Mark Spreyer, an award-winning naturalist and Barrington native, did his graduate work in Minnesota on great gray owls and then went on to organize and direct Chicago's peregrine falcon release program. Under his leadership, Chicago hosted the first nest of peregrines in Illinois in 37 years.

In 1989, he returned to Minnesota where he worked with the Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge and other conservation organizations. In 1995, after completing work on a raptor exhibit with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Mark migrated back to Illinois to become Executive Director of the Stillman Nature Center in Barrington. His articles on birds of prey have appeared in various publications including *Birder's World* and the *Journal of the Association of Avian Veterinarians.* During his career, Mark has also worked for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, National Audubon Society, and Chicago Academy of Sciences plus he has taught courses for the College of Lake County and Aurora University. This year Mark's first book, *Natural Digressions*, was published. It includes 38 essays about plants and animals found in the upper Midwest plus a good deal of Mark's humor!

