



Citizens for Conservation

1971 – 2021

Deep Roots and Growing



Barrington Area Council
Of Governments

RESOLUTION NO. 20-02

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION ON ITS 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) is a collaborative regional planning and advocacy organization representing local governments in areas of Lake, Cook, McHenry and Kane Counties; and

WHEREAS, Citizens For Conservation (CFC) is a Barrington-area nonprofit organization incorporated on March 17, 1971, after area residents met to discuss the damage that suburban growth was causing to Barrington's environment; and

WHEREAS, CFC's mission is to save living space for living things through the protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources, and education of the community, which is defined as the area covered by the Barrington Area Council of Governments and Barrington School District 220; and

WHEREAS, CFC started as a grassroots, volunteer-based organization of citizens dedicated to preserving and restoring native plant habitats first by encouraging Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Forest Preserves of Cook County to acquire and protect open lands then by protecting and restoring land donated to CFC, and CFC is now a premiere regional conservation organization managing its own 475 acres; and

WHEREAS, CFC enjoys broad community support from donors, grantors, sponsors, volunteers and collaborators who care about the future and making a difference; and

WHEREAS, CFC's unique volunteer-based approach, expertise and decades of restoration success have placed CFC among notable and larger regional conservation organizations; and

WHEREAS, CFC's work helps nature deliver benefits to the BACOG region including cleaner air and water, erosion and flooding control, and protection of open space, habitat and groundwater recharge areas, which supports the ecological goal of the Barrington Area Council of Governments Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Barrington Area Council of Governments recognizes the success of CFC and its work toward the betterment of the regional community and furthermore recognizes the dedication of the individuals who have served on its Board of Directors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Board of the Barrington Area Council of Governments congratulates Citizens For Conservation on its 50-year anniversary and its important accomplishments and contributions to the community.

THIS RESOLUTION is passed the 25 day of August 2020, by the Executive Board of BACOG:

Karen Darch, President, Village of Barrington
Martin J. McLaughlin, President, Village of Barrington Hills
Amy Nykaza, Supervisor, Barrington Township
Greg Rusteberg, Acting President, Village of Deer Park
Kevin C. Richardson, President, Village of Lake Barrington
Paula McCombie, President, Village of South Barrington
David R. Parro, President, Village of Tower Lakes

For the Executive Board:


Karen Darch, Chairperson
Executive Board


Jennifer Shimp, Secretary
ATTEST



CFC PRESIDENT, KATHLEEN LEITNER

From President Kathleen Leitner

Fifty years ago the Barrington Area Development Council determined the need for a conservation organization to address local environmental concerns. Citizens for Conservation was started by committed citizens with a recycling center at the Barrington Village Hall, but quickly became focused on the identified mission of protecting and improving the quality of life in the Barrington area through protection and restoration of land and education of the community. Initially, we worked with area landowners encouraging them in their efforts towards those goals.

CFC has come a long way since 1971. While we continue to encourage others to preserve and restore their land, we now own 476 acres in 12 preserves plus two that we restore, manage and protect, plus two additional preserves for which we are stewards. In addition, through the Barrington Greenway Initiative (“BGI”), we work with six partners to preserve and link 14,000 acres of native habitats including tall grass prairie, oak savanna, woodland, and wetland - all to create habitat corridors that support native plants and wildlife. CFC logged over 17,000 volunteer hours in 2019 and with our BGI partners collected 520 pounds of native seed. We have grown from encouraging others to preserve natural habitats, to becoming a regional leader in the movement.

In the following pages you will see our progress. As Barrington grew and changed, so did CFC. We share our restoration success stories, including our BGI projects, and we describe our vision for CFC’s future. We look forward to another fifty years of Saving Living Space for Living Things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources, and education. We will continue to grow, and we know we can succeed with the support of the greater Barrington area community!

BARRINGTON AREA BEFORE CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION

19th Century

By Barbara L. Benson

“The accelerated pace of our horses as we approached a beautiful wooded knoll warned us that this was to be our place of repose for the night. These animals seemed to know by instinct a favorable encamping ground, and this was one of the most lovely imaginable.

The ground around us was carpeted with flowers; we could not bear to have them crushed by the felling of a tree and the pitching of our tents among them. The birds sent forth their sweetest notes in the warm, lingering sunshine; and the opening buds of the young hickory and sassafras filled the air with perfume.... We pursued our way through a lovely country of alternate glade and forest until we reached the Fox River. The current ran clear and rippling along, and as we descended the steep bank to the water, the question, so natural to a traveler in an unknown region, presented itself: ‘Is it fordable?’”

This vivid account of the pre-settlement landscape in what became Cuba Township is from Mrs. Juliette Magill Kinzie, wife of John Kinzie, Government Agent at Fort Winnebago, Wisconsin. In 1831 the Kinzies traveled from Chicago to the Fort with their family and attendants. In her book *Waubun: Or the Early Days in the Northwest*, she writes about fording the Fox River in a place that historians believe was just north of Algonquin.

The Fox River was perilously fordable, and Mrs. Kinzie wrote her description with a matter-of-factness that shows how resourceful travelers had to be as they went into the wilderness, and what a beautiful wilderness it was in this northeastern part of Illinois.

When a History of Lake County, Illinois was published in 1877, the chapter on Cuba Township contained Mrs. Kinzie’s complete account of the family’s experiences and impressions as they crossed this bountiful land. It was a legacy account from which today’s conservationists can draw inspiration for their future accomplishments.

PHOTO BY JEFF CHEMELEWSKI



BARRINGTON AREA BEFORE CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION

Early 20th Century

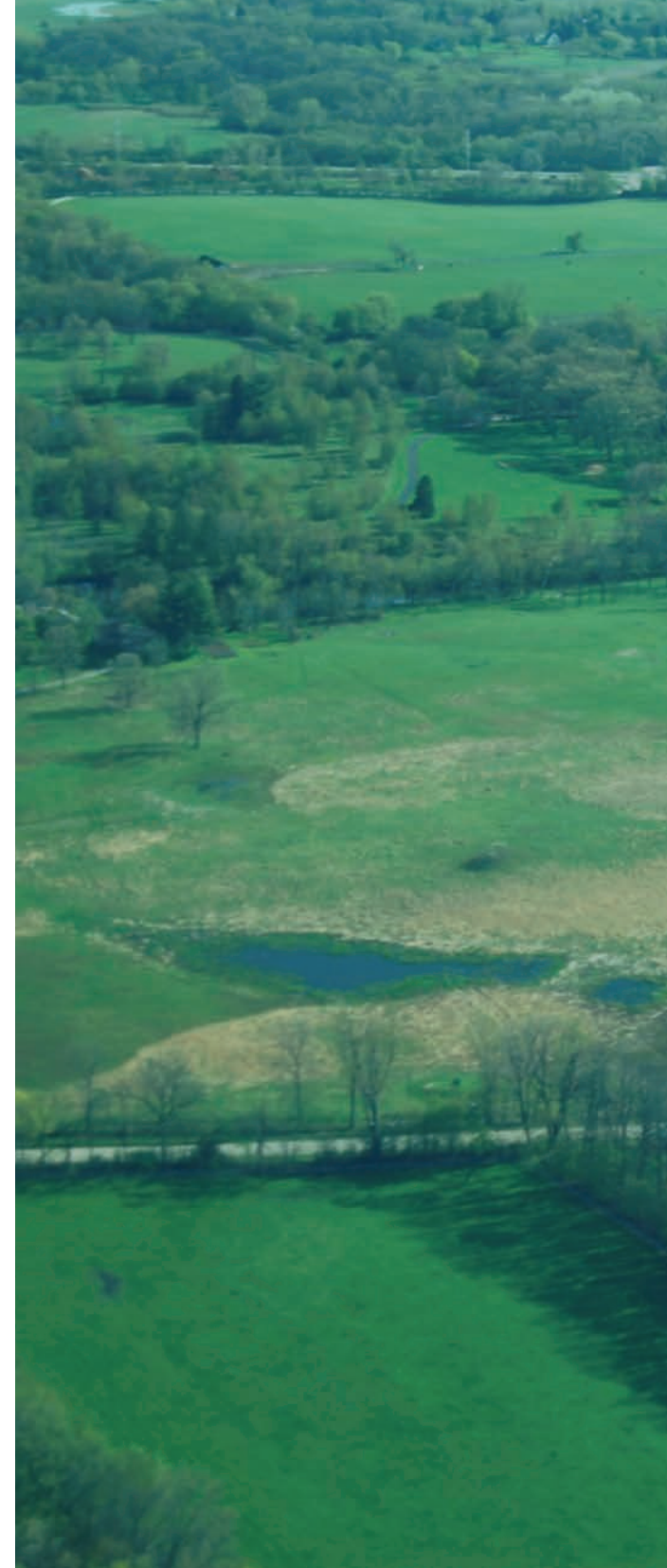
By Barbara L. Benson

The Barrington area has a heritage of ecological variety and has been blessed with residents who have striven to preserve elements of that heritage. From the first pioneers who came in 1834, built their log cabins and broke the prairie, there was an appreciation for the richness of the land. Timber-covered knolls, open prairie, lakes and streams that stretched away to the eastern bank of the Fox River provided agricultural acreage, grasslands for cattle and abundant hunting grounds. In the early years of the twentieth century this abundance would attract a new kind of pioneer, the gentleman farmer and recreational equestrian.

In 1907, through his office in the Railway Exchange Building in Chicago, Barrington realtor Sanford Peck kept lists of available farm properties in the countryside around the Village of Barrington; his potential clients were wealthy businessmen, mostly in the railroad business who were ready to acquire rural estates. Their interests were in dairy farming, equestrian pursuits, and eventually social lives centered in a country club that they would build.

The sale of farmland for country estates went on well into the 1930s. Formal gardens emerged around gracious residences, stables and pastures housed and nurtured the horses for devoted equestrians, and landowners maintained prize dairy herds. In 1925, the Barrington Hills Country Club was chartered, to become a social and recreational focus for countryside families. To the north, Biltmore Country Club and estates, opened in 1926, with summer homes and recreational activities including a golf club and the natural Honey and Grassy lakes. Biltmore drew weekenders from the city and North Shore.

In 1925 too, the Garden Club of Barrington was chartered. Among its first board members and later president was Mrs. Robert Work. It could be said that Ruth Work, and her husband, Robert Work were Barrington's first conservationists. Among her numerous avocations, Ruth was a leader with the Chicago Chapter of the Illinois Conservation Council, the Chicago Chapter of the Wildflower Preservation Society; a member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and the Illinois Audubon Society.





She crusaded for conservation, directing her efforts to preserving the natural beauty of the countryside and protecting plants and wildlife.

After the Second World War, development pressure reached the rolling farmlands and estates surrounding the Village of Barrington. Fortunately, there were established associations that provided a framework for land preservation. The Riding Club of Barrington Hills and Fox River Valley Hunt had established a trail system.

In the 1950s, ample land was open for development. But many like-minded residents wanted to control the development of their areas. Thus, local communities were incorporated for their individual governance.

In 1957, the Villages of Barrington Hills, Lake Barrington, and Deer Park were incorporated, followed in 1959 by North Barrington and South Barrington. Tower Lakes was incorporated in 1969. All established large-lot zoning laws and provisions for parks and open space. But there remained large ribbons of unincorporated, county land between the villages. Development pressures never ceased.

Other impacts occurred with the opening of the Northwest Tollway in 1957, and the new Route

12 to the east. Corporations moving to the newly accessible suburbs brought with them employees seeking new housing opportunities. The Village of Barrington approved the Fox Point subdivision.

By 1966, recognizing that a more extensive civic infrastructure was needed for the growing population, community leaders came together to form the Barrington Area Development Council, celebrating its 55th anniversary in 2021. Among its most iconic achievements was the creation of the Barrington Area Council of Governments in 1970.

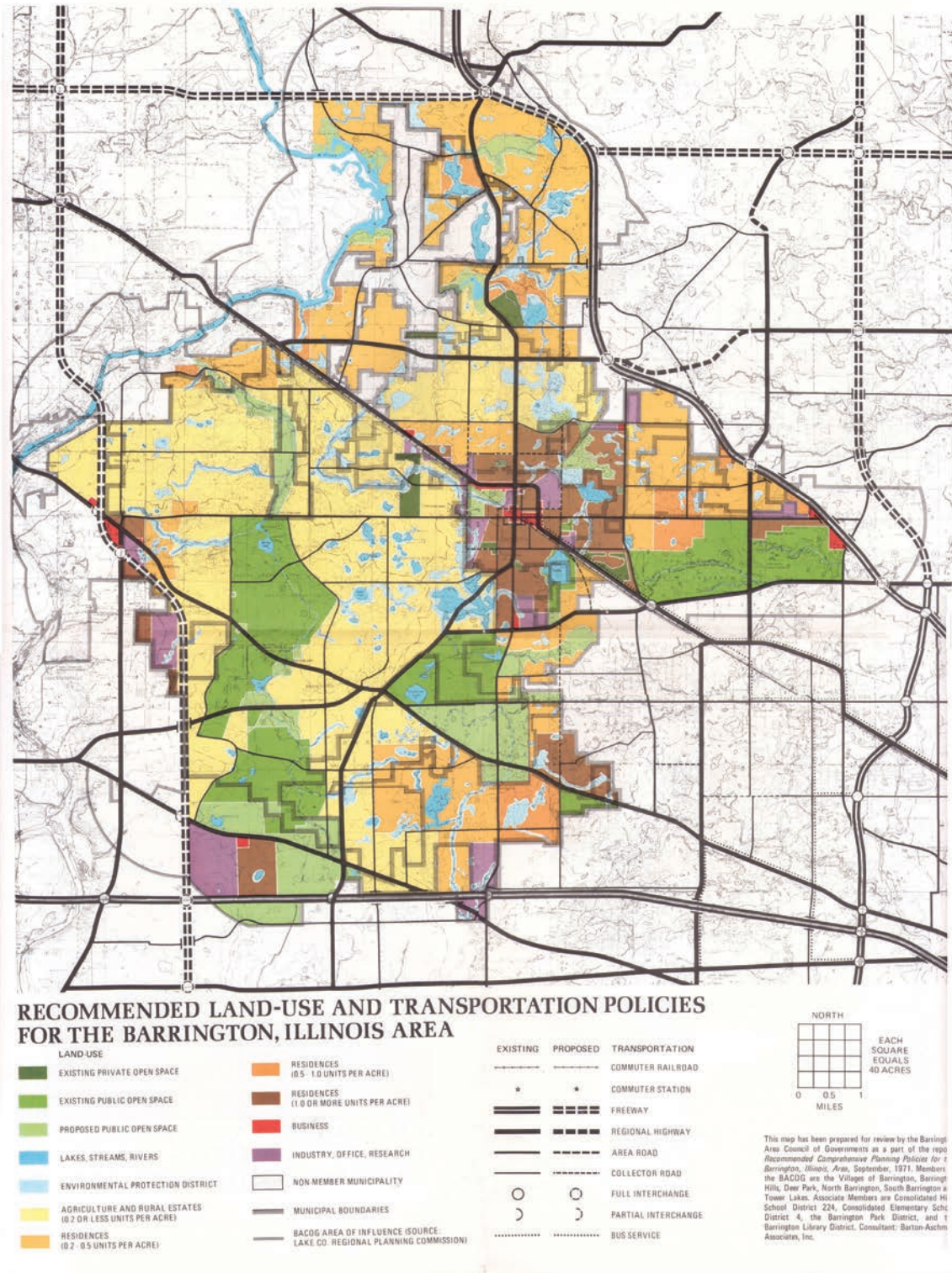
Recognizing that exceptional remnants of the pre-settlement landscape needed preservation and stewardship, the leaders supported incorporation of the not-for-profit, volunteer organization, Citizens for Conservation.

CFC's record of land preservation, stewardship, environmental education and collaboration with other environmental organizations, including county forest preserve districts, have earned it accolades from across the country. Its dedicated volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to its mission of "Saving Living Space for Living Things".

CFC's First 50 Years

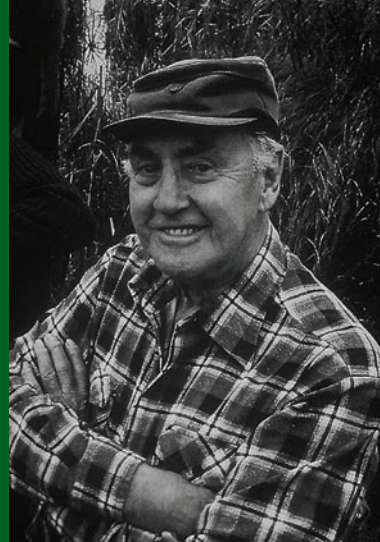
CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION'S MISSION

Saving living space for living things through protection, restoration, and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources, and education.



Citizens For Conservation Timeline

CFC Timeline by: Sam Oliver



BILL MILLER- CFC PRESIDENT - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



1976 - CUBA MARSH DEDICATION - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE

1970

Study commissioned by BADC urges creation of BACOG and Barrington Area Conservation Committee.

1971

Conservation Committee incorporated as Citizens for Conservation with Bill Miller as president.

CFC and scouts run recycling center. Fosters recycling ethic and raises funds for CFC operations.

1974

CFC receives its first gift of property, Hawley Lake Wetlands, 17 acres in Barrington Hills, followed by many other land donations over the years.

1976

Years of urging and negotiating culminate in preservation of Cuba Marsh by Lake County Forest Preserve; the marsh now no longer under threat of being developed as a light industrial park.

1970

1970

Initial member villages of Barrington, Tower Lakes, Barrington Hills, Deer Park, North Barrington, and South Barrington formed the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG).

1971

The Village of Lake Barrington granted approval for the gated townhouse community of Lake Barrington Shores, 1300 units around a manmade lake of more than 600 acres.

1976

A proposal for high density industrial and residential development on some 300 acres came before the Barrington Village Zoning Board. Bounded by Ela and Cuba Roads, the site was found to have significant pre-settlement plant and animal communities. The efforts of Citizens for Conservation, BACOG, the Greater North Barrington Area Association and Fox Point residents defeated this proposal. Because of the site's ecological significance, Lake County Forest Preserve District acquired it in 1976; it is the treasure that became Cuba Marsh.

1978

The Barrington Train Depot built in 1915 was salvaged and moved to the newly restored Ice House Mall where it became Chessie's Restaurant. Barrington's history of recycling buildings by moving them goes back to the early 20th century.

1979

Barrington Timeline

Barrington Timeline by: Barbara Benson



1987 - EXPLORING GRIGSBY PRAIRIE - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



1984 - SAM OLIVER - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



WENDY AND KIDS - BY DIANE BODKIN

1980

First of several land donations in Barrington Hills by Peggy Grigsby Richards, a grassland bird lover. Her family land became CFC's Grigsby Prairie.

1984

CFC acquires office space in BACOG's offices in Barrington.

Sam Oliver starts as staff director; updates the logo and motto.

First issue of CFC News debuts

First 4th of July float features CFC's drop-off recycling program.

Wendy Paulson starts the Youth Education program with a class on fall bird migration at Crabtree Nature Center.

1986

Tom Vanderpoel identifies prairie seed sources along the railroad tracks by taking the train to Harvard. Daria Sapp organizes volunteers for seed collection to restore Grigsby Prairie.

1980

1980

Remaining large undeveloped parcels of land came under pressure for high density use.

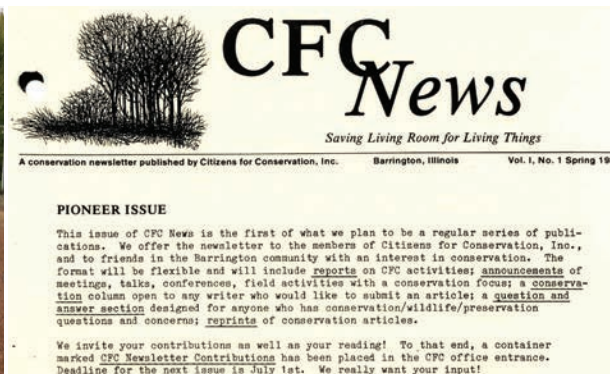
The North Barrington holdings of W. Clement Stone along Indian

Trail Road west of Route 12 proposed for high density townhouses and single-family homes was denied, but a decade later North Barrington approved the Wynstone Golf Community for much of this land.

GRIGSBY SEED COLLECTING - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



1984 - CFC NEWS - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



Instead, Sears Headquarters and the Prairie Stone Business Park were built including areas of native landscaping.

TOM V COLLECTING SEEDS ALONG THE RAILROAD - BY ROB NEFF





1987 - GRIGSBY SOWING SEED
- CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE

1988

Waid Vanderpoel negotiates CFC's first land purchase, 33 acres at Flint Creek Savanna, which becomes CFC's most diverse preserve.

Barrington Bog awarded protection as an Illinois Nature Preserve followed by Farm Trails north and Wagner Fen in later years.



1980S - BAKER'S LAKE SAVANNA - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



1988 - BOG OCT DEDICATION - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE

1987

CFC convinces the Village of Barrington to restore the rare savanna ecosystem at Baker's Lake Campground.

CFC provides input for BADC natural resources report identifying 12 natural areas that need protecting. One of the 12, Healy Road Prairie, is destroyed, but not before part of the prairie is moved in a nationally publicized event.

Ten other areas are permanently protected while one remains open, but unprotected.

CFC helps protect almost 2400 acres in the Barrington area, including four new forest preserves, in the late 1980s and 90s— Cuba Marsh/ Ela Prairie, Fox River, Grassy Lake/Flint Creek and Baker's Lake Younghusband Prairie.

1989

CFC publishes the first in a series of Junior Naturalist books for elementary school students.

Frank Spreyer acquires 55 acre Jewel Tea property for CFC which is then donated to Lake County Forest Preserves to expand Cuba Marsh.

1986

A large strip mall was proposed for vacant land adjacent to Lines School at Northwest Highway and Hillside Road. The Gateway proposal drew immediate citizen opposition. Expert testimony concerned increased traffic, proximity to schools, and the environmental impact on the Baker's Lake Heron Rookery and Nature Preserve. After the Village rejected the proposal, the developer took the Village to court. The Village's victory finally came in 1989. The Lakeview residential subdivision is there today.

1987

The Village of Barrington approved development of The Foundry Center at Northwest Highway and Hart Road. The Historical Society recommended the name to commemorate the old foundry, the American Malleable Ironworks, which was located nearby in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

GRASSY LAKE IN 1990S - PHOTO BY WES WOLF



1988

A North Shore developer proposed a massive hotel and resort complex on the Fox River off Roberts Road. BACOG, CFC, and GNBA mobilized to fight it, presenting strong environmental reasons for its defeat. The properties later became the beautiful Fox River Preserve, giving the Lake County Forest Preserve District a public marina and its only boat launch on the river.

1989

Fire destroyed the historic Lipofsky's Department Store Barrington. The Lipofsky Brothers, Charles and Sam, had opened a dry goods store on Cook Street in the late 19th century.

Wynstone, a Jack Nicklaus designed Golf Course Community, was approved by the Village of North Barrington, encompassing the Clement Stone property bounded by Route 12, Miller Road and Indian Trail Road. Developers bought out homeowners and demolished their properties to encompass the golf course and several lakes surrounded by gracious residences.

1989



BLUE BIRD BOX - BY STEPHEN BARTEN



TOM AND THE INTERNS - BY DIANE BODKIN



MAY 1999 - PLANT SALE - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



1996 - SANDHILL CRANE FAMILY - BY DIANE BODKIN

1990

First bluebird monitoring program followed by stream monitoring in 1996 and animal monitoring in 2000.

1992

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service honors Bill Miller with its most prestigious Silver Eagle Award.

1994

CFC moves its office to a renovated farmhouse on Ela road owned by Lake County Forest Preserve.

1995

First summer interns are hired.

1997

The CFC Native Plant Sale is established.

1999

Preservation Partners Program debuts at Barrington High School and Barrington Middle School, Station Campus.

Many Scouts earn their Eagle Scout or Gold Award working with CFC.

CFC encourages and works with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to restore the Baker's Lake Heron Rookery.

1990

1996

A developer approached the Village of North Barrington wanting to build a Super-Regional Shopping Mall on 100 vacant unincorporated acres at Route 12 and Old McHenry Road, amid residential properties. The vision included high-end stores and luxury brand boutiques. The proposal drew widespread opposition from neighboring residents and community organizations including BACOG, CFC, the Greater North Barrington Area Association and emerging citizen involvement

from ACRE (Active Citizens for Responsible Expansion) a non-profit civic organization to monitor land-use planning and decision-making in the area.

BAKERS LAKE ROOKERY - BY PATSY MORTIMER



1998

Fire destroyed the historic Barrington United Methodist Church on Hough Street. The congregation acquired land at Routes 62 and 59 to build a new

church, close to where the original Methodist Church was built in 1853. Historically known as Barrington Center, early settlement began there in 1834.

The Barrington Area Historical Society moved the 1929 Wichman Blacksmith Shop to the Museum campus on West Main Street. This allowed construction of Barrington's new Village Hall, which architecturally interprets the style of the 1898 building.

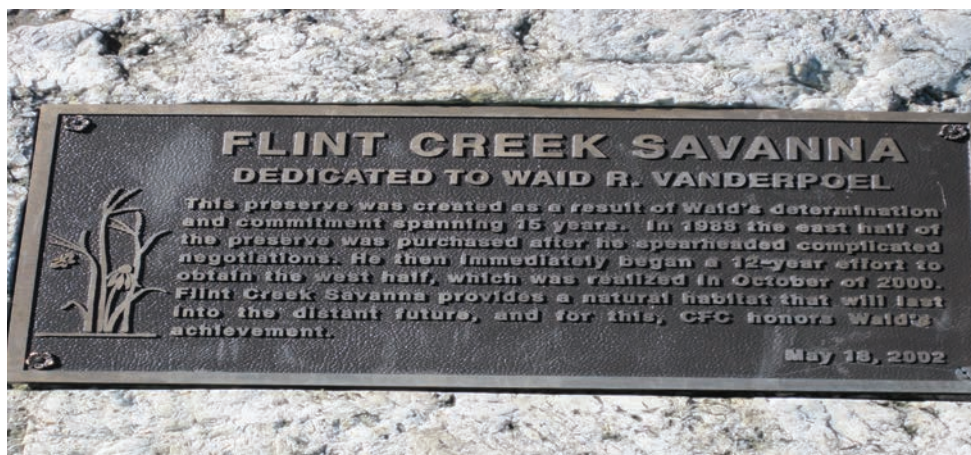
The Barbara B. Rose Elementary School opened in South Barrington, a milestone in local education. Children would no longer be bussed north into Barrington.

1999 - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - BY DIANE BODKIN





2000 - CFC HEADQUARTERS - BY JANE CHRISTINO



2002 - WAID VANDERPOEL PLAQUE - BY DONNA BOLZMAN

2000

By 2000 volunteers work year-round, 1-3 times a week clearing brush in winter, rescuing wildflowers in spring, weeding in summer and collecting seed in fall.

CFC purchases 65 acres to expand Flint Creek Savanna. CFC supporters have contributed almost \$1 million to buy and restore the land. The farmhouse, silo and buildings on the new property become CFC's headquarters.

2001

Work accelerates on restoring the new Flint Creek Savanna prairie, savanna and wetlands.

2002

CFC dedicates Flint Creek Savanna to Waid Vanderpoel in honor of his efforts to create the preserve.

CFC plants the first seed propagation beds and demonstration gardens at CFC headquarters.

2003

Flint Creek 15th Anniversary Celebration

2005

CFC partners with BADC, BACOG and Village of Barrington to form the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership. By year end, most governments in the watershed have joined the partnership, with CFC as fiscal agent.

CFC celebrates "20 Years of Volunteers" with tours, talks and refreshments.

Youth Ed programs are expanded at CFC to include summer camps and monthly programs.

2000

2002

The Village of Barrington approved a senior residential and assisted living community called The Garlands of Barrington. It occupies approximately two hundred acres on Northwest Highway. Apartments, townhouses, restaurants, recreational facilities and spacious landscaped grounds became a village within a village.

2003

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, in Barrington recognition began for thousands of first responders: policemen, firemen and medical workers. Memorial Park opposite Village Hall on Hough Street was dedicated in 2003.

1999-2020 FLINT CREEK SAVANNA COMPARISON - BY ROB NEFF



2004

Barrington and Cuba Townships joined the Barrington Area Council of Governments, bringing local intergovernmental representation to the unincorporated areas lying between the Barrington area villages.

FLINT CREEK STREAM BANK STABILIZATION - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE





FLINT CREEK SAVANNA FLOATING ISLANDS, FEATURED ON PBS
- BY JOHN SCHWEIZER



2009 - 4TH GRADERS ON THE PRAIRIE - BY PATSY MORTIMER



TOM VANDERPOEL IN SEED STORAGE
ROOM - BY PATSY MORTIMER



STRATEGY MEETING - BY ROB NEFF

2006

Ambitious, far-reaching Community Education Program begins.

Installation of large Floating Islands in the pond at Flint Creek Savanna (the cost was \$15,465.88).

2008

Native Seed Gardener program launched; goal--produce seed, return it to restoration areas.

2009

"4th Graders on the Prairie" partnership between CFC and Barrington District 220 schools is launched, inspired by the Leave No Child Inside initiative.

Scout builds cabinets for seed sorting and drying as species of seeds collected grow.

CFC purchases 6.9 acres from Lake Barrington to create Flint Creek Savanna South, with options for future purchases.

2010

Approaching our 40th anniversary, Board conducts formal strategic planning process.

2006

2006

Throughout the decade, the Village of Barrington, supported by all Barrington Area Council of Governments members sought solutions for the environmental, safety, and traffic congestion issues resulting from the Canadian National Railway's purchase of the E.J.&E. Railroad. Thanks to the efforts of members in contacting legislators, funding has now been secured for the proposed Route 14 underpass in Barrington.

2007

Citizens Park was dedicated. After alternative proposals were considered, the former Jewel Tea Company site won a Barrington Park District referendum to develop a park. The award-winning site has facilities available for rent for social occasions and the Pepper Family Tree House provides a special needs-friendly destination. A boardwalk trail connects the 45-acre park to the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve.

2007

In 2007 the Village of Barrington purchased the 1898 Robertson House at 145 West Main Street, which will become The White House.

2005-2009 - FLINT CREEK SAVANNA SOUTH
BEFORE AND AFTER - BY ROB NEFF



2008

Concerns were raised about the sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway loop line to the Canadian National Railway freight corporation. Always a sleepy line, carrying freight and some passengers in its early days, recently only two or three trains a day passed through Barrington, crossing four major intersections. It was estimated that under CN ownership at least sixteen trains a day would cross through the village.

2009

The Village of Barrington mounted strong opposition to the CN proposal. Long freight trains would block emergency vehicles from reaching Good Shepherd Hospital. Barrington's objections were supported by several towns along the line. Nonetheless, the US Surface Transportation Board approved the purchase.



2013 - HABITAT CORRIDORS - BY PEGGY SIMONSEN

2011

CFC has helped save 3,000 acres and restored 300 acres.

Youth Ed offers winter opportunities with Great Backyard Bird Count, astronomy, and raptors.

2013

CFC invites community to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Flint Creek Savanna.



2014 - SPRING CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP - BY JEFF CHEMELEWSKI



CRAFTSBURY PRERESTORATION - BY KEVIN SCHEIWILLER



CFC HIRES FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER, JULI LAROCQUE - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE

2015

CFC Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale outgrows headquarters, moves to Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital grounds. First opportunity to pre-order on-line.

CFC hires first Administrative Manager.

CFC helps found Chicago Living Corridor Alliance, dedicated to the furtherance of native habitat in the broader Chicago region.

2011

2015

2015

In 2015, through private funding, and after an environmentally approved restoration, the White House is now on the National Register of Historic Places, reopened as a center for community and cultural events.

PLANT SALE - BY PATTY BARTEN





2017 - BGI CUBA MARSH - BY PATTY BARTEN

2017

High School summer intern program begins.

Long-held CFC vision realized when Barrington Greenway Initiative is officially organized; Seven public agencies and nonprofit organizations

collaborate on linking more than 14,000 acres of prairies, oak savannas, wetlands and woodlands that comprise the Greenway.

First Ignite the Night benefit for CFC raises funds and awareness.



KEVIN SCHEIWILLER - BY PATTY BARTEN

2018

CFC hires Kevin Scheiwiller as Restoration Program Manager.

The Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee, an endangered species thought to be extinct in Illinois, was discovered at Flint Creek Savanna.

Working with a herpetologist from Notebaert Museum, CFC reintroduced the endangered Smooth Green Snake to restored habitat at FCS.



SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE - BY JANE CHRISTINO

2019

Second Craftsbury Preserve acquisition of 30 acres brings CFC-owned acreage to 470.24 acres.

622 volunteers contribute 17,535 hours to the work of CFC.



2018 - RUSTY PATCH BEE - BY BEN DAVIES / LIZZY HUCKER

2020

Despite the pandemic, CFC's work continued: 30,000 sedges were planted, we held summer camps for kids, we collected, cleaned and spread hundreds of pounds of seed.

2016

2017 - IGNITE THE NIGHT - BY PATTY BARTEN



2020 - GRASSY LAKE - BY WES WOLF



CFC Preserves

“CFC conducts the best restoration work in North America” said Dr Dwayne Estes, Executive Director of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. Our mature preserves show this quality.

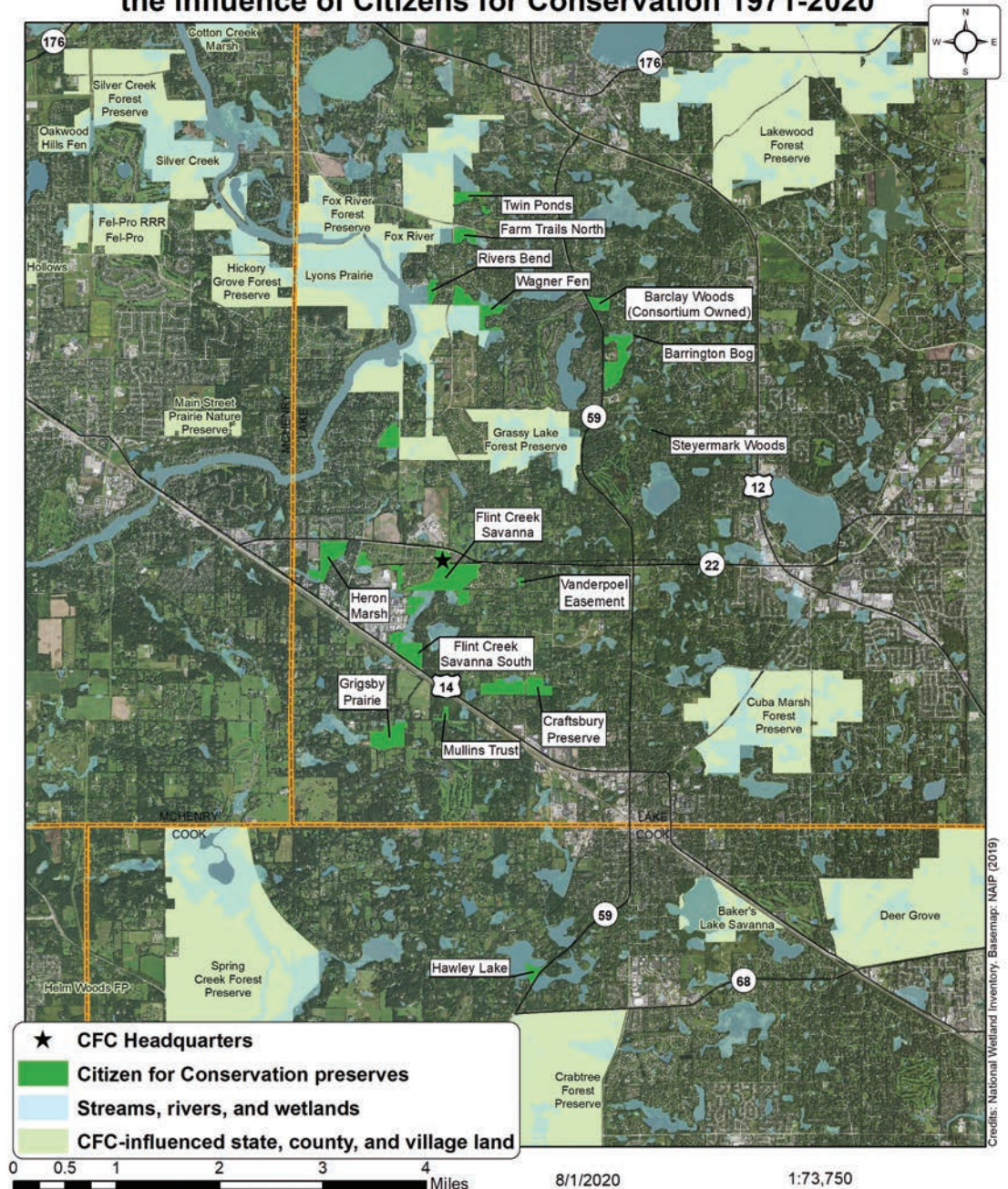
CFC has used cutting edge ecological restoration techniques and lots of hard work to restore the natural hydrology and hundreds of species of native plants to our preserves. The improved habitat is attracting many wildlife species, fulfilling our mission of ‘Saving living space for living things.’

“37% of the solution to reducing climate change can be found in conservation and restoration of the land.” – Openlands

FAST FACTS

- 14 properties owned or managed by CFC
- 476 acres
- Over 3500 acres protected

Barrington Area Land preserved through the influence of Citizens for Conservation 1971-2020



MAP BY KYLE BOATRIGHT

CFC PRESERVES

Grigsby Prairie

By Jim Vanderpoel

Grigsby Prairie is Citizens for Conservation's first prairie restoration. All forty-three acres of Grigsby were donated to CFC by Ms. Peggy Grigsby Richards. Ms. Richards, who named the preserve for her father who had farmed it for many years, wished to preserve the land as open space and particularly wanted to see the grassland birds remain.

Soon after we received the land (which Ms. Richards donated as several parcels over the years), CFC decided that it was the ideal site for our first prairie restoration. Very little native vegetation remained on the site except for a fringe of trees along the property boundary along Buckley and Oak Knoll roads.

Thirty-three years ago CFC took the first steps toward restoration by cutting the brush (mainly European buckthorn, box elder and black locust) that had grown up in the unmown hayfields; we planted a mix of prairie seeds. We also rescued plugs of three native species (hoary puccoon, shooting star and prairie phlox) from a construction site along the railroad tracks and transplanted them in the fields.

A big step in restoring the native plants was to establish four serial wetlands. These engineering projects were funded through the United States Army Corps of Engineers wetland mitigation program in which real estate developers pay the cost of creating wetlands in natural areas to

mitigate the loss of wetlands on their development sites. First, we broke agricultural drain tiles to allow the land to become saturated; then we re-contoured the land and removed the tillage silt that had filled the wetlands; finally, we planted plugs and spread seed of marsh plants to stabilize the banks. At Grigsby, the land climbs slowly from a shallow pond with marsh plants like hard-stemmed bulrush and blue flag iris, to sedge meadow with tussock sedge and swamp milkweed, to wet prairie with prairie cord grass and native fen loosestrife. The habitats merge seamlessly with the restored prairie of big bluestem and prairie dock.

We greatly expand plant diversity as we create the right habitats. Wetlands are extremely valuable

GRIGSBY PRAIRIE - BY JIM BODKIN



4TH GRADERS AT GRIGSBY - BY BOB LEE



FRINGED GENTIAN - BY JIM BODKIN



because they store and clean storm water and allow groundwater recharge. We have a huge population of amphibians in the ephemeral wetlands because predatory fish cannot survive the periodic droughts that empty the ponds in the late summer. Migrant and nesting birds avail themselves of this diverse restored habitat. For example, marsh wrens nest in the emergent vegetation while sedge wrens nest in the sedge meadows. A typical degraded cattail marsh loses the sedge wrens. Another rare animal taking advantage of the wetland restoration is the black dash butterfly whose sole larval food is sedge.

All of these restoration techniques – brush cutting, controlled burns, plant rescues, wetland reconstruction, overseeding, not to mention weed

pulling and destruction of super invaders like reed canary grass with herbicide – have teamed up with Grigsby's rolling topography and secluded setting to create a scenic oasis.

When is the best time to visit Grigsby? In mid-May, spring prairie flora (which is very difficult to establish) puts on a great display with the lavender of shooting stars, the scarlet of Indian paintbrush and the pumpkin orange of hoary puccoon. In early July the mesic prairie peaks with snow-white wild quinine, gold prairie coreopsis and royal purple leadplant.

The wetlands peak in August with ironweed, spotted Joe Pye weed and sweet black-eyed Susan;

at the same time the prairie/woodland border along Oak Knoll Road is lovely with purple Joe Pye Weed and all the monarch, tiger swallowtail and great-spangled fritillary butterflies the flowers attract. Then again, September is great with the gentians, asters, goldenrods and ladies tresses orchids blooming among the beautiful and colorful grasses and forbs. Come to think of it, anytime of the year is worth a trip to Grigsby Prairie.

So many native plants are so well established at this preserve that it has become CFC's top seed harvesting location. We use the seeds we collect at Grigsby to establish and enrich additional prairies at our other preserves and at preserves managed by our partner organizations.

INDIAN PAINTBRUSH - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



GRIGSBY DRK CLOUDS - BY JEFF CHEMELEWSKI



GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



CFC PRESERVES

Flint Creek Savanna

By Patsy Mortimer

Flint Creek Savanna (FCS) is Citizens for Conservation's largest and most diverse preserve with savanna, creek, wetland and prairie restorations. It is the first property that CFC purchased rather than receiving by donation from a developer or landowner. The initial thirty-three acres acquired in 1988 have grown to 159.6 acres with the latest four-acre acquisition in 2018. CFC members have donated most of the property cost, an extraordinary accomplishment.

FCS is the linchpin in CFC's vision of a greenway, a protected corridor of natural areas, along Flint Creek from Barrington Hills in the south to the Fox River in the north. The greenway has grown over

the past thirty-two years with major acquisitions by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The Village of Lake Barrington has also added to the greenway.

The property presented challenges and opportunities. The land was ecologically degraded when CFC bought it. The open areas had been farmed, and cattle had grazed the oak-hickory savannas, eating all the native wildflowers. After the cattle left, brush moved in. The creek meandered through floodplains full of reed canary grass, and silt washed downstream from farms and construction in Lake Barrington, Barrington Hills and Barrington. However, the basics of the

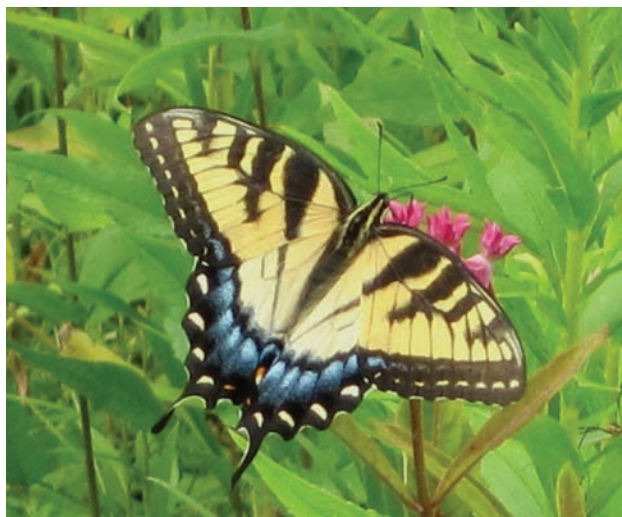
property were there: majestic 100- to 200-year-old oaks and hickories including the largest white oak in Lake County. There were open areas for wetland and prairie restorations and a mile of Flint Creek.

CFC has been busy restoring the ecosystems. Volunteers cleared brush from the savannas and planted rescued wildflowers; they collected prairie seed from remnants along the railroad tracks and spread it in the open areas. Developers funded creation of two new wetlands to mitigate for wetlands they destroyed. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Urban Resources Partnership, Cuba Township, The Garden Club of Barrington and Donnelley Foundation have all

SANDHILL CRANES AT FLINT CREEK SAVANNA WETLANDS - BY STEPHEN BARTEN



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL AT FLINT CREEK SAVANNA - BY CLIFF SCHULTZ



FLINT CREEK SAVANNA POND - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



funded restoration along Flint Creek including the planting of native plant plugs in critical areas of the floodplain, savanna, and prairie. CFC linked trails by placing a rock bridge across the creek while scouts built wetland bridges, and L.L.Bean through Chicago Wilderness funded trail improvements completed in 2010.

CFC built two gravel hill prairies on top of the concrete debris from its old barn foundation, expanded the pond near its office to create fish habitat, and created additional filter marshes to cleanse storm water runoff. Volunteers installed floating islands to improve water quality. Oberweiler Foundation funded summer interns



PHOTO BY MARY MARTINEZ | PLAQUE READS: "DEDICATED TO WAID R. VANDERPOEL. This preserve was created as a result of Waid's determination and commitment spanning 15 years. In 1988 the east half of the preserve was purchased after he spearheaded complicated negotiations. He then immediately began a 12-year effort to obtain the west half, which was realized in October of 2000. Flint Creek Savanna provides a natural habitat that will last into the distant future, and for this, CFC honors Waid's achievement. May 18, 2002"

who have weeded, sprayed, planted plugs, collected and spread native seed and monitored water quality.

The results are spectacular. There are over 200 species of grasses, sedges and wildflowers; three of its nesting birds are on the Illinois list of "species in

greatest need of conservation": savannah sparrow, sedge wren, and sandhill crane. The savannas are brush-free, full of wildflowers and alive with bluebirds, indigo buntings and kingbirds. The creek and reed canary grass floodplains still need work, but native sedges and wildflowers like swamp milkweed line the banks. Chorus frogs sing among the bulrushes and lily pads in the wetlands. The prairie is an ever-changing palette of colors from hoary puccoon and violet wood sorrel in the spring, orange butterfly weed and purple prairie clover in the summer to blue asters, goldenrods and the strawberry-hued blades of little bluestem in the fall. Colorful monarch, fritillary, and swallowtail butterflies crown the equally colorful forbs.

WINTER AT FLINT CREEK - BY JEFF CHEMELEWSKI



MONARCH ON SWAMP MILKWEED - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



FLINT CREEK SAVANNA - BY CLIFF SCHULTZ



CFC PRESERVES

Bakers Lake Savanna

By Jim Vanderpoel

The 17-acre Baker's Lake Savanna is a preserve owned by the Village of Barrington. For thirty-four years, CFC has been restoring this lovely spot in cooperation with the Village. Some native plants survived its century-long use as a church camp, but during its years of stewardship CFC has reintroduced large populations of native savanna and prairie species. CFC has conducted prescribed burns and removed weeds and brush resulting in one of Illinois' finest savanna preserves.

The Baker's Lake floral display begins with bloodroot, toothwort and rue anemone in April, becomes shooting star, wild hyacinth and wild geranium in May, smooth penstemon and yellow pimpernel in June and continues through October

with rare wildflowers like violet bush clover, cream gentian and Short's aster. This lush preserve provides much of the savanna and woodland seed we collect to restore other Barrington area preserves.

Native shrubs sprouting in the open oak-hickory woods present a management challenge. CFC must find the right balance of allowing some shrub understory without letting the woods become so shady that the rich herbaceous layer is impacted.

Baker's Lake has a well-marked trail. If you visit, keep your eye out for wildlife like the Eastern red bat, Southern flying squirrel and American mink.

The preserve provides an excellent view of the water bird rookery in the lake and of migrating ducks, pelicans, herons, terns, bald eagles and osprey. The area was designated an Important Bird Area by Audubon in 2011 because of the water birds that nest in the rookery.

BAKERS LAKE - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



BLOODROOT - BY PEGGY SIMONSEN



BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - BY DIANE BODKIN



CFC PRESERVES

Steyermark Woods

By Jim Vanderpoel

Steyermark encompasses less than an acre of oak and hickory wooded ravine and floodplain along the north branch of Flint Creek. The flow is seasonal: significant and substantial in the spring, smaller in mid-summer, often a trickle by fall. The ravine hosts a wide variety of spring-blooming ephemerals, including Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild geranium, trillium, anemones, bloodroot and baneberry to name a few. In the fall a variety of native asters, goldenrods, and the red berries of Solomon's seal add a burst of color to the hillsides. CFC also maintains adjacent vacant land on either side of the preserve, effectively increasing restored land to almost two acres.

The preserve is named in honor of the famous botanist Julian Steyermark, who was a North Barrington resident and a curator at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago during the late 1940s. Mr. Steyermark is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "champion plant collector" having an unrivaled total of more than 137,000 specimens. In 1986, he wrote a letter to Citizens for Conservation thanking us "for protecting both the Eton Drive Property as well as the Barrington Bog." He added, "It is marvelous that your group has been farsighted enough to get some of the areas preserved around Barrington."

Since 1996, CFC interns have used this section of Flint Creek to monitor macroinvertebrates (primarily larvae of damselflies and mayflies) as part of a state-wide RiverWatch program. Water quality has been consistently rated poor. We hope that restoration by the Village of North Barrington further upstream will have a positive impact by reducing silt and pollutants.

Unfortunately, Steyermark is plagued by an annual spring infestation of garlic mustard. Residents upstream of the preserve have allowed this invasive species to spread aggressively, and the seeds find their way to our little preserve year after year. It is frustrating for CFC volunteers who pull garlic mustard annually yet see little progress.

TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORUM - BY DIANE BODKIN



RED BANEERRY - BY PEGGY SIMONSEN



STEYERMARK WOODS - BY JOHN SCHWEIZER



CFC PRESERVES

Craftsbury Preserve

By Jim Vanderpoel

Craftsbury is Citizens for Conservation's newest major preserve. Art Rice III and his sisters Carol Bowditch and Emily Douglas donated the first part of the preserve, twenty acres east of Hart Road. This gift was one of the largest donations CFC has ever received. We used a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to acquire an additional thirty-one acres adjacent to the original property but west of Hart Road. Craftsbury Preserve is an intriguing property that contains both wetlands and uplands, giving CFC the opportunity to restore a whole continuum of prairie, sedge meadow and deep marsh. The property provides high biodiversity.

Restoration on the eastern portion of the preserve began in 2015, but our restoration effort really hit its stride when we received a grant for restoration from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in 2017. There is some native vegetation in the wetland, which exploded after we cleared the invasive buckthorn, non-native narrow-leaved cattail and common reed. CFC's award-winning restoration techniques have already begun to transform the preserve. Soon Craftsbury will improve as a wildlife sanctuary, and the restored land will provide other ecosystem benefits like flood control, ground water recharge and carbon sequestration.

Once the natural areas have stabilized, CFC will create a nature trail to allow public access thus fulfilling the policy stated in the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation's grant. We are working hard to improve the habitat, biodiversity and open lands that make Barrington the beautiful and desirable location that it is.

CRAFTSBURY BEFORE RESTORATION - BY KEVIN SCHWEILLER



CRAFTSBURY AFTER BRUSH CUTTING - BY KEVIN SCHWEILLER



CRAFTSBURY - BY CLIFF SCHULTZ



CFC PRESERVES

Illinois Nature Preserves

By Jim Vanderpoel

Barrington Bog, Wagner Fen, Farm Trails North

Of all of CFC's preserves, the 44-acre Barrington Bog, located along Route 59 in Lake Barrington, is the most intact natural area. It was designated as an Illinois State Nature Preserve in 1988. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission assists private and public landowners in protecting high quality natural areas and habitats of endangered and threatened species in perpetuity through voluntary dedication or registration of such lands into the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The Commission promotes the preservation of these significant lands and provides leadership in their stewardship, management and protection. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission works with the owners of natural areas to tailor a conservation agreement that protects the natural features of the land while addressing the landowners' use of the property. Nature Preserves Commission programs are voluntary and are available to private and public landowners.

Barrington Bog is an interesting management challenge. The bog provides habitat for a rare and rich collection of native plants and therefore needs no plant reintroduction. It is surrounded by severely degraded old field habitat and would benefit from improvement of the buffer zone around the actual bog. Even the bog itself suffers some encroachment by invasive species.

CFC had done very little management work at the site in the last twenty years. This was a pragmatic decision since the only access to the site is a high-speed highway with very little parking space. Since most of the high quality bog is on a floating mat and tussock-forming sedges make up a significant part of the vegetation, the footing is very difficult. Nevertheless, in the last two years CFC has worked in cooperation with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission to do some brush removal.

CFC usually encourages its members to visit our preserves and see the work being done, but in the case of Barrington Bog, we recommend the curious visitor only tour the site with the Restoration Project Manager.

The 43-acre Wagner Fen and 18-acre Farm Trails North preserves in Lake Barrington are also Illinois State Nature Preserves. Both of these preserves contain some rare remnant marsh habitats and fine plant species, and both are threatened by the drying up of the alkaline springs that used to feed the two fens. CFC cuts brush at both preserves and conducts prescribed burns at Farm Trails North, and each sanctuary provides a nice natural view from the high-speed roads that border them; however, the lack of parking and trails makes it impractical for members to visit.

GRASS OF PARNASSUS - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



WAGNER FEN - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



BOG BEAN - BY KEVIN SCHEIWILLER



CFC PRESERVES

Illinois Forest Preserves

By Jim Vanderpoel

Cuba Marsh

Three hundred acres bounded by Cuba and Ela Roads had been proposed for high density industrial and residential development. In 1973, Citizens for Conservation, along with Barrington Area Council of Governments, The Greater North Barrington Area Association and Fox Point, collaborated to defeat the proposal. CFC's leaders, Bill Miller and Waid Vanderpoel, recognized the area's ecological value and convinced the Lake County Forest Preserve District to buy it to create Cuba Marsh and Ela Prairie in 1976. Over succeeding years, CFC volunteers have collaborated with the forest preserve to restore the area. Adjoining Barrington's Citizens' Park, Cuba Marsh has extensive walking and biking trails for residents and visitors.

Grassy Lake Forest Preserve

For years CFC encouraged Lake County Forest Preserve District to acquire the land along Kelsey Road as a protected preserve. In 2003 it became Grassy Lake Forest Preserve, adding 185 acres. CFC volunteers Wes Wolf and Carol Hogan have contributed hundreds of hours of labor and leadership at the area. They have inspired other volunteers since 2006 as restoration stewards and workday group leaders. The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials recently named Carol and Wes "Outstanding Volunteers" for their dedication, knowledge and passion for restoring Grassy Lake.

Spring Creek Forest Preserve

A property of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Spring Creek in Barrington Hills is nearly 4000 acres of prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland. Active restoration in several parts of the preserve began in 2004 by volunteers with Friends of the Forest Preserve and Audubon, with the direction of Stephen Packard. CFC became involved over the years by contributing native seed, planning and volunteers. It is the largest restoration undertaken in Cook County.

Long known as a center for horse activity in Barrington Hills as well as a focal point for restoration, the Friends of the Forest Preserve, under the leadership of Ginger Underwood brought the two interests together. CFC collected a "power mix" of seeds and equestrians helped sow it one morning in a cooperative celebration.

CUBA MARSH WORKDAY - BY JAYDON TABOADA



CAROL'S HAPPY PLACE - BY PATTY BARTEN



WES ALL SEASONS - BY PATTY BARTEN



SPRING CREEK SEEDING SOWING - BY DIANE BODKIN



Citizens for Conservation has received awards for excellence in restoration from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and The Nature Conservancy for Grigsby Prairie, Flint Creek Savanna and Baker's Lake. These preserves are gems, but restoration efforts don't end with that recognition. Restoration is ongoing, with work continuing every year to keep the invasive species out, to increase the plant diversity by overseeding, and to expand the areas of effort. At Flint Creek Savanna, for example, CFC continues to restore the wetlands, a particularly difficult ecosystem to manage. This year our restoration team has planted 30,000 "warrior sedges," native plants that will out-compete the tough reed canary grass and cattails. Restoration at Grigsby Prairie has continued for thirty-five years, and we are reaping the benefit of all that effort by collecting an abundance of seed to be spread at our newer preserves and to share with our partners in the Barrington Greenway Initiative. This work is accomplished completely by volunteers and interns led by our Restoration Manager. Together they contribute their skills and thousands of hours with spectacular results.

- 309 species of native seeds collected
- 520 pounds of seed collected
- \$145,000 conservative estimate of value of seeds
- 195 species of rare plant seeds grown in seed nurseries
- 356 restoration volunteers
- 4,940 restoration hours volunteered
- 14,000 acres of linked habitat with with BGI partners
- 30,000 sedge plugs planted



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RESTORATION

Restoration Management

By Kevin Scheiwiller

In the 1920's, Henry Cowles pioneered the concept of ecological succession and how plant communities adapt over time. Fifty years later, CFC was in its infancy, and a few groups of nature lovers in the Chicago area began experimenting with the idea of restoring ecosystem health to landscapes long lost. Guided by Stephen Packard, the North Branch volunteers in Cook County tried such radical practices as cutting buckthorn and collecting and spreading seeds from native species found barely hanging on along railroad tracks and rights-of-ways.



DEBBIE WEEDING - BY PATTY BARTEN

In the Barrington area, the Vanderpoels were following suit to bring back life to the grasslands that had once dominated the area. As CFC continued to acquire land, it used techniques pioneered by other restorationists to reestablish local flora and fauna in areas barren of life. Long days of observing local natural areas and extreme diligence in fighting weeds allowed CFC to start rebuilding prairie, savanna, and wetland ecosystems. Just as the seeds were sown and allowed to grow, so too did the concept of ecological restoration. Many hundreds of volunteers joined the journey to transform farm fields into prairies teeming with life.

It is fitting that 100 years after Henry Cowles developed his ecological theories and 50 years after CFC's inception, we are now expanding the scale and use of restoration. Referencing the lessons learned over the last fifty years, CFC is refining the art of restoring ecosystems. Forty-acre prairie restorations offer a refuge to wildlife and provide clean air and water to the area, but in order to create a landscape of resilient ecosystems, we must restore larger tracts of land

HENRY LANE BURN - BY KEN DEMUTH



to the same quality as Grigsby and Flint Creek Savanna while working with homeowners to create "stepping stone" habitats to fill the gaps between larger preserves. Working with its Barrington Greenway Initiative partners, CFC plans to create large scale restorations spanning thousands of acres. An

integrated landscape of high-quality natural areas, sustainable agriculture, and native home gardens will allow not only CFC but the entire Barrington Community to sustain native biodiversity well into the future.

We have learned a great deal over the years and will continue to learn more, and we are confident that the tools our restoration pioneers gave us will allow CFC to expand its mission to *save living space for living things*.

PLANTING SEDGES - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



RESTORATION

College Internships

By Larry Anglada

The College Internship program began in 1993 to provide college-age students the opportunity to observe firsthand how a local conservation organization accomplishes its mission and to teach them specific conservation and restoration techniques. The program is overseen by CFC's Intern Coordinator and our Restoration Manager who is responsible for the restoration of CFC properties as part of our nationally recognized native plant restoration. The program consists of a ten-week paid internship for students currently enrolled in the natural sciences. Many of these interns go on to successful careers involving the environment. The internship application is available online during the beginning of December with online or personal interviews completed as part of the competitive process. This program has been supported by the generous commitment of the Oberweiler Foundation which has provided funding since 2002.

Each summer, the interns are asked to share their summer experience with us. This was part of the comments by Greg LeFevre, CFC intern in 2003

“.....I wish I could somehow convey the aura, the plethora of pathos of this all-encompassing holistic experience. But, alas, it is slightly impossible. Recently, I came home directly from interning and was asked whether I had had a good day. And knee-jerk: "Every day is a good day when you're a CFC intern." I actually said that. You know it's good when I wake up excited and ready to go with five hours of sleep, when I join arms with the others and jump about in dairy boots, when I never think for a second about the money, when I "work" all day and love it. I never "worked" a day this summer.

CFC and the internship program have fundamentally shaped my life, making me who I am. They have both made me confident; a lover of hard work, results, and positive change. They have given me the opportunity for college credit, scholarships, and to put to use concepts most others see only in books. The people at CFC have taught me so much -so much more than I could ever possibly say. The interns this year were truly fine people, who defined the experience for me. Through CFC I have met the most amazing girl ever to walk the planet. The future is always bigger than the past; more exciting, spicy.”

Editor's note: The “amazing girl” Greg referred to is Nancy-Jeanne Bachmann, also an intern that year. They are both environmental engineers; Greg is a professor at the University of Iowa and Nancy-Jeanne is with a consulting firm. They were married in 2008 and have two toddlers.

Recent CFC Interns

2020 – Sophia Younger, University of Washington
2020 – Matt Sarnowski, Purdue University
2020 – Audrey Taillon, Wellesley College
2019 & 2020 – Dane Dalton, Iowa State University
2019 – Natalie Papparone, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2019 – Leah Hartung, Oxford College of Emory University
2019 – Emily DeJesu, Iowa State University
2018 & 2019 – Spencer Henry, University of Illinois
2018 – Lizzy Hucker, University of Wisconsin
2018 – Hayley Ban, University of Illinois
2018 – Benjamin (Ben) Davies, Rock Valley College, Rockford

INTERNS AT FLINT CREEK - BY PATTY BARTEN



INTERNS 2020 - BY PATTY BARTEN



RESTORATION

Barrington Greenway Initiative: Helping Nature Cross Boundaries

By Patty Barten

Leaders of Citizens for Conservation have always worked toward a vision of linked, high-quality habitats that can support natural development and migration of native plants and wildlife. Even though there are many local preserves, natural areas have been fragmented due to village and county boundaries.

In 2017, CFC formed the Barrington Greenway Initiative (BGI) with six strategic partner organizations to cross over these boundaries for the greater good of nature. The intents of this collaborative effort are to:

- link 14,000 acres, creating a migratory corridor for plants and animals;
- reintroduce native wildlife and improve habitat diversity by sharing plants and seeds;
- provide new volunteer conservation opportunities that engage the community;
- improve water, air, and land resources for the long term benefit of area residents.

BGI VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE WITH LUNCH AT CRAFTSBURY - BY PATTY BARTEN



THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS WHO ACCEPTED THIS BOLD VISION ARE:

Citizens for Conservation, Lake County Forest Preserve, Forest Preserves of Cook County, McHenry County Conservation District, Audubon Great Lakes, Bobolink Foundation, and Friends of the Forest Preserves.

The partners' focus is for the greater whole, contributing resources and working together on the margins of all properties to link natural areas. They share the BGI objectives:

- target areas for focused, large scale, high quality restorations;
- acquire strategic lands to provide linked natural areas;
- increase volunteer stewards, education, and experience.

BGI is a long term-strategy. The collaboration and benefits to date have been inspiring. BGI advances CFC's 50-year effort to create natural lands that benefit people, animals, and plants for today and for generations to come.

BGI CUBA MARSH GROUP - BY PATTY BARTEN



RESTORATION

Seed Nursery

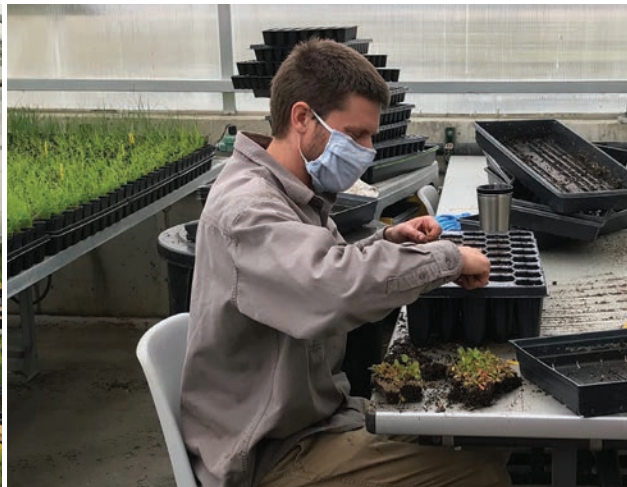
By Luke Dahlberg

As the CFC/BGI seed technician I spend the majority of my time at the Lake County Native Seed Nursery located at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. I work to propagate plant species that have been difficult to restore in the past. CFC and its partners work to create better approaches to help these rare plants thrive in restorations. I also work on growing the “Warrior Sedges” and other wetland species to reclaim the Flint Creek floodplain and other wetland restorations. During much of the spring we grow and transplant these native seedlings so they become plugs, growing them to a size that allows them to survive in the wild. In summer and fall, seed collecting begins. Most effort focuses on finding seeds we get in only small quantities, seeds for growing into plugs. We also grow species we would like to see increase. The nursery gives us access to seed-cleaning equipment, allowing CFC to process large quantities of seed in a short period of time. I’m thankful for the dedicated volunteers I work with and for the knowledge and expertise of my co-workers to enhance CFC restorations for their future survival.

SEED NURSERY - PHOTO COURTESY OF LAKE COUNTY



LUKE PLANTING SEEDS - PHOTO COURTESY OF LAKE COUNTY



Native Seed Gardeners

By Katherine Grover

In 2008, Citizens for Conservation launched the Native Seed Gardeners program (NSG) to increase the amount of seed procured from rare local native plants or from those that cannot compete effectively in the wild. We cannot harvest enough seed from certain species that are crucial to our restoration projects. NSG was developed by Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves and Citizens for Conservation with support from Audubon - Chicago Region. Starter plants to improve the ecological health and diversity of the area’s prairies, savannas and woodlands were first grown by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Since then, the Lake County Forest Preserve District and volunteer propagators are growing starter plants.

When gardeners volunteer to plant species appropriate for the conditions in their home gardens, they commit to nurturing the plants and collecting their seed to return to the NSG program. The nurseries at CFC also raise plants. Seed from both sources is dispersed onto local land being restored. With a grant from the Barrington Area Community Foundation, CFC installed a fence around its prairie nursery to prevent predation from resident deer. In 2009, when the NSG first distributed starter plants to volunteer Native Seed Gardeners, the list included 27 species; since then it has grown to the present 135 species, the number increasing as obscure remnant natives are found.

NATIVE SEED GARDENS - BY PATTY BARTEN



RESTORATION

Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership

By Patsy Mortimer

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership formed in 2005 to bring attention, funds and projects to flooding and water quality issues. Grants and partner matches provided funding for the 2007 and 2018 watershed plans, detention basin retrofits, rain gardens, wetland and streambank restorations, regional storage and educational programs. Lake County Stormwater Management Commission awarded Patsy Mortimer the 2010 Watershed Stewardship of the Year honor for coordinating the partnership's accomplishments.

In 2010, Spring Creek Watershed Partnership formed and developed its own 2012 watershed management plan. Since there was significant overlap between the watershed partners, the two groups merged in 2014 to form Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership with fourteen municipal and nonprofit partners as well as individual stakeholders. The work continues to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and educated citizens.

RAIN GARDEN - BY ALICIA TIMM



BLUEBIRDS - BY STEPHEN BARTEN



BLUEBIRD MONITOR KAREN ROSENE - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



Bird Monitoring

By Barbara Loughlin-Karon

Citizens for Conservation's Bird Monitoring Program tracks local populations of the Eastern Bluebird and Purple Martin. The goal is to increase populations to a level the habitat can optimally support. Both species rely on artificial nest boxes and houses for successful nesting and fledging of young. This is due, in part, to the introduction of non-native invasive species like the House Sparrow and European Starling who compete for cavity nesting sites. During nesting season, volunteer monitors count the eggs and young in each nesting cycle, clean, repair, and maintain the nest box trails, helping to ensure the future success of these two species.

Citizens for Conservation has been monitoring birds for over twenty-five years and currently supports 52 Eastern Bluebird nest boxes on six trails. The monitoring program also includes two Purple Martin houses at Flint Creek. Volunteers walk each trail weekly from April to August and inventory nest activity. Spring monitors record the species that occupy boxes as well as nest building, egg numbers, and fledging of young birds.

Collection data helps us understand the health of our habitats to support local bird and wildlife populations. We share our numbers with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, one of the largest Citizen Science data collection programs in the world, and other groups.

Community Involvement

Our name is *Citizens for Conservation* because we involve the community in all that we do. We have a small staff, a volunteer Board of Directors, and many ways for citizens to be involved in pursuing CFC's mission. We have robust Community Education and Youth Education programs as well as many special events in addition to our regular restoration workdays. CFC also collaborates with local organizations and is a member of other conservation groups to increase the impact of all our work.

FAST FACTS 2019

- 350 people attended six Community Education programs about bees, birds, and native landscaping.
- Seven Youth Education programs and two nature camps involved children in hands-on learning about nature.
- 640 fourth graders from District 220 learned about prairies on-site at Flint Creek Savanna and Spring Creek Forest Preserve.
- 18,400 native plants of 299 species were sold at CFC's spring and fall sales.
- 16 bird walks (Total spring and fall) were led by Naturalist Wendy Paulson.
- 500 people attended Ignite the Night, with a full moon and blazing bonfire.
- 5 seasonal educational walks (BGI plant, bird & butterfly hikes)



FAMILY SEED COLLECTING - BY DONNA BOLZMAN

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Education

By Meredith Tucker

In 2006, Karen Hunter and Meredith Tucker, two CFC past presidents, met with other interested parties to create a program to educate Barrington area homeowners about using native plants at home and creating a healthier outdoor environment for their families and for local wildlife. The CFC Community Education Committee was thus formed and began its outreach with a garlic mustard project to acquaint village governments and homeowners about that noxious weed and how to control it. They later added an invasive plant species project. The committee added four annual winter programs providing excellent speakers and slide programs for area residents. These programs included topics such as “Native Trees and Shrubs” and “Birds of the Chicago Area.” Some presentations had renowned speakers like Douglas Tallamy. The yearly programs are well attended, beginning with a program about coyotes that attracted over one hundred people. Over the years, Community Education has expanded its projects to include yard walks and home visits. (See Habitat Corridors). Speakers from the Community Education committee are available for presentations to local organizations on topics of interest.

Habitat Corridors

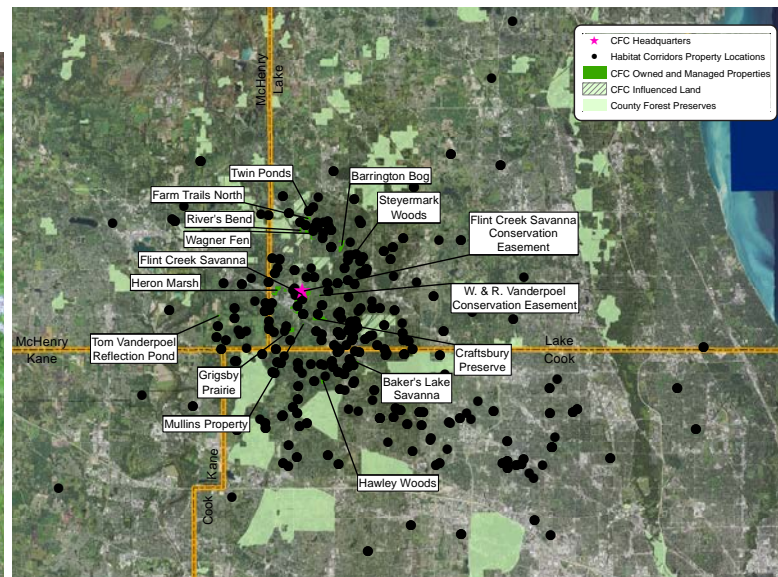
By Meredith Tucker

In 2006, two CFC members created a program of homeowner visits based on a project by the Conservation Foundation in DuPage County in partnership with Barrington Area Conservation Trust representatives. The new committee planned outreach and visits and to design handouts. Originally volunteers from BACT joined with those from CFC to do these visits. Eventually, after a number of changes, this became CFC’s project and was named Habitat Corridors. CFC volunteers knowledgeable about native plants and horticulture began visiting area homes on request in 2014. The program has grown, with approximately 50 visits annually by volunteers who provide visits throughout the Barrington area. Homeowners new to native plants often become enthusiasts who support CFC’s Native Plant Sales as well as the birds and other wildlife that flourish with the plants. CFC was also a co-founder of the Chicago Living Corridors project which is an umbrella organization of many conservation groups in the greater Chicago area with the similar mission of Habitat Corridors. The goal is to create “stepping stone” habitats on private property to expand ecologically valuable land in the Chicago area.

HABITAT YARD - BY PEGGY SIMONSEN



HABITAT MAP - BY KYLE BOATRIGHT



HABITAT CORRIDORS SIGN - BY ANNAMARIE LUKES



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Youth Education

By Julia Martinez

Youth Education aims to teach children to engage with and explore nature. Through play and inquiry, children build their understanding of and connection to our local natural landscapes. Whether children are home exploring their backyards or at one of our many preserves, our goal is for young people to appreciate their natural heritage. Connection to nature fosters in children strong mental and physical well-being. Through our programs, children interact with one another and discover the wild creatures that live in the Barrington-area. CFC helps youth become aware of the nature around them so that they can make their own discoveries at our events. Summer camps encourage elementary children to share their observations and insights with one another. Campers engage in social play in a natural setting, reinforcing their connection to nature. CFC joins in local events, such as Kid Fest, that invite families to enjoy nature. Citizens for Conservation has the opportunity to reach families and help children enjoy nature. We also participate in events introducing children to citizen science projects. We participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February and in Moth Week during July. Both reinforce the value of connecting with nature at any age. We also work with youth groups to build their awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the local environment.

KIDS AT SUMMER CAMP - BY TOM BENJAMIN



Fourth Graders on the Prairie

By Julia Martinez

For over a decade, Citizens for Conservation has welcomed hundreds of elementary students from Barrington District 220 each fall to practice their science skills in the field. Dedicated volunteers visit classrooms to preview with students what they will see out on the prairie and what skills they will use. Teachers work the subject of prairies into their learning objectives to seamlessly incorporate local ecosystems into the curriculum. When students climb off the buses, they see a now familiar landscape and familiar plants. They move through stations to explore the prairie, gather seeds, and practice their data-collecting skills. These field trips offer a unique experience to each child and reinforce the relevance and importance of scientific study and stewardship.

4TH GRADERS - BY DIANE BODKIN

BOTTOM: KIDS SEINING WITH TOM - BY ABERTO MORIANDO



4TH GRADERS WITH WENDY - BY DIANE BODKIN



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EVENTS

Annual Meeting

By Karen Rosene

CFC hosts an Annual Meeting to welcome all members. Following social time, there is a business meeting during which the treasurer gives a financial report followed by the nomination of a slate. Attending members elect the board, and the newly elected board elects its officers.

The meeting has a purpose other than “business.” It is a time for review and reflection. Past accomplishments create a springboard for the organization’s future. We celebrate:

- Much-anticipated and spell-binding restoration reports,
- A keynote address by a respected environmentalist,
- A review of land acquisitions,
- Awards to volunteers, members, and donors.

CFC honors outstanding volunteers with Mighty Oak Awards (50 hours or more per year) and service awards: The Shooting Star Award for ten years, the Waid Vanderpoel Award for twenty years, and the Bobolink Award for twenty-five years.

Finally, CFC honors organizations and individuals who have received the Great Blue Heron Award for outstanding service to CFC and the William H. Miller Award given to organizations and individuals who provide conservation and restoration outside CFC.

EARTHDAY - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



Earth Day

By Julia Martinez

Each April, Citizens for Conservation hosts an exciting event celebrating Earth Day. We combine our regular habitat restoration workday with a social event, focusing on building community. CFC welcomes several dozen volunteers including youth groups like Boy Scout troops. Seasoned and new volunteers work side-by-side for a morning to fortify our native landscape and witness nature in the spring. Sometimes we see live animals, like garter snakes, reminding us of the creatures we work to support. After planting thousands of sedges, volunteers return to the farm house headquarters and barn. CFC provides lunch while workers enjoy each other’s company and the richness of surrounding native habitat. Our Earth Day Event is a great start to the growing season and is eagerly anticipated by old and new volunteers alike.

Native Plant Sale

By Ginger Underwood

Citizens for Conservation board members Karen Hunter and Beth Cripe undertook the ambitious project of holding the first CFC Native Plant Sale in 1995 to promote native forbs, grasses, shrubs and trees and to educate the public on their benefits. What a project they created! CFC has held the sale on the first weekend in May, rain or shine, with increasing success until, under the guidance of Ginger Underwood, it has become one of the foremost native plant sales in Illinois and a major fundraiser for CFC. Underwood and her spirited and ambitious committee expanded the sale from three hours to three days. Preorders have increased from sixty to over 350. Preordering for the sale has moved online, bringing in a huge increase in the number of orders. In 2015, increasing sales triggered moving the sale to the grounds at Good Shepherd Hospital. The sale has become a massive undertaking made possible by over 110 faithful, hardworking volunteers putting in over 2000 hours of labor, buying plants from nine nurseries, and getting 19,000 native plants of 235 species into the ground to benefit the environment for the birds, insects, wildlife and people. Customers come to CFC’s native plant sale from all over the area including many parts of Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, and Wisconsin. CFC added a fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale (preorder only) in 2015. It is growing quickly with over 300 trees and 200 shrubs sold in 2020.

PLANT SALE AT GSH - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EVENTS

Bird Walks

By Wendy Paulson

Since 2010, CFC has co-sponsored spring and fall bird walks in the Barrington area with Audubon Great Lakes. Walks were begun in the late 1970s under the auspices of The Natural History Society of Barrington. Since 2010 they have been led by Wendy Paulson in various locations: local forest preserves, Bakers Lake, Beese Park, and Flint Creek Savanna. Though sites are repeated, the walks and the participants – except for a core group - are never the same.

Highlights include the grassland bird extravaganza at Galloping Hill in Spring Creek Forest Preserve; waterfowl, White Pelicans, and sometimes Loons on Bakers Lake; Red-headed Woodpeckers at Deer Grove East; Sedge Wrens and Sandhill Cranes at Flint Creek Savanna; and migrating Warblers at Baker's Lake Savanna. Through the seasons we document over 160 species of birds. Every walk has its special features and memorable sightings, some of which participants recall even years later.

BIRD WALK WITH WENDY - BY CHRISTINA RUTTER



Fourth of July Parade

By Peggy Simonsen

Each year, CFC enters a float in the parade. Our volunteers and summer interns use their creativity to build a clever representation of our work and impact in the community. Many more enthusiasts accompany the float in the parade. We have won awards over the years, most recently in 2018 when CFC's entry won the Spirit of Barrington award.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE - SUPER HEROES FLOAT - CFC PHOTO ARCHIVE



IGNITE THE NIGHT - BY PATTY BARTEN

Ignite the Night

By Ginger Underwood

This event welcomes folks to celebrate autumn, get out into nature, and connect with family, friends, and neighbors at Ignite the Night, a moonlight festival held to benefit Citizens for Conservation. Attendees enjoy a delicious cookout dinner that includes beer and wine, live music, and dancing under the stars. There are narrated horse-drawn wagon rides, stargazing through professional telescopes, flashlight tours through the woods for kids, an extensive and unusual raffle, and a blazing bonfire. The event also features native wildlife including birds of prey. This is a great party for the whole family in a beautiful outdoor setting, and it is one of our community's favorite biennial events. The next Ignite the Night will be on September 18, 2021 from 5:00 through 10:00 p.m.

Volunteer Lunch

By Karen Rosene

CFC hosts an annual Volunteer Lunch to honor and thank all of our volunteers. After working hard all year, we take time in the fall to relax with a picnic spread and conversation. In the past we had evening barbeques but lately have had the lunch following morning seed mixing, when many volunteers were already at CFC. Outgrowing that occasion, we now set a separate time focused on celebrating our many dedicated volunteers.

LEFT: SCARLET TANAGER PAINTING - BY JANE CHRISTINO

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Communications

By Patty Barten

Citizens for Conservation uses many communication channels to provide updates and information of interest to our diverse followers. Channels include daily social media posts, monthly eUpdate emails, quarterly newsletters, local publications, and our website. Followers can choose their preferences for information.

Website: citizensforconservation.org

The website was first created in the late 1990s. Today it is the source for detailed information and an overview of the CFC organization and activities. It includes a calendar of events, announcements, event registrations, plant sale pre-orders, reference materials, and organizational information.

Newsletter: CFC News

The pioneer issue of CFC News was published in the Spring of 1984. Wendy Paulson was editor and authored an article on paper wasps. Today we publish four issues a year which are distributed to approximately 1,000 CFC members and friends. Regular features include a Restoration Report, President's Comments, News from Habitat Corridors, reviews of CFC's activities for the previous quarter and announcements of upcoming events accompanied by photographs and original artwork on occasion.

eUpdate News

Created in 2010, CFC eUpdate is a free monthly email newsletter that provides readers with information about CFC activities and events. eUpdates also highlight timely special events or news. It is emailed to more than 1,900 readers and has an open rate of more than twice the industry average.

Facebook: @CFCBarrington

CFC's Facebook account, launched in 2010, has more than 3,400 followers. It provides daily activity updates, information links, event schedules, nature photography, and native plant and wildlife information.

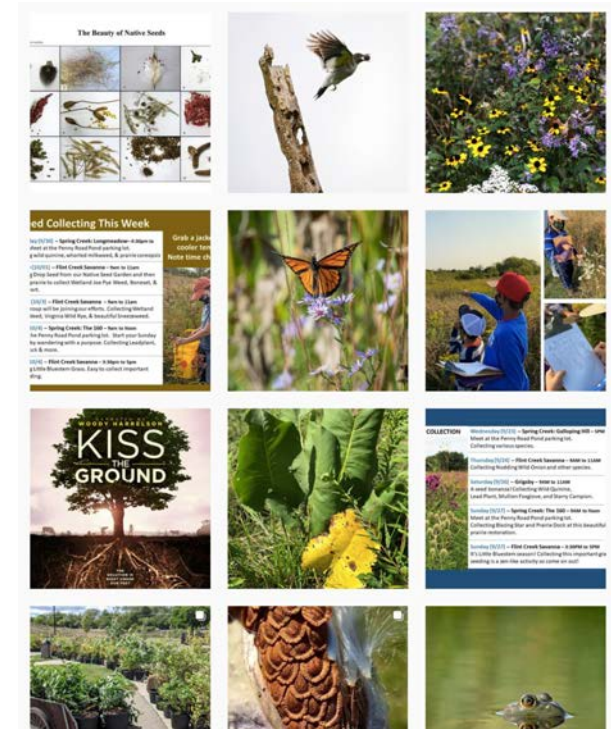
Instagram: @citizensforconservation

CFC's fast-growing Instagram account was launched in 2019. More than 1,400 followers enjoy daily upbeat nature information, activity highlights, and nature photography.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

CFC is a member of Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce, Chicago Living Corridors, Chicago Wilderness, Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnerships, Illinois Environmental Council, Prairie State Conservation Coalition and Land Trust Alliance (LTA). CFC meets LTA standards and practices for the responsible operation of a land trust. We have a liaison with the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs and Healthier Barrington Coalition.

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION INSTAGRAM FEED



People Power

Citizens for Conservation's life blood is volunteers. For 50 years, our work has been led and carried out by volunteers. We have a "working" board of directors, all active volunteers who lead committees and events in addition to their governing responsibilities. We now have a small dedicated staff, but volunteers are still the driving force of our work and accomplishments. In 2019 we had 55 individuals who contributed more than 50 hours each, and many volunteers have been active for 10, 20 and even 25 years! In recognition of exceptional contributions to CFC we select Great Blue Heron Award recipients each year. In addition, we honor a person or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the conservation community with the William H. Miller award, named for CFC's founder and first president. We value our volunteers; CFC would not be the successful organization it is without them.

FAST FACTS 2019

- 17,535 total volunteer hours
- 436 volunteers
- 18 board members
- 6,975 hours by board members
- 55 Mighty Oak awardees for more than 50 hours in the year
- 12 Shooting Star awardees for 10 years as volunteers
- 3 Waid Vanderpoel awardees for 20 years as active volunteers
- 12 Bobolink awardees for 25 years as active volunteers



CFC RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS - BY PATTY BARTEN

PEOPLE POWER

Volunteers

By Wendy Paulson

Volunteers have been at the core of CFC since its inception. In fact, volunteers ARE the core. Everyone involved in founding the organization in 1971 was a volunteer. Each served on the early boards and helped to establish the first recycling center in Barrington, facilitate conservation easements and land donations, and advocate for conservation in the community.



SEED COLLECTORS - BY DONNA BOLZMAN

In the early 80s, however, volunteer participation began to blossom and grow beyond the contributions of only board members. After an intensive strategic planning process, committees were organized and possibilities for all sorts of involvement opened up: leading field trips, writing for the newly initiated newsletter, teaching classes to young people, speaking to local civic groups, helping with office tasks. Volunteer participation was especially robust in education and outreach.



BMO HARRIS VOLUNTEERS - BY BOB LEE

The second part of the decade saw a surge in volunteers for restoration. Until then, volunteer stewardship had been sporadic and few were involved. But when Peggy Richards made the first donation of what became Grigsby Prairie in Barrington Hills in 1980, and Tom Vanderpoel emerged to lead the “Prairie Project” and other restoration initiatives that followed, the roster of restoration volunteers grew steadily. By that time, CFC also had hired a part-time staff director to coordinate the active and growing organization.

But CFC remained a community-based conservation group essentially powered by volunteers – in education, in land protection, in natural area restoration – and so it is today. There are innumerable opportunities to become involved – from participating in the more than 140 restoration workdays each year, to managing social media, speaking to other organizations, tending the native plant nursery, welcoming new volunteers, organizing member events, sprucing up the farmhouse, tending the archives. The possibilities are as abundant as the skills and interests of the volunteers. And the impact on conservation in the Barrington area continues to grow.

SEED COLLECTING - BY DONNA BOLZMAN



PEOPLE POWER

Awards

William H. Miller Conservation Award Recipients

In recognition of outstanding contribution toward conservation in the Barrington area:

1985 - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wollney
Girl Scout Troop at Countryside School

1986 - Shirley Peterson, M.D.

1987 - Bunny Horne

1988 - Frank Spreyer

1989 - League of Women Voters
of the Barrington Area

1990 - The Garden Club of Barrington -
The Little Garden Club of Barrington

1991 - C. Richard Anderson

1992 - John Katzel, John Suchy

1993 - Donald P. Klein

1994 - Grove Avenue School

1995 - The Village of Barrington

1996 - Wendy Paulson

1997 - Peggy Grigsby Richards

1999 - Pam Jackson & Vicki Klein

2000 - Charles Westcott - Barrington Park
District & The Village of Barrington

2001 - Village of Deer Park

2003 - Stephen Packard

2004 - Forest Preserve District of Cook County,
Lake County Forest Preserve District

2005 - Daria Sapp

2006 - The Conservators of Lake
Barrington Shores

2007 - Edward Vrablik

2008 - The Village and Citizens of Lake Barrington

2009 - Flint Creek Watershed Partnership

2010 - Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation

2011 - Larry Washow & Amcol International

2012 - Spring Creek Stewards

2013 - Craig Stettner

2014 - Barrington School Dist 220

2016 - Kainz Family Foundation

2017 - Diane Bodkin

2018 - Randy Holtz, Daniel Suarez

2019 - Barrington Area Council of
Governments (BACOG)

2020 - Jim Voris

WILLIAM H. MILLER AWARD RECIPIENT 2020, JIM VORIS
- PHOTO BY BOB LEE



Great Blue Heron Award Recipients

In recognition of outstanding contribution toward conservation in Citizens for Conservation activities:

1996 - Waid Vanderpoel

1997 - Bob LeFevre, Tom Vanderpoel

1998 - Patsy Mortimer

1999 - Brad & Joyce Allen, Ruth Vanderpoel

2000 - David Kullander, Joe Tragresser

2001 - Laura Arndt

2002 - Karen Hunter, Melissa Washow

2003 - Sharon Pasch

2004 - Donna Bolzman, John Wagner

2005 - Greg LeFevre, Dorothy Sigel

2006 - Dr. Lloyd & Mary McCarthy

2007 - Meredith Tucker

2008 - Jo Seagren

2009 - Carol Hogan, Wes Wolf

2010 - Katherine Grover

2011 - John Schweizer

2012 - Demmy Giannis, Helen Hawthorne

2013 - Pat Winkelman

2014 - Edith Auchter

2015 - The Burn Crew: Virg Black, Ryan Guilfoil,
John Pasch, Candy Quinn

2016 - Peggy Simonsen

2017 - Rob Neff

2018 - Ralph Tarquino, Ginger Underwood

2019 - Barb Cragan, Steve Smith

2020 - Wayne Schild, Tom Benjamin

GREAT BLUE HERON RECIPIENTS, 2020 - TOM BENJAMIN AND WAYNE SCHILD
- PHOTO BY BOB LEE



PEOPLE POWER

Voices of Long-time CFC Supporters

“The principal thrust for the future will be an attempt to preserve open lands in the surrounding countryside.”

– William Miller, 1974

“It was years ago at one of the first meetings of BADC when this affable guy gets up at the back of the room who had a plan whereby people would give away their land and even give some money with it, and his envisioned group would hold it in perpetuity. My first thought was that he was a bit goofy, or in the sun too much, but the rest is history. Bill Miller and CFC!”

– Walt Dalitsch, 1970s

“The founders of Citizens for Conservation were true visionaries. In 1970, in response to a request from the Barrington Area Development Council, they committed to take on the responsibility of ‘preserving the natural features of the countryside environment...to acquire and maintain natural features of highest priority, especially watercourses of all types, to provide expertise and public information on the ecology of the area, and to encourage individual property owners to carry out sound conservation practices.’ The steering committee agreed that its group would maintain a positive approach to working “to further the cause of conservation to the benefit of everyone in the area. Today, we owe a debt of gratitude to CFC’s founders, those leaders who took the challenge, worked ceaselessly, and laid the deep-rooted foundation for CFC’s accomplishments over these fifty years.”

– Sam Oliver CFC Staff Director, 1984-2015

“Stewardship and restoration can be a lot of work. But with CFC, I’ve always found caring for the ecosystems a pleasure. There, the wetlands, woodlands, savannas, prairies, and people are special. When I look back, the memories are always happy ones. When I look forward to mingling again with the folks, plants, and animals - it’s always with eager expectations. We are lucky to have each other.”

– Steve Packard

“Our family’s activities regularly included CFC. My two children started picking Indian Grass while sitting in their baby backpacks and continued seed picking right up until college. One of our most happy memories is seining with Tom Vanderpoel: wading through rare high quality streams, scooping up vibrantly colorful native fish, and examining aquatic insect life. Tom introduced us to a previously unknown world right in our own backyard. In fact, that’s what CFC did for us week after week, month after month, year after year - it opened new landscapes and the natural world to us in an intimate, caring manner and at the same time connected us with friends who will last a lifetime.”

– JoAnn Seagren

“At one of my first CFC workdays, we were raking seed into the developing prairie at Grigsby. Tom Vanderpoel was surprised to spot a tiny leadplant. He remembered that the group had scattered leadplant seed in that area three years earlier. Soon, knowledgeable volunteers were calling out, ‘Here’s another one!’ ‘Look at all of them!’ There was such a sense of excitement. I was hooked.”

– Sharon Pasch

“I will never forget my first BURN! What an exciting, exhausting, and wonderful day that was – so much was accomplished! I love to see the land after it has been burned; all the hills and dips show up, and it is pure and waiting for the spring rain.”

– Candy Quinn, Prairie Basket Florist

PEOPLE POWER

Voices of Long-time CFC Supporters

“On a bright summer day 25 years ago, I joined the CFC volunteers for a workday at Grigsby. Waid Vanderpoel took me under his wing, pointing out and identifying native and invasive plants. I was hooked! I hardly ever missed a workday. Once I “knew the ropes,” I would go out on my own between workdays to pick a little more seed or to pull some weeds we had missed. One day I talked to a new volunteer who became my friend. And just two years later Carol and I became partners in life as well as with CFC. We put our skills learned from CFC to use as Volunteer Stewards at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve. It wasn’t long before other CFC volunteers joined us. Together we have transformed that site from a dense buckthorn patch to a beautiful vista of native plants. A few happy tears were shed the day Tom Vanderpoel sowed seed with us and saw the development of the preserve his father and he had helped create. CFC has had a major impact on my life. I have worked with some great people, made friends, gotten a lot of fresh air and exercise, and have done what I could to make the world a little better.”

– Wes Wolf

“I volunteered with Citizens for Conservation for 25 years before we moved to Michigan. I knew I was hooked after my first burn at Wagner Fen. What a burn! I didn’t know that only cattails produced flames over thirty feet tall. I was disappointed by the lazy flames skipping across the leaves in an oak savanna. I burned with Tom Vanderpoel every chance I could – and, even after his passing, I am still in awe of the expertise and leadership he provided both in the field and on the board.”

– Patsy Mortimer

“I became a CFC member and volunteer because it’s activities were helping improve my local environment. CFC has a long record of successful native habitat restoration and community education involvement. The volunteer activities are numerous, and any and all support is recognized and appreciated. My volunteer activities continue to be beneficial to my health and wellbeing.”

– Gene Branson

“I discovered CFC some 30+ years ago when I had recently moved to Lake Barrington and attended an event that showcased local volunteer groups and met Tom Vanderpoel. I joined right away and was hooked. Not only did it satisfy my desire to help conserve the beautiful natural environment that surrounds us, but I met and worked with wonderful people and made many good friends. One of those people was Helen Hawthorne. I had the pleasure of working with her in the office for many years and recently found a note she had written to me where she said, ‘I just knew all the nicest people in Barrington belonged/worked with CFC - and they do!’ She was so right !!!”

– Demmy Giannis

“I stumbled into CFC after moving to Barrington from Oak Park in 2002. It was the height of the real estate boom and a neighbor wanted to build an 8-house subdivision on a 10-acre lot adjacent to CFC’s Flint Creek Savanna. The neighbors fought that project and teamed up with CFC, and that’s how I met Tom Vanderpoel, an incredible individual and driving force behind the organization. Needless to say, we won the fight and the experience got me interested in land preservation. I joined the Board as Director of the Land Acquisition Committee and over the next 15 years the team was able to preserve over 165 acres via strategic acquisitions, donations and win-win partnerships with local municipalities. While I now live in Chicago, every time I visit Barrington, I rejoice that I was able to be part of a group that helps preserve and restore open lands in the area for generations come.”

– Alberto Moriando

PEOPLE POWER

Past Leaders

CFC has been the beneficiary of many exceptional leaders over the years, but these five stand out as giants among their peers.



Bill Miller
Founder and President
1971 – 1982



Waid Vanderpoel
Visionary and President
1984 – 1986 and 1992 – 1993



Tom Vanderpoel
Restoration Director and
Land Acquisition team
1985 – 2017



PATSY MORIMER - BY DIANE BODKIN

Patsy Mortimer
Land Acquisition team,
Restoration assistant
1989 – 2013
President 1993 – 1997
Founder, leader of
Flint Creek Watershed
Partnership 2008 – 2014



SAM OLIVER - BY DONNA BOLZMAN

Sam Oliver
Staff Director and
Community Liaison
1984 – 2014

CFC Presidents

Kathleen Leitner	2018 – Present
Thomas Crosh	2015 – 2018
Peggy Simonsen	2012 – 2015
Meredith Tucker	2009 – 2012
Edith Auchter	2006 – 2009
Karen Hunter	2003 – 2006
John Wagner	2000 – 2003
Sharon Pasch	1997 – 2000
Patsy Mortimer	1993 – 1997
Waid Vanderpoel	1992 – 1993
Daria Sapp	1991 – 1992
Paul Hoffman	1986 – 1991
Waid Vanderpoel	1984 – 1986
Wendy Paulson	1983 – 1984
Fred Foersterling	1982 – 1983
William Miller	1971 – 1982

PEOPLE POWER

Present Leadership

CFC Board of Directors, 2020

OFFICERS	President Kathleen Leitner Org Development Board Governance External-facing activities	Vice President Jim Anderson Org Operations Internal-facing activities	Treasurer Edith Auchter Org Operations Internal-facing activities	Secretary Judy Springer Documentation & Records Board notifications
	Larry Anglada Interns High School & College Education Liaison	Patty Barten Communication Digital Media	Tom Benjamin Annual Appeal House & Grounds	Leslie Coolidge Policy Newsletter
	Bard Cragan Membership Mailings	Julia Martinez Youth Education	Tom Malia Member-At-Large Fundraising Coordination	Amanda Moller CRM Database Volunteer Coordination
	Peggy Simonsen Community Education Grants Habitat Corridors	Steve Smith Land Acquisition Partnerships & BGI Liaison Board Development	Ginger Underwood Member-At-Large Plant Sales Ignite The Night	Jim Vanderpoel Restoration Seed and Plant Stewardship
	DIRECTORS EMERITI David Kullander, Meredith C. Tucker	CONSULTANTS Janet Agnoletti, Bob Kosin, Patsy Mortimer, Sam Oliver, Steven Packard, Wendy Paulson, Meredith C. Tucker, Chuck Westcott		

CFC Staff

Kevn Scheiwiller
Restoration Manager



BY PATTY BARTEN

Juliann LaRocque
Administrative Manager



BY SARAH HOBAN

Luke Dahnberg
CF/BGI Seed Technician



BY PATTY BARTEN

Financial Management

By Edith Auchter

Citizens for Conservation has established conservative financial goals which are sustainable over the long term. The Board adopts operational budgets annually and applies for grants to fund specific projects. The annual Membership Drive, Annual Appeal, and native plant sales continue to be reliable and increasing sources of funds. Grant funding also continues to increase. Additionally, CFC receives many legacy gifts as a result of individual estate planning.

Investments are made by the Treasurer in accordance with long-term objectives which provide safety and liquidity. All investments must be deemed qualified under the “prudent man” rule. Investment income is used to meet ongoing operational expenses.

Annual tax returns and audited financial statements are prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant in accordance with the bylaws.

Citizens for Conservation has in place appropriate insurance coverages warranted by the current operation of the organization. Insurance coverages may include general liability, property insurance on CFC structures, directors’ and officers’ liability, and employee-related insurance such as worker’s compensation.

CFC’s sustainable financial approach has served us well over 50 years and positions us to continue to meet and expand our fiscal responsibilities well into the next half century and beyond. We thank the greater Barrington community for your confidence and support of our work and continued generous support.

FINANCIAL FACTS

- \$8,425,000 Value of land owned by CFC
- 256 Donors in 2019-20
- 721 Members in 2019

Sources of Funds:

Five Year Average

62.5%	donations
19.1%	grants
6.6 %	membership dues
6.2%	interest income
5.2%	native plant sales
0.4%	sponsorships

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Annual Appeal

By Tom Benjamin

When CFC was very young and just starting to grow, there was little funding other than from a few volunteers who supported the concept of “Saving Living Space for Living Things.” As the organization grew and especially with the 1972 donation of eleven acres of Healy Lake property in Barrington Hills, it became clear that CFC needed regular funding to execute a restoration program. Thus CFC developed an Annual Appeal, which solicited the Barrington area community for funds not only for restoration but also for land acquisition. The Annual Appeal has been a main source of income for CFC and has helped it acquire ecologically valuable land totaling 479 acres. The funds have also facilitated expansion of the restoration and education programs.

Donors

By Peggy Simonsen

CFC has been the beneficiary of many generous donations over the years. Some individuals and trusts stand out as significant for their substantial long-term contributions, showing they value the work CFC is doing. Some, like the Rudisills, have been both financial supporters and restoration volunteers. We recognized Steve and Gail at our 2020 Annual Meeting for their years of financial support and their restoration work with us. The Bobolink Foundation has also been a consistent generous supporter of our work over the years. We sincerely thank them and all our donors for their valuable assistance. CFC is planning a Donor Appreciation luncheon to honor our generous donors in August, 2021 as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration.

CFC is also grateful for the many organizations and individuals who generously make in-kind donations in support of our projects and events.

Sponsors

CFC sponsors are another group of financial supporters we appreciate and thank. While we benefit from many sponsors for particular events, we particularly want to thank the steadfast sponsors of our annual meetings. Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and BMO Harris Bank have contributed to this event every year for many years, and we are grateful for their generosity. We encourage readers to thank all the sponsors who are supporting our 50th Anniversary celebrations and events.



RUDISILLS RECOGNITION - BY BOB LEE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Grantors

By Peggy Simonsen

CFC is very appreciative of the organizations that have regularly provided financial support as grants for our work. Over the years, grants have helped CFC purchase land, restore land, expand and diversify our education program, improve our safety equipment, employ interns to contribute to their conservation experiences, fund innovative projects, create demonstration projects for the community, and contribute in many ways to the greater Barrington community.

Barrington Area Community Foundation

We especially thank BACF this year for funding this 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book and our 50th Anniversary video. We appreciate BACF also for its generous support of previous CFC projects

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

CFC was very fortunate to receive a substantial Land Acquisition grant from the ICECF for the 2019 purchase of 31 acres to expand Craftsbury Preserve. We thank ICECF also for Community Stewardship matching grants to greatly expand the restoration of Craftsbury Preserve and Flint Creek Savanna.

Oberweiler Foundation

Since 2004, the Oberweilter Foundation has generously funded the salaries of CFC's college interns, benefiting our restoration efforts substantially while improving their ecological knowledge and skills. We thank the Foundation for making such a difference for all the interns as well as our work.

Illinois Nature Preserve Commission

In 2019 this group funded work on one of CFC's Illinois Nature Preserves, Barrington Bog.

Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Stewardship Network

The VSN regularly funds the purchase of equipment for volunteer restoration work.

Cuba Township

CFC has frequently received funding from Cuba Township for our projects that contribute to the community and safety of volunteers.

Garden Club of Barrington

One of our most consistent funders, The Garden Club has supported CFC's projects for many years.

South Barrington Garden Club

CFC is fortunate to have the regular support of the South Barrington Garden Club for our work.

Barrington Junior Women's Club

The BJWC has consistently provided support for CFC's Youth Education program and projects.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

This foundation funded CFC's research that led to successful methods for restoring degraded wetlands.

Future Focus

Tom Malia

How fortunate we are that 50 years ago a number of Barrington area citizens saw the need to start an organization that became CFC. And we hope you will agree that CFC has made significant progress in delivering on our promise of saving living space for living things.

But as we look ahead to the next 50 years, that mission is even more critical, suggesting that we need to devote even more resources so that we can re-double our conservation efforts in the hope that our kids, grandkids-- and their kids-- can continue to enjoy Barrington area natural areas ---contributing to their health and the health of our environment.

By Patty Baraten

We celebrate the deep roots Citizens for Conservation has created in our community. Working together, we have made significant contributions to protecting and restoring natural areas contributing to the health and iconic image of our community.

We are branching out, sharing our experiences, forming partnerships, and working collaboratively with other organizations on strategic projects. We are inspiring and training future stewards to care for this important land.

Our Vision

Being regional leaders in the Greater Barrington Area engaging citizens in the protection, stewardship, and appreciation of historical landscapes to foster an inter-connected sustainable environment.



CELESTE & FROG - BY BOB LEE

FUTURE FOCUS

Ecosystem Services

By Steven Smith

Nature provides value as plants and animals interact with the earth, the rain, the air, and each other. Two of CFC's main missions are to help nature deliver these ecosystem services by saving land from development and by restoring land to its native and most efficient and effective state. Some of these services that CFC's land acquisition and restoration provide are stormwater management, air purification, carbon sequestration, biological diversity and pollination. Some that are harder to measure but just as valuable are environmental education, opportunities for enjoyment and aesthetic appreciation.

A study was initiated by Lake County Forest Preserves in 2013 to determine the quantitative value of such services. Their list is extensive, including many that are difficult to measure. In the case of CFC's land holdings and easements, and stewardship on lands owned by partners, CFC is actively involved in about 600 acres which, in the study's conservative estimate,

deliver around \$3,000,000 (\$5,000 x 600 acres) in ecosystem services. This is considering only a few of the ecosystem services in the study. There is undoubtedly additional value in the yet unmeasured and unquantified services.

On a CFC budget of about \$400,000 per year made up of public donations, grants, and other community contributions, the return on Investment (ROI) was a healthy 7.5. The key to the substantial ROI is CFC's ability to maintain a very competent volunteer component which saves hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to paid workers.

CFC is a small player on the global scene. However, CFC's work product is second to none because of the experience, expertise, and quality control that has been developed over the past 50 years. We have created a landscape of unparalleled biodiversity and beauty, proving that CFC's efforts are absolutely helping nature add value to us all.

CFC's Future

By Kathleen Leitner

CFC has accomplished a great deal in the past fifty years, and now we look to the future. We continue focusing on our mission of preserving and improving the quality of life in the Barrington area by protecting and restoring land and educating the community. Now, with our partners and collaborators, we have expanded beyond those early efforts into larger scale restorations supporting thousands of acres across the greater Barrington community.

Building on our success, we plan to keep growing, focusing on enriching the land, air and water through restoration of habitats. CFC aims to have an important impact by engaging citizens in the understanding and appreciation of native landscapes while we create a healthy, sustainable environment for the next fifty years. By leveraging our strongest resources – native seeds and plants, restoration experience, partnership activities and especially our volunteers - for the greater good of the region, we strive to restore lost ecosystems while adapting to the challenges and opportunities of the future - just like nature.

With your continued support, CFC looks forward to expanding as a regional leader in environmental restoration. Each individual can make a difference, but working together we can do more. Please join our efforts to Save Living Space for ALL Living Things!

GRIGSBY WALNUT TREE LANDSCAPE - BY JEFF CHEMELEWSKI





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