



Weather no match for fired up volunteer crew !

by Gail Vanderpoel

It was hard to go outside on February 14, at 9:00 a.m. The temperature was 14° and the wind was blowing 36 m.p.h., but fifteen seasoned volunteers showed up for CFC's Saturday workday. We headed to Flint Creek Savanna South to cut buckthorn. When we arrived, we were glad to see Gene Branson had shown up early to start a fire. It was a gray, bleak morning, and snow flurries swirled around us as we trudged through the snow to reach our work site.



Volunteers keep warm working near the fire on a cold day in February. Photo by Bob Lee.

We greeted Gene and began adding dry wood to get the fire roaring. Meanwhile, some volunteers started stacking larger logs near the fire while others dragged brush, a combination of pokey buckthorns and tangled grapevines to be consumed by the flames. Chainsaws cut larger trees while some volunteers used handsaws and loppers on smaller buckthorn. As we worked, we chatted and heard stories from three young ladies who had braved the cold to be with us on this blustery day.

We learned that Natalie Pawlikowski, a former CFC summer intern, had secured a job working for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. Then Meghan Elgan, another of our summer interns, talked about her new job working on a riverboat floating down the Mississippi River teaching environmental education to high school students. A third success story came from an Audubon intern named Melissa Bayert. Melissa became interested in CFC through the restoration training CFC provides to Audubon interns. She had been working five days a week during the spring and

summer doing restoration and conservation and then volunteering at CFC workdays on Saturdays. Melissa is now going to work for a large environmental consulting company called Stantech Inc.

These stories reflect the commitment of all our hardy volunteers. The three young ladies committed to working in the environmental field and have continued to support CFC. We

volunteers know that every time we come out for a two-hour workday, no matter how bad the weather, we are making a difference to the land we are tending. On this Saturday, we worked for two hours, warmed ourselves by the fire, and never really felt cold because we were working so hard.

At 11:00 we toasted marshmallows over the very large campfire and made s'mores, thanks to Carol Hogan's bringing the ingredients. Then we marched back out on the trail carrying our buckets of tools and warmed up with hot soup and stew provided by Donna Bolzman. Ralph Tarquino shared his wife's home-made biscuits, and Carol donated fresh oranges. We celebrated our hard work, joked around, and enjoyed the end of a typical Saturday workday. It did not matter that the wind chill was -10 degrees; we had the spirit of doing our job no matter what Mother Nature had sent our way!

At the end of the workday we saw the newly cleared land and felt immediate satisfaction. Tom Crosh volunteered to stay and tend the remains of the burning brush pile in the howling winds as most of us drove away with heaters blasting.

And a heron in a yule tree 🎵

by Diane Bodkin

On a beautifully bright Saturday afternoon in January, eighteen hardy CFC volunteers placed Christmas trees around the rookery island at Baker's Lake to provide nesting sites for egrets and herons in the spring. This annual event is the result of collaboration between the Village of Barrington, Citizens for Conservation, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). CFC Board members Tom Benjamin and Diane Bodkin coordinated the successful event. CFC invited other volunteers from its Facebook page and website to join the workers.



FPDCC staff drag trees from heavy layer of snow. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

Although the project has been going on for many years, this was the first time workers used a two-part process. Barrington Village Public Works picked up residents' Christmas trees at curbside and delivered them to the launch area at Baker's Lake Overlook, where Cook County Forest Preserve staff transported about eighty trees by snowmobiles over the frozen lake and distributed them around the periphery of the rookery island. On the weekend, eighteen volunteers arrived, and in about two hours, they efficiently filled the metal tubes in the interior of the island with new trees and placed cut branches around the base for the egrets' and herons' nests. All volunteers agreed the job was much easier this year as they were standing on the ice to work with the trees.



FPDCC staff scatter the first transported loads. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

Robert Sliwinski, one of the original engineers of the rookery structure, agreed to conduct the nest count again in the spring and confirmed that he would like to see the Christmas tree project continue.

News from Habitat Corridors

A beautiful, well-mannered, native yard

One of the nicest properties I have visited should be an inspiration to everyone. It is a standard suburban lot, but the borders, foundation areas, and other gardens are full of native plants. In part because it is not a huge property, there are few native trees except for a big old soft maple that provides a good deal of wildlife value; however, there are many native shrubs — viburnums, snowberry, lead plant, and others. The property exhibits a wonderful diversity of native plants.



Garden on a Habitat Corridors property. Photo by Janet McDonnell.

The homeowners are working diligently to remove garlic mustard (I saw just a few plants), buckthorn (just a few plants), and a weed they didn't recognize which I think may be licorice root.

They have two rain barrels, two compost bins, a vegetable garden, and lots of native plants mixed in with some non-natives. Everything looked healthy and is thriving.

Their rain garden is very pretty with many moisture-loving native plants, but I suggested they get rid of the tall goldenrod right away and be cautious with the Joe Pye weed that is spreading. Joe Pye is great in a natural area but can be invasive in a moderate-size home garden. Most important is that the rain garden functions just as they hoped it would. It keeps storm water away from the house's foundation, channeling it down a swale filled with native grasses and ending in the rain garden proper. It is keeping the rain where it falls rather than letting it flow into the street and sewers or other neighbors' yards.



Habitat Corridors certified property. Photo by Janet McDonnell.

Not only does this property use many native species, but it is quite beautiful. This yard proves that one can use native plants and still have a garden that is neat and attractive. Their neighbors should be inspired to try some native plants when they see this yard. These homeowners were hoping to receive a Habitat Corridors

certification at some time; they got it! See the sign displayed in the accompanying photo.

— Meredith Tucker

The Buttercups

CFC has established a solid matrix of the three foundation families of the prairie and open woodland understory. The grass family, the composite family and the legume family comprise most of the non-woody plant cover on our preserves. However, CFC tries hard to reintroduce all of the native plants that grew here.

The buttercup family (scientific name *Ranunculaceae*) is rich in gardening and literary references, but it may surprise readers that this storied family is well represented in local Illinois woods, marshes and prairies. More than any other large plant family, all of the buttercups bloom early in the growing season. In fact, the first native plant to bloom in our area is the round-lobed hepatica. It is the subject of a great success story for our restoration effort. We rescued a dozen or so specimens from a site in North Barrington and planted them on top of the bluffs at Flint Creek because this plant likes the acidic, leached soil on the lip of a slope. As is the case with so many of the conservative wildflowers, restoration success was not easy. The transplanted clumps merely persisted year after year; finally they started to spread after ten or twelve years, and after twenty years the population exploded. There are now scores of blossoms in the spreading colony along the East Bluff and several other pioneer colonies on other hills along the Oak Peninsula and Mike's Grove. It is definitely worthwhile to brave chilly weather to observe this beautiful wildflower's translucent blue blooms in the last week of March.

Another plant rescue success story is that of the rue anemone. This early bloomer transplants well and once established slowly self sows in all directions. Its presence has transformed Hospital Grove at Flint Creek Savanna from an overgrazed wasteland to a carpet of white. Unlike most of the other woodland flowers, rue anemone will spread beyond the drip



Rue anemone. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

line of the oaks into the edge of the prairie. While transplanting works better for this plant than for any others, remnant populations in need of rescue are becoming rare, and it is promising to see that rue anemone is beginning to germinate from broadcast seed. This plant was almost eradicated at Baker's Lake but has exploded there from a few transplanted plugs and now blooms in the hundreds.

It may have been a bit of a stretch to transplant



Marsh marigold. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

the similar false rue anemone into a low spot at Original Grove. False rue anemone and rue anemone do not seem to live together. At Ryerson Woods thousands of false rue anemone grow in the flat, rich, flood plain forest, and only seven miles away rue anemone is just as abundant on the clay ridges of Reed Turner Woods, but I have never seen the two together at either of these two great remnants. Oddly enough, our few colonies of false rue anemone are thriving even out of their habitat.

The namesake genus of this family grows in several habitats on our preserves. Early buttercup is a classic denizen of the open savanna clay ridge. It actually survived the grazing at West Bluff and Baker's Lake and has been reintroduced by plug at other spots; the swamp buttercup has been a huge success at Mike's Grove and has done well at several other sites by plug. Small-flowered buttercup and cursed buttercup are fairly common native weeds that appear spontaneously. We have not collected seed from any of these four plants, but we probably should as we attempt to reproduce our success at Flint Creek South and future preserves.

The oddball of this genus is the white water crowfoot, a true submergent water plant that sends its white flowers by the thousands to the surface of Long Slough. We are not sure if this plant came with the lily pads we transplanted or if the seeds survived in the seed bank when we rehydrated this long-drained wetland, but we are glad they did. The flowers look like miniature anemones and make quite a remarkable display.

The white baneberry, red baneberry and red columbine are three spectacular and very conservative woodland wildflowers we have successfully brought in by broadcasting seed. The red columbine germinates extremely well but tends to fade — possibly it needs more exposed bedrock to truly thrive, or possibly deer browsing takes its toll.

Perhaps our most exciting success is our small population of goldenseal at Baker's Lake. This plant has the misfortune of being uncommon to begin with, extremely conservative and medicinally valuable so that it has been mainly eradicated in the Chicago area from over-collection and habitat degradation. A master gardener in Park Ridge collected some seed from a secret location in DuPage County, grew them in his garden

and donated some seed to CFC. We hope it won't become extinct on our watch.

While most of our buttercups grow in shade, there are several genera that like open habitat. Marsh marigold is the first spring flower to bloom in the full sun. We have a thriving colony in the swale at Grigsby which came from a plant rescue in North Barrington and a second population at the spring at the end of the Oak Peninsula at Flint Creek, descended from leftovers of the Plant Sale. Both have self-seeded and increased their numbers tenfold, but they won't spread far. This plant only grows where cold, clear water flows and does not spread into the mucky marsh or thick sedge meadow. Last year we were elated to see that some had germinated in other seeps along the Peninsula from hand-sown seed.

A classic resident of the wet prairie is meadow rue (either purple or waxy or maybe both). This plant is a perfect example of how important perseverance is for ecological restoration; for many years we have collected tiny amounts of seed of this stately wildflower, mainly at the Harvard Savanna. It germinated and would occasionally bloom, but rarely set seed because of deer browse. We kept sowing and treating the flowers of mature specimens with deer repellent, and the population is finally amounting to something. There was quite a display of this great plant at the emerging high-quality wet prairie surrounding the swale at Grigsby. This plant is what ecologists call an "increaser," one of the dominant plants of the Illinois wet prairie. Smaller numbers of its relative the early meadow rue have done well from transplanted plugs in our shadier woods. While its foliage is very attractive, this is one of the few buttercups that does not have showy flowers.



Purple meadow rue at Grigsby Prairie. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Our final genus is the anemones, possibly the plant genus that lives in the most varied habitats. The wood anemone has done well both from plug and from broadcast seed and is a classic component of the white phase of open woodland flowers. Thimbleweed is a classic indicator of dry prairie and has done very well from broadcast seed. It is usually the only plant blooming in the dry prairie in early June. The tall anemone grows between its two relatives, a classic savanna plant always on the border of oak woods and prairie. The meadow

anemone likes it wet and is a classic indicator of sedge meadow. We have several colonies brought in strictly by accident as we rescued yellow star grass. We must start collecting seeds of this plant more than any other buttercup. It is grossly underused in restoration.

The flowers and foliage of buttercups delight the eye of the beholder from March to June, but they pretty much disappear by the time fall arrives and do not contribute much to the fall color display.

— Jim Vanderpoel

Native Seed Gardeners: A valuable restoration resource

by Katherine Grover

From June through December last year, our Native Seed Gardeners (NSG) returned seeds from forty-three species of native wildflower and grass seedlings they had nurtured.

NSG had given them the original plants without charge starting in 2009.



Oxalis violacea. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Volunteer gardeners grew the seedlings from wild seed in nurseries to give to NSG members. Gardeners raised these plants to produce seeds they returned to NSG. That seed is sown by our partners onto open lands that are being restored locally, helping to save the rare plants. Many species are dwindling from once abundant populations. Some no longer exist at all in local nature.

If you want to help save these rare plants, please visit the NativeSeedGardeners.org website to see the species that are vital for the diversity and health of our conservation lands.

Every plant you grow in your home landscape increases the potential amount of seed we can use for restoration and also links one garden to another to create habitat corridors for the safe passage of wildlife needing food and shelter. Gardeners with every level of experience and with either small or large gardens can help restore these rare plants. All it takes is the desire to grow and return seed. It begins with you!

Use our website list and consider native species you can grow; be sure to consider the amount of sunlight in your yard and choose suitable plants. A potential list of 2015 species will be available in late spring for planting in mid-June.

Enroll on the NSG website using the Contact Form or by calling NSG at 847-382-7283, and help save the beauty and diversity of our natural resources.

Notable Natives

Serviceberry

Amelanchier arborea or serviceberry is a deciduous shrub in the rose family (*Rosaceae*). It can play a significant role in the Midwest native garden. There are closely related native species *A.*

interior and *A. laevis*, usually from sandier habitats. A tall and narrow woodland plant, it is one of the first shrubs to flower in spring and is a great plant for residential properties.



Serviceberries in bloom. Photo by Carol Rice.

Serviceberry likes full sun but will tolerate partial sun or light shade. It requires good drainage but should be kept moist during summer droughts. It transplants easily and is a hardy shrub overall. It adapts to a variety of soil types and rarely requires pruning, so it is very low maintenance! It can be susceptible to leaf rot, powdery mildew and other pests that affect the rose family, but consistent moisture usually prevents insect pests from taking hold. These pests and diseases do not damage the tree significantly.

Planted in clusters, serviceberries work well as border or privacy screens to replace unwanted invasives shrubs such as buckthorn. Besides that, they are beautiful.

Other common names associated with this species include downy serviceberry, sarvis tree, shadblow and juneberry. These sturdy bushes have an interesting history, too. The use of the word “service” in the name may refer to the plant’s flowering around the time of the Easter church service. (Another source says that it got its name for blooming when the deceased could be buried in spring as the ground thawed and a funeral service ensued!)

The plant has been of “service” with its hard, heavy wood being used to make wooden-handled tools in the past and for being a source of food for wildlife and humans. Over time serviceberry has come to signal a happy sign of spring in the garden.

Serviceberry is a tall shrub or small tree reaching from fifteen to twenty-five feet tall. The young elliptical leaves are medium to dark green in color and are interesting because they have soft almost woolly “fur” or hairs on their undersides which eventually disappear when the leaves mature. The leaves turn a beautiful reddish to pink hue in autumn. The smooth, grey bark can have a reddish cast, and as the plant matures, the bark grows interesting ridges and shallow furrows. Its slender buds and white flowers grow in drooping racemes or bunches of six to fourteen flowers appearing in spring before mature leaves are present.

The ornamental flowers last only a week or two and are mildly

fragrant. After blooming, the flowers develop into small reddish-purple pomes, small apple-shaped fruits that hang in small clusters. The fruit is similar in size to blueberries and ripens over the summer. It is a favorite of native birds and has a history of being enjoyed by Native Americans. It is even harvested by folks today. While some find the berries dry and not very flavorful, others feel they surpass blueberries as fine fruit. They can be eaten raw off the shrub or canned. *Mother Earth News* suggests harvesting serviceberries, encouraging folks to “Bake them into pies, puddings or muffins. Dehydrate them like raisins. Make serviceberry jam or serviceberry ice cream.”



Serviceberries for breakfast. Photo by Sarah Tucker.

Most important of all, serviceberries actively support our wildlife. Native bees pollinate the flowers while other insects and a variety of caterpillars feed on its leaves, thus supporting the population of native butterflies and moths. The fruit is an attractive source of food for many native birds including the hairy woodpecker, hermit thrush, cedar waxwing and Baltimore oriole. With little to no maintenance, these workhorse shrubs provide privacy, beauty, and wildlife support, all the while heralding the start of spring.

— Sandra Alguire

Bugs bring in crowd for year’s first Community Ed program

by Carol Rice

There was a full house for the first of CFC’s 2015 Community Education programs. On January 10, approximately sixty-five people came to hear Jeffrey Holland, Associate Professor of Entomology at Purdue University, speak on the “Functional Diversity of Backyard Insects.” His program was especially relevant to Habitat Corridors yards.

He explained that habitat quality, diversity of habitat and the size of a habitat impact insect diversity and that larger insect populations are more stable than small ones. Some of the roles played by insects are pollination, decomposition, and pest control. Additionally, insects are an important part of the food web and contribute to the wildlife experience.

In addition to Jeffrey Holland’s presentation, Meredith Tucker (Community Ed Co-chair) opened the program with comments on neonicotinoids or “neonics.” These are systemic insecticides that are especially toxic to pollinators. She informed the audience about the importance of avoiding these pesticides and explained the disastrous results to bees (especially) of using them on flowering plants and to many forms of wildlife when used as a control for emerald ash borer.

CFC enthusiastically thanks Trader Joe’s for its generous donation of cookies. Everyone enjoyed them tremendously.

Take 'em out; plant an oak

by Meredith Tucker

I received an email including several photos of trees with bark damage and little pieces of bark lying on the ground beneath the trees. It is pretty clear from some of the pictures that woodpeckers are causing the “damage,” and I think it is important to share some information in this regard.

Although I have only seen the photos and not the trees, these are almost certainly ash trees infested with emerald ash borers. It is well recognized that where the borer exists, woodpeckers thrive. That’s the good news. As many of you know if you have attended my programs, I believe in leaving the dead trees standing as long as they don’t threaten people or property. However, I think one should make an exception for dead ash trees.

Representatives I trust from two tree companies have told me that ash trees are dangerous when they die. They become extremely dry and tend to topple. (Ash trees are the weedy invaders that took over when settlement destroyed the oaks, hickories, and lindens that grew here. Those species are strong enough to provide habitat long after they die. Ashes were also one of the trees of choice for developers and municipalities



Bark damage on the trunk. Photo by Derek Oliver.

looking for a quick-growing, cheap tree species to plant.) I’ve even heard that when they’ve been dead for a while, ashes are dangerous to the crews hired to remove

them. Much as it hurts me to recommend removing these trees promptly when they die, I urge you to consider doing so.

Please consider this to be a great opportunity to plant a native oak, hickory, linden, hackberry, and so forth! There are many native species stronger and nicer than ash trees. (That’s more good news.)

Get the kids out! Barrington area Kid Fest beckons

by Pat Winkelman

Join Citizens for Conservation in celebrating June as Leave No Child Inside month at the fourth annual Barrington Area Kid Fest, a fun-filled event combining the fourteenth annual Community Kite Fly and fifth annual Family Nature Fest. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Citizens Park, 511 Lake Zurich Road, Barrington.

This family-oriented event is hosted by the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club, the Barrington Park District, and

Leave No Child Inside of the Greater Barrington Area, three community-oriented, non-profit organizations. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Sunday, May 3, at the same time and location.

The three organizations along with Leave No Child Inside members and supporters will provide a wide assortment of exciting recreational and educational activities designed to get families outside with nature, have fun, and get fit! Please come and enjoy the kites.



2013 KidFest participants enjoy CFC’s hands-on activity. Photo from CFC archives.

While you’re there, also sample some delicious food for purchase, check out our raffle, and celebrate spring outside!

For additional information or for more ideas about how to enjoy nature with your family, visit the Barrington Breakfast Rotary at www.barringtonbreakfastrotary.org, the Barrington Park District at www.barringtonparkdistrict.org, or Leave No Child Inside at www.funoutside.org.

February program presents creepy crawly beauty!

by Carol Rice

The 2015 CFC Community Education programs got off to an excellent start. Like the January program, the February offering had a full house of almost seventy people in the audience.

Joan Sayre presented “Bees, Bugs and Butterflies” on February 7. She combined her dedication to conservation with her excellent capabilities in photography. Insects are her specialty, and the program gave ample evidence of her camera talents. An insect’s face filled the whole screen with full detail and clarity. Pollen sacs, hairs, ocelli, wing details, all were shown with great magnification. (Bees have five eyes. Two are large compound eyes; ocelli are the three simple eyes that record daylight.) Joan provided information on plants that are important to the insects, either for their life cycle or for feeding.

Having seen both the January and February programs, one has to appreciate the value and beauty of insects. Our home gardens can play an important role in providing habitat for them. Gardeners can accomplish this by planting a diversity of native plants and refusing to use insecticides.

CFC again thanks Trader Joe’s for their generous donation of cookies for refreshments.

Annual Meeting recognizes forty-four years of CFC accomplishments

by Karen Rosene

On March 19, 150 members and friends gathered to celebrate and review the strides Citizens for Conservation made in 2014. The celebration was at the Onion Pub and Brewery in Lake Barrington where everyone enjoyed the appetizers and beverages during a reception held prior to the meeting.

President Peggy Simonsen opened the meeting, and Edith Auchter followed with the treasurer's report. Land Preservation chair Alberto Moriondo announced CFC's purchase of fifteen acres in Flint Creek Savanna.

Meredith Tucker delivered the Board Development report. First she thanked outgoing board members Diane Bodkin and Pat Winkelman for their dedicated service to CFC while on the board. Meredith introduced present board members re-nominated for three-year terms: Edith Auchter, Gene Branson, Barbara Cragan, Doug Johnson, and Peggy Simonsen as well as John Schweizer who was nominated for a one-year term.

Meredith reported three new nominees for three-year board terms: Leslie Coolidge, Tom Crosh, and Karen Rosene. The new board would convene immediately following the meeting to elect officers: Tom Crosh, President; Jim Vanderpoel and Meredith Tucker, Vice-Presidents; Karen Rosene, Secretary; and Edith Auchter, Treasurer. Peggy Simonsen made a motion that the Board Development report be accepted and nominees elected. The motion passed unanimously.

Keynote speaker Doug Taron, PhD presented the program "Butterflies of the American Prairie." He included stunning digital images of butterflies as well as fascinating explanations about the intricacies of butterflies and their habitats. Taron shared images and stories of his research activities at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago.

Jim Vanderpoel presented awards to the volunteers who are the lifeblood of Citizens for Conservation.

Mighty Oak Awards: Please see sidebar.

Shooting Star 10-year Awards

Ginger Underwood Pat Winkelman
James Zaremba



Shooting Star Award winner Ginger Underwood. Photo by Megan West.

Waid Vanderpoel 20-year Awards

Edith Auchter Tom Crosh
Gail Vanderpoel Melissa Washow



Waid Vanderpoel Award winners. Back row: award presenter Jim Vanderpoel, award winner Tom Crosh. Front row: award winners Edith Auchter, Gail Vanderpoel, Melissa Washow. Photo by Megan West.

Great Blue Heron Award

CFC presents this award annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to conservation within CFC activities. It is the highest honor we bestow for CFC activities.

The burn crew received the award for their dedication to this most difficult, dangerous, and important of CFC's restoration tasks.



Great Blue Heron Award winners. Front row: Ryan Guilfoil, John Pasch, Candy Quinn. Back row: award presenter Jim Vanderpoel. Photo by Megan West.

To close the meeting Tom Vanderpoel delivered his much anticipated annual "year in review." He stressed the value of the restoration CFC is doing, particularly in the context of Taron's talk on butterflies. He mentioned the habitat-restricted butterflies we have seen in our restorations and how CFC is trying to help them with the goal of someday re-introducing other rare species to the preserves.

Items for a silent auction allowed members to see and bid for artwork and photos donated by CFC members. Artist Jane Christino donated several beautiful watercolors while Diane and Jim Bodkin and Donna Bolzman donated stunning photographs.

Thank you to the annual meeting committee and the stalwart volunteers who helped make the meeting happen: Karen Rosene, Janet Agnoletti, Barb Cragan, Annamarie Lukes, Peggy Simonsen, Meredith Tucker and Jim Vanderpoel. Thank you to Candy Quinn from Prairie Basket for once again donating a beautiful basket of wild prairie flowers. Finally, thank you to our generous sponsors Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, BMO Harris Bank and The Care of Trees, a Davey company.

Mighty Oak Awards go to non-board members who volunteered fifty hours or more in the last year.

Larry Anglada	Ryan Guilfoil	Barb Overbey
Tom Auchter	Carol Hogan	Wendy Paulson
Jim Bodkin	Bryan Hughes	Gail Rudisill
Donna Bolzman	Karl Humbert	Cliff Schultz
Doe Crosh	Connor Kobeski	David Underwood
Tom Crosh	Linda Krauss	Gail Vanderpoel
Demmy Giannis	Julia Martinez	Ann Warren
Diane Greening	Rob Neff	Melissa Washow
Katherine Grover	Bob Oliver	

150 species offered in 19th year of CFC native plant sale

by Ginger Underwood

CFC will hold its 19th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on May 2 and 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the “Barns” of Good Shepherd Hospital. This is to the east of the hospital where there are several barns and parking lots, across the street from CFC’s headquarters where we have held the sale in the past. We are grateful to the Hospital for generously offering CFC the use of this area for our sale. Last year’s sale doubled in size in sales and enthusiastic customers, creating crowding issues not the least of which was parking on both sides of Route 22. Yikes!



Shoppers at the 2014 plant sale. Photo by Ed Plum.

Last year we added forty new plants; this year we’ve added twenty-eight more for a total of some 150 species. It’s a sizable sale with a great deal to offer for everyone. We’ll have many forbs, grasses, ferns and woodland plants at the sale and some extra trees and shrubs, but to improve your chances of getting what you want, please pre-order on our website. Remember that trees and shrubs are almost entirely available only by pre-order. The deadline for ordering is April 10 with pick-up on May 1.

2050 Design, which created our website last year, is again donating a great deal of time and talent to recreate, update, and manage our plant sale website. Once again the site is filled with great information, quick and easy to use, and an excellent reference database for all our plants. Diane Greening has been researching details for the new plants including photos and then giving them to Dave Underwood, owner of 2050 Design, to put on the website. Photos of each plant with information and custom filters allow you to find plants for sun or shade, wet or dry, various colors, deer resistance and more. Be sure to set up an account when you start so that you can return to the cart as you think about your many options.

Once again this year we are offering seven species of milkweed at \$2.00 each, and we’re hoping, as are the nurseries, that they will all grow to be healthy, happy little plants for our sale. We



Common mountain mint available at our plant sale attracts bees, beetles, beneficials and butterflies. Photo from CFC archives.

are hoping for no repeat of last year’s problems when the plants are delivered.

We’ve added *Asclepias exaltata*, poke milkweed, which is a bit unusual since it tolerates some

shade. We will not be offering the short green milkweed. Also noteworthy to our sale, we are only offering plants that have not been treated with systemic insecticides. Please read the short message about the use of Neonics written by our Habitat Corridor Co-Chair Meredith Tucker. It is on the website and on the back of the downloadable, printable order form.

We have a fantastic new committee person Barb Knoff who is looking for much needed volunteers to help with the sale. It’s a big undertaking. If you can help, please contact Barb at cfplantsalevolunteers@citizensforconservation.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the CFC office at 847-382-7283, or www.citizensforconservation.org.

Recycling Drive-Thru Event: Get Your Green on, Barrington!

by Jennifer Kainz

Prairie Middle School’s PTO Environmental Awareness Committee is hosting a community-wide recycling event to celebrate Earth Day, 2015. With support from Prairieland Disposal & Recycling, Chicago Textile Recycling, and Chicago Logistic Service, you can dispose of electronics, textiles, and Styrofoam responsibly at one convenient location.

Use these recycling opportunities on April 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The drive-through location is Prairie Middle School Campus at 40 Dundee Road, Barrington.

Acceptable items will include Styrofoam, packing peanuts, and bubble wrap. For a full list of textiles, please visit Chicago Textile Recycling: <http://www.chicagotextilerecycling.com/Drives.php>.

For electronics, please visit Prairieland E-Waste Recycling: http://www.prairielanddisposal.com/electronics_collection.html.

Spring clean and go green!

A Good Read

Plant a Pocket of Prairie

by Phyllis Root

If you want to teach children about wildlife and native prairie, select this book written for first to fourth graders. In

it Phyllis Root explains that there will never be native prairie as it was before development, but she tells young people how they can help bring back a little of it and support bees and birds and toads as they do so.



Plant a Pocket of Prairie does more than that; it explains in simple terms the way changes in one part of an ecosystem affect every other part. Root shows that destroying prairie plants impacts the animals that ate those plants and lived with them. She goes on to show what happens when we work to restore prairie, encouraging readers to “plant a pocket of prairie” in their own backyards.

Children can help provide food and habitat for many birds, butterflies, and other animals by growing native prairie plants. For instance, a thirsty chickadee can drink from the leafy pool a cup plant provides while goldenrod offers habitat for bees, butterflies, and the toads who consume goldenrod soldier beetles.

The book provides an easy explanation of how to grow prairie plants including brief descriptions of the plants and animals it highlights. Strangely this last section is written for older children than the first very simple section. Also, one might wonder why a book about tiny prairie pockets in a child’s garden would include bison and elk as part of the scene. Nonetheless there are colorful drawings to inspire readers to plant some seeds and watch the smaller creatures come.

If you read this engaging book and decide to create a little prairie, you will find many of the plants for sale at CFC’s Annual Native Plant Sale on May 2 and 3. Then buy *Plant a Pocket of Prairie* for a special child to nurture his or her interest in and love of nature.

— Meredith Tucker

Welcome New Members!

Maria Cadeddu	Kathleen Oroni
Ed and Pam Dopke	Holly Petersen
Genevieve Ellefson	Tony Solano
Josephine Holzer	Jan Sorensen
P. K. Johnson	Jeanine Stark
Barb and Tom Knoff	Pamela Swisher
Ellen Manint	Megan West
Susan Moynihan	Bill Whelan
Usha Murarka	

Eagle Scout Joe Flaherty signs off with CFC; thanks for signs!

by Pat Winkelman

Joe Flaherty of Troop 927 chose a complex Eagle task for Citizens for Conservation by tackling our preserve sign project. Joe spent time with sign maker Superior Exhibits learning the craft of making the six signs out of raw wood.



Joe Flaherty at work on his Eagle Scout project.
Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Once the signs were ready, he completed the detailed and difficult job of painting them with the help of dedicated CFC volunteers. This took several weeks of fine motor skills, painting around the raised letters and then carefully painting the tops of the letters and logo. Finally, sealing the signs ensured that their beauty would last for many years. It was a daunting job that taught one patience!

While the painting was taking place, Joe reviewed plats of survey and/or aerial views of CFC’s properties to determine final sign locations. Once CFC had chosen the locations, Joe learned the art of working with local village governments while learning terms such as “set-backs,” “variances,” “permit applications,” and more.

Joe’s team placed stakes and augured post holes while Joe waited for approval from multiple government officials. The villages issued permits for four locations quickly; however, a municipality denied approval for the Grigsby Prairie sign resulting in CFC’s moving it fifty feet from the street corner and elevating the bottom of the sign four feet. Then it required no permit. The permit denial of the Steyermark Woods sign resulted in removing this sign from Joe’s scope of work.

Joe faced the wrath of “Mother Nature” with early frosts and a colder than normal winter halting some of the ground preparation until the soil warmed in spring.

Throughout Joe’s project, he showed leadership skills, worked well with others (both peers and adults), developed excellent organizational skills, and learned to think quickly and adjust goals when faced with obstacles. He saw this complex project to the end with proficiency and always with a smile.

Upon completion of his project, Joe had installed the large cedar preserve signs at CFC’s Flint Creek Savanna South, Farm Trails North, Wagner Fen, Grigsby Prairie, and Barrington Bog.

Citizens for Conservation extends its thanks and gratitude to Joe for a job well done!

Seasonal Tip

Habitat as home

Imagine being grabbed by the scruff of your neck, put in a box, and dumped somewhere far away. No food, no family, no idea of where to eat or sleep in safety. No knowledge of escape routes or the location of protection from predators. This is what happens to animals that are trapped and relocated.

Most don't stay where they are put. One study showed that 97% of relocated squirrels are either dead or gone after eighty-eight days. Think what you would do. Your first impulse would be to return home. The next one would be to panic until you found food, friends, shelter or death. In her article "Strangers in a Strange Land," Nancy Lawson recounts the above concerns, and she also offers some suggestions.

First, get species smart. For instance, one of the most maligned species is the opossum. It is beneficial to gardeners because of its appetite for insects and rodents. A Humane Society spokesman said, "Doing anything to a 'possum is just the silliest thing in the world." They are harmless even if not pretty.

Second, humanely evict nesting animals. Waiting for them to leave on their own is the preferred method. Encourage their exit to a new site by preventing re-entry into structures while encouraging them to move young to alternate dens. Try a loud radio or obnoxious odors like ammonia. As observers of nature it is our responsibility to find a spot for nature in our personal ecosystems.

Third, reshape your environment. Provide shelter away from your home. Build brush piles for habitat away from the house. Consider installing chimney caps, sealing porches and sheds, and creating other barriers to entry into your home. For gardens, temporary or permanent fencing is the most effective way to exclude wildlife.

More tips are available at humanesociety.org/wildlifesolutions.

Enjoy the animals your yard shelters! Learn something about their habits. Very few people see a fox in the wild. If you are fortunate enough to have a fox visit your porch, enjoy the rare opportunity. Plus foxes eat pests.

— Robert Cantwell

Editor's Note: Here's a closely related true story. In spring a few years ago, a neighbor tried to contact me because his dogs were barking crazily at a mother 'possum who had fallen into his window well with her babies. The neighbor, who was annoyed by the barking, couldn't reach me, so he called a wildlife relocation company which came and took the 'possum family away either to relocate or kill. A simple and much kinder solution would have been to place a 2 x 4 into the window well at an incline so that mom could climb out with her babies. She had been living peacefully in our neighborhood until she fell into that window well. I had seen

her regularly. (And why didn't he lock his dogs in a different room until he could provide an escape route for the opossum?)



Baby 'possum raids outdoor pet dish and proves that at least tiny opossums are a little cute. Photo from CFC archives.

Habitat Corridors and NPR host McDonnell co-present

by Meredith Tucker

Several members of CFC's Community Education Committee give programs for outside organizations, often garden clubs or other community groups. We don't feel it is newsworthy for *CFC News*; however, on Monday night, February 23, we did participate in a program that is worth mentioning.

Jerome McDonnell, host of "World View" on NPR, was kind enough to ask us to co-present a program he was giving to the Arlington Heights Garden Club about CFC's Habitat Corridors initiative. The room in the Village Hall was packed with enthusiastic, engaged audience members.

McDonnell displayed slides of his yard filled with native plants and particularly emphasized his rain garden which functions to keep storm water away from his foundation and briefly stores it so it can percolate into the soil. He has received certification from CFC's Habitat Corridors program and displayed his yard sign on one of the slides.

CFC's Meredith Tucker followed Jerome's presentation with a more detailed explanation of Habitat Corridors and how it can create healthy habitat in Arlington Heights as well as in the Barrington area. She finished her talk with information about avoiding pre-treated seeds and plants or any application of neonicotinoid or other systemic insecticides for the sake of pollinators and other native insects. The goal is to preserve bio-diversity.

Thank you, Jerome, for giving CFC this opportunity to interact with a large group of gardeners. Thank you as well to the extremely animated and engaged audience members who asked great questions and will clearly carry the torch for native plants and healthier habitat.

The right milkweed: know your natives

by Meredith Tucker

Gardeners should be careful that they don't love the monarch butterfly to death! A little knowledge will go a long way toward preventing that from happening.

Extensive press has educated people about the need for milkweed in monarch reproduction. Milkweed is the host plant for monarchs and is the only food their larvae can eat. Conservationists and other like-minded people have urged gardeners to plant milkweed to replace what is being destroyed on hundreds of thousands of acres planted in GMO corn and soybeans and drenched in glyphosate herbicides.

Gardeners are listening and planting! However, the most easily accessible milkweed species is *Asclepias curvassavica*, tropical milkweed. (Remember to always purchase plants by Latin name so that you actually get the plant you want!) The monarchs love it, and there's the problem. In much of the United States, this milkweed does not go dormant in the fall, and the monarchs linger to breed and use this species rather than migrating to Mexico.

Scientific tests have shown that non-migrating monarchs are likely to harbor a debilitating protozoan parasite called *Ophryocytis elektroscirra* - OE. When monarch caterpillars eat it, they get wing deformities and have shortened life spans. They also spread spores that infect other monarchs.

It appears that monarchs must migrate to thrive. Those butterflies affected by OE will die during the rigors of migration and will not spread the parasite. Additionally, migrating butterflies move away from OE-infected locations. Non-migratory monarchs in the southern states are five times more likely to be infected with OE than those that migrate.

Gardeners, please grow native milkweeds and bypass the tropical species sold at garden centers. Just as important, perhaps more so, be sure your milkweed plants come from sources that guarantee they have not been pretreated with neonicotinoid insecticides. Do not assume they are untreated unless the seller guarantees it!



Native marsh milkweed. Photo by Meredith Tucker.

Although failure to migrate is a bigger problem for monarchs in the south than in the north, we can best support a healthy, migratory population by growing natives especially since scientists suspect there are other problems with monarchs and tropical milkweed. Pre-order from CFC's native plant sale or join us on May 2 and 3 to buy at the sale itself. Wherever you purchase, please remember to go native!

Volunteer Portrait

Alice Ireland



Alice Ireland. Photo by Ralph Tarquino.

Alice started as a restoration volunteer with Citizens for Conservation too long ago to remember. She always had had an interest in plants and flowers. When she was little, she saved the seeds from prom pansies just to see if they would produce flowers the next year. Another thing she puzzled over was why the iris in her family's garden produced fewer flowers each passing year. Her seed-picking activity over the years on CFC's prairies and savannas is a natural offshoot of those early exploits.

In those days there was no open land in Mt. Prospect; nothing grew without its being hybridized and clipped into conformity. While rabbits and squirrels were plentiful, she never saw frogs, toads, snakes, or much variety of birds.

Years later, Alice noticed a garden of beautiful plants in someone's front yard. The owner of the garden was a gentleman who was a long-time neighbor. He told her, "I just found these plants by the railroad tracks." They were natives!

After moving to Deer Park, Alice saw a much greater variety of plants and wildlife, so becoming a volunteer for CFC was a natural fit. However, even in the Barrington area, she has noticed a decline in the frog and butterfly populations over the years.

Her gardens draw interest from neighbors, and she hopes to encourage them by planting more native species. As a child, twice Alice saw elm trees covered with monarch butterflies. She hopes this may happen again so that other children can be as stunned and inspired by this sight as she was.

— Gwynne Johnson

Interactive Prairie will be open to the public

CFC's Interactive Prairie at Flint Creek Savanna, 459 Route 22, will be open to the public again this summer free of charge on the first Sunday of each month from May 10 through September, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Visitors are invited to bring their smart phones with a Scanner app to access the QR codes along the trail. Guests can see and hear CFC restoration experts telling about the plants, animals, insects, and birds of the prairie.

Upcoming Events

Community Education Programs - 2015

The program is presented at the Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street, Barrington. It begins at 10:00 a.m. but come at 9:30 for displays, handouts, coffee, and conversation! Please RSVP to 847-382-7283.

Saturday, April 11 - "Organic Power Vegetable Gardening," Mark Lyons discusses soil preparation, earth-friendly maintenance, and using native plants to attract pollinators.

Youth Education Classes

For all Youth Education classes, CFC members attend for free; nonmembers pay \$5.00 for the first child and \$1.00 for each additional child.

Saturday, April 4 from 1:00-3:00 at CFC Headquarters - "Take a Look at the Sun." Using a solar telescope provided by local astronomer Edith Auchter, participants will safely view the sun, seeing solar flares and prominences. They will make sun prints, measure shadows, and learn so much!

Saturday, May 9 from 1:00-3:00 at Bakers Lake - "Mothers Wildflower Tour." We cordially invite mothers and grandmothers to see the beautiful spring flowers at Baker's Lake. Children will learn the names of native flowers and why they are so special. We will also look for great numbers of birds on the island in the middle of the lake. Children will receive live flowers to give for Mothers' Day. Dads are welcome too!

June 8-12 from 9:00-11:30 at CFC Headquarters - "Beginning Naturalists Camp." This is a pre-school camp for children 4 and 5 years old. Camp will focus on a week of nature adventures at Flint Creek Savanna. We will hike, observe, make nature crafts, discover insects, frogs, and other friends, learn about trees and flowers and much more. Camp fee is \$100 for CFC members, \$150 for non-members.

Saturday, June 13 from 1:00-4:30 at CFC Headquarters - "Seining Class." Join Tom Vanderpoel for a close look at native fish of Illinois. We will drive to a local creek or lake and wade in to capture fish using seines (nets). This is an exciting way to discover the amazing creatures living in our local water systems, so don't miss it! (All critters are released unharmed.)

CFC Celebrates Earth Day

April 18, CFC celebrates Earth Day with a regular workday activity from 9:00 to 11:00. Everyone is invited to join our volunteers to celebrate the day. There will be refreshments following.

The Natural History Society of Barrington

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Lake Barrington Woods.

Thursday, April 16 - "Birds and Windows" by Dave Willard of the Field Museum. He will interpret the data on nearly 70,000 bird fatalities from window strikes in Chicago, telling what we have learned and hope to learn.

Thursday, May 21 - "The Decline of the Monarch - or Not?" by Doug Taron, Director of the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network. He will discuss the reasons for the shrinking of Mexico's winter colony of monarch butterflies and the implications for the monarch's survival.

Spring Bird Walks at Crabtree Nature Center

Tuesdays, April 21 & 28 and May 5 & 12 at 8:00 a.m. - Meet in the parking lot at Crabtree Nature Center. Walks will be held rain or shine and are suitable for beginners as well as experienced birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Walks last about 2 hours.

Barrington-Area Spring Bird Walks

Cosponsored by Audubon Chicago Region and Citizens for Conservation

Get to know nearby nature with Barrington-area naturalist Wendy Paulson. Walks are free and open to the public, but space is limited. RSVPs are required. Don't forget your binoculars!

April 3, 8:00 a.m. - Beese Park (Meet at Beese Park, east end of Cornell Avenue)

April 10, 8:00 a.m. - Beese Park (as above)

April 17, 7:30 a.m. - Flint Creek Savanna (CFC Headquarters, 459 W. Hwy 22)

April 27, 7:30 a.m. - Baker's Lake (Parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 8, 7:30 a.m. - Baker's Lake (as above)

May 15, 7:30 a.m. - Beverly Lake (Parking lot on north side of Higgins Rd./Rt. 72 west of Sutton Rd.)

May 22, 7:30 a.m. - Penny Road South* (Penny Road Pond parking lot, less than a mile west of Old Sutton / Penny Road intersection)

May 29, 7:00 a.m. - Galloping Hill* (Penny Road Pond parking lot; see above)

June 12, 7:00 a.m. - Headwaters (Parking lot off Wichman Road, gravel drive ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

June 19, 7:00 a.m. - Galloping Hill* (As above)

June 21, 5:30 p.m. - Longmeadow* (North side of Longmeadow Dr. off Bateman Rd.)

*indicates a more strenuous hike

Please RSVP to: Daniel Jacobson (312) 453-0230 ext. 2002 or djacobson@audubon.org and let us know how to contact you if necessary.

Check the CFC website www.citizensforconseration.org for last minute changes.

President's Comments

Land: A foundation stone of CFC's mission

Citizens for Conservation is based on three foundation stones as expressed in our mission statement: "Saving Living Space for Living Things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education." These elements of our mission drive our strategies and focus our efforts starting with acquisition of as much ecologically valuable land as possible. Since 2010, we have expanded the acreage we own by sixty acres, totaling 418 acres today with negotiations for more in progress. Our Land Preservation team, headed by Alberto Moriando, actively seeks and negotiates for donations or purchase of land that fits at least one of three criteria.

First, we are always pleased to acquire land that is ecologically significant such as oak and hickory uplands, natural areas harboring native plant species or undisturbed plant and animal communities. We are stewards of three Illinois Nature Preserves which fit this category: Barrington Bog, Wagner Fen and Farm Trails North. We also seek open land that, while no longer natural, is large enough to restore to healthy habitat by removing invasive species and establishing native plants. This was the case with Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna, both former farmland and now award-winning prairie, wetland and savanna restorations. The third type of land we seek includes any that is contiguous to our existing properties to act as a buffer from nearby development and to expand the restored areas. In 2014, we acquired such a piece through a donation of property contiguous to Steyermark Woods, and we purchased another small parcel adjacent to Flint Creek Savanna.

Our land acquisition and restoration efforts are concentrated in the greater Barrington area, and our goal is to create a large greenway of land we own as well as land we have helped preserve and restore, such as Grassy Lake Forest Preserve and Cuba Prairie/Ela Marsh. Now we also consider the addition of property owners' habitat through our Habitat Corridors initiative.

Dr. Jeffrey Holland from Purdue University, our Community Education speaker in January, identified three types of corridor habitat: **linear**, which is what we are accomplishing along Flint Creek collaborating with Flint Creek Watershed Partnership; **landscape mosaic**, which includes tracts large enough to stand alone as habitat, such as our 133-acre Flint Creek Savanna and the 3910-acre Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The third type is the **stepping stone corridor** which includes small and not necessarily contiguous parcels close enough together that seeds, birds, insects and other animals can migrate among them. This is the goal of our strategically placed smaller acquisitions and the Habitat Corridors properties.



Because of our land acquisition, stewardship and restoration, and education of the public, we have helped protect over 3500 acres of ecologically valuable land in the Barrington greenway. Thanks to our very busy volunteers, our committee leaders and our generous donors, we will continue to do so in the future. As I leave the presidency of CFC and turn over the gavel to our new president Tom Crosh, I know we will continue this record of successful land preservation.

— Peggy Simonsen

From the Staff Director

Volunteers: CFC's lifeblood

When a new member sends a note with his membership dues that says, "CFC - Thank you for all (underlined) you do to protect our environment!" he is thanking an army of incredibly dedicated, talented, knowledgeable, resourceful and tireless volunteers.

These volunteers serve in all areas of the work that CFC carries out in the greater Barrington area, working together, sharing the planning and execution of ambitious goals that benefit all who live here.

Since the early settlers began arriving after the treaty of 1833 was signed, generations have come to this unique area and have valued the "view shed" and the watershed. As the years have gone by, many have joined to establish policies and comprehensive plans and have worked to protect and restore the ecosystem and educate residents of all ages about its care.

This year the Village of Barrington embarks on a year-long celebration of its Sesquicentennial, and Citizens for Conservation can take pride in its leadership and its stewardship in helping restore and maintain the character of the land that the early settlers cherished. Since 1971 Citizens for Conservation volunteers have been "Saving Living Space for Living Things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education."

When CFC brought volunteers from around the country to celebrate "Twenty Years of Volunteers" back in 2005, a *Barrington Courier-Review* editorial said, "To all those who have donated their time and energy to make such a noble vision a reality, we commend you and thank you." This noble vision carries on, and CFC volunteers are the ones who make it a reality.

— Sam Oliver

Citizens for Conservation's Board of Directors is very grateful for the time, effort and talent generously given to CFC by Diane Bodkin and Pat Winkelman, our two outgoing board members. We highly value your selfless contributions to the organization, and we wish you well.

Citizens for Conservation burn crew recruitment

Citizens for Conservation's prescribed burn season begins in the latter half of March. The burns are critical to the health of our ecosystems. CFC's burns are conducted by volunteers who are tough and determined, and we need many volunteers for this major endeavor.

If you can help, please call CFC at 847-382-7283 to be added to the burn crew list; leave your name, phone number and e-mail address. We will contact volunteers by e-mail to learn the times they are most likely to be available.

Prescribed burns are dependent on weather conditions, so days and hours will vary.



Please join our burn crew! Photo by Donna Bolzman.



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