



CITIZENS
FOR
CONSERVATION

CFC NEWS

Saving Living Space for Living Things

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Craftsbury Preserve: An epic restoration opportunity!

by Tom Vanderpoel

On a mid-August evening, members of CFC's Board of Directors assembled to view the Craftsbury Preserve, our latest acquisition. Donated by Art Rice III and his sisters Carol Bowditch and Emily Douglas, this property totals twenty-two acres, making it the largest donation CFC has received in twenty-five years. Along with preserve expansions at Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna, this new land crowns an extremely successful year of land preservation. CFC now owns over 400 acres and has helped preserve an astonishing 3,150 acres in our 42-year history.

On its tour the board saw an intriguing property that encompasses both wetlands and uplands. We have received donated uplands of this size only once before in our history, at Grigsby Prairie. The Craftsbury Preserve provides CFC the opportunity to restore prairie in conjunction with wetlands. This scenario allows for high biodiversity.

The wetlands still contain native plants; an inventory will determine the number of species. Buckthorn and other invasive plant species overrun the uplands, but we will use our award-winning restoration techniques to transform them. This donation of land from the Rice family will allow our passionate restoration volunteers to use all their skills to return the property to its original natural state. Restoration will begin in 2015.

CFC thanks the Rice family for this generous gift, and we appreciate the trust they have shown in us to restore this once-beautiful pre-settlement landscape.



CFC Board of Directors at Craftsbury Preserve. Photo by Donna Bolzman.



View looking east toward the uplands of the Craftsbury Preserve. Teasel in the foreground is one of the restoration challenges for future workdays. Photo by Donna Bolzman

CFC's Flint Creek Savanna: celebrating 25 years of accomplishment

by Sharon Pasch

In 1988, CFC began a hopeful journey to turn a former dairy farm into a nature preserve abundant with native plant and animal life. On September 7, members, residents, and first-time visitors celebrated the success of those visionaries and volunteers after twenty-five years of expansion and restoration at Flint Creek Savanna (FCS), now 131 acres.

Before the big event later in the day, CFC and board member Julie Zuidema hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast under the tent at Flint Creek Savanna. Hungry workday and other volunteers enjoyed a hearty and delicious meal.

The afternoon began with Village of Lake Barrington Trustee Connie Scofield reading a proclamation that honored the 25th anniversary of FCS. As Will Kruger sang mellow folk music accompanied by Mark Fowler on mandolin, visitors enjoyed exhibits and displays. At the L.L.Bean "Talking Trash" table, people tried to arrange trash items like plastic water bottles and wool socks in order of decomposition time.



Photo contest entries. Photo by Bob Lee.

Guests admired the photo contest entries, and many voted for their favorite. Seven photographers submitted nineteen different pictures. Sixty-

five visitors voted, a tribute to the talent within CFC that was on display. Jim Bodkin won the contest with his photograph "Mom and Chick," a stunning portrait of a sandhill crane and colt. Steve Barten was a close second with his "Coming in for a Landing," two sandhill cranes flying together. Clearly CFC members appreciate not only great photography but also the symbolic return of the cranes to our restoration. (See the back page for Jim Bodkin's winning photograph.)

Outstanding display boards created by Katherine Grover explained the history of FCS, native flowers and insects, and the restoration cycle. Prairie tours began at the dedication rock where Patsy



Wendy Paulson describes the birds that depend on FCS. Photo by Bob Lee.

Mortimer gave the history of Waid Vanderpoel's vision to preserve a natural corridor (including FCS) extending from CFC's Grigsby Prairie all the way to the Fox River. Waid's vision, persistence, and negotiating skills were crucial in getting FCS started.

At other stopping points along the circle trail, CFC experts talked about various aspects of the preserve. The Native Seed Gardeners' Katherine Grover invited visitors to "graze with your nose." Edith Auchter discussed native plants, pointing out the compass plant with leaves oriented north to south. Describing restoration at FCS, Tom Vanderpoel emphasized the passion and dedication of CFC's volunteers while Jim Vanderpoel talked about native animals and listed rare butterflies that have returned to the land because of restoration success. Visitors heard the rattling cluck of sandhill cranes just as Wendy Paulson showed pictures of birds that depend on FCS for nesting or migration.



Folklore storyteller Jeannie Hansen. Photo by Bob Lee.

There were plenty of activities to keep kids interested all afternoon. About two dozen children made bookmarks with nature stamps and repeatedly asked, "What's this?" as they handled animal pelts and skeletons or found scavenger hunt nature items along the trail. Glowby the Bubbler (Gorby Tobutt) was a big hit as kids chased five-foot-long bubbles. Later, folklore storyteller Jeannie Hansen held the attention of children who called out, "Tell us another one!" after each native American tale ended with "Hey? Ho!"



Event chair Diane Bodkin joins children enjoying Gorby Tobutt's bubbles at the celebration. Photo by Bob Lee.

Just as Flint Creek Savanna exists through the efforts of volunteers, so this well-organized, educational and entertaining celebration was thanks to at least thirty-eight volunteers. Diane Bodkin, with help from husband Jim Bodkin, chaired the event. Thank you, Diane. Your hard work paid off in a highly successful celebration.

Naming Flint Creek Savanna Geography

by Jim Vanderpoel

As we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Flint Creek Savanna (FCS) preserve, the Restoration Committee determined it would be helpful to assign standardized names for FCS's geographical features. This is good news. As we add more acreage, our holdings have become more and more far flung. At the same time, volunteer turnout for our restoration workdays keeps growing. Now the workday leader has the luxury of splitting the crew into two teams to work on different projects. Standardized names will help the leader explain the location of alternate work sites.

Starting at the CFC farm house, one sees the two artificial gravel hills just south of the parking lot. We created the hill to the west first, so it is called Gravel Hill One, and the hill across the driveway is Gravel Hill Two. The restoration on Gravel Hill One is far more mature and contains a greater diversity of plants and far less rank foliage than on Two. One can learn a lot about the progress of ecological restoration by comparing these hills.

The large wetland with floating islands to the east of Gravel Hill Two is Long Slough. The Merriam Webster's dictionary defines a slough as a "place of deep mud"; any volunteer who walked across the dried bottom of Long Slough last summer will attest to the accuracy of that description. Webster's second meaning is a "creek in a marsh." Perfect! That is exactly what the wetland mitigation is - creek water is cleaned, stored and moderated by running through the vegetated marsh.



Long Slough. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Long Slough empties into a sedge meadow which drains into the splendidly natural Second Pond with its great population of deep-water duck potato, pickerel weed, spatterdock and white water lily. The Little Ditch drains the natural gas pumping station into Second Pond. Between Second Pond and Long Slough is the Delta, a promising flat triangle of fine prairie soil that is turning into a showcase mesic prairie.

The mature oak grove due south of Second Pond is Hospital Grove, so named because it was acquired from Good Shepherd

Hospital. Across from Hospital Grove and due south of Long Slough is West Bluff, a fine dry prairie restoration rising fifteen feet above the left bank of the creek. Big Ditch separates West Bluff from the subdivision. South of West Bluff the land slopes gently down to Great Water Dock Marsh, the remnant sedge meadow rescued from reed canary grass by the Donnelly Foundation demonstration project.

To reinforce this description, visualize the gravel trail funded by L.L.Bean. The inner loop starts at the parking lot, moves left to the north of Long Slough, climbs the berm, then crosses Little Ditch near the Smith Clinic, flanks Second Pond to the east, turns right to divide Second Pond and the Delta to the north and Hospital Grove to the south. It then swings to the western edge of Long Slough where the trail disappears, only to reappear and end as it crosses Gravel Hill Two.

Moving back to the east, the Deal Mitigation is a sedge meadow that gradually drains Second Pond and runs to Flint Creek. It was named because it was created as part of a wetland mitigation deal among CFC, a developer and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The large prairie due south of the Smith Medical Offices and surrounding the Deal



Grand Prairie with a great display of wild quinine. View into the prairie from the trail as it runs along Dr. Smith's property. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Mitigation is Grand Prairie named in honor of east central Illinois' Grand Prairie, the first large grassland European explorers encountered as they moved west from the wooded Atlantic Coast.

South of Grand Prairie is Young Hickory Grove where a dense stand of shagbark hickories is replacing an open grove of dying giant hickories and bur oaks. At the far east end of Grand Prairie is Sentinel Oak, a picturesque bur oak at the top of a small bluff accompanied by a few healthy oak saplings and a spectacular colony of turk's cap lily. The outer loop of the L.L.Bean gravel trail runs on the outside of Grand Prairie then enters Young Hickory Grove and crosses the southwestern corner of Grand Prairie just short of Concrete Bridge and rejoins the inner loop after crossing Hospital Grove.

A spur of the gravel trail descends the hill past Sentinel Oak,

CFC Interns Develop Environmental Commitment

by Tom Crosh, Interns Chairman

CFC received inquiries from over fifty students regarding our 2013 Summer Internship program. Selecting from that field was challenging, but ultimately we chose these four applicants. Katherine Gokey is a junior majoring in Reclamation at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Mitchell Groenhof is a senior majoring in Forestry and Ecosystem Restoration and Management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Stephanie LoCasto, a sophomore majoring in Environmental Science, attends the University of Dubuque, Iowa; and Joel Rangel, a junior majoring in Resource Conservation, attends the University of Montana. This summer they supplied excellent assistance to our Restoration Committee and other committees at CFC.

Citizens for Conservation gratefully acknowledges funding for its intern program generously provided by The Oberweiler Foundation. Thank you!

My internship with Citizens for Conservation was an invaluable experience. It taught me about the environment and restoration and intensified my passion for the natural world and my desire to take care of it. I worked with CFC board members, volunteers and fellow interns whose love of native ecosystems and desire to restore them was contagious.

I learned about both native and non-native plants and habitat restoration methods from Tom Vanderpoel and other CFC volunteers and partners. I saw the effort required to restore Illinois' native habitats. Tom did a great job teaching us how to manage various invasive species while reestablishing native plant communities in a strategic way. Timing of herbiciding, seed collecting, and plug planting is essential to successful restoration.

I enjoyed working with children and volunteers. Those who don't know much about ecology and restoration seem genuinely interested when they learn the importance of protecting and restoring native habitats. Education opens peoples' eyes to the wonders of nature, fostering an interest in the natural world. After college I want to teach conservation; my CFC internship has given me knowledge and experience to pursue that goal.

— Katherine Gokey

My Citizens for Conservation internship taught me valuable lessons in determination when it comes to ecological restoration; I have learned to adapt to the situation at hand, to learn from both good and bad experiences.

Restoration is a relatively new field, and I feel CFC is at the forefront of present restoration efforts. CFC's design for acceptable outcomes revolves around its numerous dedicated volunteers and knowledgeable leaders like Carol Hogan and

and the trail crosses the easternmost loop of Flint Creek at Stone Bridge. The unimproved trail moves south at the foot of East Bluff which is the best established open savanna habitat managed by CFC. East of East Bluff is Original Grove, which was the first parcel preserved at FCS. Due east of Original Grove, south of Route 22 and north of the entrance trail is Swink Prairie, named in honor of Dr. Floyd Swink, the distinguished Chicago botanist who, perhaps caught up in the excitement of viewing a field of azure aster, old field goldenrod, showy goldenrod, smooth aster and stiff gentian, proclaimed, "Now I can see why people say 'CFC is the best at restoration.'"

South of Swink Prairie is the East Side Marsh — CFC's best established matrix of sedge meadow, bur reed marsh and wet prairie. Due south of Original Grove is the Golden Triangle. It contains our most mature mesic prairie bordered by the diagonal wet prairie of the East Side Marsh, the south border of Original Grove and the north-south running border of



East Side Marsh. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

the Oak Peninsula, which is a thin line of mature bur oaks running south of the western edge of Original Grove. The name Golden Triangle is inspired by real estate agents who invariably refer to any hot-selling area formed by a diagonal street transecting the grid as the Golden Triangle.

The new southern parts of the preserve are most easily approached from Henry Lane as one parks at the south driveway. West of the gravel driveway are three retention ponds in a raw state of restoration and originally built for the Foley subdivision. From the north they are Retention Ponds One, Two and Three. To the northwest is the promising South Knoll which already harbors a decent dry prairie community. Across the wide no man's land of reed canary grass to the west is Mike's Grove, named to acknowledge our neighbor who cheerfully allows our volunteer parties to cross his lawn to work on the beautifully established closed savanna habitat, home to the uncommon northern pearly eye butterfly.

The final parcel of land we restore is the Kelsey Road Prairie which is not contiguous with the other Flint Creek Savanna parcels.

— Jim Vanderpoel

the encyclopedic ecological minds of Tom Vanderpoel and brother Jim.

Many remarkable events have occurred this summer. Irreplaceable volunteers like Gene and his uplifting laugh make you smile when you hear it; and there was the time we were so dedicated to returning the stranded floating island back into the pond that we worked as thunder and lightning drew closer. I remember how we fought through a sea of reed canary grass and stinging nettle under ancient oaks to remove garlic mustard. My second CFC internship had many remarkable occurrences.

The internship was a blast, and I will always remember the dedicated volunteers, the amazing interns, and our fearless leader Tom, who even when times were tough, helped us get the job done to help save the world a day at a time. I believe CFC is the way of the future in restoration, a group of hardworking, dedicated individuals who care about this ball of mud we call Earth and work tirelessly to restore it to its rightful glory.

— Mitch Groenhof

I enjoy being outdoors, so having a job restoring land appealed to me. I enjoyed learning to identify both native and non-native invasive species thanks to fellow interns and volunteers. Now that I am familiar with some common invasive species, I notice them constantly along roads and point them out to family and friends — whether they want to learn or not!

My CFC internship taught me new skills which will help my future career in a branch of environmental science. We pulled and herbicided invasive plants, harvested seeds and planted plugs, and I learned to use a brush cutter machine, operating it a couple of times.

The work was often exhausting, but I was amazed to see the positive impacts we had on the sites where we worked. We tackled the large patch of white sweet clover at Spring Creek. Upon seeing the field of clover mixed with wild parsnip, we found our task daunting. However, working alongside Audubon interns and other volunteers, we removed massive patches of invasive plants. On a later trip to the site we had to ask where to work since we couldn't see the targeted plants!

I enjoyed working with the people at CFC; they are all dedicated to the environment, coming to workdays in rain or at temperatures over 90°. I learned from their experience, and it amazes me that a former soybean field is now Flint Creek Savanna — all because of CFC volunteers. I had a great time working with my fellow interns whose passion

for this field was obvious. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to be an intern and appreciate everyone who helped me this summer!

— Stephanie LoCasto

The Citizens For Conservation internship was one of my best learning experiences. I have been to the rainforests of Costa

Rica and the rock deserts of Utah; however, what I learned at those places doesn't come close to the amount of knowledge I attained from CFC.

Flint Creek Savanna is a gem that seems to go unnoticed by commuters and others who drive by on Route 22, including me when I worked at Good Shepherd Hospital's ER entrance last year. I commuted to and from the hospital all summer but never went to CFC to look at the property or to volunteer. Some days I saw cars in the

CFC parking lot on Thursdays and Saturdays and wondered what was going on. It always looked so wondrous and amazing to me.

A stroke of luck brought me to CFC. Last spring a former biology professor sent me an email about CFC's internship. I applied as soon as possible, spoke with Tom Crosh and got the chance to become an intern.

I was so nervous on my first day that I broke my glass water container as I walked up to my fellow interns who were talking to Tom Vanderpoel. Looking back on it, I guess it was my ceremonious launch into the world of CFC. Becoming an intern was one of the best decisions of my life. Thank you everyone for everything!

— Joel Rangel



2013 summer interns. L to R: Mitchell Groenhof, Katherine Gokey, Stephanie LoCasto, Joel Rangel. Photo by Donna Bolzman.



CFC interns join volunteers to march in Barrington's 4th of July parade. Photo by Ralph Tarquino.

Thanks for the memories! We pay tribute to Patsy Mortimer and her many contributions to CFC

by Meredith Tucker

Citizens for Conservation is saddened to bid farewell to long-time volunteer and board member Patsy Mortimer. As she and her family move to Michigan this fall, we feel her loss deeply. As one of our board members said, "For many people in Barrington, Patsy is CFC."

Patsy has been a CFC member and volunteer since 1988 and joined the board of directors in 1991. She served as Vice President and then as President for four one-year terms. However, she has done a great deal beyond that.

Patsy was Chairman of the *ad hoc* Compliance Committee which oversees CFC's compliance with land trust protocol, and she was a member of the Finance Committee, helping CFC handle financial matters in a professional manner. Perhaps her influence was felt most keenly during the many years she served on the Land Preservation Committee facilitating our purchase of Flint Creek Savanna and other pieces of property in the last two decades. Her knowledge of real estate transactions and legalities has been endlessly helpful.

Patsy led the way for CFC in creating nesting structures and in maintaining and protecting the heron rookery at Baker's Lake and was always there to drag Christmas trees to the island, to trim the trees, and to help census the birds. Not only did she act as a liaison with the other partners working at the island, but she was actively sawing and dragging and building.

One of her most important CFC functions was to set up and program our database, making our list of members and friends searchable and useful. She also has an excellent understanding of our financial software and always handled payroll for our summer interns. Her computer skills are outstanding, and she was frequently the go-to person when there were software questions.

Patsy was a long-time CFC restoration volunteer and willingly imparted the knowledge she acquired. Beyond that, she was instrumental in planting and maintaining the prairie demonstration garden at our farm house. She worked tirelessly at the annual spring plant sale, sharing her knowledge of native plants with our customers.

When the Barrington Area Council of Governments formed a Water Resources Committee, Patsy joined them on behalf of CFC. That was more than a decade ago. About eight years ago, Patsy took the position of Coordinator for the new Flint Creek Watershed Partnership (FCWP). Her connection with both CFC and FCWP created a strong association that benefits people and water resources throughout the Barrington area.

Patsy is a wonderful photographer and generously shared her

photos with CFC. We have used them in many of our slide programs, for public relations, and in the newsletter.

Over the years, Patsy received numerous awards, some from CFC and others from outside our organization. She received the Great Blue Heron award, CFC's most important award for work within the organization. She also received CFC's 25-year award at our annual meeting in 2013.

Patsy was inducted into the Barrington Area Council on Aging's Hall of Fame as CFC's nominee in 2010. Also in 2010, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission awarded Patsy its Watershed Stewardship of the Year Award. Hearing of her imminent departure to Michigan, their representative commented, "Wishing Patsy all the best. She's one of a kind and did so much for Flint Creek and the Fox River watershed."



Patsy Mortimer at her farewell celebration. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

A list of her accomplishments would cover the page but wouldn't begin to reveal the depth of her knowledge of all things Barrington, governmental, legal, and environmental as they affect Citizens for Conservation. Perhaps it is her character that we will miss the most as she is endlessly intelligent, reliable, conscientious, sensible, on and on. It is only as she leaves that we truly understand the importance of her loss to us. We wish you well in Michigan, Patsy, and hope you will be happy and fulfilled. Our loss is certainly Michigan's gain!



One of Patsy's many beautiful photo contributions to CFC. Fringed gentian at Grigsby Prairie. Photo by Patsy Mortimer.

Celebrate: 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act

by Meredith Tucker

The United States this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We can only wish that all our laws were as successful in meeting their goals as is this one. ESA is globally the strongest law protecting biodiversity. It aims to prevent the extinction of at-risk plant and animal species by increasing their numbers and ensuring their full recovery. The Act has been wildly successful.

ESA now protects more than 1,400 species in the U.S. and its territories. Historically only ten species listed under the Act have become extinct, and many of those had possibly disappeared before they received protection. A 2012 study documented 110 species that have recovered under the auspices of the Act, meaning that in the past forty years, ESA has prevented extinction of 99% of protected species.

The Act allowed designation of millions of acres of critical habitat to be protected for species' survival. This sometimes angered private landowners. However, those who believe in the importance of protecting natural lands can see how much habitat has been protected because of ESA and be pleased.

The whooping crane may be the best known species saved by the Act, and those of us in the Barrington area who thrill to the return of sandhill cranes each spring appreciate the grandeur of the crane genus. The whooper, tallest and grandest bird in the United States, had dropped to twenty-one individuals in 1938. Unregulated hunting and habitat loss reduced their numbers until it was listed as endangered when there were forty-eight wild and six captive birds. The Endangered Species Act designated critical habitat in Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. The bird now nests in the wild only in Wisconsin, Central Florida, and Canada. Through habitat management, nest protection, captive breeding, and reintroductions, the population had increased



Formerly endangered sandhill cranes now thrive at Flint Creek Savanna. Photo by Tom Auchter.

to 599 birds in 2011. The whooping crane is not entirely safe yet, but with ESA protecting it, we can be optimistic that the species has stepped back from the brink.

A list of creatures saved by the Endangered Species Act is remarkable and includes the bald eagle, sea otter, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, wolf, bull trout, and black-footed ferret. Regardless of its successes, the Act is frequently under threat from various factions in Congress. Only strengthening and protecting the Act itself may allow our beleaguered native plant and animal species to thrive in the Twenty-first Century. Happy Birthday, ESA, and many more!

“The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again.”

— William Beebe (1906)

Generous grants support CFC's Youth Education projects

by Pat Winkelman

Barrington Junior Women's Club kindly donated funds for the purchase of self-hardening clay to make mammal footprint molds for over 700 children at KidFest and to purchase monarch butterfly eggs and/or caterpillars for our August butterfly class. The organization also funded the cost of a translator, school custodian, and forceps for our owl class for students at Sunny Hill Elementary School. Finally, they funded the cost of shipping IDNR educational prairie posters for our classes and for our District 220 field trip students.

Cuba Township awarded Youth Education a grant for educational supplies, class expenditures, and to offset printing expenses.

Ela Township also helped to offset our expenses for self-hardening clay for over 700 children at KidFest. In addition, their grant covered card stock, paper and printing costs for mammal field guides. Additionally, they paid the cost of making a 4x6 foot laminated skeletal deer poster for children to use during an “archeological dig” at KidFest.

The Garden Club of Barrington provided Youth Education with a grant for the purchase of common milkweed and swamp milkweed plants for our August butterfly class. Because Trillium Native Landscapes, Inc. provided the plants to us at a wonderful price, we were able to purchase two species of native milkweed rather than just one.

Thank you to all these wonderful organizations for helping support CFC's efforts to provide Barrington's children with exciting and healthy outdoor experiences.

“Camp Beginning Naturalist” gets pre-school children outdoors with nature

by Pat Winkelman

This year Citizens for Conservation’s Youth Education committee offered a week-long morning camp for pre-school children encompassing the Leave No Child Inside initiative. It included nature-related topics highlighted in CFC’s own *Junior Naturalist* educational activity books. Parents of four- and five-year olds wanted a camp geared for younger children; therefore, CFC went to work developing it. Enlisting the educational expertise of CFC member Mrs. Susan Lenz, we developed and completed a camp curriculum. Volunteers created and implemented camp crafts with the children making their masterpieces under the guidance of Barrington High School student Katie Tipword as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award.



Susan Lenz shows mammal skull at camp. Photo by Diana Maduzia.

Leaders and children learned about plants and trees and the growing process by planting their own seeds for growing at home. Tuesday was all about mammals with children learning what a mammal is, experiencing mammal skulls and pelts, and making a mammal puppet. Wednesday was “for the birds” as we discussed what birds are in our backyards and how they fly, while creating art with feathers. Thursday was about insects as children enjoyed a bug hunt



Ladybug leader gives insect session at camp. Photo by Ed Plum.

and making butterfly wings. One young camper kept his butterfly wings on the entire morning, flittering from spot to spot pretending to collect nectar. Children also made feeders to feed the butterflies in their own backyards. Camp ended on Friday with campers learning about amphibians and reptiles. Children made critter viewers so they could see their “discoveries” up close.

Each child received a copy of our “Junior Naturalist Coloring Book” to complete at home. The series includes activity books for children from pre-school to middle-school and are available by contacting CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283) or by emailing youth-ed@citizensforconservation.org. The cost of each book is \$5.00 which includes a certificate and patch for completing the Junior Naturalist I, II, and III.

With a successful camp completed, we will consider offering another pre-school camp in June, 2014. To learn more about CFC’s children’s programs, private or scout classes or volunteering for restoration, email or call the above email address or phone number.

Thanks to ...

VSN Stewardship Fund of The Nature Conservancy for its award to CFC’s Restoration Committee of two backpack water sprayers, two harnesses, and a nomex suit, all valued at \$735, the third consecutive year that the VSN has provided CFC with a grant of equipment;

Montessori Children’s House of North Barrington for donating twenty Monarch Waystation kits valued at \$320 to Youth Education for its August butterfly class.

Thanks from ...

The principal at Montessori Children’s House who sent a note thanking Gail Vanderpoel and the interns for providing a private class for twenty-nine of their students: “The class was admirable! Interns were well prepared, interesting, flexible and helpful while Gail was professional in presenting and leading the activities. The children all were engaged, even the little ones, and everybody was inspired to learn more about bugs! We are deeply grateful for the preparation, for your time, your talent and the love that you shared. You gave our students a great presentation on the insect world.”

L.L.Bean’s Michelle Mathieu and Staff who sent a note and several ponchos: “Thank you for having L.L.Bean participate in your restoration efforts! We look forward to participating once again and will certainly be scheduling employee work days in the fall and winter with CFC. Best wishes, and enjoy a few ponchos on us, for those extra rainy days!”

A good read ...

Latin for Gardeners by Lorraine Harrison

My hope for this book from the University of Chicago Press was that it would be a quick reference to help me find plants appropriate for my prairie restoration efforts. Alas, this book whose author is English serves as a pretty reference tome addressing Latin terms useful to identifying plants' origins, appearance, preferred environment, or effect on animals and humans.

For instance, our familiar nemesis, buckthorn, is *Rhamnus cathartica*. Merriam Webster defines "cathartic" as a medicine that causes purging of the bowels. The species epithet helps explain why we should work a little harder to get rid of buckthorn.

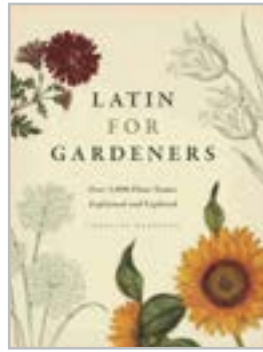
The book is beautifully crafted with nice drawings and plant profiles most of which are unrelated to plants native to our area, but the descriptions are interesting and help explain the importance of Latin names.

For example, a section titled, "Where Plants Come From" discusses how the species names can give clues to where the plant should thrive. The author writes that gardeners whose lots are bathed with endless sunshine and feature well-drained soil may want to stay away from plants whose names contain derivatives of the Latin word for wood, *silva*, such as *Sylvaticus*, (*sylvatica*, *sylvaticum*), *sylvestris* (*sylvestre*) and *sylvicola*. Those words indicate a woodland species, a plant that will be happiest planted in the shade.

There are other interesting features throughout the book such as pages devoted to Baron Alexander Von Humboldt (1769-1859), a German naturalist who collected 12,000 plant specimens worldwide, and as a result of his observations came up with the then radical idea that the coasts of Africa and South America had at one time been joined as one land mass.

Also included is a profile of two of the few women naturalists noted from this period of discovery and scientific development. American Jane Colden (1724-1766) was described as "perhaps the first lady that has perfectly studied Linnaeus' system" — of plant classification. The other woman mentioned was Marianne North (1830-1890), an Englishwoman who became a noted plant illustrator. She was a contemporary of Darwin and followed his suggestions to go to the farthest reaches of the earth in pursuit of exotic plants.

The illustrations, naturalist profiles and Latin explanations make this book an entertaining coffee table companion to provide random information about Latin and plants. I wouldn't include it in the reference section of my library.



Notable Natives

Blue Beech

This is a tree for all seasons as well as being a tree for almost all sites. Known by a number of names, blue beech is also called musclewood and American hornbeam. The scientific name is *Carpinus caroliniana*. It is a close relative of *Ostrya virginiana*, called ironwood or hop hornbeam; there is some confusion between these species due to the similarity of their common names.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that it is not a beech! So much for the use of common names.

In nature blue beech is found in moist, shady locations, but it will thrive in partial shade or sun. Some references suggest it will do well in shade, too. It can do well in drier soils so long as the tree is mulched. The tree develops a formal, upright form if grown in the sun and a looser shape if grown in the shade.

Blue beech is a small- to medium-sized tree whose eventual height is 20' to 35'. This makes it a great choice for smaller residential yards. Its bark is smooth and blue-grey with a sinewy form providing the basis for the name "musclewood." Fall leaf color can be red, yellow or orange or a combination of those colors. It is strikingly pretty at all seasons of the year.

Branching starts very low, so blue beech can be used for a screen or as a hedge, but the tree can also stand on its own merit as a specimen. The tree's dense branching makes it popular with birds for nesting sites. Birds and small mammals eat its seeds, and blue beech is a food source for the caterpillar of the white admiral butterfly.

The wood of the tree is very hard, and early settlers used it for tool handles and bowls. It doesn't crack or split and takes a "smooth polish." All the same, the tree has not been commercially important due to its modest size.

As long as one meets its cultural needs, the blue beech is quite trouble-free, but one should be careful not to injure the bark when using equipment around it. If you are seeking a versatile native tree that is attractive year-round and grows well in sun or shade, the blue beech is an excellent choice.

— Carol Rice



Very young blue beech in fall. Photo by Meredith Tucker.

— Robert Cantwell

Volunteer Portrait

Bonnie Albrecht

Citizens for Conservation volunteer Bonnie Albrecht has lived in the Barrington area for the past fifteen years, give or take a few, and she is a Youth Education Committee member as well.



Bonnie Albrecht (left) works with participants in Youth Education's August class "The Metamorphosis of a Butterfly." Photo by Diane Bodkin.

Her interest in and awareness of CFC came about in an interesting way. It all happened because of Patsy Mortimer, former Coordinator of the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership (FCWP). FCWP was conducting a seminar at the Barrington Library about problems homeowner associations and developers have with water drainage and algae overgrowth in lakes and ponds in the Barrington area.

Bonnie learned that the lakes in her subdivision were in the Flint Creek watershed, and her association was subsequently selected to participate in an EPA program in which floating islands were installed in the polluted water of the detention pond. The islands were planted with specific native species that helped remove algae from the water. It worked!

Bonnie says, "Patsy, thankfully, was the entire reason my subdivision got to participate in the EPA program. As a thank you to her and the Flint Creek Watershed group, I attended a CFC annual meeting where I noticed the Youth Ed table. I had just received (finally, lol!!) my Early Childhood Education degree from Harper College. I thought, hey — here's a paying it forward moment! And whattaya know, the girls already having fun with Youth Ed welcomed me on the committee, and it's been SO much fun ever since! Not being a big time 'outdoor girl,' I have learned so much from the Youth Ed classes that I feel as if I'm benefitting as much as if not more than the kids. I also participate in the School District 220 fall prairie field trips for fourth graders. I can't wait! Oh my gosh! I just remembered our Reptile and Amphibian class! I got to pet an alligator! How awesome is that?"

Bonnie's enthusiasm and love for working with the children is wonderful. CFC is very fortunate to have her on our team.

— Doe Crosh

Old well? Put a cap on it! Here's how CFC did it.

by Steve Smith

As the volunteer CFC brush-clearing/restoration team was hacking, hewing, and herbiciding its way through the jungle of buckthorn at a newly acquired oak savanna property in Lake Barrington, volunteers made an unusual discovery. What looked at first like a pile of shingles was in fact the collapsed roof of a small building that had been erected over a now-abandoned water well pit. The would-be archaeologist-sleuths believe that the well, installed in 1937 and likely driven by a windmill in its early years, supplied water for livestock which were pastured on the savanna.

The find, however, required the restoration work to take on an unusual subterranean element, following Illinois and Lake County health and safety requirements to sanitize and seal the well and fracture and fill the pit.

The pit is essentially a 6' x 6' x 6' concrete box built underground to house and insulate the wellhead during the winter. The net result of this "clean-up" process was to eliminate, first, any potential for groundwater contamination via an open well shaft at the surface and, second, the potential hazard of an inviting hole in the ground. (Note: by law well pits are no longer allowed.)

The well-sealing process is quite thorough, including the removal of the pump from the well shaft, chlorine sanitization of the water in the shaft, and filling the shaft with a claylike water-barrier material called sodium bentonite.

CFC worked closely with Peter Snelten & Sons, Inc. and with the Lake County Health Department to ensure a professional and complete job, and we endorse the regulations that safeguard clean water for our neighbors who get their water from wells. We encourage others who may have a similar abandoned well situation to do the same.



L to R: Brad Snelten of Snelten & Sons, Mark Mussachio of the Lake County Health Department and CFC board member Steve Smith. Photo by Bob Lee.

Seasonal Tip

Create a bit of woodland floor

This autumn is an excellent time to add a new natural area to your yard. There may be a place where you can create a “no-pick-up” zone for dead leaves as you prepare your yard for winter. (We trust you are sweeping the rest of those leaves under shrubs and trees and never shipping them off property or burning them.) For a few seasons you may see some grass growing through the leaves, but you can avoid that problem entirely by putting down several layers of newspaper first. Soon lawn and weeds will be smothered as leaves accumulate. A “woodland floor” develops.

Make a clear demarcation between the “no pick-up” zone and the lawn. You can accomplish that by digging a three-inch edge around the new area to make it look purposefully created. Perhaps give it a pretty curved shape. You can even add plastic or metal lawn edging if you wish. Stones also make a nice edge.

In just one year trees may sprout in the new mulch, and numerous insects will be scurrying about creating rich humus and attracting a wide variety of songbirds to your yard. Please remove “junk” tree seedlings (like box elder) and non-native species (like Norway maple and Chinese elm). Pull them while they’re small so that it is easy to do. If no satisfactory native species appear, purchase and plant small native tree or shrub specimens appropriate to the location. You’ll love the birds and small critters that use the area, and the native plants will be beautiful year round.

Idea adapted from an article in *Wild Ones Journal*

— Meredith Tucker



Oak seedling emerges from woodland floor. Illustration by Margaret Hudson.

CFC member Kevin Hebert has started a blog in which he covers “All things rain gardens.” Currently he is looking for rain gardens to feature on his site. He encourages CFC members to submit their own projects, questions, or requests for information about rain gardens to www.kevinsraingardens.com.

From the Staff Director

Patsy Mortimer retires as Coordinator of Flint Creek Watershed Partnership

At the June meeting of the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership, Patsy Mortimer retired after eight years as its Coordinator and was replaced by Kurt Thomsen. The Flint Creek Watershed Partners — Barrington Area Council of Governments, Barrington Area Conservation Trust, Barrington Area Development Council, Citizens for Conservation, Kainz Family Foundation, Barrington, Barrington Hills, Barrington Township, Cuba Township, Inverness, Lake Barrington, Lake Zurich and North Barrington — recognized Mortimer for her roles as “researcher, grant writer, organizer, planner, innovator, motivator, implementer, installer, encourager and educator for the Watershed — encompassing 36.5 square miles with eight municipalities and four townships in Cook and Lake counties — and beyond.”

The Partnership’s goal is to educate while building partnerships for projects to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and preserve and restore wetlands, prairies and other natural features for future generations. The Partnership was awarded CFC’s William H. Miller Conservation Award in 2009.

In expressing appreciation for Patsy’s work with the Partnership, Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director of the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG), said, “Re the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership, the projects have come to fruition and you are the person who brought them about (with help, of course, but still they are yours), from the FCW Plan to the now-blooming rain gardens; what an accomplishment. Thank you for everything you’ve done on these projects and others.”

Dr. Thomsen, Hydrogeologist/Hydrologist, is very familiar with the Barrington area, a prerequisite for the position. He has served as technical advisor for the BACOG Water Resources Initiative for a number of years and has wide project experience in the areas of management, water resource sustainability, and environmental remediation.



— Sam Oliver

Kurt Thomsen, Patsy Mortimer. Photo courtesy of Flint Creek Watershed Partnership.

Welcome New Members!

Kristo Aleksov	Michelle Matje
Sandi and Carl Alguire	Christine Mena
Jane Ander	Otilia Naranjo
Dave and Connie Antler	John and Julie Nelson
Cathy Aschbacher	Eamon and Maryanne O'Dowd
Marilyn Bina	Donald and Nancy Payne
Marianne Bondi	Ronald Peisker
Mark Buytendorp	Ed Plum
Steven Cliff	Patrice Reid
Mary Dalton	Timothy Romenesko
Tom Duffy	Patricia Roppo
Joan Falkenstrom	David Ryckman
Joyce Fort	Rod and Denise Smith
Jeffrey Gahris	Steve and Chris Smith
April Goshe	Natalie Schaffer
Rodney and Joyce Hamilton	Tina Schiffmayer
Susan Hill	Mary Judith Snell
Brian and Teri Holt	Richard Spicuzza
Jill Jacobek	Vis Susaria
John Jordan III	Connie Uccetta
Rebecca and Matt Keller	Arlette and Tom Weber
Roman Kita	Carrie Wilhelm
Robert and Denise Krause	Christopher Wu
Robert and Virginia Kruse	
Paul and Nancy Leonard	

Habitat Corridors: significant CFC initiative to be announced

by Meredith Tucker

CFC's Community Education Committee will unveil an important new program in the winter issue of *CFC News*. For now we simply ask you to look for Habitat Corridors at that time. The program will include printed and electronic materials, educational programs, home visits, and a map showing how property owners can make an important contribution to environmental health through their own yard maintenance and planting decisions.

Our four winter programs (please see "Upcoming Events" in this issue), will focus on various aspects of Habitat Corridors. Please join us in creating, as Doug Tallamy has said, a new national park of suburban yards that includes biodiversity and healthy habitats for native plants, creatures, and people.

In *Bringing Nature Home* Tallamy writes, "We can each make a measurable difference almost immediately by planting a native nearby. As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered — and the ecological stakes have never been so high."

President's Comments

25 Years of Restoration

Citizens for Conservation and the community have just celebrated the 25th anniversary of our Flint Creek Savanna (FCS). Think of what that means. Since 1988 hundreds of CFC volunteers have worked to turn former farmland into spectacular prairies and savannas. It's easy to assume that originally there were some prairie plants there and that we just enhanced it. However, almost all of those wonderful prairie and savanna plants came from seed or from plant rescues. CFC has acquired segments of this property over the years until now we own 131 acres, having just purchased our most recent addition in 2012, three lots on Henry Lane previously zoned for development. Our diligent restoration efforts continue.

Restoration is a long-term effort. Restoration and stewardship take constant work removing invasive species and seeding and over-seeding areas to create the amazing biodiversity that aims to replicate the original tallgrass prairies and oak/hickory savannas of the 19th century before settlers arrived and began tilling the soil.

There are many special plants growing in just the right micro habitats at Flint Creek Savanna. At this time of year one can see the intense blue of fringed gentian (*Gentiana crinita*) in slightly wet areas, and on hillsides prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) gracefully displays its popcorn-scented seeds. Because of the restored wetlands, including our introduced floating islands, sandhill cranes return and nest annually, and rare species of butterflies such as the pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) show their colors. We estimate that there are almost 350 species of native plants at our restored Flint Creek Savanna preserve. FCS is now a source of seed for CFC's newer restorations, and we also donate valuable seed to our partners in restoration such as the stewards of forest preserves.

If you visit Flint Creek Savanna and understand the expertise, thousands of volunteer hours and perseverance it takes to create such a spectacular restoration, you will appreciate why it received an award for excellence in restoration from the U.S.



Prairie dropseed at FCS displays its popcorn-scented seeds. Photo by Donna Bolzman.



Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness in 2011.

— Peggy Simonsen,
President

Upcoming Events

Community Education Programs for Winter, 2014

We will present all programs at the Barrington Village Hall on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. See the winter newsletter for detailed information.

January 25 - Habitat Corridors and Environmentally Friendly Yard Maintenance

February 22 - Managing Rainfall and Water Resources at Home

March 22 - Gardening for Amphibians: Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders

April 12 - Gardening for Birds

Youth Education Classes

October 26 - "Whoooo Goes There" for Sunny Hill students and families

November 9 - Geo-caching and holiday gift-making

January 11, 2014 - Raptors

Look on CFC's website for details about our exciting new Junior Naturalist Birthday parties beginning in January, 2014.

Bird Walk Sponsored by Audubon Chicago Region and CFC

Friday, October 4, 8:00 a.m. - Beese Park (east end of Cornell Avenue in Barrington). Walk will be led by Wendy Paulson, Barrington Area Naturalist. RSVP to 847-328-1250 ext. 10.

The Natural History Society of Barrington

All meetings will be held at Lake Barrington Woods, 22320 Classic Court, Lake Barrington, IL.

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. - 25 Years of Chicago Peregrine Program by Mary Hennen, Director of the Chicago Peregrine Program.

A permanently disabled peregrine falcon used for educational programs will accompany her.

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. - Molluskan Fauna of Illinois and the World by Lee & Jan Kremer. Seashells fascinate people all over the world. Speakers will explore marine, land, and freshwater shells. Lee is a Past President of the Chicago Shell Club.

November 21, 7:00 p.m. - The Wildlife of Alaska's Inside Passage by Steve Barten.

The Inside Passage of southeast Alaska is known for its panoramic vistas and abounds with wildlife. Come see the

eagles, bears, sea birds, sea mammals, glaciers and scenery the Inside Passage offers.

NHSB Outings

Tuesdays, October 1 & 8 at 8:00 a.m. - Fall Bird Walks at Crabtree Nature Center

Meet in Nature Center parking lot off Palatine Road. Walks are held rain or shine and are suitable for beginners as well as experienced birders. Bring binoculars and field guide if you have them. Walks last about two hours.

Donate an iPad: e-Essential to CFC field e-Education

by Jim Bodkin

Are you an iPad owner who is planning to upgrade to the soon-to-be-announced next version? We'd love to have your old one.



CFC is asking friends to donate a used Apple iPad in good working condition for us to use with our Community Ed outreach, Youth Ed classes, and plant sales.

Whether it is showing a child the difference between a monarch and a viceroy butterfly or comparing the features of swamp milkweed and common milkweed, an iPad would be key to CFC educational efforts. An iPad could assist with a group presentation on invasive plant species or the benefits of bees; it could search the internet for bird migration patterns. With the proper apps and attachments, we would be able to display illustrations and presentations to individuals and groups as we carry out the CFC message, activities and accomplishments.

With the addition of the Square device, we will be able to change the iPad into a financial transaction device which will allow the safe and accurate processing of credit card payments at our annual plant sale. Such a feature will also be useful at our educational programs and for membership purposes.

We are looking for an Apple iPad of any vintage and capacity (16GB, 32GB or 64GB) with Wi-Fi capability. Having 3G data capability would be a plus but not a necessity. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation to CFC, please contact Jim Bodkin at 847-382-7934 or jrbdodkin@comcast.net .

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

— Mahatma Ghandi

“Mom and chick” win Flint Creek Savanna 25-year anniversary photo contest



Jim Bodkin's winning photograph "Mom and Chick."



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