



Prairie Song

Citizens for Conservation

Barrington, Illinois

Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring 2002

Citizens for Conservation (CFC) is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization in Barrington, IL.

Mission: "Saving Living Space for Living Things"

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Workdays:

Every Saturday year-round from 9 - 11 a.m. and additional days during the rest of the year. Meet at the CFC headquarters at 459 West Hwy. 22, across from Good Shepherd Hospital (look for the silo). Dress for the weather and bring work gloves. Tools will be provided. Call 847-462-0358 for more information.

CFC 31st annual meeting features three W's

The theme of Citizens for Conservation's annual meeting last January was "Wetlands, Wildflowers and Work" emphasizing many of CFC's biggest projects of 2001.

Throughout the evening, attendees were able to view the spectacular nature photography of Dr. Lloyd and Mary McCarthy.

Staff director Sam Oliver kicked off the program by showing pictures of CFC's move to their new headquarters on Route 22, across from Good Shepherd Hospital.

Tom Vanderpoel followed with a slide show about three major restoration projects of the past year: 1) removal of a berm and the construction of new wetlands at Grigsby Prairie, 2) creation of a gravel hill prairie at the CFC headquarters, and 3) creation of a wetland complex at Flint Creek Savanna.

Next, Ken Klick, from the Lake County Forest Preserve District, explained how beetles are being used to control purple loosestrife. With Klick's help, CFC was able to obtain and release over 2,000 beetles last summer into two of our wetlands with the hope that this biological control method will be effective.

Education co-chairman, Laura Arndt, detailed some of the nature classes offered by CFC and three students from the Stan Aiello family gave "testimonials" about their favorite nature activities and projects.

Summer intern, Greg LeFevre, gave a presentation about the many activities that interns are involved in at CFC, from stream monitoring to weed cutting to helping with nature classes.

Finally, board member, Sharon Pasch, concluded with a look to the future. At the CFC headquarters, a native landscaping demonstration trail, a nursery, and the renovation of the silo are in the planning stage.

All in all, much was accomplished in 2001 and there are sure to be many exciting developments ahead.

Baker's Lake update

Last spring, CFC reported that the Baker's Lake Heronry Reconstruction won the American Public Works Association Public Works Project of the Year Award for projects under \$2 million at the state level. Now it has won at the national level.

Last March, volunteers and forest preserve personnel took 200 recycled Christmas trees provided by the Village of Barrington and a tree seller out Baker's Lake island. While the workers were installing the trees, all of the early migrating great blue herons flew away, but one bird couldn't fly away – a baby great-horned owl. There was a dead meadowlark in the nest for lunch! The parents returned to the nest after the workers left.

CFC Events

Saturday, May 4 - Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale, 9 a.m. – noon, CFC headquarters on Rte. 22 across from Good Shepherd Hospital

Saturday, May 11 – Grigsby Prairie Tour, 11 a.m. – noon, intersection of Oak Knoll and Buckley Roads in Barrington Hills

Sunday, May 12 – Baker's Lake Savanna Tour, 4 – 5 p.m., meet at the parking lot on Highland Ave., one block south of Hillside Ave. in Barrington

Saturday, May 18 – Flint Creek Savanna Bird Walk, 8:30 – 11 a.m., meet at the CFC headquarters

Grassy Lake/Flint Creek preserve update

Last fall, the Lake County Forest Preserve District began phase one of a four-mile trail system for the

Grassy Lake/Flint Creek Forest Preserve. The trailhead will be located behind the North Barrington Village Hall.

The Grassy Lake/Flint Creek preserve was designed to connect and protect several natural areas: 1) Grassy Lake and a nearby sedge meadow, 2) an oak woods south of Miller Road, 3) another oak savanna south of Old Barrington Road, 4) a stretch of Flint Creek, and 5) adjoining areas to the north extending to the Fox River.

The Grassy Lake/Flint Creek preserve, with its rolling terrain, wetlands, savannas, and creek, is strung out in such a way that it provides a splendid base for a long hiking trail – just perfect for nature study, jogging, cross-country skiing, and with scenic vistas and photographic opportunities galore!

CFC is extremely pleased that the project is now underway. We believe the residents of Lake County will conclude that the Lake County Forest Preserve District made an excellent investment on their behalf.

The oldest sign of spring

The long, straight neck and dark-gray, extended legs flying overhead gave away the spring harbinger seen by CFC volunteers on February 16 at Flint Creek Savanna.

Crane sightings in mid-February are rare in Illinois as the peak time for viewing these migrating birds usually occurs in late March. What's more exciting, though, is that Flint Creek Savanna is providing a much needed habitat at a time when the sandhill cranes' options are limited. The sandhill crane is a versatile birds that enjoys a variety of habitats, including bogs, sedge meadows, fens, and savannas, but

development is concentrating them into ever smaller areas.

Due to habitat destruction, the sandhill crane actually disappeared as a breeding bird in Illinois back in 1890 and was an endangered species only 30 years ago. Hunting prohibitions and improved wetland management allowed it to breed again in Illinois in 1979. Continued recovery of habitat by organizations like CFC will allow this gorgeous bird to reclaim even more of its historic dwellings.

CFC Contribution Form

- I want to volunteer!
- I want to become a member!
Enclose \$35 for a one-year membership (\$20 for senior citizens).
- I want to give a donation of \$ _____ . ____ for local land protection and restoration.

Monetary contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. You can increase your contribution if your employer has a Matching Gift Program.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/ST: _____

Zip: _____

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Make checks payable to:
Citizens for Conservation

Send this form to:
Citizens for Conservation
P.O. Box 435, Barrington, IL 60011