



# Ryerson Almanac

A Newsletter from the Friends of Ryerson Woods  Spring 2011

## Bill Browning to Deliver Keynote For May 14th Smith Symposium

This year's Smith Nature Symposium will feature a leader in the field of green design, Bill Browning. A noted speaker and a favorite go-to interview for the media, Browning is an expert on environmental sustainability in a number of realms, including real estate development.

**This is a subject of intense interest and urgency to residents of Lake County and the Chicago region,**

as rapid development in the past decade has greatly altered the culture and landscape. The current slowdown in the real estate market is a good time to take stock and consider what comes next for our region.

"Bill Browning has tremendous international experience with green design," says Chicago architect Bill Sturm. "From greening the White House to the Sydney Olympics to working with the Pentagon, he covers the total package of the environmental agenda."

Browning was an early adopter of the notion of biomimicry, where designers look to nature's creative energies and apply them to human designs. "He was there from the idea's early evolution to the current day, and has had the opportunity to apply it to tangible developments and buildings," says Sturm.

For the past five years, Browning has been with Terrapin Bright Green, a firm based



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*"Good design means better performance in terms of both human and natural environments – but above all, we must make our buildings beautiful," says Bill Browning, green design leader, founder of Terrapin Bright Green, and keynote speaker for the 2011 Smith Nature Symposium at Ryerson Woods.*

in Washington, D.C. that specializes in environmental sustainability in architecture and real estate. Browning has been involved in the design of advanced multi-story solar greenhouses and worked on a joint Soviet/American team for a youth exchange camp in the Republic of Georgia, among many other projects. Browning serves on the energy task force for the U.S. Department of Defense Science Board. He received his undergraduate degree in environmental design from the University of Colorado, specializing in energy-conscious architecture and resource management, and has a masters from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he won the prestigious Spaulding Award.

Browning is the latest in a long line of high profile speakers at the Smith Nature Symposium. The series has been bringing in major figures in conservation to address the community at Ryerson Woods for 28 years. Roger Tory Peterson, Will Allen, and David Sibley have been among the many prominent speakers. The Smith Nature Symposium is named for Ellen and Dutch Smith, and was established to bring environmental luminaries in as a way of generating fresh ideas for the region and new insights into nature.