

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

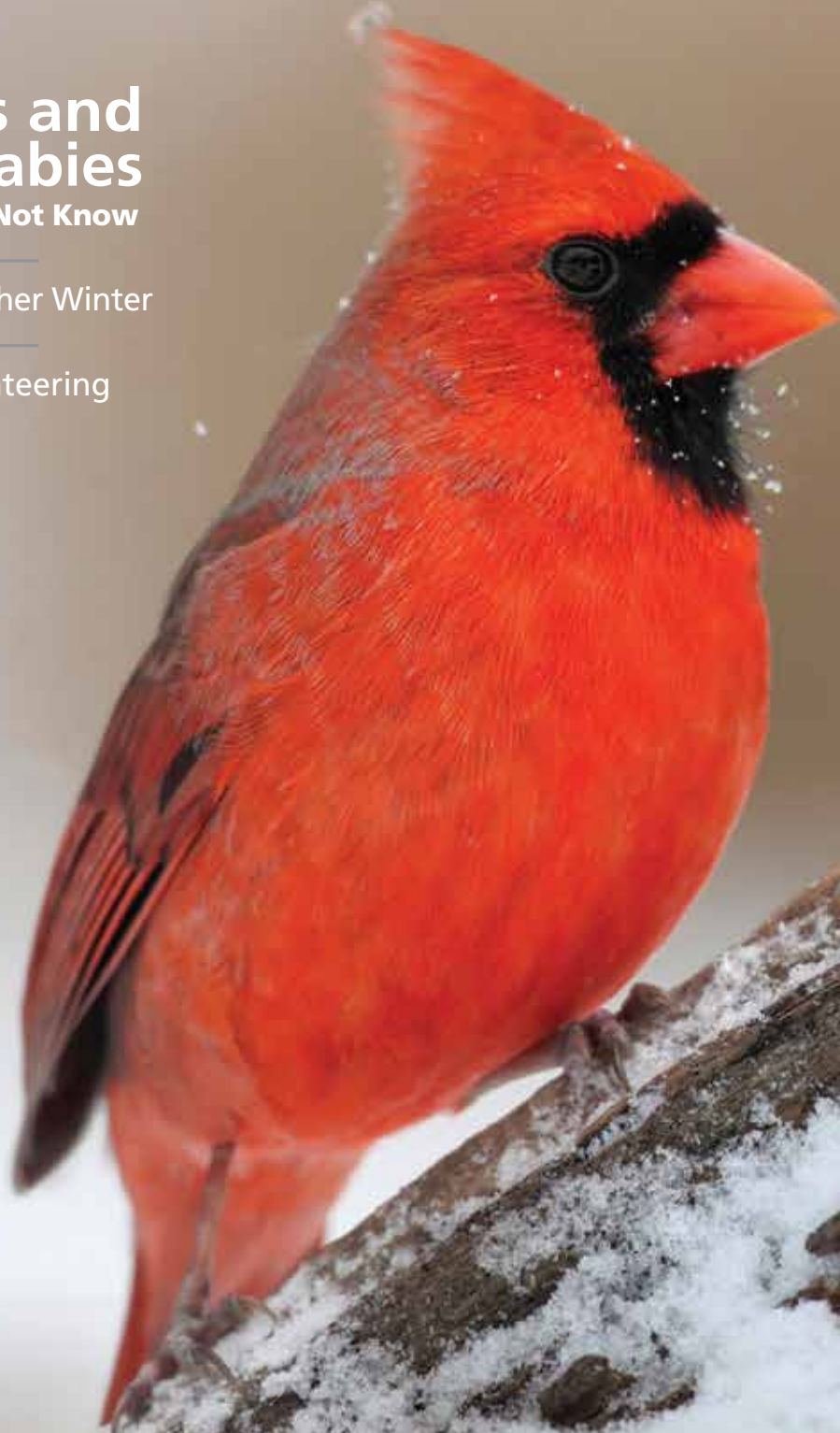
Winter 2016

Bunnies and Other Babies

What You May Not Know

6 Ways to Weather Winter

Leap Into Volunteering



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



After being active in DuPage County's forest preserves for so many years (on the trails as well as on the Board of Commissioners), I've made friends with a lot of people who get excited when it's time to pull out the insulated boots and ice fishing gear. I know quite a few, too, who are busy this month tuning up their cross-country skis. If you were a skier a decade ago, you had to blaze your own trails in most DuPage County forest preserves, but today our rangers groom over 70 miles for classic and freestyle skiers, often before the sun rises.

But grooming isn't the only way the District is making it easier to explore the forest preserves. Input from over 1,000 trail users last year told us that visitors were looking for better navigation signs. As a result, we developed a comprehensive sign program we rolled out this fall at Waterfall Glen and have in the works next for Fullersburg Woods, Danada and Herrick Lake. These coordinated sets of maps, mile markers, and four-sided posts with trail names and distances to parking lots and forest preserve features will make it easier for people to exercise, relax and get their daily dose of nature.

But I think one of our most exciting recent achievements has been the launch of our online registration system. When we surveyed forest preserve fans a year ago, it was at the top of their wish list. Now, at dupageforest.org you can sign up for most programs, reserve picnic areas and campsites, and get annual permits for boats, model crafts and off-leash dog areas — all 24/7. My family already has our off-leash permit for Baron, so we'll be enjoying the forest preserves this year with the rest of DuPage County's four-legged fans. We'll see you there!

Wishing you and yours all the best in 2016 —

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

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Editor

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© Robert Galloway



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On the cover: Northern cardinal © Steve Byland / iStock.com

OUR *Mission*

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

news & notes



© Anna Hesser

MORE TREES, PLEASE

All types of DuPage wildlife will benefit from the 1,000 trees and shrubs the Forest Preserve District's forestry and landscaping crews transplanted from the District nursery during the annual fall tree-planting program.

At Oak Meadows Golf Preserve in Addison, 175 new trees now augment the ongoing largescale restoration work, and crews will plant an additional 300 between now and 2019. In all, a third of the trees and shrubs needed for the project will come from the District nursery, which will help offset contractor costs.

About 300 trees replaced ash the District removed from picnic areas because of the destructive nonnative emerald ash borer. Others filled in reforested areas of Blackwell in Warrenville and Mallard Lake in Bloomingdale, where tree mortality was high because of the beetle. Over 100 were planted at the new off-leash dog area at Hawk Hollow in Bartlett and about two dozen at Oldfield Oaks in Darien, where the District will start work in 2016 on a new off-leash area.

The District transplants roughly 15 percent of its stock in the spring, especially redbuds, tulip trees and others that do better that time of year, but the majority of this work is in the fall. Crews are more available in fall than in spring, when they're beginning post-winter trail cleanups, mowing newly sprouted grass, replacing turf and tending to the nursery. Most trees transplant better in the fall, too, because the warmer soils and cooler air make it easier to establish new roots. As the air cools, the trees stop producing leaves, fruit and woody parts and focus their energy on growing new roots in the still-warm ground. This helps them better prepare for droughts and extreme heat that may accompany next year's growing season.

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 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and planning sessions are at 8 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.

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.



© Chad Howedel

TRAIL *Talk*

In 2015 Forest Preserve District crews added a 525-foot trail to Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve in Bartlett. The path links the neighboring subdivision and the asphalt trail along Stearns Road to the entrance and parking lot of the off-leash dog area. At Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton, a new 1,500-foot asphalt trail now connects the Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail to Naperville Road, allowing visitors using this popular trailhead to bypass the District headquarters parking lot. In accordance with updated codes, it also provides access from the office to the Pace bus stop on Naperville.

During the year, District crews also applied 10,000 tons of crushed limestone to over 15.5 miles of existing trails at forest preserves throughout the county. The work was part of the routine maintenance program that ensures the District inspects and resurfaces trails and examines and repairs related culverts and other drainage structures every five years.



BETTER WAYFINDING AT WATERFALL GLEN

In October the Forest Preserve District installed 19 new wayfinding posts and 19 mileage markers along 9.5 miles of trails at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien.

The project was the result of a survey the District completed earlier in the year. Over 1,000 hikers, joggers, bikers, bird-watchers and other visitors completed an online survey or participated in trailside surveys and open houses. As promised, the District analyzed the comments it received and used them to develop the signs, which make it easier to navigate. The four-sided posts have trail names, directional arrows, and distances to parking lots, forest preserve features and connecting trails.

Waterfall Glen is the first to receive the updated signs, and installation should begin in 2016 at the next forest preserve location, Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Aug. 16 and Oct. 28, 2015. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org. To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

Anonymous
\$25,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the St. James Farm horse-trough fountain restoration

Exelon Foundation
\$10,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Wallace Hastings
\$2,900 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Rotary Club of Elmhurst
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for programming trailer

Jerry and Amy Tavolino
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

James and Dona Schmitt
\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate for commemorative brick

Donald and Susan Panozzo
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Danada Equestrian Center



CHURCHILL WOODS RESTORATION

In December the Forest Preserve District will begin habitat-restoration work at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn to improve the degraded Babcock Grove woodland and reconnect it with the adjacent Churchill Prairie Nature Preserve.

Crews will first remove invasive, nonnative brush, such as honeysuckle and buckthorn, as well as select, overcrowding, weedy native trees, such as box elder and cherry. This will allow more sunlight to reach the soil, which will help oaks, hickories, hazelnuts, ironwoods and a variety of wildflowers to thrive. When completed, the project will give visitors impressive shows of springtime wildflowers and views of surrounding prairies, wetlands and woodlands.

To make the most of frozen ground, which allows crews to use heavy equipment without disturbing the soil, the District plans to complete this part of the project between now and April. During this time, visitors may see workers burning brush piles and operating chainsaws, skid-steer loaders and chipper trucks and may encounter temporary trail closings.



6 Ways to Weather Winter

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

You may love it or hate it, but nothing can change the fact it's winter in DuPage County. But don't burrow under the covers until spring. Take advantage of the county's forest preserves and see how an hour or two in one can make the next few weeks more enjoyable.

Heat things up.

At Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton and McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, enjoy the winter landscape, make a snowman or take a brisk walk through the woods, and then warm up by a roaring fire. Both preserves have reservable shelters with stone fireplaces, the perfect way to spend a couple of hours in the afternoon. Firewood's included; all you need to bring is the hot cocoa. (Remember, alcohol isn't allowed in the forest preserves.) And thanks to the Forest Preserve District's new online registration system you can reserve either shelter online. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register" to get planning. Like to do things old school instead? Reserve through Visitor Services weekdays at (630) 933-7248.

Soak up some sun.

If you get out of bed before the sun and the evening twilight beats you home, you need a little sunshine in your life on the weekends. It not only gives you a shot of vitamin D but also makes you happier. Like exercise, sunlight releases neurotransmitters in the brain that lift your mood. But grab your shades and sunscreen. The rays aren't as strong as in summer, but they still put out UV light, 80 percent of which gets reflected back at you from the snow.

Catch a snowflake on your tongue.

As Lucy Van Pelt will tell you, snowflakes are ripe for the picking in January, and if you want to enjoy the freshest, DuPage County's forest preserves have some of the best selections.

Forest preserve woodlands are good places to sample some frozen precipitation on a snow-falling-softly day. The trees are filled with busy chickadees and woodpeckers and the intertwined twigs and branches filter out the less natural sounds of DuPage County. The stretch of the Illinois Prairie Path Elgin Branch that leads through Timber Ridge in West Chicago offers one such path. So does the West Branch Regional Trail through Warrenville Grove in Warrenville or the Main Trail through Greene Valley in Naperville, which circles through high-quality oak woodlands.





© Mike Shimer



Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride.

Drivers today rely on horsepower to get from point A to point B, but so did farmers in the 1890s, and this winter you, too, can experience the magnificent grace of old-fashioned horsepower at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago.

The 15-minute rides begin in front of the historic barn and travel across Klein Creek, into the fields, and past the orchard, apiary, sheep shed and cattle pastures. You'll learn how the farm cares for the horses and how these powerful animals help prepare and plant the fields in return. Rides are scheduled for most Sundays in January and February; times and fees are on Page 14.

Rent a pair of snowshoes.

When that white stuff starts to pile up, why walk when you can snowshoe? Snowshoeing is as easy as walking, and unlike cross-country skiing you don't need special footwear. A comfortable pair of winter boots will do.

Be the first to hit the trails after a good snow, and you'll feel like you're trekking through the tundra. You'll burn a few extra calories while you're at it (and we all know how a little exercise can bust winter blues). Plus, you don't have to invest a lot of money to get your family geared up. When there's plenty of snow on the trails you can rent snowshoes at Blackwell in Warrenville and Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook. Details are on Page 16.

Make it special.

Your calendar fills up quickly when the weather is warm and the weekends are stuffed with outdoor special events, but once the new year rolls around it can be slim pickings — except in the county's forest preserves.

On several Saturdays and Sundays, forest preserves such as Herrick Lake, Churchill Woods in Glen Ellyn, Songbird Slough in Itasca and Wood Dale Grove in Wood Dale host a variety of outdoor experiences. Learn how to prepare a meal cooking with cast iron over an outdoor fire pit, try ice fishing, take a ranger-led snowshoe hike through the woods, pick up winter survival tips or gain an introduction to archery. Check out your options in this issue's calendar, and then register online 24/7 at dupageforest.org.

And on Saturday, Feb. 6, the District is pulling out all the stops at the annual Wonders of Winter. During this four-hour festival, you can try ice fishing, snowshoeing and geocaching and then take a break on a horse-drawn hayride before roasting marshmallows over a fire. Inside Mayslake Hall, you can warm up with hot cocoa while talking with District rangers, naturalists and volunteers about year-round programs and events. Weathering winter has never been more fun! •



© Jeff Cagle

winter calendar

See pages 10 through 16 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary. You can register for most programs online at dupageforest.org.



© Michael Kappel

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
jan					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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27	28	29	30	31	mar	

January

- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Snowshoe Hike
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Hard Water Classic
Leap Into Volunteering Open House
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Archery for Beginners
Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 11** Art at Mayslake: Collage and Assemblage Boxes Begins
- 12** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Nature
Photography Begins
- 13** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography
Fundamentals I Begins
Snowshoe Hike for Active Adults
- 15** Ice Harvesting
- 16** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Ice Harvesting
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
- 17** Cast-Iron Cooking
Ice Harvesting
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Ice Harvesting
Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 19** Art at Mayslake: Photoshop I Begins
The Story of the Potawatomi Begins
- 21** Leap Into Volunteering Presentation
- 22** St. James Farm After Dark
- 23** Snowshoe Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Ice Fishing for Beginners
- 29** Art at Mayslake: Creative Art Blocks Begins
Star-Lit Ski and Snowshoe Excursion
- 30** Art at Mayslake: Great Beginnings Writing
Workshop Begins
Cross-Country Skiing After Dark
Pie-Baking Class
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Winter Adventure Day
- 31** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Winter Wilderness Survival



© Vail Marston

February

- 1** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Tragedy in November: The Great Cherry Mine Disaster Begins
- 6** Taffy-Pulling Party
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wonders of Winter
- 7** Animals and Winter Survival
Snowshoe Hike
- 9** Leap Into Volunteering Presentation
- 13** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Romantic Night Hike
Taffy-Pulling Party
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Archery for Beginners
- 15** Navigation: GPS Explorers
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 17** Snowshoe Hike for Active Adults
- 19** St. James Farm After Dark
- 20** America's Gilded Age Begins
Navigation: GPS Explorers
Taffy-Pulling Party
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Ice Fishing for Beginners
- 22** Art at Mayslake: Teen Open Studio Begins
- 24** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography
Fundamentals II Begins
- 27** Cross-Country Skiing After Dark
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 28** Cast-Iron Cooking
Ice Fishing for Beginners
Volunteer Restoration Workday

March

- 1** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
Art at Mayslake: Photoshop II Begins
- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Mayslake Peabody Estate Research Showcase
- 5** Ice Fishing for Beginners
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Cast-Iron Cooking
Music at Mayslake: Picoso
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Music at Mayslake: Acappellago
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sunday
Navigation: Geocaching
- 14** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
Art at Mayslake: Lightroom I Begins
- 15** Lectures at Mayslake: Ballets Russes
- 19** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Ranger Adventure Day
- 23** Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 25** St. James Farm After Dark
- 26** Bread-Baking Class
Trout Fishing for Kids
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 27** Animal Tracking
- 28** Camp Danada: Spring Break Begins
Spring Break Spruce Up
- 29** Ranger Adventure Day
- 30** Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 31** Spring Break Spruce Up

winter calendar



© Rick Lyter

America's Gilded Age 5759

At this five-part program on Saturdays, explore the period between the 1870s and early 1900s, when rapid economic growth and political corruption meant extreme wealth for a few but life near the poverty line for most. Ages 18 and up. \$139 per person; \$99 ages 55 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 20 – Mar 19 1 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Animals and Winter Survival 5820

Learn how animals deal with harsh winters by migrating, hibernating or using adaptations that help them stay active. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$1 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Feb 7 2 – 3:30 p.m. Willowbrook



© Wendy Piersall

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago (630) 876-5900
Registration is not required for these free programs.

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade.

Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

LAMBING

See the season's new lambs — maybe 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 1890s life.

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

Animal Tracking 5831

Learn techniques to identify the signs animals leave behind. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 27 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake

Archery for Beginners 5805

Learn basic archery techniques and safety in an indoor, family-friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 10 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake
Feb 14 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake

Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting 5751

Learn about drawing, color mixing, color theory, elements of design, composition and more at this six-part class on Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 1 – Mar 7 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Mar 14 – Apr 18 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Collage and Assemblage Boxes 5749

Dig out old photos and found papers and objects, and learn to prepare and mount collages on wood panels using acrylics, mixed media, glue, nails and other hardware at this five-part class on Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$165 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 11 – Feb 8 9 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Creative Art Blocks 5760

Create a small collage on a 4-inch block of cedar. Sand and prepare the surface of the block, tack down found papers with a tack iron, and add found objects to create original sculptures at this five-part class on Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$165 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 29 – Mar 28 9 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake



© Chad Horwedel

© Jonathan Kriz

Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Fundamentals I 5747

Learn about the important features of digital cameras and the aesthetics of great images at this five-part class on Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 13 – Feb 10	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Fundamentals II 5753

Learn to create images using your camera's shutter priority, aperture priority and manual modes at this five-part class on Wednesdays. Prerequisite: Digital Photography I or equivalent. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 24 – Mar 23	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor 5746

Explore and enhance your own artistic style while painting in a beautiful setting at this six-part class on Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person per session. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 12 – Feb 16	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Mar 1 – Apr 12	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake

(except Mar 29)

Art at Mayslake: Great Beginnings Writing Workshop 5757

Learn how to hook readers and keep them turning the pages. Ages 18 and up. \$30 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 30	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Introduction to Nature Photography 5755

Gain an understanding of natural light, basic computer skills and camera settings, exposure, depth-of-field and more at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 12, 19, 26	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
Jan 16, 23	TBD	TBD

Art at Mayslake: Lightroom I 5744

Learn about Adobe's Lightroom software, which allows you to enhance and organize digital photos, and work with the program's Library and Develop modules at this five-part class on Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Mar 14 – Apr 11	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Photoshop I 5454

Discover how to evaluate and optimize digital images at this five-part class on Tuesdays. Learn how to measure, interpret and correct color and sharpen, dodge and burn images. Best for photographers with Photoshop CS5 or later. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 19 – Feb 16	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Photoshop II 5455

Explore color management and its effects on image editing at this five-part class on Tuesdays. Learn how to crop and straighten images; remove dust and scratches; adjust shadows and highlights; and use masks. Prerequisite: Photoshop I or equivalent. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Mar 1 – 29	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Teen Open Studio 5752

Enhance your intermediate or advanced painting or drawing techniques in pastels, colored pencil, graphite, watercolor, charcoal, acrylic paint and other media at this eight-part class on Mondays. Ages 12 – 18. \$165 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 22 – Apr 11	6 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register."
2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number that's after the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

winter calendar



© Wally Slowik



Bread-Baking Class 5899

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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Mar 26	9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Camp Danada: Spring Break 5893

Hey kids, spend spring break getting hands-on time with the horses at Danada. Help with grooming and barn chores, take supervised lead-line rides (weather permitting), and enjoy games and crafts. Choose either the morning or afternoon session of this four-day camp. Ages 10 – 14. \$125 per DuPage resident; \$150 per nonresident. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 668-6012.

Mar 28 – 31	8:30 a.m. – Noon 1 – 4:30 p.m.	Danada
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Cast-Iron Cooking 5810

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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 17	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 28	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Mar 6	Noon – 2 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Cross-Country Skiing After Dark 5839

Bring your skis and join a moonlit ranger-led tour as you learn about the forest preserve's resident plants and animals. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 30	4 – 6 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 27	4 – 6 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Sunday 5821

Take a 75-minute guided stroll through the woods and discover the sweet secret of turning tree sap into syrup. Tours start every 20 minutes. All ages. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Mar 13	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Hard Water Classic 5807

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage. Awards ceremony and door prizes will follow fishing. Bring your own bait and gear. All ages. \$15 per person in advance; \$20 at the event. For details and to register, visit dupageforest.org/hwclassic or call (630) 933-7248.

Jan 9	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Ice Fishing for Beginners 5809

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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 3	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Jan 16	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Jan 24	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 31	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Feb 13	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Feb 21	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 28	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Mar 5	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake

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. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jan 15 – 18	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Leap Into Volunteering Open House

Talk with representatives from our 10 volunteer programs. At 10 a.m. there will be a one-hour presentation highlighting 40 volunteer opportunities. Wrap up your visit with questions and answers in the lobby. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7233.

Jan 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada Headquarters
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register."
2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number that's after the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.



Leap Into Volunteering Presentation

Join us for a one-hour presentation that offers an overview of 40 volunteer opportunities in our 10 different programs. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7233.

Jan 21	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada Headquarters
Feb 9	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada Headquarters

Lectures at Mayslake: Ballets Russes 5939

Explore the 1909 – 1929 journey of this influential dance company and its founder, Serge Diaghilev, whose work with choreographers like Nijinsky and Balanchine, composers like Ravel and Stravinsky, and artists like Bakst and Picasso changed the art world forever. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Mar 15	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Peabody Estate Research Showcase

Hear fascinating findings from 10 years of volunteer research. Topics include Mayslake Hall, the Peabody family and the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Mar 3	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake: Acappellago

Spend an evening filled with the sounds of a cappella as this chamber choir performs its spring concert, “Escape to ... You Name It!!” Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$17 adults; \$15 seniors and students. Purchase tickets at acappellago.org or (708) 484-3797.

Mar 12	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Cultural Events at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE’S “FOOLING BUDDHA”

When you’re the first “American Buddhist” kid on the block in the 1970s, you learn to battle the bully with magic and misdirection, but every miracle has its price. David Kovac returns with his hit one-man show, a blend of philosophical humor and slight of hand. Ages 14 and up. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

March 23 – April 24

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.
Thursdays and Sundays 3 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE’S “JEEVES AT SEA”

On a yacht off Monte Carlo, feather-brained Bertie Wooster is caught between the romantic intentions of mischievous Lady Stella and stern Miss Minerva. Add Percy and Alfred Crumpworth, and you’ve a predicament that may stump even the redoubtable Jeeves. Ages 14 and up. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Jan. 27 – Feb. 28

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.
Thursdays and Sundays 3 p.m.

FOTOMUSES EXHIBIT

Explore an exhibit by this diverse group of female photographers united by their love of photography and their desire to share art with others. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

March 9 – April 22

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ILLINOIS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY EXHIBIT

Enjoy beautiful artwork by the members of the Illinois Watercolor Society. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Jan. 13 – March 1

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$5 per person. Register for group tours at (630) 206-9588.

Wednesdays 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.
No tours Dec. 12 – Jan. 13

winter calendar



© Michael Kappel



Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Take in an afternoon of Pan-European Baroque gems from Vivaldi, Telemann and others as well as French Baroque works by Rameau and Lully. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 adults; \$23 seniors; \$7 students. Purchase tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or (630) 941-0202.

Jan 16	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake: Picoso

Enjoy an eclectic repertoire ranging from celebrated masterworks to modern experimental pieces with solo performances by members of this virtuosic chamber ensemble. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at picosamusic.com.

Mar 6	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Navigation: Geocaching 5830

Try a family-fun activity using GPS units to find hidden caches. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 13	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Navigation: GPS Explorers 5832

Join a GPS-based adventure using clues and coordinates and learn about the preserve's resident plants and animals. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 10	10 a.m. – Noon	Meacham Grove
Jan 18	10 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
Feb 15	10 a.m. – Noon	Meacham Grove
Feb 20	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Mar 23	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Meacham Grove
Mar 30	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

Pie-Baking Class 5889

Learn baking secrets 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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Jan 30	9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Ranger Adventure Day 5971

Hey, kids, learn what it takes to be a ranger for a day as you try archery, go on a guided hike and enjoy other outdoor fun while you learn about forest preserve plants and animals. Bring a lunch. Ages 9 – 12. \$60 per DuPage County resident; \$75 per nonresidents. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 22	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Mar 29	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake



Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Hear about farming with real horsepower on a 15-minute ride. Rides only take place if there's at least 4 inches of snow on the trails. All ages. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Sundays January – February (except Jan. 17)
Noon – 3 p.m.

Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register."
2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number that's after the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.



© Chad Horwedel



© Rick Lyter

Romantic Night Hike 5802

Enjoy a lantern-lit, self-guided walk through the woods with your sweetheart; then, warm up with hot cocoa around a cozy fire. Bring your own gear or rent snowshoes (50- to 225-pound capacity) for an additional \$8 per person. Adults only. \$7.50 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Feb 13	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Snowshoe Hike 5803

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. Bring your own snowshoes to this free program or rent a pair (50- to 225-pound capacity) for \$8 per person. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 3	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 23	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Feb 7	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Snowshoe Hike for Active Adults 5825

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. Bring your own snowshoes to this free program or rent a pair (50- to 225-pound capacity) for \$8 per person. Ages 50 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 13	9 – 11 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Feb 17	9 – 11 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove

Spring Break Spruce Up

Don't sit around over spring break. Get out and enjoy the farm! Help with chores and then stick around for games. Ongoing hands-on activities vary. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Mar 28, 31	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Apr 1	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Star-Lit Ski and Snowshoe Excursion 5819

Experience the beauty of nature after dark as you hike, ski or snowshoe through a lantern-lit trail. Join a guided hike at 6:30 p.m. to learn about McKee Marsh. Bring your own gear or rent snowshoes (50- to 225-pound capacity) for an additional \$8 per person. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 29	6 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell
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St. James Farm After Dark 5529

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 (50- to 225-pound capacity) for an additional \$8 per person. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jan 22	6 – 8 p.m.	St. James Farm
Feb 19	6 – 8 p.m.	St. James Farm
Mar 25	6 – 8 p.m.	St. James Farm

The Story of the Potawatomi 5756

Learn about the tremendous influence the Potawatomi had on the settlement of Chicago and the Midwest, and take an in-depth look at this remarkable culture from prehistoric through modern times during this six-part program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ages 18 and up. \$149 per person; \$109 ages 55 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jan 19 – Feb 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Taffy-Pulling Party 5780

Tour the 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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Feb 6, 13, 15, 20, 27	10 – 11 a.m. 1 – 2 p.m. 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Tragedy in November: The Great Cherry Mine Disaster 5758

At this four-part program on Thursdays, learn how one day in November changed the lives of 500 mine workers, including many immigrants, who were working underground in Cherry, Illinois, in the safest coal mine in the U.S. Ages 18 and up. \$129 per person; \$89 ages 55 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 4 – 25	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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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. Questions? Call (630) 933-7668.

Mar 26	8 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
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winter calendar

© Chad Horwedel



WINTER FUN

SNOW TUBING

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

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 (\$7 for nylon tubes) and end at 3:30 p.m. Only District tubes are allowed.

Saturdays and Sundays Through Feb. 28

Plus Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 (except Dec. 25)

Jan. 18

Feb. 15

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SNOWSHOES

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook

Explore the forest preserves by snowshoes! Rentals are \$8 for two hours or \$13 per day and are only available when there's plenty of snow on the trails.

- When Mount Hoy's open, rent at the base until 2 p.m.
- On weekdays when Mount Hoy isn't open, rent 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the west sector office on Mack Road. Call (630) 876-5931 for availability.
- You can also rent daily 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call (630) 850-8110 for availability.

Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help remove nonnative plants or seed. Ages 8 and up; under 14 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 933-7233 at least five business days prior (10 days for groups of five or more).

Jan 2, 16	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jan 6, 9, 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Jan 23	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Jan 30	1 – 4 p.m.	West Chicago Prairie
Feb 3, 6, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Feb 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 13, 28	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 2, 5, 6,	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
12, 19, 20, 26		
Mar 5	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Mar 12, 26	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Mar 19	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Swift Prairie

When Darkness Falls 5827

Take a brisk 2-mile 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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 26	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Winter Adventure Day 5814

Learn how to land a fish through the ice or trek through the woods on snowshoes. Then, warm up by the fire. Equipment provided (50- to 225-pound capacity). All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 30	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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Winter Wilderness Survival 5828

Learn basic winter-survival preparation and fire-building skills. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 31	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Wonders of Winter

Try ice fishing, geocaching, snowshoeing and other ways to enjoy the outdoors in winter. Go on a nature hike or horse-drawn hayride, and then warm up with indoor activities as you talk with rangers, naturalists and volunteers about forest preserve plants, animals and programs. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 6	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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© Mike Shimer

Maybe It's Babies Not Rabies

and Other Truths About Wildlife and Their Young

by **EMILY MILLEVILLE**, WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

Humans aren't the only ones who get antsy after a long, cold winter. Wild animals also become more active, most with one particular focus in mind: mating and raising their young.

Some species start on their broods while winter's still in full swing. Great horned owls begin breeding as early as January, which means it's not unusual to see an owl nesting while there's still snow on the ground. If you get a chance to visit one of DuPage County's many preserves at dusk, listen carefully for hooting owls defending their nests. Late winter and early spring are also excellent times to watch red-tailed hawks and other raptors begin their courtships with acrobatic flights and piercing calls. You might even spot gray and fox squirrels in their "mating chases" as early as February.



© Robert Galloway

Small but Mighty

Eastern cottontails can survive without their mothers when they're only about 4 inches long. No matter the size, if you see a young bunny whose eyes are open and ears are standing erect, it's already on its own.



Maybe It's Babies Not Rabies

In DuPage County, wild animals typically avoid people, but it's not unusual to see some species more often in spring. Working diligently to provide for their young can be an all-day job. So while you may have heard that spotting a raccoon, coyote, fox or opossum during the day means the animal's rabid, this time of year it may just mean it's foraging for food or looking for potential nesting sites, trying to keep its young safe and healthy. (Of course healthy or not, it's never a good idea to approach any wild animal.)

Of course the result of all of this activity is an eruption of baby animals between March and May, and while we humans must look after our young for years after their arrival, it's important to remember that wildlife does things differently.

Owls and most songbirds have "altricial" young, which means they're born helpless and rely on their parents for warmth, protection and nutrition. Still, their parents will leave the nests shortly after their broods hatch to look for food. Songbirds are especially demanding, requiring parents to continuously forage during the first few weeks of life.

Facts About Cats (and Dogs)

Never remove baby animals from their mothers' care solely because pets are in the area. If your four-legged friend is a dog, let it outside only under direct supervision. If you have a feline companion, always keep it indoors. All cats — even declawed, well-fed ones — are instinctively proficient hunters, and free-roaming cats — domestic as well as feral — kill millions of wild animals each year nationwide.



© Matt Cinque

During this time, you may pass by a low-hanging nest filled with begging blue jays, but rest assured the next meal is likely on the way.

Young squirrels are regularly tended to for the first few weeks, but eastern cottontails take a more "hands-off" approach. It's not unusual for females to stop by their ground nests to feed and groom their young just once or twice an evening. They can raise entire litters without ever being spotted by a single person. This might explain in part why cottontails are on their own after only 21 days.

Gotta Fly

When songbirds such as robins, goldfinches and chickadees hatch, they're featherless "nestlings" that need their parents for food and warmth. They're considered "fledglings" once they're covered in feathers without any patches of bare skin. At this point, they're not yet able to fly, but that doesn't prevent their parents from pushing them out of the nest and starting them on the road to independence. These downy birds may look helpless hopping around on the ground, but they're actually learning important skills from their parents.

If you find a young bird on the ground, a good rule of thumb is to place it back in the nest if you see any bare skin. If the bird is able to perch (stand or sit upright) and is covered in feathers, leave it on the ground and watch from a distance. If you must move it, place it in a bush or low tree a few feet from where you found it, but do not move it from the general area. Its parents are likely watching nearby.



© Todd Ake



Phone First

If you come across a wild animal and are concerned, leave it alone. Call Willowbrook Wildlife Center first for advice at (630) 942-6200. It might save you a trip. For instance, this great horned owl nestling was too young to survive on its own and needed help after losing its parents and nest. The fully independent cottontails shown at the top, though, were brought in as “orphans” but then promptly sent home. Last year the center had people place more than 500 unintentionally “kidnapped” self-reliant critters back in their original habitats.

The center is located at 525 S. Park Blvd. in Glen Ellyn and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on select holidays. The animal admittance area is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Recorded messages provide general instructions when the center is closed, and animal-specific information is online at dupageforest.org/livingwithwildlife.

With such a flurry of furred and feathered offspring, many well-meaning people unintentionally mistake unattended babies for orphans, but as we like to say at Willowbrook Wildlife Center, “If you care, leave them there.” The parents are likely near and well-hidden or purposely staying away so they don’t draw the attention of predators. There’s even a good chance their young are already independent. It’s natural for people to worry, but wild animals are surprisingly hardy and it’s usually best not to intervene but to simply enjoy nature’s new arrivals! •

No, You Don’t Have Cooties

Many people think that if they touch a baby animal its parents will reject it. But the truth is that most birds have a minimal sense of smell and all birds and mammals have strong maternal instincts and will care for young regardless. But this doesn’t mean you should start picking up small animals for the fun of it. You can do other kinds of harm (and risk coming in contact with fleas, parasites and diseases while you’re at it).

Still, a robin won’t mind if you return a fallen nestling, and if you find a stray cottontail with eyes closed and ears down, it’s alright if you put it back in its nest and cover it with grass. (Leave it alone after that, though. A female cottontail won’t mind if you replace her young, but too much activity can stress both mom and young.)



© Julie Falk



Leap Into Volunteering!

by **DEBORAH CUCA BROOKS**, VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Since the early 1980s, thousands of people have donated their time to support the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Over the past year alone, 900 individuals and dozens of community groups contributed over 64,000 hours — a value of more than \$1.5 million — and we're hoping many more will "leap into volunteering" this leap year and help us do even more!

As a volunteer at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook, you'll help naturalists as they introduce the curious young and old to the wonderful world of conservation, plants and animals during school programs, special events and casual conversations in the visitor center.

Like to be outside more? With Natural Resources you can aid ecologists throughout DuPage County, recording data on birds, butterflies, plants and frogs or pitching in at the nursery or during workdays. If you're more of an activity hound, you can walk or bike as a Trail Patrol volunteer, offering maps, answering questions and reporting downed limbs and other trail troubles. You can even help rangers with kayaking, archery, fishing, orienteering and snowshoeing programs with Volunteer Ranger Experience opportunities.

At Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn, renowned for its care of injured and orphaned native wildlife, employees guide animal-care volunteers as they prepare food, clean



While taking a bike ride in 2007, Tom Brandseth saw two Trail Patrol volunteers wearing their official vests and stopped to ask what they were doing. He became a volunteer himself in 2009, and as the trail tale goes, it was a life-changing experience.

At the first meeting of the season he met fellow volunteer Carol Thorne, who also loved the trails and often took walks to think and enjoy nature. Since that time, the couple has been inseparable, enjoying more than 2,600 hours on the trails and at special events side-by-side, making the forest preserves friendlier, easier-to-navigate places for everyone to enjoy.

cages and assist with the rehabilitation process. This program requires a commitment of one four-hour shift each week for one year, but because the animals need consistent care, it's an understandable requirement. (And let's face it. The critters are worth it!) Volunteers at Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton make similar commitments when signing up to help care for the center's 19 resident horses. They assist staff not only by grooming and working with the horses and providing general care but also by helping with riding lessons, group tours, camps for kids and the Danada Fall Festival, the District's largest special event.

One of the most flexible volunteer programs is Special Services. These folks pitch in by handing out maps, registering visitors and assisting with craft projects at special events or by labeling and stuffing envelopes, which has given them the endearing nickname "super stuffers."

If history's your passion, step into the 1890s — and period clothing — at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago, where you and the whole family can assist with house tours, fieldwork, livestock care and school programs. If you'd prefer something more "20th century," considering becoming a volunteer at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. You can help share stories of Mayslake Hall and the Peabody family on estate tours, work your green thumb in the English gardens, or enjoy the thrill of the hunt as you research the property's history. At St. James Farm in Warrenville, your support can help visitors better understand the estate's buildings, art and gardens during tours and events like Family Field Day.

Sound interesting? Then join us Jan. 9 at our "Leap Into Volunteering" open house, where we'll have info on all 40 Forest Preserve District volunteer opportunities. Details are on Page 12, so get ready for a great way to leap into 2016! •



A volunteer program assistant at St. James Farm

since 2011, Jayne Boyle (pictured here on the right) has spent over 400 hours sharing the history of St. James Farm during guided tours.

"For years I would walk on the Illinois Prairie Path along the property, looking at the Kremlin-yellow buildings. I had attended some of the fundraisers at the



farm, and once the District opened the property to the public, I knew that I wanted to be part of the volunteer program. During the past five years, I've never tired of learning and sharing more and more about St. James Farm and sharing that history with our many visitors."

When Glenn Perricone was a political science major

at College of DuPage in 2010, he needed to log 15 volunteer hours for one of his classes, so he interviewed and signed on as an animal keeper volunteer at Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

"It wasn't easy cleaning cages, especially in winter, but I soon looked forward to seeing the animals, talking to other volunteers and learning from staff," Glenn remembers. "It opened my eyes and my mind to nature and a world I never knew existed."



Before long he had 40 hours under his belt and naturalist Ron Skleney was introducing him to the world of birding. Glenn then became a trained volunteer interpreter and raptor handler, working with the center's resident owls, falcons and hawks. Now, 1,400 volunteer hours later, he's "500 percent happier" than he ever thought and plans to be a naturalist.

"I found something I enjoy that's fulfilling and found my passion and a career that I dove right into like a peregrine falcon!"

directory



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

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

Closed for Renovations Until 2017
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 595-0071



© Chad Horwedel

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.

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

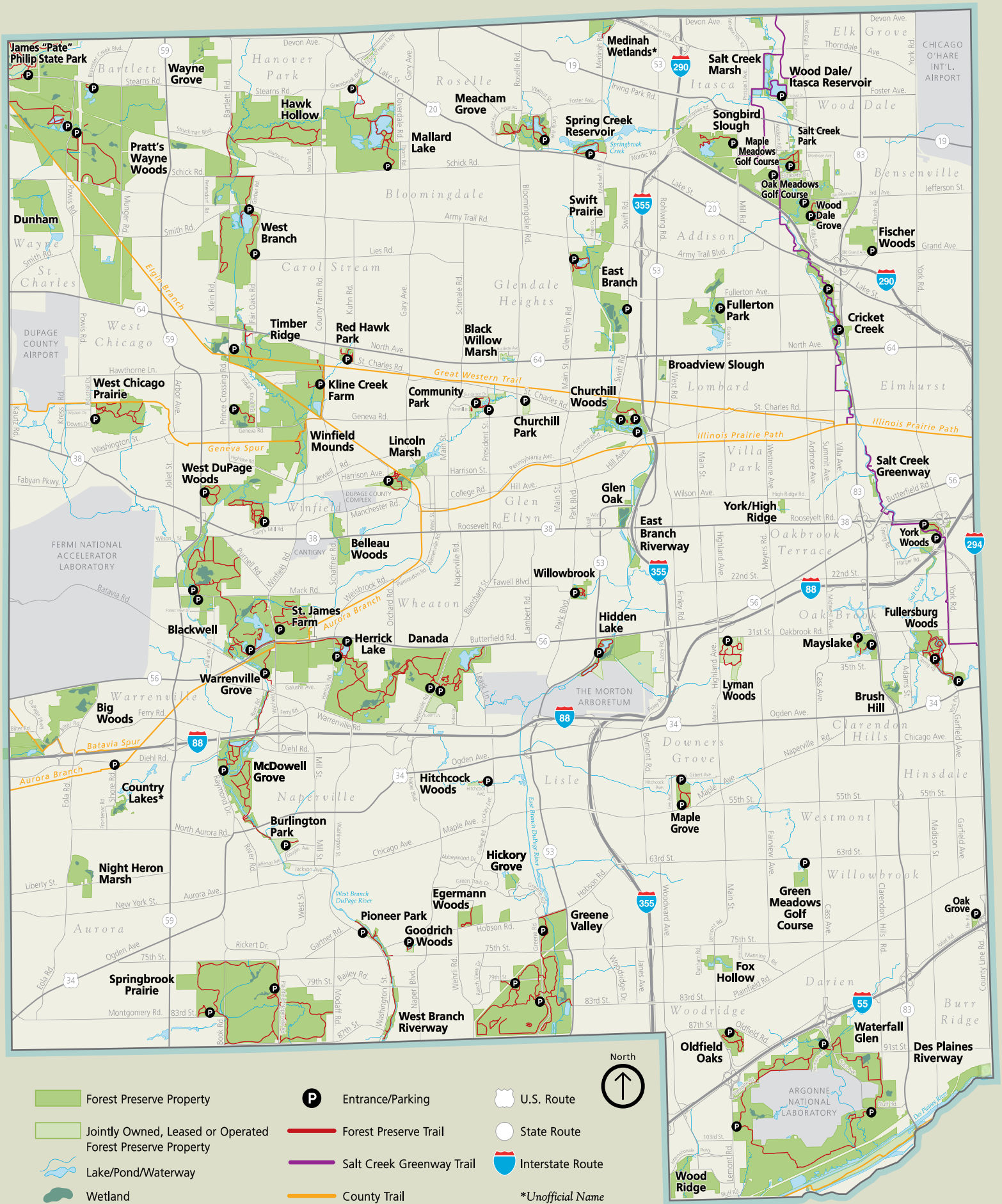
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

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 visitor center and the surrounding Willowbrook Forest Preserve are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The animal admittance area is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All are closed on select holidays.





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(630) 933-7200
dupageforest.org

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*Bunny slippers optional.