



## Citizens for Conservation acquires land for restoration

by Sarah Hoban and Patty Barten

In early March, CFC announced that it had acquired two parcels of land that are significant additions towards achieving our 25-year strategic goal of linked ecosystems in the Barrington area.

One parcel was acquired from Arthur Rice II and Lynn Rice and is to the west of CFC's Craftsbury Preserve (across Hart Road), which is currently being restored. CFC plans to consolidate the preserve with the new 31-acre parcel creating a single preserve, divided by Hart Road. The new preserve will be 53 acres, and will be CFC's second-largest preserve, after Flint Creek Savanna.

The other parcel of nearly five acres on West Oak Knoll Road in Barrington Hills was generously donated to CFC by the Joan Y. Mullins Trust. The land is near Grigsby Prairie and is adjacent to the open space of Barrington Hills Country Club. CFC will be developing land management plans for the property in the future.

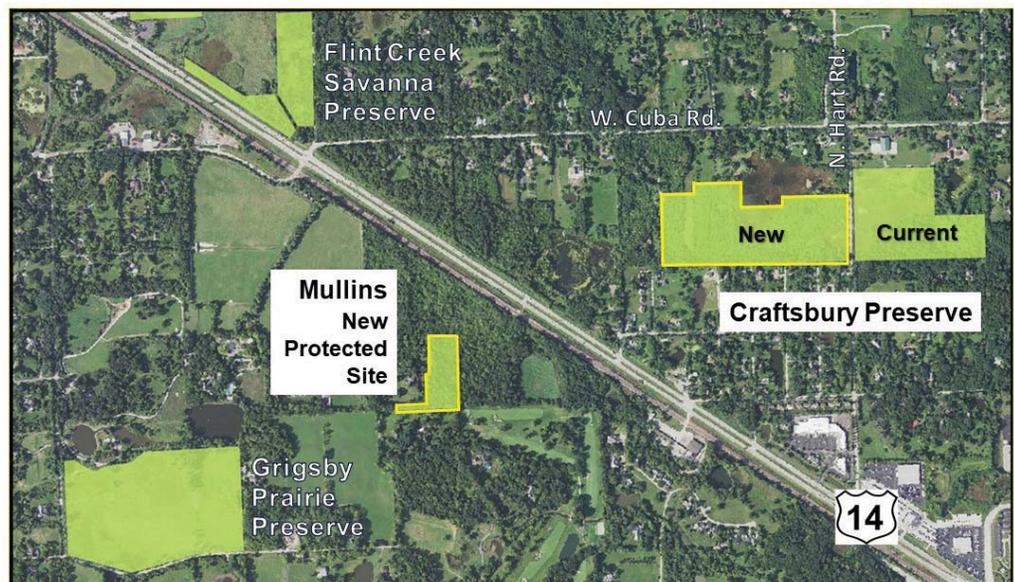
The acquisitions are important to CFC for a number of reasons, said Kevin Scheiwiller, CFC's Restoration Program Manager. "The new Craftsbury tract of land offers rolling topography and wetland depressions left over as the last glaciers receded from this area. It also contains the remainder of the main wetland from the original Craftsbury (East) donation. Even though all you can currently see from Hart Road is buckthorn and cattails, there are still small pockets of remnant, conservative species hanging on at this site. The removal of buckthorn will allow residents of the Barrington area

to enjoy the 53 acres of rolling grasslands while furthering the ecological health of this site."

Kevin added that the Mullins land donation is a "vital parcel of open land within the Flint Creek Watershed, helping to further the Barrington Greenway. The property lies in between Grigsby Prairie, Paganica Prairie, and the remnant prairie along the Metra tracks. It will take quite a bit of effort to re-establish native vegetation on this preserve, but it is now protected as open space from future development."

"CFC is thrilled to add these properties and thanks the many people, donors and volunteers who have worked to help CFC acquire these parcels," said Kathleen Leitner, CFC board president.

With the new acquisitions, CFC now owns and manages more than 476 acres and for the past 48 years has helped protect almost 3,500 acres in the Barrington area.



*Illustrative map by Citizens for Conservation.*

## Cabbages, not just for pelting actors anymore

For those members eager to learn the plants of the Barrington area, the Restoration Committee recommends learning the plants by family. Once an observer knows the characteristic attributes of a plant family, it narrows down the search and makes it far easier to identify individual species. Eight previous reports have covered some of the most varied families found at our restoration sites. The subject of this report is the Cabbage family (the Brassicaceae). The cabbages differ greatly in shape and foliage, but they are easily identified by their flowers; all of which are perfectly symmetrical crosses formed by four petals, two on the vertical axis, and two on the horizontal. From above, the cross usually appears tilted at a forty-five degree angle. The cross shaped flower inspired the former name for this family, the crucifers.

In general, this is a very weedy family; of the thirty-four genera listed in Wilhelm and Rericha's *Flora of the Chicago Region*, twenty-five have no native members. This family contains such dubious members as the shepherd's purse, dame's rocket, field mustard and the notorious garlic mustard!

The family does have merit as a provider of food, including the namesake cabbage, but also watercress, horseradish, turnip, mustard and radish. We do restore several family members to our preserves and have identified a couple more that we have never collected, but which seem to be in our range and our habitat.

Toothwort is the most familiar family member and is one of the key spring ephemerals of our oak woods. It was common in the remnant woods of Baker's Lake and has been easy to establish in the oak groves of Flint Creek by plant rescues. There may be no other plant that transplants as well as toothwort. We have had modest success spreading it by broadcast seeding. This flower is beloved by the small bees of early spring and disappears very soon after flowering. It is fun to see its "fall color" in mid-May. Now that wildflower rescue opportunities have become less common, we will have a challenge restoring this wonderful plant to Flint Creek South and other cleared oak woods. It may require transplanting clumps from our own hugely successful colonies in Hospital or Mike's Grove.

Another promising crucifer for restoration is the bulbous cress. This plant came by accident when we rescued marsh marigolds

or yellow star grass from imperiled marshes. We have several colonies at Grigsby and at least one colony at Flint Creek Savanna. Bulbous cress is one of our only spring blooming forbs in the sedge meadow. We would like more seed to add diversity to our sedge meadow seed mix. Last year, for the first time, we also planted its close relative, the purple cress, at Grassy Lake. These plants were raised at the Lake County Forest Preserve nursery and transplanted during a Barrington Greenway Initiative (BGI) workday. If these plants survive, it will be the first species established exclusively through our BGI collaboration. We had never seen this flat woods specialist



*Toothwort. Photo by Donna Bolzman.*

in our collecting areas along the railroad, so we had never collected its seeds. The final member of this genus is the cuckooflower, which we have never seen, and is indeed a State Endangered species in Illinois. It is native to Lake County and would appear to be suitable for our restored fens.

The only other family member we have collected is the marsh cress, a denizen of the receding marsh shoreline of prairie sloughs. This plant appeared at Great Water Dock Marsh in the great drought of 2012, and we added its seed to our dried-pond bottom seed mix, which was compiled and sown only during that depressing autumn.

We included the tower mustard, the Chicago area's only native mustard, on our Sought After Sixty list of the most desired restoration target plants. Our great friends, the stewards at Somme

Prairie Grove, reviewed our list and gave us a huge envelope of seed of target species including a packet of tower mustard, which was sowed this winter for the first time on one of our preserves. Our final crucifers would be the common whitlow grass and rock cress, which are obligate to gravel hills and would only grow on our two created gravel hills at our Flint Creek Savanna headquarters.

Our goal is to eventually restore all the species native to our territory in the habitats appropriate to each species—and we will do it family by family.

— Jim Vanderpoel

## Welcome New Members!

Joanie Albrecht  
Stacey Barsema  
Megan Daly  
Kit DiViesti  
The Hanson Family  
Chris and Sherry Lajiness

Douglas MacDonald  
Basil and Carol Romaniszak  
Luke Slavicek  
Marcus Thymian  
Dana Underwood  
Ian VanWazer

## Notes from the Restoration Manager

CFC volunteers have had an incredibly busy brush clearing season, with many projects across all of our preserves. Our largest project this winter was clearing buckthorn out of Craftsbury. Volunteers went after the buckthorn on the north side of the property, while a contractor helped us clear the buckthorn out from the south side. After the buckthorn was cleared out, there were many dead ash trees that were removed in order to allow for safe operations of future prescribed burns. Special care was taken to leave some dead trees as habitat for woodpeckers and other animals. This site has seen a drastic change in a short period of time and will continue to improve in the years to come.

We have also been working with the Village of Barrington to remove brush at Baker's Lake Savanna. In coordination with the Village, CFC volunteers have been burning small brush piles on days when the wind pushes out over the lake rather than stacking brush on the curb. A lot of effort has also been focused on our Flint Creek South property located along Northwest Highway as we continue to beat back the buckthorn and open up this new restoration. Roughly six acres of brush have been removed this year which will allow for thousands of wildflowers and grasses to replace the areas once dominated by buckthorn.



*Kevin Scheiwiller. Photo by Patty Barten.*

— Kevin Scheiwiller

## **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 long 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? Now, more than ever, we can use your support. We have recently added more acreage to our holdings. 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.

## **Guatemalan visitor to Flint Creek Savanna**

by Peggy Simonsen

CFC hosted four visitors on Sunday, February 10 for a tour of CFC's Flint Creek Savanna (FCS). Christa Orum-Keller, owner of Midwest Groundcovers, was contacted by Julie Segal, sustainable landscape designer and founder of Sustainable Sharing Guatemala for a tour of a restored prairie for her guest from Guatemala. Veronica Giron is coordinating leader for a NGO promoting sustainable land use in the Mayan mountain communities. Veronica visited Chicago now (with a warm jacket and boots!) because she is concerned that her visa will not be renewed. She visited a variety of sites in the Chicago area, including urban gardening, other sustainable efforts, and our prairie restoration. Julie and Veronica were also interviewed on Jerome McDonnell's Worldview program on WBEZ about her work in Guatemala.

Kevin Scheiwiller and I gave them background on CFC, our restoration work, our collaboration with the Barrington Greenway Initiative and Habitat Corridors and walked the path on FCS. It was a great bonus that Kevin speaks Spanish, because Vero speaks no English! (Julie was also translator.) Christa brought her 10 year-old daughter who recognized some native prairie plants in winter, thanks to her mother's influence, and enjoyed sliding on the ice on the ponds. We followed up the cold walk with lunch at Egg Harbor and heard more about Vero's work in poor Mayan communities to reduce deforestation and improve sustainable land use.



*Veronica, Julie, Kevin, Christa and her daughter. Photo by Peggy Simonsen.*

# CFC's restoration work noted as "The Best in North America"

by Len Vraniak and Patty Barten

Citizens for Conservation's 48th Annual Meeting held March 6, 2019 was a night of celebration, recognition and inspiration. Breaking records like collecting 264 species of native seeds, strategically planting more than 22,000 native plants, rescuing more than 10,000 plants from development areas, and increasing our preserves and protected lands to 476 acres was just the beginning. The total of 15,275 volunteer hours, special volunteer recognitions and partnership achievements set the stage for an inspiring presentation about "Growing a Collaborative Conservation Community."

According to Dr. Dwayne Estes, Executive Director of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative and keynote speaker, CFC conducts "the best restoration work in North America." Estes, who leads a 21-state conservation coalition to bring back native grasslands, visited CFC to experience our work and volunteer-led model. He gave an inspirational talk about conservation potentials and building collaborative support, and is now using CFC as a model to bring "Chicago style restoration" to his organization.

More than 200 members, donors, volunteers, sponsors and area leaders attended the event held at the Onion Pub & Brewery. There was bountiful food and beverages, enjoyment of connecting with friends, and acknowledgement of great achievements in 2018.

CFC President, Kathleen Leitner, kicked off the meeting speaking with great pride in the organization's many accomplishments for the year and excitement for 2019. She began by thanking CFC's generous supporters: members, donors, grantors, volunteers, partners and meeting sponsors. "I am so proud to lead this organization," Leitner said, "because its success starts and ends with great people. You are the ones who do the incredible work we will hear about tonight. Thank you for that."

Leitner then announced the acquisition of two new properties being added to CFC preserves and protected space. She then recognized four retiring board members for their many years of service: Gene Branson, Annamarie Lukes, Alberto Moriondo and Gail Vanderpoel.

Edith Auchter, Treasurer, then joined Leitner to present a realignment of board responsibilities to better support strategic plans. Two new members were introduced: Amanda Moller (Volunteer Coordinator) and Julia Martinez (Youth

Education). The membership then voted to approve all board member terms.

Auchter presented the Treasurer's annual report and special information about the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation matching grant for the Craftsby Preserve.

Jim Vanderpoel kicked off the Restoration review by highlighting major advances in habitat within CFC preserves supported by better seed management and sighting of key priority species. He then introduced Kevin Scheiwiller, CFC's new Restoration Program Manager.

Kevin gave an enthusiastic account of 2018 restoration activities and advancements. Highlights included: success and advancement of Barrington Greenway Initiative activities; increase in restoration volunteer hours; a new record of 264



Dr. Dwayne Estes. Photo by Megan West.

species of native seeds collected; 22,000 plugs planted supporting water quality; and expanded partnerships with the Lake County Forest Preserve Native Seed Nursery. There was new prescribed burn equipment and volunteer training; restoration management plans developed for most of our properties; and educational nature hikes. Excitement built with the sightings of the endangered rusty patched bumble bee, rare birds and other priority wildlife species taking advantage of the quality habitat created by CFC's restoration efforts. The re-

introduced smooth green snake was a major milestone in the BGI partnership and the quality of CFC's preserve lands.

Dr. Estes delivered an inspiring presentation that was described by many as the best presentation on conservation they had ever seen. "You may not know how special you are and how special your work here is" he said before telling the attendees "my organization is using CFC's efforts as a model for success."

The meeting concluded with recognitions and awards to those who have given outstanding efforts to support conservation in our area. Seventy-two individuals were recognized through seven different awards. The level of contribution and years of dedication were uplifting.

## **Mighty Oak Award recognizes ≥50 hours of volunteering in 2018**

Volunteers are the core of CFC. The Mighty Oak Award recognizes those non-board members who volunteer at least 50 hours for the year. In 2018, there were 38 individuals who achieved this level and received the new Mighty Oak recognition pin to wear on their favorite volunteer gear. The number of years that each individual has volunteered at this 50-hour level is listed beside their name. Ten percent of the awardees have received the award between 12 – 18 years. This is an amazing level of dedication.



*Mighty Oak Awardees. Photo by Megan West.*

**Shooting Star awarded for 10 years of volunteering**

There were 20 individuals recognized at the Annual Meeting for 10 years of volunteering. This is an amazing level of dedication and CFC thanks these volunteers for their decade of contribution to conservation. Each volunteer received a unique Shooting Star award recognizing their service. Thank you to this core volunteer group for your years of service.

**Two special recognitions awarded**

The Waid R. Vanderpoel Award is given in recognition of 20 years of volunteer service. Marcia Share received this distinguished honor for her volunteer efforts over the past two decades. Marcia is a familiar face at the annual plant sale as she helps both customers and other volunteers.

A special and surprise Above and Beyond Award recognized the diverse efforts of Donna Bolzman. Donna has been a CFC volunteer for over twenty-five years. During the many years of her outstanding service she has received the 10-year Shooting Star Award; the 20-year Waid R. Vanderpoel Award; the 25-year Bobolink Award; the Great Blue Heron Award; and a total of 13 Mighty Oak Awards. In 2018, she contributed an impressive 620 volunteer hours to CFC. She has contributed her time and skills working to improve CFC's organization in capacities as various as administrative, house and grounds, outreach and technology. The last several years, Donna has been hard at work, sorting, cataloging and digitizing historical and important documents to insure their preservation. She originally created a photo database of CFC's

many activities. Donna contributes in other ways. One might also find her with a paint brush in hand touching up some part of our HQ or taking home the curtains to clean. There is hardly a CFC event that Donna hasn't taken part in. It was fitting that Donna received the first Above and Beyond Award for her many contributions to CFC's mission of saving living space for living things.



*William H. Miller Awardees. Photo by Megan West.*

**2019 William H. Miller Award**

Congratulations to Janet Agnoletti and the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) who were awarded this year's William H. Miller Award for significant contribution and

leadership to conservation in our area. This is CFC's highest award and recognized their decades of outstanding work supporting water quality, recharge and aquifer protection in the greater Barrington area. BACOG has also formally supported CFC's BGI efforts in their long-range planning. BACOG is protecting resources underground and BGI/CFC is protecting resources above ground. Janet and each Village and Township in BACOG received a custom award.

**Two Great Blue Heron Awards recognize outstanding contributions**

CFC's Great Blue Heron Award honors outstanding contributions by volunteers in helping meet CFC's conservation goals. This year, Barb Cragan and Steve Smith received this special recognition. They both have demonstrated leadership and personal investment in helping nature.

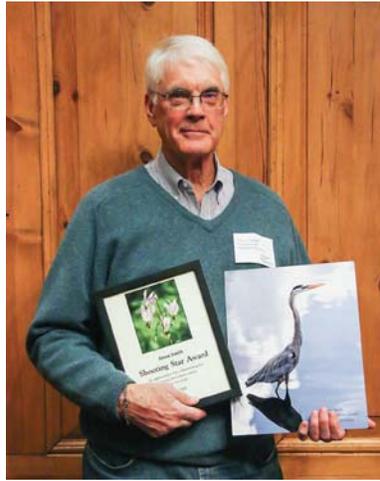


*Barb Cragan and family with Great Blue Heron Award. Photo by Megan West.*

Barb Cragan has contributed through her sponsorship of the Joe Cragan Conservation Scholarship which provides

\$20,000 over four years to a deserving student majoring in a conservation related area of study. Barb serves as CFC membership chair, board member and regularly volunteers at the plant sales and restoration events. She is also an annual volunteer at the CFC/D220 school district 4th graders on the prairie educational event. She demonstrates her strong belief in investing in youth for the future of conservation.

Steve Smith was recognized for both 10 years of volunteering (Shooting Star Award) and the Great Blue Heron Award. Steve was one of the core individuals who stepped up after Tom Vanderpoel's passing, doing whatever was



Steve Smith, multiple awardee. Photo by Megan West.

necessary to make CFC stronger. Steve has contributed leadership in both long-term and daily areas including: development of CFC's 25-year strategic plan; serving as liaison with CFC partners; personal project management of objectives like Grigsby Prairie protection; land acquisition planning and execution; and new property signage. He is part of the BGI leadership team; board member; and chair of the board development committee. Steve is one of the "restoration regulars" and volunteers for fund raiser and outreach events as well as the CFC/D220 4th graders on the prairie program each year.



Shooting Star Awardees. Photo by Megan West.

**Mighty Oak Awards:**

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Tom Auchter (6)       | Amanda Moller (1)      |
| Steve Barten (1)      | Rob Neff (8)           |
| Donna Bolzman (13)    | Bob Oliver (6)         |
| Jeanette Burger (2)   | Sam Oliver (2)         |
| Tom Crosh (2)         | Barb Overbey (5)       |
| Luke Dahlberg (2)     | Wendy Paulson (6)      |
| Ben Davies (1)        | Rozanne Ronen (4)      |
| Diane Greening (5)    | Wayne Schild (4)       |
| Katherine Grover (18) | Cliff Schultz (8)      |
| Barb Herrmann (3)     | Sarah Schultz (2)      |
| Sarah Hoban (4)       | John Schweizer (3)     |
| Carol Hogan (17)      | Alicia Timm (1)        |
| Randy Holtz (2)       | Meredith C. Tucker (2) |
| Bryan Hughes (5)      | David Underwood (5)    |
| Karl Humbert (5)      | Jim Voris (2)          |
| Linda Krauss (5)      | Melissa Washow (5)     |
| Juli LaRocque (4)     | Walter Weinert (2)     |
| Julia Martinez (12)   | Wes Wolf (6)           |
| Jerry Maynard (2)     | Julie Zuidema (2)      |

**Shooting Star Awards:**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Janet Agnoletti | Candy Quinn    |
| Tom Benjamin    | Carol Rice     |
| Virg Black      | Jim Root       |
| Diane Bodkin    | Maggy Sconce   |
| Jim Bodkin      | Steve Smith    |
| Gene Branson    | Judy Springer  |
| Jane Christino  | Jim Voris      |
| Dave Cook       | Ann Warren     |
| Matt Hokanson   | Walter Weinert |
| Justin Pepper   | Joe Wolnski    |

# Location, location, location

by Judy Springer

Naturalist Meredith Tucker presented a fascinating program to a full house on March 9 in the Barrington Village Hall. Titled “Favorite Native Plants: Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Grasses,” more than 60 plants were listed on the handouts that were provided. Meredith displayed photographs of all the plants in bloom, and included photos of the trees and shrubs in all four seasons of the year.

She stressed that using native plants serves the native insects, birds and amphibians. Using natives is the best way people can create a quality natural environment. Insecticides and pesticides should have no place in a healthy yard. Because natives have deep roots, unlike the standard lawn grasses, they require little water and no fertilizer. They are a win-win for the homeowner and the environment.



*Hackberry bark – very warty. Photo by Meredith Tucker.*

Proper location of each of these plants is key to their success. When American elms, which graced many parkways, died from disease, a hardy replacement was needed. The hackberry tree (*Celtis occidentalis*) can fit the bill. It is a tough tree with beautiful knotty bark. It can stand the abuse of passing traffic and other urban conditions.

If a homeowner is looking for a living privacy fence to replace invasive buckthorn, Meredith suggests using blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*). With beautiful spring flowers, it can be grown in average soil, and in sun or part shade. Its woody branching even helps provide privacy in winter.

No matter what the homeowner’s yard is like, sunny, shady, moist or mesic (medium), Meredith suggested many native plants for each location. Meredith and her team with Habitat Corridors are available for home visits to provide a helpful consultation in advance of the Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale.



*Blackhaw viburnum (Viburnum prunifolium). Photo by Meredith Tucker.*

## Upcoming Events

### Community Education Program

The season’s last program will be held at the Barrington Village Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation; presentation begins at 10:00 a.m.

**April 13 – A Morning with Rachel Carson**

### Art Night out with Jane Christino

**April 18, 6-8 p.m., Barrington White House**

Join CFC’s favorite artist for an evening at the Barrington White House. Free Barrington Cultural Commission event.

### Annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

**May 3-5** – Preordering now open and closes April 14. Pickup for preorders on Friday, May 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., open to all members and those who have preordered. Plant sale open to all on May 4 and 5 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 and Restore Series

**April 20, 9 a.m.-Noon – Earth Day Sedge Planting at CFC**

**May 11, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. – Spring Ephemerals and Warblers Hike at Busse Woods**

**May 18, 9 a.m.-Noon – Spring Creek Sedge Planting Penny Road Pond parking lot**

**June 1, 1-3 p.m. – Prairie Ephemerals and Grassland Birds at Grigsby**

**June 15, 9 a.m.-Noon – Cuba Marsh Sedge Planting**

See CFC website ([www.citizensforconservation.org](http://www.citizensforconservation.org)) for details.

### Ignite the Night

**September 14, 5-10 p.m.**

# Habitat makeover: adding wildlife value to your landscape

by Annamarie Lukes

Taking a test is something many people try to avoid, yet an objective assessment can be enlightening. When he presented Community Education's February program, landscape architect Andy Stahr introduced a method for assessing the wildlife value of a property.

Stahr began the program by stating the case for using native plants in the home landscape, removing invasive plants and avoiding cultivars. If you aren't aware of the value of native plants, read Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*. Stahr cited Tallamy's work at several points in his presentation.

If you have been incorporating native plants in your yard, you may enjoy using a tool like the Simple Assessment Worksheet from Stahr's Habitat Makeover Kit. This tool can help you verify that you are providing not only native plants but also the diversity and structures for wildlife to thrive. The assessment contains four parts:

- In the first part, the vegetation assessment, you get points for the percentage of native species, points for having zero or very few invasive species and points for providing wildlife food choices in every season.
- The second part, the land assessment, gives points for the size of the habitat area and for that area's not being fragmented. Zero points are awarded for any native plant areas smaller than 100 square feet.
- Part three scores habitat enhancement features like water sources, shelter and alternative food sources such as seed and suet feeders.
- The final section covers management adaptations which include eliminating the use of pesticides and retaining at least 30% of the habitat planting throughout the following season.



Front yard features native plants that provide food and shelter across the seasons. Photo by Andy Stahr.

Putting a number on your efforts helps you see objectively where you can improve and where you are succeeding. To download the Simple Assessment Worksheet, search online for "Pizzo Group Habitat Makeover." The better habitat we create across our preserves and residential properties, the more we and all the creatures in the habitat win.

## CFC thanks outgoing board members

It is an understatement to say that CFC wouldn't be the organization it is today without the contributions of these four people. Thank you to Gene Branson, Annamarie Lukes, Alberto Moriondo and Gail Vanderpoel for many years on the board as well as for your extensive volunteer service for CFC.

**Gene Branson** for improving the infrastructure of CFC's house and grounds; helping educate young and old at workdays; tireless efforts while attending almost every restoration workday; chairing the intern and volunteer committees; assisting with landscape consultations; and volunteering behind the scenes at plant sales, fundraisers and special events.

**Annamarie Lukes** for graphic design work that includes digitizing the old CFC logo then overseeing the development of the current logo; newsletter layout; flyer creation; patient tech support at many community programs; developing the Habitat Corridors materials at the inception of the program; and generating the annual meeting printed materials since 2013.

**Alberto Moriondo** for significantly increasing CFC's land holdings; spearheading creation and installation of CFC road signs that are visible and easy to read; advocating and overseeing the redesign of the CFC website over several iterations across the years; bringing CFC into the modern era regarding how we present ourselves to the community.

**Gail Vanderpoel** for creative leadership in educating and inspiring hundreds of children through CFC's youth education programs; organizing annual projects like the July Fourth parade; executing multiple Earth Day events; monitoring bluebirds; and sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with others over decades of volunteer events and restoration workdays.

## News from Habitat Corridors

I look out the window into my backyard as I write this. It is early February; the ground is snow-covered, and the sky is gray with more snow and nastier precipitation on the way. However, the sight of many gray and a few fox squirrels cheers me.



*The black “cans” on the feeder posts are baffles that prevent squirrels from reaching the actual feeders. Squirrels often climb up into the can, but can't get to the seed. They sometimes hide in the baffle when a hawk is lurking.  
Photo by Meredith Tucker.*

Squirrels are often unfairly criticized. They are part of our natural environment, and by burying nuts and seeds (called caching), they promote forest health and renewal.

They dig up and eat most of the food they bury, but they miss some of it. Those forgotten nuts and seeds sprout in the spring and grow into trees and other plants, assisting forest regeneration. In your yard, they are planting new trees for your property. If you don't like the location of the seedlings, just pull them up. Leave the ones that you approve.

I suspect many of you are still screeching, “Squirrels”? Yes, they are having a hard time of it. The winter has been harsh and most of their natural foods have vanished over time and with snow cover. The squirrels in my yard can't access my feeders; they are eating what the birds drop as well as the nuts I throw on the ground.

If feeders are properly sited, squirrels won't get in them. You can hang feeders on shepherd's crooks (tall ones) or on similar structures with baffles on the poles if necessary. I don't need to protect the niger (thistle) feeders since the squirrels aren't interested in that seed.

Hanging feeders from tree branches can provide easy access for squirrels. However, years ago I hung a feeder from a high branch of a honey locust tree. It was far out from the trunk. One must include a squirrel baffle on the wire between the

feeder and the limb from which the feeder hangs. It works. The squirrels can't rob it.

I do feed nuts to squirrels and to those ground-feeding birds that are interested. It is possible to buy “wildlife food,” excellent mixed nuts that are removed from the human food stream because they may have touched the factory floor or had a similar problem. They are great for wildlife but not for people. If you would like information on where to buy these large bags of nuts, contact [info@habitatcorridors.org](mailto:info@habitatcorridors.org).

— Meredith Tucker

## CFC joins Great Backyard Bird Count



*Preparing for the Bird Count. Photo by Patty Barten.*

by Julia Martinez

The Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, February 16 went well. At the feeders, we saw tree sparrows, nuthatches, juncos, house finches, a cardinal, a red-bellied woodpecker and a downy woodpecker. Bonnie Albrecht and Doe Crosh managed the set up indoors. Heidi Tarasiuk led us outdoors to search for birds beyond the feeders. On the walk, we saw a flock of American robins. Most of the woods and prairie were quiet at the time of our bird walk, but the feeders were bustling. Alison Vanderpoel kept track of our data on her smartphone. Patty Barton was our photographer. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a global effort launched in 1998 to collect and display data on wild birds. Data from the annual count gives scientists insights into trends and how multiple variables can affect bird distribution and populations. This is a great introduction into citizen science for participants young and old, and we hope to have a great experience again next year.

# Helping the rusty patched bumble bee

by Annamarie Lukes

Last summer, CFC's interns were fortunate to see and photograph the endangered rusty patched bumble bee, *Bombus affinis*, at a CFC preserve. (Note that this bee was once common in our area.) At the January Community Education program, audience members learned from speaker Aurelia Nichols what they can do to help the population recover.

Why should we care about helping the rusty patched bumble bee? *B. affinis* is necessary not only for the reproduction of native wildflowers, for creating the seeds and fruits that feed diverse wildlife, but also for pollinating crops such as blueberries, cranberries and tomatoes. By supporting the recovery of *B. affinis*, we support the health of many other pollinators as well.

Rusty patched bumble bees thrive in prairies, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and non-invasive weedy areas. They do NOT survive anywhere pesticides are used or in cropland, overgrazed pasture or lawn grass. The smaller the percentage of lawn you have on your property, the better habitat you have for bees.

An extremely important factor for bee health is having a large variety of plants flowering throughout the entire growing season. These include native flowering trees, shrubs and forbs (flowers). It can also include fruit trees and some flowering weeds like dandelions, but does not include invasive or noxious species.

Just as humans have super foods, so do rusty patched bumble bees. The plants include wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), prairie clover (*Dalea spp.*), giant hyssop (*Agastache spp.*), white wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*), goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium spp.*), coneflowers (*Echinacea spp.*), native thistles (*Cirsium spp.*), asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*), leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) and wild blueberry/cranberry (*Vaccinium spp.*).

Nichols stated that the following plants help build bumble bee immune systems: wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), white turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), foxglove beard tongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), white wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*), and wild blueberry/cranberry (*Vaccinium spp.*).

Bumble bee colony success is often limited by the lack of suitable nesting and over-wintering sites. Generally, rusty patched bumble bees nest underground, often in abandoned

rodent nests. They also nest in dry cavities above ground, such as in rock walls or under clumps of native grasses. They may over-winter underneath leaf litter, in loose soils and in open-air compost bins. Please don't rake up dead leaves under your shrubs in the fall or early in the spring. Doing so may destroy the winter shelters of these pollinators and many others.

Ms. Nichols emphasized the importance of having a succession of blooms throughout the growing season to provide continuous food for *B. affinis*. She recommended having at least ten species in bloom in each season. She particularly stressed the importance of spring ephemerals (woodland wildflowers) for pollinator health.

To find native plants that are likely to thrive on your property and provide pollen and nectar for bumblebees throughout the growing season, click on the Native Plant Database button at the top of CFC's website. Then shop at our spring Native Plant Sale!



*Bombus affinis* enjoys one of its super foods—Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*). Photo by Ben Davies.

## Ignite the Night!

September 14, 2019

5 - 10 p.m.



Save the date for this festive event to benefit Citizens for Conservation. Dine and dance around the bonfire under a full moon.

We would appreciate your help with sponsorships and quality raffle items. Visit our website in early August for details on the event and to order tickets.

## 2019-2020 CFC Board

As part of our annual planning, we assess our progress on our strategic goals and realign responsibilities. We also identify needed additions and opportunities to improve our leadership and activities in support of the community. As a result, we have reduced the total number of board positions from 18 to 16 and balanced the terms of our board to keep it strong over the years. The following board members are continuing in office: Larry Anglada, Edith Auchter, Patty Barten, Tom Benjamin, Leslie Coolidge, Barb Cragan, Kathleen Leitner, Karen Rosene, Peggy Simonsen, Steve Smith, Ralph Tarquino, Ginger Underwood, Jim Vanderpoel and Mark Younger.



*Julia Martinez and Amanda Moller.*

### New board position – Volunteer coordinator

This person will coordinate the activities needed to recruit and retain volunteer and team leader resources to assist in the delivery of CFC’s mission, programs and services.

Amanda Moller has been elected to this new board position. Amanda had a 15-year career in college administration. Her roles there included being registrar, manager of financial aid, student and faculty services, institutional research, and college administration. Additionally, Amanda is experienced in project management, continuous improvement activities, data analysis and report development. She holds both Bachelor and Master degrees. Amanda began volunteering with CFC’s Native Seed Gardeners. She was an almost daily volunteer during the seed season and brought in other new volunteers. She has since developed a digital volunteer tracking and survey program which is ready for testing.

### Youth education

This person will design, develop and deliver a variety of K-8 age-appropriate learning experiences in nature, including programs that stress engaging youth directly with nature, development of stewardship awareness and also youth’s role in supporting CFC’s mission. The position includes creating/running summer camps, class development and management of speakers’ bureau to support group requests.

Julia Martinez has been elected to complete Gail Vanderpoel’s term. Julia has been a CFC volunteer for 13 years in restoration and youth education. She is a teacher covering science, history, ESL and political science subjects. Julia previously worked with LCFPD in their summer camp, taught 9 years at a Boy Scout Camp and did an EEI (Experimental

Education Initiative) internship. She is a graduate of Northwestern University. Julia originally came to CFC because of a CFC educational experience. She agreed to step-up to take on the challenge of leading the youth education activities when Gail moved in 2018.

Our nominees for officers were elected by the new Board immediately following the Annual Meeting. They are: Kathleen Leitner, President; Ralph Tarquino, Vice President; Leslie Coolidge, Secretary; Edith Auchter, Treasurer.

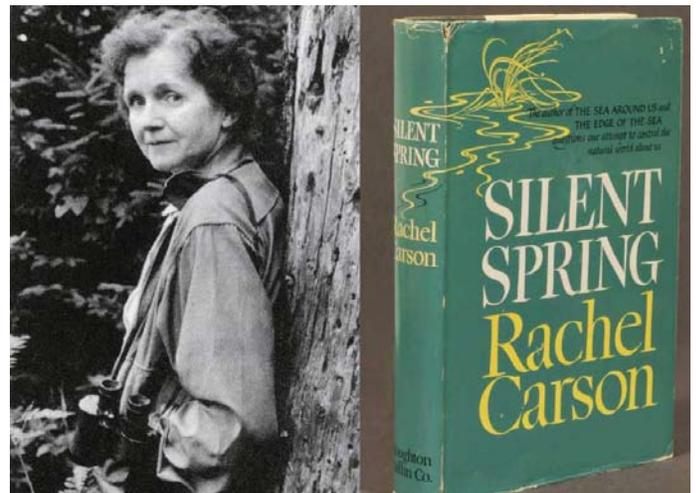
## A Morning with Rachel Carson

Please join us on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Barrington Village Hall for “A Morning with Rachel Carson” presented by Leslie Goddard, actress and scholar.

Providing a portrayal of an influential and important woman from the past, this presentation is significant to environmental issues of today. Imagine having a conversation with Rachel Carson, scientist and author of *Silent Spring*, about what led her to write this seminal wakeup call about the dangers of the pesticide DDT and the process to get Congress to ban it. This program is entertaining as well as informative.

Leslie is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been performing historical characters for over 10 years. She holds a PhD from Northwestern University in American Studies and US History as well as a Masters degree in theater.

CFC members attend for free as a benefit of membership. Program fee is \$10 for non-members (payable at the door). Make reservations at [Citizensforconservation.org](http://Citizensforconservation.org).



*Image source: Population Connection.*

## 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).

## 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.



*Rose-breasted grosbeak. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.*

April 19, 8 a.m. — Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd. off of Palatine Rd.)

May 3, 7:30 a.m. — Crabtree Nature Center (as above)

May 10, 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 Camp Alphonse (off Dundee Rd.)

May 15, 3:30 p.m. — Baker's Lake for students and adults (parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 17, 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, 7:30 a.m. — Crabtree Nature Center (as above)

May 24, 7:00 a.m. — Headwaters\* (parking lot on Wichman Rd. off north side of Rt. 72, ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

June 5, 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 16, 5:00 p.m. — Galloping Hill\* (as above)



*Great horned owl. Photo by Steve Barten, DVM.*

\*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 4-5

by Sarah Hoban

Here's a great way to welcome spring: CFC will hold its 23rd annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, from 9 a.m.-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—more than 200 different species—of robust, hardy native plants, including perennials, ferns, sedges, grasses, shrubs and trees. As part of CFC's campaign to encourage monarch populations, numerous varieties of native milkweed will be available at discounted prices. And while many gardeners are planting native milkweed plants for monarchs to lay their eggs, monarchs and other pollinators need flowering native plants all through the season as food for adults. They especially need fall flowering natives like asters and goldenrod to fatten up for the long migration south—and both plants are available at the sale.



*Plant sale displays. Photo by Sarah Hoban.*

Pre-sale online ordering will be available through April 14. All the plants for the sale may be ordered online, and orders are filled on a first-come-first-filled basis, so order early. To help you better plan your purchases, CFC's online catalog includes information on plants' color, bloom period, water and sun requirements, and size.

Pickup date for preorders is Friday, May 3, from 11 a.m.-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 3, and members get a 10 percent discount all days. 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.

The online store is on CFC's website, <https://springsale.citizensforconservation.org/>. If you have questions, please call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).

# CFC leadership recognized at 2019 Wild Things Conference

by Patty Barten

CFC received major recognition at the 2019 Wild Things Conference as a leading volunteer-based organization in the region. The gathering of “plant nerds, bird geeks and conservation junkies” from the three-state region was an energizing celebration for nature. CFC contributed in all aspects of the conference including sponsorship, speakers, information sharing and attendees.



CFC's plant sale display. Photo by Kathleen Leitner.

The conference was held on February 23 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont to accommodate the anticipated 3,000 attendees. The all-day event offered 153 talks with topics for every interest from highly scientific to novice education to just plain fun (like crafts that use buckthorn wood!). It was a community of sharing, learning, connecting and fun. There were book signings, more than 41 exhibitors,



Luke Dahlberg presenting at Wild Things Conference. Photo by Kathleen Leitner.



CFC was a Wilder level sponsor. Photo by Kathleen Leitner.

control of invasive plant species, our on-line native plant references, upcoming plant sale details, and the diversity of all the community support activities provided by CFC. Lots of information and experiences were shared. CFC was a Wilder level sponsor along with notable organizations like the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Morton Arboretum and Openlands.

At the end, people looked a little tired but had huge smiles after a wonderful day. The consistent comment was “thank you,” “amazing,” “I wish I could have attended more sessions” and “I can’t wait for next year.” CFC and our partners will be there next time!



The crowd at Wild Things. Photo by Patty Barten.

“conservation celebrities” and helpful resources for all.

CFC was well represented and recognized as one of the area’s longest established and nationally recognized volunteer-based organizations. Some of the most highly attended sessions were given by CFC’s Kevin Scheiwiller (two sessions), Luke Dahlberg, Matt Hokanson and Diane Greening. Two informational tables offered highly sought-out reference materials on identification and

## President's Comments



Kathleen at the Annual Meeting. Photo by Megan West.

all great organizations that care about our community and conservation.

Last year, we shared the visionary goal of BGI (Barrington Greenway Initiative) in helping nature cross boundaries. BGI is the basis for our collaborative conservation community and is strong and growing! We have executed focused plans that brought impressive results in 2018. These included greater native seed diversity, new and better trained volunteers, and expanded partnership activities. Nature has also provided results with exciting confirmations of a significant number of rare wildlife and pollinator sightings and nestings on our preserves. The past years of restoring and improving habitat are paying huge benefits. And our speaker, Dr. Dwayne Estes, shared his inspirational story of building a collaborative conservation effort to save rare grasslands in the Southeastern United States. It turns out that working collaboratively works in the Midwest and the Southeast!

— Kathleen Leitner

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend CFC's 48th Annual Meeting. That night we celebrated our results in "Growing a Collaborative Conservation Community." I am honored to have just completed my first year as President of CFC's wonderful board. My year has been a great journey. Thanks to all of you, I am continually in awe of what can be done by working together to make a difference.

We are incredibly grateful to our annual meeting sponsors for making the evening possible: our hosts, the Kainz family's Onion Pub & Brewery, the Pizzo Group, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, BMO Harris Bank, BlueStem Ecological Services, Ringers Landscape Services, Inc., Stantec, Wickstrom Auto Group, Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, ILM, Possibility Place Nursery and Bartlett Tree Experts. You are

## Volunteers needed

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFC. To achieve our ambitious restoration goals, we need to recruit additional volunteers. Regular workdays are scheduled every Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Our Restoration Manager, Kevin Scheiwiller, adds additional dates as conditions permit. If you would like to be added to our email group to receive notification of upcoming workdays, please email [kevin.scheiwiller@citizensforconservation.org](mailto:kevin.scheiwiller@citizensforconservation.org).

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### MANAGING & COPY EDITOR

Leslie Coolidge

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

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