Our mission is to conserve, restore and study the natural areas within Fermilab while encouraging employees and neighbors to experience and enjoy Fermilab’s natural beauty.
An abundance of White Trout Lilies (Erythronium americanum) may indicate that a woodland hasn’t been plowed because colonies spread slowly. After about seven years, a bulb produces one leaf, then when it is mature, it grows two leaves and one beautiful flower. This plant has a fascinating symbiotic relationship with ants which like to eat the seed coating. Ants disperse the ripe seeds and plant them deep underground. Trout Lilies (also called adder’s-tongue or dog’s-tooth violet) are one of the spring wildflowers threatened by the spread of invasive Garlic Mustard.
President’s message

Once again FNA has had an enormously successful year! Our volunteers have put in over 5,000 hours in the field, (habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring). As a steward I walk through my woodland and delight in the progress I see. A few years ago, this woodland was mostly choked with honeysuckle and buckthorn so thick that we could not walk through it. Now there is more sunlight and we have carpets of wildflowers in the spring such as false rue anemone, trillium, and wild geranium.

At our annual meeting in March of 2018, Stephen Packard gave an inspiring talk about working with Dr. Robert Betz in the early days of prairie restoration in the Chicago area. We were honored to have a special guest in attendance, Mrs. Robert F. Betz.

In September we co-hosted the Grassland Restoration Network Workshop and welcomed restoration experts from around the country.

After the workshop we were sad to say goodbye to Fermilab ecologist Ryan Campbell who moved to Germany with his wife Elisabeth. However, we were very happy to welcome the new ecologist Wally Levernier. Wally has settled in quickly and we are enjoying working with him.

This year we expanded our internship program to include two interns in the fall. Joseph McDermott and Sarah Cortez were enormously helpful in the transition between Ryan and Wally. They, along with our summer intern Alison Little, continued to help with our prairie and woodland restoration efforts.

We have also been very successful in obtaining grants to support our work. We thank everyone who donated to our matching funds for the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation 3:1 grant. This will enable us to continue our expanded internship program in 2019.

Our next major project is the restoration of the grasslands along Eola Rd to improve the habitat for rare grassland birds. We obtained a grant from the DuPage Foundation to support the first phase of this work.

We are an all-volunteer organization and we are always looking for new volunteers. We would love to see new faces at our workdays - no experience is needed. We are also looking for volunteers to join the board or one of our committees.

Additionally, we now have FNA merchandise available featuring our bison logo created by former Betz intern and committee member Sidath Wanigasinghe. Shop on line at https://fermilabnaturalareas.itemorder.com/sale.
Weekday Volunteers

One of FNA’s most important tasks is to help Fermilab organize volunteers to remove invasive plants, collect seeds, plant plugs, and disseminate seeds. In 2018, we continued our weekly Monday Strike Team and Wednesday Morning Warriors programs.

Workday volunteers sometimes include local high school and college students who wish to complete their environmental science requirements; local residents; and Fermilab employees.

FNA hosts workdays for students in Master Naturalist training. These are the 2018 University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist Trainees.
Workday at Kingnut Woods. During the Winter months, much of our work is the removal, and sometimes burning, of invasive trees and shrubs in woodland areas.
Stewardship Program

Stewards do the bulk of the restoration work in their assigned woodland natural areas. Work includes the removal of invasive plants, planting and spreading seed of native plants, and monitoring flora and fauna.

The dedication of our stewards is crucial for our restoration efforts!

(Not all areas have so many mosquitoes!)

Mayapple flowers are beautiful, and usually hidden by the large leaves.

FNA dedicated a bench in memory of Paul Heidebrecht, former co-steward of Kingnut Woods (with John Michel). Paul’s wife Priscilla and a number of their friends attended the dedication ceremony.
Fall Seed Harvests and other Special Events

Dale Steichen and Paula Lambertz (FNA Board Member) planting a tree on Arbor Day.

Seed mixing. FNA assisted Fermilab Roads & Grounds with the two 2018 Fall Public Prairie Seed Harvests.

FNA co-hosted the Grassland Restoration Network Workshop. After presenting their paper “40 Years of Prairie Restoration at Fermilab,” Ryan Campbell & Jacques Hooymans led tours of a Fermilab prairie and discussed successional prairie planting.
**Our Woodlands**

Workday volunteers and stewards play an important role in improving the health of Fermilab’s woodlands. Removing aggressive non-native shrubs such as Honeysuckle and Buckthorn reduces competition and increases light that reaches the ground. Because of substantial volunteer efforts we see a recovery of the forbs (flowering plants) which are often absent in areas that are overgrown with invasive shrubs. We speed up this recovery by collecting seed of native grasses, sedges and forbs in healthy woodlands and spreading it in woodlands where we’re removing the invasive brush. The result of these volunteer efforts is an increase in plant diversity. One metric used by ecologists to measure the quality of a natural area is the Floristic Quality Index (FQI). The goal is for all our woodlands to have an FQI of 50 or higher. The largest increases in FQI were for Kingnut Woods which went from 48 in 2017 to 54 in 2018, Lederman Woods from 41 to 47 and Girl Scout Woods from 42 to 46.

**Forty Years of Prairie Restoration at Fermilab**

Ryan Campbell and Jacques Hooymans wrote a paper in which they presented results of 40 years of successional prairie planting at Fermilab. They looked at the four stages of prairie species that Dr. Betz defined and their presence or absence in the 25 prairie plantings at Fermilab. They concluded that this method can work and that the absence of some of the Stage 3 and Stage 4 species is probably the result of limited seed availability. They also discuss the over-abundance of tall grasses such as Indian Grass and Big Bluestem and how Fermilab is experimenting with Wood Betony, a hemi-parasitic species, to suppress the tall grasses. The paper can be downloaded from the Illinois State University library: [https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/napc/14/](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/napc/14/).

**Wildlife highlights**

Volunteers, stewards, and interns found several wildlife highlights during 2018. Two rare odonates, a damselfly called the western red damsel (*Amphiagrion abbreviatum*) and a dragonfly called the flag-tailed spinyleg (*Dromogomphus spoliatus*), were both seen and photographed. Intern Joseph McDermott conducted a study on the flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) distribution throughout the woodlands of Fermilab and found flying squirrels in 10 of 14 woodlands that he surveyed. In addition, bird monitors found evidence of two birds nesting on-site for the first time: the common gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) and the American coot (*Fulica americana*).
Wildflower, Prairie, and Pollinator Walks

Fermilab natural areas walks are listed on FNA’s calendar of events on our website.

In addition to the events described here, a tour for Heritage Woods Seniors was arranged. Please contact us if you are interested in arranging a tour.

Dutchman’s Breeches (above left) can be seen in deciduous mesic woodlands that have not been plowed (i.e., a remnant area). It flowers for 2-3 weeks in early to mid-spring. If you join a wildflower walk at Fermilab, you may see one!

Woodland Walk
In 2018, FNA organized wildflower walks for the Batavia and Warrenville Environmental Commissions and Warrenville in Bloom.

A red mushroom in Girl Scout Woods

A butterfly sat on Terry Miesle’s shoulder when he was leading a pollinator walk! During 2018, FNA provided three pollinator walks to the public.
Outreach/Presentations

During 2018, FNA participated in the Batavia Volunteer Fair, Fermilab Earth Day, Geneva Summer Volunteer and Job Fair, Aurora Green Fest, Well Batavia, Fermilab Family Fest, and we co-hosted the 2018 Grassland Restoration Network Workshop.

FNA provided a presentation on Fermilab bison to the Naperville Woman’s Club.

Volunteers who helped at Outreach events included Sue Styer, Jackie McCaulley, Liz Copeland, Penny Kasper, Sue Sheehan, Mark McConnaughhay, Terry Miesle, Joe Cavataio, Jenise Tucker, Emily McGrath, Tom Moser, John Michel, and Courtney Dent.

FNA Secretary Maureen Huey and FNA Vice President Liz Copeland at the Batavia Volunteer Fair

FNA organized Hands on Herps: a presentation by Joe Cavataio at the Batavia Library on native amphibians and reptiles

We look forward to meeting you at an event soon!
Grants Awarded to FNA in 2018

In 2018, FNA launched a new project to restore a 500-acre site along Eola Rd to prime habitat for grassland birds. The overall goal is to create grassland habitat preferred by certain grassland bird species by removing trees from the site and adopting a mowing strategy. For example, the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) (endangered in Illinois) formerly bred and nested at Fermilab. It prefers large, open areas of short-stature grasses. Henslow’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) and Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) are Chicago Wilderness priority species that require short grass prairie for breeding. This is a multiphase multiyear project between FNA and Fermilab Roads and Grounds. FNA’s role is to raise the funds and hire and manage contractors. Roads and Grounds will be responsible for mowing.

In December, FNA was awarded a DuPage Foundation Grant of $12,000 to fund the initial phase of the project. FNA is seeking additional grants to complete the other phases of the project.
The Nature Conservancy Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN) grant of $1,526 was awarded to FNA to purchase a brush cutter, hard hats, eye protection, chaps, and a loggers first aid kit.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awarded an 18-month Community Stewardship Challenge Grant of $27,000 to Fermilab Natural Areas for the period May 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019. FNA received $21,000 for a 3:1 match, and $6,000 after documenting that volunteers logged more than 400 hours on stewardship and more than 100 hours on outreach programs. Due to the generous support of our members and volunteers, we have completed the requirements for these matches and will receive the full sum of the grant!

The funds will be used for a variety of programs including seed collection, invasive plant removal, and the purchase and planting of native seeds and plants, and various outreach programs. Perhaps most important, the grant has allowed us to fund the expanded internship program through 2019. “Thank you!” to all who have contributed volunteer hours or cash donations for this grant!

2018 Fall interns Joseph McDermott and Sarah Cortez. The Betz summer intern program has worked so well that FNA expanded it in 2018 to add two fall internships and increased the term of the internships from 10 to 12 weeks. Fall Betz interns worked on invasive species control, seed collection, and brush cutting which greatly helped the ecology group at that time of year.

2018 Summer Betz Intern Allison Little. Since 2008, FNA has selected an annual Robert F. Betz Summer Intern. The internship allowed students to learn first-hand ecological concepts in the field, critical to their future successes. It is a key program aimed to pass the ecological torch to the next generation.
Acknowledgements

FNA depends on membership dues, individual donations, corporate sponsorship, in-kind contributions and grants to accomplish its work. We thank the following donors for their generous support in 2018! We also thank the Batavia Women’s Club for their generous support!

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Eleanor Betz

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Carmel Mullally-Powers
Marianne Picha
Jeanmarie Starshak
Michael Vincent
Heather Williams

2018 Sources of Donations

- Member Donations
- New Member Donations
- Corporate Donations
FNA Board of Directors and Fermilab Liaisons

2018 FNA Board of Directors
Liz Copeland (Vice-President)
Rita Dolan (2018 Secretary)
Maureen Huey (2019 Secretary)
Penny Kasper (President)
Paula Lambertz
Emily McGrath
John Michel
Tom Mozer (Treasurer)
Tina Smith

2018 Fermilab Liaison to FNA Ryan Campbell

New Fermilab Ecologist, and Fermilab liaison to FNA, Walter Levernier

Wally is the new site Ecologist for Fermilab and liaison to FNA. Prior to this position, he worked as a Senior Ecologist/Project Manager for 15 years restoring natural areas throughout northeast Illinois. He attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois where he received a degree in biology. In his spare-time he enjoys running, birding, and hiking with his wife.

Brown Snake

## Financial Highlights

### FNA Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations*</td>
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<td>Net Sales of Merchandise</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td><strong>Program Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Internships</td>
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<td>Other Program Costs</td>
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*2017 Donations reflect Birding Platform donation of $2500; 2018 donations reflect decrease from refund of Birding Platform donation of $2500.*
How to Donate to FNA

On behalf of the Board, we remain grateful for your continued support of our mission!

Donations to FNA can be made in the following ways:

1. **Online** at [https://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org/ways-to-help.html](https://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org/ways-to-help.html)
2. Fermilab employees can donate online via the Employee Self Service website.
3. Send your name, address, check made to Fermilab Natural Areas to us at the address below. Please note if you are a student.
4. **Amazon Smile**: The mantra among FNA volunteers is “Every Seed Counts!” Every penny donated to FNA counts as well. You may help FNA by shopping at AmazonSmile where you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FNA. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you. Here’s how:
   - Enter "smile.amazon.com" in your browser address bar
   - On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, select FNA to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping
   - Shop & place your order – it’s so easy!

Contact Us

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Batavia, Illinois 60510
fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com

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