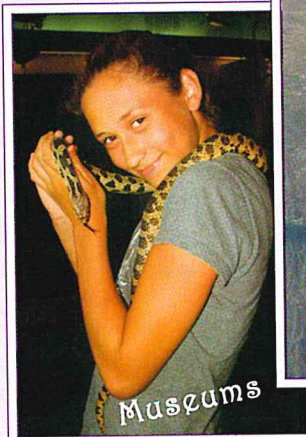
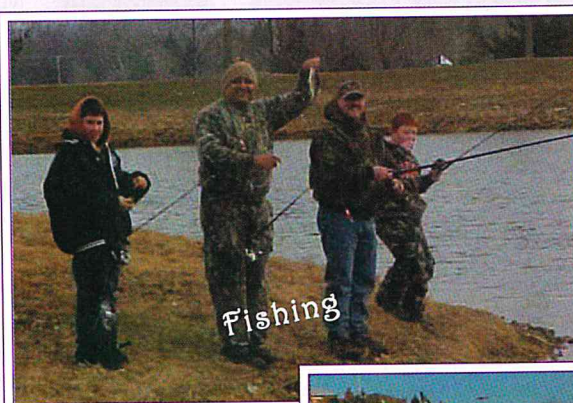
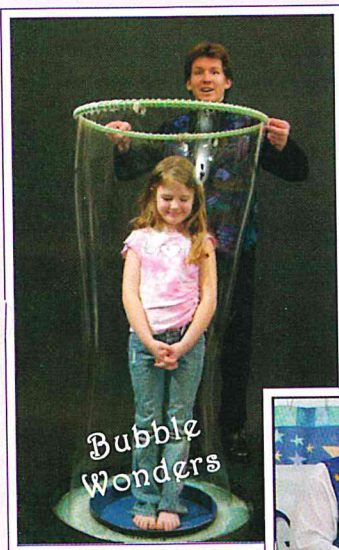


THE BLAZE

A publication of the Byron Forest Preserve District

2006 Winter/Spring Issue

Discover Fun in Your Own Backyard!



Inside this issue...

- Concerts
- Scout Badge Workshops
- Maple Syrup Festival
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Preschool Registration
- Golf Course Gets A New Look

Director's Message

Thank You Sponsors...



Byron Bank

ExelonSM

Nuclear

Byron Generating Station

**Dr. Bob & Holly Johnson
Matt Johnson
Scholarship Fund**

**Stephen J. Nardi
Land Donation**

From Executive Director Edward C. Clift...



Dear Citizens,

We have some exciting winter and spring activities for you and your family in this issue of *The Blaze*. They range from scout badge workshops, to archery classes to middle school dances and of course, our annual Maple Syrup Festival and Easter Egg Hunt. We have some great programs at Stone Quarry Recreation Park for your elementary and middle school age children such as Fantastic Fridays for grades K-2, Kids Night Out for grades 3-5, and Midnight Madness for grades 5-8. Check it all out and see what awaits you at the Forest Preserve.

The Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund had an outstanding mini-golf fundraiser this past June that benefits the Byron area youth; but, the need continues to increase. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact me directly.

New this year is our Membership Program. This program provides individuals and families the opportunity to be even more supportive of the Forest Preserve by becoming a member.

During the past several months of budget preparation for the 2007 year, it was decided to renovate the clubhouse at PrairieView Golf Club. We will also make some other changes that will improve the facility for our users.

The basement locker area will be reduced in size and the remainder of the area will become a large dining room seating approximately 40 people. This area will have two big screen televisions for our customers' enjoyment. On the first floor, we will move our bar operations from the concession line into the current dining room area seating approximately 32 people. There will be four large screen televisions in this area. A new patio seating approximately 32 people will be built on the south and west exterior walls of the clubhouse with an awning covering the entire patio.

The biggest change will be the new layout of the golf course itself. We will be going back to the golf course architect's original layout, which should be very exciting. Plan to come on out when we open and try out the new course and clubhouse!

If you have an idea for a program, please let us know. If you need any additional information or to clarify any items, please call me anytime at 815-234-8535 ext. 201. Have a great winter and spring and we'll see you at the Forest Preserve!

Ed Clift

Edward C. Clift
Executive Director

**New Equipment
Come Check It Out!!**

Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road, Byron • 815-234-8900 • www.stonequarrypark.com

**New Equipment
Come Check It Out!!**

Batting Cage Special • Buy 7 tokens, get 3 free!

Get 10 tokens for \$5. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Offer valid April 6-May 31, 2007.

General Information

Jarrett Prairie Center Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8am-4:30pm
Tues. & Thurs. 8am-8pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 1-4pm

Jarrett Prairie Center is closed:

Christmas, December 24 & 25
New Year's, December 31 & January 1
Good Friday, April 6
Easter Sunday, April 8

Jarrett Prairie Center Hours

during Christmas break...
December 26-29, 2006
If there is less than 4" of snow,
Monday-Friday - 9am-Noon
If there is 4" of snow or more,
Monday-Friday - Noon - 8 pm.

Administrative Offices are closed:

Christmas, December 25
New Year's, January 1
President's Day, February 19
Good Friday, April 6

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

Board Meetings

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron.

Board of Commissioners

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

Who To Contact

General inquiries

815-234-8535 ext. 200

info@byronforestpreserve.com

Administrative Staff

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edclift@byronforestpreserve.com
815-234-8535 ext. 201

Todd Tucker, Deputy Director &
Restoration Superintendent
todd@byronforestpreserve.com
815-234-8535 ext. 222

Richie Wolf, Education Supt.
richie@byronforestpreserve.com
815-234-8535 ext. 217

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815-234-8900

Steve Murray, Manager
PrairieView Golf Club
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815-234-4653 ext. 12

Robin Davis, Finance & Human
Resources Superintendent
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815-234-8535 ext. 204

Steve Storz, Maintenance Supt.
PrairieView Golf Club
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815-234-8535 ext. 208

Michelle Lipps
Blaze Editor, Design, & Layout
michelle@byronforestpreserve.com
815-234-8535 ext. 224

Other important phone numbers:

Program Registration & Information
234-8535 ext. 200
Banquet and Meeting Rooms
234-8535 ext. 200
Weiskopf Observatory
234-8535 ext. 216

Our Mission



**BYRON
FOREST
PRESERVE
DISTRICT**

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.

Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund

In 2003, the Byron Forest Preserve District announced the establishment of the Matt Johnson Funship Awards Program by Dr. Robert and Holly Johnson of Byron. The Scholarship Awards program is a fund of money that is 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, summer day camp, 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.

Over the past three years, this fund has awarded over \$3,500 in scholarships to

the youth of our community. This program is available for all programs that are offered at the Byron Forest Preserve District.

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 Memberships and "Members Only" Programs

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners recently approved a new program as proposed by our Education Department. This program offers memberships to the public. The membership discounts only apply to programs that depart from or are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Memberships are renewable each year. For more information, please call 234-8535 ext. 217.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Yearly Fee</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Friend of the Preserve	\$50	1) Free admission to programs under \$5. 2) Free District hat. 3) 10% off of programs \$5-\$50.* 4) \$15 discount on programs over \$50. 5) Three free "members only" programs per year.
Family of the Preserve (Household Members)	\$100	Same as above (1-5).
Partner of the Preserve (Household Members)	\$500	Same as above (1-5). 6) Invitation to the annual dinner.
Companion of the Preserve	\$1000	Same as above (1-6). 7) Your own dedicated acre of preserve with a sign inside the JPC.**

*Any programs that require an admission fee or are contracted will not receive a discount. **An acre agreed upon by staff and patron.

Wildlife & New Faces

Northern Harrier

By Russell Brunner, Asst. Superintendent of Restoration

The Rock River Valley is home to several hawk species, from the common Red-Tailed to the Cooper's Hawk, known to prey on backyard bird feeders. One of our region's rare hawks is the Northern



Harrier, a hawk of open grasslands. The Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, can be found hovering over the Jarrett Prairie Preserve from early spring through the fall, occasionally staying through the winter but sometimes migrates south. The slim, long-tailed and long-winged Harrier is one of only a few raptors where the male and females look quite different. The male is white below with a mostly gray back and has black wingtips (see photo below). The larger female is brown on the back and striped brown and white on the chest (see photo above). Both sexes have a very noticeable white rump patch, making field identification pretty easy.

The Harrier hunts on the fly. A hiker will usually spot a Harrier as it slowly soars over the prairies on the hunt for small rodents, usually prairie voles. Unlike other hawks, the Harrier relies on its hearing as well as its vision to capture prey. The feathers of the face are stiff to help transmit sound. The Harrier's face is disk like, similar to that of an owl. Some refer to the Harrier as the Owl Hawk. The Harriers nest in the tall prairie grass and usually have 4-6 eggs. The females generally tend to the eggs and young while the males hunt.

This hawk has declined significantly over the last century. With the intensive loss of prairies and wetlands across the country, the Harriers have lost most of their hunting and nesting habitat. As a result, this species is very rare and endangered in several states, including Illinois. While I have not located any nests myself, at least one pair of Northern Harriers can usually be found in flight over the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Prairie restorations around the state, like ours taking place on the recently acquired Nardi Hill Preserve, are important habitat creations for the Northern Harrier, as well as many other declining species of grassland

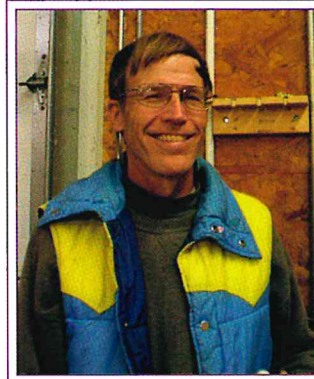
birds. The Northern Harrier is a showy bird species that illustrates the need to restore large prairies to protect not only hawks, but the entire community of prairie plant and animal species.



Thanks Joe!

Joe Jonakin is a volunteer at the Byron Forest Preserve. Joe isn't a new face at the Forest Preserve, he has volunteered his time for many years. Currently, Joe works five days per week from sunrise until lunch time. He volunteers all year round, spring, summer, fall, and winter. The only things that keep Joe away from the Forest Preserve are rain and his caving trips out west. He is an avid outdoorsman and a licensed pilot.

Joe volunteers his time with the restoration department, working to help restore and manage the natural areas at the Byron Forest Preserve. Joe performs tasks such as picking native seed, removing invasive woody species from the prairie, clearing undesirable tree species from the woodlands, and pulling, spraying, and cutting invasive weed species such as garlic mustard and sweet clover.



Joe's hard work and dedication to the Byron Forest Preserve's restoration department really helps aid in the restoration and management of our natural areas. Thank you, Joe, you and your hard work are very much appreciated.

If you don't mind working hard and are interested in volunteering your time and learning more about ecological restoration, please call Todd Tucker at 815-234-8535 ext. 222.

Welcome Katie!



Hello, Blaze readers! My name is Katie Schoenfeldt and I am the newest member of the restoration team at the Byron Forest Preserve. I am originally from a small town in southeast Kansas. After high school, I went to college at Ball State University where I majored in Natural Resources and Environmental Management with an emphasis in Land Management. I graduated in May of 2005.

Since graduation, I have had a couple of seasonal jobs all focusing in the field of ecological restoration. I worked two summer seasons with Nachusa Grasslands near Franklin Grove, Illinois. I spent the winter months working for a private ecological restoration firm where we focused our work in the Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota areas. I am delighted to be working at the Byron Forest Preserve.

Special Events

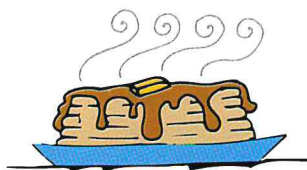
January
February
March
April

Maple Syrup Festival

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite. We'll have a pancake breakfast, maple tree tapping, hay rides, kid's crafts, and more. Co-sponsored by the Byron Kiwanis Club. Free admission. Small fee for breakfast. Get advance sale tickets at the Jarrett Prairie Center. For more information, call 815-234-8535 ext. 200.

Saturday, March 17, 2007
7am-Noon

Jarrett Prairie Center
7993 N. River Rd., Byron



Whitetail Pride

Bring your deer head mounts for display at the Jarrett Prairie Center. We'll have a contest for the most unusual, most impressive, and smallest rack.

It must be a complete head mount. Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 for more details.

The mounts will be on display from February 5-28, 2007. The cost is \$5 per person to enter the contest or free for those wishing just to show. All mounts must be brought in by noon on February 2, 2007.

A reception with snacks will be held on February 23, 2007, at 7 pm.

Jelly Bean Contest

Stop by Stone Quarry Park from
March 1 - April 7
to guess the number of jelly beans
that are in the jar.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Co-sponsored by the
Byron Lions Club

Hop on over to
Stone Quarry
Recreation Park
Saturday, April 7, 2007
11am SHARP!

Lots of candy and prizes for
preschool thru 4th grade.

6845 German Church Road
Byron, Illinois
(815) 234-8900 or
(815) 234-8535

Community Earth Day Event

Meet D.C. the snake and learn all about the Forest Preserve and dozens of other environmental organizations.

This free event will be held at Rock Valley College on April 21, 2007, from noon-4pm. The event is sponsored by Rock Valley College, Rockford Park District, Winnebago County Health Department, and Four River Environmental Coalition.

January
February
March
April

7

Kids Concerts

FREE KIDS CONCERTS!

Jarrett Prairie Center • 3-4 pm

Sponsored by Exelon



Magic Matt
January 13



**Bubble
Wonders**
February 10



Mad Science
March 10

Stone Quarry Programs

January
February
March
April

Fantastic Fridays!

Filled with fun and excitement! So many things to do without your parents! Activities in the party room, board games, and arcade. You will not go home empty handed! The Food Factory will be open for the purchase of snacks and drinks!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Friday, March 9
Friday, April 20
Friday, May 18
Time: 5 - 6:30 pm
Cost: \$3 / person
Ages: K - 2nd Grade
Min/Max: 10 / 30

Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program date.

Mother-Daughter PJ Party

Ready for another fashion show ladies? Dress comfortably in your PJ's and slippers and come to a girls' night "in". We'll be watching a chick flick (of course) while we prep ourselves for a night on the red carpet! Girls, this is your chance to do mom's hair, makeup, and nails! Then we'll take time for dessert. Please bring your own beauty supplies.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturday, January 19
Time: 6:30 - 8 pm
Cost: \$8 / couple
(\$3 per add'l daughter)
Ages: All
Min/Max: 10 / 30

Register by noon on January 17.

Daddy/Daughter Date Night

Dads, looking to get out of the house and do something different with your daughter? Join us for pizza, drinks, ice cream sundaes, games, and prizes!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Friday, February 10
Time: 6 - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$12 / couple
(\$3 per add'l daughter)
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 15 couples

Register by noon on February 7.

Need More Room?

Are those upcoming graduation parties, birthday parties, and family reunions weighing on your mind because you just don't have enough room? Well, worry no more, call Stone Quarry Recreation Park at 815-234-8900 to reserve the Party Room for your next event. You can reserve the Party Room for \$25.* A picnic shelter is also available for only \$25 for four hours! Also inquire about birthday party packages. All rentals receive discounted rates for the batting cages, skate park, and miniature golf. Please call 815-234-8900 for more information or to schedule your next event.

Check us out on the web at stonequarrypark.com.

**An additional \$75 must be spent at the park, otherwise a \$2 per person rental fee applies to party room rentals only.*

Blue Grass Music Comes to Stone Quarry!

Featuring "Above The Town" from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Above the Town is a contemporary bluegrass ensemble, blending a mixture of traditional bluegrass sounds with Celtic influences, jazz, and swing.

Above the Town provides a mix of the old with the new, performing music by the masters of bluegrass as well as original material.

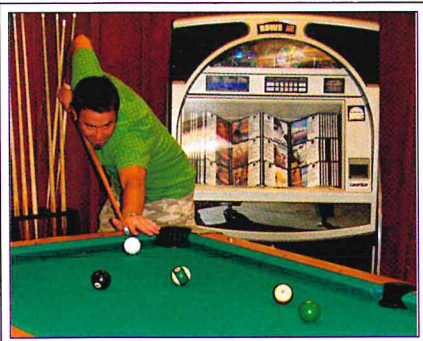
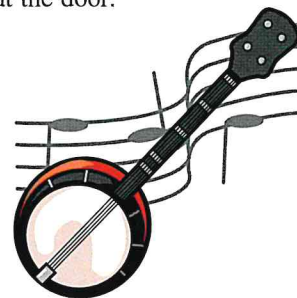
This year, Above the Town was privileged to be one of thirteen bands selected to showcase at the International Bluegrass Music Association Trade Show in Nashville, Tennessee.

Saturdays, Jan. 20 & Feb. 17

7 - 10 pm • Admission is only \$5!

Concession stand will be open.

Contact Mike for advance tickets at 815-234-5462 or you may purchase tickets at the door.



Are you ready for some pool?

Teen Billiards League

This six week league will be individual. Score one point for every opponent's ball you hit in. The person with the most points will win the league. League games included in price. Practice games must be paid for individually.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Every Saturday beginning January 20
Time: 3 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6th - 12th grade
Min/Max: 3 / 15
Register by January 17.

January
February
March
April

9

Stone Quarry Programs

Stone Quarry Hours

(Park hours subject to change due to weather related conditions or low attendance)

January 2 - February 28
Monday - 4-7pm
Saturday - 11am-5pm

March 1 - March 23
Monday - 4-7pm
Saturday - 11am-5pm
Sunday - Noon-5pm

April 2 - May 23
Mon, Wed, Fri - 4-7 pm
Saturday - 11am-7pm
Sunday - Noon-5pm
Closed Jan. 1, Apr. 6, & Apr. 8

Christmas Break & Spring Break
Open 11am-5pm
Dec. 28-30 & Jan. 2-4.
March 26-30

If you would like more information on how to have exclusive use of the park for your next gathering, please call 234-8900.

Attention Youth Baseball & Softball Teams...

Don't forget to come to Stone Quarry after your games for a .25 ice cream cone! Players must be in uniform and their coach must be present.

Check out the new
batting cage
equipment at
Stone Quarry!
See the coupon on
page 2!

Middle School Dances

Don't miss out on these dances! DJ Ryan and his crew from Sound Productions will be there so you better be there too! Bring your friends and have a good time!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Dates listed below
Time: 7 - 10 pm
Cost: \$4 / person
Ages: Middle School

January 12
February 2
February 16
March 23
April 13
April 27
May 11
June 1

Chaperones needed
please call
234-8900!

Kids Night Out

Featuring fun games, activities, and crafts. Kids always go home with prizes! Pizza and pop provided.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Dates listed below.
Time: 5:30 - 8 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: Third - Fifth Grade
Min/Max: 10 / 30

January 13
February 24
March 10
April 14

Register by the Wednesday
before the program.

Matt Johnson
Scholarship Fund
Financial Assistance Available
for Forest Preserve Programs
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!

Midnight Madness

Wanna stay up late, play games, and do crazy things? You'll have a chance to do just that! We'll even have pizza and pop!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: 6:30 pm - Midnight
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: Grades 5th-8th
Min./Max.: 10 / 30
Register by noon on the
Wednesday before the program.

Dates:
February 3
March 24
April 21

Outdoor Adventures

January
February
March
April

Spring Wildflower Walk

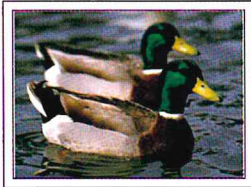
Take an easy hike with an experienced guide. Learn about the annual flowers that beautify the woodlands.

Where: Meet at the Steward Building at Maintenance.
When: Saturday, **April 21**
Time: 10 - 11 am
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / none

Register by noon on April 20.

Great American Backyard Bird Count

We'll count the winter birds and then report them to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sunday, **February 18**
Time: 7 - 9 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / none

Register by noon on February 17.

Ice Fishing

Learn how to ice fish at the Golf Course pond. Bring your own equipment. We'll fish whether there is ice or not.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturdays, January 6 & 20 and **February 10**
Time: 8 am - Noon
Cost: \$3 / person
Ages: All
Min/Max: 10 / 50

Register by noon on January 5 & 19 and February 9.

Owl Prowl

We'll learn about owls then head outside to call them to us.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturdays, January 6 & 27
Time: 8 - 9:30 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / none

Register by noon on January 5 & 26.

Beginner Archery

Bows and arrows provided or bring your own.



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sat, **April 14** & Sun, **April 15**
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$4 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on April 13.

Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade.



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays, Jan. 14, **Feb. 11**, Mar. 11, **Apr. 15**
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min/Max: 5 / 25

Crappie Fishing Trip

We're going to a rarely fished location for some can't-miss fishing. Hot chocolate provided. License required for those applicable.

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturdays, March 24 & **April 7**
Time: 7 - 9 am
Cost: \$5 / person (under 5 free)
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / none

Register by noon on March 23 & April 6.

Frogging Trip to Pecatonica Wetlands

We'll take you to hear and see breeding frogs.

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, **April 28**
Time: 5 - 7 pm
Cost: \$3 / person
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 14

Register by noon on April 27.



Trip to Midwest Museum of Natural History

We are travelling to Sycamore to visit their award-winning museum.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Wednesday, **February 14**
Time: 9 am - 2 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: Adults
Min/Max: 5 / 14

Register by noon on February 13.

Boater Safety Course

This 8-hour course includes safety, laws, and first aid.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, March 13 & Thursday, March 15
Time: 5 - 9 pm
Cost: FREE - Donations accepted.
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 30

Register by noon on March 12.

BCR Holds Public Forums

Volume 2, Issue 3

Winter 2006

In this issue:

- New public forums will encourage the community to help us create new projects
- Cooperation with City of Byron crucial in completion of Tourism Sign project
- Submit your project and event ideas to BCR—your idea could be our next project!

Public Forums

Mark your calendars now!

Wed. January 24
7 p.m.

Sat. January 27
2 p.m.

Jarrett Prairie
Center

BCR, Inc.
Rebecca Hines,
Coordinator
232 W. 2nd St.
PO Box 397
Byron, IL 61010
234-8709 ext. 242
234-7753 fax
rebeccahines@gmail.com



BCR reaches goals, seeks new ideas and projects through public forums

Byron Community Revitalization, Inc. is in a unique position—it has completed all of its goals and is now ready to create new ones. “We are proud to have accomplished so many projects,” said BCR President Ed Clift. “We are optimistic we’ll find new things the community of Byron wants.” BCR’s completed projects include the creation and installation of 18 new tourism and directional signs, installation of 5,000 new pavers in the downtown area, creation of Byron’s Farmer’s Market, creation of Stone Quarry Recreational Park and completion of both a parking survey and a fast food survey..

“We’re looking for new, fresh ideas from the public,” said BCR Coordinator Rebecca Hines. “Even if your

idea seems out-of-reach, there may be some parts of your idea we can use that will benefit the entire community.”

To gather input, BCR will be holding public forums on January 24 at 7 p.m. and January 27 at 2 p.m. Both forums will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Two forums at different times are being held to give people more than one opportunity to share their thoughts, Hines said.

Public input will be sought on new project ideas such as entry signs and a film festival. People should bring their original ideas as well, Hines added.

“We look forward to hearing what kinds of projects the community wants to see,” she said. “If you’ve ever seen something in another

community and wished Byron had it, this is a great time to let us know.”

Other ideas that have been brought up include a chili cook-off, pie cook-off and dog festival. A good way to think about what Byron needs, Hines said, is to think about what you have seen in other communities.

“If you’ve ever been traveling and thought ‘Byron needs this,’ then that’s an idea we’d like to hear,” Hines said. “Even if we don’t use that entire idea, there may be parts we can use or it may spark a new idea.”

If you can’t attend either of the forums, Hines said, your input will still be valued and you can call the BCR office at 234-8709 ext. 242 or email Rebecca at rebeccahines@gmail.com with your ideas or questions.

BCR wants your ideas for new projects

Do you have an idea for Byron? What new project or event would you like to see?

BCR wants your ideas. In case you can’t make our forums, we’re providing a short form that allows you to share your project ideas with us. Simply fill out the form below and mail it to BCR, PO Box 397, Byron, IL, 61010 or drop it off at City Hall. You can also email the information to rebeccahines@gmail.com. We look forward to reading your ideas—thanks!

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Project and/or event idea: _____

I can contribute to this project: time money serve on committee (please circle)

Tourism signs complete, installed



BCR continues to help Byron prosper

Byron Community Revitalization has completed one of its largest and most visible projects, installation of the new tourism and directional signs in Byron.

"We are delighted with the new signs,"

Byron Mayor

Scot Nason

said. "They are an asset to our community and we are grateful for BCR's commitment to Byron."

There are 18 new signs,

which lead visitors to local tourism and public interest destinations.

"The BCR Board and members have worked hard the last two years on this tourism project for our community," said BCR President Ed Clift. "We would like to thank all the

BCR members and the City of Byron's staff for their hard work with IDOT and the actual installation of the signs. We feel that these signs will assist people traveling through our community to know about

"We are delighted with the new signs," Byron Mayor Scot Nason said. "They are an asset to our community and we are grateful for BCR's commitment to Byron."

some of our outstanding attractions that we have to offer tourists. Thanks to all involved.

BCR raised money for the signs and also sought funding from the Forest Preserve, School District, Park District and City of Byron. This cooperation

made the signs more affordable for each organization.

The cooperation also extended to government, as the Public Works department of the City of Byron generously donated labor

to install the signs. Building and Zoning Administrator Larry Hewitt gave his time to work with IDOT on sign placement and installation.

"We are grateful for all of

the help the City of Byron gave," said BCR Coordinator Rebecca Hines.

"Their cooperation made this project much more affordable," Hines said.

"We appreciate everyone's help on this project."

Time to stop talking and start doing.

Many volunteer opportunities are available, and we do our best to suit your talents and availability. Individuals, families and groups are welcome.

Call Rebecca Hines today at 234-8709 ext. 242 to see how you can help Byron.

Future fundraisers include Pot of Gold, golf playday

BCR is a not-for-profit agency that was originally created to create projects that would assist Byron with its growth. As Byron has grown, so has BCR and we now serve to see community needs and fill them.

We hold several fundraisers throughout the year, which

allow us to continue our community projects. They are also a time for community members to get together, have fun and support a good cause.

Our annual Pot of Gold event each spring is quite popular. Your ticket enters you into a drawing for thousands of dollars in prizes, including a top cash

prize of \$3,000.

Our annual golf playday is a spring event that draws golfers from all professions. Each May community members get together for a fun day of golfing, dinner and prizes.

To help with any of our fundraising projects, please contact the BCR office.

January
February
March
April

11

Badge Workshops

Junior Girl Scouts

Your Outdoor Surroundings

We will complete activities to earn this badge, including hiding a geo-cache (a box with a journal that other visitors will try to find later). We'll cross country ski if there's snow, and hike if there's not. Please dress to be outdoors, though we will take a break inside and warm up with some hot chocolate.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, January 27
Time: Noon - 3 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout
Min/Max: 5 / 25
Register by noon on January 24.

Wildlife

We will draw some of the animals in the museum, observe birds, and learn how to study wildlife. Please bring warm clothing as we will be outdoors for part of this workshop.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, March 3
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout
Min/Max: 5 / 25
Register by noon on March 1.



Science Discovery

We will make a kaleidoscope, mix basic chemicals, and take a short trip to the river to fill out our stream health checklist. Please wear shoes that can get muddy!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, April 7
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout
Min/Max: 5 / 25
Register by noon on April 4.

Boy Scouts & Webelos

Boy Scout - Indian Lore

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, January 16
Time: 6 - 8:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout
Min/Max: 5 / 25
Register by noon on January 15.



Webelo - Naturalist

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, February 20
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$5 / webelo
Register by noon on February 19.

Need a different date or badge?

If your scout group needs a different badge or workshop date, please call us to schedule another workshop. A minimum number is required. Call 234-8535 ext. 217.

Brownie Try-Its

Art To Wear

Cost includes badge, forest preserve t-shirt to decorate, and all other materials.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday, January 18
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Cost: \$5/brownie
Min/Max: 5 / 25
Register by noon on January 16.

Eco-Explorer

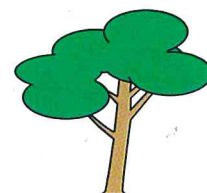
Please dress to be outdoors part of the time.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, February 10
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$5/brownie
Register by noon on February 7.

Earth and Sky

Please dress to be outdoors.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday, April 12
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Cost: \$5/brownie
Register by noon on April 10.



Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund

Financial Assistance Available

Call Executive Director Ed Clift at 234-8535 ext. 201.



Preschool

Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are geared towards 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared towards older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2007, to attend the three-day class. **See the Fall Registration Schedule below.** You may also register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year.

Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm
Cost: \$80/month for Mon/Wed/Fri or \$65/month for Tues/Thurs
Ages: 3-5 years
Min/Max: 6/20
Registration ongoing

Fall 2007 Registration Schedule

Current Students/Families
February 1 - 9, 2007

Byron Residents
February 12 - 16, 2007

Open Registration
February 19, 2007



Preschool Spring Break Camp

We'll keep your little ones busy with crafts, games, stories, and outdoor adventures!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Monday-Friday, March 26-30
Times: 9-11:30am
Ages: 2-5
Fee: \$8 / day
Min/Max: 5 / 10



Register by noon the day before you want to attend.

Astronomy Programs

Stellar Storytime

Hear star stories and make a craft to take home.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, March 10
Time: 9:30-10:30am
Ages: All
Cost: FREE
Min/Max: 5 / none
Register by noon on March 9.

Astronomy Day - Solar Viewing

Let's look at the sun - safely!

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, April 21
Time: 4-6pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Min/Max: 5 / 20
Register by noon on April 20.



Youth Hunting Lessons

Join an experienced mentor in the field for this new program on squirrel hunting. We'll take you to an approved location and instruct you on ethical, legal, and safe hunting methods. We provide the woods, a mentor, and expertise. You provide the firearm, ammunition, hunting license, hunter orange, and patience. Student must already be proficient with their firearm. The first ten to register will receive a free copy of "A Sand County Almanac."

For a 3-hour hunt, the cost is \$25 for ages 12-17 (must have an adult) and ages 18-21. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule a lesson. The hunting season ends February 15, 2007.

WINTER FUN



Cross Country Skiing

Get a great workout while you check out the beautiful winter wonderland at the Forest Preserve. Skis are available at \$2/hour at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.

Sledding

Bring your sleds or snowboards to the Jarrett Prairie Center for some awesome sledding fun! Warm up with some hot chocolate and a snack from the Gift Shop!

Arts & Crafts

Scrapbooking - Creative Memories

Creative Memories scrapbooking classes are held 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.

Freeze Frame Crop
January 26
 9am-4pm - \$15
 4-11pm - \$10 (potluck)
 2-9pm - \$15
 9am-9pm - \$25

Crop Til Your Heart's Content
February 23
 9am-4pm - \$5 (bring a sack lunch)
 4-11pm - \$12
 9am-11pm - \$17

Think Green Crop
March 9
March 10
 4-11pm - \$10 (potluck)
 9am-4pm - \$15
 2-9pm - \$15
 9am-9pm - \$25



Flower Showers Bring May Flowers Crop
April 20
 9am-4pm - \$5 (bring a sack lunch)
 4-11pm - \$12
 9am-11pm - \$17

Spacey Spray Painting

Learn to create fantastic works of science fiction art using spray paint, empty cans, and other materials. Recreate the surface of a far off planet or a space landscape with nebulas and comets! Cost includes all materials and papers. Wear "messy" clothes, please.



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Saturday, April 14
 Time: 1-3pm
 Ages: 10 & up (no exceptions)
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Min/Max: 5 / 20
Register by April 11.

Artist's Display & Reception

During the entire month of April, visit the Jarrett Prairie Center and view artist Christine Davis' pastel portraits and watercolor landscapes. Her son, Rick, will also have some work on display.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Thursday, April 26
 Time: 6-8pm



All Girls Tea Party

The ultimate tea party...bring a friend or stuffed animal for an afternoon of dress-up, make a crown and bracelet to take home, and, of course, eat cookies and drink tea!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Sunday, March 4
 Time: 2-4pm
 Ages: 4-9
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Min/Max: 5 / 20
Register by March 1.



Kids' Game Night

Come on out to the Jarrett Prairie Center to meet with other kids for games...but not just any games! Pirates of the Spanish Main, Killer Bunnies, Munchkin, Captain Park's Imaginary Polar Expedition, and more! Kids will have the opportunity to try some award winning board games, eat popcorn, and make friends. Check on-line for more dates...if this program is a success, we will continue meeting throughout February and March.

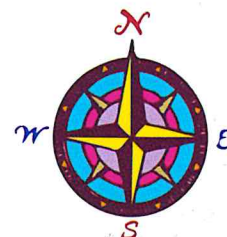
Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Wednesdays, January 11, 25, & February 7
 Time: 6-8pm
 Ages: 8 and up
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Min/Max: 5 / 30
Register by the Monday before the one you want to attend.

Geocaching

*Do you like finding hidden treasures?
 Then you'll love Geocaching!*

You may not know it yet, but hidden within a few miles of where you are, there are treasures waiting to be found. They're hidden in the city and state parks, outside of nearby buildings, alongside hiking trails, and even in local neighborhoods. Thanks to the Internet and the global positioning system (GPS), you can join the exciting world of geocaching.

There's a new geocache at the Forest Preserve! Use your GPS to find this treasure box...sign the journal, take a small treasure, and leave something for the next person! This is a rapidly growing hobby, and the Forest Preserve now has one of several geocaches in the area. For the coordinates, more information, and rules, please visit www.geocaching.com and enter "61010" (our zip code). The cache at the Forest Preserve is listed there.



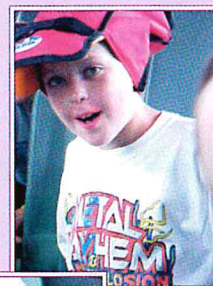
Summer Camp Creates Happy Faces!



This year's camp will include...

- Daily pickup/dropoff at Stone Quarry.
- Every Tuesday - Lake Louise Day.
- Every Thursday - Field Trip Day.
- Children assigned daily to one counselor for small group activities, then join all camp groups for organized interaction.
- Visits to the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum, PrairieView Golf Club, and Heritage Farm Museum.
- Crafts, sports, fishing, hiking, golf, and nature activities are just some of the quests your child will be engaged in during this summer's mission of FUN!
- Registration begins March 1, 2007. Stop in at either Stone Quarry Recreation Park or the Jarrett Prairie Center to register. To register over the phone with a credit card, call 234-8900 or 234-8535 ext. 200. You may also mail your registration to Byron Forest Preserve, P.O. Box 1075, Byron IL 61010.
- More details to follow in the next issue of The Blaze.

*It's Not Too Early To
Start Thinking About It!*



Listen to this!

The Byron Forest Preserve, River View Dog Training, and Cindy Storz have come together again to offer three dog training classes. Classes are open to dogs of all ages and will focus on obedience, good manners, socialization, and address any dog problems that owners may be facing at home. Showmanship classes are offered by Cindy Storz for those who are interested in learning to show dogs in the conformation ring and those in need of "ring" time to prepare for shows. All students enrolled in a 4-H dog study program are encouraged to attend these classes.

Where: Stone Quarry
When: Tuesdays, Beginning January 23
Time: Obedience I - 6pm
Obedience II - 6:45 pm
Showmanship - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$65 / 8-week session

To register for obedience classes, please call Mary Beth Overmyer at 234-2360. To register for showmanship classes or to get information on drop-in classes, call Cindy Storz at 234-5025.

Volunteers, Etc.

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, museum tour, and observatory tour. Call 234-8535 x217 to schedule your next outing with us.

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.

Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund

Financial Assistance Available
for Forest Preserve Programs
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!

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.

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: 9-11am
Cost: Free



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.

PrairieView Golf Club



PrairieView

Gets a New LOOK!

When the golf season opens in 2007, golfers will find a newly renovated clubhouse and a rerouted golf course.

Construction has already begun on a 750-square-foot deck that will overlook the new 18th green.

The golf course will be changed back to its original layout which means holes 6-9 will become holes 15-18 and holes 15-18 will become holes 6-9.

The inside of the clubhouse will also be drastically changed. The current dining room area will be converted into a bar where golfers can enjoy a new menu along with a drink. The lower level is also being enlarged and will include tables for dining as well as the current lockerroom area.

The project will be completed by spring so mark your calendars to stop by and visit the "New PrairieView Golf Club!"

Great
Christmas
Gifts!!

Save on 2007 Golf Passes!

Season Golf Passes are now on sale at PrairieView Golf Club! A discounted rate is offered if you choose to purchase your 2007 season golf pass before Christmas. Please refer to the fees below that indicate the large savings by purchasing your pass early.

Resident	Before	After
<u>Single Pass</u>	<u>12/23/06</u>	<u>12/23/06</u>
Adult	\$450	\$550
Senior	\$300	\$400
College Student	\$185	\$285
Junior	\$140	\$240

Resident Couple/Family Pass

Adult	\$800	\$900
Senior	\$530	\$600

Out of District Single Pass

Adult	\$560	\$650
Senior	\$360	\$460
College Student	\$220	\$320
Junior	\$160	\$220

Out of District Couple/Family Pass

Adult	\$900	\$1000
Senior	\$630	\$700

VIP Membership Club

It is convenient and eliminates the need to carry cash money while at PrairieView. This card is good for pro shop merchandise, food/bar service, green fees, cart fees, and range fees. Memberships can be purchased in four increments starting at \$200 up to \$800 and are good for a two-year period. With a VIP Membership, members receive discounts off regular priced green fees, carts, and driving range fees as outlined below. Become a VIP member and join today!

	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$400</u>	<u>\$600</u>	<u>\$800</u>
Green Fee Discount	5 %	10 %	15 %	20 %
Cart Fee Discount	15 %	20 %	25 %	30 %
Range Fee Discount	40 %	40 %	50 %	50 %

2007 Golf Fees


Weekday Green Fees

18 holes	Resident	\$19
	Non-resident	\$27
	Sr. / Jr. Resident	\$14
	Sr. / Jr. Non-resident	\$17
9 holes	Resident	\$12
	Non-resident	\$17
	Sr. / Jr. Resident	\$10
	Sr. / Jr. Non-resident	\$13
Twilight	Resident	\$12
	Non-resident	\$17

Weekend Green Fees

18 holes	Resident	\$23
	Non-resident	\$33
	Sr. / Jr. Resident	\$16
	Sr. / Jr. Non-resident	\$21
9 holes	Resident	\$15
	Non-resident	\$20
	Sr. / Jr. Resident	\$12
	Sr. / Jr. Non-resident	\$15
Twilight	Resident	\$15
	Non-resident	\$20

Cart Fees

	18 holes	\$28
	9 holes	\$18
	Senior 18 holes	\$22
	Senior 9 holes	\$14
	Twilight	\$18

Calendar of Events

January

2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

6

6

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12

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27

Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO

Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC

Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop

Ice Fishing - \$3/person - 8am-Noon - Golf Course Pond

Owl Prowl - \$2/person - 8-9:30pm - JPC

Kids Game Night - Ages 8 & up - \$5/person - 6-8pm - JPC

Middle School Dance - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Kids Concert (Magic Matt) - FREE - 3-4pm - JPC

Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ

Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC

Boy Scout Badge Workshop (Indian Lore) - \$5/scout - 6-8:30pm - JPC

Brownie Try-It Workshop (Art To Wear) - \$5/brownie - 5:30-7:30pm - JPC

Mother-Daughter PJ Party - \$5/couple - 6:30-8pm - JPC

Ice Fishing - \$3/person - 8am-Noon - Golf Course Pond

Teen Billiards League Begins - \$5/person - 3pm - SQ

Blue Grass Concert (Above The Town) - \$5/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Dog Obedience Classes begin - Call Mary Beth at 234-2360.

Kids Game Night - Ages 8 & up - \$5/person - 6-8pm - JPC

Creative Memories Scrapbooking - Call Cindy at 234-7505.

Junior Girl Scout Badge (Your Outdoor Surroundings) - \$5/scout - Noon-3pm - JPC

Owl Prowl - \$2/person - 8-9:30pm - JPC



February

1-9

2

3

3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27

5-28

6, 13, 20, 27

7

7, 14, 21, 28

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12-16

14

16

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18

19

20

23

Fall Preschool Registration for Current Preschool Students

Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Midnight Madness - 5-8th Grade - \$5/person - 6:30-Midnight - SQ

Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO

Whitetail Pride Display and Contest - Call Richie at 234-8535 ext. 217.

Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC

Kids Game Night - Ages 8 & up - \$5/person - 6-8pm - JPC

Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop

Ice Fishing - \$3/person - 8am-Noon - Golf Course Pond

Brownie Try-It Workshop (Eco-Explorer) - \$5/brownie - 1-3pm - JPC

Kids Concert (Bubble Wonders) - FREE - 3-4pm - JPC

Daddy/Daughter Date Night - \$8/couple - 6-7:30pm - SQ

Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC

Fall Preschool Registration for Byron Residents

Trip to Museum of Natural History - Adults - \$10/person - 9am-2pm - JPC

Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Blue Grass Concert (Above The Town) - \$5/person - 7-10pm - SQ

Great American Bird Count - FREE - 7-9am - JPC

Fall Preschool Open Registration Begins

Webelo Badge Workshop (Naturalist) - \$5/webelo - 6-8pm - JPC

Creative Memories Scrapbooking - Call Cindy at 234-7505.

Kids Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$3/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ



815-234-8535 • www.byronforestprserve.com

JPC=Jarrett Prairie Center • SQ=Stone Quarry Recreation Park • PVGC=PrairieView Golf Club

HF=Heritage Farm • WO=Weiskopf Observatory

Calendar of Events

March

3	Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshop (Wildlife) - \$5/scout - 1-3pm - JPC
3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
4	All Girls Tea Party - Ages 4-9 - \$5/person - 2-4pm - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
9	Fantastic Fridays - K-2nd Grade - \$3/person - 5-6:30pm - SQ
9-10	Creative Memories - Call Cindy at 234-7505.
10	Stellar Storytime - FREE - 9:30-10:30am - WO
10	Kids Concert (Mad Science) - FREE - 3-4pm - JPC
10	Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
11	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
13 & 15	Boater Safety Course - FREE - 5-9pm - JPC
17	Maple Syrup Festival - 7am-Noon - JPC
23	Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
24	Midnight Madness - 5-8th Grade - \$5/person - 6:30-Midnight - SQ
24	Crappie Fishing Trip - \$5/person - 7-9am - JPC
26-30	Preschool Spring Break Camp - Ages 2-5 - \$8/day - 9-11:30am - JPC



April

3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28	Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO
3, 10, 17, 24	Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 am - JPC
4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop
7	Crappie Fishing - \$5/person - 7-9am - JPC
7	Easter Egg Hunt - Preschool-4th Grade - 11am SHARP - SQ
7	Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshop (Science Discovery) - \$5/scout - 1-3pm - JPC
12	Brownie Try-It Workshop (Earth and Sky) - \$5/brownie - 5:30-7:30pm - JPC
13	Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
14	Beginner Archery - Ages 6 & up - \$4/person - 1-3pm - JPC
14	Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ
14	Spacey Spray Painting - Ages 10 & up - \$5/person - 1-3pm - JPC
15	Beginner Archery - Ages 6 & up - \$4/person - 1-3pm - JPC
15	Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC
20	Fantastic Fridays - K-2nd Grade - \$3/person - 5-6:30pm - SQ
20	Creative Memories - Call Cindy at 234-7505.
21	Spring Wildflower Walk - \$2/person - 10-11am - JPC
21	Community Earth Day Event - FREE - Noon-4pm - Rock Valley College
21	Astronomy Day - Solar Viewing - \$2/person - 4-6pm - WO
21	Midnight Madness - 5-8th Grade - \$5/person - 6:30-Midnight - SQ
26	Artist's Display & Reception (Christine Davis) - 6-8pm - JPC
27	Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ
28	Frogging Trip to Pecatonica Wetlands - \$3/person - 5-7pm - JPC



815-234-8535 • www.byronforestpreserve.com

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

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 Hours:

April 1 - October 31

Mon-Fri - 8am-4:30pm

Sat - 10am-4pm

Sun - 2-6pm



Self-guided tours are free. A small fee may be charged for guided tours. Closed on holidays. Call 234-8535 ext. 217 for more information.

Banquet Facilities

The Jarrett Prairie Center, PrairieView Golf Club, 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 Club. Large and small groups welcome.

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

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 a 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.

Canoe Rentals

We rent canoes. Just call us with your date and number of canoes needed. We'll haul you upstream on the Rock River and accompany you back to your vehicles at the River Park parking lot on River Road across from Heritage Farm.

Canoes are \$25 each and include paddles and life jackets. Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 for this unique and fun outing!



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