

ab **Blaze**

Summer 2013



from the director



Well, I'm sure many of you have had cabin fever as much as my family and I have had with the winter hanging on way too long. I'm sure you're ready to get outside and enjoy the many activities offered in our region. This year, once again, will bring some changes here at the Forest Preserve.

The Forest Preserve has purchased what was the Mt. Morris Boat Club property and the property to the east with the

rented camping lots. This property consists of 28 acres of Oak Savanna and hundreds of feet of river frontage. It also is adjoined to the west to an existing 21-acre wetland that the Forest Preserve has owned for over twenty years. In total, the property will be nearly 50 acres and will have educational opportunities, recreation, and natural areas and habitat. We intend to open the new property to the public in the spring of 2014. We are still in the planning stages of deciding the recreational activities to be offered at this property. Discussions have included possibly offering some camping, picnicking, and public access from the river. Boaters would be able to enjoy a place to dock their boat and have a place under a shelter to eat and maybe enjoy a game of volleyball.

On another note, we will soon be moving our preschool program to the Keller Education Center located on the south end of the Jarrett Prairie Center parking lot. The move will provide a larger space and a more private setting with easy access to the play areas. We will also be able to expand the numbers slightly to accommodate more parents and their children.

The Forest Preserve staff looks forward to providing you with a great summer of activities. We are always trying to bring new outdoor opportunities to our patrons.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Todd Tucker
Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Dave Breen

Vice President

Sandy Brooks

Treasurer

Trevor Hogan

Secretary

Denny Cravatta

Commissioner

Jeff Ludwig

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 #30

Summer 2013

Editor, Design, & Layout

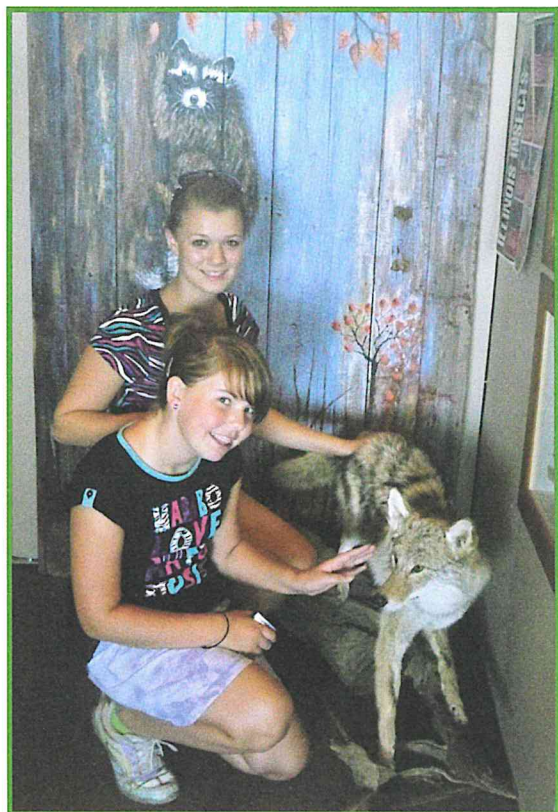
Michelle Gerke, CPRP

Cover Photo:

Dicksissel

Photo by Gary Gullett, Photo Safari Network

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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 Day Camp

Looking to stay busy and challenged during your break from school? The Byron Forest Preserve has a whole summer of awesome things planned! Every week, we'll have special activities and field trips planned around a theme. Of course, we'll also have time for traditional camp games, activities, and crafts that take advantage of our trails and open spaces. Whatever your interests, each week, you'll find something fun, learn new things, and make great friends!

Our goal is to guide campers in developing skills such as fair play and conflict resolution while keeping them engaged in activities that cultivate their minds, spirits, and bodies. We strive to make camp fun for participants of all ages, interests, and abilities.

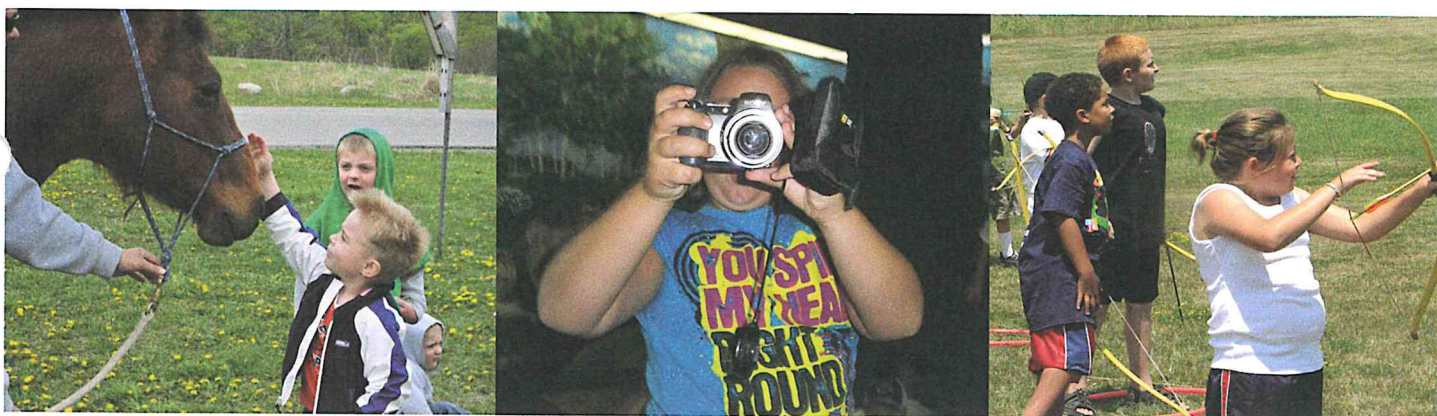
June 3rd – August 16th
\$100 per week & \$80 per week (sibling)

Latchkey Care

\$10 per week / 7-9 am & \$5 per week (sibling)

\$10 per week / 4-6 pm & \$5 per week (sibling)

Please register by calling 815-234-8535 x200. Register by the Wednesday before camp begins. The field trip schedule may change due to availability.



Themes & Field Trips

June 3-7 Way Back When...

Could you bring down a mastadon in a hunt? Start a fire with a stick? Learn about people who lived in Illinois long ago.

Field trip: Macktown Living History

June 10-14 Games, Games, Games!

Make your own board games and lawn games, and play some you might have never heard of...Kubb, anyone?

Field trip: Rockford Gymnastics Academy XRKADE

June 17-21 Outdoor Adventure

Find treasures with a metal detector, learn how to use a GPS, play Frisbee golf, and lots of other fun outdoor stuff!

Field trip: Anna Page Park and Nickelworld

June 24-28 Carnival

Play ring toss and other games for prizes, get your face painted, eat popcorn and cotton candy, and "dunk" your counselors.

Field trip: Donley's Wild West Town

July 1-5 Ecology (no camp July 4th)

Catch crayfish and minnows in our creek and try your hand at banding birds.

Field trip: Sycamore Midwest Museum of Natural History

July 8-12 Hands On

Make goop, find fossils, use your senses, and have lots of hands-on and messy science fun.

Field trip: Sci-Tech Museum

July 15-19 Splash

Who cares if it's hot out? Stay cool all week with squirt guns, water games, inflatable pools, and slip and slide.

Field trip: Coco Key Water Resort

July 22-26 Snap Shot

Bring your camera or use ours and learn some tips to take great shots. We'll print your favorites and use them for cool crafts.

Field trip: Chicago Children's Museum

July 29-Aug. 2 Move It!

Hop, jump, slide, and make things fly. From flying kites to ice skating, we'll keep you moving!

Field trip: Carlson Ice Arena

August 5-9 Make Your Mark

Paint, sculpt, and draw! Experiment with different materials and techniques and create your own unique work.

Field trip: Rockford Art Museum and Klehm Arboretum

August 12-16 Survivor

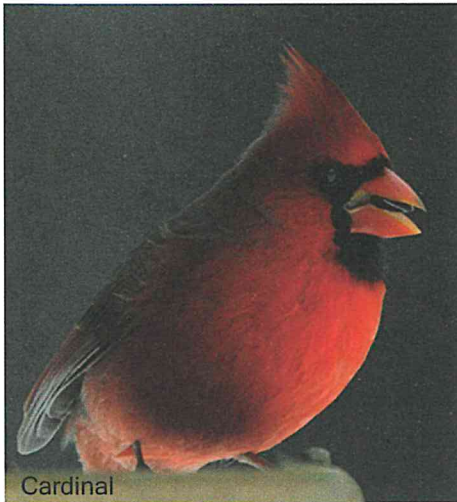
We'll build shelters, set snares, and learn how to find water along with other outdoor skills. This week concludes with an end-of-summer overnight campout. (See below)

Field trip: Lena Park District and pool

August 16-17 Overnight Campout \$20

5:30pm, Friday, Aug. 16, until 10am, Saturday, Aug. 17. Join us for an awesome evening that includes a cookout, campfire, night hike, time in the observatory, and games that work best in the dark! Your registration fee includes dinner and breakfast, campfire snack, and use of a tent. Registration is open to all of our campers. Please register separately from summer camp.

outdoor programs



Cardinal

Photo by Gary Gullett, Photo Safari Network



Yellow Coneflower

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. Bring your binoculars and field guides. We'll search Forest Preserve properties and other Ogle County natural areas.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturday, May 4
Time: 7-10 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 0 / 0

Register by noon on May 3.

Beekeeping Workshops

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

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Sundays
May 19*, June 9*
July 14*, August 11*
Time: 2 - 4 pm
Cost: \$2 / person
Ages: 3 and up
Min./Max.: 5 / 25

No registration required.

Campfire Program

Join us for storytelling, games, and s'mores around the campfire. We will entertain the family with Native American legends and share this ancient tradition around a blazing fire.

Where: Meet at South Shelter
near Keller Center
When: Fridays
June 14, July 19, &
August 9
Time: 8:30 - 10 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 6/13, 7/18, & 8/8.

Canoeing the Rock

Possible sightings include Bald Eagles, Beavers, and Blue Herons. All equipment is provided on this fun program. Must have at least one adult per canoe.

Where: Heritage Farm Museum
When: Saturdays
June 15, July 20, &
August 17
Time: 5 - 8 pm
Cost: \$20 / canoe
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 3 / 12 canoes

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

Flying 4 Kids (Statewide Event)

Bring your own kite or make one with our materials. We'll fly kites and learn more about the Park District Youth License Plate program from the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Saturday, May 25
Time: 11 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 50

Register by noon on May 24.

Wildflowers & Birds

Join us on this easy walk through the woods at our preserve sites. We'll go to a different location each month. Some flower species to be seen may include may apple, shooting stars, and trillium. Birds expected are warblers, thrushes, and water fowl.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tuesdays
May 21, June 18
July 16, & August 20
Time: 5 - 7 pm
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12 or more
if driving yourself

Register by noon on 5/20, 6/17, 7/15, & 8/19.

outdoor programs



Tufted Titmouse

Photo by Gary Gullett, Photo Safari Network



3D Archery

Join us on this Wednesday evening for this fun activity. Bring your equipment or use ours. Lifelike targets include bear, deer, and turkeys.

Where: Meet at Byron/Oregon Sportsman's Club, Townline Road, South of Byron on Illinois Route 2

When: Wednesdays
June 19 & August 7

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: 10 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on June 17 & August 5.

Midnight Fishing

Join us for this very unique fishing outing at the golf course pond. Bring your own equipment and bait. Species to be caught include bluegill, largemouth bass, and crappie. We recommend using lit bobbers and earthworms for bait.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Fridays
May 24, June 28,
July 26, & August 23

Time: 10 pm - Midnight

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: 6 and up

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, & 8/22.

Wildflower Walkabout

We're going to the Jarrett Prairie and adjacent woodlands to discover birds, flowers, and other life forms. Co-sponsored by Severson Dells and the Natural Land Institute. Moderate hiking in the woods and along the prairie.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Wednesday, June 12

Time: 6 - 8 pm

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: None

No registration required.

Wildflower Hike

We'll learn how to identify our local wildflowers and learn how they got their unique names. The hike will follow through the woods and prairies to search out these amazing life forms. Bring your binoculars for a chance to find some resident birds.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center

When: Saturdays
April 27, June 29 &
August 24

Time: 10 am - Noon

Cost: FREE

Ages: All

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on 4/26, 6/28, & 8/23.

Fossil Hunt

We will search the 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: The Stone Quarry
6845 German Church Road, Byron

When: Saturday, May 18

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 May 15.

Boy Scout Badge/Geocaching

This outdoor sport is growing more popular every day! Learn everything you need to know for geocaching and navigating outdoors, then head out to find several caches on forest preserve property, and hide one of your own. Scouts must complete requirement #9 on their own.

Where: Keller Education Center

When: Saturday, May 11

Time: Noon - 5 pm

Cost: \$5 / person

Ages: Boy Scouts

Min./Max.: 5 / 20

Register by noon on May 7.

preschool, etc.



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

Preschool is 'on the move'...classes will be held at the Keller Education Center beginning Fall 2013. The Keller Center is a much larger facility than the current classroom so we can accommodate more children. We have hired more staff to assist with larger class sizes. There will never be more than 20 students in a classroom at one time so the teacher/student ratio will be kept at 10 or fewer students per staff member.

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

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

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 rotating through hands-on learning stations. Join Mrs. Joni and Mrs. Crystal for a great summer at the Keller Education Center!

Where: Keller Education Center
(near Jarrett Center)

When: Monday/Wednesday or
Tuesday/Thursday
Session #1 - June 3-13
Session #2 - June 17-27
Session #3 - July 1-11
(no class on July 4th)
Session #4 - July 15-25

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.

programs, etc.



Perseid Meteor Watch

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

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Sunday, August 11
Time: 9 pm - Midnight
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on August 9.

National Astronomy Day

We'll be looking at the sun through our solar filter for this national event. We will learn about various telescopes and which ones are best for home use.

Where: Weiskopf Observatory
When: Saturday, April 20
Time: 11 am
Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on April 19.



Homeschool

Earthkeepers Overnight

Earthkeepers is a wonderful outdoor education experience that teaches environmental concepts in an experiential and fun format. Children strive to learn the identity of the mysterious E.M. and earn real working keys that open boxes for Knowledge, Experience, Yourself, and Sharing. Knowledge activities teach cycling, food chains, change, and interconnections; Experience activities include journaling, senses, exploration, and submersion. Most activities take place outside and are student-paced and hands-on. Registration includes dinner and snacks on Thursday; breakfast, lunch, and snacks on Friday. Parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Janet at 815-234-8535 x232.

Where: Jarrett Prairie Center
When: Thursday, May 9 - Friday, May 10
Time: Noon - 5 pm
Cost: \$25 (parents may attend \$15)
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / none

Register by noon on May 1.



Going Greener...

As noted in the last publication of The Blaze, it is going greener in 2014. Even though the current issues are printed on 100% recycled paper, we feel that it could be greener and more cost effective by going almost paperless. Beginning with the December issue of 2013, you will receive a postcard notifying you that The Blaze is available online at www.byronforestpreserve.com. If the paperless option does not work for you and you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of The Blaze, please call us at 815-234-8535 x200 or email raul@byronforestpreserve.com to let us know.

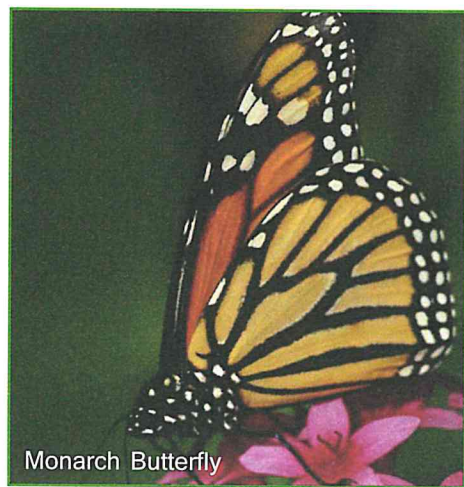
And Greener...

We are collecting email addresses to establish a database to let you know what is going at the Byron Forest Preserve. Please let us know your email address if you would like to be included in this database. Please call 815-234-8535 x200 or email raul@byronforestpreserve.com with your information.

trips



Adler Planetarium



Monarch Butterfly

Putnam Museum Trip

Join us as we head to Davenport, Iowa, to visit this state-of-the-art museum. See "Flight of the Butterflies" in 3D on the giant screen. We'll also see the Hall of Mammals, the Ocean Experience, and much more! An amazing place that you won't want to miss. Lunch options are available at the museum. Museum admission is not included in fee.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Sundays, June 30, July 28, & August 25
Time: 10 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$20 / person or \$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 6/28, 7/26, & 8/23.

Adler Planetarium

Heading to Chicago to visit this amazing astronomical facility. It houses three full-size theaters showcasing eight different movies about space. Other activities include solar viewing, hands-on exploration, and an outdoor sculpture garden. Admission not included in fee.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Mondays, June 10, July 8, & August 5
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or \$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 6/7, 7/5, 8/2.

Starved Rock Hiking

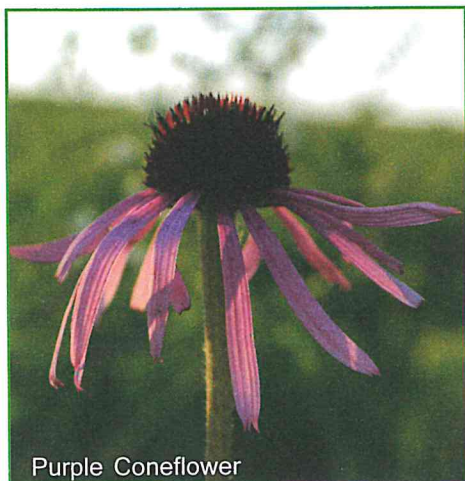
Let's go to Ottawa, Illinois to visit this very popular State Park. We'll be hiking the canyons and plateaus, eating in the historic lodge, and checking out the visitor's center. Bring your camera and hiking shoes.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Wednesdays, May 22 June 26, July 24 & August 28
Time: 11 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$10 / person or \$15 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 5/20, 6/24, 7/22, & 8/26.

Ideas??

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



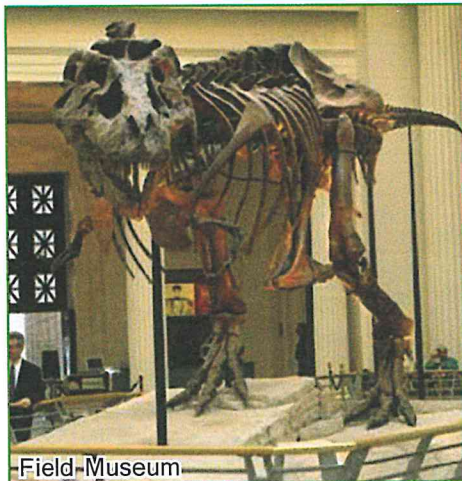
Purple Coneflower

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

We'll head to the First National Tallgrass Prairie with us in Wilmington, Illinois, where there are 19,000 acres of prairie "under construction." We'll stop by the Visitor's Center and do a little hiking. We'll take a tour of the site and do some birding from the van and get out if something catches our eye. Lunch will be at a local restaurant.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays,
June 29 & August 31
Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Cost: \$10 / person or
\$15 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 6/27 & 8/29.



Field Museum

Field Museum Trip

We are going to Chicago to visit this unique museum. New exhibits include, "Creatures of Light" and "The Cave Paintings of Lascaux." Some favorite exhibits include a life-sized t-rex and the many 3D habitats of the world. Lunch can be found in the museum at one of several restaurants. Transportation, tolls, and parking included. Admission not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Thursdays,
June 20, July 18, &
August 8
Time: 10 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$15 / person or
\$25 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 6/18, 7/16, & 8/6.

Explore Peoria

We are visiting the Wildlife Prairie Park which is an Illinois State Park. We will see bison, wolves, deer, and many more native species. We also will check out the Forest Park Nature Center which is part of the Peoria Park District. Transportation provided. Admission not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays,
June 22 & August 10
Time: 9 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$20 / person or
\$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on 6/20 & 8/8.

Explore Peoria

Caterpillar/Bass Pro Shop

We are doing a full day of adventure looking at the past, present, and future of this farm equipment titan. We will visit the brand new Caterpillar Visitor's Center which houses a museum with some amazing farming implements. The gift shop also offers something for everyone. If that's not enough, we'll stop by the huge Bass Pro Shop before heading home. Admission fees not included in cost.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Saturdays,
May 18 & July 13
Time: 9 am - 7 pm
Cost: \$20 / person or
\$30 / couple
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 12

Register by noon on May 16 & July 11.

Register Early

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



fishing trips



WildCard Trips (Plan Your Own) 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 \$425 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.

Walleye Trip to Lake Erie

Going to the walleye capitol of the world for a first class charter experience. Past trips have included a visit to the world famous Magee Marsh birding paradise. Transportation provided. Meals, fishing license, and personal items not included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Tues-Thurs, June 4-6
Wed-Fri, July 10-12
Wed-Fri, August 21-23
Time: Leave Byron at 9am
Cost: \$425 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 5 / 11

Register by noon on 5/24, 6/28, & 8/9.

Boundary Waters Ely, Minnesota

We are going to the North Woods for a week of fishing, camping, and canoeing. This is a great trip for any "hard core" outdoor lover. This is a deal you can't pass up! We've seen bears, loons, eagles, and deer on past trips. Transportation, food, and tents included.

Where: Meet at Jarrett Center
When: Mon-Fri, August 12-16
Time: Leave Byron at 9am
Cost: \$400 / person
Ages: All
Min./Max.: 4 / 7

Register by noon on July 26.

summer concerts



Backroads Trio
June 9



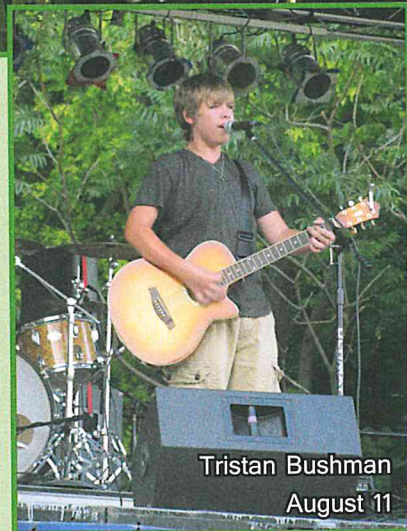
Mary J. Harris Trio
June 23



Little Big Band
July 7



Patchouli
July 21



Tristan Bushman
August 11



Bluegrass Reunion Band
August 4

Sponsored by:



(see ad on back cover)

All concerts are held at the Heritage Farm Stage on Sundays at 7 pm.
The Heritage Farm is located at 8059 North River Road, Byron.



The Ghosts of the Plains

Coyote (Canis latrans)

Coyotes are members of the dog family that now live in almost all corners of the U.S. Coyotes are rarely seen; more often they are heard howling around dusk and dawn. Coyotes are nocturnal mammals that form strong family groups also known as packs. Historically, coyotes were only found in small pockets west of the Mississippi River south to Texas. Their original habitat consisted primarily of open prairies and deserts. Today, coyotes are found in all U.S. states and can thrive in almost any type of habitat. Coyotes are also now found in urban areas such as Chicago and Los Angeles.

There are a couple of reasons why coyote populations are at all-time record levels. One major reason that their populations have exploded is because of the decrease in wolf populations. Coyotes are now able to thrive in areas that were once dominated by wolves. Coyotes and wolves are mortal enemies and wolves can and will readily kill any coyote that enters a wolf pack's territory. Another major reason why coyote populations have increased is because of their cunning ability to adapt to all habitats and their remarkable hunting and scavenging abilities. Coyotes are omnivores that will eat almost anything. They hunt small mammals, rodents, birds, and will also eat snakes, frogs, berries, and they will even eat carrion (rotting animals).

For being such a fierce hunter, the coyote is actually a fairly small mammal weighing between 25-35lbs on

average. They can run at speeds of up to 40mph. Peak Coyote breeding season is between January and March with approximately a 63-day gestational period. In the spring, when female coyotes are going to give birth, they will claim or create a new den where they will birth between 2-12 pups with an average litter size of 4 pups. Coyotes can live to be 14 years of age, however in the wild, they usually die before their second birthday. Primary mortality sources include disease such as mange, collisions with vehicles, and being hunted.

Within a coyote pack, there are typically one alpha male and female. The alphas form a monogamous relationship and are the only coyotes within the pack to breed each season. It is the responsibility of the entire pack to defend their claimed territory, protect any new pups and help provide food for the pups. The genetics of the coyotes within the pack are very closely related while the alphas' genetics are not. Sometimes a coyote will leave the pack in search of a mate, to claim new territory, and ultimately form a new pack.

Coyotes do not pose immediate danger to humans. They rarely have any interactions with humans and should not be seen as threats. At the moment, coyotes are the last major predator living in our area and therefore play an important role in keeping the food chain in balance; at least until other large predators can make a comeback.

Skunk Cabbage

(*Symplocarpus foetidus*)



Spring's First Wildflower

On a late winter hike into a high quality wetland or fen, a creek's floodplain, or along the base of a limestone bluff where a spring emerges, you may stumble upon a strange looking plant emerging right through the ice and snow. Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is the earliest of our region's native wildflowers. This species gets a jumpstart on spring by generating its own heat allowing it to make room for growth right through a layer of snow and ice.

The skunk cabbage is a native perennial plant that emerges with small rosette leaves in the late winter or early spring soon followed by a very unusual flower structure. The flowers are in a knobby red-purple cluster called a spadix tucked inside a curved purple-red and green sheath called the spathe. The spathe remains open on one side revealing the spadix cluster inside. The skunk cabbage is generally in bloom in late March and April. The bloom occurs before the plant leaves put on much growth. The flowers emit an unpleasant odor that draws in flies and other insects, and gives the plant its common name, skunk cabbage.

By early summer, the leaves grow quite large, up to two feet long and a foot across (inset picture). They are oval shaped, hairless, and smooth along the edges with a leaf stem that will end up being about a foot long. The leaves, when crushed, also can produce an odor similar to

that of the flowers. At this same time, the spadix develops into a cluster of fruits, each with a single large seed

inside. The seeds can be carried off by an animal, but generally fall and germinate nearby. Skunk cabbage prefers light shade and consistently wet soils but not standing water for an extended time. Skunk cabbage is found in the northern half of Illinois, is an uncommon species, and the District's only colony exists at the recently acquired Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve. It is a conservative species, meaning it does not tolerate very much disturbance and is a symbol of quality in its environment.

Restoration staff are managing the area where it is located to ensure its survival by controlling and removing invasive species like Eurasian honeysuckle and garlic mustard, and thinning common opportunistic species like box elder. In the future, seed will be collected and moved to appropriate sites at other locations to establish new populations to help ensure this interesting species long-term protection in the Byron area. (Flower photo by Michael Lynch 2011)





River Ramblings

By Austin Webb

Restoration Technician

Last summer, on a dead calm night, I sank down into one of my camping chairs along the banks of the Rock River to do some fishing. I was targeting large flathead catfish, hoping that a river giant might have a go at my bait that evening. Contrary to the belief that catfish are "bottom-feeders", the flathead is in actuality a powerful, predatory fish which ambushes live prey from the cover of submerged rocks and brush. Growing up in Dixon, I can remember summers where it seemed like fisherman turned up 50 pounders almost daily. In June, you could toss a worm out at night and if you were patient enough you were all but guaranteed to catch a flathead. Those days are now only faded memories, as a fish kill in 2009 decimated the flathead population on the Rock River, along with many other species of fish, including the baitfish that support the survival of all the other popular game-fish. Even so, I still seek the exhilaration that comes from having a flathead on the end of my line and the opportunity

to see one up close. If caught, I always return these fish to the water, in the hopes that one day our river may once again support a stable number of large flatheads, where their role as a top predator plays an integral part in the overall health, strength, and function of the ecosystem. As I watch one of these formidable fish swim away, I imagine that even if I never catch a 50 pound flathead, our future generations will have a much better chance.

That evening, I had prepared for the slim chance I could find myself battling a monster fish, easily capable of destroying the average rod and reel. The knots in my stout line were tied tightly, the hooks were sharp, and the spot had proven itself in the past to turn up big fish. The two reels I used both had bait clickers, which alert a fisherman of a bite with the sound of ratcheting clicks when a fish gives an interested tug, but will wail out a tremendous buzzing if the fish decides to hurriedly grab the bait and take off. With everything in place, the only thing left to do was wait.



It was eerily quiet, very warm, humid, and pitch dark, with every moment cranking up the suspense more and more. A few hours had passed...nothing. Now, after having moved my bait around in a scattering of different places, it was getting late, and things around me started making sounds and coming to life. That is usually the point where I would rather leave than deal with the dreadful thoughts that can creep into your head on that kind of night, but I needed to catch a fish. That night, I sat things out just a little longer, inviting the company of some unexpected visitors. While attempting to inventory my tackle, I was startled by the sound of three unknown things dropping into the river... bloop...dunk...ker-plunk! It happened so close to me that I immediately sat back in my chair and clenched my knees as questions flooded my mind. Curiosity quickly prevailed, and I grabbed a flashlight, shin-



NDomer73/Flickr.com



NDomer73/Flickr.com



NDomer73/Flickr.com

ing it out across the water near the bank. As I did, I saw three shadowy figures submerged, effortlessly gliding through the water, leaving a noticeable wake, heads breaching the surface, and eyes gleaming. I kept pace with them along the shore, trying to identify what they were as they swam undisturbed by my presence. Then, in unison, they balled up, dove, and disappeared in the direction of a nearby island. Gone.

I retrieved my bearings, and realized I had strayed quite a ways from the comfort of my camping chair. As I began to make my way back, I heard another new sound. All the times I have fished at night, and now what? I listened as several animals chattered, uttering the kind of sound you hear in a creepy movie scene, resembling what I thought might be raccoons, and it was coming from the island. I shone the flashlight in that direction and was completely awed to see three river otters, playful and active, on a sand bar of the island. They appeared as bandits in the night, water-slicked bodies slinking and twisting about, darting away from the searching beam of my flashlight, their reflective eyes occasionally revealing their location, as their button noses warily cased the premises. I had never seen otters on the Rock River in my entire life before that night, and, in fact, had rarely even

heard stories of anyone claiming to have caught a glimpse of one. As it turns out, the North American river otter is making a successful comeback in Illinois, where their once endangered population had been diminished to fewer than 100 statewide by 1980. Realizing that our state was in peril of seeing the otters go extinct, reintroduction efforts were carried out to save the otters, and currently the state estimates there to be 15,000 otters in Illinois. In fact, the reintroduction has been so successful, that the DNR worries there may be too many river otters, and in response has reinstated a statewide trapping season for the first time since 1929.

As the otters moved elsewhere and out of sight that night, I thought about how ironic it was that Illinois would reinstate trapping of these animals when I had just witnessed them in the wild for the first time in my life. Well, otters tend to be smarter than people give them credit for, and that has caused problems for individuals who have artificially-constructed, privately-stocked fishing ponds for personal use, as well as some owners and operators of fish hatcheries within the state. The otters are readily attracted to eat the fish found in these places, so allegedly, the best way to deal with their presence is by holding a statewide trapping season. The DNR does have a fairly rigid

set of rules that apply to river otters, but strangely, they are not the same types of lake or waterway specific restrictions which exist for some species of fish in the state. In 2009, the state reported an estimated 11,000 otters in Illinois, meaning that the population has steadily grown by around 1,000 individuals each year since. This year, the state estimates that trapping should reduce the population by approximately 2,000, and the DNR assures us that it will continue to allow future trapping seasons at least until the number of otters in Illinois are under control.

As my fishing concluded that eventful summer night, I packed up without having caught a big flathead, attempting not to let memories of the '09 fish kill creep into my head. I thought about the otters too, and I was excited at the thought of potentially seeing them again. After having experienced the otters that night, I realized how strange it was that they had never been there before. I felt that they were as natural to the river as the flathead catfish, and I couldn't help but wonder whose responsibility it would be if we didn't have either one. Indeed, the conclusive fact is that we all play a role in making sure that these things will be there, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations to appreciate.

prairieview golf club

Couples Golf Nights

Couples will be paired or signup as a foursome for this 4-person scramble. Cost includes golf, cart, prizes, and your first drink after golf. Great food and drink specials will also be available after golf. Sign up in the proshop or call 815-234-4653.

When: Fridays
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7, 14, 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
September 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 5:30 pm

Cost: \$20 (\$10/passholders)
(Cost is per person per night)

Customer Appreciation Week

Monday, April 15th through Friday, April 19th, 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 quickly so call 815/234-4653 to make sure you don't miss this great opportunity to play **FREE SPRING GOLF!**

22nd Annual Gold Medal Classic

The event will take place at PrairieView May 11th and 12th 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 Andy Wilkinson of Rochelle in the men's division, Samantha Makovek of Rockford in the ladies division, and Frank Cesarek of Rockford in the senior division. Other flight winners in 2012 include Mick Hockinson of Rockford (1st flight), Eric Olsen of Rockford (2nd flight), and Gregg Marinelli, Jr. of Byron (3rd 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 or to sign up, call 815/234-4653.

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 21st, 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.

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

Men's Golf Association

An exciting season is approaching for the PrairieView Men's Golf Association. The 2013 schedule includes annual inter-club matches with both Timber Pointe Golf Club and Aldeen Golf Club as well as the annual match play championship and club championship. Also scheduled for 2013 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. The event schedule is on the next page.

**Check out our website at
www.prairieviewgolf.com!**

prairieview golf club

2013 PrairieView Men's Event Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
April	14th	Sunday	2 person best ball
	21st	Sunday	Spring Ultimate (27-holes) 9-best ball, 9-scramble, 9-alterante shot
	28th	Sunday	Individual Low Net & Closest to pin's
May	5th	Sunday	3 Person Teams
	11th, 12th	Saturday, Sunday	Gold Medal Classic
	18th	Saturday	Spring Road Trip (Site TBA)
June	26th	Sunday	2 Person Blind Draw
	2nd	Sunday	Skins
	8th	Saturday	Interclub Match @ Timber Pointe
	16th	Sunday	Fathers Day/Us Open Tournament
	23rd	Sunday	4 person teams
	29th, 30th	Saturday, Sunday	Club Championship (18 holes per day, both gross and net divisions)
July	4th	Thursday	5 Black Tees, 5 Blue Tees, 4 White Tees, 4 Yellow Tees
	7th	Sunday	Beat the Pro
	14th	Sunday	Survivors of Byron Fest
	21st	Sunday	Individual Low Net & Closest to pin's
	28th	Sunday	Pick a Partner
August	4th	Sunday	Stableford Scoring System
	10th	Saturday	Aldeen Interclub Match @ Aldeen
	11th	Sunday	PGA Sunday Tournament
	18th	Sunday	Individual Low Net
	25th	Sunday	2 Person Blind Draw
Sept.	1st	Sunday	Beat the Pro
	8th	Sunday	2 Person Best Ball
	14th	Saturday	Fall Road Trip (Site TBA)
	15th	Sunday	Fall Ultimate (27 holes) 9-Best Ball, 9-Scramble, 9-Alternate Shot
	22nd	Sunday	Individual Low net & Closest to pin's
Oct.	29th	Sunday	Skins
	6th	Sunday	2 Person Scramble
	13th	Sunday	3 Person Teams
	20th	Sunday	Chili Scramble (8:00 Shotgun start followed by Chili and Football)
	27th	Sunday	Tough Course Day

Match Play Championship

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 seated 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

- All events are handicapped and open to anyone 18 and older with a certified USGA handicap.
- There will be individual entry fees/prize money for each event.

All events in red will have sign-up sheets located in the men's locker room with details involving the particular event.

For all other events, simply sign up in the golf shop with PrairieView Staff.

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 24
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

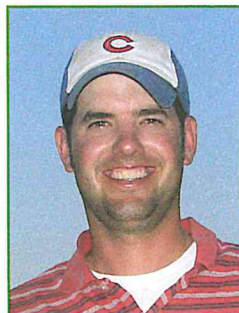
When: Wednesday Evenings
Time: 5:30 pm
Begins: May 8
Cost: \$60 per person (includes 9-hole handicap,
year end prize money, and banquet)
Format: Two-Person teams

Thursday Men's League

When: Thursday Evenings
Time: 4:30-5:00 pm
Begins: May 9
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 9
Cost: \$35 includes 9 hole handicap
\$1 per week for weekly game
Format: Two-person teams



Turf Notes

Matt Henkel
Golf Course Superintendent

A record breaking weather year in 2012 brought us early and persistent warmth that started in March and continued all through the golf season. March threw at us seven days above 80 degrees when the average high is around 45 degrees. My youngest daughter, Mara, happened to be born on March 14th. The temperature reached 82 degrees that day. Rarely do I find myself worrying about the course that early in the year, but there I was holding our new baby in the hospital thinking we had better get the irrigation system fired up. Fast forward to today. As I sit here typing this update, nearly a year later, the temperature is 25 degrees and there is 6 inches of snow on the ground. Golf is still a few weeks away, but we have learned that things can and do change in a hurry. We are ready.

2013 will bring with it continued improvements to the golf course. We took advantage of some excess soil excavated from the site of the new maintenance facility to push forward with a couple of projects on the course. We are in the process of rebuilding the white tee on hole #7. This tee was well undersized and provided very little level teeing surface. The tee should be open for play by Memorial Day. We are also eliminating five sand traps from the course's layout. Holes seeing a reduction in bunkers include #3, #4, #9, and #17. All selected traps have had the sand removed and soil hauled in to replace it. Some shaping work remains and we plan to have these areas seeded and grown in by Memorial Day as well. Finally, late last fall, we designated about five acres worth of no-mow cool season rough areas that will be converted to native warm season grasses. While it takes a few years for the natives to fully establish, you will notice a distinctive difference in the appearance of these areas this year. Come on out and see for yourself. It's going to be a great year!



2013 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 4, 11, 18, 25 July 9, 16, 23, 30 August 6)
- 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 driving range learning various aspects about golf, until they are ready for unsupervised golf.

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

Junior Developmental League Registration

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Home Phone# _____

E-mail _____

Emergency Phone# _____

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 (June-August) and \$5 for accompanying adult.



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 (7,8,9,14,15,16) (Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday)	5-9 years old	4:30-5:30 pm
#2	May (7,8,9,14,15,16) (Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday)	10-14 years old	5:30-6:30 pm
#3	May (21,22,23,28,29,30) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-9 year old	4:30-5:30 pm
#4	May (21,22,23,28,29,30) (Tuesday, Thursday)	10-14 year old	5:30-6:30 pm
#5	June (4,6,11,13,18,20) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	3-4 pm
#6	June (4,6,11,13,18,20) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	2-3 pm
#7	June/July (25,27,9,11,16, 18) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	3-4pm
#8	June/July (25,27,9,11,16, 18) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	2-3 pm
#9	July/August (23,25,30,1,6,8) (Tuesday, Thursday)	5-8 year old	3-4pm
#10	July/August (23,25,30,1,6,8) (Tuesday, Thursday)	9-12 year old	2-3 pm
#11	June (4,11,18,25) (Tuesday)	13-17 year old	11:30-1:00pm
#12	July (9,16,23,30) (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 #11 #12

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

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

good stuff



Heritage Farm Tractor Show

We will be having a tractor show at Heritage Farm on July 13th from 9 am until 4 pm. Antique tractors and small engines will be on display for this one-day event during ByronFest. If you're interested in showing off your antique equipment, call Richie at 815-234-8535 x217.

Heritage Farm Museum provides a unique look into our past with a home filled with artifacts that will give you a glimpse of life back then (pictured above left). The barns are also of interest with their displays of equipment that would have been used "back in the day." (pictured above right) The silo, milk house, and outhouse are just a few other features that will take your imagination back to a much different time than the way we know now. Stop by and visit this free museum located at 8059 North River Road, Byron.

Check out our website

www.byronforestpreserve.com

Surplus Equipment Auction

The Byron Forest Preserve has done some spring cleaning! Due to many facility upgrades over the past few years and regular equipment upgrade programs, the District will be taking many items to be sold at the 29th Annual Municipal Auction that will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at 10 am at 1339 South Meridian Road, Rockford. All items will be sold as-is. A list of notable items includes (but not limited to):

- 2007 Ford F150 Pickup Truck
- Norlake upright refrigerator
- Delfield countertop refrigerator
- Bryant natural gas furnace
- Whirlpool electric water heater
- Infrared tube shop heaters
- Wooden lockers
- Industrial dishwasher
- Various tables and chairs and racks
- Filing cabinets
- Cement Mixer
- Pull behind wagons
- Light fixtures and multiple doors
- Finn straw bale shredder
- And much, much more!!

Check out the sale ad at www.actionauctioneering.com.

good stuff

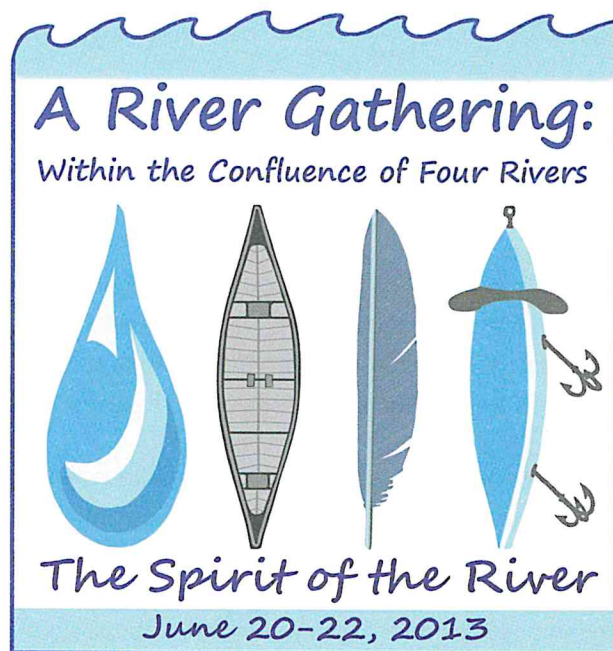


Attention Teachers!

FREE FIELD TRIPS OFFERED!

In order to increase accessibility to outdoor education for all students, the Forest Preserve is offering field trips to area schools for free! Sessions include prairie ecology, forest ecology, nature center tour, observatory tour, Heritage Farm Museum tour, bird study, Native Americans, group dynamics, insects study, earthwalk, and Earthkeepers. Field trips are focused on hands-on learning. We guide the students through the various topics indoors and outdoors using first rate facilities. Trips can be organized for an all-day experience or just for an hour. Lunch rooms are available, as well as a small gift shop.

To schedule your next field trip, call Richie Wolf, Education Superintendent, at 815-234-8535 x217 so your class can experience outdoor learning at its best this spring. These options are also offered in your classroom for free as well. In addition, we can tailor a session to meet your needs on just about any nature related topic. Give us a call to supplement your students' classroom learning experience. Please visit us online at www.byronforestpreserve.com.



Three days, four rivers...join us to celebrate the natural beauty of our local waters. Events include Keynote Speaker Author Brian Doyle, Music by Curt Carter, evening events at Prairie Street Brewhouse, Cliffbreakers, and The Rock Bar and Grill in Beloit and of course, two full days of field sessions on the Rock, Pecatonica, Kishwaukee, and Sugar Rivers. Registration information is online at www.fourriver.org.

Birthday Parties

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

Deluxe Party ~ \$75 / Tea Party ~ \$100

12 children (additional \$30 for more than 12 children)
(cake, ice cream, tableware, birthday banner, program)

Standard Party ~ \$45 / Tea Party ~ \$60

12 children (\$5/additional child)
(program only)

~FREE~ Field Trips

to the Natural History Museum,

Weiskopf Observatory, & Heritage Farm Museum

Scouts, schools, and senior groups are welcome to the Forest Preserve for an educational and fun guided tour of our great museums. Staff welcome and give FREE tours. We offer many sessions to choose from such as prairie ecology, astronomy, and museum tour. Call 815-234-8535 ext. 217 to schedule your next outing with us.

Let Us Come To You For FREE!

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

Recycling Station Relocated

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

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

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

Canoe Rentals

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

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

good stuff

Volunteers

Tuesday Morning Group

Come join us for a time of visiting, refreshments, and fun indoor projects including sorting, collating, preparing preschool crafts and items for graduation, cutting, labeling, and many other projects. To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

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

Wednesday Woodshop Group

Come join the area men for coffee, donuts, and the opportunity to use your skills in carpentry and woodworking. New woodshop volunteers check in at the Jarrett Prairie Center before going to the Woodshop. To volunteer, call 1-815-234-8535 x217.

Where: Expo Building Woodshop
Enter at Heritage Farm
When: Wednesdays
Time: 9-11 am
Cost: Free

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

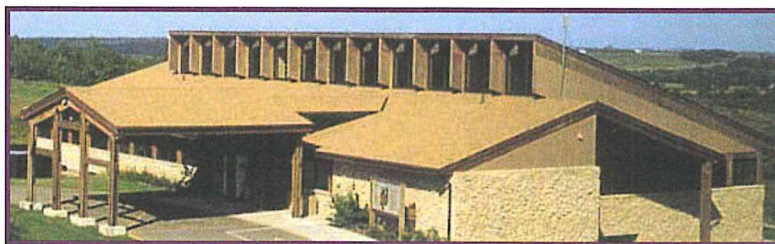
The Byron Forest Preserve has several volunteer opportunities for individuals and families interested in sharing their time for special events, programs of both educational and recreational orientation. These events and programs run throughout the year. For more information, call 1-815-234-8535 ext.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

Colt Naming Contest Winner!

Reese Young, age 9, of Byron was one of two people who nominated "Blaze" as the name for the colt at Heritage Farm. Jennifer Asbury (not pictured) also nominated "Blaze." The name was selected unanimously by the Heritage Farm Committee out of a total of 15 possible names! Reese commented that he chose Blaze as the name because of the reddish color of the colt. Thanks, Reese, Jennifer, and all of the nominating community members for your ideas. Come and see Blaze and all of the other "residents" of the Farm this summer. The museum is free and is located at 8059 North River Road, Byron.



directory



General Contacts

Jarrett Prairie Center (Headquarters)

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

Street Address

7993 North River Road
Byron IL 61010

Mailing Address

P O Box 1075
Byron IL 61010

Website

byronforestpreserve.com

Email

raul@byronforestpreserve.com

Main Phone Number

815-234-8535 x200

Main Fax Number

815-234-8635



Golf Club

PrairieView Golf Club

6734 German Church Road
Byron IL 61010
815-234-4653 (GOLF)

Education Centers

Jarrett Prairie Center Museum

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

Keller Education Center

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

Weiskopf Observatory

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

Heritage Farm Museum

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



Trails

Jarrett Prairie Preserve

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

Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

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

Howard Colman

Hall Creek Preserve

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

Ripplinger/Gouker/Etnyre Preserve

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

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



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

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*Your annual percentage rate may vary de-
pending on your individual credit history,
type of loan and other factors.

Here are some ideas!



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- 4 Wheeler
- Lawn Mower
- Jet Ski



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