



CFC NEWS

Saving Living Space for Living Things

Vol. 24, No. 3, Summer 2005

The oak savanna — a rare natural community

by Meredith Tucker

Editors' note: Regular readers of CFC News will notice that this issue is somewhat different than usual. The current articles present variations on a theme established in the first essay. Think of this CFC News like a piece of classical music in which a theme is presented and recurs with varying focus. The editors hope you will learn about oak savannas, their composition, their importance as natural communities, and the threats that have made them rare and continue to jeopardize their existence. Perhaps you will also see the importance of oak savannas to the human environment.

When the county was first settled there was no underbrush or small Timber.... The timbered lands were open...the trees standing so far apart that hunters could see the deer at... five hundred yards. The entire surface of the country was then covered with...native grasses and wild flowers.

Joseph Mudd, Missouri, 1888

...park scenery... trees grouped or standing single... with strips of open meadows between.

H. L. Ellsworth, Illinois, 1837

...clumps of oaks of centuries' growth...tall grass, with seed stalks from six to ten feet high ...a magnificence of park scenery....

George Flower, Illinois, 1817

Reading descriptions of the land by early settlers, one can understand why they often chose to locate their homes within the bounds of oak savannas. As they frequently

said, savannas were like open parks of dappled sunlight, with sheltering, widespread trees and carpets of grass and wildflowers. Even now when people buy homes in new subdivisions, they immediately plant trees. When they build in densely forested locations, they remove trees to create a more open feeling. It has been suggested that man originated on the savannas of Africa and that he now feels most comfortable with his home in that landscape.

The oak savanna may be the rarest of all plant communities in Illinois. For years some ecologists doubted that such a community had ever existed, but as they have discovered tiny remnant savannas and consulted early records, most natural scientists agree

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Oak Savanna *(continued from page 1)*

that such plant communities were an important part of our native environment before European settlement. A savanna (also called a barrens, oak grove, or oak opening) is an open woodland with widespread oaks and hickories as the dominant tree species. These groves necessarily have little or no shrubby underbrush, and the vegetation beneath the trees is comprised of prairie plants, grasses and wildflowers. They may represent a transitional zone between the tall grass prairie to the west and the forests east of here.

In presettlement times, the savanna canopy was comprised of more than 80% oaks with dominant tree species including white, red, and black oaks as well as shagbark and, occasionally, bitternut hickories depending on the area's soil and hydrology. A reliable means of identifying whether an oak tree has matured in a savanna is that in such a habitat it is gnarled and has large, low, out-stretching branches. When this is the case, it has clearly grown in an open area where its branches could reach out unobstructed, horizontal to the ground. An oak maintains its lower branches when there is no shrubby layer to shade or crowd it. In contrast, oaks that grow in forests are usually straight and tall and have few low branches.

The plants growing beneath and between the savanna trees are prairie species of grasses, sedges, and forbs. Historically bur oak savannas had open canopies with more than 300 species of herbaceous plants under the trees. These plants flourished because the landscape was open rather than shaded as it would be in a forest. Although a few species are indigenous only to savannas, for the most part prairie species that can tolerate a little dappled shade will grow in a savanna. They can thrive because occasional burns allow no shrubs to grow there.

Fire is the key to the savanna community. Before European settlement, fire frequently traveled through the woods from which oak savannas evolved. Because oaks and hickories are more tolerant of fire than are most other trees, savannas could exist as long as prairie fires swept across the land and through the oak groves. When the pioneers plowed the prairies and no longer allowed fire to move across remaining natural lands, the savanna landscape was doomed. When fire ceased, plant diversity plummeted along with breeding bird populations. The oaks themselves suffered from the lack of burning since young oaks could not compete with invading brush that pushed in as fire

ceased. Most oak groves now have only older trees, trees that matured when fire kept the area open and allowed sunlight to reach the savanna floor. When these old giants are gone, the oak groves will disappear entirely unless land management stops the incursion by shrubs and alien species and returns fire to the landscape.

Although the cessation of fire is the main reason for the rarity of savannas today, another reason is that early settlers liked to live in savannas. An area of trees would protect their homes and provide fuel for warmth and wood for building. In addition, the prairie grasses of the savannas made good grazing for their cattle. A lightly grazed savanna might survive because cattle controlled the brush, but the wildflowers suffered. When shrubs dominate the understory, savannas disappear. The death-knell for savanna communities tolled with the proliferation of invasive alien species, including reed canary grass, garlic mustard, buckthorn, and non-native honeysuckle.

The Barrington area is fortunate to be rich with oak groves, some of which are still home to modified savanna plant communities. There are good reasons for trying to restore these habitats to their previous condition as CFC is doing at its Flint Creek Savanna and at Barrington's Baker's Lake. From a conservationist's point of view, the most important reason is to preserve biodiversity as many rare, threatened, or endangered species live in the oak savanna ecosystem. More important, perhaps, to the individual home owner is that trees ameliorate the harsh elements of the urban and suburban climate. Trees decrease summer temperatures, slow the wind, and reduce air pollution. Houses near these groves will be warmer in the winter as well. Additionally, savannas are beautiful with their large trees, abundant wildflowers, and park-like atmosphere; savanna landscapes enhance real estate values. Hopefully, living in or near a savanna with its wildlife, beauty, and diversity may influence present and future generations to accept responsibility for its care and preservation. One's world view may change, and he may be inspired to embrace a land ethic of protection and consideration for earth's living things.

Volunteer celebration

On July 23, Citizens for Conservation will celebrate “**Twenty Years of Volunteers**” impacting restoration. All current and former volunteers are invited to reunite and celebrate the collective success of 2800 restoration volunteers, plus the vital contributions of many others involved in land negotiation, education, communication and administration.

CFC News readers can help the planning committee by calling the CFC office, **(847) 382-SAVE (7283)** with names and addresses of past volunteers who might not be on our current mailing list. The committee appreciates the help it has received so far in locating these volunteers and welcomes the opportunity to send even more invitations.

As Karen Hunter, CFC president, has stated, “Our volunteers are the reason for our success. Through them, we continue to expand our mission of “Saving Living Space for Living Things.”

Thank you to:

...**Don Krebs** for donating a new IBM PC and monitor

...**Bill Miller** and **The Wild Bird Center** for a combined contribution

...**Beth Cripe** for a tripod for use with a spotting scope

...**John Schweizer** for sharing over 200 digital pictures of CFC history from his personal photo archives

...**Donna Bolzman** for a digital camera for CFC’s photography

...**Laura Arndt, Henry Gron, Margaret Hudson, Mark Vanderpoel** and **Erin Vukovich** for the illustrations for this newsletter



Dedicated volunteers, Rob Neff, Laura Arndt and Sharon Pasch planting at Flint Creek Savanna

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that every has.”

---Margaret Mead

Savanna plants

by Patsy Mortimer

Most people can identify an oak grove even driving by at 60 miles an hour. Oaks are large, stately trees with stout branches, distinctive deeply lobed leaves and acorns in the fall. Not as obvious to passersby is the green stuff growing under the trees. They may notice that it's short in the spring, medium in the summer and tall in the fall. Only upon closer examination does the variety and complexity of this underlying plant community become obvious.

Each savanna is unique with plants particularly adapted to the soil, moisture and light available. Relatively low-impact church retreats for a hundred years helped many early-blooming spring wildflowers survive at Baker's Lake Savanna while grazing cattle destroyed almost all the original wildflowers at Flint Creek Savanna. However almost twenty years of wildflower rescues, seeding and burning have restored these rare ecosystems to ever-changing worlds of discovery and delight.

An early spring burn will bare the soil by converting last year's plant stems and oak leaves to nurturing ash. Sun warming the bare, black loamy soil speeds the emergence of spring plants by up to two weeks. The first plants to bloom are barely six inches tall. Bloodroot is so anxious to bloom that the white flower appears before the leaves have even had a chance to unfurl. Look quickly because the petals drop after a couple of days while the leaves continue to grow. Toothwort, rue anemone and spring beauty bloom about the same time as penn or oak sedge, *Carex pensylvanica*. Penn sedge forms the basis of the savanna's ground stabilizing matrix. It is the first plant CFC plants in its savanna restorations as it holds the soil. Penn sedge is the ideal low-maintenance ground cover for shady areas, growing only 8-12 inches tall. Its early May bloom creates a yellow glow on the hillsides while the grass-like foliage provides the illusion of manicured lawn among the wildflowers for the rest of the summer.

The greatest diversity is found during the spring when the sun can most easily penetrate the leaf canopy. Weekly savanna visits in May are necessary to enjoy the succession of color and height from 18" pink shooting star, yellow drooping bellwort and red and white trillium to blue swaths of wild geranium, Jacob's ladder and Virginia waterleaf

peppered with taller white "doll's eyes" baneberry and purple jack-in-the pulpit.

Some plants like dog-tooth violet and wild hyacinth are spring ephemerals that bloom from bulbs and become dormant as more shade invades the savanna. These bare spots quickly fill in June with yellow pimpernel and white beardtongue with tubular flower clusters reminiscent of snapdragons. Bottlebrush grass sends up its namesake waist-high brushes.

As the summer progresses, the foliage gets taller with scattered clumps of six-foot tall cow parsnip, Michigan lily and Joe Pye weed rising above the three-foot tall black-eyed and brown-eyed Susans.

Fall creates an overall pattern of yellow and blue with goldenrods and asters dominating the landscape. Hidden among these four- to six-foot tall flowers are shorter cream and blue gentians which hug the more open, moist edges of the woods and bottoms of slopes.

Children visiting the savanna have one question about the many berries they see: Can I eat them? May apple bears a solitary flower in May which matures into a small green, edible apple before the entire plant yellows and disappears. Wild strawberries ripen for eating in June about the same time as home-grown strawberries. Raspberries are ready to eat around the 4th of July. Various Solomon's seals bear edible fruits under or at the ends of arching stems. However, except for easily recognized strawberries and raspberries, people should refrain from eating unknown berries that may be poisonous or necessary for future survival of the plant.

This diversity of savanna plants attracts a variety of insects, birds and other animals. Hummingbirds seek out the yellow and red-spurred columbine blooms. Fritillary butterflies flit from flower to flower collecting nectar. Turtles lay their eggs in the ground. Toads and snakes hide amid the foliage. Chipmunks and squirrels forage high and low. Birds nest in the oaks, glean insects from their leaves, and eat ripe seeds in the fall. Savannas are a great place for the curious to observe wildlife and wildflowers.

Invasive problems in savannas

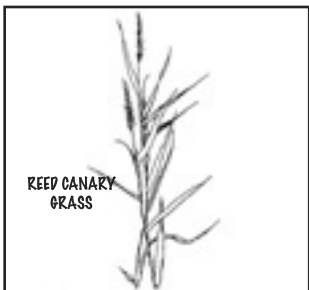
by Tamara Oberholzer



Purdue University devotes a whole Internet Weed Ecology page to this pesky tree/shrub. The two varieties, **common buckthorn** (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and **glossy buckthorn** (*Rhamnus frangula*) spread aggressively and crowd out native plants, trees and shrubs and allow almost nothing to grow underneath. As Purdue says, it “threatens ecosystem integrity” and seems able to grow almost anywhere, including in open oak woods. When cut to the ground buckthorn will vigorously re-sprout multiple times unless the stub is painted with herbicide. In addition, buckthorn produces massive quantities of round, dark fruit every autumn. As prolific as it is, there is no wonder that buckthorn is overrunning our native savannas especially where fire has been excluded. If you have buckthorn on your property, please consider removing it.



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a problem in oak savannas. According to the National Park Service it aggressively out-competes native flowers and plants by monopolizing water, moisture, nutrients and space. It was first recorded in 1868 in Long Island, New York, probably introduced by early settlers for food and medicine. It is a biennial herb two to three and a half feet high with triangular to heart-shaped leaves that give off a garlic odor when crushed. The white flowers are small and bloom atop the main stalk. A single plant can produce massive numbers of seeds, so if you pull just one, you can potentially stop thousands of plants. Since it is a biennial, it is especially important to remove second-year plants before they set seed. Once flowers are visible, start pulling!



According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, **reed canary grass** (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is a noxious, aggressive invasive species that will eventually form huge clumps and that virtually eliminates other species and is of little use to wildlife. It is one of the first grasses to sprout in spring, growing two to nine feet tall with erect, hairless stems and tapering leaves. Single flowers occur in dense clusters from mid-May to mid-June; they are green to purple at first, eventually changing to beige. This grass is everywhere in the Barrington area, and owing to its height and tendency to grow in clusters, it effectively smothers the herbaceous layer of our oak savannas. The Eurasian, non-native strain of canary reed grass is still being planted in this country to control erosion in certain areas.

The native **red maple** (*Acer rubrum*), listed as invasive on the USDA website, is considered by experts in the field of oak woods to be a dangerous invasive species in this ecosystem. It is a fast growing species and can tolerate the shade and crowding that is overtaking the oaks. Red maple tends to take over when there is fire suppression. While deer eat acorns and gypsy moths love oak leaves, both avoid red maple because of the alkaloid chemicals in the leaves. Apparently both creatures have adjusted to the tannins in oak leaves. Additionally, red maple can exist with little light or water even though it has always been a marsh species. However, it has low fire resistance and can be controlled in savanna restorations with periodic burning. Oak seedlings remain small for several years putting growth into roots after which they shoot up. Without fire, red maples will overcome the baby oaks before they initiate their growth spurt. Although a fine tree in the boggy woods it once solely occupied, it can do damage in our oak savannas. Those residents fortunate to have oak savanna habitat at home should consider protecting it from the red maple. Remember to do what you can in your own backyard!

Illustrations by Margaret Hudson and Laura Arndt. The illustration of reed canary grass by Laura Arndt is reprinted with permission from the editors of “Keepers of the Land” p.52; The Garden Club of Barrington.

The savanna trees: oaks and hickories

by Linda Moses Novak

Illustration by Margaret Hudson

*Old noted oak! I saw thee in a mood
Of vague indifference; and yet with me
Thy memory, like thy fate, hath lingering stood
For years, thou hermit, in the lonely sea
Of grass that waves around thee!*

John Clare, *The Rural Muse* – Burthorp Oak

A North American savanna is a community of scattered trees above a layer of prairie grasses and forbs. The trees are spread out so the plants below receive dappled sunlight. As a transitional ecosystem between Eastern woodlands and Western prairies, the savanna is a dynamic environment with diverse plants and animals from both forest and plains. Given the definition, it is not a savanna without trees. Here are the “biographies” of four of the most common savanna trees.

White Oak – The state tree of Illinois, the white oak (*Quercus alba*) is native to the eastern half of the United States. It can grow to 80 feet tall by 100 feet wide over its long life of 200 or more years. CFC’s Flint Creek Savanna is home to a majestic white oak that is about 200 years old with a trunk that is 155.5 inches in diameter.

The white oak has a spreading canopy and beautiful reddish-brown to reddish-purple fall color. Its leaves are highly variable in shape, with seven to nine fingerlike, rounded lobes. The bark of the mature tree is light gray, highly ridged and deeply furrowed. The white oak is monoecious (having male and female flowers on the same tree) and often produces a large crop of acorns. Its hard, heavy wood is valuable for lumber, flooring, barrels and furniture.

Bur Oak – The bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is massive, rugged and stately, native primarily to the Midwest and Great Plains. It has a picturesque silhouette in winter and large, leathery, dark green leaves in summer. The leaf resembles a bass fiddle, and its shape is highly variable, consisting of five to nine lobes of different sizes. The dark gray bark of a mature tree has long, longitudinal fissures that make this oak easy to identify and which

protects it from the ravages of fire. The bur oak grows 90 feet tall by 80 feet wide at maturity. It too is long-lived and quite adaptable to different soil and moisture conditions. It was named 2001 urban tree of the year by the Society of Municipal Arborists.

Shagbark Hickory – A slow-growing but potentially massive tree, the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) can reach 100 feet in height by 40 feet in width. Native to most of the eastern U.S., it is considered a forest climax tree but also is found in groves with other hickories and oaks. It is a member of the walnut family. Its wood is prized for making tool handles, athletic equipment and furniture.

The compound leaves are 15 inches long and almost always have five wide leaflets. The fruits, relished by squirrels, consist of an inner sweet kernel surrounded by a hard, bony shell with four subtle ribs, which is covered by a thick husk that splits into four quarters when the nuts are ripe. The most distinguishing feature of this tree is its bark. As the tree matures, the striated gray bark develops wide ridges that begin to separate from the underlying bark. With age, the ridges peel at one or both ends, forming long curly strips.

Bitternut Hickory – As the name indicates, squirrels do not like this tree's fruit because of its bitter taste. The rapidly growing bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) gets about 60 feet tall by 25 feet wide. Its leaves are compound and up to one foot long with, usually, seven narrow leaflets. The fruits are similar to those of the shagbark hickory except that they are bitter and have four distinct ribs on the outer portion of the husk. The tree's light gray bark is the smoothest among the hickories. It has interlacing ridges and shallow furrows that may cause the bitternut hickory to be mistakenly identified as an ash. It has become a rare savanna species.



Fun Facts

- The bur oak's Latin name, *Quercus macrocarpa*, comes from the Greek words *macros*, meaning large, and *karpos*, meaning seed. Its unique acorns, which have fringed, rough caps, give the bur oak the alternate name of mossycup oak.
- The white oak gets its name from its light beige wood that looks almost white when freshly cut.
- The word hickory is derived from the North American Indian word *pawcohiccora* – a kind of milk or oily liquor pressed from pounded hickory nuts. Pohickory is named in a list of Virginia trees in 1653, and this was finally shortened to hickory.
- Andrew Jackson, the seventh president, was called "Old Hickory." He acquired the nickname in the War of 1812. Because of his strict discipline on a march from Natchez, Mississippi, back to their home base in Tennessee, his men began to say he was as tough as hickory, and the name stuck.
- The country's sole producers of shagbark hickory syrup are Gordon Jones and Sherrie Yarling of Brown County, Indiana. Their filtered and aged syrup is made from a distilled bark extract produced according to a 200-year-old recipe passed down from the Native Americans indigenous to southern Indiana. The syrup is used by chefs in white tablecloth restaurants from New York to San Francisco. For more information, visit www.hickoryworks.com.

Sources: National Park Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, The National Arbor Day Foundation, about.com, Encarta® – msn.com.

A savanna history lesson

by Tom Vanderpoel

Illustration by Mark Vanderpoel

It has been 17 years since we started savanna restorations on CFC-managed properties. What we have seen are spectacular successes, surprises, and dilemmas that have forced us to adapt our methods coupled with struggles that have led us to major reevaluations. Savannas have proven the most difficult of our major ecosystems to restore, and they require the most deep thinking and observations. Here is a review of some of what we have learned as the puzzle of savannas has been slowly revealed.

As rare as high quality wetlands, prairies and oak woods are, we at least have a few examples of these landscapes that we can study to provide clues to what they were like on a large scale. However, savannas were altered so quickly by lack of fire and by grazing that this ecosystem, which covered millions of acres, disappeared almost without a trace.

Prairies grew in full sun and woodlands in full shade, but what was the sun-shade relationship in a healthy savanna? It is difficult to know when we have no examples. So how do we restore plant communities in current remnant oak savannas that probably have too many oaks? Savannas suffered another blow in the 1970's when the deer populations, buckthorn species, and garlic mustard proliferated. The remaining savanna plant communities were in great jeopardy, but fortunately in the late 1980's, individuals began to wonder about these savannas, and the race for knowledge was on. Steve Packard, who is a CFC consultant, led this trek, and one of the remnants he visited was Baker's Lake Savanna.

CFC then got involved and joined in a partnership with the Village of Barrington to restore the property. Baker's Lake was a shockingly fine remnant with more than sixty native species growing with Eurasian grasses such as orchard and bluegrass. As burns commenced, the native plants flourished, and the non-natives began to retreat. We scoured the greater Barrington area for any other remnants and found bits and pieces with their seed sources. Thus a mosaic of what an undisturbed savanna might have looked like became more apparent.

As the savanna improved, one particular plant began to intrigue me. It was Penn sedge, *Carex pensylvanica*, a small grass-like plant that was increasing in patches by rhizomes. Why this plant? Here was a rare competitor that lives a long



time, moves by rhizomes, has an impressive root system and was allowing conservative plants to grow with it, but was keeping weeds like garlic mustard and tall goldenrod at bay. This was critical. Unlike wetland or prairie plants with their deep competitive roots, most savanna forbs do not have deep roots or even full-length growing seasons. Thus weeds in highly disturbed remnants were out-competing our initial restoration attempts, and the deer were eating these most competitive savanna plants. However, it didn't happen at Baker's Lake. A rich turf had developed with only buckthorn as its nemesis. Penn sedge was the single most important plant there.

So this template has been exported to Flint Creek Savanna where every weed that can threaten savanna restorations was growing. At Flint Creek it has been a war. Can we restore an ecosystem where the only survivors are the mighty bur oaks? I think so! We will continue to think deeply, but mostly just plain work to get Penn sedge and its allies growing again under those majestic sentinels. Join us on our workdays and be part of an adventure that will last for decades to come.

From the Staff Director

Results of the Healthier Barrington Needs Survey 2005 were presented to the public at a recent Town Hall meeting. The study was commissioned by the Barrington Healthier Community Project and is a method used to receive periodic citizen input on the desires and needs of Barrington area residents.

Surveys have been conducted every three years since 1996. This is the fourth survey in the series. Surveys in 1996 and 1999 were performed by phone; the last two have been conducted as written surveys sent to 3,000 randomly-chosen households in zip code 60010 plus portions of School District 220.

Respondents were asked to mark up to five of the most important aspects of living in the Barrington area. "Safe, low crime" was first for all demographic groups.

"Good schools" and "Open, green spaces" placed second or third for most groups. "Open, green spaces" replaced "peaceful small town environment" in the 2002 top three and has moved up in each survey: In 1996 it was at 8.8%; 1999, 11.6%; 2002, 46.2%; 2005 47.4%.

This question was new to the survey in 2005: Which would you say is the best way to preserve open space in the Barrington area?

1. Conservation easements
2. Donating to conservation groups
3. Maintaining or expanding forest preserves
4. Tax referenda like used for Jewel property
5. Don't know
6. Other

"Maintain/expand forest preserves" placed first, marked by 40.9%. "Conservation easements" was second at 11.5%. All demographic groups chose "forest preserves" as their top pick. Many were unsure; 22.1% marked "don't know."

Each survey has been very interesting and helpful, and this year's is particularly so with the addition of the question regarding the best way to preserve open space in the Barrington area.

--Sam Oliver

The study was prepared by Health Systems Research, University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Rockford.

National Land Conservation Conference: Rally 2005

October 14-17, 2005
Monona Terrace Convention Center
Madison, Wisconsin

We invite you to join us this fall in Madison, Wisconsin for the National Land Conservation Conference. The 18th Rally will be held at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Convention Center from Friday, October 14 through Monday, October 17. Don't miss the largest gathering of land conservationists in the world!

Highlights Include:

- 30 daylong and half-day intensive **seminars** on topics such as building your membership, keys to growing a successful land trust and tax strategies in land conservation
- More than 130 **workshops** to choose from in 16 different tracks including a brand new track in Urban Land Conservation
- 11 **field trips** including tours of Taliesin & Aldo Leopold's shack
- A keynote address from **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**
- A **lecture on the legacy of Aldo Leopold**
- Countless **networking opportunities** including facilitated break out sessions over lunch, regional receptions, an opening dinner, a closing reception, yoga, a fun run and a poetry slam.

More information about Rally, including a downloadable registration form, is available at www.lta.org/training/rally.htm. Online registration will be available in mid-June!

In Appreciation

CFC thanks Sam Oliver for a contribution in honor of the Reverend Jeannie Hanson's birthday.

Meet the interns: The intern program begins its 11th year

Editor's note: This year's intern program is being funded by a generous donation from the Oberweiler Foundation.

Megan Schultz is currently attending Michigan State University and has just finished her first year. She is pursuing a major in Environmental Biology/Zoology and is very interested in conservation in the local townships as well as new energy technologies that are being developed. Megan enjoys traveling and camping with her family and working outside around the house. With future training, she hopes to someday backpack Isle Royale in upper Michigan. She is excited to learn and develop plant identification skills throughout her internship.

Nancy-Jeanne Bachmann will be returning this year for a final submersion into hands-on restoration at CFC before beginning her master's study in environmental engineering at Michigan Tech University. This warm, dry Chicago summer involves splitting time in the field for both Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) and CFC. AES, an environmental consulting/engineering firm, has done work for CFC in the past and is currently implementing a stream restoration on a section of Flint Creek running through Fox Point. Nancy-Jeanne has gained experience in many aspects of consulting, marketing, and engineering through conducting wetland delineations, monitoring hydrology and vegetation, designing a wetland for an old farm field, and writing annual reports for project sites. She continues to find that her CFC roots are her greatest teacher.

Gregory Thominet is a twenty-one year old intern and an Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout Project he created a self-guided tour for Stillman Nature Center. He is currently attending the Automotive Technology program at College of Lake County having already completed a program at St. Louis University. At the University he received an Airframe and Power Plant certificate from Parks College of Aviation. He hopes to work in the Florida Keys as a SCUBA diver for the National Park Service.

Luke Thominet has just completed his first year at the University of Southern California majoring in Architecture. He finds eco-friendly building techniques and sustainable architecture particularly interesting. Luke is an Eagle Scout and worked with CFC for his Eagle Scout project in which he created the boardwalk for

Wagner Fen. Luke enjoys rock climbing, hiking, canoeing, and baseball. He enjoys spending large portions of his day outside regardless of the weather.



CFC newsletter's new editor: Doe Crosh

One day I was reading the CFC Spring 2005 newsletter and noticed the reality game on the center spread. I thought, "What a great way to ask for help!" For fun, I read through the time line and found myself saying, "I can do that" to most of the steps and left it at that.

Later I was asked if I would like to take on the Editor's responsibilities. "Where did that come from?" Maybe it was because I checked the newsletter box on the member renewal form. (Be careful what you ask for!) Being of the "help when I can" mindset, I agreed to be the next editor after Cathy (LeFevre) leaves. Cathy and I are working together on the Summer and Fall issues.

Thank you, Cathy and good luck!

--Doe Crosh

Editor's note: Thank you Doe for "stepping up to the plate" and becoming the new editor. The newsletter is an important educational tool for CFC and provides public outreach; I am so happy that it will be left in your capable and enthusiastic hands.
---Cathy LeFevre

Congratulations

...to **Lucy Wyatt**, who is Citizens for Conservation's representative in the **BACOA** (Barrington Area Council on Aging) **Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, 2005**.

This was the tenth year for the Hall of Fame ceremony that honors outstanding seniors and their contributions to the community through local organizations. It has been CFC's honor and pleasure to nominate an active senior volunteer for each of those years.

... to **Greg LeFevre**, who has been selected to receive the **2005 Morris Udall Conservation Scholarship** in Tucson, AZ on August 14, 2005.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR CFC

You can now reach us through three, new e-mail addresses:

cfc@CitizensforConservation.org -- for questions, requests, general info, workday info, and volunteer opportunities

cfc-news@CitizensforConservation.org -- for questions or comments about CFC News e-Updates or to share news items (Note: You may also receive CFC News e-Updates from this address so, if you have a spam blocker set in your e-mail account to filter out unknown e-mail addresses, you may need to add cfc-news@CitizensforConservation.org as a "safe" e-mail address.)

webmaster@CitizensforConservation.org -- for comments about our website

Plant sale results

Over 4,200 native plants were sold at our **Ninth Annual Native Tree, Shrub and Plant Sale** in early May. This special fundraising event generated almost \$7,500 in profit.

Our selection of woodland savanna plants, particularly the spring ephemerals, has expanded significantly over the last few years. This year we had 50 different shade-loving plants to choose from including the very popular *Trillium grandiflorum* (white trillium), *Uvularia grandiflora* (bellwort), *Cimicifuga racemosa* (black snakeroot/cohosh), *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth), and *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty). Plant sale customers were happy to find *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger) and *Stylophorum diphyllum* (wood poppy) knowing each will spread to become a beautiful ground cover. *Mertensia virginica* (virginia bluebells), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium) and *Actaea pachypoda* and *A. rubra* (the baneberries, white and red) are also favorites.

We encourage people to clear invasive buckthorn from their wooded lots. As they do so, numerous residents are surprised at how many native plants return when dappled sunlight can reach the ground. However, it's also nice to have access to many other attractive native plants to fill the void and add diversity. Shrubs for shady areas bud in late spring and consequently are not available for our spring sale, but we'll offer a nice variety of woody plants in early September at our **Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale**.



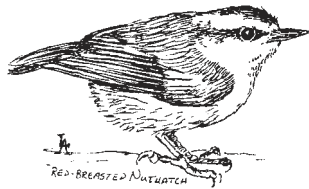
Upcoming events

Mark your calendars now!

- **Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Guided tours will be conducted at Baker's Lake Savanna, Grigsby Prairie, and Flint Creek Savanna. There will be displays and lunch.

(Note: Volunteers are needed at this time to help make displays before the event, to set up the day before, to clean up after the event, or to just be "on call" in case your help is needed on short notice. If you are willing to help in any of these ways, please call CFC at 847-382-SAVE and leave a message.)



The Institute of Botanical Training is planning three plant identification workshops in the Chicago area this summer. The instructors have Masters degrees in botany and may use CFC preserves for part or all of the workshops, so they are offering a \$150 discount to our members. For more information see their website www.botanytraining.com. (You have to call 317-430-6566 to get the discount.)

Plant identification workshops:

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes (\$650)
August 2-5, 2005

Wetland Flora (\$600)
September 13-16, 2005

October 14-17, 2005, National Land Conservation Conference: Rally 2005. Please see ad on page 9 for information.



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