

BYRONNIE RACCOON NEWS

Board of Commissioners:

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Margaret Adams, Secretary & Treasurer
Grant Bullock, Commissioner



Gene Paquet, Commissioner
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner
Jack F. Philbrick, Director

1989 Vol. 1

(815) 234-8535

SPRING ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Rd.

Byron, Illinois 61010

COME TO OUR PICNIC IT'S FOR YOU

Remember when you could take your family to a park for a Sunday picnic and listen to a band concert while sitting on a blanket?

If you had little ones with you, you could let them run and not really worry about them running out in a street in front of heavy traffic or smell the exhaust of large trucks. Sometimes a Good Humor cart would be parked just to the side of the band gazebo with a line of youngsters.

You'd even see Harry walking around with a short broom handle with a nail in the end being sure any trash was quickly picked up and put into his potato sack slung over his left shoulder on a short piece of clothesline rope or bailing twine.

Little girls with bonnets stayed close to their dads but eyed the antics of little boys playing leap frog, catch, or simply chasing each other.

Or recall a visit to Grandpa's on the farm where the family all ate outside under a big maple tree on a warm summer evening.

Well, you can do it again this summer.

Be the guest of your Byron Forest Preserve District and join them for an old-fashioned evening picnic and concert at the Prairie Preserve located on River Road.

Free food will be provided for district residents and guests starting at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Free hay rides will be provided during the same time.

At 6:00 p.m., a music concert for all ages will start, and yes, the modern Good Humor Man's relative will provide an ice cream treat.

We seldom take time to relax, to enjoy the good that came to us in the "Good Ol' Days." This will be just such a chance, so come on out June 6, 1989.

This is the Byron Forest Preserve's way to dedicate the new forest preserve to you and to show you what we have. The Prairie Preserve is located at 7993 River Road.

The picnic and all entertainment is free to all residents of the district.

Please bring your lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the concert.

*The Byron Forest Preserve District
Board of Commissioners
requests the pleasure of your company
at the Prairie Preserve Dedication Picnic
and Concert
at half after four till
half after seven in the evening
on Tuesday, the sixth of June
at 7993 River Road
Byron, Illinois*

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the office of the Prairie Preserve, located at 7993 River Road.

The meetings are open to the district's public.



Natural Heritage Farm Committee tours recently acquired a 150-year-old farmhouse location on River Road. From left to right: Clyde James, Armour Van Briesen, Dr. R.M. Jarrett, Stewart Norton, Rita Tallman, and Margaret Adams, who is pointing at an area in the wall that will require attention. Margaret Adams is the chairwoman.

The group meets monthly.



"There they go." Over 600 youths took less than 15 minutes to find 1800 eggs during the Lions Club hunt.

BYRON LIONS CLUB HUNT GROWS

For the past two years, the Byron Lions Club has held its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the present front door of the Prairie Preserve. This year, over 200 cars and an estimated 600 people participated.

Due to the number of cars and people, the forest preserve board has authorized the director to relocate the hunt in 1989 to an area inside the preserve that will accommodate all the cars and to retain traffic control. Additionally, the number of prizes will be expanded with every child receiving something, as well as his eggs.



Three tables, one for each of three age groups, were used to pass out over 100 special prizes.

HAVING BIRD PROBLEMS?

Each spring and fall the department hosts a number of calls about migrating bird problems.

Sidewalks, cars, and people pelting tends to occur most during the time our winged friends pass through.

Several solutions have been used by communities and individuals over the years to include clapping boards, carbide cannons, lights, and even firearms. However, a good solution for some is a little simpler, especially if your not faint of heart.

The product "Hot Foot" is a gel that does not burn nor irritate birds' feet. You simply place it on roofs, ledges, gutters, or landing and roosting areas. Birds step in the gel, flutter their wings, and fly away.

For more information, call 1-800-BIRDS NO.

DEFENSE AGAINST LYMES DISEASE

The best product on the market today
is Deep Woods Off.
Please follow directions.

PRAIRIE PLANTING

More and more people are learning the value of prairie planting around their homes and even farms.

Native grasses and flowers require the least amount of care and maintenance of any ground cover. When you put a dollar value to the maintenance of one (1) acre of the blue grass as opposed to one (1) acre of prairie, you find it runs around \$1,200 to only \$25 per acre of prairie.

In deciding on the type of planting, you need to know several things. You should be aware of the following:

1. Site Preparation
2. Planting Times
3. Installation Techniques
4. Irrigation Needs
5. Mulching Techniques
6. Rodent Control
7. Weed Control

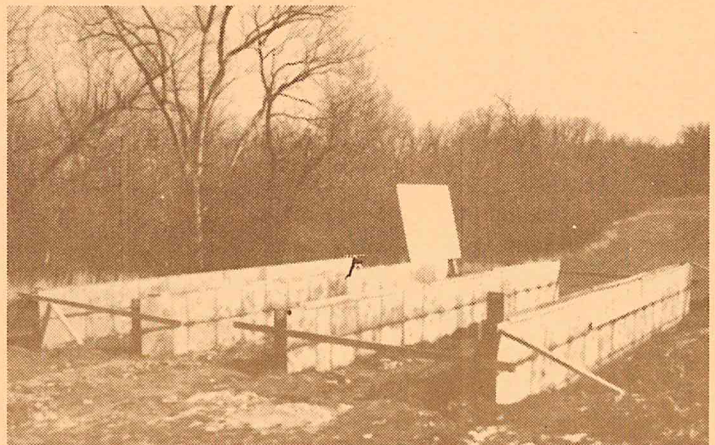
The Byron Forest Preserve District is presently maintaining and up-grading over 100 acres of prairie. Additionally, it has developed three (3) small, demonstration prairies for the public to observe and enjoy.

One is located next to the Tempo office in Byron, one is located at Mrs. Debnam's on Third Street, and the third and largest is near the entrance of the prairie preserve, 7993 River Road. Each is in various stages of development, and all have a balance of forbs and grasses.

If you are interested in cutting down on the weekly mowing, beautifying your yard using native flowers and grasses, feel free to call the forest preserve headquarters to receive a copy of recommended guides to prairie planting. Call 234-8535 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, and a simple guide will be mailed, at no charge, to you.



Used but new payloader purchased through Federal Surplus is added to the Prairie Preserve construction fleet. Unit cost \$4,800 and \$400 to transport it from Springfield, IL.



New stage started by Jones Construction is shown in the Prairie Preserve.

FEEDING TO ATTRACT SONG BIRDS

Most of us love to see birds all year long. Some of us even pay extra when we build our homes, in order to have a big window to watch them.

However, many of us don't know how to attract them.

The single, most important element is to provide the right feed all year long.

The late E. Lowell Kammerer published an excellent Plant Information Bulletin in 1952 for the Morton Arboretum, and it was revised in the spring of 1975.

Here are a few tips it includes:

Trees

Red chokeberry

Siberian dogwood
Pagoda dogwood
Silky dogwood
Cornelian cherry
Gray dogwood

Washington hawthorn
Russian olive
Burning bush

Attract

21 kinds of birds including
bob-white, brown thrasher,
catbirds, meadowhawk

93 kinds of birds
including cardinals,
bluebirds, cedar waxwing,
downy woodpecker, robin,
flicker, song sparrow

39 kinds of birds including,
fox sparrow, purple finch,
king bird, hermit thrush

To attract our feathered friends, we don't need to rely just on putting out seed for them if we do a little supplemental planting of the right varieties of plants.

If you would like a copy of the extended list, simply call the Byron Forest Preserve District Office at (815) 234-8535 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and we will mail you a photocopy of the Morton Arboretum Plant Information Bulletin, Number 5.



National Park Service Fire Hazard sign, built by the Byron Forest Preserve staff, takes its place at the Prairie Preserve.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE IS GROWING

With the negotiated purchase of the additional 340 plus acres of land adjacent to the existing prairie preserve, the Byron Forest Preserve District has completed its major land acquisition plan adopted in 1982.

As a policy, the board has concentrated on a single, large site that will serve as many public needs as possible, without the added cost of multiple spread out locations.

Today, the only land owned by the district is the 550 acres at the intersection of German Church Road and River Road and a small nine (9) acre donated site called Heleo, which is adjacent to Route Two, two (2) miles south of Byron.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS OF THE PRAIRIE PRESERVE DEDICATION AND PICNIC

Mrs. Douglas Albright
Muller-Pinehurst Dairy
Rockford Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Rockford Purity Sunbeam Baking
F.D.L. Foods

SEEDLING PROJECT

Two years ago, the Byron Forest Preserve District applied for a ten-year grant to be used for rehabilitating over 170 acres of the original 220-acre Prairie Site. The grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was available to individuals and agencies that were farming highly erodible soil. The department received thousands of seedlings to be used to refurbish twenty acres of the land as well as over \$2,000 in labor and seed reimbursement.

For the next nine years, the district is to receive over \$8,000 per year to continue to upgrade the land, as long as it is not farmed.

Due to the drought last year, the department will receive over 10,000 seedlings from the Illinois Department of Conservation this spring to be used to replace last year's plantings that were killed. The seedlings are being supplied, at no charge, to the Byron Forest Preserve District.

HOT LINE NUMBERS

From time to time, we need services fast. More often than not, it is hard to locate the numbers.

The following 800 numbers are provided for your use:

CONSUMER PROTECTION:

1-800-252-8666

VIOLENT CRIME CLEARING HOUSE FOR VICTIMS:

1-800-288-3368

DISABLED INFORMATION:

1-800-382-3000

SECRETARY OF STATE INVESTMENT ALERT:

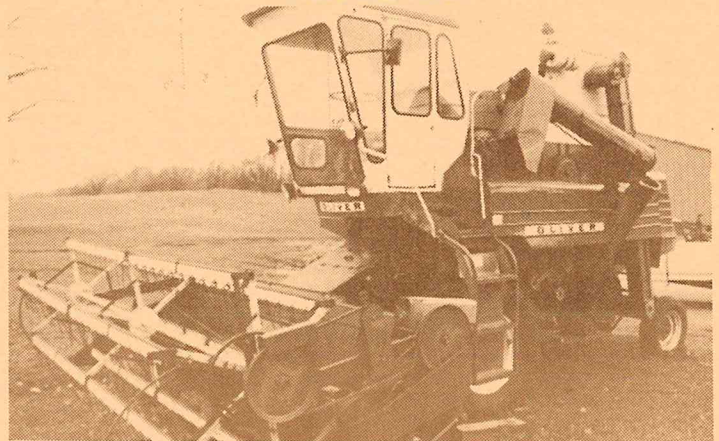
1-800-252-8980

FISHING & HUNTING INFORMATION:

1-800-624-3077

EMERGENCY SERVICES & DISASTER AGENCY:

1-800-252-1775

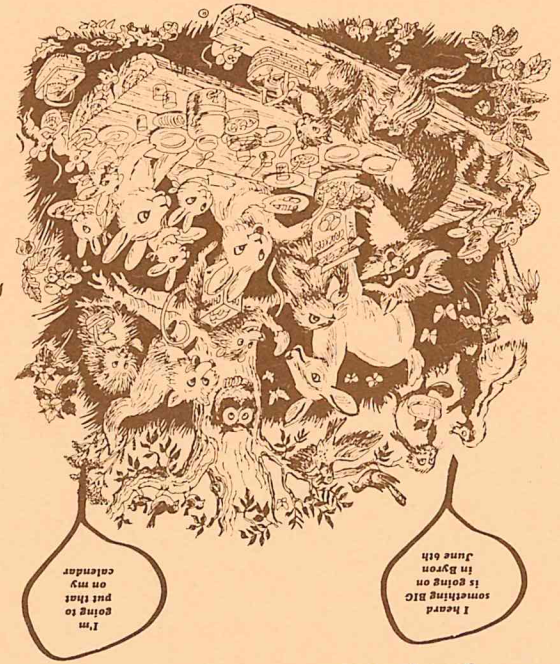
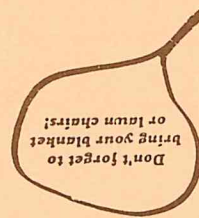


IT'S FOR SALE! This Oliver 13 ft. combine is for sale by the Prairie Preserve. Call 234-8535 for information.

POSTAL PATRON
Byron, IL 61010

CRP

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BYRON, ILLINOIS
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Byron Forest Preserve District
7993 River Rd.
Byron, Illinois

Byron Forest Preserve District Calendar May thru December 1989

Heritage Farm Meetings - 2nd Wednesday of each month
at 1:00 p.m.

Ranger Rick - 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Forest Preserve Board Meetings - 3rd Tuesday of each
month at 6:30 p.m.

MAY

29-Holiday (Memorial Day)

JUNE

6-Prairie Dedication Program, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

7-Tree Identification Course, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

10-Tree Identification Course, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

17-Tree Identification Course, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

24-Tree Identification Course-Cookout, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

JULY

4-Holiday (Independence Day)

SEPTEMBER

4-Holiday (Labor Day)

OCTOBER

9-Holiday (Columbus Day)

28-Halloween on the Prairie

NOVEMBER

10-Holiday (Veteran's Day)

23-Holiday (Thanksgiving Day)

DECEMBER

25-Holiday (Christmas Day)

PLEASE BRING YOUR BLANKET OR LAWN CHAIRS TO THE PICNIC JUNE 6