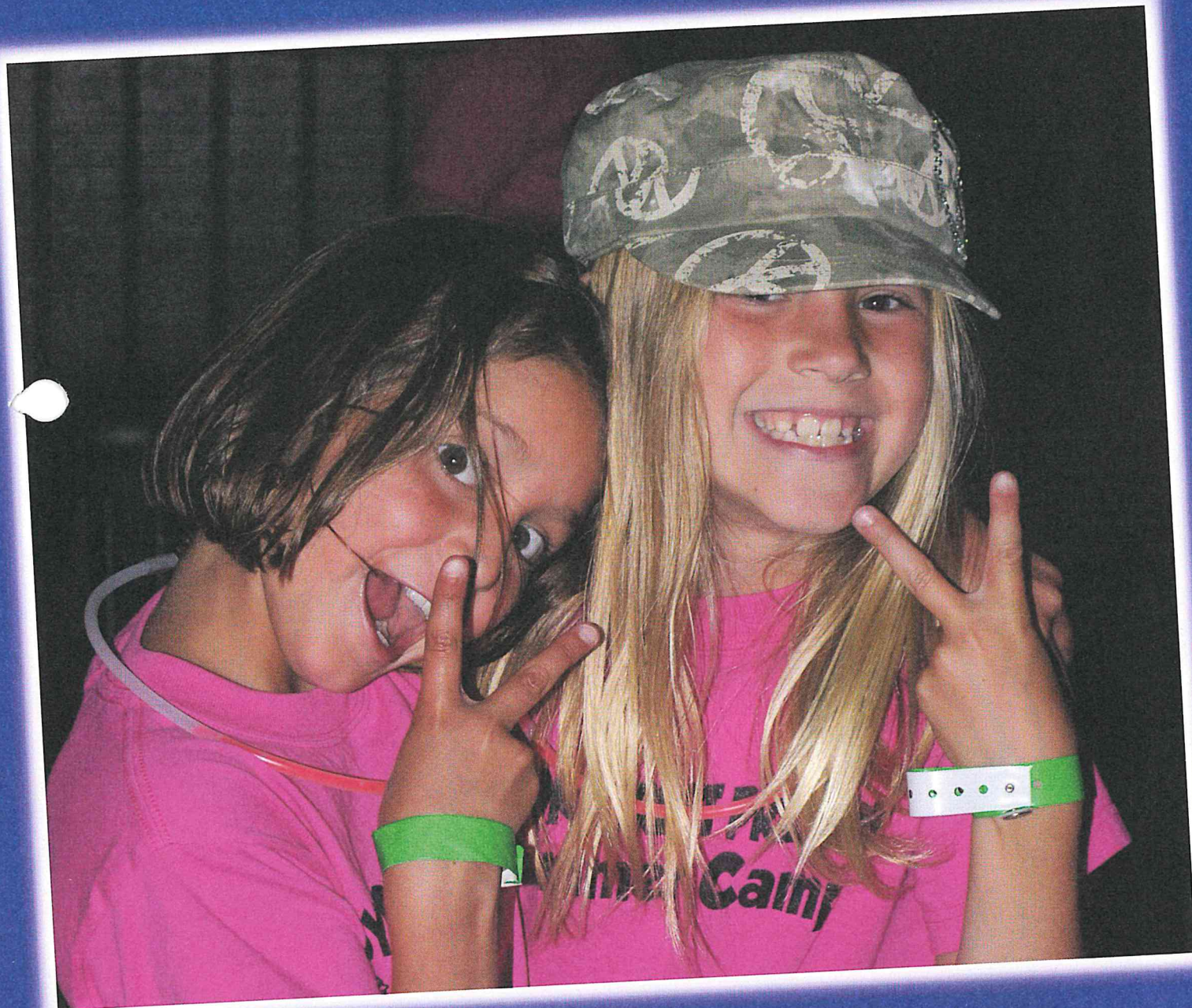


The **Blaze**

Byron Forest Preserve District

2011 Summer Issue



Inside this issue...

*~ Summer Camp ~ Trips ~ Preschool ~ Matt Johnson Scholarship Fundraiser ~
~ Golf Lessons ~ Canoeing ~ Free Concerts ~ Beekeeping ~ Fishing ~*



Todd Tucker, Executive Director

Mission: Preservation of Land

First and foremost, the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and staff members would like to extend our deepest, heartfelt condolences to the Clift family during this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The District staff is very proud of the purchase of the Tower/Colman farm located in the very northeast corner of Ogle County and Byron Township. The staff finalized the 280-acre purchase in December of 2010. The property has been named the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve after the local industrialist Howard Colman who was an inventor of machining equipment at his Rockford factory. Howard purchased the farm for the use of his family to enjoy the natural beauty and to ride horses. The property has many large open grown Oaks with a rolling topography and Hall Creek winding throughout the property.

The land is also a part of a much larger macro-site of a natural areas corridor, these other properties being Severn Dells Preserve in Winnebago County and Colman Dells Nature Preserve that is equally divided between the two counties and properties.

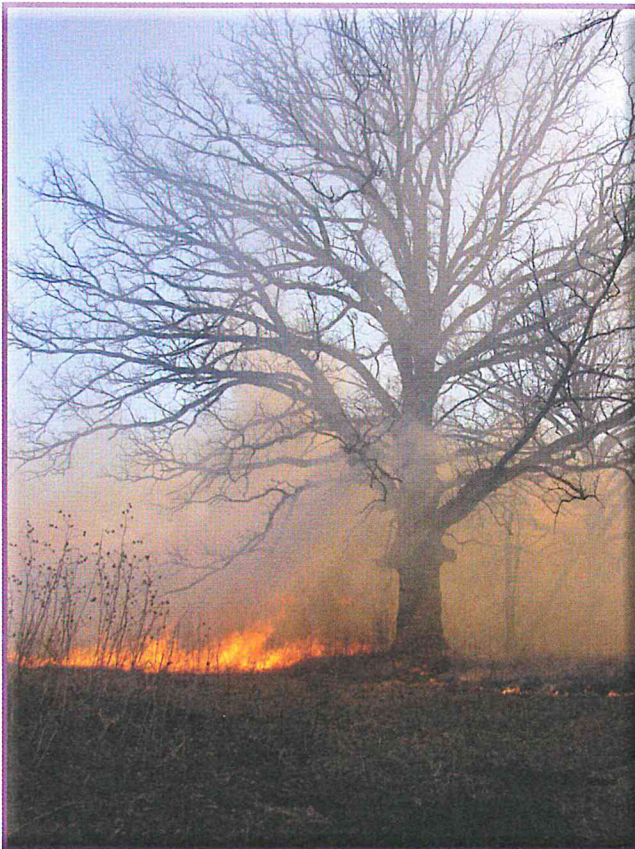
Much of the land is already of high quality. The District's restoration department will be restoring the remaining acreage that is in row crop back to prairie over the next 3 to 5 years which is in line with the District's mission. We will be establishing a small parking area on the Weldon Road side and restoring property boundaries and fences as soon as possible. It is our hopes to have the area accessible to the public by the summer of 2012. The District's Education Department is already developing programs to utilize the site for teaching our youth about stream ecology.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 815-234-8535 x222.

Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve

Left-The Restoration Crew burns the prairie to get rid of unnecessary growth.

Below-Hall Creek will be the site for many field trips studying stream ecology.



Se habla español
815-234-8535 x200

General Info

3

Jarrett Prairie Center Hours

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

Jarrett Prairie Center Closed:

Good Friday, April 22
Easter Sunday, April 24
Memorial Day, May 30
Independence Day, July 4

Administrative Offices Closed:

Good Friday, April 22
Memorial Day, May 30
Independence Day, July 4

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 or endangers the safety of others or causes property damage.

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

Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 North River Road, P O Box 1075, Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 ~ 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, Vice President
Jeff Ludwig, Treasurer
Denny Cravatta, Secretary
Jeff Huber, Commissioner

Who to Contact: *General inquiries*

1-815-234-8535 ext. 200 or raul@byronforestpreserve.com

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815-234-8900

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PrairieView Golf Club
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815-234-4653

Janet Dahlberg, Artist
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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.



~ Summer Camp ~

May 31 - August 12

Time: 9 am - 4 pm
 Ages: 6 - 12
 Cost: \$105 / week & \$95 / sibling
 Latchkey: \$10 / week - 7-9 am
 \$10 / week - 4-6 pm
 Daily Rate: \$25 / day
 \$30 / day on Thursdays (field trip days)



~Week One - May 31 - June 3

Field Trip - To Be Announced*

~Week Two - June 6 - June 10

Field Trip - Henry Vilas Zoo*

~Week Three - June 13 - June 17

Field Trip - Starved Rock State Park*

~Week Four - June 20 - June 24

Field Trip - Burpee Museum*

~Week Five - June 27 - July 1

Field Trip - Lockwood Park*

~Week Six - July 4 - July 8

Field Trip - Franklin Creek Park*

~Week Seven - July 11 - July 15

Field Trip - Zoppe Family Circus*

~Week Eight - July 18 - July 22

Field Trip - Donley's Wild West Town*

~Week Nine - July 25 - July 29

Field Trip - Castle Rock State Park*

~Week Ten - August 1 - August 5

Field Trip - White Pines Roller Skating Rink*

~Week Eleven - August 8 - August 12

Field Trip - Crystal Lake*

**Field trips are subject to change.*



New This Year... Every Friday, campers may bring a friend to camp for FREE! Friends must be registered by Wednesday of the week they are attending.

Plus... for every week paid in advance by May 31st, each child enrolled will receive a free \$10 punch card for the Stone Quarry Food Factory.

And... All field trip fees are included in the camp fees. Every Wednesday we will be swimming at Byron High School from 1:30-3:30 pm.

Se habla español
815-234-8535 x200

Summer Fun!

5

~ 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 6 - 16

Nature Trail Exploration

We will explore the nature trails at the Byron Forest Preserve. We will see different types of plant and animals along our way!

Session #2 - June 20 - 30

Bursting Bubbles!

We will make bubbles and POP them! We'll see how many different shapes, sizes, and colors of bubbles we can make!

Session #3 - July 5 - 14

Beach Bonanza

Break out the sunglasses and bathing suits! We will learn about the things we see and do at the beach. We will have fun with the sand and water table too!!

Session #4 - July 18 - 28

Sea to Shining Sea

Splash! What lives in the ocean? We will learn about the ocean and the animals that live there. Crafts and stories will be included in this session.



Cost:

\$35 / Session

\$26 / Mon-Wed

Session #3

(No class on July 4th)

When:

Monday & Wednesday

Tuesday & Thursday

Time:

9 - 11 am

Ages:

3 - 6 year olds

Min./Max.:

6 / 14

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

June



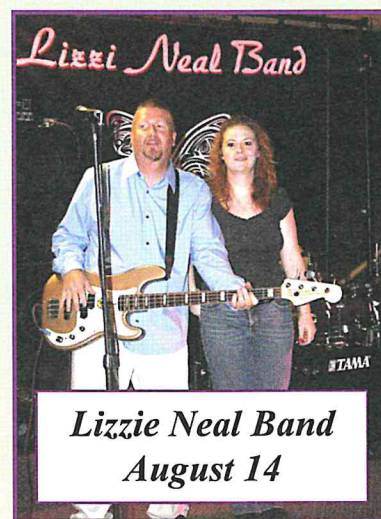
July



August



*All concerts are free and will be held at 7 pm at the
Heritage Farm Stage, 8059 River Road, Byron.
Rain location is the Jarrett Prairie Center.*



Canoeing the Rock

See the spring river on this easy float.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm

When: Saturdays, June 4,

July 9, Aug. 20

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$20/canoe

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 3 canoes/12 canoes

Register by noon on 6/3, 7/8, & 8/19.



Ogle County Bird Count

Join the rest of the state in conducting this annual count.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday

May 7

Time: 7 am

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: none

Register by noon on May 6.



Full Moon Hike

Join us as we learn about the moon and all the night time creatures along the trails.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Wednesday, June 15

Saturday, August 13

Time: 9-11 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 40

Register by noon on 6/14 & 8/12.

Wildflower Walkabout

Let's go for a walk through the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Wednesday, June 1

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on June 1.



Early Morning Fishing

Let's catch some fish on the golf course pond.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturdays, June 4

July 9, August 20

Time: 5 - 7 am

Cost: \$5 / person

5 and under free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 50

Register by noon on 6/3, 7/8, & 8/19.

Hunter Education

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

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Mon., Wed., Fri.

June 6, 8, 10

August 22, 24, 26

Time: 6 - 9 pm (M & W)

6 - 10 pm (Fri.)

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

(must be able to pass a written test)

Min./Max.: 5 / 80

Register by noon on 6/3 & 8/19.

Beekeeping Workshops

Learn techniques and tools of the trade. Bring your bee suits!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Sundays,

May 15, June 12

July 10, August 14

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Cost: \$2 / person

Ages: 3 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.



Spring

Wildflower Hike

Let's take an easy walk through the woods at one of our newest properties, Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Saturday, May 14

Sunday, May 22

Time: 10 am - Noon

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

(unlimited if driving yourself)

Register by noon on 5/13 & 5/20.

Stream Ecology

We are headed to the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve to dip and scoop the stream for aquatic life. Nets and buckets provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Tuesdays, June 14,

July 12, August 16

Time: 5 - 8 pm

Cost: \$3 / person

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Reg. by noon on 6/13, 7/11, & 8/15.

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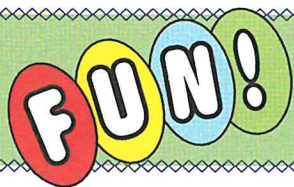
A River Gathering June 16-19, 2011



Unite on this 4-day extravaganza to celebrate our flowing waters. Includes boating, fishing, photography, workshops, and much more!

For more information,
call Tina at 1-815-547-7935 or
visit www.fourriver.org

Co-sponsored by
Rock Valley College &
Four Rivers Environmental Coalition.




Fun Trips!

**Let's
Go!**

Family Outdoor Fair - Fermi Lab

We're heading to Batavia, Illinois to discover all sorts of summer fun! We'll do insect hunts, pond dipping, bison observation, see a birds of prey show, and much more!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Sunday, June 12
Time: Depart at 10 am
Cost:  \$10 / person
\$15 / couple
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 12

Register by noon on June 10.

Boundary Waters Couples Retreat

Spend a romantic, shower free week with your sweetheart in the Minnesota wilderness. Food, permits, canoes, tents, and transportation provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: August 9-15
Time: Depart at 7 am
Return at 10 pm
Cost: \$400 / person
Ages: Adults
Min/Max: 4 / 8

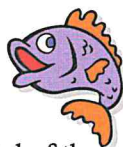
Register by noon on July 29.

Field Museum

We are going to Chicago to visit this unique museum. Price of admission not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Fridays, June 3,
July 1, & Aug. 5
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
\$20 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12
Reg. by noon 6/2, 6/30, & 8/4.

Walleye Trip to Lake Erie



Going to the walleye capital of the world for a first class charter experience. Two day charter and room included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: June 22-24
July 27-29
Aug. 31-Sept. 2
Time: Depart at 9 am
Cost: \$395 / person
Ages: All
Min/Max: 5 / 11
Register by noon on June 5, July 11, & August 15.

Quilt Shop Hop-- Mill House Quilts

We'll head north of Madison to visit this amazing and huge quilt store in Waunakee. There's 6,000 square feet housing a broad range of fabrics, kits, and patterns. We will also stop at Life's a Stitch and Material Girls on Main in Janesville. There's more to do in town, also--plan on lunch as well as shopping.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Saturday, May 21
Time: 8 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on May 13.

Old World Wisconsin

Let's go up to this wonderful museum to spend the day watching the farmers in the fields, crafters, and other volunteers who bring the days of the late 1800's back to life. Walk through restored farm houses and barns, stores, and workshops in the styles of settlers from different parts of Europe. Admission to the museum is separate (\$16 for adults, \$9 for children, & \$11 for seniors); admission includes all-day tram transportation. Lunch is available for purchase at the Clausing Barn Restaurant.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.
When: Saturday, July 2
Time: 8 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on June 24.

Kenosha, Wisconsin Trip

We'll check out the Farmer's market, spend some time shopping, take a ride on the streetcar, and have some lunch. You can browse the three free museums that are located right next door, a nature museum, a Civil War Museum, and the Kenosha Historical Museum. Then, we'll stop at the Mars' Cheese Castle and the Brat Stop. Mars has its own brewery and fantastic Reuben sandwiches!!

Saturday, August 27 ~ 8am-7pm ~ \$15/person
Meet at Jarrett Ctr. ~ Register by noon on August 19.



Se habla español
815-234-8535 x200

~ Scout Badges ~

Family Campout

We'll take you to one of our newest preserves, Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve, for some primitive camping. We'll provide food, tents, and lots of fun activities!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.

When: July 22-23

August 5-6

Time: 6 pm - 10 am

Cost: \$40 w/our tent

\$20 w/your tent

Ages: All

Min/Max: 3 tents / 12 tents

Register by noon on 7/19 & 8/2.



Fishing Day Trip

Go with us to Apple River State Park to do some fishing. No license required for the day. Bring your own equipment.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.

When: Friday, June 10

Time: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: All

Min/Max: 5 / 10

Register by noon on June 9.

Fossil Hunts

We will search Stone Quarry for fossils. Come any time and stay as long as you like. Learn how to identify and find brachiopods, molluscs, crinoids, and maybe even a trilobite!

Where: Meet at Jarrett Ctr.

When: Saturday, May 7

Saturday, June 4

Sunday, August 14

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 5/4, 6/1, & 8/11.

Junior Girl Scout

Overnight Campout

We will cook our dinner over a fire, go on a night hike, do some stargazing in our observatory, and sleep outdoors in tents. Food and tents are provided; please bring sleeping bags and personal items. These activities fulfill partial requirements of many badges including Outdoor Creativity, Outdoor Fun, Camp Together, and Outdoor Cook.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: Sat-Sun, May 14-15

Time: 3 pm - 10 am

Cost: \$20 / scout

Ages: Junior Girl Scouts

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on May 11.

Brownie Try-It

Stitch It Together

Make your own journal, sew a tiny stuffed animal, and work on other crafts to complete this badge.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: Sunday, June 5

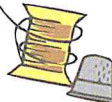
Time: 1 - 5 pm

Cost: \$8 / brownie

Ages: Brownies

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on June 1.



Brownie Try-It

Listening to the Past

We'll explore our farm museum and learn about what life was like for the early settlers in the Byron area, play pioneer games, and make our own dip candle to earn this badge. Patch and materials included.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: Friday, June 3

Time: 1 - 4 pm

Cost: \$8 / brownie

Ages: Brownies

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on May 31.



Brownie Try-It

Science Wonders

We'll play with magnets, static electricity, and make your own paper to earn this badge. Patch and all materials included.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: Thursday, May 19

Time: 5:30 - 8 pm

Cost: \$8 / brownie

Ages: Brownies

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on May 17.

Jarrett Prairie Center's 20th Birthday!!



Let's celebrate!! Come join us for cake and punch to recognize the legacy of this beautiful building.

Wednesday, June 1 ~ 4-6 pm

Jr. Corps of Discovery

Like the Lewis and Clark Expedition, we'll set out to explore and discover what amazing treasures can be found in the prairie and woodlands. We'll travel to our newly acquired acreage that includes woodland and a creek, hike the prairie at the main property, and even head out for a day in our canoes! This camp will have a little of everything--natural history, journaling and art, and photography. We'll also learn about the historic expedition and what it was like for the first white men who explored past the Missouri River.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: July 11-15

Time: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$120 / person
(inc. all materials)

Ages: 8-14

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on July 5.

Camp Indigo for Young Artists

Explore your creative side! Paint, draw, print, stamp, sculpt, and find your own style. Kids will have access to lots of art supplies in a variety of mediums along with instruction in techniques. We will wander through nature for inspiration but also head to some exciting locations for Friday field trips that are included in the registration fee. Please bring a lunch and your creativity!

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: July 18-22

August 1-5

Time: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$120 / person / week

Ages: 8-14

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 7/15 & 7/29.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Photography Camp

Compose, focus, shoot, print! Kids will learn how digital photography works and have lots of opportunities to take pictures with our fantastic field trips! We will hike on the prairie and in the woods, go on photo scavenger hunts, and then print our favorite shots. Friday field trips for this camp are included in the registration fee.

Snacks and drinks provided. Several digital cameras are available for use. Please bring a lunch and enthusiasm!

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: July 25-29

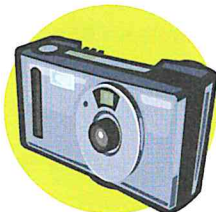
Time: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$120 / person
(inc. all materials)

Ages: 8-14

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on July 19.



Mixed Media

We will explore book binding, Japanese prints and calligraphy, block printing, and many other mediums that don't fall into conventional categories.

Like last year, we'll end the week by designing and printing our own t-shirts--they turned out so well, we absolutely have to try it again! Snacks, drinks, and field trips are included in the fee. Please bring a lunch.

Where: Keller Education Ctr.

When: August 8-12

Time: 9 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$120 / person
(inc. all materials)

Ages: 8-14

Min/Max: 5 / 20

Register by noon on August 2.

Archery Range Opening Soon!

The Byron Forest Preserve and the Byron/Oregon Sportsman's Club are working together to offer a new 3D archery range which could approach 30 stations. If all goes well, the archery course will



be open this spring and events will be planned throughout the summer and fall.

The club is located on Townline Road between Byron and Oregon off of Route 2 (this access may be limited when construction begins, alternate routes are available).

The club offers lots of advantages for members including an annual dinner and a special trap shoot. Trap shooting leagues are available and usually fill up fast.

The fee to join is \$35/year for an individual and \$45/year for a family. Please visit the club website at <http://bosconline.com> to learn more.



Do you have an idea for a program or event for the Byron Forest Preserve, PrairieView Golf Club, or Stone Quarry Park? Call 815-234-8535 x200.

Fall Preschool



Get your kids ready for kindergarten by enrolling them in our structured preschool classes. The Tuesday/Thursday classes are geared toward 3-year-olds and younger 4-year-olds. The Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are geared toward older 4-year-olds and younger 5-year-olds. Children must be at least 4 years old to attend the three-day class. They must be at least 3 years old to attend the two-day class. Children must be potty trained. Immunization records are required. You may register your child at anytime throughout the year if your child's birthday is later in the year. Please call 815-234-8535 ext. 200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
Ages: 3-5 years
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs
Time: 9-11:30 am or 1-3:30 pm
Min/Max: 6 / 20 - M/W/F & 6 / 14 - TU/TH
Cost: \$90/month-M/W/F
\$75/month-TU/TH

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.



Meet the Teachers ~ August 25 ~ 5:30-7pm

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

Parent Orientation ~ Sept. 1 ~ 6:30pm (Parents only please.)

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

Visiting Displays at the Jarrett Prairie Center

~June~

Byron Museum of History

Come to the Jarrett Prairie Center to view some of the artifacts that are housed at this downtown museum.

~July~

Byron Library District

You'll see what the Library has to offer through the Summer Reading Program.

~August~

University of Illinois Ext. Ogle County 4-H Program

Activities and offerings of the 4-H program will be featured.

Man & Nature

By Austin Webb
Prairie Restoration Technician

In the beginning, our survival was based upon our understanding and coexistence with the natural world. As time ambles forward, our dependence on this force, and the organisms still bound to it, seems to grow progressively less important. Somehow though, even in the most modern of times, we are unable to break free from the frailest of threads which still connect us to nature. Had our own species never gained an understanding of nature, we would not be where we

As Joe would say, "It takes boots on the ground to get anything done."

are today, and hence what unites us lies within our soul. Thus, even today, the existence of both man and nature is dependent upon our interaction.

It's 6:27 am, and it is the middle of winter in Northern Illinois, I'm ready for work but the sun hasn't shown up yet. As I walk into the steward barn, I'm met with the familiar calm that comes with morning and go to greet the Forest Preserve's most important instrument in restoration. The instrument I'm referring to is the sole volunteer of the Restoration Department, named Joe Jonakin. He is as hard-working a person as anyone can find, with a gentle personality, and great passion for the outdoors. Joe is a graduate of Georgia Tech with

a degree in Aerospace Engineering, who is "semi-retired" from Hamilton-Sunstrand. He also has a great admiration for the Grand Canyon, and often travels there, volunteering in ecosystem recovery programs. Whenever Joe is at the Forest Preserve, ready to volunteer doing restoration work here, we feel very fortunate.

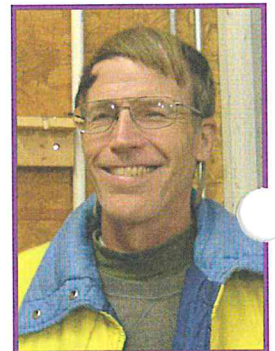
Joe has been volunteering at the Forest Preserve since 1992, when Mickey Bowman had him pulling horseweed on the Roundabout Trail. How we ever managed to get him to come back after that experience is anybody's guess, but we're glad he decided to stay. It was only shortly before his first experience volunteering that Joe had even learned to name a prairie plant, after Bob Severson pointed out side-oats gramma and little bluestem growing out of a bluff during a canoe trip on the Wisconsin River. From there, Joe's interest and knowledge of the original Illinois landscape only continued to grow. His unique understanding of what our restoration work entails at the Forest Preserve is a great asset for us, and we needn't discuss much before starting a day's work.

As with most winter days, today we are decked out in our PPE (personal protective equipment) a prepared chainsaw in hand, ready to return sunlight to the soil of a degraded woodland. We sweep the area, removing encroaching brush and trees not tolerant of the wildfires which once dictated their presence. Joe's help plays a vital role in simply helping us restore more than we could without

him. As Joe would say, "It takes boots on the ground to get anything done." We certainly cover more ground when Joe is here, and every acre we restore seems to set a new precedent. Last year, we feverishly worked completely restoring the canopy cover and brush encroachment of a miniscule 5 acres together, left wondering if we should have moved more rapidly in favor of partially restoring more. However, in the growing season, we found nesting red-headed woodpeckers, Baltimore orioles, badgers, and an explosion of native wildflowers, all of which weren't present beforehand. This type of response gave critical validation to our efforts, and we hope our work this winter will produce the same results in the spring.

We cut and stack all morning, and by 11 am it's time to get back to the shop for lunch. It's time for Joe to get home. Today, as with most, Joe and I glare into the un-restored, unhealthy acres of woodland at the preserve. Knowing there is still so much to do triggers a very humbling response, yet understanding that so few quality natural areas still exist keeps us driven. So as nature has always been here to sustain man, so should we now be here to sustain it.

Joe Jonakin,
Volunteer



Spring Ephemerals

By Katie Sullivan

Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance/Restoration

Most of us await the first signs of spring with eager anticipation. In February and March, I long for the woodland floors to burst into a colorful display of beautiful wildflowers. Spring Ephemerals are the plants that are responsible for this brilliant show of woodland flowers that emerge and carpet our deciduous forest floors each April and May.

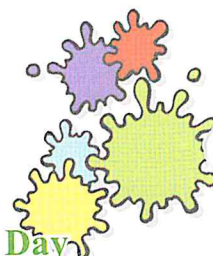
The word Ephemeral literally means – transitory or quickly fading. So this definition adequately describes the life cycle of these anxiously anticipated spring woodland flowers that surface at the end of winter and beginning of spring.

Spring ephemerals have a short life cycle period that usually only lasts 6-8 weeks. In that short amount of time, these plants must emerge, bloom, and reproduce. They must complete this cycle before the forest trees that tower above them fully leaf out which in turn shades these low growing woodland flowers from the sun. After they have completed their life cycle, most spring ephemerals fade back underground as quickly as they emerged leaving almost no trace that they were ever present. These plants may not be visible above ground – but underneath the forest floor, these spring beauties are still intact in their underground structure. These plant structures vary from root to rhizome (horizontal underground plant stem) to bulb. They may be out of sight and out of mind for the next 6-8 months but come the end of winter – I anxiously look out at the snow and long for the beauty of the vibrant woodland blooms known as spring ephemerals.

On the right from top to bottom are the most common of spring ephemerals found in our woods: Dutchman's Breeches, Spring Beauties, White Trillium, and Prairie Trillium.



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Middle School Dances

Come on out to the middle school dances! Mark these dates on your calendar and join your friends, DJ Ryan from Sound Productions and the Stone Quarry Crew for some fun! Summer dances are being replaced with Midnight Madness.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Fridays
 Apr. 15 & 29
 May 13 & 27
 Time: 7-10 pm
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: Middle School Only



Midnight Madness

Stone Quarry will be open until midnight, so come out and partake in some late night skateboarding, jam out some guitar hero, and challenge your friends on the Nintendo Wii. Be sure to bring some extra money for snacks and the arcade games.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 June 3 & 17, July 22,
 August 5 & 19
 Time: 8 pm - Midnight
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: 6th-12th grade



Mother/Daughter PJ Party

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

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 June 18, July 23, August 27
 Time: 6 - 8 pm
 Cost: \$10 / couple
 \$2 / additional daughter
 Ages: All
 Min./Max.: 10 / 30



Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program.

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Casino Trip

We will be taking a charter bus and heading to Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, Iowa, for a fun-filled day of pulling slots, rolling dice, and playing poker! The Diamond Jo Buffet Lunch is included in your cost.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 June 11 & August 13
 Time: 10 am
 Cost: \$20 / person
 Ages: 21 and up
 Min./Max.: 40 / 50

Register by June 8 & August 10.

Tumbling Class

Are you interested in learning the art of tumbling? Tumbling for beginners through advanced, ages 6 and up. We will open a tot class for ages 3-5 with adequate interest. We offer small class sizes, generally 4 students per class to ensure quality mat time and instructions. We strive to build strength while instilling confidence.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Tues. & Thurs.
 Time: 4 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$12/hour,
 \$48/mo. (4 classes), \$60/mo. (5 classes)
 \$10/2nd class/week, \$10/sibling

Ages: 6 and up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 Registration, call 815-391-3999.

Stunt and Cheer Class

This class is for individuals interested in learning and advancing their cheering and stunt skills. You must be currently enrolled in an All the Wright Moves Tumbling Class in order to take this class.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: To Be Announced
 Time: 4 - 9 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person / week
 Ages: 7 & up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 Registration, call 1-815-391-3999.



Paintball Play Day 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 30
 Sunday, June 5
 Sunday, August 7
 Time: Noon - 5 pm
 Cost: \$25 / person
 (\$15/person if you have your own equipment)
 Ages: 10 and up

Twisted Tie Dyes

Are your kids looking to add some color to their wardrobe? Tired of looking at the same old boring, gray stained t-shirts? Well, bring your kids out to the park for some fun tie dying t-shirts. We will be our own fashion designers, and will be making all different colored t-shirts from scratch. T-shirts will be provided for each participant. Pizza and pop included.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Tuesdays
 June 21, July 19
 August 16
 Time: Noon - 2 pm
 Cost: \$10 / person
 Ages: 6 & up
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on the Wednesday before the program.