

# THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of The Prairie Club Fall 2025

# Skip some yard work this Fall

If you notice fewer Monarch butterflies around than you remember from your childhood, you are not wrong! It is

reported that the eastern population has declined by about 80% and the western population has dropped by more than 95% since the 1980s.

They aren't the only pollinators disappearing. Bees are dying off at an unsustainable rate. Did you know that 75% of the world's food crops and a full 90% of all wild flowering plants rely on bees for pollination?

These small creatures need all the help we can give them. By doing less yard work this Fall, you can help bees, butterflies, and other pollinators survive the winter. Follow these tips to do your part. Even if you can only do one, it can make a real difference for pollinators in your own backyard.

- 1. Leave your leaves. The fallen leaves act as a shelter for overwintering pollinators. If there are just too many, leave some on your garden beds or in a corner of your yard.
- 2. Leave your stalks and don't deadhead. Like leaves, hollow stalks provide a spot for bees to overwinter and those seed heads will attract winter songbirds.
- 3. Leave some bare areas of soil in your garden. Many wild bees, including bumblebees, spend the winter in small nests in the ground.

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# Nominating & Election Procedures for Open Officer Positions

Each year the Prairie Club Nominating Committee meets to select nominees to fill upcoming club Director or Officer positions that open in December. Director terms are for three years, Officer terms are for two years. The Officers are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Hazelhurst Camp Chair and the Spring Grove Camp Chair, selected by the respective camps, are also Officers. There are twelve Directors; four three-year terms start each year. These seven Officers and twelve Directors constitute the Prairie Club Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee publishes nominee names in the September issue of the Prairie Club Bulletin. In accordance with Prairie Club By-laws, if you wish to submit an alternative name by October 1 for nomination, either obtain a members' nominating petition form from the office, which must then be signed by ten or more eligible club members, or write a nominating letter and have it signed by ten or more members. In either case, the office for which the nomination is made should be indicated and the names and addresses of the signers included (see By-laws, Article VII-Election, and Letter Ballots, Section 1, for procedures). Only voting members in good standing are eligible for nomination.

In addition to positions filled through this process, much of the club's work is done by committee chairs. Standing committees are appointed by the Board. Chairs and their committees are member volunteers who lead and accomplish the club's mission.

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On the following pages you will find short biographies of the nominees for open officer positions on the Board.

# Nominating Committee Nominations for the 2025 Board

#### Valerie (Val) Cavin

Thank you for considering me to serve another term on the Board of Directors of the Prairie Club.

I was introduced to The Prairie Club by my good friend Linda Christianson, who is a member. Linda and her husband Rick Blackwell rent the Burton cottage at Hazelhurst for a week every year. They have invited me to join them for a few days for the past several years.

My first term, which was filling out the term of a member who resigned, gave me entry to the lively Board meetings ably chaired by Mike Maloney. I became acquainted with the various Board members, if only through their Zoom headshots. I learned about the organization of the various committees that run the Prairie Club, Hazelhurst, and Spring Grove. And I received a glimpse of issues which are important to the continuation of the Club's mission and the integrity of its land holdings. I continue to be in awe of the volunteer commitment of members to keep the property thriving.

I've continued to be a support to Hope Little for the Annual Meeting, including meetings from 2022 through 2025. I've been able to rent rooms at the Farmhouse for myself and friends, as well as Tracy and George Gehlmann's small cottage. Louisa Gehlmann recently put me up so I could attend Leo's presentation about his round-the-world cruise.

As a renter I am particularly interested in ways to integrate

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#### Valerie (Val) Cavin

renters into the larger mission of the organization. I've proposed an ad hoc rental committee and will be working with Natalie and Mickey Hanson to create a survey of renters to discover issues to be discussed in such a committee. I've also had conversations with Sharon Lemler about involving more renters in conservation projects.

Born and raised in Detroit, I moved to Chicago after graduation from the University of Michigan. My degree in journalism led me to a career in communications and fundraising. I also had a "hobby" of rehabbing several small apartment buildings and managing their rentals. I am single, no children. My small extended family now lives in Atlanta.

I am moving to Hyde Park in Chicago on October 1. A side benefit of the move is that I will be about 20 minutes closer to Hazelhurst! I look forward to more time at the camp in the coming years.

#### Angie Dodd

Angie Dodd and her husband, Richard Mertz, have been members of the Prairie Club since 2013. Until 2018, when they became siteholders, the front office described them as "prolific renters." Angie and Rich live outside Chicago in the suburb of Oak Park. They have three grown sons who live in Baltimore, Seattle and Minneapolis. When they weren't enjoying Hazelhurst, they spent much of their family time hiking and exploring the National Parks.

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#### **Angie Dodd**

Angie studied English and History at Iowa State University in her hometown of Ames, Iowa and received a JD from the University of Wisconsin. She spent the majority of her legal career as a federal trial attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission prosecuting securities fraud (including working on the Bernie Madoff case). She retired in 2023.

Angie has served on several not for profit boards, including serving as president of the Oak Park Education Foundation and on the board of Maywood Fine Arts. She has a particular interest in corporate governance and has led several strategic planning initiatives.

Angie volunteers regularly at the Migrant Ministry that provides services for Oak Park's newest migrant families and Humble Chicago that furnishes homes for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness. She recently began learning Spanish and spent a month in Oaxaca, Mexico at Spanish language school in January of this year. Angie and Rich are avid travelers. In addition to visiting their far flung offspring, they have recently traveled to Germany, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Sardinia. Angie continues to love hiking and exploring the great outdoors.

Hazelhurst is a special place for Angie and her family. She enjoys the natural surroundings and community activities, in particular Monday morning coffee, the memorial service, pickleball and conservation parties. She volunteers regularly for beach clean up and conservation activities. She thoroughly enjoys spending time at the beach and is particularly fanatic about searching for beach glass.

#### Mickey (Mildred) Hanson

I was born in Racine, Wisconsin. When I was 9, my father passed and my mother moved us and my five siblings to Brainerd, Minnesota. While attending high school, I taught swimming and worked in the library. After high school, I worked at Larson Boat Works spray painting until moving to Chicago, Illinois in the 70's, where I still reside.

My work experience for the last fifty years, besides spray painting, includes data entry, computer operator, billing, receptionist, golf club repair, and cafe manager. My hobbies include swimming, fishing, reading, jigsaw puzzles, and sudoku.

Myself and my life partner, Jim, of 36 years, have been members and site holders of our beautiful Spring Grove camp going on 15 years, where we enjoy the great outdoors with the great people who work to keep our camp going. I have served nine years as Spring Grove Lodge Chair.

#### Jeffrey Sartain

Jeffrey Sartain has a long history with Hazelhurst having spent summers there as a tyke in the 1960s and as a teenager in the 1970s. School and family situations resulted in a 30 year hiatus mainly because wife Cindi worked as a school teacher and was able to spend summers in her native San Diego where children Jane and Victor could bond with their grandparents on Pacific beaches. As the children matured though the yearning for the Prairie Club resurfaced and the family began renting on and off site until purchasing a cottage in 2020.

Jeff was raised in Barrington IL and now resides in Libertyville IL. He is a degreed Mechanical/Manufacturing Engineer with a Bachelors from the University of Iowa and a Masters from Northwestern University. He retired from Abbott Laboratories after 27 years in various Product Development, Engineering and

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#### Jeffrey Sartain

Regulatory leadership roles across pharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostic, and nutrition business sectors. He retired from Abbott in 2014 after which he consulted for many years in the same health care space for the likes of J&J and Amgen and taught coursework in operational excellence and quality management principals at Northwestern University.

Jeff is active in numerous Hazelhurst activities and improvement programs and looks forward to expanding his contributions to the advancement of Prairie Club objectives and giving back to the organization that offers such special gifts to those fortunate enough to be a part of the PC member community.

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED!**

The Prairie Club is needs a new Conservation Committee Chair. Be sure to check out the Conservation Committee description on our website. You can find it on the Job Description tab under Board Information. <a href="https://www.theprairieclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Job-Description-Conservation-Committee.pdf">https://www.theprairieclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Job-Description-Conservation-Committee.pdf</a>

Join The Prairie Club on
hikes, kayaking, and other activities!
Be sure to follow the Prairie Club on meetup.com
Search for "Prairie Club of Chicagoland Activities Group"

# **New Applicants for Membership**

The following candidates have applied for membership since our last Bulletin was published. If you know of any reason why an applicant should not be admitted to the Club, please write to the Membership Committee, via the Club office address: 12 E. Willow St., Unit A, Lombard, IL 60148

#### **Cristopher Conner**

Long Grove, IL 60047 2nd Address: Harbert, MI 49115 Sponsors: Larry Bergman, Suzanne Dissette Interviewed by: Jo Burda-Smith

#### **Mary Crawford**

Reno, NV 89502 Sponsors: Bob Foote, Marcy Ford Interviewed by: Sally Cook

#### **Steven Giordano**

Dade City, FL 33523 Sponsors: Charles Manthey, Jean Simmons Interviewed by: Terese Clancy

# **Our Departed Members and Friends**

We have received news of the passing of the following members since the last edition of our Bulletin. Please remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Annette Robinson passed away on June 25, 2025

Leslie Howell passed away on July 20, 2025

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#### **Donations**

Thank you for the continued support of our Members. Please remember that donations to the Prairie Club are <u>not</u> tax deductible.

Grateful for the beauty and relaxation it offers, Spring Grove Camp received donations from members and their guests following their stay:

Jamie Galaher

John Leane

**Terry Riban** 

Friends of the Rozema's

**Friends of Sue Thompson** 

#### Rentals at The Prairie Club

Fall offers a wealth of family-friendly activities, from corn mazes and pumpkin patches to hayrides and U-pick farms - not to mention the thrill of haunted houses. Either of our camps are the perfect home base to set off on your adventures.

Don't forget all of our facilities are open year-round. Both of our camps are situated near unique and amazing natural areas, perfect for Fall and Winter activities.

Contact the office today to make your reservation!

You may reach us by phone at (630) 620-9334 or e-mail at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net



presents

# THE

FREE RAFFLE 50/50 RAFFLE

Bring your own beverages and chairs Food truck @ 4 pm

Ice Cream Truck @ 6 pm Band starts @ 6 pm

#### Admission:

Adults \$10

Kids under 12 free

Be sure to bring cash! There will be a 4% service fee on credit card purchases.

## Spring Grove's Annual Golf Outing Saturday, September 27th

**Nippersink Golf Course** 

\$85 per Golfer Golf includes 18 holes of golf & cart

Lunch at the turn: Hot Dog or Brat and Chips

Dinner, Beer, Soda Raffles and Prizes

At the Spring Grove Lodge after golf

Anyone not golfing but still wanting to participate for the after party \$10 each

To sign up contact

Jami Lee Duffy 773-750-2006 by text
or email jamilduffy@sbcglobal.net
or Donna Swanson 773-972-3130

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#### **Prairie Club Officers 2025**

President Mike Maloney

1st Vice President Sarah Craig Pratt

2nd Vice President Hope Little

Treasurer Mark Sever

Recording Secretary Wendy Lyford

Hazelhurst Camp Vice President Dan Gapen

Spring Grove Camp Vice President Erin Kiehm

#### Standing Committees 2025

Audit Kevin Oravec
Elections Terry Riban
Finance Charles Manthey
Historical OPEN
Membership Jo Burda Smith
Nominating Dan Gapen

#### **Activity Committees 2025**

Activities/Walkers Terry Riban **Annual Meeting** Hope Little Buena Vista Linsey Crowninshield Conservation OPEN Family Cottage Terri Breach, Barb White Farm House Deb McGrath, Barbara Wittersheim Promotional Barb Burton-Halfpenny **Publications** Natalie Brennan Hazelhurst Dan Gapen Spring Grove Erin Kiehm, Brian Reed Spring Grove Lodge Mickey Hanson Website Natalie Brennan

#### Mission Statement:

The Prairie Club, founded in 1908, encourages the love of nature and participation in outdoor recreation by providing facilities and activities that allow members and guests the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We foster a sense of community, the appreciation of the beauty of nature, and importance of environmental conservation through the maintenance and programs of our two permanent camps, Hazelhurst and Spring Grove.

The Prairie Club

12 E. Willow St., Unit A
Lombard, IL 60148
(630) 620-9334 Phone
(630) 620-9335 Fax
E-mail: office@theprairieclub.org

**Return Service Requested** 

Website: www.theprairieclub.org

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