

Open Spaces



PRESERVE. RESTORE. INSPIRE.

FALL 2020 | BARRINGTON AREA CONSERVATION TRUST NEWS

AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD By Bryan C. Croll, President



I am proud to report that BACT is having a strong 2020 despite the challenges of COVID.

In exciting news, the Rieke family, who have lived nearly 170 years in Barrington, recently bought 5 acres next to Pederson Preserve and plan to donate it to BACT, giving us 10 acres across from the high school in our most visible preserve. We

are truly grateful to have such generous supporters.

Without our normal complement of hundreds of volunteers throughout a good portion of 2020, we have had to meet the needs of our preserves by hiring contractors. Thankfully, grant funding is up 22% from 2019. Grants, along with donor-specified gifts, have provided the necessary resources to continue restoring our properties, though some exciting projects, which are funded, will have to wait until 2021.

In other news, our negotiations continue with Cook County Forest Preserve on restating the Horizon Farm conservation easement. Our goal is to preserve the conservation values on that 400 acre property and to honor the intent of the McGinley Family, the original grantor.

Our summer internship program, despite COVID restrictions, was very successful. Teens4Green also resumed this fall with many new members from around the area, allowing us to continue inspiring the next generation.

The Tartans for the Trust fundraiser raised a record amount by holding the first ever hybrid event: Although limited to 50 people outside at the Sanfilippo family polo field, a videographer made it possible to connect to over 24 watch parties around the world. Both new and old Barrington area residents who are passionate about our open spaces participated.

We are focused on improving our communications in this virtual world and, to that end, are currently implementing a new donor database, which is more complicated than it sounds. It should make our letters and emails more focused and fundraising more efficient.

We are proud of what we are accomplishing and are glad that so many people are part of this inspiring organization.

Please help us to continue this great work by joining us with a donation to our fall appeal. You can make a donation online at BACTrust.org in the enclosed envelope. Enjoy this beautiful fall, and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

TAX TIP: NEW CHARITABLE DEDUCTION AVAILABLE EVEN FOR TAXPAYERS WHO DO NOT ITEMIZE THEIR DEDUCTIONS



- You can add an additional \$300 for cash donations to your charity budget this year, recover a portion of it in tax savings and help address current charitable needs.
- Under the CARES Act, non-itemizers will still be able to claim a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations made in 2020.



A heartfelt thank you to all our grantors for their support of our conservation efforts. We are excited about new grantors supporting our efforts and very grateful to our many recurring grantors for their ongoing support as we work to Preserve, Restore and Inspire!

PRESERVE

- **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation:** General operations toward ongoing stewardship and land preservation.
- **Environmental/Conservation Group Collaborative Tech Grant:** Computer and online meeting software and related training necessary to maintain operations since COVID-19.
- **Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership:** Joint planting project creating a native streambank buffer strip at Pederson Preserve and additional educational materials for residents in collaboration with Citizens for Conservation.

RESTORE

- **Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club:** Purchase of 10 oak trees for our Oaktobefest planting day at Far Field Nature Preserve as well as year round participation by Rotarians at our volunteer work days.
- **Garden Club of Barrington:** Purchase of native seeds for volunteers to spread in restoration area during Oaktobefest family event at Far Field Nature Preserve.
- **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Public Amenities Grant:** Creation of a living path of sedges and pollinator plants toward the streambank at Pederson Preserve.
- **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Community Stewardship Grant:** Provided 3:1 grant match funds to enable stewardship at Pederson Preserve's 5.6 acres including eradicating invasive plants and building upon the diversity of native plant species.
- **Monarch Watch:** Supplied two different types of milkweed plants for our preserves which summer interns planted.

INSPIRE

- **Barrington Area Community Foundation:** Creation of 15 Citizen Science Research backpacks with learning resources to aid Barrington High School (BHS) students in outdoor field learning relating to soil, water, tree, plant and wildlife studies at Pederson Preserve across from BHS which is ever more vital during COVID.
- **Barrington Junior Women's Club:** Support for BACT's Conservation@Home program that provides information and resources for homeowners – more important than ever during during COVID.
- **Northrop Grumman:** Support of BACT's Conservation@Home, @School and @Work programs.
- **Oberweiler Foundation:** Funding for Future Environmental Stewards Community Education Project with a restoration facilitator working alongside students and volunteers educating them in the field.



Oberweiler Foundation



the Shannon Rovers. Bryan Croll, President of BACT, Matt Vondra, Vice President of BACT and Tartan's chair, and James and Renata Sanfilippo each spoke briefly about BACT and its mission to preserve the Barrington area community's rare and exceptional open spaces for current and future generations.

Fifty Barrington Area Conservation Trust supporters gathered at the beautiful Barrington Hills Sanfilippo family polo field for the second annual Tartans for the Trust event on August 29, 2020. Once again, Mother Nature came through for BACT for a perfect evening after a hot summer. A small but mighty and passionate crowd gathered to support BACT live, and other supporters watched it live streamed to create a very successful event. Our donors really stepped up to support BACT during this crucial time.

BACT provided all amenities including Tartan masks generously made and donated by Chrissie Mena, beautiful tables with floral arrangements donated by Twisted Stem and a fully catered menu by Region Restaurant. Each table was set with its own bar to help with COVID protocols. Guests enjoyed a live and a silent auction with items from local area merchants including Long & Co Jewelers, the English Daisy, Twisted Stem, Clarke's Bakery and Doering Landscape to name a few. The evening included a private tour of the lush fen proposed Sanfilippo easement, Scotch tastings, and a strolling bagpiper from



Photography by Robin Subar

By JACK MAISON, SENIOR, BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Teens4Green Leader

Teens4Green had sixteen teens sign up this year. The first meeting was a bonfire at Far Field Preserve. We are looking to change things up a bit this year. Instead of becoming another teenage environmental club and focusing on action throughout the community, we are planning on becoming a more educational based experience this year. We are currently having six speakers come and explain several different environmental topics: The importance of bees and using a live bee hive opening for learning and fun; Nature RX which is a grassroots movement dedicated to entertaining and informing people about the healing and humorous aspects of nature; and a tour of the Sanfilippo family fen with its diverse and rare species of plants to name a few. Not only are we going to be learning a lot, but we will be having fun (socially distanced with many precautions or virtual) around our peers.



BARRINGTON AREA CONSERVATION TRUST'S DONORS AUGUST 2019 – AUGUST 2020

\$5000 – UP

Stuart and Bette Bilton
Bluestem Ecological Services
James and Elizabeth Bramsen
Frank Cabello
Kim Duchossois
John and Meredith Klaas
Lindahl Brothers, Inc
Roger and Jennifer Lucas
Mackie Consultants, LLC
Northern Trust Bank
Matt and Meghan Norton
Todd and Libby Rieke
David and Vicky Smith
Stephen and Mary Smith
Charles and Joyce Solberg
Stephenson Family Foundation
The James Huntington Foundation
Matt and Erin Vondra
Aaron and Kristin Wahls

\$1000 - \$4999

Ardmore Roderick
Dee Beaubien
Robert and Mary Beaubien
Theodore and Sandra Clark
Bryan and Josie Croll
Larry and Laura Ekstrom
Louise Flannery
John Gigerich

Ted and Kay Golitz
Carson and Allison Greene
Jonathan and Nancy Hamill
James and Tracy Hulshof
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Joseph and Ann Messer
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Glenn and Barbara Reed
Jim Sanfilippo
Lisa Sanfilippo
Gail Seidel-O'Gorman
Steve and Kerry Miller Family Fund
Thomas and Jeannie Tisbo
Karen Trzaska
Lynn and Mary White
Nancy White
Nancy Winter
George Yapp

\$500 - \$999

Roger and Amanda Allman
ATM Aggregate Logistics, Inc.
Christopher and Dacien Barry
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Del and Mary Bishop
Christopher and Anna Bilton
Ben Brown
Doug Cannon
Bruce and Margaret Crowther
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Peter and Judy Gibbons
Bill and Ann Hostetler
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Private Jet Services
John and Leslie Roberts
Timothy and Jan Romenesko
Dennis and Carla Schlemmer
Erich and Cobey Struckmeyer
Charles and Joy Ann Sweet
Jan and Amanda Van Marwijk Kooij

\$1 - \$499

Julie Abernathy
Scott Adams
Ancient Oaks Foundation
Siddesh Bale
Brian Ban
Ethan and Anne Baumfeld
Peter and Christine Bedard
Dorritt Bern
Dee Bode

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON VIRGINIA BROWN

Virginia Brown is one of our outstanding volunteers! Over the past several years, Virginia has volunteered with countless restoration workdays, given presentations to Barrington High School and Teens4Green students regarding soil health and her career, visited homeowner's properties as part of our Conservation@Home program and worked tirelessly to water and help the plants at Katie's Marsh Preserve.

Virginia is a consulting soil scientist at Duraroot Environmental, based out of the Chicago area. Virginia attended Mary Washington University and received a BS in environmental/earth science and continued on to North Carolina State University to obtain a masters in soil science. The majority of her career has been spent working on the environmental aspects of construction projects, including roadwork, oil and gas pipelines, electric transmission, and renewable energy (solar). She provides solutions for land management problems, such as soil erosion, land slides, and poorly established vegetation. In addition to this, she specializes in ecological restoration and regenerative practices, including endangered species habitat and pollinator

establishment. Her career in the environmental field has taken her all over the U.S., working in a variety of environments from the mountains of Appalachia to the plains of the Dakotas

UPCOMING WORK DAYS AT PEDERSON PRESERVE

10am - Noon
November 8, 22
December 6, 20



Registration required. Please sign up at <https://bactrust.org/volunteer/>
Check our website after the first of the year for more upcoming work days.

Keri Bowman
Claudia Brandt
Paul and Susan Butera
Jack Caldwell
Andrew Calhoun
Donato Cantalupo
Robert Cantwell and Annamaria Lukes
Loretta Caravette
Fernando Castro-Becerra
Brian and Stephenie Cecola
Donald Cernansky
Pam Chandor
Michelle Chase
Robert Clark
John and Jackie Clarke
John Connors
Kendra Croll
Herbert Demmel
Doering Landscape
Sreenivasa Eathara
English Daisy
Dave Eubanks
Lenore Franckowiak
Kathryn Gavula
John and Michele Gillett
Keith Gray
Jaimee Hamilton
William and Donna Hannay
Michael and Colleen Hannigan
John and Kelly Haradon
Helen Russel Hart
Thomas and Sally Hayward
Steve and Eliza Hollis
Hollis Brothers Auto Service

Lina Hovde
Melissa Hovey
Brigid Hull
Karen Hutcheson
Sheffield and Susan Hyde
Brian and Carroll Jackman
Anne Jensen
Bart Johnson
Charlie Keppel
Nancy Kholamian
Louis Lacovelli
Kim Nyuyoung
Kiselstein Frankowiak Law Group
Chris Kitzman
Christina Kohl
Bob and Denise Krause
Deb Kremer
Mike and Linda Kuta
Risa LaMontagne
Stacey Laschen
Bob and Anne Lee
William Lee Jr.
Steve and Susan Lenz
Ying Liu
Katherine Logue
Carylee Loomis
John Loomis
Macey Lowrey
Michelle Maison
Paul and Colleen Mallon
Mani and Elaine Ramesh
Mary McGinn
Emily McHugh
Brian and Stephanie Moore

Mike and Kathy Moran
Stenson Mountsier
William and Marilyn Nagy
Susan Norton
Liz Olsen
Jeryl Olson
Time and Kathy Paczynski
Rob and Sandy Palumbo
Steve Reiner
Richard and Kristi Resseguie
Gladys Reyes
Jeff Rickbrodt
Harold and Susan Rider
RJ and Kelcey Roberts
Jennifer Rousseau
Arunkumar Santhanagopalan
Soma Sarangmath
Graham Satherlie
Dayanne Schurecht
Jeff Sebert
Blake Seeds
Todd and Heather Sholeen
John and Faye Sinnott
Travis Solberg
S.J. and Elizabeth Soter
William and Carolyn Springer
Rick and Frances Steffen
Dr. Christopher and Jamie Stephenson
Lauren Stibgen
Judi Thode
Jeff and Judy Tolle
Leonard Tomaka
Margaret Topping
Josh and Barbara Tunca

Meghan Van Daele
Charles and Kim Van Fossan
Joe Viola
James and Tamara Voris
Sarah Voska
Richard and Donna Jean Voss
Lawrence and Melissa Washow
Mary Lee Welsh
Anita Wilcheck
David and Katie Wilson
Harry and Betsy Wintringer
John Wirtz
Melanie Witt
Daniel and Joan Wolfram
Tommy and Jennifer Wondrasek
Lisa Woolford
Andrew and Elaine Wright
Kristine Young
Terry and Leila Younger

*Thank you for your
support and generosity!*

BACT's Conservation@School initiative serves as an extension of our previous years of in-class presentations for Barrington High School science classes and continues to provide science experiences through videos, citizen science packs, online lectures and community outreach.

Environmental Video Series: Check out our website under Conservation@School to view the first video on monarch butterflies in our ongoing video series which includes references to documentary films, websites, and organizations for additional ideas and opportunities. <https://bactrust.org/conservation-at-school/>.

Citizen Scientist Packs: BACT is proud to announce its Citizen Scientist Pack initiative funded by the Barrington Area Community Foundation. BHS students looking to gain field experience for their science classes can check out our fully equipped backpacks for a guided field study at Pederson Preserve across from Barrington High School. These packs include everything students need to explore the characteristics of our native landscapes that are being carefully restored.

Online Lectures: We will be offering the opportunity for BHS students to attend online lectures by our Conservation@School coordinator, Raaz Basasti, to learn about our preserves and the environment.

Community Outreach: Our new collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Dundee Township includes our educational video series as well as assistance in creation of a monarch waystation.

For any questions regarding our high school experiences and opportunities or to volunteer to help with these efforts, please contact our Conservation@School Coordinator, Navraaz Basati at Navraaz@bactrust.org.





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 www.BACTrust.org

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 Conservation Trust**

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All BACT program participants agree to be
 photographed for use in future publications.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BACT BOARD MEMBERS



James Hulshof grew up in Missouri where he participated in the family row crop farm cultivating the land and conserving the land. He graduated from the University of Missouri and spent 10 years in corporate consumer goods sales and marketing. James and his wife, Tracy, moved to Barrington Hills from Chicago in 2016 and are raising their three children ages 5, 3, and 5 months. James enjoys working outside and enjoying the land with his family. James is looking forward to contributing with the restoration and marketing aspects of BACT to ensure the organization continues to conserve and enhance the beautiful countryside in the area for future generations.



Matt Wilkens joined the Barrington community in 2011 when he married his wife Britini. He currently lives in Inverness with his children Hunter (4), Hallie (2) and Holt (2mo).

Matt grew up in rural Illinois where he developed his love for open space through activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. His family's philosophy was to leave the land better than they found it. That thought was a key component to his upbringing, as well as, a drive for his appreciation for the outdoors and for establishing areas of conservation for natural vegetation ecosystems and animal populations so generations to come could experience it as well.

Matt works for the Plexus Groupe, a risk management and insurance brokerage firm, headquartered in Deer Park. He enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, hunting, and when he can find some extra time, flying.