

A publication of the Byron Forest Preserve District

2005 Fall/Winter Issue

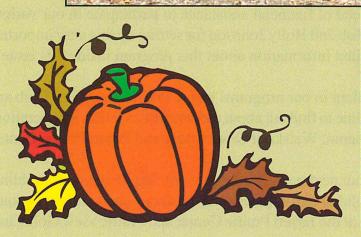


Book Your
Holiday Parties Now!

Pumpkins For Sale!

Holiday Fun Events!

Scout Badge Workshops!





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#### **VISIT US ONLINE:**

byronforestpreserve.com • prairieviewgolf.com • stonequarrypark.com

## **Director's Message**

#### From Executive Director Edward C. Clift...



Dear Citizens,

It has been a very hot summer thus far and our staff has been very busy with large numbers in attendance in many of our programs and at our facilities. They have spent much time in planning the fall/winter program offerings for all ages in this issue of *The Blaze* and I hope you will take a few minutes to find the activities that interest you and your family.

Our Board and Staff again extend our sincere "thank you" to Byron Bank for their continued generous sponsorship of *The Blaze* for all the residents of the Byron Forest Preserve District.

We had another very successful Second Annual Matt Johnson Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, July 15th at Stone Quarry Recreation Park. The Matt Johnson "Funship" program helps provide funds for thosy youth and families of our community who are in need of financial assistance to participate in our various programs and at our facilities. We again thank Dr. Bob and Holly Johnson for setting up this very important program for our community. Please see more detailed information about this program inside this issue.

Our attendance thus far this year has been excellent in our programs and at PrairieView Golf Club and at Stone Quarry Recreation Park. Please take some time to find out about these facilities; plus, our operations at the Heritage Farm Museum, Natural History Museum, Weiskopf Observatory and Jarrett Prairie Center.

If you or a friend is looking for a place to hold your next party, birthday event, family reunion, wedding, anniversary party, company seminar, picnic, or holiday party, please call us about our multiple banquet facilities and our bar services that our also available at the Jarrett Prairie Center and PrairieView Golf Club.

If you have any questions about our services or operations, please call me at 234-8535 ext. 201. Thank you for using your Forest Preserve and we all look forward to seeing you this Fall.

Edward C. Clift
Executive Director

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## **General Information**

#### Byron Forest Preserve District 7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010 815-234-8535 • byronforestpreserve.com

#### **Jarrett Prairie Center Hours:**

Mon., Wed., Fri.

8am-4:30pm

Tues. & Thurs. Saturday

8am-8pm 9am-4pm

Saturday Sunday

1-4pm

#### Jarrett Prairie Center is closed:

Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Day (Closes at noon on Christmas Eve)

## Administrative Offices are closed:

Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Day

#### hotography Policy

rhotographs and videos are periodically taken of participants during programs, special events, trips, or at the parks. Please be aware that these photographs may be used for Forest Preserve District publications and/ or local newspapers.

#### **Errors and Adjustments**

While we try to be accurate in presenting information in the *Blaze*, some unavoidable errors or changes to the programs, fees, schedules, and other information may occur. The Forest Preserve District apologizes for any inconvenience that results from the necessary adjustments.

#### **Participant Behavior**

Participants are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times, as follows:

- 1. Show respect to all participants and staff.
- 2. Refrain from using foul or obscene language.
- Refrain from causing bodily harm to participants or staff.
   Show respect for facilities, parks, equipment, and supplies.
- 5. Show respect for plant and animal life.

#### **Board Meetings**

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron.

#### **Board of Commissioners**

Sandy Brooks	President
Dave Flowers	
Ed Stirling	Secretary
Jeff Ludwig	Treasurer
Jeff Huber	Commissioner

#### **Administrative Staff**

Executive Director	Edward Clift	234-8535 ext. 201
Dep. Director/Restoration Supt.	Todd Tucker	234-8535 ext. 222
Education Superintendent	Richie Wolf	234-8535 ext. 217
Stone Quarry Rec. Park Mgr	Shonnah Flaharty	234-8900
PrairieView Golf Course Mgr	Steve Murray	234-4653 ext. 12
Finance/Human Resources Mgr	Robin Davis	234-8535 ext. 204
Golf Course Maint. Supt.	Steve Storz	234-8535 ext. 208
The Blaze Editor	Michelle Lipps	234-8535 ext. 224

#### Other important phone numbers:

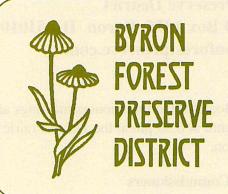
234-8535 ext. 200
234-8535 ext. 200
234-4653 (GOLF) ext. 10
234-8900
234-8535 ext. 200
234-8535 ext. 200
234-8535 ext. 216

#### Please Register Early

By registering early, each program, trip, and event has the best opportunity to meet the minimum number required for that activity. You may register by mail, by phone, or in person. When registering by phone/fax, you must use a credit card to secure your participation in that program.

Payment is due at the time of registration.

## **Our Mission**



### Mission Statement

#### Preservation ~ Education ~ Recreation

The mission of the Byron Forest Preserve District is to provide for Preservation of Open Space/Natural Resources, provide Education concerning our Natural Environment/Heritage, provide Recreational Opportunities and Enterprise Operations that are consistent with our Agency goals.

## Forest Preserve Receives Over One Million Dollars!



The Byron Forest Preserve District recently received two checks from the State of Illinois Comptroller's office totaling \$1,155,150.72. The checks were awarded for the Forest Preserve's participation in the state's Open Lands Trust Program (OLT) and Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD).

As part of the OLT/OSLAD program, the Forest Preserve purchased and developed land for a recreation facility, Stone Quarry Recreation Park, and also purchased land for a new park, Nardi Hills. The grant check for Stone Quarry Recreation Park was \$262,650.72 and for Nardi Hills was \$892,500.

Nardi Hills is 492 acres of land located off of River Road that is dedicated to conservation and restoration of prairie for current and future generations. Stephen and Deirdre Nardi donated almost \$1 million in land which was 292 acres. The remaining 200 acres was purchased by the Forest Preserve because of the grant. The entire 492 acres was purchased for a total of \$107,500 which is \$218 per acre. If you would like to know more about restoration efforts at Nardi Hills, please call \$15/234-8535 ext. 222.

Stone Quarry Recreation Park is a 76-acre park across from PrairieView Golf Club. The park has shelters, playground, volleyball and basketball courts, water splash playground, horseshoe pits, miniature golf course, skate park, batting cages, and a community center with an arcade, pool tables, concession stand, and a party room. Stone Quarry also hosts many events such as parties, dances, tournaments, etc. throughout the year for all ages. For more information about these facilities and programs, please call 815/234-8900.

#### Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program

In 2003, the Byron Forest Preserve District announced the establishment of the Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program P. Dr. Robert and Holly Johnson of Byron. The Funship Awards program is a fund of money the Johnsons have made available for the youth of the Byron community who are in need of financial assistance to participate in the activities of the Byron Forest Preserve District, such as skateboarding, golf, and any other scheduled programs.

Matt, the son of Holly and Robert, was an avid skateboarder and was interested in golf, until his life was cut tragically short at the age of 18 in a car accident in 1997.

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and staff are grateful for the Johnsons' generosity in the creation of the Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program for the children of the Byron area.

To qualify for a Funship Award, the child must be eligible for the school lunch program and reside in the Byron Forest Preserve District. The Johnsons encourage parents who feel their child would benefit from this Funship Awards Program to contact the Byron Forest Preserve Director Ed Clift at 234-8535 ext. 201 for more information.

#### **New Website Look**

Our website is currently being re-designed by Focus Design. Our new site will offer many interactive activities for the community to enjoy. Please check in on us once in awhile to eventually see the wonderful new features. Thank you for your patience.

## **Birds & Squirrels**

#### **Bobolink**

By Matt Afflerbaugh, Seasonal Restorationist



Bobolinks are a neotropical migratory bird that nest in prairies and hayfields in the northern Illinois area. They are 6 to 8 inches in length with a wingspan of about 10 to 12 inches. The breeding males are black with white streaks that run from their shoulders to the lower back. The back of the neck is straw colored. The females and non-breeding

males are very similar in appearance. They are dull yellow with black stripes on their head and black streaks on their sides and back. Their unique song is described as rolling and bubbling.

Bobolinks have the longest migration of any of the passerine birds. The bobolink can have a round trip migration of between 11,000 and 12,000 miles. Bobolinks nest in prairies, hayfields, and meadows in the northern United States and southern Canada. In late August, they will begin to congregate in marshes before migrating south. During the months of November through March, they can be found in parts of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. Bobolinks do the majority of their traveling during the night, using the stars and earth's magnetic field as a compass.

The migration northward begins in March. The older males arrive first to find and defend the best territories. The males compete against each other to attract the females into their territory. The males have been known to mate with up to four females in one season. Bobolinks build nests on the ground at the base of clump grasses. The nest is built by the female and is lined with finer grasses. There are usually 3 to 7 eggs. One interesting characteristic of bobolinks is that there is what are referred to as helper birds. These birds

help feed and rear the young. Helpers may be one of the adult bird's young from the year before or may be other adults that have lost their young or are not mating.

Bobolinks feed on insects and seed. They are now considered beneficial to agriculture in the U.S. and Canada because they feed on insects that are harmful to crop production. That has not always been



the opinion though. In the early 20th century in South Carolina and Georgia, the migrating bobolinks were seen as pests to the rice crops. Thousands of the bobolinks were killed each year, having a large impact on their population numbers.

Bobolinks still face many challenges today. In South America, they are still regarded as pests and are often shot and poisoned. In the U.S., their populations have decreased due to earlier cuttings of hayfields which kills the year's young before they are able to leave the nest. Of course, the almost complete elimination of the prairies in the Midwest, thus eliminating their nesting habitat, is the major reason for their declining populations. These uncommon birds, with their very unique look and song, do nest here at the Forest Preserve, and their nesting habitat will increase as the properties of the Forest Preserve District are restored to their natural prairie communities.

Matt graduated from Western with a Biology Degree. He will be returning to Western to earn a Master's in Wildlife Biology.

# 3

#### 13-Lined Ground Squirrel (they're not gophers)

By Pierino Castelli, Seasonal Restorationist

**Description**: A small ground squirrel usually with 13 alternating dark and light stripes, the dark ones containing spots, the light stripes sometimes look like doted lines

**Food**: Thirteen-lined ground squirrels eat grasses, weeds, seeds, and crops. They also eat earthworms and insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, and ants.

**Predators**: Some of their natural predators are hawks, dogs, and cats. Road traffic and flooding are also hazards



**Habits**: These squirrels are typically inhabitants of short-grass prairies, but also live in golf courses, cemeteries, parks, roadsides, and airport land are ideal because they are occasionally mowed. They have now started to invade the tall-grass areas. They live in burrows in the ground from which radiate well-marked paths to the feeding grounds. In tall grass, the paths may become tunnels. In cultivated areas, they seem to prefer fence-rows and excavate their burrows near fence posts.

**Behavior**: To see over the top of the grass, it stands on its hind legs. If danger threatens, they run, with tail held horizontally, to the nearest burrow. The inconspicuous 2-inch diameter burrow opening is often concealed by vegetation and rarely has soil scattered in front of it like a woodchuck's burrow. Large concentrations of these ground squirrels in pastures, fields, and gardens can, however, cause loss of forages and crops. They dig up newly planted seeds, clip emerging plant shoots, and pull over ripening wheat, barley and oats to eat the grain. They will readily feed on commonly home grown garden vegetables, often damaging much more than they consume.

Pierino graduated from Lincoln College at Normal with an Associates Degree. This fall, he will be a senior at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His major is Forestry Management.

## **Bugs & Wildflowers**

#### **Regal Fritillary**

By Rachel Schupbach, Seasonal Restorationist
The Regal Fritillary (Speyeria idalia) is a
butterfly in a class of its own. The unusual coloration
and peculiar habits of this larger butterfly classify it
as a species unique to the butterfly world.



Although at a distance, the Regal fritillary with its bright red-orange forewings might be confused with the Monarch butterfly, the tell tale black-blue hindwings with yellow-white spots distinguish the one from the other. The adult Regals generally have a wingspan of about 2-4 inches with the females being slightly larger than the males. The males are active as adults from mid-June to mid-July and they spend most of their time fluttering to different clumps of grass in search of females. When the females are ready to lay their eggs they will fly around in search of patches of violets in which they deposit their eggs.

Some people have noted that the higher the quality of the prairie the more Regals tend to frequent it. With the adults feeding on nectar from milkweeds, clover, thistles, and other prairie flowers and the



caterpillars feeding only on violets it severely limits the areas these butterflies can inhabit because it limits where they can lay their eggs. The main reason for the decline in the number of Regal Fritillaries is the large loss of tallgrass prairies to woodland or development. The Byron

Forest Preserve District has had two recorded sightings of the rare Regal on the property. The Regal Fritillary is listed as a threatened butterfly in the state of Illinois, and the prairies of the Byron Forest Preserve provide important habitat for this rare species.

Rachel Schupbach is a first year summer restoration intern at the Forest Preserve and is attending Rock Valley College.

#### Downy Gentian - A Fall Bloomer

By Russell Brunner

Assistant Superintendent of Restoration

Downy Gentian, Gentiana puberulenta, is one of the last plants to flower on the dolomite prairies of the Forest Preserve District. The bluish-purple flowers are in bloom from late August to early October. The Downy Gentian is one of several



gentian flowers native to northern Illinois. This species is an erect growing perennial with opposite lance-shaped leaves and bell-shaped, five-parted flowers growing in clusters of 3-10 at the end of each stem. This plant is small in stature, reaching a height of no more than two feet. In bloom, this plant is often obscured by the surrounding taller grasses making it somewhat difficult to locate. The Downy Gentian is an uncommon plant found growing in dry upland prairies. Historically, Native American tribes, including the Winnebago and Dakota, used the yellow root of this flower to make a tea taken as a tonic, a medicine that restores and invigorates the body. This flower is also a very conservative plant, meaning that it is almost only found in high quality prairies that have had little



disturbance. Very few such prairies remain today, thus making this species rare. We hat two healthy populations here at the Forest Preserve located on two of our highest quality prairie remnants. If you are interested in seeing this plant in bloom, contact Russell Brunner at (815) 234-8535 ext 219 for more information.

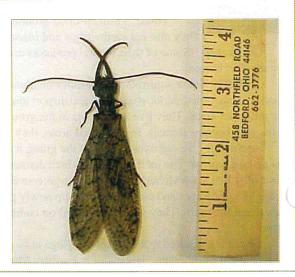
To view more photographs of downy gentian, visit the US Department of Agriculture website and search for downy gentian.

#### **Uninvited House Guest**

Recently, a local Byron resident brought us this incredible specimen of a Dobsonfly. It was found on a window screen of a home in Byron.

Dobsonflies in the adult stage (at right) live only a couple of days but many years as a larvae. Although they look very menacing, their sickle-shaped mandibles are purely for decoration. Dobsonflies are generally found near streams. Their larvae will live under stones.

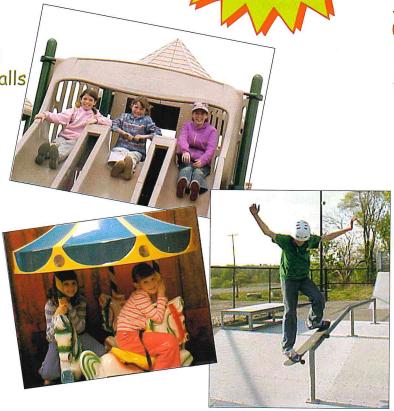
If you need identification of an insect, a critter, a plant, or a leaf, please don't hesitate to bring it to the Jarrett Prairie Center. We will do our best to identify it!



## **Stone Quarry Recreation Park**

Enjoy the Beautiful Fall Weather at Stone Quarry Recreation Park Featuring... ·Miniature Golf - \$4/person

- ·Batting Cages
  - ·Slow Pitch/Fast Pitch
  - ·Baseball/Softball
  - ·\$1 / 1 token = 15 balls
  - •\$5 / 7 tokens = 105 balls.
- ·Skate Park \$3/person
- ·Teen/Community Center
  - · Arcade Games
  - ·Food Factory
  - ·61" & 27" Televisions
  - · Air Hockey
  - ·Pool Table
- ·Playground
- ·Sand Volleyball Court
- ·Basketball Courts
- · Horseshoe Pits
- ·Water Splash Playground
- ·Special Events & Programs
- ·Picnic Shelters \$25



Visit us at 6845 German Church Road, Byron, Illinois www.stonequarrypark.com 815/234-8900

#### Fall/Winter Hours

August 22 - October 30 M-F - 4-7pm Saturday - 11am-7pm Sunday - Noon-5pm

October 31 - April 30 Friday - 4-7pm Saturday - 11am-5pm Sunday - Noon-5pm

No School Days Open 11am-5pm

Christmas Break Open 11am-5pm

Park is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Park may close early due to weather conditions or low attendance.

## **Special Events**

#### **Mother-Son Sport Night**

Throw on those sports jerseys and join us for a friendly night of competition. Each couple will keep a scorecard and compete in a variety of sport



activities. Pizza and pop will also be served.

Where: When:

Stone Quarry Park Saturday, September 17

Time:

6 - 8 pm

Cost: Ages: \$10/couple Grade School

5/30 Min/Max:

Register by September 14.

#### Late Night in the Park

Meet your friends for a night of fun, fun, fun! Snacks will be provided. The Food Factory will be open for purchase of additional food and beverages.

Where:

Stone Quarry Park

When:

Saturday, September 24 Thursday, November 10

Time:

7pm - Midnight

Cost:

\$5 program admission or

\$10 unlimited play for batting cages, mini-putt,

and skate park

Ages:

Middle School

10 / open Min/Max:

Register by Sept. 22 & Nov. 7.

#### **Talent Show**

Do you have any special talents that you'd like to share with us? Can you sing, dance, tell jokes, or perform magic tricks? Maybe something else? Sign up now! Prizes will be awarded.

Where:

Stone Quarry Park

When:

Saturday, November 5

Time:

6:30 pm

Cost:

\$3 / participants

Free / spectators

Ages:

6 - 12

Min/Max: 5/30

Reserve tables by November 9.

#### Kid's Night Out

Everyone benefits from this program. Parents can have a nice quiet dinner while the kids are entertained with us! We will be playing games and having fun in the park.

Where:

Stone Quarry Park

When:

Fridays

September 16 & 30

October 14

November 4 December 2

Time:

6 - 7:30 pm

Cost:

\$3 / person K - 5

Ages: Min/Max: 5/30

Register by the Wednesday before the program



#### Free Kids Concerts Sponsored by Exelon

Bring your kids out to enjoy this free entertainment. Refreshments available.

> Where: Jarrett Prairie Center When: Sundays (dates below)

Time: 3 pm FREE Cost: Ages: All

November 19 - Byron Police

A great hour of safety and fun! This is a great way for children to see these community helpers up close and have a chance to get familiar with people they can trust in emergencies.

December 10 - Talent Show

Sign up and win big prizes! Call Joni at 234-8535 ext. 205 to registe your talented child. Register by noon on December 9.

### Heritage Farm Day

Come enjoy this old fashion festival with tractors, beekeeping demos, and more. Live music from the "Franklin Grove Boys."

Where:

Heritage Farm Museum, 8059 N. River Rd, Byron

When:

Saturday, September 10

Time:

2 - 7 pm

6 pm - Franklin Grove Boys

Cost:

Concert:

Free

Ages: A11



## Dances, Parties, Etc.

## **Dance Academy**

Presented by The Stage Door Performing Arts Studio

Do you love to dance or want to learn how? Have you ever dreamed of being in your favorite stage production? Then this dance program is just for you! Classes will include tap, ballet, jazz, and musical theater dance. There will be an end-of-the-year dance recital in May or June of



2006. These classes are for all levels of dnace from beginners to experienced dancers. If you need more information prior to registration, please contact Shonnah at 234-8900

Where:

Stone Quarry Community Center

When:

TBA - beginning in August

Time:

3:30-9:30 pm (depending on specific class)

Cost:

**TBA** 3-18

Ages: Instructor:

Heather (Hartzell) Krick

Registration: August 15, 4-6 pm at Stone Quarry Park

#### **Middle School Dances**

Come dance the night away!

Where:

Stone Quarry Park

When:

Dates listed at right

Time:

7 - 10 pm

Cost:

\$4 / person

Ages:

Middle School

Min/Max: none

Fri, Sept. 9-Back-to-School Bash

Fri, Oct. 7-Fall Frenzy

Fri, Oct 28-

Halloween Spook-Tacular (featuring a costume contest)

Fri, Nov. 11-Gobble Gala Fri, Dec 9-Holiday Dance

#### Winter Fun!

#### **Sled Hills**

Bring your sleds or snowboards to Stone Quarry Recreation Park and the Jarrett Prairie Center for some awesome sledding fun!

#### Ice Rink

Bring you skates and glide around on the ice at Stone Quarry Recreation Park.

#### **Cross Country Skiing**

Get a great workout while you check out the beautiful winter wonderland at the Forest Preserve. Skis are available for rental at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

#### **Adult Sand** Volleyball League

Get a team together and have some fun while getting a workout! This noncompetitive recreational league will not be officiated by referees.



Where: Stone Quarry Park When: Wednesdays

Aug. 31 - Sept. 28

Time: 6 - 9 pm Cost: \$25 / team Min/Max: 4 / 6 teams Register by August 29.

## Pumpkins for Sale!



Visit the Pumpkin Patch at Stone Quarry Recreation Park and choose from a wide variety of gourds and small and large pumpkins. Pumpkin prices range from \$3-\$5.

#### Half a Day, Have a Ball!

School's out early, what is there to do? You and your friends can come out to Stone Quarry for lunch and fun! Listen to music, play arcade games, and enjoy other park activities like basketball and volleyball.

If you show your school ID, you get 10% off of park admissions and items at the Food Factory.

## **Holiday Activities**

#### Labor Day Weekend Family Special - Sept. 3-5

For every three paid admissions to mini-golf, batting cages, or skate park, receive one free admission at Stone Quarry Park

#### Turkey Trot

Burn a few of those calories from that turkey dinner! Enjoy the fresh air and scenery as you run through Stone Quarry Park and PrairieView Golf Course.

> Where: Stone Quarry Park When: Friday, Nov. 25

Time: 11 am
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / open
Register by November 22.



#### **Holiday Craft Show**

You'll be able to find that perfect gift at this two-day event. Over 30 vendors. Concessions will be available all day.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center When: Saturday & Sunday

Saturday & Sunday

November 12 & 13

Time: 9 am - 4 pm Cost: Free Admission

Ages: All

#### **Holiday Light Show**

Bring your family and drive through the Forest Preserve to see holiday light displays.

Where: Byron Forest Preserve
When: December 1-January 2

Time: Dark - 10 pm Cost: Free Admission

#### Stone Quarry Bucks

Great Stocking
Stuffers!

#### Byron Lions/Kiwanis Clubs' Haunted Barn

Take the challenge and face your fears for this terrifying thrill of an event. Stone Quarry Park has teamed up with the Byron Kiwanis and Byron Lions Clubs to give you a SCREAM at this year's Haunted Barn...BEWARE!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Oct. 21-22, 28-29
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$5

Ages: High School and older

#### **Family Pumpkin Carving**

Please join us for a family fun carving contest! We'll provide the pumpkin and candle, you bring your own carving utensils.

Coloring contest

available for children.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Sunday, October 23

Time: 2 pm
Cost: \$10/family

(4 pumpkin maximum)

Ages: All

Min/Max: 5 / 20 families **Register by October 19.** 

#### Howl-a-ween Costume Contest for Dogs

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and

3rd place. Owners may dress up with their dogs! All dogs must have proof of rabies vaccination at time of registration. All dogs must be controlled by the owners at all times.

Where:
Stone Quarry Park

When: Sunday, October 30

Time: 2 pm
Cost: \$2 / dog
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 30
Register by October 22.

#### Halloween on the Prairie

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite! We'llhave haunted hay rides, face painting, spooky games, straw maze, kids crafts, forturn teller, and more. Refreshments available. Cosponsored by the Byron Park District.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: October 30 Time: 1 - 6 pm

Cost: Free admission

Fee for games/hayrides.

Ages: Al

#### We Need Your Help!

Local groups or just a few friends are needed to set up scarey scenes along our haunted hay ride route. This is great fun scaring all of the riders but its also a great fundraiser. Lots of prize money will b awarded and all groups get a participation bonus. Call Richie at 234-8535 ext. 217 for more information and to reserve your spot.

#### Gingerbread House Workshops



Tickets are on sale now! Families can come together in a festive atmosphere to create a beautiful, candy-filled gingerbread house to

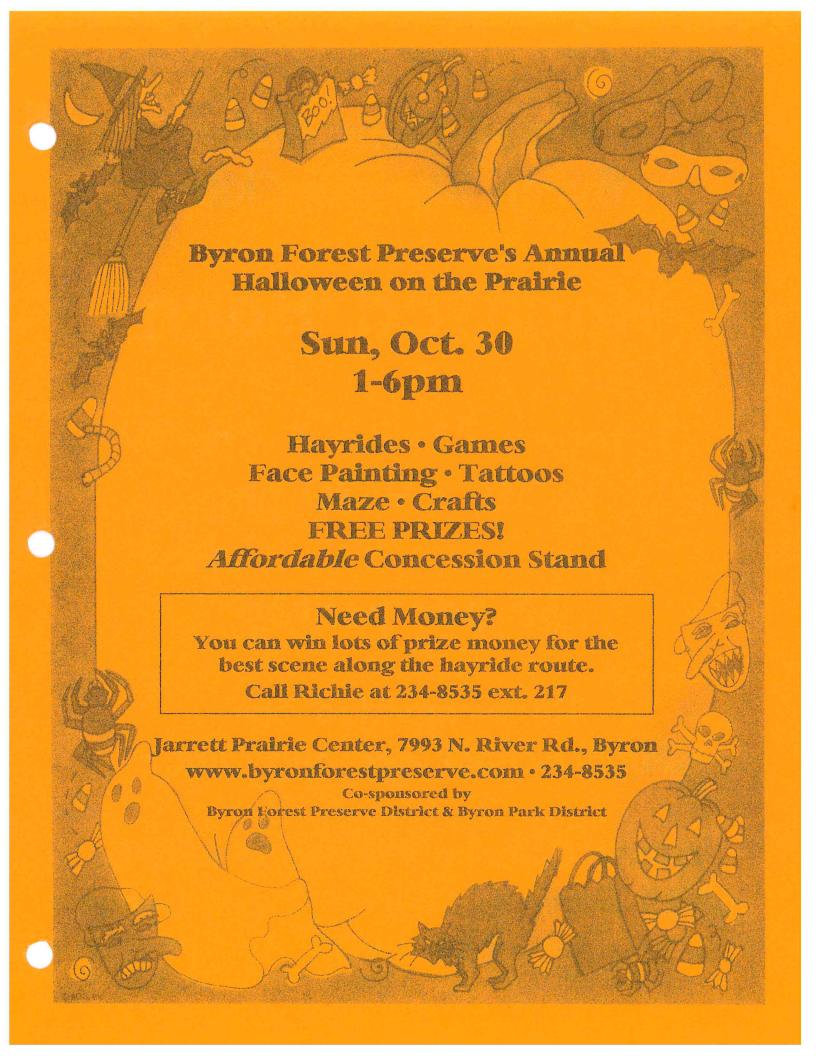
adorn their holiday table! Children of all ages will enjoy covering their gingerbread (and everything else) in sugary goo! Parents are encouraged to help their little ones decorate, to share this joyous memory with their children during this special holiday season! So bring your sweet tooth and imagination to decorate your own pre-made gingerbread house! Candy and icing will also be supplied.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Sat., Dec. 3, 10, & 17

Time: 12 noon - 1:30 pm

Cost: \$15 Ages: All Min/Max: open

Instructor: Marie-Laure Cortese Register by November 15.



## Byron Lions Club Byron Kiwanis Club

## Haunted Barn

October 21-22 & 28-29 5:30 - 9:30 pm

\$5 per person

Recommended for High School Age and Older

Stone Quarry Recreation Park
6845 German Church Road, Byron
234-8900

PRIZES!

## **Outdoor Adventure**

#### Goodness Snakes!

Handle a real snake and learn all about their lifestyles. We'll also make a craft!

Where:

Meet at Jarrett Prairie Ctr.

When:

Saturday, December 3

Time: Cost:

3 pm \$2 / person

Ages:

All

Min/Max:

10 / none

Register by noon on December 2

#### No School - Let's Go Fishin! Catch and Release Fishing

We'll take you to a private pond for some great fishing. Bring your own equipment. Live bait provided.

Where:

Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Mon., Sept. 5 and Thurs., Nov. 10

Time:

2 - 6 pm

Cost:

\$6 / person

Ages:

All

/Iin/Max: 5/14

Register by noon on September 2 and November 9

#### **Hunter Education Class**



Complete this 10-hour class and earn your certification card. Great for the beginner or the

hunter who travels out of state.

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Tues-Thurs, Nov. 1, 2, 3

Time: Cost:

5-9 pm, 5-9 pm, 6-8 pm Free. Donations accepted.

Ages:

All

5 / 55 Min/Max:

Register by noon on October 31

#### Boundary Waters Trip - Ely, Minnesota

Hiking, fishing, canoeing, and camping! Hiking through very rugged yet beautiful terrain. Carring canoes. Waters to navigate. Setting up tents. This trip is of moderate experience level. Please keep this in mind when arriving at your decision to participate.

Where:

Meet at Steward Building (maintenance area)

When:

Wed-Tues, Sept. 7-13

Time:

Leave at 7 am on Sept. 7

Cost:

\$400 / person

Cost includes transportation, canoes, paddles, packs, map, food at boundary waters, tent, experienced guide, and permits.

Ages:

12 and up

(minors must be accompanied by an adult)

Min/Max:

4/8

Register by August 24.

#### Scavenger Hunt

We'll search for nature objects and return them all for a prize!

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Sunday, October 23

Time: Cost:

10 - 11 am

Ages:

\$2 / person

All

Min/Max:

10 / none

Register by noon on October 21

#### Canoeing the Rock

All equipment is provided for the fun program!

Where:

Parking Lot across from Heritage Farm

When:

Sat., Sept. 3 and Mon., Oct. 10

Time:

3 - 5 pm

Cost:

\$25 / canoe (maximum 4 people)

Ages:

2 canoes / 6 canoes Min/Max:

Register by noon on September 2 and October 7

#### Fall Campout

Join us for fun around the campfire!

Where:

Fire Pit near Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Saturday, September 24

Time:

Cost:

\$45 includes tent, dinner, & breakfast

Ages:

All

Min/Max:

2 tents / 4 tents

Register by noon on September 23

#### **Beekeeping Workshops**

Learn techniques and tools of the trade. Different topics will be covered each month.

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Sundays, dates and topics listed below

Time:

2-4pm

Cost:

\$2/person

Ages: Min/Max:

All 5/30

\*September 11 - Getting bees ready for over-wintering.

\*October 16 - Over-wintering review for healthy bees. November 13 - Cleaning equipment & assembly of new equipment.

December 11 - Christmas party for beekeepers - honey tasting, honey recipe samples, wassail, door prizes, and lots of bee talk!

\*Denotes outdoor workshops, weather permitting. Bring your bee suits!

## Outdoor Trips & Volunteers

#### **Fun Trips!**

#### National Hunting and Fishing Days Event

We'll head down to Silver Springs State Park for this national event. Transportation included.

Where:

Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Saturday, September 24

Time:

9 am - 5 pm

Cost:

\$20 / person

Ages:

All

5 / 14 Min/Max:

Register by noon on September 23.



#### World Class Walleye Fishing Trip

We're traveling to Lake Erie for some great fall walleye fishing on a charter boat.

Where:

Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Friday-Sunday, October 14-16

Time:

Leave at 2 pm on Friday Return at 6pm on Sunday

Cost:

\$175 / person

Includes transportation, license, and hotel.

Ages:

12 and up

Minors must be accompanied by an adult

Min/Max:

5/14

Register by noon on October 11.

#### Wildlife Scary Park Trip

We'll visit Wildlife Prairie State Park during their scary halloween event. Transportation included.

Where:

Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Saturday, October 22

Time:

1 pm - 12 midnight

Cost:

\$20 / person

Ages:

6 and up

Min/Max:

5/14

Register by noon on October 21.

#### Meet the Eagles Trip

We are traveling to the Mississippi River to view the wintering eagles. Transportation included.

Where:

Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Saturday, December 17

Time:

9 am - 4 pm

Cost:

\$15 / person

Ages:

All

5 / 14 Min/Max:

Register by noon on December 16.

#### Join Our Community of Volunteers

Each person who gives of themselves, gives to themselves.

#### **Tuesday Morning Volunteer Group**

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects.

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

7993 N. River Rd., Byron

When:

Tuesdays, Year Round

Time:

8:30-11am

Cost:

Free

Ages: All

#### Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join the area men for coffee, and a time to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop.

Where:

Maintenance Woodshop

7993 N. River Rd., Byron

When:

Wednesdays, Year Round

Time: Cost:

Free

9-11am

#### **Individual and Family**

The Byron Forest Preserve has several volunteer opportunities for individuals and families interested in sharing their time for special events, programs of both educational and recreational orientation. These events and programs run throughout the year. For more information, call Linda at 234-8535 x200.

#### **Organized Groups**

The Byron Forest Preserve has service and volunteer opportunities. We can arrange times and specific service areas for you and your group. These areas can be related to awards, badges, or just for the benefit of learning to serve your community and others. For more information, call Linda at 234-8535 x200.

## **Preschool Programs**

### Mom's Day Out

Preschool parents can enjoy a couple hours to themselves on Fridays this summer. This recreational day involves crafts, stories, and outdoor adventure for 2-5 year

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Fridays

September - November

Time:

9-11:30am or

1-3:30pm

Cost:

\$9 / day or

\$38 / September

\$33 / Oct. & Nov.

Ages:

2-5 years old

Min/Max: 5 / 14

Register by the first Thursday

of each month.

### Preschool

Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. Our program follows the Byron School District calendar year.

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs

Time:

9-11:30am or 1-3:30 pm

Cost:

\$58/month-Mon/Wed or \$60/month-Tues/Thurs

Ages:

3-5 years

Min/Max:

6/14

Register by August 31.

#### Meet the Teachers

Students and parents enrolled in our preschool program are encouraged to come and have treats and become familiar with your teachers and classroom on August 25, 2005, at 7 pm.

Did you know ...?

By turning down your central thermostat one degree, fuel consumption is cut by as much as 10%.



#### **Indoor Play Area**

Bring you children weely to play in our huge party room. Various activities will be set up. Kids can meet and play with other children their same age. This is not a structured program, but



rather an open play area. Parents must accompany their children at all times.

Where:

Stone Quarry Park

Every Wednesday

When:

Nov. 2 - Dec. 14

Time:

10:30-11:30am

Cost:

\$2 / child

Ages:

5 and under

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by the Monday before the program.

### Winter **Break Camp**

Have fun during this break from school. Includes outdoor activities, weather permitting.

Where:

Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Wed-Fri, Dec. 21-23

Time:

Mon-Fri, Dec. 26-30

1-3:30 pm

9-11:30am or

Cost:

\$8 / day

Ages:

2-6 years Min/Max: 5 / 14

Register by noon on the day before you want to participate.



## Observatory, Etc.



Weiskopf Observatory Free public viewing every Tuesday and Saturday. Call 234-8535 ext. 216 for viewing conditions.

#### Family Telescope Night

Find out how to use your telescope to the fullest!

Where:

Weiskpof Observatory

When:

Friday, September 9

Time:

7 - 9 pm

Cost:

\$2 / person

Ages:

All

Min/Max:

4/20

Register by Noon on September 8



Learn how to use a solar filter. You'll see sun spots and other oddities.

Where:

Weiskopf Observatory

When:

Saturday, October 8

Time:

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Cost:

\$2 / person

Ages:

All

Min/Max:

5/20

Register by Noon on October 7

#### Did you know ...?

If just 25% of U.S. families used 10 fewer plastic bags per month, we would save over 2.5 BILLION bags per year.

#### **Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop** Bargain Bin Sale!

Awesome gift ideas! Check out the bargain bins in the gift shop - items for 5, 10, and 25 cents!

New logo items - key rings, tote bags, and visors. We also have a good selection of identification books.

We are located at 7993 N. River Rd., Byron. For more info, call 234-8535 ext. 200. Stop by and check us out! We look forward to seeing you soon!

#### **Field Trips**

to the Natural History Museum, Weiskopf Observatory, & Heritage Farm Museum

Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun tour of our great museums. Staff welcome and give tours for the low cost of \$1.50 per person with a minimum of \$30 per group. We offer many sessions to choose from including prairie ecology, animal encounter, and group dynamic Call 234-8535 x217 to schedule your next outing with us.

#### **Birthday Parties**

**Jarrett Prairie Center** 

Themes: Native Americans, Sky's the Limit, Goodness Snakes, Insects of Our World, Where Do Butterflies Go When It Rains? Call 234-8535 x217 to schedule your party.

Deluxe Party - \$75 (add'l child-\$5 each) (program, cake, ice cream, tableware for 12, & banner) Standard Party - \$45 (add'l child-\$5 each) (program only for 12)

**Stone Quarry Recreation Park** also offers birthday parties. For details and costs, please call 234-8900.

#### It's Party Time!

Is your family, organization, or corporation looking for an exciting place to hold their next corporate or social gathering? Look no further, Stone Quarry is the place for your next event. Perfect for all ages! Discounts available!!!

For room availability and reservations, please stop by 6845 German Church Road, Byron or call 234-8900.

## **Potpourri**



#### **Creative Memories**

Creative Memories scrapbooking classes are held on the following dates at the Jarrett Prairie Center by Cindy Adams and Vicki Miller. If you're interested in signing up for one of their classes, please call Cindy at 234-7505.

#### Lazy Days of Summer Crop

Friday, August 19 - 4-11pm - \$12 includes dinner

#### Back to School Crop

Wednesday, August 31 - 6-10pm \$8 includes ice cream social

#### Two-Day Crop

Friday, September 23 - 4-11 pm - \$12 includes dinner Saturday, September 24 - 9am-4pm - \$15 includes lunch

#### Croptoberfest

Saturday, October 8 -

9am-4pm - \$15 includes lunch 2-9pm - \$15 includes dinner

9am-9pm - \$25 includes lunch & dinner

#### **Drawing for Beginners**

This one-day art program will teach the basics of drawing, including a short introduction on art materials and mediums. We will spend our time drawing everything from live animals to cartoon characters.



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center When: Saturday, October 22

Time: 1 - 5 pm Cost: \$5 / person Ages: 8 - 14

Min/Max: 5 / 25

Register by Noon on October 21

#### Artist Reception - M. Dale Allison

Meet Dale and view his amazing wildlife art. His pictures will be

on display beginning in August.

'Vhere: Jarrett Prairie Center √hen: Sunday, September 11 Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Cost: Free. Snacks provided.



#### **One Step Ahead Tutoring**

Being tutored was never so much fun! We'll help you with any learning problems, or if you just need some extra homework help.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center When: Monday - Friday

Time: Mon-Thurs, 3:45-4:30pm

Friday, 1-1:45pm, 1:45-2:30pm, 2:30-3:15pm, and 3:15-4pm

Cost: \$7 / meeting

Ages: Preschool - 8th Grade Min/Max: 1 student per time slot

Instructor: Joni Camling

Register by noon the day before.



#### America Recycles Day - Shirt Giveaway

Bring your recyclables to our bin and get a free t-shirt (while supplies last).

Where: Recycling Bin near Maintenance Buildings

When: Tuesday, November 15

Time: 2:30 - 4:15 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

### **Get Your Scout Badges**

With these workshops, you'll earn your requirements for your scout badges. These workshops will be held at the Weiskopf Observatory. Scouts of all ages are welcome. There is a minimum of 5 scouts and maximum of 30 for each workshop.

#### **Conservation Badge Workshop**

When: Saturday, September 17

Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout

Register by noon on September 16.

#### **Indian Lore Badge Workshop**

When: Saturday, October 1

Time: 1 - 3 pm Cost: \$5 / scout

Register by noon on September 30.

#### **Astronomy Badge Workshop**

When: Friday, December 9

Time: 6 - 8 pm Cost: \$5 / scout

Register by noon on December 9.

## **Facilities**

#### **Jarrett Prairie Center**

Habitat exhibits, dioramas, audio interpretation, and view of the prairie. Wetland, woodlands, and prairie environments are displayed pre-European settlement. You may also get a souvenir in our gift shop.

Where: 7993 N. River Rd., Byron

When: Open Every Day

Cost: Free

Time: Mon, Wed, Fri - 8am-4:30pm

Tues & Thurs - 8am-8pm Sat-9am-4pm & Sun-1-4pm



#### Weiskopf Observatory

View the stars and planets through our 11" Celestron telescope. Experienced staff will guide you through the skies. Call for viewing conditions at 234-8535, ext. 216. Closed if cloudy. Where: 7993 N. River Rd., Byron Time: Dark until 3 hours after dark

When: Tuesdays & Saturdays Cost: Free

#### Heritage Farm Museum



Enjoy a guided tour of this 1800s farm and museum with audio interpretation. Includes a grout house, corn crib, wind mill, and more. Open April 1-October 31, Mon-Fri-8am-4:30pm,

Sat-10am-6pm, & Sun-2-6pm. A small fee may charged for guided tours. Closed on holidays. Home of the Annual Heritage Days Festival, to be held on September 10, 2005. Call 234-8535 ext. 217 for more information.



#### **Recycling Station**

The Byron Forest Preserve District has a mission to provide for preservation of natural resources, to provide education about natural and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation. The District developed a recycling station and is educating hundreds of students on recycling through the International Earthkeepers program. Materials from the recycling station are collected and sorted twice per month, producing up to three tons of recyclable material like cardboard, glass, newspaper, plastic, and metals. The cost of hauling is covered through. cooperative agreement with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department.

The station accepts glass, aluminum, plastic #1-5 & #7, tin, steel, mixed paper, cardboard, and newspaper. The bin is located in the maintenance parking lot at 7993 N. River Rd. in Byron. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived.

#### **Banquet Facilities**

The Jarrett Prairie Center, PrairieView Golf Course, and Stone Quarry Recreation Park have banquet facilities available at very reasonable rates, bar service is also available at the Jarrett Prairie Center and PrairieView Golf Course. The rooms could accommodate up to 250 people.

Picnic shelters are located near the Jarrett Prairie Center and at Stone Quarry Recreation Park. The shelters are equipped with restrooms, electricity, water, and grills. The North Shelter has a playground and the South Shelter has a fireplace. Call 234-8535 x200 to schedule your next outing with us.



## **Calendar of Events**

September	
1	One Step Ahead Tutoring Begins - \$7/session - Various time slots available - JPC
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Mom's Day Out - 2-5 year olds - \$9/day or \$38/Sept, \$33/Oct/Nov - 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm - JPC
3	Canoeing the Rock - \$25/canoe - 3-5pm - Parking Lot across from Heritage Farm
3-5	Labor Day Weekend Special - Buy 3 Admissions, Get 1 Free - 11am-8pm - SQ
	Skyviewing - FREE - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
5	Jarrett Prairie Center Closed - Labor Day
5	NO SCHOOL - Catch and Release Fishing - \$6/person - 2-6pm - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
7-13	Boundary Waters Trip to Ely, MN - \$400/person - JPC
7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
7, 14, 21, 28	Adult Sand Volleyball League - \$25/team - 6-9pm - SQ
9	Family Telescope Night - \$2/person - 7-9pm - WO
9	Back to School Bash - 6th-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
10-11	Gold Medal Golf Classic - PVGC
10	Heritage Farm Day - FREE - 2-7pm - HF
11	Artist Reception - M. Dale Allison - FREE - 10am-12noon - JPC
11	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2 - 2-4pm - JPC
16	Kid's Night Out - K-5th grade - \$3 - 6-7:30pm - SQ
17	Scout Badge Workshop (Conservation) - \$5/scout - 1-3pm - JPC
17	Mother-Son Sport Night - K-5 - \$10/couple - 6-8pm - SQ
23-24	Creative Memories - Two-Day Crop - \$12/person/4-11pm & \$15/person/9am-4pm - JPC
_4	National Hunting & Fishing Days Event Trip - \$20/person - 9am-5pm - JPC
_4	Fall Campout - \$45/tent - 6pm - JPC
24	Late Night in the Park - 6-8th grade - \$5/admission or \$10/unlimited play - 7pm-Midnight - SQ
30	Kid's Night Out - K-5th grade - \$3 - 6-7:30pm - SQ
October	
1	Scout Badge Workshop (Indian Lore) - \$5/scout - 1-3pm - JPC
1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
7	Fall Frenzy Dance - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - SQ
7, 14, 21, 28	Mom's Day Out - 2-5 year olds - \$9/day or \$38/Sept, \$33/Oct/Nov - 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm - JPC
8	Solar Viewing - \$2/person - 4:30-6:30pm - WO
8	Creative Memories - Croptoberfest - \$15/7 hours & \$25/12 hours - 9am-9pm - JPC
10	Canoeing the Rock - \$25/canoe - 3-5pm - Parking lot across from Heritage Farm
14	Kid's Night Out - K-5th Grade - \$3 - 6-7:30pm - SQ
14-16	World Class Walleye Fishing Trip - \$175/person - JPC
16	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
21-22, 28-29	Haunted Barn - \$5/person - 6:30-9:30pm - SQ
22	Drawing for Beginners - 8-14 year olds - \$5/person - 1-5pm - JPC

Howl-a-ween Costume Contest for Dogs - \$2/dog - 2pm - SQ

Wildlife Scary Park Trip - \$20/person - 1pm-12 midnight - JPC

Halloween Spook-Tacular Dance - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Scavenger Hunt - \$2/person - 10-11am - JPC

Halloween on the Prairie - 1-6pm - JPC

Family Pumpkin Carving - \$10/family - 2pm - SQ

Winter Hours Begin at Stone Quarry Recreation Park

22

23

23

28

30

31

0

## **Calendar of Events**

#### **November**

I TO TOTAL	
1, 2, 3	Hunter Education Class - FREE - 5-9pm(Tues/Wed), 6-9pm(Thurs) - JPC
1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Indoor Play Area - 5 years old and under - \$2/child - 10:30-11:30 am - SQ
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
4	Kid's Night Out - K-5th Grade - \$3 - 6-7:30pm - SQ
4, 11, 18, 25	Mom's Day Out - 2-5 year olds - \$9/day or \$38/Sept., \$33/Oct/Nov - 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm - JPC
5	Talent Show - 6-12 year olds - \$3/participant - Free/spectators - 6:30pm - SQ
10	NO SCHOOL - Catch and Release Fishing - \$6/person - 2-6pm - JPC
10	Late Night in the Park - 6-8th Grade - \$5/admission or \$10/unlimited play - 7pm-Midnight - SQ
11	Gobble Gala Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
12-13	Annual Holiday Craft Show - FREE admission - 9am-4pm - JPC
13	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
15	America Recycles Day - Shirt Giveaway - FREE - 2:30-4:15pm - Recycling Bin
19	Kids Concert - Byron Police Department - FREE - 3-4pm - JPC
24-25	Jarrett Prairie Center Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!
25	Turkey Trot - FREE - 11am - SQ

#### **December**

24

25



Jarrett Prairie Center Closes at noon.

Jarrett Prairie Center Closed - Merry Christmas!

JPC = Jarrett Prairie Center • SQ = Stone Quarry Recreation Park • PVGC = PrairieView Golf Course HF = Heritage Farm • WO = Weiskopf Observatory

#### **Crafters Needed!**

There are still booths available for our Annual Holiday Craft Show that is scheduled for November 12-13, 2005. Booths are 8x10 for \$30 and 8x12 for \$40. This is a juried show. This two-day event is held inside the Jarrett Prairie Center from 9 am - 4 pm each day. There is a concession stand and a bake sale available all day. Call Linda at 234-8535 ext. 200 if you're interested in reserving a booth.

## PrairieView Golf Club

#### **Gold Medal Golf Classic**

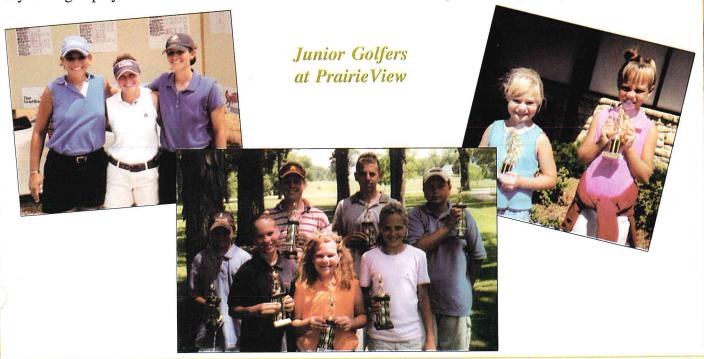
The 14th Annual Gold Medal Golf Classic is scheduled for September 10th and 11th. Last year's tournament drew a record number of players and included a ladies division for the second straight year. The tournament is 36 holes played at scratch and is flighted after the first round. The cost of the tournament is \$85 (\$55 for season golf pass holders) and includes over \$4,000 in prizes. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever with another record of entries, so register early. For more information or to sign up, please call the PrairieView clubhouse at 234-4653.

## 2006 Passes at 2005 Rates!

Just a reminder that season golf passes will go on sale in November. By purchasing your season golf passes early, you will save money. Golf passes are discounted until Christmas. After Christmas, passes will be sold at the full rate. A complete listing of pass fees, VIP fees, and green fees will be published in the next edition of *The Blaze*.

## Fall Junior Golf League

PrairieView's popular Fall Junior Golf league will begin Sunday August 28th. The league will play on Sunday afternoons through early October. The league is designed for boys and girls 4th through 8th grade with some previous golfing experience. The cost of the league is \$30 and includes prizes and a cookout on the last day of league play. For more information on the Fall Junior Golf League or to register, please call 234-4653.



## The Golden Egg



## Investor Savings

- · Higher Interest Rate than a Money Market
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- · Variable Rate

- More Liquid than a CD
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- One Withdrawal per Quarter

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234-2561









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