

Report to Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Environmental Concerns Committee
2009 October 31
Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

Since the Annual Sessions in 2009 June, the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has continued its projects from the June meetings and added responsibility and activities for care of the natural landscape of the newly acquired Mills property.

ECC continues to:

- explore the feasibility of adding succulent plants on top of the Meetinghouse kitchen roof (that is, to develop a “green” roof);
- map all trees on the campground and meetinghouse sections of the properties;
- annotate and map the memorial trees;
- experiment with a composting bin at ILYM;
- outline specifically the responsibilities of the Recycling Coordinator at ILYM; and
- expand our suggestions for green products to be used at ILYM.

Between the Annual Sessions in June and late September, ECC collected 230 postcards of the Countdown to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change and sent them to the Church World Service to be given to the Obama Administration and Senate leaders on November 5.

ECC held its Fall retreat on September 12 and 13. We spent much of that time working on cleaning up the natural landscape of the Mills section of the ILYM property and preparing guidelines for the care and development of its natural features in the future. ECC will work with the Stewards, Maintenance and Planning Committee, and Site Envisioning and Development Committee for sustainable use of all of ILYM’s property.

As part of that work, ECC plans a burn of the ILYM Prairie in early to mid November when favorable weather conditions are present; the burn should remove from the prairie invasive plants and enrich the soil while not affecting migrating wildlife.

ECC looks forward to working with the yearly meeting in the care of our property and of all of God’s creation.