

PRESERVE!

Volume 5, Number 3, Fall 2006

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation and Stewardship of our Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies and Shorelines

Working Together for the Preserve

by Glenda Denniston (GD)

Cooperating to Implement the New Master Plan

In 2006 simultaneous restoration projects began and continuing projects were expanded. There is new enthusiasm for these projects now that the Master Plan for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been completed. There has been a great deal of cooperation and coordination between Preserve management; faculty and students; community, student and Friends volunteers; and hired students, Grounds staff and hired contractors. Most projects involve individuals from several groups working together. Cathie Bruner, the Field Manager, oversees the work done in the Preserve.

Volunteers Make Projects Successful

Volunteers contribute greatly to stewardship of the Preserve. Without pay, they plant, water and care for native plants, remove invasive plants, help to build and maintain trails, inventory plants and animals, and monitor the Preserve in order to report problems.



The Fessenden, Holthaus & Beatty Garlic Mustard Team (GD)

Eastern Bill's Woods Restoration

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve volunteers ordered, purchased and planted over 1000 new native woodland plants in Bill's Woods this year. They also have been battling the numerous seedling and sapling Buckthorns that threaten the new plantings. The Friends paid for student workers to help with this massive task. A special thank you goes to Kennedy Gilchrist who has spent many grueling hours pulling Buckthorn and other weeds in Bill's Woods.

The Beginnings of Savanna Restoration

Work continues on the "savanna edges" called for in the Master Plan. Friends volunteers and service learning students continue to restore parts of Frautschi Point, especially near two magnificent open-grown oaks. They planted over 1000 wetland plants in the gully cleared by ROTC volunteers last fall. Nine UW students helped to plant, water and mulch 13 Bur Oak



UW Service Learning Students Planting Bur Oaks (GD)

saplings along the edge of the field which is being restored to prairie. The "savanna edge" will serve as a transition to woodland areas.

Another New Prairie Addition

Curt Caslavka, recently retired from the Biocore Program, now spends many hours as a Preserve volunteer, mowing fields, planting and nurturing prairie seeds, weeding and giving expert advice. He is restoring a section of the old field into a prairie which will expand the Biocore Prairie (see update page 6).

A New Collaboration of Preserve Stewards

The completed Master Plan highlighted the needs of the Preserve. Diverse groups are now working on many projects: Muir Woods (see page 8); Biocore Prairie (see page 6); Eagle Heights Woods Edge (see page 8), and soon Tent Colony Woods. Now we are all working together as a coordinated team of stewards of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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Friends of the Preserve

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

We Welcome Submissions to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter and Web Site

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Lakeshore Nature Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Web Site. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenehan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to rlenehan@charter.net. To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by September 8, 2006. The submission deadline is October 6.

Fall Field Trips

Additional Field Trips may be posted on the Friends of the Preserve Web Site: waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve

Return of the Natives: Savanna Restorations

August 27 (Sunday) 1:30-3:30 PM

Join Glenda to see the changes in the developing savanna and wooded edges of the Preserve. We will see the progress of the upper Bill's Woods wet savanna restoration, check small planting areas around oaks in parts of Picnic Point Base, see new bur oak saplings at the field edge and look for new native flowers in the gully near Frautschi Point (cleared by the ROTC) and around the nearby big oak. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance.

Leader: Glenda Denniston (231-1530).

Fall Birding at Picnic Point

<u>September 2</u> (Saturday) 8:00-10:00 AM (with the possibility of extending) Come search for fall migrants including confusing fall warblers and sparrows. Co-sponsored by Madison Audubon Society.

Meet at the 1918 Marsh Parking Lot.

Leaders: Marty Evanson and Roma Lenehan (238-5406).

Historical Change in the Landscape South of University Bay

September 7 (Thursday) 5:00-6:00 PM

Join us for a walk along the southern edge of University Bay and explore evidence of the past woody vegetation (and some not so woody!) and some of the pre-historical and historical changes that have occurred. Meet in front of the WARF Building (corner of Observatory Drive and Walnut Street).

Leader: Michael Adams (231-1176).

A Tale of Two Woods at Picnic Point

September 17 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

We will compare the history and current tree species of two adjacent woods at Picnic Point (Picnic Point Base and Glade Woods just inside the gate) and the effects of these differences on other plants there and on the birds that use the woods in the winter. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (262-2754).

Autumn Nature Walk at Frautschi Point

October 7 (Saturday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Join UW Arboretum naturalist Sylvia Marek in a walk along the wooded trails of Frautschi Point and see the fall colors. We will look for plants, trees, birds and animal signs as these occupants of the area get ready for winter.

Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Sylvia Marek (279-6804).

Madison Audubon Field Trips to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

(For specifics (time and place) about Audubon Field Trips, call 255-2476 or check *The Audubon Caws* or their Web Site: www.madisonaudubon.org)

Fall Bird Banding at Picnic Point

September 9 (Saturday) 8:00 AM-Noon

Meet at Biocore Prairie (Between Picnic Point and Frautschi Point).

Leader: Mara McDonald (274-2534).

Watching Cup Plants

by Glenda Denniston (GD)

The Making of a "Plant-Watcher"

As a child, I was a milkweed-watcher, always on the lookout for Monarch butterfly caterpillars, red and black milkweed bugs, and nectaring butterflies. I never thought of myself as a plant-watcher, though. I was just looking for insects.

Recently, I was checking a group of Cup Plants in the swale at the bottom of the old field below the Lake Mendota Drive Water Utilities Building. Two years ago I tossed a small handful of Cup Plants (*Silphium perfoliatum*) seeds from the Upper Bill's Woods restoration area into the field edge. I hoped they might help control the rainwater runoff that floods the swale and erodes the woodland. Some of the seeds germinated. I recorded when seedlings first emerged, when the plants first flowered, and other information. The Cup Plants now form a small colony.



A Cup Plant in the Bill's Woods Restoration Area (GD)

While checking on the progress of the new plant colony this summer, I noticed a group of small, white barrel-shaped insect eggs on the underside of one leaf. When I re-checked the plant the next day, the eggs had hatched into very interesting nymphs which turned out to be stink bugs.



Stink Bug Eggs and Nymphs on Cup Plant Leaf (GD)

I photographed them and then returned daily to keep a record of their progress. The nymphs have since dispersed, but each time I returned to the area, I noticed the many other interesting animals making use of the Cup Plant. I had become a "Cup Plant Watcher."

The Cup Plant and its Users

The Cup Plant is a giant member of the Composite family, looks like a tall and somewhat ungainly sunflower, and is characteristic of wet prairies and other wetland communities. Each pair of coarse opposing leaves joins together to form a small cup at its base. These cups collect rainwater or dew and are used by many small animals, especially birds and insects, as a kind of watering hole.



In addition to providing water, Cup Plants are often a source of food for many insects including true bugs, beetles, and aphids which are sometimes tended by ants.

Hornet Taking a Drink from a Cup Plant (GD)

Many different species of bees, butterflies and flies feed on the late summer and early autumn flower heads. I have found small moths hiding in the shade at the base of the leaves, a secure and cool hiding place. In rainy weather the leaves serve as giant umbrellas for insects and spiders. The seeds of the Cup Plant are favorites of a number of birds, especially finches, in autumn and winter.

Plant-Watching

Now, when I pass by a Cup Plant, I check to see what activity is taking place on it and how much water is available in the cups formed by the leaves.

I strongly suspect that no matter what plant or family of plants you might choose to observe, there will be characteristic and interesting creatures making use of it. An informative web site, www.shout.net/~jhilty/, lists many specific plant and insect correlations.

The next time you visit the Lakeshore Nature Preserve choose a plant variety and see if any of these plants shows signs of animal life. Keep good records and you, too, will become a true "Plant-Watcher."

Thank You

The Friends of the Preserve want to thank all the donors and volunteers who help make our work a success.

Major Donors

Major donors donated more than \$100 since July 2005. See also starred items in the memorials

Eleanor and Peter Blitzer Joy and Gus Sacopulos

Gifts and Memorials

In Honor of Marvin and Ellouise Beatty's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Janet Beatty *

Andrew Robinson and Jenny Beatty * Julie Beatty *

Jov Nelson *

In Memory of Carter Denniston

Maxine Austin and Dennis Dresang Laura and Marcus Berghahn Carole and Phil Betleiewski Ann and Alvin Boyd * Kathie and Tom Brock * Helen and Erv Bruner * Jane Camerini Lois Day Rayburne D'Costa Glenda Denniston * Ted and Marion Denniston *

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In Honor of Tom Helgeson's Retirement

Co-workers at the State Disability Determination Bureau *

In Honor of Richard McCov

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Roma Lenehan * Jean Meanwell *

In Memory of Howard Temin

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2005-2006 Volunteers

Field Volunteers

Elizabeth Abbs Jessica Acher Tania Banek Mary Beatty Kathie Brock Melissa Budde Ann Burgess

Lindsay Stoddard Cameron Curt Caslavka

Dan Cornelius Colleen Cotter Glenda Denniston Kenn Denniston

Dan Doeppers Ellin Dovle Kathi Dwelle

Bob Fessenden Jessica Flanagan Kennedy Gilchrist

Jerry Greenberg Aaron Groth Eric Heiligenstein Tom Helgeson

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Colleen Lafferty Tamara Lawless Daniel Leitermann

Mark Leitermann Roma Lenehan

Richard McCov Jean Meanwell

Lisa Munro

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Brittney Rathsack

Consider Giving a Gift in Honor of a Person or Event

Do you know someone who is celebrating a special event in their life (anniversary, graduation, retirement, birthday)? Has somebody special in your life died recently? Consider giving a gift to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in their name. If you are having a celebration, suggest that people give to the Preserve instead of giving gifts. In this way, the plants, animals, and university community will all benefit from your special day.

Harriet Rilev

Sarah Roethle **Emily Rossow** Ruth Saecker

Julia Richards

Marcia Schmidt Susan Slapnick Sandy Stark

Andrew Stuckey Mary Trewartha

Caroline Van Lanen Peg Wallace

Mary Janet Wellensiek Georgia Wolfe

Unnamed passersby

Field Trip Leaders

Thomas Brock Jane Camerini Curt Caslavka Rebecca Christoffel Ginny Dodson Stanley Dodson David Eagan Daniel Einstein Rebecca Kagle Roma Lenehan John Magnuson Mara McDonald Edgar Spalding Gary Turk Susan Will-Wolf

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Janet Batzli Kathie Brock Ann Burgess Curt Caslavka Bill Cronon Glenda Denniston Dan Doeppers Kathi Dwelle Kennedy Gilchrist Henry Hart Roma Lenehan Blair Mathews Richard McCoy Jean Meanwell William Muehl Lisa Munro Harriet Riley Gail Shea Susan Slapnick Mary Trewartha

^{*} Major Donor

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Dispelling Thirteen Garlic Mustard Myths

by Roma Lenehan

Myth 1: Garlic Mustard does not matter.

Fact: If Garlic Mustard, a non-native species that few native animals eat, is not controlled, it will take over much of the Preserve, forming dense monocultures which will kill many spring woodland plants and inhibit tree regeneration. By decreasing native plants, Garlic Mustard decreases foods for insects reducing insect diversity. Insects feed birds and other animals. Thus, unlimited Garlic Mustard decreases spring wildflowers and the diversity of animal life. In addition, abundant Garlic Mustard makes it difficult to restore native habitats.

Myth 2: Garlic Mustard cannot be controlled.

<u>Fact:</u> Since 1997 the Preserve management team and volunteers have significantly decreased Garlic Mustard populations in many areas including Muir Woods, Tent Colony Woods and much of Frautschi Point. Due to intense volunteer efforts, the goal of having no second year seeding Garlic Mustard has been approached in much of the Preserve.

Myth 3: Garlic Mustard blooms the first year.

Fact: Garlic Mustard is a biennial. The first year plant is about the size of a violet. Its few leaves smell like garlic when crushed. Leaves usually stay green all winter. Second year Garlic Mustard bolts and blooms early (mid May to early June), shading out most other spring plants. About six weeks after blooming, each plant begins to shed its hundreds of tiny seeds. A single Garlic Mustard plant can produce up to 1000 seeds. These seeds continue to germinate for up to seven years. Consequently, eliminating Garlic Mustard from an area where a single plant has gone to seed can take years.

Myth 4: All Garlic Mustard is similar.

<u>Fact:</u> A population includes a range of sizes from very small to more than three feet tall. In poor soil or where crowded by other plants, Garlic Mustard plants are much smaller and may bloom at three inches. In established Garlic Mustard patches, the largest and most prolific seed producers are usually on the edges. In full sun it forms multiple stems with many blooms. A population of Garlic Mustard blooms over the course three to six weeks. The smaller plants usually bloom later and are often hidden by vegetation. These smaller plants produce a smaller number of seeds, but these seeds remain viable seven years.

Myth 5: Garlic Mustard is equally likely anywhere. Fact: Garlic Mustard usually becomes established in disturbed areas. Weeding, brush removal, or planting provides opportunities for new invasion or expansion of existing small populations. Garlic Mustard seeds can arrive in mulch, soil, or dumped weeds. Once present, Garlic Mustard is spread by water, humans (shoes and tires), pets and wild animals. Often new Garlic Mustard

patches begin at the base of big trees where rodents leave seeds. Garlic Mustard frequently grows near fallen trees. Garlic Mustard also grows in Stinging Nettle and Motherwort and any place where competition from other early spring ground layer plants is decreased, such as under Honeysuckle and Buckthorn.

Myth 6: Poisoning Garlic Mustard is an easy answer.

Fact: For poisoning with Roundup to work best, the temperature should be above 50 degrees for several days and it should not rain for at least eight hours after application. Poisoning works best before plants bolt, but should be done at least a week before blooming. Roundup kills all plants, so care must be taken to poison only the Garlic Mustard. Poisoning works best in areas with abundant Garlic Mustard and few desirable plants. Usually some plants are missed, so any surviving Garlic Mustard must be found and pulled in order to maintain control. In some cases, the poisoned Garlic Mustard fails to die and either forms seeds or re-blooms and forms seeds later. These "poisoned, not dead" plants must be removed to prevent the potential development of resistance and to maintain control since any seeds will germinate for years.

Myth 7: Pulling Garlic Mustard once will get rid of it. Fact: Pullers often miss Garlic Mustard that is small, not in bloom, or hidden by vegetation. When roots are left, plants may regrow. People often fail to find scattered outlying Garlic Mustard, which forms new circles, expanding the infected area. Therefore, the best strategy is to begin pulling or treating from the outside, looking for outliers, and work on the thickest part of the patch last. Check the area several times to find all the plants.

Myth 8: Mowing or burning Garlic Mustard will kill it. Fact: Repeated mowing or cutting will cause the Garlic Mustard to bloom and seed at a small size, making it hard to find and remove. Burning will delay the flowering of second year plants several weeks, but they bloom and seed later in the summer. Hot fires do kill first year plants, but multiple consecutive annual hot burns will be required for Garlic Mustard control.

Myth 9: Pulling is best done when the plant blooms.

<u>Fact:</u> Unfortunately, the blooming season is very brief. Once they finish blooming, second year plants become hard to locate and within weeks will have seeds to spread. In fact, Garlic Mustard can be removed any time from the cotyledon stage (these can be killed with a rake) until the second year plants begin to shed their seeds (July). The best time to control Garlic Mustard varies with locality. In areas with a great deal of Buckthorn and Honeysuckle, pulling, or at least marking the patches, is easier before these shrubs leaf out. When you pull bolting, blooming,

(continued on page 6)

Dispelling Garlic Mustard Myths (continued)

or seeding Garlic Mustard, it must be bagged and land filled – these plants frequently produce viable seed after pulling.

Myth 10: First year Garlic Mustard does not matter.

Fact: Since first year plants survive to be second year plants, they show you where next year's second year plants will be. First year plants allow you to evaluate your Garlic Mustard control and to see if the Garlic Mustard is spreading. First year plants, associated with established patches, can help you locate second year plants after they have flowered and become less visible. At higher densities they are capable of crowding and killing native plants. When all first year plants are removed, there will be no second year plants. First year plants can be pulled in fall and early spring when there is less gardening work. These plants do not have to be bagged – they can go in the compost since they have no seeds.

Myth 11: A single plant or area of Garlic Mustard can be allowed to remain.

<u>Fact:</u> Garlic Mustard plants can self fertilize and each Garlic Mustard plant produces hundreds of seeds, so a single plant will produce a new circle of Garlic Mustard. Within a few years something will move the Garlic Mustard somewhere else. Garlic Mustard will also spread up hill (slowly) and downhill (rapidly).

Myth 12: If an area does not have Garlic Mustard now, it will not get Garlic Mustard in the future.

<u>Fact:</u> Unfortunately, Garlic Mustard is many places now. Even if you clean your shoes every time you walk in a park, have no dogs or children and no squirrels or other animals to bring it in, Garlic Mustard can be brought by the snow plow, in dirt or mulch, or on a guest's shoes. So stay vigilant – you don't want to be battling for years!

Myth 13: Garlic Mustard pulling is boring.

Fact: Garlic Mustard pulling provides a useful excuse to get out and observe birds, insects, and wildflowers. Pulling Garlic Mustard makes you aware of soil changes, water pathways, and other details of a property. Participating in a Garlic Mustard work party is fun and a great way to make new friends.

Garlic Mustard Lessons

- 1. Garlic Mustard control is necessary. For complete control, prevent all seed production.
- 2. To prevent reproduction, recheck areas, whichever control method is used. Care must be taken to get smaller plants and those that bloom later.
- 3. Look for scattered outlying plants.
- 4. Pay attention to first year plants.
- 5. Continue annual checks several years after the last Garlic Mustard is found.
- 6. Be alert for new Garlic Mustard infestations.

Announcements

Thank you Gail

Gail Shea left the Friends of the Preserve Board after serving three years. She served as Treasurer for two years, keeping our growing organization on track. Gail brought a great deal of organizational experience to our developing organization. She oversaw the development of the beautiful Friends brochure. Many of you may have met her at the many field trips she attended. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors.

New Friends of the Preserve Board Officers

At the May meeting the Friends Board elected a new Treasurer, Ann Burgess, to replace Gail Shea. The other officers, Richard McCoy (President), Glenda Denniston (Vice President), and Roma Lenehan (Secretary) were reelected.

Students of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

This new student organization will hold its initial meeting and tour of the Preserve in early September. The group plans other informative tours and talks as well as regular Friday afternoon work days in Muir Woods. One special Saturday work day will include a picnic and cookout. For further information contact Zach Hirschtritt at hirshchtritt@wisc.edu.

Biocore Prairie Update

The Biocore Prairie, located at the base of Picnic Point, is starting to "bloom" and has recently been expanded to nine acres. The new area, next to the Eagle Heights Community Gardens, was seeded with more than fifty species of prairie plants in the Fall of 2005. We are very excited to see many prairie species starting to grow and have initiated several experiments to monitor the progress of the restoration. As part of the educational mission of the site, we welcome volunteers and students to help in management and stewardship of the Biocore Prairie. Let us know if you would like to get involved! Janet Batzli (jcbatzli@wisc.edu); Seth McGee (samcgee@wisc.edu)

Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

The Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Station operates most Saturdays from late March to early November. We welcome volunteers of all skill levels and are an all-volunteer operation. Our goal is to document bird species diversity changes during restoration from old field to prairie. Since beginning on September 15, 2001, we have shown that bird species diversity is significantly greater in the restored prairie. We have banded more than 1395 birds of more than 70 species. This year, we expanded our net sites to the newly planted areas of prairie restoration. We always welcome visitors and volunteers. Join us Saturday, September 9 (8-12) for public displays. For information, contact Mara McDonald (mamcdona@wisc.edu).

Greetings from the Preserve Managers....

Managing our 300 acre Preserve for the benefit and enjoyment of all is a tremendous undertaking. The support and encouragement of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve contributed to this year's achievements in ecological restoration, research, outreach and fundraising.

Thank you, Friends, for your passion, work, time, knowledge, and financial support. Your gifts, your outreach through the web, newsletters, special mailings, field trips, on the trail, in meetings, and the numerous hours of careful field work have all contributed to the recognition and successes of the Preserve.

Beginning with this newsletter, we plan to provide periodic updates on our activities. We hope to keep you informed about our plans and progress on important projects. Of course, we welcome hearing from you!

Now that we have a master plan we are all eager to move ahead. Volunteers work to control Garlic Mustard and other invasive species in the Preserve, systematically monitoring and removing them. To acknowledge the Friends outstanding invasive control



Cathie Bruner (GD)

efforts, Cathie has nominated the Friends for the Wisconsin Council of Invasive Species Invader Crusader Award for unflagging dedication to protecting the biological richness of the Preserve.

With two full-time permanent staff now working for the Preserve, Cathie has more time to organize and supervise volunteers in the field. Please tell Cathie if you are interested in devoting some time either individually or with a group to help with the restoration of the Preserve. Do you have a few friends or know members of an organization who can work on a single task or steward a special place through time?

Daniel has been working on the development of a new Preserve web site with an interactive map and numerous archival documents and photos that highlight the long history of the Preserve lands. Web site visitors

will also be able to download trail maps and interpretive materials to enhance their time spent in the Preserve. Look for the new web site this fall.

In addition to the web work, Daniel has been creating new



Daniel Einstein (GD)

administrative tools for managing Preserve funds. New accounting systems are helping us to be good managers of the generous financial contributions made to the Preserve.

Hope to see you in the Preserve soon!

Cathie Bruner, Field Manager 265-9275, cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu

Daniel Einstein, Program Manager 265-3417, deinstein@fpm.wisc.edu

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	Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the la	aw.	

Around the Preserve

Muir Woods and East Preserve Update

Have you been to Muir Woods recently? Over the past year Rebecca Kagle and her volunteers, student employees, and interns have improved the trail system, removed invasive species, planted native species, and initiated experiments to determine how best to repair eroded areas. Students have shown a tremendous interest in the project. Volunteers, including University classes and student groups, community volunteers, and Madison students from elementary through high school, have worked more than 400 hours.

This summer Rebecca and her helpers have been completing a detailed vegetation inventory using the permanent grid, marked by stakes, installed last fall. The permanent grid will allow them to follow changes over time and help guide continuing restoration. Project workers also stabilized the shoreline along Lakeshore Path to prevent further erosion. Soon they will be planting these areas with native plants.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve P.O. Box 55056 Madison, WI 53705

Planting the Edge of Eagle Heights Woods

Last year to restore sun to the University Houses Gardens, non-native and invasive trees growing on the edge of the Gardens were removed near the Eagle Heights Woods edge. This summer the Preserve Field Manager and Friends volunteers began to improve the woodland transition and minimize weeds and tree resprouting in this long narrow strip. First, the border between Eagle Heights Woods and the Gardens was marked with stakes. Subsequently, volunteers planted hundreds of donated native plants, including Ferns, Sprengel's Sedges, Solomon Seals, May-apples, and Wild Gingers. They also transplanted other plants, including Violets and Jackin-the Pulpits, from the garden edges (which will be mowed) to the restoration area. Finally, they planted mixed savanna seed, donated by Tom and Kathie Brock and Mary Trewartha. Volunteers will continue to work in this area, cutting resprouts, removing noxious weeds, and planting.