

## Natural Resources Management Activities

### DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

March and early April 2018

1. Bill P. and Bob K. finished welding and preparing the steel gates that will control the water levels behind the new box culvert sections on the Afton wetland bank. The gates were installed and are doing an excellent job of controlling the water levels
2. Shelves were built in the greenhouse to hold the 50 propagation boxes that were seeded with native flowers, grasses, and sedges. We also planted several different species of oak and hickory nuts. Seedlings are just starting to pop so we should have quite a bit of green in the next couple of weeks.





3. Fire has taken up the majority of our time in the past month. 10 different units have been burned totaling over 100 acres. Many of the units are small but critical wetland habitats. We did the first burn of the Sycamore Forest Preserve prairie with excellent results. We are hopeful that the prairie flowers will begin to take over this year and it will be a much more colorful and diverse prairie. We have 5 more burn units that we would like to get done before we move on to weed season.







Crew for fire at Afton included staff, volunteer stewards and NIU students.

4. Speaking of weed season Natural Resource staff have begun preparing backpack sprayers for spring and summer weed control. We are going over our management schedules, preparing maps, and resupplying our chemicals.