

Seed-gathering group.

Friday, May 24—I picked up two trays of *Eupatorium Altissimum* (Tall Boneset), 72 plugs each, from Rose at Cylburn. Kay, Dwight, and I then planted 5 plots, 1 meter x 2 meters, with 12 plugs each. 1 plot was on the approach to the large meadow, 3 were in the meadow, 1 was at the end of the meadow dogleg heading towards the lake. The ground was moist although it had not rained for a couple of days.

The plots were marked with 4 red flags. It's possible that these will be vandalized, but Kay took photos recording their locations and Jen Engers will be taking photos and recording GPS data later this weekend. Also, full-grown *Altissimum* plants are tall and easy to recognize.

Kay pointed out that Whorled Milkweed plants are beginning to come up in the large meadow. Dwight said that in a rocky area west of the "Restoration" sign Fame Flower is coming up in a section where we saw it last summer, but in places where we planted seeds there is no sign of new plants. This should be checked every few weeks.

Volunteers:

Kay McConnell 2 hours

Peter Lev 2 hours

Dwight Johnson 1 hour

Saturday, May 25—This was supposed to be a *Miscanthus* removal day, but I was planning to plant the remaining *Altissimum* plugs on the north side of BHB as well. However, when I arrived at Sunnyfields the parking lots were closed for a silicone coating. This was irritating, as I had specifically asked Delbert Adams for permission to use the parking lot on May 25. There is another entrance to the Orange Trail but it is less convenient, parking was iffy, and I was worried about pollution from the coating. I decided to move the work day to the south side of BHB. Jen Engers and Carlton Sexton joined me near Sunnyfields and after waiting a few minutes for Parker Morse (also signed up) we moved to the Copper Hill Gate. Parker and his friend Cooper, both high school students at Saint Paul's, eventually joined us on the lined path to the meadow.

Carlton and Jen used brushcutters to cut *Miscanthus* plants in and around the meadow, with Jen eventually moving to the trail on the hillside north of the meadow. Parker, Cooper and I planted the remaining plugs—1 plot on the west side of the approach path, 1 more in the meadow, 1 on the trail going down the hill from the White Trail, 3 on the hillside trail that I call the "mining trail" because it starts at a shallow pond that is a mining relic.

The two trays were all the *Altissimum* plants propagated in the greenhouse, but I believe there are some other *Altissimum* plants which were grown outdoors. These should be planted when ready on the north side of BHB.

I think we should use color coding to mark the different species that we are planting. Red (which I bought from Forestry Suppliers) is for *Altissimum*. Lake Roland staff has pink, white and orange flags, though I am not sure about quantities. We will probably need at least one more color.

In addition to the core group for the seed-gathering project I want to recognize today's help from Board member Carlton Sexton, Master Naturalist Jen Engers who is clearly invested in the Serpentine restoration, and Parker Morse who says, "Botany is my strong point." I wish it were mine!

Volunteer hours:

Jen Engers                2 hours

Carlton Sexton        2 hours

Parker Morse           2 hours

Cooper (last name?) 2 hours

Peter Lev                3 hours

Parker and Cooper agreed to give me emails, but they left slightly before me and it didn't happen. We didn't take photos except for records of the plots.