



Flint Creek Savanna preserve continues to expand

by Alberto Moriondo

In late December of last year, Citizens for Conservation announced that it was expanding its Flint Creek Savanna preserve as a result of a donation by the Kainz family — of the Onion Pub & Brewery — of a parcel of 4.5 acres of open space along Flint Creek. This builds on CFC’s acquisition earlier in 2015 of a vacant lot of over ten acres just south of this new parcel. With this latest addition, CFC’s Flint Creek Savanna preserve now extends to over 151 acres, making it our largest preserve.

Continuing to expand our award-winning Flint Creek Savanna preserve is a major priority for CFC’s Land Preservation Committee and we are very grateful for the generosity of the Kainz family who are strong believers in conservation and saving open space. We are pleased to add this latest parcel of land along Flint Creek since it provides a buffer to protect that valuable natural resource.

The relationship between CFC and the Kainz family started several years ago and has been centered on a shared belief in conservation. As a matter of fact, the Onion Pub & Brewery has been working on a “Green Initiative” for quite some time, from the initial restoration of their 20-acre site to other energy efficiency, water reuse and recycling initiatives that are in



The Kainz Family, with CFC board members and friends. (Front, l to r): Jennifer Kainz, Sue Kainz, Mike Kainz, Joe Kainz; (Back, l to r) Jim Anderson, Kerry Leigh, Tom Vanderpoel, Tom Crosh, Steve Smith. Photo by Bob Lee.

place today at their facilities. CFC has held its recent Annual Meetings at the Onion Pub as well as December’s highly successful “Cheers for Restoration.” It’s the perfect venue for our big events and has been complimented repeatedly by our attendees.

Consulted for this article, Mike Kainz, representing the Kainz family, commented that they saw this donation as a great way to help

preserve Flint Creek and the rich ecosystem of native species that have returned to this part of northern Illinois thanks to the restoration efforts of CFC volunteers. With each new parcel like this recent donation we are closer to fulfilling our vision for Flint Creek Savanna to create a large greenbelt preserve along Flint Creek from our headquarters on W. Highway 22 all the way to US Route 14. And we are not done yet...so be on the lookout for new land additions in the years to come.

Over the past decade, CFC has been successful in securing over 125 acres of open space in the Barrington area by working with both private entities and local governments. With this new addition, CFC now owns over 435 acres and has helped protect almost 3,500 acres in the Barrington area over the past 45 years. The Land Preservation Committee believes that current market conditions remain favorable for land preservation and is committed to continuing its acquisition program in the coming months and years.

CFC's "Cheers for Restoration" toasts land donation

by Steve Smith

More than 200 supporters of Citizens for Conservation attended CFC's "Cheers for Restoration" at the Onion Pub & Brewery in Lake Barrington in early December 2015. The gala celebrated and supported restoration of 4.5 acres of Flint Creek wetland donated by the Kainz family, owners of the Onion Pub,



The celebration at "Cheers for Restoration." Photo by Bob Lee.

and provided an opportunity for CFC members and friends to mix and mingle in a relaxed social atmosphere.

The evening included a beer naming contest, a raffle and silent auction as well as music provided by jazz trio "Unusual Suspects" featuring Barrington and Flint Creek resident Henry Heine. The contest invited guests to select a new name for an Onion Brewery IPA created with hops grown on site in Lake Barrington. The winner? "Blazing Star."



Ginger Underwood measures raffle tickets. Photo by Bob Lee.

Tom Vanderpoel, long-time CFC board member and restoration director, presented a very informative and compelling oral history of CFC's land acquisition process and success dating back to the early 1970s, addressing future plans for continued acquisition and restoration advances in the greater Barrington area, through the combined efforts of CFC and its many partners, donors and volunteers.

This was the first time in the 45-year history of CFC that such an event was held and, by virtually all accounts from the attendees, a fantastic time was had by all. CFC is extremely grateful for the outcome and thanks everyone who attended and participated in the fund raising activities and games. Overall it was a great win for conservation in the Barrington area.

News from Habitat Corridors

Home visits starting soon

CFC's Habitat Corridors volunteers will begin making home visits in April. We are waiting to see what the weather brings and when the plants break dormancy. Then we will contact homeowners (and others) who have requested a property visit and will make recommendations about invasive species, healthy maintenance practices, and opportunities for planting more native plants.

If you would like a visit — free of charge — please contact us at info@habitatcorridors.org and ask for a visit. Be sure to leave your name, email address, phone number and location. We will get back to you shortly. If you do not have access to a computer, call CFC's office at 847-382-SAVE and leave a message with your request and return phone number. We'll call you.

Finally, if we have assessed your property in the last few years and you think you are ready for a yard sign, please call and schedule a return visit. We'll be there looking forward to seeing the healthy habitat you have created.

— Meredith Tucker

Restoration Report

2016 – Preserve visits

For years the Restoration Committee has been reporting on the progress we have been making restoring our preserves and creating improved habitat for wildlife. The restoration volunteers are out in the field one hundred times a year so we see the whole property in great detail. It seems that other than the workdays, our members are not often visiting our preserves. We urge all CFC members to not just take our word for how beautiful the preserves are becoming—come and see for yourselves. Both Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna are open for CFC members to visit and have maintained trails. This report is a guide to the best times and places to visit to see the plants and animals through the growing season.

Your first visit for the year should be Hospital Grove at Flint Creek Savanna. The outer loop of the gravel L.L.Bean Trail goes right through this fine grove of mature native trees. The grove had been fenced and intensively grazed by dairy cows, which eradicated the entire understory, but left the large oaks, hickories, walnuts and cherries intact. After the grazing stopped, European buckthorn moved in. Our volunteer work crews cleared the invasive shrubs, but only bare soil remained under the century old trees. This was a true blank slate to test restoration techniques. We started by transplanting plugs of rescued wildflowers and then planted a cover crop of non-native cool season grasses. For twenty years we have been overseeding with our open savanna seed mix and diligently removing non-native invasive weeds. In the last two years, the plugs have exploded and many other species are coming by seed. We recommend coming on April 16—finish your taxes and relax surrounded by the white stage of flowers—rue anemone, white trout lily, cutleaf toothwort and wood anemone, though you could also see the yellow of smooth yellow violet. You may even see the striking plum colored early foliage of horse gentian. Keep your eye out for early migrant birds like rusty blackbird or yellow-bellied sapsucker. If you have a nice sunny morning you might spot one of the winter butterflies like mourning cloak or Eastern comma. They are not eating the nectar of the wildflowers—they eat tree sap. You'll still see plenty of pollinating going on, though various small bees and flies will perform it.

The next floristic peak comes five weeks later, say May 21, when the prairie spring flora hits its apex. The swale at Grigsby Prairie is our proudest achievement. Be prepared for a wild clash of bright colors—pumpkin orange hoary puccoon, lavender shooting star, shocking pink prairie phlox, scarlet Indian paintbrush, sky blue Jacob's ladder, stunning yellow star grass, the indigo of marsh blue violet and the more subtle hues of bastard toadflax, prairie lousewort, golden alexander and white-eyed grass. Don't be surprised to see red admiral butterflies and the first bumblebees. Bring your binoculars

to spot the prairie birds—Eastern meadowlark, bobolink and field, savannah and grasshopper sparrows are all possible. Much of the wildflower diversity in our landscape comes from the rapidly changing seasons. Return to the same spot of Grigsby Prairie on June 4, just two weeks later, and almost all of the prairie spring ephemerals will be fading away, but don't worry, a new group of flowers will be blooming—half again taller to keep up with the growing grasses which are almost calf high at this point. You'll see the dramatic snow white of the underrated Northern bedstraw, the cornflower blue of common spiderwort, the little known but attractive marsh fleabane and the white spikes of white wild indigo. The birds will be the same, but you might see new butterflies like the question mark or the season's first monarchs and clouded



Grigsby Prairie in spring. Photo by Jim Bodkin.

sulfurs. Note that in this high quality spot, the native sulphurs are far more common than the introduced European cabbage white, which is otherwise by far the most common butterfly in the unrestored Barrington area.

Start your long 4th of July weekend on the 2nd by visiting the east side of the Grand Prairie at Flint Creek Savanna. A whole new mosaic of bright colors: royal purple leadplant, sturdy white wild quinine, pink showy tick trefoil, bright yellow prairie coreopsis and gold black-eyed susan delight the eye. Black-eyed susan is an interesting ecological study—it is one of the few native plants that survives in old fields and roadsides; it is the easiest plant to restore, coming by the thousand in the first stage of restoration, yet, when the prairie matures and diversifies, black-eyed susan remains as one of the common but unaggressive climax forbs. It is the only plant to behave in this manner.

I once saw a mink strolling towards me on this trail—he hightailed back to the creek as soon as he saw me. More likely you'll see nesting birds like common yellowthroat, Eastern kingbird or yellow warbler. You might be able to add common wood nymphs to your annual butterfly list, and, if you walk a hundred yards down the trail into the flood plain of Flint Creek, you might see the rare eyed brown butterfly in the well-established sedge meadow. Even if you don't, the jaunt

will be worth it to see our largest colony of Michigan lily and a fine stand of Culver's root. A mere ten feet of elevation and different slope leads to an entirely different plant community giving you an opportunity to compare wet prairie to mesic prairie.

You needn't wait long for the next wave—on July 16, a trip to the fence line along Oak Knoll Road just east of the prairie pothole at Grigsby will be rewarded by a blast of lavender from wild bergamot. This is another of the stage one pioneers that



Grigsby Prairie – July. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

puts on the first display of bloom at the start of the restoration process. When the restored prairie matures, wild bergamot fades, but does not

disappear, in the full sun—but it remains abundant in the partial shade of the woodland prairie border. A true savanna plant. Now is the peak for the insects—bumblebees go wild for bergamot, while big butterflies like tiger swallowtail, monarch, red-spotted purple and great spangled fritillaries love purple



Bumblebee on wild bergamot. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Joe Pye weed. If you turn and look up the hill, you'll see a great drift of purple prairie clover and its relative, white prairie clover, both also popular with bumblebees. Not far away is a rich population of rattlesnake master, which, while not a showy flower, seems to be the host of a huge variety of pollinators. I was once mesmerized on a still warm morning by the ambient hum of the insects in this prairie stage—bald-faced hornets, paper wasps, bee flies, cricket killers, sweat bees and the robber flies, darners, meadowhawks and skimmers that hunt them. If you come to enjoy this spectacle, make sure you bring extra water and insect repellent. It will be hot!

One of the great things about Illinois wildflowers is that the parade just keeps coming as the year goes on. On August 6, CFC's Youth Education Committee will conduct its popular "Butterflies on the Prairie" program at Flint Creek Savanna. One place to look for butterflies would be the East Side Marsh. We have seen both black dash and Dion skippers at this spectacular wetland restoration. When one looks at the winged loosestrife, white turtlehead, sweet black-eyed susan, great blue lobelia, tufted loosestrife, mad dog skullcap and common ironweed and all the butterflies this spot attracts, you might be surprised to learn that this place was an often flooded cornfield just twenty five years ago.

The summer finally comes to a close at the end of August, but the flowers don't stop quite yet. One more great blast of blossoms merges with fall color to create what may be the most beautiful scene of all, maybe on September 10. At Grigsby Prairie at the corner of Oak Knoll and Buckley Roads, a great dry mesic prairie has become established. Possibly the most lovely of all wildflowers, the prairie gentian, thrives here with its

compatriot, the nodding ladies' tresses orchid, which, while not quite as visually striking, its vanilla fragrance adds to the site's



Fall view of Grigsby Prairie. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

charm. This is also a great place to see the aptly named showy goldenrod and its relative, the old-field goldenrod. The rich gold tones of these two composites complement the light blue of azure and smooth aster. Hopefully fall color stars like prairie dock, flowering spurge and the absurdly formed biennial guara do not distract you from looking for the only two wood warblers that migrate through the prairie, the palm and Nashville warblers. This is also a great time to see second-generation butterflies including, in some years, wanderers from the south like fiery skipper, dogface sulphur or sachem.

If any of the above descriptions pique your interest, I would be glad to take you on a tour of any of these spots if you'll meet me after the workday at CFC headquarters. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent. The Illinois prairie is not for the meek or ill prepared on a hot summer day. One final note—there is usually ample parking at Flint Creek, but the parking area at Grigsby is locked, so make sure to contact someone to arrange to open the gate if you would like to visit.

— Jim Vanderpoel

Planning for planting? CFC's Native Plant Sale is May 7-8

by Sarah Hoban

CFC holds its 20th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale this year—and to celebrate, we aim to have 20,000 native plants in the ground from the sale.

You can do your part by choosing from more than 270 species of native plants offered at this year's sale. Choose from a huge selection of robust, hardy native plants, including at least five varieties of native milkweed plants, offered for \$2.50 each as part of CFC's "Milkweed for Monarchs" campaign to encourage monarch populations.

The sale is Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Good Shepherd Hospital barn area, east of the hospital, across from the CFC headquarters at 459 W. Highway 22, Lake Barrington. Pre-sale online ordering will be available through April 15, and helps ensure you will get the plants that you want. Pickup date for preorders is Friday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The sale is CFC's biggest fundraiser, and its move last year to the larger Good Shepherd location allows us to "offer more plants than ever before," says Plant Sale Chair Ginger Underwood. As in the past, knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and help load your purchases. (Underwood also suggests bringing a small wagon, which is useful for both shopping and loading.) "We're hoping for lots of great volunteers helping with the sale as in the past," she says.



Plant Sale at Good Shepherd Hospital. Photo by Donna Bolzman.



Spring Plant Sale. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

"That's what makes our sale possible, fun, and such a success."

Native plants provide many advantages for both gardeners and the environment. They do not require fertilizers or pesticides, which saves gardeners both time and money. In addition, their deep, fibrous root systems firmly anchor soil to help conserve water and prevent erosion. They require little watering and provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, frogs, toads, salamanders and other wildlife. And, adds Underwood, "we only buy from nurseries that do not use neonicotinoids, the environmentally harmful insecticide that's common at many nurseries."

New this year: gift certificates for the sale, which can be ordered from the online store. "We're excited about the gift certificates," says Underwood. "We're hoping they will be popular as Mother's Day presents, since the sale is Mother's Day weekend." Also new this year: the sale will be open to CFC members on Friday from 11

a.m. to 6 p.m., and CFC members also receive a 10 percent discount on Plant Sale purchases.

The online store, designed and donated by 2050 Design in Crystal Lake, is on CFC's website, www.citizensforconservation.org. If you have questions, call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).

A wealth of possibilities for native shade gardens

CFC's Community Education Committee will present our last program of the winter on April 9, 2016 at the Barrington Village Hall. Peggy Simonsen, Chair of the Committee, will introduce you to many beautiful native woodland plants, shrubs and trees that thrive in shade. Learn the conditions in which they flourish. Showing delightful spring ephemerals, summer blooming plants, and trees and shrubs that provide interest in all seasons, come to learn how to expand the possibilities for your shade gardens. You will still have time to place your pre-sale order online for the Native Plant Sale by April 15. Come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation; the program runs from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.



Woodland phlox. Photo by Peggy Simonsen.

A Good Read

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

Elisabeth Tova Bailey

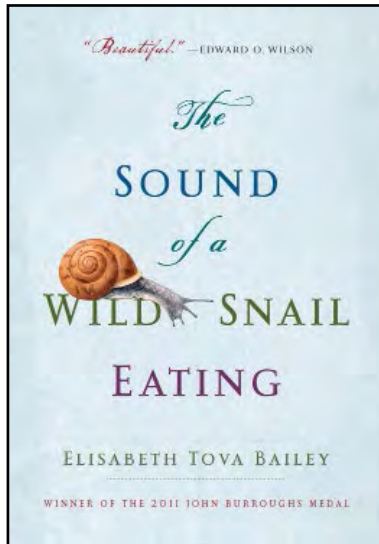
I did not expect that mindfulness would be my first impression when I sat down to read a book about snails. I was magically pulled into *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. The author relates how she became intrigued by her wild snail companion. It is also about the vagaries of the human condition and how fragile our current busy life can be. Finally, it is a lesson in awareness that draws the reader into the author's world and helps you to see and understand the snail from her unique vantage point.

The author is suddenly struck by a debilitating illness that dramatically changes her life. A friend brings her a snail she finds during a walk in the woods that takes up residence on her nightstand. The snail provides companionship and the journey into the life of a snail begins.

The author's limited strength creates a new world that moves in very slow and deliberate motion and becomes in sync with the snail. The snail is not only a companion -- it awakens a curiosity in her about snails. As she watches, she shares her observations and her research on the many facts and amazing details of snails. We learn the many varieties of snails, their habitats, the details of their bodies and their shells, their feeding habits, their courtship activities and their locomotion. As the author observes the snail, she is also observing herself. As she assesses the progress of the snail, she is assessing her own progress with the illness that has her in its grip. As she reveals facts about the snail, she reveals facts about herself and her illness.

It is a magical, mindful book that weaves together an absorbing education on this small underappreciated animal with lessons for humans on survival and resilience and how humans can accept and then adapt to the changes in their world.

— Judy Thorson



Youth Education holds Great Backyard Bird Count

by Gail Vanderpoel

Despite temperatures of only 17 degrees, CFC's Youth Education Committee was able to hold our Great Backyard Bird Count on February 13. Our group of 9 met at CFC headquarters and drove to Tom and Gail Vanderpoel's house to keep eyes and binoculars on their bird feeders from the comfort of the living room. We discussed our favorite birds, common birds in winter, and watched as 10 different species enjoyed suet, sunflower, and assorted wild bird seed. There were feeders both in the front and back of the house which kept things interesting. We discussed how different birds use different types of feeders. For instance, the woodpeckers hang onto the suet feeders, while many birds use platform feeders. In addition, we put seed along the ground near the feeders to encourage juncos and other ground feeding birds. Feeder birds included: 12 mourning doves, 4 red-bellied woodpeckers, 2 downy woodpeckers, 1 hairy woodpecker, 4 black-capped chickadees, 2 white-breasted nuthatches, 2 northern cardinals, 3 house finches, 3 American goldfinches, and 6 house sparrows.

We then bundled up to head outdoors to look for more birds. As we walked, we discussed our property being a habitat corridor which is managed by Citizens for Conservation. One of the parents commented that it was great that this property could never lose its native trees and prairie. With wooded areas, many birds find shelter and a place to nest here. There is also a prairie to attract grassland birds throughout the spring, summer and fall. The property also includes many shrubs which provide good winter shelter, as well as a brush pile which birds utilize in winter. We sighted 3 American robins, a red-tailed hawk in flight, and then 50 Canada geese on the grass by a neighboring pond.

In total we saw 92 birds of 13 different species in 2 hours. These results were reported to the Great Backyard Bird Count. This international citizen science event is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada. Last year, birdwatchers from over 100 countries documented over 5,000 species and entered over 147,000 checklists. The results help understand how to help birds survive habitat loss and the effects of climate change. Each child received a "Great Horned Owl Award" for participating in the 2016 Great Backyard Bird Count.

Annual Meeting recognizes forty-five years of CFC accomplishments

by Karen Rosene

On March 10, 2016, more than 150 members and friends gathered to celebrate and review the accomplishments of Citizens for Conservation in 2015. The annual celebration was held at the Onion Pub & Brewery in Lake Barrington. Everyone enjoyed appetizers and conversation at a reception prior to the meeting.

President Tom Crosh opened the meeting and welcomed guests. He thanked volunteers and board members for the 14,000 hours they contributed. Board members were responsible for more than 7,000 of those hours.

Tom Benjamin delivered the Treasurer's Report for Edith Auchter.

Meredith Tucker delivered the Board Development Report. She thanked outgoing board member John Schweizer for his long and dedicated service on the board and introduced board nominee Bryan Hughes.

The new board would convene immediately following the meeting to elect officers: Tom Crosh, President; Jim Vanderpoel, Vice President; Karen Rosene, Secretary; and Edith Auchter, Treasurer. A member from the audience made a motion to accept the Board Development Report. The motion passed unanimously.

This year's keynote speaker was CFC's own Meredith Tucker. In a presentation titled

"Neonicotinoids: The Second Silence," Meredith discussed the use and abuse of neonicotinoid insecticides, particularly as used in yards and for treating emerald ash borer. This class of insecticide is systemic and impacts everything that feeds on treated plants, including beneficial insects that provide food for bird populations. She likened the "neonic" situation to that of DDT use in the 1960's. Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* to expose the disastrous environmental effects of that insecticide, and Meredith urged individual homeowners to actively address the problem of neonicotinoid use to stop what will be an even greater environmental catastrophe.

Jim Vanderpoel, Awards Committee Chairman, presented awards to volunteers who are the lifeblood of Citizens for Conservation.

Mighty Oak Awards: (See sidebar.) This award is given to non-board members who volunteer 50 hours or more during the year. The "Mighty Oaks" do restoration work, marketing and PR projects, help the office staff, teach classes and shepherd 4th graders on the prairie. This year they are awarded a CFC membership.

Shooting Star 10-Year Awards:

Ryan Guilfoil
Julia Martinez
Natalie Pawlikowski

Waid Vanderpoel 20-Year Awards:

Sharon Pasch
Meredith Tucker
John Vanderpoel

Bobolink 25-Year Awards:

Donna Bolzman
Demmy Giannis
Alice Ireland
Tom Mohorek



Mighty Oak Award Recipients. Photo by Ed Plum.

Mighty Oak Awards:

Bonnie Albrecht
Larry Anglada
Tom Auchter
Diane Bodkin
Jim Bodkin
Donna Bolzman
Doe Crosh
Demmy Giannis
Katherine Grover
Carol Hogan
Bryan Hughes
Karl Humbert
Barbara Knoff
Ted Krasnesky
Linda Krauss
Juli LaRocque
Julia Martinez
Rob Neff
Bob Oliver
Barb Overbey
Wendy Paulson
Rozanne Ronen
Gail Rudisill
Cliff Schultz
Mary Stubbs
David Underwood
Gail Vanderpoel

Great Blue Heron Award

CFC presents this award annually in recognition of outstanding contributions within CFC activities; it is the highest honor we bestow at CFC. This year the award was presented to Peggy



Peggy Simonsen. Photo by Ed Plum.

Simonsen. Peggy has served as CFC President three times. She chairs the Community Education Committee, writes grants, and takes on a plethora of other CFC tasks.

To close the meeting, Tom Vanderpoel delivered his annual year in review, titled "Year of the Seed." He talked about the bold initiatives of the past, present and future. The amount of land available for restoration has grown and will continue to grow due to the efforts of CFC and our partnership with large groups like the forest preserve districts in Cook, Lake and McHenry counties. There is a need for more seed as well as a greater variety of seed of conservative species. This seed will come from CFC properties. We need more volunteers to gather, clean and sow seed to restore land. Workdays with large corporations like BMO Harris are especially valuable.

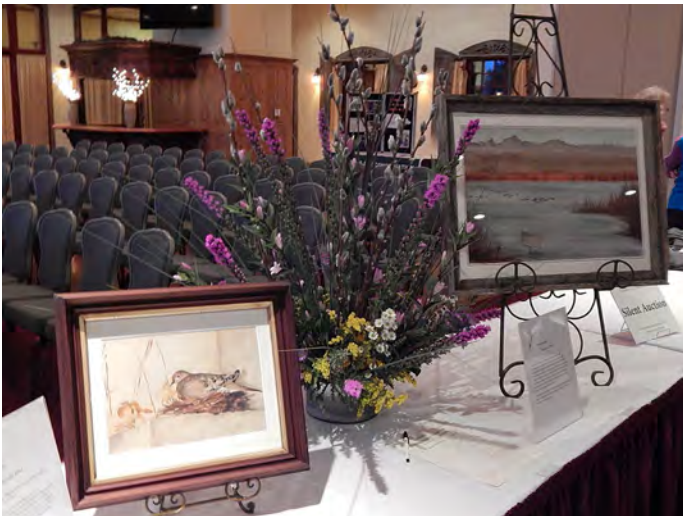
CFC members created and donated items for a silent auction. Artist Jane Christino donated a lovely watercolor dove while Jim Kennedy donated a beautiful watercolor of a misty morning at Spring Creek.



Jane Christino watercolor. Photo by Ed Plum.

Thank you to the annual meeting committee and volunteers: Annual Meeting Chair Karen Rosene and Committee Members Annamarie Lukes, Janet Agnoletti, Jim Vanderpoel, Barb Cragan, Wayne Schild and Juli LaRocque.

Thanks to Candy Quinn of The Prairie Basket for the beautiful floral display and to Henry Heine for providing an effective sound system this year. Thanks also to Jim Bodkin who created and framed award certificates. Thank you to photographer, Ed Plum.



Silent auction items. Photo by Ed Plum.

Finally, and very importantly, thank you to our sponsors: Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and BMO Harris Bank.

Native bees in the garden

by Ellen Manint

In an enthusiastic, informative presentation to a full house on January 9, 2016, Adrian Fisher, Sustainability Coordinator,



Native bees and native flowers are perfectly adapted for each other. Photo by Adrian Fisher.

Triton College, shared the differences between honeybees and native bees in "Native Bees in the Garden." It was the first program in Citizens for Conservation's Community Education Committee's winter series. The most

common native bees we could see in our yards are solitary bees that live in the ground. With amazing close up photos she has taken in her yard, she described the best habitat needed by each species. We again heard the warning about the use of pesticides, and especially neonicotinoids, that are contributing to the sharp decline in bee populations. A map showing areas of greatest decline coincides with the Midwest's and California's great expanses of corporate farms of monocultures that use systemic pesticides indiscriminately.

Adrian described what we can do to help bees in our yards: diversity in shape, color and species of our flowers is important to attract and sustain native bees, leaving clover in our lawns, and leaving bare spots and leaf litter instead of mulch under our shrubs to help bees over-winter. The engaged audience had lots of pertinent questions to apply what they learned to their own properties. Adrian's website: www.ecologicalgardening.net

Comparative effects of mosquito control

by Carol Rice

On February 6, 2016, an engaged audience of about 50 people heard a very informative presentation on mosquito control, after a short talk by Meredith Tucker on everyone's responsibility to be an advocate for the environment.

Sponsored by CFC's Community Education Committee, the program entitled "Mosquito Control, Right-Sizing Community Expectations" was presented by Ruth Kerzee, Executive Director of Midwest Pesticide Action Center.

The main takeaway from her talk was that it is unrealistic to expect municipalities to stop the effort to control mosquitos. Besides the nuisance they represent, mosquitos are disease carriers resulting in a great deal of public pressure for the Mosquito Abatement Districts (MADs) to get rid of mosquitos.

There are different ways to control mosquitos:

- Fogging to control adult mosquitos. This is the most hazardous, the most expensive and the least effective method.
- Applying larvicide to control mosquitos before they hatch. This is the most effective option, much safer for humans and the environment, and less expensive.
- Natural controls. Encouraging populations of predatory species like dragonflies and birds by gardening with native plants.

While we are most aware of fogging by MADs, that method is much less effective than larviciding and is more harmful to humans, pets, other animals and the environment. Fogging gets onto all surfaces and has a very low rate of contact with the targeted species. Furthermore, it is much more expensive. It is far better to remove breeding areas (dump standing water) and larvicide water bodies.



Dragonflies are a natural mosquito control.
Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Ms. Kerzee recommends we contact our Mosquito Abatement District to request they spray less, to counteract those in the community who continue to request more spraying. Public education on the hazards of fogging and the benefits of larviciding would be beneficial.

In evaluating methods of control, we should ask:

Is the method effective?

Is there environmental harm?

Is there an impact on human health?

Is there harm to non-target species?

Plant conservation in a changing world

by Carol Rice

Climate change is beginning to have quite an impact on plant life and will accelerate in the coming decades. There is more carbon in the atmosphere now than in the last 400,000 years! This is caused primarily by burning fossil fuels — releasing carbon that was previously sequestered.

The responses of plants to changing conditions was the subject of the March 5, 2016 Community Education Committee program. An audience of 40 people heard Kayri Havens-Young, Director, Plant Science and Conservation, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, as she described the various responses of plants to the changing climate. These include:

- Plastic responses – i.e., change in the length of roots, size of leaves, time of flowering, leaf break, etc.
- Adaptation – individuals with genes that improve survival in the new conditions become more dominant. Often these are aggressive, weedy plants
- Migration – plants that can change their range, moving (through seed dispersal) to favorable habitats. Plants that drop their seeds by gravity (instead of wind or animal dispersal) are less likely to be able to migrate.
- Extinction – plants that cannot readily find new, favorable habitats and which cannot survive in their traditional habitats, will become extinct.

Extensive phenology research (the study of various plant life-cycle events) is being conducted by the Chicago Botanic Garden and other organizations around the world to track plants' responses to changing conditions. Hardiness zones have already changed, with the Chicago area one zone warmer than in past decades. Using historical records by naturalists like Carl Linnaeus, Henry David Thoreau, Thomas Jefferson and Aldo Leopold, researchers compare budding, leafing and fall color dates for a targeted species and all are earlier, from days to weeks, than in the past. For example, by mid-century, the Washington DC cherry blossoms will likely bloom in February, not April.

There are opportunities for citizens to become involved through programs like Plants of Concern and Project BudBurst. Plants of Concern does population monitoring of certain endangered or threatened species, and also records phenological events for specific individuals. Volunteers are selected and trained as monitors.

Project BudBurst is an opportunity for citizen scientists to record observations online, either as a regular monitor or on a one-time basis. Interested persons of any age can volunteer as monitors. The website (<http://budburst.org/regular-report-phenophases>) has detailed text and photos to assist people in reporting their observations.

Stars, flowers and camps – Youth Education in action

by Gail Vanderpoel

Astronomy Adventures, the April Youth Education program, will feature astronomers - and CFC members - Edith and Tom Auchter and an evening of stargazing at Flint Creek Savanna. Learn about nebula, moons, stars, planets, and all the wonders we can see in the night sky.

The class, for children ages 6 and older, will be April 9 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at CFC headquarters, 459 W. Highway 22 in Barrington. Parents are welcome to attend.

Mothers and grandmothers are cordially invited to come with their children to view the beautiful spring flowers at Baker's Lake on May 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. Children will learn the native flowers' names and why they are so special. We will also look for great numbers of birds on the island in the middle of the lake.

Learn about the nesting platforms constructed there. Children will receive live flowers to give for Mother's Day. Dads are welcome too! The class is open to children ages 5 and older. Meet at the Baker's Lake Parking Lot on Highland Avenue off Hillside Avenue in Barrington.



*Spring flowers at Baker's Lake.
Photo by Donna Bolzman.*

Register for these classes at www.citizensforconservation.org. CFC members are free; nonmembers pay \$5 for the first child and \$1 for each additional child. For more class information call 847-382-SAVE (7283).

Beginning Naturalist's Camp, Monday through Friday, June 6-10, is for children ages 4-6 years old. The camp will focus on a week of nature adventures at Flint Creek Savanna in Barrington. We will hike, observe, make nature crafts, discover insects, frogs, and other animal friends, learn about trees and flowers, and so much more. Each day campers will learn about a specific nature topic. They will hear stories and draw pictures of what they see.

Junior Naturalist's Camp, Monday through Friday, June 13-17, is for children ages 7-10. It will feature more in-depth science topics and daily scavenger hunts at Flint Creek Savanna. Students will discover many aspects of prairie and wetland ecosystems through guided observations using our

Junior Naturalists Books. Campers will record data, sketch observations, and make nature-friendly products throughout the week. Both camps are held at Citizens for Conservation, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. daily. Citizens for Conservation is located at 459 W. Highway 22, Barrington, across from Good Shepherd Hospital.

Camp fee: \$100 for CFC members; \$150 for non-members. Registration forms can be found at www.citizensforconservation.org. Please register early as only 12 participants will be accepted. For more information call 847-382-SAVE (7283).

Upcoming Events

Community Education Programs

All programs are at the Barrington Village Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays.

April 9 – “A Wealth of Possibilities for Native Shade Gardens” with CFC speaker Peggy Simonsen.

Youth Education Class

April 9 – “Astronomy Adventures” with Edith and Tom Auchter. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., CFC Headquarters.

May 7 – “Mother's Day Wildflower Tour” at Baker's Lake from 10 a.m. – noon.

June 6-10 – “Beginning Naturalists Camp” (ages 4-6).

June 13-17 – “Junior Naturalists Camp” (ages 7-10).

Annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

May 7 and 8 – CFC's annual plant sale will be held at the Good Shepherd Hospital barn area across Highway 22 from CFC Headquarters. Pickup for preorders on Friday, May 6.

Natural History Society of Barrington

Meetings will be at Lake Barrington Woods, Lake Barrington at 7:00 p.m. For more complete descriptions of programs, see www.naturalhistorysociety.org.

Thursday, April 21 – “Nachusa Grasslands Bison”, John Heneghan, a steward at Nachusa Grasslands since 2007, will tell the story of the bison introduction at Nachusa in 2014.

Thursday, May 19 – “DNA Sequencing: What Species is that Bird Anyway?”, Josh Engel of the Field Museum will explain how DNA sequencing works and why it has led to such dramatic rearrangements of our field guides.

Spring Bird Walks at Crabtree Nature Center

Tuesdays, April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10, 8:00 a.m. – Meet in the parking lot at Crabtree Nature Center off Palatine Road, one mile west of Barrington Road or half mile east of Algonquin Road (Route 62). Walks last about two hours.

Barrington Area Spring Bird Walks & Hikes

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 though spaces are limited and RSVPs are required. Waterproof boots are strongly recommended for these hikes. Don't forget your binoculars!

Before you head out, please be sure to check the Citizens for Conservation website for any last minute changes or cancellations.

April 4, 8 a.m.—Beese Park (Meet at Beese Park, east end of Cornell Avenue)

April 11, 8 a.m.—Beese Park (as above)

May 6, 7:30 a.m. — Baker's Lake (parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 16, 7:30 a.m.—Beverly Lake* (parking lot on north side of Higgins Rd./Rt. 72 west of Sutton Rd.)

May 23, 7:30 a.m. — Baker's Lake (as above)

May 31, 7:00 a.m.—Gallop Hill* (meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot, less than a mile west of Old Sutton/Penny Rd. intersection)

June 10, 7:00 a.m.—Headwaters* (parking lot on Wichman Rd. off north side of Rt. 72; ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

June 17, 7:00 a.m. – Gallop Hill* (as above)

June 19, 5:00 p.m.—Longmeadow* (north side of Longmeadow Dr. off Bateman Rd.)

*indicates a more strenuous hike

Please RSVP to: Daniel Jacobson (312) 453-0230, Extension 2002 or djacobson@audubon.org and let us know how best to contact you should that be necessary.

Earth Day recycling drive

The Countryside School Green Club is hosting an Earth Day recycling drive, Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Countryside School Parking Lot, 205 W County Line Road, Barrington Hills.

This is your opportunity to recycle:

- Cork: natural & synthetic
- Styrofoam: all colors
- Packing peanuts & bubble wrap
- CDs, DVDs, VHS and cassette tapes with plastic & cardboard cases
- Batteries: alkaline, Ni-Cad, NiMH, button, car & laptop
- Cell phones and accessories

This event is sponsored by Countryside Green Club and Signal Hill Chapter of DAR.

An additional resource for recycling information in our area is the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's website: swancc.org.



Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Grey
Kimberly Haag
Jim and Sylvia Hagelow
Peter Jackson
Marcia Jendreas
Lynora Jensen
Emma Kalaidjian
Dean Logan
Jaclyn McMahon
Christopher Mitchell Family
Ann Priest
Jolanta Oliver
Sarah Schultz
Windy City Construction and Design
Dave and Judy Zeisloft



Baker's Lake Scene. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

New beginnings

Dear Readers:

With this issue, a new team is at the helm of *CFC News*. Leslie Coolidge, CFC Board Member, has assumed the editorship role so capably filled by Meredith Tucker. Leslie is thrilled to be working with Chad Collins as our new Layout/Graphics volunteer. Chad is a junior at Barrington High School.

We relied heavily on the advice and counsel of our predecessors, Meredith and Annamarie Lukes, in producing this issue and we are very grateful to them. We hope we'll trouble them less in the future, but it's comforting to know they are there if we need them.

We welcome any suggestions you our readers may have for future issues of *CFC News*.

— Leslie Coolidge



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