



Preserving Carbondale's Natural Areas

Green Earth News

Volume 31, No. 4, Winter 2017/18

Green Earth, Inc.
P. O. Box 441
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www.GreenEarthinc.org



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Chautauqua Bottoms

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Fernlands

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SIUC Geography Club

Green Earth, Inc.

is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization established in 1974.

Green Earth's mission is to acquire and preserve natural areas in the vicinity of Carbondale, Illinois, and provide access for public enjoyment and education.

We strive to preserve these areas for future generations, and encourage public input and participation for these objectives.

Habitat Improvement Work Wraps Up on ICECF Grant

Along with your donations, the 2016 Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation 3:1 Match Grant provided \$8,000 each for habitat improvement work at our Brush Hill and Fernlands sites.

Two local environmental services companies, Long Forestry Consultation and Ozark Koala Environmental Services have each been working on invasive species removal and native shrub plantings at these sites since this summer. You may have seen the pink flagging tape showing areas of active invasive species removal, and currently blue flagging indicates areas where native shrubs have been planted in the understory.

We want to point out that both of these companies have donated time and materials to Green Earth in the past, and both companies have worked more on these projects than the grant is funding. We are truly appreciative of their support over the years.

Update on Chautauqua Bottoms

Trail Upgrades: Ground breaking is about to begin for trail upgrades coming to Chautauqua Bottoms. The IDNR's Recreational Trails Program will fund 80% of the work to upgrade the western trail to ADA friendly standards, install a pedestrian bridge over Little Crab Orchard Creek, improve the trail surface of the remaining trails, and enlarge and improve the main parking lot.

Habitat Management: Considerable time and grant money has gone into invasive species removal at this site over the years. We have been conducting large scale annual garlic mustard removal from the woodland each spring with school groups; many volunteer workdays a year have focused on cutting and applying herbicide to autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, and multiflora rose from the wood understory; and spraying of Japanese stilt grass to protect the wildflower glade located along the Woodland Spur trail has become a regular event.

While all these efforts have made significant improvements to the woodland, the native tall grass prairie hasn't received nearly as much attention. For various reasons we were unable to burn during the last several burn cycles and because of this the prairie has seen many sapling trees begin to colonize. While we intentionally wanted the edges of the prairie to grow in to mimic a more natural landscape, the interior has reached a stage that has made burning insufficient. Fortunately, our long-time benefactor, Long Forestry Consultation, has the right piece of equipment to make short work of the colonizing saplings. Their "Forestry Mulcher" is a drum like mulching attachment on a skid steer that can pulverize woody vegetation, even large saplings. This machine can reclaim in a day what would take us days or even weeks to do with hand clearing. We expect clearing work to begin very soon and we know many of you are ready to see the prairie reclaimed!



President's Corner

Beth Fisher, beth.bfisher@verizon.net

It's the perfect season to recognize and thank all of our amazing volunteers and donors who have supported Green Earth this year. You'll read about them throughout this issue. Thank you! We couldn't exist without you.

Many of you have generously donated toward our matching grants over the past few years. Green Earth has been very successful in obtaining these grants and meeting our fundraising requirements.

And the grants have and will continue to make an important impact on our preserves.

In addition to this matching grant fundraising, we still need to raise money for Green Earth's general fund, which sustains our organization and keeps us running from year to year. If you're able to give a year-end donation, or sign up for recurring monthly donations on our website, we would greatly appreciate your support! A donation form and giving options are included on the last page of the newsletter. Happy Holidays!

Stan Harris' 100th Birthday! Anyone familiar with Green Earth should recognize the name Stan Harris, Jr. Stan was an early board member of Green Earth, and also the driving force behind establishing the prairie at our Oakland Preserve. Stan has remained an active GE supporter and has attended many of our social events over the years. We received a request from his family that we are delighted to pass along. Whether you know Stan or not, please consider the request below to pay tribute to his time in service to Green Earth.

Save the Date: Stan Harris will be 100 years old on March 5th, 2018. A celebration will be held March 3rd at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, 105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale, Illinois, from 2:00 to 5:00pm. All his many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances are invited to attend. Whether you can attend or not, if you have a favorite memory to share, please send it to Marion Adams-Sai, 95 Edgewood Lane, Carbondale, IL to be included in a memory book.

Nature-Themed Quilt Raffle to Support GE

Our quilt raffle fundraiser is winding down. You only have through this weekend to buy your tickets, so visit our website to buy your tickets online. The drawing will be held Dec 3rd at the Alternative Gift Fair from 2-5pm at the Carbondale Civic Center - just in time for Christmas! Even if *you* don't need a new quilt, I'm sure you know *someone* who would appreciate receiving this quilt as a present this holiday season. What an amazing gift!



Thanks To Our Recent Contributors. We Couldn't Exist Without Your Support!

\$500 +

Southern Illinois Healthcare
Stan & Leslie Curtis

\$200-\$499

Mike & Terri Henry

\$100 - \$199

Dorothy Speagle
Barbara Siebert

\$50 - \$99

Mike & Emma Jean Durr

Monthly Contributors

Wenona Whitfield
Sally Bennet Mercurio
John & Sarah Hinde
(Contributions through 11.05.17)

eScrip Contributors

Laura Basanta, Barbara Eichholz
Mike & Stephanie Eichholz
Beth Fisher, David Gibson,
Jan Hinde, Judy Lewis,
Beth Malmquist, Judy Martinko,
Ken Mayberry, Mary O'hara,
Moe Phemister, Eugenia Poulos,
Katherine Poulos, Alison Quick, Tom
Redmond, Suzanne Schmitz,
Nathan Speagle, Laurel Toussaint,
Greg Wendt, Wenona Whitfield

Our eScrip contributors brought in \$36.30 for this month alone, and a total of \$398.46 so far this year - just by shopping at Schnucks!

Would you consider being a Sustaining Donor?

Automated monthly contributions are Green Earth's steadiest and most reliable source of funding. Signing up is easy and free. This eliminates the burden of trying to remember when you last donated or the amount of your gift. Automatic contributions can be made through Paypal with a Paypal account or a credit card. Pick the amount that works for you! Just log on to our website and visit the Support GE page to link through.

It's that easy!

Recognizing our Volunteers For the last several years we have held a Fall Social where we have taken a few minutes to recognize our volunteers and to award GE hats and service pins to those with high hour totals. A too-full schedule prevented us from doing so this year, but we still want to recognize those that make GE a success.

We depend heavily on volunteer labor to manage our 220 acres and nine miles of hiking trails and it starts with our trail adopters (listed on page one). These folks keep the trails and trailheads in good shape, stock brochures and trail guides, and report any problems. Volunteers that attend workdays do an amazing amount of work too, from invasive species removal to trail construction and maintenance. We also have a few dedicated supporters we can depend on for special events (like the Pumpkin Glow described below). And last but not least—our Board Members. This is a working board where all members are expected to serve on at least two committees and help run events. Everyone puts in a significant amount of time.

All of these activities totaled over 2,200 hours for 2017! The list below shows the 2017 totals and cumulative totals for volunteers who've earned Service Awards: a GE hat for their first 50 hours or a hat pin for each additional 100 hours.

Service Awards: 2017 Hours			Service Awards: 2017 Hours		
	2017 Hours	Total Hours		2017 Hours	Total Hours
Ken Mayberry	435	1,150 (6th-11th pin)	Bob & Janel Taylor	53	400 (4th pin)
Nathan Speagle	213	853.5 (7th & 8th pin)	Joe Krienert	11	101 (1st pin)
Jan Weiss	93	536 (5th pin)	Becca Tally	77	122 (hat & 1st pin)
Chris Long	51	428 (4th pin)	Judy Martinko	32	58 (hat)
Dorey Prosser	52	418 (4th pin)	Caden Eichholz	37	52 (hat)
Mike Long	48	407 (4th pin)	Dylan Gibson	15	51 (hat)
Beth Fisher	33	400 (4th pin)	Carson Eichholz	35	50 (hat)



Did You Hike the Pumpkin Glow?

The Pumpkin Glow Nighttime Hike was a big hit! Many of you walked the trail several times, and

some loved it so much you came back the second night. This was so well received (with over 300 visitors), we've decided to make it an annual event.



It took dozens of volunteers to host this, and though we don't have room to list everyone here, THANK YOU to all those who helped! A few notable folks that were instrumental in setting up and running this event are: Jan and Bob Weiss (games, concessions, signs), SIU Forestry Club (cutting and placing the hundreds of stumps), SIU Geography Club (carving events, setting up), Marisa Winegar & Louisa Coello (face-painting), Lew Hendrix & Friends (music), CPKD, our partner BGCC, and all of our business sponsors (a list is on our website). Thanks again to everyone involved!

New Flag for Flaglands We'd like to extend a thank you to Woodmen Life for their donation of an American Flag for our Flaglands preserve. They have a proud mission of keeping American Flags flying and have fulfilled our request every time we have asked.

13TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

CARBONDALE CIVIC CENTER
DECEMBER 3, 2017 • 2pm-5pm

Live Holiday Music!
 Featuring: CUF Unitarian Folk Orchestra,
 CUF Recorder Group, Andrea Stader,
 & Ruth Ann Levinson

Come visit us at the Alternative Gift Fair!
 Once again we'll have all kinds of nature-themed gifts for your friends and family (or to keep!). Glass acorn ornaments, outdoor birdseed ornaments, photo note cards – are just a few of the items we will be offering.

Mail-in Donation Form

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other _____

I prefer to NOT have my name listed as a donor in GE publications

Please direct my donation toward GE's green fund

Please direct my donation toward GE's general fund

Please direct my donation toward GE's Chautauqua Bottoms Upgrade project

Name(s) _____

Help us cut down cost and opt for GE newsletters via email

Address _____

Email _____

Premiums

Gifts of \$10 or more:

Please send me the *Invasive Species of Southern Illinois* Handbook

Gifts of \$25 or more:

Please send me a gift box of GE Photo Note Cards

Gifts of \$35 or more:

Please send me a Child Green Earth Shirt

circle one: short-sleeve long-sleeve

circle one: S M L

Gifts of \$50 or more:

Please send me an Adult Green Earth Shirt

circle one: short-sleeve long-sleeve

circle one: S M L

Ways to Give

Check

Complete the information above and mail this form and your check to P.O. Box 441, Carbondale, IL 62903

One time or Monthly Donations via Credit Card or PayPal

Visit the [greenearthinc.org](http://greenearthinc.org/donations) donations page

Enroll in Merchant Reward Programs

Green Earth participates in both Schnuck's eScrip Program and Amazon Smiles program. Visit

greenearthinc.org/support-ge to learn how to sign up

greenearthinc.org/support-ge to learn how to sign up

Estate Planning

Remember Green Earth in your will. Call 618-201-3774 or email director@greenearthinc.org

Stock Transfer

Call 618-201-3774 or email director@greenearthinc.org

GE's Upcoming Volunteer Workdays & Events

Dec 03 Alternative Gift Fair - Carbondale Civic Center, 2-5pm

Dec 16 Monthly Workday - no workday in December

Have a Merry Christmas!

Jan 20 Monthly Workday - Pyles Fork Preserve, ISM

Feb 17 Monthly Workday - Location TBA

Locations subject to change based on site conditions & need.

Check our website for rain dates, updates, and changes.

ISM = Invasive Species Management

TBA = To Be Announced

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