

The Blaze

Fall/Winter 2012



Byron Forest Preserve District

from the director



This issue of the Blaze reflects some of the many changes that are evolving at the Forest Preserve. The first noticeable change is the remodeling of the Jarrett Prairie Center's entrance and gift shop area. We decided to update the area with a face lift. There will be a more open feel when you walk in the main entrance. Hopefully, the atmosphere will be more inviting and friendly.

We will be starting our very first hunting program on two of the Forest Preserve's newest properties. I'm glad that we can open the preserves to allow our local sportsmen to enjoy their passion for the outdoors and to keep deer herds reduced to a manageable level.

The new Wilson Pass Preserve with its unique shelter is getting great reviews from patrons that are starting to enjoy the larger trail system. Feel free to come in and view a map of the new walking/running areas that are now accessible from the main site (Jarrett Prairie Preserve) to the Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve.

We now offer program registration online at our website. Just go to www.byronforestpreserve.com to sign up for any program that is offered such as hunter safety, owl prowls, canoeing, skiing, or any of our fun trips!

The Forest Preserve is embarking on a total Maintenance Department building renovation beginning this year with a completion date of Summer 2013. Many of the buildings are outdated and are in need of serious repairs. We feel that this is a good time to renovate and construct new buildings that will better meet the needs heading into the future. The Maintenance Department staff makes up half of the employees and provides much needed services to deliver most programs and golf experiences.

It's always a pleasure for our staff and board commissioners to serve our patrons as best as we can. Please feel free to let us know how we can provide better or different services in the future. We also like to hear about the things that our patrons already enjoy. Just send us an email or give us a call!

Todd Tucker
Executive Director

Ring Found

A ring has been found at the Forest Preserve. If you have lost a ring while at the Forest Preserve, please contact Janet at 815-234-8535 x232 to identify the ring.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Dave Breen

Vice President

Sandy Brooks

Treasurer

Trevor Hogan

Secretary

Denny Cravatta

Commissioner

Jeff Ludwig

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

Issue #28

Fall/Winter 2012

Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke, CPRP

Cover Photo: Prairie burn at Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve

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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

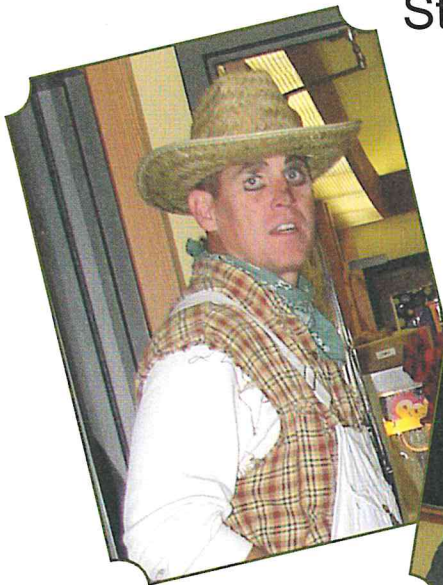
Relax and enjoy this returning favorite!

Sunday, October 28 ~ Noon - 4 pm

Free admission ~ Fee for games

Co-sponsored by the Byron Park District.

Haunted Hayrides ~ Face Painting ~ Spooky Games
Straw Maze ~ Kids Crafts ~ Snake Wrangler
Egg Hunt ~ Concession Stand
Fun for kids of ALL ages!!





21st annual holiday gift sale

Saturday, November 3, 2012

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!

There is no admission fee for the event. We'll also be giving away door prizes donated by the vendors.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is accessible to the physically challenged.

An affordable concession stand 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.



Se habla español-815-234-8535 x200

www.byronforestpreserve.com

outdoor programs

Online registration
now available at
www.byronforestpreserve.com

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: Saturdays, Sept. 29,
Oct. 27, & Nov. 3
Time: 2 - 5 pm
Cost: \$20 / canoe
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 canoes / 12 canoes

Register by noon on 9/28, 10/26, & 11/2.

Bird & Plant Hikes

(at the New Properties)

Let's explore and learn about what's living at the Forest Preserve's newest properties, the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve and the Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Fridays
Sept. 7, Oct. 5
Nov. 2, Dec. 7
Time: 8 - 11 am
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6.

Barrick Campouts

Reptiles, amphibians, and streams, oh my! We'll go hiking to find the local inhabitants and study the stream life that flourishes at the Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays
Sept. 15, Oct. 13
Nov. 10
Time: 6 pm
Cost: \$25 / District's tent
\$15 / your tent
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 / none

Register by noon on 9/13, 10/11, 11/8.

Owl Prowls

WWHHOOOOOO wants to learn all about American owls? Then, let's take a hike through the Preserve to try and find some!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays
Nov. 17 & Dec. 15
Time: 9 - 11 pm
Cost: \$3 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on 11/16 & 12/14.

EEAI Share-a-thon

Learn about the Environmental Education Association of Illinois. You will be able to join the organization too!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Thursday, September 6
Time: Meet at 3 pm
Program - 3:30-5 pm
Cost: Free
Ages: Adults
Min./Max.: None

No registration required.

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.- October 15, 17, 19
Mon., Wed., Fri.- December 3, 5, 7
Time: 6 - 9 pm (M, W, Th)
6 - 10 pm (Fri.)
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 10/12 & 11/30.

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. 9*, Oct. 14
Nov. 11, Dec. 9
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.

Cross Country Skiing

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

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, December 14
Sunday, December 16
Time: 12 Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: All are welcome.
(parents must accompany children under 6)
Min./Max.: 5 / 16

Register by noon on 12/11 & 12/13.

Sledding Party

Bring your sled or borrow one of ours... 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 15
Time: 10 am - 3 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: 6 - 12
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 11.

outdoor programs



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 for this cooperative event.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm
When: Saturday, Sept. 8
Time: 10 am - 12 Noon
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on September 7.

Fall Water Color

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 welcomed! Everyone can join and learn.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, November 3
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 31.

Fossil Hunt

Our quarry will be open most of the day with knowledgeable staff to help you dig up and identify fossils! Come whenever and stay as long as you like. We've found a lot of great fossils lately--really big cephalopods, mineral-filled horn corals, and lots of other treasures!

Where: Park at Stone Quarry
Park and follow the signs (a short walk)
When: Saturday, September 29
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on September 25.

Critter Hunt

Late summer is the perfect time to find baby fox snakes, huge black and yellow garden spiders, and spectacular butterflies, and to watch hawks and other birds overhead. We'll look at different kinds of animal tracks, examine our fox snake, DC, up close, then grab some guide books and head out to see what we can see! Spiders, insects, and birds are guaranteed... but what other wild creatures can we find in the prairie and woods? Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 15
Time: 10 am - 12 noon
Cost: Free
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on September 12.

Online registration
now available at
www.byronforestpreserve.com

The Universe

We'll check out what's out there and find out how far away it is.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, September 7
Time: 7 - 8 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 6.

Galaxies

Let's explore the wonders of Andromeda.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, October 5
Time: 7 - 8 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

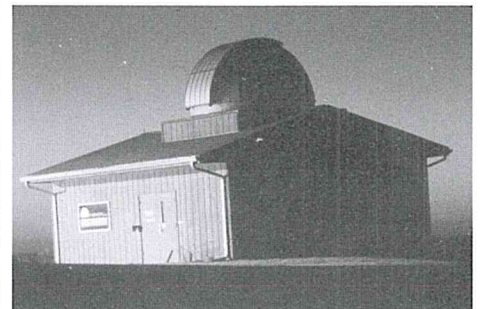
Register by noon on October 4.

The Stars

Relax under the night skies and watch the stars. We'll learn about the life history of the stars.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, November 2
Time: 7 - 8 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on November 1.



Door County

We're headed to this Wisconsin travel destination to see the colors, the parks, and the festivals. Maybe some shopping too!

Cost includes transportation and hotel room.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sat.-Sun., Oct. 20-21
Time: Depart at 10 am.
Cost: \$275 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 rooms / 12 people

Register by noon on October 5.

Museum of Science & Industry

Join us as we 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: Mon., Nov. 5 or Dec. 3
Time: 9 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$20/person or \$30/couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on November 2 or 30.



Meet the Eagles

Let's go discover some of the great locations to see wintering bald eagles.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, December 15
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or \$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on December 14.

Chicago Art Museum

We'll head to Chicago to visit this amazing museum. We will be visiting on free general admission days. Before your visit, be sure to go to www.artic.edu to ensure that your museum experience meets your expectations.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wed., Nov. 7 or Dec. 12
Time: 10 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$25 / person or \$40 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12 people

Register by noon on Nov. 5 or Dec. 10.

Mall of America

Located in Bloomington, Minnesota - only 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. As one of the most visited tourist destinations in the world, Mall of America features - 520 stores, 50 restaurants and attractions galore, including Nickelodeon Universe, the nation's largest theme park, and the new American Girl store. Plus, there's no sales tax on clothing or shoes! For more information and to plan your visit, go to www.mallofamerica.com. Cost includes hotel and transportation.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Fri.-Sun., Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 or Sat.-Mon., Dec. 8 - 10
Time: Depart at 10 am
Cost: \$395 / room
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 rooms / 12 people

Register by noon on November 16 or 23.



White Fence Farm Illinois Aviation Museum Bolingbrook



Join us for a Saturday that's a real feast! First, we'll stop at the Illinois Aviation Museum for a tour of their re-stored aircraft. From there, we'll head to the Promenade at Bolingbrook, home to the area's largest Bass Pro Shop and many other stores. We'll have a few hours to shop and browse before heading to White Fence Farm for the "World's Best Fried Chicken." Your meal choice is up to you, of course—they are well known for their steaks, fish, and shrimp as well.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, Sept. 22
Time: 9 am - 8 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
(transportation only)

Ages: All
(under 16 must be accompanied by adult)
Min./Max.: 5 / 11

Register by noon on September 12.

Boerner Botanical Gardens & Milwaukee Zoo

This Sunday brunch is incredible! Choose from omelets, potatoes, meats, pastries, cheeses, crepes, fresh fruit, hand made breads, chef made salads, smoked salmon, and pates, desserts, and more! We'll have plenty of time to eat and then walk off part of it around the grounds of this beautiful garden. From there, we'll head to the zoo and spend the afternoon walking through the animal exhibits. Cost includes transportation, brunch, and admission to the botanical garden and the zoo.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, September 16
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$50 / person
Ages: All
(under 16 must be accompanied by adult)
Min./Max.: 5 / 11

Register by noon on August 31.

Mill House Quilts Shop Hop

This was a great trip in the past with some wonderful stores, each with their own personality. We'll stop in Janesville at Life's a Stitch and Loose Threads, then travel to Saving Thyme in Stoughton, which is a wonderful place for lunch! There are delis, bakeries, organic grocery shops, and more. Our northernmost stop will be Mill House Quilts, with 6,000 square feet housing a broad range of fabrics, kits, and patterns.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 20
Time: 8 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$20 / couple

Ages: All
(under 18 must be accompanied by adult)
Min./Max.: 5 / 14

Register by noon on October 12.



Kenosha, Wisconsin

There are so many things to do, our day will be pleasantly packed! We'll start with a visit to the Harbor Market—a huge farmer's market with cooking demonstrations, food, produce, fine art, and hand-made crafts. There are two free museums bordering the square—natural history and civil war. You may also hop on the street car for an inexpensive ride along the lake shore, past the lighthouse, and through the downtown area. Then, we'll get back in the van and head to Mars' Cheese Castle, one of the top-rated cheese shops in Wisconsin! There are several places to eat, including carts at the farmer's market, downtown restaurants, and at Mars'.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 6
Time: 8 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$10 / person or
\$15 / couple

Ages: All
(under 18 must be accompanied by adult)
Min./Max.: 5 / 14

Register by noon on September 28.

homeschool programs

art classes

Online registration
now available at
www.byronforestpreserve.com!

If you register for both, the nature & science classes and the art classes, bring a lunch. We'll eat in the Jarrett or Keller Center, or outside if it's nice. Our themes combine to look at subjects from both a scientific and artistic perspective.

Make a Splash

Create art using water as an element, and use artistic "tools" such as squirt guns, water balloons, and spray bottles.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 14
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 10.

Field Notes

Learn about keeping a journal and drawing what you see in the field, along with adding observations and thoughts on the subject.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 21
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 17.

Finding Patterns

Some birds travel great distances. We'll use maps and routes to create artwork from scientific data.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 5
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 1.

Make Your Own

Use natural objects to make ink, dye, brushes, and tools to create surprising artwork.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 12
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 8.

Bats!

Make a bat mask and other artwork to celebrate these amazing mammals.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 19
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 15.



Color in Nature

Why are leaves green, and turn colors in fall? We'll study some leaves and use their colors and patterns to create artwork.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, November 2
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 29.

Find Some Time

Make a sundial and other artwork based on calendars and astronomy. If the weather is nice, we'll create some spray paint space art outside.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, November 9
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 5.

Make Some Tracks

We'll create artwork using animal tracks, including cards and stamps, and a plaster cast.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, November 16
Time: Noon - 2:30 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 12.

Art of Illinois' Native People

We'll take a look at the ways Native Americans created art hundreds of years ago, and how they still incorporate those traditions today.

Where:	Meet at Jarrett Center	Ages:	6 - 14
When:	Friday, September 28	Min./Max.:	5/15
Time:	Noon - 2:30 pm	Register by noon on 9/24.	
Cost:	\$5 / person		

homeschool programs

nature & science classes

If you register for both, the nature & science classes and the art classes, bring a lunch. We'll eat in the Jarrett or Keller Center, or outside if it's nice. Our themes combine to look at subjects from both a scientific and artistic perspective.

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. This will be a short off-site trip. Transportation provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 14
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 10.

Spinners, Fliers, Hoppers

Discover the amazing world of insects and spiders. We'll learn how to identify many of these tiny animals and catch some insects for study in a net.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 21
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 17.

Good Old Days

Try your hand at flint knapping an arrowhead, start a fire with a bow, and see if you can hit a target at 100 yards with an atlatl.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, September 28
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on September 24.



Migrate

Learn about bird migration, build a bird kite, and learn how to identify the raptors that are following the Rock River south at this time of year.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 5
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 1.

Gimme Shelter

Could you survive in the wild? Learn how to build a shelter, set snares, and collect drinking water.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 12
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 8.

Bats!

Learn about these awesome animals and put together a bat house to take with you.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 19
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 15.

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: Friday, November 2
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on October 29.

Space and Time

How do calendars work? What's with Daylight Savings Time and Leap Years? Learn the astronomy behind these things and more.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, November 9
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 5.

There's a Change in the Air

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

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, November 16
Time: 9 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: 6 - 14
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on November 12.

scout badge programs

Brownie Badge

Senses

We'll follow our noses, look at things in a different way, and use all of our senses to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Friday, September 28
Time: 5 - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on September 24.

Brownie Journey

Green Tea Party

Enjoy this tea party with fancy cups and decorations, real tea and treats...but that's just part of it. We'll learn about the water cycle by following a single drop, and discuss ways to conserve water at home. Dress to take a short hike outside.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, October 13
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$5 / person
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 10.

Junior Girl Scouts

Drawing

Try lots of different mediums and learn about perspective, color, and line to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, October 14
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on October 10.

Brownie Badge

Bugs

We'll catch lots of insects, explore insect homes, and make some crafts to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, September 15
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on September 12.

Daisy Scout Journey

Between Earth and Sky

We'll hike to find lots of seeds in the prairie and woodland and collect a few to compare them. Lots of milkweed will be blowing around, and we'll be sure to find hickory nuts and acorns, too. Of course, we'll spend time on some crafts as well, including making origami butterflies.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, September 30
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$4 / scout
Ages: Brownie Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on September 25.

Junior Girl Scouts

Jeweler

Make your own beads and jewelry to earn this badge.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, November 10
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on November 6.

Fun Patches

Scrapbooking Fun

Join us for a fun afternoon as we put together some pages to use in a scrapbook. We'll supply paper, stickers, photo corners, and lots of other supplies. You just bring some photos! This event includes the "scrapbooking" fun patch.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, December 1
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$10 / person (inc. patch)
Ages: Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on Nov. 28.

Christmas Baking Fun

We'll bake up a bunch of goodies, including sugar cookies, gingerbread, Rice Krispie wreaths, and cake pops. You'll help put together the ingredients, mix, shape, and decorate. By the end of the session, you'll have a few dozen treats to take home with you. Fee includes all ingredients, materials, and a take-home container.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Tuesday, December 18
Time: 4 - 7 pm
Cost: \$15 / person (inc. patch)
Ages: Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 10 / 20

Register by noon on Dec. 14.

**Online registration
now available at
www.byronforestpreserve.com!**

scout badge programs



Boy Scout Badge Workshops

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 people.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, September 18
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$9 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on September 17.

Fish & Wildlife Management

Wildlife management is the science and art of managing the wildlife - both animals and fish - with which we share our planet.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, October 16
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$9 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on October 15.

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, November 20
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$9 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on November 19.

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, December 18
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$9 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on December 17.

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 13
or November 8
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on Sept. 12 or Nov. 7.

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 11
or December 13
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on Oct. 10 or Dec. 12.

preschool, etc.



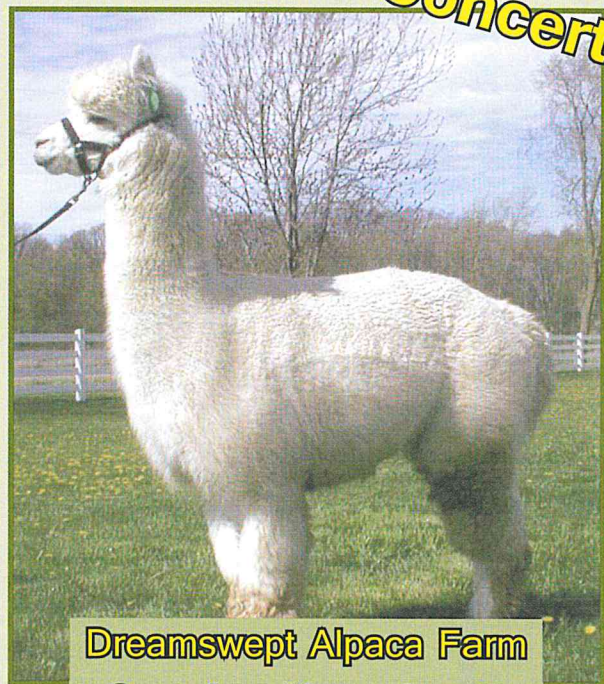
Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are geared toward 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared toward older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least 4 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: \$100/month-M/W/F
 \$85/month-TU/TH
 Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

Meet the Teachers August 23 ~ 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.

Kids Concerts



Dreamswept Alpaca Farm
Saturday, November 17



Parrot Show
Saturday, December 8

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.

preserve notes



Spotlight on our native plants: the Bottle Gentian

By Katie Sullivan, Asst. Supt. of Restoration

The summer is wrapping up and so are the blooming plants associated with summer. The fall months are dominated by purple and white blooming plants. One of my favorite plants to see this time of year is the bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*). This native perennial plant prefers to grow in full sun with moist rich soil. This is a strange looking flower (above) that appears to be closed, however the petals at the top can be pried open if necessary. Bumblebees are the main pollinators of this plant. It is the only insect diligent enough to pry its way into the flower and past the corolla to grab the sweet nectar. The seeds of this plant are tiny paper thin disks that are so small that the birds don't even bother with them; which is great for us restoration folks who like to collect the seeds to spread in our new prairie plantings.

The majority of our soil conditions on our main site are not typically suitable for this plant species to thrive. However, we do have a few introduced from plug plants located along the "stream" that runs from the golf course down past the Heritage Farm and into the Rock River. If you take a stroll down by the farm and cross the bridge take a look over the side and you might be able to see this beautiful deep violet colored flowered plant blooming this fall.

Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve

Several hundreds of hours of labor have gone into invasive species control throughout the Jarrett Prairie Preserve this summer. The major invaders are, again, yellow and white sweet clovers. These biennials compete well in prairie plantings but also in high quality prairie remnants like the Jarrett Prairie. Control is done through pulling, scything, mowing, and targeted herbicide applications. The Four Hills Trail had a spectacular bloom of white wild indigo and pale purple coneflowers early in the summer, also many compass plants bloomed even with the drought conditions. As we head into fall, look for several species of native asters and goldenrods in bloom. A high quality prairie has blooming plants continuously from early spring into the late fall, so one can hike the nature preserve to observe our native wildflowers from April through October.

Above Middle: Compass Plants reach for the sky in early July at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Even with the dry weather, the deep rooted Compass Plants still grew to over 6 feet and bloomed! Above Right: Pale Purple Coneflower

National Public Lands Day

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, please come out to the Forest Preserve and volunteer a few hours of your time to help protect and restore your public lands. National Public Lands Day was started in 1994 with three work sites, in 2011 over 180,000 volunteers helped at 2,060 sites in every state.

This year, the staff at the Forest Preserve are coordinating a volunteer work day to help restore the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve. The main activity will be collecting seed from various prairie species for a new prairie planting, some work may also be done on removing invasive weeds from the preserve. We hope you can come out to the Forest Preserve and enjoy the beauty of the Jarrett Prairie while helping to protect and restore our public lands.

The event will be held on Saturday, September 29th from 9am-Noon. We will meet at the Maintenance Parking Lot at 7993 North River Road, Byron. All are welcome and there is no cost to attend.

preserve notes

New Preserves Opened!

A couple of properties that have been acquired by the Byron Forest Preserve District in recent years officially opened for use earlier this summer. The Ripplinger - Gouker Prairie Preserve located between Rt 2 and Townline Rd opened on June 9th. The Ripplinger - Gouker Prairie has an established trail system for nature walks, hiking, and cross country skiing through the prairie plantings and restored oak savannas on site. The preserve is adjacent to the Etnyre Forest Preserve and can be accessed off of Townline Road. The Wilson Pass Preserve opened the following Saturday, June 16th. This 5-acre addition to the Jarrett Preserve connects the trails from the Jarrett Prairie with the trails at the Stephen J and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve. This connection allows for access to over 10 miles of trails between the two larger preserves. The addition is wooded with a mix of deciduous trees, mostly oak, hickory, and basswood. There are many nice spring wildflowers under the trees best viewed from late March into early May.



Wilson Pass Preserve opened June 16th. Left-Right: Forest Preserve Executive Director Todd Tucker, Shelly & Bob Digiovanni, Commissioner Sandy Brooks, and Commissioner Jeff Ludwig. Also pictured, the unique picnic shelter available at Wilson Pass which was preserved from the previous home that was located on the property.



Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve opened June 9th. Left-Right: Karla Gouker, Forest Preserve Commissioners: Jeff Ludwig, Trevor Hogan, Dave Breen, & Sandy Brooks, Land Manager Russell Brunner, Byron Chamber Board Director Dr. Troy Rahn, Ann Kivikko, Matt Ripplinger, Carl Gouker, Lauren Kivikko-Inzekiotis, and Forest Preserve Executive Director Todd Tucker. Also pictured, the beauty you will find at the Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve.



Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

In the late spring, over 30 large bur oak trees were planted around the River Road entrance and lining the initial shared equine/walking trail. Also, the preserve sign was upgraded with stone, and water service was added to the parking lot. Staff spent many hours on invasive species control throughout the 500+ acre preserve, mostly on the yellow and white sweet clovers, along with wild parsnip and bird's-foot trefoil. These weeds can invade young prairie plantings as well as established prairies and outcompete some of our native plants. The last of the existing sandy farm ground will be planted to prairie this fall with a high diversity seed mix. If you want to see some very high quality prairie restorations, visit this preserve anytime from May through September to see a wide variety of flowering native plants. At left, Director Todd Tucker with Mr. & Mrs. Nardi.

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 / Tea Party ~ \$100
12 children (additional \$30 for more than 12 children)
(cake, ice cream, tableware, birthday banner, program)

Standard Party ~ \$45 / Tea Party ~ \$60
12 children (\$5/additional child)
(program only)

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.

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!

Se habla español-815-234-8535 x200

Recycling Station

Bin To Be Relocated

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 four times per month, producing up to six tons of recyclable material like cardboard, glass, newspaper, plastic, and metals. The cost of hauling is covered through an 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 currently located in the maintenance parking lot at 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois. The bin will be relocated to the Stone Quarry Recreation Park Parking Lot after September 3rd. 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.**

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.



Volunteers

Tuesday Morning Group

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects including sorting, collating, preparing preschool crafts and items for graduation, cutting, labeling, and many other projects. To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: First Tuesday of each month
(September thru April)
Time: 8:30-11am
Cost: Free

Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join the area men for coffee, donuts, 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. To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

Where: Expo Building Woodshop
Enter at Heritage Farm
When: Wednesdays
Time: 9-11 am
Cost: Free

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 info, call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

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 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

PrairieView Golf Club

Customer Appreciation Week

FREE GOLF!! October 15 - 19

Season Pass Sales

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

Pink Ribbon Event

PrairieView Golf Club and the PrairieView Ladies League hosted one of the many events supporting breast cancer awareness. On June 26th, 72 golfers participated in a 9-hole "Rally for a Cure" golf scramble followed by a reception at the course. The event was a huge success and was used to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The ladies league has been hosting the annual event for the last 10 years and 72 participants was a record number. Next year's date has not yet been set but will promise to be even bigger and better! For more info, call 1-815-234-GOLF.



Matt Henkel, Golf Superintendent, and Janet Dahlberg, Assistant Superintendent of Education and artist on staff, were able to put the pink ribbon symbol on the course for the special event.

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

PO 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

6734 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-4653 (GOLF)

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.



Trails

Jarrett Prairie Preserve

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

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for horseback riding, walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

Howard Colman

Hall Creek Preserve

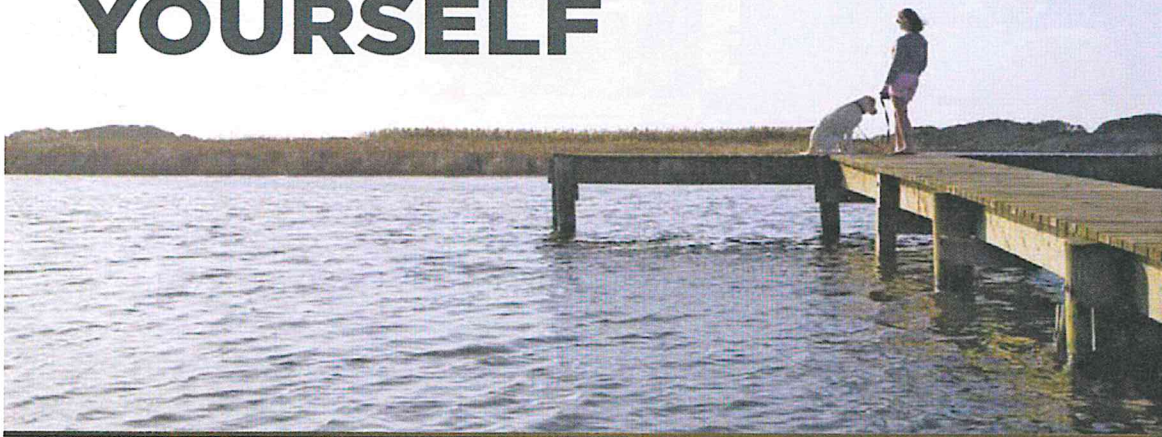
Walden Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

Townline Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

The Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve is not yet open to the public but will be opening very soon.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF



Like many women, you probably maintain a demanding schedule, drive household purchasing decisions and still find time to care for your families or other loved ones. With all that responsibility, it's important to take good care of your own financial future.

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Chartered Financial Analyst

Chris Martin
Investment Consultant

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Byron FINANCIAL SERVICES

Located at Byron Bank

200 N Walnut, Byron, IL 61010

815-234-4075

101 N Fourth St., Oregon, IL 61061

815-732-1528



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