

## Inspiring Community Collaboration

Not even a heavy March snow could dampen the spirits at our Annual Meeting on March 9. A panel of special guests shared exciting stories of working together to protect valuable community resources. We were thrilled to gather in person with our members and guests to celebrate our 2022 accomplishments and share our 2023 aspirations.

CFC president Kathleen Leitner began the evening by focusing on our theme for the year of “Inspiring Community Collaboration.” Building relationships and bringing community together accomplishes greater results in the region.

The William H. Miller award was given to Kim Duchossois and Duchossois family members in recognition of outstanding contributions toward conservation in the entire community.



*(From left) Ben Rodriguez, Dr. Becky Gill and Renee Blue inspire CFC members with collaborative community projects.*



*President Kathleen Leitner presents the William H. Miller Award to Jessica and Dominic Green (left) and Kim Duchossois (right).*



President Kathleen Leitner and volunteer Jim Stumpf received Great Blue Heron Awards in appreciation of their leadership roles within CFC. Kathleen was integral in the development of an organizational strategic plan and related policy during her five years as CFC President.

Jim Stumpf quickly evolved from a preserve neighbor with a tree question to an active restoration volunteer and leader in land stewardship.

We are ever grateful to our volunteers, who devoted more than 12,600 hours last year. This mighty corps included 35 Mighty Oak Awardees, who each volunteered 50 or more hours in 2022. Linda Krauss received the Shooting Star Award, which is bestowed on volunteers after 10 years of service. Linda has been involved in many programs from summer camps to plant sales. She exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that enriches CFC and the greater Barrington area.

The financial report to members was presented by Treasurer Edith Auchter. CFC meets Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices for the responsible operation of a land trust. CFC saw its largest capital campaign to date in 2022. We are beyond thrilled to report that we reached our \$10 million goal in March!

A huge thank you to our grantors, who are instrumental in the continuity and growth of our conservation efforts:

- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) provided major funding for land purchases, expanding our holdings by 50% last year. There were two land acquisitions in 2022, 246-acre Hill 'N Dale Preserve and 25-acre preserve at The Highlands.
- Oberweiler Foundation funded our 2022 summer internship program, which develops skills for college-aged students who are on a conservation related career path.
- ComEd Green Region Program supported the planting of sedge plants along Flint Creek.
- The Nature Conservancy Volunteer Stewardship Network provided funding for seed propagation, an essential step in continuing to implement high-quality restoration projects.
- Garden Club of Barrington funded our rare native plant propagation. Rare native plants create a welcoming home and provide required habitat needs for rare native animal species.



*Another great day planting sedges to transform the Flint Creek peninsula stream bank thanks to our grantors.*

- Barrington Area Community Foundation funded an interpretive wetland trail at Flint Creek Savanna, anticipated later this year, which will allow visitors to better understand the rich landscape around them.

This year, four board members were up for re-election. All will serve three-year terms ending in 2026: Jim Anderson, Tom Malia, Julia Martinez, and Judy Springer.

Luke Dahlberg and Kevin Scheiwiller went on to spotlight restoration successes. A new hammer mill purchased with funding from ICECF allowed for greater productivity in seed cleaning.

Luke reported that we yielded 1,254 pounds of seed in 2022, a number that was unthinkable a few short years ago.

Kevin Scheiwiller described the workshop he hosted along with Barrington Greenway Initiative (BGI) partners. The Grassland Restoration Network workshop in August allowed CFC and its BGI partners to showcase our preserves, describe the continuous strategies and efforts that built these preserves, and bring together a community of land stewards in the spirit of collaboration.

One remarkable example of collaboration this year stemmed from high school volunteer John Crossin. John began as a workday volunteer and was inspired to take his efforts further. He secured grants from his employer, The Home Depot, to purchase materials and worked with his high school to grow native plants in their greenhouse, which CFC uses for restoration. John also served as our high school liaison and as a summer intern. We are amazed by the creativity and dedication of this volunteer. John's parents accepted a Thank-you Award on his behalf.



This year, we welcomed community panelists Kim Duchossios, Jessica Green, Renee Blue, Dr. Becky Gill, Ben Rodriguez, and Karen Daulton Lange to discuss the topic of community collaboration. Kim Duchossois spoke of her experience collaborating with CFC to preserve Hill 'N Dale. Jessica Green discussed her efforts to bring organizations together to strengthen community bonds. Renee Blue explained her experience with working with businesses and organizations to reduce food waste through the non-profit she co-founded, Mindful Waste. Dr. Becky Gil described the impact that working with CFC, through Fourth Graders on the Prairie, has had on District 220 students. Ben Rodriguez shared how community partnerships help students build skills that propel them into potential careers. Karen Daulton Lange's message illustrated how government can influence community health through its public lands and public-private collaborations.

— Julia Martinez

# Thank You to All Who Helped Make Our Annual Meeting a Success!

## Annual Meeting Subcommittee

Janet Agnoletti Allison Frederick  
 Edith Auchter Kathleen Leitner  
 Patty Barten Amanda Moller

## Watercolor Illustration of Bluebirds

Jane Christino donated the gorgeous watercolor illustration on the cover of the program and related event materials. Jane, thank you once again for sharing your lovely art and spirit!



## New this year! "MEMBER" Decal with Gentian

Diane Bodkin generously donates her time and photography. We are thrilled to highlight her gentian portrait on our new static cling decal for CFC members. Members, adorn your windshields for gold star treatment at CFC events like the plant sales, or wherever you want to show your pride for CFC. Stop by the office for your decal, if you weren't in attendance at the Annual Meeting.



## In-kind Donations & Event Volunteers

Tom Auchter, Donated video camera and time to record the meeting  
 Stephen Barten, Created the Great Blue Heron and William H. Miller Awards  
 Jim Bodkin, Created the Shooting Star Award  
 Jane Christino, Watercolor of eastern bluebirds for event materials, Greeter  
 Henry Heine of Bag End Loudspeakers, Sound System  
 Carol Hogan, Donated crochet hats and related proceeds to CFC  
 ILM Environments, In-kind services donated in support of restoration  
 Bob Lee, Event Photography  
 Candy Quinn of Prairie Basket Floral Design, Arrangement for Event  
 Joe Wolnski, Greeter



*"Hats off to CFC" fundraiser by Carol Hogan. Photo by Bob Lee*

## Sponsors

Thank you to Janet Agnoletti, Jim Anderson, Edith Auchter, and Kathleen Leitner for securing sponsors for the Annual Meeting!



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## The Micro and the Macro

When CFC started its restoration efforts in 1987, the sole emphasis was on preserving biodiversity. What little wild, native habitat survived the conversion of wild Illinois to agriculture was being finished off by the surge in homebuilding and infrastructure construction spurred on by the economic boom of the mid-80s. CFC located tiny scattered remnants of prairie, woodland, and wetland. We frantically collected our seed and rescued doomed plugs of wildflowers, grasses, and other plants. Our plan was to replant these vanishing species into our open space preserves, first Grigsby Prairie and soon after, Flint Creek Savanna. This strategy meshed perfectly with our mission statement “Saving Living Space for Living Things.” I shared this goal. My personal motivation was to save the last of these vanishing plants and provide habitat for whatever animals could find their way to the preserves.

About 10 years ago, I started talking to CFC Board Member and restoration stalwart Steve Smith about his motivation for working to restore our preserves. Steve explained that he got involved because CFC gave him an opportunity to give back to the community and make the Barrington area a better place to live. Steve explains that many people he talks to do not think in terms of biodiversity, but are very concerned about general environmental degradation. CFC consultant Wendy Paulson is a passionate lover of biodiversity for its own sake and communicates sheer joy in the beauty of our wildflowers and birds. But, like Steve, she also talks to audiences who are not naturalists but are receptive to practical recommendations to improve the environment. Wendy introduced me to the concept of advocating for “nature-based solutions” to broad environmental problems like climate change and pollution.

Steve coined a phrase that detailed biodiversity improvement as the “micro” of restoration, while ecosystems services are the “macro.” So, what are the ecosystem services that natural areas provide to the broad community?

The National Wildlife Federation states as follows: “What are the five main ecosystem services? Regulating services include pollination, decomposition, water purification, erosion and flood control, carbon storage and climate regulation.”

The website of the United States Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center elaborates on similar themes with the following: “Forests and grasslands provide a wide range of ecosystem services. In addition to providing food, fuel and fiber, forests clean the air, filter water supplies, control floods and erosion, sustain biodiversity and genetic resources, and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural enrichment. Sequestering (or releasing) carbon is a form of climate regulation, which is another important ecosystem service provided by forests and grasslands; specifics of climate regulation depend upon ecosystem structure, composition, and management.”

I read an interesting but highly technical paper in *Bioscience*, the publication of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Here is an excerpt from that article: “We calculated values for eight categories of ecosystem goods and services, condensed from a previously published system (Costanza et al., 1997) with 17 categories. Our categories were (1) gas regulation (including carbon sequestration, methane sequestration, and factors that regulate climate change), (2) disturbance regulation (storm protection, flood control, and drought recovery), (3) water supply (storage and retention of water), (4) nutrient cycling (storage, cycling, and processing of nutrients; nitrogen fixation; and the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles), (5) soil erosion control, (6) rate of production of commodities (raw materials, native crops, fish, and game), (7) production of biodiversity and associated services (genetic resources, bio control agents, pollination, and refugia [organisms serving as habitat or refuge for other desirable species]), and (8) recreation (the opportunity for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing).”

Some ecosystem services are very visible at CFC preserves. Even before I started thinking of the

macro benefits of restoration, I remember driving to a workday after a torrential 7-inch rain. As I looked to my right Stonehenge Golf Course was like a lake—only the tees and greens were above water. But on my left, I did not even notice the water at our preserve. Our recreated marshes and potholes and the dense vegetation around them acted like sponges soaking up the water. The benefits mentioned previously of water retention were clearly demonstrated. Water retention likely reduces downstream flooding.

We also know our wetlands filter water, because we have measured pollutant levels as the water flows through the wetland system. The levels diminish as the water moves through.

As for the benefit of pollination, a visit to Grigsby Prairie on a clear, warm day in July or August will convince you that there is a lot of pollinating going on. But, it is likely that the vast swarms of insects feasting on the nectar and pollen are also visiting fruit and vegetable plantings of our neighbors.

Gas regulation is not apparent to the eye, but we do know that the restoration process enriches the soil, because many native plants will not grow at the beginning of the restoration but then explode after 25 or 30 years as the soil builds.

The question is: Does the micro side of biodiversity in restoration directly improve the macro side of increased ecosystem services? BGI member Justin Pepper forwarded me an article from Royal Society Publishing's *Biology Letters* journal that suggests it may. I have excerpted the title and abstract of the article as follows: "Psychological benefits of greenspace increase

with biodiversity. The world's human population is becoming concentrated in cities, giving rise to concerns that it is becoming increasingly isolated from nature. Urban public greenspaces form the arena of many people's daily contact with nature, which has measurable physical and psychological benefits. Here we show that these psychological benefits increase with the species richness of urban greenspaces. Moreover, we demonstrate that greenspace users can more or less accurately perceive species richness depending

on the taxonomic group in question. These results indicate that successful management of urban greenspaces should emphasize biological complexity to enhance human well-being in addition to biodiversity conservation."

The conclusions of this article are consistent with my own observations of the students on the 4th Graders on the Prairie program, who begin the hikes excited and a little bit rowdy, but soon calm down when surrounded by the prairie. By the time they finish picking Indian

grass seed, they are downright contemplative.

I can visualize the whole web working together. We plant conservative plants such as prairie dropseed and leadplant, whose 14-foot deep roots will sequester carbon and methane and absorb water deep underground. This prevents "Second Pond" at Flint Creek Savanna from overflowing and contributing to a downstream flood of the Fox River—an example of biodiversity enhancing ecosystem services. I think this subject merits more study. The one thing I am absolutely sure of is the micro and macro benefits are not mutually exclusive. We can improve biodiversity without sacrificing the practical benefits of ecosystem services.

— Jim Vanderpoel



Natural water retention and habitat at Second Pond. Photo by Steve Barten.

## Nature-friendly Activities

Mud season has arrived. Now that the weather is finally breaking, we can encourage children to engage in outdoor play. Yet a simple activity to enjoy before the snow melts, or when the weather hits an extreme, involves recycling materials from the holidays. Many supplies used for children's crafts seem built for it. These items are typically single use, but endure very little wear in their first lives. These include paper towel rolls, egg cartons, and empty water bottles. Utilizing lightly-used tissue paper from gift wrap, children can make their own papel picado. This translates from Spanish as, "perforated paper," and is a highly recognizable art form common throughout Mexico.

While many intricate patterns can be found online, children can simply choose a color and size of paper to work with, fold the paper a couple of times, and cut out small shapes from the paper. When unfolded, a unique geometric pattern is revealed. These papers can be strung together to make a banner to decorate for holidays, such as Valentine's Day or Mother's Day.

Citizens for Conservation encourages recycling for all and free play for children. We know that children learn through play and simple crafts like this (although they could be made very complex) help children develop spatial awareness.



*Children of all ages can make their own papel picado. Photo by Julia Martinez.*

### Mighty Oak Awards

In recognition of non-board members who volunteered 50 hours or more during the past year. The total number of Mighty Oak Awards each volunteer has earned since 1996 follows in parentheses.

Martha Adams (4)	Bob Lee (2)
Tom Auchter (10)	Annamarie Lukes (9)
Susan Baert (1)	Laura Mandell (3)
Patty Barten (3)	Robert Neff (12)
Stephen Barten (5)	Wendy Paulson (11)
Brenda Borkenhagen (2)	Susan Rapinchuk (2)
Eugene Branson (5)	James Root (2)
Jeanette Burger (7)	Karen Rosene (1)
Brent Burval (3)	Cliff Schultz (12)
Jeffrey Chemelewski (4)	Fenyx Schultz (1)
Katherine Dahlberg (1)	Sarah Schultz (6)
Barbara Doulas (1)	Laura Simpson (4)
Jan Elbert (1)	Jim Stumpf (2)
Diane Greening (9)	Alicia Timm (5)
Katherine Grover (22)	David Underwood (7)
Erin Hokanson (3)	Jessica Underwood (4)
Charlie Keppel (1)	Melissa Washow (8)
Barbara Laughlin-Karon (4)	

## A Kid Fest Success

We were thrilled to once again participate as a vendor at Kid Fest in Barrington. This free event is held annually on the first Saturday each May. The event offers dozens of activities for children and gives us the opportunity to introduce CFC to local families and offer them a glimpse of our involvement in the local community. To those who visited, thank you for stopping by our table at Kid Fest after shopping the Native Plant Sale!



*Volunteers introduce children at Kid Fest to local mammals through clay animal tracks. Photo by Julia Martinez.*

# Young Naturalist Camp

Registration is now open for our Young Naturalist Camp. This educational nature camp will take place the weeks of June 5 and June 12.

The goal of this camp is to engage children in nature through exploration. Children learn through play and experience. Our program offers unique, close-up, and unscripted moments with nature for children ages five to 10. Campers walk away with a few nature crafts and a lifetime of memories.



The restoration work CFC has done for decades allows our small group of campers to learn first hand about their ecological heritage. Children experience what it is like to be a part of an ecological community and witness how biotic and abiotic factors interact.

Studies have demonstrated the psychological and physical benefits of greenspace and time spent outdoors. Our organization takes pride in sharing these experiences with the next generation.

— Julia Martinez

Visit our website for details about this fun and educational summer camp program.



[CitizensForConservation.org](https://CitizensForConservation.org)



Young Naturalists explore living water creatures using kid-friendly microscopes. Photo by Julia Martinez.

# Spring Burn Season

This year marked another successful burn season at CFC. Fire doesn't change, but our resources have grown, allowing us to treat more sections of land and better utilize our volunteers' time.

One update this year was the purchase of a Gator vehicle. Restoration staff cheered with excitement upon its arrival in December. It was put to use this burn season to transport equipment, and provide a nearby water source for remote burn sites.

A huge thanks to the Natural Area Stewardship Grant, who funded this purchase.



*A behind the scenes tour of the March 19 burn at Flint Creek Savanna. (Above) A 360-degree photograph give us a birds' eye view of the burn. (At right, starting from top) Kevin Scheiwiller led the burn; Our new funded by the Natural Area Stewardship Grant Gator arrived December 2022; "It was a cold day with a consistent, persistent wind, but the burn did what it was supposed to do," said volunteer Rob Neff; Water provides a natural fire break.*

*Photos by Rob Neff.*



# Native Plant, Tree, and Shrub Sale Moves to Hill 'N Dale Preserve

We were excited to host the 27th annual Native Plant, Tree & Shrub sale at the newly acquired Hill 'N Dale Preserve in Barrington Hills this spring.

The 2023 sale was bigger and better than ever. Last year's plant inventory was lower than usual due to limited stock produced by our nurseries during the pandemic. With our new location and nursery production back to normal, this year we ordered 24,000 forbs, grasses, trees and shrubs. And the plant lovers responded—by purchasing every single plant, plug, shrub, and tree! We could not be happier, dreaming about all those native plants being added to properties throughout the region this month.

We offer lots of resources to help you plan your dream garden. For those who have questions about their recently purchased plants, please reach out to us by phone or email. We welcome landscaping questions.

We are grateful to Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital for allowing us to use their grounds since 2015. The sale was growing every year, and we were excited to relocate to CFC property.

Restoration planning is underway at the rolling 246.5-acre Hill 'N Dale Preserve, and this was the first time the property was open to the general public. The sturdy, large "Barn 6" provided plants, shoppers, and volunteers shelter from sun, rain and other weather conditions. It also allowed faster event set-up and pre-order fulfillment for our amazing volunteers.

If you'd like to join us as a volunteer at future programs and events, opportunities are posted online through the Barrington Area Volunteer Connection.

— Laura Mandell



## Quick Plant Sale Numbers

- 438 pre-orders
- >200 native species available
- >24,000 native plants will enhance local gardens
- 103 new or renewed CFC members
- *Countless* smiling faces

(From top) Prairie smoke, yellow coneflower and Virginia spiderwort flowers. Flower photos by Diane Bodkin.



# Dragonflies & Damselflies

CFC's Community Education Committee sponsored a program on February 17 by Cindy Crosby, author of *Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural Cultural and Personal History*.

This high-energy presentation involved the audience in learning how to tell the differences between dragonflies and damselflies, Odonata, the oldest flying insects in the world with over 6,000 species.

We learned that dragonflies have a muscular thorax, while damselflies are thinner overall with thinner, 10-segment abdomens. Dragonflies' eyes are large and close together. Damselflies' eyes are separated on the front of their heads. Typically, dragonflies at rest have their four wings out like a plane, while damselflies' wings are folded above their bodies.

Cindy leads citizen scientists monitoring both at Nachusa Grasslands and The Morton Arboretum. Odonata are dependent on water, and provide researchers with information on weather and climate change.

Their wings influence flying techniques and spikes repel viruses, so scientists are using this biomimicry knowledge in research. Odonata are ferocious predators of mosquitoes and mosquito larvae and do not sting or bite humans!

To mate, males and females form a mating wheel with their bodies, and eggs are laid on decaying wood or in water. After metamorphosis occurs, they transition from aquatic nymphs to terrestrial adults. Freshly emerged adults cling to plants on shore to dry out before they can fly.

Swarms of these aerial acrobats can be seen near streams at dusk, feasting on mosquitoes and other insects.

Cindy shared many great close-up photos of a variety of dragonflies and damselflies, including American rubyspot, ebony jewelwings, calico pennants, common whitetails, black saddlebags, blue dashers, green darners, and several skimmers and dancers.

There are many resources available to help identify species, including iNaturalist. Citizen science monitoring helps local researchers better understand restoration efforts and the health of natural areas.



*Blue dasher dragonfly perched on a flower. Photo by Cindy Crosby.*

We are grateful to Cindy for switching her program from the originally scheduled date in April.

— Peggy Simonsen

# A New Adventure Begins

After five incredible years, Kevin Scheiwiller has accepted a new position as the Restoration Ecologist at McHenry County Conservation District. This will expand his impact, as he will manage thousands of acres rather than hundreds.

Kevin continues to offer leadership to CFC as a volunteer. He has made a profound impact on our organization, broadening our programs and connections to other organizations.

Kevin was an inspiring speaker to large audiences and a first point of contact for new volunteers. His creativity and willingness to experiment has helped refine our restoration strategies.

CFC is deeply grateful for Kevin's contributions to our restoration efforts, and we wish him well in his new role.



Kevin Scheiwiller in his natural habitat. Photo by Patty Barten.

## Upcoming Volunteer Workday Opportunities

May was a big month for plant shipments. Plants for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Pollinator Grant and the ComEd Green Region Grant have arrived. This means it is time to get busy installing them in restoration areas.

Restoration activities this growing season will focus on getting these plants into the ground. Join us at upcoming restoration workdays every Thursday and Saturday and be a part of this amazing opportunity to advance pollinator conservation. The goal of the NFWF Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund is to protect, conserve, and increase habitat for the monarch butterfly and other native insect pollinators. CFC was awarded this grant for demonstrating clear benefits to both the monarch butterfly and additional at-risk native insect pollinator species, such as the rusty-patched bumble bee that has been documented in our preserves. *Bee* a part of the fun this summer!

### Upcoming Events

Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 - 11 a.m.  
**Restoration Workdays**

Thursdays, April - June 9  
**Barrington Area Spring Bird Walks**  
See website for times and information.

May 30 - August 5  
**Summer Internship Program**  
Funded by the Oberweiler Foundation

Weeks of June 5 and June 12 (two sessions)  
**Young Naturalist Summer Camps**  
See website for registration information.



**CitizensForConservation.org**

*Sign up for our weekly emails about **Restoration Workdays** to learn location and activity details as they are planned.*

# Happy Spring, Everyone!

I'd like to thank all CFC members who attended this year's Annual Meeting. We were so excited to finally see all of you in person! Avante Banquets were wonderful hosts and our sponsors' support so appreciated.

If you missed the meeting, our theme was **INSPIRING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**. Our panelists for the evening were six people representing organizations that CFC has partnered with this past year that fulfill our mission while fulfilling their own missions—representing true collaboration! They were: Kim Duchossois; Jessica Green; Renee Blue; Dr. Becky Gill; Ben Rodriguez; and Karen Daulton Lange.

The work each of them brings to our community is so impactful and we are thrilled to partner with them and to highlight the work at the meeting. So inspiring!!!

—Kathleen Leitner

Becoming a member of CFC means becoming part of a dedicated group of people who believe in the need to protect and restore open land in the Barrington area, and to educate our community about the significance of "Saving Living Space for Living Things." CFC has 52 years of experience working with volunteers to support that mission. To achieve what we have already accomplished, and continue to build on our past successes, a strong base is needed. Our membership is a critical part of that base. **Is your membership current?** Now is a great time to show your support. If you have not renewed already, you can renew online. Alternatively, a renewal envelope will be arriving by mail soon.

## CitizensForConservation.org

To learn about membership benefits and volunteer opportunities call 847-382-SAVE.

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