



Newsletter March/April 2010

<http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org/>

<http://fermilabnaturalareas.blogspot.com/>

Contact us at fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com or 630-840-4845

Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA), is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation formed in 2006:

- * to study and restore Fermilab's unique combination of ecological communities
- * to inform and enrich local residents' knowledge of Fermilab (FNAL), and
- * to contribute to the preservation of global biodiversity.

A message from FNA President Rod Walton fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com

I am pleased to announce that, as of the end of Feb, we are officially a public charity under 501(c)(3) of the tax code!

We held our 3rd general membership meeting on Feb 18th, here in Wilson Hall. Attendance was very gratifying, as we welcomed 24 people, many new to FNA & anxious to learn more. I briefly went over some of our achievements for the year, including the 2009 Betz intern, prairie harvest, Arbor day, & regular volunteer work activities. During our business meeting, we elected four board members for 2 year terms: Mitch Adamus, Shawna Coronado, Jolie Macier, & Jim Volk. We outlined what we hope to accomplish during the coming year. Board members Adamus, Coronado & Dick Untch talked about their project to create a self-guided tour of the Lab's natural areas, which we expect to get off the ground this year. We were happy to announce that we will support a Betz intern again this summer. Bob Lootens, from FNAL Roads & Grounds, discussed results of last summer's work conducted by the intern and summer students. Susan Dahl, from Fermilab Friends for Science Education (FFSE) and Sue Sheehan of the Fermilab Education Department talked about how FFSE (another not-for-profit group at the Lab) operates, and what parallels there are that we can benefit from, in our business with Fermilab. We also identified some things that FNA & FFSE can work on together.

Look over the calendar of events & join us when you can! As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to email (above), or call me at 630-840-2565. If you feel like sharing a thought with us, just post a comment on the [FNA Blog](#).



FNA Calendar of Events (continued on page 2)

March 18 FNA Board mtg, 1 North, Wilson Hall, 7 pm. All are welcome.

March 20 [Habitat restoration work day](#) Meet at 9 am in the Lederman Science Center parking lot, work 'til Noon.

April 15 ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#), 11:45 am
Celebrating our 11th year of Third Thursday Clean-ups!
Meet outside Wilson Hall's east side; cleaning gear provided, picnic lunch served afterwards.
One lucky child gets to use the "Robot Claw"!



April 17 [Habitat restoration work day](#)

April 21 Prairie seed planting, 11:30 am, meet at [Prairie Trail](#), westbound Pine St.

April 22 E S & H Earth Day Fair, 11 am - 1:30 pm, Wilson Hall atrium

April 27 Guided woodland wildflower walk, 11:30 am, meet at [Prairie Trail](#), westbound Pine St.



Arbor Day & Cleanup images by Fermilab

FNA Calendar of Events, continued

- May 4** [Arbor Day tree planting at FNAL](#), continuing a [long tradition](#). (Rain date is May 6) [Southwest corner of Batavia Rd & Road B](#)
All trees, some tools, professional help, and lunch provided.
(Please contact FNA if you can help serve lunch.)
- May 15** [Habitat restoration work day](#)
- May 20** ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#)



Overview of Past Events

Seed Processing Facility Open House, January 21

Martin Valenzuela (left), of FNAL Roads and Grounds, hosted about two dozen curious onlookers at the seed processing facility in the Fermilab Village. Visitors to the building, commonly known as "the greenhouse", were greeted with the sight of dozens, perhaps hundreds, of variously sized containers, each holding an individual seed specie, labeled with Latin name, and location & date of harvest.

Martin's presentation introduced attendees to prairie reconstruction. He covered the birth of the program in the 1970's [with Dr. Robert Betz](#) and hand harvesting seed from 60 species of plants, to current practices with modified farm equipment and the help of hundreds of volunteers harvesting over 130 [species on site](#).

Martin spoke about native and invasive plants, prairie matrix seed mix and pioneer plants, inoculation of legumes, scarification, and

cold storage for overwintering seed. He and co-worker Joe Trevino demonstrated the various processing techniques, such as gentle sanding (above), used to prepare particular seed types for storage and planting. Attendees saw the seed drill, pulled by a tractor, for large scale planting, repurposed farm machinery used as seed separation machines, the hammer mill, and even a Shop-Vac put to ingenious use in removing milkweed seed from its fluff.



Reconnecting Some Early Prairie Roots; Ryan Campbell, Fermilab

On January 14th, [Fermilab and Morton Arboretum reconnected](#). (click link for photos & complete blog entry)
In the past, Bob Betz and Ray Schulenberg shared ideas, seeds, & work in their respective attempts at tallgrass prairie restoration. Now, as both of these great men are gone, we must carry on. Three members of Fermilab toured the Arboretum, including the restored prairie now named after Schulenberg. The morning was sparked with talks of seed trading and common ideas & goals. We rounded out the half-day trip by meeting with Plant Ecologist and Betz friend, Marlin Bowles. Besides donating seeds of a rare milkweed, Marlin gave us an in depth tour of the gravel & dolomite prairies that he recreated at the Arboretum. The species list boasts an impressive number of rare, threatened, and endangered plants. It was a great morning with great people. Fermilab looks forward to fostering the partnership that was re-established on that cold winter day!!



FNA at the Fermilab Family Science Open House; Rachel Bridger, Fermilab

On February 21st, Paula Lambertz and I set up camp at the [Science Open House](#) in Wilson Hall. Thousands of families turned out to experience the busy array of tours & events. [Paula and I stood at the FNA table](#) next to the elevators, and watched as excited children stared in amazement as they entered the atrium. We spoke to hundreds of children & adults about FNA and the rich natural areas that Fermilab has to offer, as well as the many activities people can get involved with.



We collected email addresses, answered questions & exchanged wildlife stories. Many people had questions about the wildlife here. One family from California wanted to know if we had any large snakes on site. My best answer was the fox snakes I had seen in the prairie and woods edge. An excited group of Girl Scouts asked for directions to the bison pen. Another little girl offered a detailed account of a coyote family that lives near her home, as her family waited patiently through three rounds of the elevator while she finished. It was interesting to note how people were attracted to the table: just passing by the wildlife photos at our booth seemed to inspire stories. It was a great event, very well organized, and a good time for all of the smiling faces that passed through the elevators that Sunday.

Around the Fermilab Site

Birding and Butterfly News

For the latest on birds at the Lab, check out <http://www.fnal.gov/ecology/wildlife/diary.shtml>.

Every year here at Fermilab, Tom Peterson provides a few butterfly monitoring training classes for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network (IBMN). These classes are aimed at people who either are already butterfly monitors or who might be interested in monitoring and want to learn about it. It is a slide show of photos of local butterflies along with information about how we do our monitoring, what our methods are. There is no fee or obligation for attending; anyone interested is welcome. The dates and times are:

Saturday, March 27, 10 AM to noon -- beginners' class

Wednesday, May 19, 7 PM to 9 PM -- beginners' class

Saturday, May 22, 10 AM to noon -- intermediate class, with more emphasis on difficult identifications

Meetings will be at Fermilab. Rooms (not determined yet), directions, and more information will soon be found at the IBMN website, http://www.bfly.org/training_workshops.html.

Plant Identification

Spring is near! Soon we'll have green plants to look at. Need help figuring out what you've seen? Visit the Fermilab Plant Database at http://ed.fnal.gov/lasso/plant_search/search.html.

For Sale by FNA

Just right for warmer weather, FNA has long and short sleeved T-shirts! Order yours by calling us at 630-840-4845. Short-sleeved shirts are \$15 and long-sleeved are \$18. Both sport the FNA logo on the front, and our website on the back.



Get ready for those April showers. [Rain barrels are available through FNA](#). They are 55 gallon food-grade plastic in a variety of colors. On the top, a screw-off lid with screen keeps debris & insects out. At the bottom, a valve with hose attachment dispenses the captured rainwater by gravity. The ready-to-use barrels are \$85. Wooden stands can be purchased for \$20. Call FNA at 630-840-4845 to order barrels and stands, which will be delivered to Fermilab at Site 37 for your pick up.





Membership/Donate

<http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org/membership.html>

Come help us enhance Fermilab's ecology.

FNA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. All donations to FNA are tax deductible.

Benefactor	\$2,500 and up
Patron	\$1,000
Supporter	\$500
Donor	\$250
Sponsor	\$100
Contributor	\$50
Member	\$25
Student/Youth	\$15

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Please mail your check or money order donation to:

Fermilab Natural Areas
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THANK YOU!