



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark**

**Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, May 11, 2017, 11:00 AM**

17-0163

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE and GREGG GOSLIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****RECOGNIZING GINNY HOTALING ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT**

**WHEREAS**, on May 31, 2017, Ginny Hotaling will be retiring from her position as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Chicago Botanic Garden where she has served for more than 13 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling has had a diverse and substantive career beginning as a teacher and administrator, then as District Director and Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman John Porter; and most recently as Vice-President of the Government Affairs Department at the Chicago Botanic Garden; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling was instrumental in leading the Garden's various initiatives and government affairs efforts with the Village of Glencoe, City of Chicago, Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), State of Illinois, and the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling cultivated and nurtured numerous invaluable relationships with elected officials and government staff with grace and style; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling epitomizes the "Garden Way" by nurturing supporters and garden enthusiasts alike; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling has been an effective advocate helping to secure and maintain government funding across all levels for important capital and programming initiatives such as the circular drive at the Learning Center Campus, Windy City Harvest and shoreline restoration work; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling is leaving the Garden having championed the introduction of federal bill HR 1054 (the Botany Bill), which demonstrates the Garden's leadership in plant science conservation on a national level; and

**WHEREAS**, Ginny Hotaling will continue to lend her expertise in government relations as she has accepted a part-time position supporting Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison, whose district includes the Garden; and

**WHEREAS**, as a gardening enthusiast herself Ginny Hotaling earned the prestigious designation of Master Gardener and she plans to continue to volunteer at the Windy City Harvest Youth Farm in North Chicago and participate in other Garden events and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Forest Preserve and County staff have benefitted greatly from Ginny's expertise, knowledge and never ending support and dedication to the Garden and FPDCC initiatives including the Next Century Conservation Plan and she will truly be missed; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that the Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent Arnold Randall do hereby extend their thanks and appreciation to Ginny Hotaling for her support of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, one of the oldest and largest conservation districts in the nation.

**17-0165**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING LAURA RERICHA-ANCHOR ON THE PUBLICATION OF *FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION: A FLORISTIC AND ECOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS***

**WHEREAS**, the Preserves' nearly 70,000 acres of natural lands are home to some of the nation's most biologically diverse flora and fauna, inspiring a wide array of scientists and students to better understand the natural world; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura Rericha-Anchor is a wildlife biologist with the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Resource Management Department, where she has worked since 1997 to protect and preserve the plants and animals of the forest preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, in the course of her duties Laura explores, researches, and documents the plants and animals of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, significantly contributing to the Preserves' restoration efforts, and the health of the region's plant and animal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura's observations of the natural world have advanced - and continue to advance - our understanding of how to better preserve and protect the Preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura has worked in partnership with co-author Dr. Gerould Wilhelm, Director of Research at The Conservation Institute to produce the *Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis*, a groundbreaking book that celebrates our region's biodiversity. The publication details 3,149 plant species and documents the delicate, yet powerful world of plants, their pollinators, and their environment; and

**WHEREAS**, this publication was inspired by a book originally published in 1969 by Floyd Swink, a renowned taxonomist and beloved naturalist who delighted in sharing his knowledge of the Midwest's remarkable flora and fauna, and mentored both Laura and Dr. Wilhelm; and

**WHEREAS**, during the course of their fieldwork Laura and Dr. Wilhelm discovered a new plant species which they named *Hypericum swinkianum* (or Swink's St. John's Wort) in honor of Floyd Swink; and

**WHEREAS**, *Flora of the Chicago Region* is significant for its breadth and depth, including 619 more species than its predecessor, clearly defining plant communities, updating nomenclature, and identifying what makes our plant communities so unique. This book will be used by national and regional agencies

and institutions to determine the quality of natural areas and serves as a model for other regions; and

**WHEREAS**, *Flora of the Chicago Region* significantly adds to the current body of scientific knowledge, enabling both the professional and amateur botanist to better understand our region's plants and insects; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura has spent more than 50,000 hours over the last 15 years to co-author this book, and the Preserves is proud to have supported her in this scientific endeavor; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura and Dr. Wilhelm have created a book whose beautiful illustrations and informative 1,371 pages provide an encyclopedic listing of our region's remarkable flora; and

**WHEREAS**, this book will inspire people to take a closer look at the intricate natural world around them, more deeply appreciate this region's natural heritage, and to consider what each of us can do to heal the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura has contributed significantly to the field of botany and to advancing the mission of the Preserves, and is a deeply valued employee of the Forest Preserves and the region's conservation community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent Arnold Randall do hereby recognize Laura Rericha-Anchor's significant contribution to science; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Laura Rericha-Anchor to commemorate her significant achievement and as a token of appreciation for her service to the Forest Preserves and the residents of Cook County.

**17-0175**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING FRIENDS OF BLUFF SPRING FEN FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PROTECT BLUFF SPRING FEN**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Preserves") manages nearly 70,000 acres of public land, including 23 dedicated nature preserve sites that represent some of the highest quality natural lands in the state. The designation of these sites is overseen by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and protects some of the last and best remaining examples of Illinois' wilderness; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982 Bluff Spring Fen, a 95-acre site in Elgin, Illinois, was a desolate dumping ground and former gravel quarry until "Friends of the Fen", a visionary and grassroots group founded by Doug

Taron, Leon Halloran and Steven Byers, recognized the significance of the site with its rare fen and remarkable landscape, and launched a concerted stewardship effort; and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of the Fen later became Friends of Bluff Spring Fen, and have worked tirelessly to protect and restore the area, resulting in the site being designated a Nature Preserve in 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of Bluff Spring Fen encouraged the Forest Preserves of Cook County to acquire this area in 2006, thus ensuring the site's continued protection; and

**WHEREAS**, Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve is now one of the Preserves' premier locations with more than 400 plant, 60 butterfly, and 30 dragonfly varieties and nearly 100 migratory and nesting bird species, and affords the residents of Cook County the opportunity to explore nature and experience a peaceful and idyllic place; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preserves deeply values its partnership with the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen who continue to care for the site and collaborate with surrounding neighbors including the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, City of Elgin, Bluff City Cemetery and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, and have expanded stewardship efforts from the 95-acre Nature Preserve to an additional 65 acres of buffer to better protect this fragile site; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen actively participate in citizen science and have monitored Bluff Spring Fen--particularly its rare orchid and butterfly populations--since 1988. They have actively shared their data with the Preserves, and are one of the first stewardship groups in Illinois to monitor butterflies, led by Doug Taron founder of the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network and Chief Curator at the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. They have also been successful in reintroducing the rare Swamp Metalmark butterfly at the site; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preserves greatly appreciates the spirit of collaboration, generosity, and enthusiasm that the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen bring to everything they do and recognizes that this volunteer group has inspired countless others to become interested and actively engaged in caring for the Forest Preserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and General Superintendent Arnold Randall do hereby congratulate the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen on their 35th anniversary and on their success in restoring and protecting Bluff Spring Fen, a remarkable and unique remnant of our region's natural heritage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen.