

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2015

5 Sure Signs It's Spring

JUST MY TYPE

Finding Flora That Fits at
the Native-Plant Nursery

HELLO 100

The June 1915 Vote for
DuPage Forest Preserves



Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years

from the president



When I think about all of the visitors, programs and experiences that have been a part of DuPage County's forest preserves over the past 100 years, I quickly realize that we have a lot to recognize before this celebratory year is over. But when I think about what has made this agency so successful, I keep coming back to the movement that started it all a century ago: community support.

In 1915, voters — both men and women — newspapers, businesses, civic groups and conservation advocates campaigned for the referendum that would make a DuPage County forest preserve district a reality. Without such firm conviction from so many different corners of society, the initiative might not have passed.

Since then, the District has been fueled by scores of community initiatives. In the 1970s Mayor Richard Truitt brought an unusual high-quality patch of untouched prairie in his town to the attention of ecologists, sparking the push to preserve the first 154 acres of West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve. In the 1990s neighbors of Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve joined volunteers and birding clubs in discussions that would replace plans for a recreational lake with the development of critical breeding habitat for grassland birds. Most recently, residents near Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve not only urged the preservation of 9 acres near the preserve but opened their own pocketbooks to support the acquisition.

DuPage County would be a different place had not so many voices spoken on behalf of the forest preserves over the past 100 years. We wouldn't have as many great places to take a break, breathe and relax. I hope you'll take time this spring to find your favorite preserves where you can do just that!

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2015, Vol. 51, No. 2

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The Conservationist is a quarterly publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Subscriptions are free for DuPage County residents and \$5 per year for nonresidents. To subscribe or unsubscribe, call (630) 933-7085, or email forest@dupageforest.org. You can also read this and previous issues 24/7 at dupageforest.org. To receive an email when each new issue is available online, email forest@dupageforest.org.



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On the cover: Red trillium © Mike Shimer

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

LIVE and On Demand

Can't make it to an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting? Find the latest schedules and agendas and view proceedings live or on demand at dupageforest.org under About Us and Meetings and Agendas. Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

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. At both the board discusses District business, hears public comments and staff reports and votes on agenda items.



DU PAGE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT AT MCDOWELL GROVE WINS REGIONAL AWARD

In December, for their joint project to enhance the West Branch DuPage River corridor and the surrounding landscape, the Forest Preserve District and DuPage County Stormwater Management received the Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from Chicago Wilderness, a regional conservation alliance of 300 organizations.

The 55-acre project at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville was part of the greater West Branch DuPage River Corridor Restoration Project and was funded in part by a \$1.37 million Section 319 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It raised the channel bed and added upstream riffles and pools to improve habitat for aquatic animals and to allow floodwaters to overflow into wetlands in the surrounding forest preserve instead of affecting downstream communities. It improved plant biodiversity and the natural function of the floodplain, created floodwater protection features along River Road in Warrenville, and removed years of construction fill to further improve wetland habitat and the flow of stormwater.



IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE

With the arrival of the spring breeding season, Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn reminds residents that it's normal for wild animals to leave their young alone for several hours at a time while they look for food.

"Each year people with good intentions remove young from nests and dens and bring them to Willowbrook, thinking they're rescuing the animals," explains Sandy Fejt, the center's site manager. "Unfortunately, in most cases they're merely causing foraging parents to return to empty nests."

With the discovery of a young deer wearing a pet collar at York Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook, Forest Preserve District ecologist Brian Kraskiewicz also reminds people to never treat any wild animals as pets.

"Just because they're alone, that doesn't mean fawns or other young animals need our help," Kraskiewicz says. "Removing them from their natural habitats and teaching them to associate people with food can make it impossible for them to return to normal behaviors."

Human intervention may be helpful if an animal is injured or truly abandoned, so concerned wildlife watchers should contact Willowbrook at (630) 942-6200 or willowbrook@dupageforest.org for guidance.

RESIDENTS HELP ADD 9 ACRES TO WATERFALL GLEN

Residents of the Timberlake subdivision in Hinsdale have rallied to raise \$40,000 to help the Forest Preserve District buy a 9-acre parcel of land adjacent to their neighborhood near Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve.

Over half of the partially wooded parcel east of Western Avenue and north of 87th Street is in the Sawmill Creek 100-year floodplain. The District had designated it as instrumental to its long-term plans, but the seller's asking price was more than the fair-market value, which by law the District cannot exceed.

Commissioner Linda Painter of District 3 led the effort to protect the land by enlisting the help of the Timberlake Civic Association. As a result, more than 20 residents committed to covering the shortfall, leaving the District to pay 84 percent of the \$250,000 acquisition.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the District's 501(c)(3) nonprofit support group, established a fund for the acquisition, making the donations tax-deductible.



CONNECT With Us 24/7

Looking for DuPage County forest preserve news between issues of The Conservationist? Then check out the Follow Our Tracks section of dupageforest.org. You can link to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and Historypin pages and even sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.



MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Nov. 9, 2014 and Jan. 24, 2015. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org.

Gifts of Note

Thomas E. and Jane Both
John and Naomi Budin
George A. and Sharon Cote
John and Anne Curcio
Adam and Dolores Cyze
Ray and Arlene Evenhouse
Alison Fleming and Jack Barzilai
Alan G. and Sally Goeke
Daniel T. and Barbara Hanrahan
Tom and June Huiner
Krzysztof and Rene Kaleta
Joseph G. and Aleksandra Kremper
Gerry and Marianne Krozel
George and Janet Kusch
Dan and Michelle McMurray
Donald and Julia C. Musil
Beata Nakielna and Albert Atczylo
Linda and Philip Painter
Scott Simkus
Gino Tommasone
Jon R. and Leslie Walker
\$40,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve Land Acquisition

Wallace Hastings
\$5,000 — Mayslake Hall Restoration Society

Harold E. Bamford III
\$1,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Pro-Pak Industries Inc.
\$1,500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Seth Becker
\$1,040 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Ruth Cloonan
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Beth Gordon
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Forest Preserve Improvements

Roux Associates Inc.
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Phil and Amy Gelber
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Cynthia A. Gray
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Carl and Kathy Hoppe
\$500 — Kline Creek Farm

Patrick and Mary Ellen Mauro
\$500 — Mayslake Hall Restoration Society

The Richard J. McCann Foundation
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

William Smith II
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District



Just My Type

Seeds, Genes and the Native-Plant Nursery

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

If you want to add some color to your garden, a packet of seeds from a local home-improvement store will do the job, but if you're an agency responsible for seeding a few thousand acres with flowers, grasses and sedges in any given year, you're going to need a few more options.

In many cases the Forest Preserve District buys the seeds it needs, especially for large restoration projects. Converting cropland to a prairie landscape can require 10 to 30 pounds per acre per year for the first few growing seasons. But getting the right seeds takes more than a catalog.

Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), for instance, is native to DuPage County and the Midwest. It's been growing across this geographical range for centuries and has adapted to regional weather and wildlife. If you looked at plants from stock that developed over centuries in DuPage and plants that developed similarly in Ohio, you'd be hard-pressed to tell them apart. But genetically, the seeds from the Ohio plants might not be as "fit" for DuPage soils, weather and pests as those that developed in northern Illinois. Even worse, the Ohio "genotype" might adapt too well and take over the local genotype that's been here for

centuries. Because this factor can affect habitats decades down the road, the District only purchases seeds with genotypes that originated within 100 miles (in some cases, 50) of DuPage.

Because getting the right genotype is so important (and finding it with rare species is impossible), the District also collects seeds from high-quality natural areas in the preserves themselves. Last year with tremendous help from volunteers, it harvested 807 pounds from the county's prairies, woodlands and wetlands. It's an essential element of the District's restoration

efforts, but collecting in the wild is time-consuming, and yields for some species can be inconsistent. For rare plants, the District must also use extra caution to ensure it doesn't overcollect from existing populations.

To augment its homegrown supply, in 1994 the District started to raise flowers, grasses and sedges at its nursery at Blackwell Forest Preserve. But unlike the trees and shrubs that grow there, for these plants it's all about the seeds.

Some of the seeds the District collects from the nursery and the forest preserves are spread back in the preserves, but many end up at commercial nurseries, which grow them into seedlings that the District





Get dirty. Feel better.

The results are in. Gardening improves your mood and helps you relieve stress (maybe even more so if you're not fretting over your own backyard). When you help out at the Forest Preserve District's nursery, you can not only decompress but also see what native plants look like when they flower and seed. You can also enjoy watching butterflies, hummingbirds, moths and other pollinators — even warblers looking for a snack during migration. Check out the calendar listing on Page 21 for upcoming dates. And relax.



Trees for the Forest

For over 40 years the nursery has been home to the District's stock of trees and shrubs and has allowed arborists to raise plants to meet specific forest preserve conditions. The lowest branches on mature commercially raised trees may be more than 6 feet above the ground, but the District can keep branches 1 or 2 feet above the soil, which may deter hungry deer. For the past 10 years, arborists have also used the nursery to prepare for the emerald ash borer, having as many as 8,000 trees growing in one year — up to 1,500 over the average — to replace downed ash trees in high-use areas.

can add to the nursery to produce more seeds. The District occasionally grows seedlings itself and is even using a new "hoop house" (a long, curved plastic greenhouse) to try to propagate species that commercial nurseries have been unable to grow or have had poor success rates.

The District's nursery relies heavily on the help of volunteers, whose contributions are as vital as the soil, sun and rain. Back in 1994, 20 worked alongside employees to fill the first 10 beds with 6,000 plants. Today's volunteers tend to the 83 species that grow in the main 2-acre nursery and a secondary 9-acre wooded lot across the street.

From April through November they weed. (There's always weeding.) In spring they prepare beds for the seedlings that will arrive in May and June. During unusually dry summers and with newly planted plugs, they help with watering. (This section of the nursery had a drip-irrigation system, but ecologists realized that the grasses and flowers could survive most years on seasonal rains, another plus for native species). In fall the focus is on harvesting seeds, although there are always seeds to collect throughout the growing season. In 2014 volunteers collected 140 pounds from 74 species, more than double the yields of the nursery's early years.

It takes more than a call to a catalog to keep DuPage County's forest preserves well-seeded, but this time of year as things only get greener, the results are worth the effort. •

spring calendar

See pages 11 through 21 for program descriptions.
Cancellation policies vary by program.



© Mike Shimer

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| 28 | 29 | 30 | jun | | | |

April

- 1** Centennial Golf Challenge Begins
- 2** Spring Break Spruce Up
- 3** Spring Break Spruce Up
- 4** The Return of the Large Predators
- 5** Introduction to Prescription Burns
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Assemblage Using 3-D Design Begins
Art at Mayslake: Installation Art Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 10** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
- 11** Gardening Organically
Helping Hands at Herrick Lake
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Gardening for Birds
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Fundamentals II Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 14** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors Begins
- 15** Archery for All Ages
- 16** Conservation at Home Invasive Plants Workshop
- 17** FullersBird Fridays
- 18** Spring Into Volunteering
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 19** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
Gardening With Veggies
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 21** Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Drawing Begins
Landscaping With Native Plants
- 22** Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 24** FullersBird Fridays
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 25** Bass in the Class Teacher Training
Blacksmithing Class
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Fishing for Bass
Gardening for Butterflies
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Forest Fitness Walk
- 28** Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Nature Photography Begins
Birding DuPage
Fishing Clinic for Active Adults Begins
Lectures at Mayslake: The Railroad Era and Chicago
- 29** Archery for All Ages
Music at Mayslake: Picoso



May

- 1** FullersBird Fridays
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 2** Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 3** Archery for All Ages
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Forest Fitness Walk
- 5** Archery for Active Adults
Birding DuPage
- 6** Navigation: Geocaching for Active Adults
- 7** Cycling for Active Adults
- 8** FullersBird Fridays
Native-Plant Sale
- 9** Birding Field Trip
Blacksmithing Class
Native-Plant Sale
Paddling: Weekend River Trip Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Fishing With Mom
- 11** Forest Fitness Walk
- 12** Archery for Active Adults
Art at Mayslake: A Journey in Quilt Making Begins
Birding DuPage
- 13** Archery for All Ages
- 14** Day at the Farm Field Trip
- 15** Archery for All Ages
Day at the Farm Field Trip
FullersBird Fridays
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 16** International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Day at the Farm Field Trip
Forest Fitness Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 19** Fishing 101
Lectures at Mayslake: Man Caves of Yesteryear
- 20** Blacksmithing Class
Ranger Trek
- 21** Birding DuPage
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 22** Fishing for Panfish
FullersBird Fridays
- 23** Family Field Day at St. James Farm
Music at Mayslake: Music Together Family Sing-Along
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Archery for All Ages
- 28** Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 29** Archery for All Ages
Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike

spring calendar



© Manuel Diaz



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June

- 1** Art at Mayslake: Adult Alternative Media Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 3** Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Photographic
Composition Begins
Fishing Clinic for Beginners
- 4** Fishing by Kayak
- 5** Archery for Adults
- 6** St. James Farm Saturdays: Nature Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Centennial Medallion Search Begins
- 8** Art at Mayslake: Installation Art Begins
Art at Mayslake: Paper Treasures Begins
Forest Fitness Walk: 8-Mile Hike
- 10** Music at Mayslake: Picoso
Ranger Trek Junior
- 11** Archery for All Ages
Fishing Flowing Waters
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 13** Field Exploration
Fishing Clinic for Beginners
Ride the Trails
St. James Farm Saturdays: The 1906
Burlington & Quincy Caboose
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 14** Just for Kids Fishing Derby
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
- 16** DuPage Junior Golf School Begins
Fishing off the Beaten Path
- 17** Navigation: Geocaching
- 18** Archery for All Ages
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst College Jazz Band
- 19** Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 20** Blacksmithing Class
St. James Farm Saturdays: Cultural and Natural History
- 21** Mammoth Hike
- 22** Navigation: Compass Class 101
- 23** Ranger Trek
- 24** Archery Fun Shoot
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 26** Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 27** Centennial Nature Fest
St. James Farm Saturdays: Art and Artifacts
- 28** Archery for All Ages
McKee Marsh Natural History Hike
- 30** Fishing Clinic for Kids



© Corey Seeman

Archery for Active Adults

Try your hand at archery at some of DuPage County's most scenic preserves. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| May 5 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Wood Dale Grove |
| May 12 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Churchill Woods |

Archery for Adults

Learn the history and basic techniques of archery at this adults-only clinic. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Registration begins May 22. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jun 5 | 5:30 – 7 p.m. | Churchill Woods |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|

Archery for All Ages

Learn basic archery techniques in a family-friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Apr 15, 29 | 4:30 – 6 p.m. | Blackwell |
| May 3 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Maple Grove |
| May 13, 27 | 5:30 – 7 p.m. | Blackwell |
| May 15, 29 | 5:30 – 7 p.m. | Churchill Woods |
| Jun 10 | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | Blackwell |
| Jun 11 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Salt Creek Park |
| Jun 18 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Maple Grove |
| Jun 28 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Churchill Woods |

Archery Fun Shoot

Sign up for this tournament for novices with awards for the top three competitors. Bring your own equipment; no crossbows. Some equipment for loan for free. Ages 9 – 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 10. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| Jun 24 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Blackwell |
|--------|------------|-----------|

Art at Mayslake: Adult Alternative Media

Explore a wide range of artistic techniques, from traditional drawing methods to unconventional ones. Dress for the weather. Six Mondays. Adults only. \$125 plus \$35 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------|
| Jun 1 – Jul 6 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------------|------------------|----------|

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Registration is not required for these free programs.

Call (630) 876-5900.

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

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

Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S FARM CHORES

Kids, learn firsthand how 1890s children helped around the house and farm. On Mondays, help with mom's chores; on Thursdays, dad's.

June 1 – Aug. 27

Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Spread a blanket on the ground, and enjoy an hour of popular children's stories from the 1890s.

June 1 – Aug. 31

Mondays at 10 a.m.

EVENING IN THE COUNTRY

Experience the farm at dusk. Pack a picnic dinner to enjoy on the grounds, and explore the farm's historic buildings. The program kicks off with a dance on June 4.

June 4 – Aug. 27

Thursdays 5 – 8 p.m.

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

Tour the farmhouse and get a glimpse of life in the 1890s.

Thursdays – Mondays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

Learn about beekeeping equipment and the important role that bees play in our food supply.

April 12 – June 28

Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

spring calendar



Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting

At these classes for all skill levels, learn about color mixing, composition and elements of design. Six Mondays. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Apr 20 – May 25 | Noon – 2:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
| Jun 15 – Jul 20 | Noon – 2:30 p.m. | Mayslake |

Art at Mayslake: Assemblage Using 3-D Design

Explore the art of assemblage, and experience the process of creation from idea to completed sculpture. Materials for the first project are provided. Eight Mondays (except May 25). Adults only. \$165 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Apr 6 – Jun 1 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------------|------------|----------|



Canoe, Kayak and Rowboat Rentals

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Explore two forest preserve lakes from a different point of view. Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are \$10 per hour and \$50 per day. Blackwell also offers rowboats with trolling motors for \$15 per hour and \$75 per day. Rentals end one hour before closing. For details, call (630) 933-7248.

**Rentals begin at Blackwell April 4
and at Herrick Lake May 2.**

**Opening Day – Sept. 7
Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day and Labor Day
8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**May 26 – Sept. 4
Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Sept. 12 – 27
Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Fundamentals II

Learn to create images using your camera's creative modes. Prerequisite: Digital Photography I or equivalent. Five Mondays. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Apr 13 – May 11 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|

Art at Mayslake: Drawing a Collection

Learn techniques using natural-history mounts and artifacts as subjects, and gain inspiration as you create your own collection. Dress for the weather. Six Mondays (except May 11). Ages 9 – 18. \$125 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Apr 6 – May 18 | 4 – 6 p.m. (ages 9 – 12) | Mayslake |
| Apr 6 – May 18 | 6 – 8 p.m. (ages 13 – 18) | Mayslake |

Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors

Enhance your artistic style while painting in a beautiful, relaxed setting. Eight Tuesdays (except May 26). Adults only. \$165 per person. To register call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Apr 14 – Jun 9 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|

Art at Mayslake: Installation Art

Learn how to create site-specific art installations using natural materials through construction, group critiques and documentary clips. Six Mondays. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|----------------|------------|----------|
| Jun 8 – Jul 13 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Mayslake |
|----------------|------------|----------|

Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Drawing

Learn the basics using simple methods and an array of subjects, including a live model. Six Tuesdays. Adults only. \$125 plus \$10 model fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Apr 21 – May 26 | Noon – 2:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|



© Connie Sieh

Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Nature Photography

Gain an understanding of the camera, photographic principles and postproduction techniques. This six-part class will alternate between lecture and critique sessions and field trips. Adults only. \$150 plus \$5 supply fee per person.

To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Apr 28, 29 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
| May 2, 9 | 8 a.m. | Various Locations |
| May 5, 12 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Mayslake |

Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Photographic Composition

During this five-part class, learn the basic tools of photographic composition at Mayslake and offsite. Adults only. \$150 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Jun 3, 10, 17 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
| Jun 6 | 4 p.m. | TBA June 3 |
| Jun 13 | 7 a.m. | TBA June 3 |

Art at Mayslake: A Journey in Quilt Making

Use inspirations from nature, and make a small quilt you can use as a wall hanging or table runner. Six Tuesdays. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| May 12 – Jun 16 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Mayslake |
|-----------------|------------|----------|

Art at Mayslake: Paper Treasures

Learn how to use collage techniques, and create small treasures of memories from materials you bring from home. Five Mondays (except June 29). Adults only. \$145 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Jun 8 – Jul 13 | 9 – 11:30 a.m. | Mayslake |
|----------------|----------------|----------|

Bass in the Class Teacher Training

Teachers, liven up your science curriculum with a hands-on biology program where your students help raise fingerling bass. New teachers must attend this training prior to the eight-week program. Adults only. Free. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Apr 25 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|

Birding DuPage

Learn the basics of birding, and search for feathered friends during a leisurely stroll. Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

| | | |
|--------|----------------|--|
| Apr 28 | 7:30 – 10 a.m. | Salt Creek Park |
| May 5 | 7:30 – 10 a.m. | Willowbrook |
| May 12 | 7:30 – 10 a.m. | West DuPage Woods on Gary's Mill Road |
| May 21 | 7:30 – 10 a.m. | Waterfall Glen on Bluff Road |

Birding Field Trip

Meet fellow birding enthusiasts, and search for resident and migratory species. Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 933-7681.

| | | |
|-------|-------------|----------------------|
| May 9 | 7 – 11 a.m. | West Chicago Prairie |
|-------|-------------|----------------------|

Blacksmithing Class

Learn about this age-old art, including equipment and techniques, and make a project to take home. Adults only. \$25 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|
| Apr 25 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
| May 9 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
| Jun 20 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |



Covered Wagon Tours

St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Enjoy a 30-minute guided covered wagon ride, and learn about the natural and cultural history of St. James Farm. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Call (630) 580-7025.

June 3 – Aug. 30

**Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

spring calendar



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Cultural Events

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

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

View fine works by local artists. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Through April 24

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S

"LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE"

A play by, for and about women, their lives, their memories, their mothers — and their clothes. From first bras and prom dresses to those little black dresses, this insightful comedy celebrates the deep and abiding love-hate relationships women have with their wardrobes. Adults only. \$22 – \$39 per person. Call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

Through April 26

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Sundays at 3 p.m.

OAK BROOK ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

Enjoy an exhibit by members of the Oak Brook Art League. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

May 13 – June 19

Monday – Friday 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) 206-9588.

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Saturdays at 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

WHEN ART AND NATURE MEET

Stroll through the grounds of the estate, and enjoy a nature-inspired installation created by professional artists and community groups. Guided walks offered June 14 1 – 3 p.m.

June 14 – Oct. 23

One hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset

Centennial Golf Challenge

Purchase and golf a combined 100 holes at any of the District's three courses, and get a certificate for a free 18-hole round. All ages. Fees vary. For details and to schedule tee times, visit dupagegolf.com.

Apr 1 – Jul 31

Hours Vary

Oak Meadows, Maple Meadows
and Green Meadows

Centennial Medallion Search

Use clues and your knowledge of the forest preserves to find hidden coins and win prizes. The search ends when all of the coins are discovered. Ages 18 and up. Free. Registration not required. For details and clues, visit dupageforest.org/100Years. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 7 – ?

1 hour after sunrise –
1 hour after sunset

Various Locations

Centennial Nature Fest

Celebrate biodiversity and the Forest Preserve District's first 100 years through activities, programs, presentations and exhibits. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 27

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

St. James Farm

Conservation at Home Invasive Plants Workshop

Learn how to identify and report common and new invasive plants and how to make your yard a place that supports biodiversity. Adults only. Free. To register, call The Conservation Foundation at (630) 428-4500, ext. 115.

Apr 16

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Danada House

Cycling for Active Adults

Tour several forest preserves during this 15- to 18-mile ranger-led ride. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 23. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 7

9 a.m. – Noon

Spring Creek Reservoir

Day at the Farm Field Trip

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

May 14, 15, 18

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Kline Creek Farm

For registration info for all the programs below,
visit dupageforest.org/kidscamps.

Kline Creek Farmhands

Ages 7 – 12

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Experience life on an 1890s farm, including chores and games.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. **\$100 DuPage resident per session;**
\$125 nonresident. For details, call (630) 876-5900.

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Session 1 | June 15, 18, 19 |
| Session 2 | June 22, 25, 26 |
| Session 3 | July 6, 9, 10 |
| Session 4 | July 13, 16, 17 |
| Session 5 | July 20, 23, 24 |
| Session 6 | July 27, 30, 31 |
| Session 7 | Aug. 3, 6, 7 |

Horse Sense

Ages 10 – 14

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy hands-on experiences with horses and the daily activities
of a working barn plus crafts, games and supervised lead-
line rides. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. **\$220 DuPage resident per**
session; \$250 nonresident. For details, call (630) 668-6012.

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Session 1 | June 1 – 5 |
| Session 3 | June 15 – 19 |
| Session 5 | July 6 – 10 |
| Session 7 | July 20 – 24 |
| Session 9 | Aug. 3 – 7 |

Riding Sense

Ages 12 – 14

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy all of the fun of "Horse Sense" plus a daily riding lesson.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. **\$360 DuPage resident per session;**
\$395 nonresident. For details, call (630) 668-6012.

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Session 2 | June 8 – 12 |
| Session 4 | June 22 – 26 |
| Session 6 | July 13 – 17 |
| Session 8 | July 27 – 31 |
| Session 10 | Aug. 10 – 14 |

Ranger Adventure Camp

Ages 9 – 12

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Learn what it takes to be a ranger, and develop your archery,
fishing, boating and wilderness-survival skills. 9 a.m. – 3
p.m. daily. **\$200 DuPage resident per session; \$250**
nonresident. For details, call (630) 933-7248.

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Session 1 | June 15 – 19 |
| Session 2 | June 22 – 26 |

Wild by Nature

Ages 9 – 12

Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien

Discover natural history through safe exploration and play in
wild places. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Monday at Willowbrook,
Tuesday at Blackwell, Wednesday at Greene Valley and
Thursday at Waterfall Glen. **\$100 DuPage resident per**
session; \$125 nonresident. For details, call (630) 942-6200.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Session 1 | July 6 – 9 |
| Session 2 | Aug. 3 – 6 |

Wildlife Explorers

Ages 6 – 8

Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Learn how you're part of nature through games, activities
and stories. 9 a.m. – noon on Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday at Willowbrook. 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Thursday
for a cookout at Herrick Lake. **\$100 DuPage resident; \$125**
nonresident. For details, call (630) 942-6200.

July 13 – 16



Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years

spring calendar



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DuPage Junior Golf School

Learn golf fundamentals and etiquette during a fun five-part program with one on-course and four practice-center clinics. Ages 7 – 14. \$95 per person. To register, visit dupagegolf.com, or call (630) 451-3471.

Jun 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 9:30 – 11 a.m. Oak Meadows

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the heritage of St. James Farm at this annual event featuring canine and equestrian performances, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, guided tours, kids activities, archery, fishing, food, and more. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 23 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. James Farm

Field Exploration

Observe birds, butterflies and wildflowers at this Illinois nature preserve. Ages 8 and up; under 14 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 933-7681.

Jun 13 8 – 11 a.m. West Chicago Prairie

Fishing 101

Learn the basics through indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Adults only. Free. Registration begins May 5. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 19 5 – 7 p.m. Mayslake



Family Camping

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The family campground at Blackwell Forest Preserve has over 60 wooded and semiwooded sites and is open on Friday and Saturday nights in May and June and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights July – September. It's also open daily June 25 – July 5. Nature programs are offered all season. For details and permits, call (630) 933-7248.

Fishing by Kayak

Join this intermediate paddling clinic, and learn how fishing from a kayak differs from fishing from shore. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program, or rent a kayak for \$20 per person (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Registration begins May 21. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 4 4 – 6 p.m. Hidden Lake

Fishing Clinic for Active Adults

Get started or reacquainted with fishing through this two-part program for active adults that includes indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 14. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 28 9 – 11 a.m. Mayslake
Apr 30 9 – 11 a.m. Fullersburg Woods

Fishing Clinic for Beginners

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 10 4 – 6 p.m. Mallard Lake
Apr 19 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake
May 29 5 – 7 p.m. Herrick Lake
Jun 3 5 – 7 p.m. Blackwell
Jun 13 2 – 4 p.m. Herrick Lake

Fishing Clinic for Kids

Learn about different kinds of fish, the best ways to catch them and rules to remember. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 16. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 30 10 a.m. – Noon Wood Dale Grove

Fishing Flowing Waters

Learn techniques for fishing in rivers and streams at this intermediate-level clinic. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 28. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 11 6 – 8 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Fishing for Bass

Check out some of the most effective bass lures on the market, and try them on one of the county's best bass lakes. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 13. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 26 4 – 6 p.m. Hidden Lake



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Fishing for Panfish

Learn how to fish for crappie, bluegill and other panfish with small artificial baits. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 8. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|---------------|
| May 22 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Cricket Creek |
|--------|------------|---------------|

Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker

Learn to fish on the lake bottom for a variety of species. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 14. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|---------------|
| May 28 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Meacham Grove |
|--------|------------|---------------|

Fishing off the Beaten Path

Join a ranger for a 2-mile hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 2. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|----------------|
| Jun 16 | 4 – 7 p.m. | Waterfall Glen |
|--------|------------|----------------|

Fishing With Mom

Enjoy this special edition of a popular program, and learn about different kinds of fish, the best ways to catch them and rules you need to remember. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 27. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------------|-------------|
| May 10 | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. | Hidden Lake |
|--------|------------------|-------------|

Forest Fitness Walk

Join a naturalist for a brisk weekly walk, and enjoy some exercise as you take in the wonders of the woods. Adults only. \$6 per person per walk; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| Apr 6 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| Apr 13 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | St. James Farm |
| Apr 20 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Blackwell |
| | | on Mack Road |
| Apr 27 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | West DuPage Woods |
| | | on Gary's Mill Road |
| May 4 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Meacham Grove |
| May 11 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Danada |
| May 18 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Herrick Lake |
| Jun 1 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Oldfield Oaks |

Forest Fitness Walk: 9-Mile Hike

Join a naturalist for a special 9-mile version of this popular program. Bring water and a snack. Adults only. \$6 per person per walk; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|-------|------------------|---------------------|
| Jun 8 | 8:30 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook Prairie |
|-------|------------------|---------------------|

FullersBird Fridays

Join these naturalist-led hikes, and see how the diversity of birds in a forest preserve changes throughout spring. Adults only. \$6 per person per hike; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Apr 10, 24 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| Apr 17 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Danada |
| May 1 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Blackwell |
| | | on Mack Road |
| May 8, 22 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| May 15 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | St. James Farm |
| May 29 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Lyman Woods |



Golfing

A round at one of the Forest Preserve District's three distinct courses is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Outings and leagues are available at these three distinct facilities for golfers of all abilities. For tee times and specials, visit dupagegolf.com.

Oak Meadows Golf Course, 18 holes and practice facility
Addison, (630) 595-0071

Maple Meadows Golf Course, 27 holes
Wood Dale, (630) 616-8424

Green Meadows Golf Course, 9 holes
Westmont, (630) 810-5330

spring calendar



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Gardening for Birds

Learn how to make your yard a bird-friendly habitat. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| Apr 12 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|

Gardening for Butterflies

Explore plant selection and conservation, and learn how to attract butterflies to your garden. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| Apr 26 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|

Gardening Organically

Discover the rewards of growing organic vegetables and herbs at home. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Apr 11 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|

Gardening With Veggies

Learn how to design your veggie garden while optimizing space and yields and minimizing crowding. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Apr 19 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|



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Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

Get a bird's-eye view from 190 feet above the landscape. Please note that poor weather or Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities may prevent the overlook from opening or cause it to close early without notice. For more information, call (630) 792-2100.

May 2 – Nov. 1

Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Helping Hands at Herrick Lake

Celebrate Earth Day by removing litter from a popular forest preserve. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 by April 6; groups of five or more must call by April 1.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|--------------|
| Apr 11 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Herrick Lake |
|--------|---------------|--------------|

Home-Schoolers Nature Hike

Learn about forest preserves' natural and cultural histories. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per family. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 942-6200.

| | | |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|
| Apr 24 | 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Pratt's Wayne Woods |
| May 29 | 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Hawk Hollow |
| Jun 11 | 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Have a flock of fun celebrating avian migration. Activities ongoing. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|--|
| May 16 | 8 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| | 8 – 9:30 a.m. | Bird Walk for Adults <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i> |
| | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | Bird Walk for Beginners <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i> |
| | 9 – 11 a.m. | Bird-Banding Demonstration <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i> |
| | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. | Family Bird Walk <i>Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i> |

Introduction to Prescription Burns

Hear about the how, when and why of the District's prescription-burn program, and see a burn in progress, weather permitting. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins March 23. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|-------|------------|----------------|
| Apr 5 | 1 – 3 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|-------|------------|----------------|

Just for Kids Fishing Derby

Join the 29th year of this friendly fishing competition that's just for kids 15 and younger. Bring your own gear. Bait provided while supplies last. Free. Register at the event. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-----------|
| Jun 14 | 8 a.m. – Noon | Blackwell |
|--------|---------------|-----------|



Landscaping With Native Plants

Learn how to add native plants to your landscape designs. Topics include sunlight and water requirements, seasonal changes, visual arrangements, and general tips for success. Adults only. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| Apr 21 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------------|----------|

Lectures at Mayslake: Man Caves of Yesteryear

Learn how gender norms have influenced architecture from the Victorian Era to today, and take a tour of Mayslake Hall's very own "man cave," a Turkish bath and billiards room. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| May 19 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------------|----------|

Lectures at Mayslake: The Railroad Era and Chicago

Join journalist and educator Jerome M. O'Connor for an exploration into the age when railroads ruled American commerce. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| Apr 28 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------------|----------|

Mammoth Hike

Hike to the site where a woolly mammoth was unearthed decades ago, and hear the story of its discovery. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 7. Call (630) 942-6200.

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------|
| Jun 21 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Blackwell |
|--------|----------------|-----------|

McKee Marsh Natural History Hike

Learn about the natural and cultural history of one of DuPage County's most popular forest preserves on this 2-mile ranger-led hike. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 15. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| Jun 28 | 2 – 4 p.m. | Blackwell on McKee Road |
|--------|------------|-------------------------|

Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst College Jazz Band

Enjoy a night of music under the direction of internationally acclaimed director Doug Beach. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 cabaret seating; \$20 general admission; \$18 seniors, students and groups of six or more. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Jun 18 | 7:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|-----------|----------|

Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy an evening of classical music as members of the ESO present "Classic Jazz — With Strings Attached!" Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person; \$23 seniors; \$7 students. For tickets, visit elmhurstsymphony.org.

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| May 28 | 7:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|-----------|----------|

Music at Mayslake: Music Together Family Sing-Along

Join Music Together teachers for a morning of fun songs. Ages 7 and under with an adult. \$12 per person; \$40 per family of four. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| May 23 | 11 a.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------|----------|

Music at Mayslake: Picos

Enjoy an evening of classical music performed by this ensemble. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person; \$23 seniors; \$5 rebate with a donation to Hesed House. An optional tour of Mayslake Hall will begin at 6 p.m. for an additional \$5 per person. For tickets and a list of needed items, visit picosamusic.com.

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Apr 29 | 7 p.m. | Mayslake |
| Jun 10 | 7 p.m. | Mayslake |

Native-Plant Sale

Fill your garden with plants adapted to DuPage, and get advice on selection and design. Proceeds support educational programming. For plant lists and presale orders, visit dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale. Call (630) 933-7208.

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|----------|
| May 8 | 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. | Mayslake |
| May 9 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Mayslake |

spring calendar



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Navigation: Compass 101

Learn one of the oldest survival skills — how to use a compass — and then join a compass activity. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 8. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| Jun 22 | 6 – 7 p.m. | Blackwell |
|--------|------------|-----------|

Navigation: Geocaching

Try a popular treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Equipment provided. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Apr 19 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Churchill Woods |
| May 17 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Churchill Woods |
| Jun 17 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Churchill Woods |

Navigation: Geocaching for Active Adults

See a geocaching demonstration, and then use a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 22. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| May 6 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|



Trout Fishing

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville
Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne
Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve in Wood Dale

Spring trout season opens April 4 at 6 a.m. Anglers 16 and up must possess valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. For details, call (630) 933-7248.

Paddling: Kayaking Basics

Learn the basics of kayaking, such as parts of the boat and paddling strokes. Equipment provided (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| May 1, 15 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Herrick Lake |
| May 21 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Wood Dale Grove |
| Jun 19, 26 | 5 – 7 p.m. | Herrick Lake |
| Jun 24 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Wood Dale Grove |

Paddling: Weekend River Trip

Paddle the West Branch of the DuPage River, and spend the night under the stars during this guided two-day trip, which ends May 10 at 1 p.m. Equipment provided (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$50 per person. Registration begins April 1. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------------|
| May 9 | 11 a.m. | McDowell Grove |
|-------|---------|----------------|

Ranger Trek

Learn about the history, flora, fauna and amenities of Greene Valley during this ranger-led hike. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------|
| May 20 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Greene Valley |
| Jun 23 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Greene Valley |

Ranger Trek Junior

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home, and join a ranger on a hike to explore different habitats. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 27. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Jun 10 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Waterfall Glen |
|--------|----------------|----------------|

The Return of the Large Predators

Learn the stories and facts behind wolf, cougar and bear sightings in northern Illinois. Ages 14 and up. Free. Registration begins March 21. Call (630) 942-6200.

| | | |
|-------|---------------|-------------|
| Apr 4 | 2 – 3:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
|-------|---------------|-------------|



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Ride the Trails

Tour several forest preserves during this ranger-led 15- to 18-mile bike ride along the North Central Regional Trail. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 1. Call (630) 933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Jun 13 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Spring Creek Reservoir |
|--------|---------------|------------------------|

Spring Break Spruce Up

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

| | | |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Apr 2, 3 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
|----------|------------------|------------------|

Spring Into Volunteering

Show Earth a little kindness, and help clean up one of DuPage County's most popular preserves. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 by April 13; groups of five or more must call by April 8.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Apr 18 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Spring Creek Reservoir |
|--------|---------------|------------------------|

St. James Farm Saturdays: The 1906 Burlington & Quincy Caboose

Hear about the onboard lives of the conductor and brakeman and CA&E Railroad's connection to the preserve. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. To register, call (630) 580-7025 by June 11.

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Jun 13 | 10 – 11 a.m. | St. James Farm |
|--------|--------------|----------------|

St. James Farm Saturdays: Art and Artifacts

Discover the inspirations and interpretations of pieces installed throughout the grounds. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$3 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. To register, call (630) 580-7025 by June 25.

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Jun 27 | 10 – 11 a.m. | St. James Farm |
|--------|--------------|----------------|

St. James Farm Saturdays: Cultural and Natural History

Learn about the farm's beginnings and its development during a leisurely 1-mile walk. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$2 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. To register, call (630) 580-7025 by June 18.

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Jun 20 | 10 – 11 a.m. | St. James Farm |
|--------|--------------|----------------|

St. James Farm Saturdays: Nature Walk

Examine blooming native plants along the trails and in the prairies during a relaxing 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$2 per person. To register, call (630) 580-7025 by June 4.

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

Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative plants or seeding. Ages 8 and up; under 18 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.

| | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Apr 11 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| Apr 11, 25 | 9 a.m. – Noon | West Chicago Prairie |
| Apr 12, 26 | Noon – 3 p.m. | Springbrook Prairie |
| Apr 18 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook Prairie |
| Apr 19 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
| May 3, 17 | Noon – 3 p.m. | Springbrook Prairie |
| May 9 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| May 9, 23 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook Prairie |
| May 16 | 9 a.m. – Noon | West Chicago Prairie |
| May 17 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
| Jun 6 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Fullersburg Woods |
| Jun 14 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |

Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seed. Ages 12 and up; under 18 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.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Apr 18, 22 | 8 – 11 a.m. | Blackwell |
| May 2, 18, 28 | 8 – 11 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Jun 13, 24 | 8 – 11 a.m. | Blackwell |



“On the Question of the Organization”

How the Conservation Movement and the Women’s Vote Won the Case for DuPage Forest Preserves

by **CHRIS GINGRICH**, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

On June 7 the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County will officially mark its 100th anniversary. It’s a local milestone, but it’s also a tribute to early conservation movements and women’s suffrage in Illinois.

Nationally in the mid-1800s, natural areas were becoming increasingly popular themes in American art and literature. Sportsmen’s organizations started to call for the conservation of untouched land. In 1864 Congress passed “An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the ‘Yosemite Valley,’ and of the Land embracing the ‘Mariposa Big Tree Grove.’” Interest in preserving timber as an economic resource led to the creation of reserves that evolved into the national forest system, and national figures such as naturalist John Muir and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted were advocating for parks in municipal landscapes as well as protected wilderness areas.

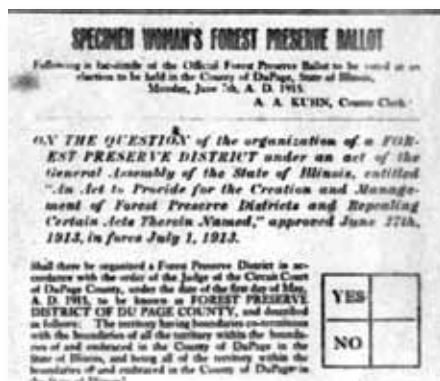
Locally, Chicago residents were looking at the suburbs as places to escape. In Naperville, the Burlington Railroad maintained a grove where trains carried passengers from the city to enjoy time in the woods. An 1894 article describes one such outing when 56 railroad coaches from the city took

participants to Burlington Park for foot races, boxing, baseball games and picnicking as well as boating and swimming in a lake formed by a dam on the West Branch DuPage River. (Today, Burlington Park is owned by the Forest Preserve District and managed by the Naperville Park District.)

The Prairie Club of Chicago organized hiking excursions for its members, who took train rides west, walked 5 or 10 miles to their destinations and then returned to Chicago by train. One such trip in March 1915 took members on a hike between Lisle and Naperville.

The first efforts to turn this local appreciation for natural areas into a countywide park system began in 1905, when voters approved a system for Cook County, but the vote fell to legal challenges as did a similar one in 1910. In 1913, though, state legislators paved the way by passing the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act.

Cook County citizens didn’t wait, voting to establish the state’s first forest preserve district in 1914. Conservation-minded people of DuPage were determined to follow suit and filed an 800-signature petition on Jan. 11, 1915, which asked that the question be submitted to voters “whether or not a Forest Preserve District shall be organized ... to be known as the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.”



© Naperville Heritage Society



Boaters on the West Branch DuPage River



© Naperville Heritage Society

Picnickers at Burlington Park in Naperville



© Forest Preserves of Cook County

Early 1900s Nature Walk

The referendum was set for June 7, 1915, and campaigning for and against the measure quickly began. Opposition was strongest in rural precincts, where farmers worried about increased taxes, which they felt would mainly serve people who lived in town. There were also fears that forest preserves would affect the availability of farmland. In spite of this opposition, E.B. Heaton, the Illinois Extension Service's farm advisor for DuPage County, campaigned in favor of the measure.

Business groups also took a stand. The Downers Grove Business Men's Association took out a large ad in the Downers Grove Reporter extolling the benefits the preserves would create, including increased property values, tourism, shelter for birds that benefited farmers and educational opportunities for children.

The Wheaton Illinoian ran frequent editorials in favor of establishing a forest preserve district, claiming preserves would protect natural areas from encroachment and be economically valuable to the development of the county. Two days prior to the vote, the paper urged that "no issue of more vital importance has ever been put before the voters of DuPage County."

The Naperville Clarion also published columns favoring passage of the referendum.

"While every lover of nature is deploring the ruthless deforestation of the country and the wasting and destruction of natural resources, let DuPage County take advantage of this opportunity to enhance her own wealth as well as her

attractiveness," the Clarion's editors wrote, adding, "Women can vote on this question and they have an opportunity [sic] to show their interest in the public welfare, their good taste and forward-looking spirit by voting 'yes.'"

Women in Illinois had enjoyed limited suffrage since 1891, and several signed the petition in January that brought the question of a forest preserve district to DuPage voters. As June 7 neared, many played an active role, campaigning before and during election day. Area women's clubs supported the referendum; one in Downers Grove even published a pro-preserve pamphlet.

Because women could only vote on certain offices and issues in 1915, including the forest preserve district referendum, they had separate ballots, which meant their votes were tallied separately as well. Had only men been permitted to vote, DuPage County would have rejected the establishment of a forest preserve district with 1,057 voting in favor but 1,096 against. Women, on the other hand, helped tip the scale in favor of the measure, supporting it overwhelmingly 593 to 79, leading the Illinois Extension Service's Heaton to later write that the "greatest amount of credit goes to the women of the county."

Fans of DuPage forest preserves have a lot to celebrate this year, and June 7 will be just the beginning. Check out the calendar starting on Page 8 and dupageforest.org for details on special centennial events, and we'll see you there! •



5 Signs It's Spring

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

It's finally here. Sure, you still may need to grab a sweater on your way out the door, but it's officially spring. For as long as it took to get here it'll be gone before we know it, so if you want to catch those great forest preserve finds that only come around once a year, it's time to head outdoors.

VERNAL POOLS

You can't get more "spring" than a vernal pool. After all, it's in the name. ("Vernal" comes from the Latin for "relating to spring.")

Vernal pools are depressions in the land that hold rain and melted snow spring through summer. Some last longer than that, but many dry before fall arrives. Because they don't hold water year-round, they don't contain fish, which is a big plus if you're an amphibian. (Fish love amphibian eggs.) DuPage County's vernal pools host quiet lizardlike creatures like newts and salamanders and fill with the loud calls of chorus frogs, green frogs, leopard frogs and toads.

The best places to see — and hear — vernal pools in the preserves without leaving the trail are at Blackwell in Warrenville and Waterfall Glen in Darien. At Blackwell a vernal pool lies along the east side of the West Branch Regional Trail north of Mack Road just before the intersection with the Catbird Trail. At Waterfall Glen special

vernal pools called "kettles" — pockets formed 10,000 years ago by the Wisconsin Glacier — lie on the east side of the Main Trail just north of mile marker 3. An elevated section of the trail provides an impressive overview of the surrounding namesake Kettle Woods.

HERON HOMES

Great blue herons are some of the county's largest birds. On average they're about 4.5 feet tall with 6-foot wingspans. You can usually spot one standing still as a statue along Salt Creek or the West Branch DuPage River, waiting patiently for a shot at a passing fish or frog. For a look at the more industrious side of these birds you need to make a spring visit to Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton.

Until mid-May when the trees fully leaf out, a walk along the Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail west of the headquarters parking lot takes you near the largest DuPage County forest preserve rookery. Rookeries are stands of trees where herons congregate to build their nests. In any given year the one at Danada has over 100 such nests with well over 200 birds. Bring binoculars and you can see pairs making repairs and getting ready for this year's broods. By the beginning of May, you can stand on the trail and watch adults come in for landings to feed their hungry, crying chicks begging for food.



▲ Great blue heron
(*Ardea herodias*) in a rookery



▲ White trillium
(*Trillium grandiflorum*)



▲ Blue-headed vireo
(*Vireo solitarius*)

WILDFLOWER WALKS

While the trees are still budding, lots of sunlight is able to reach and warm the soil in the county's woodlands, and delicate spring wildflowers make their appearance. It's a short show, though. Once the treetop canopy fills in, the plants die back until next year (which is why ecologists call them spring "ephemerals," from the Greek *ephemeros* for "short-lived.")

At Danada Forest Preserve, Parson's Grove offers abundant displays of spring beauties, toothwort, trout lilies, bloodroot, wild geranium, red trillium, violets, Jacob's ladder and Virginia waterleaf. You can stroll through the grove on the preserve's 0.9-mile Nature Trail south of the main barn. At the 48-acre state-designated Meacham Grove Nature Preserve on the west side of Meacham Grove Forest Preserve in Bloomingdale, the ground is blanketed with large snowy flowers of white trillium, which has the apt scientific name *Trillium grandiflorum*.

MIGRATION MANIA

Birding is a year-round activity in the preserves, but in spring, things get turned up a notch. Birds returning to DuPage County for the breeding season are joined by species passing through on their way further north. In fact in previous Illinois spring bird counts, which take place each

year at the beginning of May, expert birders have recorded over 160 different species in one day.

You don't have to know your yellow-rumped warbler from your blue-headed vireo to sit and enjoy this event. Benches along the trails at many forest preserves offer ideal places to sit and take in the all of the chatter, elaborate songs and shows of breeding plumage. If you're interested in learning a bit more, the District offers several guided bird walks this season for birders 10 and older, and Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn is hosting a morning-long "International Migratory Bird Day Celebration" May 16 for all ages. Check out the listings on Pages 13 and 18 for details.

TAKE MOM FISHING

Sure you can fish in the forest preserves just about any day, but you can only do so in celebration of Mother's Day once a year. As with all of the fishing programs featured on Pages 16 and 17, District rangers provide the gear and a lot of great instruction, and if you're only fishing during the program, you don't need a license. At "Fishing With Mom" May 10 at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Downers Grove, you and your mom will learn how to tell a bass from a bluegill, which baits are best and what you need to know about fishing in DuPage. •

directory



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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 April through October from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. November through March hours may vary. It 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.

Correction: Because of an editing error, an article in the winter 2015 issue misstated state Sen. Linda Holmes' party affiliation. Sen. Holmes is a Democrat. We apologize for the mistake.

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



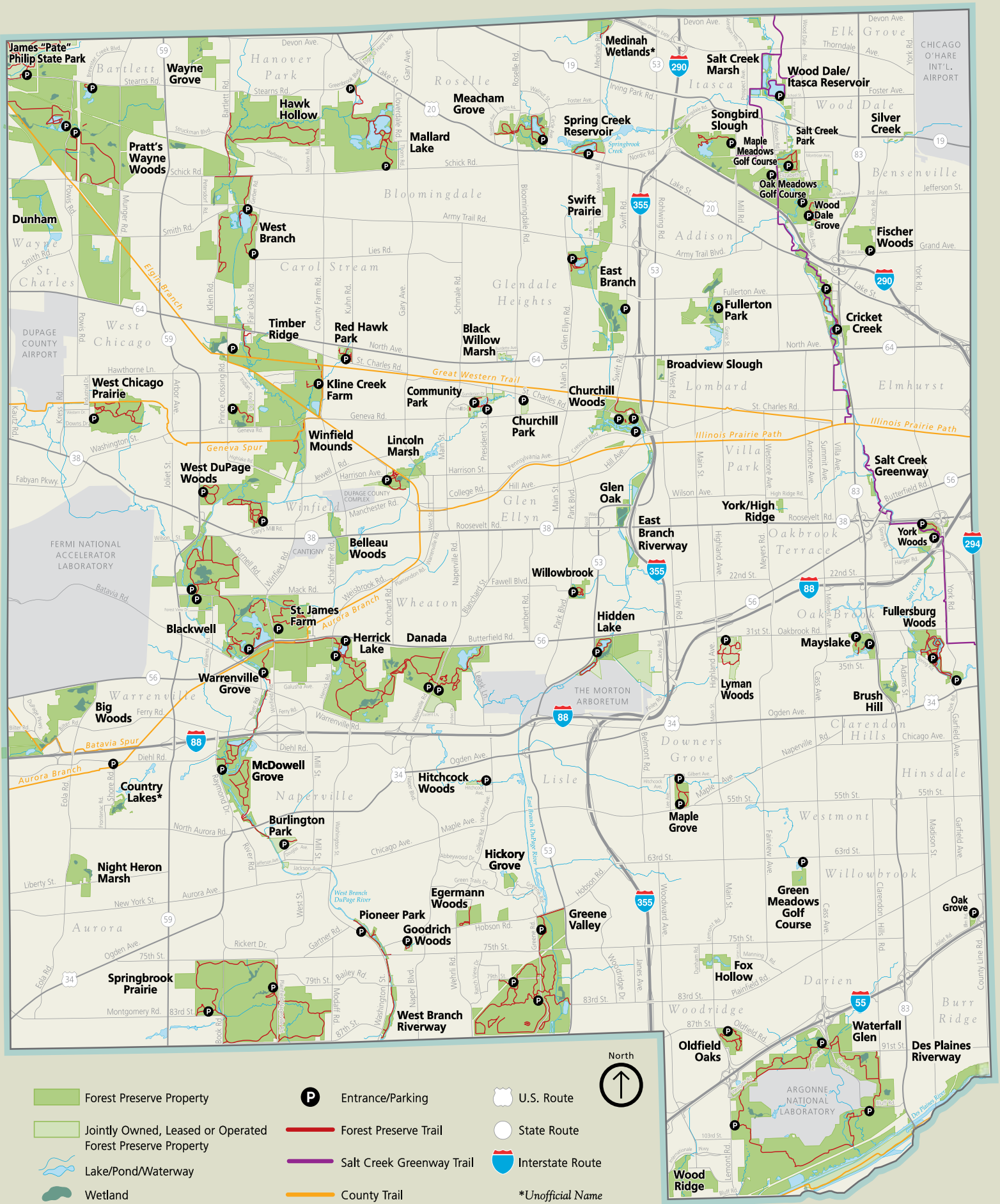
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PRESERVE Hours

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 48 hours before their visit.



P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189-5000
(630) 933-7200
dupageforest.org

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Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2015



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of DuPage County

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CELEBRATE Your Way

The Forest Preserve District has been connecting people to nature for 100 years. Help us mark this milestone while enjoying your favorite pastimes. For updates and registration info on the events below, visit dupageforest.org/100Years.

Saturday, May 23

Family Field Day

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. • St. James Farm

Celebrate our 100 years of connecting people to nature at this fun-filled, family-oriented event!

Sunday, June 7

Centennial Medallion Search Begins

Various Forest Preserves

Starting June 7 — the date in 1915 DuPage residents voted to establish the Forest Preserve District — use clues and your knowledge of the preserves to find hidden coins and win prizes.

Saturday, June 27

Centennial Nature Fest

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. • St. James Farm

Get to know the county's native plants and animals, and learn what it takes to create the rich habitats that make our forest preserves such awesome places to visit.

Wednesday, April 1 – Friday, July 31 **Centennial Golf Challenge**

Oak Meadows, Maple Meadows & Green Meadows

Purchase and golf a combined 100 holes at any District course, and get a certificate for a free 18-hole round.

