



LAKE BLUFF OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION

www.lbola.org

SPRING/SUMMER 2003 NEWSLETTER

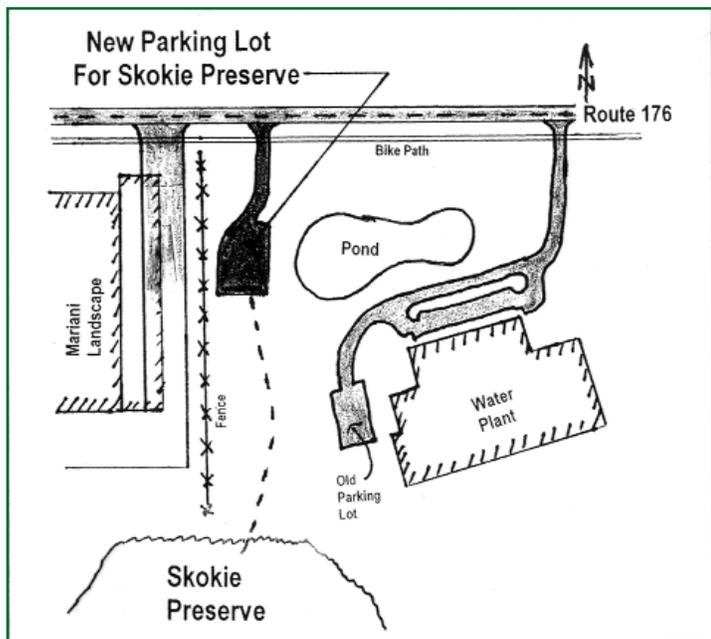
LBOLA Warmline 847-735-8137

President's Letter

It was a wonderful winter for getting some great work done in our preserves. With cold temperatures and very little snow cover we had the deepest frost in years allowing us to get lots of heavy equipment in and out of the preserves without damaging the delicate prairie plants beneath the rock-solid surface. Our **brush clearing** efforts were focused in the 'Southern Grove' of giant oaks in the Forest Preserve and also the northern portion of the Skokie Preserve where it meets the property owned by the JAWA water plant.

Late winter was also a great time for **cross-country skiing** with the best and most prolonged ski conditions in years.

For a long time we have been promising a place to park while visiting the Skokie Preserve and - it's still a promise. With any luck, the folks working on the water plant expansion will have our parking lot finished by June 1st. Stay tuned - we'll have a ribbon cutting when its all finished.



Our 3rd Annual Tree Sale

Let's say you moved to a charming little town in the middle of a forest full of oaks and hickories - you just love the place. You love the shade in summer, the birds in spring, the sounds in fall and the magnificence of those ancient trees.

And let's say that your ideal little town was expanding with houses getting bigger and bigger - and successfully competing for space with those old trees. What if you could do something about it? Now you can because our annual

Native Tree Sale is back! We sell *real* trees! None of those fru-fru trees that were never meant to live here. We sell the trees you came here for: Oaks & Hickories. See our order form on page 3 for details, or visit lbola.org.

Speaking of **lbola.org** - instead of hanging our heads and whining that our web site was held captive by yahoo for 18 months, we can now proudly say "Go To *lbola.org*" for a truly scintillating web experience. Our thanks again to webmeister Charlie Spencer.

We would also like to thank the **Village Board** for unanimously approving a renewal of the License under which we manage the Skokie River Preserve. We appreciate the vote of confidence from the Board and all the kind words spoken on LBOLA's behalf.

- Larry McCotter



The intrepid Robin Rotman at Moffet Woods.

Open Lands Alert!

The Zoning Board is currently considering proposed development of a self-storage facility just north of the northbound entrance to Hwy. 41. The developer plans to "Improve the entrance to the Village" by replacing, not just the old Oaks Motel, but the old oaks as well - 300 of them. Go take a look.



Blue-Eyed Grass

Moffet Woods Update

L.J. McCotter

How long does it take for a natural woodland to deteriorate? Anybody know? We shall all know in a few more years how long it takes to restore such a woodland.

It was in 1996 that a merry band of Open Landers trooped into the couple acres now known as Moffett Woods. Instead of bows and quivers, they carried power saws and loppers to cut a walking path into that tangled morass of buckthorn entwined with elephantine grape vine and gargantuan overgrown multiflora rose bushes.

How does a woodland deteriorate? If plants are growing there, isn't it just as nature intended it?

Drastic changes can occur to the topography and hydrology of the land due to building of houses and roads which alter the water table and adversely affect vegetation. Birds can deposit seeds that are inimical. The introduction of plant material from another area is the most likely way. These plants do not find inhibiting factors in the new locale--thrive, propagate and finally grow so lushly that they crowd out their "hosts." Thus the ecology of the area gradually changes.

Clearing is now essentially complete. Invasives are quelled and enough light and air are now available for long-suppressed natives to begin to appear. The last two years have shown an amazing resurgence of white trillium and last year Jack-in-the-Pulpit began slowly reappearing.

The 2001 Mast year abundance of acorns resulted in a legion of oaklets which managed to survive last summer's drought. Additionally, the 22 five-foot oaks donated by a very generous and caring neighbor now provide at least an outline of what we are working toward. This winter we have tried to protect them with netting and ineffective spraying to prevent deer nibbling - yes, we do have a resident pack of deer.

This spring we'll watch for buckthorn resprouts and attack garlic mustard as we patiently wait for Mother Nature to work her magic in Moffett Woods and restore it as She planned it.

Here's Looking At You!

By Cathy Spencer

When you take a walk in the Skokie River Preserve during May and June, be sure to take a careful look down. You will see patches where miniature flowers of various hues of blue are gazing up at you. Their blossoms are six-pointed petals, which appear to be attached to delicate stems of short grass (four to ten inches high). These flowers are our resident population of "Blue-Eyed Grass".

In spite of its name, Blue-Eyed Grass is not really a grass at all, but a small member of the iris family.

If you walk in the early morning or when it is cloudy and dark, the flowers may be closed up tight in buds. They like to wait for the sun to come out, when they burst into bloom in great quantities.

This sensitive flower is not happy to be picked, and will close up shortly thereafter. As with all of the plants that inhabit natural areas, please be respectful. They are fellow living beings. Enjoy them with your eyes and/or camera, but *please* refrain from the temptation to pick them.

LBOLA's 3rd Annual Native Tree Sale

Here is your chance to Preserve and Enhance Lake Bluff's Natural Beauty!

Did you know that the smaller the tree, the better its chances of surviving transplant?

Or that native trees have a better chance of thriving?

Or that young oaks grow at a rate of 2 - 5' feet per year?

Place your order today for May pick up at the Public Works Facility!

Small Trees & Shrubs in 5 gallon containers are 3' - 5' tall

Quan.

BUR OAK - THE PRAIRIE OAK, TOLERATES MOIST CONDITIONS, LIKES SUN	@ \$30.00	_____
RED OAK - LAKE BLUFF'S DOMINANT OAK SPECIES, TOLERATES SHADE WELL	@ \$30.00	_____
SWAMP WHITE OAK (QUERCUS BICOLOR) LIKES WET CONDITIONS & FULL SUN	@ \$30.00	_____
HILLS OAK - (QUERCUS ELLIPSOIDALIS) LOW PROFILE, KEEPS LEAVES IN WINTER	@ \$30.00	_____
NINEBARK - DECORATIVE SHRUB TO 8' WITH INTERESTING SEED PODS ALL WINTER	@ \$30.00	_____
JUNEBERRY / SERVICEBERRY - ELEGANT MULTI-STEMMED 12' SHRUB, BIRDS LOVE 'EM	@ \$65.00	_____

Large trees are 1 1/2" diameter, 9' - 12' tall in a 12" rootbag (up to 90 lbs.)

BUR OAK (QUERCUS MACROCARPA)	@ \$125.00	_____
RED OAK (QUERCUS RUBRA)	@ \$125.00	_____
SWAMP WHITE OAK (QUERCUS BICOLOR)	@ \$125.00	_____
HILLS OAK - (QUERCUS ELLIPSOIDALIS)	@ \$125.00	_____
TREE GATORS (FOR WATERING)	@ \$20.00	_____

! Rootbags must be removed before planting !

\$125.00 X _____ = \$ _____

\$ 30.00 X _____ = \$ _____

\$ 20.00 X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

VIEW PHOTOS & DESCRIPTIONS @ WWW.LBOLA.ORG

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LAKE BLUFF OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION

RETURN THIS FORM TO US AT: LBOLA • P.O BOX 449 • LAKE BLUFF, IL 60044

QUESTIONS? CALL VANESSA CLARK AT 847-234-3379 OR THE LBOLA WARMLINE AT 847-735-8137

Open Lands Day Set for May 3rd!

Our 6th Annual Open Lands Day will take place on the northern edge of the Skokie Preserve where much of our winter clearing took place.

Community members are invited to join Waller Caldwell's 8th Grade science students as we plant 1,000 native perennial wildflowers and grasses into an area that spent the past several decades shaded by European buck-thorn and Tartarian honeysuckle.

Past Open Lands Day events have been held at the Birch Prairie, Ravine Park, south beach bluff, the east/west bike path and the Skokie Preserve.

Activities begin at 9:00 with Krispy-Kreme donuts at the Mariani parking lot off 176. Lunch will be available from 11:30 - 12:00. Dress appropriately **WITH GOOD SHOES OR BOOTS!**

Spring 2003 Workday Schedule

Workdays are generally Saturday mornings from 9:30 - 12:00 noon. Parking for Skokie Preserve and Forest Preserve workdays is at the western end of the Harrison Conference Center parking lot.

For specifics on individual workdays, please call the LBOLA warmline at (847) 735-8137

- 4/5/03 Controlled burn - call for details
- 4/12/03 Controlled burn - call for details
- 4/19/03 Controlled burn - call for details
- 4/26/03 Controlled burn - call for details
- 5/3/03 OPEN LANDS DAY at Skokie R. Preserve
- 5/17/03 L.B. Forest Preserve
- 5/31/03 South beach bluff
- 6/7/03 Prairie Preserve
- 6/14/03 Moffett Woods
- 6/28/03 Skokie River Preserve
- 7/12/03 Carolyn Goetz Wetlands Preserve
- 7/19/03 L.B. Forest Preserve
- 8/2/03 Skokie Preserve



**OPEN LANDS DAY
MAY 3rd**

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U.S. POSTAGE
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