



2022 Environmental Summit
Presented By
The Conservation Foundation

Building Climate Change Resiliency into Our Landscape

January 25, 2022
8:30-12:00 PM

8:30 - 8:45 Welcome

Brook McDonald, President/CEO, The Conservation Foundation
Barb Szczepaniak, Vice President for Programs, DuPage Foundation
Dan Cronin, DuPage County Board Chairman
Dan Hebreard, President Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

8:45 - 9:45 Nature's Best Hope

Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware

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*. 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. If we do this in half of the area now in lawn, we can create Homegrown National Park, a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain. This approach to conservation empowers everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.

9:45 - 10:00 Questions

Thank you to our sponsors!





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10:00—10:15 Building Resiliency in Your Yard with Conservation@Home

Jim Kleinwachter, Conservation@Home Program Director, The Conservation Foundation

The “typical” yard can easily be improved to help reduce water run-off, increase wildlife habitat, and improve the soil. The benefits of improving the environment are many including, reducing your water use, creating more area for birds and butterflies, reducing chemical use, less lawn mowing, and learning about invasive species that may need to be controlled in your yard. This educational presentation will highlight a variety of techniques for transforming your yard into a beautiful, habitat that will improve the environment and make your yard more resilient to climate change.

10:15 - 10:20 Break

10:20 - 11:00 30X30 Plan in Illinois: Actions to Fight Climate Change

Lindsay Keeney, Conservation Director, Illinois Environmental Council

Join us to discuss the international campaign to protect 30% land and water by 2030, and how Illinois can align with this ambitious goal. IEC has convened a coalition of conservation experts, community organizations, land trust, land and water management organizations, and more to develop a strategy for how Illinois can resolve its conservation issues in a comprehensive and equitable manner.

11:00 - 11:05 Questions

11:05 - 11:25 How can Regenerative Agriculture Help Build Climate Resiliency

Cliff McConville, Owner, All Grass Farms

Learn how All Grass Farms practices regenerative agriculture. One of the biggest potential benefits of regenerative agriculture is that it can help combat climate change. The thought is that regenerative agriculture’s strong focus on soil health and reduced tilling efforts can lead to more carbon being sequestered into the earth instead of being released into the atmosphere as a harmful greenhouse gas.

11:25 - 11:30 Questions



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11:30—11:55 Relationships, Resiliency & Rivers – Long-Term Project Increases Opportunities for Fish & Paddlers

Jennifer Hammer, Director of Watershed Programs/Ecological Restoration

The Conservation Foundation has had its eye on the dam in the Hammel Woods Forest Preserve in Shorewood for over 20 years. Starting in the late 1990s with a canoe trip with the Executive Director of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, authoring a C2000 funded study on the impacts of dams in the DuPage River watershed and working with the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition to further confirm how that dam blocked the movement of fish to upstream reaches. The work of many partners and the critical funding from the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition has resulted in opening up fish passage from the lower reaches of the DuPage River up into the East and West Branches and the many small tributaries providing many more opportunities for fish and other aquatic species to adapt to our changing climate.

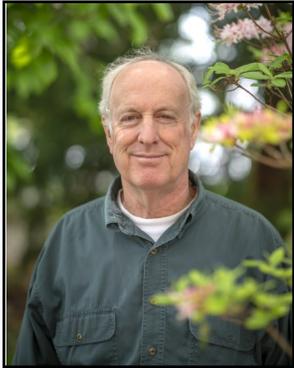
11:55 - 12:00 Questions/Closing Comments



2022 Speakers

(In order of appearance)

Keynote Speaker



Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 106 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 41 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. His book Bringing Nature Home was published by Timber Press in 2007, The Living Landscape, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; Nature's Best Hope, a New York Times Best Seller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book The Nature of Oaks was released by Timber press in March 2021. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writer's Association, Audubon, The Garden Club of America and The American Horticultural Association.



Jim Kleinwachter has passion for the environment. He is the Conservation@Home Program Director and he began his relationship with The Conservation Foundation over twenty years ago. In his volunteer efforts, Jim helped organize the annual DuPage River Sweep since its inception in 1991. Jim joined the staff of The Conservation Foundation in 2004 and since then, he has worked on prairie and wetland restoration projects at Warrenville's Johnson School and on several educational endeavors of the Foundation.

He lectures all over the region on local environmental issues, and actively works with homeowners and business property owners to improve the environmental conditions of their sites.

The Conservation@Home program was his idea, teaching about sustainable landscaping practices, he currently manages the program.



Lindsay Keeney has served as the Conservation Director for the Illinois Environmental Council since 2017, where she serves as lead staff on IEC's conservation, open space and river issues. In addition, she supports IEC's sustainable agriculture and local food programming. Lindsay believes that getting our decision makers out of their offices and into the field where they can see environmental issues and initiatives first hand and build relationships with their constituents in the conservation and agriculture community is the key to passing public policy that makes Illinois a leader in these areas.

Lindsay has served in various conservation roles throughout her career including positions with Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Jim Edgar State Fish and Wildlife Area, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Natural History

Survey's Illinois River Biological Station and the Illinois Stewardship Alliance. She currently serves as a network architect for the Illinois Vital Lands Network and is on the board of the Old Capitol Farmers Market in Springfield. Lindsay is trained in controlled prairie burns and is a certified farmers market manager.



2022 Speakers (cont'd)

(In order of appearance)



Cliff McConville and his partner Anna Lipinska raise grass fed beef and dairy cattle, hogs, and poultry on 500 acres of rotated perennial pastures on farms in Dundee, IL and Elkhorn, WI. Learn more about their farm at www.allgrassfarms.com



Jennifer Hammer is the Director of Watershed Programs for The Conservation Foundation, where she has worked for 23 years on watershed management, monitoring and outreach. Jennifer provides coordination for the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group and the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition and serves on the Executive Board as the Monitoring Committee Chairperson for the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup.



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