



The BACT Concert Committee (from left) is Jan Nestrud, Chrissie Mena, Judy Gibbons, Julie Linnekin, Jenne Lennon, and Caroline Milne.



The joys of peeking into the picnic basket.

Barrington Area Conservation Trust

FIRST TARTANS FOR THE TRUST A SUCCESS

THIS FIRST CELTIC-THEMED concert for Barrington Area Conservation Trust (BACT) on August 31, 2019, was a huge success. People of all ages donned their tartan attire and headed to the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center for the first “Tartans for the Trust”. The event attracted 350 guests who raised funds to protect our community’s rare and exceptional open spaces, provide educational opportunities to the community and programing for high school students, and to make a significant contribution to ongoing efforts which include stewardship and restoration at our nature preserves.

BACT has had concerts for eight consecutive years and this year with a suggestion by Chrissie Mena, a seasoned charity event committee chair, BACT decided to try a new theme. Encouraging and inspiring future generations is part of BACT’s mission and having a family-oriented event in the Barrington area’s exceptional open spaces was the perfect fundraiser this year.

The Riding Club of Barrington Hills also provided a welcome table with shortbread cookies and water. The Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center was not only beautiful, but Dennis Kelly and Kim Keper of the Park District were supportive and helpful throughout the entire planning process. The cost was reduced this year since most of the entertainment was either donated or allowed a reduced rate allowing for BACT to use the funds for its conservation efforts.

The weather was perfect and even by the end of the evening when the clouds rolled in it was reminiscent of Scotland. Andy Milne was amazing as a master of ceremonies and kept the crowd entertained throughout the entire event, especially during the “Knobby Knees” contest for those in kilts won by Andrew Calhoun.

Vendors included Balmoral Restaurant, The Onion Pub Restaurant which donated cans of their IPA beer, Kona Ice offerings for the kids, and Region Restaurant had appetizers available.

Entertainment included Shannon Rovers bagpipers, Green Meadow Boys pub band, Character Fleadh pub band, and singer Jenne Lennon.

At the suggestion of several board members the live auction, reverse auction, and silent auction components were all removed from the event this year. BACT sold Raifil tickets prior to the event and at the event. Bluestem Ecological Services was one of the first to sign up to support Tartans for the Trust. They were a Raifil sponsor and donated ecological services as a prize. The other two prizes included an amazing trip to Scotland and one to Ireland. Elizabeth Bramsen, dressed in her Chieftain sash, drew a winning ticket for George Yapp out of a ticket spinner. Everyone agreed with all of his community involvement and support George Yapp was truly deserving of a prize.

Another new idea used to raise funds was called a “Giving Tree”. This was a drawing of a tree with many branches explaining BACT’s funds needed for local conservation initiatives. Attendees were encouraged to buy leaves for the tree and have their name posted on the tree as a donor. Donations ranged from \$50-1000. Leaves were sold before and during the concert as well. Special thanks to Jennifer Lucas for taking this new idea from conception to reality.

“I have always wanted to do a Celtic event in Barrington,” Committee Chair Chrissie Mena said. “We pulled together a great committee and focused on outdoor fun for the whole family!”

This being a first time for running a concert for BACT, Michelle Maison, executive director of development said, “I was pleased to see so many residents and families embrace the event wholeheartedly. I really think bringing “like-minded” people of all ages together in a social outdoor setting is a beautiful representation of our mission as an organization.”



A Shannon Rovers bagpiper.



Jeff and Grace Sebert (5th and 6th from left) own Bluestem Ecological Services were a Raifil sponsor in support of the event.



There were fun activities for all ages.



Rosie Julian Simoes presented a musical freestyle Grand Prix dressage at the event with Rankado, her German sport horse.



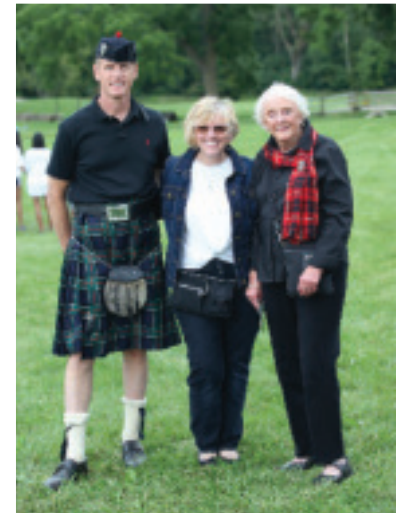
BACT Board President Bryan Croll



Michele Maison, BACT executive director, and Betsy Bramsen work the Raifil.



Boys throw "mock" cabers in a traditionally Scottish athletic competition.



Andrew Calhoun, Linda Stevens, and Barb Cunningham



“Clansman” sponsors Bob and Mary Beaubien (5th and 6th from right) and friends.



Claudia Brandt, Stuart Bilton, Bette Bilton, George Yapp, and DeDe Zwilling



Balmoral Restaurant, Camden, Illinois donated a whiskey tasting.



Chris Bilton and Matt Vondra who chaired the event and is a vice president of BACT.



Susie Hamman, Mary Smith, and Chrissie Mena



Josie Croll, Betsy Wintringer, and Judy Svenson



Anne Gulotta and Leslie Roberts