

# CRANERIDGE NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



## IN THIS EDITION:

---

Greetings from the  
HOA President- 1

---

Preserving the Past,  
Keeping Pace with the  
Future - 3

---

Woodlands Committee  
Updates - 5

---

Help for Crump  
Brook: Erosion  
Remediation - 7

## SUPPORTING OUR NATURAL NEIGHBORHOOD

### OUR WOODLANDS & HABITAT AT CRANERIDGE

**We Envision...** Craneridge has a healthy native ecosystem that supports our woodland legacy and our “natural neighbors.” Residents are proud stewards who actively care for our natural areas.

**Our Mission:** The Craneridge Woodlands and Habitat effort inspires, and educates residents to improve and maintain a healthy and diverse woodlands habitat.

**Our Goals:**

- Protect forest and ecosystem health.
- Community education and engagement.
- Enhance recreational opportunity.
- Improve wildlife habitat.

## President's Message

### *Hello Neighbors!*

First, we would like to welcome all new residents to the Craneridge Community! Second, I applaud all the work that the various committees have done this season. As we adapt to a safer way of living, we have found a way to work together and help this community grow. I encourage each of you to be involved in some small way and contribute to a committee. This year, I have met so many new people through their involvement. It has certainly been a pleasure.

As we move toward winter, our community takes on a special charm that is hard to replicate anywhere else. As you travel through the community please do so carefully. This is a community of walkers and fat tire bike riders. Please give them some extra space in this winter season.

I look forward to a better community and always enjoy your input, please reach out to us as we plan for an active and eventful season. We all wish you and your family the very best of holiday seasons, enjoy this special surrounding that we have in the winter! Even you snowbirds.

**Jeff Randall**  
*President,*  
*Craneridge HOA Board*



## Thank You Volunteers!

*The Board would like to thank all those who Volunteer their time to make Craneridge an amazing community. Craneridge is a small community that is entirely run by volunteers. As such, we'd like to thank the following community members:*

**Architectural Committee Members:** Adam Wichlacz, Angela Jackson, Cherrie Spencer, Amanda Bowen & Kathryn Orrange. (Chair: Kelly Campbell | 474-6569)

**Maintenance Committee Members:** Ted Welch, Ron Krasnek, Gary Bingeman, Cherrie Spencer & Mo Spencer. (Chair: Adam Wichlacz | 725-1864)

**Social Committee Members:** Kelly Campbell, Butch and Lorena Lesniak. (Co-Chairs: Amanda Bowen & Vianka Krasnek | 440-2051)

**Pool Committee Members:** Amy Shaul & Marty Kemsley. (Chair: Ron Krasnek | 585-981-9991)

**Woodlands Committee Members:** Jeff Randall, Alan Miano, Jennifer Parsons, Kelly Campbell, Sam Lewandowski, Matt Boyle, & Ted Welch. (Chair: Gwen Alegre | 480-1159)

**Finance Committee Members:** Jeff Randall, Chuck Dickhut, Dennis Donner & Shannon Wichlacz. (Chair: Rich Barber | 913-9169)

**Bylaws Committee Members:** Sam Lewandowski, Kelly Campbell & Gwen Alegre. (Chair: Chuck Dickhut | 592-3571)

**Lighting Committee Members:** Chuck Dickhut, Sam Lewandowski, Cory Bowen, Ron Krasnek, Dennis Donner & John Quinn. (Chair: Rory Rinaldi | 982-2383)

**Communications Committee Members:** Chuck Dickhut, Cory Bowen, Rich Barber, Ashley Jacobson & Rory Rinaldi. (Chair: Shannon Wichlacz | 432-4778)

**Welcoming Committee Members:** Marilyn Dickhut & Natalie Rinaldi. (Chair: Jan Freeman | 592-3923)

**Community Center Committee Members:** Marty Kemsely, Ron Krasnek, Dennis Donner, Adam Wichlacz & Amanda Bowen. (Chair: Cory Bowen | 480-4090)

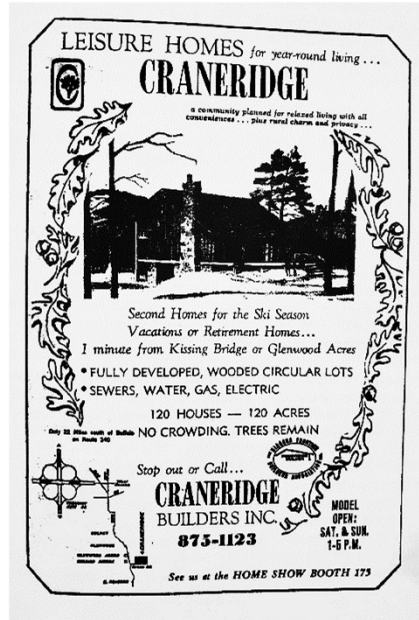
**Dog Poop Station Clean-up Volunteers:** Sharon Burganowski, Ina Randall, Shannon Wichlacz, Kathy McDonnell, Pricilla Dale, David Spillman, Erin Reese & David Reese. (Organizer: Jan Freeman | 592-3923)

*To Volunteer: Contact the Chair of each committee above  
or e-mail: [ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com](mailto:ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com)*

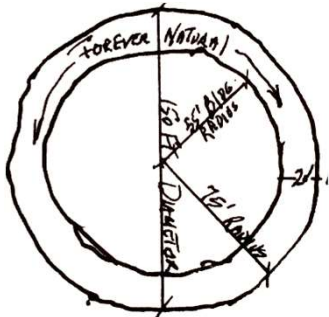
# Preserving the Past, Keeping Pace with the Future

by Shannon Wichlacz

The first Craneridge model home was built in 1967....54 years ago. There are a total of 173 lots with homes and 6 unbuilt lots in Craneridge with the longest occupied residence at 52 years. Current homeowners have lived here, on average, for 16 years with 47% of Craneridge members having bought their homes within the last ten years. Most astounding is that just within the last two years (2020-21), 28 houses were sold in our community. There is no denying that the Craneridge community is changing, but what does that mean for the future of Craneridge? Can we preserve the past, but also keep pace with the future?



Late 60's Newspaper Ad



Circular lot concept sketched by Herb Evans

For a regular community, it would seem this type of turn-over is a natural progression, however it means something different for communities that hold a rich history. Craneridge's circular lots and woodlands make us unique. Circular lot planning allowed for the centering of lots in the most favorable spots for homes while leaving less buildable land to remain in its natural state.

According to Herbie Evans, who was elected to serve as Craneridge's "on site" person for community development in 1965: "By deed restriction, you were allowed to clear only enough trees for a house and driveway after which the balance was to be left in its natural state and setting. That together with architectural guidelines that limited paint and stain colors, made the houses look like they grew out of the ground" (Freeman, p.4, 2017).

An early newspaper article that promoted the benefits of our circular lots noted that "Craneridge was found in a beautiful, natural state and setting and every attempt has been made to assure the protection of this setting. They clear only enough trees for your lot for a house and a driveway and at that point the rest of your land would revert back to its natural state and blend in with the common area which affords you the spaciousness of country living in a community setting" (Freeman, p.4, 2017).

When asked "What do you like most about Craneridge?" it's hard to find a response that doesn't mention nature or the woodland aspect of our community. Our lots remain mostly forested throughout the recent history, but according to Jan Freeman (2017) "When asked about the most noticeable changes over time, respondents often pointed to the increased formal landscaping and lawns in contrast to the completely natural, "no maintenance" look of the early days. Not sure what is behind the gradual shift, but hopefully it will never interfere with the natural backdrop of the woods, where homes & are tucked into the trees rather than set upon the ground" (p. 30).

What does the future hold for Craneridge? Can we continue with Craneridge's original "natural state" vision and tradition? The answer is: Yes and No. We must let go of the notion that to keep things completely natural, that we must leave it alone. With our aging forest, long gone are the "no maintenance" ideals of the past. According to the NYS DEC, "Ownership of forestland carries with it an obligation to tend and care for this renewable resource, holding it in trust for present and future generations. The decisions a forest owner makes can affect the forest for decades or even centuries. Stewardship means wise use of forest resources. Responsible forest management will further your goals as a landowner and ensure the health and productivity of your forest" (Craneridge Forest Stewardship Management Plan, May 2021).

Our forest here in Craneridge is in generally good health, but to keep it healthy for generations to come, we need continued and strategic stewardship, along with continued buy-in, cooperation and volunteerism from our community members. Up until recently, woodland management on properties has mostly involved reactive tree hazard mitigation. However, with Gwen Alegre joining the Woodlands Committee, there now exists a desire for a multiple-use management that will prioritize forest health and community engagement.

**Please visit the Woodlands Committee Resources on the Craneridge Website to learn more about their upcoming plans, programs, and how you can help!**

<https://craneridge.org/craneridge-woodlands-and-habitat>

**Discover! Woodlands Resources:**

<https://craneridge.org/discover-woodlands-resources>

# Woodlands Committee Updates

by Gwen Alegre (Woodlands Chair)

This past year, the newly expanded Woodlands & Habitat Committee made a great effort to build a strong foundation to support the long-term legacy of Craneridge's unique neighborhood and habitat.

*"Ownership of woodlands carries with it an obligation to tend and care for our precious resource, holding it in trust for present and future generations...an obligation shared by all." - from the 2021 DEC Forest Stewardship Report*

Woodlands & Habitat Committee Mission: <i>We inspire and educate Craneridge residents to improve and maintain a healthy and diverse woodlands habitat</i>		
WHAT WE DID	THE RESULTS	WHAT'S NEXT?
<b>Developed and followed a strategic planning process to support the improvement and maintenance of our diverse woodland habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community-wide clear vision for our woodlands with prioritized goals that will provide our community with a multi-year roadmap.</li> </ul>	Based on the lessons learned this year, we've updated and expanded our plans to make sure we stay on track! We are excited for what's to come!
<b>Recruited expert help from DEC, PRISM (invasive species management), Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Erie County Soil and Water District, and several local nature educators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ We received and gathered detailed recommendations to help inform our community woodland goals.</li> <li>✓ We sponsored seven (7) community learning sessions, that included tree and invasive ID-ing, gardening with natives, and Craneridge wildlife.</li> </ul>	We have developed task plans starting with two pilot projects on common properties. Implementation will begin in 2022. More details will be shared with the community before we begin.
<b>Expanded on the tree cutting and planting processes within Craneridge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ We developed guides for tree planting success, remediation options, and a release form to allow trained neighbors to cut trees on common property.</li> </ul>	The "Tree Care" package is pending BOD approval in January 2022 and will be shared with neighbors in early Spring.
<b>Planted a pollinator garden in the "triangle" area across from the mail center. This included 96 perennial plants and one Tulip poplar tree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Perennial plants take some time to grow. Please be patient. "Year one they sleep. Year two they creep. Year three they leap."</li> </ul>	In the spring, we'll be adding ground cover to give the garden a more complete look. For our common area "pilots" we will be planting native perennials, shrubs, and trees.
<b>Generated community interest and support to help with our woodland efforts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nearly 20 neighbors have offered "hands on" help. This is in addition to our eight (8) Woodlands Committee members. Thank you for the continued support!</li> </ul>	We're developing a specific list of tasks where people can help. "Getting started" sessions will be offered in the spring!

# Help for Crump Brook: Erosion Remediation

by Jeff Randall & Gwen Alegre

One of the wonderful benefits of living in Craneridge is having Crump Brook and its tributaries wind their way through our neighborhood. We are extremely lucky to be located in valuable and clean Buffalo/Niagara River headwaters.



*Crump Brook Below Deer Run Culvert;  
103 Tarn's backyard*

We also know that “water goes where it wants to go.” And, over time, depending on the soils in the area, erosion will occur. After major rainstorms or weather events, erosion can become a significant problem, risking Craneridge common property and homes.

In 2021, what had long been a concern turned into a more critical issue after an intense rainstorm in July. Our eroding streams have prompted us to *move from concern to action*. A section of a Crump Brook tributary near 103 and 104 Tarn Trail eroded severely to the point of risking property.



*Landslide into Crump Brook behind 104 Tarn*

Impacted neighbors, John and Beth Moloney, got the ball rolling by contacting Mark Gaston from Erie County Soil and Water District. Together with the Craneridge BOD, a solution was proposed that could be implemented in a relatively short time. With Mark's expert guidance, Craneridge has been approved for a \$20,000 LEWPA grant that will be combined with \$20,000 provided by the Association and other funds from generous neighbors. Mark will work very closely with the BOD and homeowners to ensure the best solution for the best cost will be pursued. Work will begin in Spring 2022.

## So, What's Next?

Thankfully, a tremendous amount of research and planning work occurred in 2011 led by Bob Gilbert and BOD members. Mark Gaston also provided valuable direction at that time. The erosion issues from 2011 remain much the same but have become more urgent with the recent storm damage. There was some erosion control work completed by Craneridge neighbors in 2011-2012, which remains solidly in place today, but unaddressed erosion has only gotten worse and will continue to do so, unless we step in.

The Woodlands & Habitat Committee has offered to pick up on the planning work originally done in 2011. As we plan erosion control and remediation for beyond 2022, Mark Gaston has agreed to continue to partner with us to bring the 2011 plan up-to-date and direct us to additional funding sources.

Craneridge is a one-of-a-kind natural neighborhood. **We all love living here.** But, after fifty years of “water going where it wants to go,” if we want to continue to live alongside nature and streams, we need to chip in and give them a hand.



*Erie County Soil & Water  
Conservation District*



*Lake Erie Watershed  
Protection Alliance*



*Craneridge Woodlands  
Committee*

# Heads-up: Woodlands Committee to Mark Common Property Boundaries

Throughout the months of December and January, members of the Woodlands & Habitat Committee will be marking *common* property boundaries with pink marking tape. Starting in Spring 2022, the Committee will launch two pilots so we can test our tree and habitat assessment processes to prepare to implement DEC Forest Steward and PRISM (invasive species management) plans. Target areas will include common properties in and around the Meadow, across from the mail center, and along Crump Brook (from Hardwood and heading *north* along Tarn). Markings will be based off recorded easements and current tax maps.

As we get closer to spring, the Committee will provide more details and invite neighbor participation. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, contact Sam Lewandowski at [slewandowski92@gmail.com](mailto:slewandowski92@gmail.com)

## Finance Committee Updates

The Craneridge HOA Monthly Financial Reports are posted to the website each month upon approval by the Board of Directors. To view the reports, go to [www.craneridge.org](http://www.craneridge.org) then click on Homeowners in the menu, enter the password, and scroll down to Financial Reports. Feel free to contact the Treasurer Rich Barber with any questions: [rjb14crane@gmail.com](mailto:rjb14crane@gmail.com)



**2022 Planning** will occur over the next couple of months. If you have recommendations for new projects or changes in operations, please contact any Board Member or Committee Chair. All contact details are available on the website.

### Quotes about Woodlands:

“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

- Native American proverb

“Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.”

—John Muir

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”  
– Albert Einstein

“For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it.”

– Jacques-Yves Cousteau

### Craneridge - Board of Directors

**Jeff Randall** (*term ends 2022*)  
*President*  
716-913-6507 | [Randall@agro-shield.com](mailto:Randall@agro-shield.com)

**Shannon Wichlacz** (*term ends 2022*)  
*Vice President*  
716-432-4778 | [scmenter@yahoo.com](mailto:scmenter@yahoo.com)

**Cory Bowen** (*term ends 2023*)  
*Secretary*  
716-480-4090 | [bowen.cory@gmail.com](mailto:bowen.cory@gmail.com)

**Rich Barber** (*term ends 2023*)  
*Treasurer*  
716-913-9169 | [rjb14crane@gmail.com](mailto:rjb14crane@gmail.com)

**Kelly Campbell** (*term ends 2023*)  
*Director*  
716-474-6569 | [kannccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:kannccampbell@gmail.com)

**Chuck Dickhut** (*term ends 2022*)  
*Director*  
716-592-3571 | [CDickhut2@aol.com](mailto:CDickhut2@aol.com)

**Ron Krasnek** (*term ends 2024*)  
*Director*  
585-981-9991 | [krasnek@gmail.com](mailto:krasnek@gmail.com)

**Sam Lewandowski** (*term ends 2024*)  
*Director*  
716-771-9074 | [slewandowski92@gmail.com](mailto:slewandowski92@gmail.com)

**Rory Rinaldi** (*term ends 2023*)  
*Director*  
716-982-2383 | [roryrinaldi@gmail.com](mailto:roryrinaldi@gmail.com)

**Kathie Sharp**  
*Executive Secretary*  
716-425-1280 | [ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com](mailto:ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com)



## New Craneridge Residents!

**1 Ridge Trl** – Susan Ginley

**5 Woodstock** – Utah Tweedie

**45 Hardwood** – Lauren Leadbetter Daley

**67 Hardwood** – Jake Mabee & Maki Tanigaki

**104 Tarn Trl** – Carlos Torres

### NEW !! Craneridge Members' Business & Services Directory

**Do you own a Business, provide a service or product locally?** We have so many talented members in Craneridge and we'd like to encourage the notion of **Buying Local**. We'd like to create a Directory that would only be available to Members via the Homeowners' password protected webpage. Are you an artist? An accountant? a jewelry maker? hairdresser? massage therapist? Own your own *business*? Or provide a *service*? Please consider being listed in this **Craneridge-only Business Directory** by filling-out the following form:

**[www.craneridge.org/craneridge-business-directory](http://www.craneridge.org/craneridge-business-directory)**

**Want to help save the HOA money on Newsletter printing and postage costs?**

Sign-up via the link below:

**<https://craneridge.org/signup>**

**Craneridge Association Inc.**

69 Hardwood Rd.

Glenwood, NY 14069

[ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com](mailto:ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com)

**Follow us on Social Media!**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE → [www.craneridge.org](http://www.craneridge.org)**