where the Chicago River has carved small but well-defined bluffs on the city's north side, contains sedge meadow, wet savanna, bluff woodland, and floodplain forest. It is cherished by both volunteers and by scores of "Mighty Acorns," students from a public school who once came by the busloads to work here. It's in the city proper, and here one feels the wet, wooded, lowland soul of Chicago better than anywhere else.

The work at Harms Woods, where John and Jane Balaban are stewards, is especially impressive. They've cut and burned out the buckthorn and girdled some larger invasive trees to bring sufficient sunlight. Now the increasingly rich layer of wildflowers support increasing numbers of butterfly and bird species throughout spring, summer, and fall. "It was even too dark for the oaks to reproduce. At last we're beginning to see some oak regeneration," says John Balaban. A walk through a restored North Branch woods is a journey back to a rich past, and a vision ahead to an imagined future when healthy sustainable woodlands will be permanent parts of the region's wildlands.

In their work, the Balabans also have learned the same lesson that Schulenberg, Dr. Betz, and Panzer learned almost contemporaneously at the region's other restorations.



Following the second burn, much brush is dead but there is little life in the understory.



As the work proceeds, the prairies increasingly brim with life.

Badly degraded areas need seed; they won't recover just by "nature taking its course." For many animal species, it's size that matters. But when a sizeable area has been restored, here they come. The Balabans have welcomed the return of Cooper's hawks, great-crowned flycatchers, and the arrestingly named purple maniac wasps. Says Jane Balaban, "You know you're leaving a legacy, a gift for the future." John nods in agreement. "Gradually, you begin to feel a connection with something greater than yourself. A bond forms between you and the land."

Is this bond contagious? There's reason to think it is. More than 200,000 acres of conservation land are now publicly protected as Chicago Wilderness. The land managers of conservation agencies, like the volunteers and academics, are building the emerging discipline of restoration, with increasing technical proficiency and public support at hundreds of sites throughout the region. If the work of Schulenberg, Betz, and their successors continues to engage our spirits and inspire our willingness to care for the Earth and its creatures, we'll leave a worthy legacy indeed.



After ten years of seeding and weed control the woods are a picture of glowing health.

TREATY FOR BIRDS

by Judy Pollock

In late March, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency charged with ensuring the health of migrating birds, plunked down \$100,000 and the City of Chicago has budgeted much more as they signed a treaty pledging their cooperation in developing programs and policies that will help birds.

Chicago is "the O'Hare of migratory birds," said US F&WS Director Jamie Rappaport Clark. Lakefront and inland parks and preserves provide vital sustenance for literally millions of hungry birds heading north to their summer breeding grounds. The vast expanse of the Lake to the east and of agricultural land to the south and west provide little food and few safe rest stops for migrating birds. Exhausted from flying all night, these birds – hundreds of different species – find a lifeline in the greenery of Chicago's parks and preserves.

"The key to quality of life in the city is our parks, open spaces, and wildlife," Mayor Daley said. "To preserve and enhance nature right here in the city – this is the commitment we make as adults for another generation. We're trying to educate people about restoration so we can allow nature to be preserved in an urban area."



Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and the director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jamie Rappaport Clark, signed a "Treaty for Birds." The peregrine falcon, official city bird, also attended.

Features of the treaty are that:

- The Chicago Park District, in partnership with various community groups, will be improving bird habitat at four major lakefront stopovers – Montrose Point, the Addison Street Bird Sanctuary, Jackson Park, and the promontory near the South Shore Cultural Center – and perhaps a fifth stopover south of McCormick Place.
- The Department of the Environment is involved in an ambitious land acquisition and comprehensive planning process for a greener Lake Calumet area, including a proposed new nature center.
- Partners such as The Field Museum, The Nature Museum, Audubon, Chicago's Department of Planning, Friends of the Parks, the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are identi-

fying the city's most important bird areas, formulating policy recommendations for park management, field testing various tree and shrub species, producing educational materials for Chicago's citizens, and involving them in bird habitat stewardship.

- The city's downtown buildings are turning out their lights during migration (see sidebar).
- The Chicago Audubon, the Fort Dearborn Audubon, and Chicago Ornithological Society, as well as the BCN, are holding walks, bike rides, boat rides, poetry slams, classes, bird counts, birdathons, and all manner of inventive programming to celebrate and publicize our abundant local bird life.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Keep cats indoors during spring and fall migration (mid-March through the end of May and late August through early November).
- Create plantings that feed and shelter birds in your yard or local park using these principles:
 - Create multi-layered areas with trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
 - Use a wide variety of plants, especially natives. Include plants that bear seeds, and fall and winter berries, and that provide nectar in the warm seasons.
 - Leave seed-bearing plants standing over the winter, leaves under the shrubs and trees, and make compost heaps and brush piles.
- Avoid using insecticides.
- If you work in a tall building, talk with your building manager about turning off the building's lights at night during migration season.

LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRDS!

No one is exactly sure why migrating birds are attracted, often fatally, to skyscraper lights at night, but we do know that turning off the lights during migration periods reduces mortality.

"We've often been asked by Mayor Daley to turn ON our lights," marveled Robert Krohn, building manager of 55 East Monroe in Chicago's Loop, "but never before to turn OFF our lights." But when the call came to turn off his building's lights during spring bird migration, Krohn was ready to respond. At an even taller building where he was previously employed, he witnessed large bird kills. "It left a lasting memory."

Linda Day, volunteer chair of the Mayor's Wildlife and Nature Committee, lit up when she learned that building owners can help to save migratory birds. As Vice President of Baird & Warner Management Group, she worked with Paul Colgan, director of public affairs of the Building Owners and Managers Association, to spread the word to Loop skyscrapers. Ken Wysocki, a member of the Bird Conservation Network, gathered the information Day needed to convince building owners that this action was warranted, and helped to identify buildings that were known for their high bird mortality.

The John Hancock Center has been turning its lights out in spring and fall at the request of Chicago Audubon for at least 10 years now. This year, the "wedding cake" building at 311 S. Wacker has joined the Hancock in the dark along with others.

Somewhere in the Wilderness...

STAMEN MEETS PISTIL



Photo: Joe Nowak

The sexual parts of plants are of great interest to bees, butterflies, and botanists. In Meadow beauty (above), eight yellow stamens and one greenish pistil are hanging out there in all their glory. Look for Meadow beauty in July at the Indiana Dunes.



Photo: Ron Penner

Bush clover is a prairie species. It's in the pea family, but you have to look close to notice that the little pink and cream flowers are sweet little pea blossoms. Insects pry the flowers open to get to the goodies inside.



Photo: Michael Redmer

In orchids, the stigmas and stamens are fused with one specialized petal. A complex mechanism assures pollination – but only if the ecosystem supports the right species of specialized pollinators. You'll find grass pink orchid blooming in July in peaty bogs and fens.

Buttonbush grows in wooded swamps. Its flowers are in dense spherical heads. If you look closely you can see the individual flowers, each with a long style and stigma far beyond the short little stamens, which are nestled down among the short little petals.



Photo: Joe Nowak



Photo: Joe Nowak

Younger botanists are attracted to the coyly named touch-me-not. The whole point is to touch it – upon which the green seed capsule explodes amid shooting seeds and startled shrieks. Marlene Nowak introduces granddaughter Sara to the surprise enjoyed by Potawatomi children for thousands of years in an earlier wilderness.



Photo: Tom Holmes

Eastern tailed blue butterfly on a woodland sunflower. The plants and butterflies of North America's woods and prairies evolved together over millions of years. Restoration and conservation are to save them – and their relationships.



Photo: Joe Nowak

In field milkwort, the showy parts are the pink-purple bracts, which are leaves modified to attract pollinators. The actual flowers are yellow and small, but worth checking out with a hand lens. Look for milkworts in sandy prairies and savannas.



Photo: Joe Nowak

Botanists use 10-power hand lenses to key down unfamiliar species of plants. Many of the Chicago region's important plant discoveries have been made by volunteers having fun, exploring little lost wildernesses.

APPRECIATING PREDATORS



Photo: Anthony Mertes/Root Resources

This male yellow warbler is feeding his mate as she incubates their eggs. This warbler's song goes, "Sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet"—and that they are. But the tenderhearted among us forget that what he's sweetly offering her are the bodies of slain insects. Animals that eat animals are a part of nature that often makes us stop and think.

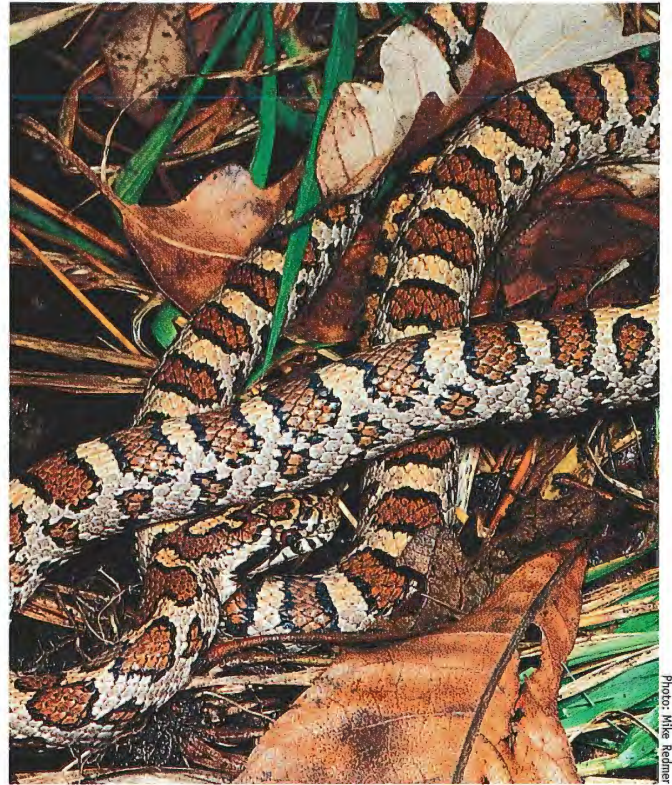


Photo: Mike Redman

The eastern milk snake is happy to eat baby warblers, if it can find them. Like many predators, it will eat the commonest small animals it can find. Preying upon the commonest is part of what keeps the diversity in biodiversity.

Male green darners catch the females behind the head with specially adapted pincers. For insemination, she will curve her tail up to accept his secondary penis (it's a complicated process), and they'll fly in a loop. Then, while she lays her eggs on submerged vegetation, he will continue to hold on to her, so no other male can add sperm to compete with his. The young dragonflies are predators under water; the adults eat flying insects.



Photo: Jim Flynn/Root Resources



Photo: Mike MacDonald

Some birds eat fish, which they catch diving (kingfishers, ospreys and terns), swimming underwater (mergansers, grebes and loons), and wading (like the great blue heron above).



Photo: Tom Holmes

If it can avoid being itself eaten by birds, this robber fly will scour prairies and meadows for other, often larger insects. As a larva, this fly ate other insect larvae in the soil or in rotting wood.



Photo: Art Morris/BIRDS AS ART

The peregrine is now the city bird of Chicago. Originally nesting on cliffs and tall dead craggy trees, peregrines today often nest on tall buildings, including those in the Loop. They feed almost entirely on mid-sized birds, like the pigeon being devoured here.



Photo: Joe Novak

After a burger, fish sticks, or chicken fingers, Anna Kuehl considers a fellow juvenile predator – the snapping turtle. Predators are an essential part of nature.

A PLANT RESCUE

In this millennial summer we think of past and future. The volunteers probably had such thoughts as they dug up rare plants in an ancient oak woodland in Rolling Meadows. They were participating in a “plant rescue” organized by the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers.

Much of the flora of this ancient woodland was bulldozed the next day for a housing subdivision. It’s bittersweet work for the plant rescue team. The plants dug the day before the bulldozers arrived are growing now in the natural landscaping of the volunteers’ yards, or in restoration areas of restored forest preserves. But it hurts to see a majestic woodland destroyed.

Every house and business in the Chicago region replaces some woodland, prairie, or wetland. Yet most nature was destroyed generations ago. Now we look at what’s left and wonder to how to save as much as we can. For new development, the Biodiversity Recovery Plan of Chicago Wilderness recommends recycling the land that’s already lost its nature. The inner city “brownfields” need to be reclaimed from toxics and become urban parks, or homes, or employment.

Suburban development does not need to destroy rare ancient nature. If the best natural ecosystem land is protected as forest preserve, or park, or naturally landscaped neighborhood, nature can actually benefit from the coming of development to an area that’s mostly corn and soybeans – if the newcomers go easy on the pesticides.

The developer in

Rolling Meadows gave homeowners the option of natural landscaping or lawn. Temporary orange fencing marked off the lots where the owners chose lawn. That’s where the plant rescuers dug.

This woods was an extraordinarily rich one. Thousands of white and red trilliums, Jacob’s ladder, Dutchmans’ breeches, yellow woodland violets, and other species typical of woods grew side by side with thousands of shooting stars and other species typical of fine prairies. The old trees were massive noble bur oaks. This site had seen the buffalo and fire for centuries.

Rich open old woods are rare. The fire was crucial to maintaining them. The owners of this site had mowed occasionally to keep the brush down, and the spring flora survived well. It’s hard today to find an open woods that also has a rich summer flora – plants like fire pink, grove sandwort, violet cress, broad-leaved puccoon, and pale vetchling. But in our forest preserve oak woods that are managed by fire,

these plants, and the animals they support, are gradually making a comeback. Sometimes with the help of a little plant rescue.



Photo: Pat Walecki



Photo: Joe B. Mioserich



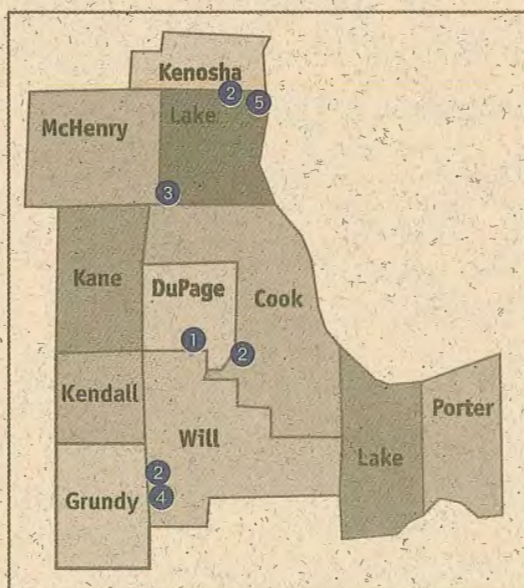
Photo: Pat Walecki

Into the Wild

OUR GUIDE TO THE WILD SIDE



Photo: Jerry Reedy



- ❶ BELMONT PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE—DuPage County
- ❷ PADDLING THE DES PLAINES RIVER—Lake, Cook, Will Counties
- ❸ GRIGSBY PRAIRIE—Lake County
- ❹ HITS SIDING PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE—Will County
- ❺ SPRING BLUFF NATURE PRESERVE—Lake County

Maps and illustration: Lynda Wallis

Name^{that} PLANT

by Joe Neumann

At 6:00 p.m. we gather at a pavilion in the Palos division of the Cook County Forest Preserves. Rich is waiting for us. He is the recognized plant expert among the Palos volunteer stewards. A large part of ecological restoration involves removing aggressive non-native species. But a broad knowledge of native species is essential for assessing the progress of a restoration and for such tasks as collecting and scattering seed. This evening Rich will be leading us in a plant identification session.

How do you identify an unknown plant? A guidebook with drawings or photos is a good place to start. Volunteer stewards have another resource — each other. If you need to identify a plant, you ask a fellow steward. One of them may recognize it. Perhaps it grows at the site one of them works on. Or perhaps one of them has an eye for its distinct features, or was present when a botanist identified it.

The third resource, and the final say in plant identification, is *Plants of the Chicago Region* by Floyd Swink and Gerould Wilhelm. This bible-sized book provides a deep look into the intricacy of the ecosystem of the Chicago region along with a complete listing of the 1,638 native plant species and the 892 non-natives found here. Extensive keys separate species on the basis of their technical botanical characteristics. A write-up on each species includes information on its ecological niche and sometimes a piece of its local history. We learn there that just over 50 years ago tens of thousands of fringed gentians grew in the vicinity of what is now 17th and Whitcomb Streets in Gary, Indiana. Today you could buy gas there, but you'd be hard put to find a gentian.

The "botanist's method" is the one we will be applying this evening. We congregate at a picnic table. Plant samples poke out from the pages of each Swink & Wilhelm. You can tell how serious a botany student a person is by how many plant

samples are pressed between the pages of his or her Swink & Wilhelm. We spread our specimens on the table. Rich picks up a plant. What is it? A grass? A sedge? A distinguishing feature of sedges is that they are "3-ranked." Each leaf along the stem rotates 120 degrees with respect to the one beneath it. Count

up from a lower leaf: 1, 2, 3, 4. The fourth leaf lies directly above the first leaf you counted. Grasses are "2-ranked." As we examine the sedge sample further, Rich points out another feature that helps separate one group of sedges from another. Is the seed "lenticular" (two-sided like a lens) or "trigonal" (three-sided)?

Each step of a botanical key presents you with two options. You choose one, which leads you to another pair of choices. In this way you repeatedly

narrow the alternatives until only a single species remains.

We examine one of the sunflowers now and another plant that is similar. This second plant is one of the *Silphium* family. The tiny disk flowers that comprise the center of the sunflower's head will produce seeds while the petal-like flowers that ring the center are sterile. For the flowers of the *Silphium*, the reverse is true. Seeds form only on the sides of the head — the petal-like flowers — but not in the center.

Everyone who wants to seriously examine plants needs a hand lens to examine the surface features of a plant. The typical one has 10x power. Swink & Wilhelm contains a diagram illustrating over two dozen different terms. What does "hirtellous" look like? Rich points to the stubble on my unshaven face. It's all as plain as the hair on my face? Yes — as long as you have a copy of Swink & Wilhelm and the help of fellow stewards.



Photo: Jerry Healy

Nestled among the houses of Downers Grove is an unexpected sight: a dry-mesic prairie sloping down to a wetland. So unexpected is this prairie that naturalists didn't even know it existed until a local resident led them to it by chance.

In the 1970s Al DePree signed up for a photography class at nearby Morton Arboretum. The class had an assignment of photographing flowers, so Al took his camera to the open "field" where the neighborhood kids played. The pictures he brought to class caused a stir at the Arboretum. Where had he taken them? So Al brought Floyd Swink of the Morton Arboretum and Robert Betz of Northeastern Illinois University to what is now the Belmont Prairie Nature Preserve.

The 10-acre site had five different owners scattered across the United States. The Nature Conservancy tracked down the owners and began negotiations. Margo DePree, Al's wife, used her inheritance to purchase a third of the site. The Nature Conservancy bought the rest, and the entire parcel was transferred to the Downers Grove Park District with the stipulation that it be dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve. In 1979 Belmont Prairie became the first nature preserve in DuPage County.

The prairie lies on the Valparaiso Moraine, formed by glaciers more than 12,000 years ago. The northeast corner of the site is well-drained soil dominated by porcupine grass. The land slopes down toward the southeast, with marshy areas at the bottom dominated by blue-joint

grass. The visitor can observe the transition from dry-mesic prairie through mesic prairie to wet prairie in the short walk down the slope.

Belmont Prairie holds an unusually high concentration of flowers with a low concentration of grasses. Naturalists have found about 150 plant species on the site, two of which are on the state list of threatened and endangered species. Of the natural areas in DuPage County, Belmont Prairie has the highest rating measured by Swink and Wilhelm's index of Floristic Quality Assessment. Insect surveys and butterfly monitoring have revealed several habitat-restricted species.

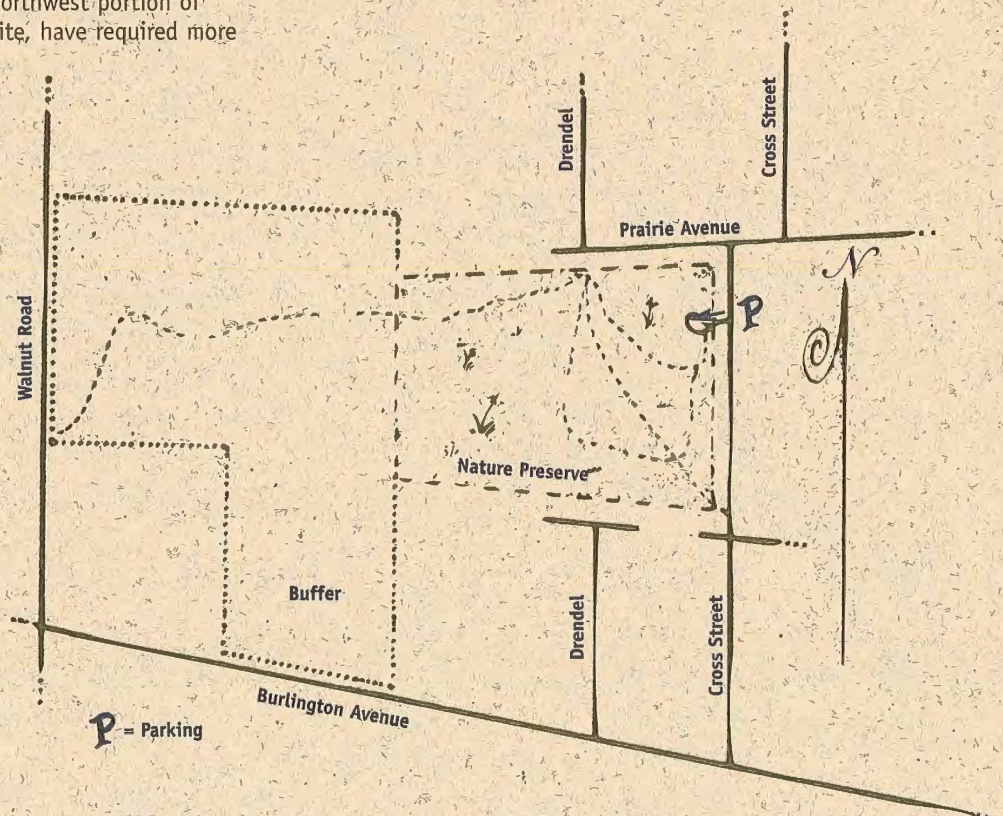
Volunteers and Park District staff are working to maintain and enhance this natural area. While the prairie portion of the site needed only burning and some brush removal to return it to health, the wetter areas, especially in the northwest portion of the site, have required more

attention. The District has cleared brush and seeded in this area and has also added a wood-chip trail. Brush-clearing and seeding are also underway in a 15-acre buffer zone to the west of the nature preserve.

The Downers Grove Park District offers public tours in the summer and holds organized workdays. Tours are on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and take an hour or a little longer. Upcoming dates are July 15 and August 5. Participants should register by phoning the Park District at (630) 963-1304. Saturday workdays, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., are scheduled for July 8, September 16, and October 21. On occasion, the District also holds impromptu seed-collecting parties during the week. For more information, phone the District and ask for Sally Kenaston or Pat Saunders.

— Barbara Hill

In Downers Grove from the junction of Rte. 34 (Ogden Rd.) and Belmont Rd., take Belmont Rd. south 0.6 miles to Haddow Ave. Go west on Haddow 0.5 miles to Cross St. and turn north. The parking lot is on the west side of Cross St. a few hundred yards north of Haddow.



The people who lived in the Chicago Wilderness before there was a Chicago called it "Sheshikmaoshike Sepe" the equivalent of: "full of water." They weren't referring to the region's propensity for floods, but rather the sap-filled maple trees along many river banks.

The Des Plaines River

begins in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, and flows south into Illinois as a small, shallow prairie stream. It runs approximately 95 miles through four counties in Illinois to its confluence with the Kankakee River at Channahon where the two form the Illinois River. Along the way its character changes from a prairie creek, to a suburban stream, to a large urbanized river, to a major industrial waterway.

Fortunately for paddlers, the Lake and Cook County Forest Preserve Districts have protected long stretches of the river by creating a nearly continuous greenway though all of Lake County and the northern section of Cook County. Several forest preserves in Lake County have developed canoe launch sites that make it easy to explore that part of the river, Cook County has several launch sites but there is a 23-mile gap between the first at Allison Woods in Northbrook and the next downstream in Plank Road Meadow at First Ave. & Ogden. The lack of ramps for trailered-boats makes this long river a quiet, family-friendly river.

A complex of natural areas on the lower Des Plaines provide a rich experience for paddling naturalists. Several Illinois nature preserves lie along the banks of the Des Plaines including some of the highest quality and rarest types of prairie. Cormorants,

egrets, and great blue heron soar above while several kinds of water-loving rodents share the river with your boat.

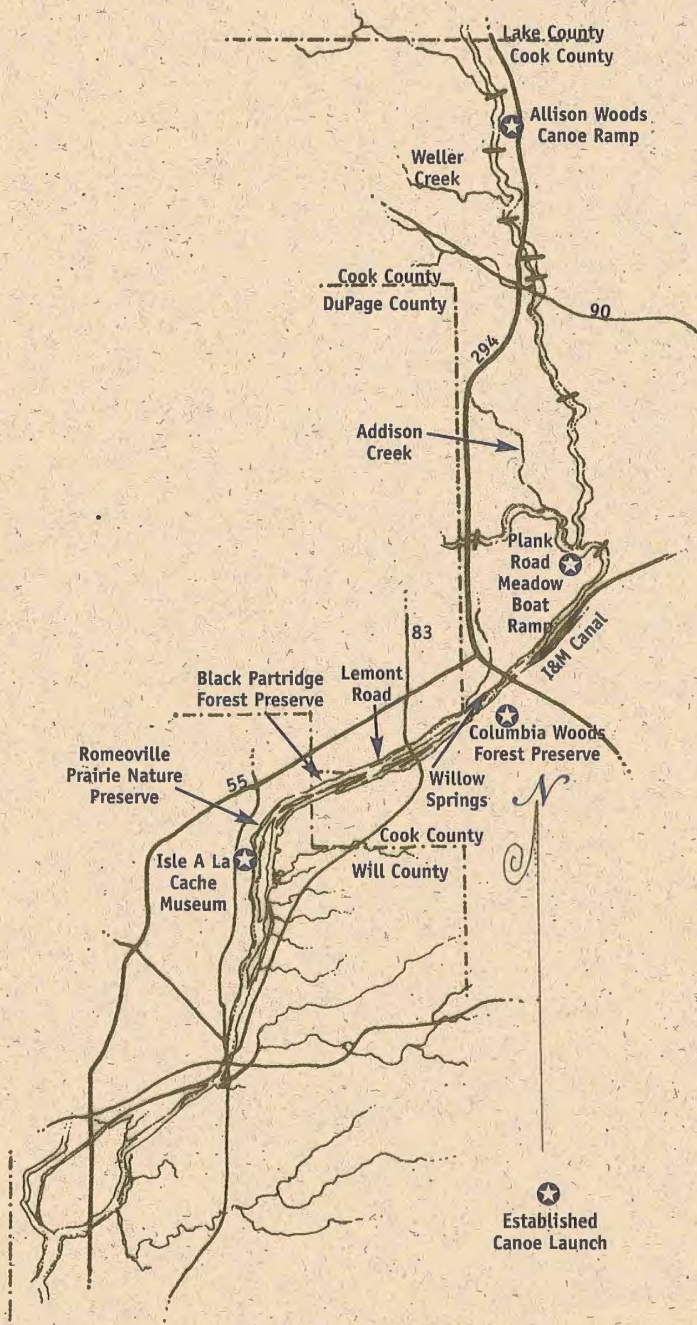
You can put-in at the canoe ramp at Columbia Woods Forest Preserve in Willow Springs (use the side of the ramp, not the corrugated concrete ramp to launch and land). Paddle 6.5 miles to the Lemont Road Bridge. Wooded banks along this stretch give little indication of the industry and residences behind the riparian buffer.

The 5.5-mile section between the Lemont Road Bridge and historic Isle a la Cache offers several attractions. Along the right bank of the first two miles of this stretch is Black Partridge Forest Preserve. Its marshy river frontage is prime real estate for fishing birds and paddling anglers. Approximately 3 miles downstream is Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve on the right bank all the way to Romeo Road (135th St.). The take-out is on the left just after you pass under the Romeo Road bridge on the west side of Isle a la Cache, one of the only islands in the river. It was used as a storage place by the first fur trappers and traders in this region more than 200 years ago. A small museum on the site interprets the local fur trade era history and provides an interesting destination at the end of this trip.

Canoe rentals and shuttles are available from Will-U-Canoe in Willow Springs.

Call: (877) 937-4945 or (708) 839-2311.

— Gary Mechanic



Grigsby Prairie is a prairie built from scratch. Only 13 years ago the 38-acre site was a fallow field, impoverished of the prairie forbs and grasses that most likely flourished there in pre-settlement times. But today the prairie is a kaleidoscope of more than 100 species of native plants that provide habitat for nesting grassland birds and a living laboratory for restorationists and the local community.

The critical ingredients of this dramatic transformation have been three-fold: a generous and public-spirited landowner, a local conservation group with a vision, and scores of dedicated volunteers.

In 1983, a Barrington Hills resident approached Barrington-based Citizens for Conservation (CFC) wondering if a sizable portion of her valuable property might have potential as a nature reserve. She liked the open character of the field, hoped that it might harbor a variety of flowers, and loved grassland birds.

CFC and, particularly, its restoration specialist, Tom Vanderpoel, recognized an extraordinary opportunity. Vanderpoel was well acquainted with patches of native prairie that lingered in the area, much of it along the Chicago & Northwestern railroad tracks. He also knew that prairie remnants were disappearing quickly and hoped for a sizable place to sow seed from those remnants in order to perpetuate prairie plants. The Barrington Hills site, with its rolling topography, was perfect.

An initial donation of 25

acres to CFC got the project rolling. By the summer of 1986, Vanderpoel was training volunteer seed-pickers, most of whom were entirely new to prairie plants, to recognize and collect seed, from porcupine grass in late June to little bluestem in late October. Seed-picking outings have continued every year since, at the rate of two to three per week in the harvest season. Ninety-five percent of the seed has come from within 15 miles of the site.

Volunteers sowed the seed each spring, with mixes assembled according to topography and soil type. When they got news of pending destruction of sites with native plants, they conducted plant rescues and brought species such as yellow stargrass, prairie phlox and bastard toadflax to a new home at Grigsby. "The spring flora are the hardest to get seed from," explains Vanderpoel, "so those rescued plugs were especially important and now are producing seed we can collect."

"We've made a major effort with little bluestem, porcupine grass, and dropseed," he adds. "Our goal is to restore as much native plant diversity as possible, from wet prairie to savanna to dry prairie." He's especially proud of success with spring flora, guessing that as many as 5,000 shooting stars now grow at Grigsby. "The prairie has come along more quickly than we hoped."

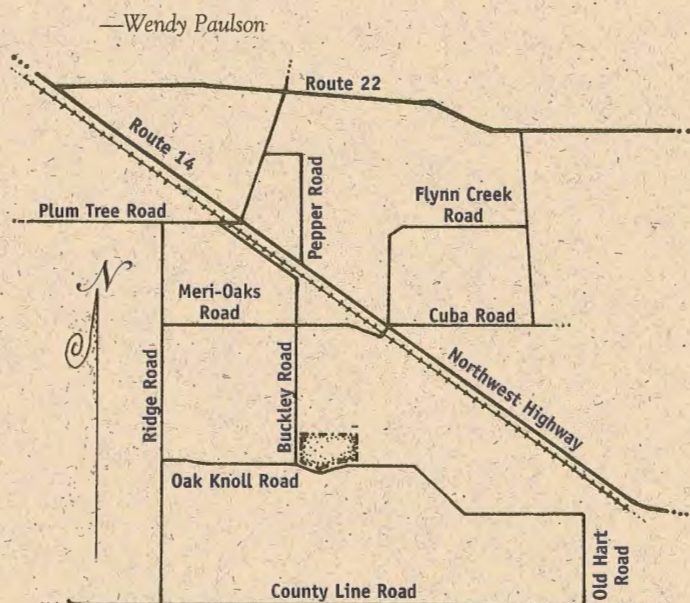
Another major goal is providing habitat for migratory birds and breeding grassland species. Several prairie potholes have been added to the site, thanks to collaboration with the US

Fish & Wildlife Service and mitigation agreements. These potholes attract a variety of ducks and wading birds in the spring and provide spawning habitat for hundreds of leopard frogs and toads. Grassland birds that breed regularly at Grigsby Prairie include grasshopper and savanna sparrows, Eastern meadowlark, and bobolink. Last year, Vanderpoel estimates that nine pairs of bobolinks may have nested there. Nest boxes regularly attract three or four pairs of bluebirds.

Last year volunteers, including garden clubs, church groups, and high school students, devoted more than 755 hours to seed collection. This year, a "Pennies for the Prairie" project at local elementary schools contributed funds for equipment. A mowed trail winds through the preserve, which is in its most splendid form from July 4 through October.

To help out or simply to walk in the wild, call Citizens for Conservation at (847) 382-7283.

Take I-90 to Barrington Road exit. Go north to Lake-Cook intersection, then west. Turn right onto Old Hart Rd. Take next left on Oak Knoll Rd. and proceed a couple of miles. Grigsby Prairie is on right, behind chain link fence, just before intersection with Buckley Rd. You'll need permission from Citizens for Conservation to enter, (847) 382-7283.



DIRECTIONS

From Wilmington, follow Rte. 53 west to Strip Mine Rd. At this intersection, Rte. 53 veers southwest while Strip Mine Rd. continues west. The nature preserve is about a half-mile down Rte. 53 on the west side and is marked only with small signs. Parking is in a grassy area that may or may not be mowed.

The 260-acre nature preserve at Hitts Siding offers a mosaic of natural communities, including prairie, sand savanna, sedge meadow, marsh, and sand ponds. The diversity of habitats on the site allows it to support more than 300 native plant species and a variety of wildlife, including pocket gophers and 19 species of reptiles and amphibians. Seven of the species known to breed on the site (two insects, one turtle, one bird, and three plants) are on the Illinois list of endangered and threatened species. Reports of several other threatened species are unconfirmed.

The Kankakee Torrent, an immense flood of meltwater from the Wisconsin glaciation, swept over this

land about 15,500 years ago and left behind the sandy outwash on which the nature preserve sits. It is part of the Prairie Parklands planning area and near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory identified Hitts Siding as an area of statewide significance in 1976. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) acquired the land in 1994 and dedicated it as a nature preserve in 1996.

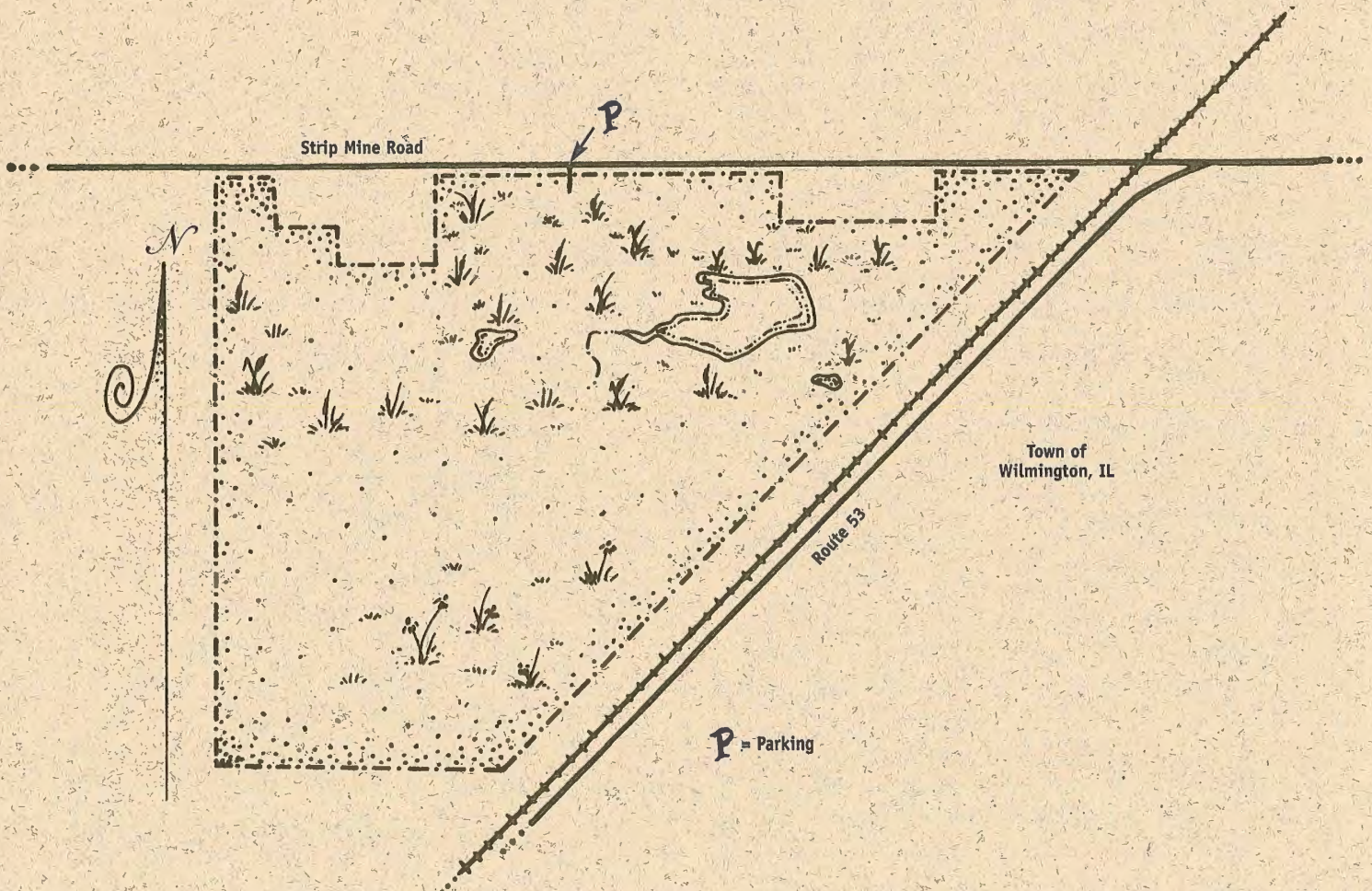
While part of the area was mined for sand 40 or more years ago, leaving behind today's sand ponds, an accident of geology left most of Hitts Siding largely undisturbed. A coal seam just to the west of the natural area was strip-mined,

but the seam heads down at an angle, making it too deep for strip-mining here.

Today the nature preserve is maintained and improved by IDNR staff and volunteers. Brush was encroaching on the site when IDNR acquired it, leaving the habitat too fragmented for nesting grassland birds. However, as the invasive brush is cleared and burned, Bill Glass of IDNR expects to see these birds return.

Workdays at the site are organized through Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. For more information, call (815) 423-6370.

—Barbara Hill



Spring Bluff Nature Preserve is the perfect answer to nature lovers who want to see it all but on any given day can't decide whether to visit a wetland, prairie, or black oak savanna.

Volunteer steward Patty Kelley Smith describes Spring Bluff as "one of the most unusual places in the state." What makes it unusual is the diversity of habitats — four communities of prairie (mesic, dry-mesic sand, mesic sand, wet sand), savanna and wetland — within a 274-acre area.

The preserve's topography consists primarily of dune-and-swale similar to that of adjacent Illinois Beach State Park. As continental glaciers receded roughly 12,000 years ago, moraines formed along the Lake Michigan shoreline that indicate the highest water levels during the glacial recession. Water level fluctuation has resulted in a series of beach ridges with wet swales in between the ridges. The oldest of these ridges is approximately 3,500 years old and is located near the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The youngest, about 80 years old, is located at the southernmost end of Illinois Beach Nature Preserve.

In the 1800s pioneer developers had purchased 120 acres of low-priced, undeveloped land, which they divided into 1,828 lots and sold at the Columbian Exposition. However, only 12 homes were constructed, and most of the lots became the property of Lake County when owners defaulted on real estate taxes. Lake County Forest Preserves initiated purchase of Spring Bluff property in 1963, and in 1982 began extensive

restoration by removing alien trees and planting native vegetation at the former developed sites.

Patty says the reason she loves to volunteer at Spring Bluff is because of the opportunity it affords for educating others about different habitats. One source of helping hands for restoration work is Patty's husband, Tom Smith, Conservation Volunteer Coordinator in the Education Department for the Lake County Forest Preserves. In 1999, more than 1,600 volunteers logged more than 12,000 hours removing buckthorn, honeysuckle, grapevine, purple loosestrife, and garlic mustard throughout the preserves. At Spring Bluff, in addition to clearing invasive vegetation, volunteers from the Boy Scouts and the Youth Conservation Corps put up boxes for owls, kestrels, bats, and bluebirds.

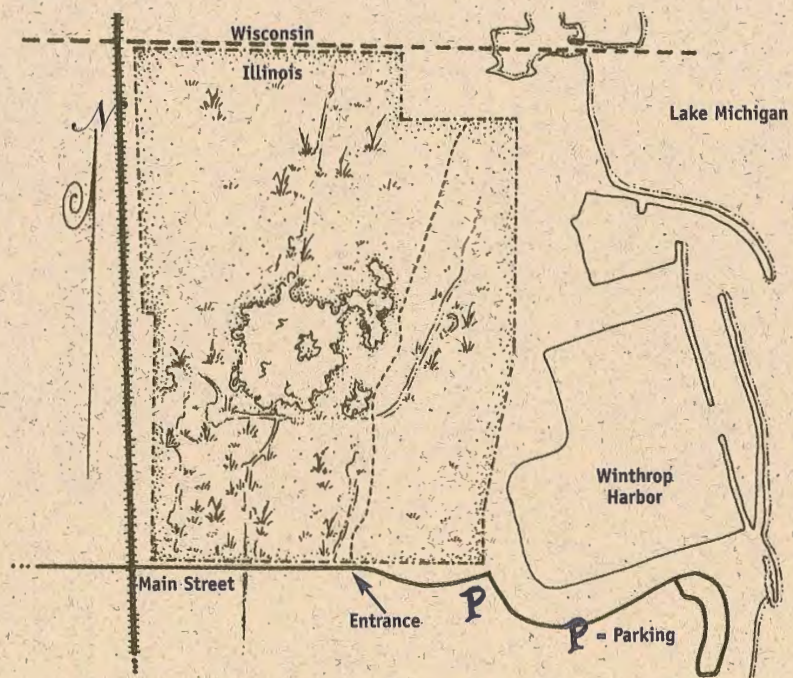
Because of the diverse habitat, visitors will enjoy a spectrum of fauna and vegetation not found within the confines of other single nature preserves. Bluebirds and kestrels are common.

Notable breeding species of wildlife include kingfisher, woodcock, Henslow's sparrow, king rail, upland sandpiper, common snipe, least bittern, American bittern, and Virginia rail.

For a tour of Spring Bluff Nature Preserve, call Tom Smith at (847) 968-3329 and either he or Patty will be glad to share this special site with visitors. Visitors may walk unescorted almost the full length of the preserve, south to north, about a half mile, on a closed asphalt road. "Even from the asphalt path you're likely to see black-crowned night herons, green herons, and marsh wrens," Patty says. "It's like walking into a different world." But Patty suggests that visitors should let her, or Tom, or someone else familiar with the area, accompany them if they wish to enter the preserve. "It's not exactly a jungle walk, but it could pull a lot of surprises on someone not familiar with it. You could fall in a marsh or get lost." She also advises to take precautions for ticks.

— Jean Pascual

From I-94, exit at Rte. 173 East. Follow Rte. 173 to Sheridan Rd. Go north on Sheridan, through the Village of Zion and into Winthrop Harbor. At the light at 7th & Main St., turn right on 7th and go east until you see the North Point Marina at the lake. Park in spaces marked "Public Access, Not for Slip Holders." The closed asphalt road blocked from public access that leads through Spring Bluff Nature Preserve is just west of this parking lot's marina access.



Natural Events

C A L E N D A R

Here's what's debuting on nature's stage in Chicago Wilderness by Jack MacRae

SUMMER 2000

JULY/AUGUST

Red-Eye Concert

Through the hottest days of summer, the red-eyed vireo will continue to sing its short, simple song. Raising their offspring in our parks, the red-eyed vireo may be the most prolific singer of all North American birds.

Researchers found one individual repeating the same song 22,197 times in a 10-hour period! Sort of like a Grateful Dead concert for the avian world.

Goat Suckers

My mother used to call them onomatopoeia birds. That is, birds named for their calls. Whip-poor-wills are well known examples. Along with the more common nighthawk, whip-poor-wills belong to the bird family known as goat suckers from the charming, albeit silly, notion that these birds used their wide mouths to suck the milk out of lactating nanny goats. Actually, they use their wide mouths for scooping cecropia moths and June bugs out of the late evening sky. These birds spend their days flat on their belly, lying on the ground or on wide, horizontal branches. At nightfall listen for them to call their name in large tracts of lands with a mosaic of wooded and open areas.

Turtleheads and Butterflies

The rare and beautiful Baltimore checkerspot butterflies have been spotted flitting over the bogs and fens of Lake and McHenry Counties. The females are in search of the creamy white, pink-fringed flowers of the white turtlehead, an uncommon member of the snapdragon family and the only plant she will lay her eggs on. White turtlehead grows in wet soils and has rebounded nicely in some

preserves since the reintroduction of fire into the natural systems.

Hootchie Cootchie Man

Willie Dixon was one of the great bluesmen of the Chicago Wilderness. He wrote in his classic love song, *Hootchie Cootchie Man*, that he was in possession of a John de Conqueroo, which he intended to use in casting a spell on his girlfriend. He was actually singing about the root of the St. John's Wort, a plant with several species growing in the region. Folklore contended the root of St. John's Wort was an important source of mystic power. One of the endangered wetland varieties, marsh St. John's wort, is found only in a few wet areas of the Chicago Wilderness.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Morainal Retentive

For my money, the baby northern red belly snakes currently being born are the cutest little reptiles you've ever seen. They're scarcely three inches long at birth, and have the same attractive red belly and dark back as their secretive parents. Red bellies are the smallest snakes in the Chicago Wilderness, with adults usually measuring less than 10 inches. They live only in the forested, morainal areas, occasionally in wet meadows, but never far from trees.

Joe Who?

Joe-Pye weed is a seven-foot tall plant that grows in our sun-dappled savannas. The large, lavender blossoms blooming in late summer seem to be a favorite of an assortment of swallowtail butterflies. There are a number of stories about the origin of this plant's unusual name, but most refer to medicinal properties attributed to the

plant against disease, specifically typhoid fever. One story has jopi as the native word for typhoid fever.

Another widely spread story contends that there was a native doctor in colonial America named Joe Pye, who used this plant for curing typhoid. Also, Chippewa Indian mothers bathed fretful children in a tea made from this plant to bring restful sleep. If anyone knows the real stories, please let me know.

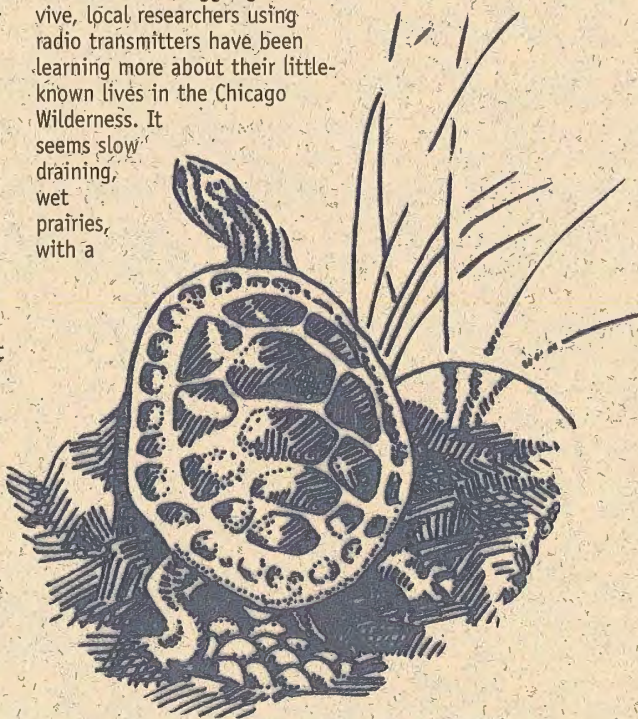
Road Vipers

August appears to be a month of increased activity for our local pit vipers. Not too long ago, on late August afternoons, massasauga rattlesnakes could be seen crossing roads near the Lake-Cook County border. Last August, a road-killed adult massasauga was found near Crete, Illinois. While small, isolated populations of these state endangered rattlesnakes are struggling to survive, local researchers using radio transmitters have been learning more about their little-known lives in the Chicago Wilderness. It seems slow draining, wet prairies, with a

good population of prairie crayfish adjacent to dry areas with shrubs all seem to be part of the massasauga habitat. Let's hope they stay off the road.

On the Wing

During these cool early fall evenings, in the skies over our heads, our local red bats are mating on the wing. The females have said goodbye to their last brood and are ready to start the cycle again. Shortly after copulation, red bats will take off for warmer weather down south. The female will store her mate's sperm through the fall and winter, postponing ovulation and fertilization until she returns to our area next spring. Sentimental, don't you think?



Grassland Crayfish: Burrowing Deep

We often think of crayfishes as living in water. However, in Chicago Wilderness, three crayfish species surprise us when their burrows show up on dry land. The most com-

mon of our burrowing species is the prairie or grassland crayfish (*Procambarus gracilis*). it may spill over to form spoil piles or even small "chimneys" at the burrow entrance. Because crayfishes breathe with gills, they must always maintain some degree of contact with water,

and burrows usually extend deep enough that the occupant can retreat to, or below, the water table. In the case of the grassland crayfish, burrows can be six feet deep, or more. Thus, in areas where pond hydroperiod or water table depth is unpredictable,

deep burrows are important retreats in which the crustacean occupants can wait for rain and conditions that allow brief overland movements. These movements are most likely to occur on warm and humid (or rainy) days or nights in spring and summer. Stewards, naturalists, and others who prowl Chicago Wilderness on rainy days often encounter small crayfishes plodding clumsily across the ground.

While crayfishes are among our most recognizable invertebrates, surprisingly little is known about their biology. Of particular interest is the role they may play in the health of local natural communities. There is general agreement that grassland crayfish (and other burrowing species) may be important symbionts of animals that use the crayfishes' burrows as retreats or places to hibernate in winter. Among these are several prairie or wetland snakes such as the rare Massasauga and Kirtland's snakes. Crayfishes are omnivorous scavengers, but perhaps more importantly they are frequent prey of a number of larger predators, including raccoons, wading birds, large fishes, turtles, frogs, and snakes. A considerable amount of burrowing crayfish habitat has been lost due to the draining of wetlands and



Photo: Bill Glas/Root Resources

the development on prairies. Yet, some local populations remain large, indicating that the grassland crayfish and some of its burrowing relatives have so far been successful in Chicago Wilderness.

— Mike Redmer

Milton Hans, born in 1892, lived on Church Street in Northbrook. From there he drove his cows to pasture. He wrote this recollection, now in the archives of the Northbrook Historical Society, in 1956.

"In the years when I used to drive cows to pasture in summer and would be barefoot most of the time, —(because the skin grew back (free) on the bottom of the feet, but shoe soles cost money to replace) [I] remember that after warm heavy rains that the ground and especially the road would be almost covered with what we called crabs—others call them crawfish. It was hard to walk without stepping on some for a while after a shower. I do not know where they came from in such numbers, but do not believe they rained down as some of them would certainly have hit a person if they had. I think that the heavy rain ran into the holes they had in the ground and forced them out. I don't remember when they did not come anymore but realized at some time that I didn't see them anymore after a shower."



Photo: Michael Redmer

mon of our burrowing species is the prairie or grassland crayfish (*Procambarus gracilis*).

Adult grassland crayfish average 2-3 inches long, with bodies of rusty brown color, and powerful pincers, which often have a slight olive-green upper surface. Mating may occur year-round, but is probably most frequent in spring and early autumn. In the Chicago region, females are usually found carrying embryos or young in March through May, after which the young drop from their mothers' abdomens and begin growing rapidly. This species normally lives a maximum of three or four years.

The name "grassland" crayfish is somewhat misleading. While *Procambarus gracilis* often is abundant in wet prairies, grasslands, grassy ditches, and marshes, a recent study in Illinois showed that it also frequently occurs in temporary pools and ponds located in woodlands. Most large populations of grassland crayfish occur in areas of clay, silt, or loam soils, or where clay "hardpans" lie under richer organic soils. In these areas, the presence of crayfish is easily determined by their conspicuous burrows. Crayfishes excavate burrows by using their pincers to plow soil to the surface, where

Peregrine Falcon: On the (High) Rise

They are among us, but above us. They are fiercely wild, breathtakingly fast birds of prey that have staked out territories in some of the most densely settled landscapes of Chicago Wilderness. You might catch a glimpse of one soaring high above Michigan Avenue or, from the vantage point of the Sears Tower Skydeck, see one perched atop a peak of the AT&T building. Or perhaps, during a quiet moment in Lincoln Park, you'll notice all the sparrows take off at once. Look in the direction from which they flew and check the outer branches of nearby trees. You could find yourself in the imposing presence of a peregrine.

The American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*): Opportunities to see them in action are more numerous than you might think. This year, at least 14 pairs are nesting in

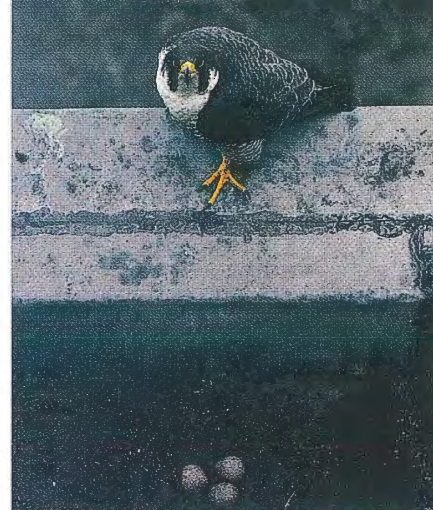
Peregrines accumulated high concentrations of the pesticide in their tissues from feeding on birds that had eaten DDT-contaminated insects or seeds. DDT disrupted calcium production in the females, and the eggs had paper-thin shells that broke under the weight of the parent during incubation.

Over the next three decades, Endangered Species Act regulations, a federal ban on DDT use, and an intensive recovery program involving federal and state wildlife agencies, universities, conservation organizations, falconry clubs, and 6,000 captive-bred chicks re-established the species across the United States. In 1999, with more than 1,600 nesting pairs nationwide, the US Fish and Wildlife Service removed the peregrine from the federal endangered species list. The birds are still protected by state endangered species legislation in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and a number of other states where local population goals are yet to be met.

As part of a Midwestern recovery program, coordinated by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, young birds were introduced using falcon-raising techniques in 16 cities, including Chicago. The Chicago effort

began in 1986 led by the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago Audubon Society, Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

"Cities are good places for peregrines," explained Mary Hennen, a biologist at the Academy and coordinator of Chicago's peregrine program, "because high-rise ledges, tall towers, and bridges resemble their natural cliffs." Such are the subtleties of Chicago Wilderness. Where nature did not build cliffs, people did. Cities offer ample prey and parks with open areas for hunting. The peregrine diet includes songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, as well as those urban staples, pigeons and starlings.



At nest with three eggs.

Photo: Eric Walters

In Chicago Wilderness, peregrine habitat includes a manmade nest box mounted 350 feet up a smokestack at Wisconsin Electric's Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie plant. Eight nesting pairs, all of which were on eggs or brooding chicks in May, are scattered along the Chicago-area lakefront: Evanston, Edgewater, Michigan Avenue, the University of Illinois campus, Hyde Park. The Lakeview pair live just north of Lincoln Park Zoo. Perhaps the best aerial displays take place around Sears Tower. Since 1986 a pair has occupied the territory on a 34th-floor ledge at 125 S. Wacker. Three years ago, another pair moved onto an air intake structure about one-third up the northwest face of the Metropolitan Correctional Center at Van Buren and Clark, less than half-a-mile away.

Five pairs nest in the Indiana Dunes area, four of them at power plants, the other under the Cline Avenue Expressway. "The best place to see the birds," said John Castrale, nongame-bird biologist for the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, "is at the Michigan City harbor. There's a nest two-thirds of the way up the tall stack at the NIPSCO power plant. We counted three babies there."

Summer is a good time for peregrine viewing. After the young fledge in June, they spend weeks practicing their flying and hunting skills under the watchful eyes of their parents – and over the heads of the rest of us.

You can keep track of the peregrines of Chicago Wilderness on the Chicago Academy of Sciences Web site: www.chias.org/biology/cprp. And keep your eyes to the skies.

— Karen Fumweger



Photo: P. Kendall

Chicago Wilderness, following the Lake Michigan shore from Kenosha down through Evanston, Chicago, East Chicago, Gary, Burns Harbor, and Michigan City.

Remarkably, 30 years ago there were no peregrines nesting or living in the Midwest. In 1970, when the American peregrine falcon was added to the federal endangered species list, the birds had disappeared east of the Rocky Mountains; western populations numbered fewer than 400 and were plummeting. A number of factors contributed to the peregrine's decline, including habitat destruction and malicious shootings. But nothing approached the devastation caused by DDT.

Torkel Korling (1903–1998): An American Story

Born in 1903, Torkel Korling made his first herbarium collections from the woods and fields above his native town of Halmstad, on the west coast of Sweden. Church

music had been a family profession for nearly 400 years but, though he would maintain a lifelong veneration of Bach, his interest turned to the physical world. All through school and gymnasium he assumed his lifework would be in botany or forestry. Then, headed for British Columbia on travels with another student in 1922, he was asked by hosts at a stop in Wisconsin to print them a set of the forest views he was shooting with his

tourist camera. That client was the first; with others found once he settled in Chicago. This work let him earn passage home a few years later to inform his parents he was a photographer.

While his professional work for many years was done for clients in manufacturing and advertising, his own favorite subjects came to be those owing nothing to human enterprise, the woods and wild plants remembered from his boyhood in Sweden.

Korling remained more interested in his subject matter than in photography itself. It was to meet the need for mechanical simplicity in capturing unposed expressions of children that he devised and obtained the initial patent on the automatic diaphragm, which provides aperture control for exposure while permitting picture composition through a wide-open lens. Korling also turned his powers of visualization to invention: he built and patented some of the first collapsible portable tripods.

He described himself as an illustrative photographer. His great pleasure as well as accomplishment was in the powers of observation that let him “read” the workings of an industrial plant and then plan a series of interesting looking pictures

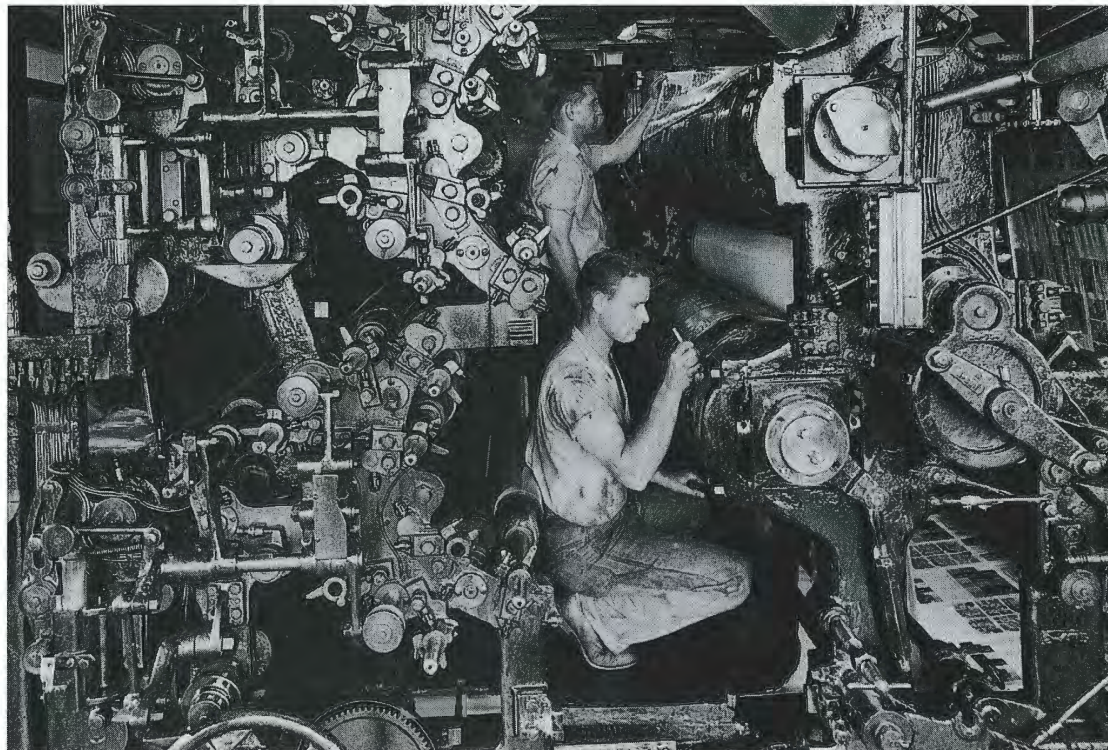
that could convey the strengths or uniqueness or solidness appropriate to advertising or annual report claims.

Two of his long-time industrial clients – Container Corporation of America (1958) and R. R. Donnelley (1960) – were the first to publish the nature photographs that would come to be the preoccupying subjects of his next career.

The deliberate planning of informational roles for both foreground and background had been a hallmark of his industrial illustrations. Onsite he would confront the need to portray a specific shop floor or manufacturing phase, and worked carefully to compose and illuminate as needed the repetition of work stations or product off into the distance, signifying industrial capacity, but by careful arrangement of focus and lighting. This technique came to be repeated in the botanical illustrations, with just enough of a clearly defined individual up front to identify the species, and the background filled with clouds of unfocused but significant ecological clues: more of the same species, if their habit was to grow in masses, or a scattering of associated species that could help make clear the time and place.



Frequently published in *LIFE* magazine, Korling photographed a rooster he raised himself for this 1937 cover.



Korling's industrial photos had the same precision and grace he would later capture in the prairie.

From his childhood Torkel often recalled music, and flowers, and guests entertained at dinner, and then the children chased off to bed. He was the middle child in the home of an accomplished and active musician, Felix Korling, composer, conductor, and organist, in a 400-year line of Lutheran pastors and church musicians. Their home, built above the town of Halmstad, was called Ekebacken, Oak Hill.

Outdoors was where he wanted his children to grow up. When after World War II it became possible to build, Korling selected an "oak hill" northwest of Chicago, beyond the Fox River north of Dundee. Here were scarlet oak, white oak, and bur oak, almost without understory in 17 acres of overgrazed pastureland. There would be a house, a barn for the children's horses, a guest house, and a spring-fed swimming pool — a "plunge." It would be a playground for Korling, too, with horticultural opportunities abounding on north-facing as well as south-facing slopes and along the spring-fed stream that meandered eastward between them.

On through the 1950s, in the woods at home and on back-country side trips from commercial assignments, Korling was building a file of better and better botanical subjects — a file, however, that nobody wanted. "Beautiful!" an ad agency art director would

agree. "However, we don't have any wildflower accounts."

But one of his Chicago industrial clients saw an advantage in that irrelevance. Subjects nobody was selling were just right to demonstrate the quality printing possible on Container Corporation of America's newest food-quality white liner board. Thus in 1958, frozen food packaging executives across the country became the first to

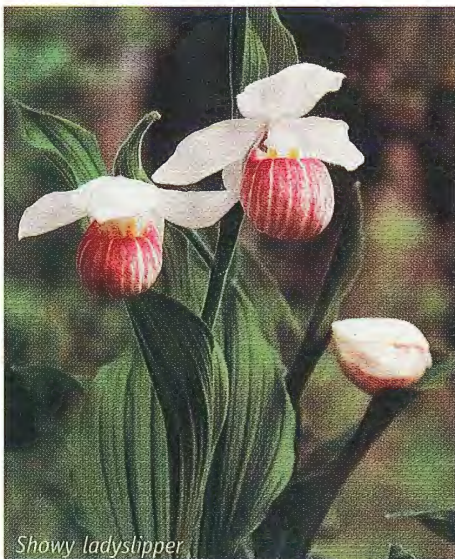
see Korling's botanical art: 11 subjects in an attention-getting, over-sized portfolio titled "Wildflowers!" An even larger audience next saw 20 of his botanical subjects in the format of a small book, *Glory by the Wayside*, a widely distributed demonstration of quality printing by another of Korling's industrial clients, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company. Again the photographs had been selected for their visual quality alone.

When in the 1960s and 1970s Korling turned to intensive efforts at "selling" his botanical work, he built on the acceptance these two publications had received. But there was a shift in emphasis, and with a deliberate intent to prompt a change of

KORLING'S EARLY PLANT PHOTOGRAPHS SOUGHT TO ISOLATE AND ILLUSTRATE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE PLANT — IN THE MODE OF THE ARTISTS WHO FIRST DEVELOPED THE DISCIPLINE OF PLANT ILLUSTRATION.



Culver's root



Showy ladyslipper



Wild hyacinth



Pale purple coneflower

Korling achieved in color photography much of what an herbarium sheet or botanical illustration might include: leaf, bud, inflorescence. Manipulating the focus, editing through the lens, Korling managed to create compositions not only beautiful but meaningful.





Prairie coreopsis

focus on the subject. His own series was titled "*Wild Plants in Flower*" for he was determined, in the spirit of the old botanical illustrators whose work he had consulted as a boy in Sweden, to try to show not just the blossom, but the plant, including, revealing, and emphasizing those attributes that

are unique to each species. Korling worked with the conditions the field provided, no flash; he positively avoided sunny days, recognizing shadow as the enemy of detail. He preferred the kind of softly filtered light that Eastman on their film package inserts used to call "cloudy bright".

Like many artists, he yearned for his work to be seen and appreciated. In 1972 he produced and published a simple volume of 64 color prints and called it *The Prairie, Swell and Swale*. Diane Korling induced Dr. Robert Betz to write an introduction. They printed 40,000 copies using a lithographer from The Netherlands. They sought distribution through camera stores, nature centers, and word of mouth.



Diane Korling organizes an exhibit.

KORLING'S LATER PLANT PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATE BOTH THE PLANT AND KEY ELEMENTS OF ITS ECOLOGY.



Water horehound



Flowering spurge



Sneezeweed

"Most of all I liked the exactness with which your pictures record plant form and growth habit," wrote naturalist May T. Watts after a slide showing at the Morton Arboretum on November 24, 1958. "Your excellent work with backgrounds that enhance without distracting was an added feature." Re-uniting the plant with its surroundings, for greater meaning, became the goal he would pursue the rest of his artistic life.

Prairie – Swell and Swale, 1972

"The object of this book, then, is not to provide field identification, but to suggest something of the richness and variety of native prairie while calling attention to its almost complete disappearance from the American landscape."

– Torkel Korling

"To the uninitiated, the idea of a walk through a prairie might seem to be no more exciting than crossing a field of wheat, a cow pasture, or an unmowed blue-grass lawn. Nothing could be further from the truth..."

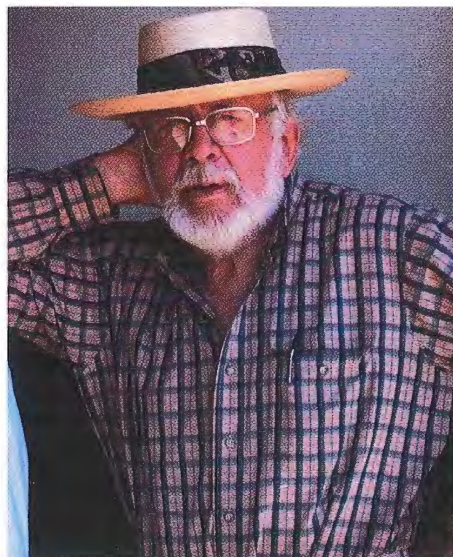
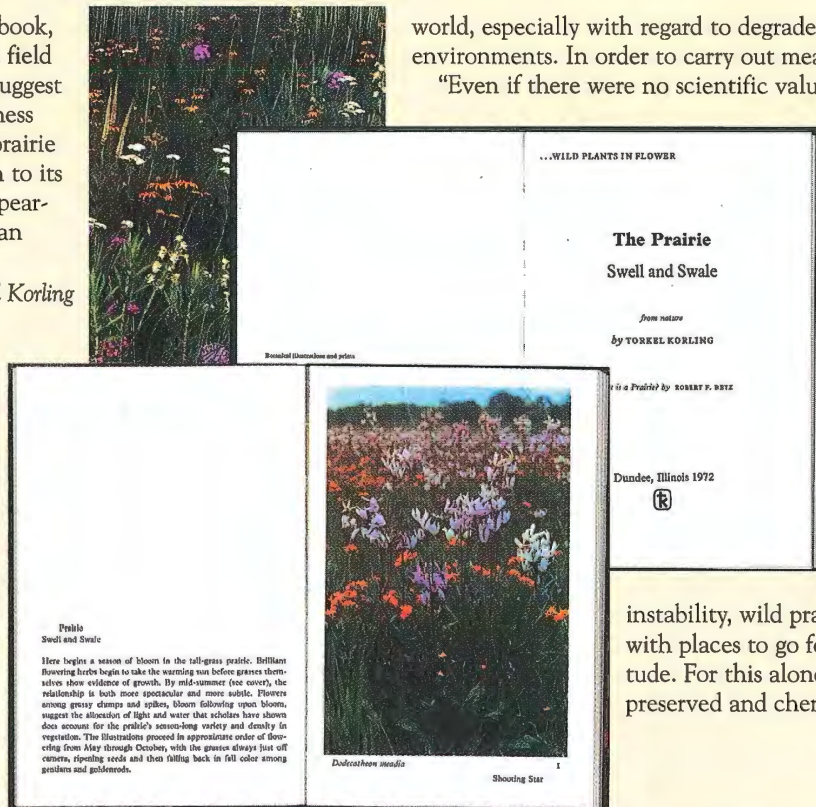
"It is surprising how little is known about the natural

world, especially with regard to degraded and polluted environments. In order to carry out meaningful research...

"Even if there were no scientific values in a prairie, its aesthetic appeal alone would warrant its preservation... It seems immoral to destroy an integral and important part of the biological world from which mankind arose..."

"In our modern world with its artificiality, complexity and instability, wild prairies can provide us with places to go for peace and solitude. For this alone, prairies should be preserved and cherished."

– Dr. Robert F. Betz



This account was drawn from the reminiscences of Diane Korling, who worked closely with her late husband on many publications and exhibits. In the hearts and minds of people here and there, throughout the region, her words and his photographs planted important seeds. Their little books inspired some to go out into the wild and search for plants that looked like the pic-

tures. These searches led to the discovery of several prairie remnants along the North Branch of the Chicago River and elsewhere, which led to the founding of a volunteer restoration movement, which contributed to the establishment of Chicago Wilderness. Words and pictures have power. They can change the world.



A NEW WEB SITE FOR THE MAGAZINE

*Publishing in print and on the Web
provides the best of both media*

by Jennifer Dees

If you appreciate the articles, essays, and wilderness resources of *Chicago WILDERNESS*, you now have another way to access that information — on the World Wide Web. With this issue, we have launched a new, expanded Web site at www.chicagowildernessmag.org.

Today, more than 55 percent of Americans have access to the Internet and over 43 percent of households are online, according to a recent article in *The New York Times*. And they tend to treat the Internet as a giant library, says the article. If they are looking for information about wild places and conservation in the Chicago area, we want to be there. Adding a complementary Web site to the print publication gives *Chicago WILDERNESS* a cost-effective way to reach new readers.

Our new Web site also makes it easier for current readers to interact with us. It's easy to write a Letter to the Editor by clicking on an e-mail link from the Web site. If you have ever read an article in the magazine and wanted to add your comments or ask a follow-up question, here's your chance to do so online. You may be interested in topics we haven't yet covered, or you may have other questions about local birds, butterflies, mammals, and frogs. Ask us! We hope to hear from more of you by making it easy for you to let us know what you think about Chicago Wilderness issues.

Back-issue content will get an extended life span on our Web site, thanks to a search feature that lets you

find information when you need it. As a subscriber, you'll get the best of both worlds — print and the Web. You can browse through your new print magazine when it arrives in the mail, reading articles we think will interest you, illustrated with high-quality photographs, illustrations, and maps. And when you want specific information

we expect the Web site to develop further and grow into an ever more useful tool and publication for those who care about Chicago Wilderness. As you visit the site, please let us know what you like about it, and feel free to suggest any features you would like to see added to the site.

The magazine Web site is linked to

the larger site for the Chicago Wilderness consortium, which also features a new look and extensive resources. That site, available at www.chicagowilderness.org, includes the entire Biodiversity Recovery Plan and the *Atlas of Biodiversity* as Acrobat PDF documents (the free Acrobat reader for these files in "Portable Document Format" is available online). You can also read about more than 140 Chicago Wilderness projects undertaken since 1996 — those that have been completed, and those still in progress.

Most important, both sites have many suggestions

about how individuals and organizations can become involved in Chicago Wilderness. As a collaborative project, Chicago Wilderness can only benefit from the increased interactivity the Internet brings to communication about its activities. Check us out online sometime soon!

Jennifer Dees is Webmaster of the Chicago Wilderness Magazine Web site.

She may be reached at webmaster@chicagowildernessmag.org.



Our new expanded Web site features searchable archives of articles and our "Into the Wild" guide. To get the high-quality photo and graphics reproduction of the print magazine, you can subscribe online.

that interests you, you can search the Web site and find it quickly.

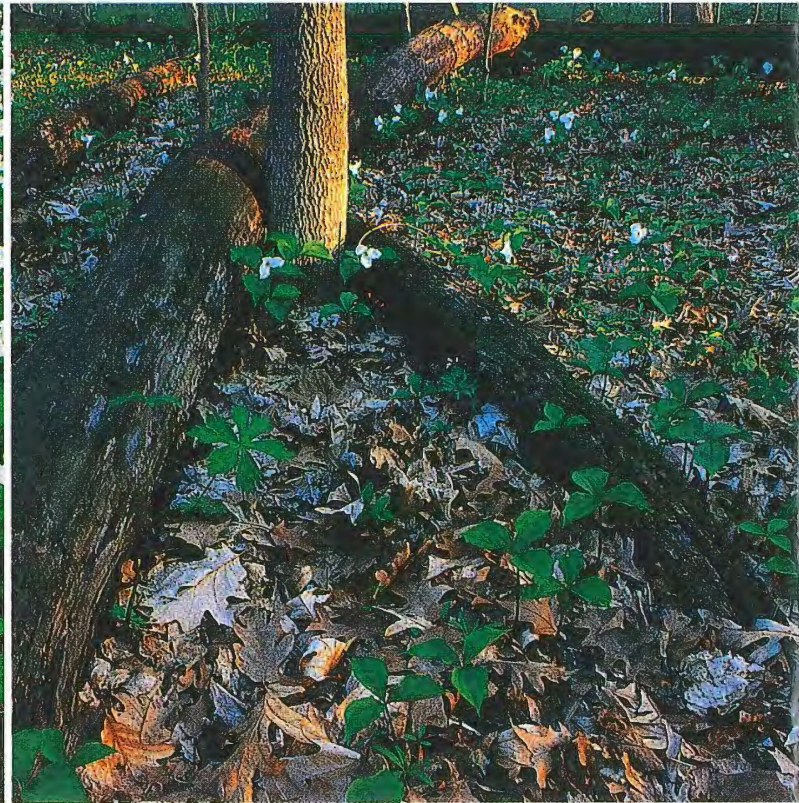
One section of the magazine that may be even more useful online is the "Into the Wild" guide to wild places in the Chicago area (on pages 17-23 in this issue). When you're looking for a new place to explore over the weekend, you can do a quick search through our accumulated "reviews" of nature preserves and other wilderness areas. You may want to find directions, print out a map, or learn about the wildlife highlights that await you there.

The Web is a dynamic medium, so

WHERE HAVE *all the* Flowers GONE?



May 1995



May 2000

Trillium – a barometer of the health of our woods

Chicago WILDERNESS has gotten many letters and photographs that document the loss of this region's inspiring spring flora. The Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan and many scientific studies confirm that our forests face a triple threat. First, invasive species are replacing our rich biodiversity. Second, most woods do not receive the prescribed burns that could help protect against the invasions. Third, in many cases over-abundant white-tailed deer are grazing more heavily than the ecosystem can tolerate.

The subject of deer control was treated in some detail in the Winter 2000 issue of *Chicago WILDERNESS*. The large-flowered white trillium is an especially visible indicator of a fundamental problem. Repeated grazing destroys them and a great many other species that are less visible. With the trilliums go the butterflies, beetles, frogs, birds, and all the other species

dependent on a healthy woodland ecosystem. The letters that follow, and the photographs they describe, are not from trained professionals. They're from members of the public that love our preserves. We found them compelling.

May 1997

To the Director of the Forest Preserve District of Will County

Dear Sir:

I am an attorney in Chicago and on my "free-time" I make photographs of America's wild and scenic places with a large format camera... Many of my photographs have appeared in calendars, note cards, and books published by The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Audubon. I am writing to you about a highly distressing situation that has come to my attention over the past two years regarding Messenger Woods, namely the

likely eradication of white trillium.

Each spring for the past seven years I have visited Messenger Woods to make photographs and simply enjoy the spectacular display of woodland wildflowers, especially the white trillium. I have photographed and viewed wildflowers in many of America's wild and scenic places and the spring display at Messenger Woods rivals wildflower displays in this nation's famous areas such as Antelope Valley, California, Organ Pipe National Monument, Arizona, and Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington. Messenger Woods is a little known national jewel. Last spring, for the first time, I noticed that the trillium were being eaten by deer... The places that were eaten by deer last year lacked trillium this year.

I am not an expert in wildlife or wilderness management but simply a spectator and artist... I do know, however, that the trillium display at Messenger Woods is one that cannot be matched anywhere. The trillium repre-



sent a biological heritage of our country that should not be destroyed...I simply wish to bring this issue to your attention because in a couple of years it is very likely that there will be no more trillium at Messenger Woods. I hope and trust that this issue will be promptly discussed by the powers that be. Time is of the essence.

Cordially,

Joseph S. Kayne
cc: Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine

May 2000

Dear Forest Preserve District of Will County,

Recently, I made my annual pilgrimage to Messenger Woods in Will County to marvel at, and photograph, the large flowered white trillium, blue-eyed Marys, and Virginia bluebells. This year my heart sank. There were hardly any trillium.

I considered trying to duplicate trillium photographs of prior years to show the subsequent disappearance of the flora. But I was so distraught by the degradation that I couldn't bring myself to take a picture.

A friend of mine suggested that fencing could protect the flowers from the deer. But the wilderness experience would be destroyed. It would simply be like viewing flowers in a zoo.

I urge you to control the numbers of deer in Messenger Woods. A priceless heritage is slipping away.

Joseph S. Kayne
cc: Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine

May 5, 2000

To Chicago WILDERNESS,

Here are some images I took last week showing the effect of deer eating trillium at Messenger Woods.

I vividly remember my first excursion to Messenger Woods. It was in the spring of 1995, when a friend of mine, another photographer, shared his knowledge of this special place with me. Photographs, which I had seen of this woodland floor carpeted with spring wildflowers, had prepared me for a glorious experience, but even the best of those distinctive photographs could

not have prepared me for the vastness of the beauty that I encountered that day. The sight took my breath away.

Masses of Virginia bluebells carpeted the lowlands along the bank of a stream that meandered through the northern half of the park. In some areas the bluebells gave way to a carpet of blue-eyed Marys. Then, as we worked our way north, the large white trillium began to appear. First they were interspersed in the carpet of blue-eyed Marys and then they formed their own carpet as the terrain sloped up into the highlands.

I sat on a log for quite some time drinking in the sight of the acres of trillium that surrounded me.

Each spring since then I have returned in late April and early May to insure that I would not miss the current year's display as it reached its peak. As the years have passed I hardly noticed that those once-carpeted acres of trillium in Messenger Woods were shrinking. What was once a carpet had become just a series of throw rugs. Had I been too busy enjoying what was present to notice what was absent? Had the leafless and flowerless stalks gone unnoticed as I searched out the best specimens to photograph? Suddenly, those eaten stalks literally stared me in the face as I focused my lens. As I looked through my viewfinder, I counted one flowering plant with eight eaten stalks beside it. That sight caused me to look around and estimate the ratio of eaten plants to those that were whole; it was clear that the devastation I was seeing was large in scale. Plants were literally disappearing before my very eyes.

I know that trillium are a more relevant topic for the Spring issue, but I think that the sooner we can show the devastation, the more likely someone will take heed. It will soon be too late – if it isn't already.

Pat Wadecki

Over-population of deer has long been a problem for the conservation lands of Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties. Conservationists overwhelmingly support measures to control the numbers of deer, but elected officials have to contend with the fact that urban culture has no easy place for such policies. Rural people recognize abundant deer as "game" to be "har-

vested." Urban and suburban people need also an understanding of predation – and some form of it – in our own "wilderness" culture. Apparently, as the photographs show, the problem is spreading to Will and other counties, as suburban development makes traditional hunting impractical. Be clear: The problem is not development itself. Actually when farmland is converted, as is typical, to a combination of housing and preserves, there's a substantial net gain in habitat for deer. The consensus among ecologists is that the problem is the lack of predators. Whether it be human hunters, wolves, or mountain lions, some sort of predator is a necessary part of any ecosystem with large grazers. Too many deer for the ecosystem is a major challenge for all the region's landowners. We need to develop the necessary policies and capacities to restore the balance.

– The Editors



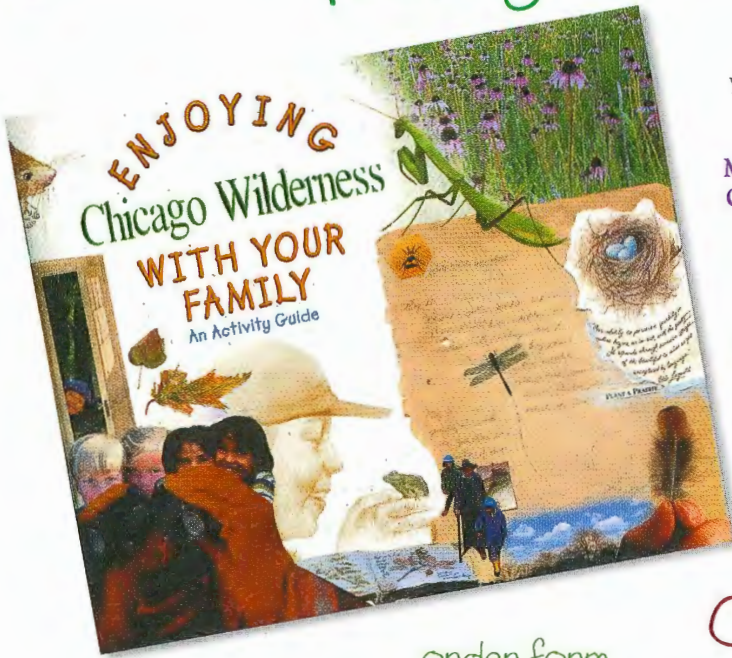
The Forest Preserve District of Will County has been studying deer browse at this and other preserves. Chicago WILDERNESS will report on their results in the next issue.

– Bruce Hodgdon
Will County Forest Preserve District

fun

Exploring nature is fun. Exploring nature is free. Exploring nature is a pathway to art, to science, even to love.

family



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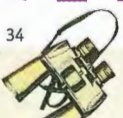
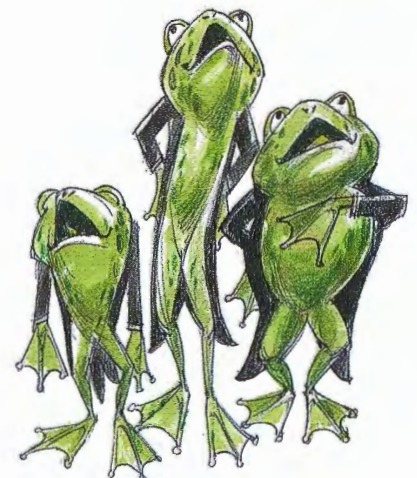
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Or clip out and send in the order form.



1 BIO PLAN WINS AWARD

On June 1, Chicago Wilderness and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) received an award for the Biodiversity Recovery Plan from the American Planning Association, Illinois Chapter. The APA jury was impressed with the number of organizations brought together to develop the plan and how its issues and goals were clearly expressed. Members of Chicago Wilderness, with input from experts and local governments, worked more than three years to produce the plan (CW Spring 2000). The plan identifies problems, opportunities, and recommended actions to achieve key goals for the 200,000 acres of protected conservation land and the encircling open space that is our home – Chicago Wilderness. Free color summaries of the plan are available from NIPC: call (312) 454-0400.

2 GARLIC MUSTARD AWARENESS MONTH

Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson declared May "Garlic Mustard Awareness Month" at the behest of conservationists statewide. The declaration is the latest tactic in the fight to combat this noxious weed's hold on native woodland ecosystems.

Elizabeth Czarapata coordinates Wisconsin's "Weed-Out" program with the Park People volunteers, recruiting as many civilians as possible to identify and uproot the offending weed each weekend in May. Kelly Kearns coordinates action through the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Endangered Species, leading public outreach campaigns to educate everyone from state park users to private property owners on the need for identification and elimination. The campaign has produced a "Wanted" poster and a pamphlet complete with mug shots and species information profile.

— Jeannie Bianchi

3 FEL-PRO FAMILY VALUES

Twenty-five years ago the Fel-Pro Company bought 220 acres of open land in McHenry County. The company's owners wished to enrich the lives of their employees by providing a nature preserve, onsite recreation, and a children's summer camp. It worked. Many of the 2,800 employees and their families spent time picnicking and playing on company grounds. The Fel-Pro RRR vision – rest, relaxation, and recreation – helped earn the company *Forbes Magazine's* honor as the fourth best American employer in 1998.

When Fel-Pro was sold that same year,

the eight family owners decided the camp-track should remain as a legacy for everyone. They initiated a collaborative venture with The Nature Conservancy, McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), and Metropolitan Family Services with MCCD as the ultimate recipient of the land.

Located in Cary, Illinois, the land is now named The Fel-Pro RRR – A Center for Conservation, Education, and Recreation. Last December, The Nature Conservancy began managing a 130-acre portion of the site that includes a gravel hill prairie, savanna, sedge meadow, fen, and several spring-fed lakes. More than 18 species of dragonflies and damselflies were observed last fall – a sign of the rich diversity there.

Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) will operate a summer camp in the 90-acre recreational area and offer year-round opportunities for organized groups. With funding from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and assistance from The Nature Conservancy, MFS plans to launch an innovative summer program called Leaders in Training (LIT). Twenty teenagers from the south side of Chicago will spend eight weeks learning job skills in the field of ecological restoration and land management and will lead younger

children in nature activities at the site.

To volunteer for the seed garden, the Mighty Acorns program, or the Volunteer Stewardship Network, call Nicole Merryfield at (312) 346-8166 ext. 22.

— Michael Graff

4 DUPAGE BUYS MORE OF THE FARM

In April the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County announced the purchase of 615 acres known as St. James Farm, the second largest land purchase in its history. The acquisition took four years to pull together and is considered to be among the largest and best pieces of natural property remaining in the county. The parcel contains 165 acres of natural lands including woodlands, wetlands, and prairie remnants.

St. James Farm now constitutes part of a larger megasite – more than 3,500 total acres of contiguous forest preserves – by connecting Herrick Lake and Danada Forest Preserves in Wheaton with the Blackwell and Warrenville Grove Forest Preserves in Warrenville.

The County will not actually take possession of the land during the life of conservationist-owner Brooks McCormick. McCormick will abide by a conservation easement that prohibits the land from

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being substantially changed. McCormick is also a founder of the Naperville-based Conservation Foundation.

— Kathy Kowal

5 GLOBAL WARMING

Most scientists today agree the Earth is warming, and that humans are contributing to the phenomenon. That leads to an important question: how will global warming affect native communities, including those in the Chicagoland region? Dr. Terry Root, an associate professor in the school of natural resources and environment at the University of Michigan, provided some answers as keynote speaker at the Smith Symposium at Ryerson Woods in May.

By examining Christmas Bird Count data taken since the year 1900, Root said she is convinced the ranges of some birds are limited by temperature or vegetation or both. "The thing we know is that when the globe warms, communities will not move in concert," said Root in a recent phone interview. "There will be a tearing apart of our [natural] communities. That could mean no problems for some species and many problems for others." For example, the Cape May warbler, which migrates through the Chicago Wilderness region in May, is a specialist, tied to spruce

budworms in the northern United States during breeding season. As the Cape May warbler changes its range, the spruce tree may not. That could mean more spruce budworm irruptions, which stress the trees and create drier conditions, more fires and carbon dioxide, and even more global warming.

"Based on projected warming, more droughts will occur on the breeding grounds of 50 percent of North American waterfowl," Root told the audience. Studies show that as temperatures increase, the five million pairs of ducks breeding in the nation's prairie pothole region may dwindle to slightly more than two million ducks, she said.

— Sheryl DeVore

6 WILL COUNTY BUYS LAND

Acting on the \$70 million bond referendum that passed last April, the Forest Preserve District of Will County purchased 18 parcels of land in 1999. These acquisitions encompass over 375 acres of conservation lands. The district also has contracts to purchase nine additional parcels totaling 369 acres. Contracts are in negotiation for 56 more parcels that will add another 1,900 acres to district holdings.

To protect Will County's rivers and streams, the District is targeting watersheds as its primary acquisition goal. In January the District acquired Potawatomi Woods, a site that lies within the Hickory Creek watershed and was one of the largest unprotected Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites remaining in the county. It is also part of the Hickory Creek Greenway identified by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

Located in the rapidly developing New Lenox area, the 114.42-acre Potawatomi parcel sits adjacent to, and thus will help to buffer, Higginbotham Woods, managed by the Joliet Park District. The parcel includes wetlands and floodplain, and is revered by Native Americans because of archaeological evidence of a prehistoric Native American settlement and burial ground.

7 CRICKET FROGS DISCOVERED

Amphibian biologist Mike Redmer reports that cricket frogs have been found by the newly formed Chicago Wilderness Calling Frog Survey at several locations in Kendall and Kane Counties. First found in 1999 by Illinois natural heritage biologist Dan Kirk, these populations were confirmed by volunteers this year. The cricket frog was once abundant around Chicago. But sometime in the 1970s, they disap-



Photo: Mike Redmer

peared from all but a few locations in the region. Is the cricket frog, which is still common downstate, beginning to recolonize via riparian corridors? Perhaps after a few years of frog monitoring we will know.

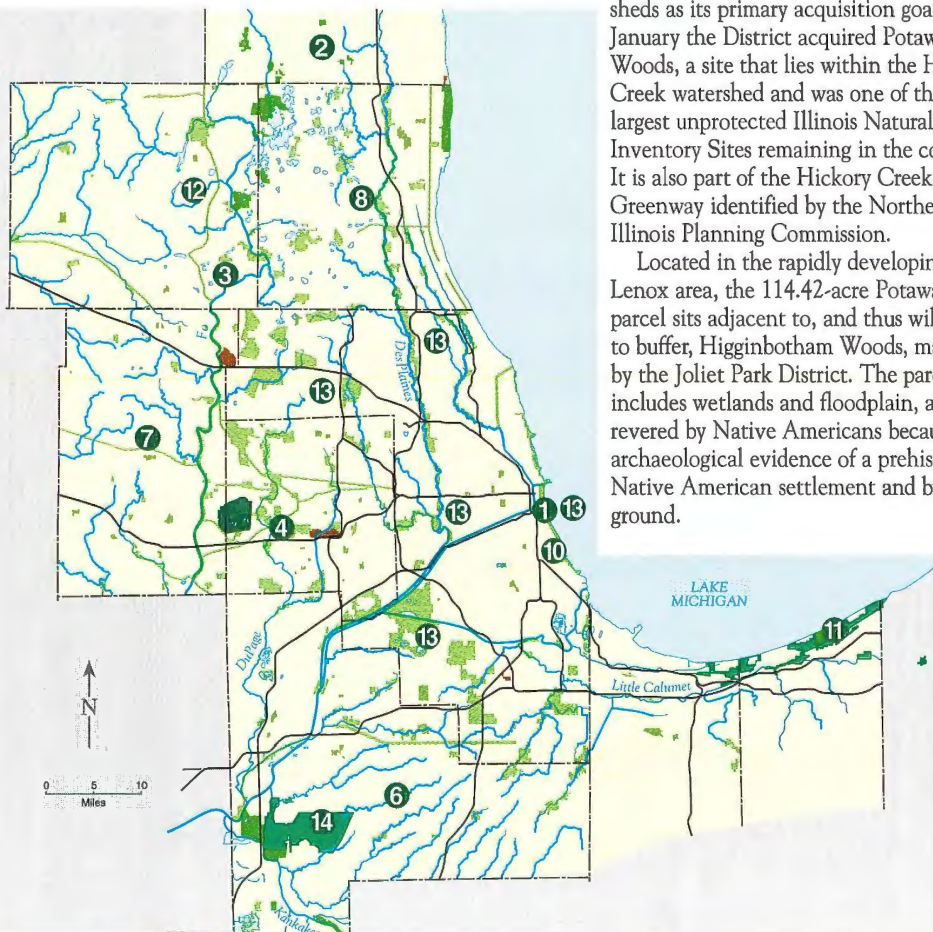
After little more than a month of frog monitoring, volunteers have also verified at least one new county record and provided evidence of several additional important localities. The recent *Field Guide to Illinois Amphibians and Reptiles* (Illinois Natural History Survey) did not map a record for spring peepers in Kane County. But Kane County co-coordinator Mary Ochenschlager was able to show that frog species to visiting experts at two sites near St. Charles — along with Cope's gray treefrogs, northern leopard frogs, and others.

Distribution data gathered as part of the frog monitoring effort will become one component of a planned regional amphibian atlas.

— Ken Mierzwa

8 ITSY BITSY SPIDERS

This spring, in an unusual study of bugs, butterflies, spiders, and other invertebrates, the Lake County Forest Preserve staff found 28 species never before seen in Illinois, 108 species never before seen in Lake County, and two species never before seen in the world. The two undescribed species, found in a black oak savanna, are spiders that belong to the family of *Linyphiidae*. They are both less than 3 mm long and chestnut colored with tiny horns. "We collected 177 species of spiders at three sites," said Ken Klick, restoration ecologist and project manager. "We have also identified more than 200 species of moths and butterflies, including several very rare species. I think this is an example of how much more diversity there is than



The 237 plant species listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois represent nearly 15 percent of the region's native plant species. Twelve of these species occurring within Chicago Wilderness are globally significant because they occur only within this region or because they are highly rare.

we are aware of."

The study identified a rare butterfly at one site that feeds on violets and nothing else. Knowing that, Forest Preserve ecologists plan burn rotations and brush control so as not to disturb the site during the two weeks a year when the violets are blooming.

Collection tools used in the study range from the standard butterfly net to soda-pop bottles containing glow sticks that are submerged in ponds after dark. On dry land, plastic bowls are buried flush with the ground to capture small crawling creatures, and black lights are beamed onto white sheets at night to attract nocturnal species.

9 FROM FALL FIRES

Final numbers are in on the fall 1999 "Best Burn Season in Memory" (Winter '00, p. 34). Reports gathered from land managers by The Nature Conservancy and News of the Wild indicate a high number of quality, slow-moving burns. As prairie aficionados know, burned prairies are healthier (as well as more interesting and beautiful) than those that are not.

Burns 1999

FPD of Cook County	20 acres at one site
FPD of DuPage County	1,320 acres at 15 sites
FPD of Kane County	500 acres at 10 sites
Lake County FP	680 acres at 14 sites
McHenry County CD	150 acres at 8 sites
FPD of Will County	209 acres at 5 sites
Illinois Beach State Park	620 acres in six units

10 WILD GREENHOUSE

Who would guess that the modest greenhouse and garden overlooking the Dan Ryan Expressway is an important component of Chicago Wilderness? But this year, some 7,000 native plants have been raised there as part of a research and conservation program at the University of Illinois' (UIC) Biology Department. For the past five years, seeds of up to as many as 96 native plant species have been reared in the greenhouse. Dr. Darrel Murray teaches a required biology course at UIC to approximately 800 students each year. Some of these students assist in gathering statistically relevant data about the optimum germination and growing conditions for species that form the matrix of most prairie restorations. Some plants need scarification (scratching the seed coat) or stratification (a period of cold and wet) before they'll germinate. Dr. Murray notes, "This research has resulted in discoveries that lead to better timing of seed stratification for both greenhouse and field germination."

This season's plants included an abundance of wetland species such as prairie



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cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*) and blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*). In April, when they had grown to almost fill their pots, the plants were transported to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Salt Creek Nursery in Western Springs. When ready to transplant, they are returned to the same part of Cook County from which their seed was gathered. Dr. Murray believes that "the establishment of seed gardens is a critical next step in restoration efforts since the few natural areas in the Chicago region are barely able to meet their own seed needs." For more information on seed germination, contact Dr. Murray at (312) 996-5450. To volunteer at the Salt Creek Nursery, call Mary Rajek, manager, at (708) 246-2530.

— Bill Eyring

11 DEER FROM THE AIR

On April 24, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore released the results of a recently completed aerial infrared survey of the eastern section of the park. The results provide a snapshot of deer distribution in the survey area, but are not considered a census of the population.

A total of 444 deer were counted in an 11.1 square mile section of the park from

Dune Acres to Crescent Dune north of US 12. Deer concentrations averaged 40 per square mile. As a rule of thumb, land managers are concerned for the long-term health of the ecosystem when deer numbers exceed 7 to 15 deer per square mile.

The lowest concentrations of deer were seen in and around Dune Acres and a section of land along the lakeshore between Beverly Shores and Indiana Dunes State Park. The highest concentrations of deer were reported in Beverly Shores and south and east of that lakeside community.

On the night of March 23, pilot Larry Davis, under contract with the National Park service (NPS), flew his single engine Cessna 182 airplane across the area at an average height of 1500 feet above ground level to avoid disturbing the animals. The airplane is equipped with a thermal imager connected to a global positioning system (GPS) and a digital video recorder. The data gathered from the survey were analyzed with a geographic information system (GIS) to create the map that displays the survey results. Davis believes this aerial infrared survey method is at least 90 percent accurate. He points out this method may undercount the number of deer in the survey area due to terrain and vegetation factors.

For more information on the aerial study visit the NPS Web site at www.nps.gov/indu/news/deersrvy.htm.

12 THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

In 1999, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) dedicated 11 additional Nature Preserves and registered 13 Illinois Land and Water Reserves, encompassing 662 and 2,968 acres respectively. Since the Commission's inception in 1963, more than 58,000 acres (295 Nature Preserves and 46 Land and Water Reserves) have been protected. The Commission's regulations provide the strongest protection available for land in Illinois, yet allow owners, public and private, to retain custody. In return, the owner agrees to forego the right to develop the land or adversely affect the natural qualities of the property.

Two Lake County sites were among those registered as Illinois Land and Water Reserves in 1999. Brookland Wood owned by Darrell May and Webber Wildlife Refuge owned by Joyce Webber help protect and buffer nearby Redwing Slough State Natural Area, home to five state-endangered or threatened wetland bird species and one wetland plant. "I applied

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for this designation because not every piece of ground has to have a house on it," Webber said. "I think the most important part of this agreement is that I can continue to own the property, and that development will not be allowed on the land."

Carol and Tom O'Donnell built their home near Boone Creek in Bull Valley because it was clear to them that the sedge meadow, fen, and oak savanna should not be subdivided and developed. A portion of the property had been identified on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory because of the presence of a rare graminoid fen. Only 133 acres of graminoid fen survive in the state. Several years ago, the O'Donnells, with the help of INPC Field Representative Steven Byers, began to restore the property, clearing invasive species and restoring fire in the oak savanna and wetlands.

Across the creek from the O'Donnell's survives a mesic woodland and fen wetland complex that had been slated for development in 1929. When the stock market crashed, Elizabeth Babcock's father-in-law purchased 65 acres of the site for \$50 an acre. The family has resided there and cared for those woods ever since. Babcock contacted the INPC about protecting the property – dedicated as the Spring Hollow addition to Boone Creek Nature Preserve in 1998 – because, she said, "It's important to keep as much of this area open as we can, and it's beginning to close in." For more information on INPC programs, call (815) 385-9074.

— Alison Carney Brown

13 CHICAGO WILDERNESS TOPS 100 MEMBERS

On March 14, Chicago Wilderness welcomed nine new members, bringing the total to 107! The **Campaign for Sensible Growth** is an action-oriented coalition of government, civic, and business leaders in northeastern Illinois working to promote economic development while preserving open space, minimizing the need for costly new infrastructure and improving the livability of communities. The **Cary Park District** works with the community to preserve and enhance recreational and open space resources, and recognizes the necessity for collaborative undertakings to preserve biodiversity. The **Chicagoland Bird Observatory** conducts and promotes ornithological studies, and communicates those results through newsletters, popular press, and general education of the public. The **Northbrook Park District** works to preserve and enhance open spaces within the park district while providing educa-

tional and recreational opportunities for residents. **Northeastern Illinois University** offers high quality undergraduate and graduate programs to a broad spectrum of students. The **Palos-Orland Conservation Committee** provides education and leadership on preserving green spaces and wetlands and works to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife of the Palos Park area. The **Palos Park Tree Foundation** promotes the importance, protection, and maintenance of trees in public and private areas of the village, and supports activities that enhance biodiversity in Palos Park. The **Town Square Condominium Association** in Schaumburg works to make the building complexes a safer, more environmentally friendly place for residents applying a unique landscape reflecting local natural heritage. The **Village of Riverside** seeks to preserve the historic landscape design of Olmstead & Vaux, who recognized the intrinsic value of preserving the native landscapes for the benefit of humankind.

14 MIDWIN VOLUNTEERS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

On March 26, The USDA Forest Service honored Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie with three national awards for exemplary volunteer service.

Six hundred individuals volunteered a total of 8,300 hours at the prairie – a 150 percent increase in 1999. Honored at a reception in Chicago for their work at Midwin were Portia Blume-Gallegos, Midwin's Volunteer Coordinator, for overseeing dramatic increases in volunteer contributions; Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., for national sponsorship of National Public Lands Day and for local employee and family participation in NPLD stewardship projects at Midwin; and nine Will County Schools participating in the Mighty Acorns Youth Stewardship Program at Midwin.

For events listings, check the magazine Web site, www.chicagowildernessmag.org



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Shrubs

These children are the Mighty Acorns. Throughout Chicago Wilderness they are learning to discipline weedy brush under the guidance of trained volunteers and staff.

Of course, a little weediness in a child's life – or in a natural ecosystem – is an entirely natural thing. But the children here are learning the difference between freedom and chaos. When weeds threaten to overwhelm and destroy everything else, then it's time to recognize that there's a problem and do something about it.

The kids here are cutting saplings of buckthorn, gray dogwood, white ash, and elm. Perhaps you can see the bit of orange flagging wrapped around a shrub stem on the right. It's placed there by one of the leaders, alerting the young crew not to cut that particular shrub. It's a hawthorn, viburnum, hazelnut, plum, or some other species that's a part of this ecosystem.

The tall dark-green trees at top left are open woodland – bur and scarlet oak and shagbark hickory. The tree on the horizon to the right of the oaks is an elm, recognizable by the fine branches that flare out toward the top. Elm, ash, and buckthorn are invaders in these uplands. Gray dogwood is a native shrub that can become aggressive, to the detriment of the system. The open spaces between the oak groves here are naturally a mix of savanna and grassy shrubland. All three of the natural communities here – oak-hickory woodland, savanna, and shrubland – are threatened with obliteration if we do nothing to maintain them. The hundreds of rare and uncommon species this site is prized for would die out, and the resulting thicket would be of little interest or value to wildlife or people.

One native invasive species is poison ivy, often becoming a dominant plant in unburned shrublands and

woods. Here the ivy was almost eliminated by many years of prescribed fire; but this area now hasn't had a burn for six years. Somebody should get the controlled fire program back in gear or tell these stewards to start wearing long pants again.

Until the recent work of Marlin Bowles of the Morton Arboretum, Ed Collins of the McHenry County Conservation District, Christopher Whelan of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and others, the shrublands were little known or protected. Yet there are rare bird, wildflower, and other species that depend on shrublands. Bell's vireo and the eared false-foxglove are two examples of such species that are globally rare. Other shrublanders include the blue-winged warbler, brown thrasher, and field sparrow, all of which thrive in the area where these students are working. The chestnut-sided warbler is a shrub lover that has returned to breed here only in the last decade.



In this context, a thicket of dogwood, ash, buckthorn, and poison ivy isn't "natural succession." It's gradual death to an ancient ecosystem and its ancient species. Fire allows these ecosystems the vigor of perpetual youth. Cutting saplings and aggressive shrubs is a poor substitute for fire, but in the short term it allows us to save the highest potential of some sites, while exercising some of our own.

Photo of Somme Prairie Grove in Northbrook by Gerald Tang. Photo of chestnut-sided warbler by Art Morris/BIRDS AS ART. Words by Stephen Packard. Preserve protected and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Restoration assisted by the volunteers of the North Branch Restoration Project, Mighty Acorns, and the Friends of Northbrook Forest Preserves.

Opposite: Compass plant leaf by Michael Shedlock.





CHICAGO WILDERNESS MEMBERS:

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Brookfield Zoo
Butterfield Creek Steering Committee
Calumet Ecological Park Association
Calumet Environmental Resource Center
Campaign for Sensible Growth
Campton Historic Agricultural Lands, Inc.
Canal Corridor Association
Cary Park District
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Chicago Ornithological Society
Chicago Park District
Chicagoland Bird Observatory
Citizens for Conservation
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College of DuPage
The Conservation Fund
The Conservation Foundation
Conservation Research Institute
Crystal Lake Park District
DePaul University Environmental Science Program
Downers Grove Park District
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DuPage Audubon Society
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Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest
The Field Museum
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Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Forest Preserve District of Will County
Fort Dearborn Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society
Fox Valley Land Foundation
Friends of the Chicago River

Friends of the Parks
Friends of Ryerson Woods
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
Geneva Park District
Glenview Prairie Preservation Project
The Grove National Historic Landmark
Hammond Environmental Education Center
Illinois Audubon Society
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program
Illinois Natural History Survey
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center
Indiana University Northwest
Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center
Jurica Nature Museum
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Lake County Forest Preserves
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Lake Forest Open Lands Association
Lake Michigan Federation
Lake View Nature Center
Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Lincoln Park Zoo
Long Grove Park District
Loyola University, Environmental Studies Program
Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
McHenry County Conservation District
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago
Morton Arboretum
National Audubon Society
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District
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This issue is supported by a grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation.



Predators at work in the forest preserves. (See page 14 for other nice predators.) Photo by Phyllis Cerny.

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