

BLUEBIRDS AT LAPHAM PEAK, 2009

In our 16th year of installing and monitoring nest boxes, we're happy to experience the second largest production of Bluebird fledglings: 132, from 31 nest boxes. This was particularly gratifying considering a fairly long and harsh winter as well as several major storms during migration periods. Mosquito-eating Tree Swallows also used our nest boxes, producing 53 fledglings. Sandy Street, Karen DeBoer, and Yvonne Fort provided the regular monitoring and reporting necessary for successfully managing our four Bluebird trails at Lapham Peak.



PRAIRIE PLANTING, 2009

Students from Cathy Chybowski's classes at Kettle Moraine High School met each Monday afternoon in September and October with adult volunteers to gather prairie seeds. The Kennedy family, Colleen, Theresa, Jessica, and Adler, collected seeds nearly every week. We'll add all these seeds to others and spread more than 60 species over 11 acres of two recently-harvested soybean fields on November 11th. We'll plant several other areas in the Park as well, including two areas of the appropriately-named garlic mustard hill.



INVASIVE PLANTS, 2009

A small crew of mostly-retired folks continues to work steadily most mornings from 9-12 AM, cutting, stacking and soon burning piles of buckthorn and honeysuckle. We hope to be joined by work parties from Cathy Chybowski's Kettle Moraine AP Biology classes and possibly the KM Honor Society as soon as we receive a snow cover suitable for fire. This past year we've focused on the area downhill from the Tower outhouse, bounded on two sides by the Ice Age Trail and entrance road, and at the lower end by Two Tier Hill. We also focused on the west side of Hwy "C" in Timm's Big Woods adjacent to the Ice Age Trail. These efforts are supported by matching stewardship grants from the state DNR and the Friends of Lapham Peak. At the time of this writing, the oak trees along the entrance road to the tower seem to be drawing several photographers attracted by the fall colors and unencumbered by unsightly buckthorns blocking the view.



Mike Fort