



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2010 NATIVE SEED COLLECTING!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Recreation Division, Stewardship Unit is once again in need of volunteers to harvest native prairie seed at several state parks and recreation areas in Lower Michigan. Seed from a number of wildflowers will be collected for later planting by the Stewardship Unit to restore native tallgrass prairie, lakeplain prairie, and oak savanna ecosystems. Some seed from prairie grass plants such as big bluestem, little bluestem, and Indian grass, will be collected as well.

Prior to European settlement, southern Michigan supported vast expanses of prairie and oak savanna. Today prairies and savannas persist only in tiny remnant patches, many in state parks. Seed collection is a key step in restoring these lost landscapes, but it is one that requires many hands. This is a unique opportunity to learn about these rare landscapes while doing something positive to help restore and preserve them for future generations. Its fun, easy, and a wonderful experience for the entire family and people of all ages!

WORKDAY DETAILS:

All Saturday workdays are from 10 AM to 1 PM

All Sunday workdays are from 1 PM to 4 PM

We ask that volunteers bring a clean, dry, empty gallon milk jug to collect seed and wear sturdy shoes. Hiking distance will vary. Prairie remnants are often very sunny places so a hat, sunscreen and drinking water are also recommended. If you are allergic to bees, please bring your sting relief kit. An adult must accompany children between the ages of 5 to 15 and a parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for anyone under 18. If you belong to a group or organization that cannot attend weekend workdays, special arrangements may be made for weekdays.

Please register by mailing or faxing in a registration form.

Forms are available on our web site:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers>.

Contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper at malvitzl@michigan.gov or 248-359-9057 for more information.

Algonac SP

October 10th

Meet at the main entrance in the day use area parking lot.

November 6th

Meet at the shot gun range parking lot.

Fort Custer RA

October 16th & 24th

Meet at the park headquarters.

Highland RA

October 9th, 17th &

November 7th

Meet at the Silo Field Trail Area parking lot on Livingston Road.

Island Lake RA

October 13th (Wednesday)

3:30 – 6:30pm

Meet in the parking lot by the JC Penney store at Green Oak Village Place mall, take US 23 - Lee Road exit.

October 16th & 30th

Take the only park road (approx. 15 minutes from entrance); look for signs (half mile to 1.5-mile hike)

Pinckney RA

October 17th

Meet at the Halfmoon Lake parking lot on Hankerd Road.

Sterling SP

October 16th & 23rd

Meet at the park headquarters.

Waterloo RA

October 10th

Meet on Waterloo Rd just west of M-52. Roadside parking.