



*Preserving Carbondale's Natural Areas*

# Green Earth News

Volume 32, No. 2, Summer 2018

Green Earth, Inc.  
P. O. Box 441  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0441

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[director@greeneearthinc.org](mailto:director@greeneearthinc.org)  
(618) 201-3774

## Trail Adopters

### Brush Hill

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### Oakland

NeuroRestorative  
SIUC Evaluation &  
Development Center

### Chautauqua Bottoms

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Ken Mayberry

### Fernlands

Nathan Speagle

### Pyles Fork

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.

## Chautauqua Bottoms ADA Trail Construction Update

**Project Recap:** Improvements to this site will include upgrading a trail to ADA Friendly trail standards, installing a bridge over Little Crab Orchard Creek, improving the trailheads, and enlarging the main parking lot.

**Construction:** Upgrades are underway! The parking lot expansion and amenities installation were completed earlier this spring, the ADA trail construction will begin this summer, and the pedestrian bridge installation is on track for this fall/winter—we couldn't be more excited!

**RTP Grant:** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program is funding 80% of the original cost of this project, and we have been actively fundraising for the remaining 20%.

**Costs and Fundraising:** Due to additional requirements for the pedestrian bridge and the recent increase in the price of steel, the project cost exceeded the original estimate. We have been actively seeking additional grant funding to help cover the original match requirement and the additional project cost.

To date we have raised \$9,335 from our generous donors. We are very honored that so many of you felt this was a project worthy of your support. We are also extremely happy to announce that the Carbondale Township approved a one-time grant request, and has awarded \$25,500 toward this project. The Township was in a unique position to award these funds because of a new state law that compelled the Board of Trustees to spend down surplus funds in their general assistance budget. Furthering their tradition of supporting local nonprofits, the Township used these funds to increase grants made available to community groups during this budget year.

**We're Almost There:** With donor support and the Township grant, we are in a good position to meet the increased project costs. Any funds raised above the project cost will be put towards extending the ADA trail surface to additional trailheads. If you have not donated towards this project, would you consider doing so? Together, we can make this trail system accessible to nearly all in our community so those with limited mobility can share our hiking trails.



*Above: The new information kiosk at the main trailhead, one of many trailhead amenities recently installed.*

*Left: The 80' weathered steel pedestrian bridge planned for Little Crab Orchard Creek.*



## President's Corner

*Beth Fisher, beth.bfisher@verizon.net*

**What is Carbondale's Most Beautiful Spot?** This was the topic of a contest held this month by Keep Carbondale Beautiful. We at Green Earth nominated the Rothrock Prairie at our Oakland Preserve. But I wish we could have nominated all our preserves. With 220 acres of woodland and prairie around the city, I'm proud that we are contributing to Carbondale's appeal. And we've

recently made our trailheads more inviting with the installation of amenities including benches, trash and recycling receptacles, bike racks, and kiosks. Recently, a neighbor of the new Bridge Street entrance to the Oakland Preserve told us these new improvements inspired them to spruce up their own property. I hope that inspiration will spread through Carbondale - and provide plenty of potential future nominations for the *most beautiful spot*.

Save The Date!

### Fall Native Plant Sale Fundraiser

Saturday October 6th, 8 -2pm

Murdale Shopping Center

Don't forget to mark your calendar.

We will once again be partnering with Keep Carbondale Beautiful to bring you native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees for all your fall planting needs. Native plants are the best choice for a myriad of reasons, but perhaps the best reason to shop our sale is that you are supporting two local non-profits that work to make Carbondale a more beautiful place to live.



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

*Donations from 04/01/18*

### \$1000+

Dorcy & Don Prosser

### \$200-\$499

Andrzej Koziel  
Wenona Whitfield \*

Charles Howe  
Muhammad Malik  
Evergreen Garden Club  
Carolyn Ferdinand

### \$100 - \$199

Heather Barrett  
Pat Eckert & Jerry Molumby  
Charles Frank \*\*  
Kathleen & Pat Manfredi  
Janet & Andrew Earnest  
Barbara & Stephen McKasson  
Emma Jean & Michael Durr \*  
Patricia Justice  
Ruth & Thomas Roy

### Up to \$99

Lilly Crane  
David Dillard  
Heidi & Suryanarayaniah Rajan  
Patricia & Hussein Elsaid  
Judith & Billy Schwegman  
Andrea & John Rendleman  
Pat & Harold Hungerford  
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Sharon & Larry Meyer  
Jesslyn Jobe & Chris Wissman  
Jim & Carol Dooley  
Sydney Simpson  
Curtis Clark  
Charles Munson  
Mike & Connie Shanahan

\* Donations made in honor of Patricia Justice  
\*\* Donations made in honor of Stan Harris

### Monthly Contributors

S. Bennett Mercurio  
John & Sara Hinde

### eScrip Contributors

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David Gibson, Dan Joutas,  
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Beth Malmquist, Judy Martinko,  
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Roberta Ogletree, Mary O'Hara,  
Moe Phemister, Eugenia Poulos,  
Katherine Poulos, Tom Redmond,  
Ruth Roy, Nathan Speagle,  
Laurel Toussaint, Greg Wendt,  
Wenona Whitfield

*eScrip contributors have raised  
\$286.21 so far this year—just by  
shopping for groceries!*



## Honoring Patricia Justice

In 2017, board member Patricia Justice retired from the Green Earth board after 26 years of service— an extraordinary tenure! To recognize Pat's dedication to land preservation in Carbondale, a gathering was held in late June to dedicate a beautiful sandstone bench in her honor. The bench was placed in a shady grove near the edge of the Chautauqua Bottoms prairie, a place that has always been one of Pat's favorites. Pat's family (several from out of the area), were joined by many colleagues and friends to help celebrate Pat's accomplishments.



Patricia Justice (lower left) surrounded by her family. From left to right standing: Tracy Justice Evans, Cayden Hinde, Sara Justice Hinde, John Hinde, Mallory Evans, Dave Evans, Kyndall Evans. Seated Carlisle Hinde.

## Landscape Plants Gone Bad: Burning Bush

by Laurel Toussaint

Every year, in all seasons, Green Earth volunteers spend hundreds of hours working in our preserves. The vast majority of those hours are spent trying to eliminate or slow the spread of invasive plants. Left unchecked, alien invaders will overwhelm the native plants in GE preserves. Despite our best efforts, we are barely holding the line against some species and every year additional invaders are added to our list of problem plants.

Local yards and public properties are often landscaped with plants that are destructive when they spread to natural areas. Despite their destructive attributes, many of these plants are legally sold and planted. Most gardeners don't intend to cause harm to local plants and animals, but often are unaware of the broader consequences of planting garden varieties available at their local nurseries.

GE is expanding our focus to include education about plants that should be avoided or eliminated from landowner properties. In our first article we discussed winter creeper. This article addresses **burning bush**.

Burning bush, *Euonymus alatus*, is a popular ornamental shrub, easily recognized in the fall by its brilliant red foliage. A native of Asia, this shrub grows 20 feet tall, and is often wider than tall. Burning bush is an invasive species that produces prolific seeds that are spread by birds. Having invaded woodlands of eastern North America, its importation and sale is now prohibited in the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. It is best removed sooner rather than later, because removing a mature burning bush is a formidable task, often requiring a professional arborist with heavy equipment.

Burning bush can be seen at all GE sites. When you join us for a workday you can learn to identify this species and eradication techniques.

### Native Alternatives to Burning Bush

Although burning bush provides beautiful fall color, it is a one-season show. Two species of sumac provide equally showy fall color, along with flowers, fruits, and seeds.

Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica* leaves are pungently fragrant, lovely flower clusters.



Smooth Sumac, *Rhus glabra* has short, crooked, leaning trunks and picturesque branches. On female plants, yellow-green flowers are covered with buzzing pollinators, flowers are followed by bright-red, hairy berries in clusters which persist throughout winter.



For more information on what not to plant, read the article *16 Invasive Species Sold at Garden Centers You Should Never Buy* [www.epicgardening.com/invasive-species-sold-at-garden-centers/](http://www.epicgardening.com/invasive-species-sold-at-garden-centers/)

## 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

(please leave blank if you already receive our emails)

Gifts of \$10 or more:

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

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 \$25 or more:

☐ Please send me a gift box of GE Photo Note Cards

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 page

### Enroll in Merchant Reward Programs

Green Earth participates in both Schnuck's eScrip

Program and Amazon Smiles program. Visit

[greenearthinc.org/support-ge](http://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](mailto:director@greenearthinc.org)

### Stock Transfer

Call 618-201-3774 or email [director@greenearthinc.org](mailto:director@greenearthinc.org)

## GE's Upcoming Volunteer Workdays & Events

Aug 18 Monthly Workday - Chautauqua Bottoms, trail work

Sept 15 Monthly Workday - Pyles Fork Preserve, litter cleanup

Oct 06 Native Plant Sale - Murdale Shopping Center

Oct 13 Monthly Workday - Oakland Preserve, trail work

Oct 26 Pumpkin Glow Nighttime Hike - Oakland Preserve

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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