

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) met five times since the 2009 Annual Session at the yearly meeting grounds during work-retreats in September and April, prairie burns in November and March, and the Memorial Day Work Weekend in May. During our times together, we have focused almost exclusively on environmental activities on the yearly meeting grounds, primarily the Mills addition, and have prepared guidelines for landscaping the Mills addition. Over the year, we have been involved in the following activities.

1. 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.

2. For over a year, the committee has been exploring procedures and materials to cover or "green" the Meetinghouse kitchen roof with plants – mostly sedum – to keep it cool in the summer and attractive. If we bought already prepared materials, it would cost \$7,000-\$8,000. Thus, the committee applied for a \$250 mini-grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness to experiment on a 48-square-foot trial area. Chris Goode, Adrian Fisher, and Noel Pavlovic are investigating possible ways of doing this. With a matching \$250 from ILYM, QEW awarded the grant to ECC. We hope to demonstrate some possible approaches during the June annual session.

3. After a failed attempt during a warm and wet November 2009, ECC with the help of many others was able to burn the ILYM Prairie and "Old Field" in March and April (along with the two large wood piles). In April we re-seeded the prairie with Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, and Indian grasses. The burn should clean out and rejuvenate these areas.

4. During our times together, we worked on the yearly meeting grounds, primarily the Mills addition, cutting or trimming several trees and bushes, transplanting nine oak, redbud, and maple trees, cleaning trash piles, removing unwanted plants around the long shed and Clear Creek House, trimming grass around small trees, and in general beautifying the property. A major project was to cut down all the trees and to remove 20 or 30 large stumps in the Old Field, in preparation for plowing it to remove weed seeds prior to readying it for long term use.

5. Between the Annual Sessions in June 2009 and late September 2009, ECC collected 230 postcards for the Countdown to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change and sent them to the Church World Service to be given to the Obama Administration and Senate leaders on November 5, 2009.

6. We continued to work on and possibly finish several projects:

- a. making recommendations for the use of green products at yearly meeting;
- b. mapping of the trees, including the memorial trees on the ILYM campus with a short description of each person memorialized by a tree;
- c. developing a description of the recycling coordinator at the annual session; and
- d. reviewing the use of the composting bin at the annual session.

7. We are exploring for the future:

- a. being involved with the Site Envisioning Committee in taking the work from the visioning workshop along with that of several committees to develop a site plan of the yearly meeting grounds and buildings to be presented for approval at the 2011 annual sessions;
- b. developing the use of the yearly meeting campus for local gardening, such as community gardens and education on agriculture;
- c. working with Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of Americas, on their Global Change Clusters Project; and
- d. taking our message about earthcare and climate change, including Climate Change Legislation, to monthly meetings, raising issues about what local meetings are doing.

At the yearly sessions in 2010, the Environmental Concerns Committee planned for our activities in the coming year. To honor Bob Wixom, ECC's former clerk and inspiration, ECC would like to plant a memorial tree on the ILYM grounds. We are working with David Wixom and Bob's family to decide the best location and time for planting Bob's tree. Thanks to Paul Schobernd's amazing collection, we are planning to erect a purple martin house near the barn along with a bat house donated by Mark McGinnis. With the addition of the six acres to the west, ECC is aware that ILYM's property is an oasis for wildlife – such as owls, redwing blackbirds, and redheaded woodpeckers – among the surrounding corn and bean monoculture. We urge that ILYM be sensitive to this wildlife as we make plans for the use of our entire campus.

– Roy C. Treadway, Clerk