



Dear Friend of Fermilab Natural Areas;

We are nearly one year old, and in February, we will have our annual general membership meeting. One very important task for that meeting (in addition to celebrating!) will be to elect new Board members to replace five outgoing members. The Board will develop a slate of candidates for the meeting. However, **please let us know if you would be willing to serve on this board** for a two year term, or if you would like to nominate someone else (email fna@fra-hq.org). We want to develop the leadership of FNA to be diverse, and representative of the surrounding communities.

- Until earlier this year, FNA operated as an element of Fermi Research Alliance, LLC (FRA). FRA is the not-for-profit that holds the contract to operate Fermilab for the U.S. Department of Energy. FNA is now pursuing our status as a not-for-profit corporation, separate from FRA, under the laws of Illinois and the Internal Revenue Service. We recently obtained incorporation as a not-for-profit organization in Illinois, and we are actively working on the paperwork to submit to IRS to obtain our legal, “tax deductible” status. We hope to have this by Spring 2009. Special thanks go to Donna Amburgey for her legal assistance and Howard Singer for his assistance with the Accounting chores!



- Small Successes!! The first on-the-ground project that FNA tackled was the establishment of a natural shoreline along one of the most highly visible bodies of water at Fermilab, Swan Lake. This lake sits right in front of the landmark high rise, Wilson Hall. We spent approximately

\$250 to purchase plants to supplement seeds and plugs collected on site to create a shoreline of native species that range from shallow water to the banks. Volunteers prepared the area and planted the seeds and plugs. The result, after less than one year, can be seen in the “Photos” section of our website (click on the picture to go to Photos).

- More Small Successes!! We decided that to enhance the Margaret Pearson Interpretive Prairie Trail north of Pine Street on the west side of the Lab site, we could invest in a bike rack to be installed in the existing parking lot. The hope is that this will entice the many bicyclers who pedal through the site to stop and enjoy the prairie and the Big Woods before continuing on.



- FNA and Fermilab conducted two very successful seed harvests as usual this year. FNA Board member Tom Peterson is hard at work harvesting inside the Betz Prairie (left). On October 4, and November 1 extremely agreeable weather drew a total of over 400 volunteers to help us collect prairie seeds by hand. In addition, we conducted a special harvest for students from the Wheaton-Warrenville South High School on November 8. Even though the weather was less than ideal (unless you

really love cold, wind, rain and sleet...) the participation was great with over 50 enthusiastic students in attendance. This special harvest allowed us to collect seeds from areas that we normally do not get to during our regular harvests. Thanks Tigers!

- Fermilab Natural Areas has T-shirts! Order yours by calling Jeanette Olah at 630-840-3303. The shirts are just \$15 and sport the FNA logo on the front, and our website on the back. Sizes available are S, M, L, XL, and 2X. Shawna Coronado, Secretary of Fermilab Natural Areas, shows off the T's in the picture to the right! (By the way, check out [Shawna's new book](#) on Amazon.com. It's receiving raves from readers!)



- In November, Fermilab received a Natural Landscaping Award from Chicago Wilderness and the Great Lakes National Planning Office of U.S. EPA. The award was in recognition of the creation of Nepese (pronounced **Neh'**-puh-see) Marsh from an abandoned sewage treatment lagoon. Recall that one of our



prospective projects to improve the natural areas at Fermilab would upgrade this interesting area by adding trails and observation points, and ultimately improving the hydrology. Of course, we continue to augment the already impressive species diversity.