

# THE FRANKLIN CREEK CHRONICAL



Summer 2021

- Preserve - Engage - Understand -

## A Floral Fiesta

The woodland spring blooms are over, but they packed a punch!



© Katie McBride



© Beth Olin



© Heather Herakovich

Early summer prairie blooms are beginning! Come see them before it is too late!

## Calling All Photographers!



The 2021 Calendar was such a hit that we plan on making another for 2022, but we need your help! Like last year, we are putting on a photo contest. Pictures can be of wildlife, people enjoying the park, or landscapes at Franklin Creek State Natural Area/Franklin Creek Headwaters. Photos can be from any time of year. If your photo is chosen, you will receive a free copy of the calendar! Calendars will be sold at the Grist Mill and at other local businesses. All proceeds will benefit Franklin Creek Conservation Association. Entries are due by **July 1, 2021**. Contact/submit to [engage@franklincreekconservation.org](mailto:engage@franklincreekconservation.org).



Franklin Creek Conservation Association

Franklin Grove, IL 61031

## Leaving a Legacy

Mary Keller was a lifelong Friend to FCCA and has left a legacy in the trees she planted and in the contributions she made to keeping the areas surrounding Franklin Creek preserved in perpetuity. She recently passed away, but her love for the natural areas and generosity are still alive within Franklin Creek. She will always be remembered through her generous donation that established Mary R. Keller Memorial Trust that will allow for FCCA to continue our mission to support the conservation and education of the Franklin

Creek area. Coupled with the generosity and tireless efforts of her son John Keller, who passed away in 2014, FCCA has been able to protect the Headwater's natural area and restore the 1480 Old Mill house to become a future education center for the area. The center, when finished, will be named in their memory. If you would like to leave your legacy to Franklin Creek like Mary and John, please contact Heather at [engage@franklincreekconservation.org](mailto:engage@franklincreekconservation.org).



John and Mary Keller

## Kid Friendly and Parent Approved

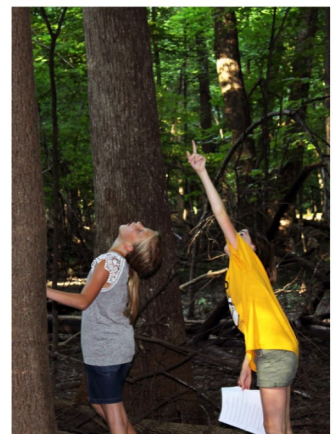
Franklin Creek State Natural Area offers a lot of outdoor activities for families. There are playgrounds near trailheads, easily walkable hiking options, fishing on the Mill pond, and much more. Need a challenge? Stop by the Grist Mill to pick up a scavenger hunt and head out on the trails! If that's not a challenge for your kids, consider our Jr. Naturalist Program. It is an at your own pace program, that allows your kids to learn more about the natural environment. To find out more about our Jr. Naturalist program, please visit our website at [franklincreekconservation.org/junior-naturalist](http://franklincreekconservation.org/junior-naturalist).



© Katie McBride



© Connor Ross



© Megan Sneyd



## 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](mailto:engage@franklincreekconservation.org).

## 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 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](mailto:engage@franklincreekconservation.org) or post them to our **Facebook**, **Instagram**, or **Twitter** pages with the **#40YearsAtFranklinCreek**.

## Franklin Creek Grist Mill

We are open! Come see our new gift shop, learn about places to hike, and our natural history! Can't make it? Purchase some Franklin Creek merch on our webstore. 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. Open Fri-Sun 12PM-4PM.

### Connect and shop with us!



1893 Twist Rd.  
Franklin Grove, IL 61031



(815) 456-2718



[www.franklincreekconservation.org](http://www.franklincreekconservation.org)



@CreekFranklin



/franklincreekconservation



© Heather Herakovich

## Trivia Night: A Slapping Success

There were many laughs, tricky questions, and all around good fun on our 4th Annual Trivia Night on April 17th. There were even multiple appearances from a Hickory Horned Devil! Do you know what that is? Our participants helped us raise money for our mission and won prizes at the same time. One participant remarked how much it felt like we were all in person, when we were just using Zoom. Next year, we hope to see everyone in person and hope to have another great night! See you then!

## Save The Dates

### Events

June 4—First Friday Mill Open

June 12—Evening at the Mill with Mark Heinrich

July 17—Movie Night "A Bugs Life" at Lowell Park

August 7—Movie Night "The Lion King (2019)" at the Grist Mill

August 28th—Art Fair

September 11—Grist Mill Grind 10K


### Stewardship Workdays

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month

### Nature Hikes

June 26th, July 31st, August 28th, and September 25th

\*If you are interested in attending please RSVP on our website, by phone 815.456.2718 or email [engage@franklincreekconservation.org](mailto:engage@franklincreekconservation.org). All programs are subject to change.\*



FRANKLIN CREEK CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

## EVENING AT THE MILL WITH MARK HEINRICH

Join us for an al fresco dinner and an evening of award-winning original tunes by singer-songwriter Mark Heinrich and his banjo.

*Dinner will be served at 6:30 followed by dessert. Please bring your own chair or picnic blanket to enjoy your meal.*

**Saturday, June 12**  
6-9 PM

**Franklin Creek Grist Mill**  
1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031


**\$25 per person / \$15 per student**

The original songs and performances by the talented Mark Heinrich have received numerous awards at the Walnut Valley and John Hartford festival.



Register online or call the mill to reserve tickets by June 9th. 815-456-2718

For more info about our Covid protocol, visit our website. Masks will be required when not seated.  
<https://www.franklincreekconservation.org/eveningsatthemill.html>





## Nature Notes: Nature-Deficit Disorder

*Dr. Clifford E. Knapp*

What is nature-deficit disorder? Is it a medical term? Is there a new drug that will ease some of the symptoms? Who is afflicted with this problem? No, this is not a medical condition and medicines will not bring relief. It is a term coined by Richard Louv, an author and former newspaper reporter, who wrote, *Last Child In the Woods* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2008). In this book he describes a problem facing many industrialized societies today. He claims that children are not getting outdoors much and are becoming separated from nature. This problem also applies to some adults who have grown up attached to electronic umbilical cords. Televisions, computers, video games, and DVD and CD players account for a lot of time in the lives of many people (up to 65 hours a week for some).



© Connor Ross

One study of children, ages of 9 and 12, found that between 1997 and 2003 there was a 50% decline in their use of the outdoors for play. I wonder if the decline continued? There also has been a rise in obesity among children in this age group too. Other health problems include a sharp rise in Type 2 diabetes in children, depression, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Young people don't seem to walk or ride a bicycle to school as much anymore. Even when they get there, some schools are cutting out recess periods and children sit in their seats for many hours each day. In one study in Great Britain, researchers found that children could identify more Pokémon characters than common plant and animals. In the United States children know more corporate logos than the names of trees and other plants in the neighborhood. When I was a kid during the summer, I played outside until I got hungry and sometimes I stayed out all day when I rode my bike to a fishing place. I built forts, carved out places in the woods for carnivals and miniature golf courses, played stickball in the streets, captured box turtles, and roasted potatoes on the coals.

What's stopping today's children from getting to know more about the natural world? Many changes have taken place since I grew up in the 1940s and 1950s. There are fewer farms today than there were then. Many of today's parents restrict their child's recreational freedom because of fear of stranger danger. These fears are greatly exaggerated and kids can be taught how to avoid most problems of this type. As our population rises, more and more vacant lots and stretches of woods and fields are turned over to housing developments. As lawsuits increase, some kids are restricted from climbing trees and playing near water. If a community like yours does not have a nature center, children have a hard time finding someone to teach them about the birds, rocks, wildflowers, and other natural things outside. Kids involved in organized sports and other activities have very little time to explore nature.

Because of these problems, park districts and schools should offer classes and nature walks in their communities. Some communities have built nature play areas and outdoor classrooms where children can have fun while learning about nature. First it takes leadership with a vision and then it takes people, time, and money to convert these visions into realities. Remember what Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

*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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



### 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 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](http://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.