

2010 Report of the Director  
James Woodworth Prairie (JWP) of University of Illinois at Chicago  
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Highlights of 2010

Highlights of 2010: 1) the completion of a manuscript, "Saving Peacock Prairie" by Bernice Popelka, 2) the exhibit of Frank Mayfield's photos at UIC's Daley library, 3) beginning of a research project on edge effects by Cedar Smith, a UIC undergraduate, 4) posting of a large number of flower images on Facebook by graduate student Paul Gulezian, 2010 summer research assistant, 5) discovery of two new small white lady's slipper individuals, and 6) continuing exposure and removal of concrete blocks that were pushed into the Milwaukee swale long ago.

### Research

1. Cedar Smith, a UIC undergraduate Biology major, came to me with an interest in edges. I gave her a copy of the quadrats plant inventory and she looked for effects of the north, east and south edges. The east fence quadrats are no different than the quadrats to the west, ie no edge effect, but the north (A) and south (L) property lines are distinctly different from the rest of the prairie. Cedar continued with me, focusing on the north edge. From randomly selected distances she ran transects south 24m into the prairie with quadrats every 3 m. She also measured height of individuals of six species and found that individuals near the edge are taller.
2. An exciting discovery was two new individuals of the small white ladies slipper. One was on the same ridge as the original clump, but one was west of the central swale. The 6 blooming stems of ladies tresses were the most I have seen at JWP, so it was a good year for orchids.

### Management

1. Burns were conducted on 27 Mar, 5 Apr and 30 Oct 2010. All 3 burns were on the west half of the prairie. On 27 March we burned from line 13 west, but only N of MIL. On 5 Apr the south part of the west half was burned. On 30 Oct MIL was burned and the prairie N of it was burned. I built a brush pile in MIL before the burn and I realized we could get rid of cut woody vegetation during prairie burns. In 2011 spring the plan is to burn south of the F line.
2. During one of Cedar Smith's surveys I discovered *Phragmites australis*, a significant invasive species. We stopped the inventory and Max Palmer, Cedar and I dug out the *Phragmites*. There was still a bit left when we had to leave. Rains that night prevented returning to finish this job.
3. Paul Gulezian and Max dug out a two large and a couple small areas of the garden in 2010. I continued their work in the fall. Lots of roots, stone and clay was removed and humus and sand were added. Eighteen *Gentiana puberulenta* seedlings were planted in the garden.
4. I continued removal of concrete chunks and the billboard posts that has been put into the Milwaukee Swale. Lots of concrete was exposed in late 2010.
5. Max Palmer returned as an employee and got a lot of management including cutting of woody exotics along and outside the fence.

### Education and outreach

1. Bernice Popelka, Ev Tyner and Al Rouffa visited UIC 30 Nov as part of publication preparation of Bernice's manuscript, "Saving Peacock Prairie".
2. Paul Gulezian, my graduate student and summer research assistant, posted a large number of pictures he took on Facebook. There is a UIC's prairie group on FB. Join if you are on FB.
3. Frank Mayfield had an exhibit of pictures at UIC's Daley library. There will be a new exhibit of Frank's pictures in UIC's Ward Lounge in FEB 2011.
4. The spring potluck was held on 20 May. Many enjoyed it.
5. The website has continued to add plant species pictures, primarily from frank@black-sweater-art.com.

**Building and grounds**

1. In 2010 the McDonalds restaurant to the south was torn down and a new one was built in its place. A new utility pole had to be put in the prairie. Happily it was done well by the Commonwealth Edison crew with little disturbance to the prairie. Frank Mayfield has some pictures displayed in the new McDonalds.
2. Chunks of concrete that had been pushed into the Milwaukee Ave wetland (MIL) continue to be removed (look at **management** page of website for pictures)
3. I received complaints about the appearance of the building and have requested that it be painted. I'm told it is in the schedule.
4. The driveway and parking lot asphalt is in poor condition. We have aggressively been spraying with roundup plants that are poking thru the asphalt.

**Effort details**

From 1 January 2010 thru 31 December 2010, I was at JWP on 48 different dates and spent 11,348 minutes there.

Dennis Nyberg,

10 January 2011