

The Blaze

Fall/Winter 2011



Byron Forest Preserve District

from the director



The District has made many improvements that should impact the preserve greatly. The most visible being the addition of a new sign at the main entrance of the forest preserve. The new sign will be able stand the test of time and will still be elegant in years to come. It will also help patrons to recognize our District Headquarters more easily. We

have had many positive comments from the public about the sign.



Another "improvement" is the purchase of the Wilson property, which lies between the main preserve of 610 acres and the Nardi/White preserve of 525 acres. This property is a slender 5-acre parcel that will now adjoin the large tracts into one contiguous land mass. In a sense, this parcel links us like a land "Panama Canal."

With the addition of this property, our intentions are to provide our patrons with one continuous trail. The tract links the two parcels and we will create a trail system with over 14 miles in total length. The Outer Trail at the main site is roughly 3.5 miles and the Outer Trail at the Nardi Preserve is over 5 miles, therefore one could run/walk an 8.5 mile trail only on the outer portions without entering any interior trails. I would estimate the total trail distance combined would be close to 15 miles. It is our goal to have the two preserves linked with a trail and signage before the summer of 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Tucker".

Todd Tucker
Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Dave Breen

Vice President

Jeff Ludwig

Treasurer

Sandy Brooks

Secretary

Denny Cravatta

Commissioner

Trevor Hogan

BOARD MEETINGS

Held on the third Monday of each month at 7pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



THE MISSION

*Preservation ~ Education
Recreation*

To provide for Preservation of openspace/natural resources, to provide Education concerning our natural environment/heritage, and to provide Recreation opportunities and enterprise operations that are consistent with our District goals.



THE BLAZE

Fall/Winter 2011

Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke

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Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010 ~ P-815-234-8535 ~ F-815-234-8635



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 30

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.



20th annual holiday gift sale

Saturday, November 5, 2011

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!

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 donated by the vendors. Since this is the 20th year of this event, there may be other special surprises throughout the day!

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.



outdoor programs

Canoeing the Rock

Enjoy a gentle paddle down the scenic Rock River. All equipment provided on this fun outing. Pre-registration required.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm

When: Sundays, Sept. 18,
Oct. 16, & Nov. 20

Time: 9 am - Noon

Cost: \$20/canoe

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 3 canoes/12 canoes

Register by noon on 9/16, 10/14 & 11/18.



Made in America - Owls

Did you know there are 222 currently known species of owls? You'll learn all about American owls then we'll take a hike to find these mainly nocturnal birds of prey.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, October 29

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on October 28.

Made in America - Insects

Did you know that a cockroach can breathe without its head? There are over 925,000 species of insects. Let's go catch some and find out more interesting facts.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Thursday, October 27

Time: 4 - 6 pm

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on October 26.

Made in America - Mammals

Join us for a review of American fur bearers. Check out some pelts & make a craft.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Thursday, December 22

Time: 5 - 7 pm

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on December 21.

Made in America - Trees

We are going to learn about these American giants! Learn to identify by bark, leaves, and habitat. We'll also make a craft to take home.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Thursday, November 17

Time: 4 - 6 pm

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on November 16.

Hunter Education

This 3-day class covers ethics, firearms, and archery. Attendance at all classes is required. Certification requires passing a written test.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When:

Mon., Thurs., Fri.- November 7, 10, 11

Mon., Wed., Fri.- December 12, 14, 16

Time: 6 - 9 pm (M, W, Th)

6 - 10 pm (Fri.)

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 11/4 & 12/10.

Beekeeping Workshops

Did you hear the buzz? These workshops are the place to bee!! You will learn techniques and tools of the trade. *Bring your bee suits!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Sundays

Sept. 11*, Oct. 16

Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2/person

Ages: 3 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.



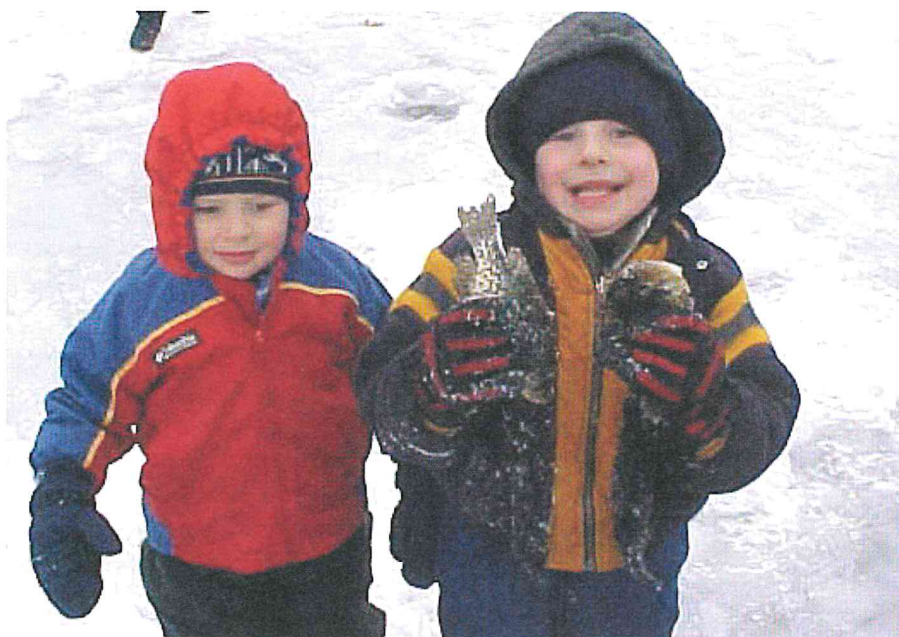
outdoor programs

EEAI Share-a-thon

Learn about the Environmental Education Association of Illinois and other local educational agencies. Here's your chance to join EEA! More information is available online at eeai.net.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Wednesday, Sept. 7
Time: 3:30 - 5 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Adults
Min./Max.: None

No registration required.



Rock River Sweep

Do you enjoy boating or skiing on the Rock? Or, maybe fishing along the banks? Consider joining us to clean it up!! We'll be picking up trash along the shoreline. Or, you can use a canoe!

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm
When: Saturday, Sept. 10
Time: 9 am - 1 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 2 canoes / 12 canoes

Register by noon on September 9.



Hunter's Moon Hike

Take your turn looking through the 11" Celestron telescope while we explore the wonders of the moon!

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, October 14
Time: 8 - 10 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on October 13.

Legends of the Fall Constellations

Let's relax around the campfire under the night skies while we learn about the constellations.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, November 4
Time: 8 - 10 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / none

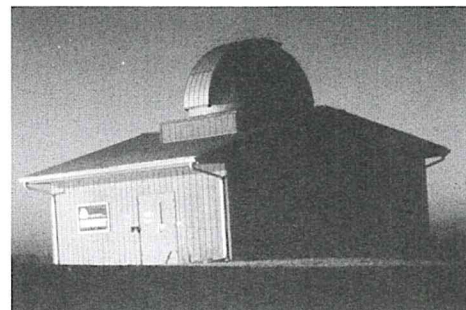
Register by noon on November 3.

Winter Solstice

Did anyone ever tell you, "Don't look directly at the sun!" Well, here's your chance to do just that! Check out the sun through the telescope and then make a sun dial to take home.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Wednesday, Dec. 21
Time: 10 - 11 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 20.



outdoor programs, etc.



A Not-Very-Spooky

Night Hike

With Halloween around the corner, everyone wants to get a little scared, but sometimes haunted houses are too much. We'll head out into the woods where it's nice and dark to learn about nocturnal animals, night vision, and camouflage. You'll also find out why wintergreen Lifesavers really make sparks!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 29
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 25.

Cross Country Skiing

Let's hope for an early snowfall so we can head out on the trails! Equipment and instruction provided as well as hot chocolate to warm you up when we're done!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, December 11
Friday, December 16
Time: Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: All

parents: please accompany
children under 10 years old.

Min./Max.: 5 / 16

Register by noon on December 6 & 13.

Sledding Party

Bring your sled or borrow one of ours...if the weather cooperates, we'll enjoy a day on the sled hill along with snowy games and crafts, treats, and hot chocolate.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, December 10
Time: 10 am - 3 pm
Cost: \$15
Ages: 6 - 12
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 6.

Fossil Hunt

Last one before winter! Try your luck at finding cephalopods, brachiopods, mollusks, and other Ordovician fossils in our quarry. Fossil guides are provided. Please bring a bucket and wear comfortable clothing.

Where: Meet at Stone Quarry
When: Saturday, October 29
Time: 10 am - 4 pm
(come anytime)

Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on October 26.



Winter Hike

Enjoy a sunset hike in the winter quiet through the woods and prairie. We'll look for deer and owls, animal tracks, and proof that life is abundant through the cold winter months. The evening trails are wondrous at this time of year--something you don't want to miss!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, December 16
Time: 5 - 7 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All

parents: please accompany
children under 6 years old

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 13.

Princess Party

Enjoy tea and cookies, crafts, games, and dressing up at our princess party! We'll be all fancy with real teacups, yummy baked treats, gems, glitter, castles and dragons, and take-home treats for everyone. We have extra dress-up clothes too.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, October 16
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: All

parents: please accompany
children under 6 years old

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 12.

Cave-In-The-Rock

State Park

We're headed to the Ohio River to stay at this beautiful resort and park. We'll visit the Pirates Bluff where several movies were filmed and many historical events unfolded.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Fri.-Sun., Oct. 22-24
Time: Depart at 9 am.
Cost: \$275 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 rooms / 12 people

Register by noon on October 12.

Museum of Science & Industry

Join us as travel into Chicago to visit this amazing museum on free admission day. We'll see real space suits, science storms, tornadoes, avalanches, and much more!!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 16
Time: 9 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$15/person or \$20/couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on September 14.

Shedd Aquarium

You'll find something wet, wild, and wonderful wherever you walk at Shedd Aquarium! Admission is not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tuesday, September 20
Monday, October 17
Time: 10 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15/person or \$20/couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on Sept. 19 & Oct. 16.



St. Louis

Let's discover some of the great, FREE destinations like the zoo, the brewery, the science museum and the Lewis and Clark Museum.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sat.-Sun., Sept. 24-25
Time: Depart at 10 am.
Cost: \$195 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 rooms / 12 people

Register by noon on September 16.

Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Forbes magazine calls this town one of the prettiest in America. We'll spend the day exploring this historic downtown with its diverse shopping including antiques, clothing and jewelry boutiques, pottery and art galleries, confectionaries, and Amish furniture. If you're in for the food, there are pubs, coffee houses, ice cream and custard shops, and local wineries. There are also museums, including an 1860s general store that houses a collection of advertising art. Also in town is the Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, which is hosting the North Shore Quilters Guild Quilt Show during this weekend.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 22
Time: 8 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15/person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on October 14.

New Glarus, Wisconsin

Settled in 1845, New Glarus is known as "America's Little Switzerland." From the architecture to the food, you'll think you've traveled to Europe for the day instead of southern Wisconsin! Offerings include pastries, breads, cheeses, sausages... European imports and crafts...local breweries and wineries...historical village and museums...and plenty of opportunities to try traditional Swiss cuisine.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 8
Time: 8 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15/person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on September 30.

LeClaire Distillery & American Pickers

LeClaire, Iowa is itself a unique destination, with shops, art galleries, and restaurants. It's also home to the Mississippi River Distilling Company, which makes small batch vodka and gin. To add to the uniqueness, it's also the location of Antique Archeology, the store opened by Mike Wolfe, star of the hit show, American Pickers. We'll stop at the store first, which holds Mike's best picks from the show. Mike might even be there! Then, we'll break for lunch in downtown LeClaire and head to the distillery for a free tour before heading back to Byron.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 24
Time: 8 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15/person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on September 16.

homeschool programs

art classes



Graphics, Posters, & Illustrations

Discover some of the principles behind making a message POP! Communication is an important part of today's world, and art can be a very fun way to communicate. What do you want to say?

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, September 19
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 14.

Screen Printing

During this three-session class, we will design and prepare our own screen prints for making t-shirts (plus whatever additional items you would like to bring and print). Please be sure to register by the deadline so that we can have the t-shirts ready. All acrylic process--no smelly emulsions. Registration fee includes one t-shirt--bring a bag, pillowcase, or other shirts to print and keep your screen to use again.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, September 26
Tuesday, September 27
Wednesday, Sept. 28
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 21.

Convertibles and Recyclables

We'll take things like mint tins and drink pouches and turn them into useful items for home. Learn how to be greener and craftier while making some cool things!!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 3
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 28.

The Big Canvas

Here's your chance to paint on a biiiiiiiiiiig canvas! Your art will be ready to take home and hang up! Leave the mess and cleanup for us.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tuesday, October 11
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 5.

Masquerade!

In this two-day class, we'll create masks that can be used for plays, dress-up, or for Halloween. We'll be using paper-mache, Crayola Model Magic, paint, and lots of other materials to make a disguise as realistic or fanciful as you'd like. (We can work on other parts of a costume too.)

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 17
Tuesday, October 18
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 12.

Ancient Fun

We'll make our own historical board and/or yard games, with lots to choose from--Kubb (look that one up, it's great!), Nine Men's Morris, Chinese Checkers, Fox and Hens, Senet, and others. We'll have the boards and pieces prepped for you, ready to decorate, and learn how to play.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 24
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 19.

Books, Books, Books!

Ever wonder how your favorite book was illustrated--Junie B. Jones, The Paper Bag Princess, The Time Warp Trio, or Diary of a Wimpy Kid? We'll write and illustrate a short story and learn about and use materials like the professionals do.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, November 7
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 2.

Linoleum Block Cut Printing

In this two-day class, we'll design and make a block cut design for printmaking. Linoleum is a material used with beginners that still accepts alot of detail and can make some beautiful prints. We will be using simple carving tools and using permanent ink; safety and neatness will be stressed. All materials are included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Mon.-Tues, Nov. 14-15
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 9.

homeschool programs

nature & science classes

Drip, drip

We'll head to the creek at the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve to find frogs, macro-organisms, minnows, crayfish, and maybe some geodes. Transportation provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, September 19
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 14.

A Humorous Nature Hike

Walking through the woods can be fun, but what makes it even better is telling your favorite joke and hearing some new ones

ing the way. Be prepared for prairie puns, nature knock-knocks, and plant punch lines. You might learn some things too (besides new material for your standup routine).

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, September 26
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 21.

It's Not Easy Being Green

You hear the phrase, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", alot, but what does it really mean? We'll travel through the water cycle, make our own paper, and learn some things that we can do personally to make a difference.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 3
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 28.

Things That Fly

Bird migration is at its tail end (ha ha) and we're likely to see lots of visitors if we scour the skies. We'll also make bird-shaped kites and see how high they soar.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 10
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 5.

Camouflage

Discover the different ways animals use to hide in the prairie and woods. We'll play camouflage games, too! How well can you hide?

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 17
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 12.

Time Machine

If you travelled back in time to Illinois 200 years ago, what would it be like? How about 600 years ago? 12,000 years ago? Learn about the first European settlers, the Fox and Sauk tribes, and the ice ages that shaped this land. We'll also play traditional pioneer and Native American games.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, October 24
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 19.



On Exhibit

Learn how museum exhibits are planned and put together, and examine close-up some of the displays and animals. Design your own exhibit--maybe even a whole museum!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, November 7
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 2.

Change Is In The Air

How do animals get ready for winter? We'll walk the woods and find evidence of creatures planning for a cold season.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, November 14
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 8 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 9.

scout badge programs



Brownie Try-Its

Last chance to earn try-its! The badges are going to a new system, but you may still earn try-its for another year. We're offering the remainder of the badges that we have on hand at a discounted price! We're not sure what the new program will be like yet, but we're excited to try new programs! If your troop would like to schedule programs geared toward the STEM series books or the new program guides when they come out, please call Janet at 815-234-8535 x232 and she'll be happy to schedule something.

Senses

Could you be a sense detective? See if you can figure out what that texture, smell or noise is by using your senses.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Thursday, October 13
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 10.

Movers

Mobiles, planes, paper helicopters, and more! What can you make that flies through the air?

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Thursday, September 29
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on September 26.

Puppets, Dolls, & Plays

Make puppets, scenery, and your very own yarn doll to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, October 23
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 19.

Numbers & Shapes

Tangrams and moebius strips...learn the secrets behind these amazing puzzles and more to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Thursday, November 3
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 19.

Junior Girl Scouts

Sky Search

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

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Friday, October 14
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 12.

Jeweler

Make your own beads and jewelry to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, December 3
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on November 29.

FOR ALL GIRL SCOUTS...

A Day For Me!

All scouts are welcome to this event that's all about YOU! We'll make a scrapbook and decorate a big picture frame for you to keep. We'll also play fun get-to-know-you games, do some face-painting, and win prizes. Snack and drink also provided. Parents are welcome to attend at no cost.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, October 15
Time: Noon - 5 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 11.

scout badge programs



Boy Scouts

Forestry

Scouts will explore the remarkable complexity of a forest and identify many species of trees and plants and the roles they play in a forest's life cycle. They will also discover some of the resources forests provide to humans and come to understand that people have a very large part to play in sustaining the health of forests.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, November 8
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on November 7.

Soil & Water Conservation

Conservation isn't just the responsibility of soil and plant scientists, hydrologists, wildlife managers, or landowners. It is the duty of every person to learn more about the natural resources on which our lives depend so that we can help make sure that these resources are used intelligently and cared for properly.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, September 13
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

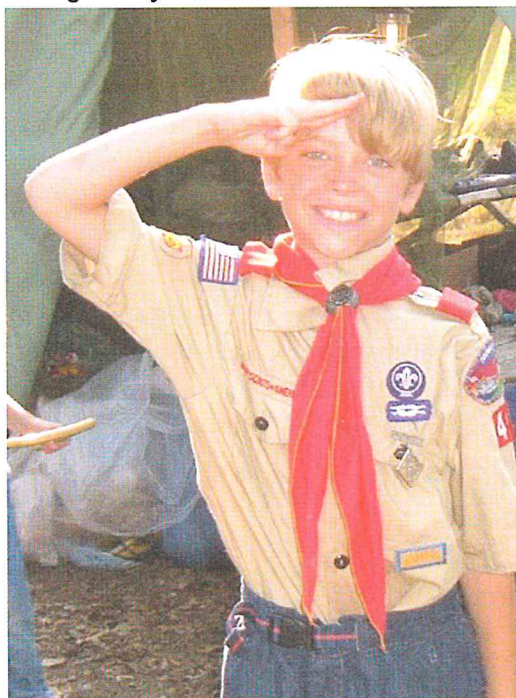
Register by noon on September 12.

Indian Lore

Far different from the stereotypes or common images that are portrayed on film, on television, and in many books and stories, American Indians have many different cultures, languages, religions, styles of dress, and ways of life. To learn about these different groups is to take an exciting journey of discovery in which you will meet some of America's most fascinating peoples.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, October 11
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on October 10.



Webelos

Forester

Learn about trees, soil, and sunlight. You'll make a map and learn about different trees that grow in different areas.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday, September 22
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on September 21.

Naturalist

Learn about the bird flyways closest to your home. Find out which birds use these flyways. Learn to identify poisonous plants and venomous reptiles found in your area. Learn about producers, consumers, and decomposers in the food chain of an ecosystem.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday, October 20
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on October 19.

Saving Our Sand Prairies

Prickly Pear Cactus
an Illinois sand prairie species



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 Joe, 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!



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 25 ~ 5:30-7pm

Parents and students enrolled in our preschool program are encouraged to come and have treats and become familiar with the teachers and classroom.

Parent Orientation

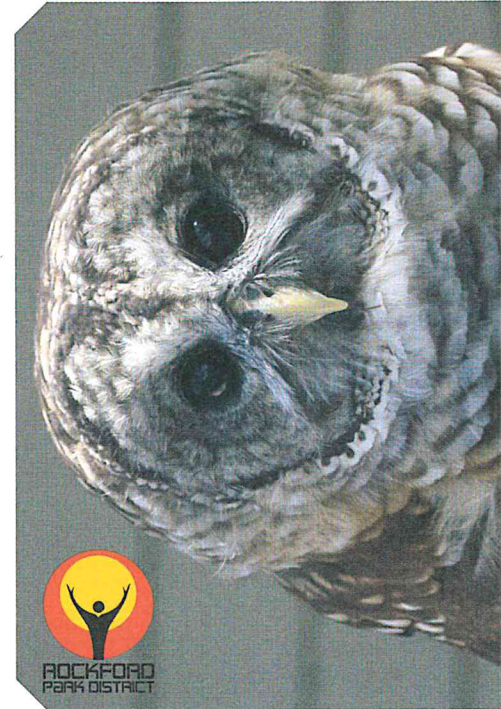
Sept. 1 ~ 6:30pm

(Parents only please.)

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

preschool, etc.

Birds of Prey
Saturday, November 12



Circus Boy
Saturday, December 10

These FREE concerts are sponsored by Exelon and begin at 3pm. They are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road, Byron.



The Middle Rock River Valley

By Austin Webb, Restoration Technician

In today's fast-paced world, people have become less observant, taking their surroundings for granted. Even those of us living in rural Ogle County are guilty of being desensitized to our own environment, but right in our own backyards, there are places rooted deep in American history and rich with natural wonders. These places collectively form an area in Illinois that we all call home— the Middle Rock River Valley.

Prior to European settlement, our present homefront was a landscape dominated by gently rolling hills of rich grassland as far as the eye could see, dotted with a mosaic of open oak woodlands and low lying areas of wetland. Hill prairies stood atop the limestone bluffs overlooking the Rock River, while the river floodplains managed to offer lone sanctuary to trees intolerant of the intense seasonal wildfires. This culmination of ecosystem diversity allowed for a prolific amount of wildlife to prosper, attracting large herds of Bison and Elk to forage the plentiful food supplies, in addition to countless migratory bird species. This was also a place that Native Americans came to inhabit. Many Algonquin-

speaking tribes called the Rock River Valley home, including the Pottawatomie and Winnebago, followed later by the Sauk and Fox who had been pushed westward by the Iroquois and early French settlers.

After the War of 1812, early European settlement of the Middle Rock increased rapidly, causing tensions over disputed lands to rise between the settlers and Native Americans. By May of 1832, the Black Hawk Wars were underway, as famous conflicts, such as the Battle of Stillman's Run, near Stillman Valley, were decided between Black Hawk's band and the U.S. militia. In fact, both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis became well-known for their participation in the militia during the stand-off. Mail was sent out from Dixon on the rope ferry service that more militiamen were needed, and the reinforcements led to the eventual capture of Chief Black Hawk. By September of 1832, a land purchase agreement was signed during Black Hawk's imprisonment, handing 6 million acres over to the federal government for 11 cents per acre. Many historians believe this is the most important event in the western expansion of the United States.



Around that same time, in Grand Detour, the blacksmith John Deere was working on an invention that would forever change American history. By 1837, he had produced the first cast-steel self-cleaning plow, later deemed “The Plow that Broke the Plains”. Unfortunately, the creation of the plow came at an immense cost, as nearly every inch of the most fertile grasslands on our planet were converted into cropland at an astonishing rate. Yet, amidst our present-day rural lifestyle, pieces of original Illinois persevere, and, in truth, those of us living in the Middle Rock are very fortunate in that regard. In our region of the state we have 39 state parks, far more than any other region, accompanied by over a dozen substantial natural areas within an hour radius of downtown Byron. These protected lands encompass a great breadth of ecotypes ranging from wetlands to dry hill prairies, offering sanctuary to the thousands of plants and animals which depend upon them for their survival. These places are windows into the past, mere glimpses of what life was, but strong reminders of the true heritage of this area. With so much history and so many incredible places to visit just a stones throw away, it is truly remarkable to be able to call the Middle Rock our home.



good stuff

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, 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. Three canoe minimum.

Birthday Parties at Stone Quarry Park

Tired of cleaning up the mess after the big birthday party? Well, next time, have it at Stone Quarry!! Our birthday party package includes two slices of pizza, a drink, and admission into the park which includes unlimited use of everything outside (splashpad, batting cages, mini-golf, skate park, basketball courts, and playground) all for only a \$30 reservation fee and \$8 per person. You can choose to have your party at one of our many locations: the party room or one of our three outdoor shelters. Reserve your party now before we are all booked up! For info, call 815-234-8900.

Party Room Rentals

Looking for a large space to host your family reunion, anniversary party, or any other family, or group outing? Stone Quarry has the perfect place for you. We have a large party room with amenities that can seat and hold 250 people. Call today for more info, 815-234-8900.

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 a 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.

directory



General Contacts

Jarrett Prairie Center (Headquarters)

The headquarters office is open
Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm.
The office is closed Saturday, Sunday,
and select holidays.

Street Address

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1075
Byron IL 61010

Website

byronforestpreserve.com

Email

raul@byronforestpreserve.com

Main Phone Number

815-234-8535 x200

Main Fax Number

815-234-8635



Golf Club

PrairieView Golf Club

6834 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-4653

Education Centers

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
The museum hours are:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-8am-4:30pm
Tues., Thurs.-8am-8pm
Saturday-9am-4pm & Sunday-1-4pm.

Keller Education Center

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for wildlife viewing upon request.
Available for rentals.

Weiskopf Observatory

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for free public viewing every Saturday night from dark until three hours after dark.

Heritage Farm Museum

8059 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open daily April-October. Open upon request November-March. Self-guided tours are free.



Recreation Park

Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8900
Fall/Winter park hours are:
September 6th - December 31st
Monday - Friday - 4-8pm
Saturday & Sunday - 11am-5pm
Special Open Hours - 1-8pm on
Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 11, 23, 25
Christmas Break Hours - 1-8pm on
Dec. 21-23 & Dec. 26-30



Trails

Jarrett Prairie Preserve

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open from dawn to dusk for walking, jogging, or nature exploration.

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for horseback riding.

The following preserves are not yet open to the public but will be opening very soon:

Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve
Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve
Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

2010 Byron Bank Volunteers



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