

## CFC's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – “The Art of Conservation”

by Karen Rosene and  
Kathleen Leitner

Citizens for Conservation held its 49th Annual Meeting on March 12, 2020 at the Onion Pub & Brewery. With recent public health concerns, we were grateful to have approximately 140 members and guests attend! The Onion was especially helpful in responding to our ever-changing requests as we worked to be responsive to these concerns, most notably by passing hors d'oeuvres instead of laying out a buffet. Many people voiced their appreciation for the change in plan as they enjoyed Patty Barten's slide show of CFC members and volunteers in action.



*Philip Juras. Photo by 2019 Robin Carlson.*

Kathleen Leitner, CFC President, opened the meeting by thanking CFC's generous sponsors for their support, including our hosts the Kainz family's Wild Onion Brewery, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, BMO Harris Bank, Pizzo & Associates, Ltd., Bluestem Ecological Services, Tallgrass Restoration, LLC, and Wickstrom Auto Group. She noted that the theme of the meeting was “The Art of Conservation,” and the keynote speaker was Philip Juras, an artist from Georgia.

She continued with some highlights of what CFC and the Barrington Greenway Initiative (BGI) accomplished in 2019:

- The seven organizations of BGI hosted 12 events, racking up 7,500 volunteer hours, adding \$195,000 in value. BGI was the brainchild of Tom Vanderpoel and Wendy Paulson.
- A permaculture project with Smart Farm.
- A bluebird monitoring program involving 45 new members as citizen scientists on 79 trail walks, reporting data to Audubon and eBird.

- Education component: 660 4th Graders on the Prairie, 7 youth events, 2 summer camps, and an outstanding high school liaison, Emma Landenberger.
- A one-week high school internship program.
- A ten week college internship program supported by the Oberweiler Foundation.
- Six Community Education programs attended by 350 people.
- The Habitat Corridors program.
- The annual plant sale.
- Kevin Scheiwiller's participation at the Wild Ones Conservation Congress.
- 17,535 volunteer hours!

Edith Auchter and Jim Vanderpoel next presented a special recognition of Gail and Steve Rudisill. Jim noted the three



*Steve and Gail Rudisill being recognized by the audience. Photo by Bob Lee.*

necessary elements to a successful restoration: 1) a keen knowledge and appreciation of nature, 2) adequate resources, and 3) sustained hard work. Decades ago, Gail became

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## Annual Meeting *(continued)*

acquainted with CFC, with Tom Vanderpoel becoming Gail's great friend and teacher. Since then, Gail and Steve have been ardent supporters and volunteers of CFC. We enjoyed slides of Gail and Steve at workdays and stories of their native seed sharing. But the real impact of Gail and Steve's contributions to CFC came in an animated map of their donations matched to CFC land purchases at Flint Creek Savanna from 2010 through 2019. Truly an example of the tried and true "time, talent and treasure" formula CFC relies on! Thank you Gail and Steve!

Edith, as CFC's Treasurer, next presented the 2019 Annual Report. She thanked Peggy Simonsen, CFC's grant whisperer, and Kevin Scheiwiller for their active pursuit of grants, which were received ranging from \$650 to \$350,000. She also cited the successful plant sale, Ignite the Night, and the annual appeal.

Kathleen gave the Board Report, first thanking retiring Board members Ralph Tarquino and Mark Younger. Then three new Board member nominees were introduced and approved for terms of three years each: Jim Anderson, Judy Springer and Tom Malia.

The following Board members were also approved for new terms. These include rebalancing the overall Board terms: three-year terms – Julia Martinez and Karen Rosene; two-year terms – Ginger Underwood and Jim Vanderpoel; one-year terms – Patty Barten, Tom Benjamin and Leslie Coolidge.

The following Board members are serving out their terms: Kathleen Leitner, Larry Anglada, Barb Cragan, Edith Auchter, Amanda Moeller, Peggy Simonsen and Steve Smith. The Board elected the following officers immediately after the meeting: Kathleen Leitner, President; Jim Anderson, Vice President; Judy Springer, Secretary; Edith Auchter, Treasurer.

Kevin Scheiwiller, CFC's Restoration Manager, presented the restoration report, focusing on three years of achievement by CFC and the BGI. BGI is a big scale project started in 2017, consisting (now) of seven partners, all working toward one large goal, to re-wild and restore the Barrington area and beyond. 2019's work was focused on Grassy Lake (Lake County Forest Preserve), Galloping Hill (Cook County Forest Preserve) and CFC's Craftsbury Preserve. A great deal of the contract work at Craftsbury was supported by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) grant. Thank you ICECF!

By the numbers in 2019, restoration counted 519 pounds of seed collected from 309 native species (a new record!); 38,000

plants planted; 4,500 plants rescued from two sites; 400 ft. of Flint Creek restored; and 8,000 volunteer hours spent at BGI sites. Also, the fire season was successful and strategic, encompassing 65 acres. Kevin thanked everyone for their work and dedication but said "we still need you!"

Wendy Paulson introduced the keynote speaker, artist Philip Juras. (Both Wendy and Philip had attended the CFC workday earlier in the day!) Wendy explained that she had become acquainted with Philip and his work in Georgia and in 2013 she invited him to visit some of the prairies of Illinois. So in 2015 and 2016, Philip toured Flint Creek Savanna and Grigsby Prairie with Tom Vanderpoel, saying that he felt these sites represented "landscape gardening on a grand and sophisticated scale." From these tours, Philip saw prairie restoration in a new way, as thoughtful and well planned. With his presentation "Picturing the Prairie", Philip took us on a thrilling pictorial journey through Illinois grasslands and woodlands with slides of his small field paintings and large studio paintings.

If you missed the meeting, the paintings are currently scheduled to be on display at the Chicago Botanic Garden from May 1 through September 12, 2021.

Kathleen next presented the Awards and Scholarship recognition. The Joe Cragan Conservation Scholarship, sponsored by the Cragan family, is currently awarded to two students, each receiving \$20,000 over four years. Karen Portillo is in her second year. Maren Prokup is in her first year. Both are majoring in Environmental Engineering.

There were 55 Mighty Oak awardees, which go to non-board members who volunteer for 50 hours or more. There were 12 Shooting Star Awards for ten years of service; 6 Waid R. Vanderpoel Awards for 20 years of service; and 12 Bobolink Awards for 25 years of service!



*Audience at the Onion Pub & Brewery. Photo by Bob Lee.*



*Jim Voris and Kathleen Leitner. Photo by Bob Lee.*

The William H. Miller Conservation Award, for outstanding contributions to conservation in the Greater Barrington Area outside of CFC, is CFC's highest award. It was presented to Jim Voris for his 50+ years of conservation and his work as a teacher of conservation.

And finally, the Great Blue Heron Award, for outstanding contributions to conservation within CFC, was awarded to Tom Benjamin and Wayne Schild. Tom has developed



*Tom Benjamin and Wayne Schild. Photo by Bob Lee.*

and managed the annual appeal to donors, resulting in over a million dollars in contributions to CFC. Wayne has contributed countless hours maintaining our database of donations, members, memorials and grants. Tom's and Wayne's efforts have been invaluable to CFC, and we are so grateful for their efforts.

Special thanks and eternal gratitude to our Annual Meeting Committee: Chair Karen Rosene, Janet Agnoletti, Patty Barten, Barb Cragan, Kathleen Leitner, Annamarie Lukes, Peggy Simonsen and the indispensable Juli LaRocque; and also to Henry Heine, Jim and Diane Bodkin, Steve Barten, Bob Lee, Sam Oliver, Candy Quinn, Jane Christino, Joe Wolnik, Meredith Tucker and Steve Smith for your talented and varied contributions to our successful evening. We couldn't do it without you.

### **Mighty Oak Awards:**

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Martha Adams (3)        | Annamarie Lukes (6)          |
| Tom Auchter (7)         | Laura Mandell (1)            |
| Steve Barten (2)        | Jerry Maynard (3)            |
| Virg Black (3)          | Jenna Miller (1)             |
| Carol Bockman (1)       | Rob Neff (9)                 |
| Donna Bolzman (14)      | Bob Oliver (7)               |
| Gene Branson (3)        | Sam Oliver (3)               |
| Jeanette Burger (3)     | Kathy Paczynski (1)          |
| Brent Burval (2)        | Wendy Paulson (7)            |
| Jeff Chemelewski (1)    | Rozanne Ronen (5)            |
| Dane Dalton (1)         | Wayne Schild (5)             |
| Ben Davies (2)          | Cliff Schultz (9)            |
| Jenny Drecoll (2)       | Sarah Schultz (3)            |
| Diane Greening (6)      | Laura Simpson (1)            |
| Katherine Grover (19)   | Judy Springer (2)            |
| Spencer Henry (1)       | Alicia Timm (2)              |
| Barb Herrmann (4)       | Meredith Tucker (4)          |
| Sarah Hoban (5)         | David Underwood (6)          |
| Carol Hogan (18)        | Jessica Underwood (3)        |
| Erin Hokanson (1)       | Alison Vanderpoel (1)        |
| Matt Hokanson (2)       | Jim Voris (3)                |
| Randy Holtz (3)         | Melissa Washow (6)           |
| Bryan Hughes (6)        | Walter Weinert (3)           |
| Linda Krauss (6)        | Peter Whitney (1)            |
| Debbie Kreischer (1)    | Wes Wolf (7)                 |
| Emma Landenberger (1)   | Julie Zuidema (3)            |
| Juli LaRocque (5)       |                              |
| Barb Laughlin-Karon (1) | Parenttheses indicate number |
| Bob Lee (1)             | of Might Oak awards each     |
|                         | volunteer has earned since   |
|                         | 1996.                        |

### Shooting Star Awards (10 years):

Bonnie Albrecht  
Michele Gillette  
Diane Greening  
Sue Griffith  
Sarah Hoban  
Doug Johnson  
Ted Krasnesky  
Annamarie Lukes  
Gail Rudisill  
Steve Rudisill  
Wayne Schild  
Todd Sholeen

### Waid Vanderpoel Awards (20 years):

Katherine Grover  
Carol Hogan  
Marjory Larson  
Linda Mrowicki  
Bob Oliver  
Neil Timlin

### Bobolink Awards (25 years):

Edith Auchter  
Karen Hunter  
Charlie Keppel  
Bob LeFevre  
John Pasch  
Sharon Pasch  
Gail Vanderpoel  
Mark Vanderpoel  
Ann Warren  
Larry Washow  
Melissa Washow



*Shooting Star Awardees. Photo by Bob Lee.*



*Waid Vanderpoel Awardees. Photo by Bob Lee.*



*Bobolink Awardees. Photo by Bob Lee.*



*Mighty Oak Awardees. Photo by Bob Lee.*

## The gentians

I first became fired up about prairie restoration when I attended the Third Illinois Prairie Workshop on March 4, 1978. Dr. Robert Betz, one of the great visionaries of the early prairie restoration movement, gave an impassioned talk about his plan to restore a large-scale prairie within the ring of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. His strategy was to start with a matrix of thirty or so common species like wild bergamot, black-eyed Susan and yellow coneflower. These were still fairly common in rural Illinois along roads, in abandoned pastures, or at the edge of grazed oak groves. He next identified a second grouping of plants that were much more conservative; they could only be found in remnant prairies. They are very uncommon in the general Illinois landscape because almost all of our prairie has been destroyed; but these plants are still common in those few prairies that survived. You could think of this group as the bread-and-butter plants of prairie restoration—compass plant, wild quinine, little bluestem grass, prairie coreopsis and leadplant. Dr. Betz' eyes grew a little wild when he started speculating about a third stage of reintroductions, plants that are rare even in virgin prairie. He knew it might take decades, but he stressed that we wouldn't truly be restoring "real Illinois prairie" until we brought back those species. He concluded that if we did the job right, someday the restored prairies would include even "gentians and orchids".

This inspired speech came back to me last October when, after a seed-collecting workday, we walked along the west boundary of Grigsby Prairie. The prairie grasses and most of the forbs were in their fall color of bronze, gold, or scarlet. Most striking, however, were the scores of the astonishingly deep-blue flowers of stiff gentian growing side-by-side with dozens of the feathery white plumes of nodding ladies tresses orchids. As I breathed in the powerful vanilla aroma of the orchid flowers, I realized that Dr. Betz was right! It was possible to care for the land so intensely, and so effectively, that we could foster a landscape where even gentians and orchids thrive. I then determined that my next plant family report had to cover the gentian family.

There are only six genera in the gentian family in the Chicago area—three of them, the screw-stem, the Colombo and the rose gentians, do not grow in the Barrington area. The

other three genera all go by the common name gentian and have responded quite well to our efforts. We never saw the fringed gentian in our primary seed collecting area along the Chicago & Northwestern railroad tracks between Palatine and Harvard. Fortunately, the North Branch Project gave us some seed, which was later supplemented by another contribution from the steward of the Buffalo Grove Prairie. After sowing, this tiny amount of seed produced huge populations in the early stages of restoration, especially in the wetland mitigation projects at Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna. We were elated at how easy it was to restore this plant, but we eventually realized that this specialized wildflower



*Prairie gentian with katydid. Photo by Diane Bodkin.*

likes the lack of competition of an immature wet prairie habitat, and became far less common and widespread after the plant community became more diverse and established. There is still good news—while fringed gentian is no longer omnipresent, it seems to have retracted to its perfect spots: low, flat hollows in the wet mesic zone. There it forms strong colonies of ten to thirty specimens. I counted nine such colonies at Grigsby last fall, and several colonies at Flint Creek.

Our most common member of the family is the closed gentian, which is fairly common in our prairies ranging from the edge of the sedge meadow through the mesic territory. Volunteers always enjoy seeing large bees push their way through the permanently closed petals of this remarkable blossom. The cream gentian is very similar in structure and appearance to the closed gentian, but prefers the open savanna to the full prairie sun. While all of the blue gentians bloom at the end of the growing season in September, and even into October, the cream gentian can be seen blooming earlier in the year, during the dog days of August. We have established sizable populations of cream gentian at Flint Creek, Grigsby and Flint Creek South, so its presence on our preserves seems secure, but it is a little scary to think that all of the wild seed of this plant was collected from just one small spot at the Harvard Savanna.

The stiff gentian is a very rare plant in nature, but has done extremely well at both Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna. It too can tolerate the partial shade of the open savanna.

All of these beautiful wildflowers were established by broadcast seed. While we collect minuscule amounts of seed by volume, gentian flowers must be extremely well pollinated, because all of these species germinate like crazy.

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## Restoration Report (continued)

The final member of this noble family is the prairie gentian. Most of our prairie gentian colonies are descended from a half dozen or so plugs that were rescued from various construction projects along the railroad right of way. Each of these colonies has slowly expanded through the prairie and some new specimens are coming from overseeding. There may be no wildflower that has a more intense hue than the indigo of these large flowers—it seems almost to glow against the auburn fall grasses on a bright sunny October day. It is the last valiant burst of color before the conquest by brown, gray and snow white of the Illinois winter.

2019 was a banner year for all five species of gentian at Grigsby Prairie. This is a tribute to the inspiration from the restoration pioneers like Robert Betz, Chuck Westcott and Stephen Packard, and to the hard work and perseverance of our CFC volunteers over the last thirty years. But, October would have been less colorful had it not been for the deer enclosure fence. All gentians share the misfortune of being delicious to white-tailed deer and suffer heavily from deer browsing—the number of gentian blooms at Grigsby has soared in the last two years since the fence was installed. We are excited that huge amounts of gentian seed from this bumper crop were added to our BGI seed mixes and will eventually start new populations at our partner preserves.

— Jim Vanderpoel

## Notes from the Restoration Manager

### Banner burn season

If you've driven past CFC in the past month or two, you may have noticed swaths of blackened landscapes. To the uninitiated, these areas may look like a disaster zone devoid of plant material or life. To us restorationists, it is a beacon of light and hope for all the prairie plants soon to emerge!



Kevin Scheiwiller. Photo by Patty Barten.

Annually burned landscapes keep invasive brush from taking hold of our natural areas while helping to stimulate the native wildflowers through nutrient cycling and increased daily temperatures in “black” areas. Tons of literature shows how effective burns are at keeping an ecosystem happy and healthy.

We have had a great burn season so far this “fire year” (November 2019 through April 2020). To date, we have burned over 62 acres across many different preserves including: Grigsby Prairie, Baker’s Lake Savanna, Flint Creek Savanna, Farm Trails North, and Craftsbury. Each year we have been getting more and more efficient with our burn program which in turns allows us to burn more acres. The more acres we burn, the better seed set plants will produce. The more seeds plants produce, the more seeds we can collect. The more seeds we collect, the more prairies we can help recreate. And so the cycle continues!

— Kevin Scheiwiller

## News from Habitat Corridors

### Winter’s importance to Summer’s abundance

As I begin to write, I see through my window a multitude of cardinals flying from feeder to feeder, a red-bellied woodpecker on the peanut feeder, juncos combing through chaff on the ground, and squirrels joining the ground feeders looking for food. I know there is controversy among some bird watchers about whether those who feed birds are helping the wild birds or making them dependent on people. I think we help!

I have been feeding birds for over forty-six years. It gets a little expensive because I maintain ten feeders, but the birds repay me with their presence, their spring songs, and their insect control during the growing season. Actually, it makes me happy just to know they are there!

Everyone who likes birds need not go to the extremes that I do—white millet for the ground feeding juncos, black oil sunflower for the cardinals and most other seed eaters, peanuts for the woodpeckers, and cracked corn for the geese and ducks that stop by. Sometimes just a single window feeder will please the homeowner and help a cardinal weather the cold.



White millet with black oil sunflower seeds.  
Photo by Meredith Tucker.

Don't be surprised if a few uneaten sunflower seeds germinate in your garden. The birds will find the plants there and use the seeds “on the stalk.” Meanwhile, the stems provide winter homes for over-wintering larvae of various kinds. If you watch carefully, you may see chickadees pecking at the stalks to find the insect delicacies inside.

I have spoken with some experts who say that one need not worry about taking a vacation during the cold weather and discontinuing feeder filling. They say that the birds have regular “feeder routes” and will visit other stations during your absence. The birds will return when you do.

If you don't feed birds now, perhaps you might try it and find that it brings you pleasure. Also, remember that the orioles will be returning this spring, and get ready to put out your orange and jelly feeders just before they arrive!

— Meredith Tucker

## Sustainable stormwater management “One Drop at a Time”

by Karen Rosene

CFC kicked off its Community Education season on January 18 by hosting a program that featured Marcus de la Fleur, landscape architect. The focus was about sustainable stormwater management on a residential scale. His pilot project, called “One Drop at a Time,” was his suburban Elmhurst home over a multi-year span from 2003 through 2008 during which time he made changes and additions to the home to manage rainwater, stormwater and runoff. The idea was to minimize runoff by enhancing water retention in order to recharge aquifers and filter out contaminants rather than sending the water to storm sewers. All this is documented in a slide presentation replete with photos, videos, statistics and study results. Unfortunately, the electronic equipment did not function so Mr. de la Fleur was forced to talk his way through the program. He was up to the task. The 70 people attending were rapt.

What were the adaptations to a suburban home on a small lot?

- Green roof
- Rain barrels
- Cisterns
- Porous pavement
- Gravel grass
- Rain gardens
- Bioswales

A simple residential green roof (there are several kinds of green roofs) is vegetation on top of a “foundation” and a growing medium. The “foundation” includes waterproofing, protection fabric, a drainage layer and separation fabric. The use of an engineered growing medium is essential. You cannot simply use dirt. All that in a 4” height. The roof significantly reduces water runoff. The weight of the green roof needs to be fairly light. For an extensive green roof, the roof structure must be able to support an additional 25 to 30 pounds per square foot. Always consult a structural engineer. Maintenance is minimal although it is necessary to remove tree seedlings annually!



Marcus de la Fleur. Photo by Karen Rosene.

Who knew? Mr. de la Fleur was able to measure and compare the impressive storm water retention capacity of the green roof with that of a regular roof. The green roof also protects the underlying roof by shielding it from sun and weather damage.

Next he discussed rain barrels and what features are necessary to ensure a successful outcome. He noted that the rain barrel system has improved in the last few decades. Rain barrels are generally installed in sets, the number determined by a surface area to volume ratio. The pilot project used two sets of three rain barrels connected together at the bottom of the barrels effectively making them a single unit. In each set, one barrel has three faucets at the top, middle and bottom. The lower two faucets are closed and the top one is open, providing an overflow mechanism. Stormwater enters via a flexible downspout extension into a single barrel which has a simple home-made filter. The barrels require a simple winterizing process of removing the flexible extension, emptying, possibly cleaning, the barrels and leaving all faucets open. The two reasons to have rain barrels are rainwater harvesting and stormwater mitigation. The mitigation factor happens because the rate of water output is slowed down.

He talked briefly about using the water on vegetable gardens and it gets complicated—of course. He did note that some research indicates that the “slime” found in the barrels may have some beneficial effects in terms of water quality.

An old cistern existed at the house, which was repaired and put into use. Cisterns were valued in the past because the water is soft, an advantage when doing household chores. Also, it works all year round because it is below ground and not subject to freezing.

Porous pavement blocks are a relatively recent development. They differ from traditional impervious paving blocks and allow for rainwater to infiltrate into and through the pavement. The pedestrian porous pavement at the pilot home site has an 8” base consisting of the broken up concrete sidewalk (2” to 3”), a

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## Sustainable stormwater *(continued)*

gravel layer, then a stone chip layer. On top are various salvaged pavers with gaps between them. The gaps and crevices are filled with stone chips with a 40% void space.

In the winter, shovel as usual. There is less ice than on a concrete sidewalk because the surface layer draws water away before it refreezes.

Gravel grass is a lower-cost alternative to paved parking lots. Suitable for occasional or seasonal use, it can reduce the footprints of impervious, often empty, gigantic paved parking lots. It's basically a parking lot with specifically engineered gravel that is covered with grass. It is composed of a deep layer of porous aggregate with a seeding of appropriate grasses on top. Suggested grasses are Sideoats Grama, Blue Grama and Buffalo Grass. All are deep and densely rooted as well as relatively low-growing. Don't fertilize! Mowing is minimal partly because there are few nutrients provided.

Rain garden principles: "A rain garden is based on the principles of our pre-settlement ecology and hydrology: Our native prairie landscapes were able to soak up almost all the precipitation that fell onto them. Water that was not used by the plants was slowly released into the lower soils, where it moved towards lowland areas." In other words, the recharge is accomplished in properly planted uplands, and that water is transferred to lowlands/wetlands underground.

Mr. de la Fleur feels that the rain garden is the best workhorse we have for stormwater management. In a residential small lot, the garden receives runoff from downspouts and rain barrels as well as higher ground. The garden has a slight depression (12") and is planted with native grasses, sedges and forbs with deep and fibrous roots. A third of these roots die off annually creating organic matter in the soil. Because of the naturalistic composition, there is little maintenance at the pilot project. He actually does a spring burn on both of the rain gardens in the small suburban yard, but he is very considerate of neighbors and spends a good deal of time in preparation. The entire burn can take as little as two minutes. He feels the burn is important because the native plants respond positively to burns. Keep in mind how neighbors will react to plant choices and fire.

To determine the size of the garden use a surface to volume ratio. Ideally it should drain (infiltrate) within 12 to 24 hours. There was a monster rain event in 2008 in the Chicago area. For the first time, there was water in his rain garden. Two hours later the water was completely gone!

You can infiltrate clay soils. The infiltration problem is not the soil itself, but the compaction the soil may be subjected to. Humans use heavy machinery, remove topsoil and pave everything in sight. How can clay soils be good at infiltration?

Remember those deep and fibrous roots? They are 1/3 plant and 2/3 root. Those roots decompose and add organic matter.

One final note about the residential pilot project. De la fleur was able to measure runoff for a typical rain event on a normal lot in the neighborhood (nearly 1,000 gallons) and compare that to the runoff on his improved lot (less than 100 gallons)!

For more information, go to [http://www.delafleur.com/168\\_Elm](http://www.delafleur.com/168_Elm).

## Saving our invaded wetlands – an opportunity for optimism

by Carol Rice



*Sedges. Photo by Kevin Scheiwiller.*

February 22 was the second in the 2020 series of Community Education programs presented by CFC. Kevin Scheiwiller, CFC's Restoration Manager, laid out the elements of a program to rescue the wetlands that have been overtaken by reed canary grass, phragmites, and invasive cattails. A full house was present.

The key to the program is the use of "warrior sedges". Kevin explained how they had examined invaded wetlands for evidence of natives that had managed to hold on. Several species were found that were highly rhizomatous and tough enough to battle the invasives. They led Kevin and his crew to utilize these species as the core of their program.

The restoration treatment is divided into several years, with the first year being dedicated to identification of the space to be restored. Herbicides approved for use near water are used to knock back the invasives. (In small yard spaces, black plastic can be used to kill the invasive plants instead of herbicide.) In the second year, a spring burn is conducted, followed by another application of herbicide, where necessary, and hand-pulling of young weeds. The crew looks for the appearance of annual plants, which is an indication that the perennials

have been controlled. Warrior sedges appropriate to the habitat (emergent, seasonally inundated, or sedge meadow) are planted no later than August of the second year. Planting is on 3' centers, since the sedges will fill in the spaces quickly.

Recommended species include:

Emergent (areas consistently wet) – *Carex stricta*, *C. utriculata*, *C. Aquatilis*, *C. lacustris*

Seasonally inundated (areas that have varying levels of moisture)

– *Carex trichocarpa*, *C. emoryi*, *C. sartwellii*, *C. atherodes*

Sedge meadow (areas that are higher so don't retain moisture) –

*Carex buxbaumii*, *C. pellita*

Rain garden (small areas that collect water but drain quickly) –

*Carex comosa*, *C. crus-corvi*, *C. lupulina*, *C. stipata*

(Author's note – Other wetland sedges that are sold at the CFC plant sale include *Carex grayi*, *C. sprengelii* and *C. hystericina*.)

The third year consists of continued control by appropriate means (herbiciding, hand pulling, or wicking) and overseeding the area with a mix of native seeds—to help to re-establish the biodiversity of the area. Follow-up to control re-appearance of invasives was emphasized strongly.

It was very encouraging to hear about a successful strategy for restoring wetlands and wet areas on residential property. By following a plan and consistent follow-up, the beauty of successful wetland restorations was demonstrated by Kevin's photos.

## Youth Ed kicks off the year with the Great Backyard Bird Count!

by Julia Martinez

As usual, Youth Education has begun its 2020 programming with the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. As our event was the day

after Valentine's Day, we began with a craft, creating a Northern cardinal exclusively from heart shapes. While we crafted, we discussed Northern cardinals and their coloration. The attendees personalized their cardinals with colors of their choosing, but we discussed the colors of male and female cardinals. We observed birds at the feeder. This year we recorded: black-capped chickadees, house finch (both male and female), house sparrows, and white-breasted nuthatch. On our bird walk, we added the American tree sparrow. This was followed by our first "Stay and



Bird walk. Photo by Heidi Tarasiuk.

Play" which the attendees much enjoyed! They played upstairs in our nature-themed room. Children learn through play, and it is important that we encourage their love of nature by giving them the flexibility to make meaning and connections in unstructured and minimally structured environments. We look forward to our future Youth Education programming, which will include more "Stay and Play" times. Keep an eye out for those!



Cardinal craft. Photo by Heidi Tarasiuk.

## CARES Act opportunities

by David Lynam

Non-profit organizations like CFC are facing challenges similar to those being faced by for-profit businesses as a result of the coronavirus crisis. Fortunately, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES") in effect on March 27, 2020 contains provisions that are beneficial to CFC.

CARES creates incentives for the donors of tax-exempt charitable non-profits to make contributions during these difficult times. CARES institutes a new charitable deduction up to \$300 for 2020. This new deduction is not an itemized deduction and can be taken regardless of whether the donor itemizes deductions. This means that even donors who take the standard deduction can qualify for this "above line" deduction. Additionally, CARES eliminates the deduction limit for 2020 on charitable contributions for individual taxpayers who itemize deductions by raising the deduction cap from 60% to 100%.

In addition to expanding deductions for individual donors, corporations that make charitable contributions during 2020 will be able to deduct up to 25% of their adjusted gross income for charitable contributions rather than 15%. The increases in the deduction caps would not apply to contributions to donor advised funds, private foundations, and organizations classified as supporting organizations.

## Volunteers needed

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFC. While our regular workdays are currently suspended, they will resume soon. In the meantime, we'd like to recruit additional volunteers. Our Restoration Manager, Kevin Scheiwiler, will notify restoration volunteers by email when workdays will proceed. If you would like to be added to our email group, please email [kevin.scheiwiler@citizensforconservation.org](mailto:kevin.scheiwiler@citizensforconservation.org).

## Barrington area spring bird walks & hikes

**Bird walks have been cancelled until further notice. Please check CFC's website for status updates as the situation and public health restrictions change.**

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 CFC website for any last minute changes or cancellations.

May 8, 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, 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 19, 7:30 a.m. — Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd. off of Palatine Rd.)

May 20, 3:30 p.m. — Baker's Lake for students and adults (parking lot on Highland Ave. south of Hillside Ave.)

May 22, 7:30 a.m. — Headwaters\* (parking lot on Wichman Rd. off north side of Rt. 72, ½ mile west of Rt. 59)

May 29, 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 12, 7:00 a.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.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events have been cancelled until future notice. Please check CFC's website ([www.citizensforconservation.org](http://www.citizensforconservation.org)) for status updates.

### Summer Camp – tentative

June 8-12 – Ages 5-7: 9:15-11:45 a.m., Ages 8-10: 1:15-3:45 p.m.

## 24th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale cancelled

With great regret, CFC decided to cancel this year's Spring Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale—including online orders—because of concerns about COVID-19. After discussing a variety of alternatives, the decision was based primarily on the safety of our volunteers, our customers, and the community. Even if we had moved to a completely online version of the sale, we still need many volunteers to unload plants, fill orders, and load orders into customers' cars. Many alternatives were evaluated, but, in the end, the safety of all involved and the science of the situation caused us to cancel this year's sale.

All online orders will be refunded.

If the public health restrictions improve, you may be able to purchase plants from these recommended growers:

- Agrecol in Evansville, WI. Visit [agrecol.com](http://agrecol.com). Shipping available.
- Red Buffalo in Richmond, IL. Visit [redbuffalonursery.com](http://redbuffalonursery.com). Onsite sale dates to be announced.
- Possibility Place in Monee, IL. Visit [possibilityplace.com](http://possibilityplace.com). Shipping available.
- Natural Communities in Geneva, IL. Visit [naturalcommunities.net](http://naturalcommunities.net). Shipping and pickup available.

We are still planning to hold our annual Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale, and we hope you will come back next year for our 50th anniversary event and sale which will have special plants and garden packages.

Thank you to everyone who ordered plants and those who volunteered their time. We appreciate your support of nature and of CFC.

## Membership renewal

April is the month that many of you usually receive our membership brochure in the mail. With the unprecedented situation in our country caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we have decided to postpone that mailing. However, this would be a great time to stay involved with CFC. You can renew or join online at: [citizensforconservation.org](http://citizensforconservation.org). Your support is important to us, and we appreciate it!

## New CFC Board members

Three new members were elected to CFC's Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

### Jim Anderson – Vice President

Jim Anderson is the Director of Natural Resources at Lake County Forest Preserve District. He has been a CFC volunteer and partner for many years. Jim has extensive leadership experience in regional ecological management, with an emphasis on the administration of nature resource programs. Jim has led and served on a number of strategic committees, presented professional papers at regional and national conferences, and holds several conservation-related certifications.



Jim Anderson. Photo by Bob Lee.

Jim brings strategic leadership and broad regional working relationships to assist CFC's efforts. He says: *"The ability to recover lost native communities from the landscape has always been attractive to me. The end results are fascinating and ever changing challenging our sense of the real natural world."*

### Judy Springer – Secretary

Judy Springer has been a member and volunteer of CFC for 15 years. She has helped with plant sales, summer and fall restorations, and mailing events. Judy will jump in wherever needed to help. She is a former middle school teacher and high school librarian.

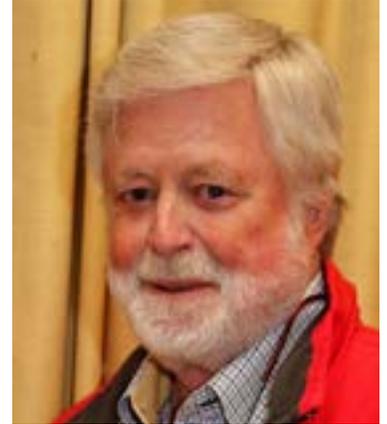


Judy Springer. Photo by Bob Lee.

Judy says she came to CFC *"because it is important to conserve and restore our environment to benefit the planet and our future generations. For me, volunteering is a meaningful way, no matter how small, to impact our world."*

### Tom Malia – Member at Large

Tom Malia has been a member of CFC for a decade and been a regular restoration volunteer the past few years. He has an accounting, financial and marketing background. Tom is an active volunteer in Barrington and is the Treasurer for the Barrington Area Development Council (BADC) and is the Co-Head of the Advisory Board for the Barrington White House and Ex-Officio member of the Friends of the Barrington White House.



Tom Malia. Photo by Bob Lee.

Tom grew up on a farm in Minnesota and says *"I've always been a fan of conservation and the out-of-doors. I think CFC's mission is now particularly pertinent as society increases the effort to reverse/minimize the impact of human activity. I am looking forward to bringing my financial, communication and organizational skills to assist CFC in this effort."*

We welcome Jim, Judy and Tom to our Board. They each bring valuable skills and experience towards CFC's future.

## CFC gets a visitor

On April 16, Kevin Scheiwiller found a visitor at the farmhouse. Thanks to Dawn Keller of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation for rescuing this beautiful red-tailed hawk.



Red-tailed hawk. Photo by Dawn Keller.

## President's Comments

### Oh, the cycle of life!

CFC started the quarter as usual with typical winter activities: brush clearing and burns, planning for the Annual Meeting March 12, all while paying attention to the problems 'outside' of our community.

COVID-19 started steamrolling closer to home mid-February and by March 10 we realized we needed, in what was then considered an abundance of caution, to acknowledge the proximity of the illness and notify our membership that, if they had RSVP'd to the Annual Meeting but decided not to attend, we completely understood. Ultimately, approximately 140 people did attend, and were treated to a wonderful presentation by artist Philip Juras.

For those who didn't have an opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting, Philip told of coming to the Barrington area at Wendy Paulson's invitation to see the Illinois tallgrass prairies. He became inspired by the rich aesthetics, ecology and history as he worked on restoration with Tom Vanderpoel and volunteers from CFC. Since then, Philip has painted several beautiful paintings of CFC properties and other Illinois sites.

Philip has local shows coming up at the Chicago Botanic Garden, so keep an eye on their website for updates.

Fast forward almost immediately to today's new normal: sheltering in place for the foreseeable future. CFC has taken

the unprecedented action of cancelling workdays until further notice. While many of our workday activities naturally have us working 6 feet apart, there is too much opportunity for unintended proximity and therefore, unnecessary risk. Stay tuned for updates.

Fortunately, our community is patient, just like Mother Nature. We realize that each of us can be a hero just by staying home. We are so thankful for the health care workers, grocery store staff, delivery drivers and mail carriers who continue working through this crisis. Together we will see this through.



Kathleen Leitner. Photo by Bob Lee.

— Kathleen Leitner

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