

A large, leafy tree stands on the right side of the frame, its branches spreading out against a sky with soft, warm light from a low sun. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass and weeds, some with small yellow flowers. In the background, more trees are visible on the horizon.

# Welcome to the Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative 2022 Annual Meeting

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*Enjoy a light breakfast and coffee provided by  
the Green Ribbon Initiative, please help yourself*

*The meeting will begin at 10:10 am*



# Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative

2022 Annual Meeting



# 2022 GRI Annual Meeting Agenda



- **Introduction**
    - *Erika Buri,  
The Olander Park  
System*
  - **Feature Project: Arts in  
the Parks**
    - *Panel discussion with  
the artists: Lee  
Fernside, Simone  
Spruce, Barbara  
Miner*
  - **Education and Outreach  
Subcommittee**
    - *Brittani Furlong,  
The Nature  
Conservancy*
  - **Science Subcommittee**
    - *Karen Menard,  
Metroparks Toledo*
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- **Stewardship  
Subcommittee**
    - *LaRae Sprow,  
Metroparks Toledo*
  - **Native Plant Working  
Group & Cooperative  
Weed Management  
Area**
    - *Brian Yahn,  
The Nature  
Conservancy*
  - **Looking Ahead**
    - *Brittani Furlong,  
The Nature  
Conservancy*
  - **Questions and  
Community Input**

# Introduction:

- Steering Committee Chair:  
Erika Buri, The Olander Park System
- The Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) is a shared vision of public and private organizations, landowners, and individuals working to preserve, enhance, and restore critical natural areas in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.



# Introduction:

## *Oak Openings Restoration – GRI Summer Tour*

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- **Secor Metropark Expansion**

- Metroparks Toledo

- **Harroun Park**

- Sylvania City Council  
& The Nature Conservancy







# Introduction:

## *Oak Openings Restoration – GRI Summer Tour*

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- **Ansted Park**
  - Bedford Township Park Commission
  - Southeast Michigan Resiliency Fund
    - “Placemaking through restoration of the Oak Openings Region” project with The Nature Conservancy

# Introduction:

## *Tomahawk Archers – It Never Hurts to Ask*

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- Tomahawk Archers knew that their 43 acres was special
- Grounds contain natural communities such as:
  - Lakeplain oak openings,
  - Lakeplain wet-mesic prairie
  - Lakeplain wet prairie.
- However, grounds has an Enbridge pipeline easement cutting through the middle
  - Constant maintenance of this pipeline has been beneficial
  - Keeps down invasives
  - Helps keep prairies open



# Introduction:

## *Tomahawk Archers – It Never Hurts to Ask*

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### End of September 2020 –

- Notified that work was to be done on the pipeline
- More than previous work, expecting to disturb 4,000 sq.ft. of prairie
- A simple question yielded some unprecedented results
  - **“Can you please not use turf seed when you restore the surface and instead use native seed?”**
  - Expectations were “NO.”







# Introduction:

## *Tomahawk Archers – It Never Hurts to Ask*

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- After many emails:
  - **Winter 2020** – Received the complicated answer of “Let’s see what we can do.”
- A site visit was scheduled
  - Enbridge worked their side of legal requirements
  - Tomahawk Archers worked to secure seed through Green Ribbon Initiative partners
- Pipeline work began on the property in mid-November of 2020

# Introduction:

## *Tomahawk Archers – It Never Hurts to Ask*

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### **New Years Eve 2020 –**

- Tomahawk Archers signed Special Damage Release Permit
  - Exempted Enbridge of restoring the surface
  - Permit *also* included a donation of \$125 for seed, and \$200 for labor costs

### **End of April 2021 –**

- Seeding took place
  - Surface was scratched with tractor bucket, and seed premixed with substrate was hand broadcasted

### **August 2021 –**

- Pipeline prairie restored to its former glory! → → →
- Lesson: IT NEVER HURTS TO ASK!

A special thanks to:

*Ashlee Decker, Jenella Hodel, Todd Crail & his trusty sidekick M*





# Feature Project: Arts in the Parks

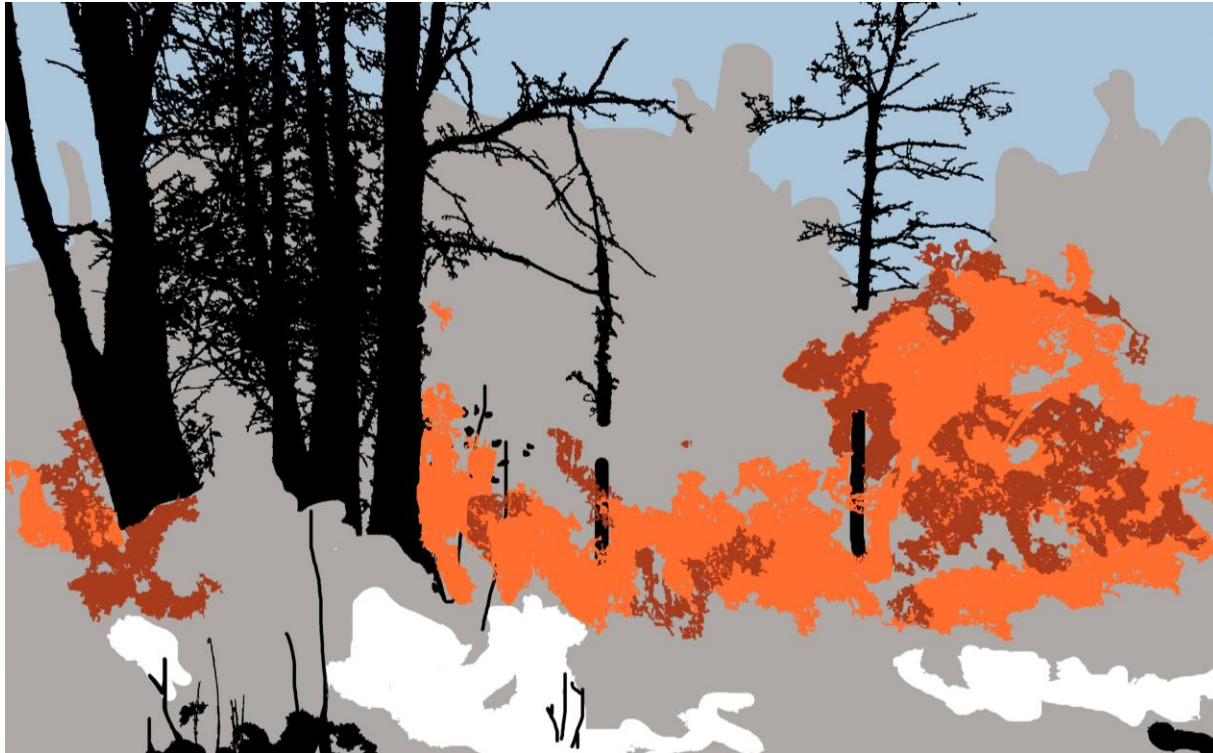
- *Panel discussion with the artists: Lee Fernside, Simone Spruce, Barbara Miner*
- This project connects northwest Ohio-area artists and regional scientists and conservationists with Sylvania Arts and TOPS in order to educate the public about the rare natural treasures in Sylvania, specifically the Oak Openings habitats found there.

# Art in the Parks





# Lee fearnside









# Simone spruce









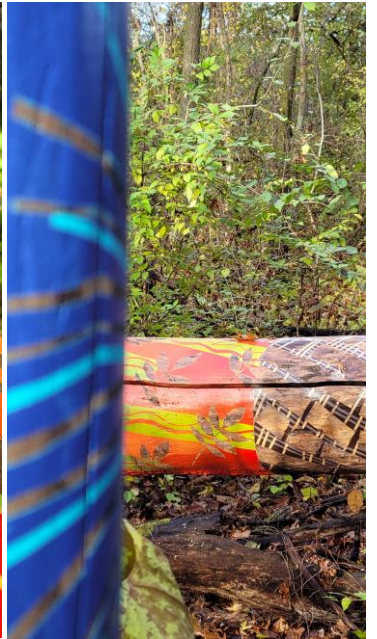


# The Land Outside my Door:

Borrowed Ash

Barbara WF Miner

# Work in the woodlot



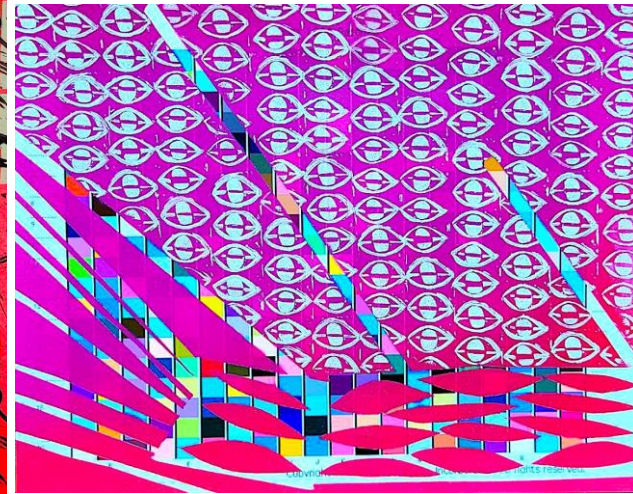








# Prints on recycled materials



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