

Our next scheduled volunteer workday of August 23 will be at Hillcrest Lake where we will continue working in the northwest area of the Lake by planting in the upper section and install aquatic plants and sedges to fill in where we planted at the last workday. We will also remove the erosion control blanket at the top of the bank and fill the area with soil.

We will advertise to Hillcrest Lake residents that Commissioners will be available after the workday to answer questions on what we are doing, explain the Pollinator Project, address concerns, etc.

John has done a masterful job of talking to the Hillcrest Lake residents. Every time we work or are present at Hillcrest Lake, we receive compliments about our work. We are pleased to be on solid ground with residents on our effort and in understanding our mission.

John said he speaks with people almost every night and has received only positive feedback. People are grateful and appreciative.

Dana asked Peter Falcone if the City or Aldermen have received any negative comments, or concerns. Peter said City Staff has not heard anything about the work, but he will check and advise. Peter assumed he would have heard something. Dana felt this was good feedback because PHNRC has made the effort to be available and accessible to all regarding the Pollinator Project and all our work.

For August 23, Dana will arrange a table with information on an overview of the Project and plans, review of the Grant, our intentions, etc., and easels with visual information about the PHNRC, what we do, our mission and objectives, etc. Jill suggested giving away free prairie plants. Agnes has Common Milkweed and New England Aster for plant giveaways.

John suggested installing a box with brochures about the Project so people walking around the Lake would have immediate access to information. John said when residents or neighbors walk by the site, that is when questions occur.

Dana commented that everyone we signed up at the Library during the Library's book pick-up and our plant giveaway has opened all information we send. Dana said we have experienced a solid return and even new volunteers. At the August 9 workday, Colin, an Eagle Scout, and his father, John, were present and a neighbor by Heron Pond.

Dana said that John, the Scout Master, inquired about scheduling work events for the older High School Eagle Scouts who need to fulfill service hours. We suggested Saturdays and weeknights between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. We would include an educational aspect.

Seed Collection Wednesdays

Agnes reported we have been collecting early seeds and will begin Seed Collection Wednesdays on August 26 through to October 28, 2020. This activity will begin at 5:30 pm and conclude at dusk. Our first Seed Collection Wednesday will be at the Sedge Meadow, and each successive activity will continue to all our sites.

Note: The start time may occur earlier at 5:00 p.m. as we near October.

Prospect Heights Park District Events

Fall Bird Walks with Mary Lou Mellon, Bird Conservation Network, are scheduled for Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, September 26, 2020 and starting at 7:30 a.m. The Bird Walks are limited to 10 people, and all attendees must wear masks.

The PHNRC Commissioners will conduct a guided tour of the Slough Natural Trail on Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to learn what is growing at the Prairie or the Slough and why native plants are so important. Nature trails bring the experience up close and personal in all four seasons.

A brief site history will be provided as we walk and identify plants and explain what entails the restoration process. We will discuss why biodiversity is so important and the impact it has on insects, birds, and wildlife.

The Slough Nature Trail tour will start and return to 9 Marion Avenue with parking on the street.

This is a free class, but attendees must register on the Prospect Heights Part District website. The tour is limited to 10 people only; first come, first served. Attendees must wear masks and dress for the weather. Social distancing of six to 10 feet will be strictly enforced.

PHNRC will also conduct a tour of the ComEd Seeded Prairie on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The Prairie Tour will begin at the Bike Path and Sherwood Avenue under the power lines. Parking is on Sherwood in-between the east and west prairies.

Information on the tours will be placed in the City of Prospect Heights e:newsletter, and we will send an announcement to our e:mail address listing so people are aware and may register.

Nature Speaks Program

Our current Nature Speaks Program via Zoom is as follows:

September 29, 2020 (7:00-8:30 pm): Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator for the Morton Arboretum, presenting on International Plant Health.

October 22, 2020 (1:00-2:30 pm): Gavin Pretor Pinney from England presenting “Cloudspotting for Beginners.” Gavin will take us on an illustrated tour of the sky and show us how to recognize many of the varied and beautiful cloud formations, from the fair weather cotton tufts of Cumulus to the UFO shapes of lenticularis and the strange undulations of fluctus clouds. Gavin will explain why clouds look the way they do and how they reveal the invisible movements of our atmosphere.

Gavin's enlightening and entertaining talk will help us understand why clouds are the most evocative and poetic aspect of nature. You will also learn how cloudspotting is the perfect antidote to the pressures of the digital world, and you will discover that spending a few moments each day with your head in the clouds will help you keep your feet on the ground.

Looking up will never be the same again!

Gavin is the founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society, which has over 51,000 members in 120 countries.

Gavin Pretor Phinney is the British author of the internationally best-selling *Cloudspotter's Guide* and *Cloud Collector's Handbook*. Gavin's third book, *The Wavewatcher's Companion*, won the Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Books.

Gavin is a TED Global speaker with over 1.3 million views. He has presented television documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4 and is a Visiting Fellow at the Meteorology Department of Reading university, UK, and winner of the Royal Meteorological Society's Michael Hunt Award. Gavin co-founded the *idler*, a magazine that argues for the importance of downtime in creative thinking. His current book, *A Cloud a Day*, is published in the U.S. by Chronicle.

November 19, 2020 (7:00-8:30 p.m.): Dr. Doug Tallamy, celebrated Author, Educator, Researcher and Naturalist, presenting "Nature's Best Hope."

Dr. Doug Tallamy is the celebrated Author, Educator, Researcher and

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Plant Earth.

The good news is that none of this is inevitable.

Dr. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can – and must – take to reverse declining biodiversity, and he will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.

To create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them, we must add the native plant communities that sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities, and manage our watersheds.

Doing so in the half acre of lawn, you can help create Home-grown National park, a 20-million-acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain.

Dr. Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 103 research publications and has taught insect-related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

Dr. Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens*, was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014.

Dana and Agnes will host a Zoom Lunch/Dinner for the Presenters with Commissioners. Gavin lives in the Midlands, so it will be dinner for Gavin and lunch for the Commissioners. Dana and Agnes will arrange for meal delivery from a restaurant to all speakers' homes. Dana will provide the lunch/dinner dates.

Dana also discussed Ed's assistance with placing articles on the Nature Speaks Program presentations in *The Daily Herald*.

Intern Program – Summer 2020

Agnes reported that the summer Intern Program has officially concluded for this year. On Friday, August 7, Agnes and Dana hosted an intern's day out by touring Spring Bluff Fenn in Elgin in the morning and then Poplar Creek in the afternoon.

Agnes said this summer has been like no other. In these times of a horrible pandemic, we were forced to examine every situation that could threaten the health and safety of others. Alyssa and Blair met the occasion and thoughtfully performed all tasks with utmost care and attention, ensuring they and others were as safe as possible under all circumstances.

Agnes said that Alyssa and Blair's enthusiasm and engagement in everything that we have been trying to teach them made it one of the most rewarding of all summers. They made it possible to make up some of the work that we were unable to complete and rescued us from a big setback this year. Their drive, incredible work ethic and compatible, good-natured personalities complemented their positive attitudes. Alyssa and Blair accomplished more work that we would have thought possible. The natural areas of Prospect Heights have benefited from their dedication.

Agnes also mentioned that we had our first unpaid high school intern in Hersey High School student, Ferhat Abat. Ferhat was an extra pair of hands that complemented the interns' work and facilitated every accomplishment this summer.

Agnes read the letter she received from Alyssa where Alyssa expressed that she had a memorable summer, sharpened her skills for her field of restoration study, and learned more than if she had been in a classroom. Alyssa considers Prospect Heights to be her second home, and she intends to return as a volunteer with PHNRC in the future.

Dana reported that Agnes designed an educational program for the interns, which occurred every workday from 7:00-8:30 a.m. Alyssa and Blair are now able to identify 308 or almost 10% of the entire Illinois Region floral.

Dana noted that Alyssa lives in the Back of the Yards neighborhood and Blair lives in Oak Park, so both interns had a distance to travel to Prospect Heights. However, they arrived every workday morning without fail at 6:45 a.m. Talk about commitment!

Dana stated the Intern Program is essential to who we are as a Commission and how we get work accomplished. We wish to ensure this is an ongoing Program. Securing funding is necessary.

Seth inquired if there is reason to be optimistic that the funding sources will be the same. Based on the success and impact we are having at Hillcrest Lake and our sites, the positive comments we receive, and the escalation and appreciation of what we do, we are hopeful the City of Prospect Heights and the Park District are aware of our positive impact on the community. Therefore, perhaps when it comes to funding, it would be an easy decision.

Dana said we do not know about the effects of the COVID Pandemic and the economy.

Seth said before COVID, there was a sense that the City and Park District might see our internship program as a long-term staple to be involved in. Therefore, could we expect to see funding for a period?

Dana did not think there was a message relative to this thought. We have a budget from both the City and Park District; however, because of COVID and a loss of revenue for the Park District, what we proposed and what we received were different. However, Dana said we totally understand and are appreciative of the funding we do receive.

Dana is hopeful that officials could certainly see the value of two young people starting out their life and careers and the sheer volume of work accomplished over 40 hours every week during the summer months. Alyssa is so skilled at this point with senior management. Blair knew exactly what she was doing and why. This is a life changing experience for young people.

Ed said we may not be able to count on the City and Park District because we do not know what their budgets are due to sales tax and things declining. It is a wild card and year-to-year.

Seth said he understands COVID and how it affects the economy and budgets but feels at some point the PHNRC should not always be wondering where funding will be provided. It should be a given. We have reached a maturity as a Commission. Every single year we face a dilemma and are starting from square one. When we prepare our budget proposal and outline our long-term vision, our vision should emphatically state we require two interns.

John said this aspect evolves organically. Many aspects of City Government require a certain amount of funding each year. John said our vision has been coming together the last five or six years or since we became in existence in 2014. However, we cannot force a hand.

John said funding from both the City and Park District is always appreciated. Hopefully, that continues to grow. It is evolving. To reiterate what Ed said, budgets are yearly events, and we must remain optimistic.

Dana said the PHNRC track record of accomplishments and a five-year track record for the internship program provides credibility to our Commission. Clearly, we are not people with a hobby but on a sincere mission or program with a plan to accomplish something that elevates the community and habitat for the wildlife. That part should never be in question. What the City and Park District could do with funding is a variable to what they hope to do. This is completely understandable. Things you cannot plan for is where lies the vulnerability, so we must be realistic.

Wheeling High School Program

Dana noticed that cranes and barracks are stationed at the High School, and they are still under major construction on the building.

Seth said our timeline is to at least prepare the site in October and learn by December of the plants to install in the Spring. However, Seth said we must be sensitive to the delicate situation with schools opening soon. Therefore, Seth advised not to approach the school and discuss the Program at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Illinois Prairie Week – September 20 – 26, 2020

Activities planned by PHNRC for Illinois Prairie Week are as follows:

September 19, 2020 (Saturday) – 9:00-10:00 am: ComEd Prairie Walking Tour

September 20, 2020 (Sunday) – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Volunteer Workday

September 23, 2020 (Wednesday) – 5:30 pm until Dusk – Special Seed Collection

Wednesdays

September 26, 2020 (Saturday) – 7:30 – 9:30 am – Fall Bird Walk with Mary Lou Mellon,
Bird Conservation Network

Dana inquired if anyone wanted to create an event for Prairie Week to let him know. However, John felt with the current COVID situation and inability to orchestrate group events, what we have outlined will work fine.

Hillcrest Lake Update

An update on Hillcrest Lake was provided at the start of the meeting, and information may be found on pages 1 and 2 of the meeting minutes.

In summary, we are restoring the Hillcrest Lake shoreline due to erosion. We have installed coconut rolls on the Lake's northwest corner to hold dirt and deeply rooted plants to hold the shoreline and negate eroding. The coconut rolls over a three to five-year period will slowly degrade in which time will develop into a slope not as deep as is presently there. The last two weeks have involved hours of manual labor. Seth, Peter, and John hammered stakes and securing ropes for a secure planting foundation.

Currently, the area is holding its own. We continue to receive positive feedback from residents.

Commissioners expressed appreciation to Peter Falcone for assistance with purchasing the coconut rolls. The timing was very much appreciated. Commissioners are also very appreciative of Public Works providing dirt and the amount of reduced labor hours by our PHNRC workers.

The Pollinator Park Project will take two years to complete and will result in public access, walking trails and seed production. Ed said the beginnings of this project have already provided a pleasing view, and of greenery that was not recently present.

John mentioned that if residents have questions about restoration work particularly at any of the sites and the new site around the Hillcrest Lake to please reach out to us while we're working onsite or e:mail us through our website. We are happy to answer any questions.

The specific website address for contacting us at info@phnrc.com or via our website at: <https://www.phnrc.com/contact-us.html>

Prescribed Burns and Permit Renewal

Dana stated that completion of a Prescribed Burn Permit is almost completed.

Prescribed Fall Burns are planned for Home of Lauren Eisinger, 9 Marion, Morava Nature Preserve, Saint Alphonsus, the Slough, and Tully Park.

The ComEd Seeded Prairie Prescribed Burn would be completed by Com Ed. We are unclear if the Sedge Meadow and Remnant Sedge Meadow will receive a Prescribed Fall Burn. However, ComEd plans to utilize a brush hog to remove woody invasive species from these two sites during the winter.

The Prospect Heights Park District does not want to burn the golf course.

Having not been able to conduct a Prescribed Burn in the spring highlights the importance of burns and the important tool prescribed burns are with natural area management. Bind weed, poison ivy, woody invasives, etc., grew exponentially and set us back in our work.

Peter Hahn said it is difficult to get a burn to stay and burn. Peter suggested using a brush hog or weed wacker to chop down some of the growth to leave a base for the fire to catch and sustain the burn. This would be useful at the ComEd Prairie, Remnant Sedge Meadow, and the Slough.

Dana cautioned that having equipment on the ground disturbs the soil and causes weeds and invasives to get a foothold and grow. However, this activity is best performed when the ground is frozen. Dana said many more grasses are prevalent at the Slough this year, which would help sustain the fire.

Once the prescribed burns are performed, we will then seed.

Site Monitoring Reports from Commissioners

Per procedure, each Commissioner has responsibility to provide a status update on one of our eight (8) work sites monthly and communicate their report via e:mail to all Commissioners. At the NRC monthly meeting, questions and concerns are addressed. Each monthly worksite update is provided in meeting minutes.

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

On August 12, 2020, Dana toured the ComEd Seed Prairie.

Dana's general overall impression: Dana could not remember a time when the prairie was not in full bloom with something. However, currently, there is little blooming in either the east or west prairie. There existed pockets of things tailing off and new ones starting. It could simply be the timing of his visit, but as he looked closely at the two prairies, it was clear more was going on.

The East Prairie (entrance off Sherwood) has become very weedy. Plants are moving around and going to where they want to be. The Monarda was reduced, and the area seemed to be entrenched with Canada Goldenrod. However, Dana saw an abundance of Big Blue Stem towering over the heads of rivals (invasives).

The Mid-section seemed to be depressing and overrun with Canada Goldenrod, Eurasian grasses, and a smattering of Monarda. However, isolated pockets of Cup Plant and Rattlesnake Master with the emergence of widespread Grass Leaf Goldenrod were present. Both the Cup Plant and Rattlesnake Master appeared to be affected by a type of fungus or insect that is killing flowers and turning them brown before they bloom. This same condition was present the previous week at Bluff Spring Fen and Poplar Creek prairies.

Past the second tower, conditions improved. This area is drier, like a gravel hill, and species are a bit shorter. Much diversity exists – Liatris Spicata, Grass leaf Goldenrod, Rattlesnake Master, Iron Weed, Monkey Flower, and several types of Asters were making an appearance. Many sedges were appearing in the wet area next to the Tower.

The triangle that was never part of the Project looks horrible. It is front and center for the hundreds of passersby that see the area daily. It reads as an abandon junk lot. Therefore, we must soon pour resources into it to make it an area that rivals the Walton sign at Elmhurst and Hillside.

North side of the East Prairie: The areas that Agnes and our interns worked so hard on this summer and last or the areas that touch the fire brake on the north side are starting to show some promise. While some is in the second year, most is in the first year. There is much Sanchez, Thistle and Clover but with an underlying core of natives present. The area needs to be string trimmed very soon to allow the natives to compete. This area also needs additional seeding after the fall burn this year.

No one is encroaching on the boundaries or dumping on the East side; therefore, we are appreciative of this fact.

West side of the Prairie (entrance off Sherwood): The West side of the Prairie is remarkably diverse all the way through to the transition to the dry zone. A completely different look and feel compared to the East Prairie. Underlying collection of out of control turf grass does not exist. A healthy mix of Rattlesnake Master, ironweed, Asters, Grass-Leaf Goldenrod, Canada Wild Rye, Sedges, Cup Plant, Milkweed, Tall Coreopsis, Monkey Flower, Sneezeweed, Wing Stem, Poke Weed, Biennial Gora and Sawtooth Sunflower are all present! The far west end becomes shorter as it is drier with an abundance of Grass-leaf Goldenrod, Rattlesnake Master, Blue Stem and Sedges.

Recommendations for this year: Dana feels it is paramount that the ComEd Seeded Prairie receives a Prescribed Burn and then seeded as thoroughly as possible. Dana recommends a workday that focuses on clipping the sheer volume of Canada Goldenrod before it spreads and remove the rest of the invasives from the Elmhurst triangle. After burning this area, seeding, and plugging must commence to bring this area current.

Heron Pond

John reported that a considerable amount of damage by equipment was noted at Heron Pond today, August 13. Large swaths of native prairie plants were destroyed. We do not know how it evolved, but it is awful. Looks like someone was trying to put a road in.

Dana will send an e-mail to Dino Squiers of the Park District to inquire. We are unsure of the source of the damage, perhaps the Water Reclamation District. However, John said the damage extends well beyond the creek, more on the pond side from the trail down into the pond where two or three areas have fallen trees for the Park District to review. Seems to be in line with the area where those trees were down. A lot of damage was present.

Hillcrest Lake (Agnes Wojnarski)

The current Project and conditions at Hillcrest Lake are mentioned in these minutes on pages 1, 2 and 8.

Morava Nature Preserve (Pete Hahn)

Pete stated that a lot of people walk the nature trail and bring their children to the Nature Preserve. Pete has observed several families reading the Storyboards and then play in the Creek by the stepping stones. This area draws a lot of visitors.

The paths are a bit overgrown but passable with currently no problems to note.

Pete noted that the older diseased and dead trees need to be trimmed and/or removed for safety reasons. The oak trees planted by the Girl Scouts are all growing well. Without the work of Rick Bierman, these oak plantings would be lost. Rich has watered and cared for the oak plantings at both the Nature Preserve and the Slough.

Erosion is still a major concern and problem. We need outside professional assistance to solve the problem. Erosion control work is above our Commission's capabilities. Pete feel it is only a matter of time before erosion destroys a lot of our plantings and hard work. We have already lost portions that were planted.

The stairs going to the stepping stones are also in need of protection from erosion.

In summary, the Morava Nature Preserve is enjoyable, educational and a fun experience for many. The work we have accomplished has helped wildlife in creating much-needed habitat.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

Seth provided his Monitoring Report of the Remnant Prairie on August 14, 2020.

Seth divided the Site into five areas: Along the path, on the east side, going south to north, three sections plus the section deep to the east (the northeast section of the Property), and the thin strip along the west side of the Bike Path.

Section 1: Plentiful species present including Hemp Dogbane, Queen Anne's Lace (in flower), Grass-Leaf Goldenrod (*Ethamia graminifolia*) about to flower. A moderate amount of Teasel is present. (The quantity of Teasel in the entire property, although present, seems to be greatly reduced compared to last year.) A fair amount of woody species is present, such as plums, grey dogwood, and buckthorn.

Section 2: Plentiful species are present, including Grass-Leaf goldenrod, Boneset (in flower), Rattlesnake Master, Hemp Dogbane, Cinnamon Willow Herb, Lady's Thumb (*Persicaria*). A handful of Swamp Milkweed and a few Grey-headed Coneflower are present. A few Purple Loosestrife is also present, seemingly an improvement compared to last year.

Section 3: Plentiful species are present including Rattlesnake Master. A few Common Milkweed and Prairie Dock are present. Monarda is present but very few are in flower. Surprisingly, minimal flowering is occurring in Section 3.

A grouping of large elderberries is present and with ripe fruit.

Woody species, especially around electric power towers, are present but are also in numerous other places on the Site, including a section along the bike path.

Back Northeast Section: The stream bed is dry. The nice section is plentiful with Prairie Dock, Compass Plants, Grey-headed Cone Flowers, and areas of high-quality native diversity mixed with sections overrun with invasives.

Strip west of the Bike Path: A fair amount of Buckthorn is present. Also noticed a pretty Biennial Gaura in flower.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Teasel is under control in large part to Pete Hahn! Pete visited the Sedge Meadow with our interns the week of July 6, 2020 and herbicided the rest of the Teasel on the South Side of the Cattails. Herbiciding the remainder of the Teasel occurred the week of July 20, 2020, per Agnes.

The Cattails are spreading, but Agnes, Pete, and our interns herbicided a large area of the Sedge Meadow, which included the Cattails. We are hopeful that someday we may remove more invasive species to improve the health of the Sedge Meadow.

Dudley's Rush, St. John's Wort, Torrey's Rush, Nodding Bulrush, Dark Green Bulrush, and many other different types of sedges are present at the Sedge Meadow.

Agnes reported that the interns and her found a new species believes to be *Carex Granularis* or Meadow Sedge.

Slough

Agnes reported that major events this year at the Slough was the amount of flooding and the length of time that everything was under water. The flooding at the Slough was significant. Plants were under three feet of water for over one week. The flooding, vegetation and invasives were significant and a tremendous set back. Plants do not like to be under water.

The interns incorporated warrior sedges that were mentioned as a remedy at recent conferences to combat climate change and flooding. Therefore, five (5) different warrior sedge species were planted in eight different areas with GPS monitoring. Over the next year we will monitor the warrior sedges and water quality. Also, we will assess how long the warrior sedges may be under water to see which ones can survive.

A Prescribed Burn at the Slough is a necessity. Certain areas are active.

Agnes said the Slough has hundreds and thousands of Cardinal Flower blooming, and Sedges are making ground.

Ed said the aquatic plants are doing very well. Agnes added that the carp enclosure really worked this year at the outlet of Hillcrest Lake. However, we removed the carp enclosure too soon because within one nor two days, carp appeared at the Slough.

Dana said some of the snags are getting older and coming down faster. They must be removed. They could cause a safety issue for volunteer workdays.

Agnes said a couple of trees have broken branches down on the trail path.

Tully Park

Jill reported that per Wendy Dewar, many buckthorn resprouts are present at Tully Park and will be removed in the fall. Wendy is hopeful that a productive prescribed burn could be accomplished in the fall.

Rudbeckia, Rattle Snake Master and the Compass plant that was donated by resident Peggy Lee were blooming as of July 2020.

As of August 2020, Tully Park has a new flowering plant – Physostegia (Obedient Plant). Other blooming prairie plants are White Snake Root, Bone Set, Cardinal Flower, Coreopsis, Rattlesnake Master, and Compass Plant. Another pollinator is present but unidentifiable by Wendy.

Bottle Brush is stabilizing the McDonald Creek bank enmass.

PHNRC Treasurer Report and New 2020 Budget

John provided the PHNRC Revenue and Expenses through August 7, 2020 from a report kindly provided by Peter Falcone.

PHNRC has wisely spent our budget funds, specifically on intern wages. However, intern wages are a worthwhile expense. Also, we were recently overdrawn by \$170, but Agnes has since remedied this situation. Thank you, Agnes!

We are basically down to a separate budget for the Pollinator Park, which is funded by the ComEd Grant and matched by the City plus a very generous donor.

Seth inquired if we are anticipating any further expenses, and if so, can we project those expenses and have money to cover? Agnes said costs for needed tools and herbicide for winter work can be covered. No real expenditures occur until the early Spring. Between now and May 1, 2021, we may need \$1,000 to cover expenditures. Sometimes we receive donations, like from Garden Clubs.

John said exhaustion of our budget funds is a good way to develop our next budget request. This will help finetune what our next budget request should be and a good gauge on where we need to go and how much to request.

John said suggested hosting another Art Show! Dana had made inquiry with the Library and mentioned the Hillcrest Lake residents' idea of a Prospect Heights Paint Show. The Show would be based on residents of Prospect Heights. However, the Library will be shut down starting in October for renovations. Therefore, Ed suggested to think of a virtual way to host another Art Show.

Peter Falcone suggested creation of our 2021 budget by February 2021 and to have available for review at a February 2021 City Council Meeting. The 2021 Budget becomes effective May 1, 2020.

Announcements to the Public

Registration for Nature Speaks Programs is through the Prospect Heights Public Library.

Directions: Please proceed to the Library’s website – www.phpl.info. Click on “Events & Programs” located in the left column menu of the website page. Then on “View Calendar.” Look for the date of the event then click on the event, which will provide a registration page. Links for registration are also provided below.

Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Tricia Bethke, Illinois Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator at The Morton Arboretum, presenting “2020 International Year of Plant Health: Protecting Plants, Protecting People.”

<http://www.phpl.info/evanced/lib/eventssignup.asp?ID=17321&rts=&disptype=&ret=eventcalendar.asp&pointer=&returnToSearch=&num=0&ad=&dt=mo&mo=9/1/2020&df=calendar&EventType=ALL&Lib=&AgeGroup=ALL&LangType=0&WindowMode=&noheader=&lad=&pub=1&nopub=&page=&pgdisp=>

Thursday, October 22, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm Zoom Presentation – Gavin Pretor-Pinney, Founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society, presenting “Cloudspotting for Beginners.”

<http://www.phpl.info/evanced/lib/eventssignup.asp?ID=18623&rts=&disptype=&ret=eventcalendar.asp&pointer=&returnToSearch=&num=0&ad=&dt=mo&mo=10/1/2020&df=calendar&EventType=ALL&Lib=&AgeGroup=ALL&LangType=0&WindowMode=&noheader=&lad=&pub=1&nopub=&page=&pgdisp=>

Thursday, November 19, 2020, 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Dr. Doug Tallamy. Author, Educator, Researcher and Naturalist, presenting “Nature’s Best Hope.”

<http://www.phpl.info/evanced/lib/eventssignup.asp?ID=20010&rts=&disptype=&ret=eventcalendar.asp&pointer=&returnToSearch=&num=0&ad=&dt=mo&mo=11/1/2020&df=calendar&EventType=ALL&Lib=&AgeGroup=ALL&LangType=0&WindowMode=&noheader=&lad=&pub=1&nopub=&page=&pgdisp=>

Registration for Bird Walks and Nature Tours is through the Prospect Heights Park District.

Directions: Please proceed to the Park District’s website – <https://phparks.org/> - or call the Park District at (847) 394-2848.

Registration through the Park District’s website requires creation of an Account. Please refer to the Home page under Household Account and click on Need an Account? Once an account is established proceed to register as follows:

Directions: Click on the Registration tab at the top of the page and denoted in red. Click on the Special Events & Trips menu tab. Then click on the Special Events & Trips title to the left top side of the page. Under “Type,” click on All Types. Then place your search request in the Keyword Search – bird walks or tours. Proceed to register. NOTE: creation of an account may be required.

Activities: Free of Charge, but Registration with the Park District is required.

Slough Tour – Thursday, August 20, 2020 – 6:30-7:30 pm – Activity # 211082-01

Fall Bird Walk – Saturday, September 12, 2020 – 7:30-9:30 am – Activity # 211024-01

ComEd Seeded Prairie Tour – Saturday, September 19, 2020 – 9:00-10:00am –
Activity # 211082-02

Fall Bird Walk – Saturday, September 26, 2020 – 7:30-9:30 am – Activity # 211024-02

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary