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FERMI NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY

FermiNews

PRAIRIE RESTORATION--STEP INTO THE PAST



Fermilab Prairie Committee left to right are Dan Ludwig, Rudy Dorner, Dave Cosgrove, Judy Sabo, John Paulk, Mitch Adamus, Chairman, Bob Lootens, Steve Bracker, and volunteer Glenn Case. Not pictured are Robert Betz, Craig Hendee, Maury Goodman, Phil Livdahl, Finley Markley, Ellen Taylor, Margaret Pearson, Tom Warkins, and Mark Thompson.

by Mitch Adamus

You are walking through 500 hundred acres of 6- and 8-foot tall grasses. You wonder if it will ever end. A few hundred yards away bison graze and watch over this year's calves. In the oak grove the great-horned owls keep the skunk and rodent population under control. Hawks patrol by day. The prairie is in its summer dress and yellow dominates in tall coreopsis, stiff goldenrod, compass plant, prairie dock, sawtooth sunflower, and yellow coneflower. Earlier in the spring, the small lady's slipper orchid, white wild indigo, blue-eyed grass, shooting stars, and golden Alexanders gave way to purple coneflower, rattlesnake master, and showy tick-trefoil. Beyond the oaks, great blue and black-crowned night herons stalk their fish dinners in the marsh. Ducks and geese raise their young here and trumpeter swans sit atop the muskrat dens. Sandhill cranes

feed and dance upland from the marsh. Coyotes roam the grassland looking for their next meal.

Is this just a dream or a vision of what used to be? No! This is happening right now in the Fermilab Main-Ring prairie!

While it is imperative that we save our remaining remnants of native ecosystems, it is sad to note that there is almost no diverse, high quality grassland in existence on a large scale in the State of Illinois. What we are trying to do is to assemble or recreate what existed in presettlement time by collecting bits and pieces of prairie from local remnants and restorations.

Our hope is to create a habitat large and rich enough to support a great variety
(cont'd. on pg. 2)

(cont'd. from pg. 1)



Purple coneflowers grace the prairie in summer with their purple to pink petals and in winter with their black seed heads.

← *Prairie dock stalks frequently exceed 6 feet in height. With a bright yellow bloom, prairie dock, a member of the sunflower family, can be used as an indicator for discovering remnant prairies. The roots descend underground for 12 feet.*

(Photos by Anthony Donaldson)

of native plants and animals, especially those requiring large acreage. For instance, there are no nesting records for the northern harrier (marsh hawk) in DuPage county for a number of years now. Except for possibly LaSalle and Grundy counties, the same is probably true for other counties in this area. If a large expanse of treeless grassland can be provided with a suitable prey base, we may be able to persuade these swooping and gliding prairie predators to once again raise their young here.

A plant that hasn't been observed in this part of the state for about ten years is Meads milkweed. It will also benefit from large acreages of grassland. It normally has a low density in the prairie and requires vast tracts in order to attract enough pollinators to keep its population healthy and intact.

In addition to being a preserve for the threatened and endangered plants and animals, the Prairie Project also serves as a research facility for students and others interested in understanding the workings of this complex ecosystem. Tom Warkins, a student from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, is doing his thesis on introducing

forbs into an established grass matrix. We are always happy to have verbal input or a helping hand to further our efforts to recreate this nearly non-existent ecosystem. Interested individuals should contact me on ext. 4352, or any of the other committee members.

Anyone interested in visiting the Fermilab prairie can come on Saturday, August 25, at 10 a.m. for a scheduled Sierra Club tour.

FERMILAB PHONE FACTS

by John Paulk

Like thousands of other customers across the country, Fermilab is scrambling to cope with changes brought about by the breakup of AT&T and the deregulation of the telecommunications industry. Until recently, Ma Bell has efficiently handled all our problems. That is no longer the case.

Various parts of telephone service are now split between AT&T and Illinois Bell and prices are going up--dramatically. At the same time, large volume customers such as universities, hospitals, and government

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agencies are moving toward buying their own telephone systems. This is being done in an effort to control and possibly cut costs.

The heart of Fermilab's telephone system which has served us well over the years is called a Centrex 101. It's located in an equipment room in Wilson Hall between the ground and first floors off the southwest stairwell. All of our incoming and outgoing calls go through the Centrex switching device. Among its disadvantages are the equipment is old by today's standards, and the system is limited to a maximum of 2,000 lines. Fermilab has nearly used up the capacity, currently having 1,972 lines in use.

Increasing costs are our biggest worry. We're projecting an overall telephone bill in excess of \$1 million for this fiscal year. That's a 40% increase over the prior year.



Pictured above in the telephone equipment room are (left to right) Carolyn Hines Communications Manager, Fermilab; Jess Rugg of AT&T who installs and repairs our telephone instruments, and Maurice Anderson Communications Engineer, Fermilab. Not pictured is Norm Hunt of the Illinois Bell Operating Company who installs and repairs the wiring portion of the system.

A big chunk of our bill pays for long distance calls over the Federal Telecommunications System (FTS) network. The FTS is a nationwide network that is leased and administered by the government. Fermilab has been directed to use this network, but we're not happy with the bill which has unexplainably increased a whopping 72% in the last year.

FTS charges are determined by length of call, so each employee is urged to help minimize this bill by planning calls beforehand, limiting the number of calls, and making them as short as possible.

For these reasons the lab has initiated several actions. First off, we now have a telecommunications committee. The committee's purpose is to define and acquire a totally new telephone system through competitive procurement. It would belong to the lab rather than one or more telephone companies as is currently the case. In all likelihood, it would be state-of-the-art with all kinds of nice features and suitable for handling both voice and data transmissions.

Until that can happen (two or three years from now), we're taking steps to increase the capacity of the Centrex system by another 600 lines. Illinois Bell is bringing in some second-hand equipment from California. It'll be placed in a small room off the ground floor machine shop. We expect it to be ready for service this coming September.

Site Services has recently added a telecommunications engineer to its staff, Maurice Anderson. Maurice will play a vital role in helping us sort out the complex details of buying a new telephone system and eventually operating and maintaining it.

The lab is also investigating long distance services being offered by companies such as Sprint, MCI, Skyline, ITT, and ARGO. The goal here is to seek a cost-effective alternative to FTS. It's not certain that the government will allow us to abandon FTS even if we can show that costs are favorable, but it is clear that we need to do everything we can to stem runaway costs.

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CANADIAN MUSICIANS BRING FOLK TRADITIONS TO THE LAB

by Jane Green

Our Canadian neighbors possess a rich heritage of folk music. Songs of French Canada and of the Atlantic provinces are known around the world. This year, Fermilab's annual Folk Showcase will celebrate these Canadian folk traditions with the presentation of two of that nation's foremost groups. Appearing on Saturday, July 21, 1984, at 8 p.m. in Ramsey Auditorium are Eritage and John Allan Cameron.

Eritage, a six-member Quebecois traditional band, performs a special blend of contemporary folk, traditional, and Celtic music. Playing a dozen instruments ranging from accordion and fiddle, to bones and Jew's harp, Eritage presents "an exciting program of songs, ballads, jigs, reels, rags, and cakewalks...spiced with, the wildest step-dancing to be seen anywhere." For the last seven years, the group has been capturing the Quebecois spirit in concerts in Canada, the United States, and Europe, on Canadian television, and in five recordings. This summer they will be appearing at major Canadian Folk festivals.



Eritage

Canada's foremost ballad singer, John Allan Cameron, hails from the Cape Breton Islands. Performing on guitar and fiddle, his style is folk-ethnic with a contemporary country influence. This singer-comedian-narrator has performed with Anne Murray at Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas, as well as in her television special. He has hosted his own Canadian television series and specials and recently completed the filming of a television special in Bermuda on the tall ships. Concert tours have taken him from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry to Japan, and this summer he is doing several performances with Australia's Roger Wittaker. Cameron has recorded eight albums of his own work.

Don't miss Canada's finest at the Folk Showcase. Admission is \$7 and tickets are available at the Information Desk in the atrium of Wilson Hall, ext. 3353. Phone reservations are held for five working days awaiting payment.

LOCAL GEESE TO BE RELOCATED

by John Paulk

In cooperation with the Illinois Department of Conservation, the Laboratory will be permitting a small scale roundup of Canada geese. It's part of a land reclamation project for coal mining areas in the southern part of the state.

The plan calls for about 20 percent of our goose population to be rounded-up and relocated to coal mining sediment ponds. A helicopter and nets are used for capturing the geese during molting season when they are unable to easily fly.

Once released, it's likely that the goslings will consider the new location for their home and return there for nesting. Relocated adult geese are no doubt firmly imprinted with the friendly environment of Fermilab and will probably return when they get the urge.

The project will help to reestablish the wildlife and ecological balance in areas which were devastated by mining operations. At the same time it is expected to relieve some overcrowding and sanitation problems in and around Fermilab's ponds.

Congratulations To . . .

