

Report to Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting  
Environmental Concerns Committee  
2010 March 6  
Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

Since the Continuing Committee Meeting on 2009 October 31, the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has focused its efforts for care of the natural landscape of the newly acquired Mills property and planning for future meetings.

With the help of other Friends, ECC attempted a burn of the ILYM Prairie in mid November, but the conditions were too wet and, without a killing frost, the prairie plants too green for a successful burn. Thus, the Committee is planning to burn the ILYM prairie on the earliest of March 13, 14, 20, or 21, depending on the weather. The burn should remove from the prairie invasive plants and enrich the soil while not affecting migrating wildlife. Friends are welcome to join us.

At the request of the Stewards, the Environmental Concerns Committee has completed the document, "Landscaping Guidelines for the Mills Property." This was compiled by Adrian Fisher with input from committee members. The report is available on the ILYM website, "2010 Visioning discussion forum," "Theme: Unity with Nature Landscaping Guidelines."

We are also planning our Spring retreat-workday on April 16-17 with our main focus of working on the grounds of the Mills addition. We plan to work on the "Old Field," clean up other undesirable natural growth, and possibly plant a tree. We would be glad for suggestions of projects to go with the ones we are planning, particularly projects that have high priority for the care of the property.

In addition to working on the Mills addition and the Meetinghouse property at that retreat-workday, ECC will also continue to:

- explore the feasibility of adding succulent plants on top of the Meetinghouse kitchen roof (that is, to develop a "green" roof);
- map all trees on the campground and meetinghouse sections of the properties;
- annotate and map the memorial trees;
- experiment with a composting bin at ILYM;
- outline specifically the responsibilities of the Recycling Coordinator at ILYM; and
- expand our suggestions for green products to be used at ILYM.

Several of our experienced and treasured members have experienced health problems this fall and winter that have slowed their work with the committee. We look forward to their joining our activities this Spring in working with the yearly meeting in the care of our property and of all of God's creation. We have much, very urgent work ahead of us for the care of the earth.