



# the Prairie News

Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund P.O. Box 1802 Kenosha, Wis. 53141

## Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain, "Wetlands of International Importance."

Ramsar Convention

Dear Friends,

This September, the 15 miles of coastal ecosystem from Kenosha to Waukegan received the designation as "**Wetlands Of International Importance**" in recognition of its globally rare community types, its 930 native plant species and its 300 animal species as well as meeting other criteria. (See our web site for much more Ramsar information and a map).

The designation publicly validates our 50 years of volunteer efforts to save and restore Chiwaukee Prairie, an ecological jewel in the Lake Plain. We gladly continue organizing those volunteer efforts.

Now, it is time again to review the past year and share plans for 2016 as we renew *our mission: to acquire, restore, manage and preserve Chiwaukee Prairie and support research and environmental education.*

**Land Acquisition:** Earlier this year, the transfer of lands to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was finalized. DNR now owns and manages the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area from the dunes to the state line. The delay in DNR receiving the land from TNC and DNR budget timing have slowed negotiations with interested owners but this will pick up in 2016. In our planning meeting with DNR staff we were able to set priorities and coordinate our future acquisition efforts. Also, we are continuing to follow up on several tax delinquent lots which are moving slowly through the Kenosha County process and, ultimately, unredeemed lots will transfer to DNR.

Inside the Chiwaukee Prairie boundary from the Kenosha dunes to the Illinois state line there remain nearly 100 privately owned lots to be acquired.

### **The need for your donations continues!**

**Restoration & Management:** The shift to volunteering with DNR from working with TNC meant several changes; applying as lead volunteers, passing herbicide exams, and recording all work and hours on a DNR database. Tracking volunteer hours is critical for grant in-kind matching. We have also enjoyed the availability of DNR staff on site for guidance and assistance. While grant supported contractors continued treating buckthorn sprouts and herbiciding a list of invasive forbs, volunteers

have and will continue working on those invasives not on the list, and there are many! This year Discretionary funds were used to repair and fuel our brush mowers and provide volunteers with a portable toilet rental.

The long awaited "big burn" finally took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and covered one fourth of the Prairie south of 116<sup>th</sup> Street. It did indeed produce a carpet of shooting stars in May! Surprisingly, it also produced an unexpected number of Eastern Prairie White Fringed Orchids, which are federally endangered. We are hopeful that more burns will follow next spring and are mowing firebreaks like crazy.

**Research:** John Krerowicz has completed four years of bluebird box monitoring. While bluebird fledging was down, tree swallow and wren fledging were up from last year. Happily, orchid counts were also up. Sadly, the buckthorn eating moth caterpillar did not migrate this year, probably due to the cool early summer. Rob Sulski and friends banded 110 raptors including merlins, peregrines, harriers and four species of hawks. Nathan Robertson conducted field research on the effectiveness of different treatments for hawkweed and buckthorn. Kay McClelland led Heritage Plant monitoring of several species.

**Education & Outreach:** We spread the word with information tables at Spring into Gardening, Gateway Earth Day, and Snap-on Green Works, a presentation at the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society, and a well attended all day Prairie Neighbor Information event at the Chiwaukee Cottage. Kay McClelland led near weekly plant info walks and plans more in 2016. The Wolves and Bears Cub Scouts from Prairie Lane School plan a return visit in spring.

So in the year to come, with the incredible support of the Friends of the Prairie, we pledge to continue this volunteer effort to acquire and preserve the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area, a key part of the "**Wetlands of International Importance**".

**Thank you everyone!**

**Pam Holy, President**

*We will continue until the last piece of land has been preserved*

## ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Monthly 3rd Saturday Work Party

Mark your calendars! All year long, volunteers come to Chiwaukee Prairie at 10AM on the third Saturday of the month to remove invasive species, collect and distribute seed, cut brush, mow firebreaks, and do what's needed.

**No experience necessary. On the job training.**

Meet us at 121<sup>st</sup> St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and work until 1PM. Dress for the weather and come for all or part of the time. **Check our web site** for planned activities on upcoming workdays and for occasional extra workdays.

**Give us your email address** and once a month we will let you know plans for the workday, what is happening on the prairie, and other Chiwaukee news.

**CPPF does not share its address or email lists.**

### Rare Plant Monitoring

Please help us monitor the very special native species that are Threatened or Endangered. Monitoring times are very flexible and can be as little as half a day. This is a terrific way to learn about plants and enjoy the prairie in the growing season. Kay McClelland will show you everything you need to know. Contact her to hear more: (262) 554-6326 or poc@chiwaukee.org

### ALSO in 2016...

**Frog Monitoring**

**Chiwaukee History Day**

**Invasive Species Training**

**Youth Educational Events**

**Field Identification Sessions**

**Neighbor Day at Chiwaukee Cottage**

**...for information** on these and other volunteer activities and opportunities, special events, flora, fauna, and history, and to view the Prairie map, please visit:

**[www.chiwaukee.org](http://www.chiwaukee.org)**

You can contact us at **[cppf@chiwaukee.org](mailto:cppf@chiwaukee.org)** or call one of the directors listed on this page.

**Find us on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/chiwaukee>**

**Join our Facebook Group**, a forum in which to share your love of the Prairie:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chiwaukee/>**



## LAND ACQUISITION IS PRIORITY 1

**All donations** to CPPF are available for acquisition of land in Chiwaukee Prairie. As in the past, our funds will continue to be matched from the state stewardship fund or other grants, thus **doubling** the land buying power of your contributions.

Management is the key follow-up to acquisition. While recent grant work has accomplished a great deal, there is always much more to do. Supplies, along with equipment purchase, repair and rental are vital to our volunteer work which now extends from the Kenosha Dunes to the state line. Please consider marking the **"Discretionary"** line to give us the flexibility to do "whatever is needed" to acquire and manage the Prairie.

To be clear, **all donations can and will be used for land acquisition as buying opportunities arise.**

The **Basic Membership** remains at the bargain price of \$10, but more is always welcome! Donate \$100 to be a **Blazing Star**. Donate \$500 to be a **Life Member**. And the category of **Sustaining Member** acknowledges life members who donate another \$500 or a new \$1000 donor. **Any amount is appreciated.**

**The Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.** All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated!

**Please consider CPPF when planning your will!**

### CPPF earns up to 30%!

**You can earn \$\$ for the Prairie simply by using...**

**[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)**

...to search the web, shop online, and dine out! Just list **Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund** as your charity.

...consider us also on **[smile.amazon.com!](http://smile.amazon.com)**

### Many Thanks

We are extremely grateful to the congregation of the Kenosha Bible Church for providing CPPF with a room for our monthly Board meetings.

### CPPF Board of Directors

Pam Holy, President	(262) 658-8336
Lenny Weiss, Vice President	(262) 537-2050
Eric Howe, Treasurer	
Ingrid Verhulst, Secretary	(262) 658-8336
Alan Eppers, Presentations	(847) 881-6505
Dawn Feldman-Brown, Outreach	(262) 694-1748
Chris Kemper, Village Liaison	(262) 989-2458
Kay McClelland, Naturalist	(262) 554-6326
Nathan Robertson, Stewardship	(262) 694-7351

### Queen Anne's Lace Gathering



The wonderful volunteers who devoted their Labor Day to gathering a truck load of Queen Anne's Lace!

### Neighbor Day at the Chiwaukee Cottage



Prairie neighbors saw a display of gear and equipment volunteers use, some provided by the Discretionary Fund for management. They also learned about the history of Chiwaukee and shared their knowledge and observations. Fun day! We plan to repeat it in 2016.

### 13-Lined Ground Squirrel



This little guy can be seen running across roads with his tail down, (chipmunks have tail up). Being true hibernators, we won't see them again until spring.

### Buckthorn Brigade on March Workday



Twelve months a year, the volunteers do whatever is needed. Often it involves removal of invasive species.

### Wolves and Bears



Cub Scouts from Pack 584, Wolves and Bears, visited the Prairie late one day in September in search of "fur, ferns, and feathers". They plan to return in spring!

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Passing of Friends

We say thanks to longtime and passionate members of the Prairie family, Sue Tragesser and John Braig.

Sue was pivotal in supporting and assisting CPPF when it was a fledgling organization. Her energy, abundant talents, and willingness to help continued to make a meaningful difference throughout the years.

John loved volunteering at workdays for as long as he was able. Once during a workday, he loaded the Billy Goat brush mower into the back of his minivan to get air in the tires. He did whatever was needed with his wonderful "can do" smile. We miss them both dearly.

We continue their mission.

*Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1802  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141*

*Return Service Requested*



## **Many thanks to all of you, our 2015 volunteers!**

Craig Andersen  
Ed Antaramian  
John Braig  
Adam Brand  
Mike Breen  
Julie Daniels  
Timmy Danos  
Amy Duhig  
Alan Eppers  
Emelda Escalante  
Matthew Escalante  
Ellen Ferwerda  
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Melissa Warner  
Jay Warner  
Lana Watts  
Lenny Weiss  
Joy Wolf's UW-  
Parkside  
Field Methods Class  
Evon Zeivel



## **JOIN US!**

**Restoration  
Seed Collecting  
Rare Plant Monitoring  
Invasive Species Scouting  
Historical Research  
Frog Monitoring  
Youth Projects  
Bird Surveys**

**WE APOLOGIZE IF YOUR NAME WAS OMITTED**



# Friends of Chiwaukee Prairie

## MAJOR GIFTS

Mary Ellen Badger  
Four Seasons Garden Club  
The Hinrichs Foundation  
Marcia & Fred Nicas  
Phyllis & Donald Northway  
Wild Ones Root River Chapter

## LIFE MEMBERS

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Jack & Terry Shouba  
Lenny Weiss

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Snap-on Incorporated  
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Joanne Wanasek

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Elisabeth P. Wright

## **A GIFT IN HONOR OF**

**Allen and Sue Sowinski for all  
their love and friendship for  
Joan and Bill Rohan**  
- Marcia and Fred Nicas

## **DONATIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:**

**James Bosz,**  
**Donna Bumpas,**  
**John R. Kemper,**  
**Marie Landaal,**  
**James Masik**  
**Richard Peasley,**  
**Paul Schenkenberg,**  
**"Sully" Spangers**  
- Ed & Peggy Raymond  
**Gail D. Hansis**  
- Virginia Hansis  
**Nondi Hinrichs**  
- The Hinrichs Foundation

## **... IN MEMORY OF:**

**Phyllis Mary Northway**  
- James Donald Northway  
- Barbara & Joe Vass  
**Joan Rohan**  
- Mark & Maggie Lukow  
**Sue Tragesser**  
- Mary Ellen Badger  
- Lonna Berg  
- Donna Peterson

## **VOLUNTEER HOUR MATCHES**

**Meetings & Incentives Worldwide**  
**Xcenda**

## **PREVIOUS GRANTS/GIFTS**

H.M. Benstead Jr. Foundation  
Althea M. Brach  
Citizen-Based Monitoring  
Partnership Program  
Citizens Natural Resources  
Association  
Col. L.C. Christensen Charitable  
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Four Seasons Garden Club  
Frey - Lukow Family Fund via  
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The Hinrichs Foundation  
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Root - Pike Watershed Initiative  
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Wild Ones

## **...GRANTS/GIFTS**

Chester A. Satler, M.D.  
Conrad J. Shearer Bequest  
Snap-on Tools Corporation  
Society of Tympanuchus Cupido  
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State of Wisconsin - Stewardship  
Friends Grant Program  
E.C. Styberg Foundation  
WE Energies Corporate Foundation  
WE Energies - Employee Match  
Wild Flower Preservation Society of  
Illinois

**Visit us on the web:**

**[www.chiwaukee.org](http://www.chiwaukee.org)**

**[cppf@chiwaukee.org](mailto:cppf@chiwaukee.org)**



*Donations were received between  
11/16/2014 and 11/15/2015.*

*If an omission or error exists,  
please contact us.*