



Members You Should Know: Charlotte Adelman & Bernie Schwartz

Many years ago, husband-and-wife Lake/Cook members Charlotte Adelman and Bernie Schwartz began a journey that has led them to become passionate advocates for birds, bees, butterflies, native plants and prairie restoration. The journey has resulted in books, public gardens, and land donations and bequests in five states – all dedicated to preserving native flora and fauna for future generations as well as reducing nonnative plantings that provide no sustenance for wildlife.

Locally, among the retired attorneys' most visible legacies is a nearly two-acre native prairie garden at Centennial Park in Wilmette. Initiated by the couple and created with the help of the Park District and Boy Scouts, the garden bursts into colorful bloom every year with Purple Coneflowers, Orange Coneflowers, New England Asters, Blue Vervains, multiple milkweed varieties crucial to monarch butterflies, and dozens of other native forb, flower and grass species.



In Wisconsin, the duo has protected a rare 1.6-acre hill prairie remnant on a lake near Whitewater by purchasing seven lots that would otherwise have been developed and then entering into a permanent easement with the Kettle Moraine Land Trust as well as donating the property to The Prairie Enthusiasts.

In North Dakota's Prairie Pothole Region, they have donated a 160-acre site that is premier waterfowl breeding habitat to Ducks Unlimited – the world's largest private waterfowl and wetland conservation organization. The donation included funds for enhancing the property with native plants to support other birds and pollinators.

Their conservation and education efforts have also included bequests to organizations in Nebraska, Illinois and Ohio as part of their estate planning; co-authorship of the state-by-

state *Prairie Directory of North America* and *The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants*; and countless presentations to enthusiastic gardeners, birders and environmentalists to spread the word that native plants improve air and water quality, reduce the need for pesticides, and provide food and reproductive sites necessary for birds and butterflies.

“Researching and writing about the prairie and native flowers, plants, trees and shrubs has provided me with an unexpected and magnificent education,” Charlotte says. It has also led indirectly to a love of birds and trips to see them. An island near Edinburgh, Scotland, stands out.

“Bernie and I were the only two human beings on it at that particular time, and we were amidst 40,000 nesting pairs of Atlantic Puffins, some of which were flying in with fish in their beaks to feed their offspring,” she recalls. “It was a truly memorable experience.”

Next up: the couple's third book, *Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees*. Stay tuned; coming December!



1st Annual Lake County HawkFest Set to Debut Oct.14-16

A weekend of raptor watching and education is in store Oct. 14-16 at the first annual Lake County HawkFest, to be held primarily at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve and Lake Forest College. Created by local raptor enthusiasts in collaboration with the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the event will include all-day hawkwatches at Fort Sheridan and Illinois Beach State Park, bird walks at multiple sites, up-close rehabilitated raptors, programs on topics ranging from hawk identification to bird photography, and family-friendly activities. Registration is required for fee-based events. A full agenda is posted at www.facebook.com/lakecountyhawkfest.



Welcome New Members

John Adams, Chicago

William & Yvette Branson,
Chicago

Nat Carmichael, Gurnee

Mark & Karen Flinchum,
Chicago

Christy Gaples, Libertyville

Susan & Rick Gourley,
Northbrook

Sharon Kardas, Chicago

Marcia Kittler, Chicago

Edward & Bonnie Koven,
Highland Park

Monica Leffers, Burbank

Melody Metzger, Mount
Prospect

Melissa Ramlow, Hainesville

Laura Ferrell & Grant Riedesel,
Chicago

Kate & Rick Scott, Lake Zurich

Patti Solem, Highland Park

Rosemary Stadler, Chicago

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Steve Wilson, Libertyville

Linda Worchel, Round Lake