

CFC NEWS

Saving Living Space for Living Things

Vol. 22, No. 1, Winter 2003

Grigsby Prairie's 15th Anniversary Celebration 1987-2002

by Katherine R. Grover

It is at this time, in the respite of winter, that CFC and its volunteers reflect on activities they offered to the community during the past year. We invited citizens to participate in restoration and conservation on many levels, all with the goal of preserving our last open green spaces and the wildlife that depends on them.

One of these activities focused on the 15th anniversary of Grigsby Prairie, located at the corner of Buckley and Oak Knoll Roads. The celebration began with a spring tour, but untimely, cold spring rains abruptly ended the excursion, which was re-scheduled for mid-June. As we know all too well, we are in an unequal partnership with Mother Nature and we learn to adapt!

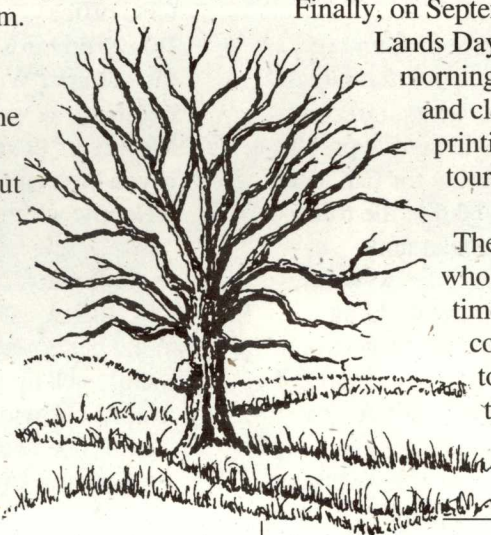
In July, we were more fortunate, for the hot, dry weather enabled us to participate in Barrington's 4th of July Parade. At this event we introduced "Grigsby," CFC's life-size buffalo. It was constructed of brush cut from the invasive plant species that are a constant threat to the preserve's native plants. "Grigsby" now stands as sentry over the prairie, in watch for these persistent invaders. Walk by the prairie's main gate on Oak Knoll and you'll see him!

Within weeks of the parade, CFC offered a summer walking tour and a slide presentation of Grigsby Prairie. These were soon followed with two in-field classes

conducted by noted speakers Raymond Wiggers and Tom Vanderpoel. They shared their expertise with enthusiastic pupils who learned about the geology and ecosystems characteristic of Grigsby Prairie.

Finally, on September 28th, we observed National Public Lands Day, a nationally recognized event. The morning's activities included seed collecting and cleaning, music and refreshments, leaf printing crafts, photo exhibits and guided tours through the towering grasses.

The celebration involved many people who, like yourself, believe that their spare time is valuable to the goals of conservation. We applaud them and wish to thank them for their participation and their convictions, for we know that together we are "saving living space for living things."



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CFC classes introduce nature to children

by Laura Arndt

Most schools do a good job with the three R's, but what do they teach our children about nature? There aren't many schoolyards with native habitats like wetlands or prairies; most are covered in asphalt. However, some Barrington District 220 schools are recreating native ecosystems to expand our children's knowledge of their environment. Only dedicated and hardworking people can accomplish this, and CFC is grateful for their teaching. The more our children learn about our ecosystems, the healthier our natural world will be.

For the past 15 years CFC has given students with an interest in the natural world a chance to see more. As our preserves have grown, so have the opportunities we provide to expose children to nature. Every outing is different too. Children might spot a blue bird in the sunshine or thrill to catching a frog for the first time. In the classroom they dissect owl pellets and galls on goldenrod. All of the discoveries children make during their adventure occur because they took the opportunity to step off the sidewalk and into a "wilderness" area.

Although things aren't too wild around here anymore (the bears, wolves and bison are gone), most students have to adjust to the cold weather, itchy grass, buzzing bugs or sweaty heat. Ask any student whether he prefers to put on old muddy tennis shoes and seine for fish in a nearby creek or go to Great America and ride the roller coasters; most will choose the more popular and entertaining activity. That's the competition. However, CFC's Junior Naturalist program had more budding naturalists sign up during the past year than ever before. This activity is offered in District 220 schools. Edith Auchter supervises the program and it is facilitated by volunteers at each school. It gives children the opportunity to attend any of CFC's classes. There are three booklets that contain different "hands-on" activities. After a student accomplishes the requirements, CFC gives the participant a certificate and an embroidered badge.

Whether you have at home an animal lover or a future scientist who just wants to see a little more nature in life, have him sign up for the next class, join the Junior Naturalist Program, or attend Nature Camp. Our natural world will be better when you do!

Upcoming "Adventures in Nature Study" classes

Winter/Spring 2003 class schedule

While all classes are geared for children, adults are welcome and encouraged to come. The cost for each class is \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members. (Note: There is no fee for adults who come with a child. Special classes can be arranged for school groups, scouts and other organizations at the membership rate. All students must register at least one week in advance. Please call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283) with any questions.)

❖ Friday, February 28—Night Watch

Join us to watch the stars. Beese Park, weather permitting, call for details.

❖ Saturday, March 15—Animal Tracks

CFC office 2-3:30 p.m.

Each footprint tells a story, especially in the snow. We'll learn about a variety of animals from their footprints and decipher what they've been doing during the winter. Ages 7 and up.

❖ Saturday, April 26—Spring Bird Watch

CFC office 10-11 a.m.

Where do birds migrate? Where do they go and when do they return? We'll find out the answers to these and other questions as we explore the savanna looking for harbingers of spring. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have one. Ages 7 and up, younger children welcome with parents.

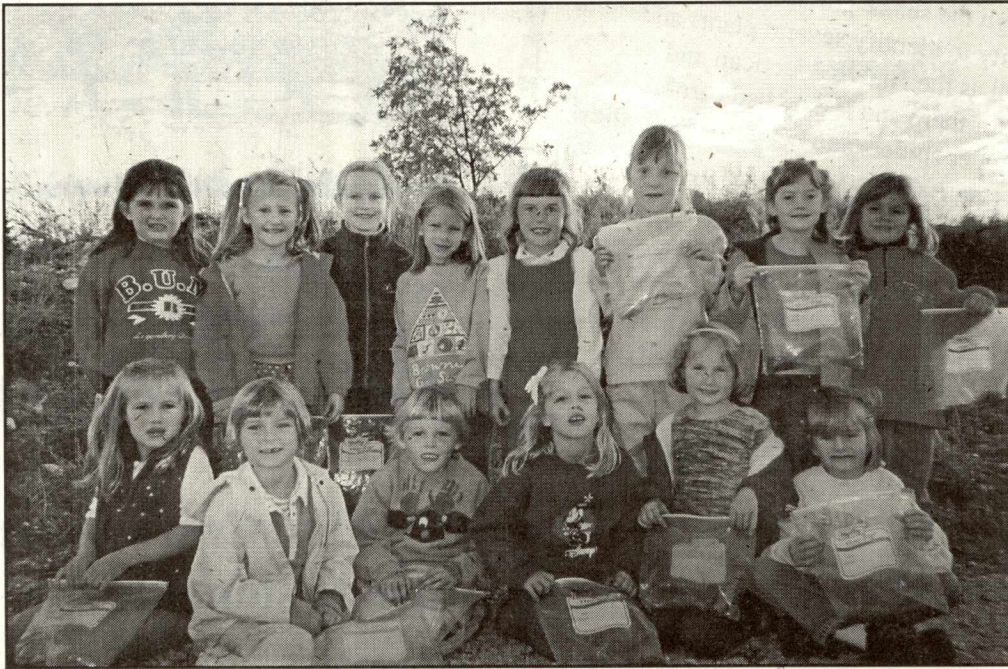
❖ Saturday, May 10—Watercolor Wildflowers

CFC office 3-4:30 p.m.

What better way to admire wildflowers than to paint them. Pack up your sketchbook and palette or use the supplies provided. We'll draw and paint these delicate beauties before they disappear with spring. Ages 8 and up, younger children welcome with parents.



Nature study students enjoy their classes



Dear Members of Citizens for Conservation,

I would like to take this time to say thank you for allowing District 220 3rd Graders to visit Grigsby Prairie. Coupled with our indoor presentation, they left their walk at Grigsby with the excitement of walking through the sea of grasses taller than them, the ability to identify several plants and grasses as well as the Native American and pioneer uses for them and if they had careful eyes—saw zipper spiders and beautiful butterflies! Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Nancy Taub
Nancy Taub,
Nature Lady
coordinator

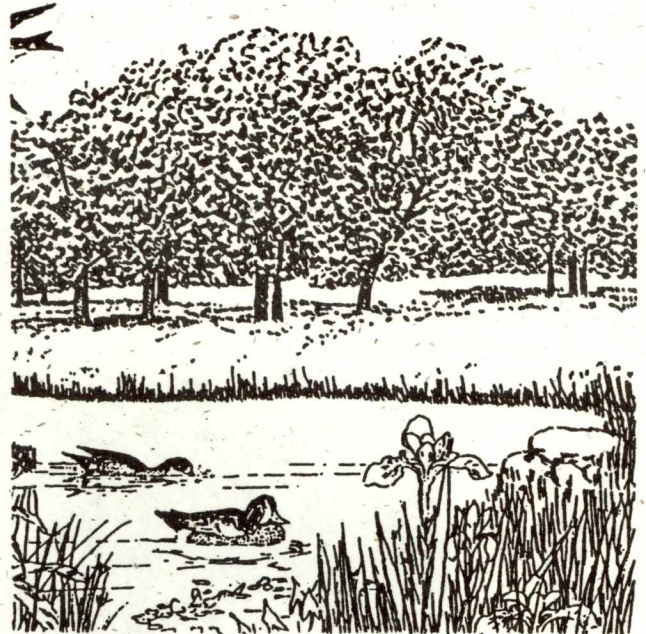
To: CFC
From: Tony Hafner
Date: November 19, 2002

Dear CFC:

I would like to thank Citizens for Conservation for allowing the students of Barrington High School to participate in stewardship activities at Flint Creek Savanna and Grigsby Prairie this year. Many people do not understand how difficult it is to put together a field trip to have students leave the campus and volunteer time to work. You have made this possible through your generosity and commitment to educate young people living in the region.

I would like to thank your dedicated members for offering their professional insight and experiences regarding restoration. You have touched many lives in a special way over the years. We look forward to and are committed to many more projects in the future.

Sincerely,
Tony Hafner
Tony Hafner
Barrington High School



Laura Arndt

It's Flint Creek Savanna's turn to shine!!!

Flint Creek Savanna will celebrate its 15th anniversary this year as Grigsby Prairie celebrated its 15th in 2002. (Apparently that was a busy period for land acquisition in CFC's history!) Flint Creek Savanna is located adjacent to and south of CFC headquarters (white farmhouse and silo on Route 22 across from Good Shepherd Hospital). CFC needs your help planning this celebration. Here are some of the activities that need your input: crafts, tours, food/refreshments (chuck-wagon style), entertainment, photographs/displays, education, invitations, traffic, public relations, equipment, and mailings to name only a few.

You may call CFC at :847-382-SAVE (7283) or email us at: dbolzman@hotmail.com. Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFC, and it is because of your involvement that we can celebrate Flint Creek Savanna. So come out and share your ideas with new and familiar faces. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Katherine Grover, Chairman
Flint Creek Savanna
15th Anniversary

Citizens for Conservation volunteer list for non-restoration/stewardship activities (January - December 2002)

We gratefully acknowledge the participation of these volunteers in CFC activities other than restoration or stewardship. We apologize for any misspellings and unintentional omissions.

Artwork & Photography

Laura Arndt
Donna Ducay
Gretchen Grant
Margaret Hudson
Linda Jackson
Cathy LeFevre
Mark Morris
Patsy Mortimer
Rob Neff
Wendy Paulson
Dorothy Sigel
John Schweizer

Bluebird & Wood Duck

Monitoring

Brad Allen
Tom Mohorek
Rob Neff

Development

Karen Hunter
Patsy Mortimer
John Schweizer
Waid Vanderpoel

Education

Laura Arndt
Edith Auchter
Will Bashaw
Donna Ducay
Gretchen Grant
Katrine Kirn
Steve Kirn
Patsy Mortimer
John Schweizer
Jo Seagren
Scott Seagren
Jennifer Stuart
Gail Vanderpoel
Tom Vanderpoel
Stella Wilmot

Grants

Donna Bolzman
Dale Miller
Barbara Phillips

Grounds & Trails

Joyce Allen
Laura Arndt
Jenny Bordon
Sarah Bordon
Tom Crosh
The Kanzler Family
Bob LeFevre
Greg LeFevre
Jerry Masino
Bill Miller, Jr.
Patsy Mortimer
Rob Neff
John Schweizer
Dorothy Sigel
Mark Vanderpoel
Tom Vanderpoel
Waid Vanderpoel
The Vukovich Family
John Wagner
Larry Washow
Melissa Washow
Wes Wolf
Willow Creek Church

House

Joyce Allen
Donna Bolzman
Jerry Masino
Bill Miller, Jr.
Patsy Mortimer
John Pasch
Art Sigel
Dorothy Sigel
Matthew Sigel
Melissa Washow

Membership

Donna Bolzman
Dorothy Sigel

Miscellaneous

Chuck Breuch (strategic planning)
Ken Cowan (intern program)
Mary Kaiser (strategic planning)
Dave Kullander (finance) Sharon
Pasch (strategic planning)
Tom Vanderpoel (intern program)

Newsletter

Donna Bolzman
Ken Cowan
Katherine Grover
Karen Hunter
Cathy LeFevre
Patsy Mortimer
Meghan Murphy
Rob Neff
Tamara Oberholtzer
Don Parker
Sharon Pasch
Meredith Tucker
Gail Vanderpoel
Tom Vanderpoel
Waid Vanderpoel
John Wagner

Office/Computer/Mailings

Joyce Allen
Ken Cowan
Donna Ducay
Demmy Giannis
Helen Hawthorne
Linda Jackson
Katrine Kirn
Chris Kunzig
Marjorie Larson
Bill Miller, Jr. Dale Miller
Patsy Mortimer
Mary Murray

Bill Richer
Evie Richer
Kay Rind
Dorothy Sigel
Laura Studders
Ruth Vanderpoel
Melissa Washow
Lucy Wyatt

Other Monitoring

Joyce Allen
Steve Barten
Donna Bolzman
Kathy Connolly
Patsy Mortimer
Jo Seagren
Scott Seagren
Sue Sullivan

Plant Sale

Joyce Allen
Bear Brislin
Ken Cowan
Donna Ducay
Demmy Giannis
Diane Greening
Mari Harrer
Bill Hunter
Karen Hunter
Karin Lee
John Malone
Jerry Masino
Teri Masino
Patsy Mortimer
Rob Neff
Bob Oliver
Iona Pasch
Sharon Pasch
Bob Roth
Dorothy Sigel
Marcia Share
Ruth Vanderpoel
Waid Vanderpoel
Tom Vanderpoel
Larry Washow
Melissa Washow
Lucy Wyatt

Preservation Partners

Mark Gilbert
Tony Hafner
Kara Kitch
Patsy Mortimer

Jo Seagren
Tom Vanderpoel
Barrington HS Environmental
Science students
Station Middle School Ecology
Club

Public Relations

Donna Ducay
Sharon Pasch
Meredith Tucker
Karen Yancey

Real Estate

Waid Vanderpoel

Special Events

Brad Allen
Joyce Allen
Laura Arndt
Nancy-Jeanne Bachmann
Kathryn Black
Donna Bolzman
Jenny Bordon
Bear Brislin
Ken Cowan
Beth Cripe
Demmy Giannis
Gretchen Grant
Diane Greening
Douglas Grover
Katherine Grover
Helen Hawthorne
Carol Hogan
Margaret Hudson
Linda Jackson
Kathy Johlie
Dave Kierig
Katrine Kim
Sherry Kullander
Karen Daulton Lange
David Larson
Marjorie Larson
Karin Lee
Melody Lee
Christy Lyons
John Malone
Jerry Masino
Teri Masino
Dr. Lloyd McCarthy
Mary McCarthy
Pam Meiser
Dale Miller

Patsy Mortimer
Mary Murray
Rob Neff
Corbin Obermyer
Sam Oliver
Sharon Pasch
Julie Pasch
Wendy Paulson
Bill Richer
Eric Richer
Evie Richer
Kay Rind
Jo Seagren
Scott Seagren
John Schweizer
Dorothy Sigel
Nong Tarlton
Neil Timlin
Meredith Tucker
Ruth Vanderpoel
Waid Vanderpoel
Gail Vanderpoel
Tom Vanderpoel
Marcy Trojak
Jeannie Vukovich
Scott Vukovich
John Wagner
Melissa Washow
Wes Wolf
Lucy Wyatt

Telephone Callers

Lillian Block
Grace Eckstrum
Kathy Johlie
Jeanne Kelley
Marjorie Larson

Tours and Bird Walks

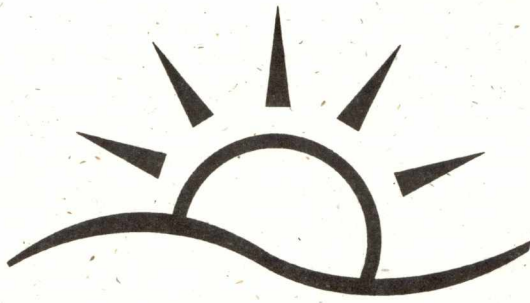
David Johnson
Patsy Mortimer
Sharon Pasch
Waid Vanderpoel

Volunteer Recruiting

Lucy Wyatt

Web Site

Donna Bolzman
Ken Cowan
Rob Neff
Nong Tarlton
Meredith Tucker



Leave a Legacy® Barrington Area

When local volunteers formed the Leave a Legacy® program for Barrington, it was a sign that the spirit of philanthropy is ever present in our community. We included a brochure describing this awareness program in our annual solicitation mailed in November.

Leave a Legacy® Barrington Area is a community-based program to help people learn about charitable giving through a will or from an estate. A list of Professional Partners was included with the brochure. These local advisors can answer questions and advise you on estate planning and making a planned gift.

Planned or deferred giving ensures CFC will perpetuate its mission of "Saving Living Space for Living Things - through protection, restoration, and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources, and education" for future generations.

If you have any questions about how CFC would welcome such a gift, please call us at 847-382-SAVE.

Thank you

to **Clark Alberts**, for a blender to use in seed processing

to **Sheridan Cernik**, for a lawn mower

to **Evie Richer**, for a great assortment of like-new backpacking equipment and bird feeders

to **Hunter Automated Machinery Corp.**, for printing the Fall Tree and Shrub Sale order form

to **Patsy Mortimer**, for her help with the newsletter

to **Laura Arndt, Theresa Cooper, Mark Vanderpoel** for art and photography for this newsletter



Can you help?

- **Tables** are needed for the plant sales
- A **floor lamp** is needed for the CFC office
- **Volunteers** are always needed and wanted for a variety of projects and programs at CFC. Call the office at 847-382-SAVE for more information.



Volunteer profile



Over three years ago Carol Hogan decided to take part in a CFC Saturday volunteer workday that she read about in the Courier; she's been bitten by the prairie bug ever since. In retrospect, this seems a natural fit. Carol has always loved being outdoors, and she incorporated hands-on experiences with nature into her children's upbringing, including bird watching, hiking, catching frogs and snakes, and observing plant life. She also has a long history of volunteerism with her church as well as a five-year stint at the Chicago Shedd Aquarium.

She describes her Saturday volunteering with CFC as having given her a new lease on life at a time when she was making some big personal changes. Far from dreading giving up part of her Saturdays after working all week at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, she describes herself as "...an absolutely year-round, enthusiastic, long-term volunteer. I so look forward to Saturdays with CFC!" Whether it is planting seeds, clearing buckthorn, pulling weeds or burning brush, Carol looks forward to being involved in all the cycles and seasons of the prairie's life. When asked what her favorite flower is, she unhesitatingly offers up the coneflower, although apparently the wild catnip that she grows at home makes her very popular with her feline house mates.

One of Carol's favorite duties includes the prairie seed gathering; through the years she has become fascinated with CFC's efforts involving prairie restoration. Along with this amazement concerning prairie has come a painful awareness about the challenges of over-development. Carol believes that vanishing open space is by far the biggest issue facing the residents of this area. If you're looking for Carol Hogan on a Saturday, you had better put on your work gloves and boots and head to the prairie; she'd love to have you join her!

—Tamara Oberholtzer

In appreciation...

We thank Douglas and Katherine Grover for their donation in memory of their sister-in-law, Ann Shirley.

We thank Ruth and Shirley Jahnholz for their donation in memory of George Kuhlman.

Seed collection a success

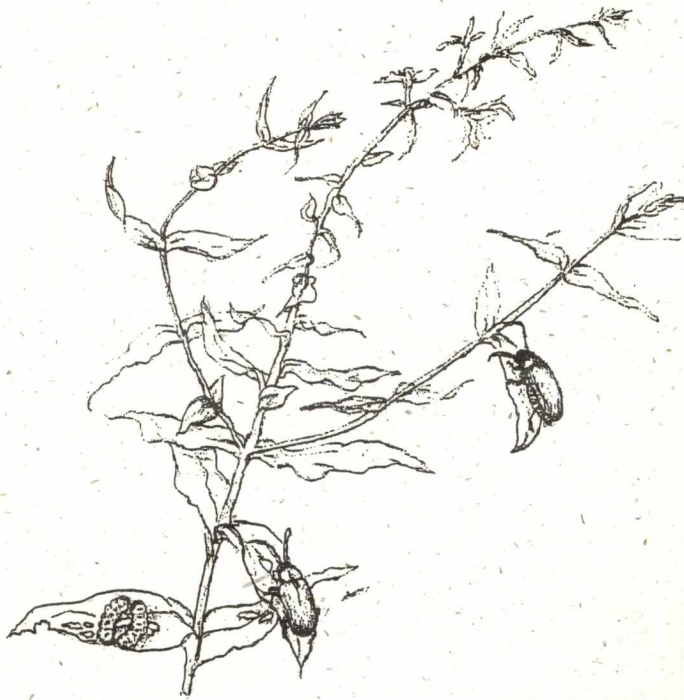
by Tom Vanderpoel

CFC's seventeenth seed collection season ended successfully in November when different mixtures were sown over many acres of future ecosystems. Over 700 hours were spent collecting and 150 hours in cleaning and sowing the seeds. We have been relentless over the years in getting seed. After watching unprotected remnants of nature slowly perish, it has been our goal to collect and restore all the appropriate plant biodiversity before it's gone. Flint Creek is approaching 300 and Grigsby and Baker's Lake 200 restored and remnant plant species. We have installed our own nursery of rare spring prairie flowers to insure seed production. While it's sad to see remnants that are like old friends blink out, seeing their progeny spring up once again in larger protected sites is an affirmation. We will continue to collect until the most difficult or obscure plants are protected and thriving in our safe preserves. With the great volunteer help that is approaching thirteen thousand hours in the hunt for seeds, we are going to succeed.

Brush Cutting Schedule 2003

All brush clearing is done on Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. Meet by the CFC office across from Good Shepherd Hospital on Route 22. Bring gloves and loppers, if available. Dress for the weather and wear waterproof boots for the fen or bog. If you plan to meet at the work site, call Tom Vanderpoel (847-462-0358) or Bob LeFevre (847-438-3760) to confirm location.

Feb. 1	Wagner Fen East side
Feb. 8	Flint Creek Savanna
Feb. 15	Flint Creek Savanna
Feb. 22	Farm Trails North
Mar. 1	Wagner Fen West side
Mar. 8	Ela Road Prairie
Mar. 15	Spring Creek Prairie
Mar. 22	Grigsby Prairie
Mar. 29	Wagner Fen East
Apr. 5	Open date



Beetle farmers wanted

Want to learn how to rear a generation of purple loosestrife feeding beetles in your backyard? Then attend the **Purple Loosestrife Homeowner Workshop** at Volo Bog State Natural Area, April 12, 2003 from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Information on beetle biology, results of past releases, and purple loosestrife biological control will be provided along with a hands-on demonstration of a rearing set up for a homeowner's backyard.

Handouts and mesh cages will be provided. To register please call Stacy Miller at Volo Bog State Natural Area 815-344-1294.

From the Staff Director

Thanks to Mary Kaiser and Chuck Breuch who facilitated a very productive CFC board of directors strategic planning session. Assignments made as a result of the work accomplished that day are being carried out and will lead to further discussion and decision-making. There is always the question of whether or not CFC should hire more staff. As a staff member of another environmental organization has said, the work that CFC accomplishes with a part-time staff director, a dedicated board, and a small army of volunteers is "incredible." CFC always sees the need accomplish more; we feel compelled to explore ways to improve our contributions to the community.

A working board and involved members who volunteer enthusiastically in a wide variety of roles have historically enabled CFC to carry out its mission of "Saving Living Space for Living Things." There is always more to be done, and we welcome volunteers with any interest and experience level.

One of our board members suggested that I write a short piece to let you know where to watch for news about CFC. Of course, there is our website: www.savelivingspace.org. In addition, we submit information to the *Barrington Courier Review*, the *Daily Herald*, *Lifestyles*, and occasionally the *Northwest Herald*. Sharon Pasch has been writing our articles for the Conservationist column in the *Courier Review*.

How can you help? You can suggest other publications in which we should be included, AND you can give us permission to use your name when we submit articles to the local papers' neighborhood columnists. They must have names of CFC members who live in their area to include in their articles; without you, their columns won't include our news. If you are willing to have your name submitted with these releases (only positive news about upcoming events, etc.) and we don't have that information, please call the office at 847-382-SAVE (7283). This would be very helpful as we continue to increase public awareness about CFC, its work in the area, and opportunities for others to become involved in our efforts.

—Sam Oliver

Editor's note

This issue marks the first anniversary of my editorship. It has been a year of learning and great appreciation for the hard work of the *CFC News* past editors. I want to thank Donna Bolzman for her patience and for teaching me **everything** from the "ground up" about word processing and putting together a newsletter. I could not have done it without her amazing organizational skills and help. I also wish to thank Meredith Tucker for her proofreading and editing, and Patsy Mortimer for getting the mailing lists together. Thanks also to Sam Oliver, my final pair of eyes. Sam makes sure all the t's are crossed and the names are spelled right. The newsletters would not get mailed out to the members without the help of Lucy Wyatt and all the dedicated volunteers. Each issue has different contributors; because of them our newsletter has depth and articles of interest, as well as the excellent photographs and illustrations we have come to expect. Thanks to all of you.



We needed to print more copies of the last newsletter and they were printed in black and some people who saw them really liked them better. What do you think? Any comments or suggestions about the newsletter can be sent: c/o *CFC News* editor, CFC, 459 West Hwy. 22, Barrington, IL 60010 or email them to me at calef4@yahoo.com, subject: newsletter.

Upcoming Events...

CFC is changing its mailing address. We will no longer be using the post office box, but will use our street address: 459 West Hwy 22, Barrington, IL 60010. Mail sent to the post office box will be forwarded for one year.

February 4, 2003, CFC's Annual Meeting is being held at the Barrington Area Library. Come at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy refreshments; the meeting starts at 7 p.m.

April 7, 2003 is the last day for Plant Sale advance orders.



OFFICERS

John Wagner, *President*
Karen Hunter, *Vice President*
John Schweizer, *Vice President*
Melissa Washow, *Secretary*
David Kullander, *Treasurer*

STAFF DIRECTOR

Sam Oliver

EDITOR

Catherine LeFevre

STAFF WRITERS

Tamara Oberholtzer
Don Parker
Meredith Tucker

RECYCLED PAPER

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION
459 West Hwy. 22
Barrington, Illinois 60010

Saving Living Space for Living Things

For membership information, visit us or call at:

Office: 459 W. Hwy. 22 Phone: 847-382-SAVE

www.savelivingspace.org

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