



# the Prairie News

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

Tracy Elaine Hammond

## “The Times They Are a-Changing.”

Bob Dylan 1964

### Dear Friends,

The times are always changing. From the beginning of efforts to save Chiwaukee Prairie in 1965 to the present, a series of threats and challenges have been met by an ever-evolving assembly of citizen volunteers, their organizations, and the public support they inspired. Likewise, over the years this ecological jewel has received numerous designations and awards acknowledging its value and those who work to preserve it. For all those who have come before us, we continue their efforts with *our mission to acquire, restore, manage, and preserve Chiwaukee Prairie and support research and environmental education.*

**Land Acquisition** For many years, volunteers raised money for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to buy lots in Chiwaukee south of 116<sup>th</sup> Street. The area had been platted in the 1920s and again in the 1940s for a total of over 600 lots. After incorporation in 1985, we continued helping TNC buy lots. Then in 2015, they gave their holdings to the Department of Natural Resources. DNR was unable to buy at that time, so CPPF began buying land from ready sellers. To date we have acquired 30 parcels, three in the past year. For the most part, the remaining privately held vacant lots were purchased long ago and have been passed down to younger generations who, for a variety of reasons, continue to pay taxes on mostly unbuildable land. In the coming year, we will continue to contact all of the owners of the remaining vacant lots. Also in the coming year, our Land Chair, Ingrid, will begin mentoring the next Land Chair to carry on land acquisition, step one in preservation.

### **Restoration & Management**

The incursion of invasive species has made restoration and management key parts of our mission. This year our volunteers are on track to again exceed 2,500 hours of stewardship work. This is accomplished on monthly workdays, many extra workdays pulling and bagging flowering invasives, and independent volunteer work treating an ever-changing pallet of exotic forbs, grasses, and brush sprouts. Rick, our wonderful volunteer coordinator, oversees scouting, planning, preparation, supplies, and equipment maintenance for workdays, leads the

workdays and then provides cookies for all the volunteers, whose ages range from 20's to 80's! CPPF also coordinates with the DNR staff, sharing plans and accomplishments. This Fall we helped mow firebreaks and DNR burned large areas south of 116<sup>th</sup> Street. More prescribed burns by contractors are planned for the Spring in north Units. While we currently do a lot, we need to do more in the battle with invasives. We especially need more volunteers to help with foliar treatment of buckthorn sprouts and forbs in the growing season. Flexible schedule! If interested, please see ways to contact us on page 2.

**Science & Research** The Heritage Plant Monitoring group had a rewarding year monitoring 8 different species of rare plants in 21 separate surveyed populations. New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to know more about helping do plant surveys, please see ways to contact us on page 2.

**Education & Outreach** CPPF Board members have shared the human and cultural history of Chiwaukee Prairie with hundreds of community members this year. Continuing to build on interest from last year's photo exhibit at the Kenosha Public Museum, Dana gave five presentations speaking about birds, insects, plants, natural history, and conservation efforts in Chiwaukee Prairie. Pam presented the Preservation Story to the Fall meeting of the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs. Kay continued her monthly plant walks and hosted several specially arranged walks to share the common and unique species of plants as well as some of the cultural heritage of food and herbal remedies. In Spring, Kay will begin hosting monthly events through the Kenosha Public Library and start her first Saturday prairie walks in May.

Over the decades many things have changed. The Prairie has grown, many threats were confronted, recognition of how special it is has gone from local to international, and CPPF has taken on expanded roles. Many of you reading this have supported our efforts for decades. To you and to our newer Friends, we are deeply grateful for all your help and support.

**Thank you everyone!**

**Pam Holy, President**

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

# NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Monthly Update

PLEASE, send CPPF your email address and once a month we will send you Prairie news and photos, upcoming events, and plans for the workday.

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

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

## Monthly Workdays

*No experience necessary. On the job training.*

Mark your calendars! All year long, volunteers come to Chiwaukee Prairie on the **3rd Saturday of the month** to do whatever is needed. Find plans, times and location in our Monthly Update, Facebook, and website.

**To volunteer for extra workdays or if any questions**

[volunteer@chiwaukee.org](mailto:volunteer@chiwaukee.org)



Dr. Jim Olson and UW students (Circa 1970)

## ALSO in 2024 ...

**Naturalist-led Walks**

**Native Seed Collection**

**Chiwaukee History Walk**

**Heritage Plant Monitoring**

**Neighbor Steward Program**

**Equipment Training/Maintenance**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/chiwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/chiwaukee)

[www.facebook.com/groups/chiwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/groups/chiwaukee)

[www.instagram.com/chiwaukeeprairiepreservation](https://www.instagram.com/chiwaukeeprairiepreservation)

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## Help Save Chiwaukee Prairie!



Inspiring public support

(Circa 1970)

All donations are available for land acquisition in Chiwaukee Prairie. Please consider making your gift “Discretionary” to give us flexibility to do “whatever is needed” to acquire **and** manage the Prairie.

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 gift. **Any amount is very much appreciated!**

**OPTION: DONATE ONLINE**  
**WITH A DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD**  
[www.chiwaukee.org/donate](http://www.chiwaukee.org/donate)

Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc. is a **501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization**. Donations are tax deductible and much appreciated! Please consider CPPF when planning your will!

### **Many Thanks**

We are grateful to **Dana Garrigan** for **Zooming** our monthly Board meetings, to the folks at **Landmark Title Corporation** for all their help with our land acquisition efforts, and to the **Minuteman Press** crew, our Newsletter Angels

### **CPPF Board of Directors**

Pam Holy, President	(262) 658-8336
Rick Wadleigh, VP/Volunteer Coord.	(262) 497-2798
Eric Howe, Treasurer/InfoTechnology	
Ingrid Verhulst, Secretary/Land Chair	(773) 275-2228
Dana Garrigan, Community Relations	(262) 818-0847
Alan Eppers, Stewardship/Equipment	(847) 881-6505
Kay McClelland, Naturalist/Heritage	(262) 994-1939
Nathan Robertson, Chief Steward	(262) 694-7351







# 50 Years 1973-2023

## Chiwaukee Prairie

### NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK



The designation of Chiwaukee Prairie as a National Natural Landmark came just six years after its designation as a State Scientific Area in 1967. These early titles spoke to the ecological value of the area. Supporters of Chiwaukee had already defended it against a \$20M marina development by convincing TNC to start buying land in the Prairie. Recognition of Chiwaukee as a special conservation area helped convince some private owners to sell and volunteers to continue raising funds.

Over the ensuing years, marina development again, sewer extensions, regional planning for the Carol Beach area, a gravel pit proposal, and other issues brought together a coalition of eight environmental and nature organizations. They wanted Chiwaukee Prairie to be placed on a list of Damaged and Threatened National Natural Landmarks, hoping to get better protection. Among the leaders of this effort were Joan Rohan of the Hoy Nature Club and Donna Peterson of the Racine-Kenosha Sierra Club. They and several other first-generation defenders of Chiwaukee are in the photo to the left. Donna and Joan wisely saw the threats to the Prairie would not end soon and believed there needed to be an organization dedicated only to Chiwaukee Prairie. The next year, 1985, they incorporated the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund.

Now the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area extends from the Kenosha city limits to the state line. It is part of the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain that stretches to Waukegan. In 2015 the Lake Plain was designated a Wetland of International Importance. In January, the Lake Plain Partners will receive the George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award for their restoration work in the Lake Plain since 2008.

Over the decades the value of Chiwaukee Prairie has been reflected in numerous designations. At the same time, the threats and challenges shifted from development to battling invasives. The photo of the November workday volunteers (left) is a testament to the fact that times may be a-changing, but we are all in it for the long haul!

*Return Service Requested*



*Shooting Star  
By Mary Alice Hammond*

## **Many thanks to all of our stewardship volunteers!**

Christine Beddla  
Cici Birnberg  
Rob Birnberg  
Fred Brookhouse  
Sam A. Brown  
Ruth Buddenhagen  
Jim Bullock  
Jeff Cologna  
Wendy Dahl  
Cyndi Duda  
Tim Eckert  
Alan Eppers  
Scott Farrell  
Dan Ficker  
Kelly Ficker  
Matt Ficker  
Dana Garrigan  
Marne Glaser  
Alyssa Gregory  
Lori Gregory  
John Harbeck

Regina Harders  
Chad Heinzelman  
Brian Herner  
John Holt  
Pam Holy  
Eric Howe  
Anthony Ippolito  
Jaime Johnson  
Jay Johnson  
Matt Kauffman  
Chris Kemper  
Renee Kemper  
Ian Liptak  
Bonnie Liptak  
Carolyn Lueck  
Steve Matthews  
Tom Nieland  
Kay McClelland  
Mike O'Conner  
Marlene O'Hara  
Marline Orah

Joan O'Shaughnessy  
Kurt Pearl  
Margaret Pisani  
Chris Ranker  
Emily Reed  
Dave Regenfuss  
Karen Ritchie  
Nathan Robertson  
Dave Sanders  
Suzanne Sasso  
Jonathan Smith  
Dru Snavely  
Doug Solheim  
Jutta Stoewe  
Nancy Stoewe  
Dasch Temple  
Kelly Temple  
Lindy VanVlissingen  
David Verbsky  
Hannah Verbsky  
Rick Wadleigh



### **JOIN US!**

**Seed Collecting  
Rare Plant Monitoring  
Invasive Species Removal  
Mowing Trails & Firebreaks  
Trail Camera Coordinating  
Equipment Maintenance  
Brush Clearing  
Mapping**

**WE APOLOGIZE IF YOUR NAME WAS OMITTED**

# Friends of Chiwaukee Prairie

## MAJOR GIFTS/GRANTS

Anonymous Donor Match  
Anonymous Foundation Gift  
Charles & Jill Haubrich  
Kent & Jennifer Peters Trust  
Jack & Terry Shouba  
Kurt Schuler  
Wild Ones Root River Chapter

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

James & Marty Anderson  
John Blosser  
Mildred M. Carlson Bequest  
Camille Gendusa Bluestein  
Steve & Sharon Dahl  
Alan Eppers  
Four Seasons Garden Club  
The Hinrichs Foundation  
Jack Holy  
Pam Holy & Ingrid Verhulst  
Eric Howe & Kristin Wegner  
Joanne Johnson  
Richard K. Johnson  
Debbie & Mark Lange  
L. LeGear & D. O'Byrne  
Cynthia & Dave LeMieux  
Carol L. Mampe  
Lynne Nelson  
Robert Osborne & Vera Scekic  
Carol J. Owens  
Daniel & Cheryl Pascucci  
Ed Raymond  
Dave & Donna Sanders  
Visit Pleasant Prairie  
Lynne & Peter Weil  
(Sustaining members are also  
Life Members)

## LIFE MEMBERS

June & Paul Ambro  
Priscilla Andre  
Helen Balcome  
Diane Battisti  
Christi Beerntsen  
Ranni Belt & Bill Sickle  
Lila Berge  
**Rob & Cici Birnberg**  
Frederick & Joanie Brookhouse  
Mary Case  
Pat Tobin Chapman Family  
Jeff & Joy Cologna  
Sharon & William Coyer  
Sharon & Eugene Dodd  
Elena Dreiske & Bob Zdenek  
**Amy Duhig**  
John Erickson  
Scott & Christine Feldy  
Dennis Flath & Barbara Meyocks  
Richard M Franz  
Dana & Amy Garrigan  
Mark Giese

## LIFE MEMBERS ...

Sara & Michael Giesler  
Richard & Deanna Guenther  
Charles & Ann Heide  
Margaret A. Henze  
Ferdinand Hinrichs  
Ferne Holy  
Krista Hoth  
Judy & Bill Jewell  
Imogene P. Johnson  
Joy Joslyn  
**Richard Kenna**  
Karla & Paul Krampert  
Dorothea Bach Kuehn  
Janice Laufenberg  
Ann Levin & Bruce Sedloff  
Ken & Maggie Lukow  
Kay MacNeil  
Martina & Christopher Mann  
Kay McClelland  
Ruth McGee  
Bessie Meland  
Art Middlekauff  
Marcia & Fred Nicas  
Phyllis & Donald Northway  
Frederick Ott  
Lorrie Otto  
Donna Peterson  
Yvonne & David Petty  
**Bernice Popelka**  
Chris & Maureen Potter  
Rebecca Power  
Helen Pugh  
Nathan Robertson  
Stan Rosenstiel  
Bill & Chris Russin  
**James Schend**  
Mary & Paul Schuler  
Anita Sculthorpe  
Don & Linda Snyder  
Nancy Stowe & Chris Kemper  
Dale VanVlissingen  
Lindy VanVlissingen  
Joe & Barbara Vass  
Johanna Verhulst  
Mary Walther  
Joanne Wanasek  
Day Waterman  
Lenny Weiss  
Jennifer Wenzel  
Jim & Carla Wilks  
Thomas Zuhlke  
(**Bold = New Life Members**)

## BLAZING STARS

Tom & Pat Agazzi  
June & Paul Ambro  
Chris & Jami Andre  
Barbara Antkowiak  
Jay Benkowski & Carla Freeman  
John Berge

## BLAZING STARS ...

Barabra Bohn  
Cathy Brnak  
James K. Bullock  
Change Therapy  
Nancy & Dick Christiansen  
Kathy Cole  
Dave & Connie Crema  
Laura Farlik  
Ellen Ferwerda  
Greg & Anne Fox  
Bob Freckmann  
Judith Gaskell  
Norm & Daryl Grier  
Jill Grubbs  
Bill & Katie Gunderson  
Marianne Hahn  
John Harbeck  
Regina Harders  
Jim Hart  
Gus & Renate Hauser  
Nancy Hennessy  
John & Susan Holt  
Arlene Howe  
Lindsey Huffman-Narula  
Erich Iwen  
Candice Jacobsen  
Deby & Steve Just  
Gary & Debbie Kanak  
Clarence & Karen Kaplan  
Jeff Karron  
Marilyn Kiemen  
Babette Kis  
Nancy & Gary Knickerbocker  
John Krerowicz  
Anne Brown Krol  
Kathi Kyrias  
Thomas LaDuke  
Gail Lantz  
Carol & Lester Lehman  
Christopher Loubsky  
Susan Luke  
Mark Lukow  
Kay MacNeil  
Debbie Maurer  
Len & Judy Maurer  
Kay McClelland  
Chris & Lynda McElroy  
Marcia & Fred Nicas  
Barabra Meyocks & Dennis Flath  
Doris Nice  
Michelle Nielsen  
Rich & Nansee Odegaard  
Claudia Ogren  
Lynn Passino  
Muffy Petrick  
Diane Ritchie  
Karen Ritchie  
Doug Robinson  
Linda Ruffolo  
Bill & Yi Russin  
Barbara Schacht



## **BLAZING STARS ...**

Duke Schaub  
Jean & Dick Schuller  
Michael Schield  
Shepard of the Hills Church  
Vince & Elizabeth Shouba  
Peter & Nancy Sickle  
Sierra Club SE Gateway Group  
Nancy Stoewe & Chris Kemper  
Joann Sustachek  
Terri Thornton  
Peter & Paula Touhey  
Robert Tucker  
Lindy VanVlissingen  
Joe & Barb Vass  
Rick Wadleigh & Suzanne Sasso  
Karla Krampert Walters  
Jennifer Wenzel  
Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl  
Gary Zumach

## **GENERAL MEMBERS**

Girl Scout Alumnae Group  
Carol Ann Anderson  
Quan & Cindy Banh  
Mary Jane Bates  
Peter & Vicki Behrens  
Denise Bell  
Kate Bennett  
Daniel Bosarth  
Jacquie Crema  
Tim Eckert  
Eugenie Farrar  
Trudy Farrell  
Dawn Feldman-Brown  
Brandi Ferree  
James Ferwerda  
Carol & Andrea Fjelsted  
Garland Alliance, Inc  
Margaret Glaser  
Norm Gunder  
Jim Hansen  
Bruce Harmel  
Debra Huber  
Barb & Bill Hunt  
Ralph & Nicole Jamieson  
Joel Kahling  
Jim Kairis  
Dorothy Kassilke  
Kenosha Water Utility  
Reid Knitter  
Lawrence Kreuser  
Steve & Louise Kumorkiewicz  
Tom & Evelyn Lajiness  
Charles Leicht  
Diane Lembck  
Julie Long  
Pat Mangi  
William Marshall  
Cory A. Masiak  
Chris & Mary Meixner  
Douglas Moore  
Network for Good  
Helge Kaurin Nilson

## **GENERAL MEMBERS...**

Carter O'Brien  
Marcia O'Day  
Jackson Parker & Mary Ann Staupe  
Merike Phillips  
Margaret Pisani  
Ellen Powell  
Racine Garden Club  
Dave & Christine Regenfuss  
Nicole Riendeau  
Debra Rose  
Judy Sickle  
Druann Snavelly  
Jeff Sytsma  
Kathleen Taylor  
Anthony & Roberta Truskowski  
John Valaske  
Robert & Rebecca Venn  
Jeff Weiss  
Robert W. Wirth

## **IN HONOR OF:**

**Pam Holy**  
- Kathy Cole  
**Deborah (Deb) Maurer**  
- Len & Judy Maurer  
**The Maurer Family**  
- Debbie Maurer  
**Jack Shouba**  
- Julie Long  
- Vince & Elizabeth Shouba  
**Dale VanVlissingen**  
- Lindy Van Vlissingen

## **IN MEMORY OF:**

**Christine Albrecht**  
**Tom Brotske**  
**James R. Foster**  
**Madelyn J. Pollock**  
**Peggy A. Raymond**  
**Larry Starks**  
**Darrel E. Wright II**  
- Ed Raymond  
**Priscilla Andre**  
- Chris & Jami Andre  
- John Blosser  
**Lila Berge**  
- John Berge  
**Fritz Bohn**  
- Barbara Bohn & Family  
**Hildegard Briese**  
- Barbara Bohn  
**Gen Crema**  
- Dave & Connie Crema  
- Jacquie Crema  
- Claudia Ogren  
**Deloris Erickson**  
**"Jake" Sacabucci**  
- Kay McClelland  
**Jerry Gulley**  
- James Schend  
**Nondi Hinrichs**  
- The Hinrichs Foundation  
**Jack Holy**  
- Pam Holy & Ingrid Verhulst  
**Laurine (Laurie) Howe**  
**Virginia (Ginger) Richards**  
- Rich & Nansee Odegaard

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

**Mary Regina Kenna**  
- Jill Grubbs  
- Richard Kenna  
**Alfred P & Karla M Krampert**  
- Karla Krampert Walters  
**Jennifer A & Kent E Peters**  
- Mark Peters  
**Donna Peterson**  
- Girl Scout Alumnae Group  
- John Berge  
- Nancy A. Hennessy  
- Pam Holy & Ingrid Verhulst  
- Kay McClelland  
- Barbara Meyocks & Dennis Flath  
- Marcia & Fred Nicas  
- Muffy Petrick  
- Joe & Barbara Vass  
**Caroline (Carrie) Ritchie**  
- Howard & Mary Cooley  
- Amy & Chuck Ernst  
- Dawn & Tom Feldman-Brown  
- Patrick & Annette Ginnaty-Moore  
- John & Susan Holt  
- Mark & Debbie Lange  
- Dave & Carol Moresi  
- Mary & Ken Rowe  
- Tom & Donna Quinn  
- Tim Sanborne & Julia Nowicki  
- Rosalie & Mark Villano  
- Mary Waldon & Steve Neuberger  
- Debra & Jim Webster  
- Kurt & Terry Wruck  
**Paul & Mary Schuler**  
- Kurt Schuler  
**Ranveig (Ranni) Belt Sickle**  
- Barbara Antkowiak  
- Christopher Loubsk  
- Helge Kaurin Nilsen  
- Michael Schield  
- Judy Sickle  
- Peter & Nancy Sickle

## **CORPORATE MATCHES**

Abbott Laboratories  
AON  
Baxter International  
Grainger  
Rockwell Automation  
SAP Software Solutions  
Takeda  
U.S. Cellular  
Voya Financial

**Donations were received between  
11/16/2022 and 11/15/2023**



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

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

## **PREVIOUS GRANTS/GIFTS**

H.M. Benstead Jr. Foundation  
Althea M. Brach Bequest  
Citizen-Based Monitoring Program  
Citizens Natural Resources Assoc.  
Col. L.C. Christensen Foundation  
Crown Family Philanthropies  
Dain Rauscher Investment Services  
Dairyland Charitable Foundation  
Equitable Foundation  
Four Seasons Garden Club **Cathy Brnak**  
Frey - Lukow Family Fund  
Paul Gergen  
Greene Manufacturing Co. Foundatio  
John Harbeck  
The Hinrichs Foundation  
Joanne Johnson  
Joy Joslyn  
Jupiter Transportation Co.9  
Kenosha Orchid Society  
Kerwin Foundation  
Virginia Kline Award - Friends of the  
Arboretum  
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants  
Herbert H. Kohl Charities  
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin  
New Vision  
Marcia & Fred Nicas  
Donald & Phyllis Northway  
Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
Root - Pike Watershed Initiative Network  
Chester A. Satler, M.D.  
Conrad J. Shearer Bequest  
Jack and Terry Shouba  
Snap-on Tools Corporation  
Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus  
State of Wisconsin - Stewardship Friends  
Grant Program  
E.C. Styberg Foundation  
Sue Tragesser Bequest  
WE Energies Corporate Foundation  
Lynne & Peter Weil  
Wild Flower Preservation Society of Illinois  
Wild Ones Root River Chapter