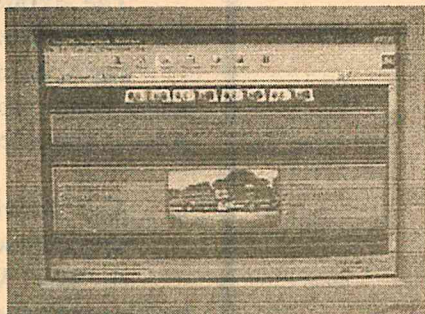


Byron Panorama

A Publication of the Byron Governmental Agencies

Winter/Spring 1999

Check Out the New Internet Site: byronfire.com



Your fire department now has a web site. In an effort to keep the public informed and to provide a source of information on many different topics, the fire department can now be reached via the Internet at

<http://www.byronfire.com>.

Now in its infancy, the site has some general information and a mailbox for suggestions, etc. In the future it will bring information on many fire prevention tips for the household as well as suggestions on health tips. There will be a form that you can fill out to ask questions of the fire department or offer suggestions.

Surveys have shown that many households have Internet service available at home, and the future will bring an even higher percentage. The site is still under basic construction but does have many articles and pictures in it now.

If you have a problem finding the site with your browser, please contact us with the name of the browser and the problem that you are having. Right now there are some pictures of calls that the fire department has responded to as well as information on classes that are put on for the public. In the future there will be a form to sign up for classes and a special apparatus page depicting the fire department's vehicles and a featured vehicle that will allow the user to click on a compartment door to see what is behind the door. There will also be an area for the children to visit featuring Sparky the fire dog and offering fire prevention and burn prevention tips and quizzes for them to take.

This is another media to keep the public informed and educated and to help them avoid or better equip them to handle emergencies. Don't forget the site for Byron too, at <http://www.byronillinois.org>. It has just opened its doors on the Internet and will be growing, too. The agencies of the City of Byron, Forest Preserve, Fire Department, Byron Schools, Library District, Museum District, Park District and the Byron Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to put the site on the Internet and provide a POP in the Byron area. This means that people in the Byron area can enjoy Internet service without the cost of EAS (Extended Area Service) charges on their phone bill. The other services such as AOL, MSN and AT&T have Rockford numbers. Although they are toll free, there are EAS charges that can add up, too. Over 100 people have signed up so far for the Byron area Internet services. Students have created many of the pages that are on the site. This provides them with a real life project while taking the Web Page HTML classes. They meet with the agency to help design what they want for their site then return to the classroom to create the site for the agency. This not only saves tax dollars but gives the student real life experiences in the art of creating and maintaining web sites using HTML. This is a win-win for the Byron area. Happy surfing, and don't forget to visit our sites often as they are constantly changing.

BYRON C.U.S.D. #226 FALL 1999 KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION begins

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1999.

To register, call Mary Morgan School K-2
234-5491, ext. 757, with your child's name,
address, phone number, and birthdate.

****Children must be 5 years old by September 1, 1999.****



BYRON fest

The steering committee for the 1999 ByronFest is hard at work planning and preparing for the festival in July. The success of this festival is due to the volunteers and people of this community who donate their time, labor and talents to showcase our community. If you are interested in becoming involved with ByronFest, please call the Byron Chamber of Commerce at 234-5500. Below is the ByronFest 1999 Steering Committee:

Byron Fest 1999 Steering Committee:

Char Myers, Ed Clift, Co-Chairmen
Pat Dach, Chamber Board of Directors Representative
Steve Patterson, Byron Park District

Pam Frenk	Bob Gronewold
Michelle Lipps	Marie Rohrbacher
Galen Bennett	Chris Dach

Ex-office:

Dennis Bryant, Steve Walters, Past co-chairmen
Beth Clift, Executive Director, Byron Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Hosts Meet the Candidates Night

The Byron Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, April 6, 1999, at 7:00p.m. in the Byron High School Sunderman Theatre. Local candidates will be speaking and answering questions regarding the election to be held Tuesday, April 13, 1999. The following districts will have candidates invited to attend: City of Byron, Byron Board of Education, Byron Forest Preserve, Byron Park District, Byron Public Library, Byron Fire Protection, and the Byron Township.

Mark your calendar today and plan to attend. This will give you an opportunity to know who you are voting and supporting for the community of Byron. If you have any questions, please call the Byron Chamber of Commerce at 234-5500.

Hurtful Words from the Bleachers...

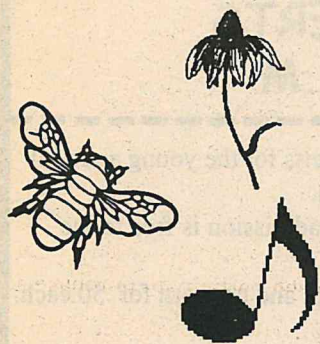
Back in September, the IHSA conducted a survey of around 500 student representatives from around the state. Some of the results are very interesting:

- 99 percent agreed "leaders in sport exert great influence."
- 95 percent said "each of us has a duty to honor our opponent and treat each person with respect."
- 94 percent believe "sportsmanship is a chance for me to practice what I believe."

continued on page 9

Inside this issue . . .

Byron Chamber of Commerce	1, 9
Public Library	2, 3
Park District	4-9
Museum District	10, 11
Fire District	1, 12
Byron Township	12
Forest Preserve	13-17
School District	1, 9, 18-20



Byron Forest Preserve News

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

Preservation • Education • Recreation



SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Summer Day Camp is a program geared for children ages 6-12. The objective of this program is for youth to learn about their environment in an outdoor setting, focusing on preservation, education, recreation, and FUN! This year we have a new director, with new counselors, and new themes for each camp session. Campers will go swimming and on field trips every week (costs will be included in session fee). **COME JOIN US AND HAVE FUN!**

Session #1	Mon-Fri - 9 am-4 pm - June 7-18 - \$130
	Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - June 7-18 - \$10
	Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - June 7-18 - \$10
Session #2	Mon-Fri - 9 am-4 pm - June 21-July 2 - \$130
	Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - June 21-July 2 - \$10
	Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - June 21-July 2 - \$10
Session #3	Mon-Fri - 9 am-4 pm - July 5-16 - \$130
	Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - July 5-16 - \$10
	Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - July 5-16 - \$10
Session #4	Mon-Fri - 9 am-4 pm - July 19-30 - \$130
	Latchkey Care - 7-9 am - July 19-30 - \$10
	Latchkey Care - 4-6 pm - July 19-30 - \$10

Easy payment plan options are available. These camps will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road, Byron. For more information, please call 815-234-8535.

VISITING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

March 6-29 Chris Bronny-Cheyenne handcrafts and artwork

Cheyenne style parflechts, tools and items of everyday use. Pieces are made out of natural materials in the traditional way. Some items are decorated with feathers, beads and natural dyes. Chris's artwork focuses on Native American and prairie themes and are done in a variety of media.

May 1-31 Elizabeth Foster-hand tinted black & white prints

Artist Reception May 2, 2-3pm

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.

Ranger Rick Club

Hey kids, looking for something to do after school? Ranger Rick is the club for you!

Ranger Rick Club meets every Thursday at the Jarrett Prairie Center from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 North River Road in Byron. There is bus transportation available for Byron School students.

The program costs only \$25 per month and lasts until April 29, 1999.

First through fifth graders are invited to join this club.

Sign up now, 234-8535.



Backyard astronomy series for 1999

"We are voyagers on the Earth through space, as passengers on a ship, and many of us have never thought of any part of the vessel but the cabin where we are quartered." -S.P. Langley.

Here's a chance to step outside our Earth ship and explore the depths of the ocean of space. Learn how to identify the constellations. Discover what equipment to use. Activities and demonstrations will focus on a different topic each month. Programs run on the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted, times vary. If weather permits, there will be time afterward for skyviewing. Binoculars are always helpful. Cost is \$2 per person with a \$10 family max. Programs are geared for families, children should be 5 years and up.

MARCH 16: 7 - 8pm ORION HUNTS THE SKY

Join the great hunter as we explore the winter constellations and discover the secrets they hold.

APRIL 20: 7:30 - 8:30pm BINOCULAR ASTRONOMY

You don't need a lot of fancy equipment to explore the sky. Bring your binoculars and we'll show you some stellar sights.

MAY 18: 7:30 - 8:30pm IT'S THE HERCULES HOUR

This isn't Kevin Sorbo, but Hercules and his neighbors are still a lot of fun.

JUNE 15: 8 - 9pm NEW TELESCOPE BLUES

So you have a new telescope, what do you do with it? Here's the program for you. Bring your telescope and we'll show you how to get the most out of it.

JULY 20: 8 - 9pm CYGNUS SINGS THE BLUES

The swan and the eagle point the way to many wondrous sights.

AUG. 12: 9-? pm SHOOTING STARS METEOR WATCH

The Perseids are here, bring your warm clothes, chairs, blankets and/or sleeping bags and plan to spend the night watching for meteors. Cloud date August 13.

SEPT. 21: 7:30 - 8:30pm TELESCOPES

What to look for when buying a new telescope. Start your Christmas shopping early.

OCT. 18: 7 - 8pm PERSEUS AND ANDROMEDA

The fall constellations tell a story of heroes and monsters and maidens in distress.

NOV. 16: 7 - 8pm TELESCOPE ACCESSORIES

New toys to add to your telescope just in time for the Christmas wish list.

Volunteers are Needed to Assist with Concessions at Saturday Concerts

We have a great time hosting Saturday afternoon Kid Concerts and evening Adult Concerts.

Dates available:

March 13

April 10

May 8

The afternoon concert volunteer time runs from 2:15 - 4:15pm, the evening time is from 7:30 - 10:30pm. Please call Lori Diehl at 234-8535 ext. 203.

★ STAR NOTES

March shows us five planets in the sky during the early part of the month. On the evenings of March 5 and 6, Mercury and Jupiter are as close in the sky as they can get. They are both low in the southwest and will quickly drop into the sun's glare and will be lost to us by the end of the month. Climbing higher in the southwest is bright Venus. As the month progresses, it will approach higher Saturn and by March 19 they will appear to be close together. Mars rises later in the evening in the west but does not get high enough for good viewing until closer to midnight.

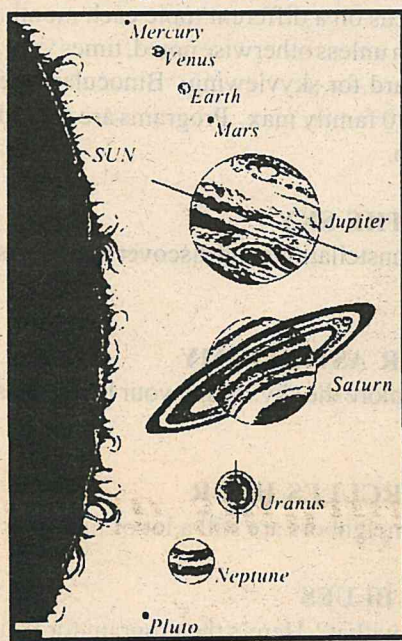
April is a good month for Mars viewing. As the Earth swings round in its orbit, we overtake slower Mars and reach the point where we are closest to it. By the end of April, Mars will be visible all night. Venus continues to brighten the western sky in the early evening. The winter constellations Taurus, Orion and Canis Major are quickly disappearing in the west, while Leo stands overhead and Bootes and Hercules rise in the east.

May brings us longer days and spring flowers. Reddish Mars hangs high in the east while bright Venus shines in the west. In between lies the realm of galaxies. The Coma/Virgo cluster lies just behind Leo and holds hundreds of galaxies. These tiny puffs of light are actually giant cities of billions of stars, millions of light years away. Too faint to be seen by the eye or binoculars, some

are visible in the telescope on dark, clear nights.

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 dark and are free. 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. Cost is \$2.00 per person, and tours can be arranged by calling Lisa at the above number, extension 232.



Cabin Fever Already?

Beat the winter blues by joining the Byron Forest Preserve volunteers through the winter months. They work on projects for all departments involved at the Forest Preserve: Education, Prairie Restoration, Prairie View Golf Course, Weiskopf Observatory, the Jarrett Prairie Center, and Administration. For those who enjoy being among people, volunteers are necessary for the Saturday Concerts, Special Events, Golf Course Fundraisers, and Jarrett Prairie Center Museum tours and field trips.

If you would like to take part in the Tuesday morning volunteer group, please come on out to the Jarrett Prairie Center from 8:30-11:30 am. The group works weekly on education, woodshop, and painting projects. Other volunteer times are available. Come join in by taking an active part in advancing the goals and aspects of the Forest Preserve. Your assistance is welcomed! Just call Lori at 815-234-8535 ext. 203.

Public Invited

White Pines Dinner Theater

Tuesday, May 25, 26, 27, 28
Noon-2 P.M.

The Tuesday Morning Volunteer Group at the Byron Forest Preserve will attend the *Garland to Gershwin Musical* at the White Pines Dinner Theater on Tuesday, May 25, from Noon-2pm. Using a wonderful combination of songs, duets, costumes, dance, and humor, an exceptional, elegant, and professional show honoring the music of two of America's legends...Judy Garland and George Gershwin will be presented. The public is invited to join us! The cost is \$24. For more details on how to register, please call Lori at 815-234-8535 ext. 203.



946-3817

FREE KIDS CONCERTS Saturdays 1-3 P.M

The Byron Forest Preserve has FREE Kids Concerts for the young and old! FREE and FUN are the words for Saturdays from 1-3 pm.

Area businesses sponsor the concerts so concert admission is free to the public.

A concession stand will be open selling juice, pop, and popcorn for .50 each.

March 13 - David Stokes - Sponsored by Quality Metal

David Stokes is a father, educator-naturalist, and entertainer who has performed throughout the United States and Canada. He writes stories and songs which are fun, active, and imaginative. Guaranteed to have the audience laughing, singing, and dancing.

April 10 - A Dog Show for Everyone - Sponsored by the River View Dog Club

Come see what they can help you do with your dog! All types of dogs and their behavior. Just fun watching dogs and their owners do special things. You can even pet a dog or two.

These wonderfully exciting concerts are held at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron. For more information, please call 815-234-8535.

Boating Safety Class - Coming Soon!

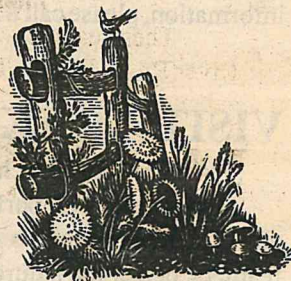
Date, Time, TBA

Call 234-8535 Ext. 232

For More Information

What is the edge?

Many natural areas have them...fence rows, scrubby patches of briars and saplings, in other words--edge. Also known as an ecotone, edge is the division between one habitat type and another. While edge was previously believed to attract wildlife, recent studies indicate that this habitat type plays a definite role in habitat fragmentation and habitat destruction of native grassland and forest birds.

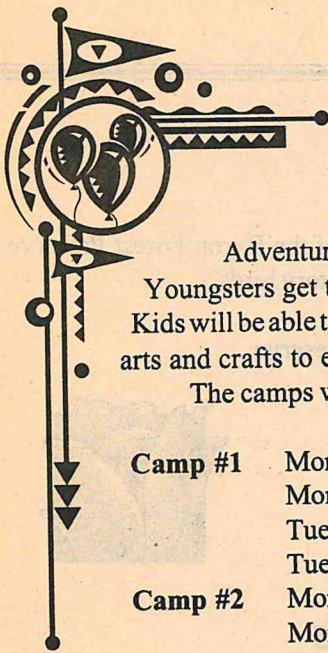


In pre-settlement days, the vast expanse of prairie was home to countless ground nesting birds. These creatures were but a fraction of one of the largest and most stable ecosystems known. As we have plowed, fenced, colonized, and otherwise dismembered the great prairie, so have we eliminated the very specific habitat needed to support these area sensitive birds. Acres and acres of continuous habitat are required for feeding, breeding, and nesting. When interrupted by fence rows and scrubby woods, the ecological value of the natural area is compromised.

Acres and acres of continuous habitat are required for feeding, breeding, and nesting.

These edge areas attract species like cowbirds that compete with the native species for resources and nesting sites. Some birds even act as parasites and lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. These foreign eggs hatch earlier and produce larger offspring that can easily out compete the mother's own progeny. Unknowingly, she feeds and raises young that are often larger than her. This common occurrence is but a loop in the downward spiral of extinction.

One way to foster the recovery of native bird species is to eliminate these edge areas that attract invading species. With increasing continuous habitat, rarer, and more diverse creatures will find the area more desirable and colonize the land. It is said that variety is the spice of life. In terms of ecosystems, variety is vital. Here at the Byron Forest Preserve, we are trying to manage the land in a way most beneficial to the animals and plants that previously thrived in the area. With continued efforts and observations, the community's ecological health is monitored and guided. It is our goal and purpose to leave behind us a natural area that is strong and healthy for our children and grandchildren.



ADVENTURE CLUB

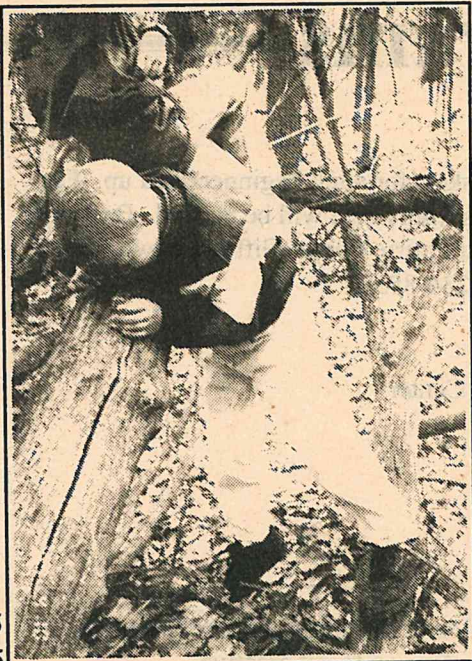
Adventure Club Camp is an outdoor club for ages 3-5. Youngsters get to explore the outdoors through hands-on activities. Kids will be able to run through the prairie and explore the woods, using arts and crafts to express their talents and feelings. The camps will be held the following dates and times:

- Camp #1** Mon. & Wed.- 9-11 am - June 7, 9, 14, & 16- \$25
Mon. & Wed.- 1-3 pm - June 7, 9, 14, & 16- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 9-11 am - June 8, 10, 15, & 17-\$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 1-3 pm - June 8, 10, 15, & 17- \$25
- Camp #2** Mon. & Wed.- 9-11 am - June 21, 23, 28, & 30- \$25
Mon. & Wed.- 1-3 pm - June 21, 23, 28, & 30- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 9-11 am - June 22, 24, 29, & July 1- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 1-3 pm - June 22, 24, 29, & July 1- \$25
- Camp #3** Mon. & Wed.- 9-11 am - July 5, 7, 12, & 14- \$25
Mon. & Wed.- 1-3 pm - July 5, 7, 12, & 14- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 9-11 am - July 6, 8, 13, & 15- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 1-3 pm - July 6, 8, 13, & 15- \$25
- Camp #4** Mon. & Wed.- 9-11 am - July 19, 21, 26, & 28- \$25
Mon. & Wed.- 1-3 pm - July 19, 21, 26, & 28- \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 9-11 am - July 20, 22, 27, & 29 - \$25
Tues. & Thurs.- 1-3 pm - July 20, 22, 27, & 29 - \$25

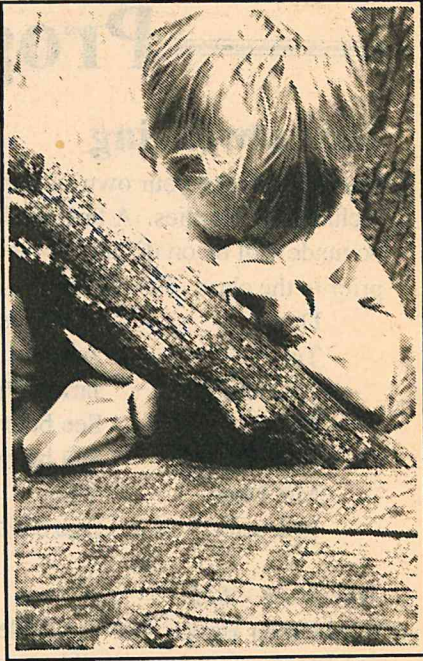
Register now at Jarrett Prairie Center.

Hours: M-W-F - 8-4:30pm - Saturday - 9-4
Tuesday - Thursday - 8 - 8:00pm. Sunday - 1 - 4:00pm

These camps will be held at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road, Byron. For more information, please call 815-234-8535.



I see it...I see it!! Adventure Club kids, C.J. Sundstrom (top right) and Scott Adams (top left) look for creepy, crawly creatures.



Pictured left: Byron Forest Preserve Preschool student, Ashley Coltrain, designs a beautiful work of art.



Maple Syrup Festival



The Byron Forest Preserve's Restoration Department will host a Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday, March 20. Preliminary plans for the festival include touring the maple forest where the trees are tapped, viewing of the syrup processing, and hosting a pancake breakfast. The breakfast will be sponsored by a local nonprofit organization, who will receive all of the day's profits.

The day promises to be enjoyable, educational, and delicious! Please mark your calendars for this event, and

watch for ticket sales to begin!
For more information, please call 815-234-8535 ext. 222.

Other great programs at the Byron Forest Preserve...

- Backyard Astronomy Programs, please see article on page 13
- Maple Syrup Festival, please see article to left
- Kids' Concerts, please see article on page 14
- Summer Day Camp, please see article on page 12
- Adventure Club, please see article above left

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.-8:30a.m.-4p.m.
Tues., Thurs.-8:30a.m.-7:30p.m.
Sat.-9a.m. - 3:30p.m. - Sun.-1-3:30p.m.

III. Faxed Registration

(815) 234-8635
24 hours per day

Payment must be made with Visa or Mastercard.

Program Registration Information

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

Payment Information

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

Refunds

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

Programs

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

March 22 - \$22

Mini Easter Basket 5x6" - A little version of the classic Easter basket. A variety of colored reed will be available for you to get creative.

April 5 & 12 - \$30

Welcome Spring Basket 12x13" - Greet the season by weaving this slim-line basket for your front door. Made to fill with your favorite silk or dried flowers.

May 3 & 10 - \$30

Fruits of Summer 10" diameter - A bowl-shaped basket with wooden side handles. Features LOTS of twining. Fill with fresh fruit for your summer table.

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.



Regular Adult Classes

Location:	Jarrett Prairie Center
Day:	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time:	6-10 pm
Fee:	Beginners - \$10 Continuing - \$5
Date:	March 23, April 20, May 6
Min/Max:	6/30 participants
Instructors:	Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

Pizza Party Crop

Location:	Jarrett Prairie Center
Day:	Friday
Time:	6-11 pm
Fee:	Beginners - \$13 Continuing - \$8
Supplies & Pizza:	\$40 (includes 8x10 album, adhesive, pen, pencil acid-free paper, and stickers)
Date:	April 9
Min/Max:	6/30 participants
Instructors:	Vicki Miller & Cindy Adams

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.

Location:	Weiskopf Observatory
Days:	Tuesdays and Saturdays
Time:	Dusk - 10pm
Fee:	Free
Dates:	March 6, 9, 20, 23 - April 3, 13, 17, 27 - May 1, 11, 15, 25
Min/Max:	3/20 participants
Instructor:	Lisa Johnson

Nature Walk

An easy walk through the prairies and savannas of the Byron Forest Preserve to look for spring wildflowers and resident and migratory birds.

Location:	Jarrett Prairie Preserve
Day:	Saturday
Time:	8-10 am
Fee:	Free
Date:	April 24
Min/Max:	3/20 participants
Instructor:	Lisa Johnson

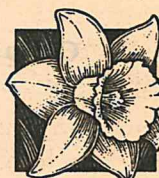


Rock River Valley Wild Ones

Invasive Plants in the Winnebago County Area

Heather Swanson, a Research Management Specialist for the Natural Land Institute, discusses this topic.

Location:	Jarrett Prairie Center
Day:	Thursday
Time:	7-9 pm
Date:	March 18
Instructor:	Heather Swanson



Wetlands & Wetland Restoration

Location:	Severson Dells
Day:	Thursday
Time:	7-9 pm
Date:	April 15
Instructor:	John Larson



SUMMER JOB OPENINGS!

JUNIOR COUNSELORS

The Byron Forest Preserve is looking for junior counselor volunteers ages 14-17 to assist camp counselors with our summer camp program. Want to come and have some fun outdoors with children ages 6-12, while learning about the environment and leadership skills? This position is a great opportunity for individuals looking to complete volunteer or service learning projects for schools, clubs, or organizations. For more information, please call Ed at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 815/234-8535 ext. 201.

CAMP COUNSELORS

Are you interested in working with youth in an outdoor setting? The Byron Forest Preserve is looking to hire with previous experience in education, recreation, and/or environmental studies. Counselors will work approximately 40 hours a week for ten weeks. The position will start June 1 and end August 4. If this sounds like a position for you, please stop in at the Byron Forest Preserve and fill out an application. For more information, call the Jarrett Prairie Center, 815/234-8535 ext. 200.

PrairieView Golf Course News

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

PrairieView Golf Course 1999 Opening Day!

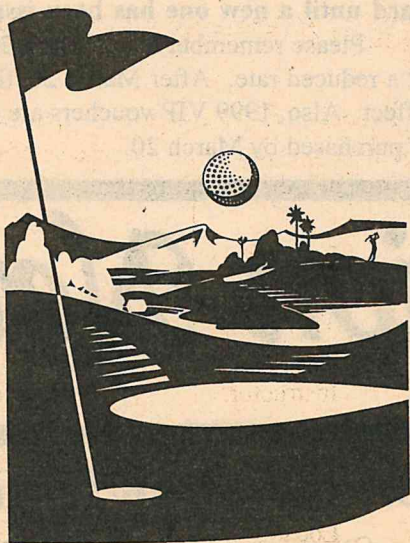
PrairieView staff and Byron Forest Preserve District officials eagerly anticipate another early opening for the 1999 golf season. Tremendously mild late November and early December helped finish last season with a bang and make the cold months of January and February seem not as long.

PrairieView's target date to officially open the course for play is Monday, March 1st, if weather and ground conditions allow. Last year, the course opened on March 25, and in 1997 it opened even earlier on March 20, our earliest opening so far. Early season golfers are encouraged to call the course at 234-GOLF for current course conditions and a possible earlier opening date.

As in past years, PrairieView golfers will see many new improvements both on the course and in and around the clubhouse in 1999. The list is long but a few notable items include: completion of the finishing touches to our beautiful new clubhouse landscaping, the addition of a canopy over the new patio, a newly completed bag storage area and separate private conference room in the lower level of the clubhouse, and new restrooms in the golf pavilion.

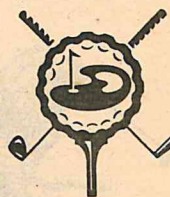
Things to look for on the course include: more new tees to be built including many new larger and several longer gold tee boxes, noticeably fewer trees to the left and back of #11 green for more sunlight, and an entirely new #11 green to be built in the fall of this year.

As you can see, PrairieView continues to get better and better every year. Come out early and take a look at all the improvements. The clubhouse staff looks forward to seeing you and providing helpful service and information.



New Facilities Ready For Course Opening

After several years of planning and months of construction, PrairieView's new, expanded clubhouse opened in the Spring of 1998. The staff at PrairieView and all our golfers were very pleased with the results and all the beautiful new amenities it has to offer.



The final phase of clubhouse renovation - completion of the lower level area below the dining room and pro shop - is now also complete and ready for the 1999 golf season.

This welcome addition includes a private entrance multi-purpose conference/meeting room seating between 18 - 24 people. The room features attractive furnishings, wet bar area, TV/VCR, and other audio/training amenities. Anticipated uses include: PrairieView golf club, women's and men's leagues, small outing groups, indoor lessons, Byron golf team, and staff training.

Last year's popular club storage area has been reconfigured with entrances and exits separate from the meeting room. The seventy available lockers are now in an area which includes finished walls and ceiling, carpeting, a new drinking fountain, junior golfer bulletin board information center, and several sets of tables/chairs and benches.

Finishing off this lower level is a new restroom serving both the meeting room and the bag storage area and that can also function as a private changing room. We believe that these new highly functional, attractive rooms will be a tremendously popular addition that can be enjoyed by all who play at PrairieView this year. Make sure you take a look when you come out this spring.

Lockers for club storage are rented on a first-come, first-serve basis and are expected to go quickly. Yearly rental fee is the same as last year - \$75 for adults and \$30 for juniors.

1999 "VIP" Voucher Program

PrairieView is offering its unique "VIP" discount program again in 1999. Initially offered in 1995, this program has become very popular with PrairieView golfers. Our in-house convenient debit / check card offers substantial savings on green fees, cart rental, and range practice balls. PrairieView's "VIP" card balance can also be applied towards daily clubhouse cash purchases such as concessions, pro merchandise, and golf lessons.

In addition to resident discounts, the "VIP" program offers discounts of up to 20%, cart discounts up to 30%, and range discounts up to 50%. Each new card provides you with daily savings for up to two full golf seasons.

Junior Golf Clinics

Plans for this summer's junior golf program are underway. As many of you know, there is a huge interest in golf among the youth in this area. PrairieView sold 213 individual junior golf passes in 1998 and approximately 150 junior golfers took part in the summer youth program.

Staff is again planning a series of clinics designed specifically for junior golfers - all the way from new beginners up to the more advanced junior players with years of on course experience. PrairieView's youth golf program will begin the week following school dismissal. Please call Ken Ledene at 234-GOLF if you have any questions or would like to be on the mailing list for information and registration forms. Summer junior golf lesson registration will begin in late April at the PrairieView clubhouse. Exact dates and times will be announced.

Practice Range Discount, Debit Cards Available: Save up to 50%!

Start the golf season right with several visits to PrairieView's excellent practice range providing you with the newest, highest quality range balls in the area.

Save up to 50% off regular basket prices when you make your purchase with a PrairieView VIP voucher card of \$200 or more. Discounted range ball prices up to 40% off are also available with the purchase of a convenient range machine debit card starting at \$20 up to \$100.

Adult Golf Lessons

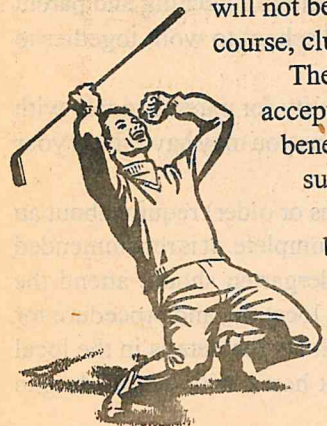


Don't forget to schedule an early season tune-up for your golf swing. Brand new beginners will also be interested in PrairieView's adult group beginner's clinics that begin in early May.

Beginner clinics are taught by PGA Pro Ken Ledene and are scheduled in early evenings, or private lessons may be scheduled to accommodate a busy schedule. Stop by the clubhouse in late March for more information and specific dates and times.

PrairieView Is "Spikeless" in 1999

Beginning early last season, PrairieView GC began a program to phase-out and ultimately ban "metal" golf spikes at our facility. For 1999 and beyond, PrairieView is totally committed to being a "non-metal" spike facility. Metal spikes of any type will not be permitted anywhere at our facility including the golf course, clubhouse, and all practice areas.



The trend towards going "spikeless" is now universally accepted throughout the golfing industry due to its many benefits, the primary one being much improved putting green surfaces.

PrairieView will continue to sell the "SOFTSPIKE" brand of non-metal spikes at slightly above our cost throughout the spring. The golf course staff would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding of this policy.

"Golf Club at PrairieView" Plans 1999 Activities



The "Golf Club at PrairieView" golf association's planning for their 1999 golf events is nearing completion. The district and golf course staff appreciate the "Golf Club's" enthusiastic support and volunteer efforts in promoting and developing our outstanding PrairieView golf facility.

Golf club members from last season will be receiving the club's spring newsletter by mail soon. Additional copies, schedules of events, and other association information are available at the new clubhouse for those not currently a member and interested in joining.

Pre-Season Sales Begin

District residents and other area golfers are reminded that PrairieView clubhouse will resume regular hours starting Friday, March 5, to sell passes & VIP vouchers, renew ID cards, and sign up for club storage, etc. Pre-season regular hours starting March 5 will be 9 - 5pm, Monday - Saturday until the course opens. Tentative course opening date is March 20, weather permitting.

Please call 234-4653 for current course conditions. Once the course opens for play, normal spring operating hours will be 7am to dusk on weekdays and 6 am to dusk on weekends.

Golfers are reminded to please bring along your old photo ID discount card, season pass card, or VIP voucher card. The Forest Preserve District will be converting to an entirely new computer system and software this year, so we anticipate issuing new cards to everyone. **Please do not throw away your old card until a new one has been issued!**

Please remember also, March 20 is the last date to purchase season passes at a reduced rate. After March 20, the new and highest 1999 pass rates go into effect. Also, 1999 VIP vouchers are on sale at an early bird special 5% discount if purchased by March 20.



School Action News



Library Bookmark Contest

Every year the Mary Morgan K-2 and 3-5 libraries hold a bookmark design contest in conjunction with National Children's Book Mark Week. This year, a special addition to the excitement was a design contest for the staff members. The students look forward to this event every year, and the staff had great fun, too. Listed below are all the winners. Stop by either of both libraries to view the great art work and creativity on display.



Contest Winners:

Kindergarten:

Meridith Hayes
Kaitlin Hefel
Tyler Nelson
Elizabeth Ludwig
Chloe Wild
Heather Zuehlke

1st Grade:

Nathan Anderson
Andy Kouba
Natalie Lyon
Taylor Torres
Ian Walter

2nd Grade:

Jessica Windett
Elizabeth DeLeon
Karissa Groharing
Sierra Leek
Doug Lillibridge
Stephanie McGlenn

3rd Grade:

Aaron Snow
Kip Norup
Jason Hauger
Rebecca Herbig
Jacey Johnson
Ryan Hartman
Andy Hada
Michael Swalve
Erik Moser
Kelsey Wild

4th Grade:

Brandon McNames
Nick Ludwig
Deanna Rogers
Chris Shamblyn
Andrea Spierling
Michael Rozum

5th Grade:

Jessica Helmold
Andrea Woodworth
Justin Eisfeller
Sarah Carter
Trisha Paytas
Mandy Lillibridge
Alison Mayfield
Tim Meyers
Corey West

Teachers:

Ann Grant
Nancy Nuerenberger
Lisa King
Nancy Esposito
Linda Burman
Susan Haugland

Snow! Snow! Snow!



We were finally walking in a winter wonderland! The snow arrived just in time for our winter activities. The second graders have been busy learning about the benefits of snow, animal tracks, and snowflakes. They have created snowmen from marshmallows to string to spaghetti and everything in between. Their creations are displayed throughout the school. We have been reading The Mitten by Jan Brett, Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, Snow is Falling by

Franklyn Branley, The Snowman by Raymond Briggs, and The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. They have also written persuasive paragraphs trying to convince their teacher that snow is great. All these activities are culminated with a winter field trip to the Byron Forest Preserve.

Parents - Please remember when there is snow, your child needs boots, snowpants, hats, warm coats and gloves at school because recess is part of our school day.

Free Preschool Screening Coming in March



The dates for the free preschool screening for children residing in the Byron School District are scheduled for Monday, March 22, and Tuesday, March 23. This screening provide you with the opportunity to see how your child is learning and developing.

The screenings serve two purposes. First and foremost, school districts are able to identify children who may be experiencing learning difficulties before these children enter Kindergarten. There are two FREE preschool programs at Mary Morgan School to serve the children who qualify based on the results of the screening and parent questionnaire. These programs allow the parents and school to work together to better prepare the child for success in Kindergarten.

In addition, these screenings provide an opportunity for parents to talk with school professionals about specific concerns or questions you may have about your child's development, behavior, and learning.

Screenings for the preschoolers (2 years 9 months or older) require about an hour of time and includes a questionnaire for parents to complete. It is recommended that even the children who are age-eligible for Kindergarten should attend the screening. More detailed information about the times, location, and procedure for making an appointment will be available soon. Watch for the details in the local newspapers (Life and Tempo) and flyers will be sent home with Mary Morgan students.