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Can we not do more than cut and trim the forest? —can we not assist in its interior economy, in the circulation of the sap?

Henry David Thoreau
“Paradise (to Be) Regained”

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Cover Photo: A volunteer gathers seed of big bluestem grass for a restoration project in Wisconsin. Long regarded exclusively as a way of patching up damaged landscapes, restoration has recently begun to gain attention as an experience and a way of participating in the ecology of classic landscapes, such as prairies. In the past few years a number of social scientists have begun to turn their attention to this experience, asking why people seek it out, and how they benefit from it. An account of one such study, an investigation of why people volunteer to participate in restoration projects in the Chicago area carried out by Irene Miles and her colleagues at the University of Illinois, begins on page 218.

Photo by B. Wolfgang Hoffman

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