

# FIELD NOTES

Includes 2023 Annual Financial Report Statement and list of donors.

July/August 2024

# 2023 Gratitude Report



Lisa Haderlein

ver the years, I've often thought of TLC as an organization that celebrates, supports and elevates the conservation stories that might otherwise get lost in McHenry County. Most of those stories are about people who care, and who invest their time and energy in doing what they can to make McHenry County a healthier place for all living things.

TLC's programs are designed to support and empower those in the community who want to take action – at work, at home, and in their communities – to preserve, restore and take care of the land they love. Conservation@Home and @Work. Conservation Easements. Women's Learning Circles. Apple Creek Food Forest. Project Quercus/5000 Acres. Volunteer Land Restoration Events. Some of those stories from 2023 are in this Annual Report. I hope you enjoy them.

The other area that I believe distinguishes TLC is its willingness to create solutions for challenges that others may walk away from.

- ♦ In 2023, that was demonstrated by beaver dams in Woodstock and Johnsburg! Rather than accepting the standard response to flooding from beaver dams, which is to trap and kill the beaver and remove the dams, TLC found a company to install devices in the dams to reduce flooding to manageable levels.
- ♦ Queen Anne Cemetery Prairie is another example this orphaned acre of original Illinois prairie was slowly degrading. No individual owned it, and no government entity wanted to claim it. At the request of descendants of some of the people buried there, TLC found a way to obtain title to the property, and has started restoration.

TLC also creates programs to address conservation challenges that come to its attention.

- ♦ Upon learning that 85% of the oaks in the county are on private property, TLC created Project Quercus to help engage and inspire people to care about their oaks. 5000 Acres was added in 2020 to inspire people to report the ways they are taking care of their oaks. Over 100 people have registered their oak acres!
- ♦ TLC's Most Vulnerable Natural Areas program which reaches out to owners of remnant habitat in the county has preserved over 1,000 acres at 39 remnant natural areas mostly through donated conservation easements in the past 20 years.
- ♦ The Conservation Leader Internship Program was started to provide a space for underserved students to develop the skills, networks and confidence to succeed in careers in the conservation field. This is TLC's way of investing in creating future conservationists who will carry this work forward through future generations.

Thank you for making all this work possible through your support and participation in the work of caring for the land and all the life it sustains. Together, we are making a difference that you can see, taste and breathe!

Together in Conservation,





Volunteers celebrated New Year's Eve by rescuing oaks at Thompson Road Preserve in Bull Valley.



Classes like Winter Tree Identification offer opportunities for people to learn more about our local landscape.



Members enjoyed a hike at Hennen at TLC's Wine and Cheese Hike.



Carol Elkins received the onservation@Home Impact Award at the 2023 Annual Celebration



2023 marked the 15th year of Art of the Land, one of TLC's biggest fundraisers



Families enjoyed the outdoors at the 'Howl at the Wolf Oak' at Wolf Oak Woods.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who were recognized at a Volunteer Appreciation event.



CLIP interns helped plant and care for a pollinator garden with the Youth and Family Center of McHenry County.



Seed Sharing Day is an opportunity for people to collect and share native seed for their prairie, savanna and wet habitats.



TLC staff and volunteers teamed up for a workday at Lynda Clayton Preserve with a staff group from Aon.

# A quick, easy tip to make your home more Earth friendly

Plastic is unbelievably convenient. Who can live without plastic zip sandwich bags? Unfortunately, they're also an environmental nightmare. Even if you think you're recycling, only between two and nine percent of plastics actually get recycled.

One way to avoid adding plastic to our landfills, oceans and waterways is to be mindful of using less of it. Look for alternatives. An easy alternative to plastic sandwich bags are silicone Ziploc bags. They are easy to wash and reuse. They're much sturdier than the disposable plastic ones, too. They also sell little racks to dry the bags on, and those are worth the investment, too.





You can buy them at any local superstore and, of course, Amazon. But, remember when you buy from Amazon you're adding packaging to dispose of. While the initial cost is a bit higher than disposable plastic, it's not outrageous at all and you save a lot more money in the long run because they can be used indefinitely.

—Karen Lavin, TLC Board Member lawdog57@hotmail.com

## The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

P.O. Box 352, Woodstock, IL 60098 815-337-9502

ConserveMC.org

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#### **Welcome New Members!**

Sarah Graybill | Crystal Lake Christine Howard-Swan | Woodstock Judy Howe | Dahlonega, GA Susan Lacerra | Walworth, WI Jeremy LaMarche | Park Ridge Lisa Migon | Spring Grove Patti Klein | Woodstock Jamie Sterritt | Marengo Charles Stuck | North Aurora



# Restoration Volunteers Wanted!

- Do you love being outside and hanging out with friendly people?
- Do you need summer service hours?
- Become a restoration volunteer with TLC!

We have sites throughout the county, so there is likely a site near your home that needs your help!

Workdays are usually in the mornings and last for three hours, with a snack break halfway through. Feel free to stay the whole time, or leave when you need to.

At workdays we cut and burn invasive species so the native trees and plants can flourish. Experienced sawyers are also needed. Interested? Fill out the volunteer form at *ConserveMC.org/Volunteer* and you will receive email updates about upcoming workdays. Thank you!

### **Plant Native!**

TLC's Fall Sustainability Sale July 18-Aug. 14





Order your native plants, trees and shrubs for fall planting.

Pre-order your native plants, trees, and shrubs for local pickup in September. Help our local environment while also helping TLC. Don't wait to place your pre-order, we expect demand to be high!

Plant pick-up Date: Friday, Sept. 13 and Saturday, Sept. 14 Location: McHenry County Fairgrounds, 11900 Country Club Rd, Woodstock, IL

## Hands-on In the Field\_TLC's Conservation Leader Internship Program



In 2023, TLC's Conservation Leader Internship Program (CLIP) delivered hands-on conservation programming to high school and college students who represent groups that are traditionally underserved in the field.

Students began the summer with little to no experience or knowledge about the field of conservation, but left the program with the ability to be a leader. Some participants even said they would pay it forward to others interested in conservation by sharing their experience and knowledge.

The interns said they left the program feeling confident and knowledgeable. Each participant reported a positive experience, and several students said they wished the program was longer, or said it was the best summer of their life.

Even if some of the CLIPterns decide the field of conservation is not for them, elements of the experience will continue to serve them in any career. Grouping high school and college students works to the advantage of the CLIP program and gives college students the opportunity to mentor, and allows high schoolers to learn from the older students.

CLIPterns enjoy working with diverse age groups, from elementary-aged youth to TLC's retired volunteers. They also feel a sense of community and joy from finding so many people with a similar interest in nature. It's great to see the bond that develops among the students over the course of the program. A bond like that can't be forced, but is fostered through a unique set of experiences that will last a lifetime.

#### Did you know?

Over the 11 weeks of the internship, the interns accomplished as much invasive species control (weeds!) as a full-time employee would in three months. For certain problem plants like wild parsnip, having a crew of four to five people working together for several hours is an extremely effective way to take care of a problem.

#### What is forever?

When talking about the land that is entrusted to TLC, forever is as long as there are still humans and some system of government that defines the ownership of land. From a practical standpoint, we need to be prepared for preserving and taking care of the land for many generations. That's one of the reasons TLC runs CLIP each summer – it is a way for the organization to invest in building the next generation of people who will care about the land for the next 50 years. If every group like TLC had a similar internship program each summer, just imagine how many thousands of young people there would be prepared for conservation leadership in the decades ahead!

# Conservation@Work Spotlight - Wade Merritt -

**Saving pollinators** became my focus after hearing Christopher Stein, the founder of Operation Pollination, speak at the Lake in the Hills Rotary Club in 2020.

I did research on the drastic decline in pollinators and the causes of the decline. One thing struck me—I grew up on a farm in Kane County. We spent days spraying the milkweed that lined the fields to keep it from spreading. Little did I know the effect it would have on the environment. I wanted to do what I could to right this wrong, so decided to plant as many milkweed (and other native plants) as possible.

With the help of the club, we were able to get our first land donation from VCP Printing in Algonquin, next to the bike path where it would be visible to many. It was a small plot, only an 11-foot circle, but even small plots can make a difference.

I found out that TLC would assess the area and recommend the best plants for the site. Sarah Michehl gave us a great list of plants through TLC's Conservation@Work program. Soon we had many flowers that brought pollinators.

I also began my at-home pollinator journey. Previously, I thought you needed a pristine lawn that required fertilizer, pesticides and weed killers. Wade Merritt helps install a pollinator garden at the Algonquin Library.

I called on Sarah again to give a consultation through TLC's Conservation@Home program.

My home has a large natural area with oaks, hickories, elms and maples. But I also had honeysuckle, garlic mustard and a burning bush that I didn't know were invasive. Sarah gave me a list of native plants, and I started changing everything I had been doing. I added milkweed

and butterfly weed for the monarchs and other natives to help the pollinators.

I converted old flower beds to pollinator gardens and removed grass and replaced it with native plants. Now my yard is full of many types of pollinators, including dozens of hummingbirds and monarchs in the summer. The remaining grass is now unfertilized, with no pesticides or weed killers.

With the help of Sarah and TLC's Conservation@ Work program, I have now planned and planted three more public gardens. One in Sunset Park in Lake in the Hills, another at a retirement village, and the most recent at the Algonquin Public Library.

Because I wanted to learn more about the monarchs, I took two trips to their sanctuaries. One was Piedra Herrada in El Pedregal, Mexico and one at Pismo Beach, California. I learned that the monarchs are arriving much later in Mexico than in the past. Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead on Nov. 1, and part of the celebration is the return of the monarchs, which they believe are the souls of those who have passed during the last year. Now the monarchs don't return until mid-November. One of the reasons could be that industrialization has moved the path of the monarch and added an additional 10-15 miles to their flight. While in Mexico I helped with the reforestation of property near the sanctuary. We planted 400 new trees in an attempt to help the monarchs in their journey.

My passion to help the pollinators keeps growing, and I am committed to make a difference in our environment.

# Learning Circle Program Grows in 2022-2023

TLC began hosting Women Caring for the Land Learning Circles in partnership with American Farmland Trust in 2014. Eventually the grant partnership ended, but we decided it was important to continue this important programming. After holding Learning Circles annually for years, with increasing interest and participation, TLC began hosting three or four Women's Learning Circles seasonally, starting in 2022. This expansion was made possible by hiring part-time Farm Program Coordinator, Claire Hodge, with increased funding through a Food:Land:Opportunity grant. In 2022-23, the program also received additional support from a USDA grant in partnership with Savanna Institute, with the goal of improving water quality in the Gulf of Mexico by changing the farming landscape to include more agroforestry and conservation practices.

The Learning Circles provide a crucial link between women farmland owners and the resources and support networks they need to achieve their conservation goals. While this program was initially designed for non-operating landowners, our group in McHenry County has welcomed a rise in landowners who are actively managing or operating their lands, as well as farm managers, and even aspiring landowners. As such, our learning topics, conversations and farm visits vary widely to include: silvopasture and rotational grazing, fruit crop production, creative land access and land use agreements, agricultural education, agroforestry, and community building through agriculture. Participants are learning new ways to steward their land and also that they're not alone in doing so.

Through these events, we're also recruiting stewardship ambassadors through a program with the Women Food Agriculture Network in an effort



The Women's Learning Circle at Wonderland Community Project in Wonder Lake, IL.

to further uplift women as contributors and change makers in their communities. Other local partnerships in programming have included: MCC's Center for Agrarian Learning, McHenry County Conservation District, SWCD and NRCS, and Liberty Prairie Foundation/ IL FarmLink.

As TLC works to preserve farmland in McHenry County, we know we also

must support the farmers. Through our evolving
Learning Circles for Women
Farmers and Farmland
Owners, we learn more
each time about our
community's needs and
dreams. Offering resources,
technical assistance, a
network, and often 'a hand',
we strive to grow with our
community in their land
stewardship goals.



Learning Circle participants on a wagon tour of Wanda Farm in Hebron, IL.

# Growing Partnerships

Not just trees and shrubs are growing out at the food forest these days! As progress continues on the landscape, we also are building strong relationships within the community.

Given its proximity to the food forest, Woodstock's Creekside Middle School is a natural connection. Earlier this spring the school's garden club was able to use clippings from existing shrubs to propagate elderberry bushes for the windbreak that will be planted this fall. We are also looking forward to seed collecting and other opportunities in the fall. Giving the students these experiences in nature and the ability to get their hands in the soil gives them better footing to become the next generation of landowners and stewards.



This spring we also had our first public event at the food forest where volunteers prepared and seeded over 850 square feet of vegetable and herb gardens. The harvests from these gardens will be given to the Woodstock Food Pantry to ensure healthy, fresh produce is available to families this summer and fall. If you are interested in helping maintain and harvest the gardens or other food forest volunteering opportunities, please reach out to Gretchen Madsen at amadsen@conservemc.org.

# TLC's CLIP Program is Underway!

TLC's Conservation Leader Internship Program is off and running for the summer of 2024! The participants get hands-on professional training in the field of conservation. Each week one of the interns writes about their experiences in the program, and you can read about what they are learning on TLC's blog. Check it out today!

ConserveMC.org/tlc-blog



### Forty Acres of a Former Boy Scout Camp Preserved for Life in Woodstock

In 1993, Hugh and Marlene Frisbie purchased farmland outside of Woodstock where they built their home, raised their children, opened a plant nursery and began restoring the farm fields to native prairie, wetland and woodland habitat.

In 2011, they preserved 56 acres of their 61-acre property with a permanent conservation easement they donated to TLC.

In 2021, they acquired an adjacent 40 acres which was part of the Lakota Boy Scout Camp, and quickly got to work clearing buckthorn and honeysuckle from the woods. In 2023, they placed a permanent conservation easement on those 40 acres, ensuring they will be preserved as wetland and oak woodland – that makes 96 acres preserved forever.

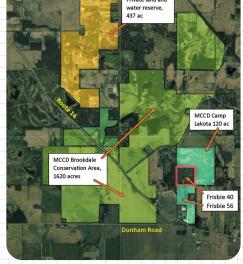




The Frisbies' son Brandon, grandson Will, and dog Rosie enjoy some sledding fun.

Marlene says, "We had been familiar with the property, as we had hiked and skied it (with permission) when the Boy Scouts owned it. We had some concern about the future of the property once it was sold, so we got together a group of conservation-minded organizations to help ensure that the entire property could be preserved."

The property includes oak groves dominated by white oaks, with occasional red oaks, shagbark hickory and a stand of chestnuts. Wetlands throughout the property include vernal pools that offer seasonal homes for amphibians and reptiles. Also, the state-endangered Blanding's Turtle has been spotted in areas of the newly preserved land, as well as three different state-threatened or endangered bird species that visit the property's oaks and wetlands.



The map shows the property's proximity to other local conservation areas, allowing for connectivity of habitat.

Their conservation land is located in an area of the county rich in natural resources and lands protected by public and private landowners, totaling 2,310 acres, which can be seen on the map on this page. Stay tuned – we are looking forward to having more chapters of Hugh and Marlene's land conservation journey to tell!

# **Project Quercus** inspires families to plant oaks in McHenry County

Project Quercus reaches out to schools, communities and organized groups to participate in preserving and restoring our oak hickory woodlands.

In May 2023, students and families from Landmark School in McHenry planted trees at Moraine Hills State Park. Landmark families have been planting trees with TLC since the spring of 2016. The school has planted oaks at other McHenry County sites with eight plantings altogether, totaling around 90 trees added to our local landscape!

Students and families from Landmark School in McHenry planted oaks at Moraine Hills State Park. Quercus: (Latin) oak or oak tree.





# Art of the Land

16th Annual art show and benefit!

Juried art show and benefit

Sept. 27 & 28, 6:30-10:00 pm The Starline Factory 300 W. Front St., Harvard, IL



## **Call for Artists and Artisans!**



Since 2009, the *Art of the Land* art show and benefit is the premier event for regional artists who draw their inspiration from the local landscape. Artists and artisans welcome! Check out our Youth Art category as well!

Art jury fee: \$25 for five pieces of art • Youth art jury fee: \$10 for three pieces of art • Artisans: No jury fee

Application Deadline: Sunday, August 18
Art Prizes
First Prize: \$250

2 Honorable Mentions: \$100 each

Guidelines and application are available at:







**ArtoftheLand.org** 

TLC is a 501c3 organization

# Show Your Support for Art and Nature in McHenry County Become a Sponsor!

Art of the Land would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors!

Nearly 100 artists, artisans and photographers take part in Art of the Land,
and over 500 people attend the two-day event. Proceeds from the event
benefit land preservation in McHenry County.

Sponsorships start at \$250. Go to www.artoftheland.org/#sponsor or use the QR code to learn more.



## **2023 Financial Summary**

#### There are stories in these numbers.

Growth in the Long-term Management and Easement Defense Funds is good news for TLC's sustainability, as they generate annual income to support easement monitoring and stewardship of the lands TLC owns.

Financial Assets	2023	2022
Long-term (Land) Management:	\$ 408,340	\$ 396,454
Easement Defense:	\$ 529,061	\$ 521,154
Oak Conservation Fund:	\$ 16,976	\$ 16,976
Operating Reserve:	\$ 100,000	\$ 57,283
Stewardship:	\$ 38,000	\$ 59,575
TOTAL	\$1,092,377	\$1,051,442

It's great to see the Operating Reserve up to \$100K again. These funds provide stability throughout the year, and are available to cover any shortages at the end of the year. Ideally, the reserve should be at least 3 months of operating expenses, or about \$135K.

Community Foundation\* \$ 255,320

255,320 \$ 232,209

\*Funds at the Community Foundation for McHenry County are held by them to support management of the lands TLC owns. TLC is able to withdraw approximately 4% annually.

#### **Property and Equipment Assets**

TOTAL:	\$6,175,257
Buildings/Equipment	\$ 368,403
Land Assets	\$5,806,854

Debt	2023	2022	
Notes Pavable*	\$ 93,611	\$ 229.681	

\*TLC has two mortgages – one for Crowley Oaks with a balance of about \$10,000 that will be paid off in 2024, and one for the Thompson Road Preserve with a balance of \$83,000 that will be paid off within two years. What makes this such a great story is that in March 2022, TLC borrowed \$1.265 million to help purchase Thompson Road Preserve, and now there is just \$83,000 left to pay off!

For many folks, the financial part of an annual report is just a bunch of numbers, but there are many stories to be found in the charts, digits, dollar signs and commas.

Income from TLC members for operations surpassed \$250,000 for the first time ever. Those unrestricted donations make everything happen at TLC! The increase speaks to the generosity of TLC's members and also to the steady increase in the number of members. Thank you all so much!



Nearly 80% of operating income goes to programs, including Conservation@Home, land restoration and stewardship, volunteer engagement; Women's Learning Circles, farmland preservation; the CLIP internship program, oak conservation; and the Apple Creek Food Forest



### **Volunteer Hours**

Volunteers are part of TLC's success, with 134 people donating a total of 3,874 hours in 2023!

That's equivalent to nearly 2 full-time employees!

AT LEAST 25 HOURS		OVER 100 HOURS					
Anthony Bialek	42	Ron Jones	27	Bernd Alden	161.5	Ted Thornton	269.5
Tom Cubr	43	Brad Koschak	67	Dennis Dreher	500	Kay Wych	137
Carol Elkins	91	Cheri Magrini	27.25	Larry Fetzer	356.5	Brad Wych	174.5
Mike Evans	25.5	Jim Mroczenski	68	Carol Giammattei	145	Tom Ziomek	144.45
Susan Glines	54	Ken Pieper	28.5	Bruce Kessler	268		
Linda Gurgone	60	Jim Runchey	93	Bruce Killips	179.25		
Donna Hriljac	52.75	Ken Williams	58.75	Margee Pieper	204		

Schools/groups that planted trees through Project Quercus:

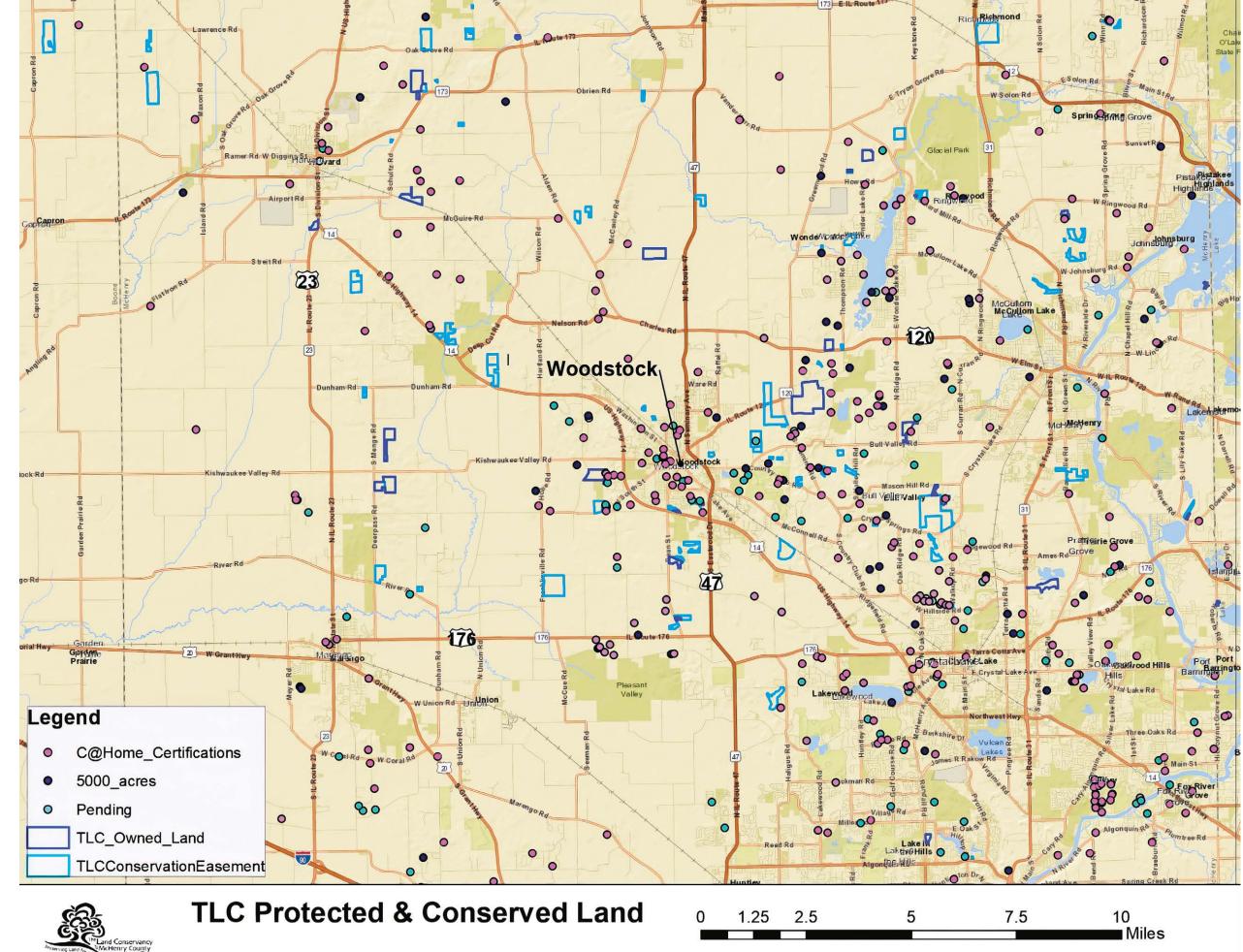
Landmark School, McHenry (36 hours)



### **Conservation Impact**

This map shows how TLC's conservation programs create natural connections throughout McHenry County. All because lots of people care, and choose to do what they can to take care of this place we call home.

Conservation easements donated by individuals. Habitat created and restored by residents through Conservation@ Home, @Work, and 5000 Acres. Preserves that TLC was able to acquire through your generosity, and that we manage with the help of scores of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. It all adds up!





The Wingate Circle includes those members who donated \$1,000 or more.

Al Kennedy Ann Haderlein Barbara Oughton Bluestem Ecological Services

**Bull Valley Riding Club** Chris Schellhaass

David Haimbaugh

David Hall

Emily and Gerald Berendt Full Circle Foundation

> Henry and Lynn Zbierski Hugh and Marlene Frisbie

Ingrid Schulze

Jack and Judy Speer Jack and Maurine Kaskel

James and Elizabeth Bramsen

Karen Lavin and Wayne Heinmiller

Kurt and Denice Taylor

Larry Fetzer

Laura Fox Charitable Foundation

Lisa Haderlein and Tom Cubr Lynn Malanfant

Mackie Consultants

Mani and Elaine Ramesh

Margaret Bailey

Mark and Karen Newton

Mary Maurer

Meaghan Zeiner, Headwaters Pottery

Melissa Cooney

Melodie Feeley

Michele Mellor and Mike Jenkins

Orrin and Patricia Bangert

Pam Schroeder and Deborah (Debby) Church

Paul and Christine Rechten

Peter Swenson and Lauri Swenson

Philip Zack

Pominidas 1 LLC

Randy and Nancy Schietzelt

Renaissance Charitable Foundation

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Stu and Tammi Sava

Ted and Judy Thornton

The Davey Tree Expert Company Thomas and Ellen Walvoord

Tom and Andrea Krauss

WildIfower Preservation Society–Illinois Chapter Zachary Dolezal, Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen

\$2,981.00 Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Pollinator Garden at Memorial Oak Groves \$5,000.00 **Full Circle Foundation** — *General operations* \$5,000.00 Nicor Gas Company — Pollinator Garden at Thompson Road \$19,000.00 The Community Foundation for McHenry County — General operations \$30,000.00 Gerry and Bill Cowlin Foundation Land acquisition, easement acquisition, and/or habitat restoration \$30,000.00 Willow Springs Charitable Trust — General operations \$40,000.00 **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** — General operations Illinois Department of Natural Resources - NAS \$60,000.00+ Stewardship at Nature Preserves \$70,000.00+ The Community Foundation for McHenry County — Raices Latinas \$192,000.00 Illiniois Department of Natural Resources - RTP

### 2023 Donors

Thompson Road Trails Development

Jeanne Steele

Jeff LeGro

loe Furlin

John Black

John Dolsen

John Evans

Joy Snyder

Judith Kugler

Julie Zuidema

Karen Lundell

Keith Lang

Kelly Garay

Mary Donner

Megan Green

Megan Ross

John Teetsoy

John Zahina-Ramos

Karen and David Sherman

Keith and Carol Dafcik

Jeff Pearson

Joan and Francis Zangara

John and Lori McConville-

John and Caryn Shiel

Marvin's Toy Store

#### LEGEND =

Apple Creek Community Food Forest Stewardship

Beaver Dams Stewardship

Boloria Meadows Nature Preserve

CLIP

Crowley Oak Woods Stewarship

**Easement Endowment Fund** 

Irish Oaks Stewardship

H Long Term Management Fund

Thompson Road Preserve

₩ WPPC

#### **UP TO \$50.00**

Alice Hayes Alison Noble Andy Delorenzo **Ann Somers** Annette Rafferty Barbara Galler and James Worcester Ben Heggen **Bruce Peters** Carl and Tracy Bordis Carla Schrock Catherine Cox Chirag Mehta and Juliet Summers Craig McMahon Damon Demas **David Johnson** Dawn Gilman Debbie Keller-Niven Deborah Albee Debra Ramai Derek Kessler Diana Carpenter Diana Kruse **Edward Lehman Emily Jones** Erika Dycus **Erin Murphy** Frank and Jackie Penze Gale Quamme

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#### \$50.00-\$99.00

Abby Callard

Alan and Cindy Zastrow Alan and Diane Lubow

Alan Robel Alana Carrera Alene Shaull

Alice Hill

Allen and Karen Gableson

Allison Zoeller Amanda Anderson Amelia Pantone Andrea Myers Andrea Placzkowski Angela Boe Angela Burris Anita Tebo

Ann and Casey Venzon Anna and David Evans Anne Marie Whitmore Lenzini Annette and Ryan Parrent

Annette Musil Annette Sather

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**David Engelbrecht** 

**David Stout** Dean Farr Deborah Lang

Dennis and Linda Palvs

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Donna Schaefer

Donovan and Jennifer Dav **Douglas and Concetta Primus** 

**Douglas Close** 

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John and Nancy Gonsiorek John and Phyllis James

John Dendor John Lane John Splitt Judy Nett Juli Crane

Julia and Thomas Doherty Karen & David Morgan

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Ray and Bobbye Skolorzynski

Ray Lindberg

Kenley and Kathleen Spooner Kenneth and Patti West

Kevin Cichon and Laurie Collins-Cichon

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Leo Schlosberg and Maralee Gordon

Leslie Kvistad Linda A. Morton Linda Byrne Linda Gurgone Linda Standlev

Lloyd and Sharlene Stellmach

Lloyd Lesmeister

Logan and Sophia Gilbertsen

Lonni Oldham Lvnn Serra Margaret Cook Margaret Lavin Margaret White Margaret Zuleger Marilyn Miller Marion May Mark Alison Mark Nichols Mark Schwanke Marla Klemme

Mary Ellen Shine Mary Ernest Mary Gaston Mary Kay Dobbeck Mary Martin-Bellavia Maureen Lavallee

Maureen Motroni & Bob O'Leary

Melissa Kinast

Michael and Kathy Sullivan Michael and Kim Casey Michael and Teresa Baber Michael Bissett and Paula Yensen

Michael Kraus

Michael Sedola and Katherine Slover

Michelle Tarpey Mike and Cheryl Lynch Mike and Velma Downes Milan and Marie Nikitovich

Mitchell Keck Nancy Adami Nancy Creed Nancy Embach Nancy Wilson Pamela Rumancik Paolo and Mary Mariutto Parmod and Kamayani Narang Pat Daly

Paul Gelasi Paul Surzyn Peggy Nelson Phillip Markison Phyllis Close Rachel and Brice Alt Rachel Knutson

Rance and Alice Lumsden

Raymond and Angela Thuma

Rebecca Brown

Rebecca Heisler Rich and Wendy Tobiasz Richard & Annette Schoenberger

Richard and Karen Hattan

Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

Rita Janus

Robert Dixon-Kolar **Robert & Christine Frenz** Robert McCormack Robin and Mark Seigle Robin Rosenau

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Sandi Teuber Sandy Eden

Sara Denham Sarah and Scott Michehl Sarah Eisenberg Sarah Thompson Scott and Anne Basten

Scott and Debra Viger **Scott Davis** Scott Kopacek

Scott Summers and Carol Krohm

Shannon Stanis Shari Chakoian Sheelagh Cooke

Sherryl and Stephen Ehren

Sheryl Smith

Stephen and Kim Platt Stephen Kenney Steve Robinson Steven Thomas Sue Bitler

Sue Rodig Susan Gerstenberger Susanne Petersson Suzanne Hoban Ted and Deborah Groat

Terri Tomicki

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Theresa Lake

Thomas and Mary Ann Stall

Thomas Brotz Thomas Powell Sr. Thomas Riley Tricia Rachford Vern and Cindy Heinen

Vicki Rundquist Vilia Jakaitis Virginia Brightwell

Wade Merritt Wendy Turner

William and Caroline Sobolak William and Christine Batalden

William McNerney Yvette and Randy James **Yvonne Daniels** 

#### \$100.00-\$249.00

Abbvie

Alexander and Michelle Ross Algonquin Garden Club Andrea Klein

Andrew and Dawn McKay

Ann Legg Anne Majewski Annie Arrigo Anonymous

—continued—

#### \$100.00-\$249.00

Arthur and Dee Budelier

**Barb Bennett** 

Barbara Day

Barbara Dolmon

**Becky Cortina** 

Bernd Alden

**Beverly Dow** 

Bill and Terrie Warzecha

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**Bob and Jody Antrim** 

Bob Romadka

Boon and Cynthia Charoenying

**Brian Stewart** 

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Catherine Bachand

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Christine Kustra

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Claire Hodge

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Corinne Hardt

Corinne Sobieski

Craig Mueller and Ernest Vasseur

Cynthia and Reginald Layoff

Cynthia Hicks

David and Betty Cleveland

David Chwalisz

David E. Miller

Dean and Katherine Eitel

Denice Beck

Denice Roberge

Diane Charleston

Diane Wlezien

**Donald and Emele Peters** 

Donald and Valerie Matthiesen

**Doug Frey** 

Doug Hawthorne and Margaret

Fox-Hawthorne

Drew Knobloch

Eberhard Veit and

Catherine Leonard Veit

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**Eleanor Murphy** 

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Gary and Linda Olson

Gary and Mary Ann Kawall

😭 Gene Virzi

Glenda Owens

Grea Burnett

Heather Gustat

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James Bolm

Janet Vogel-Barrett

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Jim Haisler

JoAnn Schindler

Joel and Laura Oppenheimer

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John and Roberta Marco

John Drummond and Rommy Lopat

John Godlewski

John Golitz and Kay Oman Golitz

John Jenkins and Nan Cibula-Jenkins

John Kremer

Jonathan Didier

Joseph Sternberg and

Betsy O'Leary Sternberg

Joyce Pannhausen

Judith Watts-Lemke

June Stanley

Karen Meyer Kate Kotecki

Kathy Perkowitz

**Kav France** 

Kerry Leigh and Jim Anderson

Kevin and Leslie Likens

**Kevin Lockhart** 

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Kim McCallister Kruse

Kristin Purtill

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Lance Jeschke

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Laurel Palma

Linda Balek Lisa McNernev

Loriann Dowell

Lorna Bauer Wolff

Lorna Gladstone

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Margie Biorkman

Marilyn Hahn

Marti Swanson

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Mary and Michael Kalland

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Mary Nader

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Michael and Kathleen Hartke

Michael and Leslie Marasco

Michael DiGrazia

Michael Kraus

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Nancy Tichenor

Nancy Wright

Naomi Fettes

Neil Whitman and Jane Richards

**Neill and Margaret Sachs** Nicholas and Katherine Parkhurst

Nicky Lewandowski

Nora Fox Handler

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Pamela Miller

Pat Lawlor Paul and Sharon DeHaan Paul Ring

Peter and Becky Medins

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Preston and Denise Rea

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Robert and Maureen Horrell

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Pat Sullivan Schroyer

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Roger Dahlstrom

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**Rosemary Morris** 

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**Ruth Scifo** Ryan Nuhn

Sandie Tepsick

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Susan Emery

Susan Smith

Suzanne Morrissey Sylvia and Thomas Weber

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Terry Couchman

Terry Willcockson

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Thomas Jensen Tom and Sue Jensen

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Trish Woselowsky Victor and Beverly Meuch

Virgil Berry

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William and Sue Stroup William and Susan Cook

William Thomas Nancy Loomis

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Annie Stokesberry

Anthony Doctor April Williams

. Bill Stoll and Colleen Maloney Brad and Kay Wych

Brian Balduf Bull Valley Garden Club

Bunker Hill Charities Carol Ann Hogan

Carol Roeske

Cary Area Public Library

Charles and Eileen Mattas

Chris MacInnes

Danita Witkowski

David and Donna Brandt

**Denise Patterson** 

Dennis Dreher

Diane and Vytautas Lukas

Don Arvidson

**Dustin Graves** 

Edward and Joanne Searing

Frank and Jill Mills

George and Char Heckel

Gunnar Gitlin

**♣** Jenetha Piecz

Michael Martins

Jennifer Luniewicz-Martins and

Joan Davis

Kyle Susan Hanna

Laura Fox

Maria Peterson

Mary McCann

McHenry County College

Melissa Wilhelm

Nicholas Fuller, Natural

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Jill Theis Petra Schmid

Ray Larson

Roger and Elizabeth Lehmann

Sandra and Dan Bury

Scott and Kim Brix, Wildzyme

Bioproducts, Inc.

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Wesley and Sharon Dickson,

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and Garden Center

Dale and Lynne Nelmes

David and Colleen Zeiger

David Schwaegler

Ed Bennett and Mary Moltmann

Gerald and Pam Witt

Janet Trafelet

Jim and Marlene Keenan

Judith Reilly

Kristy Smith

Lori Reinker

Margo Blair

Mark Stolar

Sustainability Center

Mike Evans

Northern Kane Wild Ones

Patricia Dokman

Patrick Skvoretz

Russell and Deborah Johnson

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Henry Reinke

Jeffry and Jennifer Hill

Jerry and Joyce Wexler

Kathleen and Charles Clark

Marcia Poedtke

Mark and Natalie Hendricks

Nathan Aaberg

Patricia Honemann

Roberta Ratliff

Sara Jones-Amrein

Steven & Leslie Phelps

Dickson Design Studio, Inc.

William and Katherine Weber

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Anonymous

Brandon and Marti Frisbie

**Bruce Killips** 

Carol Giammattei

Chuck and Judi Stuck

Danny and Janette Warner

**David Bengston** 

Deanne Mihevc

Donald and Debra Chapman

Ed and Sheila Stassen

**Gregory Lietza** 

James and Donna Greco

Jeffrey Stofferahn, JAS Environmental Inc.

Karen Strano

Karen Wehman Kennedy

Kathe and Ders Anderson

Kathy and Bruce Kessler

**Kathy Powles** 

Kathy Reiland, Gypsy Glen K-9 Kastle

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Ryan Pomrenke

Stephanie Shetler-Simon and Jerry Simon

Steven Byers and Nancy Williamson

Sue Early

Susan Powers

The Harvard State Bank

Tom and Lisa Rhoades Tom Ziomek and Sandra Mattison

Tyler Verba

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**Barbara Schneider** 

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Chicago Red Stars

Chicago White Sox

Classic Cinemas

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**Denise Patterson** 

**Donald and Debra Chapman** 

**Doug Frey** 

**Douglas J Aveda Corporate Office** 

**Ethereal Confections** 

Field Museum Chicago

**Gail Moreland** 

Georgio's Pizza

**Gerald and Pam Witt** 

Illinois Shakespeare Festival

**Indiana Beach Park & Entertainment** 

Janet Balboa

Jennifer Luniewicz-Martins and

Michael Martins

John and Lori McConville-

Marvin's Toy Store

**Kane County Cougars** 

Karen Stahlecker

### IN HONOR

In Honor of Buddy Mark Stolar

In Honor of Carol Halma Tom and Lisa Rhoades

In Honor of Dan Scheinfeld Robin and Mark Seigle

In Honor of David and Robin Hall Jim Wallin

In Honor of God, the creator Victor and Beverly Meuch

In Honor of Logan and Sophia Gilbertsen Olivia Forgette

In Honor of Mike Grossman Mary Grossman

In Honor of Sarah and Scott Michehl Laura Fox Charitable Foundation

In Honor of Ted and Judy Thornton Carol Giammattei Kevin and Leslie Likens

In Honor of The Bull Valley Riding Club Jenetha Piecz

In Honor of Joseph Sternberg and Elizabeth O'Leary-Sternberg Oliver Sternberg

### IN MEMORIAN

In Memory of Al Nett Carole Nett

In Memory of Christine Zack Philip Zack

In Memory of Dorothy Arvidson Don Árvidson

In Memory of Jan Kennedy Deanne Mihevo

In Memory of John Barchard Ted and Judy Thornton

In Memory of Judy Thornton Kim Yazell Ted and Judy Thornton

In Memory of Nena Thornton Ted and Judy Thornton

In Memory of Laura Farmer Michael Farmer

In Memory of Lou Emmons

Kate Koteck Heidi Mayer Paul Surzyn

In Memory of Phil Agoranos Ted and Judy Thornton

In Memory of Richard Gilbertsen Logan and Sophia Gilbertsen

In Memory of Robert Papini Renaissance Charitable Foundation

In Memory of Robert Steffens Joan Davis

In Memory of Rosemary Steffens Joan Davis

In Memory of Lynn Alice Steffens Joan Davis

### MEMORIAL OAKS

In Memory of Steve Booker Anonymous, single oak

In Memory of Tim Firak Anonymous, single oak

In Memory of Aileen Huizinga Caroline Anderson, single oak

In Memory of - Unspecified David and Colleen Zeiger, four oaks

In Memory of George and Vera Hendricks Linda Standley, single oak

In Memory of Corinne Ann Krebs Lisa McNerney, single oak

In Memory of John Sullivan Lisa Haderlein and Tom Cubr, single oak

Lorna Bauer Wolff, single oak Ruth Scifo, single oak

In Memory of Dorothy Olivero Lorna Bauer Wolff, pair of oaks

In Memory of Todd Joseph Becker Russell and Linda Becker, single oak

In Memory of Jim Christenson Scott Davis, single oak

In Memory of Bill Runkel Trish Woselowsky, single oak

**Kelly Burgo** Ken Pieper

**Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures** 

Laura Ortoleva **Margee Pieper** Mary Jean Deja

Michael and Teresa Baber Music Box Theater

**Navy Pier** 

Nicholas Fuller Natural Communities LLC

Oak Park Festival Theater

Portillo's

**Prairie Moon Nursery** Raue Center For The Arts **Schaumburg Boomers** 

Silvie Meyer

Six Flags Great America Stade's Farm and Market, LLC,

Vernon Stade

Stanley and Tamara McMillan

Stephanie Cascio **Sue Early** 

**Syrup Restaurant Tammy Bozer Taylor Smith** 

The Mailbox Post Man

**Therese Wiser** Trish Woselowsky

William and Katherine Weber

Wisconsin State Fair Park

# Learning Circles for Women Farmland Owners

Are you a woman farmland owner looking to diversify your farm business? Or start a new business altogether? Do you own land and lease to a tenant farmer? Or dream of land ownership? Do you have a passion for growing and taking care of the soil? Maybe you have questions about where to start, how to expand your markets, or how to endure the seasons, but do not know who to talk to. You might be interested in *Women Caring for the Land Learning Circles*.

As TLC works to preserve farmland in McHenry County, we know we also must support the farmland owners and farmers. TLC has been holding women-focused workshops, called Learning Circles, gathering women into a circle (literally and figuratively) for the purposes of peer learning and mutual support. Learning Circles are meant to provide a crucial link between these women and the resources and support system they need to achieve their conservation goals on their farm. Each meeting features a specific topic related to the business of farming or information on farmland management. Because the workshops are for women only, attendees feel free to raise questions, discuss challenges, and get information on the wide range of resources available to them.

Registration is open for Women's Learning Circles in July and August.



Women
Caring for the Land
Learning Circles

SAVE THESE DATES

July 17 August 14 September 18

Artwork by:
Spring Bird Studios

July Learning Circle: This Circle will focus on topics such as starting a farm business and how to focus on personal and climate resilience.

Special guests include: Betsy Zarko-Arrowleaf Prairie Farm; Carina Mae Vowels-Woodstock Yoga Lounge; Christina Foster-Climate Land Leaders.

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p..m.

**Location:** Arrowleaf Prairie Farm, 6710 McCullom Lake Road, Wonder Lake, IL. *Rain location:* Harrison School, 6809 McCullom Lake Rd, Wonder Lake, IL. *Registration:* \$5, please register at *www.ConserveMC.org* by July 15

**August Learning Circle:** This Learning Circle will focus on topics such as growing cut flowers including incorporating native flowers, flower breeding, transitioning away from tillage and plastic, and hosting workshops. Special guests include: Anna Guziak-Prochnicka–Gold Fern Farm; Sarah Michel–The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; Jeanne Janson–IL FarmLink.

Date: Wednesday August 14, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

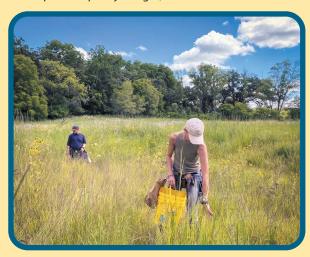
\*Location: Gold Fern Farm, at All Grass Farms: 18N681 State Rte 31, Dundee, IL.

\*Meeting location subject to change, followed by farm visit to Gold Fern Farm.

**Registration:** \$5, please register at www.ConserveMC.org by Aug. 12.

### **Native Seed Collection for the Home Gardener**

Use those seeds! Join Sarah Michehl from The Land Conservancy of McHenry County for tips and tricks on how to collect your native plant seeds. Basic seed identification, collection methods and timelines, and tips on how to direct sow will be covered. Our habitats need all the native plant help they can get, so utilize those seeds!



Date/Time: Wednesday, July 17, 1-2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Nippersink Public Library, 5418 Hill Rd, Richmond, IL.

Fee: Free, please call 815-678-4014 to register.

Date/Time: Monday, July 22, 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Harvard Diggins Public Library, 900 E. McKinley St., Harvard, IL.

Fee: Free, please register at www.Harvard-Diggins.org/events

Date/Time: Wednesday, Aug. 14, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 Paddock St., Crystal Lake, IL.

Fee: Free, please register at www.clpl.org

Date/Time: Aug. 20, 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** McHenry County College, 8900 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake, IL. **Fee:** \$15, please register at *www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment* 

or call (815) 455-8588.



# TLC's Fall Sustainability Sale July 18-Aug. 14

Pre-order your native plants, trees, and shrubs for local pickup in September. Help our local environment while also helping TLC. Don't wait to place your pre-order, we expect demand to be high!

Plant pick-up Date: Friday, Sept. 13 and Saturday, Sept. 14

Location: McHenry County Fairgrounds, 11900 Country Club Rd, Woodstock, IL

Order your native plants, trees and shrubs for fall planting.



# Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Pollinator Garden!

Learn how to attract monarchs and other butterflies, birds and bees to your yard. Sarah Michehl from TLC will share easy tips and info on gardening with native plant communities that will provide beauty and everything a pollinator could need.

Date/Time: July 30, 6:00 p.m.

Location: McHenry County College, 8900 Northwest Hwy. Crystal Lake

Fee: \$15, please register at www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment or call (815) 455-8588

Get advice on how to attract beneficial pollinators to your yard in this class.



### Bask in the Beauty of Summer with a Forest Bathing Walk at Hennen Conservation Area



Join certified forest bathing guide Jennifer Boudart for a mindful walk to celebrate summer. You'll be guided through a series of invitations to slow down and tune into your senses as you notice what is happening in the woods and around the pond. The pace is easy, and the walk will cover less than half a mile. It will end with a "forest tea" featuring tea made from locally harvested plants.

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Location: Hennen Conservation Area, 4622 Dean St. Woodstock

**Fee:** \$30 per person (max 15 people), please register through Jennifer's website, Present Sense Nature and Forest Therapy. Visit www.presentsenseforesttherapy.com and select the event on the "Let's Walk" page, or email jennifer.presentsense@gmail.com

A portion of the proceeds from this walk will be donated to TLC.

Celebrate summer with a forest bathing walk at Hennen Conservation Area in Woodstock.



### Apple Creek Food Forest Open House

Interested in seeing what's happening out at the Food Forest? Come out for a tour, visit the gardens, and see the progress we're making! Refreshments will be served.

Date/Time: Thursday, Aug. 22, 4-7:00 p.m. (Rain Date: Aug 29, 4-7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Apple Creek Food Forest located at the southwest corner of Hercules Dr. and Dean St. in Woodstock

Fee: Free, no registration required

Stop by TLC's Food Forest on Aug. 22 to take a tour and learn more about this unique place in Woodstock.



# FIELD NOTES

Includes 2023 Annual Report Financial Statement and list of donors. July/August 2024

Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage **PAID** Woodstock, II 60098 Permit No. 179

P.O. Box 352 Woodstock, IL 60098



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Event dates and times are subject to change. If you are new to TLC workdays or it's been a while, please be sure to fill out a volunteer form online at *conservemc.org/volunteer* before you attend so you can receive updates or cancellations.

July 1: Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday 9505 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 3: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 6: Irish Oaks Nature Preserve restoration workday 19019 Lincoln Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 10: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 15: Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday 9505 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 17: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 17: Native Seed Collection for the Home Gardener Nippersink Library, 5418 Hill Rd, Richmond Call 815-678-4014 to register. 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

July 17: Women's Learning Circle at Arrowleaf Prairie Farm, 6710 McCullom Lake Road, Wonder Lake \$5 per person, register at *ConserveMC.org* 9:00 am-2:00 pm

July 20: Yonder Prairie restoration workday 1150 S. Rosefarm Rd., Woodstock 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 22: Native Seed Collection for the Home Gardener Harvard Diggins Public Library 900 E. McKinley St. Harvard, Harvard-Diggins.org/events 6:00-7:30 pm

July 24: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

July 30: Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Pollinator Garden, McHenry County College 8900 Northwest Hwy #14, Crystal Lake \$15 per person, mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment 6:00 pm

July 31: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 3: Irish Oaks Nature Preserve restoration workday 19019 Lincoln Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 5: Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday 9505 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 7: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 14: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 14: Native Seed Collection for the Home Gardener Crystal Lake Public Library, www.clpl.org 126 Paddock St, Crystal Lake 10:00 am-11:30 am

Aug. 14: Women's Learning Circle at Gold Fern Farm 18N681 State Rte 31, Dundee

\$5 per person, register at ConserveMC.org 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Aug. 17: Yonder Prairie restoration workday 1150 S. Rosefarm Rd., Woodstock 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 17: Forest Bathing Walk at Hennen Conservation Area, 4622 Dean St. Woodstock \$15.00 per person, please register at presentsenseforesttherapy.com 9:00 am-11:00 am

Aug. 19: Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday 9505 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 20: Native Seed Collection for the Home Gardener McHenry County College 8900 Northwest Hwy #14, Crystal Lake \$15 per person, mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment 6:00 pm

Aug. 21: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Aug. 22: Apple Creek Food Forest Open House Apple Creek Food Forest, Dean Street, Woodstock 4:00-7:00 pm

Aug. 28: Crowley Oaks restoration workday 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard 9:00 am-12:00 pm

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The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

ConserveMC.org









