## $GUEST\ ESSAY$ by Karen trzaska



## Join Us on August 28 for Tartans for the Trust

AGPIPES AND KILTS, live music, and Highland games. Barrington Area Conservation Trust is delighted to announce that its annual summer event, Tartans for the Trust, is back! As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, the BACT board and staff are excited to welcome groups of all ages to join us at the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center on August 28, 3–7 p.m. for an outdoor celebration—all to benefit conserving the open spaces of the Barrington area.

Tickets are available on our website, bactrust. org. We encourage everyone to bring picnic food and beverages "Ravinia-style" with blankets, chairs, and mini tables. Come in those kilts, gentlemen, and take part in our infamous "Knobby Knees" contest! Pat McKillen will be filling the air with music from a variety of genres. We are pleased to offer a wonderful Bourbon tasting, as well as an on-site food option for those who want an easy, no-fuss event. Don't forget to buy raffle tickets! A variety of sponsorships are available.

For 20 years the Barrington Area Conservation

Trust has worked to preserve the rare and exceptional properties we are fortunate enough to live amid. Our Tartans event gives BACT the opportunity to celebrate our hard-working teams and constituents. It allows us to shine the spotlight on conservation and the impact it has today and for future generations. Illinois was a beautiful rolling prairie before settlements changed the profile of the land for development and agriculture.

By partnering with landowners throughout Barrington, we help them preserve their land with conservation easements. This legal agreement prohibits development to ensure that the mutually agreed upon conservation goals for that property are permanently upheld. Often, these easements qualify the landowner for income tax, estate tax, and property tax reductions, depending on the nature of the easement.

In addition, we participate in the Heritage Corridor Program, creating conservation easements to protect designated roads such as Ridge, Brinker, Otis, and Old Sutton Roads in perpetuity from

increased traffic and expansion.

Educating local residents about the benefits of land trusts is integral to our mission. That begins with our youth! BACT stewards five preserves, including Pederson Preserve across Lake Cook Road from Barrington High School. Annual Earth Day celebrations and high school citizen science programs are hosted here. Far Field Nature Preserve is the site of our annual Summer Internship Program under the watchful eye of our Conservation@School Coordinator Navraaz Basati. Numerous Scouts have earned badges with projects on several of our preserves.

These initiatives and programs are only possible with your support. Your donations have allowed us to continue this important work for 20 years. Volunteers at our workdays and other conservation efforts are the backbone of our projects. BACT could not do this without the generosity of all of you. We look forward to celebrating with you on August 28 at our Tartans for the Trust!

Karen Trzaska has lived in Barrington Hills for over 20 years and is proud to serve on the Board of Directors for the Barrington Area Conservation Trust as Chair of the Development, Events, Marketing and Outreach committee.