



CITIZENS
FOR
CONSERVATION

CFC NEWS

Saving Living Space for Living Things

Vol. 36, No. 1, Spring 2017

CFC helping fund restoration of smooth green snake to Greenway corridor habitat

by Tom Vanderpoel

Citizens for Conservation (CFC)'s new Barrington Greenway Initiative is moving forward on several fronts.

As envisioned, the corridor will wind northward through the Barrington area, from Poplar Creek Forest Preserve south of I-90 into southeast McHenry County. There are almost 18,000 protected acres in the coalition area. CFC is negotiating a new land purchase we hope to announce shortly which will add to the total.

A coalition called the Fox River Hill and Fen Partnership has been created to begin native habitat restoration on a larger scale throughout the Greenway corridor, with a specific focus on wildlife reintroduction, a developing science. Accordingly, the partnership will concentrate on 12 priority species of wildlife identified by Chicago Wilderness as native to our region's ecosystems. The species include Blanding's turtle, blue spotted salamander, bobolink, little brown bat, monarch butterfly and red-headed woodpecker.

CFC's support for this project entails monitoring, habitat restoration and actual reintroduction. We've been restoring monarch habitat for years. We'll begin monitoring bat species this summer, hopefully finding the little brown bat in the process. Bobolinks and Henslow's sparrows will be drawn to the expanding and improving prairies.

CFC will partially fund the effort to restore one species in particular, the smooth green snake, to the Barrington area. This beautiful, gentle creature is in serious population decline. We are proud to step in and help with this effort.

The best way to increase biodiversity for all these native species and many more that didn't make the list is to expand their habitats. This is what the Barrington Greenway Initiative will do. Join us in our efforts. This will take several generations to accomplish. All along the way meaningful volunteer opportunities will appear. In the end, the Barrington area will reap the benefits of weaving nature deep into the fabric of our society.



Smooth green snake. Photo provided by Allison Sacerdote-Velat.

Restoration Report

2016 in review - the breakthrough

2016 was another successful year for restoration. We continued to spend most of our time on our three main techniques: brush cutting and invasive species control; prescribed burning; and seed collection, cleaning and sowing.

For the sixth year, we conducted over one hundred volunteer workdays. Our total number of volunteers was 240, an increase from last year, and our total volunteer hours count was another record. We enjoy the largest core we have ever had of consistent and frequent volunteers. Again, our class of four interns performed the majority of their work on restoration. Total volume of seed collected was 371 pounds, and the number of species was 209. We do not harvest as much seed by weight as we used to because we are concentrating more and more on getting the seed of rarer, harder to restore, species. We could now collect a ton of big bluestem grass, but we no longer need to because we already have plenty.

For the second time, we sowed multiple seed mixes at our new Craftsbury Preserve. We finished clearing the brush along the road at the Kelsey Road Prairie. We continued our major heavy-duty brush cutting at our new preserve at Flint Creek South and detailed follow-up clearing at Wagner Fen (including the recently acquired wooded hill), Baker's Lake, Flint Creek Savanna and Grigsby Prairie. For the first time, we created a map of Flint Creek Savanna based on aerial photos with named geographic locations. This map will make it easier for workday leaders to direct volunteers to multiple locations.



*Admiring the white turtlehead at Grigsby.
Photo by Rob Neff.*

On our own lands, we conducted two spring burns at Flint Creek Savanna, the most extensive one ever at Grigsby, and one at the Conservation Easement. We had another successful burn at Baker's Lake in cooperation with our partner, the Village of Barrington. We also burned the remnant railroad prairie with Paganica Homeowners' Association.

As our restorations mature, we are appreciating new and subtle successes. We were never able to collect certain species of plants that lived in the Barrington area in our original collecting area along the Chicago and Northwestern railroad tracks. Those species have become too rare to harvest in the remnants. This year we spotted two seedlings of New Jersey

tea on the Peninsula at Flint Creek Savanna. This is the first time this important plant has germinated at any of our restorations. We never collected this plant in the wild, but we do have several established individuals in our planting beds, so we are certain the source of the seeds must have been our bed. Also, for many years, we have picked the seeds of one specimen of white turtlehead on the special Harvard Savanna work day. We have had a few of this spectacular relative of the snapdragon come up from our wet prairie mix over the years. This year it hit the takeoff stage — we must have had twenty to thirty blooming at Grigsby Prairie this August. The source of this huge increase must be Jim Root, the Native Seed Gardener who grows this plant in his garden by the dozen. The Native Seed Gardeners supply garden grown seeds from the original seeds that we collected in the wild. White turtlehead is the favored host plant for Baltimore checkerspot butterflies; could our substantial turtlehead population make us a possible site for reintroduction of this beautiful wet prairie denizen?

On a larger scale, we are most excited about what we call the breakthrough along the right bank of Flint Creek. In the last six years, we used a grant from the Donnelley Foundation to conduct the Reed Canary Eradication Demonstration Program. We identified small, isolated patches of native vegetation that had survived along the creek amongst the vast reed canary



*Tawny-edged skipper.
Photo by Jim Vanderpoel.*

grass clones. We poisoned the reed canary grass with a selective herbicide and were ecstatic that the native plant element surged back in each of the patches. In the last four years, contractors, interns and volunteers have toiled hard to destroy the reed canary grass that separated our now thriving remnant patches and planted plugs of native sedge. For the first time, we have restored a continuous band of sedge meadows from the base of South Knoll in the Henry Lane addition all the way to the East Side Marsh. We will continue to overseed this breakthrough habitat to improve plant diversity.

These expansions of, and connections of, our wetland plant community have created lots of new habitat and the remnant dependent butterflies have taken advantage of it! In 2013 and 2014, we had seen the black dash skipper only in the Deal Mitigation; in 2015, we spotted it at Great Water Dock Marsh, probably the place it had survived. In 2016, we saw it at both places and at Snipe Marsh, Second Pond and the East Side Marsh. We also saw the Dion skipper in its original location and at Snipe Marsh. In addition, we added the tawny-edged skipper to our list in the breakthrough area and, to top it off, the eyed brown returned after dying off in the bad drought of 2011. All of these butterflies require native sedges as

(continued)

Restoration Report (continued)

caterpillar food. We are finding that it is crucial for wildlife to link good habitats together. It is exciting to see our “heads down” restoration work coinciding with and validating the advocacy work of our Habitat Corridors Program and the Barrington Greenway Initiative.

At Flint Creek, we added a new bird to our list: the black duck. This uncommon and declining duck was migrating through Great Water Dock Marsh. We also had good news with a late nesting pair of bobolinks at Grigsby and late sedge wrens at both Grigsby and Flint Creek Savanna.

— Jim Vanderpoel

The dazzling world of dragonflies and damselflies

by Peggy Simonsen

CFC’s Community Education Committee’s first program of the year was a marvelous presentation by Marla Garrison, an expert on dragonflies and damselflies. Showing her spectacular photos, Marla captivated the full house with fascinating information about these insects.

She shared basic ways to tell the difference between the two aquatic genera in the order Odonata (e.g. dragonflies hold their wings perpendicular to their bodies while damselflies fold theirs back above their bodies). Additionally, a dragonfly has eyes that almost cover the top of its head like a helmet while the damselfly’s eyes protrude from the sides of its head. Ms. Garrison provided details about their many species, life histories, behaviors, and value to the ecosystem. Dragonflies and damselflies are excellent indicators of wetland quality.

Ms. Garrison is a biology professor at McHenry County College and serves on the Executive Council of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. She is the author of *Damselflies of Chicagoland*. She took most of the photos in her presentation in the Chicago area, including individuals of many species as well as amazing shots of pairs mating and enlargements of females laying eggs, their eyes, and their intricate wings. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for her subject were so engaging



Dragonfly. Photo by Marla Garrison.

that she inspired an audience of enthusiasts too. We can just imagine how popular she must be as a college instructor!

Living soils

by Peggy Simonsen

Is your soil alive with healthy organisms and porous with air pockets to capture water and nutrients? A full-house audience for CFC’s February Community Education program by Jeff Weiss learned about the structure of good soil for native plants, including organic matter, water, minerals and air. The biological activity of living soil includes plant roots, fungi, bacteria, protozoa, worms, insects and seeds. We all know that native prairie plants have deep roots that contribute to this deep, fertile soil, as well as providing ecological services such as water retention, erosion control, and carbon fixation. We learned that prairie soil is called mollisol and is the deepest, alfisol is forest soil and shallower and histosol is wetland soil, muckier of course.

Composting is essential to improve the organic matter and soil composition, especially in our area’s clay, but did you know that composting also can filter out 60-95% of urban stormwater pollutants? And that composted soil can hold five times its weight in water? One research study found that ½ inch of compost over the surface sequestered the equivalent of one metric ton of carbon dioxide in one hectare over three years! In addition, compost eliminates the need for chemical fertilizer. Pesticide use must be avoided so as not to kill the beneficial bacteria and fungi in the soil, in addition to



Most nutrients are found in the top layer of soil. Photo by Jeff Weiss.

pesticides’ deadly effect on pollinators and birds’ food sources.

If you don’t know the mineral composition of your soil, Jeff recommends taking a soil sample

and having it analyzed by a soil test lab (list of labs available at University of Illinois Extension service) which will result in a report that will indicate the kind of organic additives appropriate to improve the nutrient balance.

After removing invasive plants such as buckthorn and improving the soil with nutrient-rich compost, you can anticipate some wonderful surprises from the dormant native seed bank that may have been waiting for a healthy environment in which to germinate! And, of course, the native plants you choose for any site will thank you too by their healthy growth.

CFC plant sale set for May 6-7

by Sarah Hoban

Started your plant list yet?

CFC will hold its 21st annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale will be held in the Good Shepherd Hospital barn area, east of the hospital, at 450 W. Highway 22, in Lake Barrington, across from CFC headquarters.



Photo by Donna Bolzman.

You'll be able to choose from a huge selection of robust, hardy native plants, including perennials, ferns, sedges, grasses, shrubs and trees. As part of CFC's Milkweed for Monarchs campaign to encourage monarch populations, numerous varieties of native milkweed will be available at discounted prices. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about plants and native gardening. Shoppers are also encouraged to bring their own wagons to help transport their purchases.



Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Pre-sale online ordering will be available through April 12. All the plants for the sale may be ordered online, and orders are filled on a first-come-first-filled basis, so order early. Pickup date for preorders is Friday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you have orders to pick up, you may shop on Friday as well. CFC members will also be able to shop the sale on May 5, and members get a 10 percent discount all days.



Swamp milkweed.
Photo by Donna Bolzman.



Shooting star. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

The online store is available through CFC's website, www.citizensforconservation.org. If you have questions, please call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).



Sugar maple.
Photo by Meredith Tucker.

Are you thinking of replacing an iPad or tablet? CFC needs three for the Plant Sale checkout tables. Give your old one a good home and please consider donating it for the sale. Please call Ginger at 847-331-3568 if you can help us out.

Thanks!

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 7, 8 a.m.—Beese Park (Meet at Beese Park, east end of Cornell Avenue)

April 21, 8 a.m.—Beese Park (as above)

May 5, 7:30 a.m.— Baker's Lake (parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 12, 7:30 a.m.— Camp Reinberg (entrance on east side of Quentin between Dundee & Lake Cook Rd.)

May 19, 7:30 a.m.—Beverly Lake* (parking lot on north side of Higgins Rd./Rt. 72 west of Sutton Rd.)

May 24, 7:30 a.m.— Penny Road South* (meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot, less than a mile west of Old Sutton/Penny Rd intersection)

June 2, 7:00 a.m.—Headwaters* (parking lot on Wichman Rd. off north side of Rt. 72; ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

June 9, 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 18, 5:00 p.m.— Gallop Hill* (as above)

*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.

EPA licensing protects bees: don't believe it!

by Meredith Tucker

Some people assume that because the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has licensed an insecticide for sale to the public, it must be safe for bees. Don't believe it! Many "approved" insecticides that are lethal to pollinators are still on the market.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, the EPA is mandated to implement the Act to protect applicators, consumers and the environment. But EPA does none of this effectively, providing little, if any, protection for pollinators.

Here are a few of the biggest bee-killing offenders, all approved by EPA.

Neonicotinoids are a group of individual insecticides formulated from synthetic nicotine. The chemicals are not highly toxic to people and other mammals, but they are deadly to insects at even tiny doses. They're favored by farmers, landscapers, arborists and garden centers because they are systemic.

There's the problem. Every treated plant becomes poisonous from root to stem to leaf to flower to pollen to nectar. Pollinators using the blossom may not be killed outright, but they are negatively impacted by these neurotoxins. Bees may not be able to fly or navigate or gather food or find home. The nest starves (particularly devastating in the case of our native bees which have small nests unprotected by beekeepers).

A massive number of seeds are pre-treated with neonicotinoids (just in case a bug comes anywhere near them). It is the leading use of these chemicals. Plants from treated seeds will affect pollinators and any insect that chews leaves. That is why the seeds are treated – to kill. An adult pollinator lays an egg on a plant, the egg hatches, the larva chews the leaves...and dies.



Blossoms of Iowa crab, Malus ioensis, with bumblebee and mason bee in a certified Habitat Corridors yard. Photo by Meredith Tucker.

There are five neonicotinoid insecticides commonly sold to homeowners: Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam, Acetamiprid and Dinotefuran. Some are better recognized by their brand names: Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease and Mite Control; Bayer Advanced 12-Month Tree & Shrub Insect Control; Merit; Ortho Bug B Gon Year-Long Tree & Shrub Insect Control; Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care Granules; Green Light Grub Control with Arena. The list is long. EPA has licensed neonicotinoids since the 1990s. It's finally, and very slowly, working to change that.

Sevin (the brand name for Carbaryl) is another commonly sold insecticide. It is advertised, proudly, as a "Concentrate Bug Killer [that] kills over 100 listed insects on vegetables, fruits and ornamentals." EPA allows this chemical compound that is extremely toxic to bees to be used on vegetables, fruits and ornamentals.

Malathion is an organophosphate insecticide used in a wide range of products, such as landscaping sprays and dusts and flea powder. It is highly toxic to bees and other beneficial insects, some fish, and other aquatic life. It is moderately toxic to birds but low in toxicity to mammals.

Current EPA regulations do not require testing on amphibians, but a study in 2008 found that "cocktails of contaminants" that are now showing up in nature are lethal to leopard frog tadpoles. A combination of five widely used insecticides, including Carbaryl and Malathion in concentrations far less than EPA maximums, nevertheless killed 99% of leopard frog tadpoles.

So, be cautious when buying an insecticide. Read the labels completely. Why do you need an insecticide anyway? Few insects are so problematic that insecticide is necessary. If we leave the insects alone, natural predators, including other insects, will help control their populations. Don't assume that just because the product is on the market, it's safe.

Save the date – Ignite the Night 2017

CFC will be holding Ignite the Night on September 30, 2017 at the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center. An evening under the stars with live music, dinner, native animals, raffle, telescopes, horse drawn wagon rides, and a gigantic bond fire! Great fun.

Welcome New Members!

Nancy Asquini Dean	K Kuhn
Scott and Kandie Dille	Karen Robinson
Jim Dufelmeier	Donna Siemco
John Evans	Laura Simpson
Luisa Gasiewski	Matthew Smith
Katie Hulls	Richard Teper
Pam Jarka	Jody and Ted Thelin
Alan Krakora	Kerry Voss
Bev Krams	

CFC celebrates Earth Day in a big way

by Gail Vanderpoel

Earth Day 2017 for CFC has to become Earth Week because we have so many celebrations and activities going on. Here is a brief summary of what we are doing:

- **April 20** – Restoration Workday, 9 - 11 a.m. Breakfast and special prizes provided!
- **April 22** – Earth Day at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve, 9 - 11 a.m. Join us at the beautiful clearing Lake County has prepared to plant hundreds of sedges with volunteers including Barrington Middle School/Prairie and Barrington High School students as well as many adult volunteers. We will have a light lunch and CFC souvenirs to celebrate Earth Day 2017, saving living space for living things.
- **April 23** – Nature Walk and Open House at CFC Headquarters and Flint Creek Savanna. Spend a Sunday afternoon walking the trail and hearing about our restoration. Join us in the office for more information and refreshments.

CFC Youth Education is excited to celebrate Earth Week with several Barrington Schools. Our visits include:

- **April 18** – Barrington High School: Presentation to Biology classes about CFC and what we do to help save living space for living things.
- **April 19** – Countryside Elementary: Outdoor nature scavenger hunts and activities.
- **April 20** – Barrington Middle School-Station: PALS students explore nature and work at Baker's Lake.
- **April 21** – Barrington Middle School-Station: PALS students explore nature and work at Baker's Lake.
- **April 22** – Barrington Middle School-Prairie: Planet Heroes work-a-thon planting sedges at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve.
- **April 27** – Roslyn Road Elementary: Bee Assembly presented by CFC's Ted Krasnesky.

In reaching out to the schools, we have developed some long-term partnerships and sponsorships as well. We have helped in the start-up of a butterfly garden at Roslyn Road School and will be assisting Barrington High School life sciences students in understanding our local ecosystems and biodiversity.

For CFC, every day is Earth Day. 2017 is the beginning of a new long-range project in which we will join our partners in restoring landscape-scale ecosystems. These restorations

are part of the Barrington Greenway Initiative with the goal of preserving land in a corridor to create more greenways throughout the Barrington area. Come see how you can help by attending our restoration workdays and visiting Flint Creek Savanna.

Earth Day recycling drive

The Countryside School Green Club is hosting an Earth Day recycling drive, Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Countryside School Parking Lot, 205 W County Line Rd, Barrington Hills.

This is your opportunity to recycle:

- Cork: natural & synthetic
- Wine & Champagne bottles
- Egg cartons
- Styrofoam: all colors
- Packing peanuts & bubble wrap
- Used clothing, linen, shoes & boots
- Batteries - clean
- CDs, DVDs, VHS and cassette tapes with plastic & cardboard cases
- Cell phones and accessories
- E-waste - \$25 cash fee for TVs

They will also be accepting non-expired, non-perishable food items for the Cuba Township Food Pantry. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Countryside School Green Club

 **Earth Day
RECYCLING DRIVE** 

**Saturday, April 22, 2017
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Countryside School Parking Lot**
205 W County Line Rd, Barrington Hills, IL

Cork: natural & synthetic Wine & Champagne bottles Egg cartons Styrofoam: all colors Packing peanuts & bubble wrap Used clothing, linen, shoes & boots	Batteries - clean CDs, DVDs, VHS and cassette tapes with plastic & cardboard cases Cell phones and accessories E-waste - \$25 cash fee for TVs
---	---

 **We will also be accepting NON-EXPIRED non-perishable food items for the Cuba Township Food Pantry. All donations are greatly appreciated!**

Proudly sponsored by Countryside Green Club and Signal Hill Chapter, NRDAR

News from Habitat Corridors

The biggest news from Habitat Corridors is that winter has broken and our season for visits will soon begin. We will keep a close watch on how spring unfolds, and as soon as most plants break dormancy, we will begin contacting residents who have requested visits.

Citizens for Conservation volunteers can best make helpful recommendations about which native plants to install

when we see what is already growing on your property. We like homeowners to start small with habitat gardens so that they aren't overwhelmed by maintenance and so that they can see which species thrive and which should be replaced. It's an exciting time for planting, watering, and evaluating.



Hepatica acutiloba, sharp-lobed hepatica, blooms through a blanket of last year's dead leaves in a Habitat Corridors certified yard. Photo by Meredith Tucker.

Additionally, when you plant natives and use earth-friendly maintenance practices on your property, you are helping support CFC's Barrington Greenway Initiative. This is a newly formulated plan to extend our fabulous restorations throughout the Barrington communities, connecting large preserves and natural areas and using homeowners' healthy habitat for the benefit of wildlife, water, air, and people!

We will try to do as many visits as possible before CFC's spring plant sale on the first weekend in May; we are happy to guide native plant enthusiasts concerning their purchases. To schedule a visit, please contact us at info@habitatcorridors.org. It's a great time of year - planning and planting!

— Meredith Tucker

Great Backyard Bird Count counts a great bird

by Gail Vanderpoel

Fifteen eager birdwatchers participated in CFC's annual Great Backyard Bird Count on February 19, 2017. This is the second year the count has been held at CFC's conservation easement

in Barrington. Our citizen scientists ranged in age from 5 to 14, with several parents joining them. We began indoors viewing bird feeders on the north and south sides of the house. Most of the children brought their own binoculars, but many of the birds were easily spotted with the naked eye.

Our bird list included 13 different species and a total of 21 birds. Kids observed and learned that nuthatches hang upside down on branches and walk headfirst down tree trunks. We talked about favorite birds, bird behavior, and observed birds at the feeders for about 30 minutes, then went outside to walk the property. Because of the unusually warm temperatures, we heard the distinctive cry of sandhill cranes who would usually not be returning at this time of year. Last year's bird count temperature was 17 degrees, and this year's took place at 62 degrees. Warm weather seemed to have dispersed the birds a bit, but with no snow on the ground, we found praying mantis egg cases and a tuft of rabbit fur while we walked.

And now, for the winner of the greatest backyard bird we saw this year: the Red-headed woodpecker! Besides its beautiful coloration (black and white with a totally scarlet head), the red-headed woodpecker is becoming increasingly rare in Illinois and much of the U.S. In fact, it has been named one of the 12 species of concern by Chicago Wilderness. Our most avid birder, a Barrington high school freshman, definitely found this bird sighting to be the highlight of his day.



We returned to the house after looking in prairie and woodland habitats, and then reviewed all the birds we had found for the count to make sure all data was recorded: 2 Black-capped chickadees, 2 Downy woodpeckers, 1 Hairy woodpecker,

1 Mourning dove, 4 House sparrows, 1 American goldfinch, 1 Red-bellied woodpecker, 2 Dark-eyed juncos, 1 White-breasted nuthatch, 1 Crow, 2 Northern cardinals, 2 Sandhill cranes, and again--- the Red-headed woodpecker. This information becomes part of data collected by the sponsors of the Great Backyard Bird Count. They include the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, and Wild Birds Unlimited. It was great knowing our observations would help supply information on winter bird species in Illinois and would contribute to all the data being collected throughout the world.

CFC introduces the Barrington Greenway Initiative

by Karen Rosene



Photo by Megan West.

On March 9, 2017, more than 200 members and friends gathered to celebrate and review the accomplishments of CFC in 2016. 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 members, volunteers and guests. He talked about the myriad ways that CFC contributes to a healthy environment:



President Tom Crosh. Photo by Megan West.

- CFC's ongoing, effective and extensive restoration efforts
- Education programs that touch all ages through the Youth Ed and Community Ed programs, including the fabled "Third Graders on the Prairie" which includes 600 third graders in the school district
- The internship program for college students
- The Habitat Corridors program offering home visits to promote the use of native plants
- The May Plant Sale
- The collaboration with Native Seed Gardeners.



Photo by Megan West.

In 2016, CFC volunteers logged an incredible 12,915 hours! The ever hard working board accounted for 50% of those hours.

Edith Auchter delivered the Treasurer's Report. Administrative overhead is only 8.6%, placing CFC among the most efficient non-profits. A \$200,000 multi-year grant was received in 2016 to support

the Barrington Greenway Initiative.

Edith also delivered the Board Development Report. She thanked retiring board members Wayne Schild, Doug Johnson and Meredith Tucker for long and distinguished service to CFC. She introduced new board nominees Patty Barten and Gail Vanderpoel. After introducing the remainder of the board members, Tom Crosh entertained a motion from the floor to accept the Board Development Report.



Mighty Oak awardees. Photo by Megan West.

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. (Other elected at-large board members: Patty Barten, Tom Benjamin, Gene Branson, Leslie Coolidge, Barbara Cragan, Bryan Hughes, Annamarie Lukes, Alberto Moriondo, Peggy Simonsen, Steve Smith, Ralph Tarquino, Ginger Underwood, Gail Vanderpoel, and Tom Vanderpoel.)



Allison Sacerdote-Velat. Photo by Megan West.

This year's keynote speaker was Allison Sacerdote-Velat, Curator of Herpetology,

Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. In a presentation titled Smooth Green Snake Conservation in Chicago Wilderness she talked about efforts to reintroduce wildlife to Illinois nature preserves. She discussed the natural history of smooth green snakes and the threats to their conservation. She also discussed what we have learned so far about applied techniques to support their populations, knowledge gaps, and upcoming efforts and priorities for conserving the species.

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

(continued)

Annual Meeting (continued)

Mighty Oak Awards:

Bonnie Albrecht
Larry Anglada
Tom Auchter
Diane Bodkin
Donna Bolzman
Doe Crosh
Diane Greening
Katherine Grover
Barb Hermann
Carol Hogan
Lizzy Hucker
Karl Humbert
Ted Krasnesky
Linda Krauss
Juli LaRocque
Julia Martinez
Rob Neff
Bob Oliver
Barb Overbey
George Peirce
Rozanne Ronen
Gail Rudisill
Cliff Schultz
John Schweizer
David Underwood
Gail Vanderpoel
Melissa Washow

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 3th graders on the prairie. This year they are awarded gift certificates to the CFC Annual Plant Sale on May 6 and 7.

Shooting Star 10-Year Award:
Alberto Moriondo

Waid Vanderpoel 20-Year Award:
Rob Neff

Bobolink 25-Year Award:
Jim Vanderpoel



Service awardees: Jim Vanderpoel, Rob Neff, Alberto Moriondo. Photo by Megan West.

Great Blue Heron Award



Rob Neff, Great Blue Heron Award. Photo by Megan West.

CFC presents this award annually in recognition of outstanding contribution toward conservation within CFC activities; it is the highest honor we bestow within CFC. This year the award was presented to Rob Neff who has contributed in myriad ways for twenty years both as a board member and a volunteer.

William H. Miller Award

This award is given for outstanding contribution toward conservation in the Barrington area outside CFC activities. The award was presented to Diane Bodkin for her work with the South Barrington Conservancy.



Peggy Simonsen with Diane Bodkin. Photo by Megan West.

To close the meeting, Tom Vanderpoel presented CFC's bold, new conservation plan, the Barrington Greenway Initiative. Its purpose is to further land protection and restoration in the Barrington area by collaborating with partners who have overlapping interests. The plan includes

a greenway corridor linking existing natural areas and adding new ones, restoring native vegetation within corridor properties, reintroducing wildlife, and expanding volunteer participation. In addition to benefiting native plants and animals, the initiative will enhance ecosystem services such as groundwater protection, flood and erosion control, and carbon sequestration. The collaborators to date include CFC, the forest preserve districts of Lake and Cook Counties, the Bobolink Foundation, Friends of the Forest Preserves and Audubon Great Lakes.

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

Thanks to Candy Quinn of The Prairie Basket for the beautiful native floral display. Thanks to Henry Heine of Bag End Loudspeakers/Modular Sound Systems for providing an exceptional sound system. Thanks also to Jim Bodkin who created and framed award certificates. Thank you to photographer Megan West.

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

Time to renew your membership

If you are reading this, you are most likely already a member of CFC. Take a moment to think about your membership, what it means, and why you joined. Being a member of CFC is about being a part of a dedicated group of people who believe in the importance of protecting and restoring the land and educating everyone about the significance of “saving living space for living things.” CFC has a forty-five year history of volunteers working to support that mission. All that work needs a strong base. CFC hasn't accomplished what it has without people such as you.

Is your membership current? This is an exciting time for CFC with our new Barrington Greenway Initiative. Now more than ever we can use your support. If you have not renewed already, the annual membership brochure will be arriving soon. Is there someone to whom you might give a membership as a gift? Memberships help to support our efforts to acquire land and restore habitat. Don't forget, a current membership makes possible a 10% discount at the Native Plant Sale the first weekend in May. Please renew online or by mail with the envelope in the brochure.

Meredith Tucker concludes over 16 years as CFC board member

by Annamarie Lukes

After over 16 years of service, Meredith Tucker is leaving CFC's board of directors. Tucker's time on the board included three terms as president, more than three years as vice president and many years on the Board Development Committee. Concurrent with her board activities, she co-founded the Community Education Committee, founded the Habitat Corridors program, chaired the Community Education Committee and was the managing editor of *CFC News* for 9 years.



Meredith Tucker. Photo by Bob Lee.

In 2007, CFC bestowed the Great Blue Heron award on Tucker in recognition of her outstanding contribution toward conservation within CFC activities. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution through its Kishwaukee Trail Chapter granted Tucker their national Conservation Award in 2014.

Tucker created six permanent Community Education programs. She delivers these programs several times a year to community groups on request. She runs the Habitat Corridors program and personally visits dozens of properties each year to encourage and assist local property owners to become more earth friendly in their landscaping choices and maintenance practices. Her suggestions range from native plants to rainwater solutions to invasive species identification. Her knowledge on these subjects is both academic and personal. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Roosevelt University with a major in Environmental Management. She has completed additional classes in Conservation Biology, Ecology, Botany & Taxonomy, and Plant Reproductive Biology. She has restored her yard to native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Her rain garden is her favorite natural feature at home.

Tucker remains the go-to person at CFC for gardening questions. Whenever she has the opportunity to spread the word about native plants and earth friendly practices, Tucker takes it. Thank you Meredith for your many contributions to CFC and the natural environment!

We are thrilled Tucker will continue sharing her talents with us as a highly engaged and effective CFC volunteer.

Native shrubs as habitat and host plants

By Annamarie Lukes

You may think of shrubs as privacy screens and attractive additions to your yard, but they are so much more. On Saturday, March 11, seventy people gathered at the Barrington Village Hall to hear Connor Shaw, owner of Possibility Place Nursery, talk about how we can help the earth and its wildlife by planting native shrubs. They provide habitat for many creatures, including nesting spots for birds and shelter for birds and other small wildlife. Additionally, they are hosts for many moths and butterflies. Shrubs sustain pollinators by feeding their larvae and can support the birds who depend on larvae to feed their nestlings.

An audience member provided a perfect example of how native and non-native shrubs differ in their ability to support wildlife. She related that she has native hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*) mixed in with cultivar hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens* Annabelle). Her native hydrangeas are alive with pollinator activity. Her cultivar hydrangeas are ignored. Shaw's interns who are tasked with tracking insect activity on the nursery plants report the same thing.

There are so many interesting and beautiful native shrubs that there is no reason to plant non-natives. Citizens for Conservation offers native shrubs at both our spring and fall plant sales. Please plant native shrubs to sustain birds and native insects.



American Filbert, *Corylus americana*, a native shrub highlighted in Connor Shaw's program. Photo by Sharon Pasch.

Upcoming Events

Community Education Programs

Continuing with CFC's tradition of sponsoring useful public education on natural habitats and earth-friendly yard practices, we're offering our last program of the season.

April 8: Personal Land Restoration, by Ders Anderson, Greenways Director, Openlands.

All programs are held Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Barrington Village Hall. Pre-registration required at CitizensForConservation.org. Attendance is \$10 per program; CFC members admitted free.

Youth Education Programs

April 17-29: Earth Day Celebrations – see separate article.

May 5: Astronomy Class

Join the Northwest Suburban Astronomy Club to view the night skies through telescopes. This class is open to middle and high school students.

May 14: Seining Illinois Creeks

Hands-on survey of aquatic life: fish, insects, amphibians and other creatures. Understand the biodiversity of area streams and rivers by wading and using nets to collect and identify. This class is open to high school students.

June 12-16: Beginning Naturalists Camp

This camp will introduce young scientists to local plants, animals and habitats through major fun activities. We will take daily hikes, observe nature, learn about habitats and the 12 species of concern identified by Chicago Wilderness, and make nature crafts. Camp runs from 9-11:30 a.m. and is for ages 4-6.

June 19-23: Junior Naturalists Camp

This camp studies nature, conservation and eco-systems through daily experiences in different habitats. We take nature hikes, collect and observe various specimens, use scientific tools, and create crafts and journals to reflect daily learning. Campers will learn how many of the 12 species of concern are found at our preserves. Camp runs from 9-11:30 a.m. and is for ages 7-10.

Annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

May 6 and 7: 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 5.

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 20: "Reptiles at Risk" by Lake Forest Wildlife Discovery Center

Many Illinois species of reptiles are listed as threatened or endangered. The WDC will bring several rare species and discuss the threats and what they are doing to help these species.

Thursday, May 18: Program to be determined.

Spring Bird Walks at Crabtree Nature Center

Thursdays, April 20 & 27 and May 4 & 11, 8:00 am

Meet in the parking lot at Crabtree Nature Center off Palatine Road, one mile west of Barrington Road or ½ mile east of Algonquin Road (Route 62). Walks will be held rain or shine and last about 2 hours.

CFC thanks Johnson and Schild

by Annamarie Lukes

We thank Doug Johnson and Wayne Schild who both stood down from the board this year.

Doug served on the House and Grounds committee and is a frequent volunteer at CFC workdays.

Wayne assisted in myriad ways with Community Education, the Annual Meeting and as database manager.

Both plan to continue their volunteer work with CFC.



CFC. Artwork by Jane Christino.

President's Comments

One of the great rewards for me as a native-habitat restoration volunteer is witnessing the dramatic changes to the landscape – the transformation of buckthorn-clogged woodlands into open oak and hickory woods revealing the topography as it looked years ago.

I'm thankful that Barrington area citizens support open lands such as the wonderful forest preserves of Cook and Lake counties. Yet these preserves desperately need restoration work – the kind of work Citizens for Conservation volunteers have been providing on local conservation lands for decades.

Community outreach is a standing priority of CFC. We encourage sound conservation practices and volunteerism through our grade school on-the-prairie programs, children's summer camps, high school liaison, college internships, adult education, native seed gardeners program, habitat corridors projects, and native plant and shrub sales.

Our latest effort is our Barrington Greenway Initiative, whose purpose is to further land protection and restoration in the Barrington area by collaborating with public and private partners who have coinciding interests. The plan envisions a greenway corridor linking existing natural areas and adding new ones, restoring native vegetation within corridor properties, reintroducing wildlife, and expanding volunteer participation.

A recurring dream is to close my eyes to see, smell and listen to nature as if no other humans were present, to imagine what our community must have been like in pre-settlement



Tom Crosh. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

times. This dream is fueled by my long walks throughout our preserves. I want to help make this a reality for the next generation. "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." – Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*.

— Tom Crosh

Volunteers needed

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



OFFICERS

Tom Crosh, President
James Vanderpoel, Vice President
Karen Rosene, Secretary
Edith Auchter, Treasurer

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Juliann LaRocque

MANAGING & COPY EDITORS

Leslie Coolidge
John Schweizer

LAYOUT & GRAPHICS EDITOR

Chad Collins

STAFF WRITERS

Sandra Alguire
Robert Cantwell
Sharon Pasch
Carol Rice
Karen Rosene
Meredith Tucker
James Vanderpoel

BOARD

Patty Barten
Tom Benjamin
Gene Branson
Leslie Coolidge
Barbara Cragan
Bryan Hughes
Annamarie Lukes
Alberto Moriondo
Peggy Simonsen
Steve Smith
Ralph Tarquino
Ginger Underwood
Gail Vanderpoel
Thomas Vanderpoel

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Diane Bodkin
Donna Bolzman

PROOF READER

Leslie Coolidge

100% RECYCLED PAPER

Citizens for Conservation

Saving Living Space for Living Things

For membership information, visit us or call at:
Office: 459 W. Hwy. 22 Phone: 847-382-SAVE
www.CitizensforConservation.org

Citizens for Conservation
459 West Hwy. 22
Barrington, IL 60010

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Barrington, IL
60011
Permit No. 80