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## Forest Preserve Now Offers Textile Recycling

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has teamed with USAgain (pronounced “use again”) to provide 21 textile recycling bins at 18 preserves around the county. USAgain collects used clothes and resells them worldwide to conserve natural resources.

Each year in the United States, every man, woman and child purchases more than 81 pounds of textiles. This includes 66 pounds of clothes, footwear, towels, sheets and pillowcases, of which only about 10 pounds will ever be reused or recycled. The remaining 56 pounds of textiles will end up in landfills as trash.

USAgain, whose corporate office is in West Chicago, Illinois, is a green, for-profit textile recycling company that employs 220 full-time workers.

In July, the Forest Preserve District of Will County Board of Commissioners approved a one-year contract with the company to install the bins at preserves identified by District staff. Each collection bin holds up to 500 pounds of clothes, shoes and household textiles. USAgain will service each bin once per week, or more often if demand requires.

The Forest Preserve will receive two cents per pound of all textiles collected from the bins.



The company collects about one million pounds of clothing per week, which is then purchased by wholesale buyers, thrift store chains and textile recyclers. With more than 10,000 collection bins in 15 states, USAgain retrieved 56 million pounds of discarded clothing in 2010, preventing 392 million pounds of carbon emissions and saving 320,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

From 1980 to 2005, the worldwide textile trade grew 10 times, from \$200 million to \$2 billion in revenues. The top exporters of textiles are the United States, Germany, United

Kingdom and the Netherlands, and the top importers are Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

Half of all textiles recovered by USAgain are resold in the United States through 12,000 thrift stores nationwide. Thirty percent of recycled textiles are resold on the international market, and 20 percent of collected textiles are recycled into rags, insulation and other useful materials.

According to USAgain, textiles account for more greenhouse gas savings than paper, plastics and glass combined. For every ton of textiles that are recycled, seven tons of carbon dioxide are saved from the production of raw materials and manufacture of textiles.

The company Web site announces that “gently used clothes” can be recycled. But USAgain also accepts those textiles that are torn, stained or threadbare to sell to recyclers that shred the items to make insulation for dishwashers, housing, the automobile industry and mattress padding. Non-reusable shoes are ground up to make raw materials for sidewalks, running tracks, playground mulch and carpet padding. Only five percent of collected items are

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## USAgain Textile Recycling Bin Locations

- Forsythe Woods (*Wilmington*)
- Hadley Valley—Bruce Road Access (*New Lenox*)
- Hadley Valley—Gougar Road Access (*New Lenox*)
- Hammel Woods—DuPage River Access (*Shorewood*)
- Hickory Creek Barrens (*New Lenox*)
- Hickory Creek Preserve—LaPorte Road Access (*Mokena*)
- Isle a la Cache Museum (*Romeoville*)
- Lake Renwick—Turtle Lake Access (*Plainfield*)
- Lower Rock Run Preserve—I & M Canal Access (*Joliet*)
- McKinley Woods—Kerry Sheridan Grove/Four Rivers Environmental Education Center (*Channahon*)
- Messenger Marsh (*Homer Glen*)
- Monee Reservoir (*Monee*)
- Riverview Farmstead (*Naperville*)
- Rock Run Preserve—Black Road Access (*Joliet*)
- Rock Run Rookery—Youngs Road Access (*Joliet*)
- Sugar Creek Preserve/Sugar Creek Administration Center (*Joliet*)
- Theodore Marsh (*Crest Hill*)
- Veterans Woods (*Bolingbrook*)
- Whalon Lake (*Naperville*)

## The Educational and Research Benefits of Natural Areas

Last year, Barbara Brotman wrote a feature story for the *Chicago Tribune* on a group called StreamLeaders, which was “smooshing handfuls of mud through their hands as they felt for native mussels.” The volunteer group was searching for the tiny crustaceans in the newly restored Spring Creek, which was part of the massive Spring Creek Greenway restoration. For decades Spring Creek had been channelized for agricultural use, and the Forest Preserve restored the creek to its original, meandering course. The group found two mussels that day, including a threatened

species. With mussels found in Spring Creek on a previous outing, StreamLeaders believes that the creek is showing positive signs of good health. The group, which is affiliated with Openlands (an organization whose mission is to protect the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and surrounding region), will continue to monitor a section of Spring Creek for three years—a longitudinal study whose findings will reveal the ecological health of one of Will County’s major creeks.

With more than 21,000 acres of preserved space, much of it comprised of preserved and



restored prairie, forest and wetlands, the Forest Preserve District of Will County offers natural areas that are used for environmental research and education. A broad variety of

institutions and organizations receive Special Use Permits (SUPs) from the District to conduct ecological research, from young students performing rudimentary *continued on page 5*

# Natural Adventures: Leave No Child Inside

Children today all seem to be “plugged in” as they are spending most of their time indoors, on computers or watching television, and less time playing outside. Children are not getting the experiences, memories and benefits of enjoying the great outdoors that previous generations did. Providing opportunities for your children to get outside and play can help turn this trend around. Playing outside has many benefits, such as helping reduce stress, increasing attention spans, reducing absenteeism, creating positive behavioral changes and increasing overall test scores.

The simple solution to this serious problem is as easy as taking a break from the TV and computer and taking your kids outside. Please use the suggested activities on this page to encourage your children to play outside. ■



## Plants Are Getting Ready For Winter

Plants make and store food to help them live and grow throughout the summer months when there are many hours of sunlight and a good supply of water. When winter time comes, the amount of sun and water available is greatly reduced. People cope with this change in the weather by wearing coats and warmer clothing. Plants, in turn, have their own ways of preparing for the cold season.

Plants that complete their life cycle in one growing season are called annuals. In the fall, annuals die and will not grow back, but their seeds get left behind, waiting to sprout the following spring.

Perennial is the name for a plant that lives for more than two years. When winter comes, the roots and woody parts of the perennials will survive the cold. Other parts of these plants located above ground, such as the leaves, die off each year. In the winter, perennials rest and live off stored food until spring.

Can you identify an example of an annual plant and a perennial plant near your home?

Trees are an example of a perennial plant. Deciduous trees are those that prepare for winter by losing all their leaves. Through the summer, leaves make glucose to use for energy. Excess glucose is turned into starch and stored until needed. The base of each leaf has a layer of cells called the separation layer. In this layer, there are small tubes that bring water into the leaf and food back to the tree.

In the fall when there is less sunlight, plants stop producing energy and the cells in the separation layer swell, causing the flow between the leaf and tree to stop. This is when the leaves begin to change colors due to the lack of water entering the leaf. Then the cells in the separation layer begin to disintegrate until the leaf becomes detached from the tree by an autumn wind or falls off on its own.

How many trees near you have lost all of their leaves already? Are there any that still have all of their leaves? Watch as the months progress to see how the trees change.

Not all perennial trees lose their leaves in the winter. Conifers, often called evergreens, have leaves that are resistant to cold and moisture loss. Some, like pine and fir trees, have long thin needles. Others, like holly, have broad leaves. Evergreen leaves and needles can continue to produce energy during the winter as long as they get enough water.

What type of evergreen plants are near your home?

## Pick Your Own Apples

As fall colorfully and crisply begins to unfold, the apple season kicks into high gear. Grocery stores and farmer’s markets have an abundance of apples in stock. Instead of buying a bag of apples at your usual merchant, have you ever considered going to an orchard and picking your own apples? It is fun, educational, and an activity that the whole family can do together! To find a pick-your-own apple orchard near you, visit [www.PickYourOwn.com](http://www.PickYourOwn.com).

Most orchards contain a large variety of apples from which to choose. Be daring and try some varieties that you have never eaten before! Look for Pink Lady, Ginger Gold, Mutsu or Honeycrisp if you like sweeter apples, or for tart apples try Granny Smith, Rome Beauty or the Stayman Apple.

## Fun in the Leaves

Do you have a yard full of leaves that need to be raked? There are plenty of ways to make this chore into a fun autumn activity:

- Rake the leaves into a huge pile and jump in!
- Play find the treasure. Hide a wrapped lollipop, toy, or coin in a leaf pile. The first one to find it keeps the treasure.
- Make a leafy maze. When leaves cover the lawn, rake a twisting pathway through them and go through the maze.
- Have a leaf-blowing race. In this game, each child blows a leaf across a table with a straw. The first one across is the winner.

**Share Your Stories.** As always, we would like to hear about your Natural Adventures! Share your stories with us about these or other activities that got you and your family out to enjoy nature. What did your kids discover? What did they think was the best part of their adventure? Send your stories and/or pictures to the Superintendent of Public Affairs at Sugar Creek Administration Center, 17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433 or e-mail [comments@fpdwc.org](mailto:comments@fpdwc.org). If we like what you send, we just might publish it in our next issue to share with our other readers! ■



## Easiest Applesauce Ever!

To make the easiest applesauce ever, peel, core and slice a variety of naturally sweet apples such as Gala, Fuji, Honeycrisp, or others to fill your crock pot. A variety of apple types will give you the best flavor! Add 1½ tablespoons of lemon juice, cover, and cook on high for 3-4 hours. Your kitchen will smell so good! Mash the apples into the consistency you want. Stir in 1-2 teaspoons of cinnamon to taste. Serve warm or cold. This applesauce can also be frozen in freezer bags and enjoyed at a later date.

## Autumn Quotation

“A few days ago I walked along the edge of the lake and was treated to the crunch and rustle of leaves with each step I made. The acoustics of this season are different and all sounds, no matter how hushed, are as crisp as autumn air.”

- Eric Sloane

## Acorn Necklace

This nature-meets-fashion craft is a great activity for fall:

### Materials

- Capped acorns
- Glue
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Fuzzy yarn
- String

### Instructions

1. Put one large drop of glue on the top of each acorn and press wisps of fuzzy yarn onto it to make hair.
2. Put one large drop of glue on the top of each acorn and press wisps of fuzzy yarn onto it to make hair. After applying a second drop onto the wisps, put the caps back on the acorns and hold them on for one minute.
3. Use a permanent marker to draw faces on the acorns. Trim the hair, then make a lanyard by tying string around the cap stem and securing it with a drop of glue.

Source: Nicole Blum, *FamilyFun Magazine*



The Forest Preserve's Executive Director, Marcy DeMauro (far left), and Director of Public Affairs and Education, Cindy Harn, are joined by Crete Township Supervisor Tony Recupito for the Goodenow Grove groundbreaking.



(From left) Executive Director DeMauro, Commissioners Joe Babich, Walter Adamic and Diane Zigrossi, and Patrick Considine, president of project contractor Flexible Pavement, Inc., break ground at Teale Woods, in Joliet.

## Groundbreakings Make Way for Preserve Improvements

In the last week of July, the Forest Preserve District hosted two groundbreaking ceremonies for construction projects that will improve preserves in Joliet and Beecher.

Teale Woods is a 13.8-acre preserve located along Theodore and Broadway Streets in the City of Joliet. The Forest Preserve is to begin work that will feature a 0.3-mile asphalt trail and an open lawn area. A pedestrian entrance will be

located at the northwest corner of the preserve, at Theodore and Center Streets. The construction will be completed this fall.

Attending the groundbreaking ceremony were City of Joliet Mayor Thomas C. "Tom" Giarrante, Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners Walter Adamic, Joe Babich and Diane H. Zigrossi, and Patrick Considine, president of project contractor Flexible Pavement, Inc.

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve improvements will close the preserve for an entire year. (Visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org) for more information on this preserve closing.) Three miles of new trails (6.0 miles roundtrip) will be surfaced with crushed limestone, permitting equestrian use as well as all other non-motorized activities, including hiking and biking. In addition, the preserve's campgrounds are to

be reconstructed, roadways and walkways are to be reconfigured and ADA modifications are to be addressed.

Crete Township Highway Supervisor Tony Recupito and Administrative Assistant Tim Miller attended this groundbreaking.

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve is expected to reopen in July 2012. ■

## "Howloween Hoopla!"

### A Howlin' Good Time for Your Dog

Looking to have a howlin' good time with your favorite four-legged canine? Then the second annual "Howloween Hoopla!" at Whalon Lake Dog Park is just the event for you!

Free and open to the public, this year's festivities are scheduled for Saturday, October 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and include a costume contest and parade that are sure to draw some laughs from the crowd! Does your dog like tunes? Then join us for musical mats—the doggy version of musical chairs!

Local non-profit organizations, including shelters and rescue groups, will be on-hand to promote animal welfare and to adopt out their dogs to the right homes.

If it's free giveaways you're looking for, look no further! Pet product vendors also will be in attendance and will be handing out free samples for your pooch.

Services available that day include nail trimming and micro-chipping for a small fee.

So come on out and celebrate the season at one of Will County's



most beautiful preserves that welcomes both two- and four-legged critters! All ordinances apply and dogs must be leashed.

If you are an interested vendor, please call 708.534.8499. ■



## Textile Recycling

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deemed unusable and discarded.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Their commitment to preserving and protecting the county's natural heritage dovetails with USAgain's commitment to environmental sustainability," said

USAgain CEO Mattias Wallander.

"The Forest Preserve District of Will County is committed to conservation, and adding textile recycling, especially with collection bins placed at preserves all around the county to make it convenient for residents to recycle, enhances this ethic in a very positive way," said Cory Singer, president

of the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners.

The addition of textiles expands the Forest Preserve's recycling collection bins to include paper recycling at the Sugar Creek Administration Center and Isle a la Cache Museum and electronic recycling at the Administration Center and Monee Reservoir.

The Forest Preserve also recycles Christmas trees during its annual "Recycle the Holiday Spirit!" program.

See the full listing of USAgain collection bin locations on page 1 of this issue of *The Citizen*. For a map showing the location of all textile recycling bins, please visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org). ■



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## “Musher Mania” Celebrates Its 19th Year

Mark your calendars! Soon it will be that time of year to bundle up and get the whole family out of the house for Monee Reservoir’s 19th annual “Musher Mania”! Scheduled for Saturday, January 14 from noon-4 p.m., this free, family-oriented event always proves to be an energetic, fun-filled day for dog and winter enthusiasts alike!

On the day of “Musher Mania,” Monee Reservoir is surging with dog sled teams from the Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago. Those who attend have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the dog teams, including the adorable puppies in training, and

then see the teams in action as they mush along the trails!

The fun doesn’t stop there, however. The event also features crafts, doggie photos, food, ice sculptures, stories, games, campfires complete with s’mores, and more!

For more information, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org) or call 708.534.8499.

“Musher Mania” is held regardless of the weather. In the interest of safety, please leave your own dog at home. All of the activities are held outside on uneven and possibly snow-covered ground. ■

## Woods Walk Culminates With Reception

If you haven’t taken part in the Forest Preserve’s 2011 Woods Walk Program, you have until Monday, October 31 to squeeze in some exercise, take in the fresh air and enjoy the scenery of Will County before the program ends. Now in its 11th year, the Woods Walk program offers its participants the opportunity to hike seven of 10 select Forest Preserve trails to earn a Woods Walk collector’s medal for their walking stick, hat or backpack. Complete all 10 trails and earn a second special gift.

To mark the program’s end, a special reception for participants will be held from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. on Saturday, November 5 at Sugar Creek Administration Center, in Joliet. This is an opportunity for participants to return *Travel Logs* (if they haven’t already done so), enjoy refreshments and meet other Woods Walkers.

Those still looking to participate before the October 31 deadline can obtain a *Travel Log* by visiting a Forest Preserve facility, requesting one on-line at [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org), or by calling 815.727.8700. Completed *Travel Logs* will be entered into a raffle for a \$10 gift card to Panera. *Travel Logs* must be returned no later than December 31, 2011. ■

## Final Report on Deer Management Program Released

Forest Preserve staff prepared the final report summarizing the first year of the District’s Deer Management Program to present to its Board of Commissioners.

Last November, the Board authorized the use of sharpshooting to control the deer population at five forest preserves. These five were selected for the first year of culling because of damage caused by deer browse to natural communities of plants that District staff manages.

In late January of this year, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) issued five Deer Population Control Permits for McKinley Woods, in Channahon; Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve; Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, in Homer Glen; Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve, in Braidwood; and Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, in Beecher.

### Results of Deer Management Program

Because the permits were valid for just 60 days and culling was restricted to Mondays through Thursdays, the District decided to cull at just three of the five designated preserves. In total, the District removed 134 white-tailed deer from McKinley Woods, Messenger Woods Nature Preserve and Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve. This number represents 99.3% of the 135 deer authorized by IDNR.

Maximum permitted deer were

taken from McKinley Woods (75 deer) and from Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (10 deer).

Forty-nine deer were culled from Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, one less than the permitted 50 deer.

Once the deer were harvested, they were taken to a District facility for field dressing. All required data were collected at this point, including sex, size and weight. In addition, brain tissue samples were collected and sent to IDNR to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease.

### Processing of Deer and Donation to Food Bank

After having been kept in a temperature of under 40 degrees, deer carcasses were transported to Freedom Sausage of Earlville, Illinois. The 134 deer yielded 6,030 pounds of venison that was donated to Northern Illinois Food Bank of St. Charles, Illinois. Kaluzny Bros Inc. of Joliet collected internal organs and waste materials for rendering.

### Cost Analysis

Five Forest Preserve Police Officers participated on the sharpshooting team. They were replaced on their regular shifts by part-time officers. Given the hourly wage of these part-time officers, the cost to the District of culling the 134 deer came to \$13,556.28.

Additional costs, including

meat processing, transportation, ammunition and bait, came to \$6,702.26.

When these costs are figured in, the cost for the culled deer comes to \$151 per deer.

District Natural Resource Management employees also assisted with the program implementation and in collecting data on the culled deer, spending 208 hours at a cost of \$4,258.85.

When including these expenses, the final cost totaled \$183 per deer.

### Moving Forward

This summer, Forest Preserve staff sampled vegetation at various preserves to help determine the recommendations for deer management in the 2011-2012 fall-winter season.

Staff is also continuing to investigate immuno-contraception even though IDNR currently does not allow the use of any immuno-contraception products to manage deer herds. However, IDNR would authorize a scientific study that involved immuno-contraception. Staff is meeting with local researchers whose focus is population biology as part of this research.

For additional information, please see the 2010-2011 *Deer Management Program Report*, located on-line at: [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org) ■

# Students Learn Restoration First Hand

The Forest Preserve District of Will County teamed with Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox to teach freshmen about ecology and land management.

Over the course of a year, the District worked with freshmen biology teachers on a state-required ecology unit to implement student understanding of restoration and non-native species. With the Forest Preserve's Hickory Creek Barrens preserve just across the street from Lincoln-Way Central High School, the students would be able to gain hands-on experience in land management.

Five student objectives were identified:

- Students would remove non-native species from the Hickory Creek Barrens ecosystem.
- Students would gain a sense of stewardship through removal of non-native species.
- Students would be able to identify two target non-native species, multiflora rose and brush honeysuckle.
- Students would apply established safety practices in the field.
- Students would work cooperatively toward a defined goal.



More than 400 freshman took part in the cooperative ecology unit, which was made up of two lessons, classroom and field. In the classroom the freshmen learned how non-native species can invade and replace native species, leading to a lack of plant diversity; the importance of habitat for wildlife species; and the benefits of restoration. They learned how non-native species are introduced to an area and how they can out-compete native species, eventually taking over a plant community and replacing native habitat.

They also learned how restored ecosystems assist in flood control, provide a balance of species, contribute nutrients to and help

stabilize the soil, filter pollutants, and provide habitat for an assortment of animal species.

With their newfound knowledge in place, the students were visited by the District's Environmental Education Supervisor, Jessica Prince, to prepare for their service learning day. She reviewed what the students had learned in class and outlined the four roles to which students would be assigned during their brush removal field session at Hickory Creek Barrens.

In the field, students participated in non-native plant removal. They identified the target species, multiflora rose and brush honeysuckle, to be removed; they cut the plants at the base; they

cleared extraneous brush; and they dragged all of the cut brush to brush piles.

The one-hour field sessions took place at Hickory Creek Barrens during the first few weeks of May.

"Students now have a better understanding of what a forest in Illinois should look like," said David Mulconrey, dean of students and science teacher at Lincoln-Way Central. "They understand how invasive species impact the ecosystem and how restoration management helps restore native forest and helps native species return to the ecosystem."

"The students' day in the preserve will stay with them and, hopefully, give them an increased sense of ownership in their community," said Prince. "We ask them, 'What do you think the woodlands will look like by your senior year?' They answer, 'beautiful, sunny and full of native species.' This is the greater goal of environmental education, to create an environmentally literate citizenry."

For more information on the Forest Preserve District's efforts to be a resource for ecological research and education, please see the article beginning on page 1 and continued below. ■

## Educational and Research Benefits of Natural Areas

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studies to university students who collect and interpret data to advance our understanding of the natural world.

Through August of this year, the District has approved 27 SUPs for ecological studies.

Dr. Bill Bromer, who has taught biology, botany, ecology, earth science and environmental science courses at the University of St. Francis since 1992, and who is one of nine members on the Forest Preserve's Citizen's Advisory Committee, has been involved with numerous studies on District lands for years. Forest Preserve lands are ideal for long-term studies, he said, "because they are Forest Preserve properties (and) we know they will be accessible in the future and there won't be a drugstore on the site. These sites also allow us to compare urbanized and suburban areas with natural or protected sites."

Dr. Bromer's students gain field research by utilizing Forest Preserve lands. "Students get out in the field where they learn to identify not only their species of interest but also other plants and animals," he explained. "The whole research experience is really what

learning science is all about. These students have the opportunity to learn science by doing science and this research model is actually used in many courses."

Local high school science classes also take advantage of Forest Preserve protected areas to collect data. Dr. John Thurmond, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry, AP Environmental Science and Honors Physics at Plainfield North High School, discovered Wolf Creek Preserve near the high school, and was given a SUP to take water samples for analysis. Next spring his classes will collect samples to assist Illinois RiverWatch, a collaborative river-monitoring network, by providing data.

Dr. Thurmond will be involving 75 students in the project and will utilize both his AP Environmental Science classes and his AP Chemistry class in the studies. "We will investigate temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrogen content and look for specific pollutants," he said. "The samples will be taken from various locations along Wolf Creek and taken many times over the course of the year and over multiple years for data analysis."

For his students, "hands-on activities and field experiences are a great benefit," he said. "It provides an opportunity to engage [them] in science, real life science. The students also become engaged when it is a local system that they are investigating close to their neighborhood."

Individuals with an interest in environmental science also obtain SUPs. Lois Michel-Perry is assisting the District in a study of frog calls at Whalon Lake, in Naperville. She had obtained an instructional CD and DVD from Chicago Wilderness to familiarize herself with the calls of 12 different frog and toad species that exist in the Chicagoland area.

Frog and toad calls "change from month to month," she said. "Each species breeds at different times. You can go back to the same place in the preserve, at three different locations, and hear entirely different frogs over time."

In the early spring, Michel-Perry heard an abundance of American toads; bullfrog calls dominated in mid-spring; and some bullfrogs and green frogs were heard in the late spring and early summer, when she also observed "many tiny frogs on the path around Whalon Lake. I guess all that noise earlier in the



spring paid off!"

The different calls and their numbers are a measure "of the quality of the restoration at Whalon Lake so far," she said. "They are helpful in management decisions."

As the natural world continues to be altered by the activities of our species, the oases of protected natural areas owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County will continue as laboratories to measure the ecological health of the county; they will continue to provide hands-on research for science students; and they will continue to inspire curiosity in the interdependence of all living things.

To learn about another related educational partnership, please see the article above. ■



## Runners Discover McKinley Woods Preserve during Channahon 50th Anniversary Event



The Village of Channahon's 50th anniversary was celebrated with a 5K Walk/Run hosted by the Forest Preserve District of Will County on Saturday, June 25. The run was held at the District's McKinley Woods—Kerry Sheridan Grove, and the weather, sunny and clear, was perfect.

Participants were able to register on-line or on-site, and a total of 260 individuals took part in the walk/run. The race set off at 8:30 a.m., and followed a course

that took runners and walkers alike through woodlands and prairie and along the scenic Des Plaines River.

Food, cold beverages, and music, provided by a DJ, were available before and after the race to all who participated.

Top runners were recognized in a variety of categories.

In the event evaluation survey completed by participants, more than half of the respondents said the race was their first introduction

to Kerry Sheridan Grove. The 5K event also received high ratings, with 90 percent saying it met their expectations, and with comments such as "Great run," "Beautiful course!" and "This is a great event."

Sponsors for the "Channahon 50th Anniversary 5K" were Chiro One Wellness Centers, First Midwest Bank, Heroes West, Rasmussen College, Bill Jacobs Subaru and Chicagoland Speedway. ■



## Nearly 1,000 Groove at Goodenow

Nearly 1,000 people attended "Groovin' at Goodenow" on July 16. The band Time Machine provided three hours of music under the stars to the enjoyment of the crowd.

Preceding the concert was a classic car show. Among those automobiles from the past were two 1931 Fords, including a Model A; a variety of muscle cars from the '60s, including a '64 Impala SS, '65

Barracuda, and '65 Grand Prix; and a '79 Corvette. Eighty-one cars in all, spanning decades of American automobile engineering, were a part of the evening's display.

Guests on lawn chairs and blankets spread out over the spacious grounds of Goodenow Grove and its 40-foot-high sled hill as Time Machine, a local band, played classics from the '60s, '70s and '80s under the Plum Creek

Pavilion. Food was available for sale from Boy Scout Troop 123 out of Crete.

Sponsors of this year's "Groovin' at Goodenow" were Frank Burla and Sons Builders, Inc.; Walt's Food Center; SIKICH, LLP; Hey and Associates, Inc.; Maday's Wholesale Greenhouses, Inc.; Brian's of Monee; and Offshore Tan. ■



# Will County Naturalist's Fall Almanac

## OCTOBER Hunter's Moon

October is the month when game animals are putting on fat before winter. For Native Americans of the 1700s, the Hunter's Moon signified the time for hunting and laying in a store of provisions for the long winter ahead. Following harvest, hunters can easily travel over the field stubble, and deer and other animals are more easily spotted.

The term "Indian Summer" dates back to the 18th century in the United States. It can be defined as "any spell of warm, quiet, hazy weather that may occur in October or even early November." The haziness may have been due to the setting of fires to drive game out of hiding before heavy snows made hunting more difficult, or from burning grasslands to prepare for the next spring's planting.



With the onset of colder weather and perhaps a light frost, many of the summer wildflowers are finished blooming for the year—but not asters. These hardy flowers are at their peak in autumn, providing bursts of color in the landscape and a late season source of nectar for butterflies.

As nights become longer and cooler, the quiet green of summer foliage is transformed into the vivid autumn palette of reds, oranges, golds and browns before the leaves fall off the trees. Certain colors are characteristic of particular species. Oaks turn red, brown, or russet; hickories, golden bronze; aspen and cottonwood, golden yellow; dogwood, purplish red; and beech, light tan. Maples differ species by species. Red maple turns brilliant scarlet; sugar maple, orange-red; and black maple, glowing yellow. A succession of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp, but not freezing nights seems to bring about the most spectacular color displays.

## NOVEMBER Beaver Moon

For both the colonists and the Native tribes of the 18th century, November was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation suggests that the name for this full moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now busy preparing for winter.

November is a time of heightened activity for many animals. Feeding, storing of food, or adding insulation to winter dens takes most waking hours for animals that overwinter in our region. By month's end, hibernators such as skunk and woodchuck will disappear into burrows for their winter sleep and squirrels take refuge in their leafy nests. White-tailed deer are now in rut. Mature bucks begin to rattle their antlers as they compete for the right to mate.

While many birds migrate to warmer locations for the winter, where food is more plentiful and conditions are not as harsh, others arrive from the north to spend their winter in Illinois. Look for the arrival of these overwintering migrants: dark-eyed juncos, American tree sparrows, northern shrikes and rough-legged hawks.



As winter cold and snow arrive, birds are easily attracted to backyard bird feeding stations. High-energy suet and nutritious seeds will attract a variety of winter residents. Look for chickadees, goldfinches, nuthatches, cardinals, blue jays and woodpeckers. Place your feeders near trees and shrubs where they offer birds protection from predators and the weather. Be sure to keep the feeders full, as the birds come to depend on these important food resources throughout the winter months.

## DECEMBER Cold Moon

December is the month when the winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark. The December full moon is also referred to as the "Long Night Moon" because it appears near the winter solstice, when the night is at its longest all year. In addition, the midwinter full moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low sun, so it remains above the horizon for a longer time.



On cold, clear nights, listen for the deep hooting calls of the great horned owls: "Hoo, hoo-oo, hoo, hoo" which may sound like "Who's awake? Me too!" These large owls mate in winter, becoming more vocal and aggressive toward others of their kind as they re-establish nesting territories.

Look south into the December sky for a large recognizable pattern of stars or "asterism" called the Winter Circle. This formation contains more bright stars than at any other season. It can be found by locating the familiar winter constellation of Orion, the Hunter. Betelgeuse, the bright reddish star near the head of Orion, is at the center of the circle. Orion's belt points downward to Sirius, the Dog Star of Canis Major. Trace an imaginary line clockwise from Sirius to find Procyon of Canis Minor, then to Pollux and Castor, forming the twin heads of Gemini. Continue upward to a bright yellow star, Capella, of Auriga the Charioteer, then downward to Aldebaran, the reddish eye of Taurus the Bull. The last bright star, on the perimeter of the Winter Circle, returns us to Rigel, at the foot of Orion. The Winter Circle is big. You can see it each winter evening just by looking up! ■

# CALENDAR *of Events*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Migratory Bird Hike (LR) 8–10 a.m. [p.11] What's My Dog Doing? (WLDLP) 9–11 a.m. [p.12] Cruise the Creek Bike Ride and Fest (HCB) Noon–4 p.m. [p.10]
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Mandatory Pre-trip Meeting for Backpacking Shawnee National Forest (ELC) 6–8 p.m. [p.10]	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Fun Frights by Firelight (ICM) 7–9 p.m. [p.10]	<b>8</b> Migratory Bird Hike (LR) 8–10 a.m. [p.11] Morning Bird Hike (TCNC) 8–10 a.m. [p.11] What's My Dog Doing? (WLDLP) 9–11 a.m. [p.12] Beginning Photovoltaic Workshop (SCAC) 10 a.m.–1 p.m. [p.10]
<b>9</b> Living History Demonstration (ICM) Noon– 3 p.m. [p.11]	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Bike and Brake for History– The I&M Canal (MW-KSG) 8–11 a.m. [p.10]	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Migratory Bird Hike (LR) 8–10 a.m. [p.11] Howloween Hoopla! (WLDLP) 11 a.m.– 3 p.m. [p.11]
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> What's in the Sky this Month? (MR) 7:30–9:30 p.m. [p.12]	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Twilight Tales at the Reservoir (MR) 7–9 p.m. [p.12]	<b>29</b> Backpacking Shawnee National Forest (ELC) Depart: 7 a.m. Return: Monday, October 31, 6 p.m. [p.10]
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Storytime at the Reservoir: Mother Goose! (MR) 9–11 a.m. [p.12]	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Know Your Oaks (TCNC) 9–11 a.m. [p.11] What's My Dog Doing? (WLDLP) 9–11 a.m. [p.12] Native American Scout Day (ICM) Noon–3:30 p.m. [p.11]
<b>6</b> Moon Walk (MR) 4–6 p.m. [p.11]	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Living History Demonstration (ICM) Noon–3 p.m. [p.11]	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Holiday Recycled Crafts Workshop (FR) 9 a.m.–noon [p.11] Holiday Nature Crafts (SCAC) 1–3 p.m. [p.10] The Sandhill Crane Experience (MR) 1–7 p.m. [p.12]
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> What's in the Sky this Month? (MR) 7:30– 9:30 p.m. [p.12]			

All programs are open to all ages and free of charge unless otherwise noted. For programs that require a fee, please fill out the form on the back page of this issue of *The Citizen*. For programs which are free of charge, please call the hosting facility to register when required. A phone number is provided in the program description. Dog-related programs that require a dog park permit have a separate registration process. Please see the program descriptions for details.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Snowshoe Under the Stars— Astronomy (MR) 6–8 p.m. [p.12]	3 Waggin’ Tails Across the Seasons (MR) 8–10 a.m. [p.12] Winter Dweller’s Celebration (ICM) 1–2:30 p.m. [p.12]
4	5	6	7	8 Explorers Family Fun Night (ICM) 7–9 p.m. [p.10]	9	10 Morning Bird Hike (MR) 8–10 a.m. [p.11]
11 Snow Snake Workshop (ICM) 9–11 a.m. [p.11] Living History Demonstration (ICM) Noon–3 p.m. [p.11]	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Recycle the Holiday Spirit (ICM/MR/SCAC) 8 a.m.–4 p.m. [p.11]	28 Recycle the Holiday Spirit (ICM/MR/SCAC) 8 a.m.–4 p.m. [p.11] Snowshoe Family Adventure (MR) 1–3 p.m. [p.12] What’s in the Sky this Month? (MR) 7:30– 9:30 p.m. [p.12]	29 Recycle the Holiday Spirit (ICM/MR/SCAC) 8 a.m.–4 p.m. [p.11] Animals in Winter (TCNC) 1–3 p.m. [p.10]	30 Recycle the Holiday Spirit (ICM/MR/SCAC) 8 a.m.–4 p.m. [p.11]	31 Recycle the Holiday Spirit (ICM/MR/SCAC) 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Runs through January 9, 2012. [p.11]

# LOCATIONS

Events are listed here by location, along with facility addresses and abbreviated codes for each site.

## Environmental Learning Center (ELC)

Located at 20851 S. Briarwood Lane, north of Route 30 and east of Wolf Road, in Mokena. Call 708.479.2255.

Backpacking Shawnee National Forest [p.10]

## Four Rivers Environmental Education Center (FR)

Located in McKinley Woods – Kerry Sheridan Grove at Blackberry Lane, south of Route 6 in Channahon. Four Rivers Environmental Education Center is open by appointment only. Call 815.722.9470.

Holiday Recycled Crafts Workshop [p.11]

## Hickory Creek Barrens (HCB)

Located on Schoolhouse Road, 0.25-mile north of Route 30, in New Lenox. Call 815.727.8700.

Cruise the Creek Bike Ride and Fest [p.10]

## Isle a la Cache Museum (ICM)

Located at 501 E. Romeo Road (135th Street), 0.5-mile east of Route 53, in Romeoville. Call 815.886.1467.

Explorers Family Fun Night [p.10]

Fun Frights by Firelight [p.10]

Living History Demonstrations [p.11]

Native American Scout Day [p.11]

Recycle the Holiday Spirit [p.11]

Snow Snake Workshop [p.11]

Winter Dweller’s Celebration [p.12]

## Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve (LR)

Located on Renwick Road, 0.5-mile east of Route 30 (Plainfield Road), in Plainfield. Call 708.946.2216.

Migratory Bird Hikes [p.11]

## McKinley Woods – Kerry Sheridan Grove (MW-KSG)

Located on Blackberry Lane, south of Route 6, in Channahon. Call 815.886.1467.

Bike and Brake for History – The I&M Canal [p.10]

## Monee Reservoir (MR)

Located at 27341 Ridgeland Avenue, west of Route 50 and south of Pauling Road, 2.0 miles south of Monee. Call 708.534.8499.

Moon Walk [p.11]

Morning Bird Hike [p.11]

Recycle the Holiday Spirit [p.11]

Snowshoe Family Adventure [p.12]

Snowshoe Under the Stars – Astronomy [p.12]

Storytime at the Reservoir: Mother Goose! [p.12]

The Sandhill Crane Experience [p.12]

Twilight Tales at the Reservoir [p.12]

Waggin’ Tales Across the Seasons [p.12]

What’s in the Sky this Month? [p.12]

## Sugar Creek Administration Center (SCAC)

Located at 17540 W. Laraway Road, 0.75-mile west of Route 52, in Joliet. Call 708.534.8499.

Beginning Photovoltaic Workshop [p.10]

Holiday Nature Crafts [p.10]

Recycle the Holiday Spirit [p.11]

## Thorn Creek Nature Center (TCNC)

Located at 247 Monee Road, in Park Forest. Call 708.747.6320.

Animals in Winter [p.10]

Know Your Oaks [p.11]

Morning Bird Hike [p.11]

## Whalon Lake Dog Park (WLDP)

Located on Royce Road, west of Route 53, in Naperville. Call 708.534.8499.

Howloween Hoopla! [p.11]

What’s My Dog Doing? [p.12]



**All facilities and programs are accessible unless otherwise noted.** Programs listed here are intended for individuals and families. Organized groups should contact the Forest Preserve District at 815.727.8700 for information about group programming options. In providing programs and services to the public, the Forest Preserve District will make reasonable modifications to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy District offerings. For more information, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA](http://ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA). ■

# Descriptions

- All facilities and events are fully accessible to all unless otherwise noted.
- Programs listed here are intended for individuals and families. Organized groups should contact the Forest Preserve District at 815.727.8700 for information about group programming options.



## ANIMALS IN WINTER

**Thursday, December 29  
1–3 p.m.**

*Thorn Creek Nature Center*

*Free! Ages 8 or older.*

*Registration required: 708.747.6320.*

Have you ever wondered how animals spend the winter? They may not have a cozy house and can't make hot chocolate, but they have several adaptations that allow them to survive even our harshest Midwest winters! Participants will have an opportunity to snowshoe on the trails to search for signs of animals preparing for winter! If there is no snow, no worries! We'll still walk the trails to search for animal signs. This program will take place on natural surface trails across uneven terrain.



carry group gear as well as personal gear, and will assist with camp chores such as meal preparation and clean-up. Trip costs include transportation, camp food, and camping fees. Participants are responsible for their own meals during the six-hour drive to and from Shawnee National Forest. A mandatory pre-trip meeting for participants is planned for Wednesday, October 5 at the Environmental Learning Center in Mokena.

## BEGINNING PHOTOVOLTAIC WORKSHOP

**Saturday, October 8  
10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

*Sugar Creek Administration Center*

*Ages 18 or older; \$10/person.*

*To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Wednesday, October 5. For more information, call 708.946.2216.*

Jeff Green, from the Illinois Renewable Energy Association, will present a beginning photovoltaic workshop for those interested in learning how to "green" their homes with a renewable energy source! This in-depth, three-hour program will give those who attend all of the right tools and knowledge to begin the set up of photovoltaic panels in their homes. Learn the benefits of this alternative energy. This program is held inside an accessible building.

## BIKE AND BRAKE FOR HISTORY—THE I&M CANAL

**Sunday, October 16  
8–11 a.m.**

*McKinley Woods – Kerry Sheridan Grove*

*Free! Ages 12 or older.*

*Registration required: 815.886.1467.*

This bike tour follows 150 years of history. The Illinois and Michigan Canal is our scenic backdrop and focus for this program. During the tour, riders will see Locks 6 and 7, learn about the lock tender's house at Lock 6, see flora and fauna unique to the waterway, and explore the history of McKinley Woods. The ride is approximately 8 miles round-trip. Participants are responsible for providing their own bike, safety helmet, and water. The trail is a mostly level crushed limestone surface. Don't forget to dress for the weather!



## CRUISE THE CREEK BIKE RIDE AND FEST

**Saturday, October 1  
Noon–4 p.m.**

**Pre-registered Riders Check-in:  
11:30 a.m.**

*Hickory Creek Barrens*

*Free! All ages. Register at ReconnectWithNature.org.*

Come out for a free day of fun this fall at the third annual "Cruise the Creek Bike Ride and Fest." The bike ride will take place on a two-loop trail through the scenic woodlands, wetlands, and prairie of Hickory Creek Preserve. Riders can choose from a 6-mile loop, an 11-mile loop, or both! Afterwards, stick around for the entertainment, food vendors, and fun family activities, including pumpkin painting and making s'mores. The event is open to all ages. Individual riders should be at least 11 years of age. Riders are encouraged to bring drinking water and wear safety helmets. Pre-registration for the bike ride is recommended, and can be done on-line at [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org). The first 500 pre-registered riders to check-in at the event will receive a free T-shirt. The bicycle course is a paved trail, which includes some sidewalks. The terrain is somewhat hilly.

## EXPLORERS FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**Thursday, December 8  
7–9 p.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum*

*Free! All ages.*

*Registration required: 815.886.1467.*

Ever made a path for yourself in the woods or paddled a canoe through a rapids? Ever thought about it? Then this program is for the explorer in you! We'll see why the famous French adventurers like Cartier, LaSalle, and Jolliet came to North America. Families and groups will work as a brigade to create an essential adventuring tool and do some exploring like the famous folks back in the day. See if you can survive the journey and be the best brigade of explorers! Indoor facilities are accessible; outdoor settings will take place on natural surfaces across uneven terrain.

## FUN FRIGHTS BY FIRELIGHT

**Friday, October 7  
7–9 p.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum*

*Free! All ages.*

*Registration required: 815.886.1467.*

Stories, games, and treats—oh my! This time of year we enjoy gathering around a warm campfire and sharing what is special about the season, whether it's scary fun or tasty goodness. Dress appropriately (with your favorite holiday costume and mask, if you like). Weather permitting, a short walk is planned along a paved surface to the outdoor amphitheatre where the program will be held. If the weather does not cooperate, we'll head indoors for the festivities.

## HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFTS

**Saturday, November 19  
1–3 p.m.**

*Sugar Creek Administration Center*

*Free! Ages 5 or older.*

*Registration required: 708.534.8499.*

Brought back by popular demand, this holiday program is inviting for the whole family. While sipping on hot chocolate and listening to carols, we'll learn a few ways to dress up nature for the holidays. Bring the entire family out for some cooperative crafting while enjoying some quality time together. Craft options will



## BACKPACKING SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

**Depart: Saturday, October 29 at 7 a.m.  
Return: Monday, October 31 at 6 p.m.**

**Mandatory Pre-trip Meeting:  
Wednesday, October 5, 6–8 p.m.**

*Environmental Learning Center*

*Ages 18 or older; \$110/person.*

*To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Wednesday, October 5. For more information, please call 708.946.2216 or 815.886.1467.*

Join experienced naturalists for a backpacking trip to the scenic Bald Knob Wilderness, located in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. This three-day, two-night outing is geared towards individuals 18 years of age or older with some backpacking experience. Participants should be able to hike on rustic, unimproved trails for 3-8 hours a day and carry 40-50 pounds of gear. Backcountry camping will be in remote areas with no running water or restroom facilities. The Forest Preserve District will provide all group gear such as stoves, water filters, cooking sets, and camp food. Participants provide their own backpack, sleeping bag, tent, and personal items. Participants will





be available for adults and kids alike to cater to different creative interests. There will be something for everyone to make and take home. All materials will be provided. This program is held inside an accessible building.

## HOLIDAY RECYCLED CRAFTS WORKSHOP

**Saturday, November 19  
9 a.m.–noon**

*Four Rivers Environmental Education Center*

*Free! Ages 16 or older.*

*Registration required: 815.722.9470.*

Take part in a recycled materials craft extravaganza! This workshop will include several make-and-take projects that are perfect for holiday decorations or gifts. Topiary trees, bowls, embellished boxes, bows, garland, candle lanterns, and sketch books are on the project list. Participants should bring several old newspapers, magazines, holiday cards, paper bags, five empty CD cases and two cereal boxes, as well as scissors and a utility knife, if possible. All other supplies will be provided. These holiday workshops are always a hit with our participants so sign up today! Registration is limited to 20 people. This program is held inside an accessible building.



## HOWLOWEEN HOOPLA!

**Saturday, October 22  
11 a.m.–3 p.m.**

*Whalon Lake Dog Park*

*Free! All ages. No registration required. For more information or if you are an interested vendor, please call 708.534.8499.*

The Forest Preserve is proud to present its second annual Howloween Hoopla—guaranteed to be a howling good time for people and their canines alike! Festivities include a dog costume contest, parade, musical chairs for dogs, trick contest, raffles, giveaways, micro-chipping, pet photos, food and pet vendors, local non-profit organizations, and live demonstrations throughout the day. Come celebrate the fall season with your favorite pooch! All ordinances apply and dogs must be leashed. This event will take place on natural turf fields and along some accessible walkways.

## KNOW YOUR OAKS

**Saturday, November 5  
9–11 a.m.**

*Thorn Creek Nature Center*

*Free! All ages.*

*Registration required: 708.747.6320.*

Oak trees are common in the woods of Will County, but are they all the same? Find out which oaks are found in our region and how you can tell them apart even when the leaves are gone. Join a naturalist for this hike through Thorn Creek Woods and discover tips and tricks that will help you identify some of the different species of oak trees. This program will take place on natural surface trails across uneven terrain.



## LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS

**Sundays, October 9, November 13,  
and December 11**

**Noon–3 p.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum*

*Free! All ages. No registration required.*

Before superstores and modern technology, people did get what they needed. In the 1700s, it just took a lot more work. The Isle a la Cache Brigade is a volunteer group that consists of re-enactors that represent voyageurs, courier du bois, French women, Métis and Native Americans. On any given Living History Sunday, you may find musket shooters, cooks, seamstresses, or craftsman sharing their talents. It's history up-close and personal! This program is offered indoors or outdoors, weather permitting. Indoor facilities are accessible; outdoor settings will take place on natural surfaces across uneven terrain.



## MIGRATORY BIRD HIKES

**Saturdays, October 1, October 8,  
and October 22  
8–10 a.m.**

*Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve*

*Free! Ages 7 or older.*

*Registration required: 708.946.2216.*

The herons, egrets, and cormorants have finished nesting, but Lake Renwick is more than just a rookery. The lakes and surrounding vegetation provide a great location for many migrants and overwintering birds. This is a great time to explore the site and to see some of the less common residents at the Rookery. The hike is approximately one-mile in length and will take place on limestone paths. Dress for the weather and bring along a bird guide and binoculars if you have them. A limited supply will be available to share.

## MOON WALK

**Sunday, November 6  
4–6 p.m.**

*Monee Reservoir*

*Free! All ages.*

*Registration required: 708.946.2216.*

Join us for an evening stroll under a full moon. Observe as it silently moves across the sky and discover the thrill of being on our trails in the moonlight. An experienced naturalist will guide you and reveal interesting facts about nature after dark. Dress for the weather and for walking on uneven, natural terrain.

## MORNING BIRD HIKES

**Saturday, October 8**

*Thorn Creek Nature Center*

*Registration required: 708.747.6320.*

**Saturday, December 10**

*Monee Reservoir*

*Registration required: 708.946.2216.*

**8–10 a.m.**

*Free! Ages 16 or older.*

Join us on our series of morning bird hikes as we explore the woods of Thorn Creek and the wetlands of Monee Reservoir in search of late migrants and winter residents. Come dressed for the weather and bring your binoculars and favorite bird field guide. Participants will enjoy a hike on natural surface trails across uneven terrain.



**Forest Preserve District**  
OF WILL COUNTY

*Bringing People and Nature Together*



## NATIVE AMERICAN SCOUT DAY

**Saturday, November 5  
Noon–3:30 p.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum*

*Free! Recommended for Scouts ages 8-12, accompanied by parents or Scout troop.*

*Registration required: 815.886.1467.*

If you are a Scout, join us for a program focusing on the Native American heritage and lore of the Potawatomi Indians. Discover how this tribe lived in the wilderness of Illinois country. Visit a longhouse and learn about the daily life of the Potawatomi. Learn to play Native American games. Listen to a story that incorporates Native American language. Explore how fires were made using primitive techniques. Part of this program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. Hiking on paved and natural surface trails is involved with some uneven terrain.

## RECYCLE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

**December 27–January 9  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum, Monee Reservoir, and Sugar Creek Administration Center*

This year, give the Earth a gift by recycling your Christmas tree. Every year millions of Christmas trees end up in landfills. However, you can give your tree a second life by recycling it with the Forest Preserve. Your trees will take on a new purpose by becoming mulch used on our trails and for landscaping. Please remove all tinsel, lights, and ornaments before dropping off your tree. This program is for individual households; no commercial tree surplus, please.

## SNOW SNAKE WORKSHOP

**Sunday, December 11  
9–11 a.m.**

*Isle a la Cache Museum*

*Ages 10 or older; \$10/person.*

*To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Thursday, December 1.*

“Snow snakes” is a Native American game played during winter. Snow snakes are carved out of flat wood and decorated to look like snakes. The snakes are then slid across the snow, with the goal to get your snake to slide the farthest. Learn the history of snow snakes and try your hand at playing the snow snakes game. After getting acquainted with the basics of playing, you will make your own snow snake to take home. Snow snake materials and tools are provided. Please bring your own work gloves and dress for the weather. This program will take place indoors and outside on natural surfaces that may be snowy or icy.



## SNOWSHOE FAMILY ADVENTURE

Wednesday, December 28

1–3 p.m.

Monee Reservoir

Ages 10 or older; \$3/person.

To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Monday, December 26 or call 708.534.8499.

Looking for some outdoor fun while the kids are still on break? We've got just the thing! Come out for some fresh air and take in the beautiful scenery of Monee Reservoir in the winter. In addition to teaching participants how to snowshoe, we'll look for signs of animals and discuss nature in winter as we hike the trail. Then we'll warm up with a steaming cup of hot chocolate! Snowshoes will be provided if weather permits; otherwise, we'll hike the trail. This program will take place on a natural surface trail over uneven terrain.

## SNOWSHOE UNDER THE STARS—ASTRONOMY

Friday, December 2

6–8 p.m.

Monee Reservoir

Ages 10 or older; \$3/person.

To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Wednesday, November 30.

Experience the quiet beauty of winter during an evening snowshoe hike, exploring nature's wonders of the season, including the sky! Come learn about the constellations and planets as we listen for owls and coyotes on a two-hour snowshoe hike. Volunteers from the Kankakee Area Stargazers will be on site with telescopes for viewing planets, nebulae, and constellations. Telescope viewing is dependent on clear skies. If there is no snow, we will still go out and hike and then come inside and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate! Please dress warmly with hat, gloves, and boots and be prepared to snowshoe or hike on natural surface trails across uneven terrain.



## STORYTIME AT THE RESERVOIR: MOTHER GOOSE!

Tuesday, November 1

9–11 a.m.

Monee Reservoir

Free! Children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult.

Registration required: 708.534.8499.

Bring the kids out for a "honking" good time as we learn all about the many interesting behaviors and adaptations that enable geese to live in Will County. This children's program will feature a story, craft, snack, and an outdoor hike to look for signs of geese living around Monee Reservoir. Dress for the weather! The outdoor component will be a short hike on a natural surface trail across uneven terrain.



## THE SANDHILL CRANE EXPERIENCE

Saturday, November 19

1–7 p.m.

Monee Reservoir

Ages 18 or older; \$10/person.

To register, please mail in the form on the back page of this issue of The Citizen along with your payment by Thursday, November 10.

Sandhill cranes are one of the most primitive birds still alive today. With a wingspan of 5-7 feet long, this bird cuts a striking image while soaring high during its annual fall migration. The program begins at Monee Reservoir where we will board a chartered bus that will take us to Jasper Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area near Medaryville, Indiana. A presentation on the cranes will be given on the way. Historically, large numbers of sandhill cranes gather at this fish and wildlife area to feed and rest during their annual fall migration. Bring binoculars and a camera for this unforgettable experience. The viewing area is outdoors and is accessible. Fees include travel expenses, snacks, and experienced guides.

## TWILIGHT TALES AT THE RESERVOIR

Friday, October 28

7–9 p.m.

Monee Reservoir

Free! All ages.

Registration required: 708.946.2216.

Calling all families for a fun evening of good ol' storytelling shared at a campfire by the reservoir. Join us on this cool, fall evening as we share myths, legends, funnies, and interactive stories while marshmallows roast above the fire. Come prepared for the weather and be ready to interact with the storytellers and other participants. Indoor facilities are accessible; outdoor activities will take place on natural surfaces across uneven terrain.



## WHAT'S MY DOG DOING?

Saturday, October 1

Saturday, October 8

Saturday, November 5

9–11 a.m.

Whalon Lake Dog Park

Ages 18 or older; \$20/person.

Registration required: 708.534.8499.

Learn to read dog body language to better understand how dogs communicate with each other and humans. Instructor Mare Potts is a professional dog trainer who has trained dogs for flyball, agility, obedience and canine disc. She volunteers her time training dogs for ADOPT in Naperville, Illinois to help those dogs find new homes. Potts will analyze participants' dogs as they interact with other dogs and people to identify the signals that they give. This one-day program requires all dogs to have a dog park permit (one-day permits are available for \$3). Please register as soon as possible to ensure the date of your choice is still available for enrollment. This program will be held on natural surface areas and uneven terrain.

## WAGGIN' TAILS ACROSS THE SEASONS

Saturday, December 3

8–10 a.m.

Monee Reservoir

Free! All ages.

Registration required: 708.946.2216.

Bring your four-legged best friend to enjoy a stroll through one of the most-scenic spots in Will County! Join a naturalist and learn about what Will County's Forest Preserves have to offer while taking a walk with other dogs and dog lovers. Take in the beautiful scenery of Monee Reservoir while spending time with your furry companion. Please bring your waggin'-tailed friend on a leash and don't forget the doggie bags. Trails are on natural, uneven terrain.

## WHAT'S IN THE SKY THIS MONTH?

Wednesday, October 26,

November 30, and December 28

7:30–9:30 p.m.

Monee Reservoir

Free! All ages.

Registration required: 708.946.2216.

Join backyard astronomers to find out what's visible in the evening sky each month. We will discuss and view some of the interesting astronomical objects that will be visible with the naked eye, through binoculars or a telescope, including the visible planets, moon, orbiting spacecraft, comets, asteroids, and a host of other night sky objects. If the viewing conditions are good, most of the time may be spent outside, so dress appropriately. The program will be on paved paths and over grass or asphalt to the viewing area.

## WINTER DWELLER'S CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 3

1–2:30 p.m.

Isle a la Cache Museum

Free! All ages.

Registration required: 815.886.1467.

Join us at the Isle a la Cache Museum for a "Winter Dweller's Celebration." This program will be presented by Genot "Winter Elk" Picor, who will appear in voyageur regalia. Learn about his life as a Métis (a person of Native American and French lineage) who "wintered" in Illinois Country during the fur trade. Be ready for stories, songs, games, and dances to help learn what "winter dwellers" did to make it through the long winter season without getting bored. This program is highly entertaining and gets the audience involved and engaged. Facilities are fully accessible.



Forest Preserve District

OF WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together



## “Hadley Valley Hootenanny” Celebrates Preserve Opening

The Forest Preserve District of Will County sponsored a Grand Opening of Hadley Valley Preserve, in New Lenox, with the “Hadley Valley Hootenanny,” an outdoor concert, on Saturday, June 18. The event, free and open to all ages, was held at Hadley Valley’s Gougar Road Access from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Approximately 650 people attended.

The concert featured “Harvest Moon,” a band that plays its own blend of country, rock, blues, and bluegrass. In addition to the live music, free hayrack rides around the Spring Creek Greenway Trail were provided, and tacos were sold by an on-site vendor.

The Hadley Valley Preserve is part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County’s largest restoration project to date. Five hundred of Hadley Valley’s 695 acres are involved in the project, which partners the District with the Illinois State Highway Toll Authority, Openlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the O’Hare Modernization Program.

Sponsors for the “Hadley Valley Hootenanny” were Chiro One Wellness Centers, First Midwest Bank, Rasmussen College, Bill Jacobs Subaru and Chicagoland Speedway. ■



## Help Change the World One Bulb at a Time

The Lights for Learning Program, sponsored by the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), allows the Forest Preserve to sell ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light bulbs at a discounted price. Proceeds from the sale of these bulbs go to support District environmental education programs.

### Visitors to select District facilities can buy:

- 15-watt bulbs (replaces 60-watt standard bulbs) for \$1.50 each
- 20-watt bulbs (replaces 75-watt standard bulbs) for \$2.00 each
- 25-watt bulbs (replaces 100-watt standard bulbs) for \$2.50 each
- 15-watt reflectors (replaces 65-watt reflectors) for \$5.00 each
- 13-watt capsules (replaces 60-watt standard bulbs) for \$2.00 each

Also, just in time for the holiday season, the Forest Preserve District is offering ENERGY STAR



24-foot-strand LED holiday lights at a discount. A unique offering in the District’s Lights for Learning compact fluorescent bulb program, these LED bulbs reduce energy use by 90 percent compared to your average holiday lighting. Each strand has 70 bulbs per strand. The lights are cool to the touch and the strands have end-to-end

connections. Holiday lights come in warm white for \$12 per strand, or multi-color for \$8 each.

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, enough energy could be conserved to light more than 3 million homes for a year and to save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs.

### Why Use ENERGY STAR Qualified CFLs?

#### ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs:

- Use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.
- Save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb’s lifetime.
- Produce about 75 percent less heat, so they are safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.
- Are available in different sizes and shapes to fit into almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors.

For more information, call 815.722.1289 or visit the Sugar Creek Administration Center, in Joliet. Save energy. Save the planet. ■



## Volunteering at the District Takes Many Shapes and Forms

Volunteers come to the Forest Preserve District for many reasons. The Forest Preserve's Volunteer Program recruits, trains, and evaluates these individuals to ensure that it is providing quality assistance with programs and services offered by the District. There is something to meet every person's interests as volunteers can be seen working in each of the District's departments. Below are just a few examples of the types of work being accomplished.

The District's Operations Department is welcoming many corporate and youth groups who have taken up the call to volunteer. This year saw the return of employees from McGraw-Hill and Goldman Sachs. Borg Warner employees also assisted the District by painting tables, screening trails, and mulching areas within the preserves. These activities foster a sense of community, and greatly help in maintaining and improving the preserves.

Volunteering with the District's Public Affairs Department has grown in popularity. Volunteers have been seen staffing public information tables at events such as "Island

Rendezvous," the "Hadley Valley Hootenanny" and the "Channahon 50th Anniversary 5K." If you are interested in becoming a Public Affairs volunteer, the Forest Preserve offers this opportunity as well.

Interpreting public programs, working behind the scenes to set up for premier programs, and being a campground host are just some of the roles available to those who serve as a volunteer for the Public Programs and Education Department. As a volunteer with this department, an individual can work at one of a number of Visitor Centers including Lake Renwick Heron Rookery, Isle a la Cache Museum, Plum Creek Nature Center, Monee Reservoir, or Four Rivers Environmental Education Center.

At Monee Reservoir, for example, volunteers assist with fishing programs, and this past June several volunteers spent time at the Reservoir working toward their American Canoe Association (ACA) Instructor Certification. These volunteers will now be assisting the staff at Monee with small watercraft-related programs.

The Isle a la Cache Brigade offers yet another volunteer experience. This volunteer group assists Isle a la Cache Museum with hosting the annual "Island Rendezvous" held each summer. This celebration of the history of the preserve and the region immerses visitors in a two-day event which re-enacts the life and times of the French fur trade era 300 years ago. The Isle a la Cache Brigade, who demonstrate skills of the 18th century, consists of re-enactors who represent voyageurs, courier du bois, French women, Métis, and Native Americans. This group also presents "Living History Demonstrations" throughout the year at Isle a la Cache Museum.

The Trail Sentinel Volunteers are on the trails of the Forest Preserve daily acting as the eyes and ears of the Police Department. Bi-annually these volunteers update their trainings and review their positions. Volunteers are also offered personal development courses such as Defensive Driving and First Aid/CPR/AED training.

Many, many opportunities exist as a District volunteer. To learn more, e-mail [rgauchat@fpdwc.org](mailto:rgauchat@fpdwc.org) or call 815.722.7364. ■

**Join Our Social Network!** Check out our [Facebook](#) page for program updates, fun facts and Forest Preserve news you can use – [Facebook.com/WillCoForests](https://www.facebook.com/WillCoForests); Follow us on [Twitter](#) – [Twitter.com/WillCoForests](https://twitter.com/WillCoForests); Visit [Flickr](#) to view event and preserve photos – [Flickr.com/WillCoForests](https://www.flickr.com/photos/WillCoForests/), or share your photos – [Flickr.com/Groups/WillCoForests](https://www.flickr.com/groups/WillCoForests/); Check out our favorite videos on [YouTube](#) – [YouTube.com/WillCoForests](https://www.youtube.com/WillCoForests); With [Foursquare](#), check into one of our Visitor Centers or preserves – [Foursquare.com/WillCoForests](https://www.foursquare.com/WillCoForests)! ■



## Business After Hours

*The Forest Preserve hosted a Business After Hours event in July for members of the Bolingbrook and Naperville Area Chambers of Commerce. The event was held at Whalon Lake Preserve, located in the Bolingbrook/Naperville area. Guests had a scenic view of the 80-acre fishing lake on site, while enjoying live music and refreshments as well as the opportunity to network with other area chamber members. Pictured at the event are (from left): Susan Hirschman from Cabinets 4U, Tom Castagnoli from the Promenade Bolingbrook, and Leticia Deaguaros from Marquette Bank. ■*



## Forest Preserve Participates in National Public Lands Day

The Resource Management Section of the Planning and Development Department is co-sponsoring its 12th annual National Public Lands Day event. National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands that Americans enjoy.

In 2010, 170,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted trees and restored water resources throughout the country.

This year's Forest Preserve-hosted NPLD event will be held September 24 from 8 a.m.-noon at Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, in New Lenox. Please join in for a day of seed collection and/or brush cutting. The Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Council will be partnering with the Forest Preserve District on that day, as the Scouts work to earn their "Get With the Land" patch.

Citizens, land managers and local community organizations who also participate in National Public Lands Day build upon the magnificent and lasting legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps to improve publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans.

For more information, e-mail [rgauchat@fpdwc.org](mailto:rgauchat@fpdwc.org) or call 815.722.7364. ■

## Volunteer Workdays

Consider helping the District prepare for the upcoming winter season by attending a restoration management workday where you can immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of fall while assisting District staff with the extra manpower needed to accomplish the necessary fall restoration activities. Some of these activities include brush control, seed collecting, and invasive species control.

Resource management workdays start at 8 a.m and last until noon. To attend, please RSVP by e-mailing [rgauchat@fpdwc.org](mailto:rgauchat@fpdwc.org) or by calling 815.722.7364. This will ensure that there will be enough supplies for everyone. Remember, work will occur outdoors in the preserves, so please dress for the weather and for outdoor work (long pants, closed-toe shoes, and work gloves).

- **Saturday, October 1**—Messenger Woods (Homer Glen), brush cutting
- **Saturday, October 8**—Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve (New Lenox), brush cutting
- **Tuesday, October 11**—Sand Ridge Savanna Preserve (Braidwood), seed collecting (*Meet at grassy area north of Route 113.*)
- **Saturday, October 15**—Messenger Woods (Homer Glen), brush cutting
- **Sunday, October 23**—Joliet Junior College (Joliet), brush cutting
- **Saturday, October 29**—Kankakee Sands Preserve/Shenk Grove (Braidwood), brush cutting
- **Saturday, November 5**—Whalon Lake/Konicek Grove (Bolingbrook), brush cutting
- **Saturday, November 12**—Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve (New Lenox), brush cutting
- **Saturday, November 19**—Kankakee Sands Preserve/Shenk Grove (Braidwood), brush cutting
- **Saturday, November 26**—Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve (New Lenox), Brightway Prairie access, brush cutting
- **Saturday, December 3**—Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve (Romeoville), brush cutting (*Meet at Isle a la Cache Preserve.*)
- **Saturday, December 10**—Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve (New Lenox), brush cutting
- **Saturday, December 17**—Kankakee Sands Preserve/Shenk Grove (Braidwood), brush cutting. ■

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Forest Preserve District of Will County

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<p><b>Save the Date!</b> “Cruise the Creek” <b>Bike Ride and Fest</b> <b>Saturday, October 1</b> Hickory Creek Barrens, New Lenox Noon-4 p.m.</p>		<p>Join us for a free day of fun for the whole family! Bike a six- or 11-mile course along the Hickory Creek Bikeway and Old Plank Road Trail in New Lenox and Mokena. A variety of family friendly activities are also planned: <b>BMX Stunt Show • Face Painting • Petting Zoo</b> For more details or to pre-register for the ride, visit <a href="http://ReconnectWithNature.org">ReconnectWithNature.org</a>.</p>
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If registering more than one person, please attach a separate sheet of paper with the additional names and each person's age. (Photocopies accepted.)

## REGISTER TODAY FOR AN UPCOMING PROGRAM!

For programs that require a fee, please mail in this completed registration form prior to the registration deadline or call the facility hosting the program.

Please make checks and money orders payable to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Send payment and registration form to Forest Preserve District of Will County, 17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433.

### Program Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Date	Location	Cost	Total price of program
<b>Backpacking Shawnee National Forest</b> (Ages 18 or older.) Register by October 5.	Saturday, October 29 - Monday, October 31	Environmental Learning Center	\$110/person	
<b>Beginning Photovoltaic Workshop</b> (Ages 18 or older.) Register by October 5.	Saturday, October 8	Sugar Creek Administration Center	\$10/person	
<b>Snow Snake Workshop</b> (Ages 10 or older.) Register by December 1.	Sunday, December 11	Isle a la Cache Museum	\$10/person	
<b>Snowshoe Family Adventure</b> (Ages 10 or older.) Register by December 26.	Wednesday, December 28	Monee Reservoir	\$3/person	
<b>Snowshoe Under the Stars - Astronomy</b> (Ages 10 or older.) Register by November 30.	Friday, December 2	Monee Reservoir	\$3/person	
<b>The Sandhill Crane Experience</b> (Ages 18 or older.) Register by November 10.	Saturday, November 19	Monee Reservoir	\$10/person	
				\$

In providing programs and services to the public, the Forest Preserve District will make reasonable modifications to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy District offerings. For more information, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA](http://ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA).

Will you require modifications or assistive equipment to participate in a Forest Preserve program or activity?  Yes  No

If yes, a Forest Preserve District staff member will contact you to discuss your request. All requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the program or activity.

**Payment Information**

(Please check one:)

Check Enclosed      Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Money Order Enclosed      Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard  Visa      Signature \_\_\_\_\_