



**FOUNDED:
NOVEMBER 4TH, 1964**

Our Mission:

To Preserve and
Manage Natural Areas
and Open Space for
Ecological, Educational
and Recreational
Benefits for Present and
Future Generations





■ **“Others expecting paradise on Rock River, may go there; I go no further.”**

■ **-John K Towners, early settler after he spent a night on the Kishwaukee River in what is today, Belvidere in the year 1835.**



HOW — THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACT 70ILCS410

- Became law in 1963
- 21-page document, the most important paragraph in my opinion is 410/11
 - “Every district shall consider the preservation of natural conditions and protection of flora and fauna as part of its principal purpose and to that end shall set aside a substantial portion of its land to remain in an essentially undisturbed condition.
- “ a district may not levy annual taxes, for all its purposes in the aggregate, in excess of .1% of the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, of the taxable property therein.”
 - What does this mean?
 - The BCCD receives \$0.10 for every \$100.00 of assessed value.
 - The BCCD’s current budget 1,211,241.17.



MISSION AND PURPOSE

- Manage 4,200 acres most, of them being set aside as natural areas or habitat for native flora and fauna
- Educate kids and adults on the need for open space as well as natural processes.
- Opportunity for passive recreation activities while making BCCD managed areas safe for site users.
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Fishing
 - Horseback Riding
 - Birdwatching



WE ARE A LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- 4,200 acres most of these acres managed for wildlife
- Both flora and fauna
- Fighting unmanaged succession - invasive species
- No golf courses or playground equipment





VALUE OF SETTING ASIDE ACRES AS NATURAL AREAS

- Aesthetic value
- Recreation
- Teaching models
- Flood water storage
- Ground water recharge
- Slow surface water runoff
- Refuge for threatened and endangered species and species in decline.



HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**Retain and
Control Flood
Water**

**Groundwater
Recharge,
micropores**

Biodiversity

**Habitat for
pollinators**

Anthropogenic

- Mental
- Physical
- Cultural





HISTORY

- **First Meeting of BCCD Trustees**
January 19th, 1965
- **First Board of Trustees**
 - William Ralston President 1 year term
 - Bill Wolf Secretary 2-year term
 - Melvin Banks 3 year term
 - Donald Yates Treasurer 4 year term
 - Don McLay 5 year term
- BCCD hires its first attorney Allen Silver in April of 1965 a retainer fee of \$500.00
- George Fell presents to the BCCD Board for the first time May 19th 1965



HISTORY CONTINUED...

- Budget in 1965 \$24,000
- Budget in 1966 \$33,250
- The BCCD was compensating the Natural Land Institute for **George Fells** assistance in managing the first conservation District in the state
- August 1st, 1965 the BCCD hires its first part-time employee George Fell
 - Hired on a quarterly basis \$750.00 per quarter
 - Prioritize land acquisitions and assist in hiring an Executive Director
- Hiring of Roger Gustafson, the BCCD's first Executive Director at a rate of \$615.00 per month. His first day was March 1st 1968.





**First Truck Purchased March 1968 for
\$2,163.87**



First Nature
Center/Administrtion
Building Opened and
Dedicated
1982





UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- June 14 Camp Redwing begins
 - June 17 Owl Hunt - new Administration Building - 7:00 p.m.
 - June 18 Metal Detector Clinic by Harry Eckert - 8:00 a.m. - new Administration Building
 - June 20 & 26 Photography Workshop by Kodak representative, sponsored by Harman-Kester Inc. - 7:00 p.m. - new Administration Building
 - June 26th in the field
 - June 27 Heritage Bike Clinic - 7:00 p.m. - new Administration Building - Full size Multisport Training Bikes only
- Registration is required for the photography, metal detector clinic.



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George and
Roger





LAND ACQUISITIONS

BCCD MANAGED LANDS

- **Boone County is 185,500 acres.**
- **The BCCD manages 4,200 acres.**
 - **Many of these are along riparian corridor and wetlands.**
- **2.2% of the landcover managed by the BCCD.**
- **A small portion of lands set aside for habitat and passive recreation activities.**





FLORA PRAIRIE – FIRST ACQUISITION, JANUARY 26TH 1968

- Dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in August of 1993. What does this mean?
- Highest level of protection for a natural area in the state.
 1. Geologically, dry dolomite prairie, exposed bedrock
 2. Culturally, remnant pre-settlement conditions
 - a. 1835-1840 surveyed and settled.
 - b. Pre-settlement conditions and characteristics
 - c. Remnant habitat
 3. Biologically, remnant diversity - 100 plant species in the current inventory.
- Floras biggest threat:
Invasive plant species, Eurasian species with no balance.



429 Acres

**4 parcels purchased
in 1968**

**1 parcel purchased in
1973**

**1 parcel purchased in
1974**





174 Acres total

- **Two parcels**
- **Two separate transactions**
- **July 16th, 1969**
- **September 24th, 1970**





**SPENCER
CONSERVATION AREA**

357 acres in size
August 21, 1968
June 22, 1973
December 27, 1973
August 26, 1974
August 1975
January 12, 1976
January 31, 1976





495 Acres in size

- **March 1, 1972**

- **July 22, 1977**

- **January 31, 1984**

- **Anderson Bend**

- **Sept 14th, 1978**





GREEN GIANT PRAIRIE

13 acres in size

- October 31, 1978
- A terrible lesson in access issues
- George Fell wrote about the prairie remnants present
- Very degraded because the access is a retention pond and a culvert under a rail road track



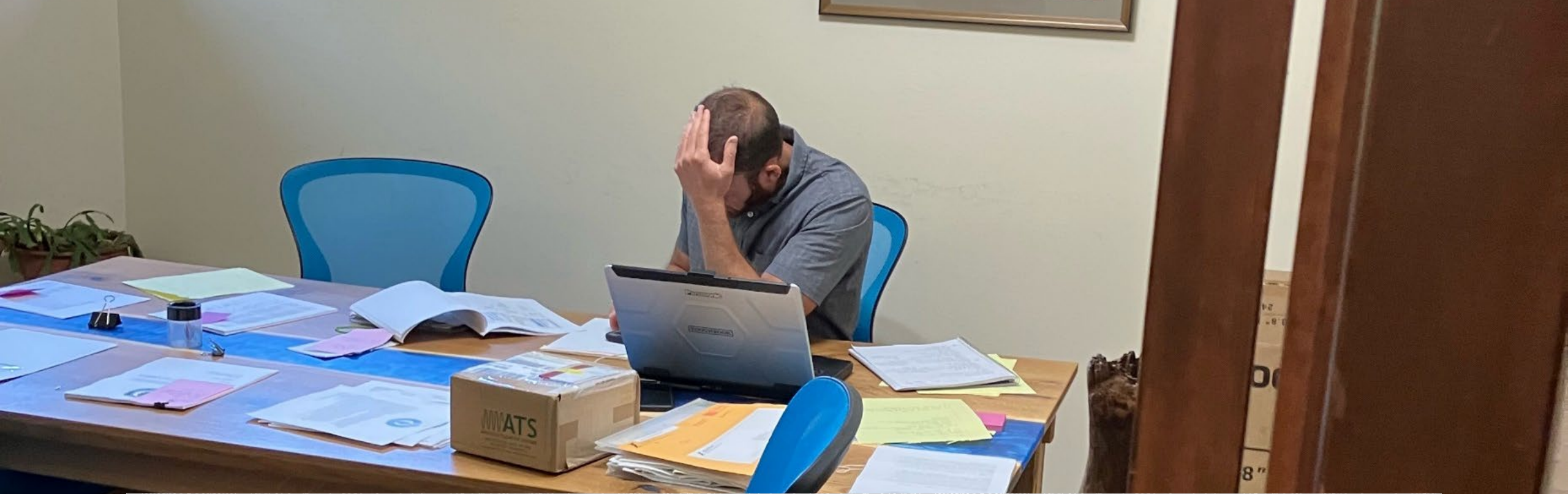
- 177 Acres
- 2008-2012
- 5 Parcels
- What is a Fen
- Extremely important recent land purchase
- Mix of remnant and agricultural conversion
- Many habitat types
 - Fen Wetland
 - Savanna
 - Sedge Meadow
 - Mesic grassland
 - Wetland mitigation



DEPARTMENTS OF THE BCCD

- Administration
- Natural Resources Management
- Education
- Land and Facilities Management





ADMINISTRATION





Natural Resources Management Department

WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT

- Best management practice for large areas of open space; both economic and ecological.
- Aesthetic value for Boone County residents.
- An excellent education tool when trying to educate about the need for open space and biodiversity, (working models).



DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.....

- Flora/Fauna inventories
- Natural History
- Removing Weeds (non-native and aggressive flora)
- Collecting Seed
- Planting Natives
- Prescribed Fire



A man wearing a brown cap and a dark jacket is standing in a lush green forest, holding a large bundle of green plants. The background is filled with tall trees and dense foliage. A semi-transparent grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Invasive Species Removal'.

Invasive Species Removal





MAKE YOUR VISIT

ENJOYABLE

OBSERVE THE RULES







COLLECTING SEED

- This is done from May through November
- Seed is collected as it matures through the growing season.









Planting Seed















Prescribed Fire

- Most economical form of natural areas management.
- Represses non native and aggressive species, especially trees and brush (cambium layer).
- Burning promotes strong growth in natives.









EDUCATION



























**VOLUNTEERING —WHERE LAND MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION MEET.
VOLUNTEERING HAS BEEN A LARGE COMPONENT FROM THE START.
MARK FREEDLUND HAS TAKEN THIS TO A NEW LEVEL SINCE 2020!**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



- Invasive herbaceous plant removal in high quality habitats where machinery is not an option. (Summer)
- Cutting and removing invasive brush in natural areas. (Winter)
- Flora/Fauna monitoring on BCCD sites
- Seed collecting May - November.
- Cleaning seed
- Broadcasting seed
- Site Stewardship











FENCE REMOVAL









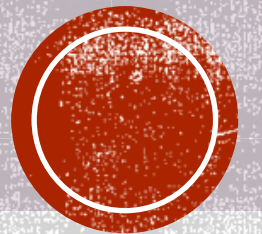








LAND AND FACILITIES **DEPARTMENT**



MULTIUSE RECREATION



Hiking trails



Horse Trails



Hunting



Fishing



Wildlife Viewing











**Parkview
North Shelter**



BOONE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Responsible for the care and maintenance of the land and resources of Boone County, West Virginia.

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**KINNIKINNICK CREEK
CONSERVATION AREA**



○ Parking Lot
● Shelter
■ Toilet
★ Trailhead



PLUM LOOP TRAIL

Distance: .75 Mile

On this habitat loop, you will see wetlands along Kinnikinnick Creek. As the trail continues uphill from the creek, you will encounter restored prairie, shrubland, and savanna, which are plant communities dominated by native wildflowers and grasses. These habitats include many plant species that provide food sources for pollinators from April through November. A pine plantation can also be seen along this loop. Planted many decades ago, this stand of mature pines blocks light from the forest floor. This offers little habitat value for native pollinators.

BCCD staff and volunteers work to manage this healthy plant community that our wildlife depends on to thrive. As a result of this habitat restoration, you will see a wide variety of native plants, including wildflowers that sustain many different pollinators such as moths, butterflies, and bees, including the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee.









RESTROOM

EXT





**DOGS MUST
BE LEASHED**

SPEED
LIMIT
10



HORSE TRAILER
← PARKING

HORSE TRAIL
OPEN

NOTICE

THIS IS AN EQUINE FACILITY

All activities on these grounds
are subject to the
Equine Inherent Risk Law
Illinois Statutes Public Act 111 - Senate Bill 240

By your presence on these grounds
you have indicated that you have
accepted the limits of liability
resulting from inherent risks
of equine activities.



The background is a dark, textured surface with a subtle, glowing path that leads from the foreground towards the background. The path is composed of a series of small, light-colored particles or fibers that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of brown, black, and grey, accented by the warm, golden glow of the path. The texture appears to be a mix of fine, vertical lines and larger, more irregular shapes, giving it a complex, almost organic feel.

THANK YOU!!!