



Byron Forest Preserve  
District

# The Blaze

Summer 2017



# from the director



I would like to congratulate our two new members of our Board of Commissioners, Aaron Vincer and Steve Patterson. I am looking forward to serving you both and am very hopeful that the new Board will serve the patrons well for the next few years. With that said, I would also like to recognize the support and dedication of our two outgoing Board members, Brad Auker and Sandy Brooks, thank you for your service. Sandy Brooks is our longest serving Board member. Serving since 1999, she has been very committed to

the District, staff, and community. Sandy has been a strong and supportive leader to the District over the last 18 years. We all wish her well in the future and once again commend her for her hard work and dedication to the Byron Forest Preserve District.

After the completion of the new deck at the Jarrett Prairie Center, I would like to encourage everyone to come on out, have a seat, and enjoy the wonderful view full of wildlife and beautiful wild flowers. The deck will be completed by June 1, 2017.

I hope everyone will come visit one of our many sites this year! As you can see on the front cover, the District has some very unique ecosystems and a wide range of beautiful vistas to enjoy. Please go to [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com) and click on our interactive map to find your own spot to explore. If you have any question about our natural environment, please don't hesitate to call Russell Brunner, our Superintendent of Restoration. He would love to assist you in your knowledge of our local flora and fauna.

PrairieView Golf Club will be in full swing shortly, so come on out! Call or go online to get your tee time. Corporate passes, season passes, VIP vouchers, and other passes are available. Andy and his staff would love to accommodate your golfing needs.

The course had a great 2016 with recording just over 27,000 rounds. This hasn't happened since 2005! The Proshop also showed a 34% increase in merchandise sales and Food and Beverage was just shy of doing \$300,000 in revenue. The course itself was in great playing shape and I can't thank our wonderful staff enough for their time, dedication, and devotion to their field of expertise. Andy Gramer, Saro Costa, and Matt Henkel are all true professionals and they make PrairieView Golf Club the awesome golfing experience that it is!

For more information, please call 815-234-8535 x200 or visit our websites at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com), [www.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com), and [www.byronpreschool.com](http://www.byronpreschool.com). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube.

Have a great summer!

Todd Tucker  
Executive Director

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### President

Sandy Brooks

### Vice President

Brad Auker

### Treasurer

Frank Conry

### Secretary

Trevor Hogan

### 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 #42 - Summer 2017

Please keep this issue thru August 2017

## Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke, CPRP

## Cover Photo

Bluffs at Howard Colman  
Hall Creek Preserve

# contents



New Preschool Summer Clubs - Page 12



Summer Camp - Pages 4-5



Celebrating 25 Years - Page 28

2	from the director
4-5	summer day camp
6-11	programs
12-13	preschool & summer clubs
14	summer concerts
15-18	land management
19-24	prairieview golf club
25	good stuff
26	from the editor
27	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](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)





# Summer Day Camp

We are ready for summer! Our day camp schedule is filled with activities designed to be engaging and often instructive. We believe in the power of play and exploration, as well as learning through discovery. Our themes this year reflect that--the session titles can be interpreted broadly. That lets us adjust to campers' interests, pursue endeavors that deserve more time, and introduce surprising twists along the way to make sure we have a great summer!

Weekly fees include all activities and field trips (field trips may change due to unforeseen circumstances). We're always trying new things! This summer, we will include lunch with many of our sessions. Sometimes we'll grill hotdogs at a neighborhood park, and sometimes we'll order pizza to take on a field trip. Of course, our themes are all new, which means new activities and new things to do at Tuesday Makerspace. We love diversity, and we hope your camper does too!

June 5th – August 11th

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 5-9 Four Square

We love the game, but this week is about all things square. That's a lot of things, but it certainly includes our field trip for Friday--White Pines Skating Rink and a pizza party.

### Week #2 / June 12-16 GRounded

Is this week about the ground or things that are rounded? Both, of course! We'll make a Dorodango (Japanese mud ball), dig in the garden, and have a fun time rolling around.

### Week #3 / June 19-23 Circuits

Electronics, yes, but also loops around our hiking trails, things that light up, and the start of a new camp tradition: a rally (and you bet it's going to be a mix of electronic puzzles, a scavenger hunt, and using GPS units to navigate).

### Week #4/June 26-30 Color Me

Tie-dye, chalk art, and our carnival (complete with bounce house and hay wagon rides) are enough to look forward to, but we're also starting a Color War this week. And of course it's time for our mid-summer trip to Lena Park District's Splashland Pool!

### Week #5 / July 3-7 Rockin'

This is a week to celebrate and highlight rock(s), music, minerals, and the Rock River. We'll even travel to our He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve to launch some canoes. Heading to Rock Cut State Park and Volcano Falls on Friday. No camp July 4th. Reduced fee \$100/\$80 sibling.

### Week #6 / July 10-14 Track and Field

We're both expanding and narrowing our Olympic Sports week... we'll have friendly competitions in track and field events, but we're also interested in animal tracks and hiking in our prairie.

### Week #7 / July 17-21 AeroDynamic

Things that fly are the most obvious here, and we're sure to play with kites, drones, and paper airplanes. We'll also have activities having to do with air itself, and campers can see how much air they can get at our field trip to GAR (Gymnastics Academy of Rockford) South on Friday.

### Week #8 / July 24-28 Mixed Up

We're so excited for this week because we know it will be a blast! We will make cookies, concoctions, and interesting things, but we're also going to mix it up in other ways, like playing with snow!

### Week #9 / July 31-August 4 Just Chill

It's almost the end of summer, so it's time to sit back and relax. It's a tradition to laze around the inflatable pool with a Kool-aid bar, or maybe take a nap in a hammock. We're also sure to get very chill when we ice skate on Friday.

### Week #10 / Aug. 7-11 Every Drop

Follow the water cycle, play in the water, and keep cool with activities this week. Of course we'll also relate it to gravity, which means parachutes, egg drops, and water slides at Lena Park District's Splashland. That trip is our traditional end to day camp, and we'll also host our overnight campout and sleep under the stars for a last night of fun.

### Overnight Campout \$25 / August 11-12

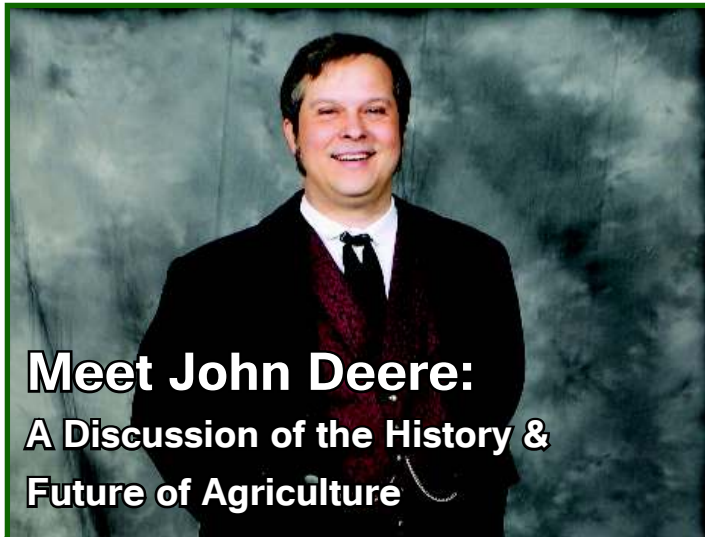
From 6pm, Friday, Aug. 11, until 10am, Saturday, Aug. 12, join us for our traditional overnight program! We'll grill dinner, set up tents, explore the woods at night, visit the observatory, and have all kinds of night time fun. We supply dinner, snack, breakfast, and tents. We always have a blast, and it's a great way to hang out one last time with friends you made at camp. 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](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)

# programs



## Meet John Deere: A Discussion of the History & Future of Agriculture

The Jarrett Prairie Center Museum will host a special portrayal of John Deere by actor and historian, Brian Fox Ellis. You have been invited to a private board meeting and celebration of John Deere & Company. The founder of the company is retiring and handing the plow to his son Charles. John Deere reflects on the history of his self-scouring plows, shares some of his personal struggles and then turns to the future and the great changes in agriculture that he foresees in the vision of his son who transforms the company and the future of farming. As John Deere, historian and author, Brian "Fox" Ellis, covers a hundred years of agricultural history and then leads a discussion on the future of farming. Raising issues like the pros and cons of agriculture versus agribusiness, the role of technology and mechanization, the small family farm, centennial farms, and community service agriculture, this program promises to engage the audience in a complex conversation on how we continue to feed the world. Turning the old Question and Answer session on its head, a large portion of the program is John Deere asking the audience questions about their family roots in agriculture and where they think the future will lead us.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

When: Saturday, June 17

Time: 1 pm

Cost: Free

Ages: All

**No advance registration is required.**

## Bumble Bees and Native Pollinators

Naturalist and Illinois Bee Spotter, Barbara Williams, will explore the important roles of pollinators in our lives and our landscapes and what we can do to help their declining populations. She will share her photographs of the broad range of local pollinators with a special emphasis on wild bees and bumble bees. The program will discuss how we can encourage local pollinators in our own back yards, the problems with various pesticides, how our land use affects insects and the important role of insect pollinators in our ecosystems.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

When: Sunday, June 4

Time: 2 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No advance registration is required**



## The Black Hawk War of 1832

Learn more about the Black Hawk War of 1832 that started in Ogle county 185 years ago and how it impacted the Rock River Valley. This free program will discuss various principal characters involved, and how the roots of the conflict actually went back to the colonial era. The Black Hawk War was one of the last true "Indian Wars" that was fought east of the Mississippi River, but most of the details of the struggle have been forgotten. This program will be presented by Steve Litteral, Executive Director of Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum in Rockford. He has been studying the Black Hawk War in detail for over 10 years.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

When: Sunday, July 16

Time: 2 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No advance registration is required**

# programs

## 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 21\*, June 11\*

July 9\*, August 13\*

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 3 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**No registration required.**

## Free Guided Bird Walks

All ages are welcome to come and enjoy a guided morning tour of one of our preserves. We will be visiting both prairie and woodland habitat to view the wide variety of bird species throughout the summer. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours (supply is limited). Be sure to wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather. **Register by 5/4, 6/22, 7/6, & 8/9.**

Time: 9 - 10:30 am

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**Saturday, May 6 - Howard Colman Hall Creek, 12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford**

**Saturday, June 24 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve, 7993 N. River Rd, Byron**

**Friday, July 7 - Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve, 6651 N. River Rd, Byron**

**Friday, August 11 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve, 7993 N. River Rd, Byron**

## Guided Canoe Tours

### River Park to He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve

Take a scenic guided canoe tour on the Rock River from the River Park to the He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve. When we get to the He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve we will explore the entrance to the Leaf River and the wetlands areas of the preserve. Must have at least one adult paddler per canoe.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm Museum  
8059 N. River Rd., Byron

When: Saturday, May 13

Time: 8:30 - 11 am

Cost: \$10 / person

Ages: 12 and up for paddlers

Min./Max.: 3 / 10 canoes

**Register by May 10.**

### Oregon Park East to Castle Rock State Park

This scenic two-hour guided canoe tour will be launching from Oregon Park East just below the dam to Castle Rock State Park. View the area's many unique St. Peter sandstone rock formations on one of the most scenic stretches of the Rock River. Must have at least one adult paddler per canoe.

Where: Meet at Oregon Park East  
120 N. River Rd., Oregon

When: Saturday, June 24

Time: 8:30 - 12 Noon

Cost: \$10 / person

Ages: 12 and up for paddlers

Min./Max.: 3 / 10 canoes

**Register by June 21.**

### Castle Rock State Park to Grand Detour

We will travel from Castle Rock State Park to the town of Grand Detour and see the many St. Peter sandstone rock formations and wildlife along the way. Must have at least one adult paddler per canoe.

Where: Meet at Castle Rock State Park  
Boat Launch  
1365 W. Castle Rd., Oregon

When: Saturday, July 15

Time: 8:30 - 12 Noon

Cost: \$10 / person

Ages: 12 and up for paddlers

Min./Max.: 3 / 10 canoes

**Register by July 12.**

## 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.

Connect with us!



Register online at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)



# programs



## 4th 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 8

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No registration required.**



## Fossil Hunt

Stop in anytime and stay as long as you like. Find and keep fossils of brachiopods, mollusks, and maybe even a trilobite! Whave a few extra hammers and safety glasses but you may want to bring your own equipment. Please dress for the weather.

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

When: Saturday, May 6

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Cost: \$2/person

**Register by May 2.**



## Heritage Farm Garden Planting

Help us out, and take some plants! We will be working the garden this weekend, and we'd love a few extra hands to help prepare for the coming season. The soil is tilled and ready, and we have a ton of plants to put in the garden. However, we always start more seeds than we need, so any volunteers who come out for this program are welcome to take some. It's Mother's Day weekend and heirloom tomato plants make great gifts! Stop by any time and for however long you'd like to stay.

Where: Heritage Farm

When: Sunday, May 13

Time: 10 am - 1 pm

Ages: All are welcome

Cost: Free

**No registration required.**

## Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology Annual Meeting

On Saturday & Sunday, April 22 & 23, 2017, at the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum, join archaeologists from all over Illinois for special programs regarding Illinois archaeology. This special gathering will have programs and tours of area archaeological sites for the public. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email, sara.pfannkuche@gmail.com.



# programs



## Summer Morning Wildflower Identification 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

**June 3 - Howard Colman Hall Creek**

*12749 N. Weldon Rd, Rockford*

**July 8 - Jarrett Prairie Preserve**

*7993 N. River Rd., Byron*

**August 12 - Nardi Equine Preserve**

*6651 N. River Rd, Byron*

Time: 10 - 11:30 am

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**Register by noon on 6/1, 7/6, & 8/10.**



## Evening Wildflower Walk

Join us for a special evening wildflower walk at the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve when a wide variety of summer prairie flowers will be in bloom.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Wednesday, June 21

Time: 6 - 7:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**No advance registration required.**

## Nardi at Night --

### Binocular Astronomy

Would you like to learn how to use binoculars to find cool things in the sky? Then join us for these programs! Bring your own binoculars. We will have a limited number of pairs of binoculars.

Where: Nardi Equine Preserve

*6651 N. River Rd, Byron*

When: Fridays,

June 23 & August 25

Time: 8:30 - 10:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**Register by noon on 6/21 & 8/23.**

## Total Eclipse of the Sun

Safely view this solar eclipse using our telescope or solar viewer. Some eclipse sunglasses will also be available.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Monday, August 21

Time: 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No registration required.**

## Perseid Meteor Watch

Come out to the Weiskopf Observatory and enjoy this annual meteor shower event. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Dress for the weather. Children must be with an adult. These events will be cancelled if skies are cloudy.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Saturday, Sunday, & Monday  
August 12, 13, & 14

Time: 8:30 pm - Midnight

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No registration required.**

# programs, etc.



## New Jarrett Prairie Center Museum Open!

***Deck to be completed  
before summer!***

The newly renovated natural history museum is now open. The more than 4,000 square-foot expansion includes the Byron Bank Immersive Theater, hands-on exhibits, a prairie overlook area, a plow exhibit that allows guests to design their own farm, and so much more!

Construction will soon begin on a 2,600 square-foot wraparound deck that will allow visitors to enjoy a view of the prairie and beyond from one of the highest points in Ogle County! The new deck is expected to be completed by June 1st. The new museum and deck will be available for private rentals for families, corporations, and organizations.

The new Jarrett Prairie Center Museum is open daily:  
Sunday-9am-4pm (*New expanded hours!*)

Monday-8am-4:30pm

Tuesday-8am-8pm

Wednesday-8am-4:30pm

Thursday-8am-8pm

Friday-8am-4:30pm

Saturday-9am-4pm

Please note that hours may vary  
due to private rentals.

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: Tuesday & Thursday  
May 9 & 11

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: \$10 / person

Ages: 12 & up

Min./Max.: 4 / 8

**Register by May 4.**





# programs



photo credit: nachusagrasslands.org

Back by popular demand! Experience a special “in-side 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 genetically pure wild bison from Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota to the Nachusa Grasslands to establish the first wild bison herd in Illinois in nearly 200 years in order to complete their prairie ecosystem. Their bison herd continues to grow with many new calves born each spring and is now up to nearly 100 wild bison. 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 before the prairie grass gets too high to see the new spring calves. Bring your cameras. Register early as space is limited. There are two sessions to choose from, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, June 3

Time: 9:30 am–12 Noon & 1:30–4 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on May 31.**

## Bison Head to Toe: How Native Americans Used Buffalo

Bison were an important food source for Native Americans for thousands of years, but various parts of these prairie animals were also used for clothing, shelter, tools, toys, ceremonial objects and much more. Learn more about the relationship between native peoples and the bison in this free program presented by Dr. Cliff Knapp, Professor Emeritus at Northern Illinois University. He will be bringing his collection of bison-related objects to share with the audience.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

When: Sunday, July 30

Time: 2 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

**No advance registration is required.**

Connect with us!



Register online at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)

# preschool summer clubs

## Cheerleading / Tumbling Summer Club

Cheerleading and tumbling skills will be taught including the importance of fitness fun! All of the basic cheerleading components will be taught including motions, cheers, dance, and tumbling skills. Miss Crystal has 17 years of experience with competitive cheerleading and judging. To register, call 815.234.8535 x200.

When: Tuesday/Thursday  
June 6, 8, 13, 15, & 20

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$55 / child

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Min/max: 6 / 16

**Register by June 3.**

## Intro to Phonics Summer Club

In our Phonics Club, we will focus on school readiness skills including a review of letters and letter sounds, vowels and blending, handwriting practice, sight words and reading. This club will progress at a quick pace and children should already have most letters and sounds mastered. To register, call 815.234.8535 x200.

When: Tuesday/Thursday  
June 22, 27, 29, July 11, & 13

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$55 / child

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Min/max: 6 / 16

**Register by June 19.**

## Making and Tinkering STEM Summer Club

Children tinker as they take things apart, put things together, figure out how things work, and attempt to build and make creations using tools. Making and Tinkering Club will develop skills for maker education--tinkering, making, and engineering. All three are valuable experiences in early STEM education. To register, call 815.234.8535 x200.

When: Tuesday/Thursday  
July 18, 20, 25, 27, & Aug. 1

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$55 / child

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Min/max: 6 / 16

**Register by July 15.**

## Back to School Boot Camp Summer Club

Back to School Boot Camp is a 3-day session designed to prepare your child for a successful transition back to school. We will spend time reviewing our names, handwriting, and basics of colors, numbers, letters, sounds, school rules, and routines. To register, call 815.234.8535 x200.

When: Monday/Wednesday/Friday  
July 31, August 2 & 4

Time: 9 - 11 am or Noon - 2 pm

Cost: \$30 / child

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Min/max: 6 / 16

**Register by July 29.**



## 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 Forest Preserve. 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 Miss Crystal, Mrs. Tara, and Mrs. Crystal for a great summer!

When: Tuesday/Thursday  
Week #1 - June 6 & 8  
Week #2 - June 13 & 15  
Week #3 - June 20 & 22  
Week #4 - June 27 & 29

### **No Sessions - July 4 & 6**

Week #5 - July 11 & 13  
Week #6 - July 18 & 20  
Week #7 - July 25 & 27  
Week #8 - August 1 & 3

Time: 9-11am or Noon-2pm

Cost: \$20 / child / week

Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Min/max: 6 / 16

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



# preschool



*Give your kids a jumpstart* for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. We offer Tuesday/Thursday sessions for 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. Children must be at least three years old to attend. These preschool sessions prepare the children for the transition to a school setting by being away from home two days per week for a two and a half hour session. They have fun making friends, and following a schedule and curriculum.

The Monday/Wednesday/Friday sessions are for older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least four years old to attend the three-day class. In these sessions, children learn letter recognition and sounds, handwriting, and premathematic concepts.

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 days of school will be August 28th and 29th.**

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-Mon/Wed/Fri  
6/18-Tues/Thurs  
Cost: \$110/month-Mon/Wed/Fri  
\$90/month-Tues/Thurs  
Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

**Meet the teachers  
night will be  
August 24th!**

**5-6 pm for  
Tues/Thurs classes**

**6-7 pm for  
Mon/Wed/Fri classes**

**Check us out on Facebook and our website at [www.byronpreschool.com/](http://www.byronpreschool.com/)!**



## Blossoming Gardeners!

This year, preschoolers have been learning all about growing herbs and vegetables in their Tower Garden (above) which is located right in their classroom! They have been able to grow and harvest ingredients to make Rainbow salsa, Green Eggs and Ham roll ups, and mixed greens for salad. So far, the little gardeners have tasted cilantro, parsley, bunching onion, fine chives, garlic chives, red romaine lettuce, green romaine lettuce, red and green butter lettuce, and spinach. Growing and caring for the plants will enhance their appreciation, and hopefully, their palate, for nutritious foods!

Connect with us!



Register online at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)

# free summer concerts

**Vintage 66 - June 11**



Vintage country vocals, jangly guitar, honky-tonk, piano, fiery fiddle and a down home rhythm section. Vintage 66 was founded in 2014 and features a fine set of seasoned regional musicians fronted by Mary J Harris. Devoted to the tunes of Patsy, Merle, Mel and Hank!

**Jim Kanas - July 16**



Jim Kanas is an American folk musician, jazz guitarist and producer with the Illinois Arts Council's ArtsTour program who has conducted numerous school music residencies for over 20 years. His American Folk Music Programs trace the development of American music through its ethnical roots and incorporates a large assortment of conventional, homemade and world instruments. Jim Kanas' performances are cross-cultural in tone and highly engaging.

**Dan Hagemann - June 18**



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.

**Patchouli - June 25**



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.

**Concerts are sponsored  
by Byron Bank**

**Bluegrass Reunion Band - July 30**



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."

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



# land management



## Prairie Alumroot

*Heuchera richardsonii*  
(Saxifragaceae)

By Lauren Marks,  
Restoration Technician

*"The tiny seed knew that in order to grow, it needed to be dropped in the dirt, covered in darkness and struggle to reach the light"*

-- Sandra King

The restoration crew is actively preparing their contribution for the next growing season by planning the areas to distribute the seeds that we have collected during the last growing season. We are focusing on choosing our spring prescribe burn units and the units that we would like to disperse the seeds that we have collected. Out of all the different species of seeds that our crew collected over this past year, one species in particular stood out, Prairie Alumroot.

Prairie Alumroot is native to the Northwest in North America. It is found occasionally in the Northern two-thirds of Illinois, but it is rare or absent in Southern Illinois. This perennial has leaves that resemble as rose and can grow two to five inches across. The leaves are circular to slightly cordate (heart shaped). On the underside of the leaf, there are



straight white hairs that grow along the major veins. The petioles, the stalks that join leaves to stems, are longer than the leaves with straight white hairs that are long and conspicuous (photo left).

Prairie Alumroot can be found in full bloom from May through mid-September and the blooms last for about a month. The flowering stems are two to four feet tall with straight white hairs. (photo above) The flowers are green or cream, but can become a reddish color in sunnier locations. Each flower is about one-eighth of an inch long. The flowers contain a bottle-shaped calyx, a whorl that encloses the petals and forms a protective layer around a flower in bud, which is divided into five lobes. Within the calyx, there are five petals with five stamens with orange anthers that extend beyond the calyx. Small capsules replace the flowers and these capsules contain tiny unwinged seeds that are dispersed by the wind.

This species grows well in light shade to full sun with dry to mesic (moderately moist) conditions. Prairie Alumroot also prefers rocky soil, but it will grow in loam (a soil with roughly equal portions of sand, silt, and clay), clay-loam, or sandy soils. This native species is easy to grow once it has been established and is also drought tolerant. This plant can be found in upland areas of black soil prairies, hill prairies, gravel prairies, sand prairies, limestone glades (an open area within a woodland), and rocky upland woodlands. Chris Bronny, author of Floristic Survey of the Spontaneous Vascular Flora of the Byron Forest Preserve District's Prairie Preserve, found Prairie Alumroot on the Blue Dot Prairie, located on our main site, in 1991.

The restoration staff at Byron Forest Preserve District is managing the areas where Prairie Alumroot is located on our properties to ensure its survival as well as the survival of other native plant species. We are achieving this goal by controlling and removing invasive species, such as White Sweet Clover and Yellow Sweet Clover, to give our native species a chance to thrive and reproduce within our natural areas.



Connect with us!



Register online at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com) 15





By Russell Brunner  
Superintendent of Land Management

**Wild lupine** – This flower is abundant at the Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Prairie Preserve at 6651 N. River Road, Byron. Very abundant in the sand prairie plantings in the north 1/3 of the preserve. Best viewing time is mid-May.

## Full Glorious Bloom

Christopher Benda, botanist, photographer, author and president of the Illinois Native Plant Society, presented a great program at the Jarrett Prairie Center this winter on the rare natural areas of our state and some of the native plants to see within them. He talked about how he loves to photograph native plants in areas with mass blooms and at peak bloom. This means finding those high quality locations where there may be 100s or 1000s of the same flower in bloom at the same time. He used the expression “full glorious bloom, FGB” to describe those times when you encounter a species at the peak of its bloom and in large numbers. He said those words were used by Floyd Swink, a renowned botanist from the Chicago region, to describe his exhilaration upon catching a mass bloom of one of our native wildflowers at just the right time.

Many of our native plants may not match some ornamental flower beds in bloom size and density like the famed lilies at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, but once one comes to appreciate the beauty, rarity, and complexity of our local ecosystems and native wildflowers, one can find some pretty spectacular mass blooms in our local natural areas. The key to being witness to these “full glorious blooms” is being in the right place at the right time. This means two things, one must know where to look and when to visit. I am going to share a few of these with you for just a sampling of our native flora.

A good place to start looking is at Illinois Nature Preserves in our area. Most of our protected Illinois Nature Preserves contain high quality native plant communities so they are likely to have large populations of some of our showiest native wildflowers. At the same time, quality prairie plantings and other restored areas can also be home to some impressive floral displays. When to visit is really the trickier side of seeing these mass blooms. Many of our native wildflowers only bloom for a couple of weeks and peak bloom may only last a couple of days. I recommend visiting often. A quality natural area looks different every week with different flowers coming in and out of bloom. The more visits you make; the more likely you are to catch one of these mass blooms.

Alongside each photo is information about where and when to see these species in full flower. Dates vary year to year based very much on the weather, but other factors also influence bloom dates like whether or not the area was burned in the last dormant season. This is just a small sample of some of our local wildflowers that can put on spectacular displays, there are many more. Photographs are nice but not nearly as good as the real thing, so come out and enjoy them in person!

If you have any questions or are interested in helping in the Restoration Department, feel free to contact me at [russell@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:russell@byronforestpreserve.com) or 815.234.8535 x219.



# land management



**Pale purple coneflower** – A signature wildflower of our dry hill prairies in this region. You can find nice populations at almost every Illinois Nature Preserve in our area. This photo is from the Loop Trail prairie overlooking PrairieView Golf Course. Wade Prairie Nature Preserve and Nachusa Grasslands are also excellent places to see mass blooms of this defining species. Best chance for peak bloom is the first or second week of June.



**Arrow-leaved aster** – A common wildflower of open oak woodlands. This display was photographed in a recently restored woodland in the southern end of the Nardi Prairie Preserve. Visit in early September to see the asters in full bloom.



**Bluebells** – The Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve (12749 Weldon Rd, Rockford) has 1000s of these flowers located on both sides of the creek, the largest populations are in the center and north areas of the preserve on the west side of Hall Creek. Peak bloom is usually late April to the first week of May.



**Shooting stars** – You can find large populations of this spring wildflower in several area Nature Preserves. This photo is from the Loop Trail just downhill from the north shelter at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Best time to look for this mass bloom is mid-May.

# land management



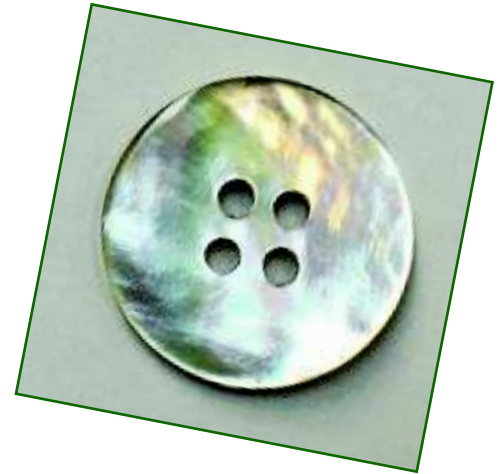
## The Button Factory

By Austin Webb  
Assistant Superintendent of Restoration

Water has become a flash point of late, as mention of pipelines, lead contamination, or the prospect of mining harken us to the day the Cuyahoga River burned. The essence of water has always been controversial, both devastating and tranquil, amassing respect and admiration for its synchronous complexity and simplicity. Yet somehow, with life at its mercy, it has managed to cover our planet with unimaginable diversity. Locally, water is abundant, and can easily be taken for granted. As someone who enjoys fishing and paddling, I must remind myself just how fortunate we are to have so many rivers and streams in our surrounding landscape, foregoing a desire to treat it as an embarrassment of riches.

In our area, concerns over water quality are mainly focused on pollution from runoff and siltation. Pollution can be thousands of gallons of ethanol spilled from a railroad car directly into the water, but more commonly it's oils or other chemical residuals from our roadways and croplands that are slowly washed into our streams and rivers, leading to the Mississippi and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. If the process of sweeping these pollutants into our waterways isn't swift enough, we hope that the sun's UV rays will cook them into a less harmful state before they leach into the groundwater. Siltation, a type of sedimentation, refers to a process where fine particulates of soil, carried by water, eventually become settled in the bed of some body of water. Typically in our area, the occurrence of this process leads to the loss of topsoil and eventual piling of "muck" in our waterways, which can be especially noticeable along their banks. This process is natural to the extent that it doesn't overtake our waters too rapidly. Prior to current land management practices, our native vegetation stabilized banks and acted as a sponge on the landscape, soaking up and filtering water as it drained. Presently dominated by shallow-rooted crops and lawns, heavy rains can exacerbate sedimentation twofold in our area, as water sheets across the land, giving rise to flash floods that effectively mangle the banks of our streams and rivers, leaving them uncommonly high and abrupt during ordinary stages. Waters unshielded from the adverse ramifications of runoff and sedimentation are noticeably, and frustratingly, murky or cloudy throughout the year, save for periods experiencing substantially less rainfall.

Clear and clean stretches of water near us are protected by some kind of substantial, natural buffer on either side for an extended length of their course. The substrate found in them is typically rock, gravel,



or sand which can compile to form "bars" along inside bends. Shallow, rocky riffles may briefly inhibit flow, oxygenating and cooling water as it glances by. The course of such a stretch will meander, widening and narrowing, as if a giant crayon scribbled it onto the map. In addition, the overall health can be determined almost exclusively based upon the inconspicuous prevalence of mussels. Mussels are bivalve mollusks, denoting they are a two-shelled, invertebrate animal from the phylum of Mollusca. In other words, mussels are a freshwater clam. Interestingly enough, of about 300 species of mussels known to be native to North America, 80 were native to Illinois. A mussel's shell is made of calcium carbonate, and limestone, a staple geologic feature of Illinois, harbors naturally occurring minerals which can combine to form calcium carbonate. The shell that is formed becomes the key identifying feature in determining species. So, if you have a few species of mussels in your waterway, that's a good thing. If you 15 different species of mussels, that's a strong indication you have a very healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Nonetheless, mussel populations are prone to decimation via commercial harvesting and, of course, pollution. For over 50 years, from the early 1890s to the early 1940s, the shells of mussels were used to make buttons for clothing, and the soft inner tissue was considered somewhat of a delicacy. Soon after the invention of plastic, the old button factories became obsolete, but excessive harvesting had taken its toll. Of those 80 species of mussels known from Illinois, over half are threatened, endangered, extirpated, or extinct today. That is a strong indication that the aggregate health of our aquatic ecosystems in Illinois is poor. Once prized by the button factory for their shells, the mussel has newly acquired providence, as surveys of their remaining populations provide us a measuring stick to calculate the success of our restoration efforts. So long as we have the mussels, we know it's not too late to make a difference in our water quality. Realistically, the goal is to achieve balance. Roadways, parking lots, lawns, agriculture, and rooftops are part of our daily lives, so our responsibility is to be mindful of their impact. If our societal infrastructure acts as a countertop, then we need more sponges to help slowly filter water wherever gravity leads it. Rain barrels or a small garden of native wildflowers would be a simple way to make a difference, since every little bit counts. Elementary interventions are all that are required on our behalf, as truly the restoration of stream and river corridors is bestowed to all of us.



# PrairieView Celebrates 25th Anniversary



**Matt Henkel**  
Golf Course Superintendent



To assist in honoring PrairieView's 25th Anniversary season, the golf maintenance crew spent part of the last offseason working on some commemorative upgrades to course accessories for the 2017 season. One of the first things you may have noticed on the course this year is the 25th year tee markers. The idea to use wood branded markers came through social media and specifically from Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Rick Tegtmeier, Superintendent at DMGCC, posted a photo of the some very detailed wood branded markers that his staff created in house. Des Moines Golf and Country club has a very big celebration of their own this year, as they are hosting the 16th Solheim Cup. With some talented crew members and the fact that the Byron Forest Preserve District houses a very nice woodworking shop made tackling this project a possibility.

The first step was to create a logo that we could brand onto the face of the markers. We launched a design contest on the website 99Designs and received over twenty entries from free lance designers. The winning design was selected and is also being used on apparel, golf balls, gift items, and also the course flags. A temperature controlled branding

iron was purchased online, along with a custom brass head with our new logo. Staff purchased 120 feet of cedar 4X4's to make the markers. After cutting the length and making a 45 degree cut with the mitre box to create the face to be branded, staff was getting closer to the finished project.

Now that the basic shape was defined, staff wanted to add a little bit of detail to the markers. A dado bit was purchased to put a 1" groove on all four sides. This groove was then painted to identify the tee location. Black is used to signify the back tees, blue and white to mark the middle sets of tees, and gold denotes the forward tees.

The final steps in making the commemorative tee markers included using the branding iron to burn the 25th year logo on the markers. A barn spike was hammered into the bottom and the head was cut off. This spike gives the tee marker a little stability when placed on the teeing surface. At this point, the markers were completed and ready to go out on the course. We hope you enjoy these markers and some of the other small little upgrades this year, as the golf maintenance staff helps celebrate PrairieView's 25th Anniversary.

## Custom Club Fitting

Golf is all about confidence, in your game and your equipment. That's why PrairieView is your home for all of your club fitting needs. PrairieView is proud to offer complete iron and wood fittings from Titleist, Mizuno, and Cleveland/Srixon Golf. PrairieView is equipped with an ES 14 launch monitor for the 2017 golf season that will help players optimize driver performance, make iron play more precise, dial in their wedges, and fine-tune set compositions.

## Demo Days

Swing on by and test out the latest and greatest golf equipment in your own backyard. Demo days will be located on the driving range. We will be offering special discounted demo day prices for these events. Contact the golf shop for more information regarding our demo day offerings.

Mizuno Golf - April 28th - 2-6 pm

Titleist Golf - May 19th - 2-6 pm

Cleveland/Srixon Golf - June 17th - 10am-2pm

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## 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) and one-hour (\$50). Lessons offered to juniors (17 and under) are half-hour (\$20) and one-hour (\$40). Discounted lesson packages are available, buy four lessons, get one free. To schedule a private lesson with our teaching staff, call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.



## Scoring Clinics

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 our professional staff. 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 Cleveland RTX-3 wedge. The Scoring Clinics will be held on Friday, May 5th from 6-7:30 pm and Wednesday, June 21st from 6-7:30 pm. The cost is \$130 (includes new Cleveland RTX-3 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 in a low stress environment. 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. Boot Camps will be held on: Saturday, April 22nd, 1-3 pm; Saturday, May 20th, 10am-12 noon; Sunday, June 4th, 12 noon-2pm. Call the golf shop at 815-234-4653 to register.

## 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 8th, 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.





## Gold Medal Classic



This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold Medal Classic hosted at PrairieView G.C. The two-day tournament will take place on May 13th & 14th 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 Jason Wombacher of Byron (above photo) in the Men's Division and Jeff Holmgaard of Rockford in the Senior Division. Other flight winners in 2016 include Eric Olson of Rockford (1st flight) and Brian Butorka 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](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com). For more information, please contact Andy Gramer at [andy@prairieviewgolf.com](mailto:andy@prairieviewgolf.com) or call the pro shop at 815-234-4653.

## ByronFest Open

Save the date for the 3rd Annual ByronFest Open scheduled for Sunday, July 16th. 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 13th. Contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653 to book your foursome for this year's event.



2016 ByronFest Open Winners (L-R): Quin Virgil, Logan Cann, Matt Wennmaker, and Andrew Canfield.



2016 Spring Ultimate Winners: Mark Rottler (left) and David Jacobs.

## The Spring Ultimate

This competitive two-person team event is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st. 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 \$80 per person (\$55 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 18th. For more information, visit our website at [www.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com) or to register, please call the golf shop at 815-234-4653.





## Patriot Golf Day

We are excited to host the 5th Annual Patriot Golf Day. This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, July 29th with an 8am 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 (above photo), and an aerial display. The format for this event is a 4-person scramble. The cost is \$60 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, July 27th. Contact the golf shop at 815-234-4653 and book your foursome to pay tribute to our armed forces.

Proceeds of the event 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](http://www.foldsofhonor.org).

## Night Golf

Night Golf is back for the 2017 golf season. 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 21st, for this one-of-a-kind event that features 18-inch cups. The format will be a four player, 9-hole scramble and will start at dusk or roughly around 9pm. The cost will be \$40 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 19th. For more information, please visit [prairieviewgolf.com](http://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 three best golfing friends together and join us on Saturday, April 29th, for this laid back event. The event will begin with a 9am shotgun start. The cost is \$35 per person (\$25 for pass holders and \$15 for All Inclusive pass holders) and includes golf w/cart, lunch, and prizes. The deadline to register for this event is Thursday, April 27th. Registration forms can be found at [www.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com). Call the pro shop at 815-234-4653 for more information.



2016 Spring Fling Winners (L-R): Brian Silvers, Connor Hurd, Jon Silvers, and Will Beesing.

## 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.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.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.

## Celebrating 25 Years

Opening in 1992, PrairieView Golf Club has set the standard for premier golf in the stateline area. Located on the Byron Forest Preserve, PrairieView is a four-star rated 18-hole golf course built on a challenging, picturesque site overlooking the Rock River with bent grass greens, tees and fairways. With four sets of tees, you will have an amazing day of golf at whatever your skill level.

Join us on Friday, June 9th as we celebrate our 25 year anniversary. We have planned activities for all to enjoy including a BBQ dinner, night golf, bonfire, fireworks display, and a free movie night! We will also be offering \$25 golf on Mondays for the entire 2017 golf season. For more information regarding our 25th anniversary celebration, visit [www.prairieviewgolf.com](http://www.prairieviewgolf.com) or contact the golf shop at 815-234-8535.

### Movie on the Greens

Grab the kids, neighbors and friends and head on over to PrairieView for our summer outdoor movie on Friday, August 4th. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the LEGO Batman 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 movie will start at dusk and the cost is \$4 per adult and \$2 per child (17 and under).

### 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.

### Customer Appreciation Week

*Monday, April 17th - 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.

### Mother's Day Special - May 14th

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](mailto:andy@prairieviewgolf.com) or by calling the pro shop at 815-234-4653.





## 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](http://www.oglecounty.org) for more information.

# from the editor

*Dear Faithful Readers,*

*It is with a somewhat heavy heart that I'm informing you that the Blaze will be discontinued after the fall 2017 issue. We started the Blaze in fall 2003. The Blaze has been going into households in Byron and the local area for 14 years. Over 40 issues have been published during that time. I believe it has been the vehicle that has connected so many to the Byron Forest Preserve and our many services and amenities.*

*Over the last 14 years, technology has dramatically changed how many of us receive our information. It's been discovered that many of our customers get their information from our website and Facebook page. So, unfortunately, the need for the printed Blaze in its current form has dwindled. We have steadily decreased our printing of the Blaze over the years due to the lack of interest in this method of information distribution.*

*With that being said, we still want to keep in touch with those of you who enjoy receiving information from us on a regular basis. If you would like to continue receiving correspondence from the Byron Forest Preserve regarding programs and other information, please call me at 815.234.8535 x224 or email me at [michellegerke@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:michellegerke@byronforestpreserve.com).*

*We are in the planning stages of developing our new method of information distribution that will complement our website and Facebook page instead of duplicate the same information. Our goal is to be sure we give our customers the service they want and/or need to be able to participate in what is offered at the Byron Forest Preserve, PrairieView Golf Club, Heritage Farm, Keller Education Center, Weiskopf Observatory, and our many preserves located throughout Ogle County.*

*Again, please call or email me to let me know if you would like to continue receiving information from us through the regular (USPS) mail. I look forward to hearing from you!*

*Thank you so much,*

*Michelle Gerke*

*Editor & Designer*

***Call or email today! 815.234.8535 x224 / [michellegerke@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:michellegerke@byronforestpreserve.com)***



# 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](http://byronforestpreserve.com)

#### Email

[raul@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto: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/Sunday-9am-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.

Connect with us!



Register online at [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)



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

PRESORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BYRON IL 61010  
PERMIT NO. 4

# WE SPECIALIZE IN MORTGAGE LOANS



Back in 1984, Ben Barton (President at that time and now Chairman of the Board) had a vision for Byron Bank to become a major servicer for mortgage loans. Byron was beginning to grow by leaps and bounds and clients needed good rates and reasonable fees for their mortgages. Byron Bank was one of the very first banks in the area to become a preferred lender for Freddie Mac.

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**Byron Bank**  
*"Our Roots Run Deep"*



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