

THE FRANKLIN CREEK CHRONICAL



Spring 2021

- Preserve - Engage - Understand -

A Year of Resilience

This last year was like no other. Shortly after our last newsletter, the Grist Mill had to close again and all volunteer activity had to stop. Exhausting! Pivot may be the most used word in 2020, but we believe *resilience* really described our year. Luckily, we were still able to get some work done and have a few events before the shutdown. The living area in Project 1480 is now complete and progress is being made in the commercial kitchen and education space. Movies at the Mill with the Dixon Park District were a great hit, although chilly! Look for more Movies at the Mill this summer. We are very fortunate to have dedicated supporters that have helped us through the pandemic and beyond.

Without all of you, we would not be here today.



© Katie McBride

What Does Age Have To Do With It?



© Rick Pettit

It may come as a surprise to you, but Franklin Creek Conservation Association is turning forty years old this year! We must admit this milestone snuck up on us. 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 Conservation Association

Franklin Grove, IL 61031

A New Year, A New Face



© Jess Fliginger

We had the great opportunity to hire a full time staff person to help the operations of Franklin Creek Conservation Association and Grist Mill. Heather Herakovich is our new Executive Director and will be running our email and social media communications. Please stop in the Mill, when it opens, and say “hello!”

A message from Heather— After starting in late 2020, I have hit the ground running getting ready for the upcoming opening of the Mill. I cannot wait to see everyone come through the Mill and join me on Nature Hikes this year! I am a transplant from Indiana that came to Illinois for graduate school at Northern Illinois University. I did my graduate studies at Nachusa Grasslands where I researched the bison reintroduction’s impact on grassland birds. During this time, I fell in love with Illinois’ long history of natural area restoration and wanted to stay and be a part of that longstanding history. After earning my PhD, I went into nature education at two park districts in

the western suburbs of Chicago. Luckily, these jobs did not work out after the pandemic lockdowns and I was able to join FCCA and help see the organization into the future! See you soon!

Memories from an Old Friend

A message from Katie— Hello Friends! As some of you know, I have taken a job in Springfield, Illinois. I am incredibly excited about this change but thought I’d take a moment to share what I love about Franklin Creek. From bringing Scottie the Guest Greeter to the mill every weekend, collecting native seeds for land restoration projects, and meeting a ton of new people from all over through guided hikes, committee meetings, and giving tours at the mill each weekend I have lots of great memories at Franklin Creek. I will miss spending weekends at the mill and hiking the trails along the quiet creek. If you can, make sure to get out this spring and hike the John Husar trail and visit Whipple’s cave to see the beautiful spring ephemerals (my most favorite part of Franklin Creek)!



© Katie McBride

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.

An Almost Finished Facelift Powered by Volunteers

“Our crew of volunteers show up every Saturday morning and work away at the list of Project 1480 ‘TO DO’s’. Progress seems slow and small but when we step back it is impressive how many hands make light work and progress is made. Join in, volunteers are always welcome. If renovations aren’t your thing earmark a financial contribution to Project 1480.” — Jim Lillyman, FCCA Board Member



© Katie McBride

FCCA took possession on Dec. 30, 2017



© Kaleb Baker

The whole face of the building was rot & needed new framing.



© Katie McBride

December 2020 – the change is dramatic

Franklin Creek Grist Mill

We will be re-opening for the season on April 3rd of this year! Come early to make sure you can grab your very own Franklin Creek hoodie, while supplies last! Mill rentals, school groups, and private tours will be available as long as we are open. We will be following state guidelines about social distancing, capacity limits, and mask wearing. Please check our website and social media for more information before heading out. It feels like forever since we were last open, please follow the posted guidelines so we never have to shut our doors again!



© Connor Ross



Connect and shop with us!



1893 Twist Rd.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031



(815) 456-2718



www.franklincreekconservation.org



@CreekFranklin



/franklincreekconservation



Nature Hikes

This year will be continuing our nature hikes and will be announcing our hikes on our website, email, and social media. These hikes will require advanced registration, but are free and are open to all ages. For more information please email engage@franklincreekconservation.org.



© Bert Sneyd

Save The Dates

April 3—Mill First Day Open

April 17—Virtual Trivia Night*

May 15— Bioblitz*

June 4—First Friday Mill Open

June 12—Evening at the Mill with Mark Heinrich*

*If you are interested in attending these education programs please RSVP by calling 815.456.2718 or emailing engage@franklincreekconservation.org

A Glistening Wonderland

Rime ice made all of Franklin Creek State Natural Area glisten this past winter. Rime ice is a natural phenomenon that occurs during cold and humid conditions like the freezing fog we had experienced for many days. The water droplets in the air created ice on surfaces. This is compared to hoarfrost, which occurs when it is a clear night and water vapor crystalizes on surfaces. It was a great site to see! Our friend and amateur photographer, Lynn Garrison, captured these lovely photos.



© Lynn Garrison



© Lynn Garrison



© Lynn Garrison



© Lynn Garrison



© Lynn Garrison



© Lynn Garrison

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 \$ _____



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 other 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 FOR OUR EMAILING LIST

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.