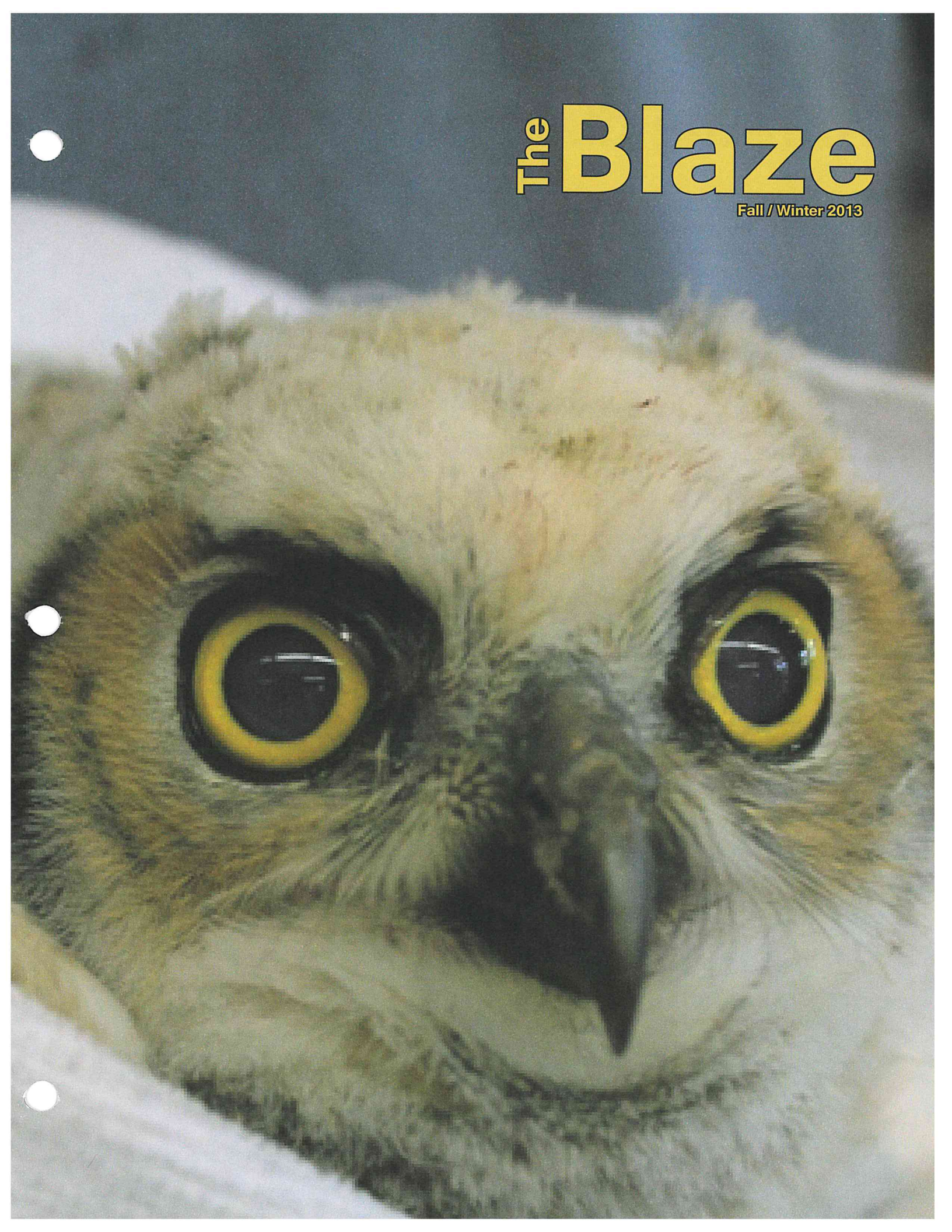


The Blaze

Fall / Winter 2013



from the director

The staff at the Byron Forest Preserve is always trying to find new ways to be greener and lessen our impact on the environment, so we are going practically paperless with our Blaze newsletters in the future. I encourage you to visit our website to read the future issues and plan for events and programs in the on-line version of the Blaze. If you wish to still receive a paper copy, we will be more than happy to put you on our mailing list.

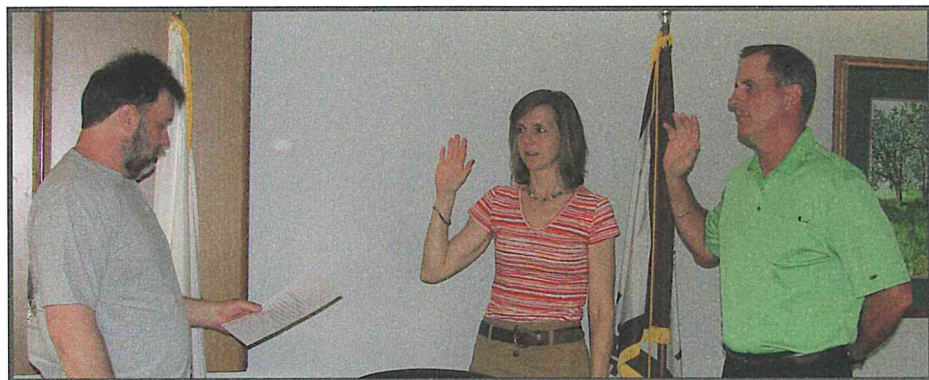
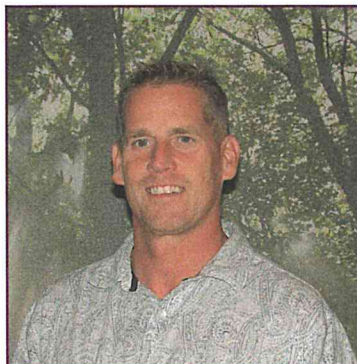
I am also very happy to inform all of our dog owners that we will be opening up the Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve to allow dogs on a leash for trail usage. We hope that this will help eliminate the dogs on the Illinois Nature Preserve near the Jarrett Prairie Center. This will also help provide an area for you and your canine family member to bond in nature. Please call for details on the location and rules.

Our staff will be building a new shelter at the Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve. It will be located just south of the parking area located off of Town Line road. The shelter will be small but will provide a beautiful view and a nice spot to rest for users.

The Forest Preserve staff looks forward to providing you with great fall activities and special events. We are always trying to bring new outdoor opportunities to our patrons.



Todd Tucker
Executive Director



May 2013, Board President Dave Breen swearing in returning Board Commissioner, Sandy Brooks, and new Board Commissioner, Brad Auker.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Jeff Ludwig

Vice President

Sandy Brooks

Treasurer

Trevor Hogan

Secretary

Dave Breen

Commissioner

Brad Auker

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 #31
Fall/Winter 2013

Editor, Design, & Layout

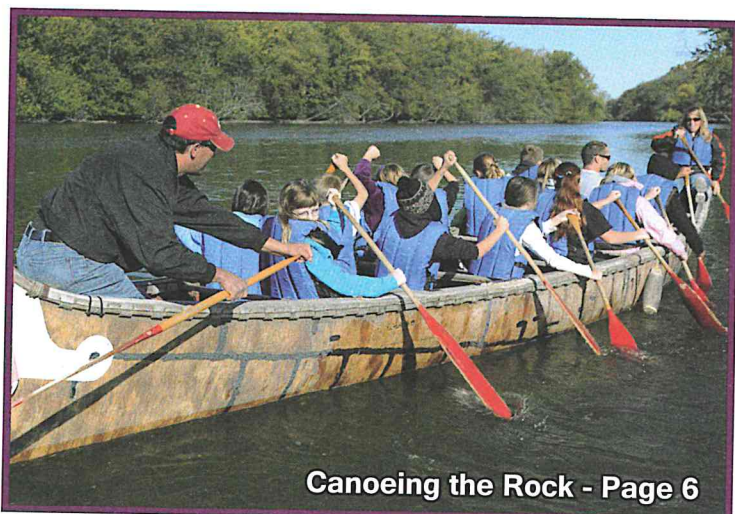
Michelle Gerke, CPRP

Cover Photo:

Great Horned Owl

Found and returned at Jarrett Prairie Preserve
Photo by Janet Dahlberg, Asst. Supt. of Education

contents



Canoeing the Rock - Page 6



Preschool - Page 16



Birthday Tea Party - Page 21

2	from the director
4-5	special events
6-9	programs
10-12	trips
13	homeschool programs
14-15	scout badges
16	preschool / kids concerts
17	pelicans
18-19	prairie preserve notes
20	prairieview golf club
21-22	good stuff / volunteers
23	directory

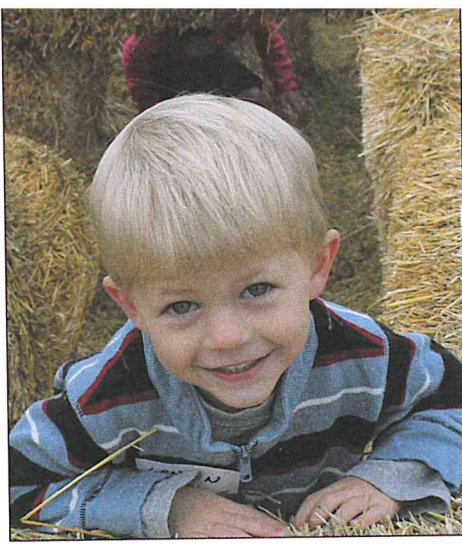
Byron Forest Preserve District

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

Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com



halloween on the prairie

Relax and enjoy this returning favorite!

Sunday, October 27 ~ 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!!

Need a fundraiser? This is the ticket!

We are looking for groups or organizations to setup scenes along our hay ride route for Halloween on the Prairie. Groups need at least one adult per scene at all times and can be setup to be scary or non-scary. We pay \$200 to each group (up to 6). There is no competition this year. Everyone receives the money as long as they are staffed the whole time (Noon-4pm) and all rules are followed. Call Richie at 815-234-8535 x217 if interested in this great fundraising opportunity.





22nd annual holiday gift sale

Saturday, November 2, 2013

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, please call Michelle at 1-815-234-8535 x224.

**Vendors
& Crafters
Needed!**

\$35

8'x10' booth

\$45

8'x12' booth

Call
Michelle at
815-234-8535
x224

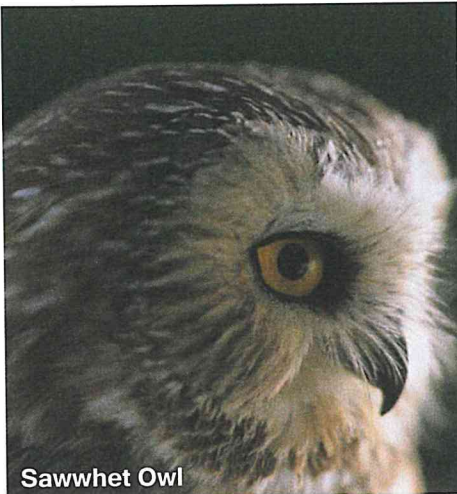


Connect with us!

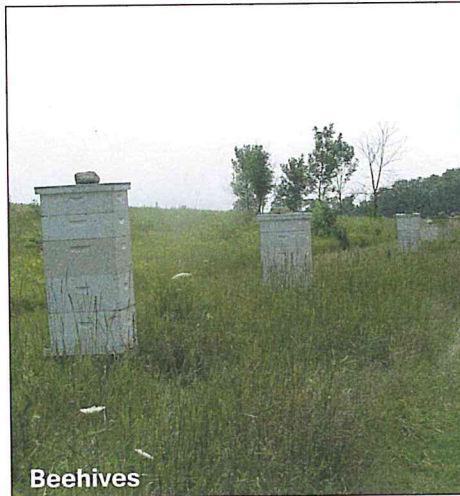


Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

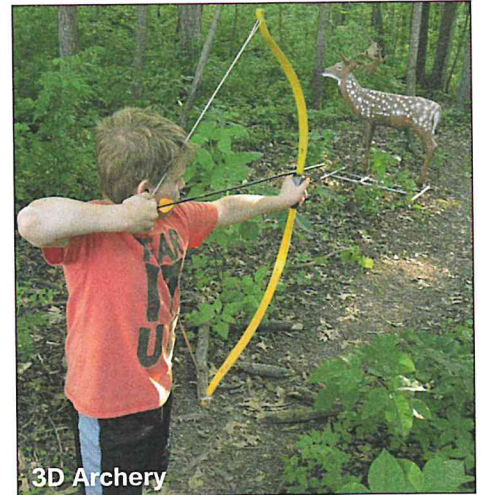
outdoor programs



Sawwhet Owl



Beehives



3D Archery

Evening with the Owls

Learn all about American owls then take a hike to find them. We'll start in the museum then head out to the woods for a hike. Dress for the weather and hiking.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Sunday, September 15
 Friday, October 25
 Friday, November 22
 Time: 7 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$2 / person
 Ages: All
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25
 Register by noon on 9/13, 10/24, & 11/21.

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. 15*, Oct. 13
 Nov. 10, Dec. 15
 Time: 2 - 4 pm
 Cost: \$2 / person
 Ages: 3 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25
 No registration required.

EEAI Share-a-thon

Learn about the Environmental Education Association of Illinois. You will be able to join the organization too! For more info, visit www.eeai.net.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Tuesday, September 3
 Time: 3 pm
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: Adults
 Min./Max.: 0 / 0
 No registration deadline.

Fall Color Canoeing

Along with the breathtaking colors on the rocky ridges of the Rock River, other possible sightings include Bald Eagles, Beavers, Deer, and Blue Herons. All equipment is provided on this fun program. Must have at least one adult per canoe.

Where: Heritage Farm Museum
 When: Sunday, September 22
 Saturday, October 12
 Saturday, November 16
 Time: 2 - 5 pm
 Cost: \$20 / canoe
 Ages: All
 Min./Max.: 3 / 12 canoes
 Register by noon on 9/20, 10/11, & 11/15.

Evening Chorus

Late summer brings us the sounds of many birds and insects...we'll take a short hike to listen to and identify the creatures that inhabit the prairie and woodlands.

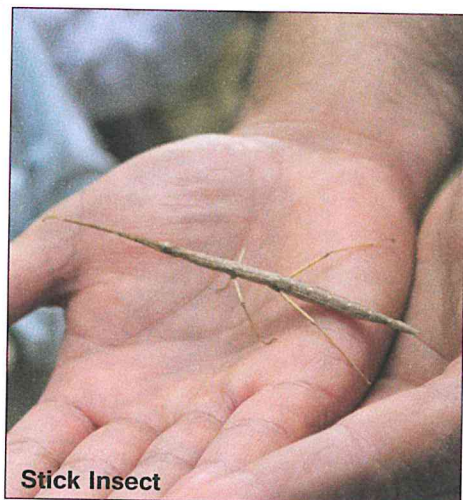
Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Friday, September 13
 Time: 7 - 8 pm
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25
 Register by noon on September 12.

3D Archery

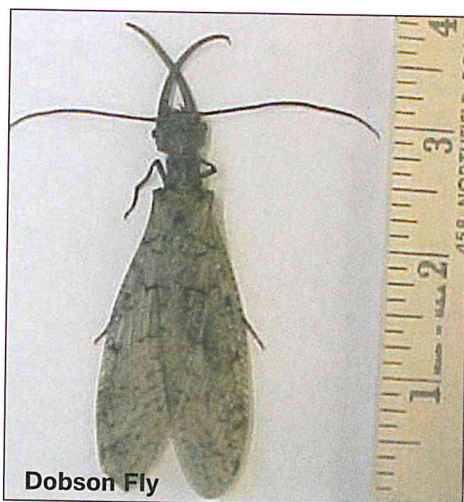
Join us to learn about this fun sport. You can bring your own equipment or use ours. Lifelike targets include bear, deer, and turkeys.

Where: Meet at Byron/Oregon Sportsman's Club, Townline Road, South of Byron on Illinois Route 2
 When: Saturday
 September 7
 Time: 10 am - Noon
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: 10 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20
 Register by noon on September 6.

outdoor programs



Stick Insect



Dobson Fly



Pinching Beetle

Spider Hunt

You're never more than eight feet from a spider, no matter where you are! Learn to identify the species common to northern Illinois by going on a spider hunt! At this time of year, we're sure to see huge wolf spiders and glorious argiope, as well as some of the tiniest and best camouflaged that you probably never noticed before.

Bring a lunch and stay for the insect hunt!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 14
Time: 10 - 11:30 am
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 8 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 11.

Insect Hunt

Insects abound in the prairie and woodland of late summer. Grasshoppers will even land on you as you walk through the tall grasses...but what else is out there? After a short introduction to the insect families, we'll take nets and go hunting! Each participant will take home a bug jar, but please leave the insects here! Make it a day of creepy crawlies and sign up for the spider hunt before this program.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 14
Time: Noon - 1:30
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 8 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 11.

Fossil Hunt

We will search the Forest Preserve's quarry for fossils. Arrive and depart any time during the program. We'll provide identification, hammers, and guidance. Bring a bucket or bag to take home your finds. You'll have no problem filling it up with fossils of snails, clams, cephalopods, corals, and maybe even a trilobite or two!

Where: The Quarry near
Land Management Center located at
6845 German Church Road, Byron
When: Saturday, October 5
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: All

(Under 10 must be with an adult)

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 3.

Weld Memorial Park

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the Byron Forest Preserve have entered into an agreement regarding the maintenance and upkeep of Weld Memorial Park located on East Weld Park Road in Stillman Valley. The Forest Preserve will be mowing the park and handling the shelter reservations. The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for repairs of the shelters, roads and other infrastructure. If you would like to reserve one of the shelters for your next picnic, please call 815-234-8535 x200.



Connect with us!



Register online at www.byronforestpreserve.com

programs



Dippin' in the Creek

We'll meet at the parking area at the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve off of Weldon Road then we'll take a short hike to the creek. We'll provide nets and see what we can catch, and turn over rocks for some of the biggest crayfish you've ever seen! Water shoes and clothes that can get muddy are a must! Please call if you need directions.

Where: Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve
When: Saturday, Sept. 21
Time: 10 - 11:30 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: 6 and up
(parents are encouraged to attend)
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 18.

What's Going On?!

We are collecting email addresses to establish a database to let you know what is going on at your Forest Preserve. Please call 815-234-8535 x200 or email raul@byronforestpreserve.com with your information.

Slippery, Slimy, & Gross!

Just in time for Halloween, we'll create some horrible concoctions for you to play with and take home. Be prepared for some hands-on slimy fun! Dress to get messy!

Where: Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, Oct. 19
Time: Noon - 1:30 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 16.

Winter Solstice

Cross Country Skiing

We will enjoy the early winter evening and cross country ski on our trails just before the longest night of the year. Beginners welcome. Skis provided. We'll leave a little time to warm up with hot cocoa after skiing.

Where: Jarrett Center
When: Thursday, Dec. 19
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$2 / person or
\$5 / family
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on December 18.

Snake and Turtle Shows

Learn all about these reptiles from our two museum buddies, DC the snake and Pebbles the turtle. See how they move and how they eat. You'll get to "pet" them too! See just how amazing these creatures are.

Where: Jarrett Center
When: Tuesdays
Sept. 17, Oct. 15,
Nov. 19 & Dec. 17
Time: 6 - 7:30 pm

Cost: FREE
Ages: 6 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by noon on 9/16, 10/14, 11/18, & 12/16.

Hunter Education

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

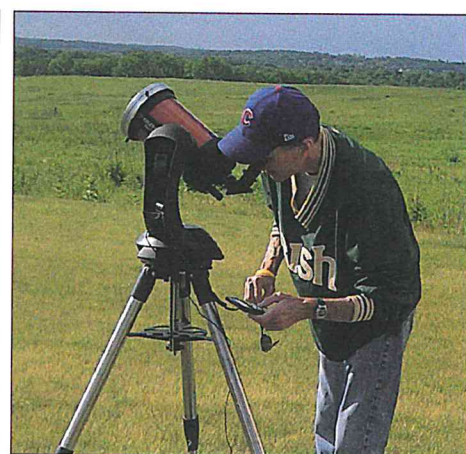
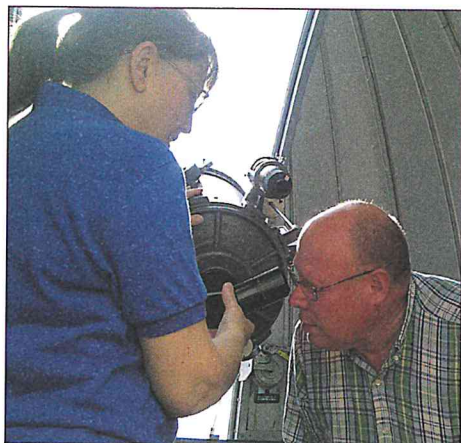
Where: Jarrett Center
When: MWF, Nov. 4, 6, 8
MWF, Dec. 16, 18, 20
Time: MW-6-9pm, F-6-10pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All

(Must be able to pass written test)

Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 11/1 and 12/13.

programs, etc.



Sunflowers & Solar Maximus

Check out the beautiful yellow flowers on a short hike then visit the observatory for viewing of the sun. This year is supposed to be the 11-year cycle of intense solar activity.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, September 7
Time: 10 am – Noon
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 6.

National Astronomy Day

Gather with us as we celebrate this annual tradition. We'll make sun dials, view the sun, take a space quiz, and see some planets.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, October 12
Time: 5 – 7 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on October 11.

Comet Watch

Relax under the night skies and check out the "Comet of the Century." Comet ISON should be peaking in December.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Wednesdays
December 4, 11, & 18
Time: 7 – 9 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: Families
Min./Max.: None

There is no registration deadline.



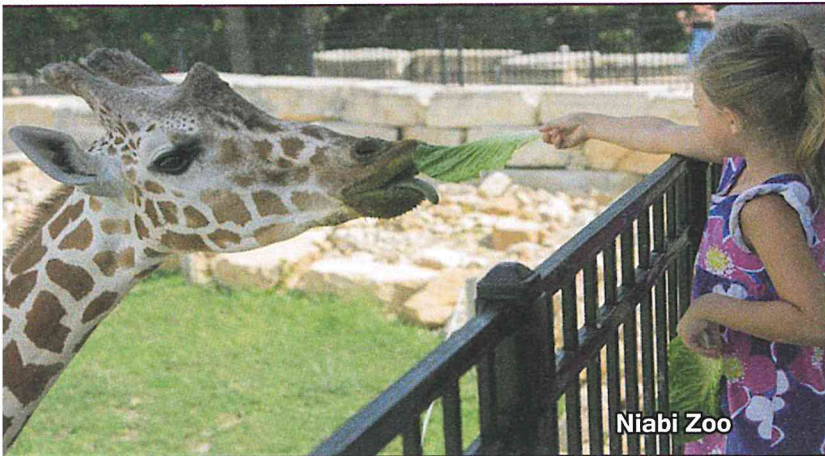
Oh No! Is This The Last Issue??!

No, not really, but this is the last issue of the Blaze that you will receive in the mail unless you have requested to be on our special mailing list. From now on, you'll receive a postcard notification if you are on our special mailing list or if you live in Byron, Stillman Valley, Leaf River, Monroe Center, Davis Junction, or Winnebago. This postcard will notify you that the Blaze is ready to be viewed online at our website, www.byronforest-

[preserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com). As noted in the last couple of publications of The Blaze, it is going greener in 2014. Even though the current issues are printed on 100% recycled paper, we feel that it could be greener and more cost effective by going almost paperless. If the paperless option does not work for you and you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of The Blaze, please call us at 815-234-8535 x200 or email raul@byronforestpreserve.com to let us know.



trips



Niabi Zoo



Scarecrow Festival

St. Charles

Scarecrow Festival

We're headed to this annual festival to enjoy over 150 hand crafted scarecrows, a huge arts and craft show, petting zoo, carnival, and other live entertainment. Transportation is provided and the festival is free. More info at scarecrowfest.com.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Friday, October 11 or Sunday, October 13
Time: Depart at 11 am
Cost: \$10 / person or \$15 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 10/9.

Boo at the Zoo

Join us as we head to Coal Valley and the Niabi Zoo for a spook-tacular good time. Don't worry, it's not too scary. We'll see giraffes, elephants, and big cats at this zoo park. Admission is not included in fee. More info at niabizoo.com.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 26
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$20 / person or \$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 10/24.

Milwaukee Zoo

Free Day

No admission fee to the zoo today! Come and see the ostriches, big cats, elephants, and reptiles at one of the most beautiful zoos in America. Transportation, parking, and tolls included in fee. Bring a lunch or food is available at the zoo. More info at milwaukeezoo.org.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, November 2
Time: 9 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or \$25 / couple

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

Register by noon on 10/31.

ATTENTION TEACHERS! Free Field Trips Offered!

In order to increase accessibility to outdoor education for all students, the Forest Preserve is offering field trips to area schools for free! Sessions include prairie ecology, forest ecology, nature center tour, observatory tour, Heritage Farm Museum tour, bird study, Native Americans, group dynamics, insects study, earthwalk, and Earthkeepers.

Field trips are focused on hands-on learning. We guide the students through the various topics indoors and outdoors using first rate facilities. Trips can be organized for an all-day experience or just for an hour. Lunch rooms and a small gift shop are available.

To schedule your next field trip, call Richie Wolf, Education Superintendent, at 815-234-8535 x217 so your class can

experience outdoor learning at its best this spring. These options are also offered in your classroom for free as well. In addition, we can tailor a session to meet your needs on just about any nature related topic. Give us a call to supplement your students' classroom learning experience. Please visit us online at www.byronforest-preserve.com.



Wisconsin Historical Museum



Museum of Science & Industry - Pioneer Zephyr

Museum of Science & Industry

Heading to Chicago to visit this amazing museum. You can visit the Omnimax Theater, the Science Storms, and the Pioneer Zephyr. Admission is not included in the fee. More info at msichicago.org.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, November 23 or Sunday, December 8
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or \$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 11/21 or 12/6.

Wisconsin Historical Museum

Join us as we travel to Madison to visit this four-story museum. Some exhibits include woodland people, Wisconsin innovation, and Frontier Wisconsin. Learn all you need to know about our neighbor to the north. More info at historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org. You may also visit the Capitol Building next door.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, November 30 or Sunday, December 15
Time: Depart at 9 am
Cost: \$15 / person or \$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 11/28 or 12/13.

Flower Factory & Rotary Botanical Garden

Don't miss these two floral attractions in Wisconsin! The Flower Factory has the largest selection of perennials, hostas, and ornamental grasses in the Midwest. The Rotary Botanical Garden is an award winning, 20-acre garden that is home to many dramatic and themed gardens. Admission is not included in the fee. More info at rotarybotanicalgardens.org and theflowerfactorynursery.com.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Fridays, Sept. 13 or Oct. 18
Time: 10 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 9/11 or 10/16.

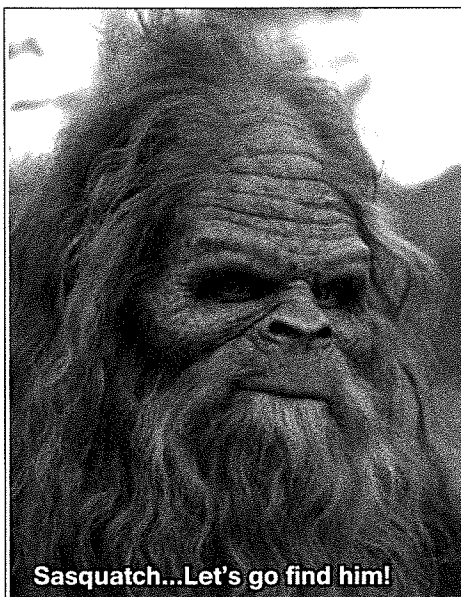
Register Early

PLEASE remember to register early for our programs. So many programs are cancelled due to the lack of participation and then we receive phone calls from disappointed individuals because they "were gonna sign up but forgot." So, get online or call us now to sign up for that hike, or that great trip, or to get that scout badge.

SIGN UP NOW!! SIGN UP NOW!! SIGN UP NOW!!



trips



Sasquatch...Let's go find him!

wisconsinbigfoot.com

Sasquatch Hunts

We are headed to the deep forest of the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve in search of signs of Big Foot! Bring your flashlights in case we get lost. We'll listen for strange sounds and make some of our own as we try to attract and get a glimpse of the unknown!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Fridays, Sept. 20,
Oct. 18, & Nov. 15
Time: 10 pm - Midnight
Cost: FREE
Ages: 10 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 9/19, 10/17, & 11/14.

Kenosha Farmer's Market

It's time for our yearly trip up to Kenosha and its remarkable farmer's market. More than just produce, the Harbor Market offers baked goods, hand-made items, food vendors, and much more. Everyone's favorite is the Fraternite Notre Dame booth and the nuns' chocolate croissants, apple bread, and tarts--these are some serious pastries. With over 60 vendors, whatever your taste, you'll find it. And when you're done shopping, take an inexpensive ride on the trolley around the waterfront or visit the free Natural History Museum on the same block. If that isn't enough, we'll stop at Mars' Cheese Castle for dinner and shopping before heading back to Byron.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 28
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: Adults
Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Register by noon on 9/25.

Mississippi River Tour

Join us as we discover some of the great locations and wildlife along the old Mississippi River including the Lock and Dam in Clinton, Iowa, the new Mississippi River Tourism Center, and Fulton's Heritage Canyon Historical Park.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 19
Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$10 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 10/17.

Celtic Festival &

Highland Games

We are going to the Quad Cities to see authentic dances, games, crafts, and athletic competition at Centennial Park in Davenport, Iowa. There will be plenty of food and drink available from the Old Country. Unique events include stone throwing and hammer tossing. Come dressed in your kilt, if you dare! More info at celtichighlandgames.org.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, September 21
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Register by noon on 9/19.

Le Claire Distillery and 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 Archaeology, 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 home.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, October 12
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: Adults
Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Register by noon on 10/9.

homeschool programs



Prairie Ecology

We'll explore the late summer prairie, with many of its flowers still in bloom and the grasses at their tallest. Learn why some flowers are taller than others, how the plants and animals interact, and what the bees like to eat and how they make honey. Bring a lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

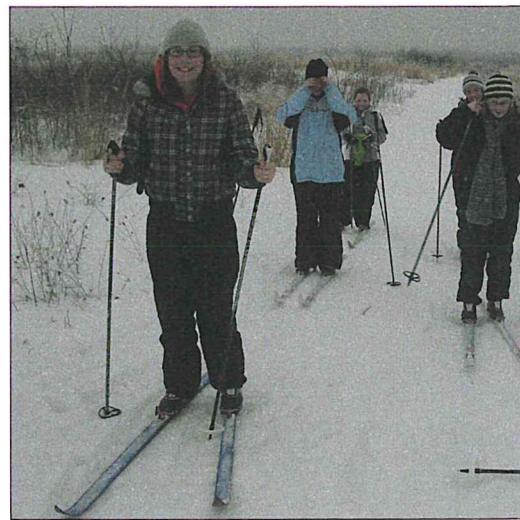
Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Friday, September 13
 Time: 10 am - 2 pm
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: 6 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on 9/10.



On the Farm

What was it like to be a settler in Illinois over 200 years ago? Learn about the history of this area and why it was important to fur traders and later pioneers, how the settlers dealt with Prairie Pirates and other troubles, and what everyday life on an early American farm was like. We'll bake cornbread over a fire and dip candles, and play games pioneer kids would have long ago. Bring a lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm
 When: Friday, October 18
 Time: 10 am - 2 pm
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: 6 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on 10/16.



Ready for Winter

Some animals migrate and others hibernate. Some pack away food and others change their diet during winter. We'll hike and look for signs that winter is approaching, and learn about how the creatures of the prairie and woodland get ready.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Friday, November 15
 Time: 10 am - 2 pm
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: 6 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on 11/13.

Snow Day!

Winter is coming. Maybe it's already here...or at least the snow. We'll cross country ski, sled, and make snow forts, and warm up with hot cocoa. Of course, we'll also learn about the animals of winter, how to stay safe, and a lot about that cold white stuff! Bring a lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: Friday, December 13
 Time: 10 am - 2 pm
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: 6 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20
Register by noon on 12/11.

Sunday Morning Drivers

Come with us to take a van tour of all of the Forest Preserve's properties including the newly acquired Mt. Morris Boat Club. Enjoy the ride and learn all about the trails, wildlife, and other opportunities at your parks and preserves. Donuts included!

Where:	Meet at Jarrett Center	Cost:	FREE
When:	Sundays, Sept. 8, Oct. 20, & Nov. 10	Ages:	All
Time:	10 am - Noon	Min./Max.:	5 / 12

Register by noon on 9/6, 10/18, & 11/8.

scout badges



Webelo Workshops

Forester Oct. 8 or Dec. 10
Naturalist Sept. 10 or Nov. 12

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 When: See Above
 Time: 6 - 8 pm
 Cost: \$7 / webelo
 Ages: Webelos
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon the day before the workshop.

Ideas??

Do you have a great idea for a program or a trip destination that you would like for us to offer? Or, do you need a specific badge offered for your scout group? Please let us know by calling Richie at 815-234-8535 x217 or Janet at x232. You could also go to our website, www.byronforestpreserve.com to email us. We look forward to getting suggestions from you!

Boy Scout Workshops

Forestry
 Sept. 19 - 5-8pm

Bird Study
 Sept. 26 - 5-8pm

Reptile & Amphibian Study
 Oct. 17 - 5-8pm

Fish & Wildlife Management
 Oct. 24 - 6-9pm

Indian Lore
 Nov. 21 - 5-8pm

Astronomy (partial)
 Dec. 19 - 6-9pm

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
 Cost: \$9 / scout
 Ages: 10 and up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25

Register by noon the day before the badge workshop.

Boy Scout Badge

Geocaching

Learn how to use a GPS unit to mark waypoints and find caches; see how a map and compass can be used for the sport; learn about the history and the how-tos of geocaching; head out to find some of the caches hidden at the preserve; and hid a cache of your own! This workshop fulfills all requirements of the badge except for leading an event for your peers...but you'll be well prepared by the end of the session.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
 When: Saturday, September 14
 Time: 3 - 6 pm
 Cost: \$5 / person
 Ages: Boy Scouts
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 11.



scout badges



Jr. Girl Scouts

Flowers - Sept. 12 - 4:30-6pm

The prairie flowers are still in bloom-- we'll discover all about them, including why they're so important. We'll also have a chance to taste some honey from our hives. **Register by 9/10.**

Animal Habitats - Sept. 19 - 4:30-6pm

Get up close with our snakes and turtles, and learn about their prairie habitat. Then, take a hike in the prairie and learn about the other plants and animals that live there. Use what you've learned to discover why habitats in other parts of the world need your help! **Register by 9/17.**

Drawing - Nov. 9 - 1-3:30pm

Explore art with lots of different materials and learn some techniques to help improve your art. You may discover some new ways of being creative! **Register by 11/7.**

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: See Above
Time: See Above
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Jr. Girl Scouts
Min./Max.: 5 / 20



Cadette Girl Scouts:

Night Owl

Most people miss so much that happens after the sun goes down...we'll take a short night hike and listen for owls and spend some time in the observatory looking at the stars and moon. And, of course, no evening program is complete without a camp fire and S'mores!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center & Weiskopf Observatory
When: Friday, September 20
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Cadette Scouts
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on September 18.



Brownie Badges

Bugs - Sept. 21 - 1-3pm

We'll head out with nets to see what we can catch! We will have a lot of fun, and if you don't like "bugs" now, maybe you will by the end! **Register by 9/19.**

Hiker - Oct. 19 - 3-5pm

We'll plan our hike and make a snack to take along with us, then head out through the prairie and woods. What animals might we see and hear? What plants will be growing? We'll use our senses to find out! **Register by 10/16.**

Painting - Nov. 16 - 1-3pm

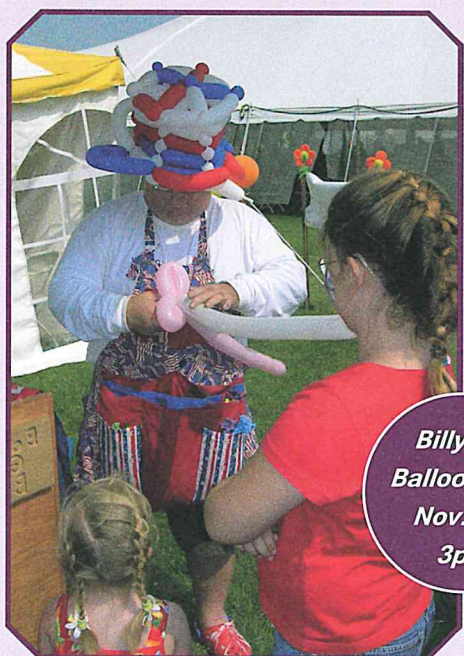
Get ready to have some creative--and maybe--messy fun. This badge is all about trying new ways to paint, and there are a lot to choose from! Explore and create with all kinds of paint to earn this badge. **Register by 11/14.**

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: See Above
Time: See Above
Cost: \$5 / scout (inc. patch)
Ages: Brownies
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

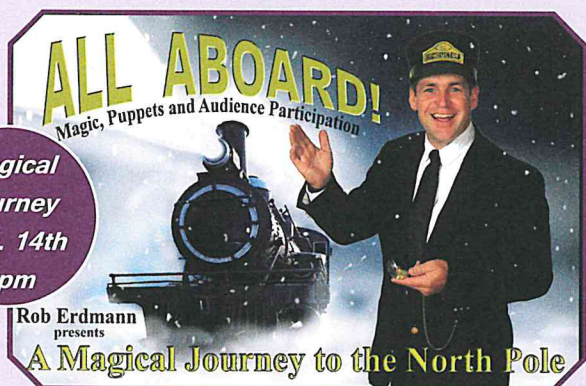
preschool, etc.

FREE Kids Concerts!

Sponsored by Exelon



**Billy the
Balloon Guy**
Nov. 9th
3pm



**Magical
Journey**
Dec. 14th
3pm

Rob Erdmann
presents

A Magical Journey to the North Pole

Concerts are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center
located at 7993 North River Road, Byron.



Mrs. Crystal



Mrs. Joni



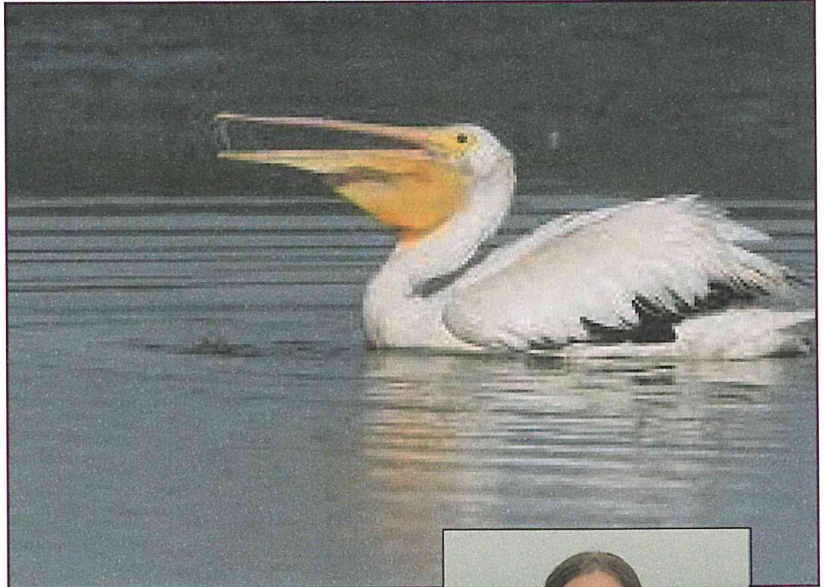
Mrs. Tara

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.

Preschool is 'on the move'... classes will be held at the Keller Education Center beginning Fall 2013. The Keller Center is a much larger facility that will accommodate more children. We have hired more staff to assist with larger class sizes. There will never be more than 20 students in a classroom at one time so the teacher/student ratio will be kept at 10 or fewer students per staff member. Mrs. Joni and her assistants, Mrs. Crystal and Mrs. Tara are looking forward to the next school year in the new facility!

Where: Keller Education Center
Ages: 3-5 years
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:45-11:15 am or 12:30-3 pm
Min/Max: 6/30-M/W/F morning &
6/20-M/W/F afternoon
6/16-TU/TH morning & afternoon
Cost: \$100/month-M/W/F
\$85/month-TU/TH

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.



American White Pelicans

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

By Katie Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent of Restoration/Maintenance

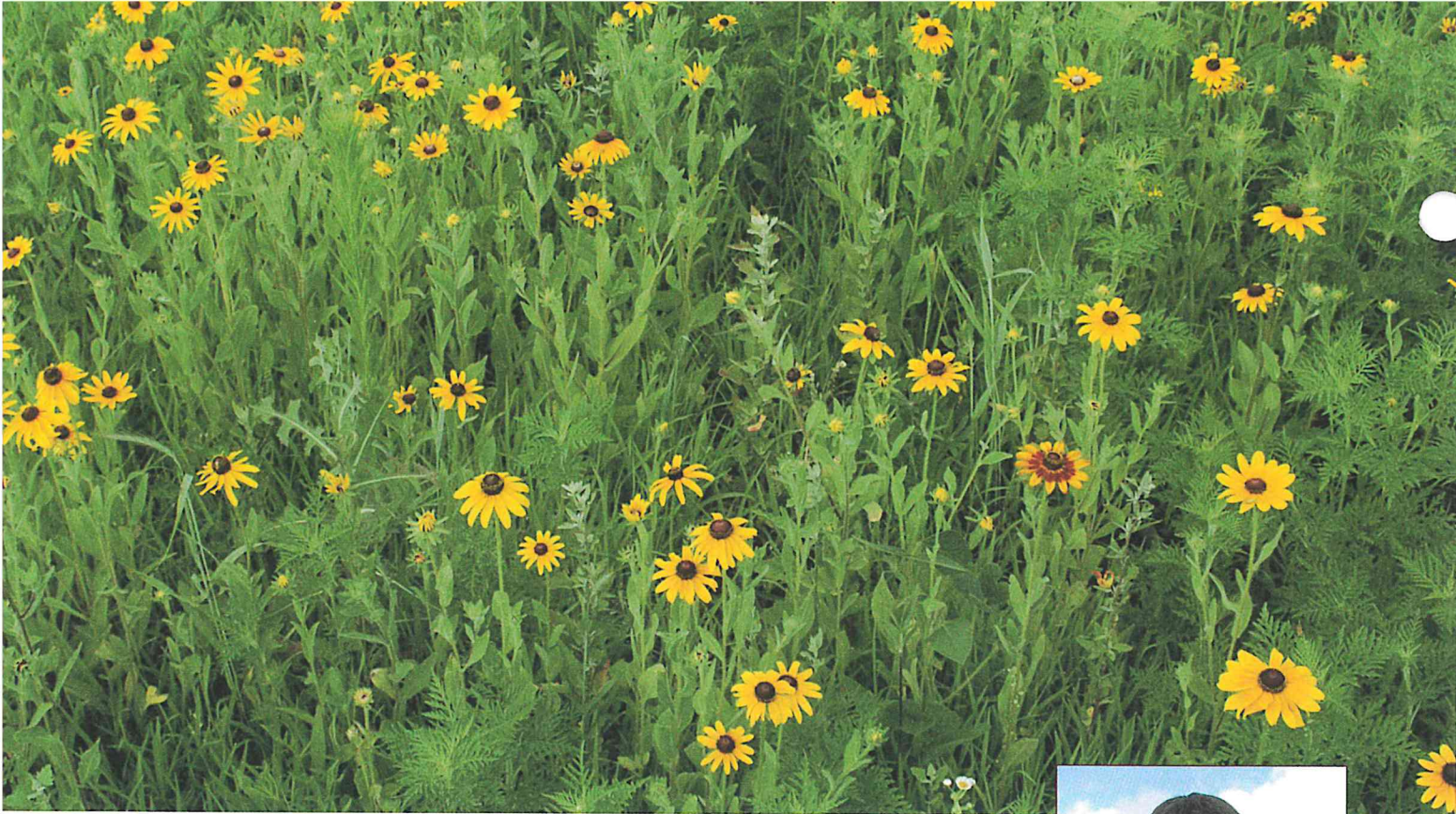
This past spring, I was crossing the bridge into Byron and noticed four extremely large white birds with black tipped wings soaring above the Rock River. Curious as to what the large birds were, I took a couple minutes to identify them and it turns out that they were American White Pelicans. This particular species of pelicans has a 9-foot wing span and a large orange-yellow colored bill and pouch. Unlike the western brown pelican, the white pelican does not plunge from the air and dive into the water for its food; instead it scoops up the fish while swimming on the surface of the water. The American white pelicans often fish cooperatively in groups. They manage this by forming a circle and "corralling" the fish in the middle and then collectively scooping up the fish or sometimes they will form a line and herd the fish towards the shore where they corner the fish and then proceed to feast. Water and fish are scooped up into their large pouches at the same time and the pelicans first drain out the water and only ingest the fish that remain. They can eat up to three pounds of a fish per day.

The American White Pelicans are migratory birds that winter in the warm southern coasts of California, Mexico, Florida, and the Gulf Coast. During the spring, they move north to find suitable nesting grounds and find a mate whom they stay

monogamous with during that breeding season. Pelicans will only breed inland in fresh water areas such as lakes, streams, rivers, marshes, and wet prairies. They breed and nest in large groups and each pair of pelicans have one brood each year – usually two eggs that are laid two days apart. The eggs are incubated continuously for about 30 days by both parents that take turns using their large webbed feet. Once the baby pelican hatches, it remains in the nest for 3-4 weeks until it is ready to fledge. Even after the baby pelican learns to fly and leaves the nest, the parents still watch over the pelican for another 3-4 weeks until they all prepare for their migration south for the winter.

Traditionally, the American White Pelican did not make its way this far to the east; however, due to conservation efforts, the pelican populations have increased and their desired habitat has also increased in our area. This has lead to an increase in American White Pelicans not only migrating north through our area but also breeding, nesting and summering in our area as well.

I find it really inspiring to observe a large flock of these huge birds soaring high on the thermals over the Rock River.



A first-year prairie planting dominated by annual plants like Black-Eyed Susan. Photo taken at Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve.



Prairie Preserve Notes

By Russell Brunner, Superintendent of Land Management

Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

All of the former ag fields at this preserve have now been planted to a high quality mix of native prairie species. During the first growing season, the native plants are mostly building up a root system so there is not a lot to see above ground aside from Black-Eyed Susan (above photo). The visible planting consists mostly of annual weeds but in year two (smaller photo on next page) and especially by year three and after (larger photo on next page), the native wildflowers really start to show themselves. Overall, the plantings at this preserve are of very good quality and are now providing habitat for grassland bird species like Dicksissels and Eastern Meadowlarks. Yellow and white sweet clovers are the main invasive species that we are working to control on this preserve. If you want to see some high quality prairie restorations, visit this preserve anytime from May through September to see a wide variety of our native wildflowers.

Prescribed Fire Season

Forest Preserve land management staff will be conducting prescribed burns at several of our preserves this fall and in the early spring of 2014. Prescribed fire is an essential and efficient management practice for the health of our native ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, helps control undesirable exotic weeds and shrubs, increases blooming and seed production among our native plants, and stimulates the growth of our native prairie and woodland plant species. District staff manage the burns to minimize smoke on highways and neighboring properties.



Birthday Parties

Choose the Forest Preserve to organize your child's next birthday party by calling Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217. 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)

~FREE~ 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 FREE tours. We offer many sessions to choose from such as prairie ecology, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us.

Let Us Come To You For FREE!

We offer FREE educational programs for any group including retirement homes and nursing facilities. Using our nature staff and nature stuff, we can come to you and deliver exciting and educational programs. Call 815-234-8535 to schedule a program for your group. You can choose from the following topics: Birds of a Feather, Indian Life (with traditional dress), Animal Encounter (with live animals). Call today to book your next on-site program!

Recycling Station Relocated

The Byron Forest Preserve, in conjunction with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department, has established a recycling station at the Forest Preserve.

The station accepts glass, aluminum, plastic #1-#5, & #7, tin, steel, mixed paper, cardboard, and newspaper. The bin has been relocated to the Forest Preserve's Land Management Center located at 6845 German Church Road in Byron. The station is open during daylight hours seven days per week. Please recycle responsibly by leaving the area cleaner than when you arrived. **You no longer need to separate the items in each bin.**

We are also offering a USAgain recycling bin for clean, used clothing and shoes. The bin is located next to the other recycling bin mentioned above. This bin helps keep textiles out of the landfills.

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.**

good stuff

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

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.

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

Individual and Family

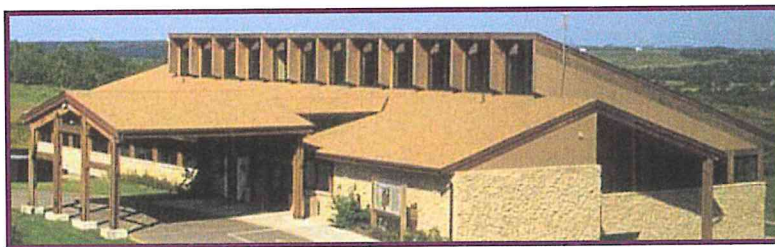
The Byron Forest Preserve has several volunteer opportunities for individuals and families interested in sharing their time for special events, programs of both educational and recreational orientation. These events and programs run throughout the year. For more information, call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

Great
Job!!



Byron Forest Preserve Woodshop Volunteers built laptop storage cabinets for the students at Byron Middle School. Pictured - (l-r) Wayne Scurti, Chuck Fisher, Don Turner, Executive Director Todd Tucker, George Fram, Harley McCammond, Bill Hogan, and Bill Michaux.

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

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.
Closed select holidays.

Keller Education Center

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Beginning in May, the Byron Forest Preserve Preschool program will be using this building for classes.

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

6651 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for horseback riding, walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

Howard Colman

Hall Creek Preserve

12749 North Weldon Road
Rockford IL
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

1753 East Townline Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for walking, jogging, and nature exploration.

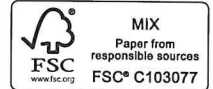
NOTE: Some of these addresses are new so they may not show correctly on GPS devices. Please call 815-234-8535 to confirm directions.

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



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

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Pictured left to right: Brian, Kris, Tim, Leah, Brent and Rhonda

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Poplar Grove 815-323-1452