



The Sangamon Conservancy Trust

www.sangamonconservancytrust.org

Trust Matters

2018

SCT Awarded BRANDT Foundation Grant To Attract Pollinators to Prairie Creek Habitat

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We are pleased to announce that The Brandt Foundation awarded \$5,000 to The Sangamon Conservancy Trust to focus on attracting pollinators to the Prairie Creek Habitat (PCH), along with funds to help maintain this 17-acre outdoor environmental education classroom. PCH was established in 1999 at the Pleasant Plains CUSD #8's) Elementary and Middle School's Farmingdale campus five miles east of Pleasant Plains, IL. just south of State Route 125.

The huge role pollinators play in today's global food chain and the environment will be an additional educational emphasis at PCH. Pollinator plants and/or seeds, both vital nectar and larval food sources, will be obtained and planted in the PCH to attract butterflies and other beneficial pollinators such as bats, bees,

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce.

hummingbirds, moths and various moths. Learning about pollinators and their contributions for providing abundant food sources around the world is very important for students and the general public to understand. Printed educational materials on pollinators and their habitat will be made available to teachers, students and the general public through this grant and will also be available on the Pleasant Plains Middle School website <https://ppmsgreenteam.weebly.com>.

PCH includes well-established prairie, woodlands and wetlands which provide a home and habitat for many varieties of wildlife. It is an opportunity for students, teachers and the general public to see and understand how nature and society can interact and co-exist in this fantastic setting. For 12 years, the SCT provided funds for annual maintenance of PCH. This opportunity will continue with funds from this grant matched with funds from Pleasant Plains CUSD #8.

A portion of the grant funds were earmarked to pay for school field trips so more area school children could experience the extraordinary outdoor educational opportunities at PCH. (See pictures on page 3.)

We can help if you . . .

- are concerned about the future of your land.
- wish to preserve the family farm as farmland.
- would like to promote controlled development, thereby reducing threats to prime farmland and natural areas.
- want to reduce estate, capital gains, property and income taxes through a conservation easement.

Our Mission:

A 501(c)(3) Qualified Conservation Land Trust

“Foster exceptional conservation activities for the benefit of all persons”

Member of Land Trust Alliance
www.lta.org



In Remembrance of Paul E. Briney



We will greatly miss our dear friend Paul Briney. Paul’s passing on November 15, 2018 leaves a huge void in the conservation and farming community throughout central Illinois.

Over 18 years ago, Paul’s vision came true when The Sangamon Conservancy Trust was formed. He felt that the Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCSWCD) needed a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization to assist them in reaching their conservation goals and objectives.

Paul served faithfully as Trustee of The Sangamon Conservancy Trust for over 14 years. While he felt the need to step down from his Trustee position about a year ago because of his failing health, Paul continued to serve as an Associate Trustee to stay informed and supportive of the SCT’s activities.

Paul and Sally Jo, his wife of 54 years, lived on their horse farm near Chatham and managed their family’s farmland, always with a commitment to implementing best management practices important for improving their land and protecting the natural resources throughout the area. Paul was a real outdoorsman who loved to hunt quail and pheasant with family, special friends and his dog.

Paul was a true **“Friend of Conservation”** whose compassion and commitment to conservation and farmland protection will always be remembered.



Did you know . . .

Every day we lose more than 4,000 acres of land to development (National Resources Inventory data 1982 to 2012). The U.S. population is projected to grow by 100 million and the amount of land covered with housing, roads and shopping malls will nearly triple by 2050. More than 80% of our population will live in metropolitan areas where open space will be increasingly precious, according to the Land Trust Alliance.



***Join The Sangamon Conservancy Trust
Become a Partner in Conservation and Farmland Preservation
Your Land . . . Conservation Now, Preservation Forever***

We encourage you to become a partner in our efforts to preserve farmland and conserve the natural resources of Illinois. The enclosed membership information is an opportunity for you.

The Sangamon Conservancy Trust is a charitable trust established under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues to this organization are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Associate Trustees Welcome!

If you are interested in working with The Sangamon Conservancy Trust, we welcome you to become an Associate Trustee. This opportunity will give you the first-hand knowledge of our mission and goals for land preservation and conservation and how we are working to implement them. We are pleased to have Steve Frank, Dale Hedrick, and Bob Komnick currently serving as Associate Trustees.

Welcome Trustees!

Michelle Nicol



Michelle Nicol is currently the Supervisor of Land and Water Resources for City Water, Light and Power (CWLP) in Springfield, IL. She has been with the utility since 1990, managing Lake Springfield, a 4,000-acre reservoir which serves as Springfield's drinking water supply, for 28 years. Michelle has a Master's Degree in Environmental Affairs, specializing in aquatic biology, from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is also a volunteer with the IL Environmental Protection Agency's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Michelle has been actively involved as a member of the Lake Springfield Watershed Resource Planning Committee since its inception in 1990 and continues to work with the stakeholders on many special projects within Lake Springfield's 265-square mile watershed. As Michelle states, "Throughout my career in lake management and land supervision, I have gained a greater understanding of the importance of preserving farmland and conserving our natural resources. One of our greatest natural resources is our farmland which is disappearing at an alarming rate. The SCT is dedicated not only to seeing that farmland is preserved, but that conservation practices which help improve water quality are implemented and maintained. I'm proud to be serving as a Trustee of this organization which really cares about our environment and natural resources."

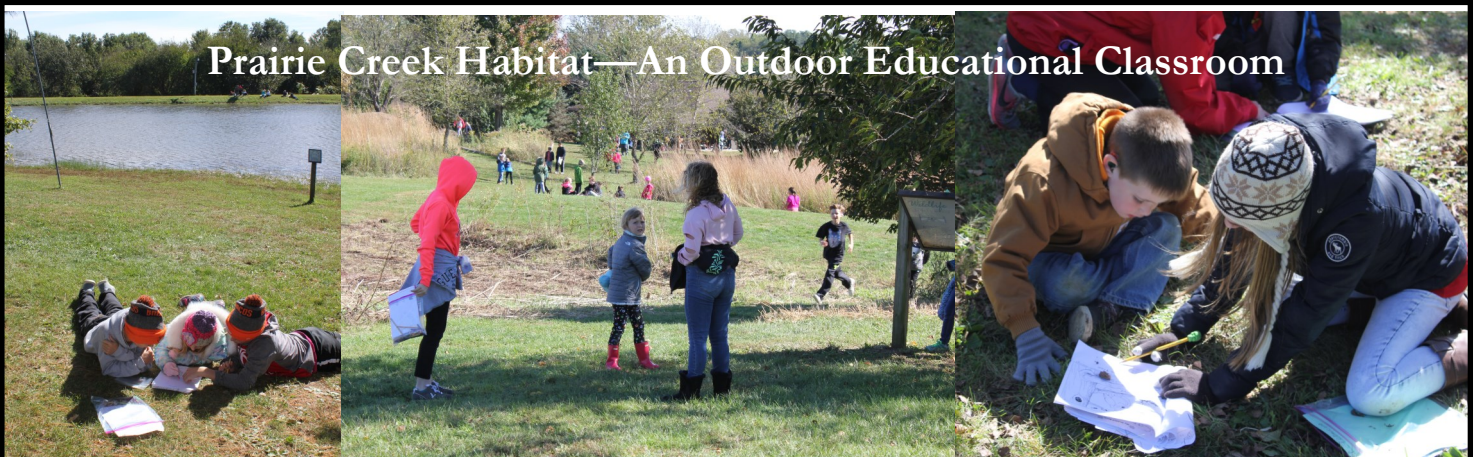
Kelly Thompson is a Sangamon county native from Chatham, IL. She is currently the Project Manager at the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group. Prior to joining IERG, Kelly was employed by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) from 2012 to 2017, serving as their Executive Director from 2014 to 2017. Before her work with Soil and Water, she worked as a Geographical Information System Analyst and also interned at IEPA's Bureau of Water during Graduate school. Kelly earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Eastern IL University and received her Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from University of Illinois at Springfield. Kelly has experience in environmental policy, research and data collection, fundraising, event planning, public relations and outreach. She lives in Springfield with her husband and two children. In Kelly's words, "I have always had a passion for conservation and the environment. We have a finite amount of natural resources and without proper conservation and preservation practices they may not be available to our future generations. Protecting and conserving our natural resources are so crucial in today's world. I feel the SCT is executing the very same practices that I value. I look forward to bringing my experiences to the table to pair with the knowledge and expertise of all the Trustees. I am honored to be named as a Trustee for the SCT."

Kelly Thompson



Michelle and Kelly are great assets! We appreciate their willingness to serve with the SCT.

Prairie Creek Habitat—An Outdoor Educational Classroom



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We're on the Web!
www.sangamonconservancytrust.org

Our Mission

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Why We Need to Preserve Farmland . . .

American Farmland Trust's May 2018 report "**Farms Under Threat: The State of America's Farmland**" states that by 2050, the demands on agriculture to provide sufficient food, fiber and energy are expected to be 50 to 70 percent higher than they are now. Almost 31 million acres of farmland (equal to all of the farmland in Iowa) have already been lost to development (1992-2012), with almost 11 million acres of those acres being the best land to support intensive food and crop production.

These statistics are unsettling and need to be brought to the attention of the farming community. The bottom line—farmland is a rapidly disappearing natural resource. Farmland preservation anchors the farm economy, helps protect our national security, limits urban sprawl, preserves productive soils and natural resources, creates direct and indirect employment opportunities, preserves the family farm and more.

If you have farmland you would like to preserve for your future generations, please contact us. The SCT is one of a limited number of land trusts who can help you fulfill your farmland preservation goals.

IRA Charitable Deductions An Even More Valuable Planning Tool

The IRA-to-charity tax break continues to be an even more valuable planning tool under the new tax law passed by Congress. On 2018 tax returns, distributions from a traditional IRA to a charity by individuals age 70 1/2 and older offer an opportunity to support the charities of their choice. Up to \$100,000 per individual may be transferred annually to charities and count as part of your traditional IRA's required minimum distribution. However, you are not taxed on them and they are not added to your adjusted gross income on your federal income tax return.

If you are interested in this tax-savings charitable contribution, we suggest that you contact the SCT or consult your financial advisor or accountant to discuss this opportunity in more detail.