



Vernal Pools – What They Are and Why They Are Important

by Terri Hebert, Conservation Chair

Recently, during a Camp Hazelhurst Red Barn event, members learned about vernal pools – what they are and why they are important. Dr. Amy Gillan and Pat Fisher, both active members of the Berrien County, Michigan, Vernal Pool Patrol presented information that left participants curious and wanting to know more. I thought if we were curious, others affiliated with the Prairie Club might be also.

My search for more information, especially for vernal pools located in Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, led me to a variety of sites.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), vernal pools are “seasonal depressional wetlands that occur under the Mediterranean climate conditions of the West Coast and in glaciated areas of northeastern and midwestern states [and are not connected to larger bodies of water, such as rivers, lakes, or streams]. They are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring but may be completely dry for most of the summer and fall. These wetlands range in size from small puddles to shallow lakes [no more than 12 inches in depth] and are usually found in a gently sloping plain of grassland” (taken from <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/vernal-pools> on August 5, 2024).

Unique landscapes, such as vernal pools, provide habitat for numerous plants and animals, including some that are quite rare. Animals that rely on a highly specific habitat are known as “obligate species.” Vernal pool obligates are unable to complete their life cycle anywhere else on Earth.

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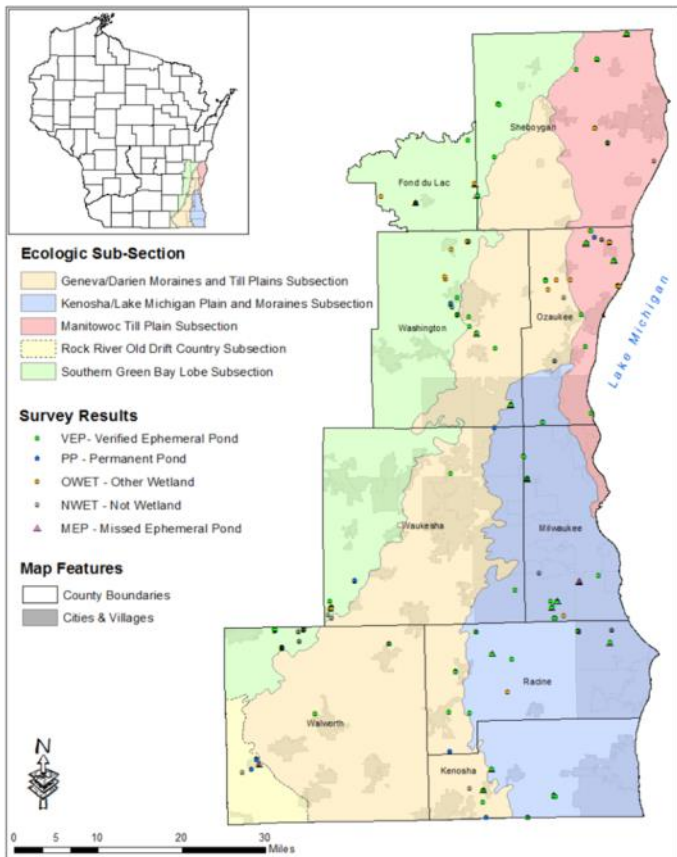
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One example of a vernal pool obligate is the wood frog. If the wood frog laid its eggs in a river or stream, then the likelihood of those eggs hatching would be slim to none. Why? Because the fish that inhabit rivers or streams are in search of an easy meal source, and the wood frog eggs would fit the bill. However, because vernal ponds are not connected to these bodies of water, and because they dry up for part of the year, fish cannot survive in them. This gives the wood frog's eggs a chance to hatch. Note I said "a chance" because there are other predators lurking in the vernal pool, including red-spotted newts and snapping turtles.

Vernal pools are crucial in maintaining the health and balance of the forest ecosystem. Because these habitats are intertwined within the life cycle of amphibians, the absence of a vernal pool would result in fewer frogs, toads, and salamanders. Amphibians are critical to the food chain. Healthy numbers keep insect populations in check, and larger animals rely on amphibians as their food source. Balanced

Image #2: Map of Wisconsin's Vernal Pools (created by T.W. Bernthal, D.E. Winston, J. Kline, and M. Linton in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)



PARKS AND PRESERVES, HARBOR COUNTRY W/ POTENTIAL VERNAL POOLS

- FWP Flynn Woods Preserve, Lakeside
- GLA Glassman Park, Union Pier
- HDP Harbert Dunes Preserve, Harbert
- HRP Harbert Road Preserve, Harbert
- HNT Hoadley Nature Trail, Three Oaks
- JJP_PDS Jens Jensen Preserve / Pepperidge Dunes Sanctuary, Sawyer
- TCA_KES Three Oaks Conservation Area, Kesling Nature Preserve, Three Oaks
- LWP Leonard Wildlife Preserve, Lakeside
- MYFP Merritt and Younger Family Preserves, Lakeside
- NST NBAS Nature Study Trails, New Buffalo
- RWP Robinson Woods Preserve, Lakeside
- THW Tower Hill Woods, Sawyer
- TPNP Turtle Pond Nature Preserve, New Buffalo
- WDSP Warren Dunes State Park, Sawyer
- WWSP Warren Woods State Park, Three Oaks

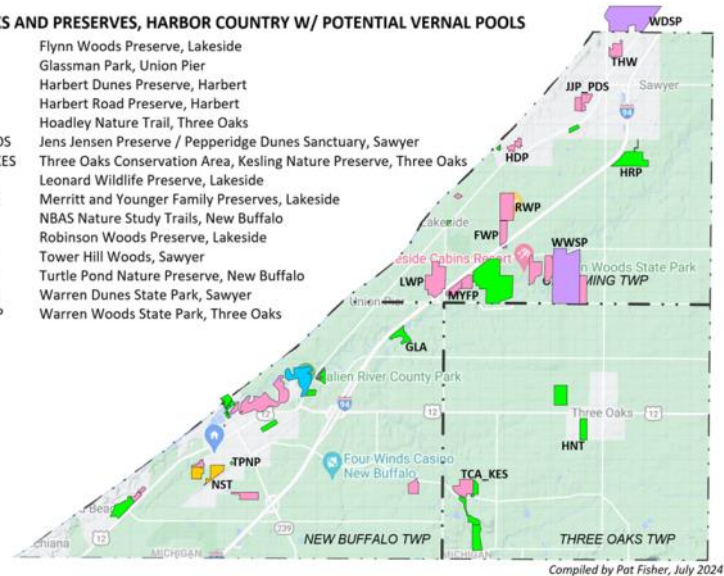


Image #1: Map of Berrien County (created by Dr. Amy Gillan and Pat Fisher)

populations keep forests healthy, and forests keep the life on Earth in balance.

As with so many of our wild habitats, human activity is the biggest threat to vernal pools. Development, often in the form of construction of roads, ditches, and drainage ponds, can destroy these environments. We are also seeing the effects of climate change as normal weather patterns are being disrupted leading to changes in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events. Over time, these examples can throw normal breeding cycles out of sync, making it harder for the species to thrive.

You may be asking, "What can I do to protect vernal pool habitats?" Whether you live in a city, the suburbs, or in a rural area, there is always something that can be done to ensure each community is hospitable to the wildlife found there.

We can donate time and money in support of our localized conservation organizations. We can get involved with citizen science programs, like iNaturalist, to collect important information relevant to vernal ponds. We can also search for and participate in community-led actions, such as cleanups of local streams and ponds, which help to restore the natural habitat. Finally, if you own property or land, ensure that the landscape offers places for animals to thrive. Small, local actions, such as these may not seem like much, but every one doing something will result in a better environment for all.

Vernal Pools – What They Are and Why They Are Important *continued*

Check out the resources provided below, if you are interested in learning more about vernal pools and ways in which you might get involved.

Resources:

#1: Full report written by T.W. Bernthal, D.E. Winston, J. Kline, and M. Linton

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wetlands/EphemeralPondsMappingAccuracyAssessment.pdf>

#2: Joliet's Forest Preserve published article identifying vernal pools in and around Will County

<https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/vernal-pools-teeming-with-life/>

#3: iNaturalist website <https://www.inaturalist.org>

#4: Book Titles

- A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools (written by Kenney & Burne, 2009)
- Vernal Pools: Nature, History, and Conservation (written by Elizabeth A. Colburn, 2009)
- Animals of Ohio's Ponds and Vernal Pools (written by David Fitzsimmons, 2011)
- Frog Heaven: Ecology of a Vernal Pool (written by Doug Wechsler, 2006)
- The Secret Pool (written by Kimberly Ridley, 2013)
- The Noisy Puddle: A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons (written by Linda Booth Sweeney, 2024)
- Between Land and Lake: Michigan's Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands (written by Dennis A. Albert, 2003)
- Field Guide to the Natural Communities of Michigan (written by Cohen, et. A., 2015)

Nominating & Election Procedures for Open Director & Officer Positions

Each year the Prairie Club Nominating Committee meets to select nominees to fill upcoming club Director or Officer positions that open in December. Director terms are for three years, Officer terms are for two years. The Officers are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Hazelhurst Camp Chair and the Spring Grove Camp Chair, selected by the respective camps, are also Officers. There are twelve Directors; four three-year terms start each year. These seven Officers and twelve Directors constitute the Prairie Club Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee publishes nominee names in the September issue of the Prairie Club Bulletin. In accordance with Prairie Club By-laws, if you wish to submit an alternative name by October 1 for nomination, either obtain a members' nominating petition form from the office, which must then be signed by ten or more eligible club members, or write a nominating letter and have it signed by ten or more members. In either case, the office for which the nomination is made should be indicated and the names and addresses of the signers included (see By-laws, Article VII-Election, and Letter Ballots, Section 1, for procedures). Only voting members in good standing are eligible for nomination.

In addition to positions filled through this process, much of the club's work is done by committee chairs. Standing committees are appointed by the Board. Chairs and their committees are member volunteers who lead and accomplish the club's mission.

On the following pages you will find short biographies of the nominees for open officer and director positions on the Board.

Nominating Committee Nominations for the 2024 Board

Director Nominee Bios

President - Mike Maloney

Mike Maloney has been a member of the Prairie Club since 2001 and a Hazelhurst site holder since 2004. Mike previously served two terms as First Vice President on the PC Board and has been the President since 2023. He is a member of the PC Finance Committee and the Hazelhurst Second Century Conservation Committee. Mike is also a Board Member of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society in Riverside, a group focused on historical preservation and sustainability for the village. He is also on the Finance Committee for his church.

Mike recently completed a Masters Degree in Biology at the University of Miami Ohio and the Chicago Zoological Society. Prior to his retirement in January 2018, Mike held executive positions at Accenture, Seurat, Logica, Ameritech and Andersen Consulting. Mike has a BS Accounting from Oklahoma State University and an MBA from Notre Dame.

1st Vice President - Sarah "Sally" Craig Pratt

Sarah (Sally) Craig Pratt has a passion for seeing the Prairie Club thrive; that passion and her professional education lends itself to a history of strong professional and volunteer board leadership. As a life-long and multi-generational member of the Prairie Club, Sally, like the rest of her family, has been very active in the club, more specifically Camp Hazelhurst, her entire life. She believes in the value of conservation, preservation, and protection of the land, both within the club and around the world. Sally considers the alignment with the Club objectives, environmental education and disseminating the knowledge of environmental projects, the best way to ensure and sustain the distinct qualities each camp offers our membership.

Sally retired from the University of Notre Dame Office of Research in 2019. Her professional background includes global health program management, fundraising and development, special events, and teaching executive leadership skills at the St. Joseph (IN) Chamber of Commerce. She has extensive volunteer leadership experience on boards and committees including 23 years chairing the Northern Indiana Arts Commission and 33 years (now retired) as a member of the National Ski Patrol.

Sally pledges to work within our organization to encourage and motivate more members of the next generation to take responsibility for our Club's viability. Her family has been siteholders at Hazelhurst since 1930 and involved in the early days of Tremont. She holds a Master's degree magna cum laude in Nonprofit Management Administration (NMA) from the University of Notre Dame with an undergraduate degree summa cum laude in Communication and Visual Arts from Albion College. She has three children Maddy, Mitchell (Camille) and Tyler (all Club members), and 1.5 grandchildren.

Director Nominee Bios

2nd Vice President - Hope Little

Hope Little joined the Club in 2000 when she became active in the walking and hiking activities. In 2003, Hope became a member of the Board; she was elected Prairie Club President in 2008. In addition to holding these positions, she has served on the Nominating Committee, the Centennial Committee, has chaired the Annual Meeting Committee, and is a dedicated Prairie Club walker. To contribute to her love of the outdoors, Hope spearheaded the club initiative of planting trees, as a result of this initiative, the Prairie Club has sponsored the planting of 600 trees in the Coral Woods Forest Preserve of McHenry County. Through the Trees for the Future Foundation, the club has promoted the planting of trees in Asia and Africa.

Hope is a graduate of De Paul University and is retired from the State of Illinois as a Medicaid Auditor. She serves as Chair of the Organizing Committee of the North Shore Crop Hunger Walk and had functioned as the organization's Treasurer for three years. Hope had been Co-Director of the Nicaragua Medical Alliance, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that sent medical supplies and equipment to clinics in Nicaragua. Due to problems with the current Nicaraguan government, Hope collects medical supplies for Project Cure in Westmont, Illinois for worldwide distribution.

Treasurer - Mark Sever

Mark V. Sever has been the current Prairie Club Treasurer the past six years. He retired as Deputy Vice Chair of Professional Practice from Ernst & Young LLP, one of the Big Four accounting firms, in June 2015, after a 39-year career. During his career, Mark's role in Professional Practice included consulting with clients throughout the country on a variety of accounting, auditing, and financial reporting issues. In addition to his role as the lead audit partner on a variety of financial services companies, Mark served as the engagement quality review partner on a number of the firm's global accounts including: Walmart Stores, Inc., The Coca-Cola Company, McDonald's Corporation, Whirlpool Corporation, Maytag, Aon Corporation, Cardinal Health, Brunswick Corporation, Wrigley, Newell-Rubbermaid, and IMC Global.

Mark earned his B.B.A. degree in accounting, summa cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame. Mark is a registered certified public accountant in Illinois.

Mark and his wife, Christie, have been siteholders since 2009. Their three children, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren all live in the Chicago area. Mark and Christie enjoy the beach and sunsets at Hazelhurst, golf and traveling.

Recording Secretary - Wendy Lyford

I have spent time at Hazelhurst virtually every summer from infancy, despite always living far away. My grandparents, all named "Hughes," lived next door to each other in Cottages 62 (still owned by my family) and 68. I joined the club in 1994. I have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Club operations by participating as a Board member and Secretary.

I retired in 2020 after a career in law, court administration and mediation, including 23 years in Anchorage, Alaska. I have 3 adult sons and we have introduced our fifth generation, twin granddaughters, to Lake Michigan and Hazelhurst in the last three years. I enjoy volunteering at Hazelhurst in the library, on conservation work parties, and the Hazelhurst History Committee.

Officer Nominee Bios

Deb Holland

My parents and family are from Chicago, Illinois. We moved to Des Plaines when I started grade school and I lived there for 25 years. I currently reside in Ingleside, IL with my husband. I have a daughter who just graduated with her doctorate in Chiropractic from Logan University in St. Louis, and I have 3 step sons, one in Colorado, another nearby in Lindenhurst, IL and the third in Florida. All the boys are married with children. I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 24 years. We currently live on the Chain O' Lakes where most weekends are spent boating, unless we are up at the Spring Grove Camp visiting family and friends.

EDUCATION:

Maine West High School, Des Plaines, IL

Illinois State University, Bachelor of Science in Education

Northeastern Illinois, Masters in Educational Leadership

CAREER:

I have worked in Education since 1984. I spent my early years in education as a middle school mathematics teacher and my later years in education in administration as a Dean of Students, Assistant Principal and Principal. I am currently slowing down in my career and am teaching math to gifted students. I hope to be fully retired in 2026.

Prairie Club History:

I am currently a Spring Grove site holder. My parents were active members and site holders in Spring Grove in the 70's-80's until they moved to Florida. They are also currently members and visit the Spring Grove camp every summer. I became a member and recharged my affiliation and connections to the Spring Grove camp in 2010.

HOBBIES:

Boating, sewing, crochet, embroidery, and crafting.

Rick Krumbacher

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana.

EDUCATION:

John Adams High School.....1972

Hanover College, Bachelor of Arts.....1976

University of Notre Dame, Master of Fine Art.....1978

Loyola University of Chicago, Juris Doctor.....1997

EMPLOYMENT:

Commercial Artist 1978 – 1993, Indianapolis, Indiana

Attorney at Law 1997 – 2018, Chicago, Illinois.

Retired: December, 2018

Manager, family farm business 1995 to present. Currently president, family farm corporation.

PERSONAL:

Married 1975 – 1988, four children, eight grandchildren.

ACTIVITIES:

Volunteer, Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Watervliet, Michigan. 2019 to present.

Volunteer, Hesston Steam Museum, Hesston, Indiana, 2019 to present.

Recently certified to operate 14" gauge live-steam locomotive in passenger service.

Member, Prairie Club of Chicago for about 50 years. My mother joined the club in 1939.

Formerly: Hazelhurst Camp Chair.

Currently: Hazelhurst siteholder. Editor of the Hazelhurst Highlights, Red Barn Chair.

HOBBIES:

Collecting guitars, kayaks and Studebakers.

Enduring the affection of two cats.

Officer Nominee Bios

Jim "Mac" McCarthy

Jim (Mac) is retired and has been a site holder at Spring Grove for the last 10 years. He has been married for 55 years and has two children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He retired from the Waukegan, IL police department after twenty-seven years of service.

He currently owns and operates his own Private Detective agency and has done so for the last twenty-two years.

He is a life member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). This is a national Police organization. He has held several offices in his local lodge, including Director, Secretary/Treasurer, and President. He is presently the past-Secretary of this Lodge. In these positions, he handled or was involved in, finances, grievances, and contract negotiations for wages and benefits.

He is the Past President of the Emerald Society of Illinois (Irish American Police Association for the state of Illinois) and has been a member for over twenty-seven years.

He is a member of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club and has been for over thirty years. This is a worldwide organization of law enforcement officers riding motorcycles. He has served as Treasurer, Secretary, and has been the President of his local chapter for the last ten years. He is currently the president of his chapter that covers Lake and McHenry counties in Illinois and Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties in Southern Wisconsin.

Since his days as a Boy Scout, he has been a fervent advocate for open space. He feels that as much open space as possible should be preserved for future generations before it is gone forever.

He has been on the Prairie Club Board for the last 7 years.

Brian Reed

Brian is a site holder at the Spring Grove Camp since April 2012. He is currently Camp Co-Chair and has been serving on the Prairie Club's Board of Directors.

Brian has been married to his wife Laurie for 40 years. He has one son, one daughter and five grandchildren. He is currently raising two grandsons at home.

Brian is an amateur astronomer, Special Olympics volunteer, former wrestling coach, and has been working in the propane industry for the past 37 years.

New Rules Passed for Hazelhurst Camp

Below are changes to Hazelhurst Camp Rules #2 & #16. These changes have been approved by The Prairie Club Board of Directors and Hazelhurst Siteholders pursuant to The Prairie Club By-Laws.

All siteholders and renters at Hazelhurst Camp are expected to familiarize themselves with these rules. The updated rules can be found on our website www.ThePrairieClub.org, or requested from the office.

2. VEHICLES

A. Motor Vehicles. Motor vehicles may not be driven faster than 10 miles per hour in Camp.

B. Parking Spaces. Two parking spaces are allowed near each Siteholder cottage, with the approval of the Building and Sites committee. Additional motor vehicles should be taken to the designated parking areas. Parked motor vehicles must be no closer than 7 feet from the center of the roadway. A third motor vehicle may be parked on existing spaces, on a temporary basis, if sufficient space exists. This, in no way, means additional parking spaces may be created.

C. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging. An electric vehicle ("EV") may be charged while in Camp only at an outlet or charging station approved by the Building and Sites committee (B&S); no Hazelhurst cottage shall have more than one charging station. The indoor and outdoor wiring for EV charging must comply with both State and local requirements. The proposed location and mounting details for the outlet or charging station shall be submitted to B&S for approval prior to installation. The feed for any remote outlet or remote charging station (one that is not attached to a cottage or rental facility) shall be underground and must be installed by directional boring (not by trenching) if it is to be installed across a Camp road from its power source.

EV charging in Camp must be done by a cable specifically designed for such that is certified by a nationally recognized testing facility: common extension cords (whether rated light duty, heavy duty, or for indoor or outdoor use), multi-outlet power strips, splitters, grounding adapters, or similar devices are not permitted. A charging cable is to be no more than 25 feet long and, unless otherwise approved by B&S, must be removed (if removable) from the outlet or charging station and from the vehicle and not be outdoors before or after charging.

D. Bicycles. Bicycle riding is restricted to roadways. Fast riding is prohibited. Bicycle riders must obey Camp Rules for automobiles and the regulations for one-way roads. "Lights on" is required for bicycle riding after dark.

E. Prohibited Vehicles. Motorcycles, motor bikes, snowmobiles, and motorized personal watercraft (Jet Skis, SeaDoo's, etc.) are NOT permitted in the Camp.

F. Motor Homes, Trailers. People may not live in motor homes or house trailers while in the Camp. Such vehicles must be parked in the public parking lot. Boat trailers, campers, etc. must be stored in the public parking lot. Overnight tent camping is prohibited. \

G. Boats. All boats and trailers must be removed from the public parking lot by the end of the first Sunday in November. The public parking lot must remain cleared of boats and trailers until March 15. Boat trailers or empty trailers may not be stored elsewhere in the Camp.

H. Golf Carts. Golf carts must obey Camp Rules for motor vehicles, including parking rules.

New Rules Passed for Hazelhurst Camp

16. NON-SITEHOLDER MEMBERS

A Prairie Club member in good standing for at least the past two years who is not a Hazelhurst Siteholder or an a family member or guest of a Siteholder, who is not then renting a cottage in Camp, and who is not then renting a room or other space in any Club owned building, but who wishes to otherwise use the beach, tennis courts, or grounds more than once a month in peak season (June, July, and August) or wishes to otherwise store a boat or beach paraphernalia on Hazelhurst Camp grounds, must first purchase a Hazelhurst Season Pass from the Club office.

A. A Season Pass holder's privileges extend to their spouse, domestic partner and children under 21 and also to those family members who are Prairie Club members. For purposes of this Rule, family members are defined as: spouse, domestic partner, parents, children, grandchildren, siblings, and in-laws; Season Pass privileges do not extend to non-family members or to off-grounds renters in the absence of the Season Pass holder.

B. A Season Pass holder and their family members and guests must follow Hazelhurst Camp Rules while in the Camp; failure to follow these Rules may result in fines levied against the Season Pass holder, temporary or permanent revocation of the Season Pass, or other remedies, at the discretion of the Hazelhurst Camp Council.

C. A Season Pass is not transferable. The Club office will annually send written notification to each Season Pass Holder from the past calendar year, giving them the option to renew their Season Pass for the next year by a date set forth in the notice; full payment for that Season Pass must be received in the Club office by the due date or the Pass will be made available to others.

In the event a Season Pass holder passes away or does not opt to renew their Pass, it will be offered to any family members who are Prairie Club members and who were previously identified to the Club by the Season Pass holder when they obtained their Pass.

D. No more than twenty-three (23) Season Passes will be issued per calendar year; if twenty three (23) Passes have been issued, the Club office will establish and maintain a wait list for any Club member who wishes to apply for an available Season Pass. Any Club member, including any former Season Pass holder, may ask to be added to the bottom of the wait list. Any questions or issues concerning the application of the wait list will be addressed by the Club's Executive Director, who may also consult with the Club President.

E. A list of all active Season Pass holders will be created annually, updated, and e-mailed from the Club office to the Hazelhurst Camp Chair, Hazelhurst Beach Chair, and Hazelhurst Property Manager. A current list of Season Pass holders will be posted on the bulletin board at the Camp entrance and on the bulletin board at the beach path trailhead.

F. Season Pass holders, or their family members or guests, must contribute five (5) hours of service to the Hazelhurst Camp each year. This service may be accomplished by working with any Camp committee chair. A Season Pass holder will be assessed \$100.00 if this service is not completed. Any monies collected from Season Pass fees or fines will be deposited into the Hazelhurst Operations Budget.

Rental Opportunities for Fall

Fall offers a wealth of family-friendly activities, from corn mazes and pumpkin patches to hayrides and U-pick farms - not to mention the thrill of haunted houses. Our camps are the perfect home base to set off on your adventures.

Don't forget all of our facilities are open year-round. Both of our camps are situated near unique and amazing natural areas, perfect for Fall and Winter activities.

Contact the office today to make your reservation!

You may reach us by phone at (630) 620-9334 or e-mail at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

Farmhouse

Offering seven rooms to choose from, ranging from accommodations for one person up to four people. Comfortably sleeps 14 to 18. Openings are available year round at the Farmhouse. The seven lovely rooms in Farmhouse are available for Exclusives and individual room rentals on weekly, nightly or weekend basis. With so many options, we have the perfect chance for your quick getaway.



Family Cottage

Cottage has two identical sides to choose from. Each side sleeps 4 - 5 people. The main floor consists of a complete kitchen, spacious living area, a full bathroom, and a bedroom with a queen bed. The large loft area provides beautiful views and features two twin beds and a twin trundle bed. Central Air equipped, a gas fireplace, and a private screened porch. Linens, bath towels, and cleaning service are provided. Wi-Fi included.



Buena Vista

Two spacious sides each with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Casa Craig sleeps 8 - 10 people with six twin beds and a twin bunk bed spread out among three bedrooms and a day bed on the screened porch. Sandine's Svensk Stuga sleeps 6 - 8 people with four twin beds and a double bed. As well as, two twin beds on the screened porch. Both sides are central air equipped and feature wood burning fireplaces. Linens, bath towels and cleaning service provided. Wi-Fi included. Each side of Buena Vista may be rented individually or both as an exclusive.



Spring Grove

Just 60 miles north of Chicago, Spring Grove Lodge has seven bedrooms, each sleeping 4 - 5 people. Inside the Lodge you will find a large fully equipped kitchen and two common areas with beautiful views of the woods and pond. Enjoy hiking and fishing on the grounds or many other places in the surrounding area. The Nippersink Creek runs through the camp,

offering perfect opportunities for canoeists and kayakers. Available for individual room rentals or an exclusive lodge rental. It also is a wonderful place to just spend the day. Perfect for family reunions, work retreats, friends weekends, church outings and weddings.



Save Lakeside Woods

by Terri Hebert, Conservation Chair

This is a story that brings to life the quote, "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

During a standing-room only Chikaming Planning Commission meeting, held in Harbert, Michigan, on June 5, 2024, McDonald Development stood before residents and Commission members to request approval of their plan to construct 18 "home-condominiums" which would be located just off Lakeside Road.

Planning Commission Chairman Jim Gormley called the meeting to order and immediately revised the order of business so that the audience could have an opportunity to speak their minds and share their concerns regarding the proposed construction. Topics pertaining to water and flooding issues, short-term rental concerns, and wetland preservation emerged from the citizens.

Steven Smith, an attorney representing the Lakeside community, spoke about the property's zoning, "This property is zoned R1, and the developer will be building tiny houses to be acquired for short-term rentals which is really a business, not residential usage." Smith continued, "We are also very concerned about the detrimental impact that this proposed development will have on the environment and community."



Lakeside resident, Michael Kunik, stated, "The wetlands come up to my property and right now I walk through water to get to my garage. I've noticed it's murky and muddy because of the trees that were recently cut down for this new development."

Another resident, Tom Gold, told the Commission that there is a group of residents interested in working with Chikaming Open Lands to possibly purchase the property from the developer.

After over an hour of public comment, Gormley closed the discussion reiterating that there are a "whole list of details that still need to be addressed and there will be another site plan review meeting at a later date."

It was announced on July 24th that victory has been claimed, at least for now, in a nearly one-year effort to stop new housing from going up at Lakeside Woods. Developer Curtis McDonald, who owns the 16-acre undeveloped parcel containing wetlands, has tentatively agreed to sell the land to the group known as Lakeside Neighbors Against Development (LNAD). LNAD now has six months to raise \$1.3 million for acquiring the property at Lakeside Road and Warren Woods Road.

Once the land has been purchased, Barry Friedland, Communication and Marketing Officer for LNAD, said the intent is to donate the land to a local and respected conservation group that preserves green spaces in southwest Michigan. Native flora and fauna found on the property include spotted turtles, tree frogs, and snakes, including the eastern Massasauga. In addition, the Great Blue Heron and migrating Sandhill Cranes use the area during nesting and migration periods, and Indiana bats call the

Save Lakeside Woods *continued*

place home. Interestingly, Indiana bats have experienced a drop in numbers by more than 50% over the past 10 years. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the mosquito-eating Indiana bat is now listed as endangered.

All this backstory information leads me to the current Save Lakeside Woods campaign, which is seeking wide-ranging community support. As of August 18th, it was reported that an anonymous benefactor had pledged \$300,000 for the effort, and LNAD now has a land contract for the \$1.3 million of which \$200,000 has been paid. There are five more monthly payments for the same amount planned.

Tom Gold, a Lakeside Neighbors Against Development Board member, eased some of the concerns when he shared that the benefactor has pledged to provide a bridge loan for any shortfalls that might be encountered in the fundraising efforts. However, the efforts are real and must be successful if this property is to be saved from further development.

Here's what is at stake:

- Maintaining the rural charm and quality of life and stopping overdevelopment of green spaces.
- Preserving local ecosystems and biodiversity that shield from climate change.
- Protecting critical habitat for the endangered Indiana bat, a natural mosquito controller.
- Providing a haven for thousands of species, such as the Great Blue Heron and migrating Sandhill Cranes.
- Safeguarding fragile insect-based wetland food webs.



You can be a part of this crucial initiative! It's easy, really.

- Join the mailing list for the latest updates on the Save Lakeside Woods campaign.
- Spread the word, and share the cause with friends, family, and community members.
- Stay tuned for opportunities to support and participate in fundraising efforts.

As they say on their website, "Together, we can preserve Lakeside Woods and protect our community's natural beauty and character. Act now – every moment counts in our fight to save this irreplaceable ecosystem!"

<https://www.savelakesidewoods.com>

Note: quotes and information comes from the news items listed on Save Lakeside Woods webpage.

Join us on hikes, kayaking, and other activities!

Be sure to follow the Prairie Club on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

Search for "Prairie Club of Chicagoland Activities Group"

Our Departed Members and Friends

The following members and friends have passed away since our Bulletin's last publishing. Please keep them and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Gene Puschel	passed away on May 22, 2024
Maureen McGann	passed away on July 26, 2024
Kurt von Meding	passed away on August 7, 2024
Patrick Gilligan	passed away on August 21, 2024

New Applicants for Membership

The following candidates have applied for membership since our last Bulletin was published. If you know of any reason why an applicant should not be admitted to the Club, please write to the Membership Committee, via the Club office address: 12 E. Willow St., Unit A, Lombard, IL 60148

Evan Anderson

St. Charles, IL 60174

Sponsors: Steve McKee, Mark Maloney

Interviewed by: Anne Walker

Guilherme & Jackie Baptista

Chicago, IL 60647

2nd Home: Harbert, MI 49115

Sponsors: Sally Hunneke, Andrew Marzal

Interviewed by: Jo Burda-Smith

Charles Notary

Battle Ground, IN 47920

Sponsors: Donald Bergstrom, Janet Millermaier

Interviewed by: Sally Cook

Shade Murray

Harbert, MI 49115

Sponsors: Jacqueline Bloom, Beth Dahl

Interviewed by: Terese Clancy

Christine & Matthew Smith

Ponte Vedra, FL 32082

2nd Home: Harbert, MI 49115

Sponsors: Kyle Hunneke, Patrick Gilligan

Interviewed by: Barb Burton

Donations

Thank you for the continued support of our Members. **Please remember that donations to the Prairie Club are not tax deductible.**

After a recent rental, **Denise Hughes** made a kind donation to Spring Grove, a place she enjoys sharing with her family and friends.

The roads at Spring Grove have received some needed repairs recently. **Steve Ciesla** made a generous donation to help defer some of the cost.

Music filled the air at Hazelhurst this summer. The Red Barn hosted a variety of musical acts, thanks in part to a helpful contribution by **Ed Millermaier**.

Laurie Kagann made a caring donation in memory of Patrick Gilligan to Hibbs Pond at Hazelhurst that, for many years, he worked to restore and maintain.

Apple season has started!

Both of our camps are located near U-pick Farms and Orchards. Now is the perfect time to book a night at one of our camps, so you are well-rested for a day of apple picking. Below are just a few of the U-Pick farms near by.

Hazelhurst Camp

Stover's Farm Market
7837 M-139
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
269-471-1401

Shafer Orchards
207 Shafer Rd.
Baroda, MI 49101
269-422-1972

Twin Maple Orchard
15368 Cleveland Ave
Galien, MI 49113
269-545-8840

Spring Grove Camp

Stade's Farm and Market
3709 Miller Road
McHenry, IL 60051
815-675-6396

All Seasons Apple Orchard
4510 IL. Rt. 176
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-5637

Richardson Adventure Farm
909 English Prairie Rd
Spring Grove, IL 60081
815-675-9729

Prairie Club Officers 2024

President	Mike Maloney
1st Vice President	Sarah Craig Pratt
2nd Vice President	Hope Little
Treasurer	Mark Sever
Recording Secretary	Wendy Lyford
Hazelhurst Camp Vice President	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Spring Grove Camp Vice President	Erin Kiehm

Standing Committees 2024

Audit	Kevin Oravec
Elections	Terry Riban
Finance	Charles Manthey
Historical	OPEN
Membership	Jo Burda Smith
Nominating	Dan Gapen

Activity Committees 2024

Activities/Walkers	Terry Riban
Annual Meeting	Hope Little
Buena Vista	Linsey Crowninshield
Conservation	Terri Hebert
Family Cottage	Terri Breach, Barb White
Farm House	Deb McGrath, Barbara Wittersheim
Promotional	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Publications	Natalie Brennan
Hazelhurst	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Spring Grove	Erin Kiehm, Brian Reed
Spring Grove Lodge	Mickey Hanson
Website	Natalie Brennan



Return Service Requested

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Lombard, IL 60148
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(630) 620-9335 Fax