

cassi saari

Botanist & Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner

cassisaari@gmail.com

224-522-1092

Chicago, IL

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

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

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

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, assisted in the maintenance of a 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

1st 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

certifications	<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>
trainings	<p>Natural Areas of the Southern Lake Michigan Region, Dr. Gerould Wilhelm & Laura Rericha Woodlands and Wetlands of the Chicago Region, Dr. Gerould Wilhelm Wetland Plant Identification Courses (Spring & 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>
skills	<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>
publications	<p>Saari, C. and W. Glisson. 2012. Survey of Chicago Region Seed Source Policies. <i>Ecological Restoration</i>. 30:162-165.</p>
select projects	<p>Pine Dunes Wetland Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting, Antioch, IL Kane County Forest Preserve District Floristic Inventories, Kane County, IL Horner Park Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring & 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 & Reporting, Bartlett, IL Village of Montgomery Naturalized Stormwater Basins Monitoring, Montgomery, IL Feasibility Assessment: Carbon Project Site Evaluation & Development Study, MO</p>
teaching & presentation subjects	<p>Plant Identification, with Focus on Midwest Flora Invasive Species in the Midwest iNaturalist Workshops for Beginner or Advanced Users Natural Areas Restoration Monitoring and Reporting Sustainable Landscapes Using Native Plants Ecological Restoration Goals and Performance Standards Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) using QGIS</p>