



CITIZENS
FOR
CONSERVATION

CFC NEWS

Saving Living Space for Living Things

Vol. 35, No. 3, Summer 2016

Flint Creek expansion

by Steve Smith

Following on the heels of the Kainz (Onion Pub) addition late last year (*see CFC News, Spring 2016*), Citizens for Conservation (CFC) is excited to announce a further expansion along Flint Creek with the addition of 3.4 generously donated acres and 0.6 conservation easement acres from Barbara A. Smith and the other owners of Lake Barrington Professional Office Condominium Association (LBPOCA) located just east of CFC Headquarters on Route 22. The new 4 acres are all contiguous to current CFC Flint Creek Savanna property with the conservation easement being on the southwest of LBPOCA and the donated 3.4 acres straddling Flint Creek just east of LBPOCA and south of Route 22.

For the 3.4 acres, restoration efforts were started earlier this year to remove the invasives (buckthorn, mulberry, reed canary grass and weeds such as garlic mustard) which crowd out the more desirable native vegetation. Saved were the desirable young oaks, hickories and native plum trees. These “teenaged” oaks (a rare age to find) are the next generation that

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*Looking west from donated land with new sedges in foreground, some young saved oaks on the left and LBPOCA building in the background on the west side of the Flint Creek Savanna.
Photo by Ralph Tarquino.*

“Year of the Seed”

by Tom Vanderpoel

For thirty years, CFC has been collecting seed. Every year, from late May through November, volunteers scour the

restorations, unprotected remnants, and even tiny isolated patches of native plants to find seed and create rich diverse mixtures. CFC now sows our mixtures over 500 acres of developing natural areas. Wetlands, prairies, and savannas are all being restored. So why after thirty years is 2016 being labeled the “Year of the Seed”?

CFC is embarking on an ambitious expansion of restoration by cultivating

partnerships with forest preserves that will produce larger healthy ecosystems. These are lands CFC helped save in the 1990s like Grassy Lake and Cuba Marsh Forest Preserves. Spring Creek Forest Preserve’s increasingly successful restorations will be expanded. CFC has had recent important acquisitions which we will immediately start to restore. These are on top of the 500 acres where we already work. All of these bold plans come down to one major necessity. Seed! We can’t restore land without it. So, we are moving on several fronts to increase seed production. Our rare plant nursery is growing in

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Flint Creek expansion *(continued)*

will replace the 200 year-old giants that are nearing the later years of their life cycle.

In the spring, volunteers planted hundreds of sedge and woodland flower plugs on the east side of Flint Creek to block regrowth of the invasives and set the stage for additional new oak and hickory saplings.

On the west side of Flint Creek, a more wetland oriented approach will be used for the area between the creek and the LBPOCA property where reed canary is choking out the native growth. For the easement, the current grass covered wet area will be restored to a native prairie with plants that have a more eco-friendly deep root structure.

This latest acquisition brings the total Flint Creek Savanna preserve acreage to 155 acres and adds to CFC's overall goal of saving and restoring land and inspiring and educating others to do the same. These CFC activities promote Nature's benefit to the community – an enhanced quality of life through natural processes which include providing quality water (particularly important for Barrington's wells), flood management, erosion control, air cleaning, carbon sequestration, open green space, and biodiversity. A healthy ecosystem provides all of these and more on an efficient and sustainable basis at a relatively nominal cost.

As CFC works at expanding the Greenspace profile of the Barrington area, this donation of land, adjacent to both Flint Creek and CFC, contributes to building the local Greenbelt. What happens in Barrington, likewise, complements the regional efforts of the forest preserves, CFC and others to build the regional Greenbelt, centered along the Fox River – a quality patchwork that stretches from beyond the Wisconsin border at least as far south as the Aurora area.

Again, our thanks go out to Barbara A. Smith and the LBPOCA for their generous contribution which allows CFC to help Nature enhance our community.

“Year of the Seed” *(continued)*

size. The Native Seed Gardener program is expanding. The greatest possibility of more seed comes from our enlarging restorations. What we need then is an even greater output from our volunteer workdays. CFC's board is working on

scheduling corporate and church workdays. We are making a push to find new sources of volunteers and recruit them to our organization. In the end though, it will be our generous members that will define 2016 as a huge success. Last year we set the record with over 1,300 hours contributed during the seed process. We want to increase that to 1,500 hours or even more!

We are seeing amazing results from our decades of hard work. Birds like the sandhill crane, sedge and marsh wrens, and sora have returned to our restored sedge meadows.

Tiny populations of rare butterflies barely holding on to existence in their fractured remnants are slowly starting to expand as their habitats are brought back. Hundreds of species of native plants have reclaimed the landscape. As much as we have accomplished in conservation, the possibilities are even greater. We are determined to restore rare animals like the Blanding's turtle or green snake. It all starts with plants though and their kernels of DNA. So join us this fall, when seed is most abundant and help us make 2016 the “Year of the Seed”!



Restoration Report

The phantom community

It is not easy to restore wetlands. All over Chicagoland you can find wetland mitigation projects - artificially created retention ponds that are intended to replace the wetlands that have been destroyed. Native plants are planted, but, in most cases, the natives are rapidly overwhelmed by fast growing invasives like common reed and narrow-leaved cattail. It takes years for native marsh plants to establish themselves and the invasives can fill the space in the first growing season. Wetland creation has proven much harder than prairie restoration. Almost all artificial wetlands, even big budget projects, fail to establish native communities and provide the best wildlife habitat.

CFC has had great success in establishing thriving and diverse rush marshes and sedge meadows around its restored wetlands. Part of our success came from subtle earthmoving work that created much more natural contours for the marshes than the typical developer's retention pond; however, the main reason for success has been knowledge and hard, diligent work. CFC knows which sedges to plant at the start that can compete against invaders (we call them "The Four Warriors") and CFC systematically pulls the seedling cattails and herbicides the reed canary grass and reed before they can get a foothold. This disciplined work may always be required, although we hope to develop techniques that allow us to take on greater acreage without so much intensive labor. It would be nice if we could use some other techniques to make the crucial first year easier.

We may have stumbled on a novel technique while working on our ambitious Great Water Dock Marsh in cooperation with the Onion Pub. This site is unlike any other wetland we have restored in that it was never drained, tilled and plowed. It was probably heavily grazed but we have noticed significant populations of native sedge mixed in with



Cursed buttercup, a weedy native.
Photo by Jim Vanderpoel.

the reed canary grass and cattail. This remnant vegetation is the probable source of our population of four species of rare wetland butterflies at Flint Creek. We treated the area with an herbicide that kills grass but not sedge, we hand wicked the cattails, and we were elated to see the sedges storming back after their horrendous competitors died. We also noticed an explosion of other unfamiliar species. We slowly identified these fast growing species and it turned out most of them were native just like the sedges. Red-rooted nut rush was the most common grassy element joined by salt-marsh cockspur grass; forbs like ditch stonecrop, scarlet loosestrife, water hemp, cursed and small-flowered buttercup and mad dog skullcap quickly established themselves. We did not see this assemblage at the mitigation projects we did elsewhere at Flint Creek or at Grigsby Prairie. Presumably, those wetlands had been drained and farmed for too long to allow any seed bank to survive.



Spring bulbous cress.
Photo by Donna Bolzman.

None of these plants are on the standard restoration plant lists. They are native weeds but it may be that this community serves a very important purpose. They are probably adapted to the inherent instability of marsh, where water levels vary from year to year and even month to month depending on the amount of snow melt and rainfall.

Maybe this community is the pioneer—stabilizing the soil and giving time for slower growing, more conservative plants to establish themselves. Maybe the absence of these plants in most wetland restorations allows the invasives too great a head start before the stable plants can take over. CFC now collects seed from all of these weedy plants and puts them in its sedge meadow and open marsh mixes. We might find that this phantom community paves the way for the beautiful tall swamp marigold, spring bulbous cress, swamp candles and tussock sedge of the conservative marsh just as wild bergamot and false sunflower lay the ground for prairie gentian and azure aster.

— Jim Vanderpoel

A great Native Plant Sale

Great weather. Great volunteers. Great customers. And, of course, great plants.

CFC sold more than 18,000 native plants at its twentieth annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on May 6 to 8. Customers from all over the region came to shop and to choose from the 225 native species offered, including thousands of milkweed plants, part of CFC's "Milkweed for the Monarchs" campaign.

For the third year in a row, customers could preorder online, and this year's orders—7,734 plants in 265 orders—set a new record. In 2016, for the first time, customers could order gift certificates for friends and relatives. (What a wonderful way to popularize the natives and to get them out into our yards.)

Plant Sale Chair Ginger Underwood was particularly grateful for the many hands that made the sale such a great success. "Ninety volunteers put in 966 hours during the week of the sale," she said. "We have a terrific, extremely dedicated and hard working committee," including committee members Diane Greening, Melissa Washow, Sam Oliver, Julie Zuidema, Barb Cragan, Peggy Simonsen, and Corie Washow.

Ginger added that other efforts were just as important. "Once again, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital allowed us to hold the event on its grounds, providing a lovely facility and plenty of space," she said. "Dave



*Diane Greening on her ukulele.
Photo by Ginger Underwood.*

Underwood, of website development and hosting firm 2050 Design, volunteered services again for preorders on CFC's online store designed just for us; additionally, Dave was one of the cashiers at the sale. He helped make the whole event run smoothly for everyone. Diane Greening worked diligently for many weeks to supply the website with photos of plants and information on each, and she also brought her ukulele to the sale and played us some tunes! Bluestem Ecological Services sponsored us as well as donating time to advise shoppers at the sale."

CFC received invaluable help from many others. Jim and Tamara Voris and Larry Washow picked up trailer loads of plants for two days, saving CFC significant costs for delivery charges. Heinen's Grocery Store provided more than 350 boxes

to use for the preorders. The Catlow Theatre helped design and run a wonderful ad. Cathy Bayer and the Vanderpoel family donated many native plants from their gardens, and Jan Broders updated the plant sale banners. Kwik Kopy Printing in Crystal Lake donated printing of materials. Charlie Keppel from The Care of Trees volunteered many hours helping customers pick just the right trees and shrubs for their yards, and he ended up delivering to the Village of Barrington Hills! Another fun experience was having Melissa and Larry Washow's daughter Corie fly in from Maine, bringing along all her enormous pep and ability to help. She had such fun last year that she couldn't stay away.



Pre-plant sale. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

The sale also got a boost from Habitat Corridors volunteers Meredith Tucker and Annamarie Lukes and from Peggy Simonsen, Chair of CFC's Community Education Committee. They gave wonderful talks at the Barrington Village Hall about the advantages of diverse native plants.

There was another terrific benefit from the sale: 74 new members joined CFC! We are very grateful to have so much enthusiastic support from the membership and surrounding communities. We thank you all!

Mighty Oak Awards Addendum:

Diane Greening

We apologize for inadvertently omitting Diane's name from the listing of Mighty Oak Awards in the Spring Issue of *CFC News*. We appreciate Diane's efforts along with those of all of our faithful volunteers.

Chilly, but inspiring, April visits

As I write this, we are still experiencing cool weather for May. Cold weather? Do you remember April? Over and over I went to homes when the wind was blowing, temperatures were in the low 40s or upper 30s, and it was raining! Did anyone cancel? No, indeed. Nature lovers and gardeners are tough, and these folks wanted to discuss their yards and get some ideas before CFC's twentieth annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale. We forged ahead.

Some of these enthusiastic homeowners had small village lots, and some had large acreage. It didn't matter. Everyone wanted to provide more native plants, to learn where the plants would thrive, and to get ideas for maintaining their yards while avoiding the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

One of my favorite spots was a yard in the Village of Barrington. There was no lawn except in the front yard (a nod



Jacob's ladder.

Photo by Donna Bolzman.

to city wishes). In back, one walked on violets and ground covers, both native and non-native, but there were blankets of wildflowers including the prettiest, most profuse display of Jacob's ladder I have seen. There were ferns and bloodroot and signs of prairie plants to come as the soil warmed. There were whole dead trees lying across the yard like modern-day sculptures fit for a museum but actually functioning as terrific habitat for bees and bugs, toads and birds, and other little critters. I love it! There were native trees and shrubs of various ages with more being added each year. It goes without saying that this home earned a yard sign for the very surprised and happy homeowner.

The weather is mellowing, and CFC volunteers continue to make home visits. It's easier to identify plants now that they have broken dormancy. Feel free to contact us at info@habitatcorridors.org and request a visit. Give us your name, town, and phone number; we'll contact you to set up an appointment! Until then, happy gardening!

— Meredith Tucker

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome 74 new members to CFC this quarter.

Evelyn and Tom Ackermann
Julane Alt
Bonnie Altenburg
Lynn Ankala
John Balocki
Nancy Baum
Diane Benz
Marolyn Bina
Barbara Borg
Jeannette Burger
Sandy Bury
Bonnie Cowhey
Jennifer Currier
Tim Dick
Dinnie and Dick Dickenson
Lisa Di Iorio
Amy Dixon-Kolar
Phil Elo
Tina Fatouros
Louise Fox
Teri Galluzzi
John Gigerich
Renee Gladstone
Faon Grandinetti
Colleen Gaudins
Nicole Haas
John Halston
Nancy Heath
Anne Hoffman
Charlotte Hoffman
Lizzy Hucker
Kimberly Jackson
Nalini Jayarama
Yosh and Larisa Kano
Dr. Debbie Karas
Pam and Bob Kell
James Kennedy
Nancy Kholamian
Beverly Lane
Guy Larson
Kristin Longman and Ryan Adams
Paul Macke, SJ
Mariane Maher
Sue Masaracchia-Roberts
Patricia Matecki
Helen Mazzocco
Lauren McCowell
Kari McLennan
Christine McMorris
Sue Miller
Susan Modig
Bretton Mularski
Meg Norton
Brian O'Mara
Paul Peance
Judith Perkins
Sharon Popielewski
Henry Proesel
Hope Reis
Ray and Kerry Rosene
Rose Sak
Nancy Schaefer
Jodie Sherman Family
Natalie Solomon
Jessica and Roland Suh
Erin Tantillo
Stephanie Temple
Karen Tschanz
Emma Visee
Lynn Waishwell
Anne Waliczek
Susan Wallace
Cara Wren
Lou and Meg Zink

A wealth of possibilities for native shade gardens

by Ellen Manint

Our last winter program for 2016 was presented by Peggy Simonsen. She shared the story of how she became interested in native plants. Having grown up camping in the north woods of Minnesota, she knew many woodland wildflowers. Then, when she bought a home next to Deer Grove Forest Preserve, she recognized the remnant native plants that emerged in her yard after she got rid of all the invasives. Volunteering with CFC, she learned the botanical names and added knowledge of savanna and prairie plants.

Peggy's presentation showed many shade loving plants by seasons, starting with early spring ephemerals through summer and fall bloomers as well as trees and shrubs that thrive in the shade. She explained the conditions each plant requires. Does the plant grow in dense shade, or dappled shade? Does it grow best in dry, mesic or moist soil? She also knew which shade plants can co-exist with black walnuts and which are less tempting to deer.

Peggy showed us photos of over 55 different native, shade loving flowers, 8 varieties of ferns, 24 species of trees and shrubs, plus several types of grasses you can choose for your yard. Most of these were available at the CFC Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale. She explained that to purchase any plants at a garden center, make sure to do so by the Latin names of the plant to ensure that you are buying natives, not cultivars or alien plants.

She shared some fun facts, such as elaiosomes, the pulp around the seeds of some spring blooming natives such as bloodroot, that ants eat and then spread the seeds. Trout lilies take seven years to mature and must have two leaves before blooming.

The enthusiastic audience loved the information and photos and went away energized to plant more natives in their shady yards.



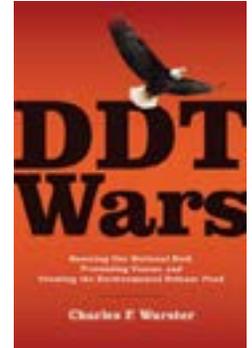
Hepatica acutiloba, sharp-lobed hepatica.
Photo by Peggy Simonsen.

A Good Read

DDT Wars: Rescuing Our National Bird, Preventing Cancer, and Creating the Environmental Defense Fund

Charles F. Wurster

This book will appeal to a great many people having a wide variety of interests. Bird lovers will appreciate the story of saving the bald eagle from extinction in the 1960s. Conservationists will be fascinated by the methods a handful of men used to secure a ban on DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides in the United States (not an easy task). People interested in the intricacies of starting a nonprofit organization will be similarly engrossed.



The book is so engagingly written that one need not have a special interest to enjoy it and to learn the history of this movement that began more than fifty years ago and continues to thrive.

Charles Wurster is one of my heroes. He and a handful of scientists, volunteers all, saved the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, and a host of other species from sure extinction due to DDT being used for Dutch elm disease. In doing so, they also saved many human beings from the ravages of cancer that is now a proven consequence of that chemical.

Readers will be inspired and awestruck by the sacrifices these men made to pursue their cause. They traveled the country for government hearings, driving old cars, sleeping in friends' basements, and doing without secretarial help or an office. The first Environmental Defense Fund office was an attic room above the Stony Brook post office furnished in a style called "shabby goodwill." This is the devotion to a cause that volunteers bring to a project. We at CFC know about that. See how a major international conservation organization began with the commitment of a handful of volunteers and absolutely faultless science. They achieved one of the most important environmental accomplishments in our history.

DDT Wars reads almost like a novel. You will enjoy every page and marvel at the strength of a few devoted people who began a movement of historical significance because they were bird lovers and had the scientific data on their side! (This too should sound familiar to longtime CFC advocates.)

— Meredith Tucker

Spring Bird Walk Highlights

by Leslie Coolidge

Three recent walks with Barrington area naturalist Wendy Paulson highlight the tremendous diversity of our local habitats and the variety of species they support.

On May 16, we met at Beverly Lake off of Rt. 72. In the course of three hours, we saw or heard 66 species. Wendy noted that south winds had brought in migrants overnight. At one



Scarlet tanager. Photo by Ted Krasnesky.

point, we were surrounded by scarlet tanagers – at least six in one tree. Continuing along the path, we saw a golden-winged warbler. We emerged on Healy savanna where

Wendy commented that we were seeing an unusual migration with both early and late migrating warblers here at the same time. A truly spectacular morning!



White pelicans in flight. Photo by Ted Krasnesky.

The next week, May 23, found us at Baker's Lake. Once we approached the lakeshore, we were surprised to find 17 white pelicans still on the lake. We were treated to the majesty of six of them taking flight. On the way back

to our cars, a ruby-throated hummingbird posed right in front of us. On a relatively quiet morning, we counted 38 species.

Our walk on May 31 was to a completely different landscape – Galloping Hill – where the highlight is grassland birds. As usual at this site, the number of bobolinks we saw would lull you into believing they are common. Several eastern meadowlarks were bathed in glorious sunlight and we were treated to a Henslow's sparrow singing his morning song right next to us.



Henslow's sparrow. Photo by Justin Pepper.

The Spring bird walks have concluded, but there will be another series in the Fall. Please consider joining us then. These walks are jointly sponsored by Audubon Chicago Region and CFC.

Volunteer Portrait

Lizzy Hucker – BHS Student Liaison



Lizzy Hucker pulling garlic mustard at the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. Photo by Larry Anglada.

We are pleased to welcome Lizzy Hucker to the CFC team as our Barrington High School ("BHS") Student Liaison. Recently, I sat down with Lizzy to find out what brought her to CFC, her plans and to just get to know this enthusiastic volunteer.

Lizzy has completed her junior year at

BHS where she is most interested in biology, environmental science and art. In the future, she hopes to study conservation biology, possibly at UW Madison or Boulder.

Lizzy's introduction to CFC came through Edith Auchter who told her about our varied activities including restoration projects and the plant sales. Lizzy first volunteered with Fall seed collecting and was hooked! She's been out every weekend since. In addition to seeding, she's cut buckthorn, pulled garlic mustard and planted plugs at Flint Creek Savanna, Baker's Lake and Grigsby Prairie.

Her goal for the coming year is to share her passion for CFC throughout BHS. She wants her fellow students to learn to appreciate the beautiful natural landscapes of the Barrington area and to work to preserve them for the future. She hopes to recruit volunteers for CFC workdays, expand awareness among BHS teachers and to encourage field trips to CFC preserves. She plans to utilize the BHS school newspaper and BHS TV to spread her message.

Lizzy would be happy to connect over the summer and hopes to recruit volunteers for summer workdays, so please feel free to contact her at liz.hucker@hotmail.com.

Thanks Lizzy – we can't wait to welcome more BHS students to CFC!

— Leslie Coolidge

2016 Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale and fun facts about trees

by Linda Krauss

Summer is in full swing and everyone should be out enjoying their yards. It's a great time to take a look around to see if a couple of new trees or shrubs would enhance your yard. We have learned that native trees and shrubs support wildlife such as birds, bees, and butterflies. Native plants easily adapt to our growing conditions needing little care after their first few years. But here are some other fun facts that you might not have thought of. They are supplied by Morton Arboretum.



Bur oak at Grigsby Prairie. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

Trees keep us cooler in summer. By casting shade and giving off moisture from its leaves, a big shade tree can reduce the surrounding temperature by 10 to 15 degrees. Do you have any outdoor living spaces that could benefit from cooling shade?

Trees save energy. In the summer, trees shade our homes so we use less electricity for air conditioning. That means fewer greenhouse gases need to be produced in generating power. In the winter, evergreens that block winter winds can save 3 percent on heating.

Trees increase our homes' value. Homes in neighborhoods with mature trees sell for at least 10 percent more than in neighborhoods without trees. On average, each large front yard tree adds 1 percent to a house's sales price.

Trees and shrubs fight pollution. They can remove carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides and other pollutants. The more we plant, the more pollution they can absorb to benefit our health. In addition, their root systems can collect contaminants as water seeps through the soil.

Trees help handle storm runoff and reduce flooding. During heavy rainstorms, trees and shrubs reduce the amount of stormwater that runs off pavement and roofs by channeling rain to the earth around their roots, where it can soak in and be filtered, and by collecting raindrops on their leaves, where the water can evaporate. This can greatly reduce the volume of water that enters storm sewers, which diminishes the risk of flooding and the amount of sewage-polluted storm water that cities must treat. The US Forest Service estimates 100 mature trees intercept about 250,000 gallons of rainfall per year in their leafy crowns.



Bur oak at Flint Creek. Photo by Diane Bodkin.

Trees help us relax. The sight of trees reduces blood pressure, helps hospital patients recover, and increases worker productivity. Exposure to trees and nature reduces children's stress. As you downtown commuters know, drivers who can see trees and nature are less frustrated.

Trees make our streets quieter. They reduce noise by absorbing sound, especially at high frequencies. A band of trees and shrubs planted on a raised berm can reduce highway noise by 6 to 10 decibels.

Now that you have found a spot for a new tree or shrub mark **August 1** on your calendar, the date you can start ordering online for the CFC **Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale**. You can place your order through September 1. All sales are PREORDERS ONLY - we will not have plants available to the general public. Pick up date is September 17, from 9:30 a.m. - noon at CFC Headquarters, 459 W. Hwy. 22, Barrington. Questions? We are happy to help. Contact us at 847-382-SAVE or cfc@citizensforconservation.org.

Big day for CFC Youth Education May 7

by Gail Vanderpoel

This fine spring day we held two activities for kids of all ages. The first was our Mother's Wildflowers Tour at Baker's Lake. Our special guests were Shirley Conibear and her 96 year-



*Shirley and Margaret Conibear.
Photo by Sarah Hoban.*

old mother, Margaret. It was an honor to share the woodland flowers with the oldest student we've ever had! As always, the flowers were abundant. We enjoyed rue anemone, bellwort,

violets, trout lilies, red trillium, wild geranium, wild hyacinth, shooting stars, Jacob's ladder, and buttercups. Herons roosted on the trees at the lake's shoreline, and we saw an eastern garter snake sunning itself by the trail. The moms were given bluebells, and then it was on to our second event.

This year CFC's Youth Education Committee was asked to present pond explorations for KidFest. This annual event is held at Citizens Park in Barrington and is sponsored by the Barrington Park District, Barrington Breakfast Rotary, and Leave No Child Inside. It features nature learning and kite flying, and is well-attended by area families. Our volunteers plus two helpers from Barrington High School spent four hours with hundreds of parents and children scooping up pond waters. It was a great, but very muddy, experience. We found dragonfly nymphs, mud minnows, snails, and leeches. The favorite catch of the day were the American toads who sang a chorus for us throughout the afternoon. Birds sailed



KidFest 2016. Photo by Bob Lee.

over us, including snowy egrets, barn swallows, and red-winged blackbirds.

We displayed jars with our caught creatures for all the visitors to view and charts of macroinvertebrates to help young scientists identify pond life. We had our own collection of snail shells, a crayfish exoskeleton, a real turtle shell and turtle replicas for younger children to explore and talk about. It was a great day to help families share in exploring nature. We connected with young and old alike, as the parents reminisced about their own pond explorations as youngsters. May 7 was a day filled with mothers, fathers, grandparents and children celebrating spring the day before Mother's Day.

Upcoming Events

Barrington 4th of July Parade

Look for CFC at the Barrington 4th of July Parade. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. from Barrington High School and will run along Main Street, ending at the train station.

Youth Education Classes

July 9 – “Seining the Creeks of Illinois,” 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meet at CFC Headquarters, and come use nets to find native fish.

August 6 – “Butterflies on the Prairie,” 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Meet at CFC Headquarters, and discover the many butterflies living on our prairies.

September 19 - 30 – “3rd Graders on the Prairie.” We will meet with Barrington School District students to discover prairies and pick native seed.

October 15 – “Acorns to Oaks,” details to be announced. Learn all about oaks and how to grow them.

Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

August 1 - September 1 – Submit preorders for Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale.

September 17 – 9:30 a.m. - noon. Pickup preorders at CFC Headquarters.

Self-guided Prairie Walks

Sunday, July 3, August 7, September 4 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at CFC Headquarters, Flint Creek Savanna – “Self-guided Interactive Prairie Walks.” Bring your cell phone with Scanner app to see prairie videos or just take a peaceful walk through CFC's prairie and savanna.

President's Comments

I am delighted to report that CFC's twentieth annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale was a resounding success. We sold more than 18,000 native plants, shrubs and trees which will find their way into local property restorations and help to create or add to habitat corridors in the Barrington community. With 225 different native plant offerings, the milkweed was by far the most popular. Many knowledgeable customers expressing concern wanted to help with the plight of the Monarch butterfly.

Once in the ground, these plantings represent a truly tangible "green investment" that will grow, pay dividends and compound with time. What better way than this to support CFC's initiative "The Year of the Seed"!

— Tom Crosh

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFC. To achieve our ambitious restoration goals, we need to recruit additional volunteers. Throughout the summer months, workdays are scheduled every Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Please join us at CFC Headquarters.



Tom Crosh. Photo by Helen Sheyka.



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