

Fall '97

Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Byron's Soldier's and Sailor's Monument at a glance

Andersonville, the Spanish-American War, lightning, a tornado, Byron's Soldier's and Sailor's Monument. Believe it or not all of these are probably inter-related. And that is what the Byron Museum wants to find out. That is why we need you. Do you have an interest in researching any of these topics or finding your own concerning the monument. The Museum is planning an exhibit of the historical Soldier's and Sailor's Monument. And we are looking for volunteers.

The monument, one of the first in the Illinois commemorating Byron soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War, was erected at a cost of \$950, which increased to \$1,400 with the addition of fencing and foundation work. The Soldier's and Sailor's Monument was dedicated on October 18, 1866. The 12-foot tall marble shaft was topped by an eagle and stood on a stone base on a small grassy knoll at the intersection of Second and Chestnut streets. On three sides of the plinth is listed the inscription, "In memory of the patriotic boys of Byron, who fell in subduing the Great Rebellion -- 1861-1864." In 1877 a second plinth was added with additional names at a cost of \$300. In 1897 two cannons were added, one of which was used in service to the United States during the Civil War.

On Feb. 14, 1985, the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. In December 1984 Museum Board member Helen Debnam and others traveled to Springfield to present information on the monument to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council. That symbolic value was proved by its display on the Byron flag, City stationary, game board of Byron and commemorative Bicentennial plate.

The history of the monument is ever growing. And you can be a part of it by volunteering to do research on subjects such as the lightning strike, individuals names listed on the monument such as those from the Spanish-American War and Byron's role in the war, or a soldier who may have died at Andersonville. Remember, we also need volunteers to help build and setup the display. Call today. Byron Museum needs you.



Soldiers and Sailors Monument-

It's history in the making

Be a part of history in the making. Byron Museum needs you to volunteer to help as a researcher, setup person or other aspects of a display featuring the Soldier's and Sailor's monument. Byron Museum volunteer Jim Meissen has uncovered some interesting possibilities in researching the names of the soldiers and sailors listed on the monument. To volunteer for research, building or setup the display, or any other aspect phone Byron Museum volunteer coordinator Mary Paquet, at 234-5031.

Share the light - Volunteer

America's most famous volunteers were the Minutemen. They proved that volunteering for one's community is an essential part of that body's success. In that spirit, we need you. Your school and community needs you. Please consider volunteering your time or expertise for one of the many activities that will occur this year. Share a light with a child or an adult and help teach others to shine on their own.

Happenings at the Forest Preserve

The Byron Forest Preserve District and PrairieView Golf Course have many fall and winter programs for the entire family to enjoy.

There are preschool classes, basketweaving, special dessert making classes, nature walks, kids concerts, Second Saturday concerts, junior and senior Ranger Rick, and adventure club. Special events scheduled are the Annual Holiday Craft Show and Halloween on the Prairie.

Visit the nature center museum and gift shop seven days per week. Take a walk on one of the many trails offered. Have a picnic at one of the shelters. View the constellations, stars, moons, and much more at Weiskoph Observatory.

Prairie View Golf Course will offer many fall specials. Ground breaking for the new clubhouse expansion is scheduled to begin in September. Call 815-234-GOLF for more information.

Don't miss out on everything that is going on at the Byron Forest Preserve and PrairieView Golf Course. Be sure to turn to pages 8-13 to see what's happening!

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**You're
Invited**

**Byron Fire Department
Annual Fire Prevention**

OPEN HOUSE

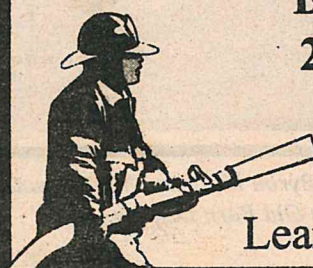
Sunday, October 12, 1997

11:00am - 3:00pm

**Byron Fire Station
232 W. 2nd Street**

**Demonstrations
Refreshments**

Learn Stop-Drop & Roll



See
Sparky
Pluggie
Freddie



Byron Forest Preserve News

7993 North River Road, Byron (815) 234-8535

Preservation • Education • Recreation



Annual Holiday Craft Show

The Byron Forest Preserve's sixth annual Holiday Craft Show will be held from 9 am-4 pm on Saturday, November 15, 1997, at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

The show will feature 35 exhibitors who will offer a variety of hand-crafted items, including holiday ornaments and decorations, candles, wreaths, quilts, dolls, wood carvings, wooden furniture (far right), hand-painted sweatshirts (right), baskets and birdhouses.

A concessions stand will be open throughout the day.

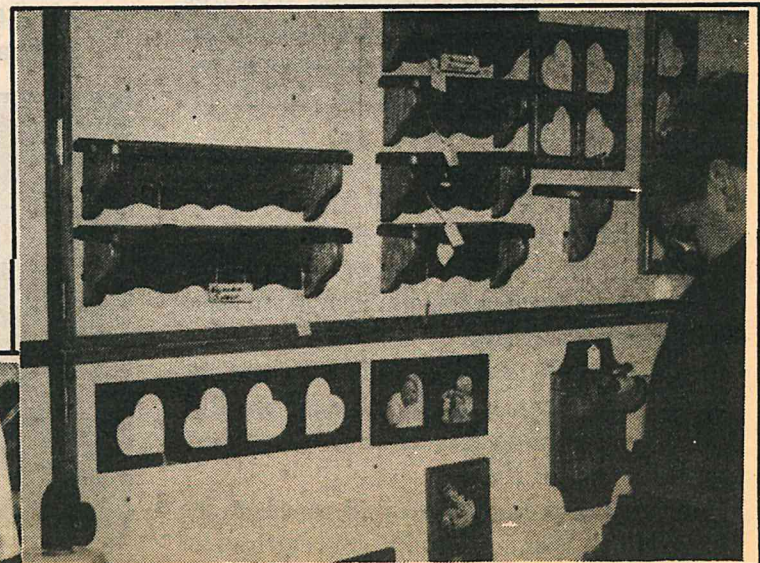
Parents can come and shop while the youngsters learn about their heritage at the hands-on natural history exhibits in the prairie center museum.

Admission is free and reservations are not required to attend the event. The Jarrett Prairie Center is handicapped accessible.

Through cooperative efforts, the Forest Preserve, the Byron Chamber, and city merchants have scheduled the craft show and their annual Christmas walk events on the same weekend. So everyone will be able to get their shopping done early plus bring the kids and have fun too!

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

Do your holiday shopping at the Sixth Annual Holiday Craft show at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center.



Unique Preschool Offered

Get ready for kindergarten...since the Nature Preschool classes are so popular at the Byron Forest Preserve, we will begin a two-day preschool starting in September.

The classes will offer a unique combination of preschool readiness material and learning activities that use nature explorations as a springboard for learning and growing. The material is designed to focus on the basic concepts appropriate to a young child's development and ability. The concepts include color recognition, sequencing, body awareness, reading readiness, and other important skills learned through hours of learning fun. Every child should dress for the weather. Children are considered enrolled for the entire length of the respective session upon registration. Class size: 12 students maximum.

Teachers: Barb Wingert and Hazel Stein.

Choice of classes:

Monday/Wednesday - 9-11 am - Tuesday/Thursday - 9-11 am - Tuesday/Thursday - 1-3 pm

Fall session: 12 weeks (September 15-December 8) \$150 Fee

Winter session: 12 weeks (January 12-March 30) \$150 Fee

Spring session: 8 weeks (April 6-May 25) \$100 Fee

Payment options for Fall and Winter classes:

1) Paid in full at registration \$135 (discount)

2) Easy payment plan of three equal payments of \$50. First payment due at registration. Second and third payments due the first of the month. Payments may be made by cash, check, or Visa/Mastercard. Pre-registration required. Please call (815) 234-8535 for more information.

Halloween on the Prairie

Come join in on the fun
at the Jarrett Prairie Center
Sunday, October 26, 1997

* Museum Grand Opening *

* Games & Prizes *

* Wear Your Costume *

* Safety Tips *

* Surprise Guest *

* Free Trick or Treat Bags *

Watch for more details later!!

Museum Metamorphosis - Phase II

The museum remodeling is moving along at a steady pace. The prairie and woodland habitats have reached the finishing touches stage. We are down to the detail work now and looking at a fast approaching completion date in October.

The Bison, Deer, and other animals now have a home. They are no longer just "stuffed" animals sitting around, but a part of an interconnected ecosystem group of plants and animals.

The new displays help to give a visitor a sense of what this area used to look like before the pioneers arrived. They show the animals and plants that came to inhabit this area after many centuries of evolution. Interpretive panels will deepen the visitors understanding of the prairie and savanna ecosystems that once were common here.

Hands on displays will invite the visitor to explore the smells and textures of the natural world, giving a greater appreciation for "Mother Nature's" handiwork.

Join us as we continue to grow and develop as a Forest Preserve and a Nature Center.



Volunteers Make It Happen! - (Left) Christina Hall paints scenery on a wall at the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum. (Below) L-r-Sister Brown, Sister Vigoran, and Sister Vermason assist staff with an exhibit in the museum.



Oak Savanna On Its Way To Recovery!!

Oak savanna restoration is under way at the Byron Forest Preserve. For those of you who have been out wandering about the preserve, you have heard the sound of chainsaws off in the distance or even seen staff carting brush away. These are just a couple of techniques entailed in savanna restoration.

I know it sounds a little funny, a forest preserve cutting down trees, but let me explain. The goal of the preserve is to restore the land to presettlement conditions. Northern Illinois looks far different today than it did in the year 1800. What is now a heavily wooded area, thick with brush was once an oak savanna or wide open prairie. In 1800, the land probably looked as it had 5000 years before. When settlers arrived in the early to mid-1800's, many of the native bur oaks were cut down for wood. However, not all of them were taken. Surprisingly, some still survive today.

In the late 1890's, many native species, after almost a half century of being over grazed, had disappeared. Because of the over grazing, many species are now only found in small areas of remnant prairie, such as the Byron Forest Preserve. The restoration process did not even start to take place on these remnant prairies until the early eighties. For almost 100 years, the native plants and natural areas have been grazed, not allowing the much needed wildfires to keep nonnative and weedy species at bay.

Due to the lack of fire on the prairie, invasive, weedy species were given the chance to grow up. Some of these trees, which were seldom found on the prairie, are now 30-50 years old. They have grown up and are now choking out the native bur oaks. It is our job here in the restoration department to exterminate these invasive species and save the oak trees from being shaded out. If you would like to find out more information on native species of Illinois or oak savanna restoration, call 234-8535, ext. 222.

Killer Kitty!

Lying on the window sill and watching the leaves blow outside, Kitty looks rather peaceful. When Kitty decides to arise from his nap and make his daily rounds around the house, he saunters from room to room with style that French designers dream about. What kind of terror could this sleek feline ever cause? What harm would Kitty ever do to another animal? A Wisconsin study done by John Coleman and Stanley Temple in 1990 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison revealed startling information. Apparently, Kitty isn't quite the peaceful pet he pretends to be. Their most conservative estimate stated that 7.8 million birds per year, in the state of Wisconsin, were killed by domestic cats. The majority of those killed were songbirds. They also found that millions of rabbits also fell prey to cats each year.

I don't mean to say that all cats need to be kept indoors or put out on a leash when they are allowed outside. Let's face it, that's just not going to happen. However, as owners of these pets, we are not only responsible for their safety, but also the safety of the wild animals that they interact with. The same Wisconsin study also revealed that the most productive hunting done by domestic cats took place at night when the dew aided their sense of smell. If Kitty is brought in at night, not only will more wildlife survive, but he'll be on guard against any marauding mice that may try to infiltrate your home. My guess is mice will cause you more grief than song birds that live in the pastures and yards behind your house.

Reference: The Illinois Steward. Warner, Richard E., "On the Prowl". pp22-4. Fall 1996.

Help Wanted

This is a busy time of the year for us here in the Restoration Department. With so many plants going to seed at the same time and limited resources it is hard to keep up with the workload. We would greatly appreciate a few hours of time to help us collect seeds this fall.

Anyone who has recently visited the Byron Forest Preserve or even gone for a drive along a country road can't help but notice the many different species of wildflowers in bloom. Here on the preserve, Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*), Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Prairie Blazing Star or Gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*), Purple Prairie Clover (*Petalostemum purpureum*), and Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*) are in bloom creating a purple cover over the prairie. If yellow is more your color, Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), and Stiff Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*) are also in abundance on the preserve. Like to be dazzled? Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) will astound you with its bright red-orange color.

Some of these plants are only in bloom for a short period of time. Others continue to bloom for several weeks. Soon many of these species will start to go to seed.

If you are interested in spending a few quality hours outside on Saturday, October 11, 1997, come on over to the Byron Forest Preserve. We will be meeting at the maintenance buildings at 9 am and will finish up around noon.

Did you know...?

World population increased by 80 million people in 1996, bringing the global total to 5.77 billion. - Worldwatch Institute, *Vital Signs* 1997

Star Notes



Jupiter

August is here and the warm days of summer are starting to give way to the cool nights of fall. The August night sky brings us a chance to view five planets in one night. Bright Venus is the first one visible after sunset, as it plays the role of the evening star in the west. Higher in the southwest is reddish Mars and glowing in the southeast is vibrant Jupiter with its dance of moons. The next two require clear, dark skies and a good sky map to spot. Uranus and Neptune are dim points of light due to their great distance from us. August also brings us the Perseid meteor shower. The showiest and best known of the meteor showers, it peaks around August 12th, which

is a regular Tuesday viewing night.

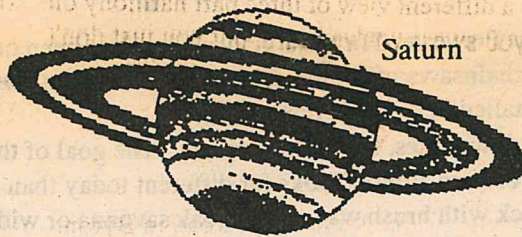
Looking ahead to September, the sun will be setting a little earlier each night, about 7 pm in early September. This should give us good views of Sagittarius and Scorpio. The center of our galaxy lies in this direction and the sky abounds with star clusters and nebula. The Summer Triangle, bounded by the bright stars Deneb, Altair, and Vega, floats high overhead and low in the east, Saturn returns to the evening sky.

October should give us good views of Jupiter and Saturn, the two largest planets in our Solar System, as they are high in the sky. Perseus is now climbing in the east and Pegasus and Andromeda are rising ever higher. Look for the small form of Delphinus the Dolphin between the head of Pegasus and the bright star Altair.

November brings the return of Taurus the bull and the Pleides, an open cluster sometimes called the Seven Sisters. Saturn is high overhead and so is the Andromeda Galaxy. One of the closest galaxies to our own, it is visible to the naked eye on dark, cloudless nights.

The coming of winter brings early darkness and cold, clear nights. The lack of water vapor and heat in the atmosphere makes for excellent skyviewing conditions. Winter also boasts some of the most dramatic constellations and telescope targets of the year. Orion, the Great Hunter, brings with him the Great Orion Nebula. Perseus holds the Double Cluster and Andromeda, the Andromeda Galaxy. The Pleides sparkle high overhead like a handful of diamonds and Auriga brings its own trio of star clusters.

The night sky produces a frontier of wonders that can be revisited again and again to see old friends and discover new treasures. Come and visit us at the Weiskopf Observatory. It is open for public skyviewing on the first and third Saturdays and second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please call ahead to confirm viewing conditions as the observatory is not open if it is cloudy. The observatory is also available for private tours filled with games and activities relating to Astronomy. Call the Forest Preserve during business hours to reserve a night for your group.



Saturn

Native Grasses for the Golf Course

Several species of native grasses are being planted on the golf course. These grasses are warm season grasses that are adapted to our climate and soils. Most turf grasses are non-native cool season grasses that tend to dry up and go dormant in hot weather. They need a lot of water to keep them green in the summer. Most native grasses are clump forming grasses, leaving room between them for many flowering plants to grow. They stay green all summer and turn to many shades of reds and golds in the fall.

Little Bluestem is one of the most popular of the fall grasses and is being planted extensively on the course. Large areas are being established between the clubhouse and nine green, as well as along the fencelines at the corner of German Church and River Roads. This grass grows about two feet high and was named for the bluish tints of its leaves and stems in spring, but it is most noted for its wonderful copperish fall color. The seeds are attached to feathery, white tufts that are carried by the wind, and the effect of a gentle breeze across a large stand is reminiscent of waves upon the ocean.

These plantings will greatly enhance the beauty and distinctiveness of the PrairieView Golf course as well as providing shelter and food for a multitude of native animals and insects.

Basketweaving

Come and make your own seasonal baskets for adult beginners and up. Class fees will range from \$25 to \$40 per basket. Cost includes all supplies. A few small tools from home will be needed. Baskets to be made will be on display at the Jarrett Prairie Center Gift Shop two weeks prior to the class. The instructor will be Deb Childers.

The classes will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center:

September 15 & 22 -	6:30-9:30 pm	November 12 & 19 -	6:30-9:30 pm
October 27 -	6:30-9:30 pm	December 13 -	9 am-1 pm

Mark your calendars now! Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register for this class, call 815-234-8535.

Stepping Out

Education Assistant Lisa Johnson will continue to lead monthly nature walks. These morning walks focus on the birds and, during the growing season, wildflowers of the Byron Forest Preserve.

The Prairie Preserve presents an ever-changing palette of life and color. Join us for an opportunity to experience the great outdoors. Walks are scheduled for Saturdays, August 30, September 20, October 18, and November 15, 8-10 am.

Long pants, comfortable walking shoes, and binoculars are recommended. Call (815) 234-8535 to register.

Cookie Bouquets

You can come and make a beautiful Thanksgiving Cookie Bouquet.

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on November 24, 1997, 6-9 pm. The cost is \$16.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register for this class, call 815-234-8535.

Chocolate Trinket Boxes

You can come and make a fancy little chocolate trinket box, complete with flowers, ribbons, and "glitz" (all edible). These decorative boxes make special gifts, nice presentation containers for small gifts or simply make them for fun.

All supplies are furnished, including tools you can keep for making additional boxes. Bring a sturdy container to class for your chocolate box.

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on December 9, 1997, 6-9 pm. The cost is \$16.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register for this class, call 815-234-8535.

Spiffy Spooky Treats

You will make an eerie assortment of scary critters, bugs, ghouls, and goblins from candies, cookies, and cupcakes. Delight your family and friends with these Tricky Treats! Bring a 9"x13" or larger container to take your creations home.

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Monday, October 20, 1997, 6-9 pm. The cost is \$16 per person.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Field Tips

The Byron Forest Preserve District Education staff provides one- to four-hour field trips for school age children. We have a variety of activities to choose from.

Please call (815) 234-8535 to schedule a trip for your class or group.

Second Saturday Kids Concerts

The Byron Forest Preserve will begin a Second Saturday Concert series using performing arts to delight the young with music, comedy, animals, storytelling, and puppets. The concerts will be FREE and FUN! The spectacular area businesses will sponsor the concerts for the kids so they are FREE to the public. A concession stand selling juice and popcorn for .50 each and performers will have tapes available for purchase.

November 8 - Chad and Terri Sigafus Sponsored by Quality Metal Finishing
This couple compose, perform, and record children's music. A delightful style using the harp, guitars, and banjos make their children's music magical. Chad and Terri have captured the warmth of family, positive vibes, and a simple lifestyle in their music and performances. They now have 11 releases on Teeter-Tot records, their own label.

December 13 - Wildlife, Inc.
Four animals will be brought to explain the habitat, eating habits, and to entertain and delight the children. Photos will be available upon request for a \$5 fee.

January 10 - Mr. Steve
Original songs, humor, magic, and balloon art with Steve Lindquist. Little ones will shout along, sing along, and play along with a local favorite, Mr. Steve.

February 14 - Marilyn Price Puppets
Laughter, fun, understanding, creative energy, joy, self-esteem...stories communicate values and create meaningful stories. They're different and fun. Puppetry gives audiences a reason to listen and an invitation to be a part of the show.

March 14 - Michael Offutt's Science Safari for Kids - This fast-paced 45-minute demonstration is guaranteed to be fun, educational, and memorable for all who participate.

Second Saturday Concerts

The Byron Forest Preserve along with Backpack Concerts has scheduled the following Second Saturday Concert performers to begin this fall:

September 13 - Sons of the Never Wrong
It has been said, Sons of the Never Wrong are the future of folk music. This kind of music does and shall continue to get listened to as long as there are groups willing to try once more to sing it just a little differently next time around. The Sons are as good as it gets when it comes to a different view of three part harmony on top of witty, whimsical original songs that spring from a tradition you swear you've heard, but you just don't know where or when.

October 11 - Barbara Kessler (tentative)
November 8 - Jano
December 13 - Andrew

All of the concerts will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road in Byron. For tickets or more information, please call 815-234-8535.

Gift Shop News

The gift shop at the Jarrett Prairie Center has new items arriving daily. There are many gift ideas for children's birthdays and any other occasion. Some gift specials are already wrapped!

The Bluebird, Butterfly, Bat, and Ladybug houses are handcrafted by the volunteers at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

The gift shop also has beautiful photos of the Hale-Bopp Comet over the Weiskopf Observatory available for purchase.

Be sure to visit the Jarrett Prairie Center's gift shop for your next special gift need!

Cake Desserts

You will make six different "show-stoppers", including horizontal, vertical, and inside-out tortes with a variety of icings and garnishes. Also, you will make a trifle and do plate painting with fruit sauce. Bring your sweet tooth and a large container to take home the leftovers!

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Monday, November 10, 1997, 6-9 pm. The cost is \$16 per person.

To register, call 815-234-8535.

Fruit & Veggie Garnishes

You will make critters, flowers, and frills from farmstand produce. These tasty, attractive little show pieces will add that special touch to the foods you serve. Bring a sharp paring knife, a small cutting board, and a 9"x13" container to class.

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Tuesday, October 7, 1997, 6-9 pm. The cost is \$16 per person.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Creative Memories

Are your photos not being displayed or enjoyed because they are gathering dust in shoeboxes...or worse, are they being stored in albums that are destroying the images they should be protecting? Learn how to put together creative, long-lasting family photo albums-the kind of albums that safeguard their memories and provide enjoyment for generations to come.

Beginners will "crop 'til you drop" with hands-on, step-by-step instruction. Materials included: 1-12"x12" album page, stickers, paper, and adhesives to complete one page. Bring 6-10 photos.

Continuing students will work on photo scrapbooks with friends and use instructor tools and assistance.

September 16, Tuesday - 6-10 pm
Beginners - \$10
Continuing - \$5

October 18, Tuesday - 9 am-4 pm
Beginners - \$20
Continuing - \$15

These classes will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road. The instructors will be Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams.

Sr. Ranger Rick

Senior Ranger Rick Club is for boys and girls ages from third grade through fifth grade. Activities include exploring the natural Earth through discovering its impact on our lives through hands-on experiences. Join your friends and explore with us!

Sr. Ranger Rick will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 3:30-5:30 pm. Children attending Byron schools may ride the bus from school to the Jarrett Prairie Center. The cost is \$12 per month. Register by the month. Barb Wingert will be the advisor. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Jr. Ranger Rick

Junior Ranger Rick Club is for boys and girls ages from kindergarten through second grade. Activities include exploring the wonders of nature through hands-on discovering. Field trips will be a part of the program and participation in various environmental projects.

Jr. Ranger Rick will meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 3:30-5:30 pm. Children attending Byron schools may ride the bus from school to the Jarrett Prairie Center. The cost is \$12 per month. Register by the month. Barb Wingert will be the advisor. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Let's Make Candy

You will make Peanut Butter Cups, Mocha Creams, Strawberry Cheesecake Bonbons, Coconut Bonbons, and Turtles, made with homemade fillings and chocolate. All ingredients, supplies, and recipes will be furnished. Bring a 9x13 pan for your goodies.

The class will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center on Saturday, September 27, 1997, 9 am - 1 pm. The cost is \$16 per person.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. To register, call 815-234-8535.

PrairieView Golf Course News

North German Church Road, Byron (815) 234-GOLF(4653)

Major Clubhouse Expansion Set To Begin

PrairieView's first clubhouse expansion project since the facility opened in May 1992, is set to begin this fall. Ground breaking is scheduled to begin on September 2.

Plans call for a new addition to the west, enclosing the existing south porch, and fully renovating the existing clubhouse interior space. Several years in the planning, the long anticipated clubhouse building project will offer significant new improvements for our customers. In addition, necessary office, storage, and work space will be provided to the clubhouse staff.

Following is a summary of the major features of the new facility that is scheduled to open early spring next year, ready for the 1998 golf season:

1. Expanded dining area overlooking #9 hole. Seating for 60-70 anticipated with space for 16 tables.
2. Large men's and ladies' restrooms/locker rooms. Both areas include lockers, showers, and expanded restroom facilities much more adequate than those in the current clubhouse.

3. Larger concession food service area (cafeteria style) providing more food and beverage selections. Includes new, basic walk-up hard liquor service.

4. Pro shop area will be four times the size of the current 100 square foot pro shop. Addition will allow greater merchandising opportunities, more display space, and much needed office/storage areas for staff.

5. Convenient public entrances to north cart storage area and new entrance off the circle drive to the east.

6. Much improved air conditioning and electrical services.

At some point during the construction phase in September, clubhouse services will be temporarily relocated in the golf pavilion at the end of the south parking lot. Concession and other services will be limited after this move. The clubhouse staff apologizes in advance for inconvenience to our golfers during this temporary move while construction is under-

way. Starting early in September will help insure that the new clubhouse will be finished and ready for the beginning of the 1998 golf season in March.

The newly expanded and renovated clubhouse will not only provide more comfort and services to our golfing customers, but will help to maximize golf revenues at a time of an uncertain and decreasing tax base for the forest preserve district. In addition, PrairieView will now have an adequate clubhouse facility approaching the quality of the golf course itself.

Plan to stop in early next year and take a good look at the new clubhouse for yourself!



Record Number of Junior Golfers

Expanded junior golf programs, high interest, and record junior play are all part of the PrairieView's 1997 commitment to junior golf.

By early summer, a record number of 162 junior season passholders were playing at PrairieView. The summer junior lesson program kicked off on June 9 with a total of 10 more junior classes to follow. By the end of July, nearly 90 students had enrolled in the various classes based on both age and experience. The new Monday junior golf league also began on Monday, June 9 and followed with six more 9- or 18-hole events through the end of July. PrairieView's junior players enthusiastically supported the new event, averaging nearly 30 players per week. Thanks go out to PrairieView staff members Mike Smith and Jason Mavity for their efforts in making the new league a success.

On June 29, PrairieView held its Second Annual Junior Fundraiser Golf Tournament. Perfect weather greeted 108 early Sunday morning golfers who helped contribute \$4,853 to the PrairieView Junior Golf Fund. The tournament continues to be a huge success due not only to the great player participation but also to financial support provided by the following sponsors:

Art Snow, Bemis Motors, Kim's Marathon, and the "Golf Club at PrairieView". A big thank you to the players, the sponsors, and to the 32 juniors and

19 adult volunteers who helped during this year's event. PrairieView's dedicated clubhouse staff also worked long and hard to make this event another big success.

In July, our junior fundraiser tournaments helped make it possible to have PrairieView's first ever junior golf outing to another golf facility. On Wednesday, July 16, 79 excited junior golfers and 12 adult chaperones departed the PrairieView clubhouse parking lot in two buses provided through our cooperative agreement with the Byron School District. The group's destination was the new Michael Jordan Practice Center in Aurora. A great time was had by all playing mini-golf, hitting on the driving range, visiting the golf shop, and eating a picnic lunch under the big white party tent. Afterwards, as everyone boarded the buses for the trip home, Michael Jordan souvenir caps were passed out to all.



Junior golfers at the Michael Jordan Golf Center. Pictured l-r: Eric LaPier, Braden Borcherts, Cole Dixon, and Russel Crull.



Junior Golf Program participants. Pictured l-r: Britney Lindgren, Kathleen Crull, Instructor Mike Smith, and Kristen Webster (background).

Turf Notes

This summer, the golf course maintenance department has been busy improving PrairieView.

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of college and high school summer workers. They beautifully edged and conditioned the course's 61 sand bunkers, plus provided the "muscle" to do the finish leveling of the 300+ tons of new sand added to the bunkers in July/August. Also, several thousand prairie plugs planted in the "front door" area at the corner of River and German Church Roads, begin 9 green, between 7 and 11 fairways, left of 10 green and right of 9 tee, all owe their installation to this hard working group. Thanks summer helpers!

Our capital crew's main task has been the construction of new forward tees. The tees on 7, 11, and 12 will soon be sodded. Our goal is to open them for play later this fall. Leveling and irrigation work continue on forward tees 6, 15, 2, and 16. Remaining pot holes in the fairways have been filled with soil and compacted. We will sod them when we sod the tees. A "waste" bunker left of 6 fairway is being rebuilt to help it play better and to improve its visual effect from the tee. The future moguls (dirt piles) between 6 and 14 fairways continue to grow as waste sand and rocky soil are added to them. After final shaping, they will be seeded and erosion matted.

All of us in the maintenance department appreciate your patience with the inconvenience these projects sometimes cause. With your continued support, we can develop PrairieView into its full potential as a notable golf facility.

Byron School Golf Team

Congratulations on the formation of Byron's new high school golf team! PrairieView is pleased and proud to be the home course for the new team which begins IHSA level competition this fall.

The new Byron Tigers Golf Team was approved in mid-July with the condition that financing would come from private sources. PrairieView's junior fundraiser committee, in the interest of promoting local junior golf, made the initial offer to provide full funding of the team in its first season. Thanks to all the parents, volunteers, sponsors, and participants in our two fundraising tournaments that helped make funds available to get the new team started.

As far as the future is concerned, PrairieView Golf Course and its staff are totally committed to the golf team's success and to providing the full support of our facility.

G.C. Hours

For the remainder of the 1997 golf season, the operating hours are as follows:

- August 15 - September 1 (Labor Day) - 6 am - dusk - Monday-Sunday
- September 2 - October 5 - 7 am - dusk, weekdays & 6:30 am - dusk, weekends
- October 6 - October 31 - 8 am - dusk, weekdays & 7:30 am - dusk, weekends
- November - closing - to be announced

Ogle County Championships

On Saturday, July 5, PrairieView hosted the first annual Ogle County Championships. Players from the six Ogle County golf courses were invited to participate in the new event. With entry into the event limited to residents of Ogle County, players competed in four pre-flighted divisions based on handicap. In addition to the division championships, tournament players also were competing for the four player team championship and a seniors championship.

Congratulations to the following 1997 champions:

- Division I - Dennis Dunham - PrairieView GC
- Division II - Rick Canfield - Oregon CC
- Division III - Linn Weber - PrairieView GC
- Division IV - Rod Reeder - PrairieView GC
- Senior Champion - Ken Hoel - PrairieView GC
- 1997 Team Champion - PrairieView GC

Plans are already underway to make the 1998 Ogle County Championships bigger and better. Meetings are being planned to pre-select a 1998 date well in advance that can be included on the club schedules for all six of the golf courses in the county. Future plans include expanding the tournament to 36 holes played over two courses and possibly adding a new womens division and an expanded seniors division.

A big thanks goes to longtime PrairieView supporter and annual season passholder, Denny Dunham, for all his dedication and hard work in getting this tournament started. With Denny's future involvement and skilled guidance, the new Ogle County Championships are destined to become a major regional tournament in the very near future.

New Junior High League

PrairieView Golf Course staff along with interested parents and adults are actively organizing a new late summer/early fall junior golf league. The league will consist of junior high school teams from the Byron, Oregon/Mt. Morris, and Stillman Valley school districts.

The new league will be comprised of six to eight teams from the school districts listed above. Players will form their own six member teams consisting of boys and/or girls entering the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades. Parents or other volunteer adults will serve as team coaches and provide transportation.

League play will follow the format of IHSA high school golf. Teams will play nine-hole matches following a round robin schedule. All six team members play each match with the winning team decided by the lowest four player gross total out of six.

Play begins in late August and continues through early October. The majority of matches will be played on weekdays after school. League matches will be played at PrairieView Golf Course and possibly other area courses.

League fees and playing fees are yet to be determined. For more information, interested team players and parents can call PrairieView PGA Professional Ken Ledene at 234-4653.

Rounds Up Over 30%

Golf rounds at PrairieView were being played at a record pace through the end of June, despite a cool, blustery spring. Fortunately, the weather remained relatively dry through most of the early months, allowing for plenty of golfing opportunities if you could tolerate the all too common windy conditions.

By the end of June, total golf rounds for the year stood at 15,295, up 4,982 rounds over last year's total for the same time period. The golf season got off to a great start in March when the course had its earliest opening ever, March 21.

Let's all hope for a dry, warm fall not just for golfing but to help get the fall clubhouse expansion project off to a good start.

Gold Medal Classic Set

PrairieView announces plans to host its sixth annual Gold Medal Classic golf tournament on September 6 & 7. Entry forms are available at the PrairieView Clubhouse or by calling 234-4653.

The annual thirty-six hole medal play event attracts tournament players from all over Northern Illinois. The event is open to all amateur golfers over age 16. This year's prizes for a field of 100+ entries will total over \$5,500! Players are flighted after the first round, so everyone has the opportunity to compete for a flight championship. Wendell Webb of Rockford is the defending 1996 tournament champion.

Make plans now to play in one of Northern Illinois' premier tournaments. Entry deadline is Tuesday, September 2 by 5 pm.