



Franklin Creek Conservation Association

- Engage -
- Understand -
- Preserve -

Summer 2018

www.franklincreekconservationassociation.org

Welcome to the 2019 Season at Franklin Creek!

By Donna Ducharme,
FCCA President



©Katie McBride

FCCA is **grateful to all of the donors and volunteers** who have made another great year at Franklin Creek possible. We are particularly thankful for the \$42,500 contribution made in **memory of John Keller** that allowed us to pay off the mortgage for the 1480 Old Mill Road property.

Weekly Saturday morning volunteer activities continue. Renovation of the house at 1480 Old Mill continues most Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon. No experience is necessary. This is a great way to get out of the house and help out on the bleak days of

late winter and early spring. If you drive by, you will see that a lot of progress has already been made and we hope to have the renovation complete by mid-May.

The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, **Stewardship workdays** continues for volunteers interested in improving the quality of the natural areas at Franklin Creek. Stewardship volunteers meet at the Grist Mill parking lot and will witness, first hand, winter retreating and spring emerging around them. Stewardship workdays continue year round.

The Grist Mill re-opens for the season on Saturday April 6th. The Mill is open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m. during April, May, September and October. During the summer months, the Grist Mill is also open on Friday afternoons.

Time Flies! **2019 is the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Grist Mill.** How long has it been since you visited? Come for a tour of the Grist Mill and learn about the construction techniques of the 1800's, how the Mill operates with waterpower, and why mills were so

important to the early settler communities. At the Mill you will learn about **Woodlands in Illinois** and will see 43 different kinds of wood in the paneling. The **bison exhibit** boasts a full size mother bison and her calf along with Native American artifacts made from bison parts.



©Katie McBride

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Lots of programs and events are being planned. The **Junior Naturalist Program** will be back this summer with exciting youth activities! So, will **Saturday Nature Walks** typically on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month beginning in late April. The event calendar will continue to grow. So far, this is what it looks like. Remind yourself to check the website for details as these dates grow closer!

Saturday, April 13th—RSVP

4 p.m. Pollinator Workshop at
1480 Old Mill Rd & Dinner at
Mill (\$15)

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Evening at the Mill –
Dinner & Pollinator Painting
(\$45/\$35 for just painting)

*BYOB

Thursday, May 16th

5-7 p.m. Open House at the Mill

Saturday, June 8th—RSVP

6-9 p.m. Evening at the Mill—
TRIVIA: Winged Critters

Sunday, September 29th
Singing Bird Chautauqua
Festival

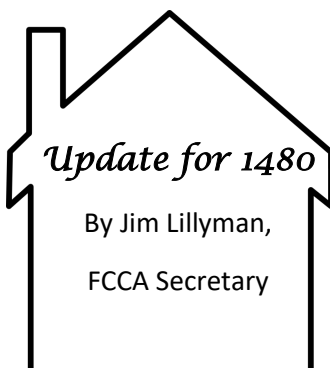
October—RSVP

Evening at the Mill



Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)

Check our website for details and to sign up for our email list to find out about all of these activities as they emerge at www.franklincreekconservation.org or on Facebook.



The progress of transforming 1480 Old Mill Rd property into FCCA's new learning center, Community center, and staff housing is progressing nicely.

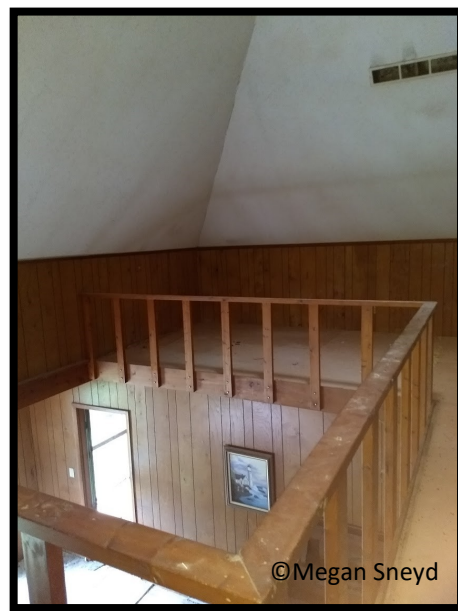
We've made significant progress in peeling the layers back to expose a pretty solid main structure. All of the trash and debris has been removed from the house and yard. The lower level has been completely demoed; ceilings, floors, and walls clear down to bare walls. A brand new Bryant propane 90% efficiency HVAC system donated by Allied Air Conditioning Inc. in Palatine, IL is installed and running. The septic system and the water well which have been rewired and inspected are working well. Wiring of the main electrical panel has been cleaned up and inspected.

The main level of the house has been cleared of debris, bad flooring, and subfloors have been removed. A set of rough blueprints diagraming the structure are complete.

The detached 3 car garage has been cleaned out and rewired to 220 volts with new underground conduit and wire. This building is now up and functioning as our Stewardship building. One end of this building is acting as our

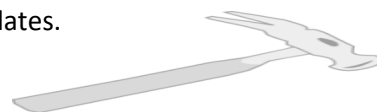
workshop for the remodel.

The 3.5 acres surrounding 1480 has been cleared of most debris and a majority of the invasive species have been removed. Our Stewardship committee has collected native seeds from the surrounding area and planted approximately 185 pounds at this site. Combined, the various seed mixes (upland, wetland, savanna, etc.) contained upwards of 120 different species.



1480 loft looking down to main floor

The next steps in finishing the demo are working on the main floor kitchen, demo front of building, windows, doors and then start the reconstruction. Work days are generally Saturday mornings and intentions are to continue these Saturday morning work sessions starting March 1st. Check our **website** or **Facebook** for upcoming dates.



Franklin Creek Conservation Association



Prairie at 1480 ©Kaleb Baker

Education Programs at FCCA

By Katie McBride,

FCCA Coordinator

This year we are looking forward to adding to our education program! Megan and I will be back for the summer and are excited to see all of you around the mill again. Our first program for the year will be focused on the woodlands. If you didn't get a chance to get to these programs last year the dates for this year are listed below! And if you did, we will be adding a few activities for you to check out.



If you are interested in attending these education programs please RSVP by calling the mill at (815) 456-2718 or emailing engage@franklincreekconservation.org



Nature Walks

April 13—Creeks and Cliff-sides w/Megan Sneyd
(9 a.m.)

April 27— Nature Photos w/ Jeff Schlesinger (9 a.m.)

May 11—Birds w/Karen Lund (7:30 a.m.)

May 25—Late Ephemerals w/Katie McBride (9 a.m.)

June 8— TBD

Woodlands (Middle School Students) - June 13, 2019

Prairie (Elementary Students) - July 11, 2019

Creek (Elementary and Middle School Students) - August 8, 2019

Did you know there are over 250 species of trees in Illinois?

Welcome to the Woodlands will explore some of Franklin Creeks most beautiful wooded areas. Learn more about the plants native to our area and play games that will teach us a little more about the animals in the woods. This program is intended for middle school students. Only 12 spots are available!

Franklin Creek Conservation Association
1893 Twist Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031-9315
(815)456-2718

Return Service Requested



Franklin Creek Conservation Association Exists for the care of the natural areas of Franklin Creek for current and future generations by striving to preserve, restore, and maintain those areas; involve individuals and organizations in Our common purpose and activity; build knowledge and appreciation of the natural area and our cultural heritage. Donations of time and money to help us achieve our goals are appreciated!



Donate Today

Help us protect, restore, and maintain the natural areas we all love so much...

Checks made out to **FCCA** can be mailed

or dropped off at the Mill during Mill

Hours:

1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL
61031

Or scan:

