



The Blaze

Winter / Spring 2015

from the director

The Byron Forest Preserve District had a great year with many new changes, events, and programs. I would love to take the time to highlight a few of them.

First of all, I would like to remind everyone of the opening of the He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve that was formerly the Mt. Morris Boat Club. This is a great place to picnic, fish, and view the river.



The staff has been working hard to clean out the understory and liberate the old growth oak and hickory trees. The picnic shelter is available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is plenty of space for many to enjoy. We added a sand volleyball court. Grilling areas are available as well. This property truly is a hidden gem along the river.

We made a few changes to the Halloween on the Prairie event this year. The biggest change was that we decided to remove the scary scenes along the hay ride route so it is now a leisurely fall ride. The money that was used for the scenes was used instead to provide a free Customer Appreciation hot dog lunch for our patrons. It was very well received. It's nice to host a great event that is mostly free for the community.

The preschool program is at full tilt and is running very well. Mrs. Joni has added the use of a Smart Board to the curriculum and the students are getting a great jump on kindergarten readiness along with some outdoor education.

The District will be embarking on renovating the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum. Remodeling the museum will enhance the educational opportunities for the community and area school districts. We will be starting the planning stages over the course of the 2015 year and then will be implementing new exhibits in the summer of 2016. We will be doing some grant writing to hopefully capture some outside funding for the project. The goal is to become a tourism destination for this region along with educating the youth within our area on the environmental importance of our natural communities.

The District has also made some green changes at PrairieView Golf Club by adding a fleet of eco-friendly electric golf carts. The carts will save money on fuel costs and provide a quieter ride. The carts will be equipped with GPS technology that will improve pace of play along with many other features that will enhance the overall golfing experience. Please check out the changes in the 2015 season pass rates, green fees, and VIP vouchers on page 20.

For more information, please call 815-234-8535 x200 or visit our websites at www.byronforestpreserve.com and www.prairieviewgolf.com. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Tucker".

Todd Tucker
Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Trevor Hogan

Vice President

Sandy Brooks

Treasurer

Brad Auker

Secretary

Dave Breen

Commissioner

Jeff Ludwig

BOARD MEETINGS

Held on the third Monday of each month at 7pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



THE MISSION

*Preservation ~ Education
Recreation*

To provide for Preservation of openspace/natural resources, to provide Education concerning our natural environment/heritage, and to provide Recreation opportunities and enterprise operations that are consistent with our District goals.



THE BLAZE

Issue #35 - Winter 2014 / Spring 2015
Please refer to this issue thru April 2015.

Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke, CPRP

Cover Photo:

Rock River in Winter

contents



Fall Preschool Registration- Page 9



Easter Egg Hunt - Page 5

2	from the director
4-5	special events
6-7	programs
8	homeschool / observatory
9	preschool / kids concerts
10-11	scout badge workshops
12	winter lecture series
13	our amphibious neighbors
14-15	where do our prairie birds go for the winter?
16	prairie preserve notes
17	turf notes (prairieview golf club)
18-19	a survivor's tale
20	prairieview golf club
21-22	good stuff
23	directory



Maple Syrup Festival - Page 4

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010 ~ P-815-234-8535 ~ F-815-234-8635

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com



maple syrup festival



Relax and enjoy this returning favorite!

Hayrides ~ Tree Tapping

Pancake Breakfast ~ Kids Crafts

Tour the Sugar Bush

See the Maple Sap Evaporator Process

Saturday, March 21

7 - 11 am

Jarrett Prairie Center

Free admission ~ Fee for breakfast

Co-sponsored by the Byron Kiwanis.



annual easter egg hunt

Saturday, April 4 ~ 11 am SHARP!

There will be lots of prizes and candy for kids in preschool through fourth grade. The event will be held at 7993 North River Road, Byron and is co-sponsored by the Byron Lions Club.



Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

programs



Cross Country Skiing

Let's hope for some good snow and warmish weather so we can start the skiing season! There will be hot chocolate waiting for us upon our return. Skis and instruction for beginners included. All levels welcome.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When:

Fri., Jan. 16 & 30, Feb. 13, Mar. 6

Fri. Time: 12:30 - 3 pm

Wed., Jan. 14 & 28, Feb. 11 & 18, Mar. 11

Wed. Time: 9 - 11:30 am

Sat., Jan. 17 & 31, Feb. 7 & 14

Sat. Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2/person &
\$5/family

Ages: 6 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by the previous Wednesday.



Evening Ski and Scope

The moon will be just past full for this evening skiing trip. We'll have hot chocolate in the observatory when we get back and we'll check out the night sky through the telescope. Skis and instruction included, all ages welcome.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, January 31

Friday, February 6

Friday, March 13

Time: 5 - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$2/person & \$5/family

Ages: 6 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by the previous Wednesday.



Winter Night Hike

Join us for a hike on the trails just as it starts to get dark and let your eyes adjust to the uniqueness of the woods in winter. We'll make owl calls and seek evidence of other animals, talk about night vision, and take part in activities that will teach you about what goes on during a winter night.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Friday, February 20

Time: 7 - 8 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: 6 and up, families welcome

Min./Max.: 6 / 20

Register by February 18.

Fossil Hunt

Join us at the quarry any time; stay for a half hour or the whole time! We'll be digging through the piles before there's any spring growth to see what we can find. Bring a hammer to crack open the bigger ones and a bucket to carry away your finds. Fossil identification and guides provided.

Where: Park at the Land Mgmt Center at 6845 German Church Road and walk the path to the quarry behind the facility

When: Saturday, April 25

Ages: All

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Cost: \$2/person

Register by April 23.

programs



Hunter Education

This 3-day class covers ethics, fire-arms, and archery.

Where: Jarrett Center
When: MWF, April 20, 22, 24
Time: MW-6-9pm, F-6-10pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
(Must be able to pass written test)
Min./Max.: 5 / 60

Register by April 18.

Winter Wildflowers

Wildflowers? In Winter? Come check them out under the snow!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, February 28
Time: 2 - 3 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by February 26.



Beekeeping Workshops

Did you hear the buzz? These workshops are the place to bee!! You will learn techniques and tools of the trade.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays
Jan. 11, Feb. 8,
Mar. 8, Apr. 12
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.

Prairie Winter

This is a great time of year to find animal tracks, tunnels, scat, and other signs. We'll learn a bit about what's going on under the snow and then head out for a hike through the prairie. Nothing beats a beautiful hike in the winter...except maybe hot chocolate afterwards! Dress for the weather, of course.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, February 7
Time: 10 am - 12 Noon
Cost: FREE
Ages: all are welcome,
families encouraged

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by February 4.

Day Off School Program

Cookies and Cards

Need something to do while you don't have school? We'll bake and decorate Valentine's Day cookies and make cards and other crafts to take home.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, February 2
Time: 10 am - 12 Noon
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
families welcome, guardians are free
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by January 28.

Day Off School Program

Dream Catchers

We'll use natural materials to weave a dream catcher and learn the story behind this Native American tradition. Make your own unique dream catcher to take home.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, February 16
Time: 10 am - 12 Noon
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
families welcome, guardians are free
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by February 11.

programs

Fun for Homeschoolers!

“Reduce, Re-use, Recycle”

You’ve all heard this phrase over and over (and over and over) again, but what does it really mean? Why does everyone talk about recycling, but hardly ever discusses reducing the use of plastics and other materials in the first place? We’ll take a look at the state of our resources, from the local water supply to the oceans and more. Of course, it will help that we’ll have fun too... we’ll make our own paper and other crafts out of recycled materials. Bring a sack lunch. Snacks and drinks provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, January 23
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by January 20.

If You’re Not Part of the Solution...

...you’re part of the precipitate! We’ll make several concoctions and learn about chemical reactions from the slimy to the bouncy, and start some longer reactions to take home and watch. We will definitely be messy, so wear things that can get dirty! Bring a lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, February 20
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by February 17.

In the Dark...

A special evening program just for home schoolers...we’ll start by learning about the kinds of energy that make up what we think of as light, and do some experiments with UV lights, glow in the dark materials, and color. Then, we’ll head to our observatory and learn why it gets dark so early in the winter and why we can see stars better when it’s cold. We’ll have a chance to look through our scope at the night sky too.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, March 27
Time: 6 – 9 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by March 18.

All That Energy!

Where does our energy come from? Flip a switch--? We’ll take a look at our solar panels and wind turbine, and spot the cooling towers of the Exelon plant in the distance, and talk about how these energies are different and how they are the same. But that’s not all...we’ll learn how this is related to food chains and the energy in our bodies. Participants will take observations using various equipment and draw conclusions that relate to real-world things. You’ll get to take home projects to continue and use in the sun! Bring a lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, April 24
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by April 21.

Weiskopf Observatory



Partial Lunar Eclipse

You’ll get to see a partial lunar eclipse! Just stop by for a quick look through the telescope or stay the whole time.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, April 4
Time: 3:30 – 6:30 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / --

Register by April 2.

National Astronomy Day

You’ll get to view the skies through three different telescopes, build a craft relating to space, and you can take a quiz to test your astronomy knowledge.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, April 25
Time: 4 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25+

Register by April 23.

preschool



Mrs. Crystal



Mrs. Joni



Mrs. Tara

Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. We are proud to offer one of the best preschool education programs and facility in the area. The Tuesday/Thursday preschool classes are geared toward 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared toward older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least 4 years old to attend the three-day class. They must be at least 3 years old to attend the two-day class. Children must be potty trained. Immunization records are required. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year. Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information.

Where: Keller Education Center
Ages: 3-5 years
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:30-11 am or 12:30-3 pm
Min/Max: 6/25-M/W/F
6/18-TU/TH
Cost: \$100/month-M/W/F
\$85/month-TU/TH

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

Fall 2015 Registration Schedule

February 9-13 - Currently enrolled students & siblings

February 17-20 - Byron residents

February 23 - Open registration

Fees: M-W-F-\$110 & Tu-Th-\$90

This is applied to the last month of preschool.

Meet the teachers night will be August 20th, 5-6:30 pm.

First day of school will be August 24th and 25th.



Free Kids Concert!

Mr. Steve ~ February 28

Balloons, magic, music, and more!

A great event for the whole family, with lots of laughs and interaction. Mr. Steve has always been one of our more popular shows.

The show begins at 3 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road, Byron.

Sponsored by Exelon

Keller Education Center

The District's preschool program is housed in the Keller Education Center, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certified building located adjacent to the Jarrett Prairie Center at 7993 North River Road in Byron. The Keller Education Center's Platinum Certification is the highest rating given by the United States Green Building Council and recognizes the building's many energy-efficient and green-design features. Some of these include the following: the use of renewable energy solar panels and a wind turbine; geothermal ground source heat pump; recycled floor tiles, countertops and restroom partitions; use of natural light and interior lighting control systems; use of certified sustainable wood products; improved indoor air quality through the use of low volatile organic paints; reflective metal roofing; low flow water closets and faucets, and many other features. The Keller Education Center is one of only three Platinum LEED Certified education buildings in Illinois and the first and only platinum certified building in Ogle County.

**Check us out on Facebook and
our website at www.byronpreschool.com.**



scout badges



Junior Girl Scout Badge

Get Moving Journey...Recycle!

We'll make several things by recycling products--your choices of a crocheted plastic shopping bag, juice pouch purse, recycled paper, pop can and paper jewelry, and more. All materials included in the cost. There will be stations set up for each craft, so you can work at your own pace and do as many of them as you would like. This fulfills part of the "Energize" section of the journey.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, January 24
Time: 12 Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout
Ages: Jr. Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by January 20.

Junior Girl Scout Badge

Get Moving Journey...Lights Out!

We'll meet at our LEED certified Keller Education Center to take a quick tour and learn some ways that this building was designed to use less energy and make less of an impact on the environment. Then, we'll head over to our observatory and talk about the night sky and light pollution. We'll have time to head up to our telescope and see some stars, too. This fulfills part of the "Energize" section of the journey.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, February 21
Time: 6 - 8:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Jr. Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by February 19.

Brownie Badge - Senses

Use all of your senses as we explore the early springtime prairie so dress for the weather. Lots of crafts and games will fill the requirements for this badge.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, March 28
Time: 1 - 3:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by March 25.

Brownie Badge - Creative Play

Invent your own game and make it! We'll have all the starting materials--game pieces, play money, dice, and blank boards...you'll work together with a friend to make up your rules and how to play. We'll also play some running, tag, and hiding games, go on a scavenger hunt, and finish with a surprise mystery event.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, April 11
Time: 12 Noon - 3:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by April 9.

Do You Have Any Idea?

Do you have a great idea for a program or a trip destination that you would like for us to offer? Or, do you need a specific badge offered for your scout group? Please let us know by calling Mark at 815-234-8535 x217 or Janet at x232. You could also go to our website, www.byronforestpreserve.com to email us. We look forward to getting suggestions from you!

scout badges



Snow Day for Scouts...

Boys & Girls

We will be busy with plenty of outdoor and indoor activities with a snow theme. You'll have a chance to cross country ski, sled down our big hill, look for animal tracks, build snow sculptures, capture snowflakes, and lots more! Hot cocoa, snacks, and all equipment provided. Dress for the weather.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Boys.....Saturday, February 21
 Girls.....Saturday, March 7
 Time: 12 Noon - 4 pm
 Cost: \$5 / scout
 Ages: All Scouts Welcome
 Min./Max.: 5 / 18

Register by 2/18 and 3/4.



Cadettes - Trees

Tree fun, science, crafts, connections, and helping trees thrive; you'll have your choices of activities to complete the steps for this badge. Dress for the weather and bring your sense of fun and adventure!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Sunday, April 12
 Time: 3 - 6 pm
 Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
 Ages: Cadette Girl Scouts
 Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by April 9.

Boy Scouts - Astronomy

We'll learn about stars, planets, nebulae and more, and spend some time looking through the telescope at the amazing night sky.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Friday, February 13
 Time: 6 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$5 / scout
 Ages: Boy Scouts
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by February 11.

Register Early!

PLEASE remember to register early for our programs. So many programs are cancelled due to the lack of participation and then we receive phone calls from disappointed individuals because they "were gonna sign up but forgot."

So, get online or call us now to sign up for that hike, or that great trip, or to get that scout badge.

SIGN UP NOW!!
SIGN UP NOW!!
SIGN UP NOW!!

winter lecture series

New for 2015



“Cure your cabin fever”

Take some time during the cold winter months to get out and join us for this captivating and informative lecture series. These presentations are designed for life long learners from older elementary students to senior adults. Lectures will be held on Sunday afternoons starting at 2 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center. The programs are free, but advance registration is requested as space is limited. Please call 815 234-8535 x200 to register.

February 8 – *The Greater Prairie Chicken in Illinois: A Story of Persistence and Rarity* – Greater prairie chickens (above left) are an iconic grassland bird of the prairies of North America. Once an abundant and exploited species, populations have declined dramatically in Illinois. The conservation of prairie chickens has a long history and current efforts to translocate them from Kansas to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Newton, Illinois continues this important legacy. Join Bob Gillespie, Natural Resources Coordinator with the Illinois Natural History Survey, to learn about the history and beauty of this fantastically emblematic wildlife species, current recovery efforts, and the great peril it faces in contemporary times.

February 15 – *Meteors and Their Impact on Earth* – Many people know that falling or shooting stars are meteors, but what are meteors? Where do they come from? This lecture will examine the origins and characteristics of meteors and meteorites, and explain the differences. The program will also discuss the striking evidence that life on our planet was directly influenced by meteors, and explore the possibility that the very same objects that may have brought life to our planet may also take it away. Presented by Walter Trentadue, president of the Galena Astronomical Society and instructor of astronomy at Rock Valley College in Rockford and Harper College in Palatine.

February 22 – *You Can't Rollerblade in a Buffalo Herd: The Return of Bison to the Nachusa Grasslands* – After a nearly 200 year absence, bison (above right) have returned to The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands in Franklin Grove, Illinois. The staff and volunteers at the Nachusa Grasslands have been planning for the return of wild bison to the Prairie State for 28 years by creating a habitat made up of prairie, wetlands and oak woodlands of a quality and size to support a small genetically diverse bison herd. Learn more about Nachusa Grassland's bison herd, site preparations, ecosystem research and visitor expectations at this presentation by Nachusa Grasslands' volunteer Betty Higby.

March 1 – *Archaeology of the Stateline Area: A View of the Rock River* – People have lived in the Rock River Valley of Illinois and Wisconsin for many millennium, with evidence suggesting that the earliest sites date to 13,000 years ago. How people adapted to the changing climate and landscape as glaciers melted, river systems formed, and the modern vegetation spread across the area is a central question to archaeologists working in the Midwest. Sara Pfannkucke, a PhD graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a practicing archaeologist in northern Illinois for the past 20 years will talk about what has been found at several local archaeological sites.

Our Amphibious Neighbors



By Austin Webb,
Asst. Supt. of Land Mgmt.



All frogs were photographed at the He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve.

Living near a large body of water such as the Rock River, it should come as no surprise that our area is home to many frogs. We are all familiar with the American Bullfrog, calling in the summer with its characteristic “roar”, eating just about anything it can fit in its belly, and occasionally providing table fare with a side of slaw. However, there are other, less well-known species which also call this area home.

One such species is the Northern Leopard Frog (above photo), which looks similar to the bullfrog, but is much leaner and covered in leopard print, as its name suggests. These incredibly long-legged, strong leapers make their home along just about any body of water, preferring to spend most of their time in grassy areas or along woodland edges, sometimes far away from a permanent water source. Growing up to nearly four inches in body length (legs tucked), the Leopard Frog predares a wide range of arthropods and other invertebrates, including spiders and many types of pesky flying insects.

There are even a few types of tree frogs which live here, including the Gray Treefrog, Cope’s Gray Treefrog, and Western Chorus Frog. The Gray Treefrog and Cope’s Gray Treefrog are identical in appearance, but have a different overall number of chromosomes, and are only distinguishable by their calls. As arboreal species, both the Gray and Cope’s Gray spend most of their time camouflaged amongst the branches and bark of trees, typically descending to the ground only during the mating season. These frogs vary in color, from nearly lime-green to slate gray, and are able to change body color depending on background and temperature. Relatively small, an adult will only reach just shy of 2.5 inches when full grown, equipped with its characteris-



tic sticky toe-pads and possessing magnificent orange and black stripes along the inside folds of their hind legs. The Gray Treefrog is known to be a common site in Byron as tadpoles will develop in rainwater-filled pool liners, with the emerging juvenile frogs attracted to lit windows and outdoor lights to forage for insects and spiders which they happily consume.

Less common in our area is the Western Chorus Frog, a small species, usually less than 1.5 inches in length, with a much pointier nose and less pronounced toe-pads than the Gray Treefrog. The pear-shaped body of the Chorus Frog is often gray, tan, or brown with strong dark stripes running the length of its body. As a very shy creature, the Chorus Frog is seldom seen, but in early Spring it can be heard calling out in unison with other frogs, giving it its name. The call is a very guttural “cre-eee-ek”, which can be closely replicated by running your fingers down a flat hair comb.



As winter rolls in, our local tree frogs will begin to dig, bury, and seek shelter in hollow logs or below the frost line to escape the bitter cold. The Bullfrog and Leopard Frog will sink to the bottom of the river and hide beneath a log or partially bury themselves in the mud bottom, breathing in the needed oxygen to survive hibernation through their skin while underwater. Unlike turtles, frogs hibernating underwater need their skin exposed to the water, or they are liable to suffocate. Remarkably, during winter, a frog’s organs and blood may become partially frozen, and its heart may even stop beating, however, the high concentration of glucose in the frog’s bloodstream acts as antifreeze, keeping vital tissues from rupturing within its body. As the deep freeze of winter gives way to warmer weather, these real-life zombies come back to life in time to help defend us from the mosquitoes and biting flies of summer.

Where Do Our Prairie Birds Go For The Winter?



By Mark Herman
Superintendent of Education

Around forty species of birds that depend on grasslands for their survival make our northern Illinois prairies their home in the spring and summer to build their nests and raise their young. Many of these birds start to think about relocating to other places in autumn for one main reason...lack of food. They cannot easily find enough food to make it through the winter.

The Byron Forest Preserve District oversees over a thousand acres of grasslands, prairie remnants, and restorations that sustain birds who are a part of the annual short-distance to long-distance fall and spring migrations. Here are some examples of the types of birds that are an important part of our local prairie ecosystems and where they will likely be spending their winter months. Migration range maps can be found at www.allaboutbirds.org.



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

The Eastern Meadowlark used to be a common bird found singing on summer days sitting on fence posts near grassy fields and prairies all over the Midwest and Eastern United States. They are now a species in decline due to disappearing grassland habitat because of fields being mowed during breeding season and the harmful side effects of agricultural pesticides. They eat mostly insects such as crickets, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and grubs, but will eat seeds, spilled corn and berries in the winter. They typically depart our area by November and migrate up to 600 miles south. They will return as soon as the snow melts to the same area where they were born year-after-year to build their nests in tall grass. Male Eastern Meadowlarks are very territorial and need at least six acres of grasslands to establish his territory where he will breed with several females.



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

The Eastern Bluebird's original habitats were frequently burned prairies and savannas. After several years of population decline due to pesticide poisoning, the loss of nesting sites like hollow trees and wooden fence posts, and with competition from aggressive European Starlings and English House Sparrows, the Eastern Bluebird populations are now on the upswing. The use of special bluebird nesting boxes and other conservation practices have made a difference in the return of this popular bird which has successfully adapted to living close to people. This species can be a year-round resident to a medium-distance migrant that travels a few hundred miles south for the winter. Many local bluebirds will stay in small flocks all winter at the Jarrett Prairie Center Preserve as long as they have abundant wild fruit sources and thickets where they can take shelter during extreme cold weather. Male and female bluebirds will begin looking for nesting boxes as early as late February or early March and will produce two to three broods of young during the spring and summer months if the weather is favorable.



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Bobolinks are a classic bird of the tall grass prairie. They are found in uncut pastures, overgrown meadows, prairie remnants, and restorations where they build their nests on the ground. In summer, male Bobolinks are mostly black with a white back and rump and a straw colored patch on the back of the head. Females and migrating males are a warm tan and buff brown color. The male has a distinct bubbling song unlike any other local bird. Bobolinks are one of the world's most impressive songbird migrants traveling over 12,000 round-trip miles each year and have been documented to travel up to 1,100 miles in a single day. They migrate starting in October in large flocks from the Midwestern United States to their wintering grounds in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. The migrating Bobolinks are considered pests by South American farmers where they consume large amounts of grain during the winter months. They also can be a common caged bird sold as pets in South America.



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

The Dickcissel is a common bird of the northern Illinois prairie ecosystem. The male of this sparrow sized bird looks like a miniature Eastern Meadowlark with its bright yellow breast marked with a black chevron. The female is streaked with brown and resembles an English House Sparrow. The size of their populations in the Midwest varies considerably from summer to summer. Beginning in early October, Dickcissels begin to gather in large flocks numbering in the thousands to make their migration to their winter roosts in southern Mexico to northern South America. Millions of Dickcissels come together to eat once they have completed their southern migration (one third of their diet is made up of insects and two thirds are grain and seeds). Dickcissels are often killed in large numbers during the winter months by rice farmers who consider them to be major agricultural pests.

Photo Credits: Individual bird photos taken by Gary Gullett, Photo Safari Network. Migrating photo from Wiki Commons.

Prairie Preserve Notes

from the Land Management Center



By Russell Brunner
Superintendent of Land Management

He-Leo Two Rivers Forest Preserve

The restoration crew is actively working at this preserve finishing the oak woodland restoration project. Last winter, about half of the oak woods was restored by removing invasive honeysuckle shrubs and non-native tree species and thinning common opportunistic native trees. We will be finishing the remaining acres of mixed oak and hickory woods this winter. The intent of all of these brush projects the restoration crew takes on is to return these woods to a similar structure to how they appeared when settlers moved into these areas in the 1800s. At that time, fire frequently covered the landscape. These fires benefited native oaks and hickories and kept the woodlands in a very open state that allowed for a diverse ground layer of flowering plants. Fire is also critical in helping young oaks and hickories establish. Without fire, other species move in and shade out the ground layer and stop the regeneration of oak species. Most of our oak woodlands have very few to zero young oak trees in them due to the lack of fire in the last 100 years. We remove brush and thin the other tree species to bring light back in and mimic the openness of the former oak woods, we then use prescribed fire to control invasives and other brush, and these fires help reestablish young oaks to eventually become the next generation of canopy trees.

Our crew also planted a diverse prairie seed mix into the roadside field at the preserve. Next year, look for the first wildflowers to bloom, and over time, the prairie will become fuller and more diverse with close to 100 native grasses and wildflowers.

The preserve is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk (weather permitting). This preserve is accessible by vehicle from Route 2, about 3 miles south of Byron, and by boat on the Rock River across from Rockvale Heights. There is no motorized boat launch; the docks are open to daytime use by boaters on the river only (in season). Canoe and kayak users may launch at the preserve. Dogs are allowed on leash in the park area but please no pets in the shelter.

Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve

Visitors to this preserve (main site) probably noticed a couple of areas in the prairie that were mowed this summer. The mowing is done as a management tool used to help control invasive sweet clover weeds. These biennial weeds grow extremely well in this region and, in large numbers, can crowd out native species. Mowing at the right time helps to reduce their numbers and prevents the weeds from making seed. Mowing is only done in the areas where there are very dense populations of these weeds. Our crew does a lot of hand pulling in this preserve and we use herbicide carefully in the more degraded areas. We are working towards one day not needing to mow these areas as we get these weed species under control. A diverse mix of seed was collected this past summer as well. The seed is milled and mixed, and we then hand broadcast plant the seed into the more degraded and mowed areas within the preserve to help add diversity to fight against the weeds.

Stephen J. & Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

This preserve now has over 500 acres of restored habitat, most of which is open prairie. There are over ten miles of trails for visitors to enjoy on horseback or on foot at all times of the year. The summer wildflower blooms are a sight to see at this expansive preserve that is now home to many grassland nesting birds like Dicksissels and Northern Harriers. Current management work is focused on battling invasive weeds with pulling and spot herbicide applications, and we have a management goal of performing prescribed fire to about half of this preserve each year.

Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve

This preserve officially opened to the public this past summer. This 280-acre preserve is open to the public from dawn to dusk and visitors can hike and cross country ski the ten miles of trails through restored oak woods and around prairie meadows. The restoration crew will be busy removing invasive honeysuckle shrubs from under the oak trees throughout the preserve this winter. Prescribed fire is an essential management tool in restoring and maintaining healthy oak woods and prairies, and burns will be conducted in the late fall or spring. The public parking lot is located at 12749 North Weldon Road, Rockford.

prairieview golf club



Turf Notes from the Turf Care Center

Greg Welker
Asst. Golf Course Supt.

Another fall season has quickly fallen upon PrairieView golf club. Every year, the fall season marks the slowing of maintenance work and a shift to more capital projects. This fall, we are continuing to focus on restoration of native species throughout the golf course. It is with careful consideration that we make changes to several areas on the golf course. The details of this plan were laid out during the first PrairieView Turf Grass Symposium held on September 30, 2014. All current pass holders were invited and long-range plans for PrairieView were discussed. We enjoyed hearing feedback from our golfers, and we look forward to having attendance at this event grow in the future.

We are currently in the midst of preparations for future native plantings. We are currently preparing areas for a multitude of reasons, but reduction in maintenance costs, safety, and pace of play are our three main areas of concern. We are focusing on converting to more native areas on the outer edges of the course, while resuming daily mowing on areas that are more likely to come into play. This will allow us to keep up with cost reduction while making the overall experience for our patrons more enjoyable. This native conversion approach has allowed us to help make the course better equipped to handle the economic stresses of reduced

revenues due to the economic climate. We understand that times are tough for everyone. That is why we are focused on helping the golf course become more sustainable by reducing costs in all facets of our operation. It is imperative that we make these changes, while still providing the great golf experience that our patrons have come to expect from PrairieView.

Fall and winter months are also our time to address any trees on the golf course that are either dead or need to be removed for safety or playability concerns. The emerald ash borer has been a concern for every owner of any ash trees in the United States since early 2002. Unfortunately for us, the borer has become a real concern in the last couple of years. We have made an effort to save our ash through removal of weak ash (which the pest targets) and a strict chemical suppression schedule but we are still seeing all of the symptoms that the borer is here and damaging our trees. With that in mind, we, like so many others, are forced to start an ash reduction plan to limit or eliminate unsightly or unsafe trees. Removals will begin soon, and we also have begun a long-range tree plan to replace these trees with other native species in keeping with the overall plan for the course.

Outings, Banquets, & Parties

Thinking about where you want to have your next family gathering, think about PrairieView Golf Club. PrairieView is the perfect place to hold your holiday party, family reunion, or banquet. The Prairie Grass Pub holds up to 50 people while the banquet hall can seat up to 200. A wide variety of food and drink options are available. Also, start making plans for the 2015 golf season. Lots of outing dates are available. Call 815.234.4653 to book your event.

A Survivor's Tale

True romance

By Seth Jones

(Reprinted with permission from *Golfdom Magazine*)

If Matt and Cammie Henkel's life story were made into a Hollywood movie, it would be a romantic comedy. Jim Carrey, with his big smile, could play the role of Matt. Cammie, the eye-catching brunette, could be played by Courteney Cox.



Matt Henkel, Superintendent of Golf Maintenance at PrairieView, and his family.

The opening moments of comedy would come during the scene of Matt and Cammie's first date, which took place in Cammie's parents' living room. Being a freshman in high school at the time, her parents wouldn't let her leave the house to go on a date... especially with a boy who was two years older than her.

Happy tears might flow in the scene six years later, when Matt gets on one knee and proposes. This scene takes place as it did in real life, on Chicago's Navy Pier, with fireworks erupting on the Fourth of July. But every movie has that moment of despair, that challenge the couple must overcome. For this movie, that moment comes when one of the stars gets stricken with an unidentified ailment, so weak they can no longer work. And in this movie, one stands up for the other, and saves their loved one's life.

Scene one

Rewind to the beginning of the movie. Matt Henkel is a farm kid/high school jock growing up in Sublette, Ill., a town of 300 people. He rides the bus seven miles to Amboy, Ill., a town in northern Illinois of 3,000, and stars at point guard on a stacked basketball team. He's also a talented golfer who thinks Fred Couples is the coolest stick to ever stroll a fairway.

Matt's little sister, Catharine, introduces him to her friend Cammie. Tragically, Catharine is killed by a drunk driver while in the 8th grade. Soon after, Matt and Cammie become best friends, and fall madly in love.

College comes, and Matt gets an academic scholarship to Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill. He transfers to Illinois State University, where he earns a B.S. in agricultural business, with a minor in horticulture. His senior year, a job is posted for an internship at PrairieView Golf Club in Byron, Ill. He makes a decision to give golf maintenance a try, and at the end of the internship, a second assistant's position is added, allowing him to join the team full time.

Things go swimmingly for the couple until the spring of 2008. That's when Matt's fatigue and headaches begin, in March. Suddenly there's no gas in the tank, and he has to go home before lunch each day. "At that point, he had been working at the golf course for seven years, and nothing could slow him down," says Cammie Henkel, now a first grade teacher. "He could go to work at 3:30 in the morning, and work until late in the evening. But for a week he was coming home at 11 a.m., so tired he could hardly walk."

Up until this time, Matt Henkel had rarely had a health concern. He barely even had a doctor. That was about to change. Henkel made a trip to the family practitioner, and was told he was having migraines. He had never had migraines before, but was willing to accept that answer. "I thought, 'OK, I'm just wore down, doing too much,'" he recalls. "I told myself that I needed to take it easy." But his problems persisted. He went back to the doctor again. "Maybe it's a virus," he was told. It wasn't a virus.

Matt and Cammie Henkel have been there for each other for 20 years. Never was that more evident than when cancer reared its ugly head.

Moment of truth

A week later, Cammie Henkel had had enough. "She said she was taking me to the emergency room, and I didn't want to go," Henkel says. "The doctors had already told me there was nothing they could do, that I needed to just get over it. I'm not the type of guy to go back again after being told that. But she dragged me in there."

They were being shown the door yet again when Cammie Henkel had her stand-up moment of this true romance/drama. "I just had this feeling... I can't explain it other than to say I had a feeling," she recalls. "I said (to the doctors), 'I'm not leaving here until you do something.'" The doctors agreed to give Matt a CT scan, but warned the Henkels they were about to "waste a couple thousand dollars."

The radiologist looked at the results and saw something he didn't like. He called it a lesion. He told Matt they would keep him overnight, then give him an MRI the next morning.

At this time, Henkel still wasn't concerned. "I thought it would be something they could give me a few pills for. Or, it would just go away in time," Henkel says. "But they did the MRI the next day, and my general physician came in and laid it all out there — he said it was likely a brain tumor."

Henkel was loaded into an ambulance, and driven 130 miles away to the hospital at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Enter: Wee One Foundation

It was brain cancer, but mercifully, the tumor was caught in its early stages. Surgery was performed to remove the tumor, and it was declared a success. It took Henkel a few weeks, but he recovered, and returned to work. The doctor told him to come back every six months so they could monitor his health.

At this same time, Henkel's cousin, Eric Henkel, superintendent at Shady Oaks CC in Sublette, was talking with a local vendor when the topic of Matt's cancer came up. The vendor told Eric about the Wee One Foundation (weeone.org), an organization that assists golf course management professionals who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardships.

A few weeks later, Chad Ball, CGCS at Conway Farms GC in Lake Forest, Ill., and a director for the Wee One, was at PrairieView GC to visit with Henkel, who was still an assistant superintendent. They talked, and at the end of the visit, Ball presented Henkel with a check from the foundation for \$7,000 to use however he saw fit.

"I told him that we still have insurance, I still have a job. But there were a lot of expenses I wasn't aware of," Henkel says. "The traveling, the hotels, daycare, the equipment insurance doesn't pay for."

Turns out the Wee One came at just the right time.

"We had two kids under the age of two. Matt was just starting out as an assistant, and I was just starting out as a teacher," Cammie Henkel recalls. "We were hurting. We didn't know what the right thing to do was. Should we sell our house, or should we not? (The money) hit us at exactly the right time. When we got it, we knew everything was going to be OK."

Though the Henkels were financially on their feet again, Matt's health problems weren't over. A follow-up exam in October of 2010 revealed that his tumor was back, and it was growing.

"They removed what they could see (in 2008), but with brain tissue, there is a lot of sensitive area to navigate," Matt Henkel says. "They know there are likely to be edges of the tumor that they are unable to remove."

The tumor, now upgraded to an anaplastic astrocytoma, was more aggressive. The same basic surgery was performed, and Henkel was directed to undergo 33 radiation treatments.



Ashton, Matt's son, at the Wee One Golf Outing held at PrairieView.

Now the superintendent at PrairieView after his predecessor, Steve Storz, retired, the second surgery and radiation were a success. Today, at age 35, Henkel says he feels as good as he has ever felt. After his last check-up in July, the doctor told him he didn't need to see him again for a year.

The Henkels now have three children: Ashton, age 9; Claire, age 7; and Mara, age 2. Though the thought of his tumor returning is always in the back of his mind, it seems his biggest concern lately has been finding help in the pro shop, where he's had to put in some hours himself due to staffing problems.

Cammie agrees that Matt seems healthy and happy, aside from the 200 hours he had to work over the last 18 days.

"I always wondered if the golf course was good for him, if the tumor was going to come back because he works so much," she says. "I went there and looked around. The course is part of a forest preserve, there's all this nature. I think the golf course helps him be healthy. I think the nature there plays a big role on how well he is doing."

More fireworks

Having two bouts of brain cancer changes one's perspective.

"I say the luxury of my illness is I truly get to live each day like it's my last," Matt Henkel says. "It gives you that perspective to truly live your life to its fullest."

Part of that includes giving back. At first, it was sending Bass Pro Shops gift cards to a young boy with the same kind of tumor he had. Then, one day, while lying in bed, he decided he wanted to do something to return the favor to the Wee One.

Cammie Henkel tried to talk him out of it. But unlike the time she convinced him to go to the emergency room, this time she couldn't change his mind.

"I said, 'Couldn't this wait for a year?' and he said, 'No, now is the time,'" she recalls.

In August, Henkel hosted the first Northwest Illinois GCSA Wee One fundraiser at his course. The tournament included 80 participants, donated raffle prizes, ridiculous pin placements, and obstacles in front of greens. There was also, fittingly, a 20-minute fireworks display at the end of the day's events.

The movie imitates life. Zoom in on Matt and Cammie again sharing a kiss while fireworks erupt, similar to that moment on Navy Pier when Matt proposed. But this time they're older, Matt has a scar on his temple, and the woman he's kissing isn't just the love of his life, but also the woman who saved his life.

The screen fades to black. The credits roll.

Happily ever after

The Henkels are a happy family, and Matt and Cammie's love story, now going on its 20th year, continues. Cammie says she has her dream job. Matt says there's nothing like being the first one on the golf course, that there's no better office in the world.

He looks back at the events of his life in 2008 and marvels at the way it all worked out. It turns out he had mono when doctors first discovered his tumor. What would have happened if they properly diagnosed his mono? How long would it have taken to discover his brain tumor? And what stage would it have been?

"I believe to this day that if Cammie didn't demand I have that CT scan, I would have recovered from mono and the tumor would have been diagnosed at a much later stage," he says. "I believe that my wife's persistence saved my life."

Along with the overall love story, the underlying message of this film would be to take your health seriously, and have someone advocate for you.

"At age 29, when I was feeling the way I was, I didn't think much of it. I fought with my wife, I told her I didn't need any more tests," Henkel says. "I'm glad my wife didn't give up on me."

prairieview golf club

2015 Season Golf Passes

Now on sale at the Jarrett Prairie Center! Buy before February 1st and save \$5!

Single Pass	Before 2/1/15	After 2/1/15
Adult	\$600	\$660
College Student	\$325	\$360
Senior (60+)	\$500	\$550
Jr. (18 & under)	\$225	\$250

Couple Pass

Adult	\$1000	\$1100
Senior (60+)	\$800	\$900

All Inclusive Pass

(includes golf, cart, & driving range)

Adult	\$1100	\$1160
Couple	\$1750	\$1850
Senior	\$1000	\$1050
Senior Couple	\$1550	\$1650

Family Pass \$1250

(Includes mom, dad, & all kids under 18)

*carts not included **add cart pass-\$750

Range Pass \$100

(unlimited use of driving range)

Corporate Membership

Any business / corporation with at least 5 affiliated employees, board members, or stakeholders seeing a season pass, may purchase the pass collectively through their employer at a \$100 discount off the pass rate, regardless of when the program was initiated. Upgrade to a cart pass and unlimited range for an additional \$500. Please contact matt@prairieviewgolf.com for more details.

Corporate Pass - \$3000

This pass allows a business / corporation one foursome every day of the week (excluding some tournament & group outing days) throughout the entire golf season, complete with carts and range balls. One member of the foursome must be a designated employee, while the others may be guests, vendors, customers, etc.

10-Round Weekday Punch Card

\$350 - 10% Savings! - includes cart

10-Round Weekend Punch Card

\$395 - 10% savings! - includes cart

2015 Golf Fees

18 Holes	Weekday / Weekend
Daily Rate	\$23 / \$28
Cart	\$16 / \$16

9 holes	
Daily Rate	\$17 / \$20
Cart	\$10 / \$10

18-Hole Jr/Sr	
Daily Rate	\$20 / \$20
Cart	\$16 / \$16

9-Hole Jr/Sr	
Daily Rate	\$13 / \$16
Cart	\$10 / \$10

Senior Weekend Special after 3pm

18 holes w/cart - \$30

9 holes w/cart - \$20

Miscellaneous Fees

Pull Carts - \$3

Range Balls - \$5 (30 balls/basket)

Rental Clubs \$8 / 9 holes

Customer

Appreciation Week

Come on out for FREE GOLF

April 13-17, 2015

Carts are only \$16 per person.

Tee times go fast so call early!

815-234-4653

Great Gift Ideas!!

Instead of or in addition to a season golf pass, PrairieView's VIP program is an outstanding offer. Vouchers can be purchased for \$400. With a VIP Voucher, golfers receive discounts off regular priced green, cart, and range fees. Vouchers can also be used on food and beverages. Other rules and provisions apply. Discount percentages shown below:

Food & Beverage	10%
Green Fee Discount	15%
Golf Cart	25%
Range Balls	50%

Gift cards are also available year round and make a wonderful gift for any occasion. Gift cards can be purchased in any increment. If you have any questions regarding VIP Vouchers or gift cards, please call the PrairieView pro shop at 815-234-4653 or the Jarrett Prairie Center at 815-234-8535 x200.

Visit us online at
www.prairieviewgolf.com

Birthday Parties

Choose the Forest Preserve to organize your child's next birthday party by calling Mark at 815-234-8535 ext. 217. A variety of nature-themed parties are available.

Deluxe Party ~ \$75 / Tea Party ~ \$100
12 children (additional \$30 for more than 12 children)
(cake, ice cream, tableware, birthday banner, program)

Standard Party ~ \$45 / Tea Party ~ \$60
12 children (\$5/additional child)
(program only)

~FREE~ Field Trips

to the Natural History Museum,

Weiskopf Observatory, & Heritage Farm Museum

Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun guided tour of our great museums. Staff welcome and give FREE tours. We offer many sessions to choose from such as prairie ecology, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us.

Let Us Come To You For FREE!

We offer FREE educational programs for any group including retirement homes and nursing facilities. Using our nature staff and nature stuff, we can come to you and deliver exciting and educational programs. Call 815-234-8535 to schedule a program for your group. You can choose from the following topics: Birds of a Feather, Indian Life (with traditional dress), Animal Encounter (with live animals). Call today to book your next on-site program!

Recycling Station

The Byron Forest Preserve, in conjunction with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department, has established a recycling station at the Forest Preserve located at the Land Management Center, 6845 German Church Road in Byron.

The station accepts glass, aluminum, plastic #1-#5, & #7, tin, steel, mixed paper, cardboard, and newspaper. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived. **You no longer need to separate the items in each bin.**

We are also offering a USAgain recycling bin for clean, used clothing and shoes. The bin is located next to the other recycling bin mentioned above. This bin helps keep textiles out of the landfills.

To recycle electronics, Ogle County Solid Waste Management hosts an electronics recycling day on the last Friday of each month at 909 West Pines Road in Oregon, from 9am-4pm. Please call or visit the Ogle County website at www.oglecounty.org for more information.

Canoe Rentals

We rent canoes! Please call at least one week in advance to schedule the date and time for your canoe trip. Canoes are \$25 each with a 3-canoe minimum per rental. Paddles and life jackets are included. Call Mark at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 for this unique and fun outing.

Join our VIP Text Club

Text CC597 to 36000

to start getting great deals today!

good stuff

We Want You...to Volunteer!

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun projects on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 am at the Jarrett Prairie Center or every Wednesday morning at 9 am at the Woodshop located at Heritage Farm. We also have projects for your group or organization. Just call Mark at 815-234-8535 x217 to sign up today!



Exelon employees cleaned up River Park.

Prescribed Fire Season

Forest Preserve land management staff will be conducting prescribed burns at several of our preserves in the early spring. Prescribed fire is an essential and efficient management practice for the health of our native ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, helps control undesirable exotic weeds and shrubs, increases blooming and seed production among our native plants, and stimulates the growth of our native prairie and woodland plant species. District staff manage the burns to minimize smoke on highways and neighboring properties.

Winter Fun at the Forest Preserve!

Sledding - Looking for a great place for sledding? Our sled hill located on the west side of the Jarrett Prairie Center is an awesome place for the whole family to have some winter fun! Come inside the Jarrett Center to warm up with a cup of hot chocolate sold at the front counter.

Hiking and Cross Country Skiing - Get outside, keep fit, and enjoy the beauty of the prairie in winter. The Jarrett Prairie Preserve has many miles of trails. We also offer ski rental for only \$5 per person per hour. Skiing classes for all levels are also offered throughout the season. Check inside this issue for more information or call 815-234-8535 x200.

For some indoor cozy learning and fun, check out the winter lecture series and many other classes offered in this issue.



directory



General Contacts

Jarrett Prairie Center (Headquarters)

The headquarters office is open
Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm.
The office is closed Saturday, Sunday,
and select holidays.

Street Address

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010

Mailing Address

P O Box 1075
Byron IL 61010

Website

byronforestpreserve.com

Email

raul@byronforestpreserve.com

Main Phone Number

815-234-8535 x200

Main Fax Number

815-234-8635



Golf Club

PrairieView Golf Club

6734 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-4653 (GOLF)

Education Centers

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
The museum hours are:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-8am-4:30pm
Tues., Thurs.-8am-8pm
Saturday-9am-4pm & Sunday-1-4pm.
Closed select holidays.

Keller Education Center

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
The Forest Preserve's Preschool pro-
gram utilizes this building for classes.

Weiskopf Observatory

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for free public viewing every Sat-
urday night from dark until three hours
after dark.

Heritage Farm Museum

8059 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open daily April-October. Open upon
request November-March. Self-guided
tours are free.



Trails

Jarrett Prairie Preserve

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open from dawn to dusk for walking,
jogging, and nature exploration.

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

6651 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for horseback riding, walking,
jogging, and nature exploration.

Howard Colman

Hall Creek Preserve

12749 North Weldon Road
Rockford IL
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature
exploration.

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

1753 East Townline Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature
exploration.

NOTE: Some of these addresses are new so
they may not show correctly on GPS devices.
Please call 815-234-8535 to confirm directions.

The Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve is not
yet open to the public but will be opening very
soon.

Making a New Year's Resolution?

Don't forget your Financial Health

- ☒ **Safe and Secure Bank**
- ☒ **Lowest Mortgage Rates**
- ☒ **Bank For My Business**
- ☒ **Estate Planning**
- ☒ **Investments**

Happy New Year!



Byron Bank

