



Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA), is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation formed in 2006. Our mission: *To conserve, restore and study the natural areas within Fermilab while encouraging employees and neighbors to experience and enjoy Fermilab's natural beauty.*

We envision a future:

- * *Where our natural areas and ecosystems are rich in biodiversity.*
- * *Where conservation and restoration are sustainable activities.*
- * *Where we are a regional leader in natural areas research.*
- * *Where Fermilab's open spaces contribute to a high quality of life for the community.*

FNA Board Message

2017 is the celebration of 50 years of Fermilab! Many exciting public events are scheduled. The new year brings new visions and plans to the FNA Board as well. We are excited about the paths we are exploring in the natural areas. Along with the new year, our board has had a few personnel changes. Toni Mueller has resigned as president to enjoy new challenges with her husband's job relocation in Florida. We wish her well in her new endeavors. Penny Kasper, retired physicist from Fermilab, has agreed to take her place as president of FNA. Her twenty-five years of knowledge and expertise with the lab and her countless hours as workday volunteer and steward will add greatly to the depth of the board.

Patsy Hirsch made a difficult decision to give up her seat due to unforeseen commitments, but has agreed to stay close at hand to assist with committee work and share her strengths as well as her stewardship of Morgan's Woods. Filling her position of Vice President is current board member Liz Copeland, who is also serving on two committees and is a workday volunteer and steward. Our vacant board seat has been filled by the Betz intern from 2014, Emily McGrath, whose experience, talents and enthusiasm are greatly welcomed. She has already taken on several responsibilities.

Thus, the FNA board is ready to go forth into the new year to enrich the natural areas of Fermilab while educating the public, improving ecological health and biodiversity, and recruiting more volunteers to discover all the wonders of this special place.

FNA Calendar of Events Check our website calendar: <http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org/calendar.html>

All workdays are free and open to the public. No experience required. Meet in the [Lederman Science Education Center](#) parking lot in the **northeast corner**. (So we know that you are there!). Please dress for outdoor work & wear sturdy shoes or boots. Rain or hazardous weather cancels. Those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or have written permission. Follow our [facebook page](#) or the calendar on our [website](#) to see the latest updates for work days. Here's an example:

Monday Strike Team - traverse the site hunting invasive species.

Wednesday Morning Warriors - collect, process, mix, and spread native seeds.

Steward Workdays, now including MORE Saturdays! - assist FNA Stewards in their habitat restoration projects.

Seasonal activities may include: invasive species control, native seed collecting, seed processing & mixing, seed mix spreading, and wildlife monitoring. Stewards try to have some environmental education involved with each workday, and provide refreshments. Receive workday announcements & reminders by sending a request to fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com.

March 16 FNA Annual Meeting for members and guests. Featuring speaker Mr. Cody Considine, Restoration Ecologist at Nachusa Grasslands. Join us at 7:00 pm in the Fermilab Village's [Kuhn Barn](#) for the meeting, plus mingling, reports, voting, refreshments, bison (?!). See page 2 for details.

Week of April 17 Earth Week festivities, including native shrub planting, nature walks, etc. Dates TBD.

Spring & Summer Events to help celebrate Fermilab's 50th. Walks, talks, hands-on experiences. Keep an eye on our facebook page, and calendar on our website.

Sept 23 Fermilab's 50th Anniversary Open House <http://50.fnal.gov/>. Take free tours of Fermilab, including the prairie!

Sept 30 Plan ahead for the Volunteer Prairie Seed Harvests. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with lunch.

& Oct 28 Individuals and groups are welcome. Watch for more information as the year progresses.

Please watch your email, [facebook](#) or [our calendar](#) for last-minute changes or additional events.

We Bid Adieu and a Happy Retirement to Dr. Rod Walton *Ryan Campbell, FNA*

Fermilab



Though Rod retired last October, his presence continues to be felt throughout Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) and Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA). Indeed, his work continues each and every day that we speak up for the environment; talking about wetland regulation, oak savanna management, or the National Environmental Research Park (NERP) program for academic ecologists. Rod started his work at Fermilab in the Environment, Safety and Health section. He worked tirelessly with Fermilab management to ensure that the natural ecosystems and the processes they performed were conserved to the best of our ability. Today at Fermilab, there is an Ecological Land Management (ELM) Committee. Without Dr. Walton's efforts, the original Prairie Committee would not have widened its view and paid attention to all of the diverse ecosystems found at the lab. Rod was instrumental in many positive environmental achievements at Fermilab throughout the years, but he always wished we could get more resources for ecological land management. Fermilab Natural Areas 501(c) (3), became a [means to do that](#). If a dedicated group of Fermilab employees and impassioned community members could work together on this, perhaps the right balance could be found. Today, as we look back on nearly a decade of FNA's accomplishments, it is amazing to see the progress made. Grants have been awarded, Betz interns come and gone, and over \$100,000 per year of in-kind volunteer effort continues to enhance the natural areas at Fermilab. Thanks to Rod and others for their foresight and hard work to get FNA in flight. Even though he is retired, we see the product of Dr. Rod Walton's achievements each and every day.



The Robert F. Betz Internship

Want to spend a summer at Fermilab? We are now taking applications! Each year, FNA supports the Robert F. Betz internship to mentor early-career conservationists with interests in field ecology and ecological restoration. Dr. Robert F. Betz was a pioneer of tallgrass prairie conservation and restoration throughout the Chicago region and beyond. He led one of the planet's largest prairie restoration projects at Fermilab beginning in 1975. Today, we honor his legacy by supporting young ecologists with an internship bearing his name.

More information about the internship can be found here: <https://goo.gl/jwhTUu>. There is a \$2000 stipend. The Betz intern will assist in habitat management at the 6800 acre site and can expect to gain a broad understanding of ecological restoration practices and applications as well as theory. Duties will include: native seed collection and processing, invasive species control using mechanical practices, botanical surveys of restored prairie, forest and wetland communities, tree and shrub care, assisting with volunteer workdays and research projects, aspects of wildlife monitoring and use of ESRI ArcGIS. It is a 10 week, 40 hour per week internship.

A background in biology is required, with an avid interest in field ecology, especially in the area of ecosystem restoration. Instructions on how to apply are found on the website above, or visit the jobs listings at www.chicagoenvironment.org, the Chicagoland Environmental Network.

FNA Annual Meeting Coming Up Soon! *Emily McGrath, FNA*

We'd like to invite you to the Fermilab Natural Areas Annual Meeting, which will take place Thursday, March 16th at 7 pm in the rustic [Kuhn Barn in Fermilab Village](#) at Fermilab. Our annual meeting is open to voting members, donors, and non-members alike. Bring your friends! Come hear about all we've accomplished in 2016 and what's in store for 2017. If you've ever wondered what we do or thought about getting involved, this is a great opportunity to come meet other FNA members and learn about what this organization has to offer.

We're excited to welcome our keynote speaker Cody Considine, Restoration Ecologist at The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands in western Illinois. His presentation will be "Lessons Learned from 30 Years of Restoring Tallgrass Prairie at Nachusa Grasslands."

Along with reports to summarize our year, there will be elections for board of director positions. To be eligible to vote you must be a current member of Fermilab Natural Areas. If you have a passion to be on our board, there's still time to apply. Please contact us asap!

Stewards Big Year *Liz Copeland, FNA*

Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA) continues to support its volunteers, stewards, and wildlife monitors. We want to make 2017 a ‘big’ year for recruitment, stewardship training, and volunteer workday offerings.

In January, Fermilab ecologist Ryan Campbell led herbicide training for FNA stewards and workday volunteers, and provided an introduction to the use of all-terrain vehicles. Several volunteers braved the cold in the afternoon to learn mechanical and chemical girdling techniques hands-on. We ended the day learning how to identify tree species in winter.

FNA has recruited a few new stewards too! Site 12 Woods now has a caretaker thanks to the generosity of new steward Jackie M. Volunteer Maureen H. has been learning the ropes of stewardship with Scott F. at Lederman Woods. Paul H. is being mentored by steward John M. in Kingnut Woods. Paul F. is set to become an apprentice steward with Barb K. in FCC Woods. Last but not least, former steward John J. is looking to take on a new role in Giese Woods. So far, this year has been ‘big’ indeed!

Please check out [our calendar](#) at fermilabnaturalareas.org for many upcoming Stewardship workdays (*now including more Saturdays!*) and to meet these great people whose last names we'll let you guess! :^)



Fermilab’s Bird List - an Interesting Birder’s Tool *Dave Spleha, FNA*

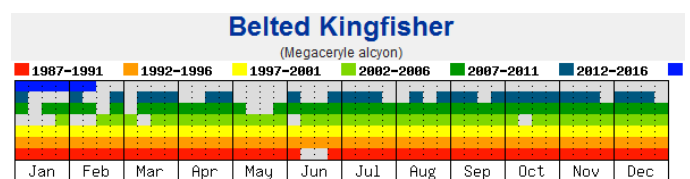
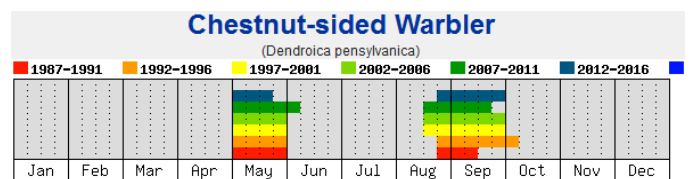
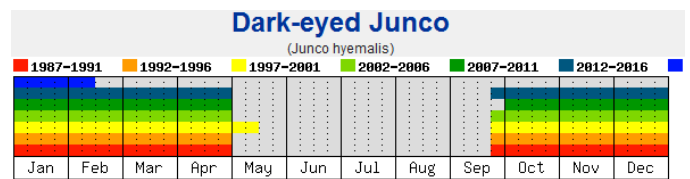
Jan. 1, 2017 not only started the new year, but also started a new 5 year survey period for the Fermilab Bird List. This being the seventh survey period marks the 31st year of tracking the birds found at Fermilab. Peter Kasper started his quest of monitoring not only the birds found within the lab but, just as important, the trends of their presence.

The new survey period begins with a blank sheet and, for the first year, requires the entry of each species found, each week, throughout the year. As keeper of the [Birding Diary](#) (listed under "Recent Sightings" as "Diary") on the [Birds of Fermilab](#) web page, this task can be quite time consuming. The following four years are used to fill any gaps that remain in the period’s listings. Each block in the species bar chart represents a week of the year. The block is filled if the bird is found in the Lab anytime in the 5 year survey period (each period is represented by a different color using the code indicated above the chart). Over time, the individual bird charts can reveal some interesting facts about the bird's presence in the Lab. See examples below.

Let’s start with a popular winter resident, the **Dark-eyed Junco**. As shown in its chart on the right, Juncos arrive in late September, remain till about mid-spring and leave by the end of April. Imagine a summer resident like the Baltimore Oriole. Its chart would be the inverse of the Dark-eyed Junco’s chart shown here.

Next, consider a Neotropical migrant like the **Chestnut-sided Warbler** which is found in the Lab during its northward movement during May. Then on its return to the tropics, this warbler, like many other warblers, is again found during very late summer and early fall.

Finally, the **Belted Kingfisher** shows a variance in its presence in the Lab. The chart shows a fairly consistent presence for most of the first five survey periods as a year around resident. Then in the sixth period it became quite hard to find. The reasons for the absence of the Kingfishers is not known. For this year so far, we have had an individual in the Lab regularly.



Visit this web page to look up your favorite bird and see when it occurs at Fermilab: <http://www.fnal.gov/ecology/wildlife/list.shtml>.

Support Fermilab Natural Areas with Your Donation!

Donations to Fermilab Natural Areas are vital to our mission. FNA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization separate from Fermilab itself. Donations can be made in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. Donors receive the FNA Newsletter via email, our gratitude, and may be invited to special events.

Fermilab employees can also support our us via payroll deductions (did you know that this still exists?!). Here's how: sign in to [Employee Self Service](#) (if this link doesn't work, start at the Fermilab at Work web page, pull down Quick Links, and pick Employee Self Service from there). From the Main Menu, pick Self Service, Payroll and Compensation, and choose Charitable Deductions. Hit the Add Deductions button, and click on the little magnifying glass icon to the right of the Type of Deduction field. Find "Fermi Natural Areas (FRA)" [that's us, albeit named a little differently] on the list. The rest is up to you!

Your 100% tax-deductible contribution to FNA helps to support:

The Robert F. Betz Internship

Giving young ecologists hands-on field experience in Fermilab's restoration program such as native seed harvesting, invasive species removal, plant ID, wildlife monitoring, organizing volunteer events, and scientific research. As you can read on page 2, we are currently accepting applications for the 2017 Betz intern.

The FNA Volunteer Program

Our volunteer stewards and wildlife monitors are committed to the ecological health of Fermilab's natural areas, working toward our goals of restoring native Illinois landscapes that are diverse, beautiful and very rare. Your donation helps provide our volunteers with the tools, training, and insurance they need to get the job done safely and effectively.

Habitat Enhancement and Fine-scale Land Management

FNA complements the large-scale work of the Fermilab Roads & Grounds group by providing volunteer hand crews for seed collecting, invasive removal, habitat surveys, and wildlife monitoring

Conservation of Rare Species

Fermilab Natural Areas works with regional partners such as the Conservation Foundation, the Forest Preserve Districts of DuPage and Kane County, the Peggy Notebaert Museum, and Plants of Concern to conserve, reintroduce, and protect rare species.

Ecological Research Partnerships

FNA and Fermilab collaborate on invasive species research projects, native shrub propagation methods, and prairie restoration studies with regional partners such as The Nature Conservancy, and the Morton Arboretum.

Name: _____

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