



# The Blaze

Summer 2012



Byron Forest Preserve District



# from the director



Well, the spring of 2012 has been very kind to us all, and has made for a beautiful, early spring, which has enabled us to get a head start on our yard work, outdoor activities, and spring cleaning. Thus, giving us extra time to devote to family activities, vacations, golf, and programs here at the District.

I believe you will be pleased with this summer's programming; we strive to bring new opportunities and experiences for all ages. There are a couple of new Grand Openings in this issue that will bring new areas to enjoy trails and nature. PrairieView Golf Club is off to a great start and is in great shape thanks to our knowledgeable and hard working staff. The staff has opened up a couple of fairways to allow more light and air to help maintain healthier grass and greens, which will improve playing conditions.

Unfortunately, the Board has had to make a very tough but fiscally responsible and prudent decision to close the Stone Quarry Recreation Park. Please see the FAQ's below that will hopefully answer any of your questions regarding this decision.

I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying the many activities offered, facilities available for rental, and opportunities in nature, this coming spring and summer!

Todd Tucker, Executive Director

## Stone Quarry Closing Labor Day 2012

**WHY close it?** The Park has been open for 10 years, attempting to operate and produce revenue. This did not happen. The District had to keep funding the loss to keep the facility open. The Board of Commissioners decided that since the Park has been losing thousands of dollars each year, they had to make the fiscally responsible decision to close the facility.

**WHEN will it close?** Labor Day 2012 will be the last open day at the Park.

**WHAT about all of the amenities?** The playground and the splashpad are very close to the end of their useful life without spending money on major repairs and/or replacement. The batting cages will be moved to the Byron School District/Byron Park District. Attempts are being made to relocate the skate ramps within the Byron community to be available free to the public. The basketball courts, volleyball court, and horseshoe pits may be relocated within the Forest Preserve. The staff is still exploring options regarding the mini-putt and the shelter. The red building and Quonset hut will be transformed into a maintenance facility.

**WHAT about this new maintenance facility?** The board and staff have been discussing this idea for a couple of years. The District needs an updated and more efficient maintenance facility for the Golf Course Maintenance Department and the Restoration/Maintenance Department. Several schemes of the location of the new facility were considered which included keeping both Maintenance Departments in the current location or moving one of the Departments to Stone Quarry Park to utilize the buildings.

**WHY spend money on a new maintenance facility?** With several land purchases and donations over the years, the District has grown considerably since many of the current maintenance buildings were built. Buildings have been added as funds allowed and these buildings will continue to be used. The older buildings are extremely dilapidated and need to be replaced.

**WILL this project increase my taxes?** NO, building a new maintenance facility will not increase taxes. A few years ago, President Obama established "Build America Bonds" for government agencies to stimulate the economy. The District has the funds in this bond to pay for the new maintenance facility.

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### President

Dave Breen

### Vice President

Jeff Ludwig

### Treasurer

Sandy Brooks

### Secretary

Denny Cravatta

### Commissioner

Trevor Hogan

## BOARD MEETINGS

Held on the third Monday of each month at 7pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



## THE MISSION

*Preservation ~ Education  
Recreation*

To provide for Preservation of openspace/natural resources, to provide Education concerning our natural environment/heritage, and to provide Recreation opportunities and enterprise operations that are consistent with our District goals.



## THE BLAZE

Issue #27

Summer 2012

## Editor, Design, & Layout

Michelle Gerke, CPRP

Cover photo: Common Blue-eyed Grass



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**Byron Forest Preserve District**

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



# summer camps

## Stone Quarry Recreation Park Sign Up Now & Save!

Join us for some summer fun at the park where you'll get to play mini-put, skateboard, play basketball and volleyball, play on the playground, and cool off on the splash pad. For indoor fun, you'll get to play arcade games, make crafts and do other planned activities. For each week paid in full by May 31st, a \$10 punchcard for our Food Factory will be given. There will be no daily fee this year.

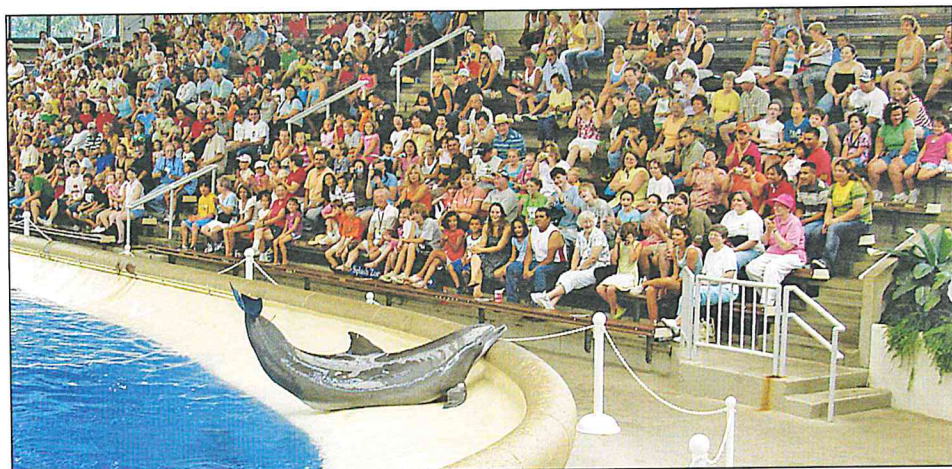
Weekly fees:     \$105 / child  
                         \$95 / sibling  
Latchkey care:   \$10 - 7-9 am  
                         \$10 - 4-6 pm

### Weeks

Week 1 - June 4-June 8  
Week 2 - June 11-June 15  
Week 3 - June 18-June 22  
Week 4 - June 25-June 29  
Week 5 - July 2-July 6 (no camp July 4th)  
Week 6 - July 9-July 13  
Week 7 - July 16-July 20  
Week 8 - July 23-July 27  
Week 9 - July 30-August 3  
Week 10 - August 6-August 10

### Field Trips

Shedd Aquarium \* Crystal Lake  
White Pines State Park \* Safari Land  
Wildlife Prairie State Park \* Henry Vilas Zoo  
Starved Rock State Park \* Byron HS Pool  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium  
Lowden State Park \* Coco Key Water Resort  
(The actual dates of the field trips will be determined by May 1st.)



### Earthkeepers

This week will be focused on Earth education and environmental awareness. The program was designed to give kids a broad understanding of concepts such as the cycling of materials and energy flow through a food chain by using interactive, action-oriented activities. Campers will receive a training manual and journal, and will earn real working keys by completing activities. We'll also hike, play games, make related crafts, and go on field trips. Bring a lunch; morning and afternoon snacks and drink are provided. Early/late latchkey available.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Mon-Fri, June 25-29  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$100 / person  
Ages: 8 - 14  
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

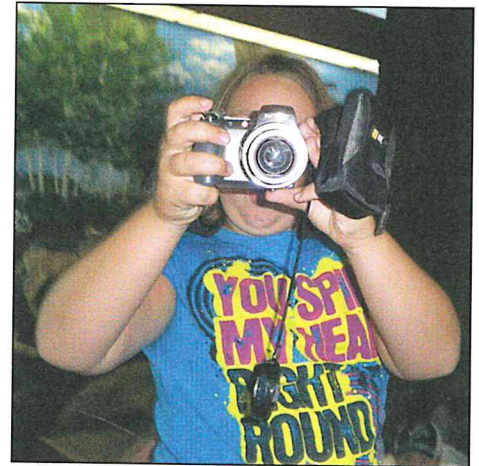
### Art

Expand your creative skills and experiment with styles, materials, and mediums. We'll have art lessons each day, where we'll learn about things like color theory and composition, then we'll put it into practice. There will be set activities and time for free creation. We'll also get out into nature to stretch, refresh, and look for inspiration. Field trips will be Wednesday afternoon and all day Friday, included with the cost. Please bring a bag lunch; snacks and drink are provided morning and afternoon. Early and late latchkey are available.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Mon-Fri, July 9-13  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$110 / person  
Ages: 8 - 14  
Min/max: 5 / 20



# summer camps



## Get Outside!

This week-long camp is for adventure lovers! We'll explore and discover different areas of the forest preserve and learn why each one is special. Each day we will focus on a different outdoor hobby and learn the basics, as well as how to learn more if something really jumps out at you! These activities include orienteering, geocaching, nature journaling, outdoor survival skills, and archery. Field trips will be Wednesday afternoon and all day Friday, included with the cost. Please bring a bag lunch; snacks and drink are provided morning and afternoon. Early and late latchkey are available.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Mon-Fri, June 18-22  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$110 / person  
Ages: 8 - 14  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on June 13.**

## Mixed Media

Not sure about photography and art? How about something a little different? This camp explores art techniques that go beyond pencils and paint. We'll do things like dying silk, making printing blocks, and design and print our own t-shirts. Field trips will be Wednesday afternoon and all day Friday, included with the cost. Please bring a bag lunch; snacks and drink are provided morning and afternoon. Early and late latchkey are available.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Mon-Fri, July 23-27  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$110 / person  
Ages: 8 - 14  
Min/max: 5 / 20

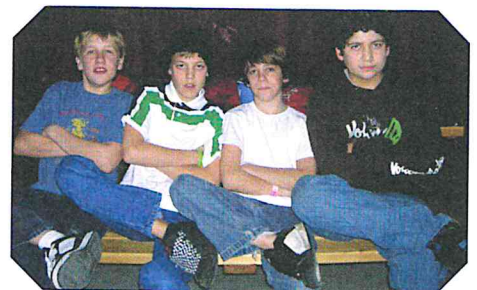
**Register by noon on July 18.**

## Photography

Take what you know and go further! This camp is for budding photographers to help develop skills with the camera and with the printing process. We'll learn about cameras and some things you might be surprised they can do! Of course we'll also hike at the nature preserve to capture the beauty of the moment. Field trips will be Wednesday afternoon and all day Friday, included with the cost. Please bring a bag lunch; snacks and drink are provided morning and afternoon. Early/late latchkey available.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Mon-Fri, July 16-20  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$110 / person  
Ages: 8 - 14  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on July 11.**





# outdoor programs

## Ogle County Bird Count

Join the rest of the state in conducting this annual count. Some species expected are blue jays, bluebirds, meadow larks, and turkey vultures.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturday  
May 5  
Time: 7 am  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: 0 / 0

**Register by noon on May 4.**



Beekeeper Jeff Ludwig

## Spring Wildflower Hike

Join us on this easy walk through the woods at our Jarrett Prairie Preserve. Some species to see may include may apple, shooting stars, and trillium. Co-sponsored by the Oregon Park District.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturday, May 19  
Time: 9 - 11 am  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: None

**No registration required.**

## Canoeing the Rock

Enjoy a leisurely float down the Rock River. Possible sightings include bald eagles, beavers, and blue herons! All equipment provided.

Where: Meet at Heritage Farm  
When: Fridays  
May 11, June 29,  
July 20, August 17  
Time: 5 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$20 / canoe  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: 3 canoes / 12 canoes

**Register by noon on 5/10, 6/28, 7/19, & 8/16.**

## Earthday Celebration

Learn about all of the regional environmental organizations to see what you can do to get involved in the environmental movement. There will also be games, live animals, and children's activities.

Where: Rock Valley College  
Physical Education Ctr.  
When: Saturday, April 21  
Time: 11 am - 3 pm  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: None

**No registration required.**

## Hunter Education

This 3-day class covers ethics, firearms, and archery. Attendance at all classes is required. Certification requires passing a written test.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Mon., Wed., Fri.- June 11, 13, 15  
Mon., Wed., Fri.- August 27, 29, 31  
Time: 6 - 9 pm (Mon. & Wed.)  
6 - 10 pm (Fri.)  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: 5 / 80

**Register by noon on 6/8 & 8/24.**

## Beekeeping Workshops

Did you hear the buzz? These workshops are the place to bee!! You will learn techniques and tools of the trade. \*Bring your bee suits for outdoor meeting!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Sundays  
May 20\*, June 10\*  
July 8\*, August 12\*  
Time: 2 - 4 pm  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: 3 and up  
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**No registration required.**

## 3D Archery

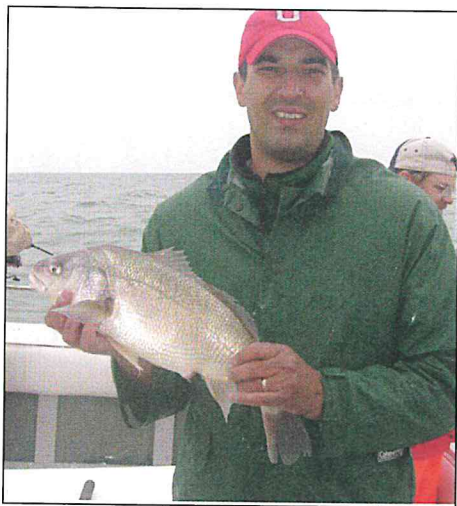
Bring your bows and arrows AND your good aim to shoot at these lifelike turkeys, deer, and bears. There will also be equipment available for use.

Where: Byron/Oregon  
Sportsman's Club  
When: Wednesdays  
May 23, June 20  
July 18, August 22  
Time: 6 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$5 / person  
Ages: 10 and up  
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on 5/21, 6/18, 7/16, & 8/20.**



# outdoor programs



red tailed hawk photo by twix on flickr



compass plant

## Bird Inventory Project

Join us on the third Friday of each month for birding at our new sites to catalog bird species. Beginners and experienced birders are welcomed.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
 When: Fridays  
 May 18, June 15  
 July 20, August 17  
 Time: 8 - 11 am  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All  
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on 5/17, 6/14, 7/19, & 8/16.**

## Midnight Fishing

You'll catch bluegill, largemouth bass, and crappie during this late night fishing outing at the golf course pond. Bring your own equipment.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
 When: Fridays  
 May 18, June 15  
 July 20, August 17  
 Time: 10 pm - Midnight  
 Cost: \$5 / person  
 Ages: 6 and up  
 Min./Max.: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on 5/17, 6/14, 7/19, & 8/16.**

## Wildflower Walkabout

We're going to one of the Forest Preserve's newest sites, the Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve. There will be moderate hiking in the woods and along the stream. Co-sponsored by Severson Dells and the Natural Land Institute.

Where: Meet at the corner of Tower and Oak Grove Roads in Byron.  
 When: Wednesday, June 6  
 Time: 6 - 8 pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All

**No registration required.**

## National Get Outdoors Day

We are doing a full day of adventure on this nationwide initiative. We will visit several Forest Preserve sites for some hiking, stream sampling, insect collecting, bird/flower watching, and picnicking. Bring a lunch.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
 When: Saturday, June 9  
 Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All  
 Min./Max.: 5 / 12

**Register by noon on June 8.**

## EEAI Share-a-thon

Join us as we travel to Angelic Organic Learning Center for an informal meeting with people interested in environmental education.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
 When: Thursday, June 7  
 Time: Depart at 2:30 pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All  
 Min./Max.: 5 / 12

**Register by noon on June 6.**

## Wildflower Hike

We'll meet at the Blackhawk Statue in Lowden State Park campground for a search for spring migrants and wildflowers. We hope to see the pileated woodpecker and spring beauties.

Where: Lowden State Park  
 When: Sunday, May 6  
 Time: 1 - 3 pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: Families  
 Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**Register by noon on May 4.**





# outdoor programs

## Insect Hunt/Family Campout

Volunteers from the University of Illinois will be helping you collect and catalog insects from the Forest Preserve. Stay overnight or just a couple of hours. We provide food, tents, and all equipment. Insect hunt only is free.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday-Sunday  
May 26-27  
July 21-22

Time: 10 am - 9 am

Cost: \$40 w/our tent  
\$20 w/your tent  
Free, if not camping

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 3 tents / 12 tents

**Register by noon on May 23 and July 18.**



## Perseid Meteor Watch

We'll discover the beauty of shooting stars as we gaze into the skies during this annual event. Bring your binoculars or use ours. A blanket or lawn chair may come in handy too!

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Sunday, August 12

Time: 10 pm - Midnight

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / none

**Register by noon on August 10.**

## Venus Transit

Check out this rare occurrence! Venus will travel between the earth and sun. The next time this happens will be 2017.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory

When: Tuesday, June 5

Time: 5 - 7 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: Families

Min./Max.: 5 / 25

**Register by noon on June 4.**

## Geocaching for Beginners

If you're new to geocaching or just curious about it, this a great trip for learning more. We'll discuss how geocaching works, how to use a GPS and/or a smartphone to find caches and waypoints, and the different things there are to do and find, such as multiple caches, waypoints, and Wherigo cartridges. Then, we'll head out to hunt for caches and waypoints around Byron. Our goal is a dozen, but we may have time for more!

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Saturday, May 26

Time: 1 - 5 pm

Cost: \$5 / person or \$15 / family

Ages: 6 and up, participants under 14 must be accompanied by an adult

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

**Register by noon on May 23.**

## Geocaching Event Day

Sign up with a team and see if you can win our challenge! You'll be given the coordinates to several geocaches in the area on forest preserve property, including the starting point of a series along one of our trails at the Forest Preserve's main property near the Jarrett Prairie Center. Your team gains points by finding each of the geocaches and reporting back to the Jarrett Center before the finishing time. FTF coins and travelbugs will be set up in many of the boxes, as well as passes to Stone Quarry Park and PrairieView G.C., and other swag, of course! There will also be prizes for the top three (or five, depending on how many sign up) teams to complete the hunt. All caches will be within a 10-mile radius. Some hiking required over possibly muddy and/or difficult terrain. All teams must have a least one member over 21, and must have their own vehicle.

Where: Meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center

When: Saturday, August 4

Time: Noon - 5 pm

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 3 teams / 20 teams

**Register by noon on July 27.**



# outdoor programs

## Fitness and Facts

### Nature Hikes

Wellness for your mind and body! Hike a different route along the trails each time and learn some things about the prairie and woodlands. We'll walk a distance of about two miles each time, with pauses to look at interesting features—glacial boulders, wildflowers, bluebirds nesting, and more.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturdays  
May 12, June 9,  
July 7, August 4  
Time: 8 - 9:30 am  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by the previous Wednesday.**

## Mother/Daughter

### Hike and Journaling

Head out into the morning beauty of the woods and prairie to explore some areas with which you may not be familiar. Then we'll choose a spot to sit quietly for a while, sharing the stillness and whispering discoveries. Take the time to sketch or write in a journal, which will be provided for each participant. Then share what you'd like of your experience before we head back along a different route.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturdays  
May 12 & June 9  
Time: 10 - 11:30 am  
Cost: \$5 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/max: 6 / 20

**Register by noon on May 9 & June 7.**

## Plein Air Painting

Spend a few evenings capturing the particular beauty of the prairie "in the open air." Bring an easel and supplies, or use ours, and practice your craft outside observing the landscape first-hand, and learn tips and tricks from the instructor and each other. We can store wet canvasses overnight so that you don't have to travel with them.

Where: Jarrett Center  
When: Mon-Thurs, June 4-7  
Time: 2 - 4 pm  
Cost: Bring your own materials: \$10  
Use our materials (canvas, easel, and oil, acrylic, or watercolor + brushes): \$20  
Ages: 12 and up  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on May 29.**

## Lightning Bug Hunt and Night Hike

It's the time of year for fireflies! We'll spend a short time learning about these nocturnals and other animals before going out to catch some! After we have a chance to see them close-up, we'll release them and move on to other activities suited to a dark night, such as a spider headlight hunt, a solo hike, owl calls, and a night vision game. Each participant may keep their bug container and magnifier at the end of the night.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Friday, June 22  
Time: 8 - 9:30 pm  
Cost: \$2 / child  
(parents may stay and participate for free)  
Ages: 6 and up  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on June 20.**

## National Public Lands Day

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, please come out to the Forest Preserve and volunteer a few hours of your time to help protect and restore your public lands. National Public Lands Day was started in 1994 with three work sites, in 2011 over 180,000 volunteers helped at 2,060 sites in every state. This year, staff at the Forest Preserve are coordinating a volunteer work day to help restore the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve. The main activity will be collecting seed from various prairie species for a new prairie planting, some work may also be done on removing invasive weeds from the preserve. We hope you can come out to the Forest Preserve and enjoy the beauty of the Jarrett Prairie while helping to protect and restore our public lands.

Where: Meet at Maintenance  
Parking Lot  
When: Saturday, September 29  
Time: 9 am - Noon  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All

## Fossil Hunts

Explore the limestone of Stone Quarry's quarry to find fossils—maybe even a trilobite! Fossil guides are supplied; bring tools if you wish. Come whenever you like during this event and stay until your buckets are full!

Where: Stone Quarry  
When: Saturday, May 5  
Sunday, July 8  
Saturday, August 11  
Time: 10 am - 2 pm  
Cost: \$2 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/max: 5 / 30

**Register by the previous Wednesday.**



# trips



## The Field Museum - Chicago

With 4.6 billion years under one roof, The Field Museum is your passport to travel around the world and back in time. Start discovering now! Transportation, parking and tolls included. Price of admission not included. Visit [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org) for more information.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Mondays,  
May 21, June 15,  
July 20, August 17

Time: 9 am - 6 pm

Cost: \$15 / person or  
\$25 / couple

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 5/18, 6/22, 7/27, & 8/10.

## Lake Erie - Walleye Fishing

Going to the walleye capitol of the world for a first class charter experience. Two-day charter, equipment, bait, and lodging included. Meals, fishing license, and personal items not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Tues.-Thurs., May 15-17  
Wed.-Fri., June 20-22  
Wed.-Fri., July 25-27

Time: Depart at 9am.

Cost: \$395 / person

Ages: Adults

Min./Max.: 5 / 11

Register by noon on 5/1, 6/4, & 7/9.



## Maxwell Street Days

Join us as we head to America's Little Switzerland in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Bargain hunters won't want to miss this event! Downtown shops will fill the sidewalks with a wide range of merchandise at special prices. Visit [www.swisstown.com](http://www.swisstown.com) for more information.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, August 4

Time: 10 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$15 / person or  
\$25 / couple

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on August 1.

## Bird Fest

Heading to the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory to discover the science and fun of bird banding. Transportation provided. Admission not included. Visit [www.sandbluff.org](http://www.sandbluff.org) for more information.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, May 12

Time: Noon - 5 pm

Cost: \$7 / person or  
\$12 / couple

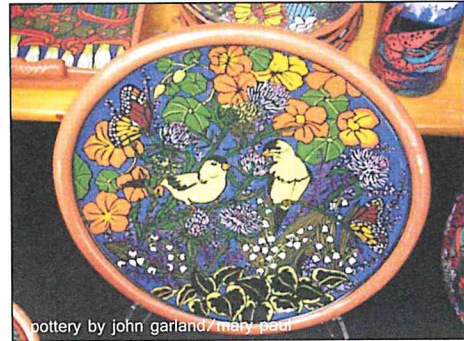
Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on May 11.

## Casino Trips

Please see page 19 for the dates of the trips to Diamond Jo Casino.



## Art Fair on the Square

We're heading to Madison, Wisconsin to visit this 54th annual art spectacle. Organized by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Art Fair on the Square features works of art in mixed media, ceramics, drawings, graphics, prints, fiber, leather, furniture, glass, jewelry, metal, paintings, photographs, sculpture, 3D mixed media, and wood. Visit [www.mmoca.org](http://www.mmoca.org) to see images from the more than 450 exhibiting artists who participated in 2011.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, July 14

Time: 10 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$15 / person  
\$25 / couple

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on July 11.

## Aldo Leopold

Headed to Baraboo, Wisconsin to visit this campus of the "Father of Conservation." We'll see his famous shack and the new Leopold Center which is a magnificent "green" building. For more info, visit [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturday, June 16

Time: 10 am - 6 pm

Cost: \$15 / person  
\$25 / couple

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on June 13.



# trips



## Free Fishing Day

Go with us to Hennepin Canal to do some fishing. No license required today. Bring your equipment. We'll be fishing for bluegill, largemouth bass, and crappie.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Monday, June 11  
Time: 9 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$5 / person  
Ages: All  
Min./Max.: 5 / 10

**Register by noon on June 8.**

## Mazonia Braidwood

### Fossil Collecting

We'll head to this state park to look for fossils from the Pennsylvanian Period 300 million years ago! Take your time sorting through the piles of coal slag—there are iron ore nodules throughout the park, and many of them have fossils in them. Some of those are extraordinary specimens. We'll go to the sections of the park that the public rarely visits. Five gallon bucket and fossil permit provided.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturday, June 16  
Time: 9 am - 6 pm  
Cost: \$15 / person  
Ages: All  
Min/max: 5/12

**Register by noon on June 8.**

## WildCard Trips - Boundary Waters and Lake Erie

Have you ever dreamed of heading to the wilderness of Minnesota for a fishing adventure or walleye fishing at Lake Erie with your buddies but just couldn't find the right time or had the right know how? We are here to help!

### Lake Erie - Walleye

We will provide charter, transportation, lodging, and equipment...all you have to provide is the date you want to go and the fishing buddies! We will go on your scheduled dates. The cost is \$395 per person for a trip that includes everything except fishing licenses and personal items like sleeping bags and pillows. Call Richie TODAY to schedule your trip, 815-234-8535 x217. Transportation, lodging, and two days of charter service are included so book your trip now for the hot walleye run! Call 815-234-8535 x217. A minimum of 5 is required to plan a trip with a maximum of 11.

### Boundary Waters, Ely, Minnesota

We will provide permits, transportation, food, and equipment...all you have to provide is the date you want to go and the fishing buddies! We will go on your scheduled dates. The cost is \$400 per person for a trip that includes everything except fishing licenses, bait, equipment, and personal items like sleeping bags and pillows. Call Richie TODAY to schedule your trip, 815-234-8535 x217. Transportation, canoes, tents, and planning are all included, so book your trip TODAY! Call 815-234-8535 x217. A minimum of 4 is required to plan a trip with a maximum of 7.





# trips



photo by mikeswhat on flickr



photo by vastateparksstaff on flickr



Figge Art Museum

## Dubuque—Riverboat Ride & Mississippi River Museum

We'll start with a two-hour cruise up the Mississippi—we've done this before, and we can say with first-hand experience how beautiful it is. You may choose to add a deli lunch when you sign up; if not, a concession stand is available on the boat (hot dogs, coffee, pretzels, etc.). When we return, we'll be right at the doorstep of the Mississippi River Museum. If you haven't visited in a while, you'll be delighted to know that it has recently been renovated with several new exhibits added. Cost includes transportation, riverboat ticket and museum entrance fee.

**Where:** Meet at Jarrett Center  
**When:** Saturday, June 30  
**Time:** 8:30 am – 6 pm  
**Cost:** \$60 / person (no lunch)  
 \$65 / person (w/lunch)

**Ages:** Adults  
**Min/max:** 5 / 30

**Register by noon on June 22.**



## Geocache Trip to Wisconsin (intermediate to advanced)

We'll head to Monroe and stop for the few caches downtown (and have a short time for a snack and maybe a stop at Baumgardner's). Then we'll take off to find the first part of a series of geocaches along the way to New Glarus themed around barn quilts. We'll stop by New Glarus for lunch, and over to Albany for the second part of the series that leads south toward Brodhead. Most of these caches are accessible from the road. After that, it will be time to head home—with a couple dozen caches to log and hopefully some great swag and maybe a trackable or two. Bring your GPS if you have one; you may also borrow one from the forest preserve (limited availability) or share with another cacher.

**Where:** Meet at Jarrett Center  
**When:** Saturday, June 2  
**Time:** 8:30 am – 5 pm  
**Cost:** \$15 / person  
**Ages:** 8 and up  
**Min/max:** 5 / 12

**Register by noon on May 25.**

## River Music Experience and Figge Art Museum, Davenport IA

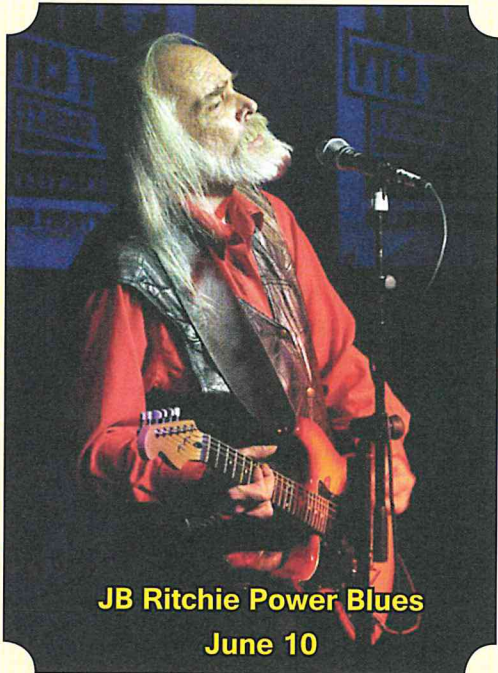
First, we'll explore the River Music Experience, an interactive and dynamic display centered around jazz, blues, and local artists. We'll head into the Woodfire Grill at noon for lunch, which will be accompanied by live music. After that, it's only a block to walk to the Figge Art Museum, which houses featured paintings from the University of Iowa including pieces by Jackson Pollock and Pablo Picasso; a Frank Lloyd Wright exhibit; a 19th Century American Art gallery, and more. You may spend the entire time at the museum, or head out to explore the area's shopping on foot and perhaps get a coffee or snack before the ride home. Within walking distance: Mojo's coffee, Front Street Brewery, Duck City Bistro, a riverfront walking trail, and Bucktown Center for the Arts, which offers several studios with art for sale.

**Where:** Meet at Jarrett Center  
**When:** Friday, August 10  
**Time:** 9 am – 6 pm  
**Cost:** \$15 / person  
**Ages:** Adults  
**Min/max:** 5 / 12

**Register by noon on August 3.**



# summer concerts



**JB Ritchie Power Blues**  
**June 10**



**Backroad Trio ~ June 24**



**Coon Creek String Band ~ July 8**



**Chuck Bauer Band**  
**July 22**



**Short Circuit ~ August 5**



FREE concerts begin at 7pm  
Heritage Farm Stage  
8059 River Road, Byron

\*Rain location\*  
Jarrett Prairie Center



**Burn n Bush ~ August 12**



# scout badge programs



## Letterboxer - Brownie

This is one of the "skill building" badges that accompanies A World of Girls Journey Book. Whether you're working on that Journey or not, you can earn this badge. Letterboxing is a fun outdoor activity that's like a special treasure hunt. Boxes are hidden outside and the location is published on a special website. They contain stamps and a log book. Find the box, use the stamp to mark your own log book, and see how many you can find! For this badge we will learn about letterboxing, make our own stamps, and practice creating clues. We'll also search for a letterbox here at the forest preserve (yes, there are some here, hidden by locals). Then we'll make our own series of "rainbow" letterboxes, put our stamps in them, and hide them! Later, the locations will be published at the letterboxing website so that area hunters can mark their own log books with the stamps you made! Patch included.

Where: Keller Center  
When: Saturday, May 19  
Time: 9 am - 12 pm  
Cost: \$8 / person  
Ages: Brownie Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 24

**Register by noon on May 16.**

## Hiking - Brownie

This is one of the "skill building" badges that accompanies the Wonders of Water Journey Book. And it's a great one to earn, whether or not you're in the middle of that Journey or not! We'll discuss places nearby that are good for hiking and how to read a trail map. If you have favorite plants or animals you'd like to see, you can also learn in which areas you might find them! Finally, we'll discuss gear and safety, and also how to be a responsible hiker out in nature. Then we'll decorate hiking sticks, make our own maps, pack a snack and go!

Where: Keller Center  
When: Sunday, May 20  
Time: 1 - 4 pm  
Cost: \$8 / brownie (inc. patch)  
Ages: Brownie Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5/24

**Register by noon on May 16.**

## Animal Habitats - Jr. G.S.

This is one of the "skill building" badges that accompanies the a-MUSE Journey Book. You don't have to be working on that Journey to earn this badge. We'll learn about the wild animals that live in our area and meet the turtles and snake in the museum. Then we'll head out to find some animal homes in the woods and prairie. You can help clean up some of the habitat we see, or make a home that an animal might use. Badge included.

Where: Keller Center  
When: Saturday, May 12  
Time: 1- 4 pm  
Cost: \$8 / scout  
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 24

**Register by noon on May 9.**

## Senses - Brownie

This is one of the "skill building" badges that accompanies the Wonders of Water Journey Book. Even if you're not working on that Journey at the moment, you may still earn this badge...and it might inspire you to start! Use all of your senses to earn this badge! Go on a scavenger hunt, make "leaf slides" to reveal the hidden patterns in leaves, go on a listening hike, play a game with sound shakers, find things with interesting smells, and follow your nose. Then try a taste bud taste test, and collect natural items with different textures. Patch included.

Where: Keller Center  
When: Friday, May 4  
Time: 5:30 - 8 pm  
Cost: \$8 / person  
Ages: Brownie Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 24

**Register by noon on May 1.**

## Geocaching - Jr. Girl Scout

This is one of the "skill building" badges that accompanies the a-MUSE Journey Book. Whether or not you're working on that Journey right now, you'll find this badge is tons of fun. Geocaching is an outdoor activity that works like a treasure hunt. Hidden boxes, called caches, are located all over the world! Caches contain "swag---" cool stuff that you are allowed to take. You might pass one of these boxes every day and not even know it. You'll learn how geocaching works, about the online site that tells the location of boxes, and how a GPS unit works. Then we'll make some of our own swag to leave in a cache, as well as a trackable "travelbug" to set loose. You can follow it online and see where it goes! And, of course, we'll go out to find some caches of our own! There are eight caches at the forest preserve, hidden by local geocachers. How many do you think we can find? Badge included.

Where: Keller Center  
When: Saturday, May 19  
Time: 1 - 4 pm  
Cost: \$8 / scout  
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on May 16.**



# scout badge programs



## Get Wild About Energy - Jr. G.S. Journey

This is part of the Get Moving journey. Meet at the Keller Center to investigate animals and how they use energy. We'll spend some time observing the birds through the big back window, and then take a short hike in the woods to see what other animals we can find. Of course, we'll need a journal and a snack to take with us, and we'll make both of those. Along the way we'll listen for the sounds of animal communication, and then talk about how everything relates to our own use of energy, including how you communicate with others.

When: Keller Education Center  
When: Saturday, May 26  
Time: 9 am - 12 noon  
Cost: \$4 / scout  
Ages: Junior Girl Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 24

**Register by noon on May 23.**

## "Old" Girl Scout Badges

You may continue to earn "old" badges through September of 2012; if there's something that your troop hasn't completed, please call and ask, we could probably accommodate you. You can call Janet at 815-234-8535 ext. 232.

## Geology - Boy Scout

We'll complete some of the requirements for this badge: learning the basics of geology, and examining and discussing a geologic map. We'll complete the earth history option by discussing geological eras and periods, how and when our local rock formed, and how fossils form and what they tell us about natural history.

The Jarrett Center's huge fossil collection will be revealed, and we'll talk about preservation and preparation, as well as all of the plant and animal types that they came from. Finally, we'll head to Stone Quarry to fossil hunt and start a collection that you may keep. Not included, complete at home to finish the badge: speaking to a geologist or researching careers.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Saturday, July 7  
Time: 12 noon - 5 pm  
Cost: \$8 / scout  
Ages: Boy Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 30

**Register by noon on July 5.**

## Astronomy - Boy Scout

Meet most of your requirements for this badge. Explore the observatory, learn about weather while star gazing at constellations.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory  
When: Thursday, July 5  
Time: 7 - 10 pm  
Cost: \$9 / scout  
Ages: Boy Scouts  
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

**Register by noon on July 2.**

## Geocaching - Boy Scout

We'll discuss the hazards and safe planning of geocaching and learn the proper etiquette when hiding and seeking caches. Scouts will also have hands-on learning about the different terms used in selecting a cache to seek, how to use a GPS, map, and compass. We'll go online to [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and look at nearby caches and learn how to download the coordinates to a GPS. Then we'll both find a cache and prepare one ourselves and publish it online. Finally, we'll create and activate a travelbug related to Scouts, and participants can decide its "goal" and take the tracking number of the bug to watch its movement online.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center  
When: Saturday, June 9  
Time: 1 - 6 pm  
Cost: \$8 / scout  
Ages: Boy Scouts  
Min/max: 5 / 24

**Register by noon on June 6.**

## Insect - Boy Scout

Complete almost every requirement for this badge (or at least dip your toes in and get started!). Learn about the characteristics of insects and the different families and orders of insects here at the forest preserve. Then observe them in the field through catch and release—photograph or draw your finds to create a scrapbook. From the most commonly found, we'll discuss species that are beneficial to humans and some that are not. Finally, we'll talk to our very own beekeeper, who will show us the beehives at the preserve, talk about social insects, and discuss what you need to learn to become a beekeeper. Not included: Raising an insect through complete metamorphosis.

Where: Keller Education Center  
When: Sunday, August 5  
Time: 12 noon - 5 pm  
Cost: \$8 / scout  
Ages: Boy Scouts  
Min/max: 5/24

**Register by noon on August 1.**



# preschool, etc.



## 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 x200 for more information.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
Ages: 3 - 5 years old  
When: Mon/Wed/Fri or Tu/Th  
Time: 9-11:30am or 1-3:30pm  
Min/Max: 6/20 - M/W/F & 6/14 - Tu/Th  
Cost: \$100/month-M/W/F  
\$85/month-Tu/Th

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

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### Meet the Teachers August 23 ~ 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 classroom.

## Adventure Club

It's summer but preschool fun doesn't take a vacation! Sign up your 3-6 year old for some fun in the sun at the Forest Preserve. We meet for two-week sessions from 9-11am. Sign up for one or all four sessions. We will enjoy social time with fellow preschool aged friends in the prairie, the woods, and the playground (weather permitting). We will also interact in the classroom, playing games, completing activities, and rotation through hands-on learning stations. Join Mrs. Joni and Mrs. Crystal for a great summer at the Jarrett Prairie Center!

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center  
When: Session #1 - June 4-14  
Session #2 - June 18-28  
Session #3 - July 2-12 (no class on July 4th)  
Session #4 - July 16-26  
Time: 9 - 11 am  
Cost: \$35 / person / session  
Session #3 \$26 / person  
Ages: 3 - 6  
Min/max: 6 / 14

**Register by the Thursday before each session begins.**

## Visiting Displays at the Jarrett Prairie Center

Illinois Weather - May

Come and see what to expect when you venture outside in Illinois in spring and summer.

Byron Kiwanis - June

Find out about this great local organization.

Artist Holly Funke - July

This talented Northern Illinois University student has put together an awesome display of her works.

Byron Chamber of Commerce - August

Their unique offerings and activities will be on display.