

What a Find!

By Richie Wolf, Education Superintendent

A bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) was discovered as roadkill on Kishwaukee Road south of the airport in Rockford in mid February.



The body was brought to the Forest Preserve and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was contacted. The Conservation Officer left it to the Forest Preserve for educational purposes and a permit was obtained for that reason. We will be placing the bobcat on display at the Jarrett Center this summer.

Bobcats are animals of forests and brush land. Seldom is the bobcat seen away from such habitat. Although originally found in all 48 contiguous states, it has struggled in our modern world. In Illinois, many reports have been documented of these animals; however, most people confuse them with feral cats. Color is best described as rusty brown with spots. They are typically between 15 and 30 pounds. Our female cat is 23 pounds.

Wild bobcats eat small rodents, birds, and reptiles. Bobcats are not a threat to humans and should not be viewed as one. They are shy and active at night. Most people will never be made known of their presence let alone see one. In Illinois, they are protected by law.

I am amazed at the resilience of wildlife. Left to their own devices and not persecuted by humans, wildlife has an amazing ability to survive and thrive in the shadows of human activity. When I was young, bald eagles were endangered and now they are relatively common. Deer and turkeys were almost non-existent in the early 1900s but now they are at record high numbers. Maybe someday we will live in a world where we



can share Illinois with animals like bobcats, wolves, and even black bears. Wouldn't that be grand?

Archery Hunting Lottery

The Byron Forest Preserve District will be opening up two preserves to public archery hunting beginning the fall of 2012. A lottery drawing will be held to randomly select 6 archery hunters for archery season. These 6 hunters will be permitted to archery hunt at the District's Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve and at the Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve. Each site will be monitored by a District hunt manager. Three hunters will be allowed at each site. Entrants must be residents or taxpayers of the Byron Forest Preserve District and at least 18 years of age before October 1, 2012. Prior game violations could exclude entrants from eligibility.

For an application to have your name in the random lottery drawing, please stop at the Jarrett Prairie Center beginning Monday, June 4, 2012. Please have your application returned by 4:30 pm on Friday, August 3, 2012. The drawing will be held Saturday August 11, 2012 at 10 am. Each hunter will be assigned to one of the two preserves. Lottery winners present at the drawing will have first choice as to which preserve they want to hunt. Absent winners will be assigned to a preserve. Each preserve will have three hunters for a two year term. After two years, the District will hold another lottery drawing.

The Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve is located in the northeast corner of the District, between Meridian Rd. and Weldon Rd. The Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve is located north of Oak Grove Rd, immediately east of Tower Rd.



stone quarry park



Paintball Playdays

Let's Get Dirty!!

Stone Quarry is sponsoring Winstead Outdoors in an effort to provide affordable paintball opportunities in this 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, and one tank of CO2 and 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: Sundays
 April 15, May 20
 June 10, August 12
 Time: Noon - 5 pm
 Cost: \$15 / person w/own gun
 \$25 / person to rent gun
 Ages: 10 and up

Midnight Madness

Stone Quarry will be open until midnight, so come on out and do some late night skateboarding, biking, jam out on Guitar Hero, or challenge your friends on the Wii. Be sure to bring some extra money for arcade games and the Food Factory!

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Saturdays
 June 15, July 20
 August 10
 Time: 8 pm - Midnight
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: 11-18 (6th-12th grade)

Stone Quarry Has WiFi!

Stone Quarry Park offers free wireless internet access. Bring your kids out to the park for some fun while you catch up on work projects or finish personal business.

Tumbling Class

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

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: Tuesdays & Thursdays
 Time: 4 - 8 pm
 Cost: \$12/hour,
 \$48/mo. (4 classes)
 \$60/mo. (5 classes)
 \$10/2nd class/week
 \$10/sibling
 Ages: 6 and up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 Registration, call 815-391-3999.

Stunt and Cheer Class

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

Where: Stone Quarry Park
 When: TBA
 Time: 4 - 8 pm
 Cost: \$10/week
 Ages: 7 and up
 Instructor: Mary Wright Sheker
 Registration, call 815-391-3999.

Attention All Earthkeeper Students...Make Your Mark!

We welcome all students who attended the Earkeepers program in fourth grade to visit our Keller Education Center and leave your handprint on the wall in E.M.'s lab! You may also sign your first name and year you attended. Just check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center during open hours and Janet or a building supervisor will unlock the door for you at the Keller Center...supplies will be waiting for you. We would love to see some hands from the mid-90's when the program was getting started!

stone quarry park



Glow in the Dark Mini Golf

Come and join us for real glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, featuring translucent golf balls with miniature glow sticks inside, glowing cups and sticks all throughout our 18-hole, outdoor course. We are offering this fun event one Saturday per month. When the park closes to the public at 9 pm, the fun begins. We will serve pizza and pop after golfing.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturdays
June 30 & July 28
Time: 9 pm sharp!
Cost: \$8 / person inc. pizza & pop
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 10 / 30

Register by noon on the June 27 & July 25.

Feelin' Lucky?!

Well, here's the perfect opportunity to capitalize on it! We will be taking a charter bus and heading to Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, Iowa, for a fun filled day of pulling slots, rolling dice, or whatever floats your boat. The Diamond Jo Buffet lunch is included in your cost.

Where: Depart from
Stone Quarry Park
When: Saturdays
June 9 & August 18
Time: Depart 10 am/Return 6 pm
Cost: \$22 / person
Ages: 21 and up
Min./Max.: 30 / 50

Register by noon on June 6 & August 15.



Made with Love - For Mom

Come and join us in making a card and a craft for your mom or grandma for Mother's Day while enjoying pizza and pop.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Wednesday, May 9
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: 6 - 12
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on May 7.

Mother's Day at the Park

On May 13th, from 11am-5pm, every mom who comes to Stone Quarry Park with her family gets free park admission.

Made with Love - For Dad

Come and join us in making a card and a craft for your dad or grandpa for Father's Day while enjoying pizza and pop.

Where: Stone Quarry Park
When: Wednesday, June 13
Time: 6 - 8 pm
Cost: \$15 / person
Ages: 6 - 12
Min./Max.: 5 / 15

Register by noon on June 11.

Father's Day at the Park

On June 17th, from 11am-5pm, every dad who comes to Stone Quarry Park with his family gets free park admission.



Stone Quarry Park Hours

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

Thru April 29th

Monday - Thursday - 4 - 8 pm
Fridays - Closed
Saturday & Sunday - 11 am - 5 pm

April 30th - May 27th

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

Summer Hours

May 28th - September 3rd

Monday - Saturday - 11 am - 8 pm
Sunday - 11 am - 6 pm

Park Admission

Back by popular demand...
Dollar Day Mondays!
Only \$1 admission for everyone
(2 & under are free).

All other days - \$3 admission fee per person for unlimited daily use of all park amenities, including mini-golf, skate park, splash pad, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, basketball courts and playground.

prairieview golf club

Golf Leagues

PrairieView offers a variety of 9-hole leagues for men, women, and seniors. All of the league play is handicapped and includes all levels of golfers from relative beginners to more advanced players. If you would like more information regarding any of the leagues offered at PrairieView or would like to inquire how to register for a league, please stop by the clubhouse or call 815/234-4653.

Senior Men's League

When: Wednesday Mornings
Time: 8 am (9 am in spring & fall)
Begins: April 25
Cost: \$10 for the required 9-hole handicap
\$1 per week for weekly game
Format: Individual play
(some weeks will include team play, various games)

Wednesday Men's League

When: Wednesday Evenings
Time: 5:30 pm
Begins: May 9
Cost: \$60 per person (includes 9-hole handicap, year end prize money, and banquet)
Format: Two-Person teams

Thursday Men's League

When: Thursday Evenings
Time: 4:30-5:00 pm
Begins: May 10
Cost: \$50 per person (includes 9-hole handicap, year end prize money)
Format: Two-Person teams
Contact: jstoll@mdesinc.com to register

Tuesday Ladies League

When: Tuesday Evenings
Time: 5:30 pm
Begins: April 10
Cost: \$35 includes 9 hole handicap
\$1 per week for weekly game

21st Annual Gold Medal Classic

The event will take place at PrairieView May 19th and 20th and is open to men and women age 15 and above. The field will be placed into flights after Saturday's round based on the first round score and will include divisions for men, women, and seniors. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for each flight. The defending champion of The Gold Medal Classic is Eric Burch of Rockford in the men's division, Alexis Bennett of Rockford in the ladies division, and Rick Anderson of Sterling in the senior division. Other flight win-



ners in 2011 include Jamie Hogan of Rockford (1st flight), and Brady Szuminski of Byron (2nd flight). The Gold Medal Classic will be the first major golf event of the year in the Byron/Rockford area. Help make this great event a success and play. For information on the event or to sign up please call 815/234-4653.

Ladies Rock River Classic

PrairieView will host the Ladies Rock River Classic on Saturday, August 18th. The Rock River Classic is a 36-hole ladies event involving several area courses. The event is played at multiple facilities each year with one round of golf on Saturday and one round of golf on Sunday. This year, PrairieView has the honor of hosting the Saturday round and in 2013, the Sunday round. For more information on the Ladies Rock River Classic or how to get involved with ladies golf at PrairieView, please contact the golf staff at 815-234-4653.



prairieview golf club

2012 Men's Association Event Schedule

Date	Day	Event	
April	15th	Sunday	2 person best ball
	22nd	Sunday	Individual Low Net and closest to Pin's
	29th	Sunday	Spring Ultimate (27-holes) 9–best ball, 9–scramble, 9–alternate shot
May	5th	Saturday	Spring Road Trip (Site TBA)
	6th	Sunday	3 Person teams
	19th, 20th	Saturday, Sunday	Gold Medal Classic
	27th	Sunday	Beat the Pro #1
June	3rd	Sunday	Skins
	10th	Sunday	Individaul Low Net
	17th	Sunday	Fathers Day/Us Open Tournament
	23rd	Saturday	Timber Pointe Interclub @ PrairieView
	24th	Sunday	4 person teams
	30th July 1st	Saturday, Sunday	Club Championship (18 holes each day, both gross and net divisions)
July	4th	Wednesday	5 Black Tees, 5 Blue Tees, 4 White Tees, 4 Yellow Tees
	15th	Sunday	Survivors of Byron Fest
	21st, 22nd	Saturday, Sunday	Lincoln Highway Tournament
	29th	Sunday	Stableford Scoring System
August	5th	Sunday	2 Person Blind Partners
	11th	Saturday	Aldeen Interclub Match @ PrairieView
	12th	Sunday	PGA Sunday Tournament
	19th	Sunday	Individual Low Net
	26th	Sunday	4 Person Teams
Sept.	2nd	Sunday	Beat the Pro #2
	8th	Saturday	Fall Road Trip (Site TBA)
	9th	Sunday	2 Person best ball
	16th	Sunday	Individual Low Net & Closest to the Pin's
	23rd	Sunday	Fall Ultimate (27 holes) 9–Best Ball, 9–Scramble, 9–Alternate Shot
	30th	Sunday	Skins
Oct.	7th	Sunday	2 Person Scramble
	14th	Sunday	3 Person Teams
	21st	Sunday	Chili Scramble (8:00 Shotgun start followed by Chili and Football)
	28th	Sunday	Tough Course Day

In addition to the above schedule we will conduct the PrairieView Match Play Championship. The Match Play Championship will be played at full handicap and seeded by handicap at the time of the sign-up deadline.

Sign-up deadline	June 14th
Brackets will be posted	June 17th
First Round Matches completed by	July 5th
Second Round Matches completed by	July 19th
Third Round Matches completed by	August 2nd
Semifinals completed by	August 16th
Finals completed by	August 30th



Sign up for events in the pro shop. All events are handicapped and open to anyone 18 and older with a certified handicap. There will be individual entry fees/prize money for each event.

prairieview golf club

Rules and Etiquette Clinics

New for 2012, PrairieView has scheduled two Rules and Etiquette Clinics. The rules of golf and "proper etiquette" on the course can be extremely intimidating and take the fun out of golf. The intent of the clinics will be to enlighten golfers on what "proper etiquette" is and also inform golfers on some of the most violated rules seen on a day-to-day basis on the course. The clinics will consist of a brief presentation by PrairieView PGA Professional Steve Murray followed by an informal question and answer session. The clinics will be fun, informative, stress free, and most of all help you enjoy your golf game much more.

Where: Prairie Grass Pub
at PrairieView G.C.
When: Tuesday, May 22
Monday, June 18
Time: 7 pm
(End time based on the q&a session)
Cost: \$10 (inc. snacks)
Min./Max.: 5 / 30

Register by calling 815-234-4653.

Couples Golf Nights

Couples will be paired by the proshop for this 4-person scramble. Group requests will be taken. Cost includes golf, cart, prizes, and your first drink after golf. Sign up in the proshop or call 815-234-4653.

When: Fridays
May 11 & 25
June 8 & 22
July 6 & 27
August 10 & 24
Time: 5 pm
Cost: \$20 (\$13/passholders)
(Cost is per person per night)

Customer

Appreciation Week

Monday, April 16th through Friday, April 20th, PrairieView will hold its annual spring customer appreciation week. During this week, golf is free and golfers need only to pay \$16 per person for carts. Tee times fill up quick so call 815/234-4653 to make sure you don't miss this great opportunity to play **FREE SPRING GOLF!**

The Spring Ultimate

An awesome two-person team event!! This 27-hole, two-person team event combines 9 holes best ball, 9 holes scramble, and 9 holes alternate shot and is guaranteed to test your skills and patience. Scheduled to start at 8 am on Sunday, April 29th, PrairieView's Spring Ultimate is another great way to start your spring golfing. The cost is \$100 per person (\$70 for passholders) and includes 27 holes of golf, dinner and drinks after golf, and over \$1,000 in prizes. For more information or to register, please call PrairieView at 815/234-4653 or visit our website at www.prairieviewgolf.com.

Men's Golf Association

An exciting season is approaching for the PrairieView Men's Golf Association. The 2012 schedule includes hosting annual interclub matches with both Timber Pointe Golf Club and Aldeen Golf Club as well as the prestigious 36-hole Lincoln Highway Tournament. The Lincoln Highway Tournament is one of the oldest golf tournaments in America and consists of 11 area courses competing for the championship. The tournament site rotates from year to year. Also scheduled for 2012 are several road trips including a bus trip in September. Participation in the events is restricted to any male age 18 and older with a certified handicap. Event sign ups will be located at the PrairieView clubhouse and any questions can be directed to the golf staff.

Family Golf Night

Kids play FREE with a paying adult!!!

Only \$20!

(includes green fee and cart for 1 adult and 1 child)

Every Sunday Evening after 4 pm

May-September

prairieview golf club

2012 Summer Junior Developmental League

The summer Junior Developmental League is designed for junior golfers aged 9-17 with previous experience. Juniors must have either had lessons or on course playing experience prior to this year. If the student has neither, then sign up for the Spring Group lessons, or a series of Private lessons before the summer league starts.

League Schedule

- Days:** Tuesdays (June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7)
- Time:** Juniors will be required to check in at 7:30 am each day. League play will be finished by 10:00 a.m.
- Cost:** \$75 (\$50 for juniors with season golf passes)
Fee includes prizes, snacks, and free golf during league everyday after 7 p.m. for league participants (\$5 for accompanying adults)
- Format:** The first two weeks will consist of various skill challenges and on course practice to place kids into appropriate divisions. The following weeks will involve various forms of play including teams and individual as well as rules and etiquette discussions. Children that are not ready to play on the golf course will receive clinic style lessons on the driver range learning various aspects about golf, until they are ready for unsupervised golf.

Volunteers are needed. Parents are encouraged to stay and help supervise the on course play. The more volunteers we have the better.

Junior Developmental League Registration

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Home Phone# _____

E-mail _____

Emergency Phone# _____

A waiver and release of all claims form will need to be signed by a parent the first day of the league.

Registration Fee: \$75.00 (payable with registration). \$50.00 (for season pass holders)
Registration fee includes prizes, snacks, and free golf after 7:00 p.m. every day for league participants, and \$5 for accompanying adult.

prairieview golf club

Junior Golf Lessons

The junior developmental lessons are designed for junior boys and girls age 5-17. Lessons are designed for beginners and intermediate golfers. Very advanced juniors are encouraged to take private instruction.

Inclement Weather

Classes will be held unless weather is severely inclement. Every attempt will be made to reschedule cancelled classes. Please call the PrairieView Golf Shop at 234-4653 x3 if severe weather is forecasted.

Equipment

Golf clubs will be provided at no extra charge for students who need them. Children are encouraged to have their own clubs. Please see the golf staff with any questions.

Make-up Classes

Every effort will be made for students to make-up missed classes; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

Class Size

Minimum of five students per class is required to have the class.

Cost is \$60 per session, check should be made out to PrairieView Golf Club

Session	Date	Ages	Times
#1	May (1,2,3,8,9,10) (Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday)	6-10 years old	4:30-5:30 pm
#2	May (1,2,3,8,9,10) (Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday)	11-14 years old	5:30-6:30 pm
#3	May/June (29,31,5,7,12,14) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	5:30-6:30 pm
#4	May/June (29,31,5,7,12,14) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	4:30-5:30 pm
#5	July (3,5,10,12,17,19) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	3-4 pm
#6	July (3,5,10,12,17,19) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	2-3 pm
#7	July/August (24,26,31,2,7,9) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	3-4pm
#8	July/August (24,26,31,2,7,9) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	2-3 pm
#9	June/July (12,19,3,10) (Tuesday)	13-17 year old	11:30-1:00pm
#10	July/August (17,24,31,7) (Tuesday)	13-17 year old	11:30-1:00pm

Please circle to designate which session you will be signing up for:

#1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Total Amount _____

Please mail checks & registrations to: **PrairieView Golf Club, PO Box 1075, Byron, IL 61010**

prairieview golf club



Turf and Trees

By: Matt Henkel, Golf Maintenance Supt.

Last year, we were fortunate to be able to have the United States Golf Association's (USGA) regional agronomist, Ty McClellan, visit PrairieView, and conduct a turf advisory service (TAS) visit. In my first year as superintendent, I wanted to bring in the USGA to address perennial problem areas around the course and to provide guidance for future management strategies. First started in 1953, this service permits individual golf clubs to reap the benefits of on-site visits by highly skilled USGA agronomists located in Green Section offices throughout the country. Each agronomist visits more than 130 courses annually. Their experience helps golf course staff and officials produce the best possible golf turf for the dollars that can be spent. The TAS's purpose is not to tell anyone how to run a golf course or what products to buy. Rather, it seeks to bring a wealth of information and an impartial yet concerned perspective regarding turfgrass growth requirements, how these requirements might best be managed for golf, and ideas that other golf courses have found to be beneficial.

It became clear early on during the tour of the course, that the concerns and recommendations of the USGA would be mainly focused on managing PrairieView's tree population, and mainly on the course's back nine holes. Of particular interest and concern were trees located near and around holes #11 and #15 (pictured). Over the years, these two holes have suffered the most from a turf health standpoint and having the USGA evaluate the situation and recommend some solutions validated our concerns. Trees are clearly important assets to golf courses, providing a great deal of beauty and strategic interest and serving a variety of other important functions. On the other hand, the effects of trees are often times a major cause of poor quality turf on parts of the course. In some cases, trees have come to overwhelm the course from an agronomic and playability standpoint, causing significant turf problems and imposing restrictions on the strategic intent of the original golf course design. They can create problems like shade, poor air circulation, tree root competition, and interfering limbs and branches. In our case, the majority of the issues arise from trees located in areas that prohibit sufficient sunlight and air circulation to our bentgrass playing surfaces. This lack of sunlight and

circulation hinders turf health, contributes to compaction, disease development and an overall decline in course playability. Add that all up and you have turf that costs more to maintain and at the same time, will never reach optimal performance.

With the USGA's report in hand, we executed the plan to selectively remove the trees contributing to the problem, while preserving the mature oaks and hickories that remain on the course. This led us to remove nearly two dozen linden trees and a few cherry and elm trees. The direct result will be improved turf conditions at a cost savings to the District. Opening up the canopies as we have also goes a long way to restoring a look that has long been lost. The oaks on these two holes are once again dominating the landscape, and the work closely reflects the restoration work that is being completed across other District property in re-establishing the oak hickory forests and oak savannas that were once present. Couple the recent tree work with our continuing efforts to introduce more prairie plantings throughout the course, and you can see that PrairieView is slowly living up to its name.

So come on out to PrairieView this spring and you will surely notice an appreciable difference while playing the par 5 holes on the back nine. For the low handicap golfer, there may be an incentive to be more aggressive on these two tough and demanding holes. For the more average golfer, like myself, well let's just say that there is still plenty of trouble to be found.



preserve notes

Preserve Grand Openings!

This summer, we are officially going to be holding a couple of Grand Opening Events at the new preserves the District has acquired. The Ripplinger Prairie Preserve, located off of Townline Road and adjacent to the Etnyre Woods, will officially be opened to the public. This 52-acre preserve has hiking trails that traverse the young prairie planting and the mature oak/hickory woods of the Etnyre Preserve (47.5 acres). Also being officially opened to the public will be the newly acquired Wilson Pass Preserve. This 5-acre parcel of land connects the Jarrett Prairie to the Nardi Equine Preserve. The property is heavily wooded with oaks and hickories, the house has been converted to a shelter (pictured below), and a hiking trail has been created that allows for hikers to go between the Jarrett Preserve and the Nardi Equine Preserve.



Opening Dates!

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Prairie Preserve -

June 9th at 10am (grand re-opening of the Etnyre Preserve)
meet at the parking lot off of Town Line Road

Wilson Pass Preserve - June 16th at 10am

meet at the converted shelter off of Whitaker Road



Jarrett Prairie Preserve

Work over the winter was concentrated in the River Woods unit. These are the woods west of the maintenance buildings and south of River Road. This has been an ongoing project for several years. The main work has been to open the forest canopy to protect the oaks and promote oak regeneration. This woodland was historically an oak savanna with large patches of open sunlight reaching the forest floor which supported a great diversity of plant life. In addition to the tree thinning work, barrels of seed have been sown into this area to add diversity and restore many of the missing plant species to the oak savanna. These two factors combined with prescribed fire will yield a healthy oak savanna ecosystem for the future. Invasive species work is also ongoing in this unit, especially to control garlic mustard and honeysuckle shrubs.



preserve notes

Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi

Equine Prairie Preserve

Fifty-five acres of prairie were planted at the Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve this past fall. The seed mix contained almost 100 different prairie plant species. These diverse plantings are great habitat for many rare grassland birds and other prairie wildlife species. This spring, around 30 Burr Oak trees are going to be planted near the Nardi Equine Preserve entrance. This coming fall, we will plant the remaining 60 acres of agricultural ground at this preserve into prairie. Invasive species control work was completed in 2011 and will continue into the future. Prescribed fire is also an ongoing management tool at the preserve, and a portion of the preserve will be burned this spring. There are more than 10 miles of trails to enjoy, please come out for a hike and enjoy the colorful prairie plantings, prairie remnants, and oak woods.



A prescribed fire burns through an oak savanna at the Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

Spring Prescribed Fires

Last fall, a portion of the Jarrett Prairie Preserve was burned to control exotic species and promote native species. This spring, restoration staff will again be busy putting prescribed fire onto the landscape. Around 500 acres of our preserves will be burned.

Prescribed fire is a great land management tool that helps return nutrients to the soil, helps eradicate weeds and unwanted shrubs, helps increase seed production of native plant species, and stimulates growth of many prairie species.



Forest Preserve employee, Don Hayenga, lights the fire during a prescribed burn at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer some time to assist the Restoration Department with their land management efforts, please call Russell Brunner, at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219.

preserve notes

Stream Bank Stabilization with the use of Native Vegetation

Our streams, lakes, rivers and ponds do not resemble the healthy diverse ecosystems that once flourished in our region. Many factors have contributed to the degradation of our water resources. Streams have been channelized (straightened) which increases the flow of the water entering our streams which then creates a higher water flow / energy force that is exerted against the stream banks. These forces decrease the length of time the water has to infiltrate the soil which increases runoff, increases sediment loss, increases nutrient loss, increases pollutants entering our waters and increases the amount of herbicide runoff from agricultural fields. Rainfall, runoff, and stream degradation is a chain reaction system.

"A mix of native trees, grasses, and shrubs is the perfect vegetation matrix to have growing along a stream."

The Riparian zone is the term used for the place where the land and water meet. This is where we can make the most significant impact on our streams' health with proper vegetation. With the proper vegetation growing in the riparian zone, we can, in turn, reduce the amount of pollutants entering our streams, increase water infiltration rates, increase wildlife habitat, decrease

soil loss, decrease nutrient loss, and decrease water discharge rate of a stream which helps decrease stream bank erosion.

A mixture of vegetation is ideal for optimum stream bank protection. A mix of native trees, grasses, and shrubs is the perfect vegetation matrix to have growing along a stream. The root systems of the native vegetation will help to anchor the soil. The roots will also take up and use much of the excess water in the soil. The vegetation will also act as a sort of filter or buffer strip helping to prevent undesirable materials from entering our bodies of waters.

In a healthy stream bank in Northern Illinois some of the native plant species we should find in our riparian zones are: Prairie Cordgrass, Ironweed, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Blue Joint Grass, Cardinal Flower, Indigo Bush, Skunk Cabbage, and Marsh Marigold. This is just a short list of plants that occur in a healthy stream ecosystem.

The Byron Forest Preserve will be doing vegetation restoration along Hall and the East Fork of Mill Creek that are located on the recently purchased Barrick and Colman preserves. It is going to be an exciting new challenge for our restoration staff. We plan on using both seed and plant plugs planted along the banks of the streams. The banks of these two streams are not severely eroded to where mechanical stream restoration in conjunction with biological methods is necessary.

River Sweep Big Success

The Byron Section had 31 volunteers for the Rock River Sweep on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Five canoes and one motor boat were used to clean the river starting from the rest stop along Route 2 (across from the haunted house) down to the Heritage Farm parking lot. Shore walkers cleaned from the Byron Water treatment plant down to the Route 72 Bridge on one side and from the concrete fishing pier to the Route 72 Bridge on the other side. About 45 bags of litter were collected including one tire, an old tricycle, a basketball hoop, a steering wheel, a basketball, lots of insulation, styrofoam, and hundreds of plastic bottles and cans. An estimated one ton of materials was removed from this section of the river. Many more hours could have been spent collecting on that stretch of river. A hearty thanks goes out to our volunteers including the Byron Boy Scouts and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints lead by Neal Kitchen. If you're interested in volunteering for the next River Sweep scheduled for September 8th, call Richie at 815-234-8535 x217.



Volunteers

Tuesday Morning Group

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects including sorting, collating, preparing preschool crafts and items for graduation, cutting, labeling, and many other projects.

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

Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join this area group for coffee, donuts, and the opportunity to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop.

Where: Steward Building Woodshop
When: Wednesdays
Time: 9-11 am
Cost: Free

Organized Groups

The Byron Forest Preserve has service and volunteer opportunities. We can arrange times and specific service areas for you and your group. These areas can be related to awards, badges, or just for the benefit of learning to serve your community and others. For info, call 1-815-234-8535 ext. 217.

Individual and Family

The Byron Forest Preserve has several volunteer opportunities for individuals and families interested in sharing their time for special events, programs of both educational and recreational orientation. These events and programs run throughout the year. For more information, call 1-815-234-9535 ext. 217.

Bluebird Trails - Volunteers Needed

Looking for interested individuals/families who would like to spend an hour or two per week throughout the summer monitoring one of our bluebird trails. This is an easy activity that involves walking a prairie trail, note taking, and observing these beautiful birds. Provides a unique opportunity to witness the life of a bluebird up close and personal. If interested, call Russell Brunner at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219.

We Need YOU! - Restoration Department

Join the Restoration staff for a morning of woodland restoration work, removing the invasive plant, Garlic Mustard, from our oak woodlands. Along the way, we will identify wildflowers and bird species, and discuss ongoing restoration and management efforts throughout the preserve. We'll also be tackling Sweet Clover and other invasive species from the prairie remnants. We will identify summer wildflowers including Pale Purple Coneflower and Cream Wild Indigo. Please call Russell Brunner at 1-815-234-8535 ext. 219 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Recycling Station

The Byron Forest Preserve District has a mission to provide for preservation of natural resources, to provide education about natural and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation. The District developed a recycling station and is educating hundreds of students on recycling through the International Earthkeepers program. Materials from the recycling station are collected and sorted four times per month, producing up to six tons of recyclable material like cardboard, glass, newspaper, plastic, and metals. The cost of hauling is covered through an agreement with the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department.

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

good stuff

Birthday Parties

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

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

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

Tea Party Theme
\$60 - Standard & \$100 - Deluxe

Parties, Reunions, Company Outings at Stone Quarry Park

Come and host your group party, family reunion, or company picnic at Stone Quarry Park. We have three shelters and a large party room available for your group's next outing. We also offer paintball parties for groups of all ages! Please call and book your party today! For more info, call 815-234-8900.

Banquet Room Rentals

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

Batting Cages Relocated

The batting cages at Stone Quarry Park will not be operational this summer. The Byron Park District will be placing them at their facility in the fall.



Canoe Rentals

We rent canoes. Just call us with your date and number of canoes needed. We'll haul you upstream on the Rock River and accompany you back to your vehicles at the River Park parking lot on River Road across from Heritage Farm.

Canoes are \$25 each and include paddles and life jackets. Call Richie at 815-234-8535 ext. 217 for this unique and fun outing. Three canoe minimum.

Outreach

We offer educational programs to any group including retirement homes and nursing facilities for a small fee. Using our nature staff and nature stuff, we come to you and deliver exciting and educational programs including:

- ~Birds of a Feather
- ~Indian Life (w/traditional dress)
- ~Animal Encounter (w/live animals)

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

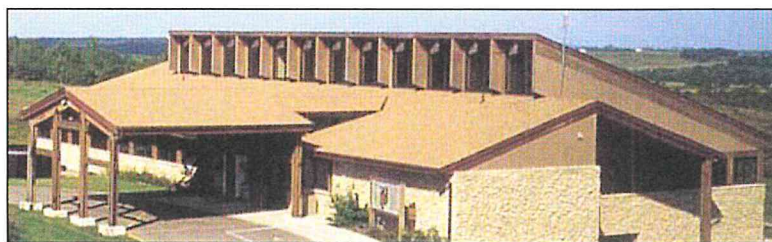
Field Trips

to the Natural History Museum,

Weiskopf Observatory, & Heritage Farm Museum

Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun guided tour of our great museums. Staff welcome and give tours for the low cost of \$1.50 per person with a minimum of \$30 per group. We offer many sessions to choose from including prairie ecology, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us.

directory



General Contacts

Jarrett Prairie Center

(Headquarters)

The headquarters office is open Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm. The office is closed Saturday, Sunday, and select holidays.

Street Address

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010

Mailing Address

P O Box 1075
Byron IL 61010

Website

NEW & IMPROVED!!

www.byronforestpreserve.com

Email

raul@byronforestpreserve.com

Main Phone Number

815-234-8535 x200

Main Fax Number

815-234-8635



Golf Club

PrairieView Golf Club

6734 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-4653

Education Centers

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
The museum hours are:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-8am-4:30pm
Tues., Thurs.-8am-8pm
Saturday-9am-4pm & Sunday-1-4pm.

Keller Education Center

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for wildlife viewing upon request. Available for rentals.

Weiskopf Observatory

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for free public viewing every Saturday night from dark until three hours after dark.

Heritage Farm Museum

8059 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open daily April-October. Open upon request November-March. Self-guided tours are free.



Recreation Park

Stone Quarry Recreation Park

6845 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8900
Fall/Winter park hours are:
September 6th - December 31st
Monday - Friday - 4-8pm
Saturday & Sunday - 11am-5pm
Special Open Hours - 1-8pm on
Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 11, 23, 25
Christmas Break Hours - 1-8pm on
Dec. 21-23 & Dec. 26-30



Trails

Jarrett Prairie Preserve

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open from dawn to dusk for walking, jogging, or nature exploration.

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

River Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-8535 x200
Open for horseback riding.

The following preserves are not yet open to the public but will be opening very soon:

Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve
Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve
Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve



Refinance Your Mortgage....Again?

Six Reasons To Refinance With Byron Bank

- Save money with a lower rate (if your rate is 4.375% or higher)
- Refinance for a shorter term (30 year to a 20 or 15 year)-will save significant dollars on interest
- Wrap other "expensive" debt into your mortgage
- Move to a longer term to improve your cash flow-helpful if one of you has or might be laid off
- Byron Bank retains most servicing so no more calling an 800 number and being stuck on hold
- Freddie Mac recently adopted changes to the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP). Byron Bank can help you see if you are eligible to refinance your existing Freddie Mac mortgage from another bank to Byron Bank under these expanded provisions of HARP.

You can determine if your mortgage is owned by Freddie Mac by checking this website:

www.freddiemac.com/mymortgage



Byron Bank



Davis Junction 815-645-2610 Byron 815-234-2561 Poplar Grove 815-323-1452



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

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