

# cassi saari

Botanist & Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner

cassisaari@gmail.com

224-522-1092

Chicago, IL

[cassisaari.com](http://cassisaari.com)

## education

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

B.A., Environmental Sciences

Relevant coursework: Statistics, Quantitative Methods for Ecology and Conservation, Field Ecology, Conservation Biology, Environmental Policy and Law in the Great Lakes, Plant Evolution and Diversity, Politics and Science of Environmental Restoration, Local Spring Flora, Plant Community Ecology

## experience

**Ecologist**, *ecology + vision, llc*, Jan 2012–Jan 2020

Led firm in monitoring habitat restoration performance and natural areas inventories

Conducted wetland delineations, E&T habitat assessments, and permitting

Designed and conducted vegetation surveys, often to ensure regulatory compliance

Created restoration management plans, monitoring reports, masterplans, and project proposals

Developed seed/plant mixes, invasive species maps, and treatment recommendations

Trained staff and the public in native and non-native plant identification

Produced cost estimates and budgets for bidding, consultation, and project planning

Conducted project/construction oversight for QA/QC

Participated in prescribed burns and habitat restoration activities

**Prairie/River Management Technician**, *Chicago Botanic Garden*, 2011

Controlled invasive species including mechanical and chemical methods

Supervised habitat restoration volunteer groups

Conducted prescribed burns, maintained native seed nursery

Conducted plant surveys and habitat assessments in prairie, wetland, and stream

**Research Assistant**, *Urban Ecology Lab*, DePaul University, 2011

*Member of the Chicago Wilderness Science Team*

Surveyed vascular flora and soils for “100 Sites for 100 Years” ecological monitoring project

**Lab Manager**, *Web Use Project*, Northwestern University, 2008–2010

Trained and supervised research assistants, conducted data analyses, wrote literature reviews

## activities & affiliations

President, Northeast Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society

Curator, iNaturalist.org, username: [@bouteloua](https://www.inaturalist.org/users/bouteloua)

Past State Board Member, Illinois Native Plant Society

Habitat Restoration Volunteer, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Volunteer, Plants of Concern

Member, Chicago Wilderness

Member, Chicago Ornithological Society

## awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Illinois Botanists Big Year, Illinois Native Plant Society, 2017

Next Generation of Conservation Leadership Award, Chicago Wilderness, 2014

Alworth Memorial Fund Scholarship, 2007 – 2009

Fellow Assistant Researcher Award (FARA), 2008 – 2009

<b>certifications</b>	<p>Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner, Society for Ecological Restoration, #35  Certified Arborist, International Society of Arboriculture, License #IL-9160A  USACE Wetland Delineation Training, 1987 Manual, 2012 Regional Supplements  Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training  Wildland Fire Training Courses: ICS-110, S-130, S-190  Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control (CISEC)  Lake County Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI)  Certified Pesticide Operator, Illinois Department of Agriculture, 2011–2016  First Aid, CPR/AED Certified, 2013–2020</p>
<b>trainings</b>	<p>Natural Areas of the Southern Lake Michigan Region, Dr. Gerould Wilhelm &amp; Laura Rericha  Woodlands and Wetlands of the Chicago Region, Dr. Gerould Wilhelm  Wetland Plant Identification Courses (Spring &amp; Fall), Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock  Flora of the Upper Midwest, Institute of Botanical Training, Justin and Dana Thomas  Grass Identification Workshop, Paul McKenzie  Winter Plant Identification Workshop, Paul Bollinger  Field Herpetology Training, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station</p>
<b>skills</b>	<p>Plant species identification, use of dichotomous keys  Herbarium and database management  GPS data collection (Trimble, Garmin)  GIS data management and map-making  Microsoft Office including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access  Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Lightroom  Working knowledge of R for vegetation data analysis  HTML/CSS, web and graphic design experience</p>
<b>publications</b>	<p>Saari, C. and W. Glisson. 2012. Survey of Chicago Region Seed Source Policies. <i>Ecological Restoration</i>. 30:162-165.</p>
<b>select projects</b>	<p>Pine Dunes Wetland Mitigation Monitoring &amp; Reporting, Antioch, IL  Kane County Forest Preserve District Floristic Inventories, Kane County, IL  Horner Park Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring &amp; Reporting, Chicago, IL  Exelon Braidwood Masterplanning, Braidwood, IL  Personalized plant ID field guides created for several private landowners  Private Residence Natural Areas Restoration Planning at many sites in IL and MI  Dunham North Wetland Mitigation Monitoring &amp; Reporting, Bartlett, IL  Village of Montgomery Naturalized Stormwater Basins Monitoring, Montgomery, IL  Feasibility Assessment: Carbon Project Site Evaluation &amp; Development Study, MO</p>
<b>teaching &amp; presentation subjects</b>	<p>Plant Identification, with Expertise in Midwest Flora  Invasive Woody Plants of the Midwest  iNaturalist Workshops for Beginner or Advanced Users  Natural Areas Monitoring and Reporting  Sustainable Landscapes Using Native Plants  Ecological Restoration Goals and Performance Standards  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) using QGIS</p>