



Dear Friend of Fermilab Natural Areas,

This is the first of what I hope will be regular newsletters to you all, who have helped get FNA up and running, with your financial support and hard work. In this newsletter, I aim to introduce the Board of Directors and officers of FNA, and discuss some of our plans for future projects and activities.

In our first general meeting on February 21st, we approved the organization's By-laws and elected our Board of Directors. At the first Board Meeting, held March 6th, we elected officers for the Board.

Meet our Board of Directors!

Mitch Adamus has been an employee at Fermilab since 1981. Mitch was instrumental during the early days of the prairie restoration on site, and has been an activist in local and regional conservation efforts. In addition to his conservation work at the Lab, he is the steward at Campton Hills Park, a St. Charles Park District site.

Marlin Bowles is the Plant Conservation Biologist at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. Marlin has been closely associated with Fermilab's restoration efforts, including his professional collaboration and long friendship with the "father" of the Fermilab project, Dr. Robert Betz.

Shawna Coronado is a resident of Warrenville, and has served on the Warrenville Environmental Advisory Commission. She is a newspaper columnist and writer focused on environmental concerns. Shawna is active in many local project-based organizations, including the America In Bloom Association and the Johnson Elementary School Grounds Committee. Shawna serves as the secretary for the FNA Board.

Bob Lootens has been an employee of the Fermilab Roads and Grounds Department since 1971, and the family farm where he was raised is located on Fermilab's grounds. In his position as Lead Groundskeeper, Bob has directed the groundwork for the land management of Fermilab for over three decades! Bob is also a natural area steward at Fabyan Shelf Prairie.

Jolie Macier is a financial analyst in the Fermilab Budget Office, and brings an intense interest in environmental issues and conservation to FNA. She currently serves as FNA's Treasurer.

Tom Peterson is a cryogenic engineer at Fermilab. Tom finds time from his busy schedule to keep up with the butterfly fauna in our area, including his superb butterfly photographs! Tom is also very active locally and is the butterfly monitor at Nelson Lake Marsh in Kane County. He is also the Volunteer Coordinator for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network.

Dick Untch is the Director of Community Development in Geneva, IL. Dick has been instrumental in guiding the development of the 580 acre Prairie Green Preserve project in Geneva. He also led the development of the City of Geneva's Tree Preservation and Protection regulations for construction on individual zoning lots, and for proposed subdivisions.

Jim Volk is a physicist at Fermilab, where he has worked for 20 years. Jim has been a member of Batavia's city council for 14 years, and is interested in the development of FNA as a strong cooperative partner with neighboring communities. Jim serves as Vice-president of FNA.

Rod Walton has been an employee of Fermilab since 1991, working in the Environmental Protection area. He is currently the coordinator for the National Environmental Research Park at Fermilab. He has a special interest in promoting more environmental science at the site. Rod is president of FNA and also serves as the representative to Chicago Wilderness.

FNA's Short Term Objectives

As with any fledgling organization, finding the right direction is a key. The Board of Directors has thought very seriously about this key element in drafting [our mission and our vision for the future](#).

Fermilab has a history of responsible and innovative land management and conservation. However, it is a laboratory funded by the federal government solely for the purpose of high energy physics, where shrinking budgets and dwindling resources have taxed Fermilab's ability to maintain its reputation as a leader in land conservation. Fermilab Natural Areas was born to bring new resources to the task of managing our site, and improve upon our old record.

Therefore, one of our first priorities is to locate the resources necessary to carry out our mission. Sources of funding as our membership base, contributing, both financially and with their volunteer efforts and ideas. We also plan to compete for grants from governmental agencies and private corporations and foundations.

In order to be successful at this endeavor, we will need to enlist volunteers who share our values and our vision, and who want to assist us in being successful at fulfilling them.

In case it isn't obvious by now, this is a thinly veiled plea for help! We need volunteers with expertise in grant-writing, public relations, marketing, etc. to get the word out about our new organization, and assist in preparing successful grant

requests. If you or someone you know has the time and inclination to take part in this effort with us, please [contact us](#) via email or phone.

Future Projects

We are striving to promote projects that fulfill all three of the main elements of our mission: Restoration and conservation, community involvement, and environmental research. Although we envision a strongly project-oriented approach, there are opportunities for supporting continuing efforts to further the FNA vision, such as support for Fermilab's annual seed harvest, Arbor Day, volunteer work days, and "Third Thursday" clean-ups.

In 2007, we established the "Robert Betz Summer Internship" program, to bring a college student to Fermilab to work and learn in all aspects of the restoration activities on site. We plan to support small environmental research grants in the future as well.

We hope to be able to fund a number of projects in the near future. Here is just a sample!

- ✚ Savanna Restoration – Over 99% of Illinois' historic savanna communities are gone. The 35 acre remnant of degraded savanna in the center of the Tevatron Ring at Fermilab is an excellent candidate for renewal. We currently are pursuing a \$25,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources C2000 program to perform this work. If we're successful, though, we'll have to match the money, dollar for dollar with corporate and private donations!
- ✚ Interpretive Trails – Upgrading and extending our existing Margaret Pearson Prairie Interpretive Trail with new, interactive signs, and an additional loop through re-forested and transitional areas.
- ✚ Monitoring – Long term monitoring of restored areas, including prairies, wetlands and forests to provide important information on post restoration plant succession and subsequent colonization by animals.
- ✚ Wetlands – Fermilab has an abundance of potentially high quality wetland areas waiting to be restored and enhanced, and over five miles of shoreline surrounding a half dozen lakes. Much of the shoreline is in need of restoration to a condition that provides plant diversity and cover for aquatic fauna, as well as erosion protection. We plan to spend a modest sum to re-vegetate the Swan Lake shoreline immediately in front of Wilson Hall this year.

Please [join us](#) if you haven't already, and feel free to give us your thoughts, ideas, suggestions. We need your help!!

Rod Walton, President
Fermilab Natural Areas
May 9, 2008