

THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT PRESENTS

# THE BLAZE

FEATURING  
**RESTORATION  
RUSS**

*44 Pulse  
Pounding  
Pages!!*

*Special Edition  
Summer 2009*



*Inside this special issue...*

- *Comic Book*
- *Summer Camp*
- *Free Concerts*
- *Restoring the Oaks*
- *Prairie Grass Pub*
- *Men's Golf Association*





# Director's Message!

*By Todd Tucker, Executive Director*

The District is gearing up for a full summer of recreational opportunities that we offer for all ages! I feel that this will be yet another year that the District will bring many new experiences to all our users. The staff has worked very hard to bring you the very best programs while operating the Agency as efficiently and responsible as we can. We have also worked very hard on this new issue of the Blaze. The staff thought it would be a great idea to change the look of the publication from time to time to keep the interest of our patrons. Special thanks for this issue to Janet Dahlberg for her hand drawn illustrations and personal time she spent for this issue. There are many projects we have been developing this year and will continue. Here are a few highlights:

**Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve** - The staff has been working on the development of the Ripplinger/Gouker Preserve by restoring the Oak savanna on this land and opening the adjoining Etnyre Preserve by removing the old fence and tree line to bring the property together, so the tract can be eventually used as one.



*Printed on 100% recycled paper.*

**New Logo** - We have been working with a design firm to redesign our logo. A large portion of our media and signs have not changed since our inception almost 30 years ago. So, we need a face lift! Watch for our new look to emerge.

**Taxing Bodies Working Together** - Intergovernmental cooperation has always been a part of this Agency. From sharing equipment and labor to using school buses and banquet rooms at no charge to each other. Recently, intergovernmental cooperation has been a focus for our woodshop volunteers. The District has needed new podiums for a couple of years and we decided to ask our talented woodshop volunteers to build them and, wow!, did they do a nice job. So good, we thought we would give the other government agencies in town the opportunity to order podiums if they purchase the materials. We got three requests and are now in the process of building podiums for the Byron Museum District and Byron Public Library District. The volunteers are also building bags game boards for Byronfest and the Byron Park District. The Byron Fire Protection District has also requested some more cubicles for fire fighter gear to be used when other area fire fighters come to Byron for training.

**New Education Building** - We are in the process of building a LEED (Low Energy Efficient Design) building that is silver certified. This means that it is being built as "green" as possible. It will have solar panels and other energy saving features. The building will be used for the education department programs such as Earthkeepers, scout programs, and other educational programs.

**Clyde James Memorial** - We will be honoring Clyde James with a memorial prairie plot that Clyde so diligently worked. The plot is the first little prairie that you see when you enter the Preserve on the right hand side. Clyde James spent a great deal of time volunteering his time growing plants, planting prairie plugs, teaching youth about the environment, and cutting out non-native plant species. You could often run into Clyde taking pictures around the preserve, he was great with a camera and had quite a display of wildlife photos from the Byron area. Clyde had a good long life with a very happy demeanor and I have missed him. Clyde once told me "Todd, I've out lived a lot of trees" and I can only hope that my tree rings of life become as plentiful as Clyde's. We will be installing a sign in Clyde's honor at that front entrance planting.



# General Information!



## Jarrett Prairie Center Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8am-4:30pm  
Tues. & Thurs. 8am-8pm  
Saturday 9am-4pm  
Sunday 1-4pm

## Jarrett Prairie Center is closed:

Memorial Day, May 25  
Independence Day, July 4  
Labor Day, September 7

## Administrative Offices are closed:

Memorial Day, May 25  
Independence Day, July 3  
Labor Day, September 7

**Byron Forest Preserve District**  
7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010  
815-234-8535 ~ [www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)

## Board Meetings

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois.

## Board of Commissioners

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

Who to Contact: *General inquiries*

1-815-234-8535 ext. 200 or [linda@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:linda@byronforestpreserve.com)

## Behavior Policy

To ensure safe and enjoyable programs and facilities for all residents, the Byron Forest Preserve District has developed the following Code of Conduct.

Participants in programs and those using facilities shall: (1) Show respect to all participants, staff, equipment, supplies, and facilities; (2) Refrain from using offensive or profane language; (3) Refrain from aggressive behavior that could cause bodily harm.

The Byron Forest Preserve District reserves the right to dismiss a participant from a program if his/her behavior or language is deemed inappropriate by staff.

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

The Byron Forest Preserve District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of others or causes property damage.

## Administrative Staff

Todd Tucker, Executive Director  
[todd@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:todd@byronforestpreserve.com)  
815-234-8535 ext. 222

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Blaze Editor, Design & Layout  
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815-234-8535 ext. 224

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Russell Brunner, Restoration and Maintenance Superintendent  
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Dan Beranek, Manager  
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815-234-8900

Steve Murray, Manager  
PrairieView Golf Club  
[pvgolfpro@hotmail.com](mailto:pvgolfpro@hotmail.com)  
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815-234-8535 ext. 232

## Photography Policy

Photographs and videos are periodically taken of participants during programs, special events, trips, or at the parks. Please be aware that these photographs may be used for Forest Preserve District publications and/or other media.

*Printed on 100% recycled paper.*



# Our Mission!

## Mission Statement

*Preservation ~ Education ~ Recreation*

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

Thank  
You!



**Sandy Brooks**  
**President**

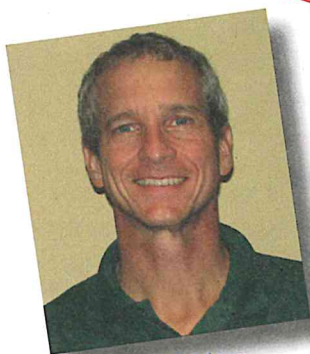


**Denny Cravatta**  
**Commissioner**

Thank  
You!

## Board of Commissioners

*Our Dedicated Volunteers*



**Jeff Huber**  
**Commissioner**



**Dave Breen**  
**Secretary**



**Jeff Ludwig**  
**Treasurer**



# Special Event!



## Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund Annual Mini-Golf Fundraiser

June 19, 2009 ~ 5-8pm  
Only \$15 per person  
Stone Quarry Recreation Park

This event includes 18 holes of mini-golf, dinner from the Food Factory, and use of the skate park and bathing cages. Please register by calling Stone Quarry Recreation Park at 1-815-234-8900. Your support as a participant, sponsor, or donor will allow this program to continue to help our local children. If you have questions or wish to donate or become a sponsor, please call Todd Tucker at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 222.

In 2003, the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners announced the establishment of the Matt Johnson Scholarship Program by Dr. Robert and Holly Johnson of Byron. The Scholarship program is a fund of money that is available for the youth of the Byron area who are in need of financial assistance to participate in the activities of the Byron Forest Preserve District, such as skateboarding, golf, summer day camp, preschool, and many other scheduled programs.

Matt, the son of Holly and Robert, was an avid skateboarder and was interested in golf, until his life was cut tragically short at the age of 18 in a car accident in 1997.

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and staff are grateful for the Johnsons' generosity in the creation of the Matt Johnson Scholarship Program for the children of the Byron area.

To qualify for a Scholarship Award, the child must be eligible for the school lunch program and reside in the Byron Forest Preserve District. The Johnsons encourage parents who feel that their child would benefit from this program to contact the Byron Forest Preserve Director Todd Tucker at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 222 for more information.





# Summer Fun!



## Summer Day Camp

### Great Field Trips This Year!

Lake LaDonna ~ GAR's Club XRKADE  
SciTech ~ Donley's Wild West  
Anderson Gardens ~ Cherry Bowl  
Madison Zoo ~ Angelic Organics  
Rockford Riverhawks ~ Lena Pool  
Sinnissippi Music Shell ~ Krape Park

### June 8 - August 14

Week One - June 8-12

Week Two - June 15-19

Week Three - June 22-26

Week Four - June 29-July 3

Week Five - July 6-10

Week Six - July 13-17

Week Seven - July 20-24

Week Eight - July 27-31

Week Nine - August 3-7

Week Ten - August 10-14

Times:

9 am - 4 pm

Ages:

6 - 12 year-olds

Hey, "The Danager" says  
Stone Quarry is the place  
to be this summer!

It's obvious that these hard economic times have reached everyone at one point or another, and the Byron Forest Preserve would like to do something to counter these increasingly difficult financial times...so we proudly announce...

### The Stone Quarry Summer Camp Stimulus Package!!

We have discontinued our early registration deadline, and extended the early registration rates through the entire 10-week summer camp program and field trips are included.

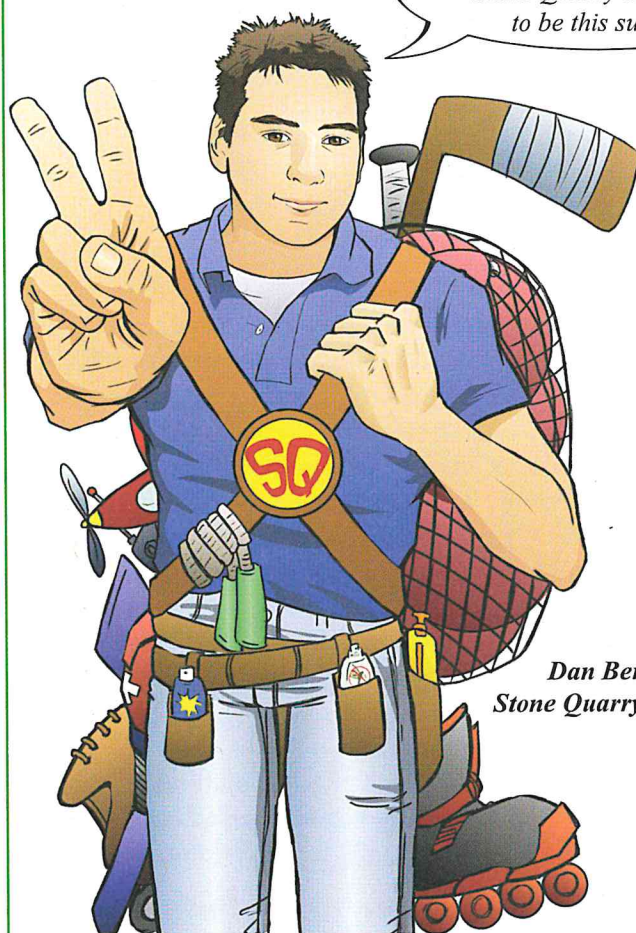
Cost: April 1 - May 1 - \$105/week & \$95/sibling  
**Extended through entire 10-week program!**  
After May 1 - \$125/week & \$115/sibling

Latchkey: 7-9 am (\$10 per week)  
4-6 pm (\$10 per week)

Daily Rate: \$25 per day & \$30 per field trip day

**Plus...** weekly camp fees include free use of Stone Quarry's facilities after camp hours and on the weekends while your child is enrolled in camp.

**And...** for every week paid in advance by June 1st, each child enrolled will receive a free \$10 punch card for the Stone Quarry Food Factory.



Dan Beranek  
Stone Quarry Manager



# Summer Fun!



## Adventure Club

### *Fun for 3-6 year olds!*

This summer program is geared toward preschool age children. Each two-week session has a theme, and will include games, crafts, stories, and outdoor play. Children are provided a fun, safe, and comfortable environment with our caring staff. Call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 200 to register today!

#### ***Session #1 - June 8-18***

##### ***School of Hard Rocks***

We will explore rocks and discuss their different characteristics. Great for children who enjoy collecting and being outdoors!

#### ***Session #2 - June 22-July 2***

##### ***Deep Sea Creatures***

We will explore the oceans and the animals that inhabit them. Dolphins, whales, sharks, and fish are some of the creatures we will learn about.

#### ***Session #3 - July 6-16***

##### ***My Friendly Shadow***

We will discuss the idea of our shadow and discover the many things that we can create with them. Children will head outside to see how the sun casts their shadow.

#### ***Session #4 - July 20-30***

##### ***Eric Carle Stories***

We will read the wonderful literature written and illustrated by Eric Carle. Books such as Hungry Caterpillar, The Grouchy Ladybug, Mister Seahorse, and A House for Hermit Crab.



Cost: \$35 / session  
When: Monday & Wednesday or  
Tuesday & Thursday  
Time: 9 - 11 am  
Ages: 3 - 6 year olds  
Min./Max.: 6 / 14

***Come check out the new playground  
near the Jarrett Prairie Center!***



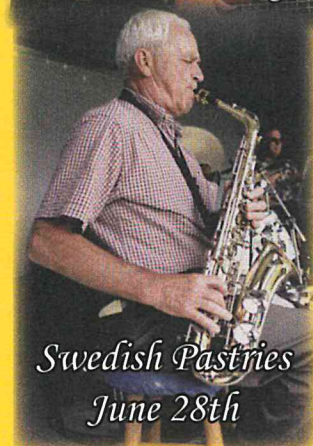




# Free Summer Concerts!



*Bluegrass Reunion Band*  
June 14th



*Swedish Pastries*  
June 28th

JUNE



*Bayliss Jazz Trio*  
July 19th



*Starlite Radio*  
July 26th

JULY



*Dennis Stroughmatt  
et L'Esprit Creole*  
August 16th

*Lee Murdock*  
August 9th

AUGUST



*Heritage Farm Stage ~ 7 pm ~ 8059 North River Road ~ Byron*



Matt Johnson  
Scholarships Available  
for Skate Park Passes.  
Call 1-815-234-8535  
ext. 200

# Stone Quarry Park!



## Slam Dunk Contest

Come out to the park for some slam jamming fun at Stone Quarry's annual slam dunk contest! The top three finalists from each bracket will compete for the title of the ultimate slam dunk champion. Scoring will be done by a panel of judges, and they will base their scores on creativity, vertical leap and difficulty. So, grab your gear, your fans, and don't forget your game, for this action-packed summer event! The concession stand will be open for food and beverages. Registration required.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, June 27  
Time: 2 pm  
Cost: \$10/person  
Ages: 17 and under  
Min./Max.: 10/50

**Register by noon on June 24.**



## Kids Big Wheel Races

All right race fans, grab your kids and their favorite big wheel machine and

come out to the park for a day of high speed big wheel action! Prizes will be awarded to First and Second place for each age bracket. Costumes are encouraged. The concession stand will be open for food and beverages. Registration required.

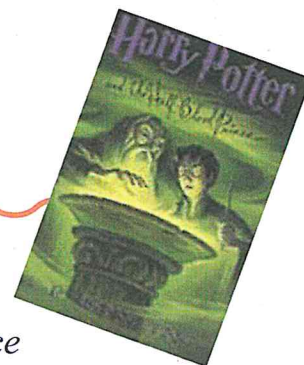
Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Thursday, July 9  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Cost: \$5/child  
Ages: 3-6  
Min./Max.: 4/20 per age group

**Register by noon on July 6.**

## Middle School Dances

Yes, there are middle school dances this summer! Mark these dates on your calendar and join your friends, DJ Ryan from Sound Productions and the Stone Quarry Crew for some summer night fun! All incoming 6th graders are welcome.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Fridays  
May 1 & 29  
June 12 & 26  
July 17 & 31  
August 14 & 28  
Time: 7-10 pm  
Cost: \$5/person  
Ages: Middle School



## IMAX Trip!

*Let's Go See Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

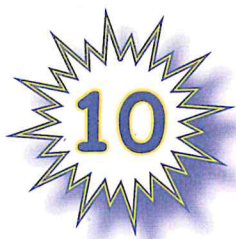
**See more, hear more, feel more** -- IMAX combined with Navy Pier is the ultimate movie experience. With crystal clear images and wraparound digital surround sound, IMAX lets you feel like you're really in the movie. Bring your family and join us on a bus trip to Navy Pier IMAX as Harry Potter begins his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He discovers an old book marked mysteriously, "This book is the property of the Half-Blood Prince" and begins to learn more about Lord Voldemort's dark past. After your IMAX experience, time will be allotted for dinner and sight seeing on your own at Navy Pier. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis. **Register by 5pm on June 24.**

Where: Meet at Stone Quarry Park  
When: Friday, July 17  
Time: Leave at noon. Return at 9:30pm (approximately)  
Cost: \$27/person  
Ages: All are welcome.  
Min/max: 11/22

**"The Ultimate  
Movie Experience!"**

*Printed on 100% recycled paper.*





# Stone Quarry Park!

Matt Johnson  
Scholarships Available  
for Skate Park Passes.  
Call 1-815-234-8535  
ext. 200



## Junk in the Trunk (Spring Cleaning Sales)

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

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturdays  
May 9 & 16  
Time: 7 - 11 am  
Cost: \$10/parking stall  
\$5/table  
Ages: All

## Midnight Madness

Stone Quarry will be open until midnight, so come on out and partake in some late night skateboarding, mini-golf, and other games. All incoming 6th graders are welcome.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturdays  
May 9, June 20  
July 25, August 22  
Time: 8 pm - Midnight  
Cost: \$5/person  
Ages: 6th grade and up

## Glow in the Dark Mini-Putt

Come out to Stone Quarry for a round or two of Glow in the Dark miniature golf. We will have glow in the dark golf balls and the course will be outlined with neon glow sticks!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, August 8  
Time: Dusk - 9 pm  
Cost: \$7/person  
Ages: All



## Paintball Play Days

### Let's Get Dirty!

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

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, April 18  
Sundays,  
May 3, June 14  
July 26, August 16  
Time: Noon-5 pm  
Cost: \$20/person  
Ages: 10 and up

## Fathers Day at the Park

On June 15th from noon until 5pm, every dad who comes to Stone Quarry with his family gets free admission to miniature golf and a free ice cream cone!

## Mothers Day at the Park

On May 10th from noon until 5pm, every mom who comes to Stone Quarry with her family gets free admission to miniature golf and a free ice cream cone!

## Stone Quarry Has Wi Fi!

Bring your kids out to the park for some fun while you catch up on work projects or finish up personal business. Laptops are not provided.





# Mad Science at SQ!

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## Secret Agent Lab

Go inside a crime lab and discover the secrets you've always wondered about! Compare fingerprints and discover the mysteries of DNA as you fine tune your secret agent skills. Students will become Mad Science detectives and use their forensic skills to solve a Mad Science "crime". Every day is filled with fun hands-on science as students learn about spying, detective work, forensics, security, analyzing the evidence, being a good witness, and much more! Students must bring a sack lunch for brain power. Due to allergies, no peanuts or peanut products in lunches please!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Mon-Fri, June 1-5  
Time: 10 am - 3 pm  
Cost: \$150/child  
Ages: 7-12  
Min/Max: 10/25

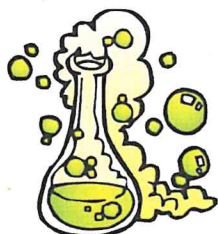
Register by 5 pm on May 28.

## Rockin' Rockets

Students will have a "blast" in this 3-hour class filled with hands-on rocket building and thrust comparisons. We will be launching an air rocket, a Mad Science rocket using three different engines, a hydrogen rocket, and a water rocket! Students will build their very own Mad Science Rocket to take home.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, August 1  
Time: 10 am - Noon  
Cost: \$25/child  
Ages: 9-12 (grades 4-6)  
Min/Max: 10/25

Register by 5 pm on July 28.



## Colorful

### Chromatography

Students will have a fun and colorful experience in this two-hour Mad Science hands-on class. Your child will learn about the separation of chemicals and colors as they use many techniques to separate water soluble and alcohol soluble ink, create a color wheel using edible supplies, and learn more about primary and secondary colors as they change water colors before their very eyes! Students will use fabric, special filter paper, and paper that absorbs and separate colors in this artistic science class! Soy, egg, and milk products are used in this class.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, June 6  
Time: 10 am - Noon  
Cost: \$25/child  
Ages: 7-12  
Min/Max: 10/25

Register by 5 pm on June 2.

## The Science of Sports

Students will learn about reaction time and conduct experiments using the laws of physics as they play many exciting sporting games! Each game will teach students different science concepts while having fun. Students will learn about what happens to our bodies when we sweat (sweating is not gross, it's good for us!), hand and eye coordination, and heart rate as we get science moving!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Saturday, July 18  
Time: 10 am - Noon  
Cost: \$25/child  
Ages: 7-12  
Min/Max: 10/25

Register by 5 pm on July 7.



## New Batting Cages!!

Stone Quarry Park will be installing brand new batting cages for the upcoming season! Grab your bat and your buddies and head over to the park for some pre-game batting practice! Call ahead to reserve times for team practice.

**Buy one half hour,  
get the second half hour free!!**

Please call ahead to reserve your time. 815-234-8900

This offer is only valid with this coupon.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.





# Stone Quarry Park!

**BON  
APPETIT!**

## Fun Fridays!

Do you want to start the weekend off right? Well, why not do that by dropping off your kids at Stone Quarry for an evening of fun? They will have full access to all of our park amenities. We will be offering games, Nintendo Wii, and all kinds of fun activities. Dinner and an ice cream cone are included!

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Fridays  
June 5 & 19  
July 24  
August 7 & 21  
Time: 6-8:30 pm  
Cost: \$10/child  
Ages: 6-12



## Outdoor Cooking The Art of Grilling

Do you want to learn how mom and dad perfected the art of cooking on the grill? Well, here's your chance to learn how to work your magic on both a charcoal and a gas grill. We will be teaching our up and coming grill masters how to properly prepare and cook a variety of meats such as burgers, chicken, and steak while promoting grilling safety and instruction.

Where: Stone Quarry Park  
When: Wednesdays  
June 10, 17, & 24  
Time: 6-7:30 pm  
Cost: \$45/person  
(includes supplies & all three sessions)  
Ages: 13 and up  
Min/Max: 5/10

**Register by 5 pm on June 5.**

## Birthday Parties & Shelter Rentals

Come and host your group party, family reunion, or company picnic at Stone Quarry. We have three shelters and a large party room available for your group outing. We also offer paintball parties for groups of all ages! Please call 815-234-8900 to reserve a place for your party today!

## Stone Quarry Hours

### *Thru April 30*

Mondays~4-7pm  
Tuesdays~4-8pm  
Wednesdays~Closed  
Thursdays~4-8pm  
Fridays~4-7pm  
Saturdays~11am-5pm  
Sundays~1-5pm

### *May 1 thru May 25*

Monday-Friday~4-8pm  
Saturday~11am-7pm  
Sunday~Noon-5pm

### *Summer Hours*

### *May 26-August 16*

Monday-Saturday~10am-9pm  
Sunday~11am-6pm

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

## New Batting Cages!!

Stone Quarry Park will be installing brand new batting cages for the upcoming season! Grab your bat and your buddies and head over to the park for some pre-game batting practice! Call ahead to reserve times for team practice.

**Buy one half hour,  
get the second half hour free!!**

Please call ahead to reserve your time. 815-234-8900

This offer is only valid with this coupon.



# Outdoor Adventures!

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## Insects of Our World

We'll catch and study nocturnal insects. All equipment provided.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, August 29  
Time: 8-10 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All-must have at least one adult.  
Min/Max: 5/50

**Register by noon on August 28.**

## Canoeing the Rock

All equipment is provided for this fun program.

Where: River Park Lot  
When: Saturdays, May 30 & June 13  
Time: 2-5 pm  
Cost: \$20/canoe  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 2 canoes/12 canoes

**Register by noon on May 29 and June 12.**



## Prairie Wildflower Walk

We'll search for the new spring blooms.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 16  
Time: 3-4 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/none

**Register by noon on May 15.**

## Ogle County Bird Count

Let's take part in this statewide count.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 9  
Time: 7 am-2 pm  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/none

**Register by noon on May 8.**

## Midnight Fishing

Catch some "monsters" at the golf course pond! Bring your own equipment.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturdays August 15 & 22  
Time: 9 pm-Midnight  
Cost: \$5/person (under 10-free)  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/none

**Register by noon on Aug. 14 & 21.**

## Birds and Blossoms

Let's take a hike to look for spring birds and blooming flowers. Each family gets a free bird feeder.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 2  
Time: 9-10 am  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/50

**Register by noon on August 28.**



Bloodroot

## Perseid Meteor Watch

Relax under the night skies and watch the meteors fall. We'll also search for Jupiter.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Wed, August 12  
Fri, August 14  
Time: 10 pm-Midnight  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/25

**Register by noon on Aug. 11 & 13.**

## Archers in the Sky

Check out Hercules and the Herdsman on the summer solstice.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Friday, June 19  
Sunday, June 21  
Time: 9-11 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/25

**Register by noon on June 18.**

## A Look at Leo

We'll look within the constellation Leo to find the Beehive and the Lyrid meteor shower.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Wednesday, April 22  
Friday, April 24  
Time: 8-10 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/25

**Register by noon on April 21 & 23.**





# Programs!



## Wilderness Survival for Kids

We will learn how to start a fire, purify water, and find food. We'll also learn the basics of first aid, how to pack for a camping trip, and make a survival kit to keep. Dress for the weather.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 16  
Time: 10 am-3 pm  
Cost: \$10/person  
(includes lunch)  
Ages: 8-14  
Min/Max: 5/20  
Register by noon on May 13.

## Fossil Hunt

We will search Stone Quarry for silurian and devonian fossils. Learn how to identify and find brachiopods, molluscs, crinoids, and maybe even a trilobite! Take home a DNR booklet on Illinois fossils.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 23  
Sunday, July 26  
Time: 1-4 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: All (under 10 must have an adult)  
Min/Max: 5/20  
Register by noon on 5/20 & 7/23.

## Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade. Ask about our mentoring program. **These are outdoor workshops, so bring your bee suits!**

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays  
May 17, June 14  
July 12, August 9  
Time: 2-4 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: 3 and up  
Min/Max: 5/25

## Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshops

### Drawing and Painting

Learn about color, tone, and lines; make a mural; display your art to earn this badge.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 30  
Time: Noon-4 pm  
Cost: \$5/scout  
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts  
Min/Max: 8/20  
Register by noon on May 27.

### Outdoor Cook

Earn this badge by preparing (and eating) a delicious dinner over a fire and camp stove.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, May 30  
Time: Noon-4 pm  
Cost: \$5/scout  
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts  
Min/Max: 8/20  
Register by noon on May 27.

## Brownie Try-It - Listening to the Past

We will tour the Heritage Farm Museum, make a dipped candle, play pioneer games, and learn about Byron's history.

Where: Heritage Farm  
When: Saturday, June 20  
Time: Noon-3 pm  
Cost: \$6/scout  
Ages: Brownies  
Min/Max: 8/20  
Register by noon on June 17.

## Hunter Education

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

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Mon, Wed, Fri  
August 3, 5, & 7  
Time: 6-9 (M & W)  
6-10 (Fri)  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All. Must be able to pass a written test.  
Min/Max: 5/80  
Register by noon on July 31.

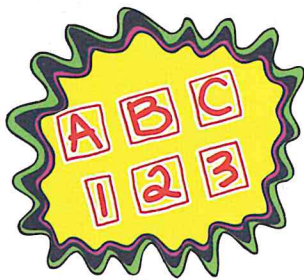
## Birthday Parties

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

**Deluxe Party** - \$75 / 12 children (additional \$30 for more than 12 children)  
(cake, ice cream, tableware, birthday banner, and program)

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





# Preschool!



## ***Register Now!***

It's not too early to sign up. 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 / 16 - TU/TH  
Cost: \$85/month-M/W/F & \$70/month-TU/TH  
Registration is ongoing throughout the year.



***Fun in the classroom!  
Learning fine motor skills and socializing!***



***Mrs. Joni Camling***

## **Meet the Teachers**

*Thursday, August 20  
5:30-7 pm*

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

## **Preschool Parent Orientation**

*Thursday, August 27  
6:30 pm*

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





# Trips!



## Mitchell Conservatory

Join us as we head to Milwaukee for this amazing floral museum. Admission not included.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, July 18  
Time: 10 am-8 pm  
Cost: \$10/person or  
\$15/couple  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/14

**Register by noon on July 17.**

## Museum of Science and Industry

We're heading to this spectacular Chicago museum. Admission not included.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, June 27  
Time: 10 am-6 pm  
Cost: \$10/person or  
\$15/couple  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/14

**Register by noon on June 26.**



## Let's Go Frogging!

We'll take you to the Pec Wetlands to catch frogs! Nets are provided.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays  
May 24 & 31  
Time: 5-8 pm  
Cost: \$4/person or  
\$6/couple  
Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/14 in van  
(Unlimited if driving yourself.)  
**Register by noon on May 22 & 29.**

## Door County

We are going to Wisconsin to tour Door County. Transportation and hotel included.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday-Monday  
July 10-13  
Time: Depart at 8 am.  
Cost: \$225/person or  
\$300/couple  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5/12

**Register by noon on July 9.**

## St. Charles Antique Trail

We'll head out to the St. Charles/Geneva region and stop at several of the best antique stores along the way and in the downtown areas. We will stop along the way for lunch, cost not included.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Saturday, July 18  
Time: 9 am-6 pm  
Cost: \$10/person  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5/14

**Register by noon on July 10.**

## Horicon Marsh

We'll visit this world famous bird-er's paradise. Boat ride and cheese factory tour are included. Cost also includes transportation and hotel.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday-Friday,  
June 25-26  
Time: Depart at 10 am  
Cost: \$120/person or  
\$180/pair  
Ages: Adults  
Min/Max: 5/11  
**Register by noon on June 6.**

## Konza Prairie and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

We'll visit these nearly 20,000-acre Flint Hill Region prairies. It's the largest unplowed tall grass prairie in the United States. Includes accommodations and transportation.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Thursday-Sunday  
July 23-26  
Time: Depart at 8 am.  
Cost: \$180/person or  
\$250/couple

Ages: All  
Min/Max: 5/12

**Register by noon on July 9.**

## Camping at Maquoketa Caves

We will camp at the Iowa Maquoketa Caves campground and spend two days exploring trails and caves of this great park. A required informational meeting with participants and a parent will be held on Friday, July 24th at 6 pm. Cost includes tent and meals.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Friday-Saturday  
July 31-August 1

Time: Depart at 10 am.  
Return by 6 pm.

Cost: \$60/person  
Ages: 12-17  
Min/Max: 5/10

**Register by noon on July 24.**







# Trips!



## Effigy Mounds National Monument & Pike's Peak State Park

We'll visit two of the most beautiful places in northeastern Iowa for camping and hiking. Camping will be at Pike's Peak State Park, which boasts amazing views of the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers from 500-foot bluffs. We'll spend a day exploring the trails (and perhaps looking for fossils). Seven miles away is Effigy Mounds National Monument, a stunning collection of over 200 burial mounds over 1,000 years old. We'll participate in a moonlight hike and a two-mile ranger-guided hike to Fire Point as well as explore trails on our own. The terrain is steep and rugged--please be prepared for some serious hiking! However, each park has a section of trails accessible to persons who do not wish to overexert--you may join us for the camping and stay back from the more difficult trails if you prefer. Cost includes tent, park admission fees, and meals.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
 When: Friday-Sunday  
 August 7-9  
 Time: Depart at 10 am.  
 Return by 6 pm.  
 Cost: \$80/person  
 \$120/couple  
 \$180/family  
 (4 per tent)  
 Ages: 12 and up  
 (under 16 must have adult)  
 Min/Max: 5/10

**Register by noon on July 24.**

## Galena Art Weekend

This weekend will be packed full of artistic adventure. On Friday, we'll stop along Route 26 at the scenic overlook for a little "plein air" painting or photography before hitting the downtown shops and art galleries. In the evening, we'll go for a ghost walking tour, then take your pick of Irish dancing and music at Dowd's Irish Pub or visit another location showcasing a local band. On Saturday, we'll enjoy a pottery demonstration at the Stone House Potter and Gallery. Many of the art galleries will be holding art shows and exhibits on Saturday with local artists on hand to speak about their trades. Cost includes bed and breakfast, dinner on Friday, and ghost tour.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
 When: Friday-Saturday, June 12-13  
 Time: Depart at 9 am.  
 Return by 8 pm.  
 Cost: \$180/person or  
 \$240/couple  
 Ages: Adults  
 Min/Max: 5/14

**Register by noon on June 1.**

***Door County Trip  
 Fun for all ages!!***







# Boundary Waters Trip!

## Canoeing ~ Fishing ~ Hiking ~ Camping

This wilderness trip will take us to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota. We will spend a night in Ely, the center of the canoe world, and then spend five days canoeing, fishing, tent camping, and relaxing on the lakes of the Boundary Waters. We will put our canoes in the water on Lake One and paddle our way to Lake Three to set up camp for the week. These lakes provide great opportunities to catch large walleye and northern pike. A previous trip landed two 40+ inch northern! Bald Eagles and Loons are also common wildlife encountered in this area. Don't pass up this once in a lifetime trip! Let us guide you through one of the most pristine places on earth!

This trip is of moderate experience level. There will be paddling for several miles in a day, hiking between lakes, carrying packs, portaging canoes, setting up tents, and waters to navigate in various weather conditions. For more information and any questions, please call Russell at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219.

Where: Meet at Steward Building  
Maintenance Area-7993 N. River Rd, Byron  
When: Wednesday, August 26 - Tuesday, September 1  
Cost: \$400 / person  
(\$100 due at registration & \$300 balance due by August 16.)  
Cost includes transportation to and from the Boundary Waters, canoes, paddles, packs, maps, food at Boundary Waters, tent, experienced guides, and permits.  
Min/Max: 4 / 8  
**Register by August 14. (full payment due)**

### Itinerary: August 14 - Registration Deadline

August 19 - Pre-trip meeting - 7pm - Jarrett Prairie Center

August 26 - Leave Byron at 7am, arrive at Ely in late afternoon. Stay at outfitter's bunkhouse that evening.

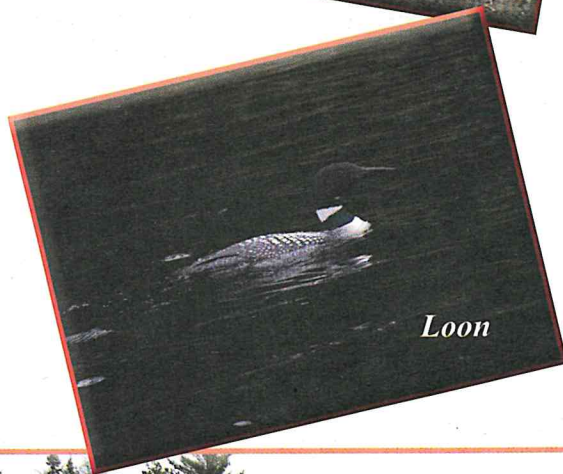
August 27 - Canoes on water.

August 31 - Canoes out of the water, stay at bunkhouse.

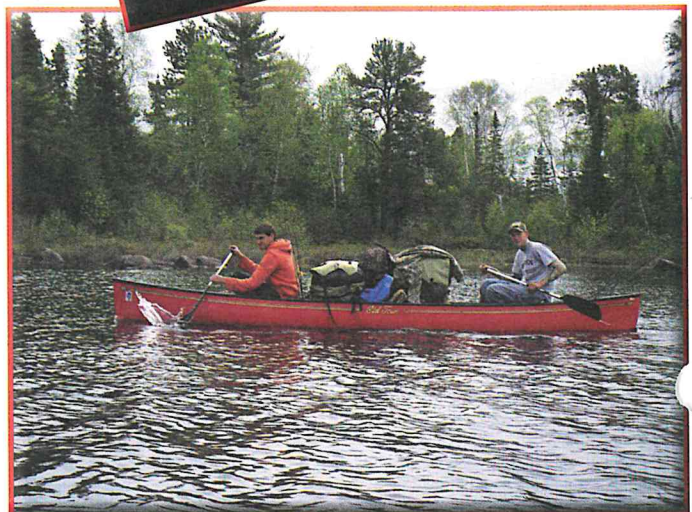
September 1 - Return to Byron by mid-afternoon.



*Slider Turtle*



*Loon*





## Nardi Hills Preserve Opening This Summer!

The Stephen and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve will be open to the public beginning in the summer of 2009 with a projected date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve consists of more than 500 acres of restored and actively managed prairie and oak woodland habitats, with some remaining agricultural lands. Access to the preserve is located two miles southwest of the Byron Forest Preserve District's main entrance on River road.



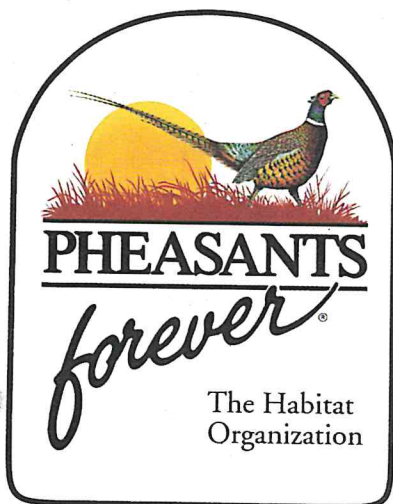
When fully restored, several miles of trails will be open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, wildflower viewing, and cross country skiing. This preserve will allow for managed equine access,

registration will be required by signing in at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron.

No dogs or other pets are allowed on the preserve. Prescribed fire will be used as a management tool on an annual basis on portions of the preserve in the spring and fall to control weeds and encourage native prairie plants and oak regeneration. Please stay on the trails. Portions of the preserve may be closed to visitors and horses due to wet conditions or management activities. This preserve still contains agricultural land, please be aware and cautious of agricultural work and machinery.

For more information on this new preserve, contact Russell Brunner, Superintendent of Parks, at 815.234.8535 ext 219. Enjoy your visit!

## Pheasants Forever Scholarship



The Ogle County Pheasants Forever chapter and the Byron Forest Preserve District are offering a one thousand dollar academic scholarship to a college student enrolled full-time for the fall 2009 semester majoring in wildlife management, natural resource management or a related course of study, with a home residence in Ogle County.

This award is to recognize a college student with significant potential to contribute to the field of wildlife and habitat conservation.

If interested, please pick up an application at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Deadline for submission is July 6, 2009.





# The Lost Oak!

## Restoring Our Lost Oak Savannas

### *Controlling invasive and opportunistic trees on District preserves*

By Russell Brunner, Superintendent of Parks and Restoration

At the time of modern settlement in this region, the mid-1800s, our landscape was dominated by prairies interspersed with oak savannas and oak woodlands. Most of our other native tree species were restricted to floodplains, stream corridors, and ravines. Following settlement, fires ceased on the landscape, most of our prairies were tilled under, built over, or grazed for long periods of time. Our oak savannas and oak woodlands have also experienced some dramatic changes that have severely degraded their quality in the last 100 years. Now, **healthy Midwestern oak savannas are one of the rarest ecosystems in the world.**

Without fire to maintain the open nature

of healthy oak savannas, introduced invasive species like the Siberian Elm and the European Buckthorn have moved into the oak habitats. These species are not harmless additions simply adding diversity to a healthy oak savanna; on the contrary, they severely disrupt the natural order in our woodlands and over time heavily degrade the oak habitat resulting in much lower diversity. In addition to exotic species, native opportunistic trees like box elder and locust also find the fireless oak savannas tolerable places and they move in as well. Pretty soon, the open savanna becomes a dense and dark woodland. This is a problem for many reasons, and results in two dramatic negative changes to our oak savannas. The first alteration resulting from the invasion of these

tree species is the end of young oak trees. Oak acorns germinate in light shade or sunny conditions, as the savannas become overgrown with the invading species, oaks no longer germinate. Our regions oak woodlands now rarely have any young oaks in them. As the older mature oaks die, they are no longer being replaced by young oaks, but rather by these invasive species and opportunistic natives.

Secondly, the wildflowers suffer immensely from the invasive species, the lack of fire, and the heavy shade. Studies by Dr. John Taft and the Illinois Natural History Survey show that healthy,

open, fire managed oak savannas and woodlands have up to 300% higher

***"A tragedy is relentlessly unfolding..."***

plant species diversity than the fire suppressed and degraded woodlands common to our area where Siberian elms and the like are allowed to take over our oak ecosystems. Furthermore, **wildlife species such as the red headed woodpecker are on the decline as the healthy oak savanna habitats become dense and crowded.** This bird species needs the open structure of healthy oak savannas as habitat, the crowded all too common degraded woodlands of our area are no longer suitable habitat for this species.

To combat this degradation, restoration staff here is working to turn back the clock a century to restore the natural processes and structure of our oak and prairie ecosystems. As explained, this requires removing these invasive and opportunistic trees from



# The Lost Oak!



## Restoring Our Lost Oak Savannas (con't)

the former oak savannas and prairies to protect the hundreds of native plants, oak trees, and many wildlife species dependent on healthy oak savannas. The process of removing these trees may seem unnecessary until the ecological concepts behind the cutting are understood, and how this tree removal and thinning is necessary to preserve the plants, insects, and birds that are killed by allowing for these invasive species to take over our natural areas and destroy the oak and prairie habitats they depend on.

This idea is very well expressed by Elizabeth Czarapata in her *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*, "A tragedy is relentlessly unfolding—yet few people recognize these weeds (invasive species) or are aware of the consequences of allowing them to proliferate. To the untrained eye, the lush, green landscapes often associated with invasive plants create illusions of vibrant, flourishing ecosystems when, in fact, many species have been lost and complex natural processes have been disrupted. Greater understanding of the fragile and amazing natural world that surrounds and sustains us is desperately needed." She goes on to write, "The beauty and biological diversity associated with healthy natural areas are being lost as well. Native prairies and oak savannas, for example, are now extremely rare due to fire suppression, conversion to farmland, cities, and other developments. They are especially vulnerable to invasion by aggressive, non-native plants and by woody species that may be either native or non-native in origin. Therefore, instead of simply allowing nature to take its course, the

survival of prairie and savanna species needs to be encouraged whenever possible to sustain biological diversity and wildlife habitat." This last statement directly expresses why our restoration staff and other Midwestern conservation and preservation groups are actively managing our few remaining natural areas with fire and are removing these invasive and aggressive trees from our oak savannas, oak woodlands, and prairies.

If you have further questions or concerns about the Byron Forest Preserve District's natural areas, please feel free to contact me at 815-234-8535 ext 219 or [russell@byronforestpreserve.com](mailto:russell@byronforestpreserve.com).

*Pictured below is a healthy Midwestern oak savanna with open grown oaks and a flourishing native plant community underneath.*





*By Austin Webb, Restoration Technician*

The state tree of Illinois, the white oak, is one of the most fascinating trees found in our woodlands. The Latin name given to the white oak is *Quercus alba*: *Quercus* to describe that it belongs to the oak genus; and *alba* being the Latin word for “white”, which describes the white oak’s lightly-colored bark. A healthy stand of white oak trees provides a habitat in which native wildlife can absolutely thrive. A single white oak tree harbors an entire ecosystem, providing a habitat which supports a multitude of life forms. The acorns of the white oak are food for many native animals, including deer, squirrels, turkeys, raccoons, woodpeckers, and many others. A certain species of lichen, found only on the white oak, presents the perfect camouflage for the fragile nest of the ruby-throated hummingbird. High above the ground in the canopy, numerous caterpillars of rare butterflies can be found feeding on the succulent leaves of the white oak. Even the white oak’s leaf litter sanctions the survival of many native mushrooms. It’s amazing to think that all of these life forms represent only a tiny fraction of the entire spectrum of life that just one white oak tree can support. With that in mind, it’s not hard to imagine that healthy white oak woodlands are completely teeming with life!

Unfortunately for us, healthy oak woodlands are among the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Let me repeat what I just said: *healthy* oak woodlands are among the most *endangered* ecosystems in the *world*.

*Healthy*- The characteristics of a healthy oak woodland allow for the regeneration of young oaks in the under story, which will grow and replace their predecessors. Fire is frequent in these areas, keeping other woody species to a minimum, while allowing for maximum native diversity. The canopy cover, or area that the leaves shade out, is less than 80%.

*Endangered*- This means that extinction is possible.

*Printed on 100% recycled paper.*



*World*- As it stands right now, there are less acres of healthy oak woodland on the planet than there are acres of Amazon rainforest in South America.

When it comes to the white oak, regeneration of young white oaks is a major problem. Along with other oak ecosystems, white oak woodlands have appeared promptly on the radar of the top ecologists in the Midwest. These ecologists are among the most elite, determined, and intelligent individuals in their field, most possessing many years of expertise restoring natural order to degraded oak woodlands. Their determination is to remove the things not found in healthy oak woodlands, including non-native brush and weeds, and often times the extreme amount of fire-intolerant trees which establish themselves in these areas. This allows restoration teams to reintroduce fire to these areas, and has proven to effectively promote the regeneration of young oak trees.

The white oak is no stranger to Byron Forest Preserve, and in order to save them, we will take the necessary steps to restore these areas. Our indisputable obligation to restore our white oak woodlands unquestionably includes the removal of fire-intolerant trees. In the future, the red-headed woodpeckers, checkerspot butterflies, and the iconic state tree of Illinois will thank us.