



A magical mixing party – Native seeds for future open spaces

by Patty Barten

Coming into CFC on Saturday, November 4, it certainly looked like someone was having a party. In spite of rain and cool temperatures, the parking lot was overflowing with cars and the air was filled with laughter coming from the seed barn. The scene inside was a party with lots of happy people moving in a well-choreographed dance of mixing specific combinations of native seeds for the annual CFC seed mixing event.

This year was a record breaking event: 45 volunteers of all ages participated; a new record of 215 species of critical seeds was mixed; and yet it was the quickest mixing time on record of just over one hour! Mixes were carefully made with appropriate plants for each ecosystem type, such as dry



prairie vs. wetlands vs. savannas. The proper combinations of seeds were mixed with perlite which is used as a binder and extender to help visually show coverage when the seeds are hand sown.

This fun seed mixing party was the culmination of months of hand collection, sorting, drying, cleaning, and weighing native seeds by volunteers. Over 500 volunteer hours were contributed this year and many first time volunteers who had collected seeds came to help and see how the seeds were mixed. All the new faces were warmly welcomed.



The huge success of this party, and everything leading up to it, was thanks to the team who volunteered tirelessly in leadership roles. They scouted which seeds were ripe for collecting at which times on each land parcel, organized volunteers, prepped equipment, catalogued and organized the seed shed, facilitated mixing and shared their knowledge in



answering volunteers' questions. Sincere thanks go to: Ralph Tarquino, Cliff Schultz, Randy Holtz, Doug Johnson, Luke Dahlberg, Matt Hokanson, Daniel Suarez, Steve Smith, Katherine Grover, Mike Raczyl, Carol

Hogan, Wes Wolf and Sara Schultz. Thanks also to our Barrington Greenway Initiative partners who worked alongside CFC: the Bobolink Foundation, the Forest Preserves of Lake, McHenry and Cook counties, Audubon Great Lakes and Friends of the Forest Preserves.

CFC kept this seed party going with remaining



fall workdays where the seed was sown throughout area preserves. We appreciate all the efforts of our volunteers and partners to collect, prepare and sow seed. Your efforts made open spaces and ecosystems healthier and more beautiful.

Restoration Report

2017 in review – Sustainable

The restoration effort of CFC suffered a major shock this year with the sudden death of our longtime director of restoration, and my brother, Tom Vanderpoel. Tom had been restoration's visionary, strategic, tactical and everyday working leader for over twenty years. CFC was well into another successful year for restoration: cutting brush, controlling invasive species, prescribed burning, overseeding and planting rare plant species, and then we lost our leader just as seed collection was moving into high gear.

I am extremely proud to report that in spite of this shock, seed collection, cleaning and sowing has been completed without a pause. We collected the seed of 215 species, a new record. The total weight was 456.75 pounds, which is well above last year's total of 371. How was CFC able to keep the momentum going after suffering such a blow? Our directors, especially Ralph Tarquino and Steve Smith, leapt into the breach. More volunteers than ever showed up—the stalwarts, former interns who had heard the sad news, all determined to make progress in the face of adversity.

But more than all else was the energy and effort from the other members of the Barrington Greenway Initiative—our longtime advisor Steve Packard, Audubon Great Lakes, the Bobolink Foundation, Friends of the Forest Preserves and, most of all, the Spring Creek Stewards. Consoling, advising, planning, scouting and working—any person who saw how this team stepped up this fall could only conclude that this initiative has a very promising future.

What is it about CFC that inspired such loyal and proficient efforts from both its members and its partners? I have a notion—whether it was brainstorming about restoration techniques with local environmental activists like the Volunteer Stewardship Network or Chicago Wilderness, or inspiring artists like the brilliant painter of grasslands Philip Juras, or writers like Ted Levin, author of *America's Snake*, who encouraged that “CFC was doing great work”, or comparing notes with ever more far reaching conservationists like the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative, whose director stated he was “inspired to see Henslow's sparrow and the rare butterfly that have come back to the site”, Tom and CFC were always willing to share their expertise and experiences, and teach others their best practices to further the cause of conservation. I believe that it was CFC's willingness to work with others with common interests and CFC's track record of being an effective ally that led to such spontaneous and effective support in its time of need.

CFC will formalize this powerful and flexible increase in its restoration infrastructure by adding members of external organizations to our Restoration Committee.

This year CFC had some new wildlife sightings at Flint Creek Savanna using exciting techniques. We identified three

species of bats aided by the Echo Meter Touch 2 PRO, a remarkable machine that analyzes the echolocation squeaks and identifies the bat species based on frequency. We confirmed by size and behavior the big brown, the hoary and the little brown bat. The latter is one of the twelve priority animal species proclaimed by Chicago Wilderness. Mercury vapor lamps led to the discovery of such interesting insects as the dobsonfly, the silphium borer moth and the native praying mantis at our Creatures of the Night program. These sightings demonstrate that uncommon animals will live in our restored habitat, which may be the key test as to whether our restoration is really working.

Upcoming Events

Community Education Programs

January 20 – Barrington Area Birds – From Natural Areas to Your Backyard, by Judy Pollock, Bird Conservation Consultant, Living Habitats.

February 17 – Become a Citizen Scientist, by panel of monitors for birds, bumble bees, butterflies and plant bloom times.

March 17 – Selecting Native Plants That Thrive in Wet Locations, by Meredith C. Tucker, naturalist and Chair of CFC's Habitat Corridors program.

April 14 – The Value of Ants – Living With and Loving Them, by Sean Menke, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology, Lake Forest College.

All programs are held Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street. RSVP to 847-382-SAVE (7283) or communityed@citizensforconservation.org. Attendance is \$10 per program; CFC members admitted free.

Annual Meeting

March 8 – Featuring “Nature Crosses Boundaries” panel. 6:00 p.m. at the Onion Pub & Brewery, 22221 N. Pepper Road, Lake Barrington.

Annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

May 4-6 – Preordering opens March 1 and closes April 10. Pickup for preorders on Friday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open to all members and those who have preordered. Plant sale itself on May 5 and 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CFC's annual plant sale will be held at the Good Shepherd Hospital barn area across Highway 22 from CFC Headquarters.

Cultivating conservation achievements for 72 years: Natural History Society of Barrington disbands organization

by Patty Barten

On November 16, the long-standing Natural History Society of Barrington formally ended its existence, while celebrating its long, proud history of conservation achievements. The Society also ensured that its investments in conservation would live on by transferring its assets to Citizens for Conservation.

“While it is sad to see the Society’s 72-year existence come to an end,” said Society President Duane Heaton, “it is fortunate that our assets can go to an organization such as CFC, whose philosophy and geographic range so perfectly match the Society’s.”

CFC board member Steve Smith accepted the transfer on behalf of CFC. He also gave a presentation on the Barrington Greenway Initiative, highlighting CFC’s vision and plans to link more than 14,000 acres of land across the greater Barrington area to improve ecosystems, biodiversity and nature-based services for the community.



CFC board member Steve Smith and Natural History Society of Barrington President Duane Heaton. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.

Long-time Society leader Chuck Westcott recounted some of the Society’s many accomplishments. The Society “was involved in a study of DDT poisoning of robins in the Village of Barrington in 1957 and supported the preservation of Volo Bog and Baker’s Lake and its adjacent savanna. It conducted a very successful sunflower bird seed sale for many years with the proceeds going to local, state and national conservation organizations; provided leadership for guided bird walks at Crabtree Nature Center each spring and fall for thirty-seven years; and brought to its monthly meetings guest speakers

from a wide range of scientific, educational and conservation organizations.”

Westcott captured the sentiments of members, saying “The Society has touched many individuals during its time and I feel that it has been instrumental in educating residents in the appreciation and protection of the many natural assets of the Barrington area. Like a frail and failing old oak tree, perhaps it has produced enough ‘acorns’ during its lifetime to insure that its purpose endures and that residents will always cherish and protect the flora, fauna and scenic beauties of the Barrington area.”

CFC committed to carry forward the Society’s objectives of “education about the natural world and encouraging local residents to preserve natural lands”.

In that spirit, we encourage Society members to attend future CFC Community Education programs and join our workdays. CFC is honored to formally recognize the Natural History Society of Barrington as a Barrington Greenway Initiative Supporting Partner.

News from Habitat Corridors

Native plant gardeners welcome!

Another season of Habitat Corridors home visits has drawn to a close. Our volunteers visited more than forty homeowners who wish to make their yards more environmentally friendly. These homeowners want to use native plants; provide clean soil, water and air; and welcome native birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals to their yards. We have been pleased to make recommendations to help them achieve those goals.

A representative from Habitat Corridors will attend each of the four winter Community Education programs (see Upcoming Events). Please stop by our display to sign up for a spring visit. We’d love to give you recommendations for possible CFC Plant Sale purchases that would thrive on your property and look beautiful there.

Finally, we are always looking for new Habitat Corridors volunteers. If you are willing to visit a few homes during the 2018 growing season and if you have a good knowledge of gardening and of native plants, please contact info@habitatcorridors.org. We will mentor you for a few visits, and when you are ready, we will give you contact information for homeowners you can help with your native plant recommendations.

— Meredith Tucker

Honoring Tom's legacy

by Gail Vanderpoel

On October 10, 2017, two area groups recognized Tom Vanderpoel's many contributions. The first was a proclamation presented by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Later that day, a resolution honoring and remembering Tom was presented by the Village of Lake Barrington.



Friends and family attending ceremony. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.

Many conservation friends and family attended the morning ceremony held at the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan where Lake County Forest Preserve Board President Ann Maine presented a Proclamation honoring Tom Vanderpoel.

The proclamation paid tribute to Tom for:

- Serving as CFC Restoration Director and being a long-serving member of CFC.
- Being a conservation luminary who inspired citizens of all ages to care for land, preserve it for the future and get involved through volunteering and stewardship.
- Advocating with CFC and supporting the acquisition and protection of 3,100 acres in the Barrington area including Cuba Marsh, Grassy Lake and Fox River Forest Preserve.
- Inspiring people to donate thousands of hours of work, while teaching and working alongside them at seed collection, prairie burns and clearing invasives.
- Providing leadership throughout the Chicago region. Tom was widely respected for his passion, kindness, hard work and ability to motivate others, including Forest Preserve employees.
- Preserving natural resources to maintain the high quality of life in Lake County and northern Cook County.
- Enthusiastically sharing his expertise with other conservation groups including the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Great Lakes, the Bobolink Foundation, Lake County and Cook County Forest Preserves, Spring Creek Stewards and Conserve Lake County.
- Implementing the Barrington Greenway Initiative to link 14,000 acres across the Forest Preserves' Fox River Hill and the Fen Strategic Habitat Conservation Area identified in the Forest Preserves' Green Infrastructure Model and Vision Strategy.
- Bringing a far-reaching vision, patience, intelligence, generosity, collegiality, foresight, joie de vivre, attention to detail and leadership to his conservation work.

Upon receiving the framed plaque, Tom's wife Gail thanked the Board and said that Tom would have appreciated this example of the growing partnership of CFC with the Lake County Forest Preserve District and our other Barrington Greenway Initiative partners. Long-time LCFPD Board

member Carol Calabresa and Craig Taylor, Barrington's LCFPD Board representative, also spoke about Tom.

At the Lake Barrington Village board meeting, Village President Kevin Richardson presented a Resolution honoring and remembering Tom Vanderpoel. It outlined Tom's accomplishments:

- Tom was a hard-working and passionate man who dedicated his life to studying and conserving the natural world and helping his family.
- Tom was a true conservationist, known for his involvement in the Illinois Volunteer Stewardship Network and his leadership for over four decades at CFC.
- Tom followed in the work that his father Waid began and helped build CFC into an important force in the community for the preservation of our environment and natural resources.
- Tom's efforts helped in the preservation of thousands of acres of natural habitat in the Barrington area and his restoration expertise was a resource for organizations nationwide.
- Tom inspired people to donate thousands of hours of work while teaching and working alongside them at seed collections and prairie burns.
- Tom kept pushing the boundaries of what could be expected of habitat restoration efforts by constantly experimenting and developing new techniques.
- Tom led countless volunteers who worked to maintain CFC properties, while his tours with school children through Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna illuminated for them the recaptured heritage of these restored pre-settlement landscapes in the Barrington area.
- Tom supported young researchers, educating the next generation on the importance and subtleties of ecological restoration and responsibility of natural area stewardship.
- Tom provided tireless work over many years to acquire, restore, protect and preserve critical areas in Lake Barrington.
- The conservation and restoration of the Gibbs property was made possible because of Tom's farsighted vision as to what could be accomplished through collaborative efforts.
- Tom leaves behind an indelible mark on the Village and a legacy to benefit future generations.



Gail and Jim Vanderpoel with proclamations. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.

Citizens for Conservation has witnessed a great outpouring of sympathy from the Barrington community and all of our conservation friends and partners. The best gift to be given is getting involved in our efforts by volunteering your time for restoration, education or any area of our efforts that interests you. Please join us in continuing to do all the things Tom has laid the groundwork for!

CFC ignites the night!

by Ginger Underwood

Ignite the Night (ITN), held September 30, was a great success for CFC. Nearly 500 people came to celebrate the great outdoors, see old friends, meet new ones and support us in our goal of Saving Living Space for Living Things. The weather was perfect (always a huge relief). The band was colorful and lots of fun,

the food delicious, the raffle spectacular, the kids' flashlight tours a riot, and the meticulously arranged giant bonfire with the moon above was something to behold! Once again, John Yapelli created a work of art with the bonfire. The Aucters taught visitors about the night sky, the stars and planets by letting them look through professional telescopes. We had three horse-drawn wagons continually taking people out into the forest preserve.



The bonfire. Photo by Tom Helenowski.

The wagon passengers had fun while learning about the restoration happening in Cook County forest preserves as well as the various properties where CFC works.

It took the ITN committee an enormous amount of time, brain power, energy and hard work to get this event organized and ready to go and I thank you all. In addition to the committee, fifty other people volunteered to help. And all those cookies were homemade. Thank you ALL very much for everything you did!

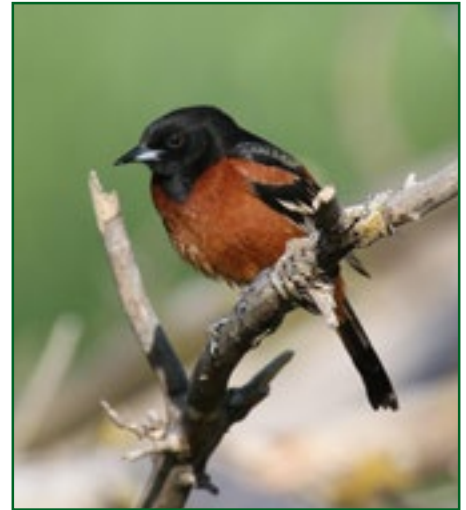
A very special thank you goes to our major Sponsors. We thank the Barrington Hills Park District for letting CFC hold this event at the Park District again and for lots of help and support with getting it all set up. And we thank the Forest Preserves of Cook County for being very supportive throughout the planning, helpful with permits, and loaning us the picnic tables, tents, and various other needed items in addition to letting us hold at least half the event on forest preserve property. The Dave Cook family was also a much appreciated sponsor and our good neighbors the Onion Pub & Brewery donated the beer which we all know is GOOD. All those hundreds of delicious brats were a donation from the Joe Freda family—there was not one left. Dave Underwood of 2050 Design created and handled the website and all the reservations for us. All those great raffle items were donated by very generous individuals and shops in the area. What a community we have!

We hope all of you who attended ITN had lots of fun, learned a little something, and will come again in 2019.

Barrington area's birds: from natural areas to your backyard

The Community Education Committee's first 2018 Winter Program features Judy Pollock, Bird Conservation Consultant, Living Habitats. Please join us on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, conversation, displays and handouts and 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. for the program at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street (free parking behind building).

The Barrington area is host to many important bird species, some that nest here and others that migrate through. The Forest Preserves of Cook County in conjunction with Chicago Audubon Society has just released a document that describes best practices for bird conservation in local natural areas. We'll hear about how these practices can support our local greenways, as well as how homeowners can expand the greenway by providing habitat for some of these important birds in their yards.



Orchard oriole. Copyright 2011, Alan Stankevitz, iwishicouldfly.com.

Former Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon

Chicago Region, Judy finds joy in collaborating and organizing at the intersection of birds, plants and community. Her work has resulted in well documented increases in bird populations. Her project locations include Gillson Park, LaBagh Woods, Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary, the Obama Presidential Center, Bartel Grassland and others. Judy believes that habitat restoration and landscape solutions for birds can engage citizens and landowners, both large and small, in meaningful conservation work in urban areas.

From intimate residential sanctuaries to multi-year natural area restoration strategies that promote habitat connectivity, Living Habitats endeavors to make a positive impact on the natural environment at all scales. As designers and ecologists, they create resourceful, innovative solutions that are both sustainable and resilient.

CFC members attend for free. Program fee is \$10 for non-members (payable at the door). Please RSVP to: communityed@citizensforconservation.org or 847-382-SAVE (7283). Please provide your name, phone number and program name.

Prairie experiences from the children's point of view

by Gail Vanderpoel

Citizens for Conservation held its ninth year of prairie field trips for all 637 3rd graders in Barrington, along with 150 chaperones and/or teachers and 36 CFC volunteers. The groups spent the last two weeks of September visiting three sites: CFC's Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna and Cook County Forest Preserves' Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The groups spent two hours each engaged in three different activities: measuring and drawing, seed collecting and discovery walks.

Many of the schools had their students write thank you notes to CFC and their comments sum up their experiences nicely.



Thank you for:

Leading us safely along the trail. For teaching us the names of the plants and animals. For helping us pick seeds when the grasses were too tall. For giving us the opportunity to help save the prairie. For fun adventures. For being so kind. For letting us pick your seeds. And finally to sum it up, "With your help, we'll be able to grow a whole 'nother prairie."

Recognizing our volunteers who put in 343.5 hours for this year's program:

- For all you do, we appreciate you.
- For giving time to let us learn about the prairie.
- You guys are the best!
- Thank you for your time.
- Thank you for all that you have done.
- Thank you for letting us come to the prairie and spending your time not doing your other work.



What the children enjoyed:

*I didn't like, but *loved* collecting big bluestem. *When you showed me the garden spider. *I love plants. * I liked seed picking. *Seeing the pond and the

tadpoles. *Sliding my hand through the Indian grass. *The smell of mountain mint, coneflower, and dropseed (the plant that smells like buttered popcorn). *I liked spikey rattlesnake

master. *I liked New England asters. *The praying mantis - that's my favorite. *I liked the bluish purplish gentians. *How easy it is to pick Indian grass. *I wish I lived in the prairie.

What they learned:

1. Galls are wasp nests.
2. The prairie plants are so tall.
3. I saw plants I didn't even know about!
4. We saw a dead bunny and a red-tailed hawk and vulture flying above. The hawk may have killed the bunny and the vulture will eat the left-overs.
5. Compass plants move because of the sun.
6. Milkweed beetles help the pods open.
7. How to pick Indian grass—start from the bottom and pull up.
8. The prairie walk was calming.
9. At first when we pulled off seeds, I thought we were destroying them. But once I learned more, I figured it out! We were spreading plants so new ones would grow - kind of like the milkweed.

As the children got ready to return to their buses, we asked them to list the many plants and animals they had seen during their prairie visits. So here is the final list for these great days of discovery!

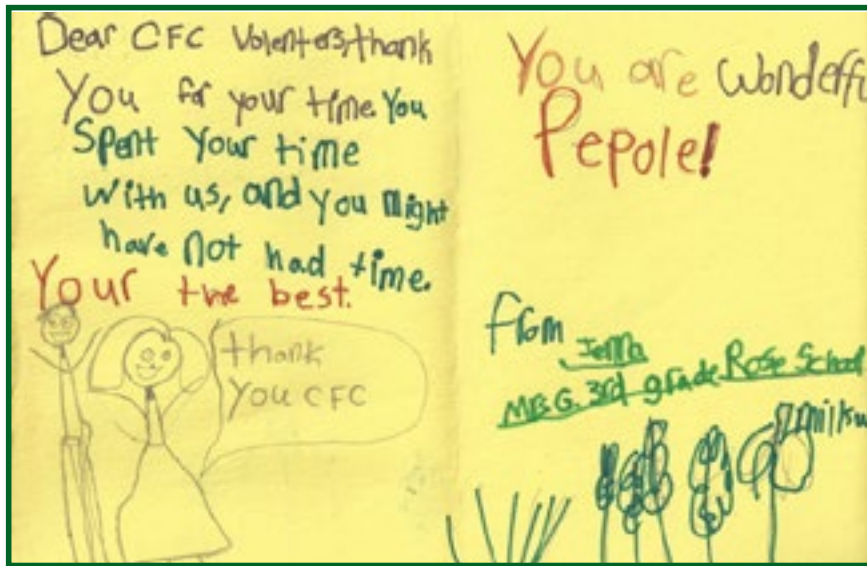


Dragonfly, cricket, monarch butterfly, red-tailed hawk, sandhill cranes, geese, katydid, garter snake, grasshopper, bees, stinkbug, hornet, caterpillar, ladybug, ants, turkey vulture, praying mantis, water strider, snail, tadpole, garden spider, milkweed bugs, frog, pill bug, vole or mouse, duck, damselflies, cicada, gall, turtles, cricket, great blue heron, goldfinches, bluebirds.



Dropseed, sedges, coneflower, brown and black-eyed Susans, rattlesnake master, bottle gentians, little bluestem, big bluestem, acorns and oak trees, Indian grass, New England aster, mountain mint, compass plant, milkweed, stiff goldenrod, sky blue aster, lead plant, wild onion, bergamot (bee balm), switch grass, prairie dock, cup plant, thistle, indigo, stiff gentians, prairie gentians, blazing stars, obedient plant, sawtooth sunflower, Queen Anne's lace, showy goldenrod, walnut trees, fringed gentians, coneflower.

We hope you get a chance to walk a prairie this fall with our new 3rd grade prairie experts; they will open your eyes to the fall beauty and amazing diversity of Illinois prairies!



All photos by Tom Auchter.

CFC thanks grantors

by Peggy Simonsen

CFC has benefited substantially this year with grants from generous community organizations. Grants are a tangible way these organizations show their support for the work our volunteers are doing in land preservation, restoration and education.

We received a grant from **Cuba Township** to expand our Habitat Corridors program. We sent letters to homeowners whose properties abut CFC's nature preserves, inviting them to schedule free consultations to improve the habitat in their yards. Homeowners can eradicate invasive plants, use healthy yard practices and plant native plants helping expand area greenways in addition to CFC's restoration in preserves, for the benefit of birds, butterflies and other pollinators as well as water quality.

Barrington Area Community Foundation funded CFC's new rare plant nursery that will greatly expand our ability to produce seed of conservative native plants for our increasing acreage of preserves. The nursery is made up of raised, covered and fenced beds for prairie, woodland and wetland plants. Seed for these nursery beds comes from our Native Seed Gardener program and seed collected from remnant local ecotype plants found in our existing properties. This seed from rare plants will greatly expand the biodiversity of our restorations.

The Garden Club of Barrington is helping with our innovative wetland restorations by funding the purchase of thousands of sedges. Some of these plant plugs are planted on the edges of wetlands and others are first planted in peat pots which are sunk into the mud of wetlands so they become established on hummocks, as they would naturally. We are constantly fighting invasive reed canary grass and these tough sedges hold their ground to ward off the re-establishment of the invasives.

CFC's Youth & Young Adult Education Committee received funding from **Barrington Junior Women's Club** (BJWC) to create a butterfly garden with Roslyn Road Elementary School. Students, parents and teachers learned the value of native plants to attract and support butterflies and helped with the planting and maintenance of the garden. In addition, BJWC donations helped fund resources for a large purchase of native plants at the CFC Spring Plant Sale for Barrington High School. The purchases were planted in the BHS courtyard as part of a project by the Barrington High School Earth Council.

The Oberweiler Foundation again supported our summer intern program. We hire four college students who are majoring in ecology, conservation or related fields to learn all aspects of CFC's work. They provide hands-on labor and gain substantial field experience working with our restoration director, stewards and youth education leaders. Many of our former interns are now employed in restoration and native landscaping positions.

CFC is very appreciative of this financial support that contributes so much to the work we are doing in the Barrington area. Thank you to all these generous donors!



Roslyn Road butterfly garden. Photo by Amy Kaspar.

Seeking summer interns

CFC provides college students majoring in the environmental sciences a hands-on learning experience through our summer internship program.

For a ten-week period beginning in late May, our interns actively participate in the ongoing restoration of CFC properties. Activities include planting native sedge/forbs, seed gathering, weeding, brush cutting and removal of invasive species. Interns take part in innovative restoration techniques being undertaken at various stages of the land management/restoration cycle.

In addition to the restoration activities, interns assist in CFC's Youth Education program by working with children in activities designed to inspire and encourage future involvement in our ongoing preservation efforts.

Candidates should be currently enrolled in college with a preferred area of study in environmental science or related field.

Interested candidates should email a resume to cfc@citizensforconservation.org.

Volunteer Portrait

Hari Ramakrishnan – BHS Student Liaison

We are pleased to welcome Hari Ramakrishnan as CFC's new Barrington High School (BHS) Student Liaison. This role proved a great success under Lizzy Hucker and we wondered how we would ever replace her. Imagine the relief that such a worthy successor has volunteered.

Hari lives in the Savannah subdivision that abuts Flint Creek Savanna so his involvement with CFC is natural. He is a BHS senior and is interested in environmental engineering. He has also performed environmental science research at DePaul.

In addition to living close by, he remembers participating in 4th graders on the prairie and started volunteering as a result of Lizzy's BHS activities.



Hari (l) seed cleaning. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.

He also went to elementary school with our own Juliann LaRocque's son, so it seems inevitable that he would join us. He began volunteering last winter and generally joins our workdays on a weekly basis. He lists seed collecting as his favorite activity – a popular choice – and looks forward to learning more about all our activities.



Hari about to embark sowing seed. Photo by Patty Barten.

His goal is to continue to increase knowledge of CFC and all it does for the community. He hopes to run an event for high school students and to increase our high school volunteer population. He is inspired by what CFC has accomplished and plans to share that inspiration around BHS.

Hari welcomes hearing from potential student volunteers and is reachable at haris500@gmail.com.

Welcome to the CFC team, Hari!

— Leslie Coolidge

Youth & young adult learning experiences for 2018

by Gail Vanderpoel

Citizens for Conservation offers nature explorations at Flint Creek Savanna in Barrington and other area nature preserves. We have programs designed for **ages 4-18**. This year we are offering nature classes by request only for winter, early spring and fall. Our summer classes will be scheduled as usual for June, July and August. Please visit our website: www.citizensforconservation.org or call 847-382-7283 to schedule a class or if you have questions.

Topics for school, scout, and club **field trips** include:

- Animals in winter
- Birds (offered all year, but join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19)
- Animal homes and habitats
- Insects and spiders
- Mammals
- Plant life cycles
- Pond study
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Mighty acorns
- Earth Day celebrations (April)
- Astronomy (April or May)

In addition, we offer a **speakers bureau** with presentations for young people including visual and hands-on experiences. These sessions are 30-45 minutes in length. Topics include:

- How ecosystem services work for us
- Native landscaping
- Natural history of the prairies in northern Illinois
- Oaks of Lake/Cook County
- Planting for pollinators

CFC Youth Education looks forward to getting young people excited about nature all year long, and we hope to visit with you, guide a nature tour or experience the great outdoors with young people of all ages!

Save the date – Annual Meeting 2018

Please plan to join us for CFC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Onion Pub & Brewery. The program will feature a panel "Nature Crosses Boundaries". Panelists confirmed to date include Steve Packard, Dave Holman and Jim Vanderpoel. We look forward to seeing everyone for an evening of celebrating CFC's accomplishments.

CFC Youth Education reaches many students in the Barrington area

by Gail Vanderpoel

Youth Education volunteers had another successful year helping young people appreciate and learn more about nature. Led by fifteen volunteers, over 700 hours of volunteer time was provided by both committee and non-committee members. We appreciate your willingness to work with kids in the great outdoors. It's the best place to see them discover new things! Each year we provide a schedule of learning opportunities in nature. Favorites continue to be our spring/summer classes: Astronomy, Junior Naturalists Camps, Seining the Creeks of Illinois and Butterflies on the Prairie. Our May Astronomy session prepared participants for the August solar eclipse. Our camps cover two 5-day weeks in June where two age groups participate in daily nature walks to learn about a variety of topics from homes for animals to biodiversity. In July, we take long nets called seines to Illinois creeks to discover our native fish and other wetland creatures. August brings a chance to count butterflies at Flint Creek Savanna and learn about their life cycle and needs.

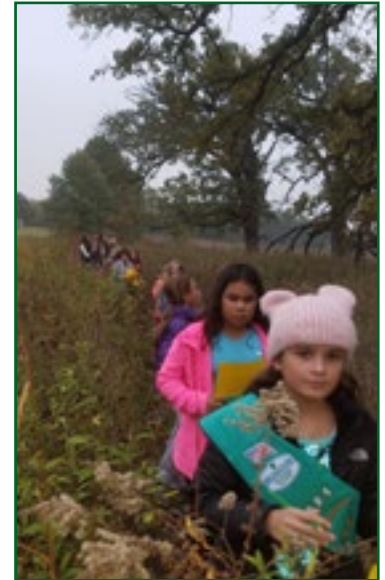
In 2017, several new classes were presented on a variety of topics. CFC held its first Creatures of the Night class featuring local entomologist, Rich Teper. Mr. Teper uses special lights to attract and observe moths on white screens. We also searched for bats and owls, and found many other insects out on a warm July night. CFC also presented classes, nature information and projects at several Barrington schools. We joined a mini-course program being sponsored by the Lines Elementary P.T.O. We gathered materials for bird nests to hang in trees at home, made animal tracks in clay, and planted seeds for our own take-home gardens. Dr. Steve Barten presented a lesson on wildlife photography for Barrington High School (BHS) Photography students. Former Environmental Science teacher Larry Anglada presented views of why restoration is important throughout the world to five BHS classes.

Earth Day activities put us in touch with four different Barrington schools: Countryside Elementary, Barrington High School, Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus and Barrington Middle School-Station Campus. Over five days of presentations and field trips, we worked with approximately 400 students teaching them how to help, volunteer, plant, observe and restore natural environments in the Barrington area. Projects included Baker's Lake trash clean-up, sedge planting at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve, restoration and

conservation presentation for BHS Biology students and a Nature Fair for all ages at Countryside Elementary.

Finally, we held our first summer high school intern program with five BHS seniors. They learned about restoration and our many properties. The interns were paid and worked six hours a day for four days in June. They learned by working with a wide variety of people at several different sites. Interns called it "the toughest job you'll ever love."

Each year we provide activities for scout groups, Eagle Scout projects and hands-on activities at local events such as KidFest and the Barrington Family Expo, sponsored by the Barrington Chamber of Commerce. Our latest scout group was the North Barrington Elementary Troop #1621. They earned their Animal Habitats badge while visiting CFC. We discovered plants and animals in five different types of habitat and discussed how to help make more good habitat for animals.



Girl Scouts on the trail. Photo by Christine McMorris.



Girl Scout habitats badge meeting. Photo by Christine McMorris.

the Prairie Program for the Barrington School District. This program involves hundreds of Barrington students visiting our prairies.

Please check out our events for this year on our website: www.citizensforconservation.org or call to volunteer or receive more information. Our programs cover ages 4-18; see nature through the eyes of the young!

Welcome New Members!

Ayaydin Family
William Miller Family
Barbara Olsen-Wall

Oak donation helps expand Barrington Greenway corridor – Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club joins with CFC

by Patty Barten

Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club (BBRC) recently donated funds for 15 young oaks along with accompanying native shrubs and plants as part of CFC's Acorns to Oaks program. BBRC members and CFC volunteers planted the trees and plants in Flint Creek Savanna on October 17. Under CFC's care and conservation practices, the plantings will play an important role in strengthening plant and animal habitats, and contribute to water quality in the Barrington area.



BBRC and CFC workday volunteers. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

"CFC's desire is to go beyond just planting trees; it is to create complete ecological 'corridors' which are connections that allow the remnants of our native ecosystems to stay in touch. These corridors are vital to our native plant and animal populations and as waystations for migratory birds as well" said Larry Anglada, CFC Acorns to Oaks program head.



Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Across the Barrington community, there are currently fewer native sprouting oaks to replace the sentinel oaks as they die. This is due in part to invasive plants like buckthorn in non-restored areas. CFC's Acorns to Oaks program collects specific

local native acorns, cultivates them, and plants the resulting young trees in new restoration areas. The program engages volunteers, Barrington High School environmental classes and clubs, and local nurseries.

In addition to providing acorns for future trees, these oaks, as they mature, will help protect the Flint Creek Watershed area which is so important to the Barrington community for water recharge and quality.



Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Oak trees also support increased biodiversity.

"Oaks are critical for birds and other wildlife, not only as nesting habitats, but as food. Trees, especially oaks, can provide nuts, berries and acorns. They are especially important for caterpillars, who are dependent on native trees, which can provide up to 90 percent of a young bird's diet" said Daniel Suarez of Audubon Great Lakes.

Rotary has recently added conservation as an impact focus. "Rotary International President Ian Riseley states that 'Rotary can no longer ignore environmental issues'" said BBRC President Kristine Young. "He has directed that one tree be planted for each Rotarian in the world. We are attempting to surpass this goal ...in the Barrington area." BBRC's donation to CFC is part of meeting this goal.



Photo by Donna Bolzman.

CFC welcomed the BBRC as a Barrington Greenway Initiative Supporting Partner on behalf of the coalition of BGI implementing partners. "This is a perfect example of the cooperation and partnerships intended as a fundamental of the BGI program" said Steve Smith, CFC board member. "(BBRC is) committed to dedicating time and resources now and throughout the future to enhance our environment. We are looking forward to putting our combined energies to work, in an ongoing manner, in our new focus on the environment for the benefit of all" said Mark Gibson, environmental liaison and international chair for BBRC.

President's Comments

What happens to all the native seed we collect?

Throughout the late summer and autumn harvest season, CFC volunteers have been busy at work collecting bushels of native seed from our preserves and other natural areas. Back at the CFC barn, we carefully sort the seed by species and let it dry several weeks in airy drawers in our drying room.

To prepare the seed for sowing, we meticulously clean it by separating the seed from the chaff. After the cleaning is complete, we record our harvest by weight and plant type. Next we organize the clean seed in mixtures by landscape type (prairie, open savanna, etc.) and combine with perlite which is a component of soil-less growing mixes that provides optimal moisture retention. After the first frost, we sow the seed in areas being restored to native habitat.

The seed we collect and broadcast is valued in the tens of thousands of dollars. It is used to support our Barrington Greenway Initiative partners including the Forest Preserves of Cook and Lake counties in addition to our CFC properties.

— Tom Crosh

Thank you Silbrico Corporation

Silbrico generously donated 50 bags of KRUM Horticulture Perlite to CFC for our 2017 annual seed mixing event. The perlite is an essential component for success as it helps bond with the tiny seeds for even distribution in the mixing. It also serves as an extender, helping volunteers see where the seed mix has been sown for better coverage during hand sowing. Thank you to Silbrico for supporting nature by sharing your high performance, environmentally friendly perlite with us.



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.



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