

The Blaze

Winter / Spring 2011-2012



Byron Forest Preserve District

from the director



Winter: snow, sledding, skiing, wintery hikes, snowmen, snow ball fights with the kids, and yes, cold weather, ice, sleet, shoveling, hazardous driving, and lack of outdoor activities. I feel that making the most of the first options are the way to go! Let's not complain and let the long winter and short cold days get us down because that just makes the winter seem longer and more miserable.

The Forest Preserve has many activities to enjoy over the winter months and may bring new perspective and new activities to your lifestyle. The Forest Preserve's sled hill is an awesome place to spend an afternoon. I still enjoy sledding with my 13- and 11-year-old daughters and am surprised at how many people say they have never been here to sled. The Jarrett Center sled hill is the best sledding area around.

If you don't have your own skis and sleds, we rent skis and sleds for a minimal fee. We also have a few snowshoes for people to enjoy a wintery nature hike. There are several winter programs available too!

Along with PrairieView Golf Club and Stone Quarry Recreation Park opening for full operation in the spring, we have some special events scheduled for the whole family to enjoy. The Maple Syrup Festival & Pancake Breakfast will be held on March 17th and is a great event for all ages. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 7th and is always a returning favorite activity.

The Blaze is full of fun activities for all ages and if you have an activity you would like to see added to our list, please feel free to give us a call or email your suggestion to us for consideration.

You can also check out our newly designed website at www.byronforestpreserve.com for our calendar of events and more exciting details about the Byron Forest Preserve.

Have a Happy Holiday season!

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

Issue #26

Winter 2011 / Spring 2012

Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke, CPRP

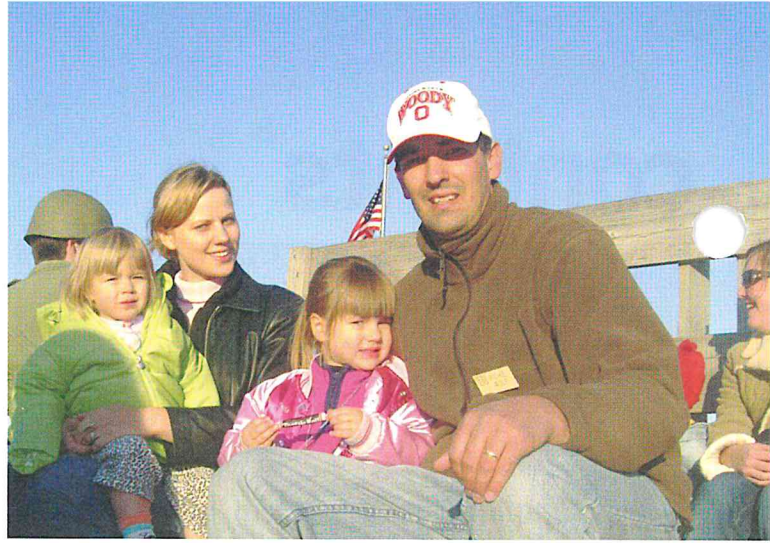
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Byron Forest Preserve District

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



maple syrup festival

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite!

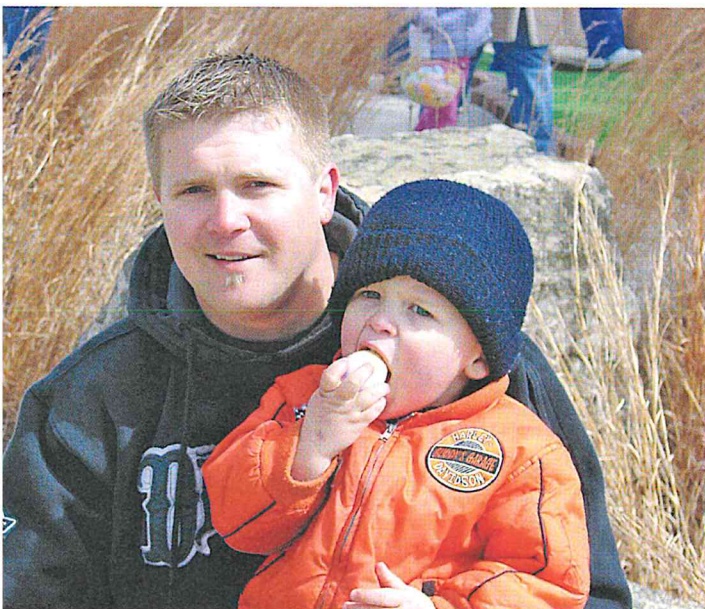
Hayrides ~ Tree Tapping ~ Pancake Breakfast ~ Kids Crafts

Tour the Sugar Bush ~ See the Maple Sap Evaporator Process

Jarrett Prairie Center

Saturday, March 17 ~ 7 - 11 am ~ Free admission. Fee for breakfast.

Co-Sponsored by Byron Kiwanis. Advance ticket sales at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



annual easter egg hunt

Stone Quarry Recreation Park

Saturday, April 7 ~ 11 am SHARP!

Hop on over to Stone Quarry Recreation Park for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! There will be lots of prizes and candy for kids in preschool through fourth grade. This event is co-sponsored by the Byron Lions Club. This year, we will be cooking hot dogs on the grill for the post hunt lunch special, so stick around and feed those hungry bellies!

outdoor programs

Cross Country Skiing

Let's hope for some good snow and some warmish weather so we can enjoy the skiing season. There will be hot chocolate waiting for us upon our return. Skis and instruction for beginners included! All ages and levels are welcome.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Friday, January 20
Saturday, January 21
Sunday, March 4

Time: 2 - 5:30 pm

Cost: \$2 / person &
\$5 / family

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on 1/18 & 2/29.

Moonlight Skiing

The moon will be just past full for this evening skiing trip. We'll have hot chocolate when we get back to warm up. Skis and instruction included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Friday, February 10
Saturday, February 11

Time: 5 - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$2 / person
\$5 / family

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on February 8.

Sweetheart Skiing

If Vail is a little beyond you, take your sweetie on a relaxing and romantic cross country skiing adventure instead. We'll provide skis, instruction, and hot chocolate.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Sunday, February 12

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon February 8.

Birds of a Feather

Learn about birds with hands-on exploration of feathers, nests, eggs, and skulls. We'll also learn about feeding and habitats and go on a hike to look for birds. We'll provide the binoculars for the hike. Bring a camera if you like, too! Parents are welcome to join us for free. Please dress for the weather. Bring a sack lunch and join us for our program on animal tracking at 12:30pm, Where it's Scat.

Where: Keller Education Center

When: Saturday, February 18

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 5 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on February 15.

Where it's Scat

Take a winter walk to look for animal evidence in the form of things they leave behind--tracks and scat! Learn to identify what animal has been in the woods--we'll surely see evidence of raccoons, deer, coyotes, and foxes (and maybe see some running around too)! Please dress for the weather. Hot chocolate provided when we come in from our hike. Parents are welcome to join us for free.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, February 18

Time: 12:30 - 3 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 5 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on February 15.



Winter Wonderland

We'll spend the day doing everything winter has to offer--sledding, skiing, building forts and igloos, looking for animal tracks, and more! We'll also make some crafts and play some games inside to warm up. We'll have some hot chocolate, too! Bring a lunch and plenty of warm clothes. Snack and drink provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Monday, February 20

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Cost: \$15 / person

Ages: 6 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on February 14.

Fossil Hunt

Join us at the quarry any time; stay for a half hour or for the whole event! We'll be digging through the piles before there's any spring growth to see what we can find. Bring a hammer to crack open the bigger ones and a bucket to cart away your finds. Fossil identification and guides provided.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Saturday, April 14

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on April 11.

outdoor programs

Ice Fishing

Bring your equipment for this unique outing at the golf course. Call ahead to confirm ice conditions.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sundays
January 22 & 29
Time: 7 - 10 am
Cost: \$5/person (under 5 free)
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 50

Register by noon on 1/20 & 1/27.



Owl Prowl

WHOOOOO wants to learn more about owls? Join us to find out more about these feathered flyers.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Thursdays
Jan. 26, Feb. 16, &
Mar. 15
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Cost: \$2/person (under 5 free)
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on 1/25, 2/15, & 3/14.

3D Archery Shoot

Bring your bows and arrows AND your good aim to shoot at these lifelike targets. Bows and arrows can also be provided if you need them.

Where: Meet at Byron/Oregon Sportsman's Club
When: Thursdays
March 29 & April 19
Time: 5 - 7 pm
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on March 28 & April 18.

New Property Driving Tours

Come check out the newest additions to the District. The Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve and the Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tuesdays
April 3 and/or April 24
Time: 4 - 7 pm
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12 (unless driving yourself to the sites)

Register by noon on April 2 & 23.

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., Wed., Fri.- February 13, 15, 17
Mon., Wed., Fri.- April 9, 11, 13
Time: 6 - 9 pm (Mon. & Wed.)
6 - 10 pm (Fri.)
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 2/10 & 4/6.

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 for outdoor meeting!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays
Jan. 8, Feb. 12
Mar. 11, Apr. 15
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2/person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.

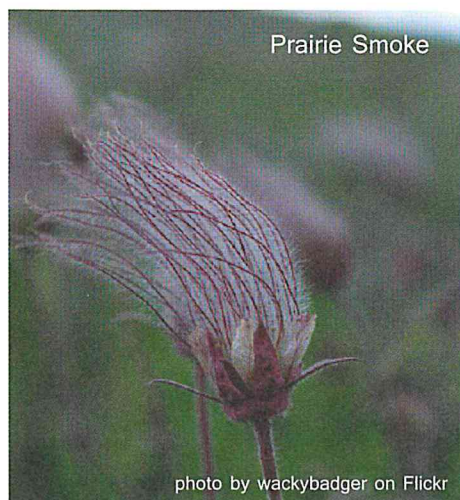
Boater Safety

This eight-hour course covers the basics of boating safety, equipment and requirements, navigation, motorboat, registration and titling, emergency measures and the Illinois boating laws. Students must be able to pass a written test.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday & Thursday
March 20 & 22
Time: 5 - 9 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon on March 19.

outdoor programs



Earth Day Bird/Flower Hike

Celebrate the beauty of the earth on this easy hike.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, April 22
Time: 10 am - 12 noon
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on April 20.

The Big Dipper

It's really cool to find it in the sky. Come learn how to use it as a star guide.

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

Register by noon on April 19.



The Winter Zodiac

Discover the difference between astronomy and astrology.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, February 3
Time: 7 - 8 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on February 2.

Spotlight on the Moons

Did you know that there are more than 100 moons in the solar system? Did you know that some planets have moons and some don't? And, some moons are bigger than planets!

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

Register by noon on March 1.



Art Classes

Art Workshop for Kids

Ever want to make a really big mess but never really had a good place to do it? Let us handle the supplies and the clean up! You just wear clothes you can get dirty and bring your imagination. We'll explore lots of different kinds of art and you'll have some masterpieces to take home with you!

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, January 29
Time: 12 Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on January 25.

Watercolor Workshop

We will supply all materials and plenty of paper so you can learn how to make watercolors work for you. From landscapes to portraits, there are tips and tricks that can make a big difference whether you're just starting out or have been painting for awhile.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, March 3
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$10 / person or \$15 / parent and child
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on February 29.

trips, etc.



Compass Plant

Mitchell Park Conservatory & Boerner Botanical Gardens

We'll head to Milwaukee to visit these two great destinations. The Botanical Gardens include a garden house, arboretum, bog garden, rose garden, and beautiful landscaping including fountains and statues. We'll start at the atrium and have a buffet brunch catered by Bartolotta's-- Breads, terrines, pastries, domestic and European cheese, fresh fruit, homemade soup, flavored butters and jams, made-to-order omelets, pasta, and waffles, sausage links, smoked bacon, chef made seasonal salads, grilled vegetables, breakfast potatoes, chef carved meats, smoked salmon, and not to mention a full selection of desserts! Of course, we'll need to walk off those calories, so we'll tour the garden and then drive to the Mitchell Conservatory (The Domes), which houses three domes: a desert landscape, a tropical garden, and a flower dome with rotating shows. While we're there, the show will be Rocky Mountain flowers. The domes have been a landmark in Milwaukee since the 1960s. Registration includes transportation, admission to Boerner Gardens, brunch, and admission to the Mitchell Conservatory.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sunday, April 29
Time: 8 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$50 / person
Ages: 18 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on April 18.



The Art Institute of Chicago

This museum houses more than 300,000 works of art and includes among its treasures, American Gothic by Grant Wood, Edward Hopper's Nighthawks and 33 works by Monet. Visit www.artic.edu/aic for more information. General admission is free. Special exhibits may have fees.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wednesdays

January 11
February 8
March 14

Time: Depart at 10 am
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple

Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 1/9, 2/6, & 3/12.

Special Donation

The employees of Snyders in Byron presented a plaque to the Weiskopf Observatory in memory of Alec Catherwood. They also donated money to purchase the "Starry Night" computer software and to the Preschool Program who sends care packages to US troops overseas. Pictured at right are Alec's parents, Kirk and Gretchen Catherwood with Alec's fiancée, Hailey Patrick (middle) with the plaque that will be displayed in the Observatory.



Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund Available

This Scholarship is available for those who qualify for financial assistance to participate in activities offered by the Byron Forest Preserve such as golfing, skateboarding, preschool, summer camps, etc. If you need assistance, please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for details on how to receive the assistance that you need so your children may participate in Forest Preserve activities.



Milwaukee Public Museum

One of the largest museums in the United States. It's a museum of human and natural history providing a dynamic and stimulating environment for learning, with something to excite and challenge visitors with a diversity of interests. For more info, visit www.mpm.edu. Fee doesn't include museum admission.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, February 25
Saturday, March 31
Friday, April 6
Time: Depart at 9 am.
Cost: \$20 / person or
\$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 2/23, 3/29, & 4/4.

Museum of

Science & Industry

Join us as travel into Chicago to visit this amazing museum. We'll see real space suits, science storms, tornadoes, avalanches, and much more!! For more info, visit www.msichicago.org. Fee doesn't include museum admission.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays
January 21 & March 10
Time: Depart at 9 am
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 1/20 & 3/9.



Henry Vilas Zoo

Did you know a lion can eat up to 90 lbs. of food per day? That equals 360 hamburgers!! Did you know the giraffe's tongue is approximately 21" long? Did you know that a Lemur's tail is often longer than his whole body? You'll get to see these animals and many more at this zoo in Madison, WI. Admission is free but donations are accepted. For more information, visit www.vilas zoo.org.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Monday, April 2 or
Thursday, April 5
Time: Depart at 9 am.
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

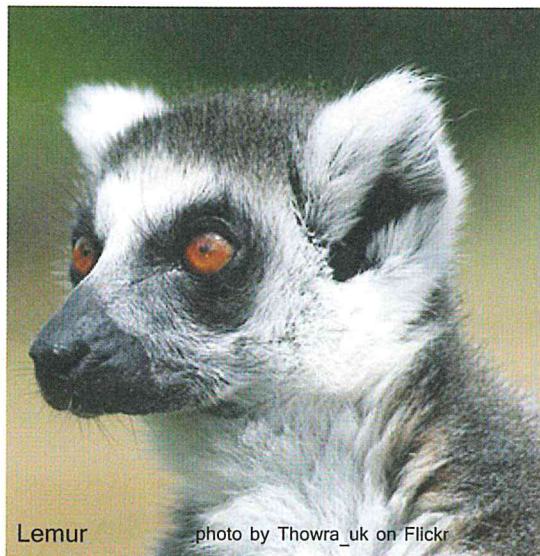
Register by noon on March 30.

Cave of the Mounds

For more than 70 years, visitors have discovered why this is one of the best one day trips in the midwest! Guided tours on paved, lighted walkways lead visitors past an unforgettable array of crystal formations. Visit www.caveofthemounds.com for more info. Fee doesn't include cave admission.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wednesday, January 18
Saturday, February 18
Sunday, March 18
Time: Depart at 10 am
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 1/16, 2/16, & 3/16.



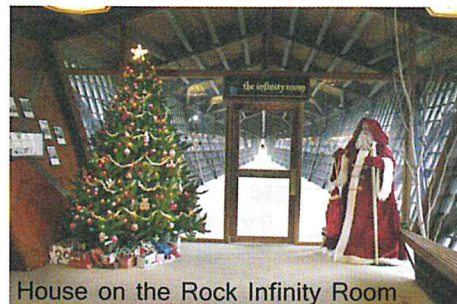
Lemur photo by Thowra_uk on Flickr

House on the Rock

An architectural marvel perched on a 60-foot chimney of rock. A 375-foot ramp takes visitors to the entrance of the House. Furnishings include Oriental art, stained glass lamps, bronze statues and a three-story book case filled with rare books. Other amazing areas to visit are the Infinity Room, the Mill House, the Heritage of the Sea Building, and many more! For more info, visit www.thehouseontherock.com. Fee doesn't include museum admission.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, March 23 or 30
Time: Depart at 9 am
Cost: \$20 / person or
\$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 3/21 or 3/28.



House on the Rock Infinity Room

scout badge programs



photo by megansquire on Flickr



photo by nellie76 on Flickr

Daisy Journey

Between Earth and Sky

We'll work on part of the Between Earth and Sky Journey by doing something to take care of a natural area. We could clean up trash near the river, put out prairie grass and flower seeds, make homes for animals in the woods, or check bluebird boxes--it's up to you! After you register, we'll check in and see what activity you'd like to do; we will have time for two of the things that get the top votes. Of course, we'll learn about the plants, animals, and environment wherever we work too.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, April 15
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: Free
Ages: Daisy Girl Scout
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on April 11.

Brownie Badge

Painting

This is one of the legacy badges, and we'll have a lot of fun completing the steps to earn it. You'll have lots of choices in deciding what you'd like to paint, so bring clothes that can get dirty and your imagination!

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

Register by noon on January 11.

Brownie Journey

Wonders of Water

We'll start by looking at some of the water saving features of our newest building, which will be certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. We'll talk about some ways that you can use less water at home on a daily basis, and why it's important. We'll also do an activity to follow a single drop of water through the water cycle--you'll be amazed at all of the places it goes!

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, April 22
Time: 1 - 4 pm
Cost: \$4 / person
Ages: Brownie Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on April 18.

Junior Girl Scout Badge

Drawing

This is one of the legacy badges, and it expands on art techniques you've learned for Brownie Try-its or even other Junior badges. We'll learn some technical skills and try out a bunch of different things so you can create a masterpiece.

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Sunday, January 15
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on January 11.

Girl Scouts

New books,
new experiences!

Junior Girl Scout Journey

Get Moving

Work on your Journey by visiting the Keller Center, which was constructed to be certified in the highest standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. We'll talk about ways you can save energy in your own home and in your day to day life, too. Then, we'll make recycled paper that you can use later. Save up paper scraps if you'd like to and bring them with you so you're recycling from home!

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, March 17
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Cost: \$4 / person
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on April 18.

Junior Girl Scout Journey

Girl Scout Way

One of the choices to earn the Girl Scout Way badge is to learn about the history of your area. We'll explore the Byron Museum for a short time and you'll hear some of the secrets of the Lucius Read House. Then, we'll walk over the Rock River on the bike trail--a very important part of Byron history--and walk through the grout house and barns at the forest preserve's Heritage Farm Museum. We'll have time for lunch and we'll cook some cornbread over a fire so you can see how it was done in the old days. The, you can put together what you've seen into an awesome educational pamphlet for someone else to learn from! Please bring a sack lunch and drink.

Where: Meet at Byron Museum of History/pick up at Heritage Farm.
When: Saturday, April 12
Time: 10 am - 1 pm
Cost: \$4 / person
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on April 14.

scout badge programs



Cadette Girl Scout Badge

Comic Artist

Part of the legacy series, this badge goes more in-depth with one form of art: comics! You'll have a chance to explore the process in detail, from creating your story to having a finished product. All materials are provided; bring your funny bone!

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, January 28
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Cadette Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on January 25.

Cadette Girl Scout Badge

Trees

Tree fun, science, crafts, connections, and helping trees thrive; you'll have your choices of activities to complete the steps for this badge. Dress for the weather and bring your sense of fun and adventure!

Where: Keller Education Center
When: Saturday, March 24
Time: 12 Noon - 4 pm
Cost: \$8 / person
(includes patch)
Ages: Cadette Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 8 / 20

Register by noon on March 21.

Boy Scout Badge

Astronomy

In learning about astronomy, Scouts study how activities in space affect our own planet and bear witness to the wonders of the night sky: the nebulae, or giant clouds of gas and dust where new stars are born; old stars dying and exploding; meteor showers and shooting stars; the moon, planets, and a dazzling array of stars.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, January 24
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on January 23.

Boy Scout Badge

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, February 28
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on February 27.

Boy Scout Badge

Fish/Wildlife Management

Wildlife management is the science and art of managing the wildlife—both animals and fish—with which we share our planet. Maintaining the proper balance and the dynamics that go with it requires humankind's attention. We use this stewardship tool to help minimize or eradicate the possibility of extinction of any given species. We want our descendants to have the opportunity to experience the same animal diversity that we now enjoy.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, March 27
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$7 / scout
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on March 26.

Webelo Badge

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: Tuesday, February 21
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on February 20.

Webelo Badge

Naturalist

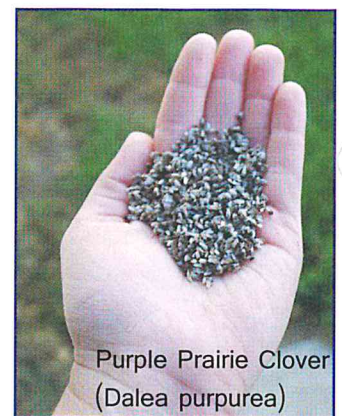
Learn about the bird flyways closest to your home. Learn to identify plants and reptiles found in your area.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Tuesday, January 10
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$7 / webelo
Ages: Webelos
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on January 9.



Pale Indian Plantain
(*Cacalia atriplicifolia*)



Purple Prairie Clover
(*Dalea purpurea*)



The Power of the Seed

By Katie Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent of Restoration

The numbers of acres of prairie lands are growing within the Byron Forest Preserve District's boundaries. The District's Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve is a good example of what prairie restoration looks like. The only way that we are able to take farm fields and turn them back into splendid prairies is with the power of the seed. It is marvelous that we have planted over 400 acres of land back into native prairie that once dominated this portion of Northern Illinois.

The restoration staff at the Forest Preserve spends much of their time during spring, summer, and fall collecting seed from as many different native plant species as possible. Some seed is easily collected while other seed can feel like you are looking for a needle in a haystack. The hard to collect species are usually found on small plants or extremely rare plants – in both cases it makes it hard to get large quantities.

Once we collect the seed we have to let it dry out – otherwise it can mold and will lose its viability. Homemade drying racks are used to lay the seed out to dry. Once the seed is dry, we bag it, and tag it with the name of the plant species from which the seed came. In the fall, after we have collected the last of the seeds, we mill it. This process gets the seed ready to be planted.

Several different mixes are created each year. One mix is comprised of our rare plant species' seeds that we will hand spread into designated areas. A savanna and woodland mix is also made and is hand planted during the fall and

winter months. Finally, we have our big first year planting mix to which the bulk of the collected seed is added. Once we have all of our different mixes created, it is time to plant our seed. We usually spread / plant our seed during the first snowfalls of the year when possible. This helps us see how evenly we are spreading the seed and where we have already spread seed.

If you are not going to spread your seed before winter is over, you must store your seed in a cold environment until you are ready to plant it. Proper storage of collected seed is important to keep the seed viable and keep the germination rates high. Most seeds need to go through a period of what is called "cold stratification." This process mimics winter and the natural process that the seeds would have gone through had they been left on their host plant.

Once you plant your seed, you wait to enjoy the blooms of your labor during the following years. It usually takes 2-3 years before your prairie planting will look fully developed. If you are curious what a prairie planting from seed looks like, come on out and visit the Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve that is located south of the main Forest Preserve entrance along River Road.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help out with collecting, milling, or spreading seed, please give us a call! Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext 217 to volunteer.



Happy Faces!!

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 x200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 Ages: 3 - 5 years old
 When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tu/Th
 Time: 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm
 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.

Fall Preschool Registration Schedule

February 13-17

Currently enrolled students and siblings

February 21-24

Byron residents

February 27

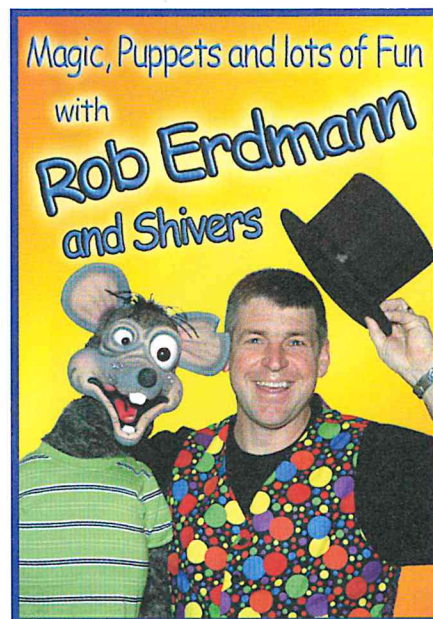
Open enrollment

Registration fee is one month's tuition. This will be applied toward the last month of the school year.

Se habla español-815-234-8535 x200

preschool, etc.

Rob Erdman
 Saturday, January 14



Magic Matt
 Saturday, February 11



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.

www.byronforestpreserve.com

stone quarry park



Game Night

So, you beat your friends and take over the world every single time you play Risk and they wouldn't know a Hippowden if it bit them...we're calling all like-minded gamers to meet and play. Bring your various decks, though we'll also supply several games you may choose from such as Carcassonne, Kill Doctor Lucky, Killer Bunnies, Robo Rally, and Settlers of Catan. Curious to try something before you buy your own copy? We might just have it.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Thursdays

January 12 & 26

February 9 & 23

March 8 & 22

April 12 & 26

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 10 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on the Tuesday before the program.

Middle School Dances

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

Jan. 20, Feb. 24,

Mar. 9 & 30, Apr. 13

Time: 7-10 pm

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: Middle School Only
(grades 6th, 7th, & 8th)

Midnight Madness

Stone Quarry will be open until midnight, so come on out and do some late night skateboarding, biking, playing Wii, or you can just hang out with your friends. The Food Factory will be open!

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Saturdays

Jan. 14, Feb. 18,

Mar. 24, Apr. 21

Time: 8 pm - Midnight

Cost: \$5/person

Ages: 11-18 (6th-12th grade)

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 to ensure quality mat time and instructions. We strive to build strength while instilling self confidence.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, &
Thursdays (all year)

Time: 4 - 8 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 815-391-3999.

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 All The Wright Moves tumbling class in order to take this class.

Where: Stone Quarry Park

When: Wednesdays

Time: 4 - 8 pm

Cost: \$10/week

Ages: 7 and up

Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker

Registration, call 815-391-3999.

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.

stone quarry park



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.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Sundays
Jan. 22, Feb. 26
Mar. 11, Apr. 15
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 6 & up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by the Wed. before the program.

Feelin' Lucky?!

Well, here's the perfect 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: Depart from
Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturdays
Feb. 4 & Apr. 14
Time: 10 am
Cost: \$22 / person
Ages: 21 and up
Min./Max.: 30 / 45

Register by noon on February 1 & April 11.



KidZone

This program is perfect for moms and dada who are looking for a little free time, AND for kids who want to have some fun! Featuring activities, games, prizes, and fun! Pizza and pop provided. Extra money may be needed for arcade games and other concessions items.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturdays
Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 17
Time: 5:30 - 9:30 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: 6 and up

Mother/Daughter PJ Party

Looking for some special time with only the girls? Dress comfortably in your PJ's and slippers and come a girls night "in." We'll be watching a chick flick (of course) while we prepare ourselves for a night on the red carpet! Girls, this is your chance to do Mom's hair, makeup, and nails! And, of course, we'll take time for dessert! Please bring your own beauty supplies with you.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturdays
Jan. 28, Feb. 25
Mar. 31, Apr. 28
Cost: \$10/couple &
\$2/additional daughter
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 10/30

Register by the Wed. before the program.



Summer Camp 2012 Sign Up Early & Save!

We are offering an early registration incentive for summer camp! Sign up now and save! Your child will get a \$10 punch card to Stone Quarry's Food Factory for every week paid in full before May 15th. The cost is \$105/camper per week and \$95/sibling per week. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 or 815-234-8900 for inquiries and registration.

Winter/Spring Hours

Monday - Friday - 4-8 pm
Saturday & Sunday - 11am-5pm

No School Days and Early Dismissal Days

Open 1 - 8 pm
Friday, January 13
Monday, January 16
Friday, March 16

Spring Break Hours

Open 1 - 8 pm
Monday, April 2
through
Friday, April 6

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, 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.

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 815-234-8535 x217 today
to book a program!

Banquet Room Rentals

Looking for a large space to host your family reunion, anniversary party, or any other family, or group outing? The Jarrett Prairie Center, Stone Quarry Park, and PrairieView Golf Club has the perfect place for you. We have a large rooms with amenities that can seat up to 250 people. Call for more info, 815-234-8535 ext. 200.

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.

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.

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

Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join this area group 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.

Where: Steward Building Woodshop
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.

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 an agreement with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department.

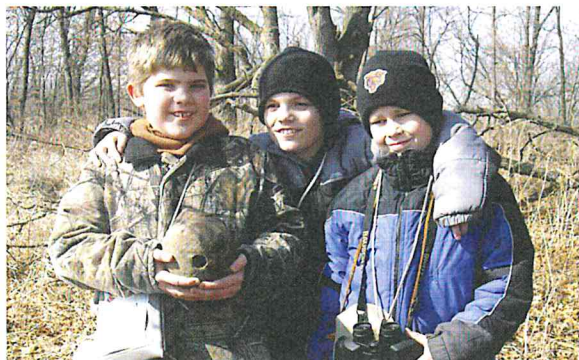
The station accepts glass, aluminum, plastic #1-#5, & #7, tin, steel, mixed paper, cardboard, and newspaper. The bin is located in the maintenance parking lot at 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived. **You no longer need to separate the items in each bin.**

Ski, Sled, Snowshoe Rentals

Would you like to try cross-country skiing or snowshoeing to see what it's like? Equipment is available for rental at the Jarrett Prairie Center during open hours. Or, if you're an experienced skier, come on out to enjoy the winter wonderland of trails, hills, and valleys at the Forest Preserve. We also have sleds available for rental for our awesome sled hill located on the west side of the Jarrett Prairie Center.



good stuff



PrairieView Golf Club

Customer Appreciation Week
FREE GOLF!! April 16-20, 2012

Season Passes on Sale Now!

By purchasing your season golf passes early, you will save money. Golf passes are discounted until Christmas. After Christmas, passes will be sold at the full rate. To see the rates for 2012 season, check out our website at www.prairieviewgolf.com.



Visiting Displays

Jarrett Prairie Center

Byron Area Boy Scouts - January

There are more than 150 awards you can earn as a Boy Scout. Whether it's a rank advancement, merit badge, or one of the many other individual awards, there is plenty for you to set your sights on. Come and see what these boys do for our community.

Byron Community Theater - February

Now in its SEVENTEENTH SEASON, Byron Civic Theatre provides a unique theatrical experience for the entire family. Producing such musicals as JOSEPH, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, NUNSENSE, THE ODD COUPLE, and SOUTH PACIFIC, BCT does the shows you want to see.

Byron Area Cub Scouts - March

Being a Cub Scout means you are a member of a worldwide youth movement that stands for certain values and beliefs. Cub Scouting is more than something to do. It's all about the boy you are and the person you will become. See what these young boys are learning to do for the community.

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

NEW & IMPROVED!!

www.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

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

Happy Holidays



Byron Bank Board of Directors

At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. It is in this spirit we say...

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holidays and a Happy New Year



Byron Bank



Davis Junction 815-645-2610

Byron 815-234-2561



Poplar Grove 815-323-1452



Byron Forest Preserve
7993 North River Road
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Byron, IL 61010

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