

The Blaze

Byron Forest Preserve District

2010 Fall/Winter Issue

JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER

Mark Your Calendars!

Halloween on the Prairie ~ October 24

Holiday Gift Sale ~ November 6

Inside this issue...

- Trips
- Preschool
- Scout Badge Workshops
- Middle School Dances



Director's Message



Wow, another summer has flown by and the kids are soon to be back in school, the fall colors will bestow the early makings of winter. The District has had a good summer and has many upcoming fall/winter programs to enjoy.

The District would like some help from our patrons, we are always looking to protect the natural land within our District. If you know of any such land or need some help identifying such areas, please feel free to call me at 1-815-234-8535 x222. It does not matter how large or small a parcel of land is if it has natural value. If you think it should be protected, we would love to come take a look. At that point, we can either help you protect and manage it; or, if you're interested, a possible purchase on our part could be arranged if the District felt it to be feasible and in the District's best interest to buy and protect.

I recently revisited Aldo Leopold's book "A Sand County Almanac" and came across an interesting section that puts a value on what the Byron Forest Preserve does when it purchases and protects the vital land in our region. It reads, *"One basic weakness in a conservation system based wholly on economic motives is that most members of the land community have no economic value. Wildflowers and songbirds are examples. Of the 22,000 higher plants and animals native to Wisconsin, it is doubtful whether more than 5 percent can be sold, fed, eaten, or otherwise put to economic use. Yet these creatures are members of the biotic community, and if (as I believe) its stability depends on its integrity, they are entitled to continuance."* The continuance of the plants and animals in our community are important for so many reasons and we need everyone's help to keep them protected. The Byron Forest Preserve District is committed to protect our sacred natural resources we all love and enjoy.

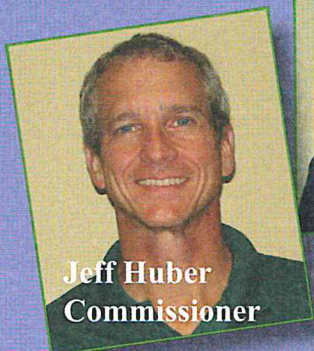
Todd Tucker, Executive Director

OUR Mission & Board

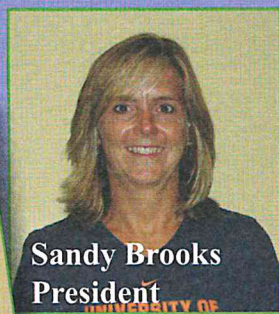
Mission Statement

Preservation ~ Education ~ Recreation

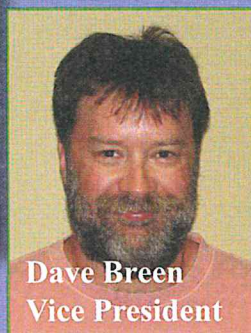
The mission of the Byron Forest Preserve District is to provide for Preservation of Open Space/Natural Resources, provide Education concerning our Natural Environment/Heritage, provide Recreational Opportunities and Enterprise Operations that are consistent with our Agency goals.



Jeff Huber
Commissioner



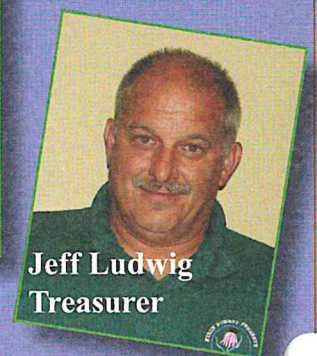
Sandy Brooks
President



Dave Breen
Vice President



Denny Crivatta
Secretary



Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer

Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners

General Info

3

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:

Labor Day, September 6
Columbus Day, October 11
Veteran's Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Day, November 25
Thanksgiving Friday, November 26
Christmas Eve, December 24
Christams Day, December 25

Administrative Offices are closed:

Labor Day, September 6
Columbus Day, October 11
Veteran's Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Day, November 25
Thanksgiving Friday, November 26
Christmas Eve, December 24
Christams Day, December 25

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 his/her behavior or language is deemed inappropriate by staff or endangers the safety of others or causes property damage.

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

Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 ~ www.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 located at 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois.

Board of Commissioners

Sandy Brooks, President
Dave Breen, Vice President
Jeff Ludwig, Treasurer
Denny Cravatta, Secretary
Jeff Huber, Commissioner

Who to Contact: General inquiries

1-815-234-8535 ext. 200 or raul@byronforestpreserve.com

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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.

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4

Special Events

Halloween on the Prairie

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite! We'll have haunted hayrides, face painting, spooky games, straw maze, kids crafts, snake wrangler, and more! Special egg hunt begins at 3 pm. Affordable concession stand will be open too! Co-sponsored by the Byron Park District.

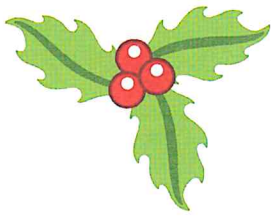
**Sunday, October 24
Noon - 4 pm
Free admission.
Fee for games.**



We need your help!

Local groups or just a few friends are needed to set up scary scenes along our haunted hayride route. Have fun scaring all of the riders. It's also a great fundraiser. Lots of prize money will be awarded and all groups get a participation bonus. Call Richie at 1-815-234-8535 x217 for more information and to choose your spot along the route.

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Special Events

5

19th Annual Holiday Gift Sale & Hunting/Fishing Expo



Saturday, November 6, 2010
9 am - 4 pm



You'll find that great one-of-a-kind gift for that special person in your life at this year's Annual Holiday Gift Sale. With over 30 crafters and vendors, there's a wide variety of unique crafts such as quilts, clothing, jewelry, candles, flower arrangements, ceramics, decorations, baskets, birdhouses, furniture, and much more! Along with crafters, vendors will also offer items such as Tupperware, Gold Canyon Candles, Lia Sophia Jewelry, and many more! We'll also have vendors selling hunting and fishing items.

Bring your children to have breakfast with Santa from 9-11 am. All believers can visit with him and tell him everything they want for Christmas. We'll provide donuts, juice, and milk. Bring your cameras to capture this awesome memory!

We'll also be giving away door prizes throughout the day. The prizes will be items donated by the crafters and vendors.

Admission to the event is free. The Jarrett Prairie Center is accessible to the physically challenged. An affordable concession stand and bake sale will be open all day.

Parents can shop while the youngsters learn about their heritage in the natural history museum at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information about the Gift Sale, please call Michelle at 1-815-234-8535 x224.

Vendors and Crafters Needed!

There are still booth spaces available.

The booth fees are \$35 for an 8'x10' booth and
\$45 for an 8'x12' booth.

Call Michelle @ 1-815-234-8535 x224
if you're interested in reserving a booth.



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Fall Preschool

Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are geared toward 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared toward older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least 4 years old to attend the three-day class. They must be at least 3 years old to attend the two-day class. Children must be potty trained. Immunization records are required. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year. Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 Ages: 3-5 years
 When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
 Time: 9-11:30 am or 1-3:30 pm
 Min/Max: 6 / 20 - M/W/F & 6 / 14 - TU/TH
 Cost: \$90/month-M/W/F & \$75/month-TU/TH
 Registration is ongoing throughout the year.



Meet the Teachers - August 18 - 5:30-7 pm

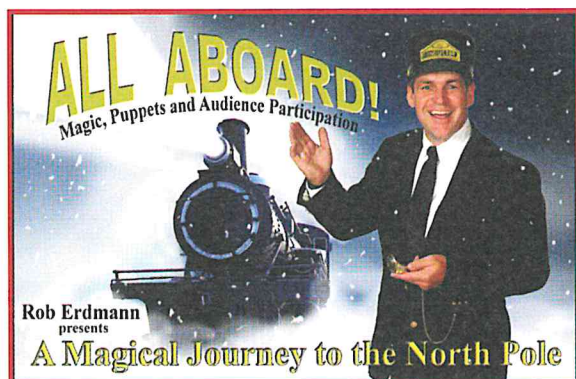
Students and parents enrolled in our preschool program are encouraged to come and have treats and become familiar with your teachers and the classroom.

Preschool Parent Orientation - August 26 - 6 pm

Parents come and learn all about policies, procedures, and other facts about preschool.

FREE Kids Concerts

Sponsored by Exelon ~ Jarrett Prairie Center ~ 3 pm



Critter Camp - November 13

Come and see exotic pets and learn why they may not be a great idea.

Polar Express - December 11

Come and see Rob Erdman perform this interactive show.

Canoeing the Rock Holiday Edition

All equipment provided on this fun outing. Pre-registration required.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm
When: Monday, Oct. 11
Thursday, Nov. 11

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Cost: \$30/canoe

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 3 canoes/12 canoes

Register by noon on 10/8 & 11/10.

NRA Deer Hunting Clinic

Earn a certificate and patch all about deer hunting. This is good for the beginner or the seasoned hunter.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays

September 18 & 25

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Cost: \$20/person
(includes book)

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 10 / 20

Register by noon on September 17.

Fossil Hunt

Our quarry will be open most of the day with knowledgeable staff to help you dig up and identify fossils! Stay as long as you like--we'll have a golf cart there to take the heavy loads back to the parking lot for you. We've found alot of great fossils lately--really big cephalopods, mineral-filled horn corals, and lots of other treasures!

Where: Park at Stone Quarry and follow the signs (a short walk)

When: Sat., Sept. 25

Time: 10 am - 4 pm
(come anytime)

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on September 22.

Midnight Fishing

Let's catch fish on the golf course pond. Bring your own equipment.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Friday, August 27

Friday, November 5

Time: 10 pm-Midnight

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: 10 & up

Min./Max.: 5 / 50

Register by noon on 8/25 & 11/4.



Insects of Our World Four Rivers Nature Jaunt

Catch and identify insects with nets and jars.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Thursday, August 26

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: Free

Ages: Families

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on August 25.



Hunter Education

This 3-day class covers ethics, firearms, and archery.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Mon., Wed., Fri.

Aug. 30, Sept. 1 & 3

Dec. 6, 8, 10

Time: 6 - 9 pm (M & W)

6 - 10 pm (Fri.)

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

(must be able to pass a written test)

Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 8/29 & 12/6.

Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Sundays,

Sept. 12, Oct. 10

Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 3 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Snowman Building Competition

Gear up for the winter and show us you remember how to construct a snowman! This event includes hot chocolate and fantastic prizes (and of course, the pride of knowing you have the best snowman around)!

Where: Stone Quarry

When: Sat., Dec. 11

Time: 1 - 3 pm

Cost: \$5

Ages: 6 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on December 8.



Saving Our Sand Prairies

By Austin Webb, Restoration Technician

For an outdoor enthusiast, hiking through an Illinois sand prairie can make you feel like you are very far away from home. Vegetation in these unique areas grows sparsely atop the flats and ridges of pure sand, creating unusually large pockets of bare ground. Native plants have adapted different ways of coping with the dry conditions of these areas. Many plants in sand prairies have “hairs” on their stems and leaves, others have very thick leaves that store fluids, and many people are surprised to find out there is even a cactus native to Illinois. Some of the animal life is just as amazing, as these areas provide habitat to tortoises, burrowing mammals, many species of snakes, and a few types of lizards, including one lizard that is legless!

Unfortunately, as with many native Illinois ecosystems, sand prairies are extremely rare, with most not occurring in their original form. To bring back the beauty and diversity of these areas, brush removal is often necessary along with reintroducing the natural component of fire. Two acres of our main preserve located in the northwest corner was a degraded sand prairie up until last year. With the help of our lone restoration volunteer, the Forest Preserve was able to restore two acres of this unique and eye-catching habitat. Due to the ability of sand to preserve native seed in the soil, we already have many native wildflowers blooming there and encourage you to hike out and view the fruits of our labor!



**Prickly
Pear
Cactus**

Badgers

By Tamika Willstead, Restoration Assistant



Badgers are very secretive animals that are native to North America and to Illinois. They are the largest member of the weasel family. The badger's bodies are wide with a flat back and short stocky legs with long front claws. Adult badgers measure 25-35 inches with a short furry tail and can weigh up to 35 lbs as an adult. But don't mistake their size for how fast they can run, they can run between 10 and 15 mph. They range in color from grey to a yellowish brown with silver tints but all have the distinctive white stripes on the top of their heads. A male is a “boar”, a female a “sow”, and a young badger is a “cub”. The badger lives in a burrow. The burrows are found in open places including prairies and badgers prefer sandy soils. They will live in open woodlands if the soil is right.

Badgers were once common in the northern three quarters of Illinois. But as Illinois was developed, the settlers cultivated the prairies and killed the badgers due to the burrows they would leave. The cattle and horses could step into the holes and injure themselves. Badgers were nearly wiped out by the late 1800's. But the population recovered by the 1950's and their range has even dipped down into southern Illinois. They have even been sighted at the Byron Forest Preserve.

The badger is a solitary animal except when mating and rearing young. It also has an excellent sense of hearing and smell. It will prey on mainly rodents, ground squirrels, wood chucks, moles, rabbits, ground nesting birds, and even a woodchuck. The badger will dig into the burrows of these animals and catch them underground.

Forest succession and encroachment into grasslands is reducing the habitat of the badger, an animal vital in controlling rodent populations. The badger is a nocturnal mammal but occasionally may be active during the day. They are not true hibernators but do spend a majority of their time sleeping during the winter. Practices that enhance or create prairie habitat are good for the badgers.

The Night skies, Etc.

9

Hooooters & Shooters

Gather with us as we explore the woods for owls and watch the meteors fly in the sky.



Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, October 8
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on October 7.

Fall Constellations

Relax under the night skies and watch our stars form pictures.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, November 5
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on November 4.



*Do you have an idea for a program or event for the Byron Forest Preserve, PrairieView Golf Club, or Stone Quarry Park?
Call 815-234-8535 x200.*

Lunar Eclipse

Relax under the night skies and watch our closest neighbor turn dark.



Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Mon., Dec. 20
Time: Midnight - 2 am
Cost: \$2 / person or \$10 / family
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on Dec. 19.



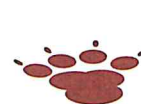
Winter Tracks:

What's in the Woods?

We'll take a hike to find how animals are preparing for winter. Which ones are going to hibernate? Which ones will stay awake? We'll make our own stamped tracks and warm up with hot chocolate before heading out into the woods.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sat., Dec. 11
Time: 10 am - Noon
Cost: Free
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 8.



Homeschool Classes Offered

Art Through The Ages

Each week, we will connect an art project to something in history and culture, such as DaVinci's natural history illustrations, Egyptian mythology, or Javanese fabric batik. All skill levels will be able to participate and contribute. Projects are geared toward building skills in core areas of visual arts but also designed so that every student can work to his or her own ability. Parents are always welcome to stay with the class at no charge. Bring a sack lunch and stay for the natural history class to follow!

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Sept. 13 - Oct. 25
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$8 / week or \$25 / month
Ages: 6-14
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by 4:30 on the Wed. before.

Hands (and feet) on Nature

Each week, we will learn about an aspect of nature and take a hike to experience it for ourselves. Subjects might range from the water cycle to spiders and insects or to the Ice Age in Illinois. Activities are geared toward all ages, and extra materials are available for older students. We will go outside except in the worst weather, so dress appropriately, please! Parents are always welcome to stay with the class at no charge.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Sept. 13 - Oct. 25
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$8 / week or \$25 / month
Ages: 6-14
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by 4:30 on the Wed. before.

10 Trips, Etc.



Hummingbird Festival

Come and learn all about these amazing creatures at Starved Rock State Park.
 Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr
 When: Sunday, August 22
 Time: 10 am - 3 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person
 Ages: All
 Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Register by noon on 8/20.

Mississippi River Quilt Shop Hop

We'll travel a very scenic route to visit great fabric and quilt shops along the Mississippi River in LeClaire, Clinton, Fulton, Belleville, Galena, and Dubuque. We'll eat lunch in LeClaire and dinner in Galena--great spots for dining!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr
 When: Sat., Nov. 6
 Time: 8 am - 7 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person & \$15 / couple
 Ages: All
 (under 18 must be with an adult)
 Min./Max.: 5 / 14
Register by noon on 10/30.

\$\$\$ Casino Trip \$\$\$



Feelin' lucky?!
 Well, here's your opportunity to capitalize on it! We will

be taking a charter bus and heading to Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, Iowa for a fun-filled day of pulling slots, rolling dice, or whatever floats your boat. The Diamond Jo buffet lunch is included in your cost.

Where: Stone Quarry
 When: Sat., Sept. 25
 Time: 10 am
 Cost: \$20 / person
 Ages: 21 and up
 Min./Max.: 35 / 55
Register and pay by 9/10.

Stone Quarry Has WiFi!

Stone Quarry Park now offers free wireless internet access. Bring your kids out to the park for some fun while you catch up on work projects or finish personal business.

It's the last one of the season!
FREE Summer Concert
 Heritage Farm Stage ~7 pm



Backroads Trio
 Sunday, August 22



Meet the Eagles

We're headed to the Mississippi River to view bald eagles in Bellevue, Iowa.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, December 12
Time: 8 am - 2 pm
Cost: \$10 / person or \$15 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on December 8.

Museum of Science & Industry Trip

Join us as we head to Chicago to visit this amazing museum. Museum admission not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wed., Dec. 15
Time: 9 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or \$20 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on December 6.

Snake Migration

Shawnee National Forest

Join us to discover dozens of reptiles and amphibians as they make their journey across LaRue Road to their winter homes. Venomous and endangered species may be encountered.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday - Monday
October 16 - 18
Time: Depart at 10 am
Cost: \$225 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Register by noon on 10/4.



Indy Trip

We're going to Indiana to visit the world's largest children's museum and their art museum. Transportation and hotel included. Kid's museum admission not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday - Sunday
November 6 - 7
Time: Depart at 10 am.
Cost: \$225/room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on October 22.

Lake Erie Perch Trip

We'll load up on a professional charter in pursuit of our limit of yellow perch.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wednesday - Friday
September 8 - 10
Time: Depart at 10 am.
Cost: \$275 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 11

Register by noon on August 23.

Angelic Organics Farm

This incredible trip is great for families! We will tour the farm--an example of community supported agriculture--and then pick veggies for a salad, milk goats, and make cheese, and do a little helpful work in the fields. Angelic Organics is a wonderful place and their lessons are ones we (and the Earth) could all learn and profit by.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 9
Time: 9 am - 4 pm
Cost: \$25 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 11 / 14
Register by noon on Sept. 24.

Trip to Kenosha, WI



There are so many things to do, our day will be pleasantly packed! We'll start with a free tour of the Jelly Belly distribu-

tion center (on an indoor train) and then visit the HarborMarket--a huge farmer's market with live music, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, food, produce, fine art, and handmade crafts. From there, we'll hitch a ride on the streetcar to get a scenic view of Lake Michigan and make a short stop in the downtown and business areas. Finally, we'll head to Mars' Cheese Castle, one of the top-rated cheese shops in Wisconsin! They've got a restaurant/bar and microbrewery, meats, breads, and of course, lots and lots of cheese. All events are free. You are responsible for your meals (plenty available at the HarborMarket or downtown for lunch; sandwiches and burgers are available at Mars' Cheese Castle).



Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Saturday, October 2
Time: 8 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$10 / person & \$15 / couple
Ages: All
(under 18 must be with an adult)
Min./Max.: 5 / 14
Register by noon on Sept. 24.

~ Brownie Badges ~

Art To Wear

Paint faces, decorate shirts, make bracelets and jewelry! We'll supply the shirts and all of the materials.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Friday, October 1
Time: Noon - 3 pm
Cost: \$10/Brownie
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on September 28.

Stitch It Together

We will learn the basics of sewing and embroidery for this badge. We'll also make a cute and tiny little stuffed creature to take home!

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Sunday, October 17
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$8/Brownie
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on October 13.

Water Everywhere

We'll learn about the water cycle and then travel to the river to examine the many things that live there!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Sunday, September 19
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$8/Brownie
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on September 15.

Watching Wildlife

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Thurs., Sept. 23
Time: 5 - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$8/Brownie
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on September 20.

Numbers and Shapes

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Thursday, October 21
Time: 5 - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$8/Brownie
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on October 18.

Do you need a specific badge?

Just let us know. Call Janet at

1-815-234-8535 x232.



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Badge Workshops

13

Junior Girl Scout Badges

~~ Sky Search ~~

Learn about the stars, hear about the constellations, and look through our telescope to earn this badge.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Friday, October 1
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$8/scout
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on September 29.

~~ Rocks Rock! ~~

We love rocks! Learn about the different kinds and even make your own to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Sunday, October 10
Time: Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$8/scout
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on October 6.

~~ Finding Your Way ~~

Make maps, walk the trails, and learn how to use a compass to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.
When: Wed., Nov. 3
Time: 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Cost: \$8/scout
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on November 1.

~~ Jeweler ~~

Make your own beads and jewelry to earn this badge.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Tuesday, December 7
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$8/scout
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8/20

Register by noon on December 3.

Webelo Badges

Forester

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday,
November 4
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7/Webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5/30

Register by noon on November 3.

Naturalist

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday,
December 16
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7/Webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5/30

Register by noon on December 15.



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Boy Scout Badges

Forestry

Where: Jarrett Center
When: Friday,
October 15
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7/scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on 10/14.

Indian Lore



Where: Jarrett Center
When: Friday,
November 12
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7/scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on 11/10.

Astronomy

Where: Jarrett Center
When: Friday,
December 17
Time: 5 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7/scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5/20

Register by noon on 12/16.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Middle School Dances

Of course, there are middle school dances this fall! Mark these dates on your calendar and join your friends, DJ Ryan from Sound Productions and the Stone Quarry Crew for some fun!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Fridays
 Sept. 17, Oct. 15 & 29,
 Nov. 5 & 19, Dec. 3 & 17
 Time: 7-10 pm
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: Middle School

Midnight Madness

Stone Quarry will be open until midnight, so come out and partake in some late night skateboarding, mini-golf, and other games.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Nov. 13, Dec. 11
 Time: 8 pm - Midnight
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: 6th-12th grade

Free Mini-Golf

for Grandparents Day

Grandmothers and grandfathers get free mini-golf! Bring your grandchildren for a fun day at the park!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Sunday, Sept. 12
 Time: 1 - 5 pm
 Cost: Free (grandparents)
 Ages: All

Tumbling Class

Are you interested in learning the art of tumbling? Tumbling for beginners through advanced, ages 6 and up. We will open a tot class for ages 3-5 with adequate interest. We offer small class sizes, generally 4 students per class to ensure quality mat time and instructions. We strive to build strength while instilling self confidence.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Tues. & Thurs.
 Time: 4 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$12/hour,
 \$48/mo. (4 classes)
 \$60/mo. (5 classes)
 \$10/2nd class/week
 \$10/sibling
 Ages: 6 and up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 Registration, call 815-316-0034.

Stunt and Cheer Class

This class is for individuals interested in learning and advancing their cheering and stunt skills. You must be currently enrolled in an All the Wright Moves Tumbling Class in order to take this class.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Wednesday nights
 (all year round)
 Time: 4 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person / week
 Ages: 7 & up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 1-815-391-3999

Paintball Play Days

Let's Get Dirty!

Stone Quarry is sponsoring Winstead Outdoors in an effort to provide affordable paintball opportunities for individuals of the Ogle County area! We have three awesome fields to choose from and will supply all the gear needed to play! Our price includes admission for two games, 200 rounds of paint, helmets with eye protectors, neck protectors, chest protectors, one tank of CO2, and a paintball marker (gun). Extra paint and CO2 are available for more games at a minimal fee. We also offer group rates for private parties and corporate outings.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Sundays
 Sept. 19 & Oct. 10
 Time: Noon-5 pm
 Cost: \$25/person
 (\$15/person if you have
 your own equipment)
 Ages: 10 and up

Dance Class

Do you love to dance or want to learn how? Have you ever dreamed of being in your favorite stage show? Then this dance program is just for you! Classes include tap, ballet, jazz, and musical theater dance. These classes are for all levels of dance, from beginners to experienced dancers.

Registration:

Monday, August 16 - 5-7 pm

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Monday nights
 beginning Sept. 13 thru May
 Time: 3 - 7 pm
 Cost: TBA
 Ages: 3-18
 Instructor: Heather Krick,
 Stage Door Performing Arts Studio

Kid Zone

This program is perfect for moms and dads who are looking for a little free time and for kids who are looking for some fun! Featuring activities, games, prizes, and fun in the park. Pizza and pop provided. Extra money needed for games and other concession items.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 18
 Time: 5:30 - 9:30 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person
 Ages: 6 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program.

Haunted House Field Trip

So, you say you're not afraid of ghosts...Get your friends and join some of the Stone Quarry staff on the bus as we travel to South Beloit. This is where we will challenge our inner strength and face some of the scariest legends known to man. Can you handle it? Are you REALLY not afraid? Sign up and we will see!! R.I.P. Productions and L.A.C. Recreation have joined forces again to bring you *The Screamatorium*, *The Haunted Barn*, and *The Blood Creek Haunted Hay Ride*. Three separate events at the same location. Choose one or two, or, you can experience all 3! Pick up and drop off at Stone Quarry; parking is also available. Registration is required by Wednesday, October 20. Call 815-234-8900 to register today!

When: Saturday, October 23

Where: Meet at Stone Quarry/Depart at 6:30 pm

Ages: 13 and up

Cost: TBA - please call

Time: 6:30 - 10:30 pm

Min/Max: 15/30

Register by Wednesday, October 20.

#1 Haunted Attraction!!

Stone Quarry Hours

August 30 - May 1

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays~4-7pm

Tuesdays/Thursdays~4-8pm

Saturdays~11am-5pm

Sundays~1-5pm

No School Days/Half Days

Fri, Sept. 2 - open Noon-9pm

Mon, Sept. 6 - 11am-5pm

Fri, Oct. 1 - Noon-7pm

Fri, Oct. 8 - 11am-7pm

Mon, Oct. 11 - 11am-5pm

Wed, Oct. 20 - 2-7pm

Thurs, Oct. 21 - 2-9pm

Fri, Nov. 5 - Noon-7pm

Thurs, Nov. 11 - 11am-9pm

Wed, Nov. 24 - 11am-7pm

Thurs, Nov. 25 - CLOSED

Fri, Nov. 26 - 11am-7pm

Christmas Break Hours

December 20-23 - 11am-7pm

December 27-30 - 11am-7pm

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

Junk in the Trunk (Fall Cleaning Sale)

Tired of staring at all that useless stuff cluttering up your garage? Is stuff falling out of your storage closets that you haven't used in years? How about your husband's old set of golf clubs that are accumulating more spider webs than double bogeys...well, bring it all out to Stone Quarry and see if someone else can find a use for it. We will be renting out parking stalls and tables for your convenience to try and sell all that STUFF! You may bring your own tables for setup or rent some of ours. And, the concession kitchen will be open all day!

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Sat., Sept. 4

Time: 8 am - 2 pm

Cost: \$10 / parking stall
\$5 / table - if needed

Ages: All

BMX Jam Session & Bike Contest

Grab your gear and come on out for Stone Quarry's First Annual BMX contest and jam session! There are two classes available for entry, beginner and amateur. The contest is based on best run, which will be decided by a panel of judges. Each participant will have 45 seconds to complete their run. Following the contest will be a best Freestyle Trick contest. When all the contests are complete, there will be an open jam session for all participants. Prizes will be awarded to best Freestyle Trick and the best overall run. You must be registered by 12:30 pm the day of the competition.

Where: Stone Quarry Skate Park

When: Saturday, August 14

Times: Registration-11:30am-12:30pm

Warm up - 12:30-1pm

Contest - 1 pm sharp

Cost: \$10/person

Ages: 10 and up

Twisted Tie Dyes

Are your kids looking to add some color to their wardrobe? Tired of looking at the same old boring, gray stained t-shirts?

Well, bring your kids out to the park for some fun tie dying t-shirts. We will be our own fashion designers, and will be making all different colored t-shirts from scratch. T-shirts will be provided for each participant. Pizza and pop included.



Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Fridays
Sept. 24 & Dec. 10

Saturdays
Oct. 16 & Nov. 20
Time: Fridays - 6-8 pm
Saturdays - Noon-2pm

Cost: \$12 / person

Ages: 6 & up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

~~ Customer Appreciation Week - Free Golf - October 18-22 ~~



Making Our Beds

By Steve Storz, Golf Course Superintendent

A decision was made in the spring of 2009 to begin rejuvenation on PrairieView Golf Club's landscape beds. The first step was to bring back the original landscape designer, Cindy Storz, to consult in the refurbishment of the deteriorated beds. Step two was the hiring of a landscape intern studying at Kishwaukee College. Shannon Godbey, along with Cindy, began to attack the problems of the neglected beds. Much progress was made. **(Photo #2)**

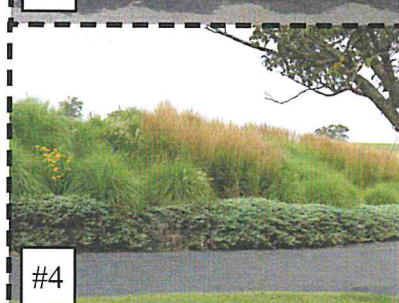
In 2010, the board approved funds to move a step further. Money was approved for plant and structural materials and hiring of additional interns. In the spring of 2010, Allison Hentz and Robin Loyal joined the team.

Annuals **(Photo #3)**, perennial forbes and grasses **(Photo #4)**, were planted or renovated in many of the landscape beds. New trees and shrubs were incorporated with boulders and limestone from our stone quarry. **(Photo #5 & #6)**

The woody area on 13 tee received attention by relocating plants from other shady areas. Jack in the Pulpit, Bloodroot and Ginger, along with a host of shade loving perennials have made this landscape bed a cool retreat from the summer sun. **(Photo #7)**

The clubhouse landscape has received new plantings at the east entrance and planter boxes on the deck during phase one. Additional transplanting, planting and pruning of the north side beds will continue this fall in phase two. **(Photo #8)**

I would like to thank Todd Tucker, Executive Director and Steve Murray, Head of Golf Operations for their support. And thank you Board of Commissioners, especially Denny Cravatta, for catching the vision. Very special thanks to Cindy, Shannon, Allison, and Robin. Together we are executing the plan bringing the dream to pass.



Visiting Artists

Ray Brod

Come and see Ray's unique urban and natural pieces (at right) on display throughout the month of September.

Reception - September 30, 6-8 pm

Sinnissippi Quilters

Guild Challenge

"Window Seat Please"

Visit the Jarrett Prairie Center to see some amazing quilting work throughout October and November.

Reception - November 30, 6-8 pm



Fall Watercolor Painting Class

We'll take advantage of the beautiful landscape as inspiration for some painting and sketching. All materials are provided--beginners to experienced artists welcome!

Everyone can join and learn.

Where: Keller Educ. Ctr.

When: Sat., Oct. 16

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5/20

Register by noon on October 13.



Felt Plushies for Kids

We'll make adorable little stuffed animals you can give your friends for the holidays... if you can "bear" to part with them!

We supply all of the materials you need to make a tiny felt animal plushie--and the patterns to make more. Once you've made one, you can make many more (and you'll need to, because everyone will want one!).

Where: Keller Educ. Ctr.

When: Sat., Dec. 4

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: 8+

Min/Max: 5/20

Register by noon on December 1.



Mother/Daughter Scrapbooking

We will supply scrapbook pages, stickers, embellishments, and all the items for decorating many beautiful pages for your family scrapbook. Bring out your photos and we'll have lots of fun putting it all together!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Sunday, September 26

Time: 1 - 3 pm

Cost: \$10/Family

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5/20

Register by noon on September 22.

Pumpkin Carving

Get ready for Halloween! Learn to carve scary, funny, or just plain cool jack-o-lanterns at this event. Includes pumpkin, tools, pizza and pop, and entry to Stone Quarry so you can also enjoy a day of mini-golf, batting cages, and the playground!

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Saturday, October 23

Time: 11 am - 2 pm

(arrive any time, stay as long as you like)

Cost: \$10/pumpkin carver

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5/40

Register by noon on October 20.

Cards: Stamp, Paint, Create!

Make your own holiday cards, or just notes to say "hello!" We'll have card stock, envelopes, stamps, paper, and embellishments as well as several example cards to get you started. Registration is per dozen, so sign up with a friend and work together if you would like.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Ctr.

When: Sunday, December 5

Time: 1-6 pm (come any time)

Cost: \$10 for 12 cards

Ages: 8+

Min./Max.: 5/25

Register by noon on December 1.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Birthday Parties

Choose the Forest Preserve to organize your child's next birthday party. Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next party. Themes include: Tea Party, Native Americans, Sky's the Limit, Goodness Snakes, Insects of Our World, and Where Do Butterflies Go When It Rains?

Deluxe Party

*\$75 / 12 children
(additional \$30 for more
than 12 children)*

*(cake, ice cream, tableware,
birthday banner, and program)*

Standard Party

*\$45 / 12 children
(\$5/additional child)
(program only)*

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.

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 North River Road, Byron, Illinois. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived. **You no longer need to separate the items in each bin.**

Outreach

We offer educational programs to any group including retirement homes and nursing facilities for a small fee. Using our nature staff and nature stuff, we come to you and deliver exciting and educational programs including:

- Birds of a Feather
- Indian Life (w/traditional dress)
- Animal Encounter (w/live animals)

***Call today to book your
next on-site program!***

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 guided 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, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us.

Rare Bird 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.



PrairieView Golf Club

German Church Road, Byron
815-234-4653
www.prairieviewgolf.com

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 Prairie Grass Club is open for relaxing with your friends after a round of golf. The Pub offers an extensive menu of delicious entrees and beverages.



Weiskopf Observatory

7993 North River Road, Byron
815-234-8535 ext. 216
www.byronforestpreserve.com

View the stars and planets through our 11" Celestron telescope. Experienced staff will guide you through the skies. Free public viewing on Saturdays, first and third Tuesdays in June, July, and August. Open from dark until three hours after dark. Call for viewing conditions.



Jarrett Prairie Center

7993 North River Road, Byron
815-234-8535 ext. 200
www.byronforestpreserve.com

Habitat exhibits, dioramas, audio interpretation, and a spectacular view of the prairie are just a few of the features at the Jarrett Prairie Center which is open daily, year round. You will also see wetland, woodland, and prairie environments on display along with displays depicting pre-European settlement conditions. A gift shop is also available to purchase an awesome souvenir!



Keller Education Center

7993 North River Road, Byron
815-234-8535 ext. 200
www.byronforestpreserve.com

Relax and enjoy watching the birds and wildlife from the many windows of our newest addition. Open daily for public viewing. Classrooms accommodate Forest Preserve programs and can be rented for family reunions, meetings, and other events.



Stone Quarry Recreation Park

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

Stone Quarry Recreation Park has something for everyone! Many programs and activities are offered all year round. Amenities include: arcade, pool table, mini-putt, batting cages, skate park, air hockey, playground, volleyball pit, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, and a water splash playground. Picnic shelters and a party room are also available for rental for reunions, company outings, and meetings.



Heritage Farm Museum

8059 North River Road, Byron
815-234-8535 ext. 217
www.byronforestpreserve.com

Enjoy a guided tour of this 1800s farm and museum with audio interpretation. Includes a grout house, corn crib, wind mill, "residents", and more! Open daily April 1-October 31. Self-guided tours are free. A small fee may be charged for guided tours.

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Byron Bank



Davis Junction 815-645-2610

Byron 815-234-2561

Poplar Grove 815-323-1452



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