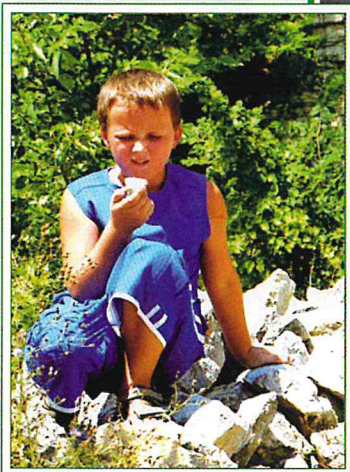


# THE BLAZE

A publication of the Byron Forest Preserve District

2007 Spring/Summer Issue



Inside this issue...

- Concerts
- Summer Camp/Adventure Club
- Scout Badge Workshops
- Prairie Restoration
- Preschool Registration
- Scholarship Fundraiser



# Scholarships

## **Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund Annual Mini-Golf Fundraiser**

**June 15, 2007 • 5-8 pm  
Only \$15 per person  
Stone Quarry Recreation Park**

This event includes 18 holes of mini-golf, dinner from the Food Factory, and use of the skate park and batting cages. Please register by June 13th by calling Stone Quarry Recreation Park at 1-815-234-8900. Your support as a participant, sponsor, or donor will allow this program to continue to help our local children. If you have questions or wish to donate or become a sponsor, please call Ed Clift at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 201.

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 area 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, preschool, and many 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.

Last year, we issued over \$5,200 in scholarships to the youth of our community. This scholarship 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 1-815-234-8535 ext. 201 for more information.





# Director's Message

**Thank You  
Sponsors...**



**Byron Bank**

**Exelon<sup>SM</sup>**

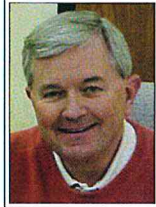
**Nuclear**

**Byron Generating Station**

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

**Stephen J. Nardi  
Land Donation**

*From Executive Director Edward C. Clift...*



Dear Citizens,

Our staff has some great activities planned for you and your family this spring and summer. Spring is here so let's get out and enjoy the beautiful outdoors and relieve that cabin fever.

One of our goals over the past 12 years has been to bring PrairieView Golf Club to its full potential as an outstanding golf experience for all that use the course. We feel that the changes that we have made since November have taken a big step towards accomplishing this goal. The course layout has been changed, the Prairie Grass Pub has been added, a new 44-seat dining room has been developed and a 1,000-square-foot patio has been added to the south and west side of the clubhouse overlooking the 18th green. These additions along with the addition of five big screen televisions will certainly add to the golfing experience this year.

The Forest Preserve and PrairieView Golf Club are proud to announce that the Sean Considine Celebrity Cancer Classic will be held on Monday, June 25, 2007. If you are interested in participating in this event, stop by the clubhouse in late April to pick up a registration form.

The Matt Johnson Scholarship program continues to provide funds for area youth who are in need of financial assistance to participate in Forest Preserve programs. Last year, we issued \$5,255 in scholarships to area youth. Support this very worthy cause by marking your calendar so you don't miss the Annual Mini-Golf Fundraiser event that is scheduled for June 15, 2007, at Stone Quarry Recreation Park. See more information on page 2.

Check out our outstanding trips planned for this summer. I would like to draw your attention to the Boundary Waters Trips. This is a great experience! New this year, we are offering an informational meeting for those who aren't sure if they want to go on a trip. At this meeting, staff will address any concerns or questions about the difficulty of these trips. Please see page 15 for more information.

Stone Quarry Recreation Park has excellent picnic facilities to host your company, church, and family gatherings. This park is pleasing for all age groups and will help make your outing a BIG SUCCESS! Take advantage of the coupon below and save \$50 on your reservation for 2007.

If you need additional information or to clarify any items, please call me at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 201. Have a great summer and we'll see you at the Forest Preserve!

*Ed Clift*

Edward C. Clift  
Executive Director

## Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road, Byron • 815-234-8900 • [www.stonequarrypark.com](http://www.stonequarrypark.com)

**SAVE!**

**\$50 Off Facility Rental**

Call 1-815-234-8900 to book your next party. Only valid for groups of 100 or more.  
Must be a new booking in 2007. Not valid with any other offer. Expires December 30, 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 and Administrative Offices are closed:

Memorial Day, May 28  
Independence Day, July 4

## Behavior Policy

To ensure safe and enjoyable programs and facilities for all residents, the Byron Forest Preserve District has developed the following Code of Conduct. Participants in programs and those using facilities shall: (1) Show respect to all participants, staff, equipment, supplies and facilities; (2) Refrain from using offensive or profane language; (3) Refrain from aggressive behavior that could cause bodily harm.

The Byron Forest Preserve District reserves the right to dismiss a participant from a program if their behavior or language is deemed inappropriate by staff.

The Byron Forest Preserve District applies a caring and positive approach to discipline. Our staff will work with parents when special accommodations are necessary due to a participant's disability.

The Byron Forest Preserve District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of others or causes property damage.

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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**

**[linda@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:linda@byronforestpreserve.com)**

## Administrative Staff

Edward Clift, Executive Director  
[edclift@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:edclift@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 201

Todd Tucker, Deputy Director & Restoration Superintendent  
[todd@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:todd@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 222

Richie Wolf, Education Supt.  
[richie@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:richie@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 217

Shonnah Poe, Manager  
Stone Quarry Recreation Park  
[shonnah@stonequarrypark.com](mailto:shonnah@stonequarrypark.com)  
815-234-8900

Steve Murray, Manager  
PrairieView Golf Club  
[pvgolfpro@hotmail.com](mailto:pvgolfpro@hotmail.com)  
815-234-4653 ext. 12

Robin Davis, Finance & Human Resources Superintendent  
[robin@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:robin@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 204

Steve Storz, Maintenance Supt.  
PrairieView Golf Club  
[stevestorz1@hotmail.com](mailto:stevestorz1@hotmail.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 208

Michelle Lipps  
Blaze Editor, Design, & Layout  
[michelle@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:michelle@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 224

## Photography Policy

Photographs 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 other media.



# 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.

## 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>
<b>Friend of the Preserve</b>	\$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.
<b>Family of the Preserve</b> (Household Members)	\$100	Same as above (1-5).
<b>Partner of the Preserve</b> (Household Members)	\$500	Same as above (1-5). 6) Invitation to the annual dinner.
<b>Companion of the Preserve</b>	\$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.

## Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road, Byron • 815-234-8900 • [www.stonequarrypark.com](http://www.stonequarrypark.com)

### Free Hour of Batting Cage Practice

(with the purchase of one hour)

Call **815-234-8900** to reserve the batting cage machine of your choice.  
 Not valid with any other offer. Not redeemable for cash. \$25 value. Expires 7/31/07





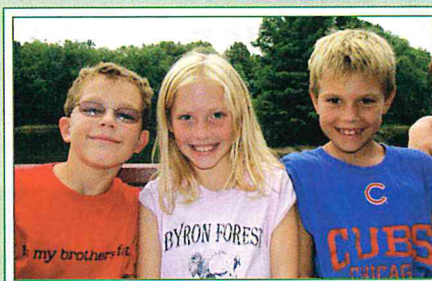
# Summer Fun!

## Summer Camp

### *Fun for 6-12 year olds!!*

- Daily pickup/dropoff at Stone Quarry.
- Every Tuesday - Lake Louise Day.
- Every Thursday - Field Trip Day.
- Weekly Newsletters
- 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!
- Register now! 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 1-815-234-8900 or 1-815-234-8535 ext. 200. You may also mail your registration with payment to Byron Forest Preserve, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010.

*Signup for 10 weeks,  
get 11th week free!*



<b>Dates:</b>	Week 1	June 4-8
	Week 2	June 11-15
	Week 3	June 18-22
	Week 4	June 25-29
	Week 5	July 2-6*
	Week 6	July 9-13
	Week 7	July 16-20
	Week 8	July 23-27
	Week 9	July 30-August 3
	Week 10	August 6-10
	Week 11	August 13-17

*Fees include field trips-  
no extra fees!*

**Times:** 9 am - 4 pm

**Ages:** 6-12 years old

**Latchkey:** 7 - 9 am - \$15 / week  
4 - 6 pm - \$15 / week

**Cost:** \$100 per week (\$85-July 4th week)  
**Sibling:** \$90 per week (\$75-July 4th week)

\*July 4th Week Information & Specials  
No camp on July 4th. Overnight campout on July 6th.  
July 2-6 - \$85 or \$110 w/campout (sibling-\$75 & \$100)  
July 5-6 only - \$50 or \$75 w/campout (no discount)  
July 6 only - \$40 or \$65 w/campout (no discount)

**To register, call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 200**



***Our Mission for Summer Camp:***  
*To instill positive changes in your child  
by teaching life skills while having fun.*



# Summer Fun!

## Adventure Club

### *Fun for 3-6 year olds!!*

This fun program is especially geared toward preschool age children. Each two-week session has a theme, and will include games, crafts, stories, and outdoor play. Children are provided a fun, safe, and comfortable environment with our caring staff.

The last day of each session will be spent at Stone Quarry Recreation Park for play time at the splash and play water area playground.

#### **June 11 - 21    Transportation**

We'll learn about planes, trains, automobiles, and more! See how different products get from one place to another using different modes of transportation.

#### **June 25 - July 5    Prairie Life**

We'll explore the prairie and what lives within - plants, trees, animals, and, of course, bugs!! No class July 4th. The Monday/Wednesday session is \$28.

#### **July 9 - 19    Community Helpers**

What do you want to be when you grow up? Policeman? Fireman? Teacher? We'll learn about these types of careers and how they make a difference in the world.

#### **July 23 - August 2    Rainforest Life**

It's a jungle out there! We're going to find out what's in it and how it's different from other forest settings.

Days:                Mondays & Wednesdays  
                         or Tuesdays & Thursdays  
Times:              9 - 11 am or 1 - 3 pm  
Ages:                3-6 years old  
Cost:                \$35 per week  
Min./Max:        6 / 14





# Special Events

May  
June  
July  
August

## Customer Appreciation Day

As a way of saying thank you, miniature golf, batting cages, and skate park will be FREE! Promotional Pepsi giveaways too!

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Noon - 5 pm

**FREE!**

Stone Quarry Recreation Park  
6845 German Church Road, Byron

## Family Miniature ~ ~ ~ ~ Golf Tournament

Compete in this family-friendly event for "most holes in one" and "lowest family score." Each child participant will get to take home a prize from the treasure chest!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Sunday, August 5  
Time: 4pm  
Cost: \$10/ family of four  
Min/Max: 3/20 families  
Register by August 1.



## HOLIDAY FUN!

### Memorial Day Weekend Special

Bring your family and friends out to Stone Quarry Park on May 26-28 for some affordable fun! For every paid admission to miniature golf or skate park, you'll get the second admission FREE!

### Mother's Day at the Park

On May 13, from noon-5pm, every mom who comes to Stone Quarry Park with her family, gets free admission to miniature golf and a free ice cream cone!

### Father's Day at the Park

On June 17, from noon-5pm, every dad who comes to Stone Quarry Park with his family, gets free admission to miniature golf and a free ice cream cone!

## Program Idea?



*Do you have a good idea for a program that you would like Stone Quarry Recreation Park to host?*

Call Shonnah at  
1-815-234-8900  
or e-mail her at

[shonnah@stonequarrypark.com](mailto:shonnah@stonequarrypark.com).

## ByronFest Specials!

### ByronFest Weekend Special

Meet your friends at Stone Quarry Park for a round of mini-putt before going downtown Byron for the annual festivities on July 13-15! For every paid admission to miniature golf or skate park, you'll get the second admission FREE!

### Post ByronFest Family FunFest!

Have leftover tickets from ByronFest? On July 21-22, bring them to Stone Quarry Park for half-price skate park, batting cages, and miniature golf. One ticket is good for one half-price activity.

*Don't throw away  
those leftover tickets!*

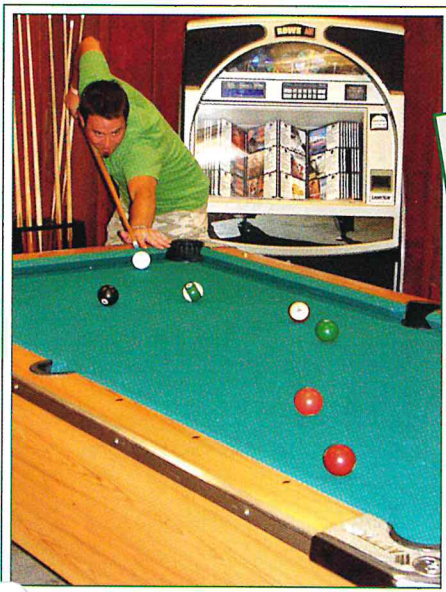
**Matt Johnson**  
**Scholarship Fund**  
Financial Assistance Available  
for Forest Preserve Programs  
Call 234-8535 ext. 201!



May  
June  
July  
August

9

# Teen Activities



## You get what you ask for... High School Dances!

The High School Student Advisory Council suggested that we at Stone Quarry Park offer dances this summer for high school students. Ask and you will receive!  
Have a slice of **free pizza** then dance the night away with DJ Ryan from Sound Productions and the Stone Quarry staff.  
Check out the dates below, call your friends, and we'll see you there!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Fridays  
June 22 & August 10

Time: 8-11 pm  
Cost: \$5 / person  
Ages: High School



## GET INVOLVED!

Become a member of the Teen Advisory Board and make your voice heard.

The Byron Forest Preserve is seeking teens in both middle school and high school to serve on age specific advisory boards. Members will play a key role in planning upcoming events and making other important decisions affecting Stone Quarry Recreation Park and other programming.

Want to know how you can get involved? Call Shonnah at:

1-815-234-8900 or

e-mail her at

shonnah@stonequarrypark.com



Check us out  
at [MySpace.com/stonequarrypark!](http://MySpace.com/stonequarrypark!)

### Stone Quarry Park Features:

- Big Screen 55" & 61" TVs
- Dance Dance Revolution
- Pool Table/Air Hockey
- Top Skater
- Playstation 2
- Food Factory

## Middle School Dances Too!

Yes! There are dances this summer! Mark these dates on your calendar and join your friends, DJ Ryan from Sound Productions, and the Stone Quarry crew for some summer fun!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: May 11

June 1

July 20

August 17

Time: 7 - 10 pm

Cost: \$4 / person

Ages: Middle School

Chaperones needed,  
please call 815-234-8900!



# Summer Concerts

May  
June  
July  
August

## FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS!

### Heritage Farm Stage • 7 pm

8059 N. River Road, Byron • Rain Location-Jarrett Prairie Center  
Bring a lawn chair or blanket.



Bluegrass  
Reunion  
Band  
June 10



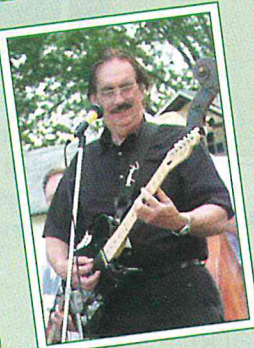
Patchouli  
June 24



Stan Reese  
Take Four  
July 22



Jimmy's  
Bavarians  
July 29



Gospel &  
Bluegrass  
August 5  
4 - 7 pm  
\*Hospice Fundraiser



Soul  
Notes  
August 12



# Preschool

## 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. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year.

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

Where: 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 - M-W-F  
 6/16 - Tu-Th  
 Registration ongoing

### Meet the Teachers

Jarrett Prairie Center  
**August 23, 2007**  
 6 - 8:30 pm

Questions, answers, tours, & refreshments.



## Learning, Playing, Discovering...



*Field Trips*



*Story Time*



*Painting*



*Computer Skills*

*Socializing*





# Stone Quarry Programs

May  
June  
July  
August

## Stone Quarry Hours

Park hours are subject to change due to weather related conditions or low attendance.

### Thru April 31\*

Monday & Friday - 4-7pm

Saturday - 11am-7pm

Sunday - Noon-5pm

\*Park closed on April 6 & 8

### May 1 - May 27

Mon, Wed, Fri - 4-7 pm

Saturday - 11am-7pm

Sunday - Noon-5pm

### Summer Hours

May 28 - August 15

Monday-Saturday - 11am-9pm

Sunday - Noon-7pm

### Skate Park Sessions

Summer Hours Only!

Session 1 - 11am-4pm

Session 2 - 4:15-9pm

Cost: \$3 / session or \$5 / all day

Yearly passes available.

### Park Closings

June 2 - closed until 4pm

Park will be open 4-9pm

June 23 - closed until 2pm

Park will be open 2-9pm

July 4 - closed at 5pm

July 13 - closed at 7pm

July 14 - closed all day

July 28 - closed until 2pm

Park will be open 2-9pm

July 29 - closed at 3pm

If you would like more information on how to have exclusive use of the park for your next gathering, please call 1-815-234-8900.

## Kids Night Out

Featuring activities, games, prizes, and fun in the park. Pizza and pop provided. Extra money needed for arcade games and other concession items.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Dates listed below.

Time: 5:30 - 8 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: Incoming 3-6 Grade

Min/Max: 10 / 30

June 8

July 27

Register by the Wednesday before the program.

## MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Join us for late night fun in the park! Stone Quarry will be open until midnight. Admission includes one small drink.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: 6:30 pm - Midnight

Dates: June 15 & August 3

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: Grades 5th-8th

Min./Max.: 10 / 30

Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program.

## DAILY DEALS!

### Mondays (June 4-August 13)

*Group Discount Day*

Groups of 10 or more receive special rates on park prices and concessions

### Tuesdays (June 5-August 14)

*2 for 1*

*Miniature Golf & Skate Park*

### Wednesdays (June 6-August 15)

*1/2 Price Ice Cream Cones*

### Thursdays (June 7-August 16)

*Thirsty Thursdays!*

Get a super-sized drink for 1/2 price.

### Fridays (June 8-August 17)

*School Spirit Day*

Get \$1 off admission to mini-golf, skate park or \$5 batting cage token when you wear a school logo item

### Saturdays (June 9-August 11)

*Super Team Saturdays*

Bring your team in after your game (dressed in uniform) to get an ice cream cone for .25.

### Sundays (June 10-August 12)

*Senior Citizen Day*

All seniors get one free small ice cream cone.

!STEADY! DAILY DEALS! !STEADY! DAILY DEALS! !STEADY! DAILY DEALS!

## New Skate Park Equipment

Check out our new additions at "The Rock" Skate Park! Quarter Pipes, Bank Ramps, Street Spine, Euro Gap, Wedge-Stair Combo... ranging from 3' to 5' in height! New Ramps, New Challenges!





# Outdoor Adventures

## Wildflower Walkabout

Take a relaxing stroll through the woodlands as we search for nature's beauties.

Where: Meet at the Steward Building at Maintenance.  
When: Thursday, **June 7**  
Time: 6 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5 / none



## Ogle County Bird Count

We'll count the birds of Ogle County.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 12  
Time: 8 am  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: 6 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on May 11.**

## Night Hike

See what life comes out in the prairies and woods.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, **June 7**  
Time: 9 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on June 6.**



## 3-D Archery Fun Shoots

Come check out our new archery equipment. A course of thirteen 3-D animal targets. Use our equipment or bring your own. Trophies awarded to the top two finishers per division.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesdays, **June 12**, July 10, & **August 4**  
Time: 6 - 9 pm  
Cost: \$10 / person  
Age Divisions: 6-12, 13-17, & 18 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / 20 per age division

**Register by noon on June 11, July 9, and August 3.**

## Morel Hunts

We'll take you to a secret location in search of these delicacies.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesdays, May 1 & 8 and Thursday, May 3  
Time: 4 - 7 pm  
Cost: \$5 / person  
Ages: 6 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / 14 if riding in our van.  
Unlimited if driving yourself.

**Register by noon on May 1, May 3, & May 8.**



## Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade. Bring your bee suits!



Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays, May 6, **June 10**,  
July 15, **August 12**  
Time: 2 - 4 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: 3 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

## Raspberry and Blackberry Pickin'

Bring your buckets and band aids as we scour the brush for these delicious treats.

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursdays, **June 21 & 28**  
Time: 6 - 9 pm  
Cost: \$3 / family (all u can pick)  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / 50

**Register by noon on June 20 & 27.**

## Canoeing the Rock

All equipment provided on this fun excursion!

Where: Meet at the River Park parking lot  
(across from Heritage Farm Museum)  
When: Saturdays, **June 2 & August 25**  
Time: 6 - 9 pm (June) & 7 - 10 am (August)  
Cost: \$25 / canoe  
Ages: All (Minimum one adult per canoe)  
Min/Max: 2 / 12 canoes

**Register by noon on June 1 & August 24.**

## Wet Wednesday - Canoeing the Kishwaukee River

All equipment provided.

Where: Meet at the River Park parking lot  
(across from Heritage Farm Museum)  
When: Wednesdays, **June 6 & August 22**  
Time: 5 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$25 / canoe  
Ages: All (Minimum one adult per canoe)  
Min/Max: 2 / 12 canoes

**Register by noon on June 5 & August 21.**

## Butterfly Count

Let's count them and record them!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, July 7  
Time: 9 - 11 am  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none

**Register by noon on July 6.**





# Trips

May  
June  
July  
August

## Seward Bluffs

Learn how to have fun in the sunset with a hike for salamanders. Transportation provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Fridays, **June 1** & **August 3**  
Time: 5 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$8 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5 / none  
**Register by noon on June 1 & August 3.**

## Historical Trip on the Lincoln Highway

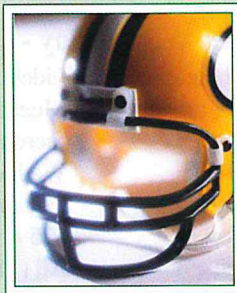
We'll travel this storied route stopping at interesting points along the way. Ride in comfort.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, **June 30**  
Time: 10 am - 9 pm  
Cost: \$15 / person  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5 / 14  
**Register by noon on June 29.**

## Door County, Wisconsin

We'll visit the various State Parks at one of the top ten vacations destinations in North America. Many other special activities including a visit to Lambeau Field.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday, **July 13** - Monday, **July 16**  
Time: Depart at 8 am  
Cost: \$195 / person & \$250 / couple  
Includes transportation, 3-night hotel accommodations, and park admissions.  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5 / 14  
**Register by noon on July 9.**



## Perch Fishing on Lake Erie

Join us on a trip to Lake Erie for some great perch fishing. We provide transportation, license, motel, charter boat, and bait.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday, **June 15** - Monday, **June 17**  
Time: Depart at 9 am & return at 7 pm  
Cost: \$190 / person & \$350 / couple  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5 / 14  
**Register by noon on June 1.**



## Night Fishing

We'll take you to a pond for some great fishing. Bring your own equipment and lantern.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays, **June 3** & **August 12**  
Time: 10 pm - Midnight  
Cost: \$6 / person  
Ages: 8 and up  
Min/Max: 5 / none  
**Register by noon on June 1 and August 10.**

## Shawnee Ramble

We are traveling to Southern Illinois to hike part of the River to River Trail. This is for the dedicated outdoor lovers. Transportation, food, tents, and packs included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Tuesday, **August 7** - Saturday, **August 11**  
Time: Depart at 8 am  
Cost: \$85 / person & \$150 / couple  
Ages: 10 and up (under 18 must have adult)  
Min/Max: 5 / 14  
**Register by noon on July 30.**



# Boundary Waters Trips

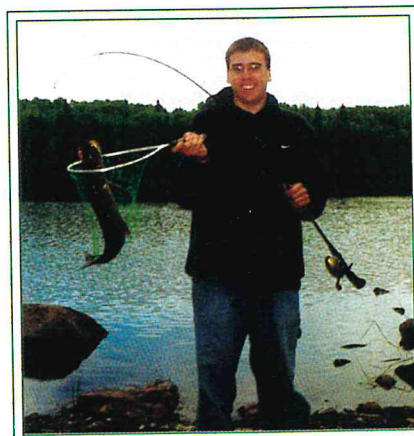
## Canoeing • Fishing • Hiking • Camping

The fall trip will be geared more towards the avid fisherman. We will be traveling to some of the hot spots at the time of the year when the fish are in the shallows putting on the last of the winter fat before a long winter freeze. Have you ever caught a 4-6 -pound smallmouth or a 26-inch walleye? Chances are very good on this trip. Learn how to portage (carry) your gear and canoe over rugged yet beautiful terrain from lake to lake. Capture the memories of bald eagles and a night sky not obscured by city lights. Sleep under the stars and sit around the campfire. The fall colors should be starting to turn and will add to an already spectacular landscape.

Dates: May 31 - June 6 and September 19 - 25

Fees: \$400 per person. Cost includes transportation to and from the boundary waters, canoe, paddles, packs, map, food at the boundary waters, tent, experienced guide, and permits.

Register by: May 23 & September 12 (\$400 due by registration deadline)



Min/Max: 4 / 8

Guides: Todd Tucker and Russell Brunner  
Both are CPR certified and trained in Wilderness First Aid by the Wilderness Medical Association

Itinerary: May 23/Sept. 12 Registration deadline  
May 23/Sept. 12 Required meeting 7pm/JP C  
May 31/Sept. 19 Leave Forest Preserve at 7 am. Arrive at boundary waters late evening.  
June 1/Sept. 20 Canoes in the water by 9 am.  
June 5/Sept. 25 Canoes out of water, return trip home. Arrive at Forest Preserve late evening.

These trips are of moderate experience level. There will be hiking between lakes, carrying canoes, setting up tents, and waters to navigate. For more information, please call Todd Tucker or Russell Brunner at 1-815-234-8535.

## *Don't let those negative thoughts make you miss a trip of a lifetime!*

*Interested? Questions? Not Quite Sure? Well, we have the answers!*

There will be an informational meeting on May 9 at 7 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center. You will be able to view a Power Point presentation, ask questions, talk to past participants, look at pictures, view the gear, and meet the guides.

If you can't make it to the scheduled meeting, please call Russell Brunner or Todd Tucker at 1-815-234-8535. Your questions will be answered and your mind put at ease. Don't pass up this once in a lifetime trip because you're not quite sure. Come find out more information and let us guide you through one of the most pristine places on earth!

**"I'm too old!"**

**"I'm not strong enough!"**

**"I'm not old enough!"**

**"It'll be too hard for me!"**



# Potpourri

## Birthday Parties



### Jarrett Prairie Center

Themes: Tea Party, Native Americans, Sky's the Limit, Goodness Snakes, Insects of Our World, and 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.

## New Additions



Stop by the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum and check out our newest additions, a gray fox and a live tiger salamander named Sally. The salamander is the official state amphibian and the gray fox is the official mammal of Ogle County. Donations for our museum are welcome. Please call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217 to donate items.

## Rare Bird Alert Hotline

The Byron Forest Preserve is hosting a "Rare Bird Alert" hotline. Call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 203 to hear updated reports or to leave a message about where, when, what, and how to spot a rarity that you've found.



## Health Awareness Classes Offered



**Good Health**

The Ogle County Health Department will be presenting the following topics at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron. These classes are free and open to everyone.

**Stress Management** - June 20 - 10:30 am

**Healthy Heart/Stroke Awareness  
Symptoms and Prevention** - August 22 - 10:30 am

**Flu & Cold Prevention** - November 14 - 10:30 am

## BioBlitz: Day of Discovery

Help count the living things in Anna Page Park, 3102 N. Springfield Ave., Rockford. This free event will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 8am-5:30pm and is sponsored by the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition. Please call 1-815-877-6100 for more information or visit [www.fourriver.org](http://www.fourriver.org) to register.

## 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.

## Car Show Coming This Fall!

We are working out the details with Cadwell Productions to host a car show at the Byron Forest Preserve near the Jarrett Prairie Center on Sunday, September 2nd. We hope this will be a huge, family event with lots to see and do! Mark your calendars and watch for details in the next issue of The Blaze and local media! If you would like to get involved by volunteering, please call 1-815-234-8535 x224.





# PrairieView Golf Club

## Men's Golf Association

The PrairieView Mens Golf Association continues to grow and prosper. Association members participate in various events throughout the season that include PrairieView's Match Play Championship, Club Championship, Interclub Matches with Aldeen Golf Club and Timber Pointe Golf Club, and numerous road trips to other golf courses.

At least one of the road trips each year includes a chartered bus. TPC at Deer Run, University Ridge Golf Course in Madison, and Weaver Ridge in Peoria have all been sites of past bus trips. The 2007 schedule of events promises to be more entertaining than ever.

The Men's Association is open to all male golfers 18 years and older. All events are handicapped and include all levels of golfers. If you are interested in joining the Men's Association, stop by the clubhouse and pick up a schedule of events.



## Make that good swing better!

### Junior Development Lessons & Parent/Child Lessons

Junior development lessons are designed to teach juniors the basic skills they will need to enjoy the game of golf.

Lessons will be in group format. The teacher to student ratio will be small in order to maximize one-on-one instruction. Lessons will begin in mid-May and run throughout the summer. The junior developmental lessons will be a series of six lessons for children ages 5-16. Classes are separated by age.

In addition to junior group lessons, PrairieView will once again offer parent/child lessons. The popular parent/child lessons are designed to give parents and children a chance to take lessons together in a group format.

### Adult Golf Lessons

Both group and individual golf lessons at PrairieView begin mid-April and continue through October. Individual lessons can be scheduled at any time by calling the PrairieView clubhouse at 234-4653. Group golf lessons will be available for both beginning and intermediate golfers and will begin Mid-May. Class size is limited to encourage a better student to teacher ratio. There are a variety of classes and lesson packages to choose from to fit the needs of all golfers.

If you would like more details on lesson programs or to schedule a lesson, stop by the clubhouse or call 1-815-234-4653.

## Junior Golf Fundraiser

The 12th Annual Junior Golf Fundraiser Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, June 16th. Once again, 100% of the money raised for this event will help support costs associated with our junior golf program and scholarship fund and the Byron High School Golf Team.

PrairieView Golf Club and the Byron Forest Preserve will continue to issue college scholarships for Byron High School seniors who have participated in the junior golf program and who support the junior golf fundraiser tournament. The cost of the tournament is \$65 per person (\$50 for PrairieView season pass holders). The entry fee includes lunch, prizes, entry into cash contests, and two free rounds of golf at PrairieView. Help support PrairieView's Junior Golf program and make sure you mark June 16th on your calendars.

## Junior Developmental League

The junior developmental league is designed to give juniors a chance to play golf with adult supervision. Both the professional golf staff at PrairieView and adult volunteers will help monitor play. Junior golfers aged 5-16 with some previous golfing experience are encouraged to join. The league is scheduled for Tuesday mornings, will run the entire summer, and begins June 12th. The cost of the league is \$30 for children with season passes and \$50 for children without season passes. We encourage parents to attend and volunteer. Registration forms are available at the clubhouse.

## Junior Tournaments

IJGA Junior Open	June 20th
Illinois PGA Pro/Junior	July 5th
Junior Club Championship/	July 19th
Ogle County Junior	
Parent/Junior	July 29th
Stewart Cup Matches	August 5th

In addition to the junior tournaments held at PrairieView, the junior golf program will provide transportation to the following local junior tournaments. The dates for these away tournaments have not yet been posted.

Doug Martz Memorial/Indian Oaks Country Club, Shabbona  
Rock River Invitational/Rock Falls Country Club, Rock Falls  
The Journal Standard/Park Hills Golf Course, Freeport  
Dixon Invitational/Dixon Country Club, Dixon  
Wolf Hollow Classic/Lena Golf Club, Lena  
Emerald Hill Junior/Emerald Hills, Sterling  
Shady Oaks Open/Shady oaks Country Club, Amboy  
Rockford Pro Am/Forest Hills Country Club, Rockford



## Birthday Parties



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# Potpourri

## 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.

## Restoring What Was...

The Forest Preserve's Restoration Department works very hard at restoring the District's properties. Restoration and management of our oak woodlands and prairies are important in preserving the natural resources of the District's properties. In addition to prescribed burns in specific preserve areas (see photo on page 21), invasive species management, rare species monitoring, and trails maintenance, we also completed work on several key initiatives:

**River Ridge Oak Savanna:** Removed invasive shrubs and aggressive tree species to benefit the reproduction of the native oak and hickory tree species. Hand broadcasted a native seed mix under the oak canopy.

**Nardi Hills Preserve:** Planted 35 acres of upland prairie as part of a long-term management plan to return the property to native prairie plant communities. More than 200 acres of the property has now been planted with a mix of prairie species. Invasive species management continues on the preserve and prescribed fire will serve as an important tool in managing the new preserve.

**Jarrett Prairie Preserve:** Worked countless hours on the removal of aggressive invasive species from our prairies. Collected more than 50 species of native prairie seeds and planted the seed in degraded preserve areas. Removed thousands of invasive shrubs from our prairies.

## 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!



## Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund Donation Coupon

I would like to donate the enclosed amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund so area children who need financial assistance will be able to participate in Byron Forest Preserve District programs and activities.

Please cut and mail this coupon with your check payable to the *Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund* to:

Ed Clift • Byron Forest Preserve • P O Box 1075 • Byron IL 61010





## Green Building: The Key to a Sustainable Environment

*By David Ingoldsby, Restoration Department Intern*

During the present day, new homes and businesses are twice as energy-efficient as they were 30-40 years ago. This is because of the advancements in green building techniques and technologies. Green building increases the efficiency of a building's use of water, energy, and building materials. Green building also emphasizes reducing building impacts on human health and the environment. The United States today is the world wide leader of pollution due to unsustainable building practices and resources usage. Green building practices are the key to a sustainable environment for the future. With the implementation of green building techniques the destruction of the environment will rapidly decrease. Some of the major benefits of green building are lower operating costs, reduced building maintenance and improvements to the quality of the environment.

Building design is the first thing to consider when constructing a new building. One must take into consideration the effects the building may have on the surrounding community. Building planning and design should try to keep as much of the existing environment intact as possible. By doing this, it insures that native plants and animal species will not be pushed out of the area. Designing a building around the existing landscape helps preserve the natural habitat. Having a building in its natural surroundings also keeps the area aesthetically pleasing. Another factor to take into consideration is water runoff. With proper runoff techniques, water is directed in ways in which it eliminates land erosion.

With the installation of cost efficient energy technologies, the United States could reduce its overall energy consumption by one-third. Designing a building so it uses natural lighting is one way of cutting down on energy consumption. Natural lighting can

help improve employee morale and production. Motion sensors are another tool which cuts the cost on energy because a room will only be lit when somebody is in it. Having lights with the ability to dim can help save energy costs because lights are not using as much electricity. Another way to save of energy is by replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 2/3 less energy and last up to 10 times longer.

Water efficiency is another benefit of green building. Plumbing in facilities can be designed to use recycled water for toilet flushing. Ultra low flush toilets and low flow shower heads can be installed to help conserve water as well. Water systems can be installed that collect rainwater and use it for irrigation purposes. Using recirculation systems for hot water distribution can lower energy costs because the water is not constantly being heated.

It is important for people to start realizing that the environment today is depleting at a very rapid rate. Green building techniques should be made mandatory for all new buildings that are constructed in the United States. Builders should be taking advantage of the latest technologies to help improve the environment as well as save energy. More government involvement needs to be done for the United States to feel the major impacts of green building. Green building is going to be the wave of the future because the earth has limited resources and the manufacturing/building of new products is becoming more expensive every day. More people need to start realizing if we do not begin to live in a more sustainable society, our resources will eventually run out.

Information Collected from:

U.S. Greenbuilding Council- [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) and  
Greener Buildings- [www.greenerbuildings.com](http://www.greenerbuildings.com)

## Forest Preserve Receives Grant

The Byron Forest Preserve District has been awarded a grant from the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department. The \$1,764 award will allow the Education Department to purchase tee shirts made from 100% recycled materials. We will distribute the shirts to patrons through various programs that promote the recycling of common household waste including American Recycles Day in November. The grant also helps the Forest Preserve promote its recycling station that accepts common household waste such as newspaper, cardboard, glass, and recyclable plastics.



*The Byron Forest Preserve's recycling station is located in the maintenance parking lot at 7993 North River Road in Byron and is open during daylight hours.*



# New Faces, Etc.

## Oak Savannas

*By Katie Schoenfeldt, Restoration Assistant*

Hello there, Blaze readers! Just wanted to give you an update on what's been going on in the Restoration Department at the Byron Forest Preserve. Most of the winter months have been dedicated to oak savanna restoration in the section of woods that runs parallel to River Road. We determined that this section of woods was a good candidate for savanna restoration after walking through the woods and observing the large number of mature oaks. This gave us a clue that a long time ago this area of woods would have been an oak savanna.

An oak savanna is an ecosystem that is dominated by large oaks and is geographically located between the prairies of the west and the deciduous forests of the east. The understory vegetation can be classified as a mosaic of plants that represent a continuum from full sun loving prairie plants to the shade tolerant forest plants.

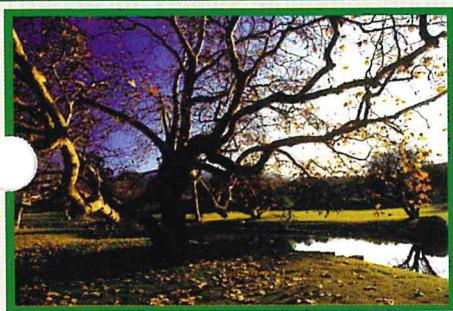
Less than .01% of the original 5.5 million acres of oak savanna plant communities remain. There is certain flora and fauna that require the oak savanna ecosystem to flourish. Our hope is that by opening up the canopy of the forest, we will not only get an increase in species diversity, but will also start to see an increase in oak regeneration.

In order for us to achieve a successful oak savanna restoration, we first had to remove and thin out the aggressive tree and shrub species that had grown up around the oaks. This is a very time consuming and labor intensive process. Then, we followed up with dispersing native seeds. Approximately 85 different plant species were added to the understory. The above was the hard part, now we must continue to manage the area throughout the seasons in order to try and stay ahead of the weeds and aggressive woody vegetation that will try to invade this site. This will be accomplished with the combined uses of fire, mechanical removal, and herbicide applications.

So, I hope that you'll decide to take a stroll through the river woods and check out the changes that have occurred throughout the winter.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding restoration projects, please

feel free to give us a call at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219. And, as always, anyone interested in volunteering their time should also contact -- we welcome the help!



## Welcome David!



Hello, my name is David Ingoldsby and I am the newest addition to the Byron Forest Preserve's Restoration Department. I am originally from Lake In The Hills but am currently staying with my parents in Kirkland.

I was hired to complete my senior professional practice internship. I started my internship at the beginning of January and will complete it by the first week of May. My

internship supervisor is Russell Brunner, Assistant Superintendent of Restoration.

I have always been interested in conservation ever since I took a Prairie Wetland class in high school. I am currently attending Illinois State University and will graduate in May with a Bachelors Degree in Parks and Recreation/Recreation Management. After graduation, I hope to get a job working for an outdoor recreational facility similar to the Forest Preserve.

I have acquired several new skills since I have begun working at the Forest Preserve. Helping out this year with the ice fishing program was a blast. I thought it was a huge success and would like to personally thank everyone who attended. I can't wait to see how the prairie will look once all of the snow melts and it starts to grow.

Everyone I've met at the Forest Preserve is extremely friendly and very welcoming and open to sharing their experiences and knowledge with me. I'm really looking forward to having a great rest of the semester working with the Restoration Department.



*Recent prairie burn at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Restoration Department staff Russell Brunner (facing fire) and Katie Schoenfeldt closely monitor the movement of the fire. For more information about other restoration efforts at the Prairie Preserve, see page 19, "Restoring What Was".*



# Volunteers

## 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 the opportunity to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop.

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 1-815-234-8535 x200.

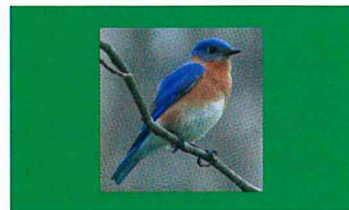
### Organized Groups

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 1-815-234-8535 x200.

## Bluebird Trails

### Volunteers Needed

Looking for interested individuals/families who would like to spend an hour or two per week throughout the summer monitoring one of our bluebird trails. This is an easy activity that involves walking a prairie trail, note taking, and observing these beautiful birds. Provides a unique opportunity to witness the life of a bluebird, up close and personal. If interested, contact Russell Brunner at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219.



## We need YOU!

### Volunteer Restoration Work Days

#### Saturday, May 12 • 9 am-Noon

Join the Restoration staff for a morning of woodland restoration work, removing the invasive plant, Garlic Mustard (right), from our oak woodlands. Along the way, we will identify spring wildflowers and bird species, and discuss ongoing restoration and management efforts throughout the preserve.



#### Saturday, June 16 • 9 am-Noon

Lend a hand in the fight against invasive species on the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. We will spend a couple of hours removing Sweet Clover (left) and other invasive species from the prairie remnants. We will also explore the early summer wildflower blooms, including Pale Purple Coneflowers and Cream Wild Indigo.



Please call Russell Brunner at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219 if you have any questions.



# Volunteers

## Volunteering is Grand!

By Joe Jonakin, Restoration Department Volunteer



Opportunities to volunteer abound at Byron Forest Preserve. There are inside activities such as woodworking, or the Tuesday morning work sessions at the Jarrett Center, or helping to maintain the buildings. There are also outside activities such as monitoring bluebird houses (in season) and prairie/savannah restoration (all year). One of the great advantages of

volunteering is that the work hours are extremely adjustable. There is no problem in asking the boss for vacation time; it's always there for the taking.

There are also opportunities to perform similar volunteer work for the National Park Service. A program is in place to assist our national parks called VIP (Volunteers-In-Parks). It is a huge program. In fiscal year 2005, 137,000 volunteers donated 5.2 million hours to our national parks. The VIP website ([www.nps.gov/volunteer/](http://www.nps.gov/volunteer/)) led me to an exciting possibility of working in one of our greatest national parks. I spend a lot of time here at the Forest Preserve working with the prairie and savannah restoration crew, where much of our effort is spent removing woody invasive species. Since I've become such an "expert" at brush removal, when I stumbled across an opportunity to apply my skills in a different setting, I jumped at the chance. Last November, I took some "vacation" from the Forest Preserve and participated in a grand adventure in the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon National Park Foundation sponsors weeklong backpacking trips into the Canyon, Spring and Fall, to control a woody Eurasian invasive, *Tamarix ramosissima* (common name, tamarisk or salt cedar). Tamarisk is a highly invasive tree along waterways in the American Southwest, including the Grand Canyon. While these waterways represent a tiny fraction of the desert landscape, they provide breeding habitat for more than half of southwestern bird species, and are used by almost two-thirds of all vertebrate species during some phase of life. Tamarisk is widespread along the Colorado River corridor and side canyons, displacing native plants and the animals that depend upon them. While it can probably never be eradicated, it can be controlled by volunteers like us.

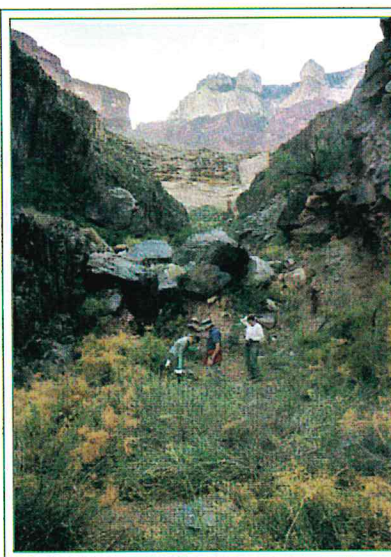
Qualifications required for these trips: 1) Ability and willingness to haul heavy packs (60 lbs. or so) up and down steep canyon trails. 2) Ability to share work, camp duties, and play with a diverse bunch of fellow crew members (one or two leaders and five or six other volunteers, typically). The Foundation provides the food and tools, volunteers provide the sweat. 3) Ability to thrive in wilderness conditions (with plenty of help from other crew members).

Rewards: 1) Provide a valuable service to the GCNP. According to the GCNP Foundation, to date, over 200,000 tamarisk trees have been removed from over 100 side canyons in the five years the volunteer program has been in place. Volunteers have donated over 20,000 hours toward this end.

2) Develop new friendships. Intense working and living conditions force you to become well acquainted and dependent upon your fellow workers. You will go into the Canyon as an assemblage of individuals, and come out as a closely-knit team.

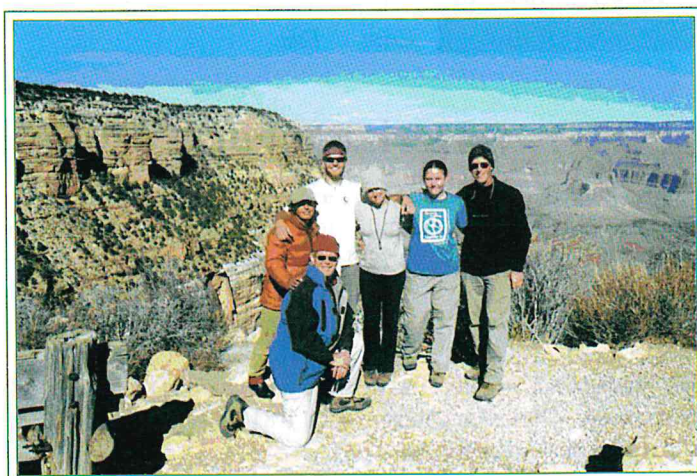
3) Be privileged to walk through some of the most beautiful and awe-inspiring country in the world. The vast majority of people who visit the Grand Canyon see it from the rims. A few make day trips down and up the more popular and accessible trails. Fewer still make one or two day backpacking trips into the Canyon. As a volunteer, you spend seven or eight days in the Canyon, hike off-trail, and see parts of the Canyon only a handful of people get to see.

If you would like more information you can visit the Grand Canyon volunteers web site at [www.gcvolunteers.org](http://www.gcvolunteers.org), or contact Todd Tucker or me at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 222.



*Cleaning out at Tamarisk Patch in Horn Creek Canyon.*

*"...over 200,000 tamarisk trees have been removed from over 100 side canyons in the five years the volunteer program has been in place"*



*The November crew after eight days in the Canyon.*



# Facilities

## PrairieView Golf Club

PrairieView Golf Club is a public, 18-hole bent grass championship golf course. Rated 4 stars by Golf Digest. This challenging course features bent grass tees, greens, and fairways. PrairieView also offers a full service practice facility, equipment rental, fully stocked pro shop, lessons, and handicap services. The newly remodeled clubhouse features "The Prairie Grass Pub" for your relaxing with your friends after a round of golf. The Prairie Grass Pub offers an extensive menu of delicious entrees and beverages. For more information and tee times, call 1-815-234-GOLF(4653).



## 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. Come check out the new "residents!"

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 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217 for more information.



## Stone Quarry Recreation Park

Stone Quarry Recreation Park has something for everyone! Many programs and activities are offered at Stone Quarry Recreation Park all year round. Located at 6845 German Church Road, Byron. Call 1-815-234-8900 for more information.



### Stone Quarry Park Amenities:

#### Indoor

Party Room - capacity 300

Arcade Room

Food Factory

61" & 55" Big Screen T.V.s

Billiards Table

Juke Box

Air Hockey

#### Outdoor

Miniature Golf Course - \$4

Batting Cages - \$1 or \$5

Indoor/Outdoor Skate Park - \$3

Water Splash Area - FREE

Sand Volleyball Pit - FREE

Picnic Shelters - \$25

Basketball Courts - FREE

Playgrounds - FREE

Horseshoe Pits - FREE

#### Group Outings

Birthday Parties

Company Picnics

Family Reunions

Graduation Parties

Day Camp Trips



May  
June  
July  
August

25

# Scout Badges, Etc.

**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 your coach must be present. Check out the new batting cage equipment at Stone Quarry! See the coupon on page 5!

## 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!**

## Badge Workshops

### Brownie Try-It

#### Animals

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 12  
Time: 1 - 3 pm  
Cost: \$5 / brownie  
Min/Max: 5 / 30

### Junior Girl Scout Badge

#### Sky Search

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, May 10  
Time: 7 - 9:30 pm  
Cost: \$5 / brownie  
Min/Max: 5 / 30

### Boy Scout Badge

#### Indian Lore

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, May 17  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$5 / scout  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

### Webelo Badge

#### Forester

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, May 24  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$5 / webelo  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

### Webelo Badge

#### Naturalist

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday, August 30  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$5 / webelo  
Min/Max: 5 / 25

### 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 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

## 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 1-815-234-8535 x200 to schedule your next outing with us.



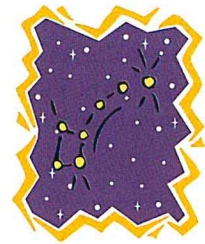


# Calendar of Events

## May

1, 3, 8  
1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
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26-28  
31-June 6

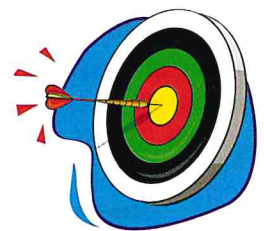
Morel Hunts - Ages 6+ - \$5/person - JPC  
Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO  
Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC  
Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop  
Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC  
Boundary Waters Trip Informational Meeting - FREE - 7pm - JPC  
Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshop (Sky Search) - \$5/scout - 7-9:30pm - JPC  
Middle School Dance - 6-8th grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ  
Ogle County Bird Count - FREE - 8am - JPC  
Volunteer Restoration Work Day - 9am-Noon - Maintenance Area  
Brownie Try-It Workshop (Animals) - \$5/brownie - 1-3pm - JPC  
Kid's Night Out - 3rd-5th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ  
Mother's Day at the Park - FREE (for moms) - Noon-5pm - SQ  
Boy Scout Badge Workshop (Indian Lore) - \$5/scout - 6-8pm - JPC  
BioBlitz - FREE - 8am-5:30pm - Anna Page Park, Rockford  
Customer Appreciation Day - FREE - SQ  
Webelo Badge Workshop (Forester) - \$5/webelo - 6-8pm - JPC  
Memorial Day Weekend Special - BOGO - SQ  
Boundary Waters Trip - See page 15 for details.



## June

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Seward Bluffs Trip - \$8/person - 5-8pm - JPC  
Middle School Dance - 6-8th Grade - \$4/person - 7-10pm - SQ  
Canoeing the Rock - \$25/canoe - 6-9pm - Across from HF  
Night Fishing - Ages 8+ - \$6/person - 10pm-Midnight - JPC  
Summer Camp Begins - See page 6 for details.  
Public Skyviewing - Free - Dark-three hours after dark - WO  
Tuesday Morning Volunteers - 8:30-11:30am - JPC  
Canoeing the Kishwaukee River - \$25/canoe - 5-8pm - Across from HF  
Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11am - Maintenance Woodshop  
Wildflower Walkabout - FREE - 6pm - Maintenance Area  
Night Hike - \$2/person - 9pm - JPC  
Kids Night Out - Incoming 3rd-6th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ  
Beekeeping Workshop - \$2/person - 2-4pm - JPC  
Summer Concert (Bluegrass Reunion Band) - FREE - 7pm - HF  
Adventure Club Begins - See page 7 for details.  
3-D Archery Fun Shoots - Ages 6+ - \$10/person - JPC  
Matt Johnson Mini-Golf Fundraiser - \$15/person - 5-8pm - SQ  
Midnight Madness - 5-8th Grade - \$5/person - 6:30-Midnight - SQ  
Perch Fishing Trip - Adults - \$190/person or \$350/couple - JPC  
Volunteer Restoration Work Day - FREE - 9am-Noon - Maintenance Area  
Father's Day at the Park - FREE (for dads) - Noon-5pm - SQ  
IJGA Junior Open Golf Tournament - Call 815-234-GOLF for details.  
Health Awareness Class (Stress Management) - FREE - 10:30am - JPC  
Raspberry & Blackberry Pickin' - \$3/family - 6-9pm - JPC  
High School Dance - 9-12th Grade - \$5/person - 8-11pm - SQ  
Summer Concert (Patchouli) - FREE - 7pm - HF  
Sean Considine Celebrity Cancer Classic - Call 815-234-GOLF for details.  
Raspberry & Blackberry Pickin' - \$3/family - 6-9pm - JPC  
Lincoln Highway Trip - Adults - \$15/person - 10am-9pm - JPC





# Calendar of Events

## July

3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31

3, 10, 17, 24, 31

4, 11, 18, 25

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13-15

13-16

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21-22

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29

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

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

Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop

Illinois PGA Pro/Junior Tournament - Call 815-234-GOLF for details.

Butterfly Count - FREE - 9-11am - JPC

3-D Archery Fun Shoots - Ages 6+ - \$10/person - 6-9pm - JPC

ByronFest Weekend Special - BOGO - SQ

Door County, Wisconsin Trip - Adults - \$195/person or \$\$250/couple - JPC

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

Junior Club Championship/Ogle Co. Jr. Tourn. - Call 815-234-GOLF for details

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

Post ByronFest Family FunFest - 1/2 price with leftover tickets - SQ

Summer Concert (Stan Reese Take Four) - FREE - 7pm - HF

Kid's Night Out - Incoming 3rd-6th Grade - \$5/person - 5:30-8pm - SQ

Summer Concert (Jimmy's Bavarians) - FREE - 7pm - HF

Parent/Junior Golf Tournament - Call 815-234-GOLF for details.



## August

, 15, 22, 29

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4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28

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7, 14, 21, 28

7-11

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Wednesday Morning Volunteers - 9-11 am - Maintenance Woodshop

Seward Bluffs Trip - \$8/person - 5-8pm - JPC

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

3-D Archery Fun Shoots - Ages 6+ - \$10/person - 6-9pm - JPC

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

Stewart Cup Matches - Call 815-234-GOLF for details.

Family Miniature Golf Tournament - \$10/family - 4pm - SQ

Summer Concert (Gospel & Bluegrass) - FREE - 4-7pm - HF

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

Shawnee Ramble Trip - Ages 10+ - \$85/person or \$150/couple

High School Dance - 9-12th Grade - \$5/person - 8-11pm - SQ

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

Summer Concert (Soul Notes) - FREE - 7pm - HF

Night Fishing - Ages 8+ - \$6/person - 10pm-Midnight - JPC

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

Canoeing the Kishwaukee River - \$25/canoe - 5-8pm - Across from HF

Health Awareness Class (Healthy Heart) - FREE - 10:30am - JPC

Meet the Preschool Teachers - 6-8:30pm - JPC

Canoeing the Rock - \$25/canoe - 6-9pm - Across from HF

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

## September

2

5

Car Show - Call 815-234-8535 ext. 224 for details.

Boundary Waters Trip - See page 15 for details.



815-234-8535 • [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)

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

HF=Heritage Farm • WO=Weiskopf Observatory



# Experience Counts!

Byron Bank is very blessed to have an extremely great group of employees who have been with Byron Bank for many years. This creates an atmosphere of knowledgeable professionals who go the extra mile to help our customers!



Ben Barton  
31 years



Rhonda Hambley  
27 years



Gail Barton  
23 years



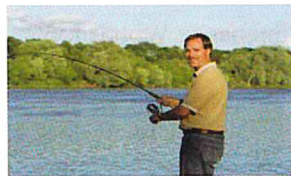
Deb Leshner  
23 years



Gene Hartzell  
18 years



Joanne Carr  
18 years



Mike Kohlstedt  
17 years



Brian Stukenburg  
15 years



Lavonne Berkeley  
16 years



Employees who have been with Byron Bank at least 10 years!



## Byron Bank



Byron Forest Preserve District  
7993 North River Road  
PO Box 1075  
Byron, IL 61010

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