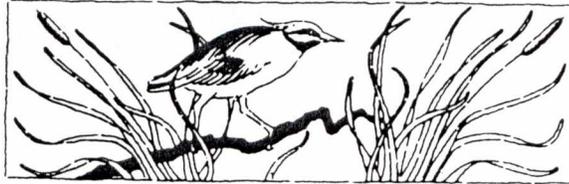


STILLMAN



SPRING AT STILLMAN

Springtime is showing itself in some wonderful ways at Stillman. The Virginia Bluebells are just finishing their yearly show, and the Violets and Trillium are in full bloom. Our Crab Apple trees are blossoming and the Jack-in-the-Pulpits are especially big and beautiful. Critter-wise, Stillman is jumping, hopping, and crawling with life; woodchucks and turtles are abundant. A Blue Heron, a Black-Crowned Night Heron, a baby Great Horned Owl, and a Red Fox are calling the property home. Our resident Canada Geese are also out and about with their three newly hatched goslings. In addition, Bill Lange, who works with rehabilitated animals in Prospect Heights, has recently used Stillman as a release sight for some opossums and a Cooper's Hawk. Why not spend a Sunday afternoon at Stillman and take in all that Springtime has to offer. We are open from 1 to 4 PM every Sunday.



SPRING 1994

SPRING BIRD COUNT

A bird count took place this May at Stillman, performed by Matt Gies and Roger Laegeler. The Herons made an appearance, as did a Great Horned Owl and its baby owl. Some special sightings included a Cerulean Warbler, a Cape May Warbler, a Whippoorwill, male and female Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks, and twelve White-Throated Sparrows.



FAREWELL

With sadness and respect we note the passing of Anne Sherman, Stillman's first president. Anne Sherman helped establish the original Stillman board in 1982, and was instrumental in the initial development of the Nature Center. She was a photographer and an avid bird watcher, very active in the Prairie Woods Audubon Society. In addition to her work on the board, she gave some beginning birding classes at the Nature Center. Her dedication and support were vital to Stillman and she will be warmly remembered.

NATURE CENTER

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A CRY FOR VOLUNTEERS

Stillman is desperately seeking volunteers in a number of areas. Anyone can help in some way, and we welcome everyone to donate whatever time he or she can. Remember: Even a short visit can make a big difference! The following are some very specific days and jobs for which people are greatly needed:

◆ Stillman holds general workdays on the 1st Saturday of every month from 9 to 12 in the morning. Come and stay as long as you can!

◆ Starting mid-June, there will be additional workdays every Thursday from 9 to 11 AM. We will be doing brush work and gathering seed for the prairie. Contact Daria Sapp at 381-5358 for more information.

◆ The Land Management Committee, now headed by Daria Sapp, is looking for additional help. A meeting is scheduled for May 19th, 7 PM, at Stillman. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Daria at 381-5358.

◆ Matt Gies can use the expertise of

anyone who knows small engine mechanics. There are a number of ways in which this knowledge would be extremely valuable. Call Matt at 428-OWLS if you can help out.

◆ Also needed is someone with carpentry and architectural skills to help design and build a boardwalk for the area between the treeline and the marsh. All materials will be provided. Contact Matt Gies for more information.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks to all who have donated time and effort, and to all who have visited.

◆ On Saturday, April 23, Boy Scout Troop #288, lead by Jane Hansen, spent the day working at Stillman. They spread chips on the trails, moved brush, potted oak trees, and cleaned out the cold frames, finishing the afternoon with a feast of hotdogs and "smores." Thanks again for all the help!

◆ Roy Schodtler ventured to Stillman on Friday, May 13th with over 60 high school Biology students. Their activities included a scavenger hunt and a pond study.

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 ◆ Jim Kaltsas and his high school students have spent every Saturday in May working at the property. They have been cleaning seed for the prairie, clearing paths and spreading wood chips for the butterfly garden which is due to be planted in June.

Oct 28th: FRIDAY NIGHT HIKE:

Walk the trails by the light of the moon and then gather around the campfire.

For more information, call 428-OWLS.

5/25
 ◆ A prairie seeding will take place on Saturday, May 21st. Scheduled to participate are the students of Roy Schodtler and Jim Kaltsas, as well as the Hoffman Estates Ecology Club.

OF INTEREST . . .

New developments at Stillman include the winter completion of the fence surrounding the property. In the main building, the classroom floor has been painted, and the old bathroom is on its way to becoming a work area. Outside, we are pleased to announce that the Green Thumb Garden Club of Barrington will be planting their butterfly garden on June 15th, with the help of a \$100 grant from Shell Oil. We look forward to seeing the completed project. Meanwhile, the prairie is awakening to the calls of Spring. Headed by Daria Sapp, the Prairie Restoration Committee has focused this season's efforts on seed gathering and planting. The committee will not be burning the prairie this Spring, but is desperate for volunteers to help with planting and gathering. A seeding is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st, at 1 PM. Anyone who can help is very welcome to join.

WALKS AT STILLMAN

On May 15th, a small group took advantage of a beautiful Sunday and participated in our Spring Wildflower Walk. Various walks are held several times a year. Everyone is invited and there is no charge. The following is a tentative schedule for more upcoming walks:

July 10th: POND EXPLORATION:

Play detective and uncover the pond's summer secrets. Sunday 1 - 3 PM

Sept 18: BIRDFEEDER WORKSHOP

Get your yard ready to host our fall and winter visitors. Sunday 1 - 3 PM

Anyone who would like to submit information or an article to the newsletter can call me -

Kate Hargreaves 708-658-8202

