

# BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

Board of Commissioners:  
Dr. R. M. Jarrett, President  
Margaret Adams, Secretary  
Barbara Lukan, Treasurer



Bill Brown, Commissioner  
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner  
Ben Barton, Advisor  
Jack F. Philbrick, Director

1984 Vol. 1

WINTER ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

300 N. Lafayette

Byron, Illinois 61010

## RANGER RICK CLUB REPORT

The first meeting of the National Wildlife Federation affiliated Ranger Rick Club was held in October of 1983. Invitations were circulated by the district to all 5th graders with an overwhelming twenty percent response.

Officers were elected during the November meeting and include: Brittany Broderick, President; Joe Gleason, Vice-President; Phillip Knight, Secretary; and Jenny Adams, Treasurer.

The club, which studies and works on environmental projects, meets one full day each month during the school year. One month the club takes a field trip to study on site and on alternate months attends a work program session held in the By-Com Service Center at By-Com Preserve. In October, the club visited the Milwaukee Zoo and in November they constructed Bluebird Houses and learned about Bee Keeping. In December, they toured the Natural History Museum in Chicago. In January, the club will construct wildlife feeders and start water studies at By-Com.

Any youth in the 5th grade may join. A \$10.00 per semester fee covers each participant's cost to include a meal at each meeting.

The one fund raiser selected by the club members this last December was that of selling apple cider. The cider was made by the department from apples grown at By-Com Forest Preserve. The club sold over 131 gallons in ten days at \$2.50 per gallon for a total \$327.50. This will go toward construction of two (2) Bee Hives for the By-Com Preserve.

## PHOTO CLASS - OUTDOOR & INDOOR

The District hosted it's first 35mm photography class this past October. The course consisted of six 2½ hour sessions with five practical assignments.

Originally designed to handle eight residents, due to response, it was expanded to eleven.

Each class one hour or more was spent on learning camera shooting skills such as: focusing, framing, detail adjustments, lenses filters, lighting, and light meter skill. The second hour is devoted to photo evaluation and analysis.

All participants were given a wide variety of films to use to complete assignments. Everything from ASA 25 to 1000 was used.

A second course will run only four weeks, starting February 28th at 7:00 P.M. Classes will be held on the first and third Tuesday in April. The class will meet in the Art Room of the Byron Middle School.

The fee is \$20.00 and includes all film and processing.

## COMMISSIONER LUKAN STEPS DOWN

Mrs. Barbara Lukan has decided to retire from the Byron Forest Preserve District Board at the conclusion of her three year appointment in January.

Mrs. Lukan has contributed more than words can describe. She is one of the founders of the District, actively supporting the referendum that created the authority in 1981.

Mrs. Lukan spent unlimited time supporting the goals of preservation, recreation, and education within the district. She held the position of Board Treasurer all three years as well as actively supporting policies and programs. Mrs. Lukan will be missed on the Board but will no doubt remain active for she is a true conservationist.

## MRS. NOIMA JENKIN HONORED

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners honored Mrs. Noima Jenkin for her outstanding contribution to the District during their annual honors luncheon held December 2, 1983 at Maxon Manor. Noima has provided over 700 hours of free labor to the district thru her position as Probation Officer for Ogle County. She frequently transports workers to the site and checks on their attendance and performance.

The contribution that Mrs. Jenkin has provided has saved thousands of dollars for the taxpayers of Ogle County and the Byron Forest Preserve District residents.

## "HOW TO DO IT POTPOURRI"

The District has previously held a series of individual lectures during the winter. This year with the cooperation of the Ogle County Extension Service we are planning a full day of one hour programs to cover a group of topics that residents have shown interest in. The program will be held on March 10th and will permit individuals to register for one or more topics of interest. Specialist in Landscaping, Vegetable Gardening, Food Storage and Canning, Pruning, Bee Raising and Wind Breaks for Energy Conservation are being brought together to provide a broad program offering.

Registration may be limited and will include a light lunch.

The programs will start at 9:00 A.M. at the Byron High School Auditorium and run thru 3:15 P.M.

The District will prepare special notices in the paper when all details are complete.



## BY-COM REPORT

*Written by: Clyde James, Docent Supervisor*

If one has ever walked in virgin timber, it would be obvious that By-Com is far from that. Possibly, if let alone it would arrive at a near balance again after several centuries. Our plantings will improve it in a few years, but it may never reach its original status.

It is a pleasure-filled experience to take a piece of ground and leave it improved for those who follow.

At present, the wooded part lacks flower life due to years of grazing by livestock. On the woodland floor, there are some May flowers, violet, and wild geranium. One windfall is that there is a very large patch of rue anemone on the left side of the nature trail, about 75 yards in from the green "start" post. Look for them in the first week of May. They are a beautiful sight.

We have made a beginning of propagating wild flowers along the marked nature trail. We will enjoy their beauty in early and mid spring. They will be marked for the nature lovers' benefit. Fifth yards in from the beginning of the trail on the left is a display started by setting out columbine, false dragon head, New Jersey tea, and a great clump of violets. It is hoped that there will be a similar display in about two years on the other side of the trail. This would contain other forest-edge species such as: blackeyed Susan, Spiderwort, smooth aster, New England aster, and more as we have in stock. This will not have the appearance of a home garden, but rather we will disturb the present growth as little as possible by giving our implanted varieties a chance to survive and compete with other growth.

Ten yards from the "start" post, right and left of the trail is a transplanting of delicate blue phlox. We hope to increase the numbers of this one next year.

In the first 75 yards of the trail, a planting of ferns has been made. Hopefully, they are perfectly adapted to this spot.

Walking up the nature trail from the parking lot, you will walk through the middle of what will be our prairie restoration. A beginning has been made on the half acre oval-shaped area.

Last spring, the area was tilled and planted to many varieties of prairie grasses and forbs, which were collected the previous fall. To our disappointment, due to weather conditions and tillage methods, germination and growth results were not up to our expectations.

In August, we tilled eight feet on each side of the nature trail. Seedlings of grasses and forbs were planted. Some had been raised in seed beds where they were kept moist by sprinkling. Reestablishing a prairie is laborious at best, but the end results will be worth while.

In the fall of '83, many varieties of prairie seeds were collected for planting again in this area. Several varieties are in great enough quantity to seed the whole half acre.

The last effort before freeze-up was to plant ten kinds of seeds in beds. This is an experimental effort and duplicates what happens in nature. These forbs and grasses are identified with labeled stakes.

The soil where the prairie restoration is located is not naturally deep, rich, nor black. The area was chosen because it was already treeless and readily visible from the road, and day-to-day progress and change can be easily monitored. With time and effort, it can become not only a living laboratory, but also a living museum.

### DID YOU KNOW:

1. In 1950-1951 50,000 deer starved to death in Michigan?
2. All parts of the Dandelion are edible? (And you thought they were a weed!)

## CHRISTMAS TREE GROWING

*"A Hobby with Profits"*

When could be a better time to examine the hobby of Christmas tree growing?

Illinois is very well suited for a number of Christmas tree species. The following are the most popular:

1. Scotch Pine
2. Eastern White Pine
3. Virginia Pine

Several other species can be grown but do have some limitations. Two, a little more difficult, are douglas fir and red pine.

You need very little space to set out a few seedlings. If you want small trees, spacing 6x6 permits trees from four to six feet tall to be grown.

Soil for growing Christmas trees should be neither too poor nor too fertile. Poor soil will cause poorly formed trees. Overly fertile soil accelerates growth, encourages grasses and weeds which compete with the trees, and causes trees to require added pruning.

A quick summary on which to base your tree planting decision should include all the environmental factors: temperature, topography, air drainage, soil, and moisture availability.

Level to rolling land is best; protection from excessive wind ranks second. Wind has a drying effect on the trees and, in the winter, can cause snow buildup on branches of thick needled pine species, causing them to break.

In preparing your tree site, remember that areas that are cleared of cull trees, brush, vines and briars are best. Removal of grown covers and grasses should be done in the fall prior to spring planting. Chemical treatment around each seedling can eliminate close-in mowing, which can be time consuming and hazardous to the tree.

Spacing depends on tree species, your own permissible area, and type of maintenance equipment. If you have acres available, 1210 to 1410 trees per acre will utilize the land. However, ten trees could fit into your backyard in a single row just four feet inside a hedge. This could provide you more trees than you need. If you use herbicides in conjunction with mowing, rows need now be exactly the same as between rows without herbicides.

Finally, selection of seedlings: this is the most important step. Plants below 6" tall will be forced to compete too hard. Plants 6 to 12 inches tall are best. Many nurseries will provide quality stock in bare root form. Any nursery should provide you with detailed planting information.

Growing your own tree in six to ten years can be a great family experience. Learn pruning techniques, insect control, and varieties as you develop a knowledge that provides irreplaceable rewards.

For more information on growing Christmas trees, contact the Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and request a copy of Circular C1171. A second source called "Types, Species, and Sources of Christmas Tree Planting", Stock No. 14, is available by writing: Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forestry, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL 61801.

## HIKING & CROSS COUNTRY SKIING TRAIL

A 3/4 mile trail has been completed through the woods at By-Com Forest Preserve. The trail starts at the parking lot and heads up the hill to the woods. Winding through the woods the trail passes many types of senic conditions and terrain changes. It breaks out of the woods several times before cutting through the nursery, apple orchard, and prairie. The trail is open from dawn to sundown daily.



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## FEEDER TIPS

### WHEN TO FEED

Plan to initiate the operation of your feeding station when the first snows or extreme cold temperatures are expected. Remember that the feeding station may attract more birds than the area naturally supports. Therefore, once feeding begins, food should be available continuously until at least April.

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Initially, only a small amount of bird seed should be placed in the feeders since few birds will know that it is there. However, as the season advances, more and more birds will find and utilize the feeders, and more food can be dispensed. Eager operators often overstock their feeders and thereby allow excess food to spill, spoil, or freeze. Naturally, much of the food that spills onto the ground is eaten by ground feeding birds or other animals, but if an excessive amount of food is spilled, you may wish to modify the feeders or your feeding rate.

### PERMANENT FEEDERS

The most attractive and longest lasting feeder is a plant which provides both food and shelter. A list of such plants that attracts a variety of species includes:

Trees: beech, black cherry, flowering dogwood, huckleberry, holly, juneberry, mountain ash, mulberry, oaks, pine, red cedar, sassafras, sour gum, alder, ash, birch, and elm.

Shrubs: blackberry, elderberry, pokeberry, sumac, viburnum, Virginia creeper, greenbrier, trumpet vine, and wild grapes.

Annuals: timothy, sunflower, tarweed, and lupine.

The Department of Conservation has a free brochure available on attracting wildlife to your yard through use of landscape planning. For a copy, write: Department of Conservation, Division of Forest Resources and Natural Heritage, 605 Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706.



**New Trail Bridge constructed by the C.E.T.A. Summer Crew at BY-COM Preserve.**

## WELD PARK

January 1, 1984 the Byron Forest Preserve District took over the maintenance and programming of Weld Park for the Ogle County Board.

As weather permits, the staff will initiate a number of improvements approved by the District's Board. They include new restrooms, picnic tables, and creative play area for children 12 and under.

The staff has already planned a spring surprise for park users.

Picnic pavilion reservations will be open in May for groups of 20 or more on weekends. Reservations are for Ogle County residents only.

## BACK YARD ICE RINKS

If you have talked to your grandfather you have heard stories of skating on the Rock River or on area ponds. Yet today, this never seems to be possible. Well it need not stop you from enjoying the sport in your own back-yard.

A few secrets to success are offered in this article.

To have a satisfactory rink in our climate area we can't count on long cold spells, especially long periods of zero weather. However, we only need temperatures that remain below freezing.

To safely skate on a pond or a river we recommend a minimum of 4". A back-yard rink, if on flat ground, need only be around 1 inch thick or less.

Flooding is normally a waste of time because you can't rebuild in the same area when a melt down occurs.

To start with you need only a few tools:

1. Garden hose with mist adjustment nozzle.
2. Freeze safe water supply
3. Snow removal device (push-type shovel blade)
4. Stiff barn broom
5. Hand mower if needed

Before your freeze sets in, mow your yard at a setting of approximately one and a half inches tall. This height permits grass to be matted down with the initial coatings of spray.

When freezing starts, keep all snow off the planned rink area as soon as a snowfall stops. This permits the ground to freeze deeper. Snow insulates and actually retards penetration.

Once the ground is frozen three inches deep or more and temperatures don't go above 32° during the daytime you can build your rink.

You can have a lot of fun on a rink as small as 20 by 40. If users are under 14 years old it can be smaller.

Many mist sprays over three days are better than a few heavy sprays. Your first three applications are the most critical. Set your hose about 1/3 open, shoot high into the air under full pressure and be sure it is 20° or lower after sundown or below 15° with a full overcast if you must spray before sundown.

Just coat the entire surface area. Avoid applying even one sixteenth of an inch of water and no puddles. The water will set-up, frequently very fast, but allow at least three hours between each of the first three sprays. After that you allow one hour after you know it is completely frozen.

Spray snow banks around the rink every other spray. This holds the snow from being kicked on your rink during skating. Shovel off any new snow immediately after it stops falling. Also sweep loose snow and chips off after the rink is used by skaters and before touch up sprays.

When the temperatures go above freezing, permit run-off if possible and keep skaters off if puddles form. This permits easy reestablishment when temperatures drop.

Your rink can be a lot of fun with a little work. You won't damage your yard if you spray properly and you rotate your rink location each year.

Two very important maintenance points are:

1. Drain hose after each spray and take outdoors with nozzle.
2. Use a safe (indoor) water supply.

Finally, two safety recommendations, supervise skaters and don't let anyone skate without gloves. Skates, even old ones, can cut hands badly.

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"Let advertisers spend the same amount of money improving their product that they do on advertising and they wouldn't have to advertise it." . . . Will Rogers 1919





Byron Forest Preserve District  
300 N. Lafayette  
Byron, Illinois 61010

BULK RATE  
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## COMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 11th Natural Heritage Landmark Recognition  
Ceremony to honor Local Land Owners  
Byron Cultural Center ..... 7:30 p.m.
- 17th Sinnissippi Audubon Society Annual Awards Dinner  
Forest Hills Country Club, Rockford, IL .... 6:00 p.m.
- 20th Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting  
Forest Preserve Office ..... 9:00 a.m.
- 21st Ranger Rick Work Day  
BY-COM Forest Preserve ..... 9:30 a.m.
- 24th Byron Forest Preserve District Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
Byron High School Commons ..... 7:30
- 31st University of Illinois Extension Service  
Crop Protection Seminar  
Byron High School ..... 9:30 a.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 7th University of Illinois Extension Service  
Soil Fertilization Day  
Byron High School ..... 9:30 a.m.
- 9th New Forest Preserve Photo Class  
Middle School Art Room ..... 7:30 p.m.
- 11th Rock Cut State Park Winter Carnival  
& Rock Cut State Park, Rockford, IL ..... 9:00 a.m.
- 12th
- 17th Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting  
Forest Preserve Office ..... 9:00 a.m.

- 18th Ranger Rick Field Trip "Museum of Science &  
Industry" Chicago, Illinois ..... 8:30 a.m.

### MARCH

- 10th Byron Forest Preserve District and Ogle County  
Extention Service Joint "How to Do It Potpourri"  
Byron High School ..... 9:00 a.m.
- 16th Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting  
Forest Preserve Office ..... 9:00 a.m.
- 17th Ranger Rick Work Day  
BY-COM Forest Preserve ..... 9:30 a.m.
- 19th Canvasback Ducks Traditionally arrive  
on various Illinois Rivers and Lakes

## NATURAL NIBBLES:

### Fruit Pemmican Bars

An excellent winter snack that is a variation of an American Indian recipe. To make this chewy treat, mix the following ingredients:

- 1 Cup raisins
- ½ Cup honey
- ½ Cup milk powder
- ½ Cup wheat germ
- ½ Cup wheat or soy flower
- ¼ Cup of wheat bran
- ¼ Cup of almonds, walnuts brazil, or filberts  
(whole or chopped)
- 2 Tablespoons corn oil
- Enough grape or apple juice to make thick batter

Pour the mixture into an 8" pan and spread it out evenly. Bake at 300° until firm (about 30 to 40 minutes.) Let the pemmican cool and then cut into squares or bars.



# BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

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Dr. R. M. Jarrett, President  
Margaret Adams, Secretary  
Bill Brown, Treasurer



Rich Henricks, Commissioner  
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner  
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1984 Vol. 2

SPRING & SUMMER ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

300 N. Lafayette

Byron, Illinois 61010

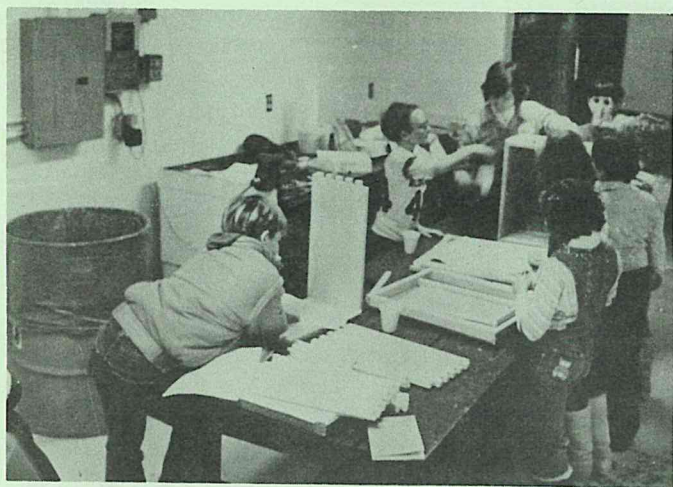
## RANGER RICK CLUB REPORT

The Ranger Rick Club has met once each month and has completed all the scheduled activities for the year to include its fun outing to Great America on May 12th.

The \$327.50 raised by the Club from its Cider Sale was spent purchasing two (2) beehives and 60,000 bees. Both hives were assembled at By-Com and hopefully at this time next year a flow of honey will be large enough to bring in some more program funds.

During the April work session, the Club planted onions that they hope to donate to People Helping People this fall. Other activities included installing over 24 birdhouses at By-Com, watching an orchard-spraying demonstration, moving playground equipment, and general cleanup at the Service Center.

The Club will hold two weekday programs during the summer break. Those will be all day sessions as are the once-a-month sessions in the Fall and Winter.



Ranger Rick Club shown constructing their two (2) Beehives, which are in use at By-Com orchard.

-Photo by staff-

## WHAT IS THATCH?

Thatch is a buildup of both living and dead roots. It is not a layer of dead grass clippings, as is commonly believed. Grass clippings decompose rapidly and, in the process, return nitrogen and other important nutrients to the soil. (With timely mowing, clippings never need be removed.)

## THATCH — NO MYSTIC PROBLEM

Studies have shown that three or four applications of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash will guarantee the formation of a thatch layer. Phosphorus and potash do not move in soil. When applied on a lawn, these materials become fixed to the surface. Watering will not leach them into the subsoil.

Nitrogen is the only element that moves with water.

If clippings aren't removed, nitrogen is the only fertilizer that needs to be applied because nature recycles the fertilizing elements except the nitrogen.

When roots are supplied with frequent fertilizing on the surface, the grass does not develop healthy deep penetration into the subsoil. This can cause the grass to go into stress from just about anything. The lawn is further susceptible to disease and can be called a hydroponic lawn.

The following are some indicators of a healthy lawn:

- (1) Grass is deep green, erect, springy, dense.
- (2) Mat on thatch is less than 1/4" thick.
- (3) Roots are thick white and deep.
- (4) Soil is porous with high organic matter content.

The following are some problem lawn symptoms:

- (1) Grass turning yellow or brown with limp blades.
- (2) Mat and thatch indicates short roots.
- (3) Soil is compacted or "layered" preventing penetration of precious air, water and nutrients.



Mrs. Barbara Lukan (left) with Board President, Dr. Jarrett, shown at a recognition luncheon held in her honor. Barb was a founding member of the District and served as its Treasurer.

-Photo by staff-



## CHICAGO BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR

The spring bus tour will be to the beautiful Chicago Botanical Gardens. Jointly hosted by Mrs. Laura Wyatt of the Winnebago County Extension Office, John Alessandrini of Severson Dells and the Byron Forest Preserve District.

The trip includes a ride around the gardens by tram, special small group tours, a guided group tour of the Japanese Gardens, some free time for browsing, lunch and transportation for \$18.00 to resident adults, and \$14.00 for Senior Citizens.

Only twenty-three (23) vacancies are available.

The Byron group will board the bus at the Forest Preserve District Office at 300 No. Lafayette Street at 8:00 A.M. and return at approximately 5:15 P.M.

Reservations must be accompanied with the full fee on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information, contact the Forest Preserve District Office at 234-8535.



## MEET THE STAFF

Presently working at the Byron Forest Preserve District Office through the government's Green Thumb Program is Mrs. Dorothy Waide.

Dorothy was born in Stockport, Iowa, where she lived until 1931. She then moved to Colorado. In Colorado, she worked for Family Social Services doing office work for 14½ years. She retired in February of 1979 and moved to Byron to be near one of her daughters and three grandchildren in May of 1980.

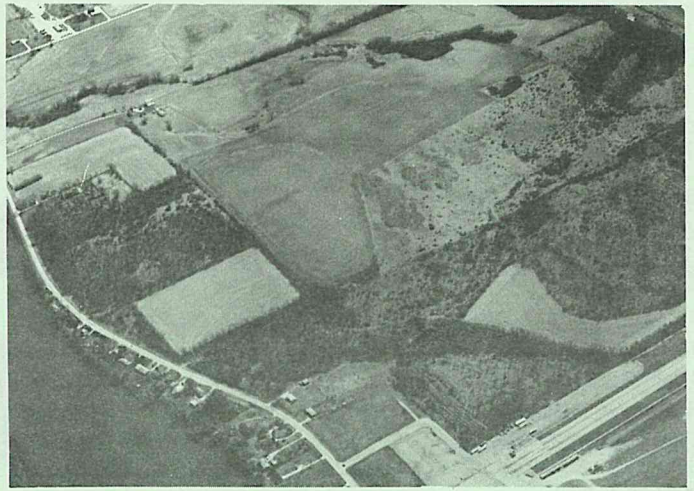
She has been with the Forest Preserve since May 1, and has been a tremendous help. She really enjoys the work and the feeling of satisfaction it gives her.

## JACKIE "VIOLET" JELLY

- 2 cups Violet blossoms
- 1 box Sure-Jell, regular
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 4 cups granulated sugar

Put blossoms in quart jar and cover with boiling water. Let set for 24 hours.

Pour 2 cups liquid (drained off blossoms), (save the liquid), add lemon juice and watch the color come back. Add Sure-Jell and bring to hard boil. Add sugar all at once and bring to full boil for one minute. Pour into jars and seal. It will be a light pinkish-purple color.



Aerial view of R.L.D. Inc. farm located between German Church Rd. and the Byron Drag Strip. This 182-acre site is the property the Forest Preserve is considering for its Master Preserve.

## BY-COM PRESERVE PROGRESS

The fall planting of spring flowers made its big showing at the entrance area of By-Com the week of May 1st.

Four new twelve-year-old Crimson Maples were planted by the summer maintenance crew that same week.

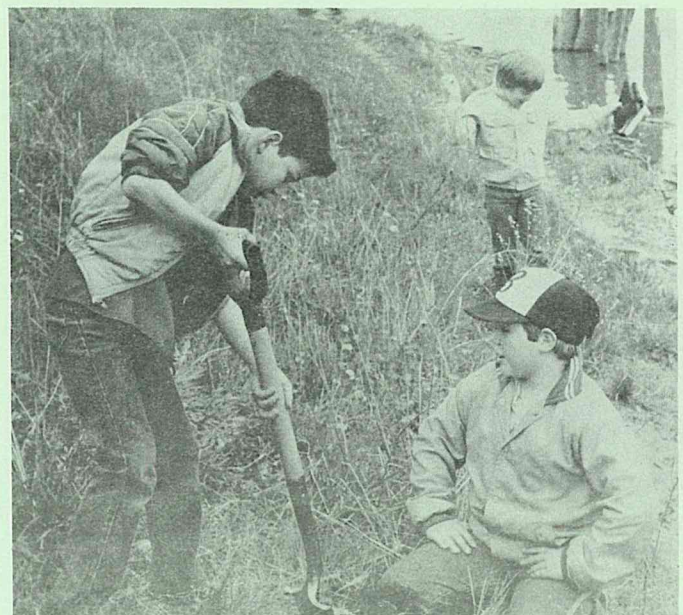
The windstorm of Sunday, April 29th, did remove the roof of one restroom but caused no major damage. In fact, nature's method of tree thinning complimented the woods with habitat areas for hundreds of little creatures that survive from feeding on downed timber.

The second year prairie burn in April yielded a good response.

The demonstration areas, nursery and trail system will be expanded this year.

Bald Cypress will be planted along the major waterway to assist in erosion control this summer.

The orchard has had four new apple trees added and residents can now view trees in various levels of pruning.



"For the Future" - In observance of Arbor Day, Byron Cub Scouts Dens 2 and 5 planted two Baldcypress trees along the riverbank at Sunshine Park, May 2, 1984. The trees were donated by the Byron Forest Preserve District.

-Photo compliments of Ogle County Life-



## "HOW TO DO IT POTPOURRI"

### BIG SUCCESS

The first annual Byron Forest Preserve District and Ogle County Extension Service day-long seminar attracted over 50 participants on March 10th. Subjects included Food Processing; Landscaping; Gardening; Yard Care; and Bee Culture.

University of Illinois speakers and commercial practitioners covered the topics in depth. Each participant that pre-registered was given a bound booklet of specific guides, references and facts on several presentations. The Byron Library prepared a complete biography of materials available for checkout. Byron True Value and Cole Chemical provided excellent door prizes. In addition, the Forest Preserve supplied a number of birdhouses and 12 gallons of By-Com cider.

Plans for next year will be guided by a questionnaire that was completed by those who attended the all-day program at the Byron High School.



Members of the Byron High School woodworking class are shown at a cookout hosted by the District on the final day of their construction project at Weld Park. Director Philbrick, on the right, served as cook.

-Photo by Cathie Getts-

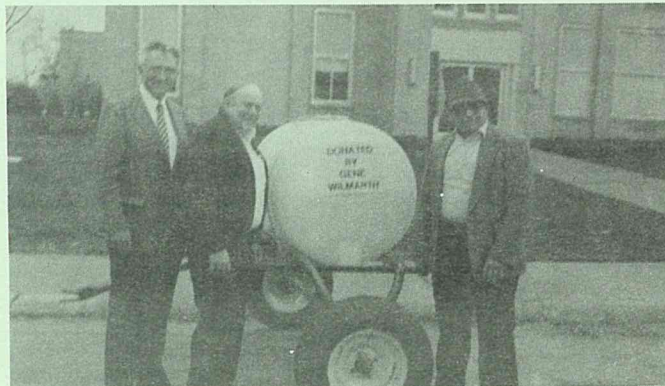
## TEN (10) GENERAL PRUNING RULES FOR APPLE TREES

- (1) Remove dead and broken branches.
- (2) Remove diseased, or diseased parts of, branches.
- (3) Remove watersprouts. These are rapidly growing young shoots arising from trunks or scaffold (main) branches. They grow straight up, frequently without branching.
- (4) Remove suckers. These are shoots arising from the roots or from the trunk, at or below the ground level.
- (5) Eliminate competition between branches. If one branch grows into another branch or rubs another branch, remove the least desirable branch.
- (6) Eliminate V-branching. If two branches are of equal size, forming a narrow "V", eliminate one.
- (7) Remove weak, slow-growing, drooping, non-productive branches.
- (8) Remove branches or parts of branches that touch the ground.
- (9) Avoid selecting main branches growing toward the direction of prevailing summer winds. Northern Illinois frequently has high summer winds. The prevailing direction is usually from the southwest. When trees are in full leaf, winds may distort the tree shape because branches growing toward the prevailing wind tend to blow back into the center of the tree.

- (10) The first five (5) years the tree is in your yard or orchard, prune only enough to train the tree.

Classes on pruning are held each spring with practical demonstrations in our area. The Forest Preserve District By-Com Preserve has a demonstration orchard that has examples of most pruning techniques. Informal meetings for two or three residents are available by appointment throughout the spring and fall.

These meetings include spraying, pruning and propagation tips.



Left to right, Treasurer Bill Brown, Gene Wilmarth and Dr. Jarrett shown with the water trailer presented by Mr. Wilmarth to the District this past month.

-Photo by staff-

## WELD PARK PROGRESS

May 1, 1984 saw the District open the gates to Weld Park with all new picnic tables, a new parking area constructed with the cooperation of the Ogle County Highway Department, cookout facilities, and new restrooms under construction by the Byron High School Shop Class.

The District has a lot of work scheduled to include a few things, not quickly noticed, such as fencing, signs and tree renovations.

Public Service Workers have spent over 200 hours cleaning up trash, cutting undergrowth and burning leaves. This will continue all summer.

By June 1, 1984, the District hopes to have a new playground equipment area constructed.

Reserved picnic shelter permit forms for Weld Park are available by calling the Forest Preserve District Office Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

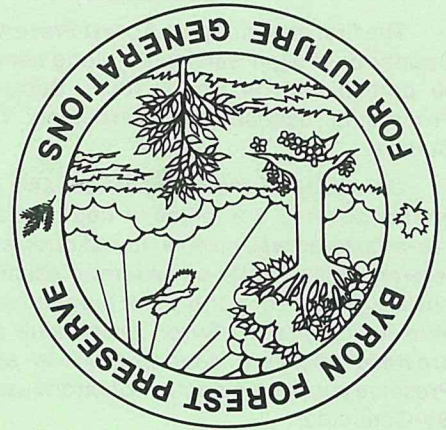
Reserved shelter permits should be requested 30 days in advance and are offered to Ogle County residents only.



John Ferb, President of Byron Park District, and Adelbert Webb standing in front of a tree planted by the District at Sunshine Park in honor of Mrs. Webb. The Park District donated the funds to the Forest Preserve District for the tree.

-Photo compliments of Ogle County Life-





PERMIT NO. 4464  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BULK RATE

Byron Forest Preserve District  
300 N. Lafayette  
Byron, Illinois 61010

## 1984 MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

### JUNE

Wednesday June 13th	- Forest Preserve Dist. Board Meeting WELD Park	9:00 A.M.
Friday June 15th	- Chicago Botanical Gardens Bus Trip Departs from Forest Preserve Office	8:00 A.M.
Saturday June 16th	- YOKE Fellow Breakfast Cookout BY-COM Forest Preserve Service Center, Razorville Road	7:30 A.M.
Monday June 18th	- Ranger Rick Work Day BY-COM Preserve	9:30 A.M.
Tuesday June 19th	- Outdoor Education Summer Class Bee Study - BY-COM Preserve	8:30 A.M.
Wednesday June 20th	- Image Photography Club Meeting Cultural Center	7:30 P.M.
Saturday June 23rd	- Byron Summerfest Rotary Run, Byron High School - Byron Summerfest, Byron, IL.	8:30 A.M. A.M.-P.M.

### JULY

Wednesday July 18th	- Image Photography Club Meeting Cultural Center	7:30 P.M.
Friday July 20th	- Forest Preserve Dist. Board Meeting Forest Preserve Dist. Office-300 N.Lafayette	9:00 A.M.

Monday July 23rd	- Ranger Rick Work Day BY-COM Preserve	9:30 A.M.
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### AUGUST

Wednesday August 15th	- Image Photography Club Meeting Cultural Center	7:30 P.M.
Friday August 17th	- Forest Preserve Dist. Board Meeting Forest Preserve Dist. - 300 No. Lafayette - WELD Park Planners Cookout	9:00 A.M. 12:00 Noon
Friday August 31st	- BY-COM Planners Cookout	12:00 noon

## PHOTO TIP

Backgrounds sometimes are undesirable and detract from a subject. The 35mm cameras permit adjustment to cause the backgrounds to be blurred by opening the lens and speeding up the shutter speed.

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The real purpose of our existence is not to make a living, but to make a life — a worthy, well-rounded useful life.

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.

-unknown-



# BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

## Board of Commissioners:

Dr. R. M. Jarrett, President  
Margaret Adams, Secretary  
Bill Brown, Treasurer



Rich Henricks, Commissioner  
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner  
Ben Barton, Advisor  
Jack F. Philbrick, Director

1984 Vol. 3

WINTER ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

300 N. Lafayette

Byron, Illinois 61010

## RANGER RICK CLUB REPORT

Since the clubs inception one year ago, many projects have been initiated to include two major fund raisers, cider sales and this past month honey sales.

This fall the club will expand to include 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

Work projects this year will include propagation of a new nursery, deer feeder construction and others. Trips to the Shed Aquarium & Brookfield Zoo are also planned.

Applications are still available and total cost to include trips, cook-outs and materials will remain only \$10.00 per semester.



Ranger Rick Treasurer Jenni Adams on the left and Club President Brittany Broderick collect yellow and purple cone flower seeds at the prairie adjacent to the Byron Drag Strip as part of the October club work day.

## FARM TERRACES

Each year we send hundreds of tons of top soil south thru our efforts to yield larger production on marginal land. New concepts to us are hard to adopt when we don't see the effect of unprotected ground cover in many of our fields nor water run-off restraint.

We frequently take the stand that costly changes in farm practices will cause us to reduce our income to the point we won't be able to make a living.

However, terracing doesn't need to be as expensive as one has heard if we can do it ourselves. The first thing to consider is the type of equipment need. Studies have proven that a dozer blade isn't the most efficient unit. It's great to

push up a pile but that is about all. A scoop or scraper can pick up or drag the earth to where you need it. These later two items also costs less to rent or purchase. Both units can be pulled by any 85 h.p. power unit.

Certainly you might say, why have any cost. I have some grassed waterways and I've even established some grassed contours. Well, less land is left out of production when an effective terrace system is developed. Further, with zero tillage, no real amount of grassed waterways will be needed because flow will be retarded even more with supplementary tiling.

Each farmer need not purchase a scraper. Several banding together can acquire a unit that will work for years.

Terracing can be done during the off growing season. In some cases, even here in Ogle County, all winter long.

With the advent parallel tile outlet (PTO) terraces make terraces far more acceptable. Additionally there is an influx of federal cost sharing funds thru USDA for this program.

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

The 1985 National Men's Garden Club Convention is scheduled to be held in Rockford, Illinois.

In preparation for the event, the Rockford Men's Garden Club and Byron Forest Preserve District are hosting an Organizational Meeting to see if a Byron Area Club can be formed. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 1984, at 7:30 P.M. in the Lecture Room on the second floor of the Byron High School.

The Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners have authorized the payment of \$5.00 per member toward the \$10.00 National affiliation fee for the first year to assist the members to get started. In addition, the Board plans to help the Club construct a portable or semi-permanent Greenhouse this coming spring at BY-COM or the new Preserve that is scheduled for acquisition soon.

Any man 18 years of age or older in the Byron Forest Preserve District or resident of Ogle County may participate in the Club. A Women's Auxiliary is planned for the near future.

**The Byron Forest Preserve District  
office will be closed Thursday, November  
15, Thursday and Friday, November 22  
and 23**



## GARDENS IN THEIR OWN CLIMATE

Gardens planted inside decanters, apothecary jars or even ten gallon demijohns are as interesting as ship models in bottles. Once such a container is sealed as a completely enclosed terrarium, the environment inside it becomes a moist microclimate ideal for humidity-loving plants that are often hard to grow in the dry atmosphere found in most homes.

As a bonus, plants grown under glass tend themselves. When their leaves give off water vapor, it condenses inside the bottle and turns back down to moisten the roots; similarly, while the plants use carbon dioxide in making new food, they release oxygen, which they use to convert food into energy. In the process, they replenish the needed CO<sub>2</sub>.

All the tools needed to plant a demijohn are household staples except for the spring operated pickup tool, sold in many hardware stores. The potting soil materials to include are charcoal, packaged soil and pebbles.

## CHRISTMAS TREAT

### Candy Cane Cookies

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon red food coloring
- 1/2 cup finely crushed peppermint candy
- 1/2 cup sugar

Combine first 8 ingredients in a large bowl, and mix well. Divide dough into half; add food coloring to one half and mix well.

On a lightly floured surface, roll a teaspoonful of each dough (plain and colored) into 4-inch rope. Place ropes side by side, and carefully twist together. Curve one end down to resemble a cane. Repeat with remaining dough.

Place cookies on ungreased cookie sheets, and bake at 375 degrees for 9 minutes or just until edges turn brown.

Combine candy and sugar, mixing well. Remove cookies from cookie sheet while warm; immediately coat with candy mixture. Yields: about 4 dozen.

## POTPOURRI Flowers and Garden

The Rockford Men's Garden Club and the Byron Forest Preserve District will host a Potpourri of six different classes on Flower and Gardening on Saturday, December 1, 1984.

Advance registration is \$1.50 with registration at the door of \$2.00. Fee includes lunch and handouts.

Potpourri Schedule:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:30 A.M.      | Coffee & Registration                                   |
| 9:00 A.M.      | Roses - How to grow and care for.                       |
| 10:30 to 10:45 | Coffee Break  |
| 10:45 to 12:15 | Violets   |
| 12:15 to 1:15  | Lunch & Program   |
| 1:15 to 2:45   | Herbs - Growing and using                               |
| 2:45 to 3:00   | Coffee Break  |
| 3:00 to 4:30   | Plant Propagation - House plants and and outdoor plants |

Note: If registration exceeds forty (40), each unit will be repeated. This will be announced at the 8:30 registration, if needed.

Mail pre-registration to: Byron Forest Preserve District, P. O. Box 371, Byron, IL. 61010. For further information, call 234-8535.



Kermit joins the Weld Park Playground.

## THE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Because of interest generated through Photography classes by the Byron Forest Preserve District, the Image Photography Club was formed. An organization meeting was held in February, 1984. Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Byron Cultural Center at 7:30 P.M.

Current officers are: Ken Welty, President; Darrell Friday, Vice-President; Janet Friday, Secretary; Bill Creech, Treasurer; and Diane Sandall, Cathie Getts, Pennie Stevens, Brad Townsend, Program Committee.

Membership dues are \$25.00 for couples, \$15.00 for singles, and \$10.00 for students.

Monthly photo contests are held for original prints and enlargements. First place in each contest pays 50% of \$1.00 entry fees. Ribbons are awarded to first, second and third place winners.

The Image Photography Club, in cooperation with the Byron Forest Preserve District, is currently planning to print and distribute postcards for sale on the Byron area.

Entertaining and informative programs are often presented by professional photographers.

Visitors are cordially invited to attend our meeting.



New cookout grills at each shelter at Weld Park.

## SPRING FLOWER FOR ALL SEASONS (Bulbs)

Before written history, about 1500 B.C., fresco paintings of CROCUS, LILLIES and IRIS were used to decorate walls of the palace of Knossos, Crete. Persian Sultans of the 15th and 16th centuries sent emissaries throughout the Near East to scout for tulips or other bulbs. At one time, the demand for tulips forced prices for a new variety as high as \$5,000.00 per bulb.



Bulbs, too often, are thought to grow and bloom regardless of how they are planted. The following general rules will help you create flower beauty indoor or out all year long.

(1) **Examine your bulbs.**

Soft bulbs are showing you signs of rot - discard them. If the bulb is a rare one, attempt to cut off the damage. If the bulbs are extremely light, they may be dehydrated and dead.

(2) **Preparing the soil.**

Most bulbs prefer soil that is slightly acid. A ph of 6.0 or below should be adjusted. Soil testing labs are noted in the yellow pages of major cities in Illinois. You can adjust the ph yourself by adding small amounts of lime.

## Planting

Planting usually falls into two basic methods, formal and natural. In formal, you stake out straight lines placing bulbs in rows. Natural planting, you simply throw the bulbs out and plant as they fall with slightly heavy concentration near the group center. This is how a natural spread would appear.

A planting tool can be made using a narrow-mouthed tin can with both ends removed and tacked to a handle.

To protect bulbs from gophers, mice, squirrels and chipmunks, who love tulips, encircle your bulbs with chicken wire underground.

Some people remove all the soil first, establishing an equal depth bed which allows all to grow to an equal height.

Bulbs need good drainage to get good water. Water in excess stagnates bulbs and can suffocate bulbs. Weeds can steal nutrients and moisture away from the bulbs. Weeds also harbor pests such as slugs, snails and cutworms.

## Fertilizer

Supplementary feeding is valuable for most bulbs. Phosphorous and potash are more important than nitrogen. A commercial mix of 2-10-10 or 5-10-10 is best. Nitrogen is the first number so avoid one reading 10-5-5. Fertilizer needs to be applied when the shoots first show. Light feedings once a week for two weeks is considered sufficient for one season.

## Mulch

Improved weed control, moisture control and improved garden appearance comes with proper mulching. A list of usable materials in our area includes wood chips, grass clippings, screened compost and leaf mold.

## Bulbs that Force Easily

Michigan State University tested the following bulbs for the Netherlands Flower Bulb Institute. All performed well:

1. Crocus - 8 varieties
2. Daffodils - 7 varieties
3. Daffodils - Large Cup - 4 varieties
4. Daffodils - Small Cups - 4 varieties
5. Hyacinths - 19 varieties
6. Muscari - 5 varieties
7. Tulips - 41 varieties

Through forcing, you can develop all year round show indoor and outdoor.

Bedding bulbs in porous clay pots with combinations is our method of spring beauty all year long indoors. References are available through the Forest Preserve District to describe how anyone of us can produce spring flowers all year long.

**NOTE:** Material used for this article can be found in detail in HP Books, titled *Bulbs* by George Harmon Scott, Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 81-84156.

## MOLE ERADICATION?

Beckmann Brothers of St. Louis Missouri have come up with a winner.

Unwrap the paper wrapper on several sticks of Juicy Fruit Gum. Now put on clean gloves and take off the foil. Roll the stick of gum up. With a rod, punch a hole through the roof of a freshly made mole tunnel, with a gloved hand, drop in the gum and cover the hole. Do a few more on new runs four to six feet apart.

All we can say is that the scent attracts them and when they eat the gum their goose is cooked.



Weld Park play apparatus area completed.

## BIRD SEED SALE

The Byron Forest Preserve District will participate in the National Audubon Society Annual Bird Seed Sale starting Monday, November 5, 1984.

The following seed and feed items will be available:

Elite Bird Seed	25 lbs.	8.30
	50 lbs.	14.60
Small Black-striped		
Sunflowers	25 lbs.	11.00
Sunflower Meats	10 lbs.	9.20
Niger Thistle Seed	10 lbs.	10.80
	5 lbs.	5.40
Safflower Seeds	10 lbs.	6.40
Cardinal Mix	5 lbs.	4.60
Suet Cakes	Small	1.65
	Medium	2.60
	Large	6.50

All sales are on a first-come first-serve basis and no reorders are available.

Pickup will be at 300 No. Lafayette Street between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Approximately twenty percent of the price goes to the Sinissippi Audubon Society for program use.

## BOOKS FOR GIFTS & LEARNING

Three attractive books are currently available thru the Byron Forest Preserve District Office with a mailer cover.

1. Prairie - Swell and Swale
2. Boreal Forests & Borders
3. Deciduous Forest

The series is a four color graphic representation of hundreds of our native wild flowers actually photographed in their native environment.

Each book costs \$2.50 and can be mailed in the binder provided. Great guides for your hike in the out of doors.





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ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BULK RATE

Byron Forest Preserve District  
300 N. Lafayette  
Byron, Illinois 61010

## 1984 MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

### NOVEMBER

Saturday 3rd	Ranger Rick Club Trip (Brookfield Zoo)	8:30 A.M.
Saturday 10th	Ogle County Probation (Work Day - Weld Park)	8:30 A.M.
Monday 12th	Departmental Holiday (Office Closed)	
Tuesday 13th	Men's Garden Club, (Organizational Meeting Byron H.S. Lecture Room)	7:30 P.M.
Wed. 14th	Camera Class (Byron H.S. Journalism Room)	7:00 P.M.
Thursday 15th	In-Service Training for Board & Staff (Office Closed)	7:00 A.M.
Friday 16th	November Board Meeting (Office)	9:00 A.M.
Saturday 17th	Ranger Rick Club Trip (Planetarium)	8:30 A.M.
Wed. 21st	Byron Image Photo Club (Cultural Center)	7:30 P.M.
Thursday 22nd	Thanksgiving Break	
Friday 23rd	(Office Closed)	
Wed. 28th	Camera Class (Byron H.S. Journalism Room)	7:00 P.M.

### DECEMBER

Saturday 1st	Flower & Garden Potpourri (All day public symposium on various flower & garden subjects at Byron H.S. — includes lunch)	8:30 A.M.
Saturday 8th	Ogle County Probation (Work Day - Weld Park)	8:30 A.M.
Wed. 12th	Camera Class (Byron H.S. Journalism Room)	7:00 P.M.

Friday 14th	Ranger Rick Work Night (Office)	3:30 P.M.
Saturday 15th	Ranger Rick Cider Sale Pick Up Day (Office)	9:30 A.M.
Friday 21st	Forest Preserve Board Meeting (Office)	9:00 A.M.
Tuesday 25th	Christmas (Office Closed)	

### JANUARY

Wed. 9th	Camera Class (Byron H.S. Journalism Room)	7:00 P.M.
Friday 18th	Forest Preserve Board Meeting (Office)	9:00 A.M.
Saturday 19th	Ranger Rick Field Trip (Shed Aquarium)	8:30 A.M.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Cornflower - perhaps because of its clear color has long been used in eye wash preparations. Victorian ladies were advised to steep cornflower heads in white brandy for twenty-four hours and then use ten drops in a little water to bathe the eyes night and morning - but brandy was much cheaper then.

Cornflowers are still used today in eye preparations for conjunctivitis and also in cough medicines, so again the "old wives" were right.

The Byron Forest Preserve District Offices are currently located in the Byron Middle School. The entrance is 300 N. Lafayette Street. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone (815) 234-8535