

Land Steward Report – January, 2016 (Covers Nov/Dec 2015)

As of early January, water is covering the entire pond area. It is within about 7' of the beehive grate.

We conducted a burn of the phragmites and cattails between the pool and the tip of the peninsula in November. Some areas burned well, but others were too damp. It appears that there will be substantial plant material both above and below water. The above-water cattail stems will bring oxygen to its root area and any plants that did not get killed by the glyphosate treatments will be able to regrow. The underwater plant material will very slowly decompose but it may take many years, and will add to the organic material on the pond bottom.

Thurston students sowed flower seeds in the southern half of the oak savanna on November 16th and had a classroom discussion of savannas and native plants the following week. An article on this is at <http://news.a2schools.org/students-plant-native-prairie-at-thurston-nature-center/>. A report on the 2015 project was provided to the Wildflower Association of Michigan and a 2016 grant proposal was submitted.

Some clearing was done in the area we burned last spring north of the blue spruces by North Prairie. Some donated native seeds were sowed in the cleared area, while winter wheat was sowed along the west edge of the area where there is still buckthorn growing – as fuel for the next burn, possibly in fall 2016.

Frank Commiskey and Jim Vallem sowed native grass, rush and sedge seed and put down biodegradable erosion blankets along the top edge of the sediment basin, to prevent erosion. Additional seed was sowed elsewhere in the outlet area (from Pond Circle Trail to the expected high water mark), and on the new berm. Seed has not been placed on the new island yet (waiting for the water to freeze to get out there).

Outlet Area Seeding			DRY AREA		
Latin Name	Common Name	Ht.	Latin Name	Common Name	Ht.
WET AREA (Top of Sediment Basin)			Carex brevior	Plains Oval Sedge	1'
Juncus effusus	Common Rush	2'	Juncus tenuis	Path Rush	1'
Poa palustris	Fowl Bluegrass	2'	Juncus canadensis	Canada Rush	2'
Carex typhina	Common Cattail Sedge	1'	Agrostis hyemalis	Ticklegrass	1'
Carex frankii	Bristly Cattail Sedge	2'	Bromus kalmii	Prairie Brome	2.5'
Carex blanda	Common Wood Sedge	2'	Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	3'
			Tradescantia ohioensis	Ohio Spiderwort	3'

Berm Seeding

Latin	Common	Ht
Mesic Sunny (Northern End of Berm)		
Tradescantia ohioensis	Ohio Spiderwort	3
Juncus effusus	Common Rush	2

Mesic Shady (Southern End of Berm)		
Carex spengelii	Long-beaked Sedge	2
Carex gracilescens	Slender Wood Sedge	2
Thalictrum dioicum	Early Meadow Rue	2

Mesic Sunny and Shady		
Agrostis hyemalis	Ticklegrass	1
Carex brevior	Plains Oval Sedge	1
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's Ladder	1

Water's Edge, Sunny and Shady		
Carex frankii	Bristly Cattail Sedge	2
Carex blanda	Common Wood Sedge	2

Jim Vallem
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