

BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

Board of Commissioners:
Dr. R. M. Jarrett, President
Margaret Adams, Secretary
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner



Rich Henricks, Commissioner
Peg Fridley, Commissioner
Jack F. Philbrick, Director
Rob Robertson, Naturalist

1986, Vol. 7

SPRING ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Road, Byron, Illinois 61010

Board Asks Residents To Vote

Since its inception, the Forest Preserve Board has studied how it can best service the residents.

Numerous committee meetings, public hearings, Citizens Advisory Committee input all have been used to develop a plan to acquire and initiate development of the Districts Central Preserve.

Eliminating multiple site development and concentration on a central site acquisition that permits all resident requested activities adjacent to Byron by bike, foot or auto came forth as the best plan.

The Forest Preserve Board has the authority to bond 12 million dollars for acquisition and development without voter approval. However, from its initial inception, the Board has asked the public before it adopts a major program.

On Tuesday, March 18, 1986 the residents will be asked again for direction when they are offered the opportunity to vote on the Citizen Advisory Committee and Boards proposal to acquire the Central Preserve site and to do some initial development allowing immediate use by the residents.

The items selected by the Advisory Committee and Board for development were those that the public rated highest on two community wide surveys.

The \$1.5 million bond issue will offer the residents the following:

1. Acquisition of the approximately 480 acre preserve.
2. Construction of the Nature Center.
3. Two (2) picnic shelters
4. One (1) playground
5. Roads and parking
6. Hiking trails
7. Bike trails
8. Water & septic service
9. Fencing
10. Maintenance facility

One-third of the site proposed has an endangered Dolomite Prairie that will be immediately used. Over half the site will be maintained as a Natural Preserve. The rest of the site will be developed gradually as a passive recreation resource for present generations and the future as well.

No other development is included in this Bond Issue nor will be planned until District residents request them.

If you desire more information on the Bond Issue or have a group that would like to hear the details of this plan, call the Forest Preserve District Office for arrangements and answers.

Don't forget, March 18th, you have a choice.



The actual proposed Byron Preserve is shown here inside the white border.

Treating Petroleum Spills

Petroleum product spills on turf are an increasing problem as maintenance equipment becomes more sophisticated. Brake fluid, gasoline, grease, hydraulic fluid or motor oil spills on turf can cause permanent damage unless they are removed immediately.

Leaves that are injured by liquid petroleum initially have a shiny, water soaked appearance and can turn brown and die within a day.

Not all types of spills respond equally to corrective treatment. Therefore, attempt to remove spills immediately to ensure rapid turfgrass recovery. A suggested treatment for petroleum spills is to apply detergent granules to the contaminated area, followed by a vigorous spray of water to drench the area and float the created suds to the surface. The suds contain emulsified petroleum residues and should be

removed by vacuuming the treated area. It is important to contain the spilled material and corrective treatment within the original boundary of the spill to avoid injuring adjacent turf-grass.

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
"Plants & the Landscape," Volume 5, Number 2

Repairing Tree Damage

Looking out the window to see the beauty of winter with branches painted with ice and snow reminds us that the tree damage frequently occurs.

Here in the Byron area we are more fortunate than neighbors around Central Illinois and further south. Most of our winter moisture comes as snow and not so much as ice. We do get our share so we need to be ready to repair our trees and shrubs as soon as weather permits.

LIMB BREAKAGE AND FROST CRACKING

Certainly if a large limb is damaged and offers a threat to life and property we must prune the unit immediately.

This year we had a late fall permitting longer growth time than usual. Sudden warming and sudden dropping of temperatures in January and February have caused limb and trunk damage.

FRONT CANKERS

Low temperature injuries may be confined to small localized areas on the trunk, branches, or in crotches.

The inner bark and cambium, at or near the soil line, can be damaged with unseasonably low temperatures. The area affected may be restricted to one side.

WINTER DRYING

Winter injury to such plants as rhododendron, holly, pines, spruce and firs is rarely caused by excessive cold on an extended basis. Its damage is caused by excessive and rapid fluctuations in temperature or by late spring freezes after the plants have resumed activity.

NEW CUTTING METHOD

Several years ago studies done by the University of Michigan show us the error of our ways when we flush cut a branch. We now know we must not cut thru the branch collar. This can seriously damage the trees ability to repair itself.

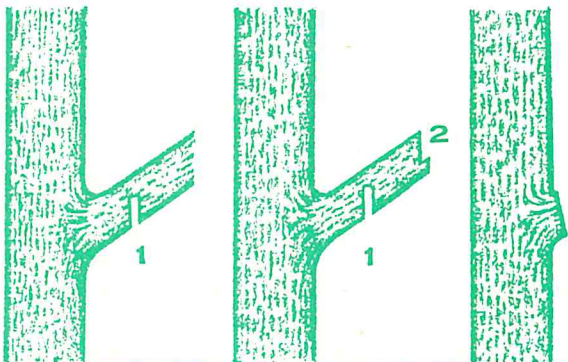
Call 234-8535 for information on pruning your trees.

HOW TO REPAIR DAMAGED TREES

Improper pruning can strip the bark down the tree trunk. Avoid adding insult to injury by using the 3-cut method.

1. Make a cut on the underside one-third of the way through the branch.
2. Starting from the top of the branch, make a cut clear through the branch. This cut should be 4-in. past the first cut. Remove the branch.
3. Make the final cut at the branch collar — the swollen ring at the point where the branch meets the trunk. The final cut should neither leave any projection on the branch nor be flush to the trunk.

Technical credit: News from Agriculture newsletter, University of Illinois, College of Agriculture, Urbana, Ill.
Illustration credit: Pruning Shade Trees and Repairing Their Injuries, USDA Home and Garden Bulletin No. 83.



Expanded Golf Pass Program

During the past four years the Forest Preserve District has offered residents a discount Golf Pass Program. Based on recommendations from the public and staff, the Board has passed on savings that golf courses have offered to attract District golfers.

This year the District golfer will be offered a choice of nine different golf courses in Ogle and Winnebago Counties that he or she may choose to purchase a season pass from and receive a 20% rebate on their season pass. All the courses are public.

The following prices are set:

		W/Discount
Rockford Park District Non-Resident	\$170.00	\$136.00
Winnebago County Forest Preserve Non-Resident	\$260.00	\$208.00
Silver Ridge G.C. - Season Pass	\$225.00	\$146.25
Silver Ridge G.C. - 10 play card	\$55.00	\$35.75

A resident purchasing a Rockford Park District Pass or Winnebago County Season Pass will need to bring their receipt and proof of residency to the Forest Preserve District Office to receive a rebate.

Silver Ridge season passes and 10 play cards will be sold by the District throughout the season. Any District resident, Senior Citizen or Junior that purchases a season pass for Silver Ridge at the course may come to the District to receive their 20% rebate.

A ten play discount ticket will be offered for Lost Nations as well.

If you have any questions concerning the District Golf Program, contact the District Office at 234-8535 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

The Byron bank has offered to sell the Silver Ridge season pass and ten play pass for the District thru March 17th.

Prairie Burn

"The Prairies burning forms are some of the most beautiful scenes that are to be witnessed in this Country" — George Catlin

The Prairie Lands have since diminished to one-tenth of one percent of what Artist George Catlin described in the 1800's. But, the sight of densely matted prairie a blaze is still a sight to behold. Plains Indians had other words for the raging prairie fires. They called the prairie fires Red Buffalo; because, like the Buffalo, prairie fires always played an important role in the Indians life on the prairies.

Prairie grasses have evolved in close association with fire over thousands of years. Every fall, chlorophyll is transferred from the tops of prairie grasses and forbs down into their roots and rhizomes. This process leaves the dried tops of the plants to fuel the fire. The grass fueled fires can raise the surface of the soil to 400° F. in a matter of minutes. The intense heat does not damage the vital parts of prairie plants at all, because they are protected by the insulating capabilities of the soil.

The Byron Forest Preserve burns its prairie, because fire plays an important role in the ecology of a prairie. Scientists have shown that a burned prairie produces two times as much Biomass as an unburned prairie. This is a result of a number of factors. Fire . . .

. . . Allows the prairie plants to have more growing room by removing the previous years dead vegetation.

. . . Recycles valuable nutrients by burning the dead vegeta-

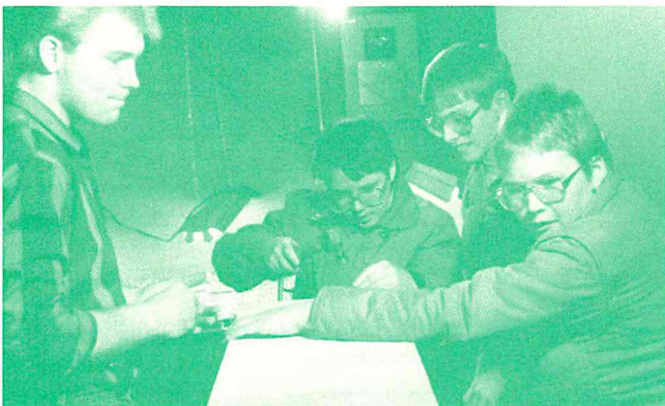
tion.

... heats up the soil and the fire blackened soil absorbs more radiant heat, which allows prairie plants to get a head start on the growing season.

... is a valuable weapon in the prairie battle against invading plants. Its flames destroy the woody plants, shrubs and grasses from outside the prairie ecosystem.

If you would like to protect and help restore the Byron Forest Preserve Prairie while observing the beauty of a Prairie Fire, then you should volunteer to help burn the Byron Forest Preserve Prairie.

Those interested should call the District at 234-8535 and put your name and phone number on the District's Prairie volunteer list. The District will call you in advance of the prairie burn. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Ranger Rick leader Mike Reibel is shown working with club members Phillip Knight, Danny Brandsma and Tim Clarke finishing up a Barn Owl box.

BEWARE

Door To Door Tree Experts

With deregulation the name of the game, you and I are going to meet more door to door salesmen.

In Byron, no one who comes to your door should be hired to provide service if he or she has not acquired a permit under Ordinance No. 81-12. If they don't provide proof of this permit, they may be illegal and you as the consumer may loose.

Recently, a local Byron resident payed to have two city trees fertilized in front of her home. This was \$80.00, \$40.00 each, down the drain.

NEVER, PAY anyone for treating a City tree before contacting your Councilman. The responsibility is the City's. This doesn't restrict you from watering or otherwise caring for them, but you don't have the authority to have commercial work done on a city tree without prior approval by the City.

Soliciting is an art and a good rule to remember is that they are on your ground. You can say no.

Here are five (5) basic rules offered by the Illinois Attorney General Consumer Fraud Department.

1. Don't fall for the "sympathy" approach.
2. Be wary of service call discounts because they happen to be in the area.
3. Remember, you can cancel any contract signed in your home within three (3) days.
4. Don't make any payment hastily, especially for something you haven't seen.

5. Don't respond to high pressure. Don't make a decision based on their smooth talk.

If a tree, shrub or flower problem occurs, you pay taxes for services from many agencies that may provide you professional advise free.

Call an agency to verify any door to door venders opinions before taking the leap on your own.

Finally, watch out for the smooth non-specific offers such as to INJECT, SUPPLEMENT or IMPROVE the trees or shrubs condition. This means they are most likely, fertilizing only.

Forty dollars will purchase enough fertilizer to do more than an acre of trees even if you purchase it retail down town.

Remember, call for help to agencies like the Ogle County Extension Advisor, Department of Conservation Forestry, the Byron Forest Preserve, etc. before paying for services when in question.

Above all, if they are door to door - check their City Permit. Even then, don't hesitate to check their written references and think it over. No true professional will force an idea on you. He or she will be willing to prove their skill and legal authority. They will be willing to come back.

Honey Baked Chicken

Serve it baked and glazed with an oriental inspired honey sauce.

- 1 broiler - fryer, 3 to 4 lbs. quartered
- ¼ cup of butter
- ½ cup of honey
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce

Arrange chicken in a low baking pan. Brush with soft butter and drizzle with honey combined with soy sauce. Bake at 350 degrees, about 1½ hours until chicken is tender, brushing with honey sauce frequently. Remove chicken from pan. Skim fat from gravy. Add any remaining honey sauce and thicken with cornstarch, if desired. Serve over chicken. Makes fours (4) servings.

Home Gardening Workshop

The Byron Forest Preserve District is co-sponsoring a gardening workshop with the Ogle County Extension Service on Saturday, March 8th. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Byron Cultural Center located at 220 West 3rd St. in Byron. The program is free; with an optional \$3.00 fee for lunch. Pre-registration notification for those desiring lunch is required.

Program Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:45 a.m. "Practical Advice on Home Vegetable Gardening": A panel discussion with Ray Appler, Garland Grace and Stan Eden.
- 11:00 a.m. "Keeping Food Fit to Eat," with Donna Mann, Senior Extension Advisor in Home Economics, Ogle County Extension Service and Sandy Stiles Extension Advisor in Home Economics.
- 12:15 p.m. Break for lunch.
- 1:00 p.m. "Pest Control for the Home and Garden," with Dr. Fred Miller, Extension Entomologist, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.
- 1:45 p.m. "Establishment and Maintenance of Fruit Trees," with Laura Wyatt, Winnebago County Extension Service.
- 3:00 p.m. Program conclusion.



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Blackhawk Area Garden Club News

The Forest Preserve sponsored Garden Club is actively preparing for spring planting. This years projects and programs will include:

... **A Native American Herb Garden** - The club will plant and maintain the Herb Garden that will contain a representative sample of the wild plants which American Indians gathered for food, beverages, dyes, charms and smoking. The Garden will be used by the Naturalist for educational programs.

... **Giant Pumpkin Contest** - The Club will give away giant pumpkin seeds to local youths in April. They will judge and award prizes for the heaviest, longest, ugliest and best shaped in September.

... **Annual Flower Gardens** - The Club will assist the Forest Preserve staff in propagating, planting and maintaining the flower gardens at the Byron Forest Preserve.

The Club is seeking new members. If interested in joining or learning more about the Club and its projects please call 234-8535.

March 8	Sat.	9:30 a.m.	Home Gardening Workshop at Cultural Center
March 15	Sat.	9:30 a.m.	Ranger Rick Trip to Maple Syrup Festival
March 21	Fri.	9 a.m.	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting at Byron Preserve
April 12	Sat.	10 a.m.	Ranger Rick Work Day - Install Barn Owl Houses
April 18	Fri.	9 a.m.	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting at Byron Preserve
April 25	Fri.	?	Arbor Day Program
May 3	Sat.	9 a.m.	Boating Safety Program with USCG at Byron Preserve
May 16	Fri.	9 a.m.	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting at Byron Preserve
May 17	Sat.	9 a.m.	Ranger Rick Trip - Blackberry History Farm
May 24	Sat.	10 a.m.	Spring Nature Pro. & Hike at BY-COM & Byron Preserve
May 26	Mon.	Closed	Memorial Day
June 2	Mon.	10 a.m.	Middle Creek Mariners Prairie Pro. w/lunch at Byron Preserve
June 14	Sat.	10 a.m.	"A Day At The Prairie Program" at Byron Preserve
June 18	Wed.	10 a.m.	Ranger Rick Workday - Nature Study Project at Byron Preser.
June 20	Fri.	9 a.m.	Byron Forest Preserve Board Meeting at Byron Preserve
June 28	Sat.	6:30 p.m.	Family Fun Night at Byron Preserve



Even when you're down, it's fun. Byron High School P.E. Classes enjoy cross country skiing at BY-COM.

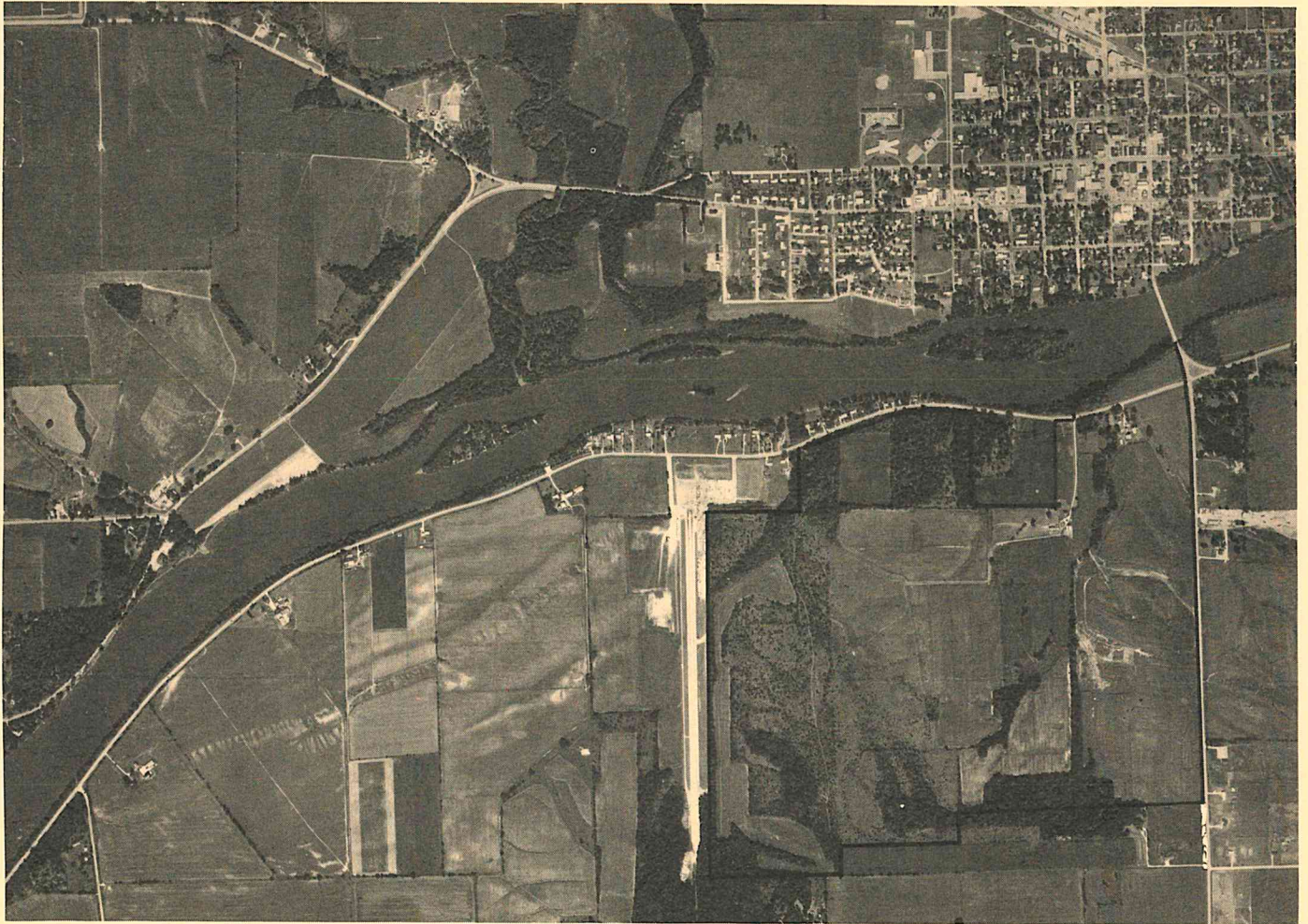
THE FACTS Regarding
The \$1,500,000 Bond Issue
Referendum On March 18th —



This Land Can Be Your Land
Now and Forever

What Is Being Proposed By The Byron Forest Preserve District?

The Board of Commissioners is proposing to acquire and develop approximately 480 acres of land that is now known as the Byron Forest Preserve.



The plans for preserving and developing the land include:

- picnic areas and shelters
- trails for hiking and cross country skiing
- nature center
- bike paths
- primitive camping areas
- playground
- reforestation and landscaping
- small greenhouse
- outdoor education laboratory
- restoration of the prairie
- sledding hill

Other improvements planned are: toilets; roads and parking; maintenance center and office; well and septic; and fences.

Improvements that ARE NOT included in this project are:

- restaurant
- bowling alley
- golf course
- skeet/trap facilities
- swimming pool
- mobile trailer camping
- areas for all terrain vehicles

How Much Will The Project Cost?

The exact total cost is yet to be determined, but it will not exceed \$1,500,000. (The District will only issue bonds up to the amount that is needed to acquire and develop the land).

The bond issue will be paid from property taxes, starting in 1987, and will be paid off over a seven-year period.

Property owners in the District will pay a projected average increase of 6¢ per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

Examples

Property Market Value	Assessed Value (Approx. 1/3 of Market)	Average Annual Increase	Average Monthly Increase
\$ 1,000	\$ 333	\$.20	\$.02
30,000	10,000	6.00	.50
45,000	15,000	9.00	.75
60,000	20,000	12.00	1.00
75,000	25,000	15.00	1.25

(To determine your specific annual cost, look at your largest property tax bill and multiply .0006 times your **equalized value**. Example for \$45,000 home: $.0006 \times \$15,000 = \9.00).

Also remember, property taxes are currently deductible from your federal income tax, which makes the real cost lower.

Open House Dates

In order to provide all residents an opportunity to ask questions, two open house dates are offered that you may wish to attend:

Tuesday, March 11th, Byron Cultural Center 7 to 9 p.m.
Sunday, March 16th, Byron Preserve 1 to 4 p.m.

Voter Information

Tuesday, March 18th, 1986
6:00 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Polling Places

	Pct.	Location
Byron Township	1	City Hall, 120 N. Union
	2	Cultural Center, 220 W. Third Street
	3	Fire Station, 232 W. 2nd Street
Leaf River Township		Village Hall, Main Street
Marion Township	2	Township Building, Hwy. 72, Stillman Valley
Rockvale Township	1	Township Building, Route 2, Oregon
	2	Township Building, Rock River Terrace, Byron

Absentee Voting Deadlines

Thursday, March 13th (by mail)
Monday, March 17th (in person)

Contact the Ogle County Clerk's Office at 732-3201 for further help.

Special Instructions

Since this is a primary election, you can vote one of two ways:

- (1) Vote either Republican or Democrat and receive the bond issue question with those ballots, or
- (2) Ask only for a non-partisan ballot, which will include the bond issue question.

Questions?

Forest Preserve District Board

Dr. R. M. Jarrett 234-4651
Margaret Adams 234-8324
Richard Henricks 234-8586
Margaret Fridley 234-5359
Gene Wilmarth 234-8368

Director - Jack Philbrick 234-8535

Citizen's Committee

Grant Bullock, Chairman 234-2511
Gail Barton, Election Day 234-2561
Steve Walters, Neighborhood Info 234-4911
Ellen Fernandez, Publicity 234-5603
Stewart Norton, Speakers 234-8093
Chet Kobel, Advisor 234-5646