

## A Story of Partnership, Rooted in Purpose

Two nonprofits recently teamed up over something simple, but meaningful: saving a large, old bur oak tree.

The tree was hidden behind a snarl of invasive brush on the Turning Point Domestic Violence Services property in Woodstock. Vilia Jakaitis, a TLC member and volunteer coordinator at Turning Point, knew it was worth saving.

She contacted TLC about having a special Oak Rescue on the Turning Point grounds.

Sarah Michehl and Daniel Pohl, TLC's ecologists, were on board.

"Part of TLC's mission is connecting people with nature. This is a powerful example of what an oak rescue can do. The tree is right on the edge of the woods near a parking lot and it's highly visible, which means people can see it and enjoy it," said Sarah.

The two organizations assembled a team of staff and volunteers to free the old oak tree in early March. After three hours of work (and bonding over a snack break), the tree was once again on prominent display, and the group was able to remove even more

of the invasive brush in the oak woods on the property.

The Oak Rescue was an important first step toward future plans for the woods. Mary Margaret Maule, executive director of Turning Point, said that they have a long-term plan to 'reclaim' the oak woods so that it can be used to support and promote healing for their clients.

Plans for the property include walking paths, a labyrinth and a meditative garden, all designed with healing and safety in mind for the people they serve.

Mary Margaret said of the Oak Rescue, "The work was well organized, and the crew worked incredibly hard. It was amazing how much work got done in a few hours. We truly appreciate the effort and care put in by the team."

People from two organizations saved an oak tree, but also did something even more important—they showed the impact people have when they come together to help other people.



*Your support of TLC helps preserve old oak trees and, in this case, helps TLC partner with other another organization on its conservation journey.*



*Before*

*After*

*The amount of invasive brush removed equaled several car lengths. Now Turning Point clients can enjoy a clear view of the oak on the property.*





## News and Notes

from Executive Director, *Lisa Haderlein*

### Greetings TLC family!

I hope this note finds you warm and dry — and ready to get outside to learn about nature, hone your “citizen scientist” skills, and just enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us in McHenry County.

What’s your favorite part of spring?

Chorus frogs singing? Marsh marigolds blooming? Bumblebees buzzing?

My favorite moment is when the first tiny leaves come out on the oak trees—just a faint hint of green at the end of the branches!

My second-favorite part of spring is that so many more people get back outside, renewing connections to the natural world and each other.

I look forward to connecting with you at one or more of the many spring programs TLC is offering this year, or maybe on the trails at Wolf Oak Woods or Gateway Park!



*Thank you so much for all you do!* Lisa

## Welcome New Members!

Rachelle Barmann | Woodstock  
Sherry & Mike Bennett | Woodstock  
Jessica Beverly | Woodstock  
Harold Blum | Cary  
Catherine & Peter Boll | Bull Valley  
Carl & Tracy Bordis | McHenry  
Ashley Britt | Spring Grove  
Tom & Maureen Cross | Woodstock  
Sara Dieckhoff | Crystal Lake  
Zack Finer | Crystal Lake  
Michelle & Jarrett Halfacre | Marengo  
Jennifer Hunter | Roselle  
Jim & Janet Jetel | Richmond  
Judy Kammer | Crystal Lake  
Catherine Kapocius | Marengo

Jacob Karkowski | Crystal Lake  
Adam Konopka | Woodstock  
Lexi Kowalik | McHenry  
William Kreznor & Associates, Inc | Woodstock  
Dave & Judith Lambert | Cary  
Alan Mongin | Bull Valley  
Beth O’Keeffe | Crystal Lake  
Michael Redmond | Harvard  
Susan Romano | Evergreen Park  
Joan Rost | Woodstock  
Deborah Shmalcs | Roselle  
Caroline & William Sobolak | Cary  
Diane Van Wie | Pingree Grove  
Sheila Wilkening | Crystal Lake  
Marianne Zito | Inverness

### Are You a Member?

Scan this QR code with your phone to become a member of TLC or renew your membership today. Thank you for preserving land for life in McHenry County!



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

Karen Lavin, TLC Board Member  
[lawdog57@hotmail.com](mailto:lawdog57@hotmail.com)

If you are planning to plant flowers this spring, instead of the usual annuals, think about potting some natives. TLC’s Spring Native Plant Sale is May 15 and 16 (more details on page 4). You will attract far more butterflies and birds to your space with native flowers.

Two years ago, I put up a hummingbird feeder. I diligently washed it and refilled it with fresh sugar water all summer long. I did not see one hummingbird that entire summer. Last year, I planted a Cardinal Flower in a pot on my deck and

placed it about six feet from the feeder. I had hummingbirds as soon as the plant blossomed. When the blossoms faded, the hummingbirds used my feeder for the rest of the season.

When the season is over, you can plant the potted native plants in your yard, and they will come up next spring.

If you aren’t sure what native plants will work in your space, there will be plant experts available for consultation at the Native Plant Sale. So, stop by, get some expert advice and buy some plants!



Photo credit: Cheri Magrini

### The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

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

[ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

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## Conservation@Home Spotlight: *Crystal Lake: It's a Family Affair!*

Lots of parents dream about passing on their enthusiasm for nature to the next generation. While we don't all make it happen, the Dieckhoff family did!

Pat and Terry Dieckhoff began using native plants in their Crystal Lake yard almost 40 years ago. Terry's a retired teacher and Pat is a retired sustainability specialist. Through their desire to mow less lawn, they planted multiple native plant gardens. They also added rain barrels, compost piles, sump pumps, and even installed solar panels on their home in the Four Colonies neighborhood.

Growing up with parents like Pat and Terry, their daughter Sara has always been exposed to nature in her backyard. When she moved back to Crystal Lake from Chicago with her husband, Frank, they knew they wanted to incorporate native plants into their yard.

On their small downtown lot, they have visions of plants absorbing stormwater and providing beauty and food for pollinators. They reached out to TLC for some advice through the *Conservation@Home* program. At their site consultation, they explained their vision but approached it realistically. They know that they currently have lots of standard, non-native landscaping, and are excited to gradually phase in native plants, shrubs and even a rain barrel in a way that works for their yard.

TLC helped provide them with suggestions and will be there for guidance through the years. Sara and Frank are excited to carry the native plant garden torch with their *Conservation@Home* yard sign!



CONSERVATION@HOME



*Frank Mylander, Sara Dieckhoff, Terry Dieckhoff and Pat Dieckhoff at Sara and Frank's new house.*

## Conservation@Work Spotlight: TLC loves partnering with the Food Shed Co-op in Woodstock!



We had a great time working on their pollinator garden and placing their *Conservation@Work* sign in mid-April. Kudos to the Food Shed for supporting local farms AND pollinators!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the *Conservation@Work* program or visit [conservemc.org/conservation-work/](http://conservemc.org/conservation-work/)



## TLC Hosts Native Plant Sale in Woodstock, May 15-16

Pick up your pre-ordered plants and/or shop for native plants, trees, shrubs, TLC gear, and locally grown vegetables and herbs! Current TLC members receive a 10 percent discount on plants during the sale. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer your plant questions.

**Date/Time:** Friday & Saturday, May 15-16, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Location:** McHenry County Fairgrounds, 11900 Country Club Rd, Woodstock.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Celebrating Mother Nature Open House at the Food Forest



Join us for a family friendly event at the TLC Food Forest! Create Mother Nature crafts, walk the trail, or participate in a planting while enjoying fellowship in our growing food forest!

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Apple Creek Food Forest, 3210 Dean Street, Woodstock.

**Fee:** Free.

## Summer Native Tree and Shrub Sale



Bring beauty and function to your yard while also supporting local wildlife and TLC! Order your native trees and shrubs for pickup in Spring Grove, IL. Current TLC members receive a 10% discount on their orders.

**Order Dates:** Place your order at [Store.ConserveMC.org](https://www.Store.ConserveMC.org) from May 15–June 23

**Order Pickup:** Pick up your order on June 27 from 10:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. (the nursery cannot accommodate pickup outside of these hours) at Majestic Oaks Nursery in Spring Grove, IL. The address will be provided upon order confirmation.

## Tree and Shrub Identification



Learn how to identify common native trees and shrubs! Class will be outside, so dress for the weather. Registration required.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, June 16, 10–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Ryders Woods, 750 Kimball Ave., Woodstock.

**Fee:** \$10. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](https://www.ConserveMC.org)



## Full Bloom Forest Therapy Walk

The end of May bursts with beauty and so much life to notice! Join ANFT-certified forest therapy guide Cathy McCauley at Boloria Meadows in Bull Valley for a slow, two-hour forest bathing walk that invites participants to wander, stop, and notice nature at its spring peak. Through open-ended and simple invitations, Cathy will guide you in awakening your senses, connecting with your body and the natural world, and sharing reflections along the way.

We'll walk about a mile, perhaps less, with stops along the way. We'll close with a small celebration that includes light snacks and tea brewed from locally harvested plants.

**Date/Time:** Sunday, May 31, 10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

**Location:** Boloria Meadows, 7219 Millburne Ct., Bull Valley, IL

**Fee:** \$30 per person. Please register at [birdsongnatureco.com/events/p/full-bloom](https://www.birdsongnatureco.com/events/p/full-bloom)

Adults only. Registration is limited to 10 people. If paying for multiple attendees, please add each participant registration to the cart separately. Each participant must complete a registration form to participate. Closer to the event, you will receive an email from [info@birdsongnatureco.com](mailto:info@birdsongnatureco.com) with specific walk details.

A portion of walk proceeds is donated annually to The Land Conservancy of McHenry County.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Warbler Walk

It's peak warbler time for the jewels of the forest, the warblers! Join us as we hike around Crowley Oaks looking for as many warblers (and other migrant birds) as we can find. This can be a tricky group to identify, but we will be there to help and offer tips on how to identify these wonderful birds.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, May 12, 7–8:30 a.m.

**Location:** Crowley Oaks, 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](https://www.conserveMC.org)



## Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Native Plant Garden

*Two dates and locations*

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

**Huntley Date/Time:** Monday, June 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Huntley Area Public Library,  
11000 Ruth Rd.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [HuntleyLibrary.org](https://www.huntleylibrary.org)

**Cary Date/Time:** Tuesday, June 30, 7–8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Cary Area Public Library  
1606 Three Oaks Rd.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [CaryAreaLibrary.org](https://www.caryarealibrary.org)



## Native Plants for Small Spaces

Native plants can bring beauty and ecological health to even the smallest spaces in your yard, but it's vital to choose the right plants. Join TLC's Sarah Michehl to hear about her favorite native plants for small garden spaces. We will cover maintenance tips as well!

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 10, 2–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Algonquin Area Public Library  
Eastgate Branch, 115 Eastgate Dr.,  
Algonquin.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [Appld.org](https://www.appld.org)



## Dragonfly Bioblitz

It's National Dragonfly Day! Join us as we look for as many different species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) as we can find in the wetlands, prairie and woodland edges at Irish Oaks.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, June 13, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Irish Oaks Nature Preserve,  
19017 Lincoln Rd., Harvard.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](https://www.conserveMC.org)



## The Breeding Birds of Thompson Road Preserve

Thompson Road Preserve has a variety of habitats that host many species of breeding birds. We will look for birds breeding at the preserve, help with identification, show you how to use popular birding apps, and more!

**Date/Time:** Sunday, June 14, 7–9:00 a.m.

**Location:** Thompson Road Preserve,  
9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](https://www.conserveMC.org)



## Howl at the Wolf Oak: Summer Solstice Edition!

S'mores around a bonfire, food, a guided evening hike, and family nature activities! Come spend an evening enjoying the company of a 300-plus year-old oak tree and learn more about the history of this interesting site that has been preserved forever by TLC. It's a great way to meet like-minded nature folks in the county!

**Date/Time:** Friday, June 19, 6–8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Wolf Oak Woods, 8930 IL-120,  
Woodstock.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](https://www.conserveMC.org)

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Pollinator BioBlitz



Come celebrate pollinator week at Yonder Prairie for a pollinator bioblitz! We will look for a variety of bees, butterflies, day-flying moths and more! Yonder Prairie has high-quality habitat that attracts some unique insects. We will help identify the different pollinators we find. This is a great way to get involved in citizen science and learn more about local pollinators, plants and other insects.

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 24, 1–2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Yonder Prairie, 1143 S. Rose Farm Rd., Woodstock.

**Fee:** Free. Please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

## Boloria Meadows Pollinator Walk

Join us for a family friendly butterfly and pollinator walk at the beautiful Boloria Meadows Nature Preserve in Bull Valley. The preserve contains nearly 60 acres of high-quality restored wetlands, prairies and oak woodlands. With over 150 species of wildflowers, Boloria is a haven for over 30 species of native butterflies as well as many species of bees and other pollinators. One unusual butterfly species that should be abundant in June is the Baltimore Checkerspot that uses the Turtlehead flower as its host plant. The walk will cover roughly one mile of gently rolling terrain.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, June 27, 10–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Street parking at 7210 Millburne Court, Bull Valley.

**Fee:** Free. Please register by June 25 at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)



## 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 [www.conservemc.org/volunteer](http://www.conservemc.org/volunteer) before you attend so you can receive updates or cancellations.

**May 4:** Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley.

**May 6:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**May 8:** Apple Creek Food Forest workday 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 3210 Dean St., Woodstock.

**May 9: Celebrating Mother Nature Open House, Apple Creek Food Forest,** 3210 Dean St., Woodstock. 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Free, register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**May 9:** Boloria Meadows restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 7219 Millburne Ct., Bull Valley.

**May 12: Warbler Walk**  
Crowley Oaks, 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard  
7–8:30 a.m. Free, register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**May 13:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**May 15 & 16: TLC's Native Plant Sale and Plant Pickup**  
McHenry County Fairgrounds, 1900 Country Club Rd., 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Woodstock.

**May 15: TLC's Summer Native Tree and Shrub Sale**  
Place your order at [Store.ConserveMC.org](http://Store.ConserveMC.org) from May 15–June 23. Order Pickup on June 27 from 10:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. at Majestic Oaks Nursery in Spring Grove, IL.

**May 18:** Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley.

**May 20:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**May 22:** Apple Creek Food Forest workday 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 3210 Dean St., Woodstock.

**May 27:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**May 28:** Ryders Woods restoration workday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 556 Lake Ave., Woodstock.

**May 31: Full Bloom Forest Therapy Walk**  
Boloria Meadows, 7219 Millburne Ct., Bull Valley.  
Please register at [birdsongnatureco.com/events/p/fullbloom](http://birdsongnatureco.com/events/p/fullbloom)  
10:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. \$30 per person. Adults only.

**June 1:** Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley.

**June 3:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**June 6:** Irish Oaks Nature Preserve Restoration Workday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 19017 Lincoln Rd., Harvard.

**June 8: Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Native Plant Garden,** Huntley Area Public Library, 1000 Ruth Rd., Huntley. 6:30–7:30 p.m. Free, register at [HuntleyLibrary.org](http://HuntleyLibrary.org)

**June 10:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**June 10: Native Plants for Small Places**  
Algonquin Area Public Library Eastgate Branch, 115 Eastgate Dr., Algonquin. 2–3:00 p.m. Free, register at [www.appld.org](http://www.appld.org)

**June 12:** Apple Creek Food Forest workday 1–3:00 p.m., 3210 Dean St., Woodstock.

**June 13: Dragonfly Bioblitz**  
Irish Oaks Nature Preserve, 19017 Lincoln Rd., Harvard. 12:30–1:30 p.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**June 14: Breeding Birds of Thompson Road**  
Thompson Road Preserve, 9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley. 7–9:00 a.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**June 15:** Thompson Road Preserve restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 9707 Thompson Rd., Bull Valley.

**June 16: Tree and Shrub Identification**  
Ryders Woods, 750 Kimball Ave., Woodstock. \$10 per person, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org) 10–11:30 a.m.

**June 17:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**June 19: Howl at the Wolf Oak: Summer Solstice Edition!**  
Wolf Oak Woods, 8930 IL–120, Woodstock. 6–8:00 p.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org).

**June 21: Boloria Meadows Nature Walk**  
7219 Millburne Ct., Bull Valley. 10–11:30 a.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**June 24:** Crowley Oaks restoration workday. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 18725 Crowley Rd., Harvard.

**June 24: Pollinator Bioblitz—Yonder Prairie**  
1143 S. Rose Farm Rd., Woodstock. 1–2:00 p.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**June 25:** Ryders Woods restoration workday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 556 Lake Ave., Woodstock.

**June 26:** Apple Creek Food Forest workday 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., 3210 Dean St., Woodstock.

**June 27: Boloria Meadows Pollinator Walk**  
7210 Millburne Ct., Bull Valley. 10–11:30 a.m. Free, please register at [ConserveMC.org](http://ConserveMC.org)

**June 30: Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Pollinator Garden,** Cary Area Public Library, 1606 Three Oaks Rd., Cary. 7–8:00 p.m. Free, register at [CaryAreaLibrary.org](http://CaryAreaLibrary.org)

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The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

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