



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWS

1994

PRESERVATION - EDUCATION - RECREATION

FEB-MAR ISSUE

*Believe it or not, SPRING is just around the corner.
You may be thinking about what you'll do with your lawn.
Here are two programs that will give you some good help...*

HOME LAWN SEMINAR

The Byron Forest Preserve District will be hosting a two-part Home Lawn Seminar on March 1 & 3, 1994, at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois.

March 1, Tuesday - 7-9 PM - Home Lawns - Part I - Installation

Instructor Brad James, a sales representative for Martenson Seed in Waterman, has been vitally involved with all phases of home lawn care. Employing slides, overheads, and handouts, Brad will walk step by step through the process of seed bed preparation, seed selection, fertilizing, mulching, watering, and mowing of your new home site. His relaxed method of presentation lends itself well to participant questions.

March 3, Thursday - 7-9 PM - Home Lawns - Part II - Maintenance

Instructor Brad James, as in Home Lawns - Part I, will use the same method of presentation, using slides, overheads, and handouts to explain a good, basic lawn maintenance program. He will touch on the topics of watering, fertilizing, weed and insect control, mowing, and renovation.

Time has been set aside at the end of each presentation for questions. Refreshments will be available during the seminar.

Advance registration is \$10 per session or \$15 for both sessions. Registration on the day of the seminar is \$12.50 per session. Residents of the Byron Forest Preserve District will receive a \$2 discount.

Call now to register - 234-8535. Space is limited to 35 participants.

"GOING WILD" AT THE FOREST PRESERVE

"Going Wild", a native landscaping workshop, will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Saturday, March 5, 1994, 8:15 AM-5 PM. "Going Wild" will involve sessions on how to use native plants to solve your landscaping problems.

Patricia Armstrong of Prairie Sun Consultants will be the first keynote speaker. Her prairie garden was featured in the October '93 issue of Country Living. Her topics will be **What is a Native Plant, Natural Landscaping, and How Do Our Landscape Choices Affect the Environment**.

Rochelle Whiteman, an ecological advocate, artist, and activist, will be the second keynote speaker. Her topics will be **Ethical Choices in Landscaping-Making a Difference in the Ecology of Your Community**.

Other speakers will be our own naturalist, Josh Skolnick, Dennis Lubbs of Genesis Nursery, Connor Shaw of Possibility Place Nursery, and Rae Sweet of the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Garden Club.

Naturalist Josh Skolnick stated, "This is the first conference of this scale to be held in this region that is dedicated to using native plants in home landscaping."

Lunch and refreshments are included.

The cost for this workshop is \$32.50 per individual or \$55 per couple. Residents of the Byron Forest Preserve District will receive a **\$5 discount per individual or \$10 per couple**.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois. To receive a brochure with more detailed information or to register for the workshop, please call (815) 234-8535.

New Faces at JPC

Vinde Wells, Andrea Anderson, and Mike Eytalis are the newest employees at the Byron Forest Preserve District.

Vinde Wells was the News Editor for Ogle County Newspapers for seven years.

She is the district's Education and Information Coordinator. She is responsible for the new section.

Andrea Anderson is the part-time bookkeeping assistant. She is responsible for assisting with payroll and other bookkeeping procedures.

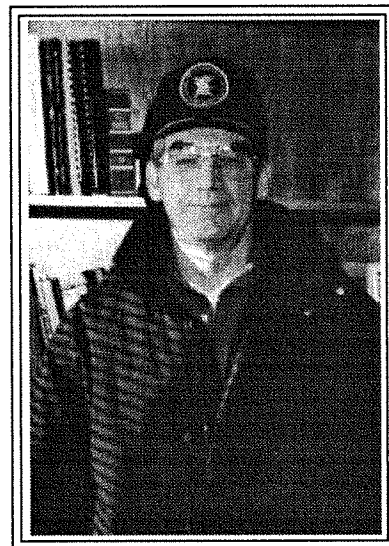
Andrea has joined us from the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians in Schaumburg, where she was employed as an Executive Assistant for five years. She has a strong background in accounting and payroll.

Mike Eytalis joined the Golf Maintenance Department's staff as Assistant Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent.

Mike has been a very important part of the district. He has served as a Board Commissioner. He was instrumental in forming the Byron Recreational Path Committee and raising funds for the Byron Recreation Path. He is also a director of the Ogle Top Open Space and Park Foundation which has raised \$60,000 for Byron Recreation projects.



*Vinde Wells,
Education and Information Coordinator*



*Mike Eytalis,
Assistant Golf Course Maintenance Supt.*



*Andrea Anderson,
Bookkeeping Assistant*

GETTING "CRAFTY" AT THE FOREST PRESERVE...



Craft exhibits displayed in the Prairie View Room of the Jarrett Prairie Center.



Just a touch of what crafts are available at our annual Christmas Craft Show.

The 1993 Christmas Craft Show was a huge success with 46 crafters displaying their unique handiwork at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Saturday, December 4, 1993. Over 3,000 visitors attended the one-day show.

Plans are already underway for the 1994 Craft Show. This year, there will be a charge of only \$20 per booth.

If you're interested in reserving a booth space, please call Cathie Francis at (815) 234-8535 ext. 203. Openings are available for 1994.

Board Committees Formed

The Board of Commissioners has formed standing committees for 1994.

These committees will establish meeting dates and times for their meetings at regular monthly board meetings. In this way, the public will be informed of the dates by the media that covers the board.

Additionally, the meetings schedule will be posted, as always, at the office and published in the newsletter if the meeting is established before it is distributed.

The following committees will serve for 1994:

Personnel & Finance

Dr. R. M. Jarrett
Jim Jennings
Dr. Robert Johnson

Building & Grounds

Dr. R. M. Jarrett
Jim Jennings
Gene Smith

Program & Recreation

Dr. R. M. Jarrett
Dr. Robert Johnson
Gene Paquet

Intergovernmental

Dr. R. M. Jarrett
Gene Paquet
Gene Smith

Regular meetings of the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners are the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Prairie View Room of the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois.

Media and Information Section

Jack Philbrick - Director

Vinde Wells -

Education & Information Coord.

Michelle Lipps -

Education & Information Asst.

Robert Facklam -

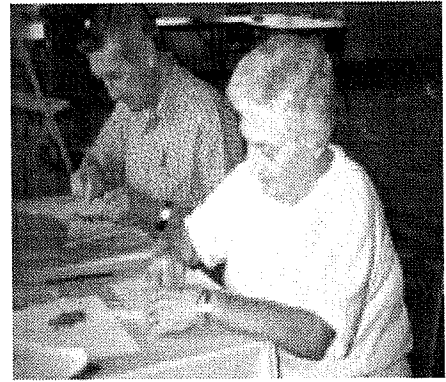
Artist and Photographer

Questions or comments about this newsletter?

Please call 234-8535 ext. 224.

Seniors Process Prairie Seeds

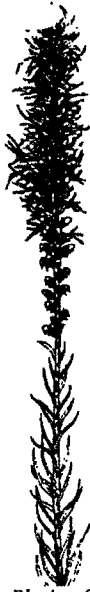
Each Tuesday morning, a dedicated group of Byron Senior Citizens have continued working on processing prairie seeds that were picked last fall by volunteers. The efforts of this group have produced many pounds of seeds that are ready for planting. Pictured right are Mr. and Mrs. John and Dorothy Counsel, Byron Area Seniors, processing prairie seeds in the Prairie View Room of the Jarrett Prairie Center.



The next step involves giving the seeds a "winter" treatment. The seeds each have their own special treatment, but the first ones were placed in damp sawdust in the refrigerator for several weeks. A booklet that is on sale in the Jarrett Prairie Center describes the treatment needed to get various seeds to germinate.

Preserve Naturalist, Josh Skolnick, is planning a pilot "Earth Garden" program. Interested persons can pick up seeds, seed flats, and a potting mix. The treated seeds can be started in a flat at home. Once they are up, they will be able to be transplanted to areas in the Prairie Preserve where the prairie is being restored. It is assumed that persons helping start plants may want to keep some of them for planting in their own home prairie area.

Persons interested in being a part of this program should call Josh at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



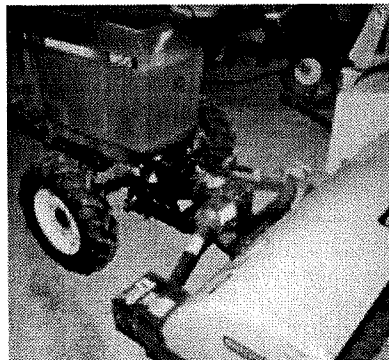
Blazing Star

VOLUNTEERS, GOD BLESS THEM

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no committee chairman,
No group leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth.
- author unknown



Rattlesnake Master



The Byron Forest Preserve District's Park Maintenance Department staff designed a new mount for a trail sweeper. (Pictured left.)

The Sweepster Corporation is very interested.

The previously designed model required two hours of installation for two workers. Now, with the new design, it only takes about ten minutes for two workers.

SO LONG, PROFESSOR...

The Professor, a now nearly three foot long fox snake, is being acclimated for release when the weather warms. A River Road resident first called the Jarrett Prairie Center when her dogs had caught the snake. She was brought to the Jarrett Prairie Center and regained her health.

The Professor was so named because of her gentle manner; and thus, her ability to teach visitors not to fear some snakes. She has provided many visitors with interesting experiences as she seemed to welcome being handled.

A new milk snake has been donated and is in The Professor's cage. It is yet unnamed. The Professor will be missed, but many visitors have enjoyed getting to know this gentle snake.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

1992

13,967

PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE

20,000

JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER

1993

24,049

PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE

82,000

JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER

SCALE

1/2 inch = 10,000 visitors

CONGRATULATIONS ON CERTIFICATION!!!

On January 3-4, 1994, Byron Forest Preserve District staff members attended a Pesticide Training and Certification Clinic hosted by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Their purpose was to learn enough about pesticide storage, handling, and application to pass the Illinois State Pesticide Certification Exams.

Two levels of Certification can be earned. They are as follows:

1) Pesticide Operator - permitted to mix and apply pesticides under the direct supervision of a Certified Applicator.

2) Pesticide Applicator - permitted to purchase restricted use pesticides and to supervise the mixing and application of pesticides by operators. There are numerous application categories such as Turf, Ornamentals, etc. An applicator must pass a test in each category in which he/she plans to apply pesticides. Operators may apply pesticides under the supervision of a Certified Applicator.

New Pesticide Operators at the Byron Forest Preserve
Park Maintenance - Don Hayenga and Brian Steffa
Nature Division - Alice White

New Pesticide Applicators - Category Exams Passed
Nature Division - Josh Skolnick - Forestry, Ornamentals, Right-of-Way
Golf Maintenance - Kelly Mahan - Turf

COMING EVENTS...

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

MARCH 12, from 9:30-11:30 AM, Square Foot Gardening will be an offered program. Master Gardener, Bob Elke, will share how he has greatly reduced his garden area while increasing its productivity by using a raised garden in wood frames. This popular approach to the smaller garden has some basics that, if used, will make the gardener quite successful. **Free Program.**

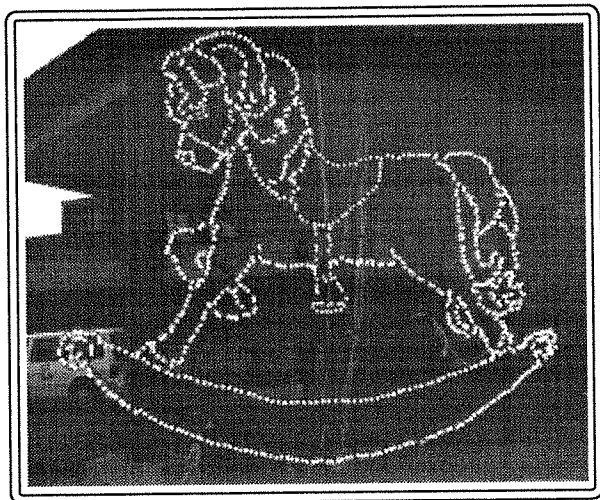
COMPOSTING

MARCH 29, from 7-8:30 PM, a program on Composting will be presented by Byron resident, Cynthia Lawson. The average home yard produces a large quantity of waste each year. As our concern about landfills increases and as our knowledge of the beneficial uses of compost increases, there are some basic principles that will provide an effective composting process for the homeowner. **Free Program.**

PRAIRIE ECOLOGY

MAY 24-26, from 5:30-7:30 PM, Jarrett Prairie Center Naturalist, Josh Skolnick, will present a program on **Prairie Ecology**, co-sponsored through Rock Valley College. This class will give you an insight into our unique grassland heritage of the Rock River bio-region. Focus will be on in-the-field plant identification, general prairie ecology, and "hands-on" experience with prairie restoration and management. **\$13 per person.**

The above classes are offered at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois. To register or for more information, please call (815) 234-8535. If you have an idea or would like to see a specific class or program offered, please call.



This rocking horse display was one of the new Christmas exhibits for the 1993 Christmas Show of Lights at the Prairie Preserve. A total of seven displays have been constructed by the Byron Forest Preserve District's Park Maintenance staff. Two new displays are being constructed for the '94 Christmas season.

TEMPO HEADLINE & ARTICLE INCORRECT

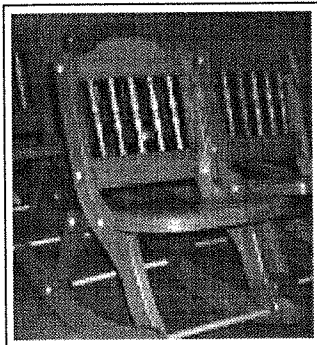
In the Tuesday, January 25, 1994, *TEMPO* newspaper article located on page 3, a headline read: "Preserve offers 10 acres for dragway river ground". The article refers to a trade of a ten-acre strip for ten acres of river frontage.

Both are totally incorrect. The Byron Forest Preserve District was approached, by the representatives of the Byron Dragway, with two exploratory offers initiated by them. One did include a request for ten acres. The other offer was for a 50' x 1300' strip of the district's land. This comes to only 65,000 square feet or approximately 1.5 acres.

The Byron Forest Preserve District did not offer to trade ten acres. What the Forest Preserve did, was to make a formal counteroffer to trade the 1.5 acres to the Byron Dragway for ten acres of the dragway's river frontage under the following conditions:

1. That all survey and transfer costs be paid by the Byron Dragway.
2. That the land traded would have a recreational fence constructed on it between the Byron Dragway and the Prairie Preserve at the dragway's expense.
3. That, in the future, if the dragway expands or makes site improvements, any native plant material would be offered to the preserve before it is destroyed.

The Byron Forest Preserve District hopes that the residents of the district will feel free to contact the district if they wish any further information.



OAK ROCKERS ON SALE!!

The Byron Forest Preserve District's Park Maintenance staff is building more doll rocking chairs (pictured left) by popular demand. These are made from fine oak that was harvested from storm-damaged trees. They sell for \$42 at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.

KEN'S CLUBHOUSE NOTES...

Employment Opportunities...

PrairieView Golf Course is now accepting applications for both clubhouse and grounds maintenance part-time seasonal positions. All positions require applicants to be 18 years of age or older.

Application forms may be picked up and returned to the Jarrett Prairie Center reception desk Monday-Saturday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Screening and interviewing will take place beginning in February and early March.

Christmas Golf Pass Sales Good

A record thirty-six 1994 PrairieView season golf passes were sold in the weeks preceding Christmas! By comparison, a total of 135 passes were sold for all of the 1993 season.

Golfers may continue to purchase 1994 season passes or PrairieView gift certificates by stopping by the Jarrett Prairie Center reception desk, Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Please call 234-8535 for additional help or information.

1994 Resident ID Cards!!

PrairieView Golf Course will begin issuing new photo ID cards for all season passholders and resident discount cardholders during special hours in March.

The PrairieView clubhouse will be open on the following days specifically for this purpose, hours 9 am - 2 pm:

Thursday: March 24, 31

Friday: March 25, April 1

Saturday: March 26, April 2

Please, no photos on Saturday or Sunday before 10 AM. All previous passholders/cardholders must renew their previous cards for the 1994 season, including new photos. The cost is \$1.

Please help us serve you more efficiently by stopping by before April 15, 1994. Special savings coupons available to those who stop by early and renew.

WHAT'S UP?!



Dedicated volunteers continue to open the observatory to the public every clear Tuesday, (Thursday is cloud night) at 6:30. Though there have been many cloudy nights, the clear ones have provided a spectacular view of the winter skies.

Dr. Weiskopf's recent donation of a CCD camera will open a whole new area of the sky to exploration. This very sensitive camera feeds images from the telescope into a computer and provides much more versatility than the film type camera. Images can be stored on a computer disk. Time lapse "photography" becomes very effective as instant images are produced.

The CCD is at the Preserve awaiting a computer and high resolution monitor. Perhaps someone reading this would like to be a part of this project and provide either the computer, monitor, or funds for it?????

The Prairie View Astronomers meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the observatory at 7PM. Visitors are welcome. Snow/ice day is Thursday.

A field trip has been planned to the Adler Planetarium for Saturday, February 19, for Prairie View Astronomy Club members. For details, call the Jarrett Prairie Center at 234-8535.

Media and Exhibit Section Formed With Goals

Over the past ten months, the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners has been studying proposals to increase their flow of information to the residents of the district.

This study included the community survey in which many of the residents participated, staff restructuring, and budget adjustments that will permit expansion of communications to you, the residents of the district.

Effective this issue, the content, frequency, and scope of the district newsletter will be expanded.

The staff will concentrate on informing the public better and will concentrate on the community receiving timely and correct information on the Board's activities and programs. If misinformation is discovered, the staff will insure that the correct information is disseminated through all methods available to them. Additionally, the staff will insure that the educational exhibits of the district are of the highest quality at the lowest cost of development possible.

The staff invites you, the taxpayer, to ask for information on preservation, outdoor education, or passive recreation if you do not see that it is being covered. If questions pertaining to policy are advanced, they will immediately be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

A Few Good Men, Women, Boys, and Girls

By: Steve Storz, Golf Course Superintendent

In 1994, Ken Ledene (Clubhouse Mgr.) and I would like to lay the ground work for a volunteer program at PrairieView Golf Course. Some of the possible duties would include picking up broken tees, emptying trash baskets, changing markers on the tees, fixing ball marks, and applying soil and seed mixture to divots on the fairways and tees. As the number of rounds played builds to nearly 30,000 this year, turf wear and tear will become increasingly significant. A group of faithful volunteers could very well be the advantage which keeps PrairieView's reputation as a good golf course expanding.

If you are interested, please call Ken at 234-GOLF or myself, Steve Storz, at 234-8535 ext. 208.

ATTENTION JUNIOR GOLFERS!!!

Area youth are encouraged to register for the new 1994 junior lesson/league program at PrairieView Golf Course. A meeting and sign-up will be held on Saturday, April 30, 1 PM, at the PrairieView clubhouse.

The expanded nine-week program will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, starting June 13th and 16th. Boys and girls, ages 7 through 11, will be divided

into age/experience groups for Monday afternoon sessions starting at 1 PM. Boys and girls, ages 12 through 17, will be grouped on Thursdays for sessions also beginning at 1 PM. Final groupings, as well as separate boy/girl classes, will be determined by the total number of registrants.

Junior program sessions will include group instruction, practice time, games,

proficiency testing, on-course play time, as well as other activities. Registration fee for the program is \$22 per individual for Byron Forest Preserve District residents and \$25 for nonresidents. The above fee includes lessons, range balls, tees, rule books, tee shirt, and prizes. Reduced junior green fees for course play will be in addition to the above registration fee.

THINGS TO DO...

"SECOND SATURDAY" IS COMING

Arrangements are being made for a special music series at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Programs have been tentatively scheduled for the SECOND SATURDAY of March, April, and May. This is a new venture to bring quality folk music to the Byron residents. Watch for more information.

Plans are being made for summer MUSIC ON THE PRAIRIE using the Preserve's outdoor stage.

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NATURE VIDEOS

Each Saturday, a special nature video is scheduled to be shown at the Jarrett Prairie Center theater. New videos include The Bear, Pearly Mussels - a program on clams, and Galaxies. With the new reports back from the Hubble Space Telescope, the Hubble video provides fresh information on its workings.

If you miss one of the scheduled programs and wish to see the video, please ask the naturalist if it could be shown at your request. There is no charge for these programs.

Cross-Country Skiing

The cross-country skiing season is upon us!! The Byron Forest Preserve invites you to go cross-country skiing at the Prairie Preserve, 7993 North River Road in Byron.

Equipment is available for rental. The fees are \$2 per hour for residents, \$3 per hour for nonresidents, and \$1 per hour for scouting groups and nonprofit organizations. Anyone is welcome to bring their own equipment.

Skiing is welcomed between the hours of dawn and dusk.

When you're finished skiing, visit the Jarrett Prairie Center to warm up with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Also, instructional programs that cover the equipment and how to cross-country ski are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Please call 234-8535 for more information.



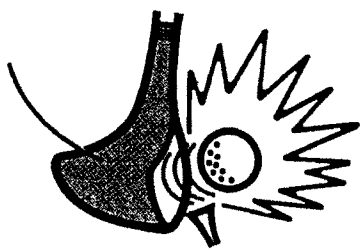
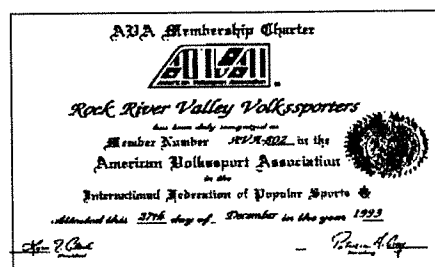
IT'S OFFICIAL!!!

The recently organized walking club, **Rock River Valley Volkssporters**, is now an official affiliate of the American Volkssport Association (AVA). The club is sponsored by the Byron Forest Preserve District and meets monthly. The club is planning three Volksmarches in 1994. One along with Byron Fest, July 8 & 9, one with the Oregon Park District, and one in September which is to be a Prairie Harvest Festival at the Prairie Preserve.

Volkssporting is a noncompetitive, family-oriented sport that involves a 10 kilometer/6.2 mile walk. The Byron Forest Preserve path goes through part of the prairie and into Byron passed some of the interesting and historic sites. The club plans to make this path a year 'round event for 1995.

As the spring and summer schedules for other Volkssport Clubs becomes available, the club is discussing participating in other walks. Walks are generally scheduled in every part of the country on every weekend when the weather permits.

Watch for more detailed information on the club and its activities.



PRAIRIEVIEW'S OPENING!!

Area golfers, as well as PrairieView staff, are anxiously awaiting opening day for the 1994 golf season!

Daily spring hours of operation will begin on Wednesday, April 6, 1994, weather permitting. Unusually warm, early April weather may allow the course to open for walking golfers on Easter weekend, April 2-3, 1994. Diehard golfers can call 234-GOLF for current conditions as we near opening day.

Both the golf course and driving range will be open from 8 AM to dusk on weekdays and from 7 AM to dusk on weekends from April 6-29, 1994. Motorized carts most likely will not be available immediately due to ground conditions.

On Saturday, April 30, 1994, PrairieView will begin its normal summer hours of operation - 6 AM to dusk, Monday-Sunday. Reservations for playdays and leagues can be made by calling 234-GOLF.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

TO REGISTER
(815) 234-8535
CALL TODAY!!

- 1, 3 Home Lawn Seminar - 7-9 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center - \$10 per session or \$15 for both sessions
- 2 Astronomy Club - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
- 5 "Going Wild!" Landscaping Seminar - 8:15 AM - 5 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center - \$32.50/person or \$55/couple
- 5-6 Raising Crane - Movie - Sat., 8:30 AM - 4 PM & Sun., 1-4 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center Theater - **FREE**
- 8 Bluebirds, Mike Eytalis - 7 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center - \$5 for kit
- 9 Bird Carving (two sessions), Bob Boehm - 9-11:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center - **FREE**
- 12 Square Foot Gardening - 9:30-11:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center - **FREE**
- 12 Second Saturday, Folk Music by Carrie Newcomer - 8 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center - \$7 per person
- 12-13 White-tailed Deer - Movie - Sat., 8:30 AM - 4 PM & Sun., 1-4 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center Theater - **FREE**
- 16 Bird Carving (two sessions), Bob Boehm - 9-11:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center - **FREE**
- 19 Creative Memories - 10 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center - \$10 per person
- 19 Ranger Rick - Field trip to Adler Planetarium in Chicago
- 19-20 Bats of America - Movie - Sat., 8:30 AM - 4 PM & Sun., 1-4 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center Theater - **FREE**
- 22 Fishing the Rock -- Walleye and Northern - 7 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center - **FREE**

ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS!

Hoosier songstress Carrie Newcomer (pictured right) will kick off our "Second Saturday" series with her album release concert. Carrie has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Mary-Chapin Carpenter. The newly signed Philo/Rounder recording artist will be presenting tunes from "An Angel At My Shoulder," her first project on this national label.

The concert will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on March 12, 1994, at 8 PM. Admission is \$7. For tickets and information, call the Jarrett Prairie Center at (815) 234-8535.



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
7993 N RIVER RD
BYRON IL 61010

BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE PAID
BYRON IL 61010
PERMIT NO 50

POSTAL PATRON
BYRON IL 61010



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWS

1994

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APR-MAY ISSUE

WE WILL MISS THEM...

RACHEL JONAKIN



One of the Byron Forest Preserve's most faithful volunteers died tragically in a Feb. 23 traffic accident. Rachel Jonakin, 14, was killed when the van she was riding in was struck by a tanker truck on an ice-covered Illinois 2. Rachel's mother, Dana, was seriously injured in the crash.

Rachel, a freshman at Byron High School, had been a familiar face at the Byron Forest Preserve ever since she and her twin sister, Sarah, joined the Ranger Rick Nature Club as fourth graders.

Forest preserve Volunteer Coordinator Betty Fetzer said, "The Jonakin family have all been regular volunteers at the forest preserve for several years, pitching in with whatever needed to be done from weeding prairie plots to filling the brochure racks at the entrance."

"Rachel was a loveable, bubbly type of person," Fetzer said. "Anytime I would need some extra help, I would call and she was always ready to come. She liked to come here and we enjoyed having her."

When she wasn't volunteering her time at the Byron Forest Preserve, Rachel was active at Byron High School. She was a member of the Kiwanis Key Club, played the flute in the BHS band, and had a part in the school's spring musical "Singing in the Rain". Rachel was also very active in her church, Middle Creek Presbyterian.

LEROY "BUCK" SEYMOUR

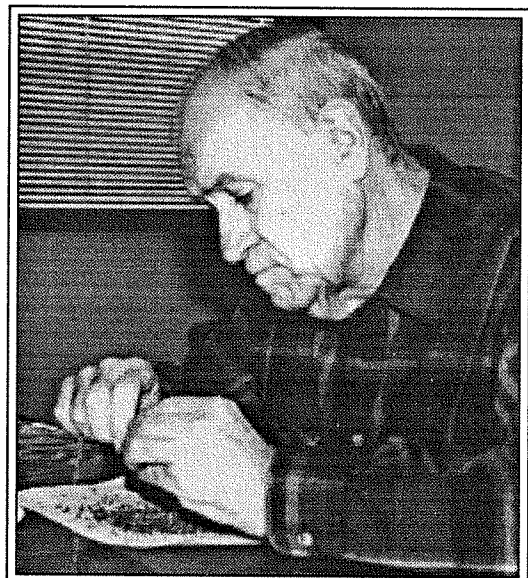
Whether it was stuffing envelopes or opening prairie seed pods, Leroy "Buck" Seymour was always willing to volunteer his help on Tuesday mornings at the Byron Forest Preserve. The Stillman Valley resident died March 9 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Buck and his wife, Verna, began volunteering at the forest preserve in September of 1993 after another volunteer, Harriet Bennett, asked them to join her one Tuesday.

Volunteer coordinator Betty Fetzer said the couple gave their time in the Jarrett Prairie Center gift shop on weekends, answering the telephone and greeting visitors.

"Buck always looked forward to coming to the forest preserve," Fetzer said. "He enjoyed meeting new people and the conversation every Tuesday, not to mention the filled long johns and coffee."

"Buck and Verna were volunteers you could always count on, even in the snow this past winter," she said.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Byron area voters will be in a unique position when they go to the polls in April of 1995. For the first time, they will be electing the five members of the Byron Forest Preserve District Board. To this point, board members have been appointed by the Ogle County Board.

Because of various questions and issues which have come up over the past 12 months and because the election is critical to the future of the district, I believe the time has come for an open review of what the district is all about, how it was created and what the boards have accomplished over the past 13 years.

The residents of the community voted to form the Byron Forest Preserve District in 1981. The goals of the board were, and still are, to provide preservation, education and passive outdoor recreation.

With an eye to the future, the boards have worked toward developing the preserve's facilities while minimizing the burden on local taxpayers. Currently, the vast majority of the forest preserve's tax revenue comes from Commonwealth Edison's Byron Nuclear Station, with its assessed value of more than \$1 billion.

However, as the power plant depreciates, its assessed value, and therefore its share of the total tax bill, will gradually decline. In fact, that downward trend has already begun. As the power plant depreciates in value, other taxpayers will be forced to shoulder an increasingly larger portion of the tax burden.

With those facts in mind, the board set its sights on maximizing the potential of the forest preserve, while at the same time, finding sources of revenue other than local tax dollars. The board decided to undertake the development of the prairie preserve and its facilities while the district's assessment was at its peak. All that was accomplished before the value of the nuclear plant began its assessment decline.

The board established the Ogle Top Open Space and Park Foundation, which has raised more than \$50,000 for the expansion of the preserve's outdoor recreation facilities. Using borrowed money, the board built the PrairieView Golf Course adjacent to the forest preserve. The 18-hole public golf course grossed \$470,000 in its first year of operation. It is likely to see a substantial annual profit by 1995 and will pay its own way.

The Jarrett Prairie Center generates income through its gift shop and rentals. In the very near future, the Heritage Farm maple syrup plant will be in operation as both a revenue and education facility.

Another effort in the area of financial forethought is the \$4 million reserve bond approved by the board approximately two

years ago. Board members okayed a small tax levy to fund the reserve bond in 1992. Similar self-funding measures were taken by the Byron Fire Protection District and the Byron Public Library.

If the bond interest is left in place until 1999, it will yield enough interest to pay all liability costs and other operating expenses from that year on, and the tax levy for insurance can be dropped.

In 1993, the district had more than 130,000 visitors at the preserve. PrairieView attracted more than 24,000 rounds of golf. That means 120,000 people who do not live in the Byron area most likely spent some of their money at Byron businesses.

This number will no doubt double by 1996. More people are moving into the area and more demand for services comes with more people. Planning for the future is not easy in a community that is not crowded and has not seen growth eat up open space. Private interest, personal fears and true suspicion can sometimes prevail.

This does not change the fact that, from the beginning, the forest preserve district board members have been dedicated local residents who did not receive pay or allowances while they were planning for our children and grandchildren. The board has always shown outstanding fiscal responsibility.

The Byron Forest Preserve is the largest generator of non-tax income of any taxing body in Ogle County. By the year 2010, it could be one of the smallest taxing bodies and yet could be yielding more sales tax than it collects in property tax. That is, if the new elected board maintains the previous boards' philosophy of self-sufficiency.

The democratic way of life is extremely valuable to all of us. In the upcoming election, the system will be truly tested because, unlike most board elections, all five present positions on the board could change at once.

If that happens, the board will lose continuity. This, in itself, could have a far-reaching effect on maintaining the present quality of operations in the district. This, rather than a graduated change-over, is what became law because it was supported by a local interest group and area legislators.

Today, the Byron area has low taxes compared to the majority of the state. This will not be the case forever. In fact, each year the Byron Station operates, the taxes may go up just to sustain a balance for most governmental agencies.

By choosing qualified candidates, you, the voters of Byron, can decide to help the Byron Forest Preserve District to continue its plan to expand economic growth while reducing the tax burden. It will work only if you participate.

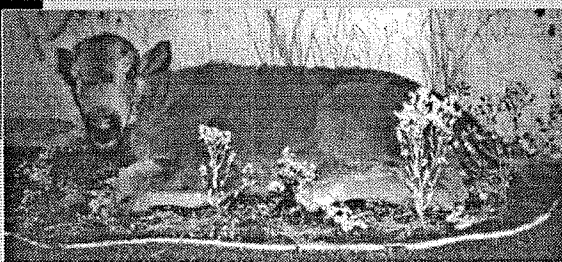
Jack F. Philbrick

Planning for the future is not easy in a community that is not crowded and has not seen growth eat up open space.



Taxidermist, Jim Hess with new additions to JPC Museum.

BUFFALO CALF ARRIVES



Buffalo calf at Jarrett Prairie Center.

The buffalo family at the Byron Forest Preserve grew recently with the addition of a week-old buffalo calf (pictured above).

The new arrival was delivered by Jim Hess, a local taxidermist on Feb. 15. Hess prepared various stuffed specimens on display in the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum.

The tan calf joins a buffalo cow, which is one of the museum's most popular exhibits. Plans call for a buffalo bull to round out the exhibit later this year.

Along with the calf, Hess delivered a great blue heron and a great horned owl (pictured above), which will add to the museum's collection of wildlife native to the prairies of Ogle County.

New Class Offered

Openings are available in the 4-5 year old Preschool Nature Classes. Classes meet from 1:30-2:30 PM on Tuesdays. Cost is \$7.50 for three classes. Subjects covered will be Toads and Frogs, Conservation/Earth Day, and Birds of Prey (Owls, Hawks, and Eagles). Classes include hands-on activities, arts and crafts, and games. Please call (815) 234-8535 to register. Classes are ongoing and will continue through summer for ages 3-4, 4-5, and a new class for 6-7 year olds.

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!!

Plans are underway for the 1994 Craft Show to be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois. This year, there will be a charge of only \$20 per booth.

If you're interested in reserving a booth space, please call Cathie Francis at (815) 234-8535 ext. 203. Openings are available for 1994.

Mt. Morris author, Clarence Mitchell, was the guest of honor at an autograph party on Saturday, March 5 at the Byron Forest Preserve.

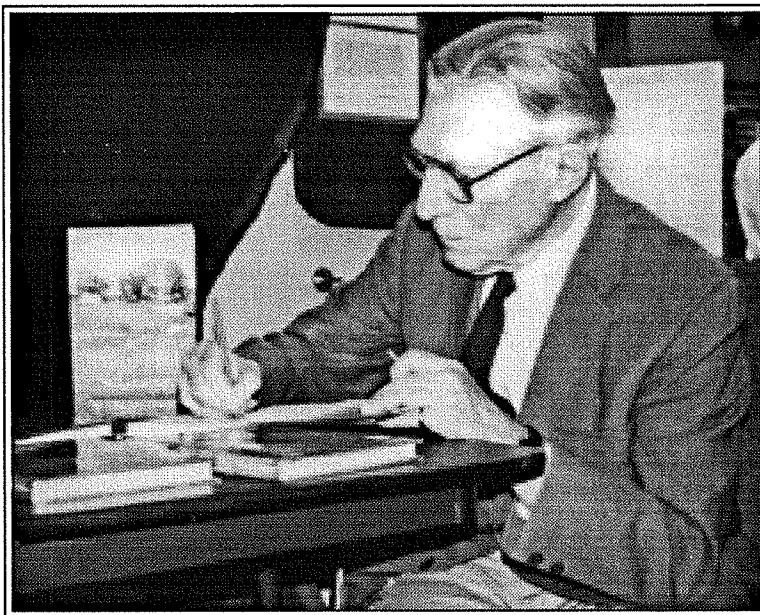
Mitchell, a journalist and world traveler, was on hand to sign copies of his book, "River Hill Soliloquy", in the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum.

The book recounts the author's purchase of a 130-acre farm west of Leaf River, and his devotion for his land over the half-century-plus that he and his wife, Margaret, owned it. In 1992, the couple donated their farm to the University of Illinois.

By popular demand, Mr. Mitchell will be back at the Jarrett Prairie Center to autograph copies of his book on Saturday, April 30, from 10 AM-2 PM. Don't miss it!!

Copies of "River Hill Soliloquy" can be purchased for \$12.95 each in the gift shop at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Local Celebrity Visits JPC



Author Clarence Mitchell signs copies of his book, "Riverhill Soliloquy".

Spring Fest



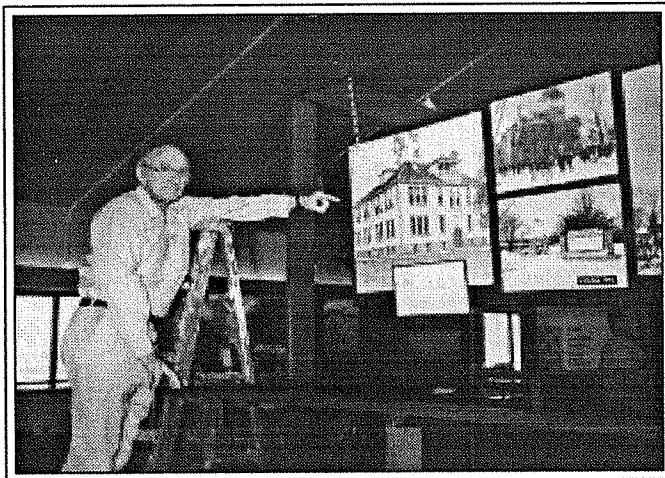
Spring Fest will be a festival celebrating the re-awakening of our landscape, much as the Native Americans celebrated the new year when the first pasque flowers bloomed on the prairie. It will run from 9 am to 5 pm on April 30.

Outdoor activities will include a public prairie planting and seeding (participants will receive free prairie plants and/or seeds for their homes), guided prairie and wildflower walks, music from local performers (for audiences of all ages) all day (weather permitting), environmental crafts, and possibly kite flying.

Indoor attractions will include museum tours, environmental gifts, earthgardening demonstrations (how to grow your own prairie plants), composting, bird and bat house construction, and music (if the weather is too poor to have it outside)-Performers TBA. Music by local folk and blues artists. A children's environmental play is also tentatively scheduled. Floral arranging for adults and May basket making for all ages will also be featured. There will also be story tellers.

There will likely be more activities for all ages-these will be announced in the next few weeks.

Railroad Exhibit Steams Ahead...



Phase II of the railroad exhibit was completed March 18 when the maintenance crew put up a pictorial history of Byron in the museum at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

The photo display was created and designed by Byron Forest Preserve Media Specialist Bob Facklam (pictured above). The photographs, which overhang the railroad model of Byron in 1910, depict the city in days gone by.

The railroad exhibit was designed by Rod Guthrie and opened in the museum just before Christmas. The third and final phase of the display will be in place before the end of this year.

KEN'S CLUBHOUSE NOTES.

GOLF COURSE OPENING DAY!!

Official opening day for the 1994 season at PrairieView is on Wednesday April 6th with the possibility of walking golfers allowed on Saturday/Sunday, April 2nd & 3rd, if weather permits.

Please call 234-4653 for the latest conditions.

Steve Storz, course superintendent, reports that the course has come through the winter in excellent condition.

A reminder for all season passholders and resident discount cardholders to come in a renew your cards for the 1994 season! Special complimentary range coupon for early renewals before April 15th!

All renewals and sales of golf passes and discount cards will be at the PrairieView clubhouse on the following scheduled days:

From 9am to 2pm on:

Friday and Saturday, April 1-2

From 8am to dusk:

Every day beginning on
Wednesday, April 6

NEW FOR 1994 AT PRAIRIEVIEW

Stop by the PrairieView clubhouse to see the huge new selection of logo cotton sweaters, fleece wear, t-shirts, and even fleece shorts for 1994!! Good size selection and bold new colors.

Also, just added for the 1994 season, are the **new adult 9-hole 10-play passes**. The new pass is in addition to the previous adult 18-hole 10-play pass available last season and the **new senior 9- and 18-hole 10-play passes**. Ten-play passes provide added savings over regular daily green fee rates.

New Adult Nine-Hole 10-Play Pass Fees:

Resident	\$70
Non-Resident	\$90

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!!

The prairie is coming alive with the returning migratory birds. The first bluebirds have returned. Robins, killdeer, kestrel hawks, the ever present red tailed hawks, and mourning doves have been seen so far.

Last week, five bald eagles were reported as being sighted over the river. Three were immature and two were adults - with the white heads.

A workshop on ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS is scheduled for April 19, at 7 PM. A video will be shown on bluebirds. A discussion on attracting bluebirds will follow. Bluebird house kits were made by Byron Forest Preserve volunteers and will be available for sale for \$8, which covers the cost of materials.

THE FIRST SPRING BIRD WALK is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at 8:30 AM, starting at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Special bird walks can be scheduled on request.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information or to register, please call the Jarrett Prairie Center at (815) 234-8535.

1993 VISITOR REPORT JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER

The records have been compiled for the past year and it was indeed a banner year for attendance at the Byron Forest Preserve.

200,000+ visitors entered the Preserve during 1993.

10,600 persons attended events at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

4,100 visitors signed the Guest Register at the Jarrett Prairie Center, coming from 92 different cities in Illinois, 39 different states, and 9 foreign countries.

1,335 people visited the Weiskopf Observatory, which was dedicated in June.

77 Preschool Nature Classes were offered. 53 different children participated in these programs from May through December.

24,000 rounds of golf were played at PrairieView, in addition to the above visitors to the Prairie Preserve's natural areas.

Planning that has been done for 1994 should provide programs and activities that will significantly increase this year's attendance.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY!!!

The Byron Lions Club will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 2, 1994, at the Byron Forest Preserve located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. The event will begin at 11 AM sharp at the top of the hill south of the north picnic shelter.

Children from preschool age through third grade may participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Parking will be available in the Jarrett Prairie Center parking lot.

For more information, contact Byron Lions Club members Gene Reber or Ken Norup.

BITS & PIECES

Prairie View Astronomers

Regular meeting night for the PVA is the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, at the Weiskopf Observatory east of the Jarrett Prairie Center. New members are always welcome.

The club sponsors public viewing sessions each clear Tuesday evening beginning at dusk. Groups are welcome, but it is suggested that they call the Jarrett Prairie Center at 234-8535 in advance to register.

Board Donates Benches & Golf Passes

The Byron Forest Preserve District recently donated a Leopold bench and two 18-hole PrairieView Golf Course passes to the Silent Auction sponsored by the Byron Chamber of Commerce on April 23. The donation was approved by the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners at its March 15 meeting.

Intergovernmental Meeting Set

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners' Intergovernmental Committee will hold a meeting on April 14 beginning at 7:15 PM at City Hall in Byron. The Commissioners will meet with City Officials to discuss potential areas of cooperation.

Programs Canceled

Two programs have been canceled due to the lack of facility space. Exershaping and Creative Memories scheduled for April 23 will be rescheduled at a later date.



RANGER RICK LEARNS "INDIAN STYLE"

Elizabeth "Blaze" Zack is a Native American representing the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Nation. Blaze, whose Native American name is Dreaming Woman, shared her rich Indian heritage with Ranger Rick on February 19, 1994, at the Jarrett Prairie Center (pictured right). Her program focused on Native American storytelling, legends, history, and culture. She also discussed Indian crafts, clothing, music, and dance. Other topics were ecology, recycling, medicine, rain forests, and the unity of all peoples.

Volunteer Fever... Catch It!!

The Senior Volunteers have been hard at work these past months. They have cleaned over 20 pounds of prairie seeds over the past 2 months. Many of these seeds have been used for our newest 8-acre prairie seeding on March 10. The seniors have also helped sow seeds in flats and have taken some of them home to raise plants for our prairie.

Pictured right are Dick Boyd, Fred Courtright, and Wesley Young sorting prairie seeds using wooden frames with screens constructed by Mr. Young.



The seniors have also been hard at work transplanting dozens of 2- to 3-week-old prairie seedlings. These have to be transplanted from the germination flats into growing tubes so that they can develop strong, deep root systems before they are transplanted into the prairie this fall or next spring.

The Jarrett Prairie Center's highly successful senior volunteer group will be extending their much appreciated donated time to helping at the PrairieView Golf Course this season. Betty Fetzer, Byron Forest Preserve Volunteer Coordinator, already indicates that 6-8 individuals have expressed an interest in signing up for the new program.

The volunteer program will be a tremendous benefit to the golf staff at PrairieView as well as our golfer clients. If you're interested in volunteering, please call Betty Fetzer at (815) 234-8535 ext. 222.

Woodcarvers/ Woodworkers Club

Visitors have expressed interest in forming a woodworking and wood carving club. A small group of seniors have been meeting on Saturday mornings at 9 AM. They have made kits for the bluebird and bat workshops scheduled in the next months.

Byron bird carver, Bob Boehm, offered to conduct a workshop on how he carves the beautiful song and game birds he has had on display in the area. Carver, Roy Keebler, has offered to instruct a beginning carving class.

Persons interested in getting involved are encouraged to call Mickey Bowman at 234-8535, at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

ROCK RIVER FRIENDS OF FOLK MUSIC

The Rock River Friends of Folk Music have scheduled a meeting for May 9, at the Jarrett Prairie Center. The business meeting begins promptly at 7 PM. At 7:30 PM, the meeting will be adjourned and those present join together to enjoy and share folk music favorites.

At the last meeting, members brought several guitars, a harp, a hammered dulcimer, a concertina, an accordion, and several harmonicas.

This is a chance for Byron residents to learn about the group that sponsors several folk festivals, and has been instrumental in bringing fine folk music to the greater Rockford area.

Visitors are welcome and invited to bring folk instruments. Great talent is not a requirement - it is just for fun. Remember, the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except for those that sang best.

The Jarrett Prairie Center is located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For more information, call 234-8535.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 2 EASTER EGG HUNT - 11 AM SHARP - Near Jarrett Prairie Center - FREE
- 3 EASTER SUNDAY - ALL FACILITIES ARE CLOSED!!
- 5 Bats and Bathouses - 7 PM - JPC
- 6 PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE OPENS!!
- 6 Prairie View Astronomers Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
- 7 Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain - 6:30-8:30 PM - JPC
- 9 SECOND SATURDAY with LJ Booth - 8-10 PM - JPC
- 9 Prairie Walk - 9 AM - JPC - FREE
- 9 Kitemaking - 9-11 AM - JPC
- 12 Common Sense Approach to Self Defense - 7-8 PM - JPC - FREE
- 16 Prairie View Astronomers Club Trip to Elgin Planetarium - tentative
- 17 Rock River Valley Beekeepers - 1-4 PM - JPC - FREE
- 21 Oil Painting by Marsha - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM & 6-9 PM - JPC
- 26 How to Build a Pond in Your Backyard - 7-9 PM - JPC - FREE
- 30 Earth Day/Spring Festival - 8:30 AM-5 PM - JPC - FREE



MAY

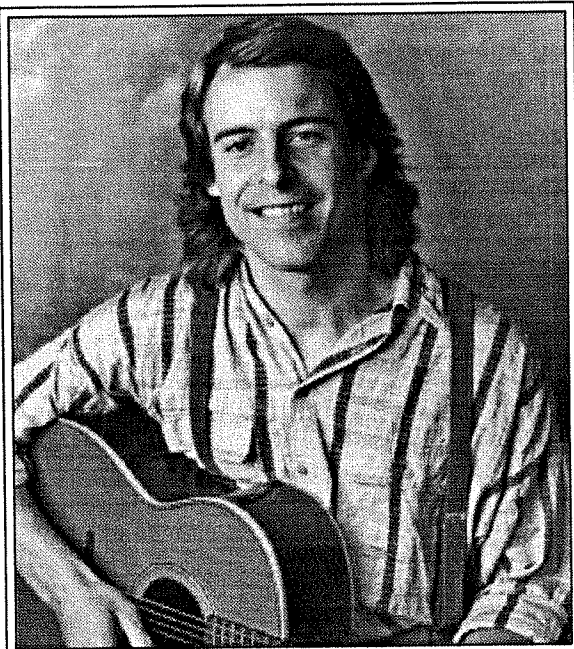
- 3 Natural Landscaping - 6-9 PM - JPC
- 3 Glass Painting - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM - JPC
- 4 Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
- 7 Bird Walk - 8:30 AM - JPC
- 7 Bicycling Program
- 9 Rock River Friends for Folk Music - 7-9 PM - JPC
- 10 Landscaping for Birds and Butterflies
- 14 SECOND SATURDAY with Lou and Peter Berryman - 8-10 PM - JPC
- 14 Ranger Rick
- 14 Orienteering
- 14 Pie and Ice Cream Social
- 17 Spring Flower Tour and Plot Adoption - 6:30 PM - JPC
- 18 Spring Flower Tour and Plot Adoption - 9 AM - JPC
- 21 Lyme Disease - Signs and Symptoms - 9 AM - JPC
- 21 Boating Safety
- 21 Creative Memories - 10:30 AM-1:30 PM - JPC
- 24-26 Prairie Ecology - 5:30-7:30 PM - JPC



Come and enjoy our ongoing, weekly programs. Senior Exercising is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Senior Volunteers are faithfully processing seeds, folding newsletters, or constructing bird houses every Tuesday morning. Exershaping (aerobics) has become quite popular and is offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Our Preschool Nature Studies classes have become a very exciting program for all every Tuesday and Wednesday. All of these programs are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road in Byron. Public Sky Viewing is held every Tuesday evening (cloud date - Thursdays) at the Weiskopf Observatory located near the Jarrett Prairie Center.

If you're interested in any of these programs or any of the special programs listed above, please call (815) 234-8535 for more information or to register.

LJ BOOTH - SECOND IN CONCERT SERIES



Singer, songwriter LJ Booth (pictured left) will be the second performer in the Byron Forest Preserve District's pilot concert series being offered on the SECOND SATURDAY of April.

Booth's lyrics have a way of cutting through the thin layer of veneer that separates people. Streams of images come pouring out of each of his songs, leading the listener down a path of laughter, pain, and something in between.

Booth has recently released his first solo album titled "Yarns" which features ten of his original songs. The title song, "Yarns", is about his grandmother's influence on his songwriting.

Over 200 people gathered in the BlazingStar/Indigo Room at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Saturday, March 12, to hear the first performer in our concert series, Carrie Newcomer. Carrie played her acoustic guitar and sang a wide range of contemporary "folk" songs.

The next two concerts will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois. The concerts begin at 8 PM. Tickets are \$7. For tickets and information, call the Jarrett Prairie Center at (815) 234-8535.

**BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
7993 N RIVER RD
BYRON IL 61010**

**BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE PAID
BYRON IL 61010
PERMIT NO 50**

**POSTAL PATRON
BYRON IL 61010**



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWS

1994

PRESERVATION - EDUCATION - RECREATION

JUNE-JULY

Civil War Days Are Back!

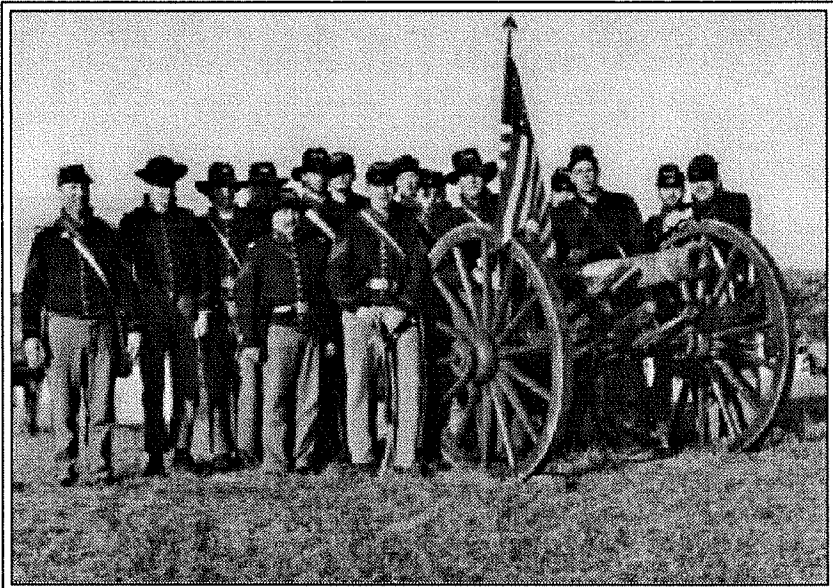
The Yankees will once again battle Johnny Reb when the Byron Forest Preserve hosts its second annual Civil War Days on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31.

Confederate soldiers will charge from the woods to take on the Union troops in a grassy meadow near the Jarrett Prairie Center as Battery G of the Second Illinois Light Artillery, headquartered in Stillman Valley, stages a re-enactment of the War Between the States.

Besides watching the battle, complete with cannon fire and battlefield medics, visitors are invited to tour Battery G's authentic encampment.

The camp areas will be open for touring at 10 a.m. on both days. Cannon shooting demonstrations are scheduled for 1 and 2 p.m., followed at 3 p.m. by skirmishes on both Saturday and Sunday. Musical entertainment is planned for Saturday evening and the camp will be open until dark. The camp closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Byron Forest Preserve is located at 7993 N. River Rd., Byron, one-quarter mile west of Illinois 72 and North German Church Road. For more information, call 815/234-8535.



LAST APPOINTMENT TO BOARD

On June 21, the Ogle County Board will, for the last time, appoint a commissioner to the Byron Forest Preserve District board. Beginning next spring, commissioners will be elected by the public, rather than appointed.

The term of Commissioner Gene Paquet will expire June 30. Applications for the position are available in the office of Ogle County Clerk Jean Wolfe at the courthouse in Oregon.

The applications may be picked up during normal office hours, which are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The clerk will also mail applications to persons who call and request them. The number is (815) 732-3201. As of May 18, Mr. George Ashby and Mr. Robert Severson had filed applications for the position with the Ogle County Clerk.

The completed applications must be returned to the county clerk's office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3. The Ogle County Board State's Attorney and Legislative Committee will review all the applications and recommend a candidate to the county board, which will then make the appointment by a majority vote.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

The results of a community survey conducted last September by Papandrea and Associates indicated that residents of the Byron Forest Preserve District would like the district to expand its services and facilities, without increasing the real estate tax burden.

While that may sound to some like a tall order, district residents are indeed in the unique position to have that wish come true.

The Byron Forest Preserve District's mortgage plan was established with all the district's current debt retired by the end of 2009.

This plan will permit the district to start reducing its tax levy by 50 percent as early as the year 2000, while maintaining sufficient funds to operate and develop additional revenue-producing projects which in turn may generate alternate non-tax income.

In 1990, the forest preserve board decided that if the district was to eventually become self-sufficient financially, a plan was needed which would offer the opportunity to reach that goal.

The first step in the process was to develop income-producing facilities as quickly as possible. The first such facility was the PrairieView Golf Course.

The second was the Jarrett Prairie Center, which was designed to support the forest preserve's goals of education, preservation and recreation while having the capability of generating some of its revenue. The gift shop, multi-purpose class rooms and meeting rooms all contribute to that purpose.

By 1992, both the Jarrett Prairie Center and the PrairieView Golf Course were open and producing revenue.

In 1993, the forest preserve board took a third step forward by putting a \$4 million self-insurance bond in place. This move was designed to develop interest income, while eliminating the need to tax for liability insurance in the future.

Plans call for the self-insurance mortgage, or bond, to be paid off in the

year 2000. The fund if permitted to grow another six years, could yield \$300,000 in interest income annually, eliminating the need to levy that amount of real estate taxes.

Other plans are under consideration, such as the addition of a full service golf club house with banquet facilities. This can be completed without tax hikes and can increase non-tax revenue.

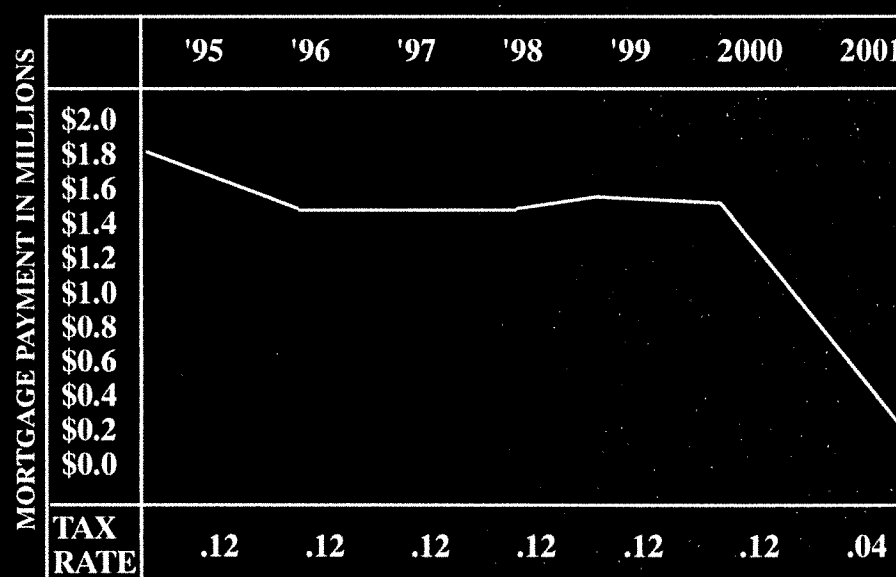
The district's present tax rate of 19.5 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation will drop to 10.5 cents when the self-insurance bond is paid off in the year 2000. Another three cents can be dropped that

same year when the \$300,000 in interest income becomes available.

In simple terms, this means that for a \$60,000 home, the real estate taxes paid to the forest preserve would decrease from \$32.17 to approximately \$17 or even less.

The goals set by the board in 1990 have set the challenge for the current and future boards. A \$4 million cash fund, a balanced budget, and a declining reliance on real estate taxes, at the same time programs and services are expanding means this forest preserve district is setting a trend for others to follow in the future.

RETIRING MORTGAGE MEANS LOWER TAXES



This chart includes an estimated 2.8 percent annual depreciation of the Byron Nuclear Station.

Board Member Course Available

Openings are still available for the upcoming board member training seminar hosted by the Byron Forest Preserve District.

"How To Be An Effective Board Member" will be held on five consecutive Tuesdays beginning June 14 in the Jarrett Prairie Center from 6:30-9 PM.

Although the course will focus on the operation of a forest preserve district, the topics covered will also apply to all other local government bodies.

All members of such boards, or candidates for board positions, are encouraged to enroll in the course.

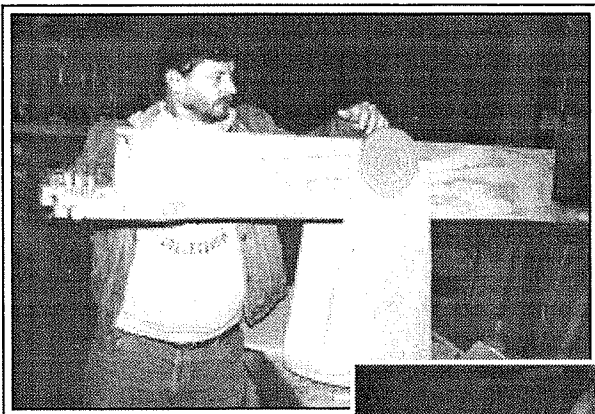
Topics covered will include finances, board organization, development, and overall planning.

To register or for more information, call 815/234-8535.

Our Dedicated Volunteers...

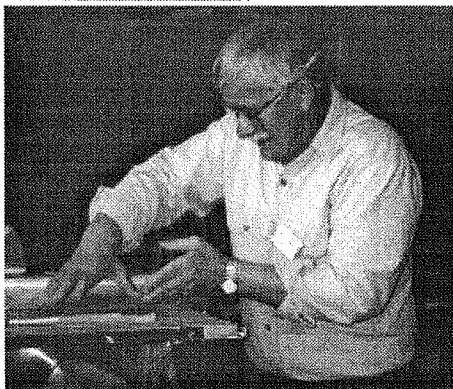


Just a few of our dedicated volunteers. Left to right: Ethel DeVore, Wesley & Jane Young, Fred & Nancy Courtright, Dick Boyd, and Marvin & Dorothy Bollen.



(Above) Observatory Volunteer Jeff Bolen inspects a new telescope that he and Volunteer Steve Toothman built.

(Right) Volunteer Dick Boyd cuts the bluebird house pieces for a workshop to be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center.



The Byron Forest Preserve District Volunteer Program has developed into a wonderful and exciting program. The number of hours worked and the number of volunteers have increased steadily.

During the first three months of 1994, the volunteers processed prairie seeds from pods, worked in the gift shop on weekends, and assisted during special events.

They volunteered in the Weiskopf Observatory on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. There are usually 2 or 3 volunteers on duty when needed.




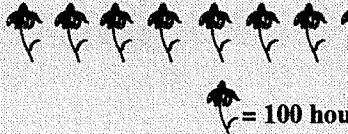
During the month of April, volunteers assisted with prairie plantings, processing seeds, gift shop coverage, woodworking, caring for the museum and animals, bluebird trails, taxidermy, bees, and special events.

Volunteer Coordinator Betty Fetzer signed up the 82nd volunteer in May, and at the present time, the district has about 50 very active volunteers at the Jarrett Prairie Center, Weiskopf Observatory, and PrairieView Golf Course.

Out of 52 prairie Adopt-a-Plots, there were 28 adopted as of May 17. If you are interested in volunteering to care for a prairie plot or work at any of the district's facilities, please call Betty Fetzer at (815) 234-8535 ext. 222.

Fetzer happily stated, "I think we have a super group, and I am very proud of them!"

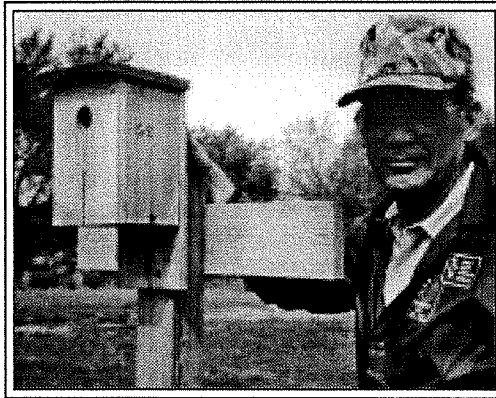
Volunteer Hours

January		= 422 hours (32 volunteers)
February		= 411 hours (27 volunteers)
March		= 516 hours (33 volunteers)
April		= 719 hours (46 volunteers)

District Saves \$\$\$

2,068 (volunteer hours worked)
X \$4.25 (minimum wage)
\$8,789 saved

The Bluebirds Are Back!!



Eastern bluebirds are making a strong comeback at the Byron Forest Preserve. So far, of the 55 houses on the preserve's "bluebird trail", four have broods of five bluebird babies each, four more have bluebird eggs in the nest, and seven more have bluebird nests.

Once a common sight in northern Illinois, these beautiful songbirds became rare and now are making a comeback due to increased environmental awareness.

The colorful blue males with their rusty breasts scout for nesting sites in early spring when they return from wintering in the southern U.S. and Mexico.

Nesting pairs build their nests in natural tree cavities, or birdhouses, and the female lays 4-6 pale blue eggs in a nest made of grasses.

Both parents help feed and raise their brood, which must be fed about every five minutes. The father takes over the training of the youngsters once they leave the nest, while the mother begins laying eggs and incubating the next brood.

If timing and conditions are right, bluebirds will raise as many as three batches of babies in a summer.

Bluebirds are not the only birds setting up housekeeping along the forest preserve's "bluebird trail". As of early May, eight tree swallows had also built nests in the houses and one had laid eggs.

Bluebird enthusiast Mike Eytalis (above) will present Bluebirds II at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 4 at the Byron Forest Preserve. The free class is geared for persons who participated in the March bluebird class at the forest preserve.

To register (advance registration required) for the class or for a guided tour along the bluebird trail and a closer look at the bluebird families, call the Jarrett Prairie Center at (815) 234-8535.

Preschool & Summer School Nature Classes Offered

This summer, the Byron Forest Preserve is offering an extra preschool nature class for 3-4 year-olds and a new summer school nature class for 6-7 year-olds.

The topics for the summer classes are the prairie, butterflies, rocks, insects, stars, snakes, bison, birds, trees, and bees.

The 3-4 year-old classes are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 AM. The 4-5 year-old class is held on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 PM. The new 6-7 year-old class will be held on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 PM.

The cost for the classes is \$7.50 for three classes, \$10 for four classes, or \$25 for the summer (June, July, & August).

To register or for more information, please call (815) 234-8535.

Class Cancellations

On March 22, a "Fishing the Rock for Walleye and Northern" class was offered at the Jarrett Prairie Center. The class was canceled earlier that day because there was no one registered for the class.

That evening, several people showed up for the class. We do apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused, but we ask you to please call and register for any class that you wish to take.

Annual Christmas Craft Show

Plans are underway for the 1994 Craft Show to be held on December 3, at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. This year, there will be a charge of only \$20 per booth.

If you're interested in reserving a booth space, please call Cathie Francis at (815) 234-8535 ext. 203. Openings are available for 1994.



Name The Snake Contest

Our friendly snake, "Professor", has left us to live out in the wild once more. We have obtained a new snake which is a Milk Snake. Many people knew "Professor" and have asked us what our new snake's name is. We decided to have a contest.

During our Spring Festival held Saturday, April 30, 1994, we had a "Name Our Snake Contest". There were twenty-nine different entries from children of twelve different communities. Our Nature Division had a difficult decision to make, but "Ranger" was the top choice. This entry was submitted by Travis Dvorak of Elgin, Illinois.

Travis will receive a Byron Forest Preserve District patch and an Optic Wonder which is an instrument that includes a compass, a magnifying glass, a linen counter/magnifier, binoculars, a signal mirror, and a stereoscope.

So be sure to stop by the Jarrett Prairie Center soon to see our new friend, "Ranger".

SpringFest Celebration - Big Success!!

The first annual Earth Day SpringFest was a big success on April 30, even though it snowed outside. The warmth of many volunteers and visitors inside the Jarrett Prairie Center made it a perfect day.

An estimated 450-500 people attended the event throughout the course of the day. A tour bus came from a Rockford church, where members of the congregation saw our poster at the Sunrise II Restaurant and decided to attend.

Several people braved the bad weather to plant more than 400 seedlings on the prairie. Unfortunately, most of the rest of the outdoor activities were cancelled due to the snow.

However, many activities could be enjoyed inside. Youngsters had fun making May baskets and butterflies. Several Byron High School students and Volunteer Verna Seymour showed off their artistic talents by doing face painting.

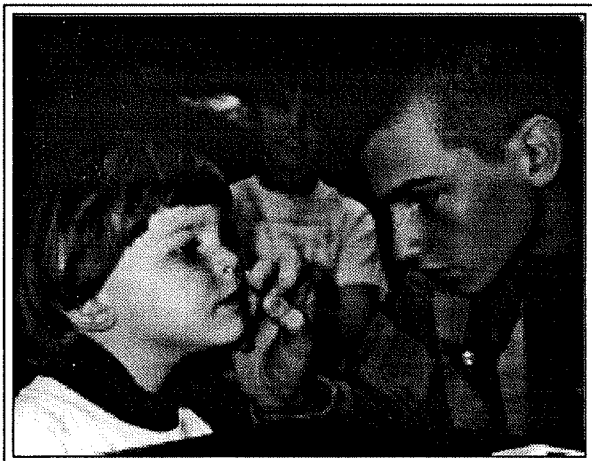
Native American "Blaze" Zack moved around the prairie center teaching children and adults about Indian lore and relating some of her favorite stories.

The folks from Enders Greenhouse arrived with a variety of native plants to sell. They were pleased with the response from people interested in native landscaping.

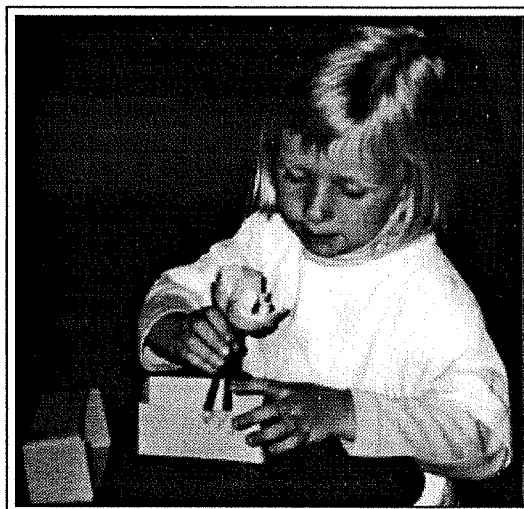
Author Clarence Mitchell, along with his wife Margaret, was on hand to promote and sign copies of his book, "River Hill Soliloquy".

The PrairieView Room was packed in the afternoon for the children's environmental play, "Treasure", performed by students from Etnyre Middle School in Oregon. After the play, many people enjoyed the folk music of Beggars Alley, who entertained until 5 p.m.

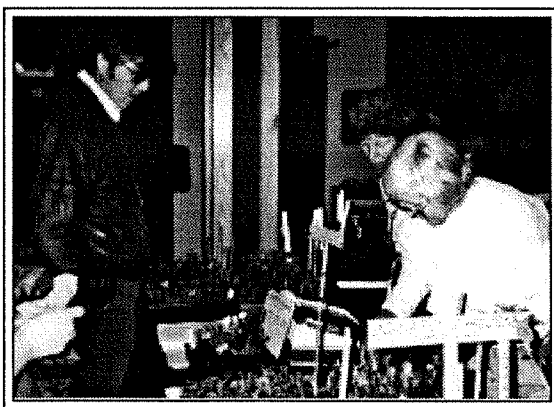
The volunteers manning the concession stand did a brisk business all day. They sold 28 pies, three gallons of ice cream, five pounds of popcorn, assorted chips, muffins and brownies, two cases of pop and lots of coffee.



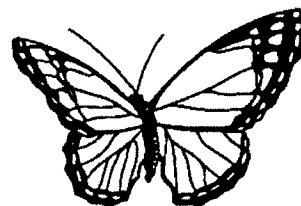
Face Painting...



May Basket Making...



and Native Prairie Plant Sale!!



Clubhouse Expansion Proposed

Members of the Golf Club at PrairieView took an appeal for an expanded clubhouse to the Byron Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners at the board's April 19 meeting.

Dennis Dunham, spokesman for the golf association, presented the board with a proposed sketch of the interior and exterior of the expansion. Dunham also gave commissioners a letter which outlined why the Golf Club of PrairieView supports the project.

"For PrairieView Golf Course to maximize the number of rounds of golf played per golfing season and to maximize golf-related revenue and collateral service-related revenue during the golf season, an expansion of the clubhouse facilities is required," read the letter, which was signed by Dunham and Fred Brune, both co-chairmen of the golf association.

The letter went on to say the present clubhouse needs better restroom facilities, locker room facilities, meeting rooms for playdays and banquets and support facilities, a golfer bar and grill room, a deck, terrace or patio overlooking the 9th and 18th greens, and an expanded golf pro shop.

Dunham said the expansion with its added facilities is necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing number of golfers the course is attracting.

"PrairieView Golf Course continues to mature, and as it matures, area golfers are coming to recognize it as one of the finest golf courses in northern Illinois, Chicagoland and southern Wisconsin. This PrairieView course in Byron has the potential to become one of the top 50 courses in the area..." the letter said.

Director Jack Philbrick said during the April 19 meeting that the project could be funded over the next three years without raising real estate taxes. The Byron Forest Preserve District Board set aside funds in the 1994 budget for a clubhouse expansion study. The issue was referred to the Building and Grounds Committee.

The sketches of the proposed clubhouse expansion can be seen on display at the clubhouse or at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

WOOD CHIPS

Wood chips will not be available at the Byron Forest Preserve District this year. An extensive tree planting project within the forest preserve has exhausted the supply.

So far this spring, the maintenance staff has planted 650 native burr oaks, 50 ornamentals, 10 hybrid black walnuts, as well as several memorial trees.

Wood chips will be available to the public again in the future. The cost to district residents is \$5 for a pick-up truck load, and \$10 for nonresidents.

Mailing List Update

The Media Section staff is in the process of updating the district newsletter mailing list. We hope to get a newsletter into every household in the Byron Forest Preserve District, as well as to avoid duplications.

Please call 234-8535 and ask for the Media Section, if the address on your newsletter is incorrect, if you are receiving two or more newsletters, or if you know someone who is not receiving a copy at all. Thanks for your cooperation.

PrairieView's Superintendent Gets Certification



On March 15, Byron Forest Preserve District Board Vice President Jim Jennings presented Golf Course Superintendent Steve Storz (above) with a certificate in recognition of his accomplishment.

Steven E. Storz, PrairieView Golf Course Superintendent, recently completed the requirements to be designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GSCAA).

To be certified, a candidate must have five years experience as a golf course superintendent, currently be employed in that capacity, and meet specific educational requirements of college credit or continuing education units.

Superintendent Storz also successfully completed a six-hour examination covering his knowledge of the GSCAA and its certification program, the rules of golf, turfgrass management, pest management, safety and compliance, and financial and organizational management.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

2	Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30	Exershaping - 9:30-10:30 AM & 6-7 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center
4	Bluebirds II - Follow Up - 9 AM - JPC
4, 11, 18, 25	Exershaping - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
7, 14, 21, 28	Senior Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 AM - JPC
7, 14, 21, 28	Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
9	Cardinal Painting Under Glass - 9:30 AM-12:30 PM - JPC
10	Byron Library Summer Reading/Astronomy - 10-11 AM - Weiskopf Observatory
11	Summer Tree Identification - 9 AM - JPC
11	Prairie Seed Collecting - 1 PM - JPC
11	Wizardry or Chemistry - 11 AM-NOON - JPC
13	Byron Area Seniors Picnic - 9 AM-4 PM - Prairie Preserve
14	Bird Banding in Northern Illinois - 7 PM - JPC
14, 21, 28	How To Be An Effective Board Member - 6:30-9 PM - JPC
14, 21, 28	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
14, 21, 28	Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
15, 22, 29	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
15, 22, 29	Nature Summer School (age 6-7) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
16, 23, 30	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
20-23 & 27-30	Aquatics for grades 4-6 (through Rock Valley College) - 9-11 AM - JPC
20-23 & 27-30	Illinois Prairie Jr. Naturalist Class for grades 4-6 (through RVC) - 9-11 AM - JPC
21	Board Meeting - 6:30 PM - JPC
25	Birds of Summer Walk - 8 AM - JPC

SIGN UP NOW!!
234-8535



**Advance
Registration
Required**

JULY

2	Summer Outdoor Concert - Tentative - Call (815) 234-8535 for more information.
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Exershaping - 9:30-10:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center
4	JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER OPEN - Offices Closed
5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28	Exershaping - 9:30-10:30 AM & 6-7 PM - JPC
5, 12	How To Be An Effective Board Member - 6:30-9 PM - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Senior Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 AM - JPC
5, 12, 19, 26	Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
6, 13, 20, 27	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Nature Summer School (age 6-7) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
7, 14, 21, 28	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
7	Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
9	Creative Memories (Scrapbook Class) - 9 AM-6 PM - JPC
9	Byron Park District's ByronFest Run - 5:30-10 AM - Prairie Preserve
11-15 & 18-22	Birds and Insects for grades 1-3 (through Rock Valley College) - 8-10 AM - JPC
12	Wildflower Photography - 6:30 PM - JPC
12-14 & 19-21	Astronomy Class/grades 4-6 (through RVC) - 7-9 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
16	Prairie Seed Collecting - 10 AM - JPC
19	Board Meeting - 6:30 PM - JPC
20	Learning About The Prairie - 9 AM - JPC
26	Night Sights and Sounds of the Prairie - 9 PM - JPC
30-31	Civil War Days - All Day - Prairie Preserve





Helping Build A Dream...

The Byron Forest Preserve District Park Maintenance crew assisted with building the Dreamworks Playground at Mary Morgan Elementary School in Byron on May 18.

Pictured above are Brian Steffa (left) and Charles Holeyton (right) helping to assemble the framework. Pictured right is Shawn Morrison digging post holes with the district's endloader.



**BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
7993 N RIVER RD
BYRON IL 61010**

**BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE PAID
BYRON IL 61010
PERMIT NO 50**

**POSTAL PATRON
BYRON IL 61010**



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWS

1994

PRESERVATION - EDUCATION - RECREATION

AUG-SEPT

DIRECTOR RETIRES



Director Jack Philbrick stepped down from his position June 30, bringing an era to an end at the Byron Forest Preserve District. Philbrick had served as the forest preserve's director for the last 12 years.

Forest preserve board vice president Jim Jennings (left) is serving as interim director while the board conducts a search for a director through the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Philbrick, who was hired in July 1982, was the first employee of the newly-formed forest preserve district. As the district's first and only director to date, Philbrick was responsible for charting the development of the Byron Forest Preserve District, which was created by voter referendum in November 1981.

"Taking part in the establishment and growth of this forest preserve has been very fulfilling. I am pleased and proud to have participated in the planning and development of this facility, which will provide enjoyment and enrichment for generations to come," he said.

"Jack has been essential in making the forest preserve what it has become over the last 12 years," said Byron Forest Preserve District Board President Dr. Robert M. Jarrett. "Without his hard work, dedication, and foresight, we simply would not be where we are today. I certainly will miss him and wish him the best in the future."

Philbrick and his wife, Jamalynn (above right), reside in Rockford. The couple has two grown daughters and four grandchildren.



ASHBY APPOINTED TO BOARD



George Ashby (left), 3464 Whitaker Rd., Byron, has the distinction of being the last appointed Byron Forest Preserve District Board Commissioner. He was appointed by the Ogle County Board on June 21 and will be sworn in at the July 19 board meeting. He replaces Commissioner Gene Paquet, who did not seek reappointment.

The commissioners will be chosen by the district's voters for the first time in the April election. State legislation passed last year mandates that forest preserve board members are elected rather than appointed.

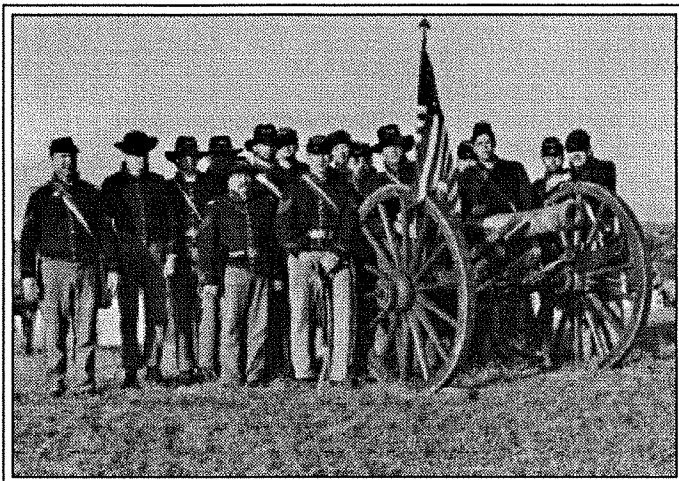
Ashby has lived in the Byron area for 28 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, have three children and six grandchildren. He was a manufacturing engineer for Woods Equipment Company, Oregon, before he retired.

Ashby said he was very pleased to be appointed to the board and is looking forward to serving the district.

"I think it's really going to come along great," he said. "I've seen a lot of change for the better in the last year, and I think it's going to continue. I like the prairie and the nature end of it. I'd like to see us finish Heritage Farm because I think that's what the people want."

Ashby said he plans to run for election to the board in the spring.

Civil War Days - July 30-31



Our second annual Civil War Days July 30 and 31 promises to be even more exciting than last year's first-ever event.

This time around, Battery G of the Second Illinois Light Artillery will fire off its latest acquisition - a 20-pound Parrott cannon used by the Union Navy in the Siege of Vicksburg.

The barrel alone of the cannon weighs 1,670 pounds, and the big gun can send a cannon ball as far as five miles. Designed by Robert P. Parrott in 1861, the cannon is one of only two or three still in existence. It is on loan to Battery G from the New Glarus, Wis. Historical Society.

The cannon shelled the city of Vicksburg, Miss. from a naval steam ship on the Mississippi River.

Also adding authenticity to the battle re-enactment will be a Confederate group from the Quad Cities. Visitors can tour both the Union and Confederate camps on both Saturday and Sunday before and after the skirmishes.

The Rebel troops will charge from the woods into a barrage of Union fire in the grassy meadow east of the Jarrett Prairie Center. Skirmishes are scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 30 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 31.

Cannon shooting demonstrations will be held at 1 and 2 p.m. on July 30 and noon and 1 p.m. on July 31. Both the Union and Confederate encampments will be open for tours from 10 a.m. until dusk, July 30 and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on July 31.

Battery G, which is headquartered in Stillman Valley, is noted throughout Illinois as the largest and most authentic Civil War Battery in the Midwest. They have participated in several large re-enactments in the East and South, including Gettysburg, Shiloh, The Wilderness, Chickamauga, Franklin and Appomattox.

Besides the re-enactments, Civil War Days will include other demonstrations of arts and crafts of the mid-1800s, such as a typical one-room school, blacksmiths and horseshoeing, butter churning, corn husk weaving, quilting, flint knapping, soap making, candle making, bead making and stringing, and a tinsmith.

Sue Crandall will give tours of the one-room school and butter-churning demonstrations on Saturday from noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-2 p.m.

Free hayrides through the encampments and prairie will be offered from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. both days. A concession stand will sell hot dogs, brats, potato chips, pretzels, pop, candy and gum.

The Prairie View Astronomers Club will hold an all-night Star Party at the J. Weiskopf Observatory at the forest preserve. Skyviewers can catch the celestial show from either the 11-inch telescope in the observatory dome or the 6-inch portable telescope set up outside.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Civil War Days, which is set for July 15 and 16, 1995.

Rachel Jonakin Memorial

A special ceremony was held June 30 in the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum to dedicate a plaque in memory of Rachel M. Jonakin, who died in an automobile accident on Feb. 23.

Although she was only 14 years old, Rachel had been an active and faithful volunteer at the Byron Forest Preserve ever since she joined the Ranger Rick Club.

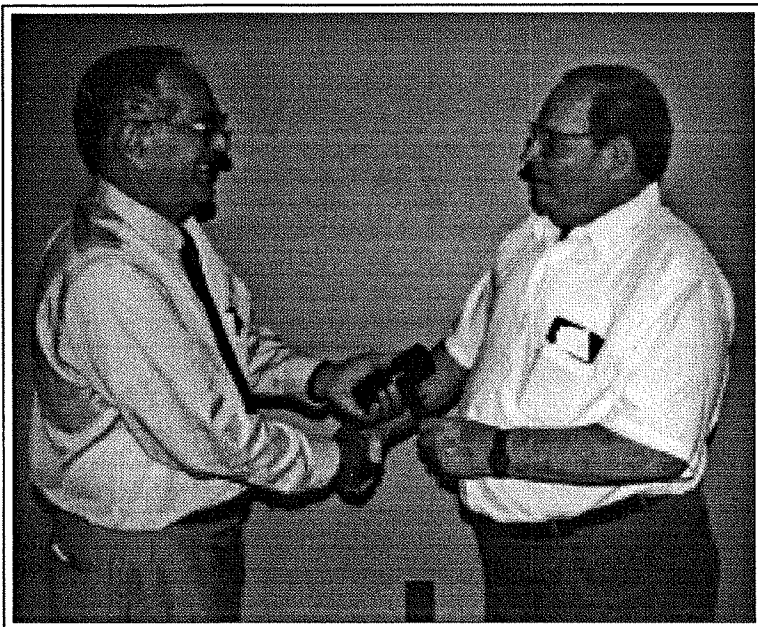
During the dedication ceremony, Director Jack Philbrick remembered Rachel's bubbly personality and willing spirit. Education Coordinator Mickey Bowman praised the teenager's efforts as a volunteer.

A portrait of Rachel and the memorial plaque are located on the museum's west wall. The plaque reads, "In loving memory of Rachel Marie Jonakin, who unselfishly donated many hours of her young life to the Byron Forest Preserve and the Jarrett Prairie Center. Her contributions to the preservation of the prairie will be remembered always."

Rachel's ashes were scattered on the prairie she loved so much.



Pictured here is the Jonakin family, (L-R) Joe (father), Sarah (sister), Dana (mother), and Sara Pado (grandmother).



Gavel Presented

Retiring Director Jack Philbrick (left) presented Board President Robert M. Jarrett with a handmade gavel at the June luncheon meeting of the Illinois Forest Preserve Board Members and Administrators, which was held in the Prairie View Room at the Jarrett Prairie Center on June 29.

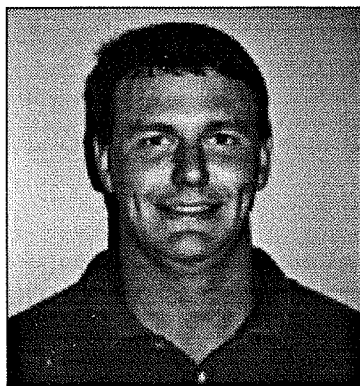
Philbrick carved the gavel and had it engraved with the words "To my president, my mentor, my friend".

Jarrett, who is one of the Byron Forest Preserve's founders, recounted how the facility got its start in the early 1980's.

"We looked over the fence and I saw a pasque flower. I wasn't really familiar with a pasque flower at the time, but I knew it should be preserved for our children and their children," he told the audience of about 20 forest preserve officials from around the state.

President Jarrett received an ovation for his comments. Several of the park officials praised the efforts of he and Philbrick in making the Byron Forest Preserve a reality.

New Face at JPC



Wes Eckerd of Chana is serving his internship at the forest preserve.

Wes Eckerd (left) is serving an internship this summer at the Byron Forest Preserve. He graduated cum laude in May from Western Illinois University, Macomb, where he majored in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration. He also holds a minor in Law Enforcement Administration.

Eckerd began his 12-week internship in the Golf Maintenance Division and is currently an assistant to Education Coordinator Mickey Bowman.

A 1990 graduate of Oregon High School, Eckerd is the son of George and Lindy Eckerd, Chana.

Bits & Pieces

Attention Crafters!!

Plans are underway for the 1994 Craft Show to be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, Illinois. This year, there will be a charge of only \$20 per booth.

If you're interested in reserving a booth space, please call Cathie Francis at (815) 234-8535 ext. 203. Openings are available for 1994.

Advance Registration Required

Please call to register in advance for classes, seminars, or programs at the Byron Forest Preserve. The advance registration helps us know if enough people are interested in the planned event to hold it. Without sufficient enrollment, we may be forced to cancel.

The advance sign-up is necessary even for free classes. If you leave your name and phone number when you preregister, we will call you back to let you know if we do cancel.

To sign up or for information about the forest preserve and its programs, call (815) 234-8535. We're open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-4:30 p.m.

Yellow Diamonds??

In case you've wondered why the biking/hiking path is now adorned with diamonds - you're not alone. Several people, including forest preserve staff members, have inquired.

A yellow diamond is the international symbol for a designated use. The randomly spaced diamonds are announcing that the area where they are located is set aside for a specific purpose. The district's designated use is a hiking and biking path. This means it cannot be used for anything else, such as parking.



"Wizardry or Chemistry?"

Chemistry "wizard" Tim Kaffenbarger of Mt. Morris demonstrated his "magic" to over ten participants at the "Wizardry or Chemistry?" class that was held on June 11 at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron.

Kaffenbarger's program featured feats of everyday chemistry, both natural and manmade. The show, which was open to persons of all ages, included forensic chemistry, diaper chemistry (above), explosions and luminescences.

Nature Videos

Each Saturday, a special nature video is scheduled to be shown at the Jarrett Prairie Center theater. Videos include *The Bear*, *Pearly Mussels* - a program on clams, *Galaxies*, and many more. With the reports back from the Hubble Space Telescope, the Hubble video provides fresh information on its workings.

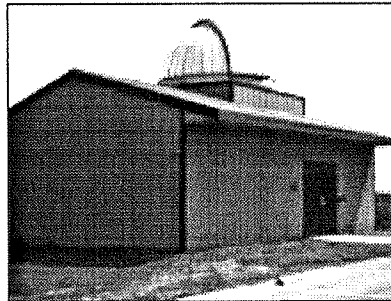
If you miss one of the scheduled programs and wish to see the video, please ask the naturalist if it could be shown at your request. There is no charge for these programs.

What's Up?!



Fourth of July fireworks may be spectacular, but the celestial show at the Byron Forest Preserve is even more dazzling and isn't restricted to just one night of the year.

The J. Weiskopf Observatory (left) at the forest preserve is open for public sky viewing every Tuesday evening at dusk, or at other times by appointment. Located on the third highest point in Ogle County, the Byron Forest Preserve's dolomite hills provide an excellent vantage point for stargazing.



The observatory dome and its 11-inch reflecting telescope were donated to the forest preserve by Rockford physician Jerome Weiskopf in early 1993. Education

Coordinator Mickey Bowman set to work designing the observatory building, which was constructed by the forest preserve's maintenance crew. The new observatory opened for business on May 15, 1993.

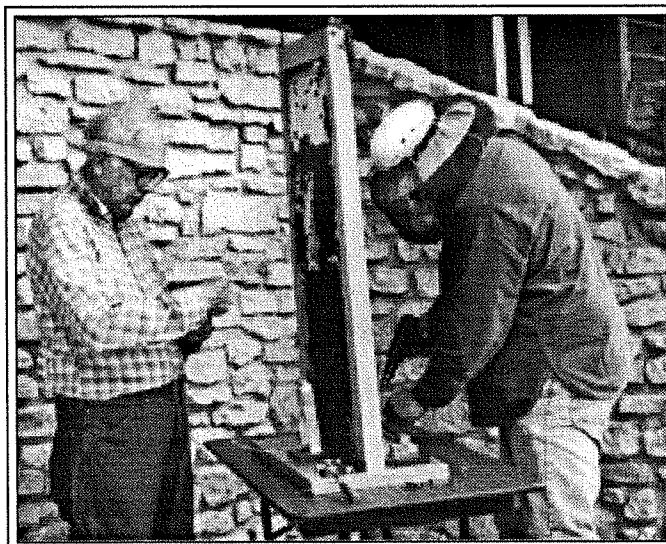
The telescope affords skyviewers a good look at the moon, planets, and various constellations.

Volunteers from the recently formed Prairie View Astronomers Club frequently man the observatory. Club members Jeff Bolen and Steve Toothman spent several hours this spring building a portable telescope which can be set up outside the observatory or at various other locations.

Toothman and Bolen will take their portable telescope to the White Pines State Park for a Star Party for the public on Aug. 6. The telescope will be set up from 8:30-11:30 p.m. near the shelter between the first and second fords.

The Byron Forest Preserve is located at 7993 N. River Rd, Byron, one-quarter mile west of Ill. 72 and North German Church Road. For more information, call (815) 234-8535.

STICKY BUSINESS!!



Volunteers John Zaleskas and Gary Murphy remove bees from the Jarrett Prairie Center live exhibit to the observation field hive located west of the Service Center.

Rooms for Rent

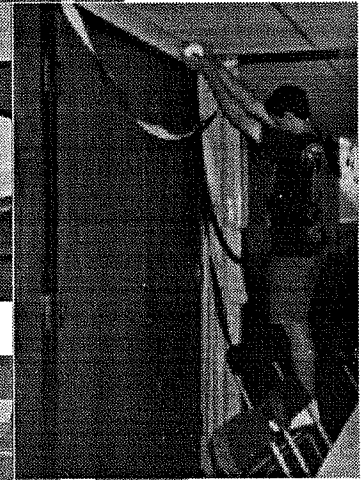
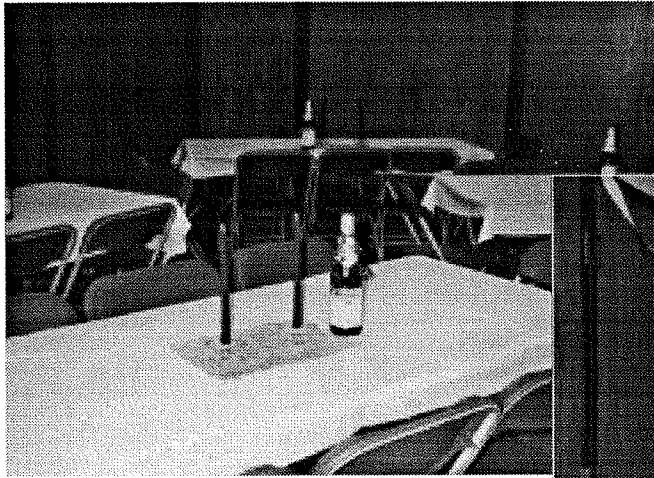
Are you looking for a unique and beautiful setting for your wedding and reception? We have the answer - the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Recently, the Prairie View Room was transformed into a dance floor, complete with a deejay and colorful disco lights for one bride and groom, who also utilized the Blazing Star and Indigo Rooms for serving food.

Last year saw a couple wed outside among the coneflowers and other prairie beauties. Their reception was held in the Prairie View Room.

Besides weddings, our facilities also offer the ideal spot for open houses, reunions, seminars, or any other social or business occasion.

Our catering service can whip up everything from the hors d'oeuvres to a sumptuous dessert to make your party perfect. Call Chris at (815) 234-8535 for details.



Adopt-A-Plot...

To Keep Your Forest Preserve Beautiful!

A program implemented just last year has already made significant progress in restoring the prairie at the Byron Forest Preserve.

A year ago, the forest preserve kicked off its Adopt-A-Plot program. The re-emerging prairie near the Jarrett Prairie Center was divided into 52 plots, each 10 feet square, which were offered to area residents for "adoption". The idea is for the volunteers to remove any weeds or exotic (non-native) plant species, allowing the native prairie flowers and grasses to emerge and flourish as they did for centuries.

Volunteer Coordinator Betty Fetzter said while only 14 or 15 plots were adopted in the pilot year, she has 32 takers so far this year.

"The program has really made a big difference. Last year, the sweet clover almost took over, but it's just beautiful with all the different species blooming out there now," Fetzter said.

The Adopt-A-Plot area surrounds the preserve's Round About Trail, which is paved to be handicapped accessible.

Fetzter said cleaning up the plots is not as time-consuming as some people may imagine.

"It's not something they have to spend every day or every week at. You just pull what's unwanted. It can be done in a couple or three times at it, really. Some people have adopted two plots," she said.

Each Adopt-A-Plot volunteer gets a sign engraved with his or her name posted at the plot he or she is working on.

For people who are interested in plot adoption but don't know a dandelion from a pale purple coneflower, the forest preserve is offering a training session.

Naturalist Josh Skolnick will teach a prairie management class on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 9 a.m. at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

The class is especially geared for volunteers who are participating in the forest preserve's Adopt-A-Plot program but is open to anyone who is interested in the prairie. Topics discussed will be exotic species control, brush control, prairie plant identification and seed collecting.

Advance registration is required for the free class. To register or for more information, call (815) 234-8535.



PGA Pro Ken Ledene demonstrates his golf swing to a group of junior golfers during golf lessons held at PrairieView Golf Course located on German Church Road.

Junior Golf Lesson Enrollment Grows

Participation in PrairieView's junior golf lessons is up 30 percent over last year. Clubhouse Manager/PGA Pro Ken Ledene said 118 youths age 6-16 are enrolled in eight classes, which are held on Mondays and Thursdays.

He said this year's program is nine weeks long; last year's was only two weeks.

Golf is apparently more popular with boys than with girls - 89 boys are enrolled compared to just 29 girls. Ninety-four students hail from the Byron area, 13 are from Oregon, two from Stillman Valley, and nine from other local communities.

By age, 3 are six years old, 12 are seven, 13 are eight, 12 are nine, 22 are ten, 22 are eleven, 15 are twelve, 10 are thirteen, 7 are fourteen, 1 is fifteen, and 1 is sixteen.

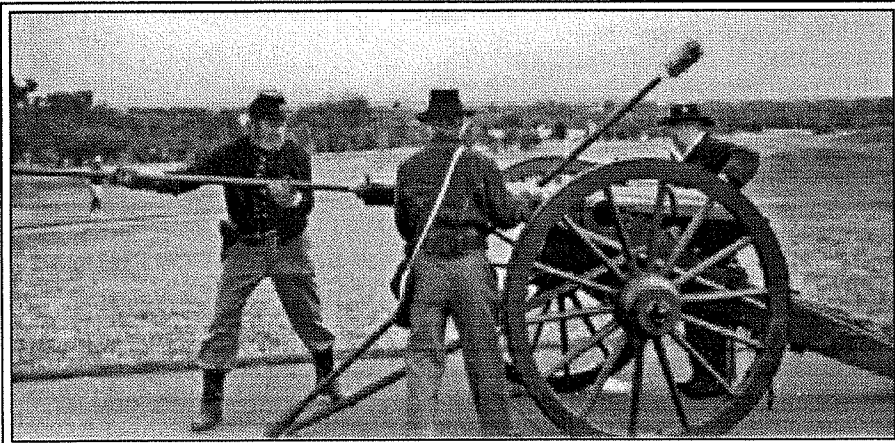
PrairieView Rounds and Revenue Up

REVENUE

Date	1993	1994
Jan 1-Apr 18	\$23,590	\$51,933 (up 54.6%)
Apr 19-May 16	43,547	57,739 (up 24.6%)
May 17-Jun 19	80,785	109,130 (up 26.0 %)
Totals	\$147,922	\$218,802 (up 32.4%)

ROUNDS

Date	1993	1994
Jan 1-Apr 18	537	962 (up 44.2%)
Apr 19-May 16	2,476	3,189 (up 22.4%)
May 17-Jun 19	4,446	5,790 (up 23.2%)
Totals	7,459	9,941 (up 25.0%)



"Cannon" Gun Start?

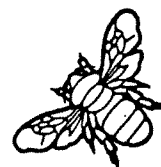
Battery G of the Second Illinois Light Artillery was on hand July 11 to fire an 1860's vintage Parrott cannon (left) to signal the shotgun start of the Larry Young and Friends Golf Benefit for Special Olympics at PrairieView Golf Course, Byron. Battery G, which is headquartered in Stillman Valley, will camp and perform at the Byron Forest Preserve's second annual Civil War Days on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SIGN UP NOW!!
234-8535

AUGUST

2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center
2, 4, 9, 11, 16,	
18, 23, 25, 30	Tighten-N-Tone (T-N-T) - 5:30-6:30 PM - JPC
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	District Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 AM - JPC
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
2, 9, 16	Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
3, 10, 17	Nature Summer School (age 6-7) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
4	Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
4, 11, 18	Nature Summer School (age 6-7) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Tighten-N-Tone (T-N-T) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
6	Prairie Workshop - 9 AM - JPC
7	Rock River Valley Beekeepers - 1-4 PM - Prairie Preserve North Shelter
9	Woodcarving Class - 7 PM - JPC
13	Creative Memories (Scrapbook Class) - 9 AM - JPC
16	Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting - 6:30 PM - JPC
17	Learning About The Prairie - 6:30 PM - JPC
18	Rock River Valley Wild Ones - 6:30-9 PM - JPC
20	Prairie Seed Collecting - 10 AM - JPC

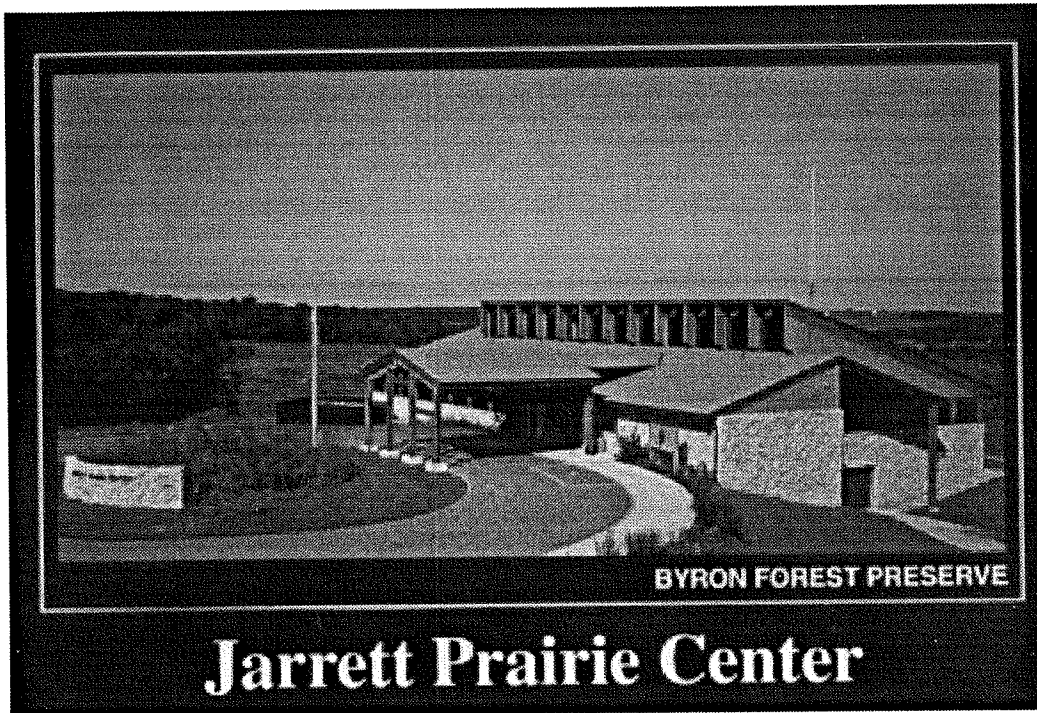


**Advance
Registration
Required**

SEPTEMBER

1	Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
1, 6, 8, 13, 15,	
20, 22, 27, 29	Tighten-N-Tone (T-N-T) - 5:30-6:30 PM - Jarrett Prairie Center
3, 10, 17, 24	Tighten-N-Tone (T-N-T) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	District Volunteers - 8:30-11:30 AM - JPC
6, 13, 20, 27	Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
7, 14, 21, 28	Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
10	SECOND SATURDAY MUSIC CONCERT - 8 PM - Tentative
14, 21, 28	Introduction to Quilting - 9-11:30 AM - JPC
15	Rock River Valley Wild Ones - 6:30-9 PM - JPC
17	Creative Memories (Scrapbook Class) - 9 AM - JPC
17	Prairie Seed Collecting - 10 AM - JPC
17	Volksmarch - 8 AM-1 PM - Prairie Preserve
22	Illinois Dept. of Health - Groundwater Seminar - 8 AM-4 PM - JPC
24	Woodcarving Seminar/Workshop - 10 AM - 4 PM - JPC
26	Dried Floral Arranging - 9-11 AM - JPC





Jarrett Prairie Center

The Byron Forest Preserve's first postcard (above) is now available. The postcards depict the Jarrett Prairie Center and may be purchased in the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop at 7993 North River Road in Byron.

The postcards are also available at the Byron Chamber of Commerce, Byron Pharmacy, and the White Pines Inn in Oregon.

A second Byron Forest Preserve postcard, picturing a pale purple coneflower, will be available later this summer. For more information or to order, please call (815) 234-8535.

**BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
7993 N RIVER RD
BYRON IL 61010**

**BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE PAID
BYRON IL 61010
PERMIT NO 50**

**POSTAL PATRON
BYRON IL 61010**



BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWS

1994

PRESERVATION - EDUCATION - RECREATION

OCT-NOV-DEC



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

3RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

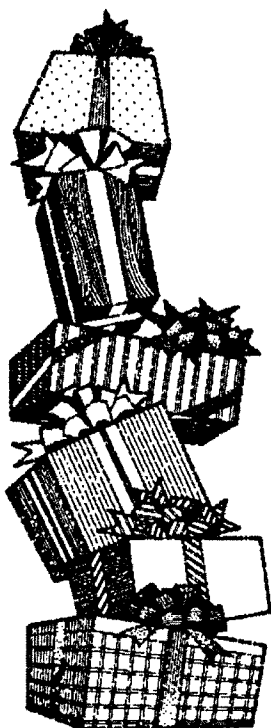
**JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER
7993 N RIVER ROAD
BYRON**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
9 AM - 4 PM**

Over 35 local crafters
Wide variety of unique crafts
Cub Scout Pack 147 Bake Sale
Lunch available and served by our volunteers

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS ONE...

SHOP EARLY!! BRING A FRIEND!!



Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 N. River Rd.
Byron IL 61010
Admn. Office (815) 234-8535
PrairieView Golf Course
(815) 234-4653(GOLF)
FAX - (815) 234-4150

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jim Jennings, President
Dr. Robert Johnson, Vice President
George Ashby, Treasurer
Gene Smith, Secretary
TBA, Commissioner

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jim Jennings, Interim Director
Cathie Francis, Exec. Secretary

BOOKKEEPING STAFF

Sherry Hartzell, Supervisor

MEDIA STAFF

Vinde Wells, Supervisor
Michelle Lipps, Assistant

NATURE CENTER STAFF

Mickey Bowman, Deputy Director
Josh Skolnick, Naturalist
Chris Cox, Receptionist
Alice White, Custodian

GOLF CLUBHOUSE STAFF

Ken Ledene, Manager/PGA Pro
Karla Coy, Assistant/Caterer

GOLF MAINTENANCE STAFF

Steve Storz, Superintendent
Mike Eytalis, Assistant
Carson Breeden, Mechanic
Kelly Mahan, Maintenance Worker

PARK MAINTENANCE STAFF

Robert Smith, Superintendent
Shawn Morrison, Assistant
Charlie Holeyton, Maintenance Worker
Brian Steffa, Maintenance Worker
Don Hayenga, Maintenance Worker



Board President Retires



Byron Forest Preserve District Board President Dr. R.M. Jarrett (left) stepped down July 14 after more than a decade at the helm. Jarrett cited the recent illness of his wife, Frances, as a factor in his decision to resign.

Jarrett's love for the prairie and Ogle County's natural resources began years before the Byron Forest Preserve became a reality. "The Bicentennial History of Ogle County", published in 1976, notes Jarrett as one of half a dozen Ogle County residents who were striving to establish nature preserves where native plants and wildlife could flourish. He is a charter member of the Ogle County Prairie Preservation Society.

Through the efforts of Jarrett and others, the Byron Forest Preserve District was established in 1981 and "Doc" was appointed its first board president, a position he held continuously throughout the years.

Jarrett recounted his first encounter with what is now the forest preserve at a meeting of Illinois Forest Preserve Board Members and Administrators on June 29.

"We looked over the fence and I saw a pasque flower," he said. "I wasn't really familiar with a pasque flower at the time, but I knew it should be preserved for our children and their children."

Appropriately, that meeting was held in the Prairie View Room of the Jarrett Prairie Center, which was, of course, named in Doc's honor.

Jarrett was born in Waverly, Illinois in 1920. He attended Illinois College, the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin, and Kansas State University, where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1945. He opened a practice in Byron in 1946.

Jarrett and Frances Jennings were married in 1941 and are the parents of six children. They also have several grandchildren.

We Will Miss "Little Miss Sunshine"

The Byron Forest Preserve lost a ray of sunshine with the death of volunteer Dorothy Bollen on Aug. 17. Dorothy and her husband, Marvin have been faithfully donating their time at the Jarrett Prairie Center for more than a year.

"She is so dearly missed," said Volunteer Coordinator Betty Fetzer. "We called her Miss Sunshine because she just brightened us up. She was such a delight. She was always smiling and always had a funny story - usually about herself."

Because of arthritis, Dorothy (below) liked to keep her fingers active and quickly became an expert at taking even tiny prairie seeds from their pods.

Also an accomplished cook, Dorothy often brought treats for the volunteer crew which gathers at the prairie center to work every Tuesday morning.

"She was always bringing in little treats. She will be remembered for so many things," Fetzer said.



Ready... Aim... FIRE!!



The second annual Civil War Days drew more than 5,000 people July 30 and 31, more than double last year's crowd. The event drew visitors from Chicagoland, as well as Rockford and the local vicinity.

Interim Director Jim Jennings declared the two-day event a resounding success.

"Without a doubt, it was a success from every perspective," he said. He said everyone he talked to, from visitors to the re-enactors to the forest preserve staff, voiced enthusiasm.

Perfect summer weather set the stage for Battery G's authentic encampment and re-enactment atop the forest preserve's rolling hills. Sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s prevailed throughout the weekend.



Next year's Civil War Days is scheduled for July 15 and 16. Plans are already underway for an expanded program which may include a cavalry unit, a native American encampment, and a circuit-riding preacher. The array of arts and crafts booths will also be increased.

Nature Preschool Classes Offered

By popular demand, the Byron Forest Preserve will continue to offer nature preschool programs throughout the fall. Early childhood education specialist Nancy Blank will teach the classes at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron.

Classes are scheduled as follows:

- * Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for three and four-year-olds,
- * Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. for four and five-year-olds,
- * Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for three and four-year-olds.

The Oct. 4 and 5 classes will be about Food from Trees. Seed Travelers is the topic for Oct. 11 and 12. Students will learn about Spiders on Oct. 18 and 19 and Bats on Oct. 25 and 26.

The Nov. 1 and 2 sessions will focus on Plants and Animals Preparing for Winter. On Nov. 8 and 9, the youngsters will study Native Americans/Indians. Wild Turkeys is the topic planned for Nov. 15 and 16.

The White-Tailed Deer will occupy students on Dec. 6 and 7, and Evergreen Trees is the subject of the Dec. 13 and 14 classes.

Classes are limited to 10 children. The cost is \$12 for four sessions, and advance registration is required. To register or for more information, call the Jarrett Prairie Center at (815) 234-8535.

Bits & Pieces

NEW GIFT SHOP ITEMS

There are several new items available at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.

Beaded bracelets and necklaces, 100% pure honey made by the Byron Forest Preserve's honey bees, turquoise bracelets, authentic gemstone jewelry, magnifying glasses, magic mini trees, mini telescopes, mini puzzles, handcrafted oak rockers and flowers, Spalding baseball caps, posters, books, and the collector's trio which includes two Christmas ornaments and a mug featuring the Lucius Read House and the Soldier's Monument.

Several items listed above are priced under \$2. These make great stocking stuffers.

DON'T MISS OUT.....COME CHECK US OUT.....8:30AM-4:30PM, Mon-Sat and 1-4:30PM on Sunday.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & CLOSING

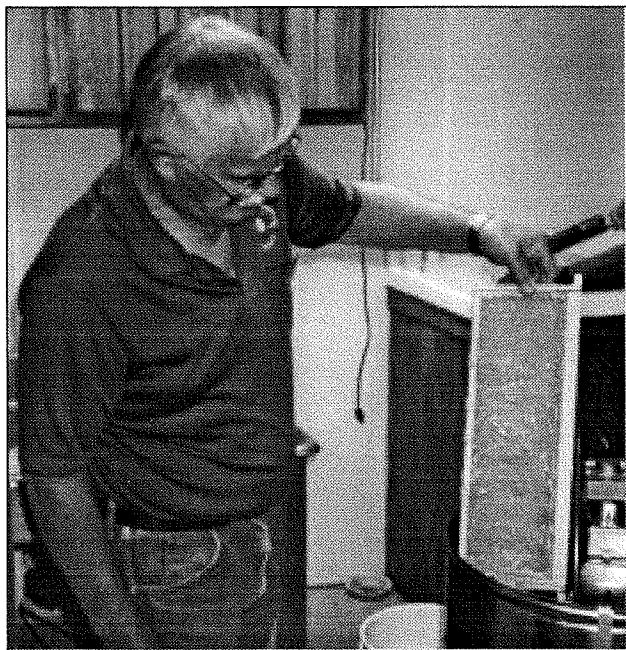
Don't forget, the Byron Prairie Preserve will again be adorned with beautiful displays of Christmas lights beginning December 1, 1994.

All facilities at the Byron Forest Preserve District will be closed on December 25, Christmas Day and January 1, 1995, New Year's Day.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES WELCOME

The Byron Forest Preserve District is now accepting reservations for Christmas parties at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Please call Chris for more information on available dates and services at (815) 234-8535, Monday-Friday, 8:15AM-4:45PM.

Volunteers...Busy as Beeeeyzzzz!!



Dick Boyd puts honeycomb in the extractor where the honey is "spun" out of the comb.



The indoor honeybee hive at the Jarrett Prairie Center has a new queen. After the untimely loss of the "old" queen, who was well-known for her red "bikini", the hive's residents quickly went to work to turn one of the developing eggs into her replacement.

Special feeding and care by the worker bees will transform an ordinary baby bee into a queen. Byron Forest Preserve bee expert and volunteer John Zaleskas said the new queen was sighted about two weeks ago just after she hatched. He said time will tell whether or not the new matriarch made her mating flight and returned to the hive to begin her role as pampered egg layer.

Queen bees are much larger than drones and workers. The old queen had been marked with a dot of red paint for easy identification.

Zaleskas said the queen escaped recently as he and forest preserve naturalist Josh Skolnick were treating the hive with a mite preventative. He said a subsequent search for her proved fruitless.

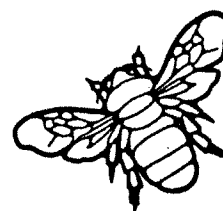
The hive in the museum at the Jarrett Prairie Center has clear sides made of transparent glass, which allows visitors to watch the bees at work making honey and caring for the queen and developing eggs. A plastic pipe travels from the hive through the wall to the outside, giving the bees free access to prairie flowers.



The honey is heated and separated from the wax. Volunteers Verna Seymour and Sara Pado catch the honey from the separator.



Volunteers Fred and Nancy Courtright with bottled honey which is on sale for \$1.25 in the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.



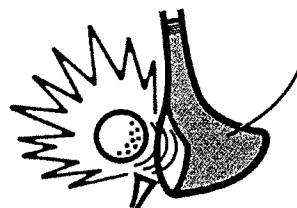
GOLF NEWS

Third Annual Gold Medal Classic Hosted

PrairieView hosted the third annual Gold Medal Classic golf tournament on Saturday and Sunday, September 10-11. The tournament began in 1992 and has grown each year. This year, there were 78 entries. The tournament was open to all men and women amateur golfers age 16 and over. The participants played 36 holes, 18 per day, of medal play at scratch. This year's winners were as follows:

Overall Tournament Champion Lloyd McWilliams, Cherry Valley
Score: 70 - 75 = 145 (1993 defending champion)
Prize: \$500 PrairieView Gift Certificate

Championship Flight: 1st-John Hinde, Rockford and 2nd-Dave Melms, Dekalb
A Flight: 1st-Steve Smith, Elgin and 2nd-Jay Medlar, Oregon
B Flight: 1st-Don White, Rockford and 2nd-Jamie Stewart, Darien
C Flight: 1st-Rick Canfield, Oregon and 2nd-Mike Barnes, Byron
D Flight: 1st-Mark Gavic, Loves Park and 2nd-Dave Bergstrom, Rockton



Salley Wessels of Mt. Morris was the only woman in the field this year. She played the same blue tees as the men. Wessels placed 7th in the A Flight with a score of 160.

Participants played over 6400 yards each day.

Congratulations to all this year's Gold Medal Classic winners and we hope to see you next year!!

Junior Golfers Learn Tournament Play

PrairieView Golf Course, Byron, hosted a Junior Golf Tournament/Picnic on August 15 for all who participated in this season's PrairieView Junior Golf Program. The tournament/picnic was basically an introduction to tournament play with some fun competition.

Eighty area boys and girls participated in the nine-week program this summer which was instructed by Clubhouse Manager/PGA Pro Ken Ledene.

There were seven categories in the "Tournament Play" and seven "contests".

"Tournament Play" winners were as follows: Boy's Long Nine Holes-Mike Lipps, Boy's Short Nine Holes-Ryan Scudder, Boy's Long Six Holes-Brock Cunningham, Girl's Short Six-Laura Balch, Mixed Short Four-Scott Goley, Mixed Short Three-Kyle Jones, Mixed Very Short-Caleb Rainwater.

The contests were broken down into four age groups (7, 8-9, 10-11, and 12 & over). "Contest" winners were as follows: Long Drive-Eric Lindgren, Nick Ziegler, Tom Reber, Jonathan Seabold. Putting-Caleb Rainwater, Tom Ashelford, Tara Cummins, Matt Meline. Chipping-Nick Ziegler tied Alex Jurasek, Michelle Horneij, Adam Holt. Ball Bounce-Erik Lindgren, Ben Johnson, Scott Goley tied Michelle Horneij, Jonathan Seabold. Ball Stacking-Jason Ferolie tied Caleb Rainwater, Alex Jurasek tied Kyle Jones and Kyle Mitchell, Jennifer Scudder tied Brock Cunningham and Melissa Moser, Matt Meline tied Jay Townsend. Tall Tee Long Drive-Ben Johnson, Tom Reber, Matt Meline. Rules & Etiquette Test-Ryan Considine tied Tom Ashelford, Nicole Bearman tied Laura Balch and Blake Engelson, Jason Mavity.

Ledene stated, "The kids really enjoyed themselves and it was a good ending to a successful program." Ledene also commended all of the parents and volunteers that made the program such a success.

What's Blooming?

The Byron Forest Preserve offers the best of two worlds when it comes to fall colors. With its combination of woods and prairie, the hues and subtle shades of autumn are both breath-taking and varied.

"One way you can tell the prairie in the fall is by the red color of the grasses. Some believe the prairie is as beautiful as the woods in the fall," said Naturalist Josh Skolnick.

The oaks and sugar maples have put on their familiar reds, golds and oranges, while the grasses and forbs of the prairie put on their reds, silvers, yellows and purples.

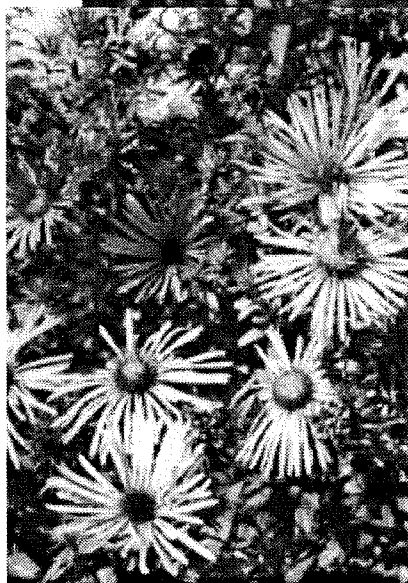
Skolnick went on to detail the beauty of the prairie in autumn. "Little bluestem is very striking now - it has turned red and its seeds are silver. Big bluestem is at its full height, and the Indian grass is very feathery. Fall is also the time for goldenrods, gentians and asters," he said.

Pictured are just two of the colorful fall bloomers. In the upper picture is stiff goldenrod, prevalent on the Roundabout Trail. If you look closely, you can see two moths, a fly and a bee on the golden yellow flowers. The lower photo is a New England aster, a lovely lavender wildflower also on the Roundabout Trail.

Besides the New England aster, other species of asters can be found in the Jarrett Prairie, including sky blue aster, silky aster and aromatic aster.

Skolnick said seed-collecting from the grasses and other prairie plants will continue through mid-November, and volunteers are needed for this project.

The seeds are needed to expand and restore the prairie at the Byron Forest Preserve and some are also for sale in the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.



District Marks 100th!



The volunteer program at the Byron Forest Preserve reached the century mark recently. Byron teenager Mike Lipps (left) signed on July 20 as the district's 100th volunteer.

Already Mike, who is 14, has helped out in a variety of ways - he's harvested prairie flower seeds, worked with the video camera at the Jarrett Prairie Center, cleaned windows, and done golf course maintenance tasks.

Volunteer Coordinator Betty Fetzer said she is excited to have reached the 100 milestone.

"I think it's great. We're really chugging along," she said.

Mike said it was easy to get involved as Byron Forest Preserve volunteer.

"I just asked," he said.

Mike, the son of Estill and Kathren Lipps, will be a freshman at Byron High School this fall. An enthusiastic junior golfer at PrairieView, he was also a member of the Byron Park District's championship Sandy Koufax baseball team this summer, and plans to play basketball during the school year.

Second Saturday - Fall Series

The second series of Second Saturday Concerts is scheduled to begin with folk singer Kristina Olson on Oct. 8.

Catie Curtis will continue the folk series on Nov. 12, and wrapping up the concerts will be The Small Potatoes and Sons of the Never Wrong.

All three concerts will begin at 8 p.m. in the Jarrett Prairie Center. Tickets are \$7 each. For information and reservations, call (815) 234-8535.

The Byron Forest Preserve's first series of Second Saturday Concerts were very well-received last March, April and May.

Carrie Newcomer played to a packed house when she kicked off the spring series. L.J. Booth and Lou and Peter Berryman were other spring attractions.

Learn To Build Squirrel Feeders



Learn how to build a squirrel feeder at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Byron Forest Preserve. Byron resident Mike Eytalis will teach the class, which will be held in the Jarrett Prairie Center.

Kits may be purchased at the class. Advance registration is required for the class. To register or for more information, call (815) 234-8535.

Already assembled squirrel feeders are available for \$18 each in the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop.

SAVE!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE!**OCTOBER**

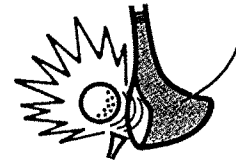
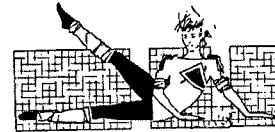
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RAIN DATE for September 24 Jam Session - Noon-6 PM - Prairie Stage
Tighten-N-Tone - 9:30-10:30 AM - Jarrett Prairie Center
Squirrel Feeders - 7 PM - JPC

Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC

Senior Exercise - 11-11:45 AM - JPC

Tighten-N-Tone - 5:30-6:30 PM - JPC
District Volunteers - 8:30 AM - JPC
Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
Introduction To Quilting - 9-11:30 AM - JPC
Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
Second Saturday Folk Music Concert - Kristina Oleson - 8 PM - JPC
Bird Walk - 7:30 AM - JPC
Byron Forest Preserve District Board/Staff Planning Meeting - 8 AM-1 PM - JPC
Prairie Seed Collecting - Volunteer Training - 10 AM - JPC
Rock River Valley Beekeepers - 1-4 PM - JPC
Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting - 7:30 PM - JPC
Rock River Valley Wild Ones - 6-8:30 PM - JPC
Woodcarving Seminar - 10 AM-4 PM - JPC
Golf Club at PrairieView Annual Meeting - 6-9 PM - JPC

**NOVEMBER**

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Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC

Senior Exercise - 11-11:45 AM - JPC

Tighten-N-Tone - 5:30-6:30 PM - JPC
Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
District Volunteers - 8:30 AM - JPC
Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
Summer Tree Care and Pruning - 9-11 AM - JPC
Creative Memories (Scrapbook Class) - 9 AM-5 PM - JPC
Tighten-N-Tone - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
Decorating Your Christmas Tree - 7-8:30 PM - JPC
Second Saturday Folk Music Concert - Catie Curtis - 8 PM - JPC
Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting - 7:30 PM - JPC
Rock River Valley Wild Ones - 6 PM - JPC
Prairie Seed Collecting - Volunteer Training - 10 AM - JPC
JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER CLOSED - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
Farm Toy Show

SIGN UP NOW!!
234-8535

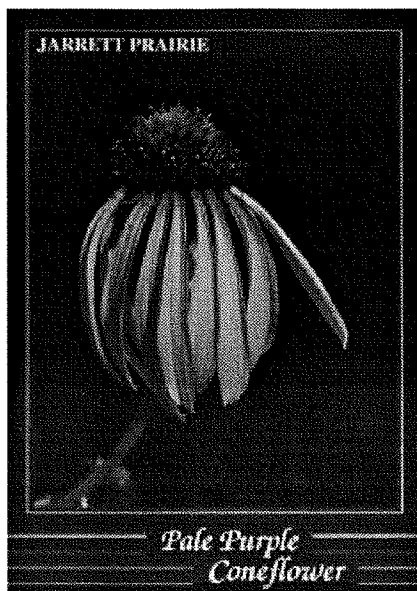
**DECEMBER**

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Third Annual Christmas Craft Show - 9 AM-4 PM - JPC
Nature Preschool (age 3-4) - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC

Tighten-N-Tone - 5:30-6:30 PM - JPC
District Volunteers - 8:30 AM - JPC
Nature Preschool (age 4-5) - 1:30-2:30 PM - JPC
Public Sky Viewing - Dusk - Weiskopf Observatory
Astronomy Club Meeting - 7 PM - Weiskopf Observatory
Second Saturday Folk Music Concert - Small Potatoes & Sons of the Never Wrong - 8 PM - JPC
Tighten-N-Tone - 9:30-10:30 AM - JPC
Rock River Valley Wild Ones - 6 PM - JPC
Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting - 7:30 PM - JPC
JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!





The Byron Forest Preserve's second postcard (left) is now available. The postcard depicts the beautiful pale purple coneflower which can be found at the Prairie Preserve.

The District's first postcard which pictured the Jarrett Prairie Center has been a big hit!!

The postcards may be purchased for \$.25 each at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop located at 7993 North River Road in Byron.

The postcards are also available at the Byron Chamber of Commerce office, Byron Pharmacy, and the White Pines Inn in Oregon.

For more information or to order, call (815) 234-8535.

Jarrett Prairie Center Hours
Monday - Saturday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday, 1 - 4:30 PM
Prairie Preserve, Dawn - Dusk
Come visit us!!

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
7993 N RIVER RD
BYRON IL 61010

For Your Information...

At the gateway to the historic Northwest Passage, and right in your own backyard, lies Illinois' best kept secret--the spectacular and fun-filled country of Blackhawk Waterways.

Made up of four picturesque counties (Whiteside, Carroll, Ogle, Lee), Blackhawk Waterways offers a dazzling array of activities including local fairs and festivals, rivers, parks, attractions, campgrounds, bed & breakfasts, motels and hotels, museums, historic structures, monuments, and statues.

For more information, please contact:

Blackhawk Waterways
Convention &
Visitors Bureau

201 North Franklin Avenue
Polo, Illinois 61064
1-800-678-2108 or
(815) 946-2108

BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO 50

POSTAL PATRON
BYRON IL 61010