

# Byron Forest Preserve District Newsletter

## Board of Commissioners:

Dr. R.M. Jarrett, President  
Margaret Adams, Secretary & Treasurer  
Michael Eytalis, Commissioner

Gene Paquet, Commissioner  
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner  
Jack F. Philbrick, Director

1990 Vol. 1

(815) 234-8535

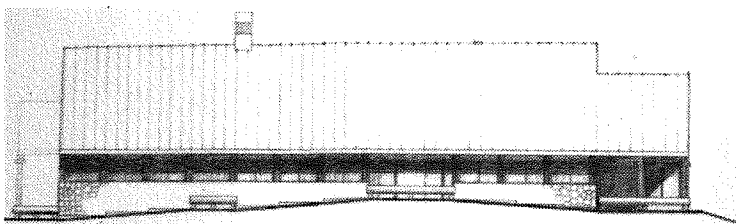
SPRING ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Rd.

Byron, Illinois 61010

## Jarrett Nature Center Design Approved



Front View

After two (2) years of committee meetings, assistance from energy experts, outdoor education specialists, staff and board meetings, the district's nature center plan was presented and approved this month by the Byron Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners.

In a unanimous vote, Architect Dick Hynes was directed to complete the drawings and was given budget approval.

The center will be located overlooking the largest dolomite prairie in Northern Illinois some 1000 yards south of the River Road entrance to the Prairie Preserve.

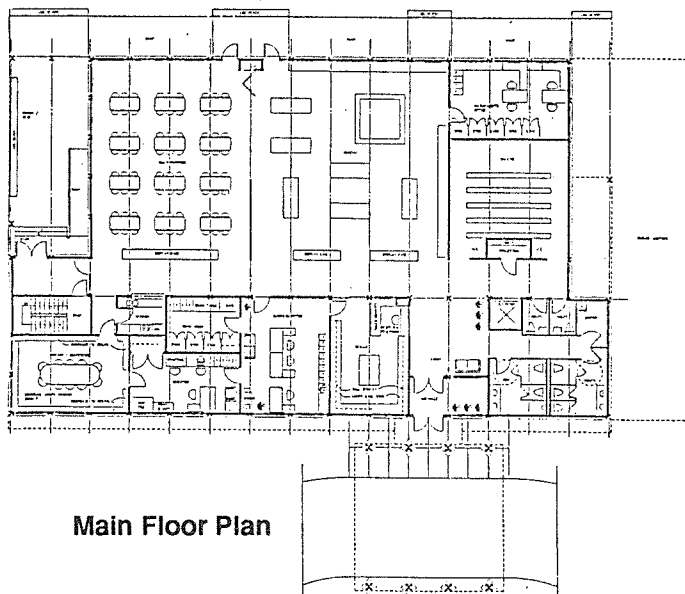
Cost estimates are \$630,000 with a 7,800 square foot main floor and a complete basement.

Facilities include: reception area, gift shop, administrative offices, a multi-purpose classroom, winter sports area, small visual aids theater, museum, combined reference library-

board room, naturalist office, radio station, weather station, and district administrative offices.

Some of the downstairs will not be finished initially until program development warrants more improvements.

Ground breaking is targeted for no later than June 9, 1990, with completion in eight months.



Main Floor Plan



### Ronnie Raccoon Corner

Well folks, here we are with spring springing all over!

If you had not heard, the club has already visited the Milwaukee Zoo, and we saw my brothers and sisters shaking off winter.

This month, the club is to start construction of its pet dinosaur and by Byron-Fest, we plan to show him to everyone.

Because we don't want to step on any eggs, the next meeting will be on April 21, 1990.

Remember to be ready for a primitive cookout.

### Hunter Safety Grant Submitted



The district has authorized the director to submit a grant application to include a hunter safety range in the basement of the Jarrett Nature Center. However, funding of these projects has not been occurring recently. The range and adjacent classroom could be used to teach boating safety, snowmobiling safety, and outdoor education, as well as providing police practice facilities.

The district teaches hunter safety in its maintenance shop presently and has graduated over 100 students in the four years it has provided the service.

Director Philbrick is the master instructor for Ogle County.

Should the district receive grant approval, the grant would provide 75¢ on the dollar. This would allow additional multi-purpose space to be provided in the basement of the center.



# City submits recreational bike path grant

Mayor Lyle Blanchard, Councilwoman Kathy Hamas, and Representative Myron Olson traveled to Springfield last month to submit an application for approximately \$70,000 for the City of Byron to develop the first leg and hub of a pathway system that could eventually link miles of bikeways to Byron.

The grant permits community bikers to make a safe approach from Sunshine Park to the Route 72 bridge path. From the south end of the bridge, the Byron Forest Preserve will develop two miles of trail on their property.

Money from the grant will be matched 50-50 as follows:

Byron Forest Preserve	3,200
Ogle Top Open Space and Park Foundation	20,000
Byron Recreational Pathway Council	1,300
City of Byron	15,450

The grant comes from a 2.5 million dollar fund established to assist in expanding the state bike pathway offering.



Representative Myron Olson, Mayor Lyle Blanchard, IDOC Division Chief Ron Hallberg, and Kathy Hamas presenting Byron Grant Application.



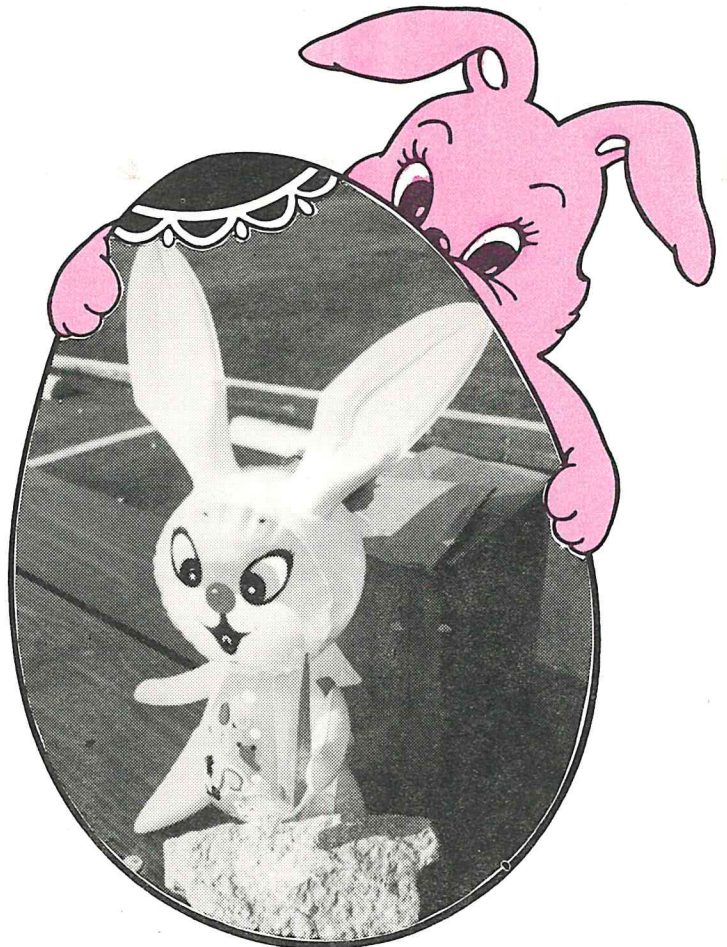
## Tree hog eats trees

Last fall the district purchased a \$5,000 new 3 pt. hitch attachment to be used on their tractor to cut undesirable invaders of the prairie. To date, it has been used to clear over ten (10) acres of scrubs.

The unit was invented by Mr. York in Texas and has become a big labor saver. An 18" tree can be cut 1" below the ground level in eighteen (18) seconds.



Maintenance worker, Charlie Holeton, shown operating the new tree hog.





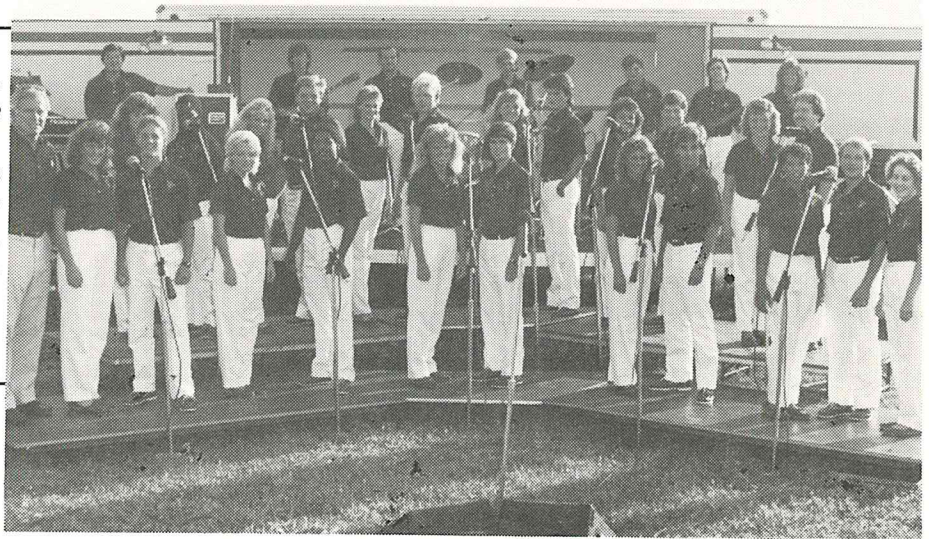
# Picnic On The Prairie

If you're out of town on Saturday, June 9, 1990, you will miss one of the events of the year.

Byron Forest Preserve Commissioners have planned an old fashioned picnic, hay rides, and live stage entertainment for you.

Last year's picnic brought over 400 district residents to the purely fun outing.

Watch for more information.



## Backyard Composting - It's Here!

Recently, the City of Oregon announced its mandatory recycling program. Additionally, the Byron City Council has initiated a study of yard waste handling, and the Byron Grange has been helping the forest preserve district develop a recycling program for yard waste.

Why all the concern?

Quite simply, our waste is creating a problem bigger than the problem of having enough to eat.

Today's modern packaging does not permit quick deterioration. Plastic products not only seldom decay, they frequently create toxic chemical fumes when burned.

Our state has legislated that no more yard waste may be placed in landfills after June 30, 1990. This means we must find safe ways to handle its disposal if we continue to generate the material.

Fortunately, all yard waste is organic, and we can utilize it to improve the chemistry of our yards.

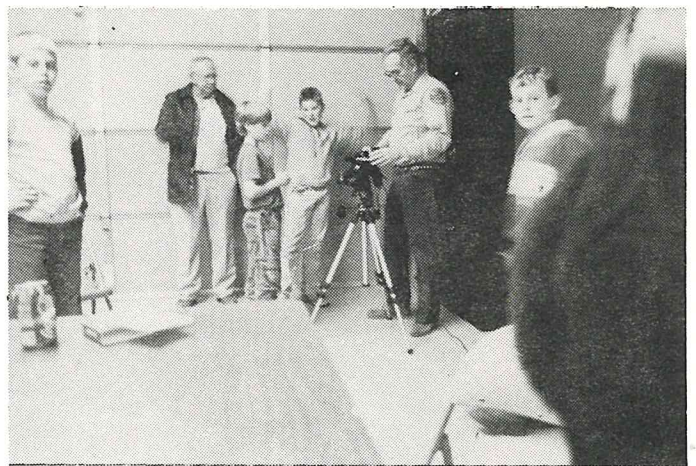
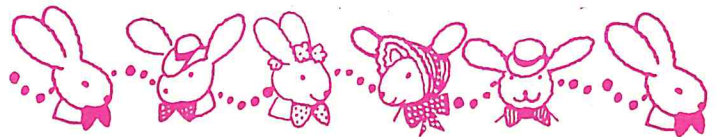
Branches can be chipped and used for biodegradable mulch.

Leaves can be shredded, composted, even if necessary,

we are still permitted to burn them.

Finally, if we mow grass when we should, we don't need to pick it up. It is over 90% moisture and contains nitrogen that can assist the soil.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has printed a two-page handout that is available on request from the forest preserve office by calling (815) 234-8535 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. This flier shows you how easy you can eliminate the yard waste and end up with a beneficial by-product.



Ranger Rick Club members shown learning to use a video camera during their monthly meeting.





# Golf Course Underway

The Byron Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners approved the preliminary design of the Prairie View Golf Course this past month.

The course will utilize approximately 159 acres of the Prairie Preserve. Designed to parallel German Church Road, the course will host four or five tees per hole and will have up to three ponds.

Construction is planned for June of this year and will include the course, new wells, ponds, parking area, driving range, and a small clubhouse.

In other action by the board, bids have been let for construction of the golf maintenance facilities. This building will be located adjacent to the existing district service center and will be constructed by the preserve staff and subcontractors.

Director Philbrick predicted, "The course will be open for limited play in mid 1991, if seeding is successfully accomplished this fall. If not, it could be the spring of 1992." Several courses that were completed in the past two years, were delayed due to the shortage of rainfall.

Card of the course

Hole	Yds.	Par
1	400	4
2	510	5
3	330	4
4	150	3
5	350	4
6	530	5
7	415	4
8	190	3
9	380	4
OUT	3255	36
10	410	4
11	500	5
12	340	4
13	160	3
14	360	4
15	520	5
16	420	4
17	180	3
18	370	4
IN	3260	36
OUT	3255	36
TOT.	6515	72

Area of Golf Course = 159.0 Acres

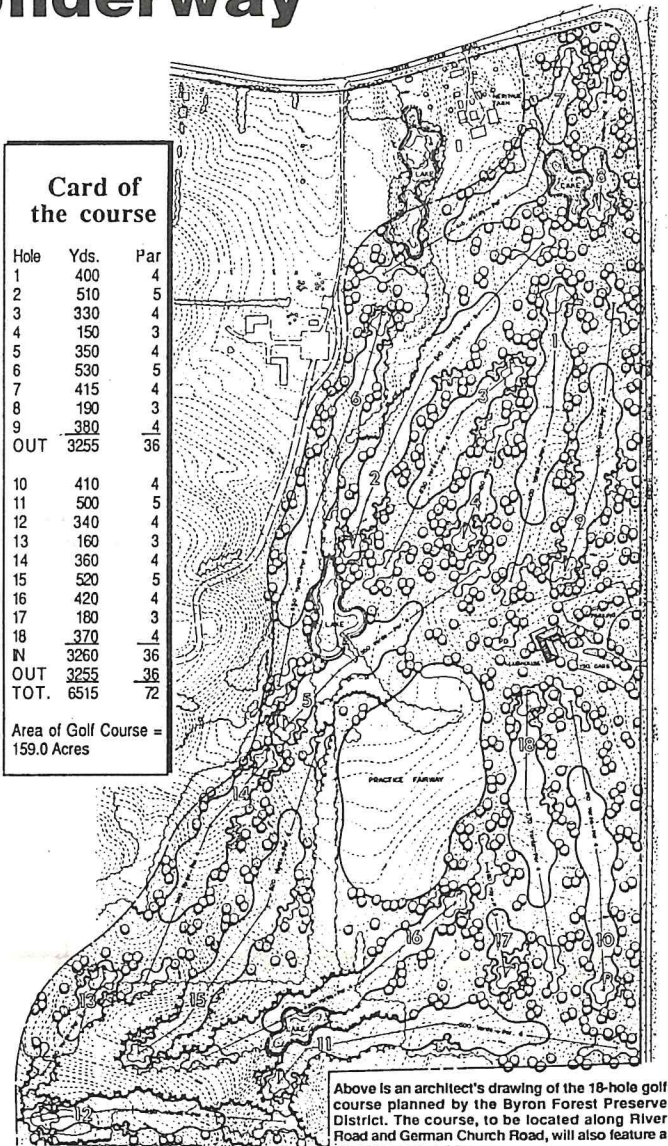
## Klehm Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Through the efforts of the Northern Illinois Botanical Society, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, and many others, our Northern Illinois area will soon be able to enjoy studying plant material as good, if not better in some respects, as found at Morton Arboretum.

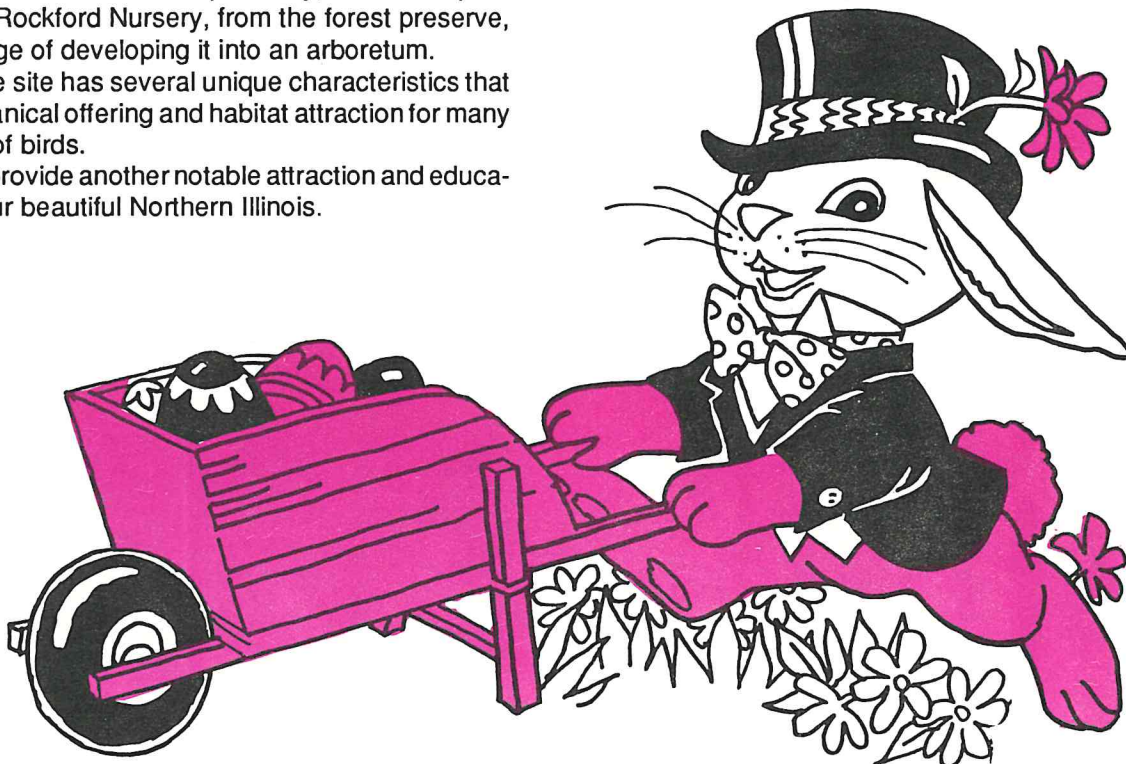
In 1985, Carl and Louis Klehm donated the Rockford Nursery to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District to be made into an arboretum. This past July, NIBS accepted the offer of the Rockford Nursery, from the forest preserve, and the challenge of developing it into an arboretum.

The 115-acre site has several unique characteristics that enhance its botanical offering and habitat attraction for many varied species of birds.

The site will provide another notable attraction and education facility to our beautiful Northern Illinois.



Above is an architect's drawing of the 18-hole golf course planned by the Byron Forest Preserve District. The course, to be located along River Road and German Church Road, will also feature a pro-shop and clubhouse.





# Management changes at the Forest Preserve

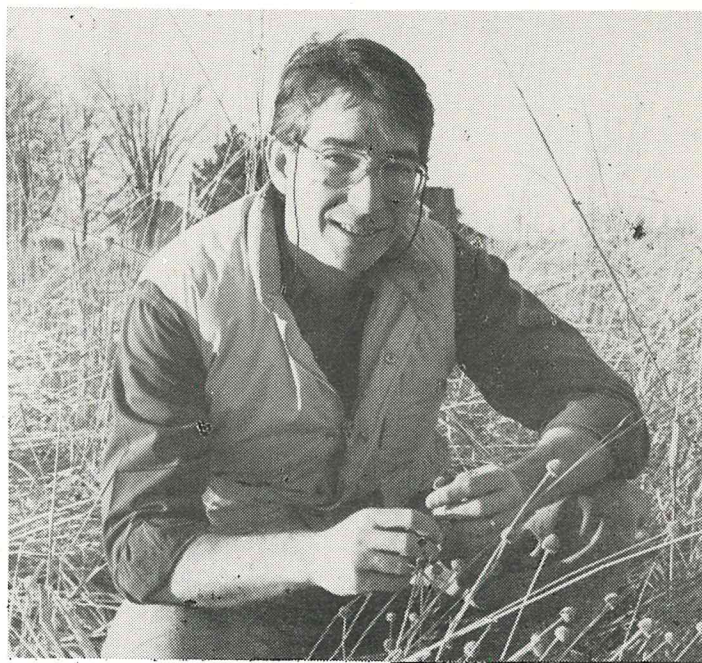
## Bronny joins staff

Mr. Christopher Bronny, RR 1, Galva, Illinois has accepted the position of naturalist for the Jarrett Nature Center.

Chris will start work July 1, 1990, and has already purchased a home in Byron. His wife, Mary Kay, is an OBGyn nurse, and their daughter, Krystiana, is five years old. They plan to move in June.

Chris is a 1981 Elmhurst College graduate with a B.A. in education. He has currently completed over eighteen (18) credit hours towards a Master of Science degree with emphasis on Botany and Ecology. He has been teaching at Galva School District #224 since he graduated in 1981.

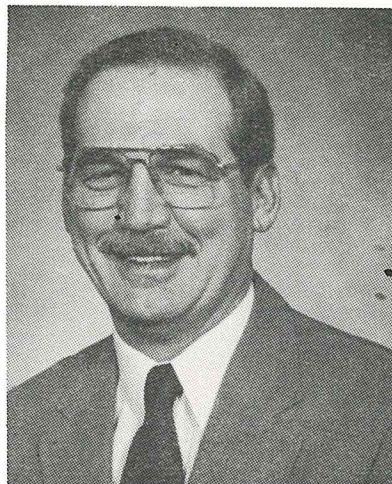
Mr. Bronny recently published an article in the winter issue of Restoration and Management, titled "Chronicles of Restoration." He has demonstrated a love for prairie and ecology and will be in charge of all areas of the district's outdoor education programming.



Naturalist Chris Bronny joins the district staff in July.



## Mr. Michael Eytalis becomes commissioner



This past month the Ogle County Board interviewed five candidates for the replacement of resigning Commissioner Bullock.

Commissioner Eytalis is a long-time resident of the Byron community, and he and his wife, Pat, are active in the community.

Mike and Pat have three sons, Thomas, Christopher, and Timothy.

Mike is a volunteer at Severson Dells Forest Preserve, a member of the

Rock River Flycasters Club, co-chairman of the Byron Recreational Path Council, and an Ogle County member at large of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D.

He is a sponsor and leader for a local "Kids for Conservation Club" and participates in many varied outdoor and environmental hobbies.

Mr. Eytalis' term is for three (3) years.



Mrs. Cathie Reber joins the Byron Forest Preserve staff. Mrs. Reber will be heavily involved in operations and planning. Cathie is presently Acting Business Manager.





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*Handwritten signature or initials.*

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Byron Forest Preserve District  
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Byron, Illinois

## Annual Lions Easter Egg Hunt



Photo shows Co-chairman Gene Reber preparing for Saturday, April 14, 1990, Byron Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt is to be held at the Byron Forest Preserve District's Prairie Preserve located at 7993 River Road, Byron, Illinois, for pre-school thru fourth grade.