

SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY

WITH AFFILIATE FRANZOSENBUSCH HERITAGE PROJECT

2010

*ANNUAL
REPORT*

SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY WITH AFFILIATE FRANZOENBUSCH HERITAGE PROJECT

11225 Constitution Dr., Westchester, IL 60154

SaveThePrairieSociety.org/ E-mail: LawrenceGodson@yahoo.com

Franzosenbuschheritageproject.org/E-mail: dptreaves1@sbcglobal.net

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Save the Prairie Society (STPS) is an all-volunteer not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1975. STPS works in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission to preserve and restore Wolf Road Prairie.

The Society's mission is:

- Acquire natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity
- Restore native ecosystems
- Offer field trips, prairie tours and natural historic and cultural programs and events at Wolf Road Prairie and the Prairie House
- Promote a connection to nature through the arts and
- Work to restore the historic Prairie House as a Nature Center and Museum.

Natural Areas Rescue Fund (NARF) was initiated in 1993 by STPS as a land acquisition project to save imperiled "orphan" natural areas and threatened and endangered species in Illinois.

STPS is a member of Chicago Wilderness, Earth Share of Illinois and The Land Trust Alliance. We support local, statewide and national conservation and environmental causes. STPS docents lead tours at Wolf Road Prairie and the Prairie House for student and adult groups by reservation. We offer monthly educational programs and events at Wolf Road Prairie and the Prairie House as a community service, and work to promote the site as a tourism destination that highlights conservation and history.



"Prairie at Dusk" by John Banaszak

ADVISORY COUNCIL

George Derkovitz	Entomologist
Dr. Douglas Dirks	West 40 Consultant
Carol Fialkowski	The Field Museum, retired
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Lana Gits	Graphic Design
Dr. John Wagner	Associate in Zoology, The Field Museum
Dr. Gerould Wilhelm	Director of Environmental Services, Conservation Design Forum



WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE PARTNERS

Chicago Wilderness Consortium
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Friends of the Forest Preserves
Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Lower DesPlaines Ecosystem Partnership
Midwest SOARRING Foundation
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Salt Creek Greenway Association
Save the Prairie Society
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Cover photo: by John Banaszak

"Gabriella loves to observe and learn about the Wolf Road Prairie Ecosystem"

Volunteers at Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve



photo John Banaszak



photo John Banaszak



photo Larry Godson



photo John Banaszak



photo John Banaszak



photo John Banaszak

(Above) A Circular mound of the Chimney Crayfish.

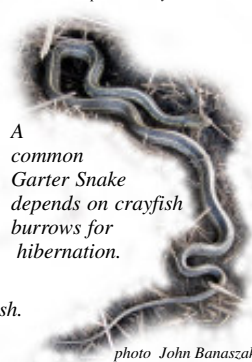


image by John Banaszak

(Above) A Michigan Lily blooming in July illustrates the prominent pollen bearing brown stamens.



image by John Banaszak



A common Garter Snake depends on crayfish burrows for hibernation.

photo John Banaszak



photo John Banaszak

(Above) A newly fledged Cardinal needs cover from predators because its flight skills are not developed.

(Left) The fine leaved grass of a Meadow Vole nest on the ground.

(Right) Buckeye Butterflies are one of the least common species to encounter at Wolf Road Prairie



photo John Banaszak

(Above) Five hungry Song Sparrows nesting at ground level.



image by Mike Roque

Biodiversity at the Preserve

DONORS: October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

(Excluding "Friends" membership amounts)

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!

Contributions from our donors are acknowledged with grateful thanks and appreciation and represent crucial support for Save the Prairie Society projects and goals. This annual list represents support from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. While care has been taken to record all donors correctly, mistakes can occur. If your name is misspelled or should appear and does not, please let us know and we will correct any errors in the next listing.

Donations of \$750 or more

Rosemary Hyson \$1500
Leena Kalechowsky \$750

Donations of \$500 to \$749

Mary Cray
Eric Holby

Donations \$250 to \$499

Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden
Mary Cray & Phillip Janicak
in memory of
Pierce & Kevin McCabe
Lewis Lotoren
Prisella Meyers
Sandra Sehley

Donations \$100 to \$249

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David & Linda Workman
Constance Working
Thomas Worms
Susan Wright
Dorothy Zenisek
Sharon Zoars

Cash Donations \$699.81



image by Larry Godson

DONORS: October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

Corporate or Organization Donations

Earthshare of Illinois/Chicago Area Federal Campaign	\$956.93
Indian Head Park Women's Club	\$50.00
LaGrange Garden Club	\$150.00
LaGrange Park Garden Club	\$35.00
Maregno Tool and Die	\$250.00
Pleasantdale Garden Club	\$50.00
Prairie Club Conservation and Education	\$500.00
United Way	\$47.65
United Way of King County	\$8.72

Matching Donations

IBM \$25

Paul's Pizza of Westchester and Whole Foods of Hinsdale

generously donated pizza and snacks for our volunteers on National Public Lands Day!

Volunteer Power!

Over Six Hundred Volunteer work hours were donated directly to restoration at Wolf Road Prairie and associated buffer areas in 2010. Hundreds of additional hours were donated towards educational tours, the Prairie House and administering the Society. Thank you one and all for your selfless efforts in this great endeavor!

Friends of the Prairie House CHARTER ***Memberships*** (at time of publication)

Carol Anglet - Family
Jim Arbuthnot
Rose & John Argo - Family
Steven Boese - Family
Pete & Beverly Conroy - Family
John & Diane Doyle - Family
H. J. Eineman

Lana Gits
Madeline Gits
Lawrence Godson
David Grimwood, M.D. - Family
Arlene Harrison
James Hodapp
Constance Hopkins
Loraine Kubiak

Richard LaBelle - Family
Edwin Liebner, M.D. & Mary - Family
Paul & Katherine Maca -Family
Rich & Edwin Millett - Family
Suzanne Moreau
Diana Nawrocki - Family
Drew, Patricia and Tatiana Reaves - Family

Family memberships represent a donation of \$30 and individual memberships represent a donation of \$25

Commemorative Bricks

Still time to order for this batch!

**JOHN & ARLENE
MATT & MARK
HARRISON**
from: Arlene Harrison

**IN MEMORY OF
EM MICHEL
STPS DIRECTOR**
from: Save the Prairie Society

**CASIMER
AMELIA
DYCHOWICZ**
from: Helen Remley

**FOR RICHARD
AND ELIZABETH
MILLETT**
from: Richard and
Patricia Millett

**RONALD NOV 22
HAPPY 75TH
BIRTHDAY 2010**
from: Ronald J. Nawrocki

**CHARLOTTE
FANTA
1928-2009**
from: Barbara Fanta

**CHARLES
JOSEPHINE
REMLEY**
from: Helen Remley

**"ARCHIE
GONE BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN"**
from: Laura Osika

**LEAD ME TO THE
WIDE SPREAD FIELD
MADELINE GITS**
from: Madeline Gits

**MARY CRAY
PRAIRIE
WILDFLOWER**
from: her prairie friends

**IN MEMORY OF
PAUL PUSCHECK
1909-1980**
from: Nathaniel Rose

**THE TOUCH OF
GOD IS HERE
REMI J GITS**
from: Madeline Gits

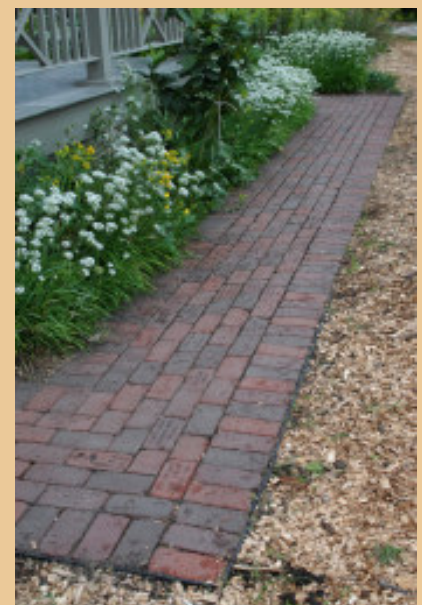


image by Larry Godson

These represent brick orders up to December 15 2010

New bricks will be intalled early Spring 2011

Frohes Neujahr!

FRANZOSENBUSCH HERITAGE PROJECT

AFFILIATE OF SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY

Happy New Year to all!

Fröhliche Weihnachten! and *Frohes Neujahr!* I'm sure that these sounds would have been heard around this time of year in our Prairie school house in the 1850's, as German was the language spoken there. So much of the lives of the settlers is so hard to imagine today, but one can get a sense of the cold winters, the snow blowing and drifting around the intersection of Cermak and Wolf Road, and the wind whipping around the little wooden school house. Before this school was built the little children would have to walk to Addison for church services, special instructions, and holiday events. Especially in the winter, it took them a very long time to make it there. They were happy to get a ride on a cart from someone, and upon arrival at their destination on Church Road their lunches had to be thawed out next to a warm fireplace. This is actually one of the few documented events that we have been able to glean from historic source material. The research committee is continually looking for historic sources and documentation to help us understand and interpret the lives of the people living in our prairie community. This group is always engaged in research of the factors which impacted the mid 19th century Franzosenbusch community.

2010 has been a busy year for the research committee. We have started a new fund-raising project with the *Friends of the Prairie House* in September. We thank all the new members for their generous contributions to the cause of saving our history and creating a museum to serve as a gateway to the beautiful prairie - a meeting place for education and the enjoyment of nature. We will continue to send out newsletters and host great programs for members and anyone interested in special topics for genealogy, local history, historic crafts, and the natural environment. We always welcome

new members!

Early this year the research committee set up a little history office at #9 Hickory Lane to house supplies, files, and information we have gathered over the years. This will continue to be an ongoing project to support our various research endeavors, especially with respect to genealogy and education.

Our Harvest Fest gave us the opportunity to get into costume again and feature our school house with tours, history lessons for the public and beautiful music. The research team decorated the school house and teacherage with antique books, bedding, and clothing, and even showed off some of our special museum pieces. The fest also featured a native American teepee, many vendors, artists, a children's painting area, great food, and we even added an information booth this year equipped with a basket raffle.

In the summer we started a Sunday work event for volunteers. Initially they worked on the front garden and the parking lot with the help of scout troops, and a very generous donation started a very nice German herb garden. We cleaned the brick pathways around the house and re-sanded them. The Prairie house and school museum has been cleaned several times as well. Our volunteers cut many hours of buckthorn around the periphery of the property. This is a great opportunity to thank all those who contributed hours and hours of work every Sunday. We plan to continue the work hours through the winter. Come join us!

So to all - *Frohes Neujahr* (Happy New Year) with gratitude and special wishes for health and happiness to all.

*Patricia Reaves, Franzosenbusch Heritage Project
Committee Chair*

dptreaves1@sbcglobal.net



image by Larry Godson & Lana Gits

Fulfilling Our Mission to Educate in 2010

Schools and Other Groups

In April, Bill Tworek brought his Cub Scout Group to earn their History and Hiking badges

In May, Cindy Pigatto brought her 4th through 6th grade students, teachers and parents from LaGrange Park District 102 Science Club. Undaunted by winter weather, 50 students, teachers, and parents from the Science Club came out in January to study the prairie life in the winter. The students learned much about the animals by following their tracks in the snow. They learned how animals adapt to winter prairie life. The students also learned how they themselves adapted to the cold weather that day.

Also in May, Sandra Flowers from Longfellow Elementary School in Oak Park School District 97 brought close to 100 students, teachers and parents to learn about the plants and birds of the prairie.

The Riverside Garden Club members came for a tour of the Wolf Road Prairie and were impressed with the plant life of each of the three ecosystems.

Our Volunteer Docents This Year Included:

John Banaszak, Mary Cray, Carol Brouk, Lana Gits, Larry Godson, Jim Hodapp, Rita McCabe, Neil & Vivian McDermott, Shonagh & E.J. Neafsey, Patricia and Drew Reaves, Shirley Slanker

Eagle Scout Project

Christian Flasz organized, planned and constructed an herbal garden for Save the Prairie Society. Eagle Scout **Will Longo** then brought his crew of parents and scouts to add to the project by doing some recontouring and wood chip spreading in our parking lot as well as adding a brick walkway to the herb garden. The herb garden is part of the Franzosenbusch Prairie House Nature Center and Museum and will provide visitors with an historically accurate representation of a typical family garden from the 1870s. Thanks again to our original benefactor **Mrs. Barbara Lucchese** and to all who made this herb garden project a reality.

EARTH SHARE OF ILLINOIS

Support Save the Prairie Society Through Workplace Giving

STPS is one of the founding members of Earth Share of Illinois (ESI). Through workplace giving campaigns ESI raises funds for more than 60 organizations working to improve the environment. Contributions received through workplace giving represent a significant portion of annual income for STPS. If you work for a company which supports annual workplace campaigns and ESI is not included, let us know. Call 708-442-9159 for more information about introducing environmental choices to your workplace campaign.



Jim Arbuthnot	Larry Godson
John Banaszak	Rita McCabe
Mary Cray	Patricia Reaves
Lana Gits	Drew Reaves

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE WORKDAYS

Contact WRP Steward: Larry Godson, (708) 562-3280

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AND APPRECIATED!

Help maintain and restore Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the surrounding area. Work at the Prairie House and gardens, or lead groups through the prairie as a tour guide. Volunteer opportunities abound for all who are interested. Give us a call at 708-562-3280 and get involved!

Eagle Scout projects are welcome



photo by John Banaszak

Programs, Presentations and Tours

Our sincere thanks to those who made this a year of rich, and informative programs.

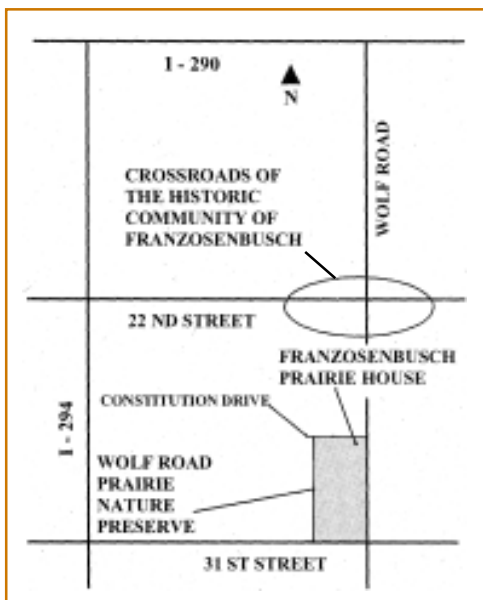
- **Jack Shouba**, (How to research and improve natural areas)
- **Jack MacRae**, (The latest discoveries of the modern elephant's ancestors)
- **Joseph Standing Bear**, (Vernal Equinox ceremony)
- **Jeff Swano**, (Eco-Friendly Landscaping Techniques)
- **John Banaszak**, (Woodcock walks, April Prairie walk, Fireflies in June)
- **Dr. John Wagner, Professor Mike Rush and Larry Godson**, (Insect Walk)
- **John Banaszak, Marge Hatter, and Rita McCabe**, (Raising and caring for monarchs)
- **Peter Carlson**, (Ecology of Autumn Leaves)
- **Joanne Matousek**, (Storyteller)
- **Patricia Reaves**, (Christmas Program)
- **Lana Gits and Patricia Reaves**, (Franzosenbusch School House Historical Interpretation)
- **Shirley Slanker and Patricia Reaves**, (Passengers to America Genealogy Program)

We extend our heartfelt thanks to The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Cook County Forest Preserve District for their continued efforts and support in acquiring, restoring and protecting Wolf Road Prairie and surrounding areas.

Wolf Road Prairie and the Hickory Lane Area from the Southeast



Thanks to John Hill of Tiger Hill Aerial Photography for the use of this image.



WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE & FRANZOSENBUSCH PRAIRIE HOUSE

11225 Constitution Drive
Westchester, IL 60154

Located between 31st Street and Constitution Drive,
west of Wolf Road, just 15 miles west of downtown Chicago.

Free parking along 31st Street or in the Prairie House parking lot.

For information, call 708-562-3280 or 708-531-1851.
(The second number is the Prairie House and it may take us a
few days to get back to you.)

I'd like to help continue protecting and managing the prairie and to support the Franzosenbusch Prairie House Nature Center and Museum restoration.

____ \$1,000 ____ \$500 ____ \$250 ____ \$100
____ \$75 ____ \$50 _____ Other

(All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law)

Please make check payable and mail to:

If you would like your donation used for a specific purpose please indicate here:

**Save The Prairie Society
11225 Constitution Dr.,
Westchester, IL 60154**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

E mail

Commemorative Bricks

Only **\$100** Buys your own brick....

Your brick(s) will be located in the Commemorative Walkway at the Prairie House Museum/Nature Center. Your etched, personal message of 3 lines of 13 characters each, will become a long lasting tribute. (Fill in lines to the right - please print). If an 8" X 8" or a **double brick** is desired, please enclose \$200.00 and we will contact you concerning the design of your inscription. (All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law).

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

E mail

Friends of the Prairie House Application

Become a member of **"Friends of the Prairie House."** Your membership will entitle you to receive:

- a **"Friends of the Prairie House Card"** (your ticket to specially designated programs, events and tours).
- *The "Prairie House Insider"* - (a newsletter keeping you informed of the renovation's progress).
- Genealogical Assistance** - (by Franzosenbusch Heritage Project family history researchers).

Please make check payable to: **"SPS/FHP"** and mail to:

Save The Prairie Society, with Affiliate Franzosenbusch Heritage Project
11225 Constitution Dr., Westchester, IL 60154

Membership: _____ **\$25.00 (Individual)** or _____ **\$30.00 (Family)**

Additional contributions for this fund drive _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100
 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E mail _____ Please check here ☐ if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Friends of the Prairie House

Commemorative Bricks Only \$100 buys your own brick....

Your brick(s) will be located in the Commemorative Walkway at the Prairie House Museum/Nature Center. Your etched, personal message of 3 lines of 13 characters each, will become a long lasting tribute. (Fill in lines to the right - please print). If an 8" X 8" or a **double brick** is desired, please enclose \$200.00 and we will contact you concerning the design of your inscription. Brick proceeds will benefit the Prairie House Restoration/Renovation fund. (All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law).

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E mail _____