

Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Summer/Fall 1998

Back to School Information

School Registration Date Set

The ring of the school bell will soon be heard. In order to prepare for that first day of school, registration of all students attending Byron C.U.S.D. #226 is necessary. August 5 is the day for this event. Registration for Mary Morgan School and the Middle School will be held in each cafeteria. High School registration will be held in the lower commons. The schedule for registration is as follows: 8-Noon, 1-4 and 5-7:30PM. For those individuals who are going to be out of town on registration day, we have set aside

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Athletic Physicals at Byron High School August 11, 1998

Byron Community Unit School District #226 will be providing an opportunity for students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to obtain their athletic physical. The athletic physical is required to participate in pom-poms, cheerleading, and competitive sports. The date for the physical is Tuesday, August 11, 1998.

We are pleased to again coordinate this program with the Rockford Clinic Sports Medicine Department. Our association in the past with the Rockford Clinic has been very positive. They provide many services for young people beyond the \$25.00 fee that is charged for the physical exam. The athlete should wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing. This physical does not satisfy any booster shot requirements that may be needed for entrance into 9th grade. This physical will not be covered by most medical insurance and HMO's including Clinicare.

The schedule for physicals is as follows:

Seniors-8:00AM	Juniors-8:30AM
Sophomores-9:00AM	8th Graders-9:30AM
7th Graders-10:00AM	6th Graders-10:30AM

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Don't Miss Halloween On The Prairie

The Byron Forest Preserve and the Byron Park District are working together this year to make Halloween on the Prairie bigger and better than ever!

The event will be held on Saturday, October 24, 1998, at the Byron Forest Preserve located at 7993 North River Road in Byron, from 2:30-8PM. The festivities will begin at 2:30 PM at the Jarrett Prairie Center with the Grand Opening of the Museum's Wetland Exhibit. This is definitely a must-see event!

At 3 PM, the games and hayrides will begin. The concession stand will be open for dinner from 3-8 PM. This year, there will be a hayride for preschool age children, "Enchanted Journey," and another hayride for older children, "Scary Prairie." It will only cost \$1 to ride!

The games will be held in the Jarrett Prairie Center like last year. Game tickets will be available at .25 each or 5 for \$1.00. There will be lots of prizes!

Everyone is invited to wear his or her costumes to add to the theme.

Other activities are in the works, so watch your local newspapers. Fliers will be sent home from school. For more information, you can call the Forest Preserve at 234-8535 or the Park District at 234-8435.

Halloween on the Prairie Schedule

2:30PM	Wetland Exhibit Grand Opening
3-5PM	Enchanted Journey Hayride (preschool)
3-8PM	Games and Concession Stand
6-8PM	Scary Prairie Hayride (K-5)



Chamber of Commerce Hosts Golf Play Day

Golf season is not over yet!

Date: Monday, September 14, 1998
Lunch and Check-In: 11:30-12:30PM
Tee Time: 1:00PM Shot Gun Start
Social Time: 5:30PM to 6:15PM
Steak Dinner: Starts at 6:15 - 6:30PM

The fee to participate in this great event is as follows:

	Chamber Members	Non-Chamber Members*
Golf Fee (includes lunch, green fee and cart)	\$42.00	\$50.00
Steak Dinner	\$18.00	\$20.00

* Non-members may register at Member rate if playing in a foursome with a Chamber member. Chamber Members can sponsor multiple foursomes.

Masters of Ceremonies: Mike Robinson & Heather Pick - Channel 13 News

Golf Format: Best Ball Scramble

Contest: (all held during social time) - Putting Contest - Win \$2,500; \$1

Million shoot-out; Chipping Contest - 50/50

Course Game:

Hole-in-One - Win a Car & 50/50 Contest

Hole-in-One - Win Hawaii Trip & 50/50 Contest

Longest Drive - Women & Men

Closest to Pin - Women/Men (Closest qualifies 1M shoot-out)

Longest Putt - Women & Men

Beat the Pro - Everyone

Low Team Score

High Team Score

Register your foursome by calling
the Chamber Office at 234-5500 Today!
Don't miss out on this great day . . .
you could be a lucky winner!!!

ByronFest '98 was a great success . . .

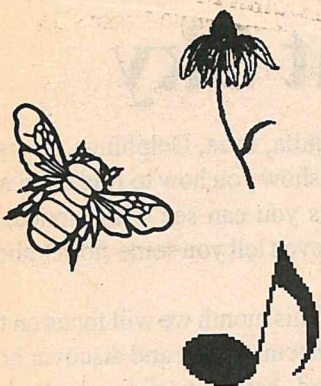
. . . and you were a part of it! The Byron Chamber of Commerce extends a huge "Thank You" to all who volunteered during the weekend and the months prior to the festival even taking place.

This festival truly is a community event and without all the support from the business community, the residents, the City of Byron, and the governmental agencies, this would not be a reality.

Planning for ByronFest '99 will begin in a month. If you would like to become involved with this event, please contact the Chamber office at 234-5500. Remember, "Together We Achieve The Extraordinary."

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Byron Forest Preserve News

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

Preservation • Education • Recreation



Concert Series is Back Again!

Come and enjoy the wholesome harmonies of the Forest Preserve's Saturday Folk Concerts. The first concert will be held on September 12. Kristina Olsen is tentatively scheduled to perform.

Kristina Olsen crosses at will between emotional folk ballads and gutsy, playful blues, her music is the best of both worlds. Think of that person you know who is both genuinely profound and a goofball, and you begin to understand her music.

Lou and Peter Berryman return to the Jarrett Prairie Center on October 10 with their sophisticated and wickedly funny original songwriting which blends melodic and lyric aspects of musical comedy, cabaret, and folk music into a unique style that has delighted nationwide audiences for nearly 20 years.

Other Saturday concerts scheduled are as follows:

November 7 Salamander Crossing

December 12 Small Potatoes

Concerts begin at 8 PM at the Jarrett Prairie Center. Tickets are \$8 per person at the door. You may call 815-234-8535 to reserve tickets.



Kristina Olsen with her fine guitar work, strong and honest vocals, delicate acoustic compositions and meaningful lyrics returns to the Jarrett Prairie Center on September 12.

Kids Concerts are Back, Too!!

Once again, the fun and excitement of entertainers will fill the Jarrett Prairie Center with giggles and laughter from children, grams, gramps, moms, and dads.

Because of the popularity of the Saturday Kids Concerts, the Forest Preserve is again hosting this series of entertainment.

Be sure to watch the newspapers and school fliers for the dates, times, and entertainers for the concerts. The concerts will begin in October.

Popular Preschool Adds New Class

The first year was a great success! The second year will be even better. The Byron Forest Preserve's Fall Preschool classes offer a unique combination of kindergarten readiness material and learning activities that use nature explorations as a springboard for learning and growing.

The material used in teaching is designed to focus on the basic concepts appropriate to a 3-5 year-old's development and ability. The concepts include color recognition, sequencing, body awareness, reading readiness, and other important skills learned through hours of learning fun, outdoors and indoors.

Every child should dress for the weather. No open-toed shoes or sandals please.

Mor FILLED esday	9-11AM
Monday & Wednesday	1-3PM *NEW CLASS*
Tue: FILLED sday	9-11Am
Tue: FILLED sday	1-3 PM

Preschool begins September 14 and the last day is May 27. Preschool will follow the Byron School District calendar.

The cost is \$50 per month due on the first of each month. Minimum registrants is six students and the maximum is 12 students.

Barb Wingert (Mrs. Barb) and Hazel Stein (Mrs. Hazel) are the instructors. Preregistration is required. Please call 815-234-8535 for more information or to register.

Ranger Rick Club

This fall brings back a favorite program at the Forest Preserve. Ranger Rick Club will begin in September. There will be a few changes this year. The program itself will be much the same as last year, only bigger and better! There will be the same fun and games as last year with an emphasis on nature and natural history. The fun will include outdoor activities and hikes as well as indoor activities and quieter times to rest and learn. The monthly themes will be "mouses houses, and other animals too" and "amphibians, our slimy friends" and of course "dinosaurs."

This year, Ranger Rick Club will meet every week on Thursdays, starting on September 10th. Laurie Conner and Lisa Johnson will be the instructors for the program this year. They have lots of new ideas and are ready to start fresh for a new year.

Once again, a school bus will transport children from the Byron School to the Forest Preserve. You can sign up for Ranger Rick Club for \$25 per month*. Sign up for as many months as you like. You must pre-register your children, so sign up now. This is one program you don't want to miss!

*Due to holidays, we will only have three meetings each in November and December. The cost of these months will be \$19 instead of \$25.

Ranger Rick Club
DAY: Thursdays
DATE: Sept. 10 - April 29
TIME: 3:30 - 5:30 PM
AGE: 1st-5th grades
FEE: \$25 per month*
WHERE: Jarrett Prairie Center



Star Notes



Fall is a good time for night sky viewing. The sun sets a little earlier each evening, and the nights are not too cold yet.

On September nights, the Milky Way arcs high across the sky, running through Cassiopeia, Cygnus, Aquila, and Sagittarius. The Milky Way's light comes from the billions of stars that make up our galaxy. Star clouds and nebula abound in its depths. We should also have glorious views of Jupiter and its four largest moons. For those who like to be up later, Saturn returns to our evening skies. Saturn's rings are an unforgettable sight in a telescope.

October brings us creatures both in the air and in the water. Flying overhead are Cygnus the swan, Aquila the eagle, and Pegasus the winged horse, while the celestial waters are occupied by Pisces the fishes, Cetus the whale, Capricornus the sea-goat, and Aquarius the water-bearer. Jupiter and Saturn remain high in the sky and are easily seen with the naked eye.

In November, Andromeda, the woman in chains, rides high in the sky. She carries with her the Great Andromeda Galaxy. One of our closest neighboring galaxies, Andromeda is bigger than our own Milky Way. It shines bright enough to be seen with the naked eye on dark, clear nights. Also returning to our evening skies are the winter constellations, Orion, Taurus, Auriga, and Gemini.

Public viewing nights are on the first and third Saturdays and second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Observatory is closed if it is cloudy. Please call (815)-234-8535 to confirm viewing conditions. Sessions start about dusk and are free to the public. Please dress for the weather as the dome is not heated.

The Weiskopf Observatory is also available for private tours. The program includes fun and interesting activities relating to constellations, the Solar system, stars and star movements, telescopes and constellation myths. The cost is \$2 per person, and tours can be arranged by calling Lisa at 234-8535 ext. 232.



Secrets of the Night Sky

The 1998 Astronomy series raps up with three more programs. Programs are presented on the third Thursday of the month and run from 6:30-8PM. They are geared for families (children should be at least five years old) and anyone interested in exploring the night sky. The cost is \$2 per person with a family maximum of \$10. If weather permits, we will spend some time viewing the sky after the program.

August-The Center of the Galaxy and Nebula-As we look out towards the constellation Sagittarius, we are looking into the center of our galaxy. The star fields here are rich in star clusters and nebula. Nebula are the birth places of new stars and the graveyards of old ones. We will spend some time exploring them.

September-Summer Constellations-The Summer Triangle rides high in the sky. We will explore the

regions of Cygnus, Aquila, Lyra, Delphinus, Scorpio and Sagittarius. We'll show you how to find them and what interesting things you can see with binoculars and a telescope. We'll even tell you some stories about them.

October-Planets-This month we will focus on the planets and the solar system. Come and discover how the planets were formed, how they move, and when and where you can see them.

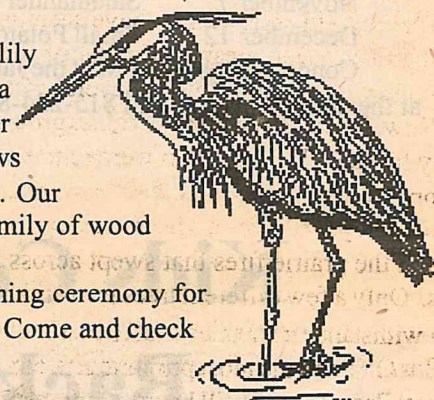
November-Fall Constellations-AHHH, the fall constellations, Pegasus, Perseus, Andromeda, Cassiopeia, and Cepheus. Kings, Queens, heroes and flying horses, they make quite a story and hold wondrous hidden treasures.

Join us as we explore the night sky and discover the beauty that waits there. To register, call 234 8535.

Museum Metamorphosis Phase IV

Imagine sitting beside a peaceful pond. Fish swim beneath the lily pads, beavers gnaw a downed stump, an otter chases bluegill while a heron (right) stalks the shallows. Listen, you can almost hear the water lapping and the birds calling. This is our new wetland exhibit. It shows the kinds of animals and plants that would live along the edge of a pond. Our beaver and muskrat have their homes in the banks of the pond. A family of wood ducks live here, too.

On Saturday, October 24, at 2:30PM we will have a grand opening ceremony for this new exhibit to start off the Halloween on the Prairie celebration. Come and check out this newest addition to our Jarrett Prairie Center Museum.



Wish List

The Byron Forest Preserve is asking anyone to donate magazines to the Weiskopf Observatory library. Any type of astronomy, sky, or telescope magazine would be great.

We also could use clean clam and mussel shells from local streams.

If you have any of these items you would like to donate, please contact Lisa at 234-8535, ext. 232.

Program Registration and Refund Policy

I. Mail-in Registration

Byron Forest Preserve District
P. O. Box 1075
Byron, IL 61010-1075

II. Walk-in Registration

Jarrett Prairie Center

7993 North River Road, Byron

Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.-8:30AM-4PM

Tues., Thurs.-8:30AM-7:30PM

Sat.-9AM - 3:30PM - Sun.-1-3:30PM

III. Faxed Registration

(815)234-8635

24 hours per day

Payment must be made with Visa or Mastercard.

Program Registration Information

1. If the program you choose is filled, you will be put on a waiting list.
2. If an opening occurs, you will be contacted by phone and offered the opportunity.
3. If the program is cancelled or changed, you will be contacted by phone and payment will be refunded.
4. All registrations must be completed on the proper registration form with the waiver on the back signed.

Payment Information

1. Visa and Mastercard are available for full payments only.
2. The Forest Preserve reserves the right to change a payment fee to reflect the correct fee.

Refunds

1. Once a class has met a second time, no refunds will be issued. Exceptions: illness or relocation.
2. If a refund is approved, it is subject to a \$5 service charge.
3. A refund request form must be completed.
4. Refunds take approximately two weeks to process and are mailed in check form or credited to your credit card account.

A Note from the Naturalist

By Todd Tucker, Naturalist
Facts, Figures, and Fawns

The fawns of whitetail deer and many other species are born with spots. The spots break up patterns and make the animal harder to detect, a natural camouflage. Camouflage is designed to hinder the depth perception of predators' eyesight. Therefore, the fawn is virtually invisible when concealed by adequate cover. The young fawns are also born with almost no scent whatsoever. Between these two natural defenses, the fawns have a good chance for survival.

It is not uncommon for the fawns to stay put while someone walks right past them. In fact, the summer interns were identifying plants on the prairie and came upon a fawn no more than two feet away. It did not

move; it just held very still. Here is some more information that you may find interesting:

- *Whitetail fawns have approximately 300 spots at birth.*
- *It only takes 20 minutes for a fawn to be cleaned, fed, and standing.*
- *Fawns are dependent on mother's milk until at least three months old.*
- *It usually takes 20-30 minutes for a fawn to be born.*
- *A well-fed doe (a mother deer) will produce fawns that weigh 7-8 pounds at birth.*
- *Fawns can triple their birth weight in only one month.*

Those Mighty Oaks

By Dan Hagemann, Restoration Dept.

Those of you who have been out on the trails in the Byron Forest Preserve may have seen patches of forest that have been cleared of most of the smaller trees and saplings while leaving several of the larger trees. Now, let me give you a little background before we go any further. The trees that were removed did not grow on the oak savannahs that covered this area hundreds of years ago. These species could not withstand the prairie fires that swept across northern Illinois. Only a few different trees grow thick enough to withstand the heat of a tallgrass fire. Of those trees, Bur Oak was the most prominent in our area. On the Forest Preserve, we still have numerous Bur Oaks, some of which are well over 100 years old, and it is from around these trees that smaller competitive trees have been cleared.

The different kinds of trees that are being removed are informally referred to as "weedy" species. They were given this name because they grow and spread very fast and if left alone, will completely take over an area where they previously did not exist.

These trees grow much faster than the Bur Oaks and can begin to shade out the bottom branches of an eighty-year-old oak in just twenty years.

While these species can survive many years in low light conditions, a mature oak cannot and the shaded branches will soon die off. Meanwhile, the "weedy" tree continues to grow and shade out more and more oak branches. If left unmanaged, the majority of the Forest Preserve's Bur Oaks will be "drowned" out by the more aggressive "weedy" species in the next twenty years.

In many areas of northern Illinois, the 100-200-year-old Bur Oaks are the only surviving evidence of the beautiful oak savannahs that once covered this area. In keeping with the restoration management plan at the Forest Preserve of trying to return the site to pre-settlement condition, these "weedy" trees are cleared in order to preserve the few remaining remnants.



Get to Steppin'!

By Dustin Kowalski, Restoration Dept.

*On the Byron Forest Preserve Nature Trails...*As summer continues, people find it harder and harder to take time out and enjoy the outdoors. Well, the Byron Forest Preserve offers a variety of nature trails in which individuals can walk in order to come in full contact with the beauty of an Illinois Nature Preserve. These trails offer the opportunity to observe prairies, wildlife, and just the great astonishment of being outdoors in such a quiet environment. The majority of the trails are covered with grass for your convenience.

The natural beauty of a forest preserve really shows as you walk along the prairie trails and a variety of wildflowers really lifts your spirits. The trails that wind through the woods give you the opportunity to look at a variety of trees. These trees vary in size, and some really show dominance and strength as you see them help realize their density and willingness to live. The thought of a tree being in one spot for hundreds of years makes one realize how much change has occurred throughout its lifetime. Along with the variety of plants

and trees, many forms of wildlife can also be observed while walking on the trails. Whitetail deer show in the least expected places. Turkeys are also seen throughout the preserve. Birds of all types are present throughout the preserve as well. Random benches give you the opportunity to listen and look at all the variety of life in the preserve. Some of this beauty can be seen by driving through the park, but wouldn't you rather be closer and more involved with the beauty that the whole preserve offers?

The next time you're wondering what to do for an afternoon or any time, think about taking a walk and enjoying the beauty of the Byron Forest Preserve. After one walk, you will more than likely return and find yourself observing more every time.



Want to be a Wild One?

The Byron Forest Preserve currently sponsors the Rock River Chapter of the Wild Ones Natural Landscaping Club. This is a group of people who is interested in landscaping with native plants.

Native plants are adapted to local weather and soil conditions and require less maintenance, chemicals and water than exotic species. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife, such as many beautiful birds and butterflies.

Programs and field trips are geared toward learning about native plants, what they look like and how to grow them, as well as sources for seeds and plants. The following meetings have been scheduled:

August 22 - Prairie Walk - 8AM - 3PM - Native Landscape Tour - departing from CherryVale
September 17 - Landscaping with Native Trees - 6:30-8:30PM - Jarrett Prairie Center
October - Collect seeds - Location to be announced.

November 19 - Seed Exchange - Jarrett Prairie Center

December - No meeting.

So, if you want to be a Wild One, please call Lisa at 815-234 8535 ext. 232.

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, holidays, and any other occasion. Some gift specials are already wrapped!

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

New additions to the gift shop include *Our Rock River* books by Nels Akerlund.

Gift shop specials include \$5 off *Illinois-Seasons of Light* book, '98 *Illinois* calendars reduced to \$3.50, select books are 50% off, and if you mention this article, you get an additional 10% off any \$10 or more purchase.

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

Field Trips

Now is the time to book your fall field trips. The Jarrett Prairie Center awaits your group with displays on prairie, woodland and wetland habitats, live animals and a gift shop. Take a walk through the prairie or woodland to discover the wonders there, or use your senses to explore the world around you. The observatory is also available for field trips with activities, crafts, and games relating to astronomy. The 11" Celestron telescope and big silver dome are definite crowd pleasers with any group. Guided tours cost \$2 per person per hour and times are flexible. Bring a lunch and use one of our shelters to make a day of it. Tours must be set up at least two weeks ahead of time. Call 234-8535 to reserve your time.



The American Toad

(Bufo americanus)

By Eric Thomas, Restoration Dept.

How many of you caught a glimpse of a toad this past spring and summer? If you answered yes, chances are it was the American toad. This backyard critter is fairly common throughout Illinois. A toad can easily be distinguished from a frog by its dry warty skin, whereas frogs have smooth moist skin. Another trait to help distinguish the two is the fact that toads hop and frogs leap. Frogs are able to travel a farther distance in a leap than a toad hopping along.

Although it is fairly easy to distinguish between a toad and a frog, the same is not true when it comes to identifying toads. However, with a little practice, you can become a regular backyard herpetologist. There are several characteristics to look for when trying to identify the American toad. You will notice that on the back of the toad, there are several large dark spots. The American toad will only have one or two large warts in each of the largest dark spots. They also have enlarged warts on the tibia or lower hind leg. Toads also have parotoid glands. These look like large warts behind the toad's eyes. These glands are also used to differentiate between the different species of Bufonidae. On the American toad, these glands will be separate from the ridge behind the eye, or connected with it by a short spur.

Many American toads are plain brown, but there



are color variations, especially in the females. Ground colors can range from brown to gray or olive to brick red ornamented with patches of yellow or other light colors. I personally have never seen one this colorfully decorated, but I'm sure they're around. Dark spots are usually black or brown, and warts vary from yellow, orange, or red to dark brown.

A wide range of habitats are utilized by the American toad. They can be found in mountain wilderness as well as in your own backyard. These toads need shallow bodies of water to breed. Water filled ditches, puddles, and shallow portions of a stream are ideal places for the toad's breeding season, which takes place in the spring from March to July. Other requisites are moist hiding places and an abundant supply of insects and other invertebrates for food.

You will often hear the pleasant trill of the American toad in the spring. Individual calls will last 6-30 seconds with a trill rate of about 30-40 per second. If you do come into contact with this common backyard critter, don't be alarmed. Contrary to popular rumor, you cannot get warts from touching a toad. However, their skin-gland secretions are irritating to mucous membranes. Make sure to keep your hands away from your eyes and mouth until you have washed your hands. Overall, the American toad is pleasant, and helpful to have around the yard.

Fawn Nursery

Stillman Valley

815-234-5176

The Byron Forest Preserve would like to express thanks to Frank at Fawn Nursery for donating oak trees to the Summer Day Camp. The children have been studying about trees and how we can enhance our environment, as well as add beauty and oxygen to the air by planting trees.



Nature's Concert

By Jenna Sanders, Restoration Dept.

The prairie at the Byron Forest Preserve is an excellent opportunity to see a diverse group of songbirds without ever leaving the trail. Aside from sunrise, the best time to come birdwatching is the few hours just before sunset, at dusk. One of my favorite places to start out a bird hike is heading south from the Jarrett Prairie Center on the Indigo Trace trail. Walking through the woods, I can usually hear the Rufous-sided Towhee. Because this bird prefers dense growth, it is harder to see, but easily identifiable by his song, "Drink-your-tea-eee-eee." Another woodland bird with a very distinct song is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A good friend of mine once described the Grosbeak as a Robin with singing lessons, as the song is a clearer and more melodious version of the Robin's. This large finch is mostly black with a red breast, white rump and belly.

Coming out of the wood into the meadow, there are some dead trees south of the trail where at dusk, I always see a Northern Flicker. This is one of the larger woodpeckers, with an obvious white rump that is visible during flight. On occasion, I have observed him grooming and preening his feathers for some time, until something else caught my attention. This area is also a good habitat of the Indigo Bunting. Distinct from the Eastern Bluebird who has a chestnut throat and breast, Indigo Buntings are blue all over by spring. Males are energetic singers with paired phrases who sing later than most, until the end of summer. Eastern Bluebirds

are the intended residents of the Peterson nest boxes located throughout the preserve. Thanks to the efforts of many bird lovers, this species is slowly returning to a more healthy population. Before folks began installing nesting boxes, Bluebirds were frequently out-competed by Starlings and House Sparrows for nesting sites.

The prairie is habitat for many birds that adapted to the vast expanse of pre-settlement prairie and the reduced number of trees. Many of these species are ground nesters, and some evolved the ability to sing on the wing as there were few tall perches. Bobolinks are a species that have turned singing in flight into an art form. Their song is long, boisterous and bubbly. I like to call them "skunk birds" for the white stripes running down their black backs. Another flying singer is the Dicksissel, taking his name from the song, "Dick-dick-dick-sissel." Identifiable by a yellow breast and a black bib. A much smaller warbler with yellow underparts, the Common Yellowthroat. This black-faced bird calls "Wichity-wichity-wichity-wich" while hopping around on grass stalks with tail up, like a wren. Yet another yellow bird is the American Goldfinch. Known as "wild canary", goldfinches are all yellow save a black cap and black wings with white bars. I usually see these bright birds in groups of as many as fifteen perched in bushes and burn piles. To finish what has become a list of yellow grassland birds, the Yellow-

breasted Chat is the largest warbler. Having a yellow breast, white spectacles and a dark back, this long-tailed bird is not shy. Once, while hiking the Four Hi Trail, I was followed by this bird while he performed flight displays, scolded and clucked at me almost the entire way!

One last bird I would like to mention is the Eastern Kingbird. This smart looking bird is black on the head and back as if wearing a baseball hat, and has a broad white stripe across the tail tip. The Latin binomial for this bold flycatcher is *Tyrannus tyrannus* which is an indication of his behavior. In addition to those birds mentioned, keep your eye out for Tree Swallows and House Wrens commonly nesting in Bluebird boxes and Killdeer in the park areas. Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, and American Robins can be seen flitting off in the woods. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks are nested top of a tree west of the maintenance buildings and can often be seen soaring high above the prairie in search of small mammals and birds.

You really don't need any fancy equipment to begin birdwatching, but a pair of binoculars and a good field guide are a fine start. Complete field lists of birds on site can be obtained in the gift shop in the Jarrett Prairie Center. These lists all birds routinely on site as well as those breeding, nesting, or just passing through during migration. Keep your eyes and ears open and enjoy happy birding!

~ Programs ~

Secrets of the Night Sky

Ever wonder how the constellations got their names? Would you like to buy a telescope, but don't know what to look for? How about showing your kids the wonders of the universe? Then these programs are for you. Register now!

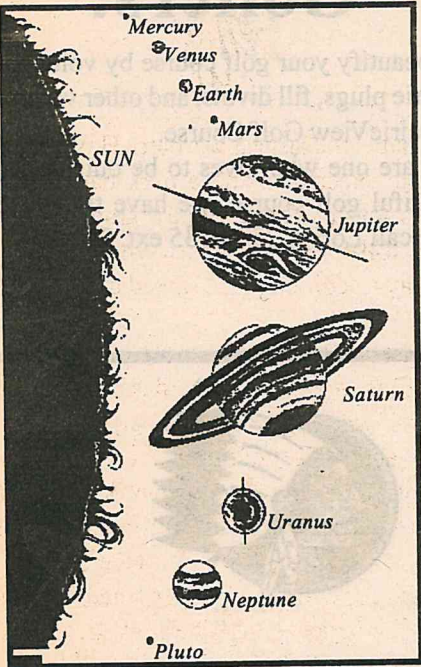
August 18 - Center of the Galaxy-Nebula
Sagittarius holds the center of the galaxy and the many wonders that wait there. Lagoon, Trifid, Ring, Dumbbell, Omega - What are nebula, different types of nebula.

September 15 - Summer Constellations
The summer triangle rides high now, come and decipher its secrets. Aquila, Lyra, Cygnus, Scorpio, Sagittarius - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.

October 20 - Planets
The planets move in an everchanging dance. Come and join in the dance. What is a planet, how was it formed, different types of planets, how does the solar system work.

November 17 - Fall Constellations
Lying horses, heroes, and women in chains, there's quite a story here, don't miss it! Pegasus, Andromeda, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cepheus - Who are they, what do they look like, what are their stories, how to find them.

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 6:30-8pm
Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Fee: \$2 per person - \$10 family max.
Dates: Listed above
Age: 5 years and up
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson
(Guarantee your spot, register now!)



Public Skyviewing

Explore the wonders of the night sky, stars, constellations, nebula, and many other sights that wait to delight. The observatory is closed if it is cloudy so call ahead to confirm viewing conditions, (815) 234-8535.

Days: Tuesdays and Saturdays
Time: Dusk - 10PM
Location: Weiskopf Observatory
Fee: Free
Dates: Aug. 1, 11, 15, 25, Sept. 5, 8, 19, 22, Oct. 3, 13, 17, 27
Min/Max: 3/20
Instructor: Lisa Johnson

Creative Memories

Safe and creative photo albums. 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? Come and 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. With holidays and weddings approaching, an album about those special people would make a unique and special gift they will enjoy for years to come. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Crop 'Til Ya Drop!
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Saturday
Time: 9AM-4PM
Fee: Beginner-\$20
Continuing-\$15
Date: October 3
Min/Max: 12/??
Instructor: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

For Kids (9-18 years)
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Saturday
Time: 10AM-1PM
Fee: Beginners-\$10
Continuing-\$5
Date: September 12
Min/Max: 5/10
Instructor: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Regular Adult Class
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Day: Tuesdays
Time: 6-10PM
Fee: Beginners-\$10
Continuing-\$5
Date: Aug. 4 & 25, Sept. 15, Nov. 10
Min/Max: 6/30
Instructor: Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Basketweaving

Come and make your own seasonal baskets for adult beginners and up. Fee 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. To register, call 815-234-8535.

Days: Mondays
Time: 7-9PM
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Fee: See below.
Dates: See below.
Min/Max: 5/12
Instructor: Deb Childers

September 14 - \$20
Small Autumn Accent Market Basket
A good refresher for weavers who have been "off for the summer." A great intro for beginners.

October 5 & 9 - \$30
Pumpkin Pie Basket
A shallow basket with a pair of wooden swing handles. Tote a pumpkin pie to Thanksgiving dinner.

November 16 & 23 - \$33
Shoulder Strap Tote Basket
Carry your holiday packages with this handy tote. Also a great gift for someone special.

December 7 & 14 - \$25
Holly & Ivy Wall Basket
A fancy wire hanger and holiday accents. Create a special basket to hold your holiday



Stepping Out

The Prairie Preserve presents an ever-changing palette of life and color. Join us for an opportunity to experience the great outdoors.

Take an easy walk through the prairies and savanna of the Prairie Preserve to look for and learn to identify resident and migratory birds and wildflowers.

Warm clothes, comfortable walking shoes/boots, and binoculars are recommended. Call (815) 234-8535 to register.

Days: Saturdays
Time: 8-10AM
Location: Jarrett Prairie Center
Fee: Free
Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14
Min/Max: 3/20



Crafters Needed

The Byron Forest Preserve's Seventh Annual Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, November 14, 1998, at the Jarrett Prairie Center. A few booths are still available.

This show offers over 35 exhibitors with a wide variety of unique, handmade crafts.

Since this is a juried show, Robin will need to look at your crafts, or pictures of your crafts, before a booth can be reserved.

If you are interested in reserving a booth, call Robin at 815-234-8535 ext. 200.

Volunteer News...

As the Leaves Turn... Think Prairie!

Volunteer Coordinator Lori Diehl always enjoys getting new candidates to volunteer at the Forest Preserve. In fact, right now is a great time to get involved as the air begins to reflect cool, crisp fall days. Hope to hear from you soon!

How can you help? Whether your interest lies in the upkeep of birdhouses, beekeeping, weeding prairie plots, beautifying the grounds, filling divots, or planting prairie plugs, we sincerely need you! For those who would rather stay inside, we need you to man the

observatory, fill-in at special events, work concessions at Saturday Concerts, or come to our weekly Tuesday morning meetings where we do many hands-on activities for the Education, Restoration, and Clubhouse Departments. There are a few volunteers who have been working in the woodshop, but it would be nice to have a few more! Come and enjoy each other's company over a cup of coffee and donut on Tuesday mornings. If you would like more information, please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Jarrett Prairie Center Invites You...

to attend the Tuesday Morning volunteer group which meets weekly in the Blazingstar Room from 8:30-11:30AM on Tuesdays. We are interested in individuals who can work outside, inside, paint, do light office work, education projects, or work in the woodshop by building butterfly and ladybug houses or other structures for the Forest Preserve and PrairieView Golf Course.

Along with the Tuesday Morning meetings, volunteers are always welcome to meet at other times on their own. Just remember to sign in at the gift shop so your hours can be recorded accurately. We also have the woodshop open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and evening for those who work during the day.

Earthkeepers

Susan Kleiman, Laurie Conners, and Lisa Johnson are always in need of a few volunteers to help with weekly activities which includes field trips!

Can we count on you?

Call Lori today at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Stargazing!

Lisa Johnson will help interested volunteers find their niche at the Weiskopf Observatory on the second and fourth Tuesday, the first and third Saturday, and special public programs on the third Tuesday of each month. For more details, all you need to do is call Lisa at 234-8535 ext. 232 or Lori at ext. 203.



Volunteer Schedule

If you would like to volunteer at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center or PrairieView Golf Course, please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.

Hopefully, one of the following meeting times will fit into your schedule or you can set up a different time with Lori:

Tuesday Morning Meetings - 8:30-11:30AM
Tuesday Morning Woodshop - 9-11:30AM
Tuesday Afternoon Woodshop - 1:30-4:30PM
Thursday Woodshop - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Special Meeting Dates:

August 11 - The volunteers will be meeting for breakfast at Sunrise at 8:15 am. After breakfast, we're off to the Jarrett Prairie Center for a few hours. Hope to see you at Sunrise!

September 29 - Salad luncheon - Sign up now!



Golfers!

Help beautify your golf course by volunteering to plant prairie plugs, fill divots, and other various activities at PrairieView Golf Course.

If you are one who loves to be outside gazing over a beautiful golf course, we have the place for you! Please call Lori at 234-8535 ext. 203.



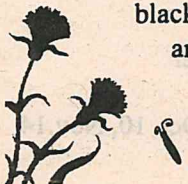
Elizabeth Foster, Nature Photographer

August 1-31

Reception - August 9, 2-4PM

Elizabeth Foster is a self-taught photographer with an interest in outdoor photography. Her special area of expertise is landscape and nature photography. She

has developed a method of hand-coloring black and white prints to produce a unique and distinctive look. Pieces will be for sale throughout the exhibition.



Art Shows at JPC

Ellwood Wingert, Native American Artifacts

September 5-27

Reception - Sept. 13, 2-3PM

Ellwood Wingert has been collecting Native American Artifacts for many years. Many of his pieces come from the family farm in Kent, Illinois, less than a mile from the Blackhawk Monument there. His collection includes arrowheads, scrapers, axes, and a paint stone with traces of the original pigments still on it. Mr. Wingert will present a program on his artifacts and be available to answer questions during the reception.



Jeanne Rager, Historic Landscapes

October 1-8

Reception - October 4, 1-4PM



Jeanne Rager's realistic work with watercolors must be seen to be believed. She specializes in Native American landscapes and midwest rural landscapes. Ms. Rager strives to create a mood in her paintings that reflects the beauty of the American Midwest in the recent and not-so-recent past. Pieces will be for sale throughout the exhibition.

PrairieView Golf Course News

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

Junior Volunteers See the Stars!

On Thursday, July 9th, PrairieView Golf Course sponsored a trip to the 26th Quad City Classic. Thirty-three junior volunteers (pictured right) were taken to Oakwood Country Club to watch such stars as PGA champions John Daly and Hal Sutton, U.S. Open winner Steve Jones, and many notable newcomers including Casey Martin and Paul Stankowski.

The trip was made possible by the outstanding turnout at PrairieView's annual junior fund-raiser. All of the kids who volunteered to work at the fund-raiser were invited to come along for a day of fun in the sun! Along with the chance to see some of the best golfers in the world, the kids enjoyed collecting numerous autographs, participating in games for prizes, and trying out the latest in golf technology.

Overall, the trip was a huge success. Everyone had a great time and could not stop asking questions about when they would be able to go back again. We will be planning another trip later in the year for more of our junior volunteers. Look for more details at the golf course.



Byron High School Golf Team

The Byron Tigers Golf Team has successfully completed its first season of play. Team tryouts will be conducted by Coach Mark Cameron in mid-August. Please contact him if you are interested in trying out for the varsity or JV teams. The team will be practicing at PrairieView on most weeknights after school when the team is not playing an away meet. Your patience and understanding at these times will be greatly appreciated.

Ladies Golf Leagues

PrairieView's two ladies golf leagues will continue playing through the fall months. The Tuesday morning and the Wednesday evening leagues are open to anyone interested in joining at any time. Please consult the bulletin board regarding fall starting hours for each of the leagues. For more information call Diane Cremens at 234-5041.

Gold Medal Classic

PrairieView announces plans to host its seventh annual "Gold Medal Classic" golf tournament on September 12 & 13. Entry registration forms are available at the PV clubhouse or by calling 234-4653.

The annual 36 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. John Robertson of Rockford is the defending 1997 tournament champion.

Make plans now to play in one of northern Illinois' premier tournaments. Entry deadline is Tuesday, September 8, by 5PM.

Junior Golf News

PrairieView's commitment to a strong, active junior golf program continued through the summer months of 1998. Heavy junior course play, a record number of junior season passes sold, leagues, new and old tournaments, and many other junior activities are all part of PrairieView's junior program.

PrairieView's popular **junior lesson program** with a record total of eleven classes and 132 participants helped kick off the summer junior program on Monday, June 8. The very popular **Monday morning junior golf league**, begun last season, had between 35 and 45 golfers every week.

A new junior event was added to the schedule on Monday, July 6 - the **Mid-Northern Illinois Junior Scramble Classic**. Nine, four-player teams participated in this new tournament. The third annual **Ogle County Junior Championships** was played on July 27 followed by another new junior event, the **Parent/Junior Championships**. The inaugural kick off for

this event was held Sunday afternoon, August 2, with three flight divisions. The annual **PrairieView Junior Championships** is scheduled to be played on Monday, August 10.

Registration for teams competing in the second season of the **Fall Junior High Golf League** began in late July. The first of eight, nine-hole league matches is set to start the last week of August. All league matches played at PrairieView this year will be played on Wednesdays at 4PM with a front nine shotgun start.

Finally, special thanks to PrairieView staffers, Chris Patterson and Mike Smith, for all their help with our expanded junior program this summer. In fact, the growth in junior golf at PrairieView has been so dramatic this year that there are now 202 "single" junior passholders compared to last year's record total of 169 passes. Everyone is asked to encourage this tremendous growth in junior golf by supporting the need for expanded golf facilities over the next few years.

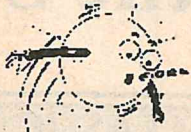
Free Green Fees!

Customer
Appreciation Week
October 13-16, 1998
(tentatively)

PrairieView Jr. Fundraiser

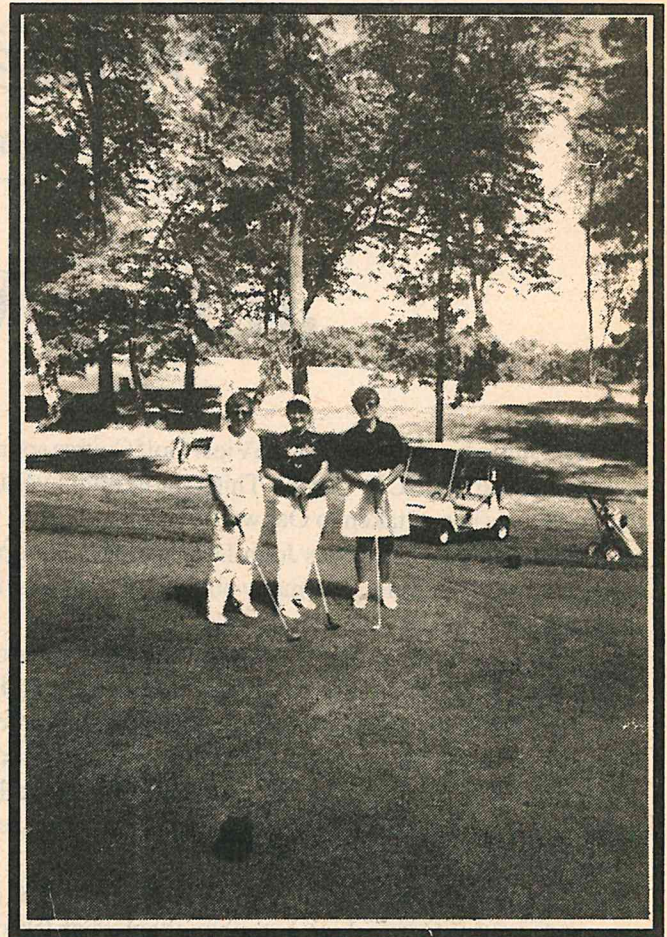
On June 28, PrairieView hosted its third annual **PrairieView Junior Fundraiser Tournament** with a record field of 152 entries. Over 50 volunteers including golf team members, team member parents, coach Mark Cameron, and PrairieView junior golfers helped the fundraiser bring in a grand total of \$9,614.50 through this once-a-year fund-raising effort.

Mark Cameron and his crew of team members and parents helped promote the tournament's first ever tee sponsor program - recruiting 30 sponsors in all and raising \$2,450. Assistant Golf Professional Chris Patterson challenged tournament players to "Beat-the-Pro" and was successful to the tune of \$580 in new tournament revenue.



One of the major benefactors of this tournament is Byron High School's golf team, started last year with financial help provided by the Junior Fundraiser Tournament. The entire PrairieView junior golf program benefits either directly or indirectly as a result of funds raised during the annual event. This past month, 37 juniors and adult chaperones had the opportunity to travel to the first round of the Quad Cities Classic due to sponsorship funds originated through the fund-raising tournament.

To increase fundraiser revenue by almost 50% took a huge effort by a large number of people. Thanks to all of the new and previous sponsors, the many golfers who played and contributed entry fees, and big pat on the back to all the great volunteers who continue to help make this event a huge ongoing success.



Opening of new #7 Red Tee. Pictured L-R: Kit Reif, Judy Jewell, and Noreen Kann.

Ogle County Championships

On Saturday, August 22, PrairieView will host the second annual Ogle County Championships. Players from all Ogle County golf courses are again invited to participate in this competitive event. Entry into this tournament is limited to residents of Ogle County only. Players will be pre-flighted in divisions based on their current handicap. Other champions to be decided are the four player team championship and the men's senior's championship. With a minimum number of eight entries required, a new women's flight will be added this year also.

Please pick up your entry form at any Ogle County golf course or call PrairieView GC at 234-4653 for more information.

Volunteers Needed!

All ages, interests, shapes, and sizes are welcome to assist with prairie restoration, observatory, harvesting seeds, gift shop operation, answering phones, greeting visitors, maple syrup making, Ranger Rick program, junior golf tournament, filling divots, wood-working, beekeeping, and much more! Call Lori at 815-234-8535 ext. 203 to sign up.

Public Hours

PrairieView GC hours of operation for the remainder of the 1998 golf season are:

August - September 7 (Labor Day)
6AM - dusk, Monday - Sunday

September 8 - October 4
7AM - dusk, weekdays
6:30AM - dusk, weekends

October 6 - October 31
8AM - dusk, weekdays
7:30AM - dusk, weekends

November - closing ... to be announced

* Early morning golfers take note. Please call ahead before coming to the course on heavy frost mornings. The course will not open for play until the first five holes, especially the greens, are entirely clear of all frost.

PrairieView Golf Course

September Special

**Only \$22
per person**

Only good for a foursome Monday-Friday.
Not good with any other offer.
Valid 9-1-98 thru 9-30-98.

PrairieView Golf Course

October Special

**Only \$18
per person**

Only good for a foursome Monday-Friday.
Not good with any other offer.
Valid 10-1-98 thru 10-31-98.

Pace of Play

*Just a reminder,
please be considerate
and use the pace of play clocks
on the course.*