

BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

Board of Commissioners:

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



Rich Henricks, Commissioner
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner
Jack F. Philbrick, Director
Rob Robertson, Naturalist

1985, Vol. 4

SPRING ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

300 N. Lafayette

Byron, Illinois 61010

SPECIAL INVITATION

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Byron Forest Preserve District
Park Planning Meeting
scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 26, 1985
at the Byron High School Commons.
This meeting is being held to discuss the options and
development goals for the "New Park" located on River Road.*

BEE KEEPING EXPANDED

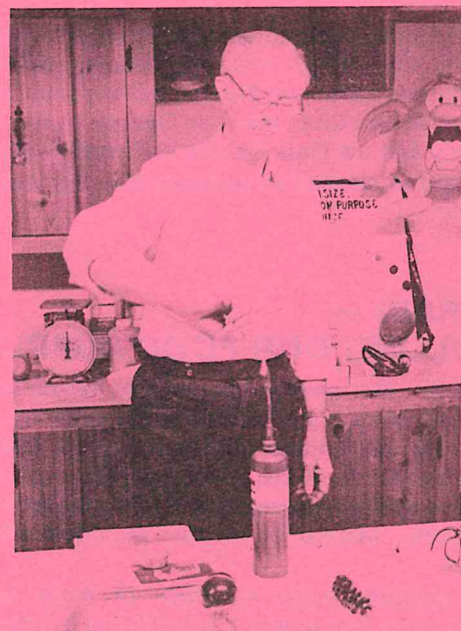
The Byron Forest Preserves Ranger Rick club will have five bee hives in operation this spring. Last year the club purchased two hives and gleaned over 110 pounds of honey, which was sold to residents, raising funds for its summer camp scholarship program.

The Ranger Rick Club is presently studying the idea of loaning hives to area farmers to promote increased crop production.

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

The "1985 Insect Pest Management Guide" for field and forage crops is out. Published annually by the University of Illinois College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, this useful and annually revised spraying guide can save you money and prevent environmental damage.

Contact the University of Illinois College of Agriculture or write to Stan Eden, Ogle County Cooperative Extension Advisor, Pines Road, P.O. Box 99, Oregon, IL 61061 and ask for Circular 899.



Mr. Dick Beck, noted horticulturist shown teaching the Ranger Rick Club about propagation.

MEET THE STAFF

The Byron Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners recently appointed Rob Robertson as the Preserves Naturalist and Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Robertson is 28 years old and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois University with an emphasis in Natural Resource Management and a Master's Degree from Oregon State University interdisciplinary studies with Major in Recreation and Anthropology.

In High School, he worked for Green Giant as a tractor driver, field mechanic and lead man. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1975 where he served at a search and rescue station in North Carolina for one and a half years, before transferring back to the Midwest. The remainder of his enlistment was spent working on the Illinois, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers on a construction tender. Rob attained the rate of damage control technician and was a qualified engineering officer. He was also the ships recreation and morale officer.

During College he participated in an Archaeology Field School in West Central Illinois, and excavated a prehistoric Indian Village. He also worked for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as an interpretive Naturalist, where he lead walks on Dune ecology and gave numerous programs on the Natural and Cultural History of the Dunes region. He also completed a research project on composite garbage with earthworms for the Dunes Environmental Education Center.

Rob then moved out west with the intent to earn a Master's Degree. While in Oregon completing his Master's, he worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, planning and implementing interpretive displays and programs for the Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery located high in the Cascade Mountains.

As a part of his Master's degree requirements, Rob completed a thesis and research project entitled "The Natural History of Public Works Development's" in association with this project he worked on an oral history of High Dam projects in the Columbia River Basin for the Oregon State Museum.

After receiving his Master's degree, Rob and his wife Mary, directed a residential outdoor adventure program for juvenile delinquent boys on a ranch in a desolate area of central Oregon.

Since becoming the Naturalist for the Forest Preserve, Rob has moved into Byron and has become active in the community. He has joined the Byron Lions Club, the Blackhawk Area Garden Club, the Ogle County Prairie Preservation Society and the Ogle County Historical Society.

The Board is pleased to welcome Rob and Mary to our community.

ACID RAIN — IT'S KILLING OUR FOOD SUPPLY

What is it? Very simply it is rain that has picked up two kinds of pollutants, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO₂), which are emitted from cars, trucks, industry and utilities. Sometimes these pollutants react with oxygen in the air, become heavy aerosols, and fall to the earth even in a dry solid form. More often they are recorded falling within rain drops.

These particles travel hundreds of miles carried by prevailing winds and attach themselves to oxygen creating sulfuric acid and nitric acid which eventually falls to the earth to disrupt our natural balance of plant, water and soil.

Presently, thirty-one states and several Canadian pro-

vinces are suffering more and more. Our area is considered to be experiencing an ever increasing acid rain effect and is already classified as moderately sensitive.

Entire lakes have been effected in the U.S. Fish have been killed off and the trees killed.

Acid rain also effects important soil dwelling organisms. Certain bacteria, which have the capacity to enrich the soil by forming nitrogen, are killed by the increasing soil acidity.

As far back as 1978, crop loss in the United States was estimated to be valued at One Billion and is now quoted at Five Billion per year. The problem isn't going away. Your yield, garden, orchard, or field crop is effected by this soil robbing pollution.

We know the most effective and cost efficient solution. It is controlling the source. We know that immediate legislative and enforcement steps are needed. Our present problem is a failure to form a revolution of action. This would guarantee us an evolution of life for all if we will reverse the self destructing effects we see occurring.



Rob shown filling and cleaning one of the two bird feeders maintained at Weld Park throughout the winter.

BLACKHAWK AREA GARDEN CLUB

The Blackhawk Area Garden Club was formed this winter and is open to men and women of all ages from the surrounding area. Meetings are scheduled once each month on the first Tuesday. The Program schedule for 1985 is included in the Forest Preserve District calendar. Meetings will be held at the Byron Cultural Center until the new Forest Preserve is available in April.

The Club is open to men and women and the members have affiliated the group with the Men's Garden Club of America, in order to take advantage of technical information and co-sponsorship services offered by the Men's Garden Club of Rockford.

To date, several speakers have been provided at no charge to the Club by the Rockford Chapter. Annual membership fees for individuals are \$10.00 and \$5.00 additional for family coverage.

OUR FRIEND THE WORM

By Rob Robertson

This fantastic earth eating animal can be put to work for you. Earthworms can increase the productivity of your garden, and they can dispose of your household garbage.

Earthworms increase garden productivity in a number of ways:

1. Earthworms in their food gathering activity riddle and honeycomb the earth to a depth of several feet, this activity . . .
 - A. Increases the air capacity of the soil by 60 - 70%.
 - B. Improves the water penetration capabilities of the soil. Rainfalls are quickly absorbed, instead of running off or damaging crops.
 - C. Mixes the soil by bringing subsoil to the surface in form of worm castings.
 - D. Eliminates plow sole.
2. Earthworms tend to balance the PH of your soil.
 - A. Worm casts (waste) in acid soil have a lower PH soil that they come from. The reduction in acidity in some

cases can be as much as 75%.

- B. Large number of earthworms produce a soil that is practically neutral humus.
- C. Earthworms also reduce alkaline soil to a more balanced PH.
3. Earthworm rich soil decreases the amount of commercial fertilizer that is needed. Worm waste contain high percentages of carbonates and nitrogens.
4. Plants need a well balanced diet just as we need a balanced diet consisting of the four basic food groups. Earthworm castings have nutritional elements concentrated in a water soluble form in a balanced condition.
5. Earthworms can make your garden more resistant to pest and plant diseases.

Earthworms can be put to work for you by disposing of your garbage. Two pounds of worms can process a pound of garbage a day.

If you are interested in increasing your earthworm population, consider making a worm compost. For more information contact me at 234-8535.

1985 CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 15th	Byron Forest Preserve Dist. Board Meeting	9:00 A.M.
Saturday 16th	Ranger Rick Trip - Museum of Science & Industry	8:30 A.M.
Sun-Sat, 17-23	Observance of National Wildlife Week	
Wed. 20th	Photography Class (Beginning 35 mm) High School Journalism Classroom Instructor - Jack Philbrick	7:00 P.M.
Monday 25th	Ogle County Historical Society	7:30 P.M.
Tuesday 26th	Byron Forest Preserve Planning Meeting, Byron High School Commons	7:00 P.M.
Thursday 28th	Golf Advisory Committee Meeting High School Commons	7:00 P.M.

APRIL

Tuesday 2nd	Garden Club - "Tree Care & Pruning Speaker - Larry Marty, of Kishwaukee College	7:30 P.M.
Wed. 3rd	Photography Class - Byron High School Journalism Classroom, Jack Philbrick, Instructor	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday 10th	Prairie Preservation Society Annual Banquet - Stronghold	6:00 P.M.
Sat. 13th	Probationaries Work Day at Weld Park	8:30 A.M.
Wed. 17th	Photography Class, Byron High School Journalism Classroom, Jack Philbrick, Instructor	7:00 P.M.
Friday 19th	Byron Forest Preserve Dist. Board Meeting	9:00 A.M.
Sat. 20th	Ranger Rick Work Day - Garden, New Park on River Road	8:30 A.M.
Sunday 21st	Spring Guided Walks at Severson Dells "Wildflowers"	2:00 P.M.
Monday 22nd	Earth Day Film Festivals, Log Cabin Building and Organic Gardening, Oak Dale Nature Preserve, Freeport, IL	7:00 P.M.
Friday 26th	Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony - Location to be announced at a later date	1:00 P.M.
Sat. 27th	Agriculture Resource Volunteer Training Severson Dells	1:00 P.M.
Sat. 27th	Earth Day Folk Festival - Oak Dale Nature Preserve, Freeport, IL	4:00 P.M.
Sunday 28th	Spring guided walks "Wildflowers" Severson Dells	2:00 P.M.
Monday 29th	Ogle County Historical Society location to be announced	7:30 P.M.

MAY

Wed. 1st	Weld Park opens	8:30 A.M.
Wed. 1st	Photography Class - Byron High School Journalism Classroom	7:00 P.M.
Sat. 4th	Adult Bus Tour of Rockford, Midway Village, Tinker Cottage & lunch	8:30 A.M.
Sunday 5th	Earth Day - Nature Art Show & Display Oak Dale Nature Preserve, Freeport, IL	12:00 P.M.
Sunday 5th	Spring Guided Walks, "Wildflower" Severson Dells	2:00 P.M.
Tuesday 7th	Garden Club "Insecticide & Herbicides" New Park Classroom on River Road	7:30 P.M.
Wed. 8th	Prairie Preservation Society	7:30 P.M.
Sat. 11th	Earth Watch - Rock Valley College	9:00 A.M.
Sat. 11th	Probationaries Work Day - BY-COM Preserve	9:00 A.M.
Friday 17th	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting New Park Office	9:00 A.M.
Sat. 18th	Ranger Rick Trip	8:30 A.M.

JUNE

Sat. 1st	Severson Dells Demonstration Farm opens	1 - 5 P.M.
Tuesday 4th	Garden Club - "Tomatoes"	7:30 P.M.
Sat. 6th	Work Day for Probationaries - Weld Park	8:30 A.M.
Wed. 12th	Ranger Rick Trip - Lincoln Park Zoo	8:30 A.M.
Sat. 15th	You and Your Land "Water Resources" Severson Dells	9:00 A.M.
Friday 21th	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting New Park office on River Road	9:00 A.M.
Sat. 22nd	Prairie Day Program - New Park	9:00 A.M.
Monday 24th	Ogle County Historical Society location to be announced	7:30 P.M.

JULY

Tuesday 2nd	Garden Club Meeting "Tour of Sinnissippi Gardens", New Park Classroom	6:30 P.M.
Sat. 13th	Probationary Work Day	9:00 A.M.
Tuesday 16th	Ranger Rick Day Camp	9:00 A.M.
Wed. 17th	4th, 5th, & 6th	to
Thursday 18th	Graders	4:00 P.M.
Friday 19th	Byron Forest Preserve District Board Meeting New Park Office	9:00 A.M.



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

BULK RATE
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PERMIT NO. 4464

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

Many people have purchased land that they feel should not be used for development but should remain in its natural state. It is something special to them and many want it to be left that way for generations to come.

These peoples concerns are for far more than just their immediate profits. That's what makes them special.

Usually the first consideration of someone who donates a piece of property is that they want guarantees that the natural values will be preserved. The Forest Preserve District is in the best possible position to fulfill such guarantees. The Forest Preserve can provide guidance and services to help implement these wishes.

Other considerations of land owners and donors are numerous tax benefits and options available to transfer land. Here are a couple.

When you donate land to a government agency, the donors may deduct the property's full market value up to thirty (30) percent of their adjusted gross income. Any remaining balance may be deducted over the succeeding five years, subject to the thirty (30) percent limitation.

The donor may elect to donate up to fifty (50) percent of their adjusted gross income if they reduce the full market value of the gift by forty (40) percent of the potential gain realized had the land been sold. Any amount exceeding the fifty (50) percent of the adjusted gross income may be deducted over the succeeding five (5) years.

Donations can have all kinds of restrictions, such as management or rights to life time use etc. If you have an interest, please contact our office and we will gladly answer your questions.

BOOK REVIEW

GARDEN DESIGN, David Hicks, \$29.95, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 9 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

A practical handbook, by a leading international designer, explaining key ideas that lie behind the creation of a stylish and effective garden. Covers all sizes from a small town-house garden to a country garden.

COOKING TOMATO PASTE TIP

Tired of standing by the stove stirring. Use your regular recipe but put it in a crock pot for the cooking-down process.

Start it on high and as it thickens switch to low. You will retain the slow cooked flavor that is so good.

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHIC TIPS

When you're capturing nature on film you frequently have difficulty with conflicting or distracting surroundings.

If you are trying to get only one bloom of a plant and you have a camera that has an adjustable focus and f stop, you can easily construct a wind screen and lighter diffuser using cheese cloth and dowel rods.

Dowels are sold at most Hardware stores and cheese cloth is as well. What ever material you use, be sure it is white. Any other color will reflect on to the plant causing a color shift.

If you staple the cheese cloth on to the rods, leave the bottom six (6) inches uncovered to permit pushing the rods into the ground. Place your diffusion screen in an arch behind the subject two feet if possible. Now select the largest lens with the least amount of depth of focus.

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1985, Vol. 5

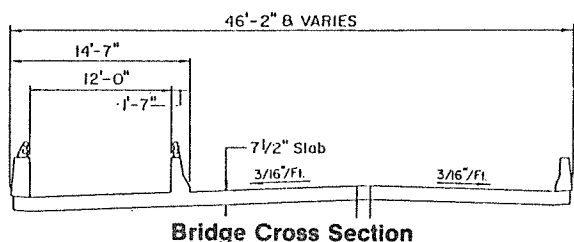
SUMMER ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Road

Byron, Illinois 61010

NEW BRIDGE MAY OFFER BETTER BICYCLE & SNOWMOBILE USE



During the past year the Byron Forest Preserve Board and Staff have held meetings and exchanged correspondence with the Illinois Department of Transportation about our Route 72 bridge to Byron.

Discussion has centered around plans of the District to develop a trail along the river from the bridge to the new Byron Forest Preserve recently acquired by the District on West River Road.

Although not final, the Department of Transportation has indicated their initial interest in supporting the District request for a safe traffic use for all concerned to include a circle exit that will permit users to avoid crossing the highway at the South end.

Persons interested in expressing their support to the project are asked to write the District Engineer, William D. Ost. His address is IL Dept. of Transportation, 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021.



BEN BARTON RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

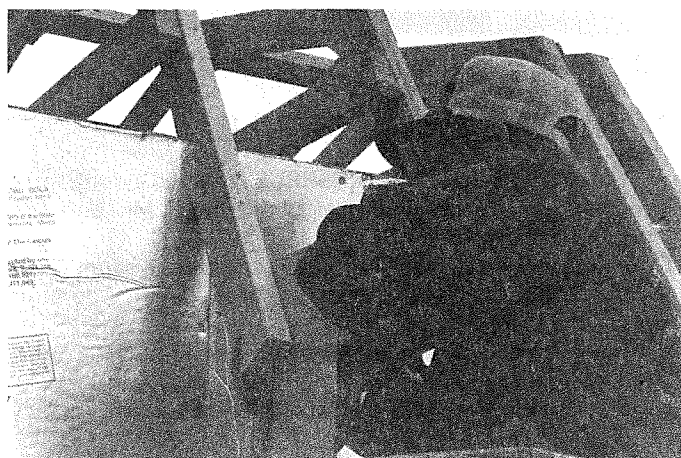
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Barton were hosted to a luncheon by the District recently to recognize Bens' outstanding contribution in forming the Board.

Mr. Barton has donated hundreds of hours to helping the District develop. His stepping down as Advisor, doesn't mean he won't be serving again when needed.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Byron High School Building Trades Class under the direction of Don Drake have constructed an all weather entry way for the Byron Forest Preserve Office.

The design matches the configuration of the office and was very well constructed.



Byron High Building Trades Class member at work on the new park office entrance.

Thank you,
The Board

PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT

In 1983, the Byron Forest Preserve District mailed every house holder in the District a two (2) page questionnaire asking the residents what recreation facilities they felt we should have in the community. From the questionnaire response, the staff compiled several lists with general cost estimates. In 1984 to the present, the Board has developed several plans to provide these requested services.

The plans have several options.

Recently, a number of community groups were shown the options plus a public hearing was held to gain added input.

The Board has not refined nor eliminated any of the proposals and is concentrating on developing good support information to justify asking the Public if they, with the District, wish to implement any of the plans.

A feasibility study has been commissioned in one area, golf. Mr. Spears, a golf course planner will develop a plan during the next four months for the Board.

Other studies may be commissioned before the Board offers one or two proposals to the Public.



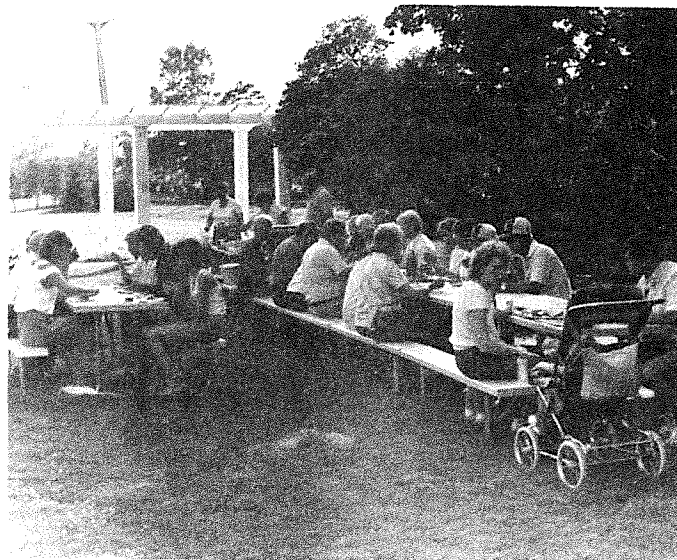
Blackhawk Area Garden Club members held a picnic and tour of the Rockford's Men's Garden Club Rose Garden at Sinissippi Park in Rockford on Tuesday, July 2nd. Over 25 Byron area residents participated.



GUEST FROM BARBADIS

Mrs. Arlette Watson is shown here planting a blue spruce at the Byron Forest Preserve commemorating her visit to America.

Mrs. Watson was the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde James of Byron. She has been a long time friend acquired when the James' son was stationed in the West Indies.



FLOWERS BY RADVILLE

The BYRON FOREST PRESERVE received a donation of over \$500.00 worth of annual plants from Mr. and Mrs. Radville last month.

Plants included were: Petunia, Marigold, Alyssum, Dusty Miller, Dahlia, Verbena, Hollyhock, Blue Blazer, Ageratum, Salvia and Celosia.

The District prepared a road side planting at the Byron Preserve on River Road.

Our sincere appreciation for the kind donation.

The Byron Forest
Preserve Board

WATCH OUT: IT'S TICK TIME

It's the time of the year that we should be on the look out for wood ticks. Ticks feed on the blood of birds, amphibians and mammals. Ticks can transmit disease. The most common being Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Ticks are most often found in areas of dense vegetation. If you or your pets should get an embedded wood tick, DON'T RIP IT OUT. This will leave the tooth beak and head in the skin causing infection and irritation. Ticks can be removed by placing a hot object on its abdomen as this causes them to release their hold. Alcohol, kerosene and peroxide will also make the tick release its grip. Caution, never use these liquids near the eyes, nose or mouth.

After walking in a densely wooded or grassy area, be sure to check yourself over, paying close attention to your hairline, armpits, groin and area of tight clothing.

The best way to dispose of ticks is to burn them or drown them in alcohol.

SUMMER FUN NIGHT

The Byron Forest Preserve will sponsor a summer fun night at their new location on River Road at 7:00 P.M., on Thursday, August 8th. Included in the program will be nature related contests, a camp fire and marshmallow roast, and a Disney Nature movie and cartoon.

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!

(FREE to Byron Forest Preserve District residents.)

MEET THE STAFF

Mrs. Frances Todd is the Forest Preserve District's right hand. Frances makes hundreds of Public Service signs, maintains the office and assists the business department in many, many ways.

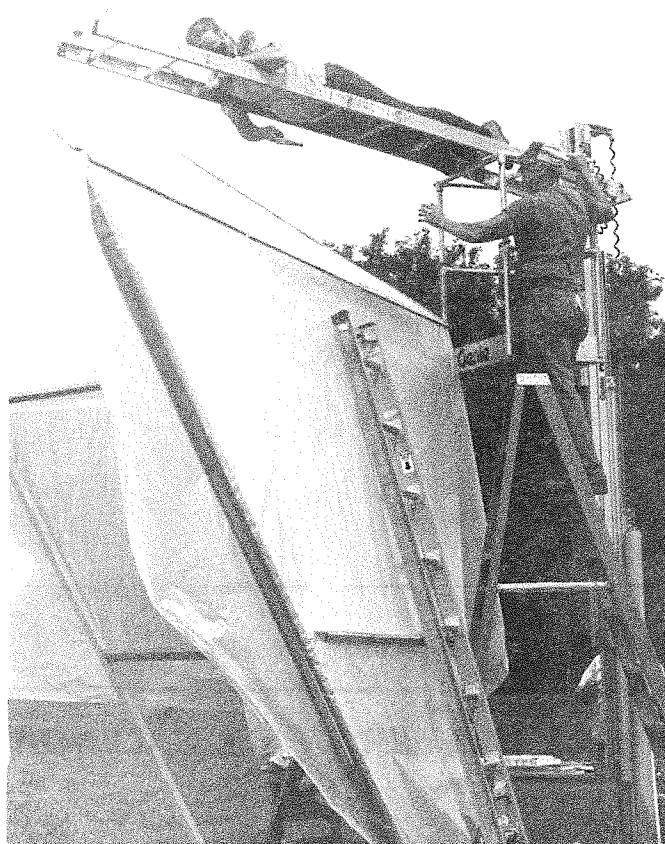
Mrs. Todd has been assigned to the District since February, 1984 by the Green Thumb under Title V of the Older American's Act.



SKY HOOK

Slow but surely the new temporary greenhouse for the Blackhawk Area Garden Club and the Byron Forest Preserve is taking shape.

Here, Director Philbrick and summer worker, Charles Holeten experiment with a method to tack down the covering. The Blackhawk Area Garden Club has done most of the frame work.



PROBLEM AT WELD PARK WELL

For the past 60 days, the Weld Park Well has been posted as unsafe for infants under 18 months old. This is due to Nitrate levels exceeding 10.0 parts per million which further exceeds the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

The Forest Preserve with the cooperation of the Illinois Department of Public Health are monitoring the well in hopes the problem will be resolved. However, Park users are advised to bring their own water until the Nitrate level drops.

Last year the Forest Preserve was forced to install a new pump and hydrant due to lightning burning out the pump.

NEW NAME "BYRON FOREST PRESERVE"

That's right, the new preserve consisting of 181 acres has been named. After an extensive search for ideas the most frequently nominated name was — Byron Forest Preserve.



CAR RT SORT

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 River Road
P.O. Box 371
Byron, Illinois 61010-0371

1984 SUMMER & FALL CALENDAR

JULY

Monday 15th	Forest Preserve District Meeting	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday 16th	Ranger Rick Day Camp Opens	9:00 A.M.
thru	(Club members only)	to
Thursday 18th		4:00 P.M.
Wed. 17th	Image Photography Club	7:30 P.M.
Tuesday 23rd	Magic Waters Field Trip	9:15 A.M.
	(Open to 4th thru 7th graders)	to 4:15 P.M.
Sunday 28th	Public Field Trip to All American	12:30 P.M.
	Flower & Vegetable Garden of	to
	Kiswaukee	5:00 P.M.

AUGUST

Sunday 4th	Rockford Men's Garden Club	1:00 P.M. to
	Garden Tours	5:00 P.M.
Wed. 7th	Public Bus Tour to Madison	8:00 A.M. to
	Aboretum & Gardens	5:00 P.M.
Thursday 8th	Public Family Fun Night	7:00 P.M. to
	(Outdoor Disney Movie)	9:30 P.M.
Friday 9th	Forest Preserve Board Meeting	9:00 A.M.
Wed. 14th	Ranger Rick Work Day	9:00 A.M.
Saturday 17th	Byron Preserve Public Nature Hike	2:00 P.M.
Wed. 21st	Image Photography Club	7:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 3rd	Blackhawk Area Garden Club	7:30 P.M.
	Lawn Care	
Saturday 14th	Nature Hike - Location TBA	2:00 P.M.
Monday 16th	Forest Preserve Board Meeting	7:00 P.M.
Wed. 18th	Image Photography Club	7:30 P.M.
Saturday 21st	Ranger Rick Field Trip	9:00 A.M.

OCTOBER

Tuesday 1st	Blackhawk Area Garden Club	7:30 P.M.
	Plant & Tree Propagation	
Saturday 12th	Nature Hike - TBA	2:00 P.M.
Wed. 16th	Image Photography Club	7:30 P.M.
Saturday 19th	Ranger Rick Cider & Honey Sale	9:00 A.M.
Monday 21st	Forest Preserve Board Meeting	7:00 P.M.
Saturday 26th	Ghost Stories & Hay Ride	6:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd	Turkey Shoot	10:00 A.M.
Tuesday 5th	Blackhawk Area Garden Club	7:30 P.M.
	Growing Plants Indoors	
Saturday 16th	Ranger Rick Field Trip	9:00 A.M.
Monday 18th	Forest Preserve Board Meeting	7:00 P.M.
Wed. 20th	Image Photography Club	7:30 P.M.

For Detailed Information On Any Activity - Call 234-8535

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1985, Vol. 6

WINTER ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Road

Byron, Illinois 61010

"Halloween On The Prairie"

Out in the prairie, where the wind howls and the harvest moon glows, where the prairie settlers feared to tread ... the Byron Forest Preserve will host its "Halloween on the Prairie" program.

The prairie is located at the Byron Forest Preserve on River Road. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. sharp on October 26th, with a rain date of October 27th at 5:00 p.m.

The schedule will be professional ghost story tellers, impromptu halloween skits, horsedrawn wagon rides, a pumpkin auction, haunted woods, Disney movie and prairie walk. Activities are free and open to residents of the Forest Preserve District.

Everyone is welcome to come dressed as prairie settlers. Remember, it can get cold on the prairie.

Come have a haunting good time, the way our forefathers did.



Blake Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hamilton of Rockford climbs on top of the Great Pumpkin that will be auctioned Saturday, Oct. 26th at the Byron Forest Preserve during "Halloween on the Prairie" evening.

Post Card Response Needed

The Forest Preserve Board is presently considering where it should be in 10 years from now. The need to establish priorities is an ongoing process. In 1982 a short term goal outline was supported by community input. Now the District has achieved some if not more than its initial plan. With the acquisition of the first part, 181 acres, of the central park and preserve location achieved, the Board needs more input. **Please** take the time to complete the attached post card and mail it.

Development will go only as fast as funds permit so we should do what the majority wants first. The board needs each resident to be a part of this planning. Without your opinion, services may not provide the maximum or optimum benefit.

Snowmobiles Don't Damage Environment Like We Thought

"Contrary to a lot of opinions the weight of a snowmobile driven on four inches of snow causes less compaction than a 100 lb. walking individual." "The rules of D.O.C restrict snowmobiles from State Parks until this amount of snow has fallen," states Dave Ambross of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

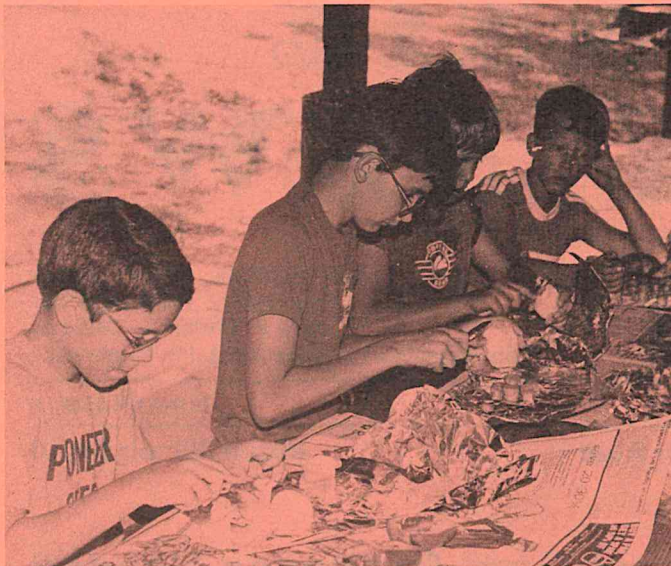
For years, this outdoor recreation vehicle was considered a threat. Now it is clear it is not.

Most snowmobilers are outdoorsmen and women who are enjoying the sport and support nature. The income from snowmobile licenses has supported hundreds of miles of trails and park improvements that are enjoyed by us all year long, even if we are not snowmobilers.

The myth that snowmobilers run down deer as a daily practice is another error. Sure you have a bad egg in every sport, but deer have not diminished. You won't catch a deer up in the woods. You'll mostlikely tear up your machine and yourself trying. Today, many sites permit snowmobiles on golf courses when sufficient snow cover has fallen. Yes, you restrict them to specific areas.

The emergency service in bad weather, that the organized snowmobile club offers, has been overlooked too much.

For some reason we are quick to condemn. Each of us does more damage to the environment daily by wasting water, failing to maintain a tuned-up auto, wasting food and simply taking from the environment and not replacing what we use. The glass house adage may fit most of us non-snowmobilers on this and other issues.



Ranger Rick Day Camp hosted 11 Byron youths. Preparing a meal with raw materials was one experience.

Weld Park Progress Report

To date the Forest Preserve has expended \$23,899.04 on the redevelopment and upgrading of Weld Park.

Under the 25 year lease the Forest Preserve District will receive \$5,000.00 per year for only 5 years from the Ogle County Board to help put the facility back in good usable condition.

Several unforeseen problems have been adding to the cost. The major one being the well. Shortly after the District started the renovation lightning burned out the pump. A new pump and hydrant were immediately added. Within a month the well was found to have Nitrate pollution. Now the well is considered to be too shallow for continuous use by the public. A request for the owner, Ogle County, to replace the well has not been acted on so the District will most likely be forced to keep the well locked in 1986.

The following listed improvements have been accomplished at Weld Park by the Byron Forest Preserve District.

1. All new park signs
2. Underbrush clearing
3. Creek Cattle gate replaced
4. Expanded mowing
5. Well pump and hydrant replaced
6. New Playground
7. New cook-out equipment
8. Dead falls and dead trees removed
9. Flowers, perennials, planted
10. Shelter #1 remodeled & painted
11. Shelter #2 painted
12. Two new toilets
13. New gate for maintenance
14. New paths to shelters & toilets
15. New 10 car parking area
16. Dump filled in
17. Wildlife shrub planting (started)

Residents of Ogle County are offered free reservations for the shelters with a damage and clean-up deposit. To date, every deposit has been returned due to the Excellent care users have exhibited.

For reservation information call between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday at 234-8535.



Learning experiences at the Ranger Rick Day Camp included some life-time sport activities in the out-of-doors.

Popcorn Crunch

- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 quarts of popped popcorn
- 1 cup nuts

Blend butter and honey. Heat until well blended. Pour over popcorn nut mixture, mix well. Spread over cookie sheet in thin layer. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 10-15 minutes until crisp.



The Byron Forest Preserve Board purchased the Village of Leaf River's used dump truck this past month. The unit is equipped with a snow plow and was recently equipped with a new electric trailer brake system.

Save That Dead Tree

Among most stands of trees, there are a few dead ones. These have died from lightning strikes, heart rot, insects or old age. In the past foresters recommended that these old dead trees be removed. It was believed that they did more harm than good. This thinking has changed.

In the United States there are over 85 species of birds that nest in tree cavities. Numerous others use dead trees for perching, roosting, courting and territorial displays. Most of these birds live on insects that infest trees, which is where their importance lies.

U.S. Forest service researchers have shown that most cavity nesters do not migrate, and that their search for insects is never ending. The research also showed that insects removed in the winter are prevented from reproducing the next spring. The study concluded that cavity nesters play an important role in insect control, by their feeding activities in the winter months when insect populations are the lowest.

By sparing that old dead tree, we are able to provide a home for birds which will protect our trees from insect infestation. Anything we can do to attract and keep our friends, the birds, is an excellent investment.

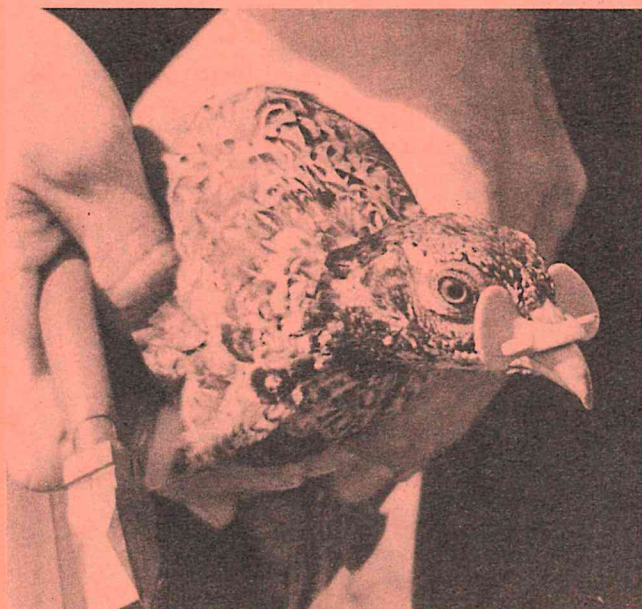
Have You Seen?

The Byron area is beginning to be a regular stop over for more and more of our feathered friends. This year the District has heard of the following sightings:

1. Bald Eagles
2. Blue Herons
3. Turkey Vultures
4. Canada Geese

The Department of Conservation, thru a federal grant, started building habitat nests for the endangered Osprey or Fish Hawk on the Mississippi.

This winter the District will host a program for the public to increase the awareness of what we have in the area and what we can do to attract our feathered friends.



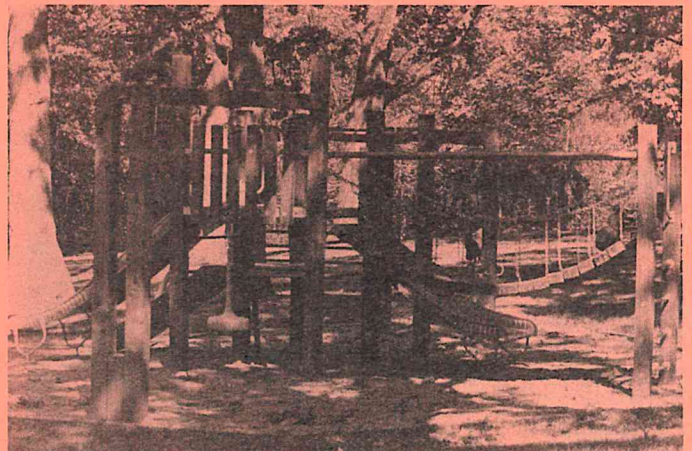
No, you're not seeing things. To keep pheasants from pecking each other, the Forest Preserve staff placed blinders, "Sunglasses" on its 250 release birds.

Byron Preserve Update

This past March the Forest Preserve Board purchased the 1st section of the planned 500 acre Byron Preserve by using a portion of their operating budget for the next ten years to pay for the land.

Since then the following has occurred:

1. One hundred acres leased for cash rent for the current year.
2. Two (2) depleted buildings removed.
3. Five acre entrance grassed
4. Two rows of ornamental trees planted from River Road to the office.
5. Temporary preserve sign erected.
6. Riverfront clearing started to develop a picnic and fishing area in 1986.
7. New deep well with 5000 gallon per day capacity installed.
8. Partial up-grading of farm house and relocating of Forest Preserve offices.
9. Construction of a temporary greenhouse.
10. Construction of a pheasant pen.
11. Removal of two hedge rows.
12. Basic wiring of future workshop.
13. Installation of flowerbed watering system.
14. Construction of air lock for all weather entry of office.
15. Steps taken for renovation of depleted prairie.



New playground equipment at Weld Park completed with final addition of expanded sand box.

Community Beautification Program Approved

The Byron Forest Preserve District completed its planned Community Beautification program by adopting a series of guidelines that will permit a cooperative effort between private citizens, the City of Byron and the District.

Aimed at beautification of public lands adjacent to homes and businesses, the program has already received acceptance. Property owners are now able to donate funds to acquire approved ornamental and determinant tree plantings on public lands in front of their homes in Byron.

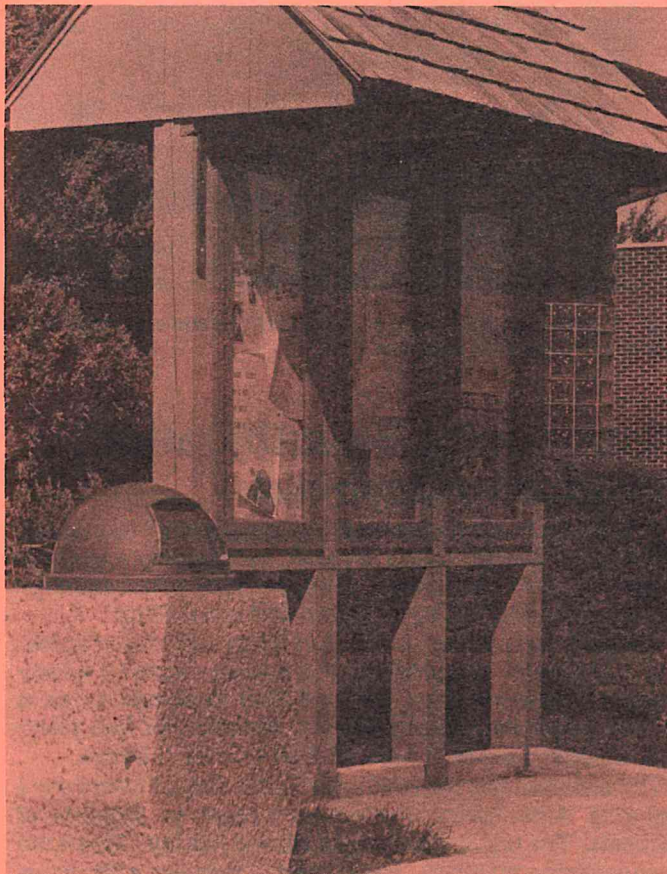
The plan has also been adopted by the City of Byron and a standing Aldermanic Committee formed to approve of requests. The first project will be started this fall. This is not a landscaping program. It is geared to insuring a continual upgrading of plantings on City right-of-way thru the use of low maintenance and attractive ornamentals.



CAR RT SORT

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

Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 River Road
P.O. Box 371
Byron, Illinois 61010-0371



Community Information Bulletin Board built by Forest Preserve Staff receives finishing touch of cement side walk. Space donated by Dr. Donald S. Barrett.

Is Your Lawn Starved?

A light fertilizer on your lawn in November will increase the lawns recovery power by 25% in the spring.

Information Needed

The Forest Preserve is seeking input on what the district residents want them to provide in the way of facilities and programs. A postcard is attached for use.

PLEASE fill out the card ranking what you feel the Forest Preserve should provide during the next ten years. Use a priority numbering choice method.

Example: 2nd Ball Diamonds
3rd Bike Trails
1st Camping Areas
4th Cross Country Ski Trail
5th Driving Range

If several people are in your household, discuss this with one another before completing