

Newsletter July/Aug 2010



www.fermilabnaturalareas.org

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

Greetings! As you can see from the calendar for July and August, the season is definitely up and running! There are multiple opportunities to visit Fermilab and take advantage of all the natural areas. Note the popular "Sunset in the Prairie" walk on July 7 and August 11, several butterfly walks, and a midnight bike ride through Fermilab. Follow the links in the calendar or check out the [FNA Blog](#) to get more information.

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 our [Blog](#).

FNA Calendar of Events



Fermilab

- July 1** Butterfly Walk with Tom Peterson, 4:30 pm
Start at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.
- July 7** Mid-Summer Sunset on the Prairie, 8:00 pm (rain date July 8)
Walk starts at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.
- July 15** ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#), 11:45 am
Meet outside Wilson Hall's east side; cleaning gear provided, picnic lunch served afterwards.
- July 17** [Habitat restoration work day](#) Meet at 9 am in the [Lederman Science Center parking lot](#), work 'til Noon.
- July 21** Lunchtime Prairie Walk, Noon to 1:00 pm (rain date July 22)
Start at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.
- July 31/Aug 1** [Chase the Moon bicycle ride](#), presented by The Conservation Foundation
- Aug 11** August Sunset on the Prairie, 7:30 pm (rain date August 12)
Walk starts at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.
- Aug 12** Butterfly Walk with Tom Peterson, 4:30 pm
Start at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.
- Aug 19** ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#), 11:45 am. Last one for 2010!
- Aug 19** FNA Board meeting, 1 North, Wilson Hall, 7 pm. All welcome.
- Aug 21** [Habitat restoration work day](#)
- Aug 26** Butterfly Walk with Tom Peterson, Noon
Meet at the [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine Street.



T. Peterson

All walks are, of course, weather & expert guides permitting. Watch your email or the [FNA Blog](#) for last-minute announcements from FNA about changes in plans, or additional events.

Overview of Past Events

Arbor/Earth Day at Fermilab, May 4

Eighty people enjoyed a fine spring day of conservation and conversation by planting 70 native trees and shrubs, and eating lots of grilled hotdogs! Volunteers planted white, red, and bur oak, shagbark hickory, and black walnut saplings. Their hard work was rewarded with a picnic lunch served in the field by Roads & Grounds staff and volunteers.

Arbor Day activities have taken place at the northwest corner of the Fermilab site since 1994. Approximately 1200 trees and bushes have been planted [in 142 acres connecting](#) the Big Woods, east of the Interpretive Prairie, with remnant woodland at West Wilson Street and Kirk Road.



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Around the Fermilab Site

Bird and Butterfly News

For the latest on bird sightings, see <http://www.fnal.gov/ecology/wildlife/diary.shtml>.

Tom Peterson [Spotlights a Butterfly](#):

One of the more common butterflies this spring has been the Red Admiral. Red Admirals and many other butterfly species experience large year-to-year population fluctuations. This is definitely a boom year for Red Admirals. They are strong fliers which migrate like monarch butterflies, but in a less highly organized fashion. Rather than "migration" one might call it more of a seasonal dispersal north in the spring and south in the fall. Caterpillars feed on nettles of all sorts, but unlike many butterflies, the adults don't seem to stay around the caterpillar host plant. Red admirals may be found in city yards, and I often see them flying in the last sunny spots in the evening before sunset. Like their close relatives, painted ladies, they are strong fliers and move around quite freely, which is why they are a common city yard butterfly.



Red Admiral - T. Peterson
The Red Admiral has a typical wing span of 2 inches.

More on Invasives; Ryan Campbell, Consulting Restoration Ecologist, Fermilab

This summer at Fermilab, with the hiring of interns Kevin Sheehan & Mike Beck, we have started a new summer weed management program. The two positions were created to help [control invasive species](#) in the natural areas of Fermilab. In the past, we have been able to control some invasive plants (Teasel, Purple Loosestrife, Giant Reed Grass) but never had the resources for others (White, & Yellow Sweet Clover, Spotted Knapweed, Crown Vetch, Reed Canary Grass). The internships were specifically funded to target the control of these nasty exotics which outcompete native plants and decrease the plant & ecosystem diversity. Thanks to the understanding of Fermilab, with possible help from an FNA grant, this program can get traction and our natural areas can thrive even more!

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Meet the Seed Volunteers; Ryan Campbell, Consulting Restoration Ecologist, Fermilab

Nine enthusiastic FNA members have joined together with me to collect seed from over 100 native prairie plant species! Thank you to Donna Blankenship, Evelyn Campbell, Maureen Hix, Robert Liva, Gene and Cindy Oleynik, Owen Ratliff, Marlene Rosecrans, and Dan Shanahan for their dedication. Among our volunteers, Robert recently graduated from Augustana College, and is slowly restoring his backyard honeysuckle & garlic mustard to woodland flowers. Donna is a retired educator who docents part-time at the Fermilab [Science Education Center](#). Marlene is also a retired educator, a frog monitor (plus other things!) for [DuPage County Forest Preserve](#), and was a student of Dr. Robert Betz. Dan also has a “Betz connection”: in 1999, with Dr. Betz, he produced a video documentary entitled *Grasses to Ashes*. Says Dan, “This volunteer discovered the energy of the prairie ablaze at Fermilab” while working on that video.

Their backgrounds may be varied, but all nine of our volunteers have a common interest in learning more about the prairie, especially [plant identification](#), and enjoying the hundreds of acres of [restored habitat at Fermilab](#). From May to October, the volunteers will work together to learn the identity, locations, and seeds of native species from Shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*) and Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) to Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) and Turk's Cap Lily (*Lilium michiganense*).

And Now, a Word from the [2010 Betz Intern](#):

Greetings! I'm Jessica Meyers, the new Dr. Robert F. Betz intern with FNA. My background consists of soil science, horticulture and public gardening, but I've always been drawn to the prairie. During my first few weeks on board at FNA, I've assisted in collecting seeds from Wood Betony, Bloodroot, Wild Ginger, Wild Geranium, as well as various Sedges, just to name a few, for continued study, and have done some plant surveying of various plots. We have also been out scouting around for *Lilium philadelphicum* Philadelphia Lily, and were fortunate enough to find nine in one day! They are located in a variety of spots, so we hand pollinated a few to ensure next season's population. We continue to monitor plants of concern, such as Goldenseal, by measuring the size of the population, recording culture info, and other impacting factors.

I've also had the opportunity to attend FNA and [ELM](#) meetings, which have given me greater insight on their collaboration on various projects. I have learned quite a bit so far and look forward to more exciting projects in the coming weeks!

[“Chase the Moon”](#) midnight bicycle ride; Rod Walton, Fermilab

Riders and volunteers wanted! The annual [“Chase the Moon” bike ride](#), sponsored by [The Conservation Foundation](#) will be held on July 31 & Aug 1, and include a wonderful nighttime ride through Fermilab, starting at nearby Marmion Academy at *midnight*. Travel at your own pace for up to 25 miles, ending up back at Marmion for breakfast. All proceeds will benefit The Conservation Foundation. For all the details, visit <http://www.chasethemoon.com/>.

For Sale by FNA

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 summer watering. [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.



Greetings from the Fermilab Prairie

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As an exercise for our readers, we invite you to try identifying the prairie plants pictured. For help, visit the plant ID website created by the Fermilab Science Education Office: http://eddata.fnal.gov/lasso/plant_search/search_kids.html. Check the FNA Blog for the answers in the near future.

Membership/Donations <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	Sponsor	\$100
Patron	\$1,000	Contributor	\$50
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P.O. Box 500, MS 444
Batavia, IL 60510

Thank you!

