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CFC News



Saving Living Room for Living Things

A conservation newsletter published by Citizens for Conservation, Inc.

Barrington, Illinois

Vol. 4, No. 1 Spring 1987

PRAIRIE DEDICATION

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION, INC.

cordially invites you

to the dedication of

THE GRIGSBY PRAIRIE

Saturday, June 6

One P.M.

Oak Knoll and Buckley Roads

Barrington Hills, Illinois

RSVP 382-SAVE



The prairie committee and volunteers have been eagerly anticipating this day for over a year. All the hours of seed gathering on those balmy late summer days along the railroad tracks will finally be rewarded. This is the day the prairie will be dedicated and seeded.

Preparations have already begun. The land has been herbicided, burned, and disked. Leaders have been chosen for each of the seven sowing teams. Areas have been mapped for selected species. Seeds are being mixed for specialized areas.

To successfully sow the seven acres, seventy volunteers (ten per team) are needed. If you are not on the prairie volunteer list but would like to help recreate a living piece of history, please join us. Call 382-SAVE for details.

-- Daria Sapp



NATIVE PLANTS SAVED FROM BULLDOZER, by Darla Sapp

The prairie committee was invited by the McHenry County Defenders to participate



CFC volunteer rescues shooting stars
in front of rubble from bulldozers.

in a plant rescue on April 11 and 12. On a site rich in native wildflowers near the Fox River, but destined for development, McCD negotiated permission to save as many of the plants as possible. Eighteen CFC volunteers, armed with trowels and spades, dug hundreds of wild geraniums, trout lilies, rue anemones, Pennsylvania sedges, and, especially valuable to our fledgling prairie, shooting stars.

The following day fourteen volunteers potted the woodland

and savanna plants and placed them in a propagation holding area at the prairie where they will be cared for. The shooting stars -- four hundred of them -- were planted and are the first species to be established in the prairie.

WILDFLOWERS SURVIVE GOLF COURSE

Doris Lunde sold her property on Indian Trail Road to the Jack Nicklaus golf course. The bulldozers moved in almost immediately, but not before CFC volunteers were able to salvage some of the many wildflowers growing there. Mrs. Lunde wrote this brief description of her family's association with the site:

The Lunde family moved to Indian Trail Road in the spring of 1954. At that time the road was gravel and strictly "country". James Lunde, a graphic designer and photographer, was also a fine amateur botanist. For the next thirty years he transformed the acreage into a small Eden. He collected prairie plants indigenous to the area and after years of work, the prairie bloomed with butterfly weed, indigo, prairie quinine, Kansas gayfeather, compass plants, to name a few. He planted many varieties of trees - including several Chinese Redwoods, obtained in China twenty years ago, which thrived until bulldozed a few weeks ago. He also planted tulip trees, birches, chestnut, black walnut, larches, red bud, and others in the wooded area.

Along with the plants and trees, the Lundes raised four children, Andrea, Erik, Kristina and Melissa, and countless animals. We are all sad to see this area being changed so drastically -- perhaps that's called progress. We are happy to see that some of these plants will be perpetuated.

SPRING BLAZES, by Waid Vanderpoel

Due to generally favorable conditions, CFC volunteers were able to conduct two "controlled burns" on CFC sites, each for the first time. In late March, George Luehring led a sizeable crew into the Barrington Bog (across from the entrance to Lake Barrington Shores, on Rte. 59). Despite some wet spots and areas of heavy brush which wouldn't catch fire, approximately fifteen acres were burned. In early April Wayne Schennum, of the McHenry County Conservation District, and George headed a burn at Farm Trails North. This site includes wetland and prairie along the south side of Roberts Road as it approaches River Road. Despite considerable wind, a two and one-half acre burn was effected safely and efficiently.

Fire, an integral component in the evolution of native landscapes, stimulates the growth of native prairie, fen, bog and savanna plants and damages or destroys non-native species.

Native grasses and flowers often reappear after long dormancy. We'll be monitoring the effects of the spring burns on both sites.

A burn prescribed for an area with native vegetation is a carefully controlled exercise, run with discipline approaching that of a military operation. Each participant has an assigned role -- raking firebreaks, smothering the near edge of a backfire with a rubber flapper, toting and using water packs.

It is customary for individuals and organizations interested in natural areas to help one another in conducting burns. Just as CFC was aided by others this year in both burns, so have CFC volunteers helped burn prairies, savannas and woodlands close to home and as far away as Nachusa Grasslands near Dixon.



STEWARDSHIP FORECAST, by Waid Vanderpoel

CFC's greatest challenge in 1987 will be to attack the brush (yes, buckthorn again) and loosestrife at the Barrington Bog. This year, we also hope to develop management plans for CFC natural areas and to conduct a wildlife and bird census at several of our sites. If you would like to become involved in any of these activities, please contact me (381-6673) or leave your name and message at the CFC office (382-SAVE).



SATURDAY SESSIONS

THREE LOCAL MAMMALS February 21, by Misty Lossau

I went to the class called Three Local Mammals. The mammals were the white-tailed deer, the squirrel (fox and grey), and the white-footed mouse.

We divided into three groups and each group learned about one animal. We then made a quiz board. We thought of five questions and looked up the answers. Next, we put the questions on one half of the board and the answers on the other half. We hooked it up, tried it, and it worked! We got to try the other quiz boards that the other groups had made. Some of the questions were hard but I learned more about the mammals.

WHO'S WHO April 4, by Ryan Polasek

Did you know that owls can turn their heads about 270°? Owls, unlike other birds that have three toes in front and one toe in back, have two toes in front and two toes in back. Some owls are red, some brown, and some white. Some owls grow their feathers horizontally and some grow them vertically. Owls fluff up their feathers to make themselves look bigger when they feel threatened. Personally, I thought the owl program was great.

NIGHT HIKE FOR KIDS



Mark Spreyer, one of CFC's directors and research coordinator at the Chicago Academy of Science, will lead a special hike in the dark for kids only, ten and up. The hike will take place at Stillman Audubon Center on Penny Road, on Friday, June 12, from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Be prepared to sharpen your senses, prowl around with night critters, listen to night sounds. Dress for the weather and do not bring a flashlight! Please call 382-SAVE to register, by June 5th.

WISH LIST

Has spring cleaning produced any of the following items, which you may not want and we could use?

- railroad ties (for planting beds)
- plastic plant containers, quart-size or larger
- trowels
- picnic tables (for nature study classes)
- prisms
- plywood squares (8" x 8" or nearly that, for flower presses)
- screening (for insect cages)
- corrugated cardboard (also for flower presses)



SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

This summer, CFC will sponsor several field excursions to local natural areas. Families are welcome. Cameras, binoculars, field guides, appropriate clothing, and insect repellent are recommended. Participants should meet at the CFC parking lot on Station Street, across from the police station. We'll carpool to the site unless numbers warrant a bus. To register, call 382-SAVE.

Wagner Fen - Sunday, June 14; Sunday, July 12, Saturday, August 29

Three visits to the fen, spaced about a month apart, should offer contrast and comparison, as well as basic acquaintance with fen plant and wildlife species. The plankwalk, installed last year, will be our pathway through marsh, sedge meadow, and fen. There will be an optional extension of each trip to another nearby site (e.g. Barrington Bog, Farm Trails North). Wayne Schennum of McHenry County Conservation District will lead these trips. For the Sunday trips, meet at 1 p.m. For the Saturday trip, meet at 9 a.m.

Volo Bog - Friday, June 26

Volo Bog is the only quaking bog remaining in Illinois. It was the first project of the Illinois chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and has since received designation as an Illinois Nature Preserve and a National Natural Landmark. The preserve includes over 600 acres and offers a 1/2-mile boardwalk tour through the stages of the bog's natural progression. At least five species of ferns grow in the bog and four species of orchids, most or all of which could be in bloom for this trip. Wendy Paulson will lead. Meet at CFC parking lot at 8:30 a.m.



Palatine Prairie - Saturday, July 18

Tom Vanderpoel will lead a trip to this small, black soil mesic prairie. It is rich in prairie forbs, many of whose seeds were collected elsewhere last fall by prairie volunteers. You'll see the plants in bloom this time, including compass plant, blazing star and wild quinine. Prairie volunteers are especially encouraged to come. Meet at 9 a.m.

Bluff Spring Fen - Saturday, August 15

This fen east of Elgin is living testimony to the care and hard work of volunteer stewards. The 90-acre area was once a magnet for ORVs and garbage. Now, thanks to years of volunteer clean-up and management, it boasts a remarkable variety of natural habitats and rare plants. Leader will be Steve Beyers of the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. Meet at 8:30 a.m.



BAKER'S LAKE SIGN DEDICATED

The herons on the Baker's Lake island now have recognition in black and white. The Natural History Society of Barrington commissioned a sign about the Baker's Lake Nature Preserve and its important feathered residents. At a ceremony in the adjacent campground, the sign was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, May 10. It stands near the old entrance to the campground on Highland Avenue.

Dr. Shirley Peterson explained that twenty years ago, the Natural History Society began an annual sunflower seed sale, an event still held each October. Part of the proceeds originally were invested in a Baker's Lake fund to be used to develop bird blinds or for other projects supporting non-obtrusive appreciation of the lake and birds. In recent years, the money earned from the sale has been contributed to a variety of conservation organizations. When Baker's Lake achieved status as an Illinois Nature Preserve three years ago, the idea for the sign was born.

The sign was a composite project. Local artist Chet Ryndak conceived the overall design and painted the birds. Nancy Halliday oil painted the landscape. Wayne Vanderploeg constructed the sign and the lettering was done by Sue Pajril.

After the dedication, local naturalists led informal walks to identify birds and wildflowers.



BOOK BROWSING



A glance at some recent periodicals reveals articles of local interest and importance:

✓ "Mysteries of the Bog," National Geographic, March 1987

Though focused largely on the bogs of northern Europe and the clues to ancient peoples found in them, this article also offers information on the history and ecology of bogs.

"The North Branch Prairies," Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin, May 1987

Lively text and sumptuous photos combine to give a detailed account of a local success story -- the rejuvenation of degraded Cook County prairies by patient, persistent volunteers. Anyone involved in stewardship or prairie restoration work should read it. Reprints are available from the Field Museum for 75 cents. This article is one of a series on Chicago-area wildlife; others include "Chicago's Parakeets," "Spring Wildflowers of the Chicago Area," "Water Snakes That You Might See Around Chicago," and "Spring Bird Migration at the Foot of Lake Michigan."

"Tale of the Tallgrass," Sierra, May/June 1987

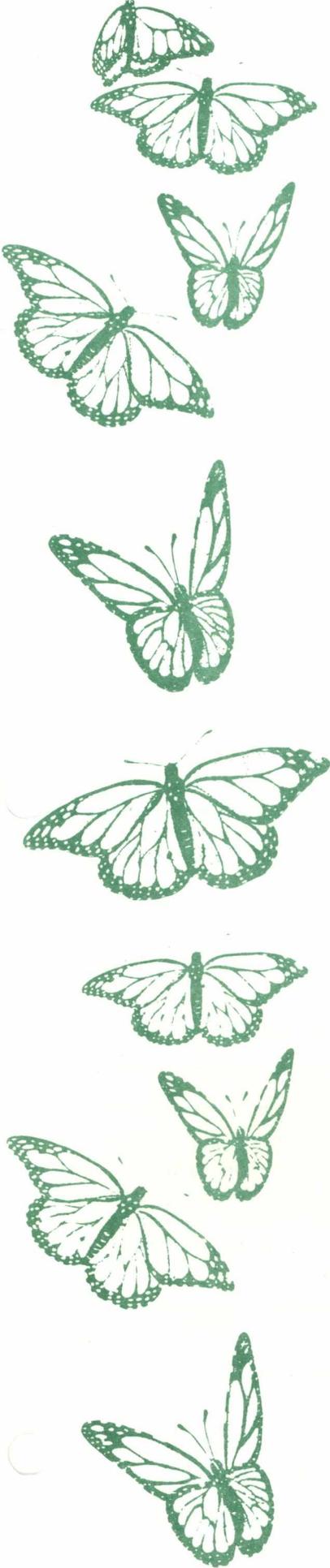
This article appears under the "For Younger Readers" heading, but this 40ish adult reader found it entirely suitable -- and informative -- for my age group, too.

"Name That Bird" and "Quick, Three Beers!", The Living Bird Quarterly (publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology), Spring 1987.

Both articles offer lots of tips and humor for anyone trying to know birds better by sight and sound.

Some of the finest articles on wildlife, native plants, and preservation appear in periodicals published by conservation-related groups. CFC has a file of such organizations in the office and will be glad to help you find one of special interest.





SUMMER SESSIONS IN NATURE STUDY 1987

Citizens for Conservation will again offer summer nature study classes for children. Parents are welcome, too (parents need not pay, but they should register). All classes, unless otherwise indicated, will take place on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11. Classes at Crabtree Nature Center will meet in the main building. Directions to other locations will be sent with registration confirmation. Registration will be limited.

JUNE 17 CHIRP, CROAK, BUZZ: THE SOUNDS OF NATURE. What bird sounds like it's crying? says its name? sounds like it's whistling for a dog? We'll listen for the sounds of birds, mammals, insects, and other creatures as we explore the ponds, forest, and prairie at Crabtree Nature Center. Ages 6 and up.

JUNE 24 SUN FUN. Cook your lunch with solar power, make and read sundials, and try other projects that require the sun to make them work. This class, timed to fall near the summer solstice, will last two hours longer than usual, until 1 p.m. It will be held at Stillman Audubon Center on Penny Road. \$4 extra fee for lunch and materials. Ages 8-13.

JULY 1 KNEE-HIGH NATURE. A class for pre-kindergartners and their parents. We'll prowl along the Giant's Hollow trail at Crabtree Nature Center, hunt for the creatures that live in a log, peek at the pond to see who and what lives there. Ages 4-5.

JULY 8 PATTERNS IN NATURE. Have you ever noticed the curls on a bur oak acorn? the perfect circle of a woodpecker hole? the hexagon of a bee cell? Investigate the shapes and designs of the natural world and capture them in a special project or two. At Stillman Audubon Center. Ages 6-12.

JULY 15 POND STUDY. What lives in a pond? around it? What grows in the water? near the water? Explore the world of Heron Pond at Stillman Audubon Center. Ages 7 and up.

JULY 22 BARE TAILS AND BIG EYES. A professional storyteller will share Native American legends of how and why. If time allows, a short hike will follow. Crabtree Nature Center. Ages 6 and up.

JULY 29 KNEE-HIGH NATURE. See July 1 listing. Ages 4-5.

AUGUST 5 INSECT CAGES AND FLOWER PRESSES--TOOLS FOR NATURE STUDY. Make a simple, unbreakable cage for capturing and studying live insects and a flower press to preserve summer blossoms. \$4 material fee. Stillman Audubon Center. Ages 8 and up.



AUGUST 12 INSECT SAFARI. Late summer is the best season for bugs. We'll see how many different kinds we can find crawling in the grass, munching on milkweed, sipping nectar, flying through the air. This will not be a collecting trip, but we will examine some insects close up. At Beese Park: meet at parking lot at Princeton and George Streets (follow signs from Barrington Road). Cancelled if raining heavily. Ages 6 and up.

AUGUST 19 NATURE GAMES. Play active games, prowling games, quiet games -- all having to do with the natural world. Stillman Audubon Center. Ages 8-13.

AUGUST 26 CATTAILS: Explore a cattail marsh, find out how Indians and pioneers used cattails, make a cattail weaving and a simple cattail toy. Stillman Audubon Center. Ages 6-11.

Summer Session Director: Wendy Paulson

Cost per session: \$2 members; \$4 non-members. Material fees extra, as noted above.

Be prepared: Wear long pants, socks, comfortable shoes (boots if wet). Bring a clipboard, pencil (except Knee High Nature and storytelling class), insect repellent if desired. Questions? 382-SAVE.

SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Phone _____

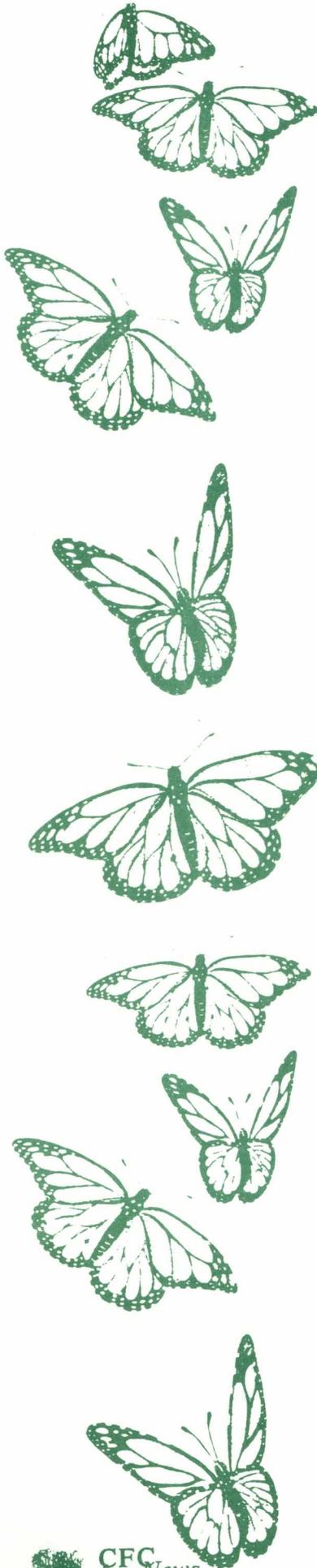
Class(es) _____

The undersigned, a parent or guardian of this/these minor child(ren) hereby assumes all responsibility for injuries which may result from the normal activities of the above program(s) for which child(ren) is(are) enrolled and hereby releases Citizens for Conservation, Inc. from any such responsibilities.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail check to: Citizens for Conservation, Inc.
P.O. Box 435
Barrington, IL 60011

Registration deadlines: one week before each class.



CFC News

Citizens for Conservation, Inc.

thank you ***** thank you ***** thank you ***** thank you ***** thank you



- to Pioneer Press for a gift matching the contribution of a contributing employee.
- to the Four Seasons Garden Club, Field and Flower Garden Club, Garden Club of Barrington and Little Garden Club of Barrington for recent special contributions.
- to Dennis and Claudia Anderson for providing, at no cost to CFC, a special vehicle and equipment for herbicide application on the prairie site; and for providing a licensed technician at labor cost only.
- to Mary Kraft for hosting the information session on Barrington Bog

ARE YOU USING THE RECYCLING CENTER??

Figures for glass and newspaper brought to the recycling center still are dramatically lower than they were before the center moved to West Liberty Street.
Pounds recycled:

| | newspaper | glass |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
| February | 20,490 | 14,240 (clear) |
| March | 14,805 | |
| April | 20,940 | 18,240 (green) |



By the time this newsletter reaches you, the center should be accepting aluminum (all types -- cans, trays, furniture, etc.). Check with the office to be sure.

SPECIAL PROJECTS - HELP NEEDED

CFC will again be participating both in the Fourth of July parade and in Sidewalk Days in August. If you'd like to help, in a little or big way, in either or both projects, please call the office, 382-SAVE.

SLIDE PROGRAMS

CFC has several slide programs available for garden clubs and other civic organizations. They include "The Birds of Baker's Lake," "The Wagner Fen: an American Beauty," "A Prairie in Barrington: Bringing One Back to Life." Call 382-SAVE for details.

In the past several months, CFC representatives have made presentations to two PEO chapters, neighbors of Barrington Bog, Four Seasons Garden Club and Country Home and Garden Club.



ALMANAC

- May 30 Annual Meeting, Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Ryerson Conservation Area, Deerfield, call 346-8166 for details.
- June 6 Dedication and seeding of Grigsby Prairie
- June 12 Night hike for kids
- June 14 Tour of Wagner Fen
- June 17 Summer Sessions begin
(See enclosed flyer)
- June 26 Tour of Volo Bog
- July 12 Tour of Wagner Fen
- July 18 Tour of Palatine Prairie
- August 15 Tour of Bluff Spring Fen
- August 29 Tour of Wagner Fen



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