

THE FRANKLIN CREEK CHRONICAL



Fall 2021

- Preserve - Engage - Understand -

Educating the Next Generation

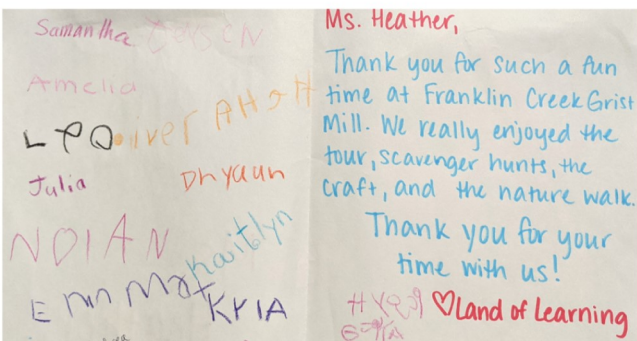
We are fortunate enough to have a building at Franklin Creek that is chock full of history and wonder. You guessed it, the Grist Mill! This building remains under our management thanks to all donors and volunteers who make it possible to operate. This year we were able to host field trips at the Grist Mill again. 60 students from across Northern Illinois learned the importance of this old technology and the value of our natural world! We hope to double or triple this number as school starts up again and the pandemic restrictions lessen. As a Friend of Franklin Creek, you not only make it possible for the building to be open, but you pass on the history and knowledge to every kid that enters through the unassuming brown doors.



© Katie McBride



Ashton-Franklin Center Third Graders



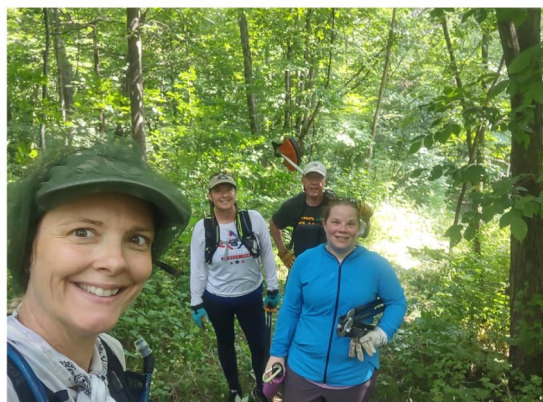
Land of Learning Summer Campers

Volunteers are the water that makes the wheel go 'round

We cannot thank our volunteers enough. They power the wheel of Franklin Creek Conservation Association and keep us moving forward. Even through the 2020 shutdown, our volunteers were able to safely put in over 900 hours of work! That's an in-kind donation of hours worth over \$25,000! 2021 is shaping up to be no different. Thanks to our volunteers we have begun to finish up our 1480 education center, cleared miles of trails at Franklin Creek State Natural Area, and provided an educational booth for several events with Discover Dixon. In addition, our volunteer board helped keep the gears greased and operational among all the other great work they do for Franklin Creek! All hours go to helping preserve, engage, and educate everyone about this hidden gem. We are still looking for volunteers to continue to better serve our mission. Check the next page for more info.



Cleaning the Grist Mill Porch



Clearing Franklin Creek State Natural Area Trails



Dixon City Market Activity Booth



Pouring a New Staircase at the 1480 education center

Future Newsletters

We hope you enjoyed your complimentary series of the Franklin Creek Chronical, the official newsletter of Franklin Creek Conservation Association. Beginning next year, we will only mail printed newsletters to our Friends that have donated within the previous year. The newsletter will be published on our website for everyone else three months after mailing. In addition, you can subscribe to our email list on our website to get updates about the happenings of FCCA on time straight to your inbox. Please contact Heather at 815.456.2718 or by email to engage@franklincreekconservation.org for any questions about how this may impact your newsletter mailing.



Volunteers Needed!

FCCA provides a variety of different volunteer activities for all age groups and experience levels. From stewardship and maintenance to Grist Mill Docent, we have opportunities for everyone!



© Katie McBride



© Katie McBride

If you would like to learn more about how **YOU** can get involved at FCCA please contact Heather at 815.456.2718 or at engage@franklincreekconservation.org.

What Does Age Have To Do With It?



© Rick Pettitt

It may come as a surprise to you, but Franklin Creek Conservation Association is turning forty years old this year! We have accomplished (with your help) so much since FCCA's inception in 1981 as Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation that we do not have room for all of it in this newsletter! Before we detail our accomplishments, we want your help in remembering the first 4 decades of FCCA and Franklin Creek State Natural Area.

Please send your memories, comments, or pictures to engage@franklincreekconservation.org or post them to our **Facebook**, **Instagram**, or **Twitter** pages with the **#40YearsAtFranklinCreek**.

Franklin Creek Grist Mill

Our last official day open for the year is October 31st, but we will have pop-up openings until December. Come purchase last minute gifts, like our 2022 Calendar, learn about places to hike, and our natural history! Can't make it? Purchase some Franklin Creek merch on our webstore. Please check our website and social media for more information before heading out. Open Sat-Sun 12PM-4PM.

Connect and shop with us!



1893 Twist Rd.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031



(815) 456-2718



www.franklincreekconservation.org



@CreekFranklin



/franklincreekconservation



© Heather Herakovich

50:50 Raffle Tickets available!

This year we are doing another 50:50 Raffle to help support our mission and provide educational programming. One ticket is \$10 and with 800 tickets available, you have the ability to win up to \$4800! Not only that, the rest of the money will go to educating the next generation. You must be 18 years of age to participate and if present at the Grist Mill during the drawing at 4PM on November 20, the raffle will be 60:40! Raffle tickets are being sold at the Grist Mill and Stone Bridge Running. Come get your chance before they are all gone!



Save The Dates

Events

September 11—Grist Mill Grind 10K
October 17—Storybook Trail Opening
October 24—Evening at the Mill with John Lynn “Dead People of Illinois” presentation
October 31—Grist Mill last official day open for the year
November 20—Grist Mill Holiday Pop-up and Raffle Drawing

Nature Hikes

September 25th

More information can be found on our website: www.FranklinCreekConservation.org

Some events will require RSVP. You can RSVP on our website, by phone 815.456.2718 or email engage@franklincreekconservation.org. All programs are subject to change.

These are the last events we will have for the year. We hope to see you there!

Nature Notes: Environmental Heroes and Heroines

Dr. Clifford E. Knapp

What is an environmental hero or heroine? If you are concerned with the quality of our environment, you probably know more than one. Joseph Campbell, author of *The Power of Myth*, defined a hero or heroine as someone who “. . . has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” I think of environmental heroes or heroines as people who you deeply respect because of their beliefs and actions that help create a quality environment. Maybe your hero or heroine taught you about birds, trees, or rocks and spent time with you enjoying them. Maybe your hero or heroine



always recycled and reused things because wasting anything was wrong. Maybe your hero or heroine taught you how to appreciate the beauty of nature and took time to help you find it around you. These people could be members of your family, your neighbor or friend, or someone more famous who has written a book. Who are your environmental heroes and heroines?

One of my environmental heroines is Rachel Carson. In 1962 she wrote a book that made a big impact on our society. The book was *Silent Spring* and it was about poisons that killed birds and other animals and silenced their sounds in the spring. At first, some of the chemical companies and governmental agencies attacked Carson's research and her competence as a scientist. Later, the majority of the scientific community agreed with her about the dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides and herbicides and steps were taken to use them more wisely. *Silent Spring* has been credited with helping to launch the first Earth Day in April of 1970. The book is still considered a classic and to this day many believe that Rachel Carson is their heroine. Writing that book and others was her way of giving her life to something bigger than herself.

Another one of my heroes is Pete Seeger, singer, songwriter, and champion of human rights. I first met him in the mid 1970s at a concert and then later at a conference where I interviewed him. Some of his songs were about taking action to keep the environment as clean as possible. He said, "Songs are sneaky things. They can slip across borders. Proliferate in prisons. Penetrate hard shells." He was also instrumental in building and sailing the ship, *Clearwater*, in the Hudson River of New York. There, he and others have been teaching young and old alike about the importance of clean water, air, and soil. Pete Seeger gave his life to something bigger than himself by singing and sailing.

Young people need to find environmental heroes and heroines besides those they have in sports and entertainment. Teachers, youth leaders, and parents need to teach today's youth about others who have made a difference in creating a better environment. If youth have environmental models, they might take more action as individuals and groups. They would also grow up to be voters who made sure that we saved and cared for parks and natural places in our communities. Those who drop fast food restaurant wrappers on my street, break tree branches in the parks, and throw away recyclable materials are suffering from having too few environmental heroes and heroines. How could you influence a young person to do something for the environment? Baba Dioum, in a speech given in 1968 in New Delhi, India said, "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

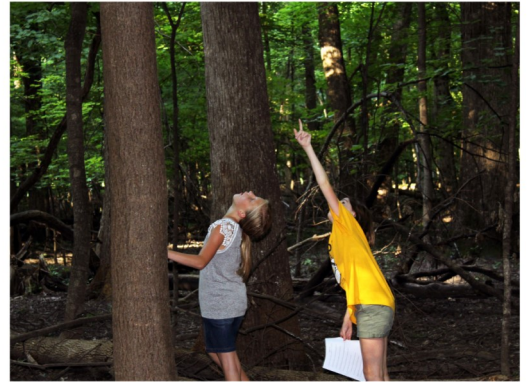
The late Dr. Knapp was a faculty member at Northern Illinois University's Lorado Taft Field Campus for 21 years. He taught courses in outdoor and environmental education.

Have You Made Someone's Day?

We need your help! Help us get families and individuals involved in local history and nature, and protect, restore, and maintain the natural areas we all love so much!



"Our mission is to care for the natural areas of Franklin Creek for current and future generations."



© Megan Sneyd

Yes, I wish to support FCCA!

- ☐ BFF, \$1000 and up \$ _____
- ☐ Ally, \$500-\$999 \$ _____
- ☐ Buddy, \$250-\$499 \$ _____
- ☐ Friend, \$100-\$249 \$ _____
- ☐ Supporter, \$1-\$99 \$ _____

Please indicate if anything applies to your donation

- ☐ Undesignated, to be used to fulfil our mission where most needed.
- ☐ Designated for land purchase.
- ☐ In Memory/ Honor (circle one) of: _____.
- ☐ Please contact me about how I can be a lifelong supporter through legacy giving options (estate plan, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)).
- ☐ Please contact me about volunteering.

FULL NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE & ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS TO GET PROMPT FRANKLIN CREEK UPDATES

Checks should be made out to Franklin Creek Conservation Association and mailed to:
1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Online one-time and reoccurring credit card donations can be made at our website:
www.franklincreekconservation.org

Franklin Creek Conservation Association is a non-profit registered 501(c)(3). Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

