



# CFC News

*Saving Living Room for Living Things*

A conservation newsletter published by Citizens for Conservation, Inc.

Barrington, Illinois

Vol. I, No. 1 Spring 1984

## PIONEER ISSUE

This issue of CFC News is the first of what we plan to be a regular series of publications. We offer the newsletter to the members of Citizens for Conservation, Inc., and to friends in the Barrington community with an interest in conservation. The format will be flexible and will include reports on CFC activities; announcements of meetings, talks, conferences, field activities with a conservation focus; a conservation column open to any writer who would like to submit an article; a question and answer section designed for anyone who has conservation/wildlife/preservation questions and concerns; reprints of conservation articles.

We invite your contributions as well as your reading! To that end, a container marked CFC Newsletter Contributions has been placed in the CFC office entrance. Deadline for the next issue is July 1st. We really want your input!

## THE ORGANIZATION—AN OVERVIEW

CFC's membership is drawn mostly from the Barrington area (which we define roughly as the School District 220 region). A board of 18 directors meets regularly (once a month, at present) to review and forecast activities for the various committees and to assess current local conservation issues. From its beginning in 1970, members of the organization have supported it by paying annual dues and possibly by attending the annual meeting, which is open to the public. That needs to change.

As the scope of CFC activities has broadened, the board has seen the genuine need to involve members beyond their much-appreciated dues. If we are to keep alert to land parcels, small and large, that merit protection from development, if we are to work toward educating the community to the importance of conservation, if we are to develop specific programs and projects to advance the role of conservation in Barrington, we need your help.

We need your ideas. We need your observations of the Barrington landscape: do you know a woods or a marsh or a remnant prairie that should be preserved to insure the diversity and richness of our natural legacy to future Barringtonians? Specifically, we need you to serve on one or more of the committees which are the workhorses of the organization.

Education Committee: Vicky Allard, Chairman

In 1983, the Education Committee gave a slide presentation on the Wagner Fen to Tower Lakes residents, designed to illustrate why the fen needs to be burned as a part of a responsible management program.

Set up display in one-third of the public library display case (CFC used the entire case this February).

Shared photographs and consulting with Betty Keating of the Green Thumb Garden Club for her educational display on the Wagner Fen at the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs Flower Show in early September.

Sent a memo to all elementary and middle school principals and teachers suggesting ways in which they might incorporate recycling into their curriculum. Two first grade teachers took their classes to the Browning-Ferris landfill in South Barrington to see where their garbage goes. They reported the experience was a real eye-opener for the children. We hope to see more of this sort of activity in the future.

The Education Committee has lots of ideas but needs members to help carry them out. Potential projects, each and all of which needs volunteers, include:

- Publication of a quarterly newsletter (this is your first copy).
- Establishment of volunteer speakers group. Individuals from this group would be available to narrate slide shows or make presentations (e.g. on recycling) to community or school groups.
- Establishment of conservation resource file at CFC office.
- Program to train high school students to make recycling presentations in grade schools.

Stewardship Committee: George Luehring, Chairman

Only one of CFC's properties, the Wagner Fen, received special attention this past year. Directors George Luehring and Ingrid Dier organized and coordinated several brush-cutting and herbiciding days in late 1982 and early 1983. Then, in late April, they staged a controlled burn of the fen. A dozen volunteers helped with the burn and Steve Packard of The Nature Conservancy supervised. The luxuriant and healthy crop of native grasses and flowers this past growing season gave vivid testimony to the value of fire as a management technique.

Several of our properties need management to control the invasion of alien plant species and to maintain high quality. All of the properties, at the minimum, need regular surveillance. To this end, we are looking for individuals living near each property to serve as site stewards. As such, they would monitor the property periodically, submit a report, and coordinate any necessary management activities.

Recycling Committee: Frank Spreyer, Chairman

For several years, CFC has operated a 24-hour paper and glass recycling center. Last year, a little more than 76 tons of glass was collected and over 205 tons of newspaper. Using a formula that states it "takes 17 trees to provide the cellulose fibres for one ton of paper," Frank concludes that Barringtonians saved nearly 3500 trees in 1983. Had they been dumped rather than recycled, the glass and newspaper would have occupied nearly 1,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

Thanks to an agreement reached by the First National Bank and Trust of Barrington, the Barrington Park District and the Village of Barrington -- the joint owners of our recycling location -- the center will remain at its present location, south of the railroad station, indefinitely.

Girl Scout troops at Lines, Countryside, Grove Avenue, Roslyn Road, and North Barrington schools have been collecting paper at their schools for recycling. CFC awards the troops a 50-pound bag of sunflower seed for feeding birds, and, to complete this very nice conservation cycle, the troop members build bird feeders!

Real Estate Committee: Bill Miller, Chairman

This work of this committee has been the life-blood of the organization since its beginning. Primarily through donations, 12 parcels adding up to more than 200 acres have been acquired or are in prospect. But the acquisition process is not simple. It often involves trips to village courthouses to determine ownership, contacting landowners, attending village meetings, designing mutually attractive transfer packages. Patience, persistence, perseverance are essential to anyone involved in this work -- and a sincere desire to enrich and preserve the Barrington natural community.

## NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

At the annual meeting on January 19 at the Barrington Hills Country Club, the following people were elected to three-year terms as directors: Sue Allman, Dexter Free, Jonathan Hamill, Ray Kath, Don Klein, Bill McMullen, and Jeannette Mullen. They join Vicky Allard, Mrs. William Horne, George Luehring, Bill Miller, Betsy Petersen, Art Rice III, Jack Schaefer, Frank Spreyer, and Waid Vanderpoel, who continue in office.

Two weeks later the following officers were elected for a one-year term:

President	- Waid Vanderpoel
Vice-President	- Walter Dalitsch
	Frank Spreyer
Secretary	- Betsy Petersen
Treasurer	- Dave Kullander

## OFFICE/STAFF DIRECTOR

CFC now has an official location (2nd Floor, BACOG building, 132 W. Station Street) and even a phone number (382-SAVE). The boxes of files that have drifted from the overcrowded closets of one president to the next are looking forward to a more spacious and, hopefully, more orderly home.

To manage the office and serve as Staff Director, CFC has hired Sam Oliver. She will work 10-15 hours a week for CFC. On Tuesdays, 12:30-3:30 and Wednesdays, 9:00-Noon Sam can be found at the Station Street office (look for the green and white CFC windsock flying). Call her if you have questions, suggestions, help to offer, etc.

## MEMBERSHIP

We're still hoping to hear from those who haven't sent in their 1984 membership dues. As you can see, there is a lot happening and we want you to be part of it! Annual membership at \$5 per person or \$25 per sustaining member (or 1 acre or \$1,000 for lifetime membership) may be sent to CFC, Box 435, Barrington, IL, Attn: Membership.

## CONSERVATION ARTICLE

### The Original Papermakers and Recyclers by Wendy Paulson

When I fork into our pile of wood chips this spring, I'm sure to expose a queen paper wasp, probably one born and nursed in one of the many nests under our roof overhang. I look forward to this annual encounter. While the queen is still drugged with winter sleep, I can study her exquisite design close up and consider the marvels she soon will initiate -- hopefully, along our roofline where I can witness each stage of the process.

The queen was one of several raised in a paper wasp nest last fall and she and her sister queens were the only ones of the colony to seek refuge for the winter. They were fertilized by the short-lived males shortly before the males and the many female worker wasps scattered and perished.

Once revived from her stupor, the queen will reenact a manufacturing and architectural process that has been going on for centuries. In short, she will make paper and fashion it into a nest of perfect proportion and symmetry.

The procedure is far from simple but it is done without the saws, pulping machines and giant rollers that man requires to make paper. The wasp will bite off a mouthful of wood -- from a fence, a tree, the siding of a barn -- with her powerful jaws, chew it and mix it with the juices of her mouth until it is pulpy, and spread the stuff out flat to dry under the protection of a roof or a tree limb. Such is the modest beginning of her nest which will continue to grow from the top downward as she repeats her biting, chewing, and spreading, tiny bit upon tiny bit.

When a small roof is completed, the queen will build several small rooms, each a perfect hexagon and each directly adjoined to the next. She will deposit a single pearly egg in each cell. A tiny, cream-colored grub will hatch from each egg. The queen will interrupt her building then to attend to the feeding of her firstborn. She'll nourish them with chewed up insects. The grubs will grow quickly and soon each will fill its six-sided cell. It will spin a white, upside-down dome over the open end of the cell, closing itself inside where the wonder of metamorphosis will take place. For when the white door opens, not a grub but an adult worker wasp will emerge, the first of several crops of workers who will assist with the paper-making and nest-building.

The nest of the paper wasp seldom exceeds several inches in diameter. But its paper-making cousins, the yellow jacket and the bald-faced hornet (*Vespula maculata*), construct large, complicated nests of many connected tiers enclosed in multi-layered paper envelopes. The paper wasp is the small town builder of his kind while the *Vespulas* are the city engineers.



The bald-faced hornet usually builds her nest around a sturdy tree limb while the yellow jacket selects a hole in the ground or the interior of an old log for its less resilient nest. The paper-making and nest-building proceed much as they do for the paper wasp, but on a grand scale and with the addition of exterior walls to protect the cells.

The queen begins the home alone. She will build a simple set of rooms and enclose them in a paper globe -- actually, several curved sections of paper -- with a hole at the bottom for access. At that point she fills the cells with eggs and so begins what by the end of the summer will be a veritable city of wasps, up to 5,000 of them. The workers will relieve the queen of her manufacturing and building duties and while she lays eggs for the remaining warm season, the workers will nurse grubs, clean out nurseries, build new rooms, tear down constricting outside walls and build new ones. The renovation continues unabated all summer long and much of the material for new rooms and outside walls is provided by the old structures -- thus making the wasps paper recyclers of great efficiency and zero waste.

Long before man learned to crush wood into pulp and press it into paper, and later to reuse his paper to make new material, wasps were manufacturing and recycling paper in what must be considered one of the true wonders of the natural world. The business is carried on quietly, methodically, and to many people, annoyingly. How often I've heard wasps referred to only as pests, good for nothing but extermination.

I couldn't disagree more. The paper wasp, the yellow jacket, the bald-faced hornet will always be welcome around our home. There's room here for them and us. When I uncover a queen or two or three in the wood chip pile, I'll wish each one good success in the marvel she soon will re-unfold.

#### Non-Game Wildlife Check-Off Passes in Illinois!



A new law will give Illinois residents an opportunity to contribute \$10.00 of any state income tax refund due them to support non-game wildlife conservation efforts merely by checking a box on their tax return forms.

Illinois is the 28th state to enact this type of legislation since Colorado passed the first such law in 1978. The law states that citizens may indicate with an "X" if they wish to contribute up to \$10.00 to the newly created Illinois Non-Game Wildlife Conservation Fund, or the amount of the tax refund if less than that figure.

Funds generated through the wildlife check-off legislation will be used for wildlife inventory, resource development, habitat development, information and education programs, and related areas. The Illinois Department of Conservation is now planning a public conference for the various conservation groups and interested members of the public for help in deciding how best to utilize the new funds.

"Wildlife programs have traditionally been supported to a great degree by sporting license sales and by monies collected on sporting equipment excise taxes levied by the Federal government, and distributed back to the states," said Carl Becker, IDOC Natural Heritage Section Manager. "Funds raised in this manner have accomplished a great deal," he said. "The focus, of course, has been on game species and sport fish, with incidental, but real, benefits for other wildlife. This is not to detract from those programs, rather to add to existing wildlife conservation activities, but with a different emphasis."

(From the October 17, 1983 Outdoor Highlights)

Throwing away an aluminum beverage can wastes as much energy as pouring out such a can half-filled with gasoline.

# A TRASH PICK-UP HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

Judy Nordstrom

**M**ore than 200 years ago in the colonial township of Lexington, Mass., a musket was fired which his-tory would record as "the shot heard round the world," sparking the American Revolutionary War. Now Lexington may have started a new American revolution with its assault on one of the most insidious "New Age" enemies—household hazardous waste.

It started in 1981 when George Smith, Director of Public Health for Lexington, became concerned about the tremendous amount of dangerous household products—such as disposables as half-empty cans of weed killer or oven cleaner. The town's curbside garbage service would not collect these wastes and the local landfill had recently been closed. Smith wondered where was all the waste going.

Then Smith began getting calls from residents who spotted their neighbors emptying anti-freeze into storm drains and from businesses who found their dumpsters filled during the night. What worried him was whether these

poisons were getting into the groundwater. "Plus you know, Woburn is right next door to us here."

Woburn, on the outskirts of Boston, is a chemical industry wasteland. It suffers from severe groundwater pollution and is on the Environmental Protection Agency's priority clean-up list under the Superfund program. Two of the city's wells were closed in 1979 after a number of children who drank the water were diagnosed as having leukemia.

Smith wanted to stop Lexington from becoming another Woburn. He went before Lexington's Board of Selectmen in Oct. 1981 and recommended that Lexington sponsor a "Hazardous Waste Pickup Day" for residents. The only problem Smith could foresee was funding, since Proposition 2 1/2, a statewide tax cap, had left little money in municipal coffers.

"Improvise!" became the clarion call. Contributions from the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and a local conservation group, along with a \$2 per gallon charge to residents whose wastes were hauled off, helped cover the project's costs. The town contracted with licensed hauler SCA from Braintree, Mass.

The stage was set. Advanced

advertising through the local media encouraged participation. On Saturday, Oct. 30, 1982, the first Hazardous Waste Pickup Day was held in Lexington. Officials expected to fill about six huge 55-gallon barrels with wastes. They easily filled 14 with such worthy contributions as malathion, chlor-dane, DDT, lead, arsenic strychnine and antifreeze.

So encouraged were Lexington citizens that additional funds were appropriated to be used for the 1983 collection. During the second pick-up, 29 drums were filled.

In the year between its two "pick-ups," the town began receiving inquiries from places as far away as Virginia, Canada and Hawaii. Following Lexington's lead, a successful hazardous waste pickup was staged recently in nearby Cape Cod.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) reports they are "continually besieged with calls as to what residents can do with this type of waste. George Smith believes Lexington's solution can serve as a role model for other communities. Lexington, he says, may have discovered "the correct attack" in the battle against household hazardous waste.

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1983

## Nations shouldn't trash new ideas on recycling wastes, researchers say

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON — Despite decade-old pleas to recycle trash, three-fourths of the world's paper, aluminum and steel is still being thrown away, instead of reused, a new study reported yesterday.

The Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based research group, said that while some countries have made gains, the overall record for recycling wastes is likely to remain dismal unless governments pass new laws.

The institute said that only about one-fourth of the world's paper, aluminum and steel is being recovered — a figure that has improved only slightly in the years following the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

The rest of the world needs to follow the lead of countries and localities with impressive records, said William Chandler, author of the report

Japan, the Netherlands and Mexico now recycle half the paper they use, compared with 26 percent in the United States, and a worldwide average of 24 percent.

Japan has offered volunteer groups incentives to spur paper collections, while the Netherlands has passed a law requiring all citizens to separate their trash so that the paper can be recovered.

This approach has also been adopted in Islip, N.Y., where residents must separate their trash or risk fines of \$250. Residents who ignore the law also risk cancellation of trash pickups.

The United States, spurred by sharply higher costs in electricity, a major component in making aluminum, has led the way in recycling beverage cans, the study said. Only 15 percent of U.S. aluminum cans were recycled in 1972, but more than half were recycled in 1981.

So far, nine states — Oregon, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Iowa, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware and New York — have passed mandatory beverage-deposit laws, which require deposits on all glass beverage containers, to encourage their return. The rate of return in five states with the oldest laws is more than 90 percent, the study said.

The report estimated that in the United States, 100,000 jobs could be created if a nationwide beverage-deposit law existed.

The study found that the biggest roadblocks to recycling are government subsidies that keep energy prices cheaper.

"No single factor has increased recycling more in the last 30 years than the energy price increases of the '70s. To subsidize energy consumption is to subsidize a throw-away society," Chandler said.

## DuPage toll road threatens Arboretum

A new north-south highway through DuPage County threatens the Morton Arboretum, an outstanding research center and living museum of natural ecosystems and plant collections.

The road, known as FAP-431, has been a threat to the Arboretum for nearly two decades. It has powerful backing in the form of the Thompson Administration, DuPage County Republican leadership, and the business community, who see it as a link between O'Hare Airport and the high-tech corridor west of Chicago.

The project is now slated for the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, an entity with virtually no accountability for the environmental effects of its plans. Unlike road projects assisted by federal funds, a toll road does not require an environmental impact statement before it is built.

What will the proposed highway do to the Arboretum? It will destroy outright a native grove of oaks. It will lead to the decline and eventual destruction of an ancient glacial lake, a bird sanctuary, and an oak-maple forest ecosystem. It will require the relocation of a major shrub collection at great expense to the Arboretum. It will lead to substantial damage over time from noise, road salt, and vehicle emissions. It would blight the precious intangibles of serenity, silence, and beauty.

*The IEC will be working with citizens to protect the Arboretum and bring environmental responsibility to this project.*

**KEY CONTACT:** Jerry Paulson,  
312/427-5121.



Morton Arboretum

*The proposed highway known as FAP-431 would mean the destruction of this native forest at the southeast corner of the Morton Arboretum. The toll highway plans are not the first assault upon the Arboretum. It has suffered on so many occasions from "progress" that officials have entitled the Arboretum's slide show "A History of Desecration." If the highway is built as planned by the Illinois Toll Highway Authority without federal assistance, there is nothing in law that requires an environmental impact statement to be published.*

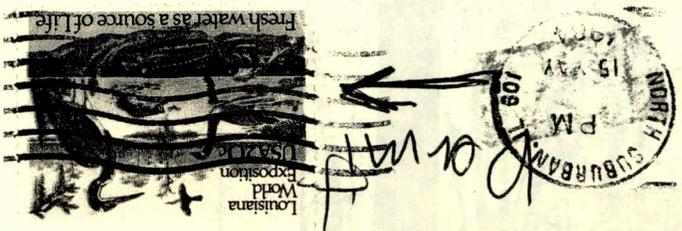
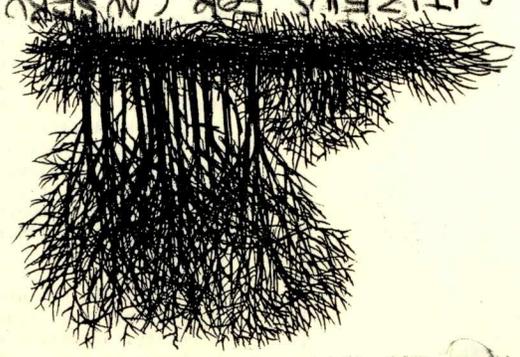
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Box 435  
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## ALMANAC

### May Birding Symposium at Ryerson Conservation Area

Month-long celebration of bird life includes workshops, lectures, bird walks, other activities related to natural history of birds.  
Call Ryerson in Deerfield: 948-7750.

### Reminder: Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting All Day May 12, Ryerson

### Midwestern Prairie Conference in Moorhead, Minnesota - July 29th-August 1st

For more information, write immediately:  
Tri-College University, 306 Ceres Hall, N. Dakota State University,  
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

### Natural History Society Meetings and Field Trips

- May 19th: Reed-Turner Woodlands. Long Grove, on Old McHenry Road south of Highway 22. 8:30 A.M., rain or shine.
  - June 16th: Camp Sagawau -- Palo Hills. Car pool at 9:00 A.M. from Ace Hardware parking lot. Wear boots or sneakers. Canyon view, prairie restoration. Bring picnic lunch.
  - July 14th & 15th: Trip to The Ridges.
  - September 22nd: Annual Picnic, Shirley Peterson's farm near Lake Geneva.
- More details? Gill Moreland, 639-4092.

### Spring Hill Farm Fen Days -- Lake in the Hills, North of Village

July 8th, August 12th, September 9th. Walks leave every 15 minutes between 1:00 and 3:30 P.M. Gill Moreland, 639-4092.