



FNA News July/Aug 2011

Website: www.fermilabnaturalareas.org

Blog: 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 or 630-840-2565

As you will read in this edition of the newsletter, we celebrated our first five years with a great picnic in the Oak Savanna last month. Thanks to the board members and others who planned and carried out the event! I predict another celebratory picnic long before our second five year birthday. Since summer has truly appeared, there is a lot of activity in Fermilab's natural areas, including new interns, students and volunteers. We've also established our presence on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, please "Like" us!

See us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fermilab-Natural-Areas/207827679253186> (no log-in required).

Enjoy the summer, and plan to come to Fermilab to volunteer (check out the calendar) or just walk, look, and listen to Nature! As usual, if you have any questions or comments for FNA, please [email](mailto:fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com) or call me at 630-840-2565.

FNA Calendar of Events

- July 16** [Habitat restoration work day](#), 9 am to noon. Meet in the [Lederman Science Center parking lot](#), work until noon. Please check the web page at http://www.fnal.gov/pub/about/campus/ecology/prairie/habitat_restoration.html
- July 19** Volunteer workday: clear sweet clover from the paths of the Interpretive trail, and collect wetland plant seed. 10:45 am -12:30 am and 1:30 pm -3:15 pm.
Email Ryan Campbell for info: ryancamp@fnal.gov
- July 21** ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#), 11:45 am (sharp!) to 1:30 pm.
Meet outside Wilson Hall's east side; shuttle bus & cleaning gear provided, picnic lunch served afterwards.
- July 22** Sedge seed collecting workday, 1 pm - 3 pm, email ryancamp@fnal.gov for info
- July 28** Prairie and Savanna Hike, 7 pm, meet at Wilson Hall main entrance
- Aug 4** Fermilab [ELM Committee](#) meeting, Wilson Hall, One East, noon
- Aug 18** ["Third Thursday" Fermilab Lunchtime Clean-up](#), 11:45 am (sharp!) to 1:30 pm.
Meet outside Wilson Hall's east side; shuttle bus & cleaning gear provided, picnic lunch served afterwards. *Last Clean-up of the year!*
- Aug 20** [Habitat restoration work day](#), 9 am to noon. Meet in the [Lederman Science Center parking lot](#), work until noon. Please check the web page at http://www.fnal.gov/pub/about/campus/ecology/prairie/habitat_restoration.html
- Aug 24** Butterfly & Plant ID Walk with Tom Peterson & Ryan Campbell, noon, [Prairie Interpretive Trail](#), westbound Pine St.
- Sept 1** Fermilab [ELM Committee](#) meeting, Wilson Hall, One East, noon



Fermilab



All walks depend on cooperating weather, & availability of our expert guides. Please watch your email, the [FNA Blog](#), or [Facebook](#) for last-minute announcements of changes in plans, or additional events.

A Cohort of Young People at Work in Fermilab's Natural Areas

Summer at Fermilab means an influx of enthusiastic college-age “kids” working in all areas of the lab. This year, it is no different at FNA. We are happy to welcome: Sioned Sitkiewicz, our Robert Betz Intern; Erin Cunningham, a summer seed volunteer; and the Weed Crew Team of Kevin Sheehan and Shirley Xiao. Find out more about them and their FNA duties benefiting Fermilab, below ...

Introducing our 2011 Robert Betz intern, Sioned Sitkiewicz:

On June 6th I began my internship at Fermilab Natural Areas and received a warm welcome from everyone at Fermilab's Roads & Grounds Dept., and a hot welcome from the weather. We have been keeping busy with collecting seeds from woodland and prairie plant species and I am learning a lot as I go! Among the first tasks, we visited many sites to hunt for *Pedicularis (Wood Betony)*, and were surprised by a fawn that jumped out of the prairie grass. Working with a former Betz intern, Jessica Meyers, has been extremely helpful in getting to know the biota as well as finding my way around Fermilab! This summer, I am looking forward to whatever mother nature has to offer as I continue to learn about Fermilab's restoration. *Sioned is pictured here, in the middle, with Julie Allen (FNAL), left, and Jessica Meyers (FNAL), right.*



On the FNA Summer Seed Crew; Erin Cunningham:

This is my first summer volunteering with FNA, helping out on Thursdays & Fridays. I wanted to volunteer in order to gain a better understanding of prairie restoration and to be involved with the environment over the summer break from school. We have been collecting seeds, removing invasive species, and spreading seeds. Through this work, I have been able to learn a lot about the native plants on site, such as the difference between a white oak and northern red oak, and also how the process of restoration takes place. I am excited to continue helping and continue learning throughout the summer.



The FNA Summer Weed Crew; Shirley Xiao and Kevin Sheehan:



With the start of another growing season, we have seen the prairies revive once again, but so have the many weeds. This year with the help of our summer Weed Crew, consisting of Shirley Xiao and Kevin Sheehan, we have been combating crown vetch and wild parsnip earlier and with more vigor than ever. This is only the second year of our fight against these invasive species but we are seeing positive progress already. Areas that were controlled last year are noticeably absent of crown vetch, and our methods are more widespread and effective this spring. It will be a long and ongoing fight as we begin with other invasive species like spotted knapweed and teasel, but we are excited and ready to go. Thanks go to FESS and the Boeing Employee Community Fund for their support of our summer internships.

At left: Kevin and Shirley sporting the latest fashion in chemical resistant overpants, part of the personal protective equipment required when using herbicides. While carefully spraying invasives, they will also wear long sleeve shirts, rubber gloves, eye protection and, possibly, respirators. Altogether a challenging outfit for summer wear.

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects Benefit Our Natural Areas

Three Boy Scouts are working with Fermilab staff and FNA volunteers to complete public service projects necessary for their Eagle Scout rank. Service projects take many hours of planning, and require the Eagle-candidate Scout to demonstrate their leadership by coordinating materials, volunteers, and experts necessary to complete the project.

Scout Nick Wielgos plans to repair the foot bridges in the Big Woods. His project includes stabilizing the supports, installing pressure treated plank ramps at the south bridge, and clearing out fallen branches that block creek flow at the bridges. Bob Lootens has okayed Nick's proposal, and it is awaiting final Fermilab approvals.

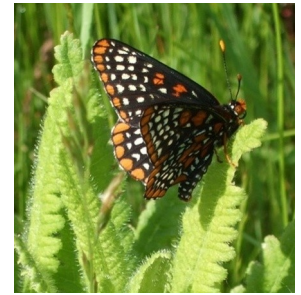
Another Scout, Tim Wiley, plans an Eagle project to build and properly locate wood duck, and kestrel nesting boxes. He is consulting with Dave Sphela, one of our birding experts. Dave suggested kestrel boxes due to the observed decline in kestrel populations at Fermilab and our area in general.

A third Scout, Daniel Mace, is planning to remove the deer exclosures in the Big Woods as his service project. These large, fenced areas were constructed in 1992 to exclude deer from some areas to assess damage to the forest understory by browsing deer. Both exclosures are in bad shape and are no longer necessary. Daniel is planning to remove them in the fall or dormant season to avoid damage to the understory. *[Thanks to Barb Kristen & ELM Committee for providing project details. Ed.]*



Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly Release; Tom Peterson, Fermilab

Fermilab and the [Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) have collaborated on several butterfly projects over the past 10 years. Doug Taron, the Curator of Biology at the Notebaert Museum, is also director of the [Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network](#) (IBMN), in which Tom Peterson has been a volunteer for over 10 years. The latest collaborative effort was a release of adult Baltimore checkerspot butterflies into a wetland area between inbound and outbound Pine Streets. This wetland has been improved as Baltimore habitat over the past decade by means of an Eagle Scout project, by our Roads and Grounds department, and by FNA volunteer labor, with the addition of turtlehead and marsh betony [*photo, right*], key caterpillar food plants for the Baltimore checkerspot. You may read more about this, our latest butterfly introduction at http://www.fnal.gov/pub/today/archive_2011/today11-07-05_butterflies.html and http://www.fnal.gov/pub/today/archive_2011/today11-07-06.html



Articles about the release were published in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Daily Herald*, and *Beacon-News*. At left, butterflies meet the press. In the background: Vincent Olivares and Doug Taron of the Notebaert Museum, Fermilab's Ryan Campbell and Tom Peterson, with travel cage (white). The larger release cages were built in 2005 by Matt Wischoeffer as part of his *Eagle Scout project*. He also organized the planting of nearly 100 turtlehead plants.

For more photos and details about more Fermilab butterflies, follow these links:

<http://tdserver1.fnal.gov/peterson/tom/butterflies/FermilabButterflyTable.html>
and http://ed.fnal.gov/lasso/butterfly_search/

FNA Five-year Celebration Picnic - Sunday June 26

Fifty-two people enjoyed the shade of the huge oaks in the Main Ring, had a tasty Italian beef lunch, and partook in various walks and talks. Our Betz intern Sioned Sitkiewicz summed it up: "The weather was gorgeous and sunny, and it was fun to mingle with both familiar and new faces. Thanks to all who came, and all who helped make it happen!" Along with her parents, Sioned was joined by a special guest from far away. Her grandmother, Margaret Griffith of Newtown, Wales, was here on holiday, and enjoyed visiting such a unique place as our prairie. She's pictured at the picnic table with her first Italian beef ever, and granddaughter Sioned.

For picnic details and a photo gallery, see our blog entry:

<http://fermilabnaturalareas.blogspot.com/2011/06/picnic-fun.html>

Searching for birds & butterflies with Peter Kasper, Dave Spleha, & Tom Peterson. First bird to appear, as if on cue, was a male Baltimore Oriole.



Mitch Adamus leading the prairie walk and talk.



Photo credits: FNA, unless noted.

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For Sale by FNA

Perfect for summer: **FNA long-sleeved or short-sleeved t-shirts!** With our logo on the front, and our website on the back. Short-sleeved tees: \$15, long-sleeved: \$18. Sizes available are from Small to XXL. Order yours by calling 630-840-4845.



FNA Rain Barrels!

FNA has taken once-used food barrels, cleaned them, done the appropriate cutting, drilling, gluing, and assembling, and are now offering them to you, ready to use. FNA members can buy their barrel for \$80, non-members for \$90. Proceeds help FNA's efforts. (We'll gladly supply a statement for income tax purposes). The choice of colors is usually black, brown, or terra cotta (shown), but please check with us for availability. Our barrels have an overflow connection on top, a spigot with hose connection on the bottom, and sturdy metal screening on top of that big hole in the lid. Lid and screen are removable for cleaning. Barrel can be painted with the proper plastic paint. Call now and get three cement blocks to use as a stand! Don't delay - call 630-840-4845 or email fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com today!



Membership/Donations

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

Help us enhance Fermilab's ecology. Members receive the FNA Newsletter via email, are invited to special events such as our anniversary picnic, and get a discount on rain barrel purchases.

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

Donations can be made in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.

Fermilab employees can donate online via the [Employee Self Service website](#).

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

Name: _____

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Donation \$ _____

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Email: _____

Please mail your check or money order to:

Fermilab Natural Areas
P.O. Box 500, MS 444
Batavia, IL 60510

Thank you!

