

**November 2015 . Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, drinking water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2014 /2015 compliance.**

**Happy Holidays .....**



**From photographer Tom Robbins.....**

I just created an online folder for the seasonal variations of the Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve oak and prairie subject - [http://www.pbase.com/salty\\_one/prairie\\_oak](http://www.pbase.com/salty_one/prairie_oak) New photos will be added to this folder as the seasons scroll by.

Hopefully we'll get a reasonable snow for a more wintery version some time in the next several months.

Haines Creek looked good early yesterday morning with a higher than usual flow of water -

<http://www.pbase.com/image/162141256/original>

Days will begin to grow longer from today onward, but to be honest, I enjoy the low angle of the sun this time of the year very much.

Tom



**November Maintenance and Natural Resource Management work report from Josh Clark**

Continued working on the shop at Afton. Organized and cleaned. New shelves and storage make it easy to stay organized and find tools and supplies as needed. In 2016 we will add windows and pull down stairs for attic as well as painting of walls and ceiling.

Several successful prescribed fires at Afton. New foam spray fire control unit was a great addition to prescribed fire tools.

Continued to collect seed from all of the preserves throughout the district. Al tells me that we collected more than last year. We will be able to collect quite a bit more next year with two restoration assistants. Also processed and weighed seed. Processing is a bit slow due to the methods used (hand cleaning, stomping, and the old chipper) but we make do and get it done. The rebuilt machine shed at Afton worked very well for a seed storage location.

Cleaned the chimney stove pipes at Shabbona Preserve. We will be replacing some pipes in December.

Began clearing brush to the east on the rebuilt machine shed at Afton. Idea is to use this area as a propagation/nursery area for native plants in the future to take the place of the areas that were used for this purpose at Al's.

## November Maintenance and Project report from Bill Prain

- Safety report redo for new tablet - pending
- McQueen- Potawatomi Bridge deck replacement – **Complete... see photo below**
- Russell bridge railing replacement-**Complete**
- New steel roof for shelter #2 Russell -**Complete**
- Winterize equipment
- Winter season equipment testing and maintenance
- Prepare sledding hill: clear walkup areas along edge, No parking fence and signage – **Complete**
- Gather wood for sledding hill fire pit
- Restock shelter firewood supply – **Complete**
- Restore Miller Ellwood Cabin loft deck-**Complete**
- Restore Miller Ellwood Cabin Windows and Shutters-**In process**
- Material collection and production of new benches, pipe gates and split rail fence-**In process**
- Administrative Priorities as called for
- Safety investigation and reporting

