

Angelo Capparella, ParkLands Foundation

Dr. Capparella is Associate Producer of Zoology and Curator of Vertebrates in the School of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, Normal. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in conservation biology, ornithology, and systematics. Since 2004, he has been on the Board of Directors of ParkLands Foundation, a land trust covering the Mackinaw River valley in McLean and Woodford counties, including two terms as President. He also serves on the Board of the JWP Audubon Society (Bloomington- Normal) and Friends of Kickapoo Creek (McLean County).

Lisa Haderlein, Land Conservancy of McHenry County

In her 9th year as Executive Director of TLC-McHenry County, where she started in 2002 as the first full-time staff person at an organization that had preserved 150 acres of land through 13 conservation easements. Today, TLC has preserved over 1,800 acres through 62 conservation easements and 200 acres of land owned in fee title. Prior to working for TLC, Lisa was the Northern Illinois Area Director for The Nature Conservancy's Illinois Chapter, where she worked for 5 years. Prior to that, she was the Director of Planning and Zoning for Peoria County where she was employed for 7 years. Lisa has a Masters of Science in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She just stepped down after two years serving on the Vital Lands Illinois Working Group.

Steve Barg, Liberty Prairie Conservancy

Steve Barg is an environmental leader, educator and writer who has dedicated his career to the conservation of wild places close to home. Since 2003 Steve has served as the Executive Director of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to land health through the preservation and stewardship of open land in Lake County, Illinois. Prior to joining the Liberty Prairie Conservancy, Steve worked for 4 years as the Director of Education for Lake Forest Open Lands Association. While in Lake Forest, Steve was the recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Abernathy Hill Award – presented by the Garden Club of America to “individuals who exhibit outstanding contributions the environmental education of youth.” Steve started his career at the Walter E. Heller Nature Center in Highland Park in 1986 where he served for 12 years as both the Director and Head Teaching Naturalist. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Aurora University with a focus in environmental education.

Brook McDonald, The Conservation Foundation

Since 1996, Brook McDonald has been the President and Chief Executive Officer for The Conservation Foundation, a private not-for-profit land and watershed conservation group based in Naperville, Illinois. The Conservation Foundation has focused since 1972 on land preservation and watershed protection in the outlying Chicago counties of DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will. In 1997, The Conservation Foundation

launched a series of campaigns throughout our region called “Neighbors for Open Space” to promote the public acquisition of open space. These campaigns helped raise public funds for open space preservation in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, DeKalb and will counties through the passage of bond referenda. To date, The Conservation Foundation has organized 11 successful referenda campaigns that have raised \$700 million, helping to preserve 25,000 of land in these counties. Mr. McDonald has also been involved in protecting the DuPage River since 1989. He chaired the DuPage River Coalition from 1989 to 1995, and is the past chairman of the DuPage River Watershed Ecosystem Partnership. Mr. McDonald is the principal author of Illinois’ first citizens stream monitoring manual published in 1990. This program has evolved and is now known as Illinois RiverWatch.