Working Together to Increase Oak Regeneration

A Restoration Roundtable hosted by the
Chicago Wilderness Natural Resources Management Team & the
Oak Ecosystem Recovery Working Group

Tuesday, October 3, 2017
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
At Lake County Forest Preserves’ MacArthur Woods and Ryerson Conservation Area

Lack of oak regeneration in our woodlands is a major issue facing landowners and managers in the Chicago Wilderness Region. Very old trees characterize many of the region’s oak stands with an understory almost completely lacking in new recruits and giving way to more shade-tolerant species such as sugar maple.

The Chicago Wilderness Natural Resources Management Team, in partnership with the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Working Group, is hosting a Restoration Roundtable to bring together land managers and others working on oak ecosystem recovery to discuss oak regeneration and explore opportunities for more widespread collaboration and coordination on this issue.

Program Overview

Morning tour and overview / early results of the Lake County Forest Preserves Woodland Habitat Restoration Project at MacArthur Woods Forest Preserve. This well-documented restoration project represents one of the first, large-scale efforts in the region to thin canopy cover and restore oak woodlands.

Brownbag lunch and networking at the nearby Edward L. Ryerson Welcome Center

Afternoon presentations and discussions that include:
• Update on implementation of the Oak Ecosystems Recovery Plan undertaken by The Morton Arboretum on behalf of CW
• Ongoing mapping of remnant oak ecosystems
• McHenry County Conservation District’s ongoing study investigating the factors limiting oak regeneration in natural areas
• The Southern Illinois “Let the Sun Shine In” campaign focused on oak woodland restoration
• A dialogue on how we can work collaboratively to increase oak regeneration

This event is free and open to all those involved in the conservation and management of oak ecosystems. Please RSVP to Chris Mulvaney at mulvaney.christopher@gmail.com

We will meet at 9:00am at the Lake County Forest Preserve’s MacArthur Woods. Parking is available off of St. Mary’s Road about 500-600 yards north of the intersection of St. Mary’s Road and IL Rt 60. (Note: this entrance is usually secured by a cable). Turn west off St. Mary’s Road and follow the dirt road to a small parking area.