

Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC)
Annual Report to Illinois Yearly Meeting

June 2011

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The ECC continues to care for the ILYM grounds at the Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse. This past year we have drafted biographies of dear Friends who are now longer with us for future use with memorial trees on the grounds. We held two work retreats at ILYM in October of 2010 and April of 2011. We have cut up fallen tree branches, removed invasive species and problem tree saplings, and assisted with memorial tree planting. We are investigating the idea of a mini bioblitz on the ILYM grounds. We will be hosting an early morning bird walk on Saturday morning at the yearly meeting. In addition, we have accomplished two significant tasks over the past year.

1. **Green roof:** At the annual work weekend on May 28, we constructed a prototype green roof above the kitchen that extends the length of the roof and extends about three feet upslope from the roof edge. Trial plantings included two species of *Sedum*, violets, and *Allium* species. We will be evaluating the survival and spread of the plants over the summer. We consider this an experimental planting. We utilized four types of trays, constructed wooden trays, 24 by 24 inch plastic trays, smaller plastic trays, and Styrofoam tree planting trays.. Under the trays we installed a 20 mil butyl rubber layer to protect the roof. Within the trays we installed layers of landscape fabric to reduce root penetration below the trays. Be such to check out the green roof and ask any members of ECC questions that you might have.

2. **Vision for the new property grounds.** At our April work day, we developed a conceptual vision of the new property to facilitate future development and our ongoing landscape development work. The proposal has been sent to Site Envisioning Committee for their consideration in response to their site vision solicitation. Our vision includes prairie meadows for wildlife, removal of the long shed, the development of a Friends Memorial Worship Grove north of the long shed, and a narrow lane that connects the west campus from the Meetinghouse grounds.