

Wetlands Belong All Over



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WETLANDS-INITIATIVE.ORG



ENVISIONING A WORLD WITH
PLENTIFUL HEALTHY WETLANDS
IMPROVING WATER QUALITY,
CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY,
AND HUMAN WELL-BEING.

Wetlands Belong All Over

Many people today harbor the general idea that a wetland is a piece of geography off by itself, the way a mountain is. If one of our schoolbooks included a picture of a wetland it was probably someplace distinct and iconic like the Everglades, or something from history like the Grand Kankakee Marsh. “The forests are over this way, and the prairie was over that way, and the wetland was over there” is a general impression that many of us grew up with.

In reality any healthy landscape in the Earth’s temperate zones includes many wetlands. We now know, from wetlands’ enduring “fingerprint” known as hydric soils, that our boreal forests were and are full of wetlands. That the vast tallgrass prairie, of which so little remains today, was threaded with wetlands. That our region’s many streams and rivers flowed by and were intricately connected to wetlands large and small. This is one reason that wetlands belong all over.

Another reason is that in our world today wetlands are incredibly useful and important to our well-being. They are natural sponges, holding water to ease local and regional flooding. They act as filters, naturally removing pollutants from our water supplies. Wetlands provide scenic beauty for people to enjoy across any setting and harbor an enormous diversity of wildlife, and per acre they sequester huge amounts of carbon.

Our changing climate will continue changing for decades even under the most wildly optimistic scenarios for reducing global greenhouse emissions. That requires us to become more resilient to the new realities such as precipitation arriving in ever-larger bursts and increased periods of more-severe drought. Wetlands across the landscape—large and

small, next to and far from streams—are a great source of the resilience that we and our children and grandchildren need now more than ever.

Recent events in the legal arena in the United States have reminded us that the value and importance of wetlands in not yet understood widely enough. The Wetlands Initiative is addressing that problem by continuing to show what’s practical all across our modern human-built landscapes. We also are joining with our policy-expert colleagues to seek specific legal changes that will better protect wetlands.

Donald Hey, TWI’s co-founder, knew this from the beginning. Donald passed away during 2022 and will be remembered as the original visionary for the engineering side of our work, instilling in our organization an understanding of the inherent value of wetlands and the immense opportunities that are born from their creation.

In this annual report you’ll learn about how and where the Wetlands Initiative is at the forefront of proving that wetlands belong all over and bringing them back where they are needed: in urban and industrial areas, on working farms, on public lands, and along our rivers.

All of this, we do in partnership: Collaboration is our field’s “force multiplier” and makes conservation wins sustainable. The Wetlands Initiative’s work and its impact are steadily growing these days because of you, the people and organizations that work with us and support us. Thank you for joining us in restoring wetlands in all of the many places they belong!

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Wetlands belong... In the city

Across Chicago's Southeast Side and Northwest Indiana, industry is an integral part of the region's history—and so

are wetlands. The bistate Calumet area was once home to a rich network of wetlands that rivaled the Everglades in its biodiversity. Even after the rapid industrial and urban development of the 19th and 20th centuries, many pockets of important wetland sites remained—though highly altered by drainage, dumping, and byproducts like slag.

Through collaborative partnerships, TWI is now applying our combination of ecology and engineering expertise to find innovative ways of restoring these valuable urban wetlands to health.



At Indian Ridge Marsh North in Southeast Chicago, TWI worked with the Chicago Park District to carry out a successful test of a shoreline modification technique that brought back a gentle gradient from upland prairie habitats down to deeper-water marsh. The result was a dramatic flush of native vegetation in 2022, which was quickly occupied by Marsh Wrens, rails, herons, and other wetland birds. Now we're expanding this shoreline work at Indian Ridge Marsh while also documenting the changes achieved so that the technique can be deployed at similar wetland sites throughout the Calumet.

Dynamic water fluctuations are key to the functioning of hemi-marsh habitat in the Calumet region, but the developed urban setting can make the reconnection of sites and waterways challenging. Water control structures provide a way to mimic natural wet and dry cycles to sustain healthy wetland plant communities. TWI is using this tool in partnership with Audubon Great Lakes at Chicago's Deadstick Pond and as a founding member of the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative, which is restoring sites along the West Branch of the Little Calumet River floodplain corridor near Gary, Indiana.

The fruits of these efforts are threefold: Rare wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife are returning to the revitalized hemi-marsh. The wetlands and surrounding areas become more resilient to both flooding and drought as climate change makes those swings larger and harder to predict. And neighboring residents gain new community assets in the form of vibrant natural areas open for public enjoyment where quality open space has historically been lacking.

Moving into 2023, TWI is actively exploring a "classroom wetlands" concept in the heart of Chicago—yet another way to show that wetlands are for city dwellers, too.

Wetlands belong... On the farm

Row-crops, fertilizer, drainage tiles... wetlands? Though historically farmers worked hard to keep all their land dry enough to plant crops, many today are finding that fitting conservation into their standard farm practice has benefits both for them and the environment. Across Illinois, TWI and our partners are demonstrating how small on-farm wetlands provide a solution to nutrient runoff while reducing costs over time for the farmer.

Over the past year, TWI's Smart Wetlands program has expanded, both with new partnerships and into new extensively farmed watersheds. In late 2021, a landowner in north-central Illinois built a wetland designed by TWI that captures and treats runoff from drainage tiles—the first tile-treatment wetland installed in the Marshall-Putnam bi-county area, and our fifth under this project. With the pandemic still in full swing, a blog series, drone images, and videos captured the wetland's construction progress for interested farmers, and field days are now being held at the site to showcase its success.

Meanwhile, this past August, the owner of Feather Prairie Farm in Livingston County realized a long-time dream by installing a "hybrid" wetland system on his property that will provide both waterfowl and wildlife habitat and cleaner water. TWI staff came together with the federal Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Ducks Unlimited—two fresh collaborations—and local partners to make this unique design happen on roughly six acres. A Construction and Conservation Expo welcomed farm advisors, landowners, and conservation groups working in the ag field to learn more.

"I wanted people to see what could happen with marginal ground or ground that's not technically in use [for farming]," Wes Lehman, the landowner, explained. "If you look at what's going on in the world today and how precious fresh water is, we need to be more conscious about what's actually going on subsurface and cleaning that water prior to it ultimately going to the Mississippi River Watershed and getting down to the Gulf. ... It's our jobs to be conservation-minded to do our part in preserving the black gold we call topsoil or the water that's coming out of our drain-tile outlets."

Moving forward, we're continuing to get creative with the Smart Wetland design to find other distinct farm settings where engineered wetlands can improve water quality as a part of farmers' toolkits. We're also now adding new staff members in order to respond to an increased demand for wetland designs!



Wetlands belong... In our natural heritage



P.S. As we approach the end of the seven-year project, TWI is also celebrating the field crew of restoration technicians, led by Restoration Supervisor Jason Pettit, who are the boots on the ground that make it all happen. Perhaps you've enjoyed following the adventures of the intrepid "Prairie Dawgs" on our social media!



Restored wetlands on our public lands, at places like Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Will County, Illinois, are special because they're protected in perpetuity for all to visit and enjoy. At Midewin, which is owned and managed by TWI's partner the U.S. Forest Service, the Prairie State's natural heritage is being restored on a massive scale. And in 2022, TWI hit an important milestone there, kicking off the final year of a nearly 2,000-acre, seven-year restoration effort.

The Midwest's original tallgrass prairie ecosystem wasn't just a uniform expanse of grasses and wildflowers; the prairie landscape was a mosaic of wet and dry habitats, with savannas and other wooded habitat found along the streams and rivers. On Midewin's west side, we're bringing back that full range of native habitats on the Glacial Plains Prairie parcel.

Beginning in 2016 with a challenge grant from the Grand Victoria and Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley private foundations in Chicago, TWI has partnered with the National Forest Foundation and the Forest Service to carry out ever-expanding rounds of native planting, removal of aggressive trees and plants, and restoration of natural water patterns. The vast

restored area will connect with other previously transformed parcels across the west side, establishing a huge amount of critical habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife while also creating a one-of-a-kind prairie experience for visitors.

We've had some surprises along the way: As TWI removed drain tiles that were formerly keeping the land dry enough for agriculture and use as a U.S. Army arsenal, many more wetland areas have returned than we anticipated. On what is now called "Sand Ridge," plants specially adapted for dry, sandy conditions are spreading on a restored area of higher ground surrounded by wetlands. And at a unique remnant area we call "Oxbow Savanna," a bur oak savanna and neighboring rare fen habitat are both thriving after a little extra TLC for their native plant species.

We're already planning what comes next at Midewin. With a key priority stream designation recently secured by new Forest Service leadership, TWI and our partners have started fundraising for the upcoming Grant Creek stream and watershed restoration.





Wetlands belong... Along the river



Even the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee made an appearance at TWI's Pollinator Blitz in July 2022.



Nestled along the crook of the Illinois River where it bends south, just a stone's throw from that waterway, you'll find the Wetlands Initiative's Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge.

Both this land and the river that runs beside it have seen tremendous changes over the past century-plus due to engineering and agriculture. Once drained and farmed for nearly 100 years, the 3,000-acre Dixon Waterfowl Refuge today is again a hidden jewel of biodiversity along the Illinois River system, thanks to more than two decades of habitat restoration efforts by TWI.

As the site's name suggests, waterbirds rely on the Refuge as an oasis within Illinois' sea of corn and soybeans. Migrating ducks and geese stop over to rest and refuel during spring and fall migration, sometimes

by the hundreds of thousands. Meanwhile, as numbers of Sandhill Cranes continue to recover, these elegant, nearly 4-foot-tall birds are returning to the Illinois River Valley; the Dixon Refuge has recently hosted multiple nesting pairs. Since 2021, at TWI's instigation, spring volunteer surveys to detect cranes through the International Crane Foundation's Midwest Crane Count have expanded to the Illinois River system. Our "Hennepin cluster" of survey sites, centered on the Refuge, has found the most cranes of any of the new clusters.

The Refuge is also a haven for rare plants, containing a level of species diversity typically found only in high-quality remnant prairies and wetlands. In 2022, TWI ecologists completed a 10-year case study analyzing differences in the Refuge's wet prairie and mesic prairie plant communities between 2008 and

2018. They found significant increases in native species richness and the mean native floristic quality index (FQI) over the decade—both important measures of ecosystem quality.

Looking closer, the Refuge holds even more treasures than we yet know. A pollinator-focused BioBlitz that TWI organized at the site in summer 2022 turned up 277 types of butterflies, bees, moths, wasps, flies, and more. Many of these had not previously been detected at the Dixon Refuge. Through the efforts of expert scientists, volunteers, and hundreds of photos uploaded to iNaturalist for identification, the one-day event added greatly to our knowledge of the insects that call the Refuge home. Just as these tiny creatures are key to sustaining a healthy habitat, the Dixon Refuge as a whole is key to a healthy Illinois River system.

The wonder that is the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge exists today thanks to Wes and Sue Dixon's early support and many years of generosity. Sue passed away in August of 2022, and we will remember them both with great fondness and deep gratitude.



Financial Statements

Statement of Activities	2022	2021
Revenue		
Program grants	\$593,583	\$364,979
Contributions	1,882,387	889,599
Sponsorships	--	7,500
Miscellaneous income	97,339	53,350
Gain on extinguishment of PPP loan	--	291,835
	\$2,573,309	\$1,607,263
Net assets released from restriction	1,177,113	1,204,964
Total revenue	\$3,750,422	\$2,812,227
Expenses		
Program	\$2,266,783	\$1,882,518
Administration	219,522	178,596
Fundraising	309,381	291,099
	\$2,795,686	\$2,352,213
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$954,736	\$460,014
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Program grants	\$833,366	\$849,089
Contributions	1,560,035	481,574
Net assets released from restriction	(1,177,113)	(1,204,964)
	\$1,216,288	\$125,699
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	\$1,216,288	\$125,699
Increase in Net Assets	\$2,171,024	\$585,713
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	9,953,573	9,367,860
Net Assets at End of Year	\$12,124,597	\$9,953,573

Statement of Financial Position	2022	2021
Assets		
Cash, cash equivalents, and investments	\$2,496,084	\$2,097,301
Grants receivable	771,692	690,662
Pledges receivable	1,946,464	931,222
Accounts receivable	4,167	29,230
Investments at fair value	772,746	--
Prepaid expenses	20,789	18,480
Land and building improvements	7,068,643	7,068,643
Lease, equipment, and vehicles	785,162	817,895
Less—accumulated depreciation	(846,323)	(719,154)
Total assets	\$13,019,424	\$10,934,279
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable	\$220,245	\$140,834
Notes payable	482,183	527,219
Accrued expenses	55,476	110,633
Deferred revenue	--	--
Lease	136,923	202,020
Unrestricted funds	8,529,410	7,574,674
Temporarily restricted funds	3,595,187	2,378,899
Total liabilities and net assets	\$13,019,424	\$10,934,279



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TELLING THE WETLANDS STORY

In 2022, textile artist Lindsay Olson became the Wetlands Initiative's first-ever artist-in-residence. Lindsay has previously collaborated with the Field Museum, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and even oceanographers studying marine acoustics. Given her diverse experience in communicating complex technical subjects through her medium, TWI quickly saw the potential for her creative pieces to share the science—and wonder—of wetland restoration with more people.

Over the past year, Lindsay shadowed TWI ecologists and engineers in the field, literally getting her hands dirty as she learned about our restoration mission and saw its results first-hand. These experiences provided the inspiration for her to then stitch together her evocative artwork.



With six original embroidery pieces now created, capturing TWI's work from Illinois farmland to urban marshes in Northwest Indiana, Lindsay is collaborating with TWI to get her show on the road. Watch our website and social media for opportunities to see Lindsay's work and discover the process of wetland restoration at a venue near you. And to get a sneak peek of "Our Once and Future Wetlands," visit www.LindsayOlsonArt.com!

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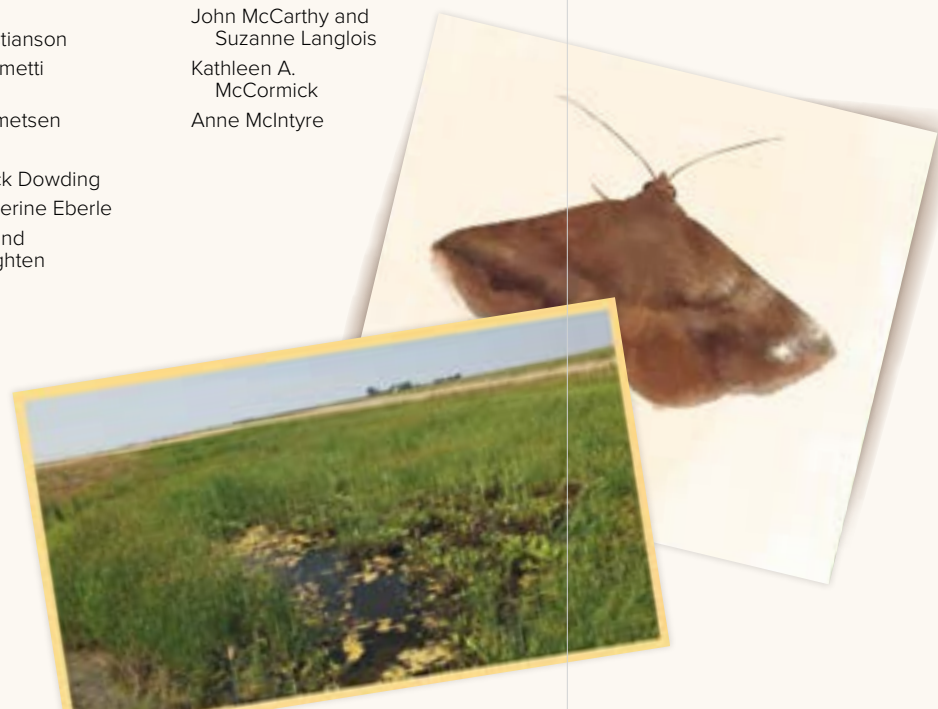
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Thomas C. Sheffield, Jr.
Eleanor and William Shunas
Daniel Sih
Sarah Silverman
Kimberly Snell
Rodney E. Spangler
Saskia Spanhoff
James Stephens
Matthew Stonecash
Doug Stotz
The Sun-Jeng Family Fund
Deb Sutton
Stephanie Thommes
Jake Upshaw
Stefan Vlahov
Lynn Vogel
Brandon Volker
Clark D. and Andrea Wagner
Suzanne L. Wagner*
Mr. and Mrs. Gary T. Walther
Mrs. Cynthia Washburne
Mark Wehmhoefer
Katie Wendling
Christina Werner
The Wertz Family
Paul West
Glen R. Wherfel
Richard Whitney
Brian Wohlberg
Catherine and Richard Wytmar
Anthony J. Zoia
Vinnie Zullo
Steven E. and
Mary Anita Zwicker

Up to \$99

Anonymous (4)
Melanie Adams/Bonus
Space Marketplace
Adrian Aitken
Edward Allen
L. Allen
Melanie Anderson
Jeff Anstine
Juan Arellano
Megan Badillo
Frank Bassin
Laura Barker
Timothy Barnett
Steve Barratt
Kristin Bass
Dina M. Becker
Luke Belt
Daniel Berning
Doris Bernstein
Kathryn Biarkis
Dixie Biegalski
Sherry Bohannan
Charles D. Bonnell
Jeff Bowen
Camilla Bowman
Scott Bredemann
Hayes Brenner
Noelle Brison
Beverly J. Bronowski
Alex Bryden
Vic Bucossi
Cathryn Bulicek
Dennis J. Burmeister
Stephen John Butterfield
Robert and Pam Byrne
Laura Campa
Pamela S. Carle
Arthur Charles-Pierre
Laurel Chausse
Jody Childers
Chris Chong
Ryan Clark and Amanda
Shevokas

Gary Cocks
Alexandra S. Colin
John and Peggy Coon
Liesel Copeland
Lucy Czarnnecki
Kirk Davidson
Yogesh Deshmukh
Andrea Despotos
Matthew Dieffenbach
Stephen Gregory Dill
Richard and Janette Dilley
Jerry Donahue
Barbara Drozdz
Sam Duffy
Claudia Dunagan
Maximilian Dyrek
Emily Earhart
Vicki L. Erdenberger
Christine Favilla
Marilyn B. Ferdinand
Carol L. Fessenden
Teresa Fister
Orman Fixsen
Rachel Fleming
Ted Fleming
For Rocky
Scott Fox
Brenda Fredrickson
Hector Fuster
Jeff Gall
Carol K. Garey
Lydia Garvey
Alex and Sandra Gasiel
Alice G. Gass
John C. Gillio
Chris and Mark Golden
Derrick Golon
Donald and Barbara Good
Harry and Susan Gore
Jenny Green
Robert Gurley
Diana Hale
Sharon K. Hale
Peter and Jean Harrison

Ava Hartung
Robert A. Hedlund
Carol J. Hicks
Richard and Cheryl Hiipakka
Ryan O. Hines
Joe Hovenkotter
James W. Howlett
Nancy Hriljac
Eric Hritsuk
Peter Hurd
Robert J. Hurd
Carol Jenkins
Beatriz Jimenez
Robert Johnson and
Georgia Kelly
David K. Jones
Jan Kahl
Michelle Kaiser
Ann Kaizerman
Susan Kaley
Anke Kaufmann
Mary E. Kelly
Lara Kerns
Victoria Kidd Armstrong
Nicholas Kinney
Brieann Kinsey
Beth and Joe Klein
Allison Klement
Maude Klingaman
Nancy R. Kovitz
Benjamin Kowitz
Jo A. Kudla
Jennifer Lach
Joseph Lambert
Julia Lankisch
John and Melody LaPayne
Susan E. Larsen
Caitlin Lennon-Puthoff
Ronald H. Leopold
Michael Lind
Kaylyn Lofton
Marco Lombaard
Susan Long
Nadia Lovko

Matthew Ludolph
Terry Lueders
Ronit Lunken
Sally Lupel
Kate Ogilvy Lynch
Maggie MacDonald
Zain Mackey and Ken Grooms
Duane C. Marchus
Clara Martin
John Mayer
Samantha McCabe
Dottie McComas
Curt McCracken
Jackie McCuskey
Joseph McDermott
Diane Meiborg and
Roger Zacek
Stephen M. Meltz
Bess Metcalf
Richard Mickelson
Terrence Miesle
Andrea Mirin
Kerri Mommer, Robin Janota,
and Julie Miller
Lucille Montplaisir
Hope Moore
Janice Moore
Andy Mullins
The Muñoz Family
Daniel Needham
Kara Nielsen
Stephanie Noack
Susan Noel
Richard M. Noeller
Karen Herr O'Brien
Leonardo Ochoa
Mary O'Connell
Jackie Olivier
Lindsay Olson
Raylin and Cheryl Olson
Howard K. O'Neil
Katy Osborn
Ruth Otto
Linda Page

Stephen J. Parshall
Harshil Patel
Daniel Patterson
Barbara M. Paul
PayPal Giving
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Noel Peckinpaugh
Mary Peters
Steve Petrakis
Sandra Petron
Courtney Petry
Gregg and Vickie Pettit
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Desiree Reusch
Randall and Susan Richter
Edward and Karen Rogan
Michael and
Sally Rosenberg
Mary E. Ruark
Stephen and
Mary Kay Rybolt
Sara S.
Barbara and
Edward Safiran
Susan A. Sakai
Greg and Ming Schail
Wayne Schneider
John and Dorothy Schrum
Audre Schutte
Dev Shah
Mark Shahaf
Nicholas Sharp
Melissa Sherman
Sharon Sill
Kent E. Sims

**Now deceased*



2022 Tribute Gifts

In honor of Tom Appleman and Kelly Kisling

Marilyn Appleman

In memory of Mark H. Ashcraft

Anna Ashcraft and Warren Johnson

In memory of Donald Axt

Krista Reininga

In memory of Roxanne P. Barbeau

Nicole Barbeau

In honor of Charlie Barley

Ava Wickedy

In memory of James M. Blankfield

Leo J. and Donna L. Blankfield

In memory of Barbara E. Brown

The IGRB Foundation

In honor of Caleb and Rachel

Hayes Brenner

In honor of Caren

Give Lively Foundation

In memory of Chico

Cheryl A. Ciammetti

In honor of Julie Collins and Richard Kempf

Jacob Kaufmann

In honor of Donnie Dann

Dann Girls and Their Families

In memory of Philip Wynne Davies

James Colvin Davies

In memory of Sue Dixon

Lynn Loacker

In memory of Sue and Wes Dixon

Mrs. Kenneth Nebenzahl

In memory of Briggs Doherty

Whitney Doherty

In honor of Bill Dunn

Give Lively Foundation

In honor of Sara Earhart and Ross Bruhnke

Emily Earhart

In honor of The Earth

Antonio Kufrovich

In memory of Julia B. Faust

C. S. Faust

In memory of Karen Fisher

Susan Kaley

In honor of Steve and Pam Friedman

Bruce Friedman

In memory of Steve Goulding

Barry and Maureen Blankfield

In honor of Kenneth Granby

Kaylyn Lofton

In memory of Curtis W. Gray

Jessica A. Gray

In memory of M. "Doc" Hall

Thomas G. Karras

In honor of Dena Hawes and David J.E. Young

Zain Mackey and Ken Grooms

In memory of Donald Hey

Albert Ettinger and Sue Lannin
Richard Lanyon and Marsha Richman

2022 Tribute Gifts (continued)

In honor of Highland Rookery, Highland, IN

Kerri Mommer, Robin Janota, and Julie Miller

In honor of James, who gave me a ride a year ago

Stephen John Butterfield

In honor of Stana Katic

Anke Kaufmann

In honor of Brad King and Stefania D'Amico

Thomas and Robin King

In honor of The Wedding of Kelly Kisling and Tom Appleman

Elmer Lee

In honor of Jill Kostel

Ken Kostel and Anne-Marie Runfola

In memory of Christina A. Leaf

Diane and Drew Miller

In memory of Dr. Frank Lupton

Virginia Plaster

In honor of Mamaroneck High School Environmental Club

Anonymous

In memory of David Meadowcraft

Helen M. Meadowcraft

In honor of Henry Visser Melville

Teresa Joy Lee

In memory of Richard Miller

Joanne Miller

In honor of Mississippi and Great Lakes

Anonymous

In honor of Mark and Jo Lynne Nelson

Weston Nelson

In honor of Alissa Nicholson

Joseph Nicholson

In honor of Gonzalo Fernandez Plaza

Megan Vomvas

In memory of Al Pyott

Rory and Laura Dunne
Harley and Teresa Hutchins
Brent and Cathy Manning
Marianne Pyott
Sheila Pyott

In memory of Sharon Pyszka

The Pyszka Family

In memory of Dr. John Raffensperger

Harry Richter

In honor of Karen Rawson

Dede Carroll

In honor of Caroline Repenning

John and Tobey Taylor

In memory of Dale W. Rossman, Korean War Veteran

Diann Gorski

In honor of Andi Rudman

Melissa Sherman

In honor of Steve Ryan

Mary and Tim Nelson

In honor of Hannah Safiran

John O. Binek, Sr.

In honor of David Schatz

Michael Schatz

In memory of Harold O. Schulz

Edward and Karen Rogan

In memory of Joseph Shimanski

Jody Childers

In honor of Heidi Sibert

James Martin Associates, Inc.

In memory of Howard J. Tayne

Scott M. Tayne

In memory of Denise Theisen

Patricia Schulte

In honor of Terry Trobec

Kerry Trobec

In memory of Tracy Voth

Phil Voth

In honor of Suzanne Wagner

Julie Kaufman and Beth Wright
Bojan Manojlovic and John Briel

In memory of Suzanne Wagner

Ann S. Cole
Vera Leopold and David Miller
Susan Noel
Thg Phx
Kimberly Snell
Clark and Joan Wagner

In honor of Clark and Joan Wagner

Susanne, David, and
Thomas Goldstein

In memory of Mary Wehmhoefer

Mark Wehmhoefer

In honor of Elaine Whitmore

Susan A. Sakai

In honor of Doug Widener

Dawn Widener

In honor of Mike Zeddies

Melba Rodriguez

In honor of Alec Zuhorski

Emily Gibson



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(as of August 31, 2023)

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Chair

Charles T. Pick
Vice-Chair

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Secretary & Treasurer

Paul Botts
President

Christopher B. Burke, Ph.D.

Edward K. Chandler

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George M. Covington

William F. Dooley

Wendy Freyer

Anne Gardner

Byron Goulding

Allen D. Grosboll

Linda M. Kurtz

Mark D. Maffei, Ph.D.

John W. Robinson

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Rebecca A. Sanders

Chinmay Soman, Ph.D.

Douglas F. Stotz, Ph.D.

Carl R. Yudell

Michael B. Zeddies, Jr.

EMERITUS

Brent Manning

Richard T. Schroeder

Clark L. Wagner

IN MEMORIAM

Albert E. Pyott

TWI Staff

(as of August 31, 2023)

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President & Executive Director

Sarah Ashcraft-Johnson
*Restoration Specialist,
Dixon Waterfowl Refuge*

Steve Harvey
*Restoration Specialist,
Dixon Waterfowl Refuge*

Jill Kostel, Ph.D.
Senior Environmental Engineer

Katie Kucera
Ecologist

Harry Kuttner
Calumet Coordinator

Alicia Larriau-Ward
Finance & Operations Manager

Vera Leopold
*Grants Manager &
Development Associate*

Abby Mattson
*Director of Development &
Communications*

Jean McGuire
Field Outreach Specialist

Jim Monchak
Geospatial Analyst & Developer

Jason Pettit
*Restoration Ecologist &
Midewin Project Manager*

Mike Richolson
Wetland Field Technician

Rick Seibert
*Site Manager,
Dixon Waterfowl Refuge*

Gary Sullivan, Ph.D.
Senior Restoration Ecologist

TWI Restoration Technicians

(2022 season)

Nicolas Brant

Jack Burns

Autumn Chestre

Amanda Cook

Bridget Demas

Justin Gibson

Jordan Houlihan

Michael King

Andrew Pyszka

Jace Schorn

Caroline Smith

Andrew Waterstraat

Konrad Zehr

Annual Report Credits

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The Wetlands Initiative

FPO
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Suzanne Wagner

The Wetlands Initiative experienced a heavy loss with Suzanne Wagner's unexpected passing in December 2022 after a struggle with long COVID.

Through her 10-plus years as TWI's Director of Development and Communications, Suzanne's dedication to supporting our mission was unwavering—as was her belief in the hopefulness of wetland restoration and her caring for the people who make it possible. During her tenure with TWI, the organization saw significant growth both in number of donors and overall individual giving.

Suzanne also had a keen eye for design and creative new avenues for sharing TWI's work. Her passion shone through the pages of many previous Annual Reports, which for a decade were Suzanne's brainchild. In early 2022, she led TWI's first-ever marketing and branding campaign, which made a splash on CTA train cars and the internet alike. And that same year, thanks to her enthusiasm for the arts, TWI started a partnership with our first artist-in-residence.

Suzanne is deeply missed by all of us. From December 2022 through August 2023, TWI received thoughtful gifts and pledges in her memory from these people:

Anonymous	Chris Kerns
Bruce and Patty Becker	Alma Koppedraijer
David and Martha Bloom	Paul and Eileen LeFort
Mary Anne Benden	Vera Leopold and David Miller
James Cohen	Susan Noel
Ann Cole	Thg Phx
Bob and Chie Curley	Charlie and Jackie Pick
Jim and Nancy Daly	Jane Pleli
Diane Fite	Steve and Ann Ryan
Jan Gerenstein	Kimberly Snell
Junia Gratiot Hedberg	Cathy and Thomas Taylor
Daniel Jackman and Jonathan Seletyn	Laura and Dave Urban
Ann Kaizerman	Clark and Joan Wagner
Judy R. Kamin and Gilbert Klapper	We the People
Julie Kaufman and Beth Wright	Wild Flower Honey
Ellen Oltman Kellner	Michael and Judy Zeddies

