

## Marking milestones, celebrating successes

by Gary Schultz and Sarah Hoban

2017 was a year of milestones for Citizens for Conservation, thanks to its volunteers, its members and supporters, and its community partners.

On March 8, more than 220 CFC supporters met to mark those milestones—and plan for the future—at “Nature Crossing Boundaries,” CFC’s 47th annual meeting at the Onion Pub & Brewery in Lake Barrington. The event was a celebration, informational and inspiring.

“Citizens for Conservation is stronger than ever, has a bright future, and is growing and leading,” said outgoing President Tom Crosh. “Supporters and volunteers have stepped up in a big way; we have forged new partnerships; had record-breaking successes; and created new activities—all



*Jane Christino's lovely annual meeting artwork.*

focusing on CFC’s promise to help nature deliver benefits to our community.”

The year’s highlights noted by Tom included:

- A new record level of volunteerism, with volunteers logging 16,346 hours of service—up 23 percent over 2016.
- The continued growth of the Barrington Greenway Initiative (BGI). BGI has brought together six large conservation groups in a collaborative long-term partnership that crosses county, township and village boundaries for greater conservation success.
- The collection of a record-breaking 215 species and 460 pounds of native seed for CFC’s seed bank. More seed was shared back towards helping other preserves this year than was used on CFC’s own preserves thanks to successful seed stewardship programs.

Tom also made special mention of CFC’s recent purchase of four acres of land acquired for preservation. Known as the “Gibbs Property,” located at the northwest corner of U.S. Route 14 and Cuba Road, the purchase from the Village of Lake Barrington expands CFC’s existing Flint Creek Savanna property as part of BGI.

### A “transformational” leader

Members also joined together in a special tribute to longtime CFC leader and restoration director Tom Vanderpoel, who passed away in August. Tom was instrumental in influencing the acquisition and protection of 3,100 acres in the Barrington area.

He also inspired multiple generations of people to volunteer thousands of hours to support CFC’s goals. In an informal tribute, many audience members wore baseball hats to honor Tom—he was never without a hat.

Illinois General Assembly Representative Nick Sauer spoke and noted that Tom’s leadership was “transformational” and that he encouraged the community to work together to solve issues. Nick added that the Illinois General Assembly will be passing a

resolution in Tom's honor next month.

### Panel of leading conservationists: long-term goals and current successes

The evening's main event was an invigorating panel discussion around topics ranging from the importance of regional, long-term conservation planning and actions to current successes and how to best ensure CFC meets key goals in the future.



Well attended annual meeting.  
Photo by Megan West.

Restoration visionary **Stephen Packard** provided an overview of successful land preservation and restoration in the greater Chicago area. "The Chicago region can proudly boast 300,000 acres of conservation land, much of it acquired by county forest preserve and conservation districts with strong public support," he said. "Together we work to provide good stewardship of a complex ecosystem. We're getting better at partnering—for example, CFC, the Cook County and Lake County Forest Preserves, and many other allies. Our mission and importance grow."

**David Holman**, a data specialist and chronicler of natural lands, showed maps of public and private habitats throughout Illinois. He noted despite the fact that the Chicago area is a large metropolitan area with millions of people, much of the land includes forest preserve districts and some of the most ecologically sustainable areas in Illinois. Maps also highlighted the importance that homeowner properties can provide in creating ecosystem linkages.

Lake County Forest Preserves President **Ann Maine** shared her long-term land acquisition and stewardship plan and goals in collaboration with CFC. She talked about LCFP's 100-year vision and said that the Lake County Forest Preserves has created a regional landscape that is "healthy and resilient" to support people, plants and animals. "We are so excited about our partnership with CFC, an organization that has always looked beyond borders and improved our natural world."

CFC's Restoration Director **Jim Vanderpoel** focused on the goals and new efforts for the expanded natural corridor of the Barrington Greenway Initiative, noting how it represents some 14,000 acres of ecosystems and six major conservation groups working collaboratively. Jim also noted that BGI is reintroducing priority native plants and wildlife to the area, and in doing so, helps nature deliver greater benefits to the Barrington area.

### Recognizing contributions and volunteers, 2017 awardees

The increased level of volunteerism and leadership in 2017 was celebrated at CFC's annual meeting. Everyone contributing to the record breaking 16,346 volunteer hours was thanked and several received special recognition for their significant efforts.



Mighty Oak awardees. Photo by Megan West.

#### Mighty Oaks Awards:

- Martha Adams
- Bonnie Albrecht
- Larry Anglada
- Tom Auchter
- Patty Barten
- Donna Bolzman
- Jeanette Burger
- Doe Crosh
- Luke Dahlberg
- Diane Greening
- Katherine Grover
- Barb Herrmann
- Sarah Hoban
- Carol Hogan
- Matt Hokanson
- Randy Holtz
- Lizzy Hucker
- Karl Humbert
- Doug Johnson
- Ted Krasnesky
- Linda Krauss
- Juli LaRocque
- Julia Martinez
- Jerry Maynard
- Usha Murarka
- Rob Neff
- Bob Oliver
- Sam Oliver
- Barb Overbey
- Wendy Paulson
- Hari Ramakrishnan
- Rozanne Ronen
- Wayne Schild
- Cliff Schultz
- Sarah Schultz
- John Schweizer
- Daniel Suarez
- Meredith C. Tucker
- Dave Underwood
- Jessica Underwood
- Dana Underwood
- Gail Vanderpoel
- Jim Voris
- Tamara Voris
- Melissa Washow
- Walter Weinert
- Wes Wolf
- Julie Zuidema

The Mighty Oaks Award is given annually to non-board members who volunteer 50 hours or more. This year 48 people received the award, a significant new record. These volunteers are the core and backbone of CFC's efforts and contribute in varied activities. Many individuals receive this award year after year and contribute far more than 50 hours per year.



Tom Crosh with Karen Rosene.  
Photo by Megan West.

The Bobolink Award for 25 years of service to CFC was awarded to Tom Crosh. Tom also received recognition as Retiring President and special thanks for his leadership over the past three years. Tom said it had been his honor to lead the organization and he is excited about continuing to volunteer with CFC.

The William H. Miller Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation in the greater community beyond CFC. Two awards were given this year for exceptional contributions in the region including efforts supporting the BGI. Both recipients are committed and inspirational leaders and teachers in conservation. Daniel Suarez is an asset to regional conservation organizations like Chicago Wilderness, Audubon Great



Daniel Suarez and Randy Holtz.  
Photo by Megan West.

Lakes, BGI and CFC. He created and is carrying out the “BGI Explore and Restore” event series. Randy Holtz is a Spring Creek Steward and assigned to “the 160”, a significant tract of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. He helped lead a number of BGI activities and regional restoration efforts.

The Great Blue Heron Award is given to the person who best exemplifies significant contributions to CFC. The award is announced as a surprise at the annual meeting. In a year of significant

achievements, two recipients provided distinct contributions. Ginger Underwood led two major events. She managed CFC’s annual native plant sale that coordinates 80 volunteers and provides more than 18,000 plants



Ralph Tarquino and Ginger Underwood.  
Photo by Megan West.

for residents. Ginger also led Ignite the Night, a fundraiser to benefit CFC that was attended by more than 500 people. Ralph Tarquino stepped up to carry forward efforts in restoration after Tom Vanderpoel’s passing. Ralph became the restoration leader, planning events and coordinating volunteers, so that CFC did not miss a step in normal activities. He dedicated countless hours to scouting, organizing, communicating and leading activities.

### Many thanks

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

Thanks to Candy Quinn of The Prairie Basket for the beautiful native floral display and Jane Christino for the sandhill crane artwork. Thanks to Henry Heine of Bag End Loudspeakers/Modular Sound Systems for providing an exceptional sound system. Thanks also to Jim Bodkin and Steve Barten who created the awards. Thank you to photographer Megan West.

Sponsors of the evening’s event included: BMO Harris Bank, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Aronson Fence, as well as ecological service companies Bluestem and ILM.

## BGI momentum and activities continue to grow

by Patty Barten

### Explore and Restore Series

The Barrington Greenway Initiative Explore and Restore Series is a new monthly special 2-hour event that encourages residents to experience the beauty of our area, learn and help nature. Some are workdays which are family friendly events and excellent company volunteer events. Some are expert guided hikes in one of our nature preserves to discover native plants and animals. All are hands-on, be out in nature, meet new people, fun events.

The collaborative workdays are attracting volunteers from as far as 48 miles away. Forty-six volunteers participated in the March 10 brush clearing session at Grassy Lake. Volunteers from each of the partner organizations, CFC, the Great Lakes Naval Base and others all worked together. “There was so much activity that it looked like a busy bee hive” said one volunteer.

The two hours passed quickly filled with lots of fun, meeting new people and doing great things for nature. The next special



Grassy Lake workday. Photo by Patty Barten.

BGI event is April 28 sedge planting at Penny Road Pond. On May 19, there will be a spring hike at Cuba Marsh to see the results of great prior restoration work. All events are 9-11 a.m. with additional details on the CFC website events calendar.

### Official Support

On February 27, the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) passed resolution #18-03 which officially supports BGI. Each of the six Barrington Village Presidents and two Township Supervisors signed their support to pass the resolution. Individual villages are also passing targeted support resolutions and including BGI objectives in their long-range comprehensive plans.

### Special Group Support

A number of local organizations are joining in the fun and important activities. Groups like the Riding Club of Barrington Hills and the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club are scheduling special events to help the BGI efforts. Several club and scout groups are setting up special work events and support activities. BGI is succeeding in crossing political and man-made boundaries to help nature. Come join in the fun!

# Flint Creek Savanna property expansion

by Patty Barten

Citizens for Conservation has exercised its option under the 2010 agreement with the Village of Lake Barrington to purchase additional land at the “Gibbs Property,” located at the northwest corner of U.S. Route 14 and Cuba Road. The



*Map of new addition.*

new parcel of just over four acres will expand its existing Flint Creek Savanna property and bring the total area acquired from the Village since 2010 to over 12 acres. Flint Creek Savanna, located between IL Route 22 and U.S. Route 14, is CFC’s largest preserve with almost 160 acres being preserved and actively restored by its dedicated volunteers.

CFC’s Land Preservation Chairman Alberto Moriondo stated, “We are excited to increase the size of our Flint Creek Savanna property which furthers the goals of our recently launched Barrington Greenway Initiative. This new addition allows us to continue restoration efforts on the southern section of the preserve, which already show visible results along Flint Creek Drive, by extending them over time to a large portion of land along U.S. Route 14, so that thousands of daily commuters can enjoy the views of this beautiful natives scenery.”

In 2017, CFC launched the Barrington Greenway Initiative together with leading conservation organizations and foundations to create linked habitat corridors, increase biodiversity and strengthen local ecosystems for the benefit of the community. CFC’s Flint Creek Savanna plays a key role in this effort by increasing biodiversity, providing cleaner air and water quality, and creating areas where residents can connect with nature.

Lake Barrington Village President Kevin Richardson said, “We are happy to see CFC exercise again their option to increase ownership at the Gibbs property, as part of our multi-year partnership. This underscores not only CFC’s role as our region’s leading conservation organization but Lake Barrington’s vision of partnering with non-profit organizations and other units of government in preserving key

parcels of open space critical to maintaining our community’s character. We value our collaboration with CFC and are very fortunate to have such a dedicated partner in our community as they not only acquire and preserve open space, they engage volunteers to restore it to its natural condition.”

With over 440 acres under management and having helped protect over 3,500 acres in the Barrington area since its founding in 1971, CFC is constantly looking for opportunities to preserve and restore natural lands. CFC anticipates that the purchase transaction will close soon.

## Earth Day celebrations with CFC

Citizens for Conservation will continue our tradition of “saving living space for living things” with our April Earth Day events. Here’s a list of what is planned for 2018:

- **April 19 – Restoration Workday, 9-11 a.m.**  
Breakfast and special prizes provided. Meet some of our amazing volunteers who come every week to maintain and improve our beautiful preserves as well as those that are still works in progress.
- **April 21 – Earth Day Celebration and Workday, 9-11 a.m.** at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. Join us to plant thousands of sedges under the oaks. Enjoy the teamwork spirit as we work in groups to put healthy native plants under the gigantic oaks while we enjoy the sunlight filtering through. A light lunch will follow the event where you can visit with volunteers of all ages.
- **April 22 – Nature Walk at Flint Creek Savanna, 1-3 p.m.** Join us for a guided tour of our largest preserve, and learn more about our local efforts to save and restore native prairies and ecosystems. What could be a better way to celebrate Earth Day than by taking a spring trail walk to look for birds and flowers in an oak savanna, sedge meadow and prairie restored by many years of dedication and downright hard work?

All events will begin at CFC Headquarters, 459 W. Hwy. 22, Lake Barrington.

In addition, our Youth Education Committee will provide schools, scouts and other youth groups the opportunity

to schedule Earth Day events. These can include outdoor activities, tours of our preserves, in-class presentations, and so much more. Last year’s Earth Day involved hundreds of young people from 5 area schools. These special events can be scheduled from April 16th through April 28th.

Let’s all make every day Earth Day!



*Baker’s Lake student cleanup.  
Photo by Bob Lee.*

## **The aromas of the prairie**

Many times in the past, CFC's restoration report has encouraged members to visit our preserves, especially the two most visitor friendly and well established ones – Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna. I have written about the non-stop parade of wildflowers blooming from early April through mid-October. I once wrote about the underrated Illinois fall



*Black-eyed Susan. Photo by Donna Bolzman.*

color of both our woods and prairie. Just seeing the dappled sunlight lighting up the lush green understory of one of our open savannas is worth a visit. Our preserves provide delight to the ears too – the prairie birds like the Henslow's sparrow, the bobolink, the eastern meadowlark and the dickcissel rival the warbling of the brown thrasher, rose-breasted grosbeak and scarlet tanager of the oak woods. Birdsong is not the only pleasant sound you'll hear – the babbling of clear water leaving the sloughs in our prairie rivulets is equally wonderful as is the humming of the pollinators swarming the peak wildflower display of the August wetland.

In this report, I urge members to enjoy our restorations with another sense – the sense of smell. The scent parade begins in late April with the wild plum and Iowa crab bloom – these members of the rose family emit that classic rose smell, which must be as pleasant to pollinators as it is to humans, because the insects swarm these plants when they flower. While many individual wildflowers, such as prairie violet, vanilla grass and Michigan lily smell great if you get up close and sniff, you have to wait until the late summer before the fragrances fill the entire atmosphere. All of the mint family members possess the chewing gum mint flavor – in August, many mints flower at once in the wet prairie: mountain mint, bugleweed, water horehound and hedge nettle, but the strongest of all is the common mint.

The upland prairie boasts the most unique aroma – the flowers and seeds of prairie dropseed remind people of movie theater buttered popcorn. It blooms at the same time as the ladies tresses orchid. The buttery odor of the grass and vanilla odor of the orchid mingle to create a very favorable sensation, but they evoke a bittersweet feeling for me because it is probably the most beautiful time of the year on the prairie, but they warn that summer is ending and winter won't be long in coming.

It's not just the flowers that excite the sense of smell – northern bedstraw foliage emits a faint new-mown hay smell when it goes dormant. Volunteers picking savanna seed in the fall note that the seeds of yellow pimpernel smell of fresh celery and the seeds of starry catchfly, the one bad apple that spoils the aroma bunch, reek of sweaty gym socks.

All this being said, my award for the aroma champion goes to the aptly named sweet black-eyed Susan. Its sugary fragrance starts with the bloom, but continues to smell just as nice as the seeds ripen and the foliage turns brown and dries for the winter. I caught a whiff of its dried stems at a late January brush cutting workday!

So visit our preserves this year and keep your eyes, ears and noses open.

— Jim Vanderpoel

## **Meet our new Restoration Program Manager – Kevin Scheiwiller**

by Patty Barten

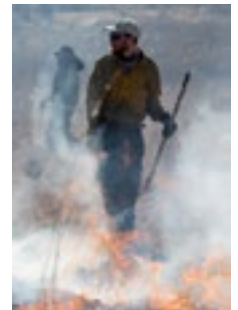


*Kevin Scheiwiller. Photo by Patty Barten.*

High quality restorations are an important value that CFC delivers to the community. To continue our excellent processes and history of success, CFC is pleased to have Kevin Scheiwiller join our team as Restoration Program Manager.

The new role of Restoration Program Manager is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of ecological restoration and natural area management plans on lands owned by CFC. In addition, Kevin will support the efforts to restore areas prioritized by the Barrington Greenway Initiative and other local areas as prioritized by CFC's Restoration Committee.

Kevin is well known in the Chicago regional conservation community and a familiar face at CFC workdays. He joins CFC having been the Ecological Restoration Field Lead at Stantec where he was responsible for the planning, coordination and safety of crews and volunteers performing on-going ecological restoration projects in all types of ecosystems. Kevin also has collaborated with site stewards, Forest Preserves of Cook County staff and others in the creation of restoration management plans as well as training volunteers and supervising interns. He holds degrees in Environmental Science and was a research fellow at Loyola University.



*Kevin at Grigsby burn. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.*

Kevin says he is excited to be joining CFC with its legacy of conservation success. He has already made big contributions by performing key roles in CFC's recent prescribed burns.

Please welcome Kevin into this new important role. Come volunteer, help nature and get to know Kevin.

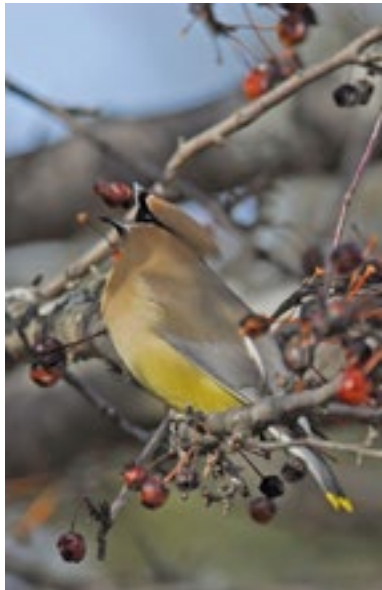
# Barrington area birds – from natural areas to your backyard

by Peggy Simonsen

On January 20, Judy Pollock presented her program on Barrington area birds to an enthusiastic full house (70+) at the Barrington Village Hall. Judy is a Bird Conservation Consultant with Living Habitats and former Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Chicago Region. She discussed the kind of habitats that specific bird species, many whose populations are declining, seek in natural areas, and best practices to develop habitat to attract those birds to our yards.

The Barrington area is host to many species, some that nest here and others that migrate through. The first requirement of landscaping for migratory birds is structural diversity. Judy recommends including three or four different levels of plantings. Sites with a few tall and short trees, a dense shrubby area or two, plus sections of grasses and flowers will provide food and shelter for many different birds.

Using a variety of native plants can offer different kinds of food for both the spring and fall migration seasons. Gardens offer spring migrants insects to catch, nectar to drink, ground to scratch in and buds to eat. Berries and seeds are the big food sources in fall. The insect-eating birds tend to pass through early in the fall, in late August and September, when food is still abundant. They will search for tiny critters in all the trees and shrubs recommended for spring migrants, and others. When trees begin to drop their leaves, birds will shift to grassy areas such as prairies and savannas, which still harbor insect food. Prairies are important for fall migrants because insects are active there longer, and also because they are full of nutritious seeds for seed-eating birds. A diverse garden with native flowers and grasses that flower or bear seed in fall will be heartily appreciated by fall migrants. (See Judy's article at <http://greatlakes.audubon.org/birds/planting-chicago-area-migratory-birds>)



Cedar waxwing. Photo by Judy Pollock.

Good habitat in our yards promotes connectivity in the larger greenway of restored prairies, savannas, woodlands and wetlands, benefitting all the birds of the Barrington area.

# Chicago Living Corridors

by Peggy Simonsen

Chicago Area Living Corridor Alliance (aka Chicago Living Corridors or CLC) was started by leaders from two Wild Ones chapters, the Conservation Foundation, the McHenry County Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee and CFC to expand the concept of Habitat Corridors and Conservation at Home throughout the Chicago area. The mission is to be a resource, catalyst and collaborator with as many groups as possible in the area that provide ecological services for privately owned land. The primary development so far is the website, [www.chicagolivingcorridors.org](http://www.chicagolivingcorridors.org). It provides habitat development guidelines, lists of native plants, providers and services, and a showcase for all of the various efforts in the area. We have developed a robust map of private properties with good habitat, coded by which organization is assisting. The site will also highlight programs and events from participating partner organizations.



So far, all of this work has been done by volunteers, but we have just hired a part-time administrator (CFC intern Sarah Voska applied and was hired!) to manage social media and help with an outreach campaign to find sponsors to help fund the organization. I have been impressed with how many organizations that have related programs are expressing interest in being connected with CLC, such as the Field Museum, University of Illinois Chicago, Rights of Way Organization and many others. If you know of individuals outside the Barrington area who are interested in creating or improving habitat in their yards, please refer them to this resource.

There are a lot of restoration efforts happening in the Chicago area, with CFC and our Barrington Greenway Initiative as one of the leaders. Please take a minute to check out the website: [www.chicagolivingcorridors.org](http://www.chicagolivingcorridors.org). I think you will be impressed with the development of Chicago Living Corridors in less than three years.

## Welcome New Members!

Barrington Area  
Conservation Trust  
Dee Budelier  
Judie and Tom Hermsen  
Kevin and Heidi Horcher  
Annemarie Howe  
Elizabeth Jablonski

Kathleen Leitner  
Mark Micek  
Kathy Perkowitz  
William Reid  
Gary Schmitz

# Becoming a citizen scientist

by Carol Rice

On Saturday, February 17, over 50 people attended CFC's second winter program. Four speakers shared their enthusiasm about being a citizen scientist, describing their own personal experience with different projects. Speakers were Brandie Dunn who monitors native bees; Kris Hall monitors plant phenology (the study of life cycle events); Meredith Tucker monitors backyard birds; and Tom Poklan monitors butterflies.

All of the projects had a major element in common –scientific organizations use the observations of dedicated volunteers to record information about the designated subject to add to the body of scientific knowledge. Although all of them have to follow certain protocols or reporting forms, some projects allow for more self-direction.

Brandie was the first speaker and her enthusiasm for bees was quite evident. She referred to bumblebees as the teddy bears of the bee world. We have heard of the plight of the honeybee, but she explained that honey bees are not native, and, though facing certain population challenges, are not endangered, and in fact compete with native bees. Our native bumblebees are experiencing serious population declines and one species is endangered.

She described two different citizen science projects, [BumblebeeWatch](#), a Xerces project, and [Beespotter](#), out of the University of Illinois. Both projects involve taking bee photos and uploading them to the appropriate website, with identification (or a best guess). She explained that Illinois has 9 species of bumblebee and so is somewhat less challenging than Michigan, which has 19 species of bumblebees. The projects provide good training materials.

The phenology project described by Kris Hall was a project of the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), and was a follow-up to a 1982-1987 project. The study covered 327 species of plants. The volunteers made a three-year commitment from 2012-2014 and had a designated area to monitor. MCCD provided a lot of support including a tour of the area conducted by Plant Ecologist Laurie Ryan. The citizen scientist recorded stages of development of the species, with attention to the time of development of both the leaves and the blossoms. Results were compared with the results from the earlier study.

Meredith Tucker shared her enthusiasm about [Project FeederWatch](#). This project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology operates November through April and asks volunteers to count birds seen at their feeders and to enter the data online. There are protocols for how to assess the numbers seen. The project helps inform scientists about changes in bird populations and consider the effects of disease and other impacts. Volunteers count two days a week.

Tom Poklan's project is the [Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network](#) of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, with volunteers identifying and counting butterflies on a designated route six times a year. Emphasis is on natural areas. The project started in 1987 because of habitat restoration.

Butterflies are good study subjects, since they are active during the day, are easy to identify, and don't require specialized equipment – just a net, jar, binoculars and a field guide. There is an annual training session and electronic data storage.

Being a citizen scientist is a wonderful way to get involved in helping species that interest you and add to the scientific information. It gets you out in the field and adds to your own knowledge. If any of these projects appeal to you, check out their websites, or visit [chicagolivingcorridors.org](http://chicagolivingcorridors.org) for a more extensive list of projects.

## New important volunteer opportunity – rare native seed nursery beds

CFC and Native Seed Gardeners have joined together to cultivate rare native plants and seeds for our area. New special nursery beds were built and planted at CFC last year to cultivate these rare native plants and seeds thanks to a generous grant from Barrington Area Community Foundation for materials and CFC volunteer efforts to build and plant them. The beds have such rare native plants and seeds that



*Spreading dirt in nursery beds.  
Photo by Ralph Tarquino.*

they are now protected from hungry deer and birds. Cultivated native plants and seeds will be distributed back into our community preserves to re-establish specific species to

increase the health of the lands. This will attract new pollinators and wildlife that increase biodiversity and help nature.

New tiny green shoots are now pushing up through the soil from last fall's plantings. We need volunteers to help support these beds with loving care for these precious rare plants. Please come learn, have fun, and join others who want to help nature. Tools, gloves and expert knowledge will be provided. Meet on Thursdays and/or Saturdays, beginning April 12, for just two short hours, 9-11 a.m. at CFC Headquarters. For more information, contact CFC at 847-382-7283 or [nativeseedgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:nativeseedgardeners@gmail.com). Come help in this critically important effort.



*Planting. Photo by Donna Bolzman.*

## 2018-2019 CFC Board

Three new members were elected to the CFC Board at this year's annual meeting along with a balancing of terms across all the board members.

New board members include:

**Kathleen O'Neill Leitner:** *President.* Kathleen is a civic-minded attorney and was a multi-term village president of Tower Lakes. She was an eight-year member of the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG), serving as Executive Board chairperson in 2011. She continued by serving on Legislative, Finance, Policy and Long-Range Planning committees. Kathleen represented BACOG in the formation of the 70-community Northwest Water Planning Alliance, a collaborative plan to share groundwater resources. She is an active community volunteer and the founder and a member of the Tower Lakes Community Foundation.

**Larry Anglada:** *Interns and school liaison.* Larry has advanced degrees in zoology, biology, curriculum and instruction and secondary education, with additional research in conservation. He holds eight distinguished state and national-level awards and recognition for education and teaching. Larry brings his firsthand knowledge of school systems as he has been an instructor in all levels of biology and environmental studies including Advanced Placement programs. Even before his recent retirement, Larry was an active CFC volunteer and is now looking forward to new opportunities with local schools and colleges.

**Mark Younger:** *Sponsorship.* Mark is creating a new role, coordinating sponsorship and further engagement with the community. He is a familiar face to those who volunteer for restoration events, and he brings more than 25 years of experience as a certified arborist, was past president of the Illinois Arborist Association, and was the municipal director of the 501(c)3 Tree Fund supporting education. Mark brings his enthusiasm, knowledge and creativity, along with business and local connections.

### Director elections

The Board Development Committee also focused on balancing the number of directors to be elected each year. As a result, some directors were elected to one-year terms, while others will have three-year terms.

Approved terms included:

One-year terms:

Edith Auchter  
Gene Branson  
Peggy Simonsen

Three-year terms:

Larry Anglada  
Leslie Coolidge

Barb Cragan  
Kathleen Leitner  
Karen Rosene  
Mark Younger

The new officers for 2018 are:

President – Kathleen Leitner  
Vice President – Ralph Tarquino  
Secretary – Leslie Coolidge  
Treasurer – Edith Auchter

The board remains at the prior total of 18 directors.

## Kathleen's initial thoughts

by Leslie Coolidge

Shortly after the annual meeting, I touched base with Kathleen Leitner to discuss her initial plans as she assumes the presidency of CFC.

First I asked her why she agreed to become President of an organization she's new to. She responded that during her terms as Tower Lakes Village President and with BACOG she learned how important aquifers are to water quality and the role that native plants play in water filtration. She appreciates how important CFC is to our quality of life.

She'd been looking for a new way to get involved and knowing the good that CFC does, she's excited to be a part of raising our profile regionally, if not more widely.

I asked about her preliminary plans and she said there are lots of opportunities. She'd like to provide more formal organization to the BGI and its partners. We've identified good strategies and she'll work to see them executed. She believes it helpful that she brings an outside perspective and can ask questions and add structure. Her relationships with BACOG will also be an asset.

We all look forward to what Kathleen can accomplish as she settles into her role. You'll be hearing more from her soon.



## Plan to build habitat with plant sale purchases

We had six inches of snow last night, and more is on the way. The birds are hungry, but the earth is happy; it finally has a winter blanket. Under the snow, habitat is resting, and it's exactly the right time for everyone to plan native plant purchases from the annual CFC Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale.

Am I being foolish to mention hungry birds, snow and habitat in the same paragraph? I don't think so. When our Habitat Corridors volunteers visit homeowners, we recommend they add native plants to their properties to build habitat for the birds, other wildlife and the health of the environment. They all go together. If you have native shrubs that produce berries, you are creating habitat and helping the birds. If you have a river birch or a shagbark hickory, you are providing sites under the bark where butterflies like the mourning cloak can spend the winter.

If you're looking for a great small tree for a sunny spot, please consider a prairie crab, *Malus ioensis*. I think its blossoms are the prettiest

I've seen on any tree, and the pollinators love them. The trees produce lots of apples that are larger than cultivar crabapples, and wildlife uses them. The apples disappear.

When I visit homes, the first tree I recommend is usually an oak. If the habitat is appropriate, I recommend a bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, the king of all trees.

The bur oak was the savanna species that thrived here before settlers arrived. It exemplifies strength and longevity with its rough bark and gnarled branches, its sweet acorns, large and stiffly fuzzy. You must have some space for this large tree as well as the mindset to prevent boisterous activity inside its drip line. Its roots don't like compacted soil.

If you are thinking of a shrub, consider a species of viburnum. These bushes come in many shapes and sizes, but almost

all have pretty white flowers in the summer and, in the fall, berries that birds adore. The fruit won't last long. Consider buying three or more of the same species of viburnum as they look great in groups or as a living fence. Planted in a secluded area, one might harbor the nest of a native bird.



*Prairie smoke.* Photo by Meredith Tucker.

The list of forb (flower) species goes on and on. You will have tall plants (like Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium purpureum*) and short plants (like prairie smoke, *Geum triflorum*) and everything in between from which to choose. Each provides its own benefits to the natural environment. Joe Pye is especially attractive to butterflies!

Finally, don't forget the native grasses and sedges. They impart structure to keep the flowering plants upright; they provide ground cover to prevent weeds, and they ensure that the rain water stays where it falls instead of running off. They are beautiful in their own right. Choose grasses of appropriate heights and requirements to fit your habitat. I'm especially fond of prairie dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*, and little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, for homeowners. They are well behaved and beautiful. For any damp spots in your yard, there are many sedges that can fill the areas beautifully.

Please call CFC if you are interested in having a free home visit from one of our Habitat Corridors volunteers this spring or summer. We will begin scheduling in April. We'd love to help you select plants to purchase at CFC's Native Plant Sale, but we'd also be happy just to see your yard and suggest some environmentally friendly possibilities.

— Meredith Tucker



*Joe Pye Weed blossom.* Photo by Meredith Tucker.

## Articles welcome

Do you have an idea for an article for *CFC News*? We welcome submissions on topics of interest to CFC members. If you'd like to submit an article, please direct your idea to our editor Leslie Coolidge at [cfc@citizensforconservation.org](mailto:cfc@citizensforconservation.org).

# Native plants for wet areas

by Karen Rosene

CFC held its third of four Community Education programs on March 17 at the Barrington Village Hall. Meredith Tucker presented the fascinating program, "Native Plants for Wet Areas."

The Community Education programs usually begin with a guest talking about how and when their interest in nature and natives started. This time Meredith shared her own history, crediting her mother with being way ahead of her time. She recalls going to the Natural Gardens in St. Charles with her mother in their Studebaker to experience and learn about prairies and plants, native of course.



Elderberry just past full bloom.  
Photo by Meredith Tucker.

The program handout listed 14 trees, 11 shrubs, 17 flowers and 5 sedges. Each line item was accompanied by commentary as well as beautiful photos taken by a variety of CFC members and friends, many from CFC members' properties.

What benefits do wet areas provide?

- Preserve hydrology
- Filter pollutants
- Attract wildlife
- Beautify

If you don't have wet areas, plant water loving plants at the bottom of a downspout. Sump pump water is usable, too. Laundry water is okay if bio-degradable soaps are used and recharge water from softeners containing potassium chloride is good too.

## Trees that like water:

Both the swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) and pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) like water, and Meredith swears they are not that slow-growing.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is a good replacement for the elm tree. They are hardy and usually easy to grow.

Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*) are beautiful and attract wildlife. The latter is the host tree for the mourning cloak butterfly.

What else? Cottonwood, tamarack, pussy willow, red and silver maple, sycamore and finally the eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), aka arborvitae.

A very beautiful old stand of arborvitae can be found in Trout Park along the Fox River near the Elgin Academy.

**Water loving shrubs:** There were 11. Just a few:

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) turns yellow and has a citrus smell. The berries are good for birds. Because these shrubs are male and female, plant 3 or 4 to get berries.

Wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*) is a relatively short shrub, about 3 feet. Birds love the berries.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) attracts birds, including robins and cedar waxwings in the early spring.



Royal catchfly. Photo by Donna Bolzman.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is easy to grow, and the copious berries are all eaten quickly.

**Forbs:** 17 on the handout. Just a few:

Showy black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia speciosa*).

Marsh Milkweed (*Asclepius incarnata*) is the Monarch's favorite milkweed.

Royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) adds a striking red to the garden.

Wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) is a long-lived perennial.

And so many more. The slides were inspiring.

Meredith thanked Annamarie Lukes and Wayne Schild for their technical and aesthetic contributions.

## The value of ants: living with and loving them

Don't miss our April 14 Community Education program by Dr. Sean Menke, Assistant Professor of Biology at Lake Forest College. Dr. Menke will discuss the role of ants in the landscape and in your yard, and their essential function in healthy ecosystems. Learn why they are important to study, how they are used to monitor restoration, and the common species in our area. This is sure to be another program full of information for gardeners and those working to improve habitat and increase biodiversity in their yards.

This program will be held at the Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough St. Come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and information about CFC activities. The program runs from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Offered free as a benefit of CFC membership, \$10 for non-members. Please register by calling 847-382-7283 or by email at [communityed@citizensforconservation.org](mailto:communityed@citizensforconservation.org).

## It's the Year of the Bird!

The year 2018 marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the "Year of the Bird" and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.

Join National Geographic, National Audubon Society, Birdlife International and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in celebrating the Year of the Bird.

Make it a better world for birds, starting right now! Sign up at the official website ([www.birdyourworld.org](http://www.birdyourworld.org)), and receive emails with monthly projects, inspiring stories and things you can do to help birds. Birds need you! Signup now and show them you are there for them. Want to know more? Check out National Geographic's website for more information.



Great horned owl. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.

## Time to renew your membership

Take a moment to think about your membership in Citizens for Conservation. 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 plus 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 like 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 or if you are not a recurring member, the annual membership brochure will be arriving in April. 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. If you are not a recurring member, please renew online or by mail with the envelope in the April brochure.

## Barrington area spring bird walks & hikes

Cosponsored by Audubon Great Lakes 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 13, 8 a.m.— Cuba Marsh (Park in parking lot off east side of Lake Zurich Rd. just south of EJ&E RR tracks. Lake Zurich Rd. runs between Rt. 14 and Cuba Rd.)

May 2, 8 a.m.— Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd. off of Palatine Rd.)

May 15, 7:30 a.m. — Deer Grove East (entrance on north side of Dundee Rd., west of Hicks Rd., east of Smith St. Go to farthest parking area) with **optional extension** to Younghusband Prairie (entrance on north side of Dundee Rd., east of Prairie Middle School)

May 16, 3:30 p.m. — Baker's Lake for students and adults (parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 18, 7:30 a.m.— Beverly Lake\* (parking lot on north side of Higgins Rd./Rt. 72, east of Rt. 25, west of Beverly Rd.)

May 21, 8 a.m. — Crabtree Nature Center (as above)

May 29, 7:00 a.m.—Headwaters\* (parking lot on Wichman Rd. off north side of Rt. 72, ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

June 6, 7:00 a.m.— Galloping Hill\* (meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot, less than a mile west of Old Sutton/Penny Rd. intersection)

June 17, 5:00 p.m.— Galloping Hill\* (as above)

\*indicates a more strenuous hike

Please RSVP to: Daniel Wear at [dwear@audubon.org](mailto:dwear@audubon.org) or (312) 453-0230, Ext. 2010 and let us know how best to contact you should that be necessary.

## CFC plant sale set for May 5-6

Here's a great way to welcome spring: CFC will hold its 22nd annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 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.

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 Sarah Hoban.

Pre-sale online ordering will be available through April 10. All the plants for the sale may be ordered online, and orders are filled on a first-come-first-filled basis. Pickup date for preorders is Friday, May 4, 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 4, and members get a 10 percent discount all days.

The online store is on CFC's website, [www.citizensforconservation.org](http://www.citizensforconservation.org). If you have questions, please call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).



Photos by Sarah Hoban.



## 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 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](mailto:communityed@citizensforconservation.org). Attendance is \$10 per program; CFC members admitted free.

### **Youth Education Programs**

April 16-28: Earth Day Celebrations – see separate article.

#### June 11-15: Beginning Naturalists Camp

Join us for 5 days of fun discovering and observing nature through daily nature hikes and activities. Camp runs from 9-11:30 a.m. and is for ages 4-6.

#### June 18-22: Junior Naturalists Camp

Explore Flint Creek Savanna and Grigsby Prairie to discover biodiversity and learn about some amazing animals and plants! Camp runs from 9-11:30 a.m. and is for ages 7-10.

### **Annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale**

May 4-6: Preordering 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.

### **Barrington Greenway Initiative Explore & Restore Series**

April 28: Sedge planting, Penny Road Pond (between Old Sutton and Healy Rd., Barrington Hills)

May 19: Spring Hike, Cuba Marsh, 24205 W. Cuba Rd., Deer Park

June 9: Sedge planting, 24205 W. Cuba Rd., Deer Park

All events from 9-11 a.m.

# Girl Scout events start off the year

by Gail Vanderpoel

CFC Youth Education provided activities for two Girl Scout troops in the early part of 2018. First we met with Cadet Troop 376 from Lake Zurich Middle School South to explore "Animals in Winter." This event was held at CFC's Vanderpoel Conservation Easement on February 15. The first portion of the class involved bird observations for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The girls were presented with pictures of common winter birds in our area, and a little history about the bird count. We got out the binoculars and observed bird feeders on the north and south sides of the house. We saw the following:

- 1 red-bellied woodpecker
- 3 downy woodpeckers
- 1 blue jay
- 4 black-capped chickadees
- 2 purple finches
- 5 American goldfinches
- 3 dark-eyed juncos
- 5 northern cardinals
- 1 white-breasted nuthatch
- 36 Canada geese (seen on our prairie walk at the next door neighbor's pond)



Examining deer bones. Photo by Linda Coady.



Observing animal tracks. Photo by Linda Coady.

Of course we also saw both gray and fox squirrels in the oaks and on the ground eating bird seed.

Next we examined life-size animal track replicas, and went outside to scout for animal tracks in the snow. As we headed down the hill towards the prairie, we saw many deer tracks, but also discovered some coyote tracks. We followed them to a deer carcass which was quite an exciting find. The girls closely examined the deer bones and we then returned to the house. We reviewed our bird lists and finished the afternoon by making tube bird feeders from quart-size water bottles to hang and attract birds in each girl's yard.

Our next event was held on February 23 at Lines Elementary School in Barrington. We presented a class on flowers to 4th



Girl Scout Troop 609. Photo by Julie Novak, troop leader.

grade Girl Scout Troop 609. The girls viewed posters of native woodland and prairie flowers, and we discussed flowers they had seen during their visit to Flint Creek Savanna as 3rd graders. We reviewed the life cycle of a flower, as well as the parts of a flower, and we discussed how flowers need pollination by bees to create seeds to reproduce themselves. The girls learned that flower petals are colorful to attract pollinators.

Finally, we showed ways to preserve and dry flowers. Candy Quinn of Prairie Basket Florist provided fresh flowers for the girls to press between two pieces of paper and take home. She showed an example of artwork she had made with pressed flowers. Each girl made a bookmark with dried pressed flowers and we laminated them.

If you are interested in having a nature class for your children, school or scout troop, please visit our website ([www.citizensforconservation.org](http://www.citizensforconservation.org)) or call us for more information (847-382-7283).

## President's Comments

As I reflect on my past three years as CFC's president, I've seen this organization mature and adapt in so many ways—the most significant being the adoption of the Barrington Greenway Initiative. In BGI we have, in essence, put forth a vision to meld high quality native habitat into a cohesive whole.

The greater Barrington area is blessed with a tremendous amount of open space across four counties. Imagine our communities on this land as it existed 200 years ago: this captures the vision of BGI. Of course, recreating this landscape is impossible as modern society has dictated many changes and conveniences for our lives. Yet, there is pearl in some of our practices that threaten our co-existence with Mother Nature.

Think of CFC as the holistic medical practitioner stepping in, recognizing the symptoms, and prescribing a way to live in harmony with nature. As examples, witness the born-again health of Grigsby Prairie, Flint Creek Savanna and Cuba Marsh.

Our partners in BGI are Audubon Great Lakes, Bobolink Foundation, Friends of the Forest Preserves, and the Forest Preserves of Cook, Lake and McHenry counties. They're all engaged in restoring native habitat to help Mother Nature recover from decades of abuse. With persistence we can find the balance needed to live in harmony with nature.



Tom Crosh. Photo by Megan West.

I'm so grateful for the financial contributions of CFC members and corporate supporters and for the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. You're making this vision a reality.

It has been an honor to have served as president for the past three years. I'm truly inspired by Citizens for Conservation!

— 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.



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