



Byron Forest Preserve
District

The Blaze

Summer 2016



Inside this issue...

Summer Camp / Adventure Club

Summer Concerts

PrairieView Golf Club

Prairie Grass Pub

from the director



The District staff and board of commissioners are very excited about the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum remodel and all that it will offer to our patrons and school kids. The new museum exhibits will further educate our visitors about our history and natural community in which we all cohabitate. It is our mission to not only purchase and restore these habitats but to try to build an understanding between the relationships of people and the local natural environment in which we live.

The new museum will help bridge the gap and educate everyone further into the reasons why it is vital to maintain a healthy and sustainable ecosystem and how we as humans play a role in that ever changing environment.

I would like to offer anyone to please email or call us to ask questions you may have on the reasons we do what we do. The District employees are very knowledgeable, educated, and energetic people who would love to take the time to explain to you what they do and why they do it. We are here as your local resource and I feel we should talk to anyone that wants to further their curiosities on any number of topics from the local ecosystems to the ins and outs of our golf course operations.

Take a look in this Blaze for answers to questions like why we burn the prairie, why we thin and cut trees within the Oak savannas, how and why is the golf course managing the Emerald Ash Borer, and all the educational programs that are offered to connect you with nature. The District does many things for a wide variety of ages and interests. I encourage you to find your interests and indulge yourself into a bit of the great outdoors this summer.

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.

Todd Tucker
Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Trevor Hogan

Vice President

Sandy Brooks

Treasurer

Brad Auken

Secretary

Jeff Ludwig

Commissioner

Frank Conry

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 #39 - Summer 2016
Please keep this issue thru August 2016

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contents



Summer Camp - Pages 4-5



Free Summer Concerts- Page 14



New Items at the Pub - Page 26

2	from the director
4-6	summer day camp
7-11	programs
12-13	preschool
14	summer concerts
15-19	land management
20-28	prairieview golf club
29-30	good stuff
31	directory

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



Summer Day Camp

The Byron Forest Preserve has a whole summer of awesome activities planned that will keep you busy and out of the house! Every week, we'll have special activities and field trips planned around a theme. Of course, we'll also have time for traditional camp games, activities, and crafts that take advantage of our trails and open spaces. Whatever your interests, each week you'll find something fun, learn new things, and make great friends!

Our goal is to guide campers in developing skills such as fair play and conflict resolution while keeping them engaged in activities that cultivate their minds, spirits, and bodies. We strive to make camp fun for participants of all ages, interests, and abilities.

June 6th – August 12th

Monday–Friday – 9am–4pm – Ages 6–12

\$110 per week & \$90 per week (sibling)

Latchkey Care

\$10 per week / 7–9 am

\$10 per week / 4–6 pm

Please register by calling 815-234-8535 x200. Register by the Wednesday before camp begins. The field trip schedule may change due to availability. Field trips, snacks, drinks, camp shirt and all crafts are included in the weekly camp fee.



Themes & Field Trips

Week #1 / June 6-10 Green Screen

Could you make it on Survivor or American Ninja? Maybe The Price is Right is more your style, or maybe you'd rather be behind the cameras! We'll host our own shows, as well as film, edit, and, of course, watch. Trips this week include a challenge ropes course and a day at SkateCo and NickelWorld.

Week #2 / June 13-17 Back to the Future

It's the World of Tomorrow! Campers can build robots, fly a drone, and design a futuristic dream house. We'll also start some experiments, such as growing seeds in different mediums and test solar panels. Our Friday field trip will be to a science museum, of course.

Week #3 / June 20-24 Into the Past

Each day will be a blast from the past and include activities and games from a different era. We'll go to Sam's Drive In, visit the John Deere Farm, and spend a day at Donley's Wild West Town.

Week #4/June 27-July 1 All Our Senses

If we can touch it, smell it, taste it, see it or hear it, we'll do it! Create slime, follow your nose, make music, and more. At the end of the week, we'll head to Severson Dells for an afternoon, and then spend Friday at Krape Park and Lena Splashland.

Week #5 / July 5-8 Go Pro!

This week is all about adventure, and getting your perspective on it! We've got Go-Pro cameras to capture our explorations and feats, which will include hikes, playgrounds, and a day at Volcano Falls. No camp July 4th. Reduced fee \$100/\$80 sibling.

Week #6 / July 11-15 Underwater

We'll play with lots of water, as well as spending time exploring our local creeks and rivers. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy and wet this week!

Week #7 / July 18-22 Got Rhythm?

This week, we'll make our own musical instruments and explore sounds and voices. Whether you're a budding musician or just like to make noise, you'll find something fun to get involved.

Week #8 / July 25-29 Got Talent?

We've been working on our skills leading up to this week: filming with cameras, acting, music, and more. Share your hobbies and skills through the week and show your talents Friday on stage.

Week #9 / August 1-5 Hide and Seek

We'll learn about camouflage and how to be sneaky, play games of stealth, and go on scavenger and treasure hunts. We'll also visit some of the nearby parks and playgrounds and have a day of adventure on Friday.

Week #10 / Aug. 8-12 Around the World

Food, games, and crafts from other countries will keep us busy this week! Don't think about school just yet...we'll end the week with playing and swimming, as well as our much-loved overnight campout.

Overnight Campout \$25 / August 12-13

From 6 pm, Friday, Aug. 12, until 10am, Saturday, Aug. 13, join us for our traditional overnight program! We supply tents, food, snacks, and activities, including a night hike, stargazing, games, campfire, s'mores, and more. Plus, we'll play a ton of games! This is a separate registration and fee. Registration is open to all campers, not just those signed up for the final week.

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

What really happens at Summer Day Camp?!

By Janet Dahlberg, Summer Camp Director

I first worked in outdoor education in 1994 when I was hired to run a summer day camp for the Miami Metrozoo in Florida. Though the environment has changed, I still adhere to the principles I learned back then: children are naturally inquisitive about the world around them, and opportunities for both structured and unstructured play encourage learning, curiosity, decision making, and creativity. Through many years of school, experience working with kids, and attendance at camp and environmental education conferences, I have expanded that philosophy and have learned to program with intent. That means there's always more going on below the surface. "What are we doing today?" isn't only about concrete skills such as learning to shoot a recurve bow or making a better paper airplane; it's also about building confidence, learning it's okay to fail and try again, developing empathy, encouraging and helping others, and a myriad of other "skills" that can't be easily measured. So what does this look like on a day-to-day basis? Here are a few typical activities during day camp and some of the underlying outcomes we work on:

Mondays start with introductions and group teambuilding games. One of our favorite name games involves one camper who is "it" and another who is the detective. Campers move around the group, shaking hands and introducing themselves to each other. "It" removes campers from the game though a given signal—usually a wink or a special handshake—until either the detective has identified "it" or most of the players are out. Kids love this game and think it's a blast, while the counselors know that shy campers are being approached by the more outgoing ones and encouraged to speak, names are repeated and learned, and kids are practicing introducing themselves and shaking hands. That might sound silly, but think about what an important social skill that is!

On **Tuesdays** we break into groups and head inside for something called "Makerspace." This is free play time where we throw open the cupboards and campers can choose from a variety of activities. We have Legos, K'Nex, board and card games, scrapbooking and craft supplies, paints and canvas, science kits, blocks, karaoke, and often a special activity that relates to the theme of the week. Kids can experiment in a pressure-free environment with no expectations to produce a perfect cookie-cutter craft, and counselors will answer requests for help by encouraging campers to try different solutions for themselves. We know the process is more important for children than the end result—that's how they learn. Makerspace is a great way to encourage that



Janet (at right) helping campers make the best go-cart!

process! Last year, a group of campers built boats from bottles, tiny motors and batteries, and a variety of propellers and would take them to Lake Louise on Wednesday, try them out, then refine them the next week. That's the kind of experimentation we love.

Wednesdays are for trips to Lake Louise. Kids can swim, boat, fish, and play on the beach throughout the day. We love it when campers get to try something new, such as kayaking for the first time or catching their first fish! We work on other skills, too... "I can't find my shoes!" becomes less and less common as the summer progresses; that camper who caught a fish gets over his fear of putting a worm on the hook by himself; an older camper teaches a younger one how to balance on a paddle board.

On some **Thursdays** we will travel to local playgrounds. Severson Dells is one of our favorites since it's so unique! Kids need variety in climbing and balancing to develop those motor skills, and Severson Dells sure has that. They also may play with musical instruments, water, bark and other natural materials. We hike and explore, find geocaches, catch frogs...all in a day's fun. Blackhawk Park in Byron, Belvidere Park, Alpine Park, and Anna Paige Park are our other options for these days, and each has its own awesome facilities to keep us entertained and engaged. Behind the scenes, of course, we're working on group and social skills, encouraging success, and growing confidence.

Our field trips tend to be on **Fridays**. Not all of them are strictly educational, but a trampoline park simply offers a chance to work on a different set of skills than a science museum—both are great! We also like to end the week on a super positive and fun note, not only to retain campers but also because it helps campers hold on to positive memories and experiences from the week and feel even better about what they did and accomplished.

And the rest of the time--? Follow ByronSummerCamp on Twitter for daily and hourly updates with photos of our campers playing group games, sports, scavenger hunts, going on hikes, riding scooters, filming with our GoPros, catching insects and frogs, flying kites, exploring the woods, and all of the other things we do! And hey—any time this summer when you're dropping off or picking up your campers, feel free to ask, "What are you doing today?"

programs

Spring Bird Count

Join the rest of the state in conducting this annual count. Bring your own binoculars and field guides. We will search the Forest Preserve sites to see a wide variety of bird species.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, May 8
Time: 7 - 10 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on May 4.

Beekeeping Workshops

These workshops are the place to bee!!
Learn techniques and tools of the trade.
*Bring your bee suits!!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays
May 15*, June 12*
July 10*, August 14*
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.

3D Archery

Practice your archery skills with lifelike big game targets that include bear, deer, and turkeys. Bring your own equipment or use ours.

Where: Meet at Byron/Oregon Sportsman's Club, Townline Road, South of Byron on Illinois Route 2
When: Wednesdays
June 15 & July 13
Time: 5:30 - 7 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 6/13 & 7/11.

Bird & Butterfly Walks

Come out and enjoy a guided morning tour of the savannas and wooded areas of our preserves to look for our many colorful flying creatures. Our preserves are home to several different species of birds and butterflies. Bring your binoculars (or borrow ours). Be sure to wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Where: See below.
When: Fridays

June 10 - Howard Colman Hall Creek

12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford

July 15 - Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

6651 N. River Rd, Byron

Time: 9 - 10:30 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on 6/8 & 7/13.

Geology Hike

We'll take a stroll along the Four Hills Trail and talk about what's underneath us, from the formation of the native limestone to the deposit of boulders during the ice age. We'll take a look at fossils, find glacial erratics, and follow an old stream bed. If you're curious about our local geology, want to learn about our natural history, or just want to enjoy a nice hike, please join us!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
Cost: FREE
When: Saturday, April 30
Ages: 6 and up, families welcome
Time: 3 - 4:30 pm
Min./Max: 6 / 20
Register by April 27.



Canoe Tours of the Rock River - Oregon, Illinois to Castle Rock State Park

Take a scenic two-hour guided canoe tour down the Rock River from just below the dam in Oregon to Castle Rock State Park. View the area's many unique St. Peter sandstone rock formations and miles of hardwood forest along one of the most scenic stretches of the Rock River. Must have at least one adult per canoe and no more than three people per canoe. Please note: the July 18th trip will be departing from Castle Rock and taking out at Grand Detour.

Where: Meet at Oregon Park East
When: Saturdays, May 14,
June 18, July 16
Time: 8:30 am - 12 noon
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 12 and up for paddlers
Min./Max.: 3 / 10 canoes

Register by 5/11, 6/15, & 7/13.

programs



3rd Annual Archaeology Artifacts Identification Day

Talk to professional archaeologists about your own collection of points, prehistoric tools, fossils, animal bones and other items that you have found and are curious about. If you don't have any items of your own to identify, be sure to stop in anyway to see these artifacts and live demonstrations. Learn more about prehistoric tools and weapons through hands-on demonstrations at this interactive event. There will be special ongoing demonstrations of arrowhead and spearhead making techniques by nationally known flintknapper, Larry Kinsella. Larry has been teaching flintknapping for 35 years. He will provide all materials and safety equipment to teach beginning flintknapping, the art of making stone tools from flint.

Where: In & Near Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, July 9
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All

No registration required.



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 Rd and walk the path to the quarry behind the facility

When: Saturday, April 30

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Cost: \$2/person

Register by April 28.

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.



Monarch Butterfly

Butterflies of Illinois

(Rescheduled Winter Lecture Event)

This presentation was originally scheduled for February 14, 2016, but was cancelled due to a snow storm. Dr. Michael Jeffords an entomologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey and Susan Post, Biological Control Specialist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, will share their knowledge and passion for the butterflies found in our gardens and rare natural areas of our state, as well as breathtaking photographs that they have captured of the many butterflies that call Illinois home. They will also speak about what it takes to prepare a field guide and will have copies of their book, *A Field Guide to Illinois Butterflies*, for sale.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Sunday, May 22

Time: 2 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

No registration required.

programs



Downy Gentian



Wildflower Walks

See the progression of the wildflowers in bloom at our many preserves. This is your chance to see some of our less visited preserves located on both sides of the Rock River.

Where: See below.

When: Saturdays

May 7 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve

7993 N. River Rd, Byron

June 11 - Howard Colman Hall Creek

12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford

July 16 - HeLeo Two Rivers Preserve

6065 N. IL Rt. 2, Oregon

August 27 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve

7993 N. River Rd, Byron

Time: 9:30 - 11 am

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on 5/5, 6/9, 7/14, & 8/25.

Five-Planet Alignment Viewing

Come see five planets all at once! Mars, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mercury can be seen with the naked eye or through our telescopes.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Sunday - Friday
August 14 - 19

Time: 8:30 pm

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: None

No registration required.

National Astronomy Day

Check out our three telescopes, make a space-themed craft, and take our astronomy quiz as we view the night sky.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Saturday, May 14

Time: 4 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25+

Register by noon on May 12.

Constellation Night Hikes

Spend some time under the stars learning the summertime constellations and their stories.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Fridays, June 3
July 8, & August 5

Time: 8:30-9:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on 6/1, 7/6, & 8/3.



Mercury Transit

You will be able to watch the planet Mercury pass in front of the sun through a special telescope light filter.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Monday, May 9

Time: 6 am - 1:45 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: None

No registration required.

Perseid Meteor Watch

Spend the night and enjoy this annual meteor shower event. Bring sleeping bags, chairs, and a tent. The Forrest Preserve has a few tents available for rental. We will have a campfire and provide s'mores from 8pm until midnight and donuts in the morning! Children must be with an adult.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Saturday, August 13

Time: 8 pm - 6 am

Cost: \$5 / person

\$10 / tent rental

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 40

Register by noon on August 10.

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com



Beginning Fly Fishing

Learn the hows and whys of fly fishing. Bob Piros, a 50-year plus student of the art and science of fly fishing will teach a two-day class at the Jarrett Prairie Center. He has caught everything from cats to catfish on a fly rod, including trout, large mouth bass, small mouth bass, sunfish, walleye, northern pike, salmon, and salt water fish.

The first class session will cover basic understanding of the rod, reel, line, leader, and fly. Everyone will be practicing casting by the end of the session.

In the second class, you will put your knowledge to work by fly fishing for pan fish and bass in forest preserve waters. Both top-water and sub-surface fishing methods will be demonstrated and practiced. Because the ponds are catch and release only, efficient fish release methods will be demonstrated and practiced. All equipment will be provided. We will need to know if you are right or left handed and get your contact information so that you can view some basic instruction videos prior to the first class. If you have your own fly fishing equipment, please bring it to the class.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays,
April 26 & 28 and May 10 & 12

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: \$10 / person

Ages: 12 & up

Min./Max.: 4 / 8

Register by April 21 & May 5.





Nachusa Grasslands Bison Herd Tour

photo credit: nachusagrasslands.org

Enjoy a special “inside the fence” tour of The Nature Conservancy’s Nachusa Grasslands to see their bison herd. In the fall of 2014, The Nature Conservancy brought a herd of 60 wild bison from South Dakota to the Nachusa Grasslands to establish the first wild bison herd in Illinois in order to complete their prairie ecosystem. Their bison herd continues to grow with many new calves born each spring. We will be taking two Byron Forest Preserve District vans leaving from the Jarrett Prairie Center and driving to Franklin Grove. Our group will then be transported via open trailers for a guided tour to see the Nachusa Grasslands’ bison herd. This early summer tour will allow us to see the new calves before the prairie grass gets too high. Bring your cameras. Register early as space is limited.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, June 4

Time: 9:30 am – 12 Noon

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on June 1.



“The Shade is Killing Us!”

Yes, that is what the oak trees of the Midwest would tell us if they could talk. Come see for yourself up close the difference between healthier oak woods and sick shady woods. Why can’t we just put a fence around nature and then it’s safe and healthy? How have humans always affected the lands on which we live? Why do we want healthy oak woods? Find out the answers to these questions and some of your own with an easy hike in some of the areas you may not have walked before. Wear walking shoes and long pants, we will go off trail a little bit.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, June 25

Time: 9 – 11:30 am

Cost: Free

Ages: Teens and adults

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on June 23.

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com



Byron Forest Preserve Preschool Has a New Curriculum!

By Joni Camling, Preschool Teacher

The DLM (Developmental Learning Materials) Early Childhood Express program, developed using the latest research in early childhood education, covers a wide range of subjects: literacy, math, science, social studies, fine arts, health/safety, social and emotional development, music, physical movement and technology. Through a fully integrated instructional approach, student assessment and digitally rich programming, DLM is designed to ensure students develop a solid foundation for future success.

Research has shown that children learn best by making connections between what they already know about the world around them and the material they learn in school. DLM helps foster children's understanding through meaningful and purposeful activities. With this in mind, each of the program's eight units provides an essential question relating to the unit's theme. One essential question is, "How do living things grow and change?" Each week, this topic will expand children's thinking and understanding of growing and changing.

The DLM program features a range of new resources for Pre-K educators based on feedback that McGraw-Hill has received from teachers across the country. These resources

include new flip charts, manipulatives, big books that are useful for shared reading, and other teaching and learning materials, which are based on the latest research in early childhood education. The new flip charts feature rhymes and chants to help build phonological awareness everyday throughout the school year. These charts are accompanied by songs, which are familiar to most Pre-K students. The songs are available in English and Spanish.

Student assessment is also a vital component of DLM. The program's guidelines and forms allow teachers to effectively implement assessment in the Pre-K classroom and make informed teaching decisions regarding the developmental and educational needs of students. Additionally, DLM offers 21st century technology, including e-books for all stories in the program and an online planner, providing teachers the opportunity to plan and adjust their lessons at home.

DLM is aligned with each state's early childhood education standards and the standards of Head Start, a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

preschool



Mrs. Crystal



Mrs. Joni



Mrs. Tara

We are proud to offer one of the best preschool education programs and facilities in the area. The program is housed in the Keller Education Center, a Leadership in Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certified Building. It is located adjacent from the Jarrett Prairie Center at 7993 North River Road in Byron. The Keller Education Center is one of only three platinum LEED certified education buildings in Illinois. The building is also the first and only platinum LEED certified building in Ogle County.

Get your children ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday 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. First day of school will be August 24 for M/W/F students and August 25 for Tu/Th students.

Where: Keller Education Center
Ages: 3-5 years old
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:30-11 am or 12:30-3 pm
Min/Max: 6/30-M/W/F morning & afternoon
6/18-TU/TH morning & afternoon
Cost: \$110/month-M/W/F
\$90/month-Tu/Th

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

Meet the Teachers / Open House
Thursday, August 25 ~ 5:30-7 pm

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

10 Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

13

Adventure Club

Even though it's summer, the preschool fun and learning doesn't have to end! Sign up your 3-6 year old for some fun in the sun at the Forrest Preserve. We meet two days per week from 9-11 am. Sign up for one or all eight sessions. The sessions will promote socialization and structured learning activities at the Keller Education Center, the playground, and the prairie and woodlands of the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Join Mrs. Joni, Mrs. Tara, and Mrs. Crystal for a great summer!

Where: Keller Education Center
(near Jarrett Center)

When: Monday/Wednesday or
Tuesday/Thursday
Session #1 - June 6-9
Session #2 - June 13-16
Session #3 - June 20-23
Session #4 - June 27-30
Session #5 - July 5 & 7
(no M/W class due to July 4th)
Session #6 - July 11-14
Session #7 - July 18-21
Session #8 - July 25-28

Time: 9 - 11 am
Cost: \$20 / child / session
Ages: 3 - 6 years old
Min/max: 6 / 16

**Register and pay by the Thursday
before each session begins.**

free summer concerts

Dan Hagemann - June 12



Enjoy singer song writer Dan Hagemann who grew up in Ogle County. Now based in Nashville, Dan's writing style was heavily influenced by some of the greatest Americana, rock and folk songwriters such as Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen and James Taylor.

Bluegrass Reunion Band - June 19



Rockford's band for contemporary and traditional bluegrass music. The Bluegrass Reunion Band, founded in 1987, was influenced by: Bill Monroe, Osborne Brothers, Hot Rize, Stanley Brothers, Jim & Jesse, Seldom Scene, Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice. Their sound is traditional bluegrass, and they cover modern contemporary songs, bluegrass standards and songs of the "Western Cowboy."

Patchouli - June 26



Nationally touring, award-winning songwriter Julie Patchouli and master guitarist Bruce Hecksel light up the air with their sparkling acoustic sounds and rich harmonies. Their unique "New American Folk Music" is a blend of elements of folk, pop, flamenco, and jazz.

The Backroads Trio - July 24



Rockford's acoustic Americana band featuring the best of current and vintage country, folk, light rock, gospel, and bluegrass music.

Sponsored by Byron Bank.

Concerts are held on Sundays at 7pm at the Heritage Farm Stage located at 8059 N. River Rd., Byron.

land management



Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*-Apiaceae)

By Lauren Marks,
Restoration Technician

"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives." --Gary Zukav

The restoration crew is actively preparing their contribution for the next season by planning the tasks that will help remove or prevent the spread of invasive species within our preserve. We are focusing on figuring out our spring prescribe burn units and the locations of our early spring/summer spraying. One of the several different invasive species that we will be concentrating on this spring is the removal of Wild Parsnip.

Wild Parsnip is an invasive species that is native to Europe and Asia. It arrived in North America as a source of food via European settlers. It is believed that this plant has escaped our gardens and has spread across the region. The taproots of Wild Parsnip are edible, but people should be cautious around this plant. This two to five foot tall plant with yellow flowers is toxic. DO NOT TOUCH! The sap of Wild Parsnip causes a blistering rash on human skin. These blisters appear to be similar to a rash caused by Poison Ivy, except these blisters can last for several months and become worse with the sun exposure. Permanent scarring is also possible.

This herbaceous biennial has a smooth, stout, and deeply grooved stem with alternate compound leaves. These compound leaves are comprised of nine leaflets. The lower compound leaves on Wild Parsnip grow up to eighteen inches long and six inches across with long stalks that attach the leaf blade to the stem (petioles). The upper compound leaves are much smaller in length and width with short petioles. The leaves are round and deeply lobed with teeth along the margins.



Wild Parsnip can be found in full bloom beginning in May and through October. The foul-smelling flowers remain in flower for one to two months. This species has a compound umbel, a flower cluster in which stalks of nearly equal length arise from a common center and form a flat or curved surface. The compound umbel consists of fifteen to twenty-five umbellets, a small or partial umbel, and each umbel-let contains twelve to thirty-five flowers. Wild Parsnip flowers have five yellow petals that are one-eighth inches across. These tiny umbellets with their petite flowers appear to look like one large umbrella shape flower, that can grow up to five inches across, on a long stalk. A dry fruit that splits into two or more one-seeded parts (schizocarp) replaces each flower of a Wild Parsnip.

These seeds are flat with wings. Wild Parsnip spreads by reseeding itself through the seeds being dispersed by wind. After its seeds are distributed, the foliage of Wild Parsnip turns yellow and withers away.

This species grows well in full and/or partial sun with moist to mesic (moderately moist) conditions. Wild Parsnip also prefers fertile loamy soil. This invasive species is known for attacking our prairies and savannas because of these soil conditions. This plant can also be seen along roadsides, pastures and fields, weedy meadows, vacant lots, and waste areas.

The restoration staff at Byron Forest Preserve District is managing the areas where Wild Parsnip is located to eradicate it and, in doing so, provide a region for native species to survive and thrive. We are managing it by controlling and removing this invasive species, whether it is spraying herbicide after a burn and/or hand pulling while wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves, long sleeves, and long pants. Our crew is working diligently to prevent this species, among others, from invading our natural areas.



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By Russell Brunner
Superintendent of Land Management

Prescribed Fire & Our Fire Program

If you live close to or are a visitor to any of the District's preserves, you are probably very familiar with the sights and smells of our controlled burning program. As one visitor to a freshly burned prairie wrote, "To come upon a vast stretch of freshly burned prairie is to be shocked by the vividness of the color black, richly expressive and smelling deeply like all the best campfires you've ever been present for." (www.eatcology.com) The smoky smell of burned prairie grass and oak leaves can linger for days but is soon replaced with the wonderful spring greens of our native plants as they emerge from the ground and thrive in the full sun of the freshly burned landscape.

Prescribed fire is the most important tool in restoring and maintaining healthy native ecosystems in the Illinois landscape. While the land management staff occasionally conducts late fall burns, the majority of our prescribed fires take place from March 1 to April 15th on sunny dry days with desirable wind conditions to carry smoke away from our neighbors. Early spring is a desirable time to conduct burns because vegetation is dry (between rains of course), birds are not nesting yet, most native plants are still dormant, and our turtles and reptiles are in their burrows. The benefits of prescribed fires are many and include fighting back invasive

species, combating brush from overtaking our prairies and shading out our oak savannas and woodlands, and invigorating our native fire adapted plants.

This past year, the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council conducted a statewide assessment of conservation groups and agencies' use of fire on their protected lands and published a report called the Illinois Fire Needs Assessment. The report found that our District was the only conservation group in the state that met a two year fire return interval (FRI). This means that we get fire on the ground to all of our natural areas every two years. Statewide, only 6% of protected habitat was managed with prescribed fire in the 2015 burn season; we average over 50% each year. Our high FRI is very important for the benefits explained above about the value of fire on our native landscapes and helps us to effectively manage and protect our preserves for the long term. A review of land managers found that the desirable fire rate of return is 1 to 2 years for prairies and 1 to 3 years for savanna and oak forest habitats during the restoration phase. For healthy prairies, savannas, and woodlands (with few invasive plants and diverse plant communities), the FRI goes up to 2 to 4 years for prairies and 2 to 5 years for savannas and woodlands. At this time,

land management

most areas of our preserves are in a restoration phase but we are working towards the maintenance phase where we can slow down our FRI to a goal of every 2 to 4 years throughout our preserves.

The Illinois Fire Needs Assessment sums up the importance of prescribed fires very nicely, "Prescribed fire is the most important stewardship practice in maintaining and restoring healthy landscapes. The health of natural areas depends on repeated application of large-scale fire; fire that will keep brush from taking the sunlight from woodlands, wetlands and grasslands. Without fire, natural areas become thickets of invasive brush with plants and animals languishing in unhealthy habitat." We will continue to strive to be a top performer statewide in the use of prescribed fire on District lands to preserve our native habitats. Please contact me with any questions or for more information at russell@byronforestpreserve.com or at 815.234.8535 ext 219.



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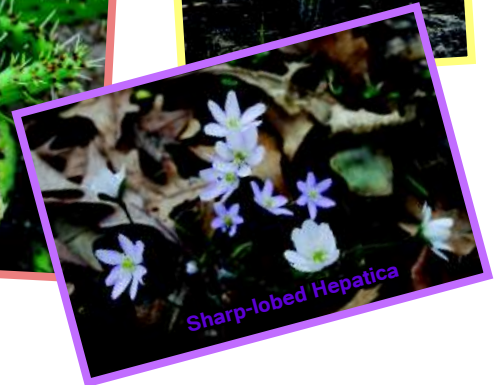
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land management

The Plants of the Byron Forest Preserve



By Austin Webb
Assistant Superintendent of Restoration



How many species of plants are there within the natural areas of Byron Forest Preserve? The short answer: 557 that we know of and have recorded.

Just recently, we were able to compile a plant species list at the forest preserve based off our collective botanical knowledge, and also including past surveys conducted by Chris Bronny and Josh Skolnick. This led to our grand total of 557, in which 436 of those species are native, with 121 being introduced/non-native plants. The numbers may seem inflated, but it includes grasses, forbs, trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, a few mosses, and even one saprophytic (any organism that lives on dead organic matter), fungus-like species. Altogether, it's quite impressive and encouraging to have this much biodiversity in our natural areas, especially considering that each individual plant species is unique in the benefits it offers to wildlife, especially pollinators. Another added benefit of our plant biodiversity to our pollinators is having blooms throughout the entire growing season, giving them consistent access to food. Of course, more than pollinators benefit from having so many plants on our preserves, as the land and subsequent plant species found there are what actually comprise the various habitats in our natural areas. Accordingly, more diversity of plant species leads to more diverse habitat.

So what about the weeds? The basic definition of a weed is any plant growing out of place. This is a silly definition that nit-picks can tear apart since, if you really think about it, any plant could be deemed a weed under this definition. That being said, we do have 121 species of "weeds" on our list. Most of these species have virtually no negative impact, with only about a dozen of them causing real management problems for our restoration work. What's more promising is that we will eventually add new native species to the list in a variety of ways. In some cases, we will find species that we haven't yet cataloged, and other times, we will seed or plant new species into our restorations. For example, our list contains very few wetland species; but, this year, we are planning a wetland restoration where we will plant a seed mix that includes species not yet on our list. Hopefully, as we continue to restore degraded habitat and watch our remnant habitats recover, the number of native plant species on our list will continue to grow!



land management

The Return of the Swallows Marks the Start of Spring



By Mark Herman
Superintendent of Education

The tree swallow and the barn swallow make their return to northern Illinois from their long migrations in Central and South America in April. This signals the beginning of warmer spring weather. The reason is simple, both of these swallows' diets are made up chiefly of flying insects and constant warmer weather means the emergence of lots and lots of insect species.

Tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) (above, right) usually arrive in early April to stake out nesting boxes and holes in dead trees made by woodpeckers and compete with Eastern bluebirds for nesting sites. They have beautiful deep iridescent blue-green backs and white throats and stomachs. They fly constantly over the prairies eating all kinds of insects that include dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies, bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies, moths, spiders, and mosquitos. They will also eat berries. When in flight, tree swallows glide in circles ending each glide with three or four quick flaps and a short climb.

Barn swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) (below, right) usually arrive here in late April after a long migration from southern South America. They are the most abundant swallow species in the world inhabiting all of North America and have adapted from making their nests in caves to now almost exclusively using barns and other human-made structures. Barn swallows are the only American swallow with a true deeply forked swallow-tail and white tail spots. They have cobalt-blue backs with cinnamon-buff colored undersides. Barn swallows fly close to the ground catching flies, beetles, butterflies, bees, wasps and a variety of other flying insects.



Both tree swallows and barn swallows can be viewed all summer at the Jarret Prairie Nature Preserve and all of our other prairie preserve locations. Tree swallows use our preserves' many nesting boxes. Nesting barn swallows can be viewed up close inside the barns and outbuildings of the Heritage Farm Museum as well as under the eaves of the Jarrett Prairie Center.

After raising several broods of young, both species of swallows will begin their long migration back south as soon as the weather starts to cool off in late August. They will then spend their winter months gorging themselves on flying insects in the southern hemisphere.

A note of interest - Naturalist George Bird Grinnell's 1886 Field & Stream magazine editorial regarding the mass killing of barn swallows to be used as decorations for ladies hats indirectly led to the founding of the Audubon Society and laws to protect wild birds and their feathers from being sold for commercial reasons.



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E.A.B. and Course Project Update



Matt Henkel
Golf Course Superintendent

The past offseason once again proved to be a very busy one for the golf maintenance department. Winter is the time to get all of the equipment serviced and prepared for another golf season. The bulk of the outside winter work revolved around the removal of Emerald Ash Borer infected Ash trees, removal of invasive plant material along the creek bed on holes #2 and #6 (pictured above), and planning for another bunker reduction project in 2016.

As the Emerald Ash Borer, referred to as E.A.B., continues to decimate ash trees across the region, PrairieView shares in the loss. It has been almost 15 years since the beetle was discovered near Detroit, Michigan. In the summer of 2006, a population of the beetles was discovered here in Northern Illinois. Finally, in 2013, EAB was confirmed here in Byron. The destructive beetle has continued its westward movement and has recently been discovered as far west as Boulder, Colorado. In Illinois, the bug has become so widespread that the state has lifted the quarantine on the internal movement of firewood.

At PrairieView, the last few years have seen our management plan shift to accepting the reality that our ash trees will succumb to the beetle and therefore shift efforts to removing the trees as conditions deteriorate. This past year alone, nearly 60 ash trees have been removed from the course. To offset this loss, several varieties of Oak trees will be strategically placed in areas that experienced the most loss. Less than 10% of the ash trees that were present before the beetle arrived still remain on the course.

Another notable project completed over the winter occurred between holes #2 and #6. Staff worked to clear out the honeysuckle and other invasive plants that were overtaking the creek bottom for a stretch of several hundred yards. Much of this removal consisted of tedious hand work on the steep banks where equipment could not operate. Once the undesirable vegetation was removed, the district's capital crew softened the steep banks to allow for the ability to effectively manage this area moving

forward. Once the spring thaw arrives, our crew will be re-seeding the banks with native warm season grasses. This area will have a much cleaner look to it that will be easier to maintain and will also flow nicely with the mature trees and native plantings meandering through the course.

Finally, one final upgrade to the course that all of our golfers should rejoice in is the removal of the first two fairway sand traps on hole #2. These two hazards served an important role in PrairieView's early years. With a few small trees present shortly after opening, the traps presented a challenge for golfers taking the ball down the left side of the fairway and they helped to catch wayward balls from interfering with play coming up hole #3. Fast forward 25 years and PrairieView now has large oaks and evergreens protecting that left side. In essence, a shot coming to rest in either trap leaves the golfer faced with a double hazard. One being the trap itself and the other being the large trees now between them and the fairway. In a day and age where golf courses should be doing more things to become more player friendly, this project fits perfectly. Not only will it possibly help shave a stroke or two off of the average golfer's score, there will also be valuable cost savings realized in the maintenance department. These two traps are two of the hardest to maintain on the entire course. Any substantial amount of rain will end up washing out the traps and leaving them unplayable. Reconstruction of the traps and the surrounding terrain could help alleviate the problem, but when taking into account the benefits of their removal for the overall customer experience, the decision became quite easy to make.

If you would like more information about the projects taking place at PrairieView Golf Club, please give Golf Course Superintendent Matt Henkel a call at 815-234-8535 ext. 211. The season is upon us, come on out and enjoy the course; we look forward to having you!

pvgc instruction

Titleist Fitting Center



Golf is all about confidence, in your game and your equipment. That's why Titleist designs the highest performing equipment and offers the most precise club fitting experience in the game. Titleist's approach

to fitting begins with a unique understanding of players' performance needs born from working with PGA Tour players, PGA Professionals and amateurs serious about getting better. PrairieView Golf Club is recognized as an official Titleist Fitting Center and will help players optimize driver performance, make iron play more precise, dial in their wedges and fine-tune set compositions. We will host a Titleist Demo Day from 2-6pm on Friday, May 20th located at the driving range. Swing on by and test out the latest and greatest golf equipment. We will be offering special discounted demo day prices.

Private Instruction

Whether you are new to golf or looking to take your game to the next level, the professional teaching staff at PrairieView will help you accomplish your goals. Our staff has the ability to teach any level of player, from beginner to accomplished, and for all facets of the game. We will utilize the V1 Digital Coaching System that will allow us to capture your swing on video and provide immediate visual feedback to dramatically improve your learning performance. Following your one-on-one lesson, we will email you your recorded golf swing along with personalized tips to improve your game. We offer adult (18 and older) lessons at half-hour (\$25), one-hour (\$50), or a discounted lesson package of buy four lessons, get the fifth one free. Lessons offered to juniors (17 and under), half-hour (\$20) and one-hour (\$40). To schedule a private lesson with our teaching staff, call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.



Scoring Clinic 2.0

The wedge is one of the least changed golf club in the bag but is played the most. It is recommended you change- your wedges every 50-60 rounds of golf played. Take advantage of this unique clinic to learn the secrets of scoring from 125 yards and in. The Scoring Clinic takes a unique approach to improving scores, combining valuable wedge education with short-game instruction by PGA Head Professional Andy Gramer. You will learn the basics of wedge fitting and how to properly select the right wedges for your game. Once you better understand how the equipment works, you will know how to use each club more effectively. It's a recipe for short-game success that we've seen work time and again, for every type of player. All attendees will receive a new Titleist SM6 wedge. The Scoring Clinic will be held on Saturday, July 16th, from 3-5pm. The cost is \$150 (includes new Titleist SM6 wedge).

Adult Beginner Golf Boot Camp

Our one-day adult Boot Camp is designed and geared towards teaching new and beginning golfers. Participants will learn the full swing, short game, rules and etiquette. These fun and interactive group lessons will take place on the driving range and also include on-course instruction. All lessons will be taught by PGA Head Professional Andy Gramer. The cost is \$30 per two-hour session or sign up with a friend and it will only cost \$25 each. Call the golf shop at 815-234-4653 to register. Boot Camps will be held on: Wednesday, April 20th, 1-3 pm; Sunday, May 1st, 1-3 pm; Wednesday, May 11th, 4-6 pm; Friday, June 3rd, 5-7 pm.

Chip and Sip

We are excited to offer this unique golf clinic that will focus on your short game paired with a drink of your choice. What better way to work on your short game than with a drink in hand. This one-hour clinic will provide a low-stress atmosphere to learn how to take your short game to the next level. The clinic will be held on Saturday, July 2nd, 4-5pm. The cost is \$20 per person and you must be 21 or older to participate. To register for this event, contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653.

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

pvgc juniors

What is PGA Junior League Golf?

PGA Junior League golf is taking the nation by storm. PGA Junior League Golf is recreational and developmental in nature and works with PGA Sections and local youth organizations across the country to offer an alternative, social golf format. This unique approach highlights team play versus individual competition and serves as a feeder system to transition youth golfers to existing junior golf programs. The PGA Junior League is still only in its fifth season as it aspires to become golf's version of Little League Baseball. With approximately 30,000 participants in 2015, nearly double the number who competed in 2014, this youth program is growing at a rapid pace.

PGA Junior League Golf is a fun, social and inclusive opportunity for boys and girls, ages 13 and under, to learn and enjoy the game of golf. Like many other recreational youth sports, participants wear numbered jerseys and play on teams with friends. No prior playing experience is needed, teams are co-ed and every participant gets a chance to play. PGA JLG encourages and relies on parental involvement. In addition to making sure participants get to matches and practices, parents can play an important role in the success of their team. Each competition is team vs. team format consisting of four 9-hole matches. The format



for each match is a two-player scramble, divided into three 3-hole segments called "Flags". Each "Flag" is worth one point, and alternates are allowed to sub in at the beginning of each new "Flag" (Holes 4 and 7). It is also required that every junior play at least one "Flag."

PrairieView unveiled the PGA Junior League in 2015 with a great response from the local golfing community. We had 28 junior golfers participate in our inaugural season and aspire to have over 50 junior golfers in our second year. Juniors involved will have the opportunity to learn from our PGA professional staff with a two-week instructional camp leading up to the start of the season. Once the season kicks off, juniors will have weekly practices and compete in six team matches throughout the months of June and July.

Participants must be 13 years old and younger (cannot be 14 years of age prior to August 1, 2016). Practices will be on Wednesday nights with matches on Sunday afternoons at PrairieView. The cost is \$125 per person. Participating junior golfers will receive: team jersey, golf balls, PGA JLG bag tag, two-week PGA Junior League Camp, six regular-season league competitions, instruction from a PGA Professional, team practices, and awards.

If you are looking for an opportunity to get your child involved in golf, than look no further than PrairieView's PGA Junior League. Contact Head Golf Professional Andy Gramer at 815-234-4653 for further information regarding this year's league.



pvgc juniors

High School Summer Competitive League

The High School Summer Competitive League is designed for kids entering high school in the fall of 2016 or are currently enrolled in high school to experience golf in a competitive team atmosphere. Junior golfers must have previous experience on the golf course and have the ability to play golf with minimal supervision. Juniors who have not been on the course or don't have the ability to play 9 holes are encouraged to register for the junior developmental lessons. The league cost is \$80 (\$25 for juniors with season golf passes) and includes a golf shirt, prizes, and free golf after 5pm throughout the summer. The league will kick-off with a two-week camp followed by weekly play starting on June 7th and runs through August 2nd. The league will be played every Tuesday morning from 9am-12pm. To register, call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.



Junior Developmental Lessons

Junior developmental lessons are designed for boys and girls age 5-17. These introductory group lessons are targeted towards beginning and intermediate golfers. Lessons will cover all facets of the game including full swing, short game, rules, and etiquette. Juniors will also receive on-course experience. Golf clubs will be provided for students who need them. We will be offering 6 sessions throughout the summer. Each session will comprise of six group lessons that are one-hour in length. For a list of upcoming sessions, visit www.prairieviewgolf.com or call the golf shop at 815-234-4653 for details. The cost per session is \$65 per junior.

Ogle County Junior Open

PrairieView will host the Ogle County Junior Open on Thursday, July 14th. This event is open to all boys and girls age 7-18. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch and prizes for winners in each age category. The age groups are 7-9 (9 holes), 10-12 (9 holes), 13-15 (18 holes) and 16-18 (18 holes). The registration deadline is Monday, July 11th. Registration forms can be found at www.prairieviewgolf.com or call the golf shop at 815-234-4653 for more information.



2015 Ogle County Junior Open - Girls 13-15 - (L-R) Regan Larson-3rd place, Kaley Mumma-2nd place, and Maxine Nesemeier-1st place.

Drive, Chip & Putt Challenge

New for 2016 is the junior golf skills challenge. This is a fun competition where your junior golfer can test out their all-around golfing ability. The competition is for juniors 13 and under and will take place on Sunday, August 7th at 2 pm. We will offer boys and girls divisions with 7-9, 10-11, and 12-13 year old age groups. The cost is \$10 and includes a beverage and prizes for winners in each category. The deadline to register is Thursday, August 4th. For registration forms, stop by the pro shop or visit www.prairieviewgolf.com.

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pvgc tournaments

Gold Medal Classic

This year marks the 25th Annual Gold Medal Classic hosted at PrairieView Golf Club. The two-day tournament will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 14th & 15th and is open to men and women age 15 and above. There will be three divisions offered: Men, Seniors (55+), and Ladies. Flights will be determined following the first round.

The defending champion of the Gold Medal Classic is Brian Silvers (photo below) in the Men's Division and Jeff Schad in the Senior Division. Other flight winners in 2015 include Ken Lee of Rockford (1st flight) and Connor Hurd of Byron (2nd flight).

The cost for the event will be \$95 (\$65 for pass holders) and will include two rounds of green fees, prizes, range balls, and a tee gift. The Gold Medal Classic will be the first major golf event of the year in the Byron/Rockford area. Registration forms are available at www.prairieviewgolf.com. For more information, please contact Andy Gramer at andy@prairieviewgolf.com or call the pro shop at 815-234-4653.



2015 Gold Medal Classic Champion Brian Silvers (left) and runner-up Matt Marinaro.

ByronFest Open

Save the date for the 2nd Annual ByronFest Open scheduled for Sunday, July 10th. What better way to wrap up your ByronFest weekend then with a round of golf at PrairieView. This fun and social event will feature a 4-person scramble format with a 9am shotgun start. The cost of the event is \$50 per person (\$30 pass holders and \$20 for All Inclusive pass holders) and includes golf w/cart, lunch and prizes. The deadline to register is Thursday, July 7th. Contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653 to book your foursome for this year's inaugural event.



The Spring Ultimate

This competitive two person team event is scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd. Teams will battle it out over 27 holes while competing in a 9-hole scramble, 9-hole best ball, and 9 holes of alternate shot. This unique event is sure to test your golf skills and patience. The cost is \$85 per person (\$60 for pass holders) and includes 27 holes of golf w/cart, lunch, drinks and prizes. The deadline to register for this event is Thursday, May 19th. For more information, visit our website at www.prairieviewgolf.com or to register, please call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.

Men's Lincoln Highway

The 2015 PrairieView Lincoln Highway team captures the 92nd Annual tournament held at Kishwaukee Country Club. This is PrairieView's third win, with the other two coming in 2005 and 2008. Last year's team consisted of Dennis Reedy, Trent Snodgrass, Donny Hillis, Brian Silvers, Andrew Canfield and Logan Rohr. Our PrairieView Men will look to repeat at this year's Lincoln Highway in July. If you are interested in qualifying for the 2016 team, please contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653 for more information.

pvgc tournaments

Patriot Golf Day



We are excited to host the 4th Annual Patriot Golf Day. This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th with an 7:30am start. This event will pay tribute to the dedicated men and women of the armed forces. The event will kick off with a 30-minute

salute to our fallen soldiers that will include a Full Color Guard, 21-gun salute, and an aerial display. The format for this event is a 4-person scramble. The cost is \$55 per person (\$35 pass holders and \$25 for All Inclusive pass holders) and includes golf w/cart, lunch and prizes. The deadline to register is Thursday, August 25th. Contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653 and book your foursome to pay tribute to our armed forces.

Photo at right is the awesome ball drop that was held to raise funds to benefit Folds of Honor, an organization who provides educational scholarships to the children and spouses of those killed or disabled while in service to our nation. For more information on Folds of Honor scholarships or to donate, visit www.foldsofhonor.org.



Patriot Golf Day Ball Drop

Night Golf

Night Golf is back and with a twist for 2016. This year's Night Golf event will feature "Big Cup" golf. Get your team together, grab your flashlights, and come on out to PrairieView GC on Friday, July 22nd, for this one-of-a-kind event that features a 15-inch "Big Cup." The format will be a four player, 9-hole scramble and will start at dusk or roughly around 9pm. The cost will be \$35 per person (\$25 for pass holders) and will include golf w/cart, accessories (glow balls, glow sticks, etc.) and prizes. Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 20th. For more information, please visit prairieviewgolf.com or call the pro shop at 815-234-4653.



Spring Fling

What better way to kick the rust off your game than with a casual and relaxed 4-person scramble event? Get your 3 best golfing friends together and join us on Saturday, April 30th, for this laid back event. The event will begin with a 9am shotgun start. The cost is \$35 per person (\$20 for pass holders and \$10 for All Inclusive pass holders) and includes golf w/cart, lunch, and prizes. The deadline to register for this event is Thursday, April 28th. Registration forms can be found at www.prairieviewgolf.com. Call the pro shop at 815-234-4653 for more information.

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prairie grass pub

What's New on the Menu?



Prairie Grass Pub "Signature Sandwich"

Ham, Turkey, Sliced Beef, Mozzarella and Swiss Cheese, Toasted on a Ciabatta Roll and Topped with a Sweet Pepper, Red Onion, and Olive Relish.



12-inch Pizza

Available in Cheese, Pepperoni, Veggie & BBQ Chicken.

Other new items on the menu are breaded mushrooms, mac-n-cheese bites, cheese sticks, taco dip with chips, a sampler basket, a turkey reuben sandwich, and a Cajun steak salad!

And, of course, a returning favorite...

Friday Night Fish Fry!

\$9.95 includes fries & cole slaw

Music on the Greens

Come on out to Prairie Grass Pub to enjoy fabulous food, great music, and the best view in Byron!

May 20th

Epic Electric

Epic Electric consists of four musicians from the Rockford area who've had extensive experience playing in a variety of area bands. They are equally comfortable jamming on Led Zeppelin, Rush, Blondie, Pink Floyd, Lady Gaga, Original Material, Santana, Sheryl Crow, Alice in Chains, Duran Duran, The Beatles, Katy Parry, or INXS, and that's just to name a few! This combination of talents puts on a great show with a highly varied song list. Epic Electric can't wait to rock with you!



June 17th

Ryan and Joe Trio

Ryan and Joe Trio...

Genre: Almost all...literally.

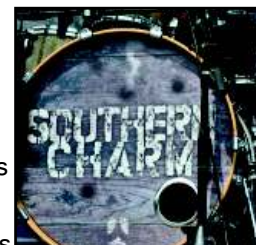
Description: Ryan, Joe, Guitars, Pianos, Amusing Anecdotes and Snappy Patter.



August 19th

Southern Charm

Southern Charm is a red-hot, high-energy country band. Formed in November of 2010, Southern Charm has been turning heads in the stateline area. Their dynamic live performances perfectly complement their fun and bigger-than-life personalities. They are an incredible musical talent with astonishing vocal performances and a repertoire that is unparalleled. The band plays both modern country hits as well as your all-time favorites.



pvgc leagues

Men's Golf Association

The PrairieView Men's Golf Association is for men 18 and older with a certified USGA handicap. This association will offer weekly games that are played on Sunday mornings competing in varying formats. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the men's locker room. For a full schedule of events and weekly formats visit www.prairievewgolf.com for more details.



Golf Leagues

PrairieView offers a variety of weekly 9-hole leagues for men, women and seniors. Regardless of skill level, our leagues are handicapped and golfers of all abilities are encouraged to join. If you would like to register or need more information please stop in or call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.



Congratulations to Jim Wilson (Net Champion) (left) & Mike Morgan (Overall Champion) for the Wednesday morning senior league.

**Sign up for our E-newsletter at
www.prairievewgolf.com!**



Congratulations to (left-right) Shelly Barkei (Runner Up Ladies Gross Club Champion), Watsana Thiravong (Ladies Net Club Champion), Carla Leddy (Ladies Gross Club Champion), Patti Carey (Runner Up Ladies Net Club Champion).

2016 Club Championship

This year's club championship will take place on Saturday, July 30th and Sunday, July 31st. This two day 36 hole competition will offer a men's open, men's senior and ladies' divisions competing for gross and net prizes. This club competition is open to all 2016 PrairieView season pass holders. Congratulations to the 2015 Club Champions Brian Silvers (Overall Men's Gross), Raul Leon (Overall Men's Net), Jeff Schad (at right) (Senior Men's Net), Carla Leddy (Overall Ladies Gross) and Watsana Thiravong (Overall Ladies Net).



Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

Customer Appreciation Week

Monday, April 18th - Friday, April 22nd

Free Green Fees ~ \$16 per person/18-hole cart

Don't miss out on this great opportunity as tee times will fill up quickly. Call 815-234-4653.

Let us show our appreciation for your continued support of PrairieView.

Movie on the Greens

Grab the kids, neighbors and friends and head on over to PrairieView for our summer outdoor movies. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy a movie on our 20' High Definition Screen. We will offer complimentary popcorn to accompany your viewing experience along with snacks and drinks for purchase. The Movies are scheduled for Fridays, June 10th and July 15th. The Movie will start at dusk and the cost is \$4 per adult and \$2 per child (17 and under).

Couples Golf

Friday evening couples golf is back for 2016. Take advantage of our special rates and enjoy nine holes of golf with a cart and an appetizer for only \$30 per couple. We will also be offering dinner and drink specials in the Prairie Grass Pub. Contact the golf shop to book your foursome and enjoy an evening at the course. For additional information or to register for a couples night, call the proshop at 815-234-4653.

Kids Play Free Program

Take your junior golfer to the course and enjoy our Kids Play Free Program. All kids 12 and under accompanied by a paying adult can play free after 12 Noon Monday-Friday and after 2 pm Saturday-Sunday. This program is a great opportunity for parents to get out and enjoy an afternoon of golf with their junior golfer.

Mother's Day Special - May 8th

What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than a round of golf at PrairieView. We are offering FREE green fees for all moms on their special day. PrairieView moms with a season golf pass will receive a free cart rental on this day and all other mothers only need to pay \$16 for a cart.

Outings and Events

Interested in hosting an outing or an event? Look no further than PrairieView Golf Club. Our state-of-the-art facility is perfect for hosting any outing, playday, or banquet. Our staff prides itself on providing first class service to make your event as enjoyable and successful as possible. For outing or banquet information, contact Andy Gramer at andy@prairieviewgolf.com or by calling the pro shop at 815-234-4653.



good stuff

Tuesday Morning Volunteer Group

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects including sorting, collating, preparing preschool crafts and items for graduation, cutting, labeling, and many other projects.

To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: First Tuesday of each month
(September thru April)

Time: 8:30-11am

Individual and Organized Volunteer Groups

The Byron Forest Preserve has service and volunteer opportunities at our golf course and prairie/woodland restoration. We can arrange specific projects for the interests of you or your group that will help our preserves and the Byron community. Volunteer help is also needed for our year-round special events and programs. For info, call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

Wednesday Woodshop Volunteer Group

Come join the area men for coffee, donuts, and the opportunity to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop. To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

Where: Expo Building Woodshop
Enter at Heritage Farm

When: Wednesdays

Time: 9-11 am

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 ext. 217 to schedule a program for your group. You can choose from the following topics: Birds of a Feather, Indian Life (with traditional dress), or Animal Encounter (with live animals). Call today to book your next on-site program!

Attention Teachers, Scout Leaders, and Senior Citizen Groups

The Byron Forest Preserve District offers free guided tours of our preserve trails and museums. Custom education programs on a variety of topics are available for education groups of all ages free of charge. The District also offers a variety of scout badge programs to area boy and girl scouts for a small per person fee. Special evening use of the Weiskopf Observatory can also be scheduled for a small per person fee outside of our regular free public viewing times (regular hours are year-round Saturday evenings and June, July & August Tuesday and Saturday evenings). Call Superintendent of Education Mark Herman at 815-234-8535 extension 217 for additional information.

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. Call or visit the Ogle County website at www.oglecounty.org for more information.

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

good stuff

"Please excuse our dust."

New Jarrett Prairie Center Museum Construction to Begin June 6th

"...the joy of prairie lies in its subtlety. It is so easy—too easy—to be swept away by mountain and ocean vistas. A prairie, on the other hand, requests the favor of your closer attention. It does not divulge itself to mere passersby."

--Suzanne Winckler (2004, *Prairie: A North American Guide*)

After nearly 18 months of detailed planning and design, the construction for the new Jarrett Prairie Center Museum will begin in early June with the removal of the current exhibits, the demolition of two interior walls, and the construction of a new outdoor deck on the back of the building. The new expanded museum space will be over 4,000 square feet. The goal of the new museum is to be the new center for prairie understanding in the Rock River region. The Byron Forest Preserve District, through the new museum exhibits, will meet the learning needs of a variety of audiences from scholars to school children, tourists to history buffs, and nature lovers to intergenerational families. Prairies are an important part of our northern Illinois heritage.

The Jarrett Prairie Center Museum will reopen in August 2016. Exact dates and times will be announced in early summer. We appreciate your patience during the summer construction phase of this project. The new interactive museum will be worth the wait!!

The new museum will be divided into several areas:

- ~**Unpacking the Prairie** - *An Ecological Primer*
- ~**Prairie Rhythms** - *Exploring Cycles*
(includes an *Immersive Theater*)
- ~**Flashback** - *A Deep Time History*
- ~**Prairie Lifestyles** - *Plants, Animals and Peoples*
- ~**Prairie and the Plow** - *Agricultural Connections*
- ~**Explore Adaptation** - *Our Living Collection*
- ~**Prairie Stewards** - *The Managed Landscape*
- ~**Observe** - *The Prairie Overlook*
- ~**Our Land Your Land**

*Explore the Byron Forest Preserve District
and other Natural Areas in the Region*



Staff at Split Rock Studios in St. Paul, Minnesota are currently working on the new exhibits that will be featured in the museum.

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

Preschool and Adventure Club are held in this building.

Weiskopf Observatory

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200

(Viewing Conditions) 815-234-8535 x216

Open for free public viewing every Saturday night from dark until three hours after dark. Also open every Tuesday night in July, July, and August.

Heritage Farm Museum

8059 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Museum hours (April-October):
Mon., Wed., Fri.-8am-4:30pm
Tues., Thurs.-8am-8pm
Saturday-9am-4pm & Sunday-1-4pm.
Closed select holidays.

Preserves

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. Trail system.

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

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

Howard Colman

Hall Creek Preserve

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

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

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

He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve

6065 North Illinois Route 2, Oregon IL 61061
815-234-8535 x200
Boater's rest area with docks, picnic shelter, sand volleyball, and restrooms. Trail system being developed. No motorized boat launch.

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 soon.



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
P O BOX 1075
7993 NORTH RIVER ROAD
BYRON IL 61010

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Pictured: Mike Kohlstedt, Rachel Oracki, Brent Baker, and Jennifer Dallas

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For more information, please contact us at 815-234-2561



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815-234-2561

11159 Hwy 76, Poplar Grove
815-323-1452

5653 N Junction Way, Davis Junction
815-645-2610



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