



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 10:00 AM

**River Trail Nature Center
3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL**

CONSENT CALENDAR[19-0220](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. CHARLES SPATARO**

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles “Charlie” Spataro will retire from his position as Laborer at River Trail Nature Center after 32 years of service with the Forest Preserves of Cook County on May 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro has worked at River Trail Nature Center for 19 of those 32 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro started his tenure at the Forest Preserves of Cook County in January 1987 at Sand Ridge Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro has also worked at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, the Salt Creek Landscape Maintenance Division and the Forest Preserves Police Department as a Laborer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro has provided many hours of outdoor fun and enjoyment to Cook County residents by leading the annual hay rides at River Trail Nature Center’s popular Fall Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro has been a Watchman at the River Trail Nature Center property; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro is a Certified Interpretive Host with the National Association for Interpretation and has trained as a Chainsaw Operator and Prescription Burn Crew member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro has been an incredible support to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and to the River Trail Nature Center team during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spataro is ready to spend his time on more leisurely pursuits like fishing and bird watching as well as reading books and listening to music.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County do hereby congratulate Mr. Spataro on a long career of public service and on his upcoming retirement. We thank Mr. Spataro for his many contributions, for over three decades, to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Mr. Charles Spataro in recognition of his career and contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

[19-0255](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S VOLUNTEER STEWARD CRAIG STETTNER, IN MEMORIAM**

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner was a tireless advocate for nature, a positive force for conservation in the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves"), and an exemplary teacher who inspired new and continuing students to become conservation leaders; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner played an integral role in the Spring Creek stewardship community, a group of devoted volunteers who care for Spring Creek, a 4,000-acre forest preserve located in northwest Cook County that contains grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner was the site steward at Penny Road Pond Woods and helped to restore the remnant oak woodlands to ecological health for the benefit of countless rare birds, amphibians, and other animals; and

WHEREAS, Citizens for Conservation honored him with the William H. Miller Conservation Award in 2013 in recognition of his outstanding contributions toward conservation; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner's kindness, enthusiasm, and generous spirit inspired people to become interested in, and care for, nature. Over more than 15 years, Craig Stettner motivated more than 1,600 individuals to contribute 5,400 hours of volunteer service to restore Penny Road Pond Woods and to become supporters and users of the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner shared his passion and expertise for birding, both locally and globally; served as a board member of Chicago Audubon Society; led countless bird walks in the Forest Preserves; and contributed valuable observations of bird populations for scientific study; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner combined his passion for the environment and teaching by joining Harper College, Palatine in 2002 as a professor in the biology department, oversaw the college's Environmental Club, and led numerous study-abroad programs to Costa Rica, where he is affectionately remembered as "Amigo de la Selva (Friend of the Jungle)"; and

WHEREAS, Craig Stettner was devoted to his family, friends, and students and delighted in sharing with them his passion for nature; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt

sympathy to the family and many friends of Craig Stettner and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss. Craig Stettner will be greatly missed within the Forest Preserves' stewardship community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the family of Craig Stettner as a token of appreciation for his service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.