



# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2015**

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## Just Passing Through

Bears, Wolves and  
Cougars in Illinois

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### FROST SEEDING FOR SPRING

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**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**  
Making Tracks in DuPage



Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County

*Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years*

# from the president



In 2002 I first took the oath of office as Forest Preserve District commissioner for District 2. As a lifelong resident of DuPage County, I wanted to combine my business background with my love of the outdoors to help the new seven-member board offer some of the best natural areas and activities in the nation for everyone who called DuPage home. I was excited and ready to get things done.

Since then, I've been proud to have helped the Forest Preserve District implement sensible environmental practices and popular recreational programs while holding the line on taxes and spending. We've improved ecological conditions across thousands of acres of prairies, woodlands and wetlands and along miles of rivers and streams. We've opened new trails, visitor centers, fishing ponds and an archery range while maintaining our historically significant and popular destinations.

As I begin my term as president, I'm ready to dig in even more to help the Forest Preserve District continue to move forward. We've started by reorganizing the agency itself so departments can operate more efficiently, and as we gear up to celebrate the Forest Preserve District's centennial, we're developing a strategic plan so we can focus that work on projects that make sense.

As a child, one of my favorite things to do was explore the woods around my house. Living close to York Woods and Fullersburg Woods forest preserves and spending time there would be the foundation of a lifelong appreciation of DuPage County's amazing open, natural areas. Of course back then, "preserving land for future generations" wasn't really something we worried about as children, but now as I look at my young son, I'm thankful my predecessors were so passionately committed to the idea we are all so proud to work for today.

**Joseph F. Cantore**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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For schedules and agendas, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

Winter 2015, Vol. 51, No. 1

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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](mailto:forest@dupageforest.org). You can also read this and previous issues 24/7 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). To receive an email when each new issue is available online, email [forest@dupageforest.org](mailto:forest@dupageforest.org).





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**On the cover:** Black bear © Mark Dumont

## 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



4



7



10



18



20

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# news & notes



## FRIENDS GROUP ROLLS OUT NEW AMBASSADORS CIRCLE

Over a year ago, the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit support group of the Forest Preserve District, began its efforts to help advance the District's vision through philanthropic endeavors. Now, the Friends is introducing a new feature, its Ambassadors Circle, for donors who contribute \$100 or more during the year. It's a way for the foundation to focus even more on donor recognition and communications and to provide its supporters with special offers not available to the general public.

Everyone in the Ambassadors Circle receives a cute plush owl. Donors who contribute above the introductory level may also receive invitations to exclusive lectures, tours, sneak previews, donor-appreciation programs, customized naturalist-led expeditions, and event hospitality areas at Family Field Day at St. James Farm and the Danada Fall Festival.

To find out more about the Ambassadors Circle, call (630) 871-6400 or visit [dupageforest.org/friends.aspx](http://dupageforest.org/friends.aspx).

## 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](http://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 and hears public comments as well as staff reports; at commission meetings, the board also votes on agenda items.

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE FOR 100 YEARS

This year, the Forest Preserve District is reaching a milestone: its 100-year anniversary. The official celebration will kick off this spring and will include a lineup of programs, events and features that only come around once in a century. We'll have details in the next issue of *The Conservationist* and online at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Mark your calendars. This is one celebration you won't want to miss!



Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County

*Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years*



## IMPROVED TRAIL SIGNS ON THE WAY

The Forest Preserve District is currently conducting a countywide review of the signs that visitors see in the forest preserves. One goal is to create a standardized manual that employees can use for safety and traffic-control messages, but a larger plan is to develop a series of site-specific maps, trail markers and informational signs that will make it easier for trail users to navigate through the preserves.

"The trails are some of the most frequently used areas in the forest preserves, so a big component of the new sign plan will focus on them," explains Jessica Ortega of the Forest Preserve District's Planning department. "We've been reaching out to organized groups for input and had almost 900 hikers, joggers, bikers, bird-watchers and other visitors complete our online survey."

Among other questions, the survey asked how often people use the trails, when and why they use them, such as to exercise or commute, and where they find maps and other information. Volunteers also conducted short intercept surveys at select forest preserves in October to get input from people as they were using the trails. The District hopes to analyze the input it's received and determine how to implement the new plans later in the year.



## WINTER Safety

DuPage County's forest preserves offer some of the best ways to enjoy winter. When conditions are right, you can stroll along a snowy trail or enjoy an afternoon of ice fishing. You can even reserve a picnic shelter with a cozy fireplace.

Regardless of how you enjoy the season, coats, hats, scarves, facemasks, gloves and warm boots are essentials, but no matter how you dress, as soon as you step outside your body will start to lose heat faster than you can generate it. After a while, you may start to shiver, but don't ignore it! It can be one of the first signs of hypothermia, which according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, includes other symptoms such as exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

If you suspect someone has hypothermia, take the person's temperature. If it's below 95, call a doctor. If you find yourself waiting for help, try these CDC-recommended treatments.

- Get inside a warm room or shelter.
- Remove any wet clothes.
- Warm the chest, neck, head and groin with an electric blanket if you have one. If appropriate you can also warm the person with skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets or other coverings.
- If the person's conscious, you can give warm beverages but never alcohol.
- Even if the body temperature increases, keep the person in a warm, dry blanket, especially the head and neck.



© Mike Shimer

## MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Aug. 16 and Nov. 8. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit [dupageforestgiving.org](http://dupageforestgiving.org).

### Special-Event Business Sponsors

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### Gifts of Note

Estate of Patricia A. Neff  
\$61,848.15 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Friends of the Glen Ellyn Public Library  
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center as part of the library's "Read to Rescue" program  
Jerry and Amy Tavolino  
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Girl Scout Troop 105  
\$556.17 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the Blanding's turtles program  
Chris Linnell  
\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate commemorative brick  
Michael Neyman  
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
John Quigley  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District  
The Wirtz Family  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for District kayaks

# news & notes

## 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](http://dupageforest.org). You can link to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and Historypin pages and even sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

## 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.



## TREE-PLANTING TIME

As part of the District's annual fall tree-planting program, forestry and landscaping crews added over 900 trees and shrubs to forest preserves throughout the county.

About 400 trees replaced ash that the Forest Preserve District removed to combat the invasive emerald ash borer, a nonnative beetle that's swept through the Midwest killing millions of trees. The District has been preparing for the destructive beetle for several years, raising native trees and shrubs in its nursery to ensure it has a sufficient supply to fill the void the felled ash trees create. It continues to remove ash in high-use areas such as in picnic areas and along parking lots, replacing each with a new tree. The new plantings were scattered across the forest preserves, but some of the larger projects included 70 trees at St. James Farm in Warrenville, 60 at York Woods in Oak Brook and 40 at Greene Valley in Naperville.

Other fall forest preserve planting projects included work at the new parking lot at Willowbrook in Glen Ellyn, a restoration area west of Mayslake Hall at Mayslake in Oak Brook, the off-leash dog area at Greene Valley, and the new off-leash area at Hawk Hollow in Hanover Park, which the District hopes to open in 2015.



## DUNHAM *Developments*

The Forest Preserve District is working on plans to add a 23-car parking lot, 1.2 miles of limestone trails, an interpretive overlook and a 2-acre picnic area at Dunham Forest Preserve in Wayne. The trail in particular will offer great wildlife-watching opportunities in the future because it will carry hikers, bikers, horseback riders and cross-country skiers through the forest preserve's proposed wetlands and prairie, which provide habitat for upland birds and migratory waterfowl.

This first phase of public-access improvements will also link the Cornerstone Lakes park and school to downtown Wayne and a historic train depot that the Wayne Historical Society plans to renovate. The District has been working with the village of Wayne and the historical society since 2009; construction should begin in late 2016 or early 2017. A \$1.3 million Illinois Transportation Enhancements grant is helping to fund this part of the project.

The Forest Preserve District is also working with several partners to continue to create 212 acres of prairies and wetlands at Dunham, including 135 acres of prairie funded and maintained by Wayne Conservancy, 11 acres of wetlands mitigated by CN, and 27 acres of wetlands funded by DuPage County Stormwater Management.

To create the new wetlands, the District will rehydrate the soil, in part by disabling drain tiles buried in former agricultural fields. But first, contractors will use large forestry equipment, saws and chippers to remove weedy and nonnative trees and shrubs along Norton Creek and drainage ditches. The District will then be able to seed the area with native wetland plants. Most of this phase will take place this winter, and for visitors' safety the District will need to temporarily close parts of the preserve. For updates, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).





# Political Animals

## Wolves, Bears, Mountain Lions and SB3049

by **JACK MACRAE**, NATURALIST, WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

© USFWS

**I**t's rare that you can say that a piece of legislation is an enormous testament to the resilience of nature, but such is the case of Illinois Senate bill 3049, which sailed through the general assembly with unanimous approval only four months after it was introduced.

The bill, which becomes law on Jan. 1, 2015, amends the Illinois Wildlife Code, adding mountain lions (aka cougars or pumas), black bears and gray wolves to the list of protected species. It was introduced in reaction to an incident in November 2013, when a mountain lion showed up on a family farm near Morrison, Illinois. At the frightened family's request, state conservation officers killed the animal as it hid under a corn crib.

There was an immediate chorus of disapproval from people who cherished a more "wild" landscape and were excited by irrefutable evidence over the past decade of wolves, bears and mountain lions visiting their historic range, some within 100 miles of DuPage County. Their voices made it to Springfield and caught the attention of Rep. Kelly Cassidy from Chicago and Sen. Linda Holmes from Aurora.

"For many years we didn't have them here in Illinois,"

Sen. Holmes said. "Now we're starting to find that some populations of these animals are coming into Illinois, and they are just being shot without any recourse whatsoever."

With the addition to the code, state conservation police officers will monitor the occasional wolf, bear or mountain lion that passes through but will allow it go on its way unless it poses a threat. On private property, owners can address situations on their land if there's an imminent threat or request a permit to remove one of these animals even if there isn't.

But is the addition necessary? Are these three species returning to Illinois, and if so should we be worrying about apex predators living in our midst? Maybe a little natural history lesson can help us answer some of these questions.

It's a familiar story. Like so many others species, bears, mountain lions and wolves once lived comfortably in Illinois. The region's indigenous people hunted them, but they didn't view the animals as a nuisance that required complete removal.

Then the 1800s arrived, and the expansion of European settlers from the east made it impossible for wolves, bears and mountain lions to remain. Contrary to popular belief, it wasn't

suburbia that dealt these animals the final blow; the rural farm heritage of the Midwest was devastating to all wildlife. Agricultural lands barren and poisoned with crude pesticides for six months of the year couldn't support needed species of prey. Farmers routinely shot predators and a considerable number of other "varmints." Wildlife was confined to state and county parks and other conservation areas. By the end of the last century, the nearest established populations of wolves, bears and mountain lions were in northern Wisconsin, Michigan or Minnesota or the Black Hills of South Dakota.

But as farmland in and around DuPage County transformed into a mosaic of ball fields, retention ponds, golf courses, forest preserves, light industrial areas, school campuses, corporate headquarters and big backyards, wildlife adapted and learned how to make the most of the new (in some cases

better) habitats. Some species started to make a comeback.

At the same time, suburbanites were becoming more willing to coexist with their wild neighbors. They liked seeing chipmunks, squirrels and cottontails in their yards. One result of this new relationship was the return of natural food chains and the predators that resided at the top. But just because coyotes and certain birds of prey have rebounded in DuPage, that doesn't mean that mountain lions are next.

First, the large mammals that people have seen in Illinois over the past few years were usually males that ecologists believed were passing through on their search for unclaimed territories to call their own. When populations of large carnivores are stable, young males can disperse in all directions at great distances. The mountain lion that was crouching under a three-flat several blocks west of Wrigley Field in 2008 traveled 1,000 miles from the Black Hills, where extensive habitat supports a healthy population. Sometimes the directions these animals pick lead them to fine habitats where they can safely exist; other times they don't. For the wolves and mountain lions that ended their travels in northern Illinois, it was the latter.

Second, for a breeding group of large mammals, especially large predators, to take up residence in northern Illinois, their

- ✦ Although the suburban landscape has benefited red-tailed hawks and other predators, the odds that it can do the same for bears, wolves or mountain lions are quite low.



© Dave Govoni

- ✦ Black bears are members of the order Carnivora, but up to 85 percent of their diet is plants, and most of the "meat" they eat is in the form of insects and carrion.



© Jethro Taylor





- ▲ Although there have been confirmed sightings of passing wolves and mountain lions in northern Illinois, the coyote remains modern DuPage County's biggest predator on record.

offspring would need to learn how to live closer to humans than their ancestors ever did — and would require humans to do the same. Because of coyotes, dog owners have adjusted how they watch their pets, but the presence of even larger carnivores would require everyone to alter behaviors further, which may be unrealistic. For instance, it's always best when wild animals are scared of people and discouraged from becoming comfortable in our backyards (for their safety and ours), but in other parts of the country black bears over time have learned that humans are an easy source for food. Those of us who battle squirrels at our bird feeders and raccoons in our trash cans would be in for a shock if bears came to town.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, for a population of large carnivores to set up home in this state, it would need sufficient habitat, and Illinois just doesn't have it. Some estimates show only 15 percent of the state is suitable for wolves and black bears and less than 7 percent for mountain lions. Wildlife is great at adapting, and you can never say never, but the odds of a large number of these animals ever living near us are incredibly low.

So should we be afraid? No, but fear is tricky and not always rational. Educational messages can only go so far, and what they accomplish can be knocked down by one sensational media story (or an erroneous rumor, such as one on the Web that said conservation agencies were releasing hundreds of mountain lions in southern Illinois to control populations of deer or another that had photos from Illinois that were actually taken in Wyoming). Nationwide, many more people are killed annually by deer, horses and cattle than by large carnivores. In DuPage where the reigning predatory mammal is the coyote, there hasn't been a recorded incident of a coyote biting a person in decades, but domestic dogs bite almost 900 people annually. Still, those statistics can quickly fall from mind with one feature story on a coyote-pet encounter that ended badly.

Outdoor advocates worry that misinformation about the prevalence and dangers of wolves, bears or mountain lions might cause people to spend more time indoors at a time when people, especially children, are inside more than ever. Too many kids are already scared of harmless wild animals and need more guided but first-hand nature exploration if we expect them to be tomorrow's advocates — and voters — for wildlife and the environment.

But it's not just the county's younger residents who need to be knowledgeable about their surroundings in the great outdoors. We all do. Bears, wolves and mountain lions are not poised to overrun our neighborhoods, and encountering a dangerous animal in person in Illinois is highly unlikely, but the visits the state does receive can be less problematic if we plan for them. By adding these three species to the Illinois Wildlife Code, the state is making it easier to work with federal and county agencies — the Forest Preserve District included — to plan for the next encounter with help from first-responder, public-safety and media teams. (This is one reason the state added the gray wolf to the code. The canine already receives protection from U.S. and Illinois endangered species acts, but adding it allows conservation officials to address all three species in a similar manner.)

Advocates are encouraged that the amended code will prevent people from destroying these impressive animals when there isn't any danger. Coincidentally, as SB3049 made its way to the governor's desk, a 300-pound black bear spent a harmless month passing through north-central Illinois presumably on its search for a mate. If another bear, wolf or mountain lion returns for a visit to ancestral Illinois, the hope is that it will be greeted with similar respect. •



- ◀ As an animal that can reach 220 pounds, a mountain lion can look intimidating, but ecologists say that those found in Illinois have been solitary animals passing through on long journeys to find territories of their own.

# winter calendar

See pages 12 through 17 for program descriptions.  
Cancellation policies vary by program.



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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>feb</b>						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>mar</b>			

## January

- 2** Archery for All Ages
- 3** Ice Fishing for Beginners  
Music at Mayslake: Picoso  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Archery for All Ages  
Ice Fishing for Beginners
- 5** Art at Mayslake: Mixed Media and Collage Studio Begins
- 6** Art at Mayslake: A Journey in Quilt Making Begins
- 7** Archery for Adults
- 9** St. James Farm After Dark
- 10** "Dig In and Volunteer!" Open House  
Hard-Water Classic  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** The Owls of DuPage  
Winter Wilderness Survival
- 12** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography  
Fundamentals I Begins
- 15** Ice Harvesting
- 17** Ice Harvesting  
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Archery for Beginners  
Ice Fishing for Beginners  
Ice Harvesting
- 19** Ice Harvesting
- 24** Pie-Baking Class
- 25** Cast-Iron Cooking
- 26** Art at Mayslake: Drawing a Collection Begins
- 27** Art at Mayslake: Lightroom I Begins
- 31** Growing Up Wild Workshop  
Ice Fishing for Beginners





## February

- 1** Snowshoe Hike
- 5** "Dig In and Volunteer!" Q-and-A Session
- 6** St. James Farm After Dark  
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 7** Romantic Night Hike  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wonders of Winter
- 8** Ice Fishing for Beginners  
The Suburban Coyote
- 9** Reading and Tracking Begins
- 11** Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Relief Printmaking Begins
- 14** Snowshoe Hike  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Archery for Beginners  
Ice Fishing for Beginners
- 21** America's Gilded Age Begins  
Ice Fishing for Beginners  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Cast-Iron Cooking
- 23** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins  
Art at Mayslake: The Artist's Way Begins
- 24** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors Begins  
Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Drawing Begins

## March

- 1** The Peregrine Falcon  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography  
Fundamentals I Begins  
Climb Your Family Tree
- 6** Archery for Active Adults  
St. James Farm After Dark
- 7** Music at Mayslake: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
- 10** Art at Mayslake: Lightroom II Begins
- 14** Music at Mayslake: Accapellago  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Bread-Baking Class  
Flying Wild Workshop  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sunday
- 28** Bread-Baking Class  
Trout Fishing for Kids  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
When Darkness Falls
- 29** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** The Gift of Story: Capturing and Preserving  
Family Memories



## America's Gilded Age

Explore the advances and challenges of this significant period in American history that took place between 1880 and 1920. This class is in collaboration with the College of DuPage. Meets for five Saturdays. Adults only. \$134 per person; \$99 ages 55 and up. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Feb 21 – Mar 21    1 – 3 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.**

### LAMBING

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

**Feb. 15 – March 31**

**Thursdays – Mondays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

### LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

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

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

## Archery for Active Adults

Try your hand at archery at one of DuPage County's most scenic preserves. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins Feb. 20. Call (630) 933-7248.

Mar 6    11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.    Mayslake

## Archery for Adults

Try your hand at archery within the surroundings of Mayslake Hall, a registered national historic landmark. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Registration begins Dec. 26. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 7    10 – 11:30 a.m.    Mayslake

## Archery for All Ages

Learn basic archery techniques in an indoor, family-friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 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 4    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 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 18    1 – 2:30 p.m.    Herrick Lake

Feb 15    1 – 2:30 p.m.    Herrick Lake

## Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting

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

Feb 23 – Mar 30    Noon – 2:30 p.m.    Mayslake

## Art at Mayslake: The Artist's Way

Learn how to be creative with your writing, cooking, gardening, painting and other endeavors. Meets for 13 Mondays (not on May 18 and 25). Adults only. \$225 per person plus purchase of "The Artist's Way." To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Feb 23 – Jun 1    9 – 11:30 a.m.    Mayslake





© Manuel Diaz

## Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Fundamentals I

Learn about the important features of digital cameras and the esthetics of great images. Meets for five weeks. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 12 – Feb 9	6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Mondays)	Mayslake
Mar 5 – Apr 2	6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Thursdays)	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. Meets for eight Mondays (not on Feb. 16). Ages 9 – 18. \$165 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 26 – Mar 23	4 – 6 p.m. (ages 9 – 12)	Mayslake
Jan 26 – Mar 23	6 – 8 p.m. (ages 13 – 18)	Mayslake

## Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors

Enhance your artistic style while painting in a beautiful, relaxed setting. Meets for six Tuesdays. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Feb 24 – Mar 31	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Drawing

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

Feb 24 – Mar 31	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Relief Printmaking

Learn the basics, using linoleum to create hand-printed works of art. Meets for six Wednesdays. Adults only. \$125 plus \$10 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Feb 11 – Mar 18	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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## 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. Meets for six Tuesdays. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 6 – Feb 10	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Art at Mayslake: Lightroom I

Learn about Adobe's Lightroom software, which allows you to enhance and organize digital photographs, and work with the program's develop module, which allows you to adjust color and tone, crop and make other corrections. Meets for five Tuesdays. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 27 – Feb 24	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Art at Mayslake: Lightroom II

Continue work on Lightroom's develop module, and learn about the software's print module, which helps you arrange and print your images. Then, discover how to integrate Lightroom with Photoshop. Lightroom I class or equivalent required. Meets for five Tuesdays. Adults only. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Mar 10 – Apr 7	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Art at Mayslake: Mixed Media and Collage Studio

Hear weekly topics, see demonstrations and work independently on your collages and mixed media projects with supplies you bring from home. Meets for six Mondays. Adults only. \$145 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jan 5 – Feb 9	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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## Bread-Baking Class

During this two-hour class, learn how to bake bread the 1890s way in a wood-burning oven, and take home a pan of rolls with instructions and recipes. Ages 10 and up; under 15 with an adult. \$40 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Mar 21, 28	9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## Cast-Iron Cooking

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire, and learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 7 – 12. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 25	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 22	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake



## Climb Your Family Tree

Learn what types of genealogical records to search for and where and how to record what you find. Adults only. \$29 per person; \$19 ages 55 and up. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Mar 5	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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## "Dig In and Volunteer!" Open House

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

Jan 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada Headquarters
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## Cultural Events

*Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook*  
[mayslakepeabody.com](http://mayslakepeabody.com)

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

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

**March 10 – April 24**  
**Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR"

Let Neil Simon's hilarious reminiscence of his days with the Sid Caesar show catapult you into the world of 1950s comic maniacs such as Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner and Selma Diamond as they scramble to top each other's gags while struggling with the rise of McCarthyism. Adults only. \$22 – \$39 per person. Call (630) 986-8067, or visit [firstfolio.org](http://firstfolio.org).

**Jan. 28 – March 1**  
**Wednesdays – Saturdays (except Feb. 5) 8 p.m.**  
**Sundays 3 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 relationship women have with their wardrobes. Adults only. \$22 – \$39 per person. Call (630) 986-8067, or visit [firstfolio.org](http://firstfolio.org).

**March 25 – April 26**  
**Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.**  
**Thursdays and Sundays (except April 2) 3 p.m.**

### NATURE ARTISTS' GUILD OF THE MORTON ARBORETUM EXHIBIT

Enjoy beautiful works of art by members of this talented group. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

**Jan. 14 – Feb. 28**  
**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 1920 Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$5 per person. Registration required for group tours. Call (630) 206-9588.

**Beginning Jan. 17**  
**Wednesdays 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**  
**Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.**





### “Dig In and Volunteer!” Q-and-A Session

During this one-hour meeting, get details about the 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 5	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada Headquarters
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### Flying Wild Workshop

Meet one of Willowbrook’s education raptors, and learn how to inspire children with interactive activities and projects about birds and their habitats. Adults only. \$25 per person (includes book). To register, call (630) 206-9586.

Mar 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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### Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sunday

Take a 30-minute guided stroll through the woods, and discover the secret of turning tree sap into syrup. All ages. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Mar 22	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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### The Gift of Story: Capturing and Preserving Family Memories

Learn easy ways to capture memories, and gain ideas and resources for engaging the entire family. Adults only. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Mar 31	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Growing Up Wild Workshop

Learn how to build upon children’s sense of wonder about nature and how to invite them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Adults only. \$25 per person (includes book). To register, call (630) 206-9586.

Jan 31	9 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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### Hard-Water Classic

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage County. Awards ceremony and door prizes will follow fishing. Bring your own bait and gear. All ages. \$15 per person in advance at [dupageforest.org/hwclassic](http://dupageforest.org/hwclassic); \$20 at the event. For details, visit the registration website or call (630) 876-5931.

Jan 10	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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### Ice Fishing for Beginners

Learn about 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 3	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Jan 4	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 18	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Jan 31	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Feb 8	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 15	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Cricket Creek
Feb 21	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 15, 17, 18, 19	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Music at Mayslake: Acappellago

Spend an evening filled with the sounds of a cappella as this chamber choir performs “Escape to ... Where the River Meets the Sea.” All ages. \$17 per person; \$15 students or seniors. For tickets, visit [acappellago.org](http://acappellago.org).

Mar 14	7:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Music at Mayslake: Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus

Enjoy this popular ensemble’s winter cabaret. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$35 per person VIP seating; \$25 general admission. For tickets, visit [cgmc.org](http://cgmc.org).

Mar 7	7 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy an afternoon of Vivaldi and Bach. All ages. \$25 per person; \$23 seniors; \$7 students. For tickets, visit [elmhurstsymphony.org](http://elmhurstsymphony.org).

Jan 17	2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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# winter calendar



## Music at Mayslake: Picos

Enjoy an afternoon of classical music performed by this ensemble. All ages. \$25 per person; \$23 seniors; \$5 discount with a nonperishable food donation to the Hosed House. For tickets and a list of needed donated items, visit [picosmusic.com](http://picosmusic.com).

Jan 3      3 p.m.      Mayslake



## Winter Fun

*Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville*

### SNOW TUBING

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) thrill-seekers can take a fun 800-foot ride down the hill. Inner tube rentals are \$5 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. Only District tubes are allowed. For snow conditions, call the Outdoor Report at (630) 871-6422.

**Saturdays and Sundays through March 1**

**Plus Dec. 22 – 24 and Dec. 26**

**Dec. 29 – Jan. 2**

**Jan. 19 and Feb. 26**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### SNOWSHOES

When Mount Hoy is open, you can also rent snowshoes at the base for trail exploration. Rentals are \$5 for two hours or \$10 per day and end at 2 p.m.

On weekdays when Mount Hoy isn't open but the trails have ample snow, rentals are available 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the District's west sector office on Mack Road. Call (630) 876-5931 for availability.

## Owls of DuPage

Find out why people give a hoot about owls, and learn about and meet the species that live in DuPage. Ages 12 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Registration begins Dec. 28. Call (630) 942-6200.

Jan 11      1 – 3 p.m.      Willowbrook

## The Peregrine Falcon

Meet Willowbrook's peregrine falcon, and learn about these speedy predators. Ages 16 and up. \$5 per person. Registration begins Feb. 1. Call (630) 942-6200.

Mar 1      1:30 – 3 p.m.      Willowbrook

## Pie-Baking Class

During this two-hour class, learn the secrets of baking that you wish your grandmother had taught you. Start with fresh ingredients and historic recipes, and finish with a mouth-watering confection. Bakers will work in pairs. Adults only. \$40 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Jan 24      9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.      Kline Creek Farm

## Reading and Tracking

During this 12-part course, explore parallels between structures and meanings found in written language and those in footprints and other objects of natural history. Classes meet indoors and in the forest preserves. Adults only. \$300 per person plus optional \$300 for graduate credit from Aurora University. Registration begins Jan. 5. Call (630) 206-9581 for details and (630) 933-7208 to register.

Feb 9, 16, 23	5:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
Mar 2, 9, 16	5:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
Feb 14, 21, 28	8 a.m. – Noon	Various Locations
Mar 7, 14, 21	8 a.m. – Noon	Various Locations

## 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 7      7 – 9 p.m.      Fullersburg Woods





© Mike Shimer



## Snowshoe Hike

Hear about the history of snowshoeing, and pick up basic safety tips. Then, step into a pair of snowshoes, and hit the trail with a ranger. Equipment provided (50- to 225-pound capacity). Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 1	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 14	1 – 3 p.m.	Blackwell

## St. James Farm After Dark

Snowshoe or ski past illuminated historic buildings as you listen for sounds of nighttime wildlife. Cap off the evening with hot cocoa or cider. Bring your own gear, or rent snowshoes for an additional \$5 per person. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 9	6 – 8:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Feb 6	6 – 8:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Mar 6	6 – 8:30 p.m.	St. James Farm

## The Suburban Coyote

Learn the facts about the coyotes that live in DuPage County's neighborhoods. Ages 14 and up with an adult. Free. Registration begins Jan. 25. Call (630) 942-6200.

Feb 8	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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## Taffy-Pulling Party

During this one-hour program, tour an 1890s farmhouse, and learn how kids lived more than a century ago. Then, make taffy from molasses to take home. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Feb 6	10 – 11 a.m., 1 – 2 p.m., 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## 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 28	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. Ages 8 and up; 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 3	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Jan 3, 17	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jan 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Jan 17	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Feb 7	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Feb 7	1 – 4 p.m.	West Chicago Prairie
Feb 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 21	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 1, 14, 28	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Mar 14, 21, 28, 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie

## 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 16. Call (630) 933-7248.

Mar 28	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Winter Wilderness Survival

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. 29. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 11	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 7	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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# Sowing Seeds in the Snow

by RACHEL REKLAU, NATURAL RESOURCES

**F**or local gardeners, winter's a time to take stock of what did well during the previous year and to look forward to the coming crop of plant catalogs in the mail. But in DuPage County, Forest Preserve District employees and volunteers are already seeding for spring. It's a technique called "frost seeding," and it uses the way many plants grow naturally to improve a variety of habitats.

All grasses and flowers produce seeds. In most cases, each seed contains an embryo — tissues that contain all of the genetic information that's needed for the seed to develop into stems and leaves. The embryo is encased in a protective seed coat, which means that the root of the

embryo, the "radicle," needs to first push its way through the shell before a new seedling can appear, a process commonly known as germination.

If all of the seeds that dropped in summer and fall immediately started to germinate, they wouldn't make it through winter. The tender developing sprouts would freeze and die. By keeping embryos dormant inside the seed coats, however, species can protect them until conditions are right for germination. During this waiting period, transformations that take place above and below the surface of the soil in winter increase the odds that these seeds will successfully sprout when the time comes.

In winter the ground freezes. At some point it thaws a bit. Then freezes and then thaws. This repeated cycle naturally tills seeds on top of the ground into the soil. When spring temperatures arrive and moisture frozen within the soil melts back into water, the seeds are in place and ready to sprout. Most native species in DuPage County cannot germinate without this freeze-thaw cycle, which botanists call "cold-moist stratification."

Frost seeding allows Forest Preserve District ecologists to take advantage of this natural process. They spread collected seeds over the surface of the soil between December and March. Some spread seeds by hand; others use broadcast machines, but between the two they cover hundreds of

◀ Several species that benefit from frost seeding, such as this native anemone, naturally drop their seeds late in the year, even over the snow.



© dmfryed



◀ Each year Forest Preserve District employees and volunteers harvest over 1,000 pounds of native seeds. Many, such as these from blazing star and wild onion, they sow between December and March.



© Dan Mullen

▲ Common ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)



© William Ciesla, Forest Health Mgt. Intl., bugwood.org

▲ Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)



© Brett Whaley

▲ Lion's foot (*Prenanthes alba*)



© Jerry Oldenettel

▲ Starry campion (*Silene stellata*)

acres. And it doesn't matter if there's snow on the ground. On warm winter days the seeds mix with melting snow and start their migration to the soil below.

The Forest Preserve District purchases some of this seed, but for most projects (including any that take place in a designated high-quality ecosystem) it uses seed collected from the preserves or the District's native-plant nursery in Blackwell Forest Preserve. Between May and November employees and volunteers harvest over 1,000 pounds from over 200 species of native plants. Years of experience tell them when to harvest which ones. Collect too early and seeds may not be viable; wait too long and most may have already dropped. This means early May for false rue anemone, trout lily and other early bloomers but November for species such as heath aster and bottle gentian. Perhaps more importantly, their expertise guides them when determining how many seeds they can take without jeopardizing established natural populations.

Although not a requirement, Forest Preserve District crews will try treat areas they're going to frost seed with prescription burns in the fall. Fire removes dried plant materials, which makes it easier for the seeds to reach the ground. It also removes fire-intolerant nonnative plants, which means more moisture and nutrients for native species. But fire also creates large expanses of exposed soil, which heats more quickly in the spring than earth covered with last year's growth. This extra warmth can help seeds germinate — and take root — faster.

Frost seeding helps the Forest Preserve District improve

a wide range of habitats. With it, crews can start to convert cropland into prairie. Prairie species such as little bluestem, tall coreopsis, prairie blazing star, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan and stiff goldenrod all require cold-moist stratification. In summer, Mayslake Forest Preserve in Oak Brook and the north side of the Great Western Trail that runs through Timber Ridge Forest Preserve in West Chicago show some of frost seeding's vivid results.

It's also an important tool in oak woodlands that need to be seeded after being cleared of invasive brush. In these areas the District spreads wild onion, Short's aster, wild geranium, lion's foot and starry campion in winter to fill in parts of the forest floor throughout the following year. Springtime examples cover Parson's Grove at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton and the Elsen's Hill area at West DuPage Woods Forest Preserve in West Chicago.

In wetlands, where a diverse mix of plants can be critical to providing adequate habitat for wildlife that can live nowhere else, cold-moist species include shining aster, obedient plant, Riddell's goldenrod, meadowsweet and common ironweed. A walk along Herrick Marsh at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton or through Willowbrook Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn provides a peek at the plants as well as the herons, mink and dragonflies that rely on them in one way or another.

Backyard gardeners may be enjoying their winter break, but in DuPage County the Forest Preserve District is getting the next generation of native grasses and flowers off to a fresh, albeit frosty, start. •

# Cross-Country Skiing

## Winter Fun 8,000 Years in the Making

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

**I**t happened around 8,000 years ago. Likely in Asia. Definitely centuries before the first wheel. For the first time, a human strapped wood to his feet and moved over snow and ice without sinking.

As humans migrated east, making their way up and over the Bering Strait into North America, oblong planks a bit wider and longer than a human foot evolved into the first snowshoe designs. But those who moved to present-day Scandinavia and northwestern Russia along the Baltic and White seas relied on longer, narrower slats, which some anthropologists hypothesized worked better in the type of snow the region



received. In modern-day Norway and Russia, images of cross-country skiers appear in Stone Age cave drawings, and actual skis preserved in acidic frozen peat bogs date back 4,500 years.

For the first few millennia, cross-country skis were a means to an end, a way to hunt large mammals or travel between villages. By the 13th century, they were part of many armies' battle gear, but skiing didn't appear in the history books as a competitive sport until the 1840s.

The earliest cross-country skis were carved from solid pieces of wood, but today's off-the-shelf models feature durable fiberglass exteriors with lightweight wooden cores. Beginners can get a nice package with poles and boots for under \$350. For diehard racers, companies offer custom-made, computer-engineered skis that match the skier's physique, some using materials, as one manufacturer touts, that "protect the homogeneous molecular structure of the base."

One feature that sets cross-country gear apart from downhill is the binding, the piece that connects the boot to the ski. A cross-country boot is only attached to the front of the binding, which makes it easier for skiers to propel themselves forward or to maneuver uphill. On a downhill ski, the front and the back of the boot both snap in. A downhill skier is less likely to lose a ski zipping down a mountainside

◀ Cross-country skiing along DuPage County forest preserve trails offers great exercise and a way to enjoy the winter scenery.





- ▲ Leashed pups can be enthusiastic cross-country companions. (Just make sure their paws stay out of set tracks and on the middle of the trail!)



© iStock.com Ekkaibur

- ▲ As soon as they have the parking lots plowed, Forest Preserve District rangers are out grooming the trails.
- ◀ Nothing excites a skier more than a fresh set of groomed tracks.

but needs help getting back to the top. (Because the first mechanical ski lifts appeared in the Alps, this type of skiing is also called alpine skiing.)

Once cross-country skiers hit the trails in DuPage, most use the “classic” style of skiing, pushing each foot forward one after the other in a gliding motion inside channels set in the snow. A beginner may start by shuffling along the tracks, but as technique improves, the skier learns how to kick off the rear leg and transfer weight to the front, launching further along the track. The traction for each stride comes from the “kick zone” on the bottom of ski, which is either a textured surface built into the ski or a special “kick wax” that the skier applies. For uphill stretches, skiers “herringbone” or “duck walk,” keeping the skis pointed out at a wide angle as they dig the edges into the snow and step up the incline.

The other method is skate or free-style skiing. Instead of keeping skis in line along parallel tracks, the skier moves forward by angling and pushing one ski away from the other in a manner similar to ice skating. Having a kick zone on skate skis hampers the style’s fluidity, so skate skis have slick bottoms; for traction, a skier pushes the edge into the snow.

Whether for fun or to ready for the next race, skiers can enjoy most the county’s 145 miles of forest preserve trails. When weather allows, rangers use all-terrain vehicles to groom over 80 miles for classic and skate skiing at preserves

such as Blackwell in Warrenville, Danada and Herrick Lake in Wheaton, Greene Valley and Springbrook Prairie in Naperville, Mallard Lake in Hanover Park, Waterfall Glen in Darien and West DuPage Woods in West Chicago. Grooming updates are recorded on the Outdoor Report at (630) 871-6422. Special equipment creates a pair of parallel tracks on the outer edge of the trail for classic skiers. A second pass sets a pair on the opposite side to allow for two-way traffic. The open stretch

## Don’t trek on the tracks.

The trails are for everyone to enjoy and most are wide enough for all types of use, so if you’re not a classic cross-country skier please step over — not on — any set tracks and use the middle of the trail. Once the snow starts to fall, District rangers and skiers spend hours on the trails reinforcing the tracks, which can easily collapse under the weight of a boot, snowshoe or hoof.

in the middle provides space for skate skiers, hikers, snowshoers and equestrians and features a corduroy pattern that traps blowing snow well after the groomer has passed.

DuPage County’s forest preserve offers some of the best cross-country skiing in the suburbs. It may be a recreational pastime thousands of years in the making, but there’s still plenty of fun left to enjoy! •

# directory



© Peter Vagti

## 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.

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

#### **Email Address**

[forest@dupageforest.org](mailto: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 48 hours before their visit.





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

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*please deliver to current resident*



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

Winter 2015

## This Winter



**St. James Farm After Dark**  
Jan. 9, Feb. 6 and March 6

**Volunteer Open House**  
Jan. 10

**Wonders of Winter**  
Feb. 7



**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

Open to Page 10 or visit  
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) for details  
on these and other great events!