

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2013



from the president



Like many of you, I remember a time when sharing a picture from an afternoon at Fullersburg Woods meant waiting days until your prints were ready at the Fotomat drive-through. Today, of course, a family can have images from their latest forest preserve visit uploaded and online before they even get back to their car, many times with a few words about a particular bird they spotted or a scenic trail that really made an impression. It's that kind of excitement and enthusiasm for our county's great open spaces that I enjoy hearing about as I read through the latest posts on the Forest Preserve District's Facebook or Twitter pages.

Catching up on someone's recent forest preserve adventure is especially nice this time of year when I know that hitting the trails or dropping a line in a lake requires an extra layer or two of clothing, sometimes with a pair of snowshoes or an auger to boot. But even on days when the wind is blowing a little too strong or the snow is coming down a bit too heavy, you can still explore the forest preserves and plan for your next trip via The Conservationist. This issue alone has nearly 50 different programs in the Calendar of Events, many with multiple dates and times. (A few are indoors!) You can add to your knowledge base of all things wild with our feature on animal morphology, learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps left its mark on DuPage County's forest preserves, or discover how the District is making its own history with the restoration of one of the county's largest grasslands and the creek that runs through it.

For those who really like to plan ahead, a copy of our yearly planner is now posted on each page of the "Calendar of Events" section of dupageforest.org, and throughout the new year, we'll be introducing new ways for you to instantly connect with your favorite forest preserves. So as you look to fight cabin fever this season (or to stick with that New Year's resolution to be more active), keep your favorite source for forest preserve information on hand. And keep those posts and tweets coming!

Wishing you and yours all the best in 2013 —

D. "Dewey" Pierotti Jr.

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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For schedules and agendas, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Winter 2013, Vol. 49, No. 1

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On the cover: Eastern screech owl © Dave Haas, www.glancesatnature.com

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



MCDOWELL GROVE NOW OPEN

The entrance and parking lot off Raymond Drive at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville are again open following the completion of thorium-removal work along the West Branch of the DuPage River within the preserve. A canoe launch and newly created riverbank now offer easier access to the water. Although the lot is open, the preserve's picnic shelter and picnic area will remain closed until new turf is established, which will likely be no earlier than summer 2013.

The work at McDowell was part of a multiyear remediation project along an 8-mile stretch of the river that returned a free-flowing system that had been absent since the 1930s.

NEW FEATURES FOR DISTRICT FLEET AT BLACKWELL

In October the District installed a new electrocoagulation water-treatment system in the vehicle and equipment wash bay at the fleet services complex at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville. The closed-loop process uses an electrical charge to gather suspended particles of dirt in the wastewater, which makes them easy to remove and allows the District to reuse the water. At about 13 cents a vehicle, it costs less and uses fewer resources than the water-recycling system it replaced. The ability to efficiently and consistently keep the District's fleet clean and free of corrosives, such as salt from winter roads, ensures that vehicles last longer and require less maintenance.

The District is also improving the alternative-fuel filling site at Blackwell. Funded in part by a \$104,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, new pumps will dispense E-85 ethanol and B-20 biodiesel fuels for District vehicles. The site will be only the second in the state — public or private — to offer compressed natural gas, propane, E-85 and B-20. The first such site is at the District's own Churchill Woods Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn.

Over a decade ago, the Board of Commissioners committed to converting the District's entire fleet to one that runs on alternative fuels. The District has purchased new alternative-fuel vehicles as part of its normal replacement schedule and used rebates and grants to cover much of the cost of new filling stations. Fuel diversity has helped the District remain insulated from the high cost of gasoline and able to take advantage of falling prices for domestically produced natural gas. By operating its own filling stations, the District also saves by buying at wholesale prices.



SNOWY, *Frozen Fun*

Before you put on your mittens and head outdoors, visit the "Winter Activities" page in the "Recreation" section of dupageforest.org for information on snow tubing and new snowshoe rentals at Mount Hoy, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and other seasonal fun.



NEW ENTRANCE AND TRAILS COMING TO ST. JAMES FARM

Two projects outlined in the master plan for St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville are in the works. A new main entrance along Winfield Road is under construction and should be completed in spring 2013. Winfield Road will then offer dedicated turn lanes for both north- and southbound traffic. An expanded entrance drive will lead to a 100-car permeable-paver parking lot, which will offer year-round access to the main farm area. St. James Farm is currently closed for the season, but visitors will be able to use the new entrance as well as the entrance and turf parking areas off Hoy Avenue when the preserve reopens in the spring.

In late 2013 construction will also begin at the preserve on 1.7 miles of multipurpose limestone trails, a project funded in part by a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program.

\$5,000 GRANT FOR HEALTHY OUTDOOR RECREATION

The District has received a \$5,000 grant from FORWARD, an initiative to improve the health and well-being of children and families in DuPage County. The funds will expand and enhance existing outdoor programming by allowing the District to purchase archery and fishing equipment and three kayaks. As part of the District's participation in FORWARD, staff members also plan to offer healthy snacks during select programs and an outdoor cooking clinic featuring lighter fare.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the following donors who contributed to its efforts between Sept. 2 and Oct. 31.



Special-Event Business Sponsors

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AM 560 WIND
The Bugle Newspaper
Cantigny Park
Chick-fil-A
Chiro One Wellness Centers
College of DuPage
Costco Warehouse
Courtyard by Marriott –
Naperville
DC Spinal Wellness &
Sports Rehabilitation
DMK Burger Bar
Dunkin' Donuts
Engineering Resource
Associates, Inc.
Farmers Insurance –
Agency Pointe
Friends for Therapeutic
Equine Activities
Glen Prairie Local
Flavor Restaurant

Hickory River Smokehouse
Hinckley Springs
Hoving Companies
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Uncle Bub's Award
Winning BBQ
WDCB Public Radio
Whole Foods Market –
Hinsdale
Whole Foods Market –
Wheaton
Whole Foods Market –
Willowbrook
Windows Plus Inc.

Gifts of Note

USA Equestrian Trust
\$12,000 — Equestrian
improvements at
St. James Farm
Arthur and Elaine V. Johnson
Foundation
\$5,000 — Blanding's Turtle
Recovery Program
Robert R. McCormick
Foundation
\$5,000 — Enclosure
improvements at
Willowbrook Wildlife
Center
Starbucks Partner
Giving Program
\$2,000 — Volunteer
Services
Paul Herbert
\$1,500 — Log bench at
Herrick Lake Forest
Preserve in memory of
Nancy Jean Herbert
Patrick Mooney
\$1,500 — Log bench at
the off-leash dog area at
Blackwell Forest Preserve
in memory of Andrea
Haas-Mooney

STAY UPDATED YOUR WAY

Get updates from the Forest Preserve District on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. (Look for DuPageForest on Twitter and YouTube.) For details and images of forest preserve projects, visit "Plans and Projects" under "District News" at dupageforest.org, where you can also link to The Conservationist 24/7. If you prefer to read The Conservationist online, email forest@dupageforest.org to have your mailed copy discontinued.



PUBLIC Meetings

Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Schedules and agendas are available in advance on dupageforest.org. Normally, commission meetings are at 9 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and planning sessions are at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. At both, the board hears comments from the public and reports from staff and discusses District business; at commission meetings, the board also votes on agenda items.

**FOR MORE NEWS & NOTES,
SEE PAGE 16.**



A Frog of a Different Color

by **STEPHANIE TOUZALIN**, NATURALIST, WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

Most people enjoy being different, as long as they're past the junior high years. To express our individualities, we choose personal styles of hair and dress, have our own tastes in books, music and movies, and dabble in hobbies that excite us. But in the natural world, it's decidedly better to fit in. Abnormal behavior or appearance is often a red flag to predators. While we humans can consciously choose to fit in or stand out, in nature, it's a different story.

We're all familiar with the term "survival of the fittest." It's the basic summary of natural selection, that gradual, nonrandom process by which biological traits become either more or less common in a population as a result of the successes of those traits. The big player that drives natural selection is mutation, accidental changes in an organism's genetic makeup that cause a new biological trait to surface. An animal with an advantageous color mutation, such as fur that blends better with the surrounding vegetation, may be more likely to survive and pass that trait onto its offspring, which will in turn have a higher probability of having that same beneficial coloration. Over time, a mutation can develop into a permanent feature, but this is usually not the case.

One recent and newsworthy example of a singular genetic

mutation was the blue bullfrog spotted this past July in Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Downers Grove. Instead of a bullfrog's normal green, it was a vibrant blue. Why? Well, let's consider why a creature is green in the first place.

Reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals all exhibit variations of blacks, browns, yellows or reds thanks to pigments called "melanins." Reptiles, amphibians and birds also have red- and yellow-producing pigments called "carotenoids," which come from compounds within the animals' bodies or their diets. (Although not quite DuPage natives, flamingos are great examples of animals with diet-acquired pigmentation. Born grayish, they gain their familiar pink hues from bacteria and beta carotene in their food.)

Blues, however, are not a result of pigmentation but of "structural coloration," which is the way light interacts with microscopic features on skin or feathers. For many frogs (and as any aspiring artist knows) blue structural color mixed with yellow pigments gives them their green skin. In the case of our special Hidden Lake bullfrog, a genetic mutation left it unable to produce any yellow pigments, so it displayed only blue.

So is this an advantageous mutation? Are blue frogs more likely to survive in the wild? Likely not since a large part of a



▲ Bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeiana*) in blue (left) and green (above)



▲ Eastern screech owls (*Megascops asio*) with rufous (left) and gray (right) morphs



▲ Gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) with gray (top) and black (bottom) pigmentations

frog's time is spent camouflaged among green plants. Still, this particular frog's generous size indicated that it was outliving the odds.

A blue frog is certainly an unusual find, but for some species, it's not uncommon for members to be one of two or more different colors. In DuPage, for instance, eastern screech owls can be gray or rufous, a reddish brown. (We have both in our raptor program at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn.) In this case and in others like it, when individuals live in the same habitat at the same time in populations where all of the members of the opposite sex are potential mates, these variations are called "polymorphisms," or "morphs." Here and in other northern climates, natural selection favors the eastern screech owl's gray morph. First, reddish feathers offer less insulation in cold weather and are more susceptible to abrasion. Second, because the dominant trees in our area have more gray or cool-brown bark, gray owls camouflage better. Conversely, rufous owls are more common in areas with warmer temperatures and tree communities with reddish or warmer-colored bark, although they're dominant across the species' range as a whole just as brown hair and brown eyes — also types of polymorphisms — are for people.

Interestingly, the black squirrels we sometimes see in DuPage County are neither singular mutations nor polymorphisms. They're actually gray squirrels that have "melanism," an increased amount of dark pigmentation. Up until about 200 years ago, before and during the time settlers started moving here from the East, the eastern and northern parts of our country were quite different. Primeval forests were densely wooded and dark, so a darker squirrel would have an easier time blending in and hiding from predators. Because darker fur absorbs more heat, it was beneficial, too, in those shady, cool climates. It makes sense, then, that black squirrels dominated back then. Only after people cleared the forests and intensely hunted larger predators did the gray squirrel's lighter-colored fur, what we now consider "normal," prove favorable. The darker is still genetically dominant, but the lighter gives our local populations a better chance of survival in today's more sun-dappled forests.

Mutations can be negatives, but the wildlife we see in DuPage today couldn't have survived without the beneficial features that developed from some of these accidental variations. As a result, we can enjoy and celebrate some of nature's finest colorful spectacles. •

winter calendar

See pages 10 through 15 for program descriptions.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
jan	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
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24	25	26	27	28		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

January

- 2** Archery for All Ages
- 3** Archery for All Ages
- 4** Archery for All Ages
Sit and Stitch
- 5** Archery for All Ages
Hard-Water Classic
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** The Peregrine Falcon
Winter Basics
- 7** Adult Painting Begins
- 8** Archery for Adults
Exploring Watercolors Begins
- 11** Home-Schoolers "Closer Look" Field Trip:
Signs of Wildlife
Knitting for Beginners
Sit and Stitch
- 12** "Blaze New Trails and Volunteer!" Open House
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Owls of DuPage
- 14** Teen Open Art Studio Begins
- 17** Ice Harvesting
- 18** Sit and Stitch
- 19** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Ice Harvesting
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Ice Harvesting
Snowshoeing for Beginners
- 24** Ice Harvesting
- 25** Knitting for Beginners
Sit and Stitch
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Cast-Iron Cooking

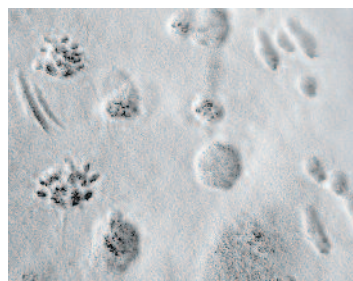


February

- 1** Sit and Stitch
- 2** Wonders of Winter
- 3** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** "Blaze New Trails and Volunteer!" Q-and-A Session
- 8** Home-Schoolers "Closer Look" Field Trip:
Life at the Bottom of the Food Chain
- 9** Romantic Night Hike
Taffy-Pulling Party
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wild Dogs of DuPage
- 10** Snowshoe Hiking and Tracking
- 11** First Folio Theatre Presents
"Cory Goodrich in Concert"
- 12** First Folio Theatre Presents
"Cory Goodrich in Concert"
- 16** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 17** Archery for Beginners
- 18** Tapping Into Fun
- 23** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 24** Cast-Iron Cooking
Scouts, Get Sticky!
Volunteer Restoration Workday

March

- 1** Sit and Stitch
- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Sap Collectors
- 4** Adult Painting Begins
- 5** Exploring Watercolors Begins
- 7** WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake
- 9** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sundays
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Acappellago Concert
Bread-Baking Class
Spring Night Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 17** Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sundays
- 21** Day at the Farm Field Trip
- 22** Home-Schoolers "Closer Look" Field Trip: Snipe Hunts
- 23** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm
- 28** Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm
- 29** Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm
- 30** Trout Fishing for Kids
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Look "Hoo" I Had for Dinner!





Acappellago Concert

Enjoy the a cappella sounds of Acappellago as they perform "Escape to ... Blue Skies." All ages. \$17 per adult; \$15 per student or senior. For tickets, call (708) 484-3797, ext. 2.

Mar 16 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake



1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago
(630) 876-5900

Registration is not required for these free programs.

LAMBING

See the season's new lambs — some as they're being born — and learn the role livestock played on an 1890s farm.

Jan. 21 – Feb. 11

Thursdays – Mondays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith repair equipment and demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade. Demonstrations ongoing.

Through March 30

Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

Learn about beekeeping equipment and the important role that bees play in our food supply. Then, ask the beekeepers your questions about honey and bees.

Through March 31

Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Adult Painting

Learn the basics of art, including drawing, color mixing and elements of design, during these six-part classes. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 7 – Feb 25 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Mondays (except Jan 21 and Feb 11)

Mar 4 – Apr 8 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Mondays

Archery for Adults

Try your hand at archery inside one of the District's registered national historic landmarks. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Registration begins Dec. 26. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 8 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake

Archery for All Ages

Learn basic archery techniques in an indoor setting. Equipment provided. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 2 1 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Jan 3 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake
Jan 4 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake
Jan 5 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake

Archery for Beginners

Discover the basic techniques of this classic sport, and learn about equipment and rules in an indoor setting. Equipment provided. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Feb. 4. Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 17 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake

"Blaze New Trails and Volunteer!" Open House

Learn how you can become a District volunteer with Danada Equestrian Center, Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, Fundraising, Kline Creek Farm, Mayslake Peabody Estate, Natural Resources, St. James Farm, Trail Patrol, Volunteer Ranger Experience, Volunteer Services or Willowbrook Wildlife Center. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7681.

Jan 12 9 a.m. – noon Danada/Headquarters



"Blaze New Trails and Volunteer!" Q-and-A Session

Get details about Forest Preserve District volunteer programs. Ask questions, and decide which option fits your interests and schedule. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7681.

Feb 6	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/Headquarters
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Bread-Baking Class

Learn how to bake bread the way that it was done in the 1890s, and take home a pan of rolls along with instructions and recipes. Ages 10 and up; under 15 with an adult. \$25 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Mar 16	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Mar 16	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Cast-Iron Cooking

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire, and learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 5 – 12. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 27	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 24	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Day at the Farm Field Trip

School and home-school groups, learn about chores and family life in the 1890s through hands-on activities. Ages 6 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per student. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Mar 21	9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Exploring Watercolors

During these six-part classes, explore and enhance your own artistic style while enjoying the process of watercolor painting in a beautiful and relaxed setting. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 8 – Feb 12 Tuesdays	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate/Advanced</i>
	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner/Intermediate</i>
Mar 5 – Apr 9 Tuesdays	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate/Advanced</i>
	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner/Intermediate</i>

First Folio Theatre Presents "Cory Goodrich in Concert"

From her own original music to the best of Broadway, Cory weaves a musical tapestry about life, love and being a mom. Ages 14 and up. \$25 per person. For tickets, call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

Feb 11	8 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
Feb 12	8 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake

Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sundays

Take a self-guided stroll through the woods, and discover the secret of turning tree sap into syrup. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 850-8110.

Mar 10	Noon – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Mar 17	Noon – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Hard-Water Classic

Take part in a competitive ice-fishing tournament on Blackwell's Silver Lake followed by an awards ceremony and raffle. Anglers must bring their own bait and gear. All ages. \$15 per person online registration; \$20 per person at the event. Visit signmeup.com/86766, or call (630) 876-5931.

Jan 5	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Home-Schoolers "Closer Look" Field Trips

Learn about forest preserve flora and fauna in an interactive setting. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per family per program. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 942-6200.

Signs of Wildlife

Look at evidence wild animals leave behind to let us know they're there.

Jan 11	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Life at the Bottom of the Food Chain

Learn about rodents, both real and fictional.

Feb 8	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Snipe Hunts

Learn about the fascinating twilight mating dance of one of DuPage County's shorebirds.

Mar 22	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne Woods
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winter calendar



Ice Fishing for Beginners

Learn the basics of ice fishing, including safety, equipment, techniques and tips for forest preserve lakes. Fishing will follow if conditions permit. Equipment and bait provided. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 13	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 19	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Feb 3	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 16	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Feb 23	1 – 3 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne Woods



Ice Harvesting

See the tools and techniques farm families used to cut and store ice before mechanical refrigeration. Weather permitting, help cut and transport ice from Timber Lake to the icehouse. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Jan 17	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 19	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 20	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 24	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Knitting for Beginners

Learn the basic skills of knitting and how to make a dishcloth. Take home yarn, knitting needles and a pattern. Ages 10 and up; under 15 with an adult. \$25 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Jan 11	10 – 11 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 25	10 – 11 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Look "Hoo" I Had for Dinner!

Discover what an owl ate for dinner by dissecting a real owl pellet; then, meet one of these interesting raptors. Ages 7 – 12 with an adult. \$2 per person. Registration begins March 4. Call (630) 942-6200.

Mar 31	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Owls of DuPage

Find out why people give a hoot about owls, and learn about the species that live in DuPage. Ages 10 and up with an adult. Free. Registration begins Dec. 30. Call (630) 942-6200.

Jan 13	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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The Peregrine Falcon

Meet Willowbrook's peregrine falcon, and learn about these speedy predators. Ages 10 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$1 per person. Registration begins Dec. 10. Call (630) 942-6200.

Jan 6	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Romantic Night Hike

Enjoy a lantern-lit self-guided walk through the woods with your sweetheart; then, warm up with hot cocoa around a cozy fire. Adults only. \$10 per couple. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Feb 9	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Sap Collectors

Hike to the sugarbush to collect sap from sugar maple trees. Ages 6 and up; under 14 with an adult. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Mar 3	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Scouts, Get Sticky!

Scouts, fulfill badge requirements while learning about the importance of trees and how to make maple syrup from beginning to end. Ages 5 – 17. \$10 per Scout. Prepayment required. Registration begins Jan 2. Call (630) 850-8112.

Feb 24	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Sit and Stitch

Gather in the farmhouse kitchen for tea and cookies as you work on your own crocheting, quilting or knitting. Ages 10 and up; under 15 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Jan 4	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 11	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 18	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jan 25	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Feb 1	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Mar 1	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Snowshoe Hiking and Tracking

Hear about the history of snowshoeing, and pick up some basic safety tips. Learn how to identify animal tracks, too. Then, step into a pair of snowshoes, and hit the trail with a ranger. Equipment provided. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Jan. 28. Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 10	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Snowshoeing for Beginners

Hear about the history of snowshoeing, and pick up some basic safety tips. Then, step into a pair of snowshoes, and hit the trail with a ranger. Equipment provided. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Jan. 7. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 20	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm

Spend part of your spring break helping with spring cleaning at the farm. Activities are ongoing and include cleaning the animal pens, sweeping the house and weeding the kitchen garden. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Mar 25	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Mar 28	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Mar 29	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Spring Night Hike

Experience a forest preserve after dark, when animals are accustomed to going about their activities undisturbed. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins March 4. Call (630) 206-9581.

Mar 16	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Cultural Events

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE PRESENTS "JEEVES TAKES A BOW"

Everyone's favorite hapless hero, Bertie Wooster, embarks on an American adventure armed only with his handsome fortune, his talent for trouble and his remarkable manservant, Jeeves. But is even the redoubtable Jeeves up to the task when Bertie is pursued by vengeful Knuckles McCann and marriage-minded Vivienne Duckworth? Adults only. Tickets \$22 – 37. Call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

Jan. 30 – March 3
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.
Sundays 3 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Enjoy an exhibit by members of the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club. All ages. Free. Call (630) 206-9566.

Jan. 16 – March 2
Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

THE ALLIANCE OF FINE ART PRESENTS "THE BEST OF THE BEST" ART SHOW

View the finest works of local artists. All ages. Free. Call (630) 206-9566.

March 20 – April 27
Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$5 per person. Registration required for group tours. Call (630) 206-9566.

Beginning Jan. 16
Wednesdays 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

winter calendar



Taffy-Pulling Party

Tour an 1890s farmhouse, and learn how kids lived more than a century ago. Then, make taffy from molasses to take home during this one-hour program. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$6 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Feb 9	9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Feb 16	9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Feb 23	9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Tapping Into Fun

Learn the history of maple sap collection, and hike to the sugarbush to tap a sugar maple tree. Ages 6 and up; under 14 with an adult. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Feb 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 18	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods



Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy a ride through the prairies and woodlands of Danada Forest Preserve as you learn about its history. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. These 12- to 15-minute rides are on a first-come, first-served basis. Wagons are used if there is less than 4 inches of packed snow on the trail. Groups of 15 or more are encouraged to reserve private rides. Call (630) 668-6012.

Jan. 6 – Feb. 24
Sundays Noon – 3 p.m.

Teen Open Art Studio

Teens, bring your painting and drawing skills to an open-studio setting. Intermediate and advanced students can enhance their techniques in pastels, acrylic paint, watercolor, charcoal and more in this nine-part class. Teens only. \$225 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 14 – Apr 8	6 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mondays (except Jan 21, Feb 18 and Mar 25)

Trout Fishing for Kids

Introduce your young anglers to trout fishing at this preseason special event that's just for them. Bait provided. Ages 15 and under with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7668.

Mar 30	8 a.m. – noon	Wood Dale Grove
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Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative vegetation or planting seed. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 at least five business days in advance. Groups of five or more must call 10 business days in advance.

Jan 12	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Jan 12	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Jan 26	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Feb 9	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 9	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Feb 24	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Mar 9	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Mar 10	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Mar 16	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Mar 23	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Mar 30	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie

Ages 8 and up; under 14 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 293-1627.

Jan 5	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jan 19	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Feb 3	1 – 4 p.m.	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 2	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 16	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie



WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake

Enjoy an evening of high-quality jazz brought to you by Mayslake Peabody Estate, WDCB Public Radio and the PianoForte Foundation. Adults only. \$25 cabaret seating; \$20 general admission; \$18 for seniors over 65, students and groups of six or more. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

Mar 7	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Grazyna Auguscik</i>
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When Darkness Falls

Hike through the dark woods with a ranger, and discover what it's like to use your senses like a nocturnal predator. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins March 4. Call (630) 933-7248.

Mar 16	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Wild Dogs of DuPage

Learn the natural history of wild dogs, including the foxes and coyotes that make DuPage home. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Jan. 26. Call (630) 942-6200.

Feb 9	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Winter Basics

Spend an afternoon with a ranger, and learn how to prepare for outdoor winter activities. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Dec. 26. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 6	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Wonders of Winter

Discover the fun of visiting a forest preserve in winter through horse-drawn hayrides, ice fishing, geocaching, nature hikes and more. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 2	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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Tubing and Snowshoeing

Mount Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

When 3 or more inches of snow covers Mount Hoy, take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill, or explore Blackwell's trails by snowshoe.

Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 24

Plus Jan. 1 – 4

Jan. 21

Feb. 18

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Inner tube rentals are \$5 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. (Only District inner tubes are permitted.)

Snowshoe rentals are \$5 for two hours and \$10 per day and end at 2 p.m. For snow conditions, call the Outdoor Report at (630) 871-6422.

news & notes



BOARD APPROVES FUNDS FOR HISTORIC FULLER HOUSE

In September the Board of Commissioners approved the use of \$390,190 in bonds from the 2006 referendum to help renovate the Ben Fuller House at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook. Combined with \$200,000 in grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the funds will help prepare the house for public use. Plans call for the building to ultimately serve as a visitor center.

Built around 1840, the Fuller House is the best example in northeastern Illinois of “balloon-frame” construction, which used machine-cut lumber. It was an important element of the rapid development of the Midwest because even unskilled landowners could use it to build their homes.

GET YOUR GOODS FROM THE WOODS

For great gift ideas, visit dupageforest.org and click on “About Us” and “Goods From the Woods,” or stop by Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago, Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn, or the Danada Equestrian Center or District headquarters at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton.



BALD EAGLE VISITS RESTORED RIVER

In October a District ecologist observing conditions along a restored stretch of the West Branch of the DuPage River at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville photographed an unusual visitor fishing along the shore: a bald eagle. Though these birds of prey are more likely to live along larger rivers such as the Des Plaines, smaller watersheds such as the two branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek do have occasional sightings. In the case of this particular encounter, ecologists hypothesize that it may demonstrate the positive effects that multiyear remediation and restoration efforts have had on this section of the river and related aquatic habitats.

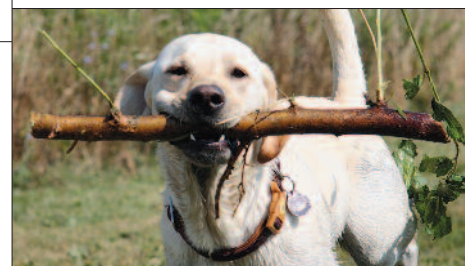
BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

Invite a Forest Preserve District speaker to your next meeting, and learn the latest about DuPage County’s forest preserves, from ecological restoration projects to innovative, hands-on educational programs. Speakers are available through April 15. Call (630) 933-7246.

NONPROFIT FOUNDATION WELCOMES BOARD MEMBERS

Five community leaders recently joined the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Ken Bartels, David Chase, Chrissie Howorth, Art Littlefield and John Quigley bring an array of professional experiences and have all held leadership positions with organizations such as the Elmhurst and Naperville Area chambers of commerce, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the West Suburban Philanthropic Network, and local chapters of the United Way, Jaycees and Rotary Club.

The mission of the newly established Friends of the Forest Preserve District, a 501(c)(3) public charity, is to support the District’s fundraising efforts to enhance its conservation-, recreation- and education-related initiatives. The foundation continues to seek volunteers willing to provide senior-level leadership on its board or through its committees. Interested individuals should call the Office of Fundraising and Development at (630) 871-6400 for more information.



GET YOUR 2013 PERMITS

Annual permits for private boats, model crafts and off-leash dog areas are now available. Camping and picnic reservations begin Jan. 2, 2013. Call (630) 933-7248, or stop by District headquarters at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton.



© U.S. National Archives



© Leslie Duerr

CAMP MCDOWELL

by **CHRIS GINGRICH**, OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Mention the word “history,” and many people think of big events and great leaders from distant times and places, but significant episodes have also happened locally, even here in DuPage County. In fact, as you stroll or bike through several of our forest preserves, you may pass by — or in some cases over — traces of some of that history and of America’s experience during the Great Depression.

In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed and Congress created the Civilian Conservation Corps. The goal of the program, one of many from Roosevelt’s New Deal, was to recruit thousands of young unemployed men and form them into an army of laborers to work in forestry, erosion prevention, flood control and other conservation-related work. They lived in military-style camps throughout the United States and its territories and earned \$30 per month, \$25 of which went directly home to their families.

In 1934 the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County applied for assistance through the CCC, which set up camps in two forest preserves: the first at Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook and the second a few months later at McDowell Grove in Naperville. The efforts of the men of Company V-1668 at Fullersburg, who were mostly veterans, are evident in the picnic shelters and in the large boathouse that today welcomes visitors to Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. They also completed work further south along Salt Creek at Graue Mill and along Sawmill Creek at Rocky Glen Forest Preserve in Darien, which is part of today’s Waterfall Glen. Signs of DuPage County’s second forest preserve CCC camp are more scattered and less numerous but still serve as monuments to the men of Camp McDowell.

For the workers at Camp McDowell, the first order of business was to erect barracks and other buildings to provide a base from which they could complete their work in western



▲ The men of Camp McDowell frame the picnic shelter at Pioneer Park Forest Preserve and position a concrete arch for the footbridge over the West Branch of the DuPage River (top, left and center). Both structures welcome visitors today (bottom, left and center).



DuPage. Those who arrived in the summer of 1934 lived in tents while they awaited the construction of more substantial facilities. By the end of the year, though, the 260 men and officers of CCC Company 2612 were comfortably housed in barracks and, as the Naperville Clarion reported, even “sat down to a Roast Turkey dinner with all of the tasty trimmings on Tuesday to celebrate Christmas Day.”

The Forest Preserve District applied for a number of improvement projects from the men of Camp McDowell not only at the forest preserve where they lived but also at Pioneer Park in Naperville, Warrenville Grove in Warrenville, West DuPage Woods in West Chicago and Herrick Lake in Wheaton. The list included 11 miles of trails, 24 miles of trailside clearing, 7 acres of land preparation for campground use, six picnic shelters, two boathouses, a bathhouse, shoreline and swim-beach improvements, six footbridges, and work on two dams along the West Branch of the DuPage River. Plans also called for extensive brush clearing, new parking areas and the addition of thousands of trees, shrubs and other plants.

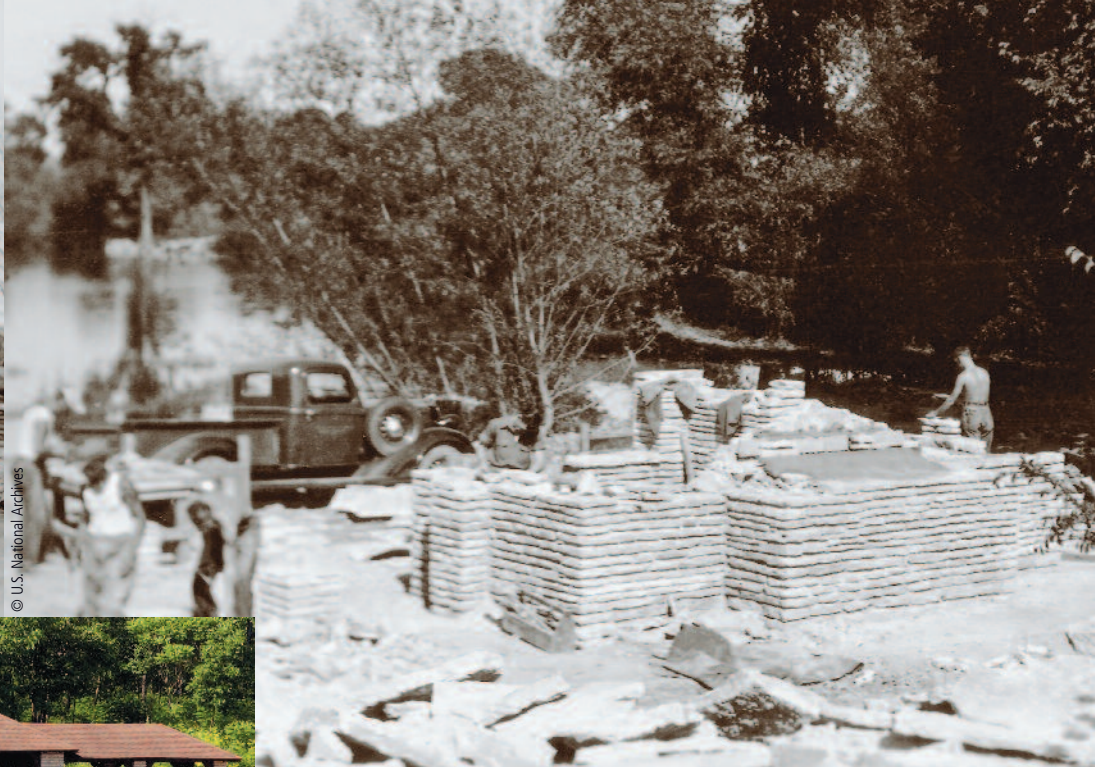
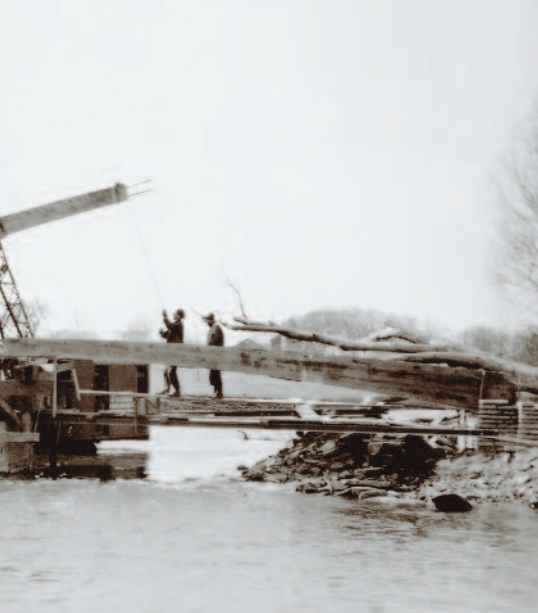
A significant part of the men’s efforts involved acquiring the raw materials for these projects. In Doris Wood’s book “A Small Town Weathers the Depression,” George Rowin, a Chicagoan assigned to McDowell, recalls, “We worked mostly cutting rock from Pioneer Park for the dam we were building at Camp McDowell. ... We also did the bridges at Pioneer Park and Warrenville, did the grading for Herrick’s Lake and built fireplace shelters and other improvements. It was hard

work but we were young and full of pep and besides there wasn’t work on the outside.”

Photos of Pioneer Park from the late 1930s support Rowin’s recollections. Aerial shots show a quarry on the northern end, and CCC photos show men removing large amounts of stone. A landscape plan also describes a location along the west bank of the West Branch of the DuPage River as a “quarry to be opened for stone for all work.”

Some of the flagstone that stayed in Pioneer Park is visible today. You can see it in the footbridge and in the shelter that’s on high ground between the West Branch Regional Trail and the river. It’s also in the remains of a large stone fireplace and old gravel pit near the Bailey Hobson monument. (The District later converted the pit into an amphitheater, anticipating its use by Boy Scout troops.) One interesting remnant is a line of flagstone that protrudes from the ground. Photos from the CCC show that the large slabs buried on edge created a curb along the eastern edge of the preserve’s former parking lot, which sat along Joliet Road, today’s Washington Street. The road was widened and the lot removed, but the stones remain visible today.

Pioneer Park’s flagstone also made its way into the West Branch of the DuPage River, where the CCC built dams at Warrenville Grove and McDowell. Workers modified the river even further at McDowell by widening and deepening the waterway to create more recreational opportunities for preserve visitors and then adding the materials they dredged from the riverbed to build up several islands. North of their



▲ Enlistees work on the foundation of the picnic shelter at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve (top, right). This shelter (bottom, right) is still a favorite spot for picnickers along the lake.

newly constructed CCC shelter, they even created a body of water for fishing, boating and ice skating that CCC documents called Abbott Bay. In recent years, efforts to improve water quality and habitat for aquatic species along the West Branch have included the removal of the two dams and Abbott Bay, but as a result the river again runs in a healthier free-flowing state. Limestone abutments from both dams as well as from several bridges that accessed the east and west ends of the island just upstream of Abbott Bay remain in place as reminders of the workers' presence.

For the men at McDowell, work in the county's forest preserves was not the only aspect of enrollment. They had a number of options to fill their leisure time. Naperville businessmen took up a collection of used books to stock a camp library. Camp newspapers tell of enlistees offering and taking classes in music, woodworking and other subjects and of visiting entertainers and lecturers, including DuPage County's own Chauncey Reed, a congressman at the time, who discussed the gathering war clouds in Europe and Asia. Athletics included boxing matches and intercamp competitions, and the camp even fielded a baseball team dubbed the McDowell Mudders. Outside of camp, civic leaders offered Naperville's new swimming hole at Centennial Beach to McDowell workers free of charge.

George Rowin recalled one of his own trips into Naperville with two of his fellow enrollees. "In our free time we could go to town, or study or do what we wanted. One time, three of us hiked to town without a dime. We were


walking along down by [Centennial] beach when I looked down and saw a dollar. With that dollar we went to the show, ate and had a quart of beer."

An enlistment with the CCC lasted six months; and although men would leave the camp if they were fortunate enough to find work, many re-enlisted, including Rowin, who did so four times. In the late 1930s, though, as men found work and America began a preparedness campaign to build up its military, enrollment declined, which led to a reduction in the number of camps. In 1938 the veterans camp at Fullersburg Woods closed, and the men of Company V-1668 joined Company 2612 at Camp McDowell. Two years later, the U.S. government reinstated the draft, and in 1942, a little more than six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, it disbanded the CCC altogether.

Today at McDowell Grove in the wooded bottomlands south of the entrance road off Raymond Drive, you can still find the remains of campfire rings and an incinerator constructed by the men of the CCC. Stone and concrete remnants of barracks and other buildings lie further to the east. (There's also scattered evidence of the camp's wartime revival as a training site first for students learning a new technology called radar and later for recruits of the Office of Strategic Services.) The forest preserve has certainly grown and changed over the years, but it will always retain an enduring association with the men of Camp McDowell, who left their homes in search of work and ended up leaving their historic marks on DuPage County's forest preserves. •

The Making of a Modern Prairie

by **BRIAN KRASKIEWICZ**, FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT ECOLOGIST



What do you get when you have the county's highest-quality stream, one of DuPage County's largest grasslands, an Audubon Society Important Bird Area, an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site and a potential state nature preserve? The 1,867-acre Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve in Naperville.

Springbrook Prairie has come a long way since 1862, when settlers from the East had claimed every acre for crops and pastures. When the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County began to acquire parcels in the 1970s, most of the land was still agricultural. Farmers had deepened and straightened part of the resident creek to keep floodwaters in the channel and out of their fields and buried clay tiles to drain the land even more. Only a graminoid fen — a rare type of wetland — and a corridor of land along an untouched eastern stretch of the creek remained unaltered. But thanks to some large-scale restoration efforts, this land is now some of the District's finest and home to 725 species of native plants and animals.

Even this time of year, the 83rd Street parking lot is filled with pet owners with permits eager to use the 35-acre off-leash dog area, but at 83rd and Book Road there's an equally engaging ecological site: the namesake Spring Brook. In the late 1990s the District began removing drain tiles to restore natural hydrology to the prairie. It then underwent the arduous task of returning twists and turns to 2 miles of the brook and making a wider, shallower floodplain to improve water quality by slowing the flow. Today, Spring Brook offers not only habitat for Johnny darters and slender madtoms but also improved flood control for nearby residents.

Surrounding Spring Brook is the preserve's largest feature, its

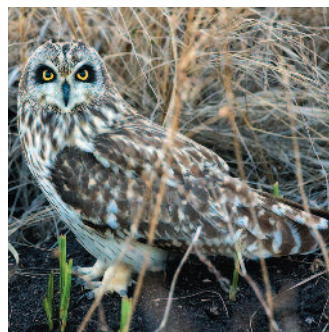
rolling prairie, a byproduct of the retreating Wisconsin glacier. The 343 acres near the trail along 87th Street is the largest single unit of restored grassland in the District. The frosty dried grasses here and in adjacent meadows and other restored sections of prairie host wintering short- and long-eared owls. When the ground thaws, these plant communities become critical nesting habitat for bobolinks, dickcissels, Henslow's sparrows, grasshopper sparrows and other grassland birds. Because the far northwest corner of the preserve is particularly critical to ground-nesting birds during the breeding season, the District does not allow visitors to venture off the trail in that area between April 15 and Aug. 15. As a whole, Springbrook Prairie supports 11 species of birds either threatened or endangered in Illinois, a role that led the National Audubon Society to name it an Important Bird Area in 2010.

On Plainfield-Naperville Road, a second parking lot and picnic area are gathering points for hobbyists using the preserve's model airfield. From this lot, an underpass takes you below the four-lane road, where you can continue straight along limestone or travel south across mowed turf. The two trails encircle an area once segmented by tree lines farmers planted as windbreaks. When the District removed the trees (using the roots and trunks to stabilize the restored stretch of Spring Brook), it created habitat for sensitive threatened and endangered birds that only nest in uninterrupted grasslands. As a result, this corner is also closed to off-trail activities during the breeding season.

Back by the model airfield, a 0.4-mile trail loops north to Crooked Slough. Created in 1988 and planted in 1989 to serve as a retention basin, the 12-acre wetland boasts migrating ducks and shorebirds in spring and fall and marsh



© Manuel Diaz



© Stan Tekiela

▲ Short-eared owl
(*Asio flammeus*)



© Stan Tekiela

▲ Sora
(*Porzana carolina*)



© Sam Martin

▲ Slender madtom
(*Noturus exilis*)



© Stan Tekiela

▲ Dickcissel
(*Spiza americana*)

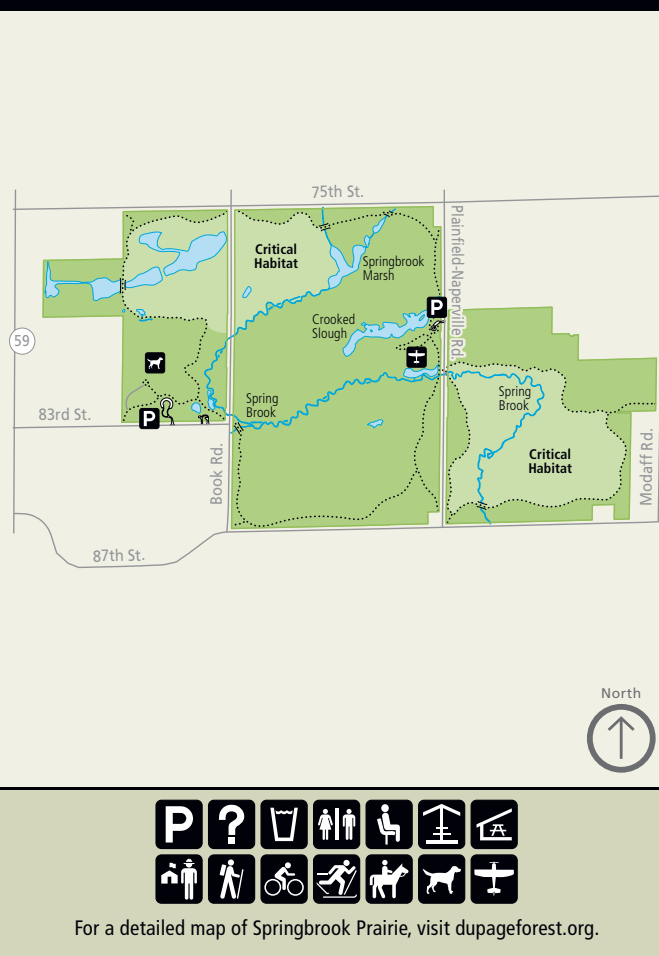
birds, such as soras, Virginia rails and marsh wrens, during the breeding season. Due to the diversity of plants and wildlife, the slough is generally regarded as one of the county's best examples of a constructed wetland and is a popular destination for nature photographers.

With such an impressive catalog of natural resources, it's no surprise that in 1996 the state added Springbrook Prairie to its Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, which evaluates and maps the state's best grasslands, woodlands and wetlands. Being included on this list helped when the District presented Springbrook Prairie for a larger, more significant designation in 2012: Illinois nature preserve.

The Illinois Nature Preserve Commission dedicates parcels of land based on the presence of rare plants, animals or other natural features. District ordinances already dictate the preservation of such habitats, but this state status would give Springbrook Prairie an extra layer of protection — the highest Illinois offers — and demonstrate the District's commitment to protect this resource for generations to come. The off-leash dog area, model airfield and picnic areas would not be part of the nature preserve and would continue to operate as they do today; but similar to current regulations, within the nature preserve, dogs, horses and bicycles would need to remain on maintained trails. For details on the District's pursuit of this designation, visit "Plans and Projects" under "District News" at dupageforest.org.

Springbrook Prairie has come full circle over the past 150 years and as a result serves today as high-quality habitat not only for DuPage County's wildlife but for its wildlife watchers as well. •

Quick Look at Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve



directory



© Peter Vagt

EDUCATION *Centers*

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
(630) 668-6012

The center's office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Saturday, Sunday and select holidays.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 850-8110

The center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on select holidays.

KLINE CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 876-5900

The farm is open Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and select holidays.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

The estate is open only during scheduled programs and events.

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-6200

The center and the surrounding Willowbrook Forest Preserve are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are closed on select holidays.

GENERAL *Contacts*

HEADQUARTERS

Street Address

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

The headquarters office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is closed on Saturday, Sunday and select holidays.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

Website

dupageforest.org

Email Address

forest@dupageforest.org

Main Number

(630) 933-7200

TTY

(800) 526-0857

THE CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION LINE

(630) 933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

(630) 871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(630) 933-7240

THE OUTDOOR REPORT

(630) 871-6422

VISITOR SERVICES

(630) 933-7248

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(630) 933-7681

GOLF *Courses*

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
(630) 810-5330

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale, IL 60191
(630) 616-8424

OAK MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 595-0071

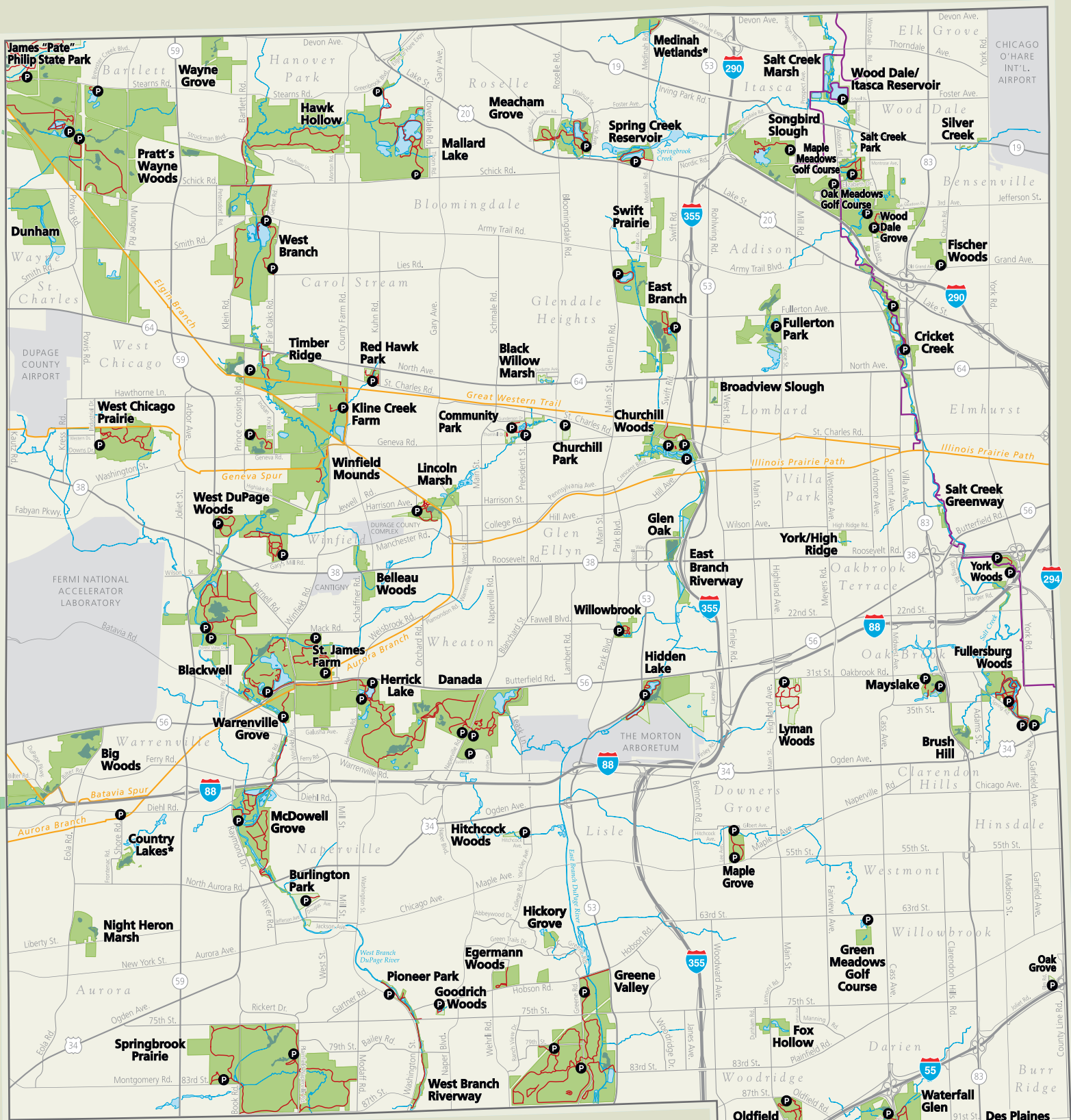



PRESERVE *Hours*


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

ACCESSIBILITY

Individuals with accessibility needs or concerns should contact the District's ADA coordinator at (630) 933-7683 or TTY (800) 526-0857 at least three business days before their visit.





 Forest Preserve Property


 Jointly Owned, Leased or Operated Forest Preserve Property

 Lake/Pond/Waterway


 Wetland


 Entrance/Parking


 Forest Preserve Trail

 Salt Creek Greenway Trail

 County Trail

 U.S. Route

 State Route

 Interstate Route

*Unofficial Name





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dupageforest.org

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2013

dupageforest.org

Good things happen
when you warm up on
a winter's day.