

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Fall 2026**



## **Squirrel!**

DuPage County's  
Clever Climbers

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**Embracing Nature's Colors**

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**Fall Calendar**



**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

# from the president



The fall offers a chance to experience the dramatic beauty of our preserves as they shift in color and texture. While leaves transition to spectacular hues of amber, yellow, and red, they provide a soundtrack to the season as they crunch and crinkle under our walking shoes.

Remarkably, these sights and sounds can improve our overall wellness. While most of us are familiar with the physical benefits of exercising, it's also important to know that time in nature can reduce stress, improve sleep quality, and lower the risk of psychological disorders, according to the American Psychological Association. Even just basking in the sounds of nature can lead to increased cognitive functioning, the agency noted.

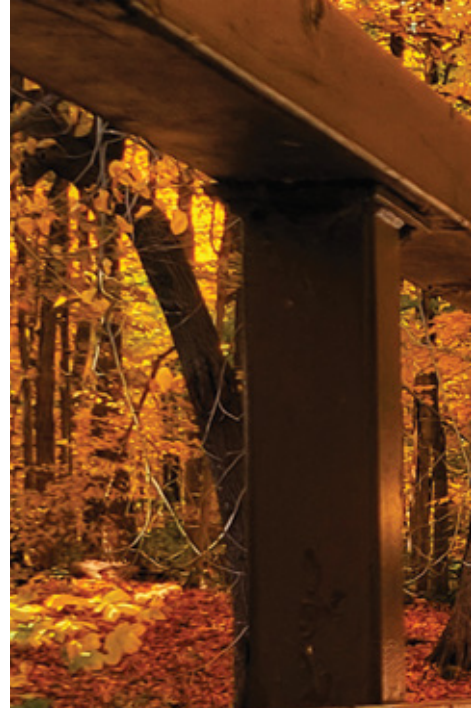
A great way to experience this season's beauty and reap the corresponding health benefits is to sign up for an outdoor program. I'm a fan of our staff-led hikes that wind through different preserves and include fun facts about the landscape. Listed in the calendar on the proceeding pages are a variety of options including "Forest Hike," "Wednesday Wilderness Walk," and my personal favorite this season, our "OAKtober Walk" on Oct. 25.

I also enjoy stopping by a preserve after a day at the office for a short walk or a few minutes on a bench to reflect on the positives and hardships of the day, knowing I do so in a safe space patrolled by our excellent law enforcement officers. It is also important to note that our officers are trained and willing to help someone suffering a mental health crisis. They are a part of a network of mental health resources in DuPage County. I believe our forest preserves are also a part of that network, as they provide residents a place to clear their minds, reduce stress levels, and boost their well-being.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Hebreard".

**Daniel Hebreard**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Daniel Hebreard, Woodridge

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Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3

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Anamari Dorgan



## BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

Fall 2026, Vol. 63, No. 4



## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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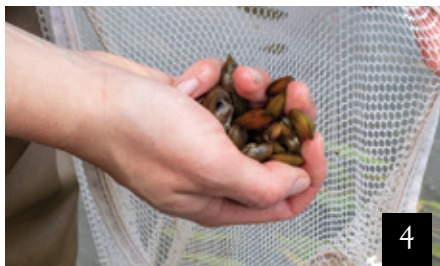
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

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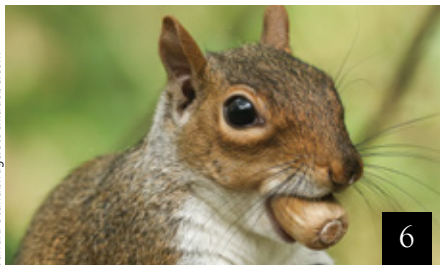


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**On the cover:** American red squirrel at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve

## OUR *Mission*

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens

# news & notes



## SOLARBRATION at District Headquarters

In September Forest Preserve District commissioners, staff, and guests celebrated the on-line operation of a new four-row solar array at headquarters at Danada. The array will annually generate over 527,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, enough to power the building and feed excess energy into the community power grid.

The system supports the District's Clean Energy, Resiliency, and Sustainability Plan, established to ensure the forest preserves continue to benefit people and wildlife for generations to come. It's also part of the District's growing "solar circuit," which includes the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, the Danada Equestrian Center, and The Preserve at Oak Meadows.

## DISTRICT ECOLOGISTS RELEASE 50,000TH MUSSEL

This past August the Forest Preserve District released the 50,000th native freshwater mussel bred and raised by ecologists at its Urban Stream Research Center in Blackwell. The landmark event was along Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods. Over the past decade the District has added mussels along both branches of the DuPage River, various tributaries, and waterways managed by partnering counties.

The release was also significant because it would not have been possible without efforts by the Forest Preserve District, the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to improve water quality along Salt Creek. Beginning in 2020 the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup spearheaded an ambitious plan that, in part, removed a 90-year-old dam, installed oxygen-generating riffles, and added 50,000 native wetland plants.

Although vital to keeping streams, lakes, and rivers clean, freshwater mussels are the most imperiled group of wildlife in North America. Raising them in captivity requires not only customized aquatic systems but also tanks of specific host fish, a must for the mussels' complex development cycle. Both elements are at the heart of the Urban Stream Research Center, the only facility of its kind in Illinois.



## COLLECTIONS Corner

This saddle, known as a "side saddle," belonged to Valentine Lehman, whose construction company worked on the Illinois and Michigan Canal near Willow Springs, Summit, and Lemont from 1835 to 1848. Lehman's grandson donated the saddle and other equestrian pieces to the Graue Mill and Museum's collection.

A side saddle lets a person ride "aside" rather than "astride," sitting with both legs over one side of the horse instead of one on either side. Riding aside was primarily done by women because riding astride was considered awkward and unbecoming in a skirt or dress, but for decades it meant a rider had little control over the horse. However, in the 1830s, the invention of the two-pommel design (a pommel being the slightly raised area in the front of a saddle) increased stability and made it easier to ride aside while still controlling the horse.



## MAYSLAKE *Hours*

After being closed since the beginning of the year, Mayslake Hall at Mayslake Peabody Estate will be reopening to the public this fall. Starting Oct. 21, the hall will be open Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays.

## A MILESTONE FOR A RIVER REMAKE

In September the Forest Preserve District joined DuPage County Stormwater and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at McDowell Grove to celebrate the deletion of the West Branch DuPage River corridor from the EPA's Superfund list.

During the 1930s, low-level radioactive thorium waste from commercial mineral-extraction operations made its way into Kress Creek and the West Branch DuPage River. From 2005 to 2012, a multiagency team working stretch by stretch along 8 miles diverted the flow of the river and removed 129,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. After a mandatory follow-up period by the EPA, the site was deleted from the list.

The arduous task cleaned up the waterway, but it also allowed ecologists a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild it from the riverbed up, removing artificial dams; creating natural twists and turns, pools, and riffles; and building healthy underwater habitat for an array of aquatic wildlife. It also created over 20 acres of wetlands of shallow depressions and mounds filled with native plants that store runoff and river swells until they can seep into the ground, areas that also serve as homes for frogs, toads, water birds, and aquatic insects.



## THANK YOU *for Being a Friend*

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County advances the Forest Preserve District's vision through philanthropic endeavors and fundraising to benefit habitat restoration, wildlife preservation, and educational and recreational programs. The Friends gratefully acknowledges those who gave \$500 or more in April, May, and June 2026.

### **\$5,000 – \$10,000**

Michael Firman and Marilyn L. Schweitzer  
Lynette Halka-Peel  
The Kim Family  
The Pundmann Family  
William and Laurie Wright Salsbury

### **\$2,500 – \$4,999**

Susan McDunn  
The Perez-Rosser Family  
Jason Snart

### **\$1,000 – \$2,499**

Eva G Dahm  
Lawrence Harding  
Larry C. Larson  
Edith Podrazik  
Monica Sentoff  
Wheaton Lions Club

### **\$500 – \$999**

Coral Baran  
Alan and Margaret Busic  
Hey and Associates, Inc.  
Frances Holbrook  
Parkway Bank  
Myron Rosenthal  
John Torres  
Simonette Urbain  
Norman E. and Donna Wandke

Learn more or donate at [dupageforest.org/friends](http://dupageforest.org/friends), or mail your gift to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton IL 60189. To discuss your giving plans or learn about Friends' board service opportunities, please contact Partnership & Philanthropy at 630-871-6400 or [fundraising@dupageforest.org](mailto:fundraising@dupageforest.org).



**T**hey are menacing foes to a furry four-legged Oscar, Maxx, Moose, or Chili Dog, but DuPage County's tree squirrels — eastern gray, fox, American red, and southern flying — have some truly impressive traits. Here are 10 you may not know.

**1**

**The Flick Test** To determine if a nut is fresh, a fox or gray squirrel will put it in its mouth and flick its head, causing the nut to rattle. This helps the squirrel determine the weight of the nut and, along with smell, its freshness. If it rattles a lot it may be dried up or infested with insect larvae and not worth stashing away for winter. In the case of larvae, the squirrel will usually eat it right then for a quick protein snack.

# Squirrel!

**2**

## Hard-Wired Whiskers

A squirrel's whiskers, called "vibrissae," are rooted in sensitive follicles that amplify the slightest touch and send signals straight to the brain. Squirrels even have them on their forearms. They help squirrels navigate and register textures.

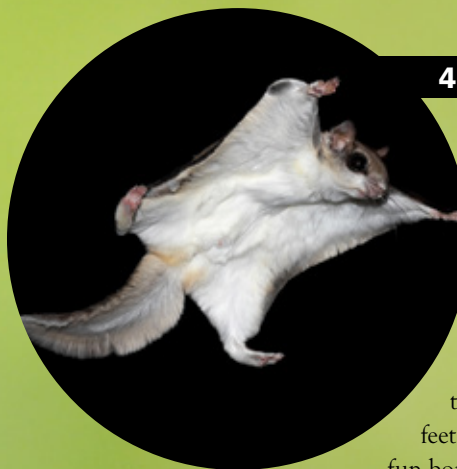


**3**

## A Coat of a Different Color

The black squirrels people sometimes see in DuPage are just eastern gray squirrels with "melanism," an increased amount of dark pigmentation. This black variation is dominant in densely shaded northern forests (think Michigan). Researchers believe it not only provides better camouflage but may also help squirrels absorb more heat on sunny winter days.

**4**



**Hey, Rocky!** Southern flying squirrels don't actually fly; they glide. A flap of furry skin called a "patagium" stretches between their wrists and ankles and serves as a gliding membrane. As a squirrel launches off a tree, it stretches its limbs and uses its patagium like a parachute to silently glide to the next trunk. It can coast as far as 100 feet, but 20 to 30 feet is more common. Super fun bonus fact: These squirrels glow bubblegum pink under ultraviolet light, although researchers have yet to determine why they developed this trait.



5

**Hang Tight** Tree squirrels can rotate their back feet 180 degrees, allowing them to run down trees (and even hang) head-first. This helps them keep a better eye out for predators on the way down.

6

**Fox or Gray?** Fox and eastern gray squirrels are quite similar. Generally, though, gray squirrels are whitish underneath. Fox squirrels, like the one to the right, have orangish or tan bellies.



7

**Just Chillin'** Don't be surprised if you see a squirrel "splooting" on a hot summer day. (Yes, that's what researchers call it, although it's also known as "heat dumping.") Unlike humans, squirrels can't sweat to cool down. So aside from seeking shade, a squirrel will spread its body along a cooler surface to lower its temperature.



8

### Chatter Boxes

At about a foot long (tail included), adult American red squirrels are often mistaken for juveniles. They're easy to ID, though, by the white rings around their eyes and their rapid, trilling, high-pitched chatter, which they use to signal territories and to tell other wildlife (and wildlife watchers) to move along.



9

**Art of Deception** Eastern gray and fox squirrels practice "deceptive caching." If they see another animal watching them, they'll dig a hole and pretend to bury their food but will keep their stash safely tucked inside their mouths. This can cause a hungry bird or other competitor to waste time digging for food that isn't there and allow the squirrel to hide its cache unseen somewhere else.



10

### Shady Characters

Squirrels are members of the aptly named Sciuridae family, which comes from the Greek *skia*, meaning "shadow" or "shade," and *oura*, meaning "tail."



2 © Chris Sicho stock.adobe.com 1 Sandra Sandbridge 3 Stan 4 Travis 5 Suzi 6 Stan 7 Kirk Hewlett 8 rabbit 9 Mark 10 Albert Jackson

# fall calendar

|                     |         |                      |         |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Plants & Wildlife   | Page 10 | Heritage             | Page 13 |
| Ways to Play        | Page 11 | Nature Art & Culture | Page 15 |
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| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>oct</b> |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4          | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| S  | M  | T          | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3          | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10         | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17         | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24         | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | <b>nov</b> |    |    |    |    |

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F          | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4          | 5  |
| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11         | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18         | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25         | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <b>dec</b> |    |

## October

- 2** Bird Walk  
Gothic Ghost Stories  
Peabody's Pages Book Club  
Three-Week Program Begins  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Pop, Pop, Popcorn!  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Behind the Scenes at the DuPage  
Wildlife Conservation Center  
Pop, Pop, Popcorn!  
Spinning Bee  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Forest Hike  
Storytime With the Animals  
of Fullersburg  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 6** Graue Mill Guided Tour
- 7** Spinning for Beginners  
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 9** Bird Walk  
Gothic Ghost Stories
- 10** Fall Festival at Danada  
Nature Study Explorers  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 11** Fall Festival at Danada  
St. James: Our Story on Foot  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Homeschool Historians
- 14** Waycar Wednesday
- 15** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn
- 16** Bird Walk  
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 17** Corn Harvest  
Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener  
ID That Tree  
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Corn Harvest  
Spinning Bee  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Forest Hike
- 20** After-School Keeper Club  
Five-Week Program Begins  
Graue Mill Guided Tour
- 21** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery  
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 22** Halloween Wagon Ride
- 23** Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike
- 24** Corn Harvest  
Gothic Ghost Stories  
Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Corn Harvest  
OAKtober Walk  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 26** Forest Hike  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 28** Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 30** Lanterns and Legends: A Historic  
Jack O' Lantern Event  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Horsin' Around Day: Trick-or-Treat  
at Danada  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery



## How to Register on ActiveNet

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Scroll down and click "Find a Program."
2. Click "Search Programs on ActiveNet."
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

## November

- 1** Spinning Bee  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Forest Hike
- 3** Graue Mill Guided Tour
- 4** Spinning for Beginners  
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 6** Fresh Air Friday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 7** ID That Tree  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** History of St. James Farm  
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Forest Hike  
Storytime With the Animals  
of Fullersburg
- 13** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Spinning Bee  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Forest Hike
- 17** Homeschool Historians
- 18** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 19** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn
- 21** Salting and Smoking  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Cast-Iron Cooking: Thanksgiving  
Salting and Smoking
- 23** Forest Hike
- 27** Holiday Refresh Hike
- 28** Holiday Candy Making  
Horsin' Around Day: Harvest Social  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Holiday Candy Making  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Forest Hike

## December

- 2** Spinning for Beginners
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Among the Leaves So Green  
Mistletoe and Merriment  
at the Mill  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Among the Leaves So Green  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Storytime With the Animals  
of Fullersburg
- 12** Nature Study Explorers  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wildlife Tracking and Observation
- 15** Homeschool Historians
- 17** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn
- 19** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Holiday Refresh Hike
- 31** Last Day Hike

## Stars and Stripes: Our American Flag

*St. James Farm*

Learn the history of the U.S. flag and view different historic designs from our museum collection, including the flag spun, dyed, and sewn this year from raw wool by Forest Preserve District employees and volunteers. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

**Through Oct. 31**

**Friday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**





## Plants & Wildlife

### After-School Keeper Club

Five-Week Program 29459

Learn what it takes to be a wildlife keeper as you go behind the scenes to help care for different animals. (Please note that food prep may involve handling and chopping whole prey such as mice, rats, fish, and quail and exposure to common allergens.) Ages 14 – 17. \$75 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 20 – Nov. 17 4 – 6 p.m. Wildlife Center  
Tuesdays

### Behind the Scenes at the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center 29444

Get a behind-the-scenes look at a working wildlife hospital as you learn about the rehabilitation process from arrival and examination to rehabilitation and release of our wildlife patients. Learn, too, about sustainable features of this state-of-the-art, net-zero-designed facility. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 4 1:30 – 3 p.m. Wildlife Center

### Bird Walk 29313

Bring your binoculars and enjoy birding camaraderie as you learn ID tips and tricks and look for migrating birds on a casual 2-mile guided walk for beginning to advanced birders. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |                  |                |
|---------|------------------|----------------|
| Oct. 2  | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Herrick Lake   |
| Oct. 9  | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Wood Dale      |
| Oct. 16 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | St. James Farm |

### ID That Tree 29402

Join us for a 1-mile guided hike through scenic trails, where you'll discover the features of native trees and shrubs and learn how to identify them in the wild. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

|         |                   |                   |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 17 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| Nov. 7  | 10:30 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |

### OAKtober Walk 29441

Celebrate Oak Awareness Month as you enjoy the fall colors and learn about oaks on a 1.5-mile guided walk. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Oct. 25 | 1 – 2 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|------------|----------------|

### Wednesday Wilderness Walk 29455

Observe the flora and fauna in the greatly diverse Lincoln Marsh on a guided nature hike. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea as we discuss some of nature's wonders before we start. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

|                 |             |               |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Oct. 7, 21 & 28 | 8 – 10 a.m. | Lincoln Marsh |
| Nov. 4          | 8 – 10 a.m. | Lincoln Marsh |

### Wildlife Tracking and Observation 29446

Reconnect with your surroundings by developing an acute awareness of the stories told by local wildlife and the natural world through observation and deduction. Discover nature's clues by exploring animal tracks, signs, and evidence. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

|         |               |                 |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 13 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Wildlife Center |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF THIS FALL!



You're invited to join the **Take A Hike! Challenge**. Now through Oct. 28, enjoy the healthy benefits of being active and spending time outdoors.

Participation is free, and registration takes just three easy steps. Visit [TheConservationFoundation.org/take-a-hike](https://TheConservationFoundation.org/take-a-hike) to learn more and sign up!



Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County

 Endeavor Health





### How to Register on ActiveNet

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2. Click "Search Programs on ActiveNet."
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

## Ways to Play

### Fall Festival at Danada

The Forest Preserve District's largest event returns for two days! Festivities will include equestrian performances and demonstrations in the outdoor arena, wagon rides, food, entertainment, children's activities, barn tours, and more. All ages. Free admission and parking with small fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

|              |                  |        |
|--------------|------------------|--------|
| Oct. 10 & 11 | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Danada |
|--------------|------------------|--------|



### Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener

Drop a line for this popular sport fish at Silver, Grove, and Pickerel lakes. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

|         |        |                                     |
|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Oct. 17 | 6 a.m. | Blackwell, Wood Dale, Pratt's Wayne |
|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|

### Halloween Wagon Ride 29326

Take a 2-mile wagon ride along decorated trails, starting with a ghost story and ending with a haunted conversation around the fire. Rides depart every 30 minutes. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |               |                |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Oct. 22 | 6 – 8:30 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|---------------|----------------|

### Horsin' Around Day: Harvest Social

Meet members of the herd, take a tractor-drawn wagon ride, warm up with a hot beverage, and get plenty of opportunities for memorable family photos. All ages. Free admission; wagon rides \$5 per person ages 5 and up and under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

|         |               |        |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Nov. 28 | Noon – 4 p.m. | Danada |
|---------|---------------|--------|

### Horsin' Around Day: Trick-or-Treat at Danada

Trick-or-treat at the barn, where the horses will be handing out candy and dressed to impress! Vote for the horse with the best costume, and enjoy a tractor-drawn wagon ride. All ages. Free admission; wagon rides \$5 per person ages 5 and up and under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

|         |               |        |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Oct. 31 | Noon – 4 p.m. | Danada |
|---------|---------------|--------|

### Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike 29332

Take a 2-mile self-guided lantern-lit hike along spooky trails, starting with a ghost story and ending with haunted conversation around the fire. Hikes leave every 15 minutes; last group leaves at 7:30 p.m. and trails close at 9 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|              |            |                |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Oct. 23 & 24 | 6 – 9 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|--------------|------------|----------------|



### Riding Your Horse in the Arena

St. James Farm

In November and December, exercise and school your horse at this historic indoor venue. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-580-7027.



## Pumpkin Night Hike for Families 29349

Use pumpkins and lanterns to light your way on a self-guided night hike through the woods. There will be a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt for kids to complete and a treat at the end. Hikes leave every 15 minutes; last group leaves at 7:30 p.m. and trails close at 9 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|              |               |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 16 & 17 | 5:30 – 9 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|

## Storytime With the Animals of Fullersburg 29410

Join a reading of a fun nature-themed storybook followed by a meet-and-greet with the center's resident animal ambassadors. Children will learn simple wildlife facts and hear the animal's story in a gentle, engaging setting. Ages 3 – 5 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

### Tina the Ornate Box Turtle

|        |                   |                   |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 5 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|

### Freckles the American Bullfrog

|        |                   |                   |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 9 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|

### Lemon and Daisy the Blanding's Turtles

|        |                   |                   |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dec. 7 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|

## Forest Hike 29317

Join a nature expert on a quick-paced hike through a popular preserve. Gear up to enjoy healthy exercise as you walk 3 to 5 miles while enjoying the wonders of your surroundings. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |                |                   |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 5  | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Oldfield Oaks     |
| Oct. 19 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Churchill Woods   |
| Oct. 26 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | McDowell Grove    |
| Nov. 2  | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | St. James Farm    |
| Nov. 9  | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Waterfall Glen    |
| Nov. 16 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| Nov. 23 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | W. DuPage Woods   |
| Nov. 30 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Timber Ridge      |

## Fresh Air Friday 29443

Enjoy a relaxing, mindful hour surrounded by nature on a 1-mile walk on crushed limestone and grass trails. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|        |              |                |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Nov. 6 | 10 – 11 a.m. | St. James Farm |
|--------|--------------|----------------|

## Holiday Refresh Hike 29404

Recover from the holidays on a gentle guided hike where you'll reset with fresh air, calm surroundings, and small moments of wonder in nature. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

|         |                 |                   |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 27 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| Dec. 26 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |

# Health & Well-Being

## Cast-Iron Cooking: Thanksgiving 29423

Gather around the campfire for a Thanksgiving-inspired cast-iron cooking experience. Help prepare a hearty seasonal meal over an open fire while learning tips for cooking with and caring for cast-iron. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |                      |                 |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 22 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Churchill Woods |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|

## Last Day Hike 29412

Celebrate the final day of the year on a reflective winter hike where you'll slow down, take in the natural beauty around you, and welcome the new year with a sense of clarity and calm. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

|         |                 |                   |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dec. 31 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|



**How to Register on ActiveNet**

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Scroll down and click "Find a Program."
2. Click "Search Programs on ActiveNet."
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

**Heritage**

**Among the Leaves So Green**

Step back into winter holiday traditions of the 1890s as you tour the farmhouse decked out in all its splendor with antique ornaments, piney boughs, holly, and more. Learn about the importance of "planting" the tree and sprucing up in winter. Help decorate the farm by stringing popcorn and twisting greenery, and gather around the fire to mull cider and enjoy some sweet treats. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

Dec. 5 & 6                      1:30 – 3:30 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm

**Brown Bag Lunch and Learn 29374**

Large lectures can be a lot, so bring your lunch to this small-group setting in the miller's house. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

**Bumblebee Conservation**

Oct. 15                      Noon – 1 p.m.                      Graue Mill

**The DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center**

Nov. 19                      Noon – 1 p.m.                      Graue Mill

**The Danada Equestrian Center**

Dec. 17                      Noon – 1 p.m.                      Graue Mill

**Corn Harvest**

Help with our annual heirloom corn harvest, which will feed the farm's livestock throughout the year, and learn the importance of corn to an 1890s farm family. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

Oct. 17, 18,                      1:30 – 3:30 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm  
24 & 25

**Graue Mill Guided Tour 29387**

See a short milling demonstration and then take a guided tour through the mill's three floors of exhibits. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

Oct. 6 & 20                      3 – 4 p.m.                      Graue Mill  
Nov. 3                      3 – 4 p.m.                      Graue Mill

**History of St. James Farm 29442**

Get an in-depth look into St. James Farm's fascinating history through stories and historic photographs and learn about the people who were part of its legacy. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 8                      2 – 3:15 p.m.                      St. James Farm

**Holiday Candy Making**

Enjoy the sweet life of the 1890s as you learn how farm families made, shared, and enjoyed hard candy. Smell the vibrant aromas as the candy cooks on the wood-burning stove, and sample some of the recipes as well. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

Nov. 28 & 29                      11 a.m. – 3 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm



**1890s Living**

*Kline Creek Farm*

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

**HOUSE TOUR: WINTER HOLIDAYS IN THE 1890S**

Join us for a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on winter holiday traditions. Learn how farm families decorated the tree, exchanged gifts, and prepared food for the holidays.

**Nov. 19 – Jan. 4 (except Nov. 26, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)**  
**Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour**

# fall calendar



## Homeschool Historians 29393

Bring your homeschool students on a guided exploration followed by related crafts or activities. Ages 8 – 16. \$10 per student. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

### Makings of a Meal

Barter for materials at the “general store,” and then bake cornbread.

|         |                |            |
|---------|----------------|------------|
| Oct. 13 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Graue Mill |
|---------|----------------|------------|

### Handmade at Home

Craft dipped beeswax candles and beef tallow soap like 19th-century settlers.

|         |                |            |
|---------|----------------|------------|
| Nov. 17 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Graue Mill |
|---------|----------------|------------|

### Quilt Squares

Learn how to piece and sew a quilt square.

|         |                |            |
|---------|----------------|------------|
| Dec. 15 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Graue Mill |
|---------|----------------|------------|

## Lanterns and Legends: A Historic Jack O’ Lantern Event 29389

Carve a pumpkin and craft a candle while hearing the legend of this spooky Halloween tradition. Then, follow clues to hunt for Jack on the lantern-lit trails. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per pumpkin. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8110.

|         |            |                   |
|---------|------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 30 | 5 – 8 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|---------|------------|-------------------|

## Mistletoe and Merriment at the Mill

Explore the mill in its Victorian holiday splendor and learn what the holidays were like in the 1850s. Enjoy corn-grinding demonstrations and readings of *A Christmas Carol*. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

|        |                |            |
|--------|----------------|------------|
| Dec. 5 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Graue Mill |
|--------|----------------|------------|

## Nature Study Explorers

Explore the outdoors just like kids from the 1890s as you take a step back in time and learn from the nature-study movement of the late Victorian era with seasonal craft projects or science experiments. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

|         |                  |                  |
|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Oct. 10 | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
| Dec. 12 | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |

## Pop, Pop, Pop, Popcorn!

Learn all about popcorn — how it’s grown, how to cook it, and why it was important to Midwestern farmers in the 1890s — and sample different heirloom varieties. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

|            |                                   |                  |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Oct. 3 & 4 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon & 1 – 3:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|

## Salting and Smoking

Autumn was the time that 1890s farmers would preserve food to get ready for winter. Learn about the process of salting and smoking pork and grinding and stuffing for sausage. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit [facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](https://facebook.com/klinecreekfarm).

|              |                  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Nov. 21 & 22 | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|

## Spinning Bee 29375

Practice your spinning with other enthusiasts! Bring your own wheel or drop spindle to this free program, or borrow one for \$5 (five available). This is for experienced spinners or those who’ve taken “Spinning for Beginners.” Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

|             |                  |            |
|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Oct. 4 & 18 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Graue Mill |
| Nov. 1 & 15 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Graue Mill |

## Spinning for Beginners 29372

Learn the basics of spinning wool into yarn and how this ancient craft helped clothe a nation. Then try it for yourself on a drop spindle and an old-fashioned spinning wheel. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-850-8112.

|        |               |            |
|--------|---------------|------------|
| Oct. 7 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Graue Mill |
| Nov. 4 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Graue Mill |
| Dec. 2 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Graue Mill |

## St. James: Our Story on Foot 29440

Discover how the farm’s buildings once hummed with agricultural life and served the equestrian community on a 1-mile guided tour of the building exteriors. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-933-7248.

|         |               |                |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Oct. 11 | 2 – 3:15 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|---------------|----------------|



## How to Register on ActiveNet

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Scroll down and click "Find a Program."
2. Click "Search Programs on ActiveNet."
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

### Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride

Enjoy a 30-minute ride as you hear about the preserve's history and natural areas. Same-day on-site ticket sales start at noon for rides beginning at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

|                                   |            |        |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Oct. 3, 4, 17,<br>18, 24, 25 & 31 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Danada |
| Nov. 1, 7 & 8                     | 1 – 3 p.m. | Danada |

### Waycar Wednesday

Walk through our 1906 waycar (also called a caboose) and hear how it was first used on the rails and then by Brooks McCormick after its retirement. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Oct. 14 | 1 – 3 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|------------|----------------|

## Nature Art & Culture

### Gothic Ghost Stories 29499

Step into the shadowy world of gothic stories filled with mystery and terror! Sit back and listen as we take you on a journey of vengeful spirits, tragic souls, and haunted landscapes. The chills will haunt you long after the final tale is told. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-206-9576.

|                |            |          |
|----------------|------------|----------|
| Oct. 2, 9 & 24 | 7 – 8 p.m. | Mayslake |
|----------------|------------|----------|

### Peabody's Pages Book Club

#### Three-Week Program 29473

Join these enriching meetups where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans. In October we'll discuss *Chronicles of Old Chicago: Exploring the History and Lore of the Windy City* by Adam Selzer; in November, *Secret Chicago* by Jessica Mlinaric; and in December, *Promised Land* by Robert Parker. Due to work at Mayslake Hall, these meetings will be at the Graue House next to Graue Mill and Museum. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-206-9576.

|                            |                 |            |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Oct. 2, Nov. 6<br>& Dec. 4 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Graue Mill |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|

## Volunteer

### Volunteer Restoration Workday 29471

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

#### Churchill Woods Glacial Ridge

|              |               |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 17 & 31 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill/Glacial |
| Nov. 14 & 28 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill/Glacial |

#### Churchill Woods

|                                   |                |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11,<br>17, 18 & 31 | 8:30 – 11 a.m. | Churchill Woods |
| Nov. 1, 7, 8, 14,<br>15, 28 & 29  | 8:30 – 11 a.m. | Churchill Woods |
| Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13,<br>19 & 20     | 8:30 – 11 a.m. | Churchill Woods |

#### Fullersburg Woods

|         |               |                   |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 10 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| Nov. 14 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| Dec. 12 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |

#### Wayne Grove

|              |               |             |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Oct. 10 & 24 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Wayne Grove |
| Nov. 7 & 21  | 9 a.m. – Noon | Wayne Grove |
| Dec. 5 & 19  | 9 a.m. – Noon | Wayne Grove |

#### West DuPage Woods Elsen's Hill

|              |               |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 10 & 24 | 9 a.m. – Noon | W. DuPage/Elsen's |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|

#### Willowbrook

|                 |               |             |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Oct. 2, 17 & 30 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| Nov. 14         | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| Dec. 4 & 19     | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |

### Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 29460

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register on ActiveNet or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

|                                |               |           |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Oct. 5, 10,<br>16, 21, 26 & 31 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Blackwell |
| Nov. 6, 13 & 18                | 9 a.m. – Noon | Blackwell |

# Embracing Nature's Colors

by **KAELA KHAN**, ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETER

**I**f you've seen the Forest Preserve District's *The Work of Many Hands*, you know how heritage interpreters and volunteers used beetles and indigo plants to dye raw wool for an American flag. (If you haven't, it's truly impressive and worth the watch at [dupageforest.org/america-250](http://dupageforest.org/america-250).) If the vibrant natural elements they used make you wonder what else in nature can give such colors, luckily you won't have to look far for an answer. They may be growing in your own backyard!

First, though, there are a few points to cover. Yes, making dyes from native plants is fun, but no, you can't get the ingredients from your local forest preserve. It's illegal. However, you (or a friend who's willing to share) may already have some of the plants featured here. Others are available

each May at the District's annual native plant sale. Also, this is just an introduction to a rewarding nature-based hobby. There's boiling and timing and things called "mordants," which you'll read about later, but lots of great books and websites can help you get the most — and safest — results from your efforts. All that being said, let's create!

Before synthetic dyes arrived in the mid-1800s, humans used plants and minerals to adorn their wardrobes. Archaeologists have found microscopic black, gray, turquoise, and pink flax fibers dating back 36,000 years at the border of Europe and Asia in the Republic of Georgia, fibers most researchers agree were intentionally dyed.

Natural dyes are still prevalent today, and many come from plants native to DuPage County. If you're going to add



◀ Collecting black walnuts when the hulls are still green is key. It's actually the hulls that contain the tannins that dye fabrics earthy browns. But be careful. Black walnuts stain hands, clothes, and countertops, so this project is best done outdoors in old clothes and gloves.



◀ DuPage County has several native species of goldenrod that create natural dyes. Steeping the flowers in warm water releases the vibrant yellows that turn plain white fabrics into buttery colors.

plants to your yard for this or any purpose, “going native” has several benefits. These plants evolved in northern Illinois over thousands of years, adapting to regional soils and climate. As a result, they’re more pest-resistant than their cultivated counterparts and require less maintenance and water to grow well in local gardens.

A native shrub that works well as a dye is elderberry, which grows in shade to full sun and adorns gardens with umbrellas of delicate white flowers in June and July. In late summer it fills with clusters of dark plum berries that are favored not only by hungry birds but also by fans of natural dyes who love the pinks and purples they produce.

Illinois’ native eastern prickly pear cactus (an interesting conversation piece in any sunny garden with dry soil) also flowers in June and July, although with showy yellow petals. The fleshy vase-shaped fruits that follow provide even more sources for pink and purple dyes.

Look at the late-summer blooms of Canada, elm-leaved, Riddell’s, and other native goldenrods, and you’ll see why people who dye grow these flowers for their warm yellows. Dyeing with goldenrod is easy, too. It’s a lot like making tea. Soak the flowers in a glass jar with warm water (not boiling) so the water can extract the pigments. Place a piece of fabric in the jar for a few hours until it reaches the desired shade, and hang to dry.

If you have a black walnut tree in your yard you’re probably already raking the yellowish-green-hulled nuts before you mow, so why not use a few to make some earthy brown dyes? The dye actually comes from that outer hull, also called a husk, and not from the tan nut inside. The hull contains chocolate-colored “tannins” that leach into water after sitting in a bucket for one to two days. Remove the walnuts, and then soak a piece of tea cloth in the dyed water for a few hours to a few days.

When planning a natural plant-dye project, picking the right fabric and preparing it is as important as picking the right plant. Dyes adhere better to animal fibers like wool because animal cells have soft walls. Plant cells in fibers like cotton and linen are made of stiff cellulose, which is harder for dyes to penetrate. First treating fabrics with a “mordant” softens those cells. (The word, interestingly, is from the Latin *mordare*, meaning “to bite,” which likely referred to its ability to help dyes “bite” onto fabrics.) Mordants are common in the dyeing process, but as some are made of salts and metals, always carefully follow all instructions.

When it’s time to clean your finished piece, hand washing is best. You may also need to re-dye items every two or so years as the color will likely fade with washing and exposure to sun (but that just means a promise of endless dyeing fun!)

There’s a world of color in your garden ready to be brought in, so take some time to explore these new ways to do so. •



▲ Fresh elderberries not only attract birds but also create pink and purple natural dyes.



▲ After its yellow blooms fall, eastern prickly pear produces mauve fruits popular with people who make natural dyes.

# directory

## HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton • 630-933-7200  
TTY 800-526-0857  
dupageforest.org  
forest@dupageforest.org

### Visitor Services

630-933-7248  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

### Partnership & Philanthropy Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

### Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

## FOREST PRESERVE *Hours*

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

## PARTNER *Sites*

### DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

### FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

### BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

### LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388

## EDUCATION *Centers*

### DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road  
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

#### Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

#### Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### DUPAGE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Suggested admission donation \$5 per person ages 3 and up

Wednesdays 9 a.m. – Noon  
Thursday – Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road  
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Mid-April – Mid-November  
Daily 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mid-November – Mid-April  
Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Closed Sundays

### GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

3800 York Road • Oak Brook  
630-451-3430

Mid-April – Mid-November  
Wednesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Mid-November – Mid-April  
Closed

### KLINE CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road  
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

### MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.  
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Mayslake Hall will reopen to the public on Oct. 21.

Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Closed Sunday – Tuesday

### ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road  
Warrenville • 630-580-7025

### Office and Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

## GOLF *Courses*

### THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road  
Addison • 630-595-0071

### MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF PRESERVE

272 S. Addison Road  
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

Maple Meadows is under renovation and closed for the year. For updates visit [dupagegolf.com](http://dupagegolf.com).

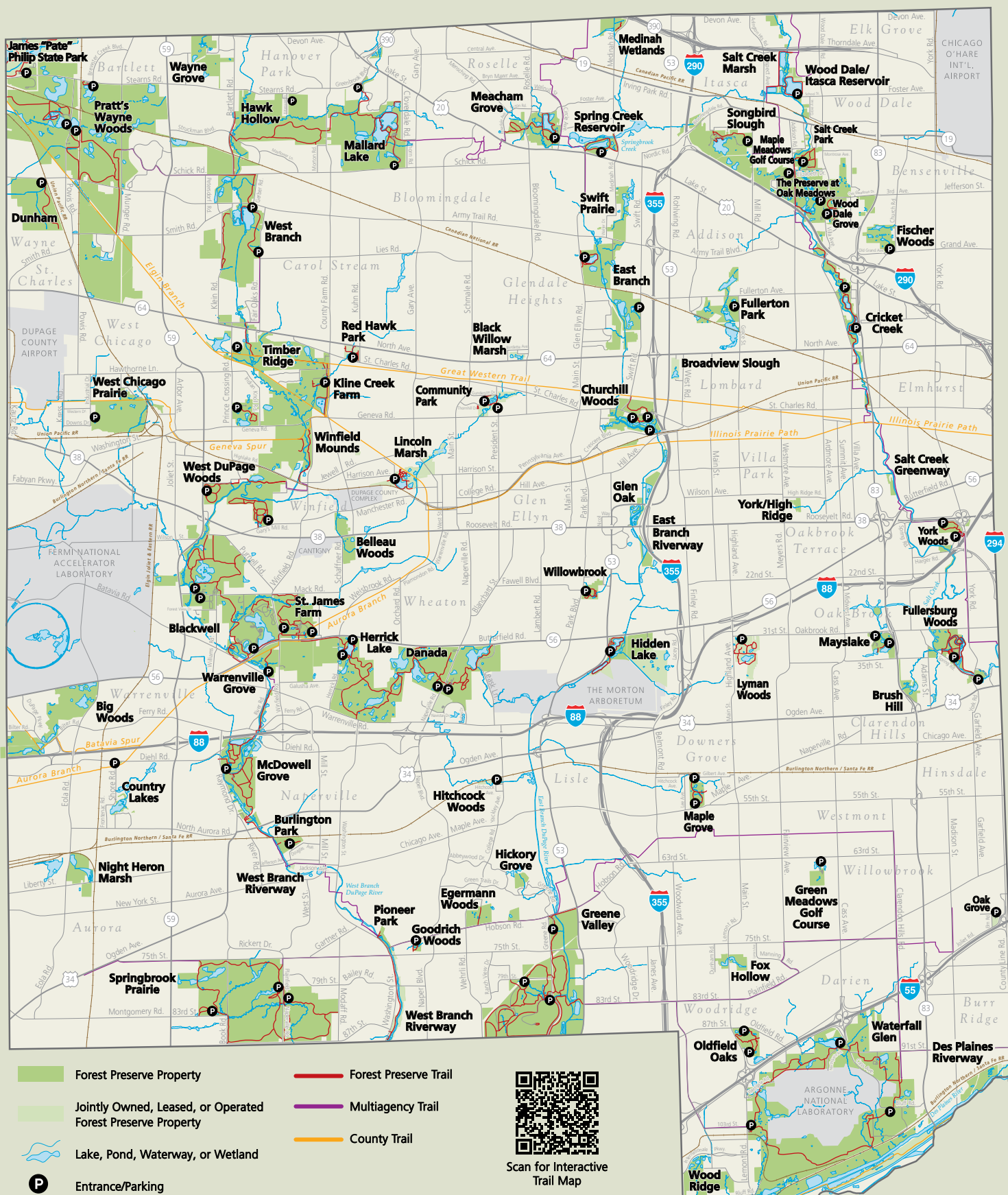
### GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.  
Westmont • 630-810-5330

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-871-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks before any program that requires registration.







**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)



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# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Fall 2026**

## FALL FESTIVAL AT DANADA

**OCT. 10 & 11**  
**11 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

**Free Admission (Fees for Some Activities)**

**Horse Show Performances in Our Outdoor Arena**

**Wagon Rides • Horse-Care Demos • Stable Tours**

**Pony Rides, Hobbyhorse Craft, and Other Children's Activities**

**Food and Entertainment • More!**

For more information, call the Danada Equestrian Center in  
Wheaton at 630-668-6012, or visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).

