




A sunrise over Barrington Hills Farm.

Fields of Gold

There are many fine estates in the Village of Barrington Hills, and in my travels, I have marveled at the changing landscape and emerging wildlife with every new season. As a nature photographer, I have had the extreme good fortune of photographing many parts of this Northern Illinois suburb, but there is one area in particular that has provided unmatched opportunities to capture the beauty of its native animals and birds—Barrington Hills Farm.

While the drive past acres and acres of open space is a reminder of what the village has worked to preserve, it's what most people don't see that fascinates me and draws me to this place where nature puts on a special show for me and my camera. Pictured on these two pages are just a few examples of what has presented itself, and even with my 600mm lens, it's hard to capture the incredible beauty of the thousands of sunflowers that grace the landscape in August. Be sure to stop by along Spring Creek Road near Haegers Bend this summer to see the fields of gold. 

Paul McFadden has lived in unincorporated Algonquin for nearly 50 years. The Barrington Hills area and Barrington Hills Farm offer opportunities for his camera work with nature.





An egret wakes me up after I fell asleep in my blind. I was waiting for wood ducks.



Two young Coopers Hawks engage in a treetop sparring match.



These lovely mushrooms showed up one day after workers cut down a tree and were completely gone the next day.



Doe and her two fawns oblivious to an 1,100 lb. bale. The farm's hayfield produced hundreds of the bales during the 2018 season.



A fawn stops to pose for my camera.



www.barringtonhillsfarm.org

Barrington Hills Farm is 700 acres of pristine, undeveloped land located at Haegers Bend and Spring Creek Roads in the northwestern most corner of Barrington Hills. The rarity of Barrington Hills lies in its open space, fresh air, clean water, and abundant wildlife. The land is precious and delicate and in constant need of stewardship to keep it that way.