

theConservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2017

On With the Show!
Your Guide to Fall Colors

Wildlife Winter Prep

Fun: Right on Target



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



One of the things our Board of Commissioners is continually excited about is the special support many of our agency's key efforts receive from the community. Each year, hundreds of individuals, corporations and groups make extra commitments to strengthen the Forest Preserve District's mission of conservation, education and recreation.

Since 2010 the Friends of the Forest Preserve District has served as our agency's 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm, providing a convenient avenue for tax-deductible contributions to benefit forest preserves and visitors alike. One of the Friends' objectives has been to work with staff to develop several priority projects, fundraising initiatives centered on specific goals.

In August the Friends accepted \$23,333 from Clarke, a global environmental products and services company, in support of one such priority project at Belleau Woods Forest Preserve. With a creek gently winding through a centuries-old oak forest, Belleau Woods stands as one of the county's rare high-quality woodlands. But invasive nonnative plants and shrubs continue to threaten this ecosystem. Funds raised through the Friends will allow the District to knock back these invasives over a two-year period.

You don't need to be a corporation to make a difference, though. Recently, the Friends established the "Adopt a Blanding's Turtle" program, which allows individual donors to support this state-endangered reptile by funding the care and enrichment of captive-reared hatchlings. You won't be able to take your turtle home, but you will be able to name it and might even receive updates after the microchipped animal is released into the wild. Sound interesting? You can find details at dupageforest.org/donate.

There are many ways to support the county's forest preserves, whether through the Friends, by becoming a District volunteer or by simply spreading the word about your favorite trail, lake or landscape. Whichever you choose, I hope you'll enjoy the forest preserves to the fullest this fall!

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BOARD MEETINGS

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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Fall 2017, Vol. 53, No. 4

Editor

Jayne Bohner



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contents

Vol. 53, No. 4 | **Fall 2017**

4 **News & Notes**

6 **Winter Prep**

8 **Fall Calendar**

18 **On With the Show**

20 **Fun: Right on Target**

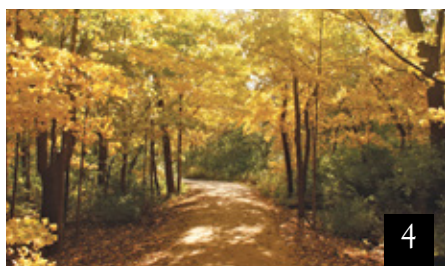
22 **Directory**

23 **Map**

On the cover: Sugar maple leaf iStock.com/Liu Sol

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



6



8



18



20

news & notes

LIVE and On Demand

Can't make it to an upcoming board meeting? Find the latest schedules and agendas and watch proceedings live or on demand at dupageforest.org. 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.

COMING SOON: WEBSITE REBOOT

The District is unveiling a new website this fall, and it's going to mean easier access to your forest preserve faves, even when you're on the go!

The website's address will remain the same — dupageforest.org — but the design and navigation will be updated to make it easier to find news, facts on native plants and wildlife, permits, and program registration info. More importantly for mobile-savvy forest preserve fans, pages will adjust automatically to display appropriately on phones and tablets as well as computer monitors.



istock.com/eggagjiew



PREVIEW SEASON AT THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

After two years of major construction and renovations, The Preserve at Oak Meadows reopened Aug. 7 for a special preview season. Golfers can now reserve tee times at 630-595-0071 up to five days in advance (seven days for groups with permanent tee times in 2014 or 2015). Hours and availability may be limited, though, to allow the young fairways, tees and greens to fully take root.

The course will open for the full season in 2018, when permanent tee times, the DuPage Golf Junior School and other programs will resume.

The renovated practice area at The Preserve has target greens and a fairway, upgraded range balls, and two short practice greens. The chipping areas by the practice tee are for golfers who've scheduled tee times or purchased range balls, but the two practice putting greens west of the pro shop are free and available to all golfers.



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

This fall, the Forest Preserve District will be reaching out to DuPage County residents and forest preserve fans to help it determine which projects and initiatives to address over the next five years.

In addition to hosting six community meetings in September and October at convenient locations around the county, the Forest Preserve District will be sending surveys to randomly selected DuPage households via U.S. mail or email. If you receive one of these surveys, please take a few minutes to complete and return it. (Surveys sent via U.S. mail will include postage-paid return envelopes.) After the random survey period ends, everyone will be able to take the survey online.

For meeting details and survey updates, visit dupageforest.org/master-plan.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between April 17 and July 16. 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 of DuPage County, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

Donna Jelf Estate

\$84,578.22 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Wallace Hastings Estate

\$25,000 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Openlands

\$10,000 — ComEd Green Region Grant for pollinator habitat at Night Heron Marsh Forest Preserve

Peter Crist

\$2,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center in memory of Jordan Crist

John and Nancy Buttita

\$1,830 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Kenneth McAfee

\$1,500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Dennis and Connie Keller

\$1,260 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Gary Dobson and Cynthia Rein

\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Francis Karwoski

\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the Belleau Woods Restoration Project

Mary Ann Mahoney

\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Wim Waal

\$1,000 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Charles and Andrea Weissenburger

\$775 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Gary Montgomery and Judy Susarrey-Montgomery

\$700 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Janneke Waal-Fowers

\$630 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Marvin and Ardythe Tiesenga

\$540 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Rosalie Cieply

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

David and Claudia D'Hooge

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

FedEx

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Carol O'Neal

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Rotary Club of Elmhurst

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Special Needs Adventure and Outdoor Education Days

Laura Torphy

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Neal and Ellyn Vogel

\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Wheaton Garden Club

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

AWARD BOOSTS WORK AT BELLEAU WOODS

In August the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit support arm of the Forest Preserve District, received \$23,333 from Clarke as part of the company's One for Tomorrow program, which recognizes organizations for their environmental education, land and water conservation, and wildlife protection activities. The award will go toward the \$42,000 goal for the Natural Resources department's Belleau Woods restoration initiative, which the Friends adopted as one of its priority projects.

Belleau Woods Forest Preserve, which is also a state-designated land and water reserve, is a rare high-quality woodland that's home to hundreds of native plants and animals, including the state-threatened black-billed cuckoo. Invasive nonnative plants continue to threaten this rich biological diversity, but money raised through the priority project will allow the District to revitalize the habitat over a two-year period. Individuals interested in supporting this project can do so at dupageforest.org/donate.





◀ The woodchuck is one of the only true DuPage hibernators. It can spend up to five months in its sealed burrow.

© Stan Tekiela natureart.com

Winter Prep

by **SUSAN URASKY**, NATURALIST, FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

In fall, when forest preserve visitors are only beginning to think about unpacking their winter coats and scarves, DuPage wildlife is preparing for the road ahead. Monarchs and many birds are moving south, but several animals remain, relying on special adaptations to help them survive the snow, wind and lack of food and water the coming season will bring.

Some creatures move startlingly short distances to gear up for winter. Earthworms and snails move into leaf litter or rotten logs, and insects that spend summers in trees and bushes settle on the ground, where they find suitable winter homes in leaves, roots, or the cracks and crevices of rocks or trees.

Reptiles and amphibians can't regulate their body temperatures, so they seek out shelters where they can spend winter in an inactive state called "brumation." Snakes cluster together between rocks, underground or in brush piles to preserve as much group warmth as possible. Many frogs, toads and turtles bury themselves in the soil below the frost line to avoid freezing groundwater, but others remain in lakes and rivers, waiting for the water to freeze around them. (See "Under the Ice" in the winter 2017 issue to find out how they survive in these conditions.)

Mammals spend fall growing thicker coats, but beyond that survival preps vary. Several hunt or forage all winter long, which means they don't need to ready themselves for dormancy or hibernation. Predators such as coyotes, weasels and bobcats continue to search for meals, even ones hidden under the snow. Deer, tree squirrels, mice and voles continue to eat bark, twigs, nuts, dried grasses and seeds. (This makes late fall and winter excellent times to find tracks.)

But all of these mammals need shelter when temperatures are especially cold. White-tailed deer gather together under trees with low-hanging branches to avoid the wind. Mice and voles create tunnels in the snow, which insulates their network of travel routes and hides them from predators on the ground and in the air.

Gray and fox squirrels den in tree cavities when conditions are poor or on branches in "dreys," which are made of twigs and leaves and lined with soft grasses and fur. They usually den alone, but during particularly cold spells they may share dreys to conserve warmth, especially male and female pairs during the December and January breeding season.

Some animals enter a state called "dormancy" if the weather

- ▼ As the season gets cooler, garter snakes conserve heat by sheltering together under rocks or in underground pockets.



- ◀ This time of year chipmunks are readying their dens, where they'll spend the entire winter.

becomes too severe. Their body temperatures drop, slowing metabolism and sending the animals into a sleepy, energy-conserving state. It's different than hibernation because although movement slows significantly, the animals are still awake and slightly active. Raccoons spend dormancy in trees or other high places, usually alone, although females may huddle with young they had earlier in the year. Skunks, sometimes in groups of a dozen individuals, move into abandoned woodchuck burrows or brush piles. Opossums, which are equally social, may change shelters several times a week, but chipmunks merely hunker down in the confines of their underground winter homes.

Only a few DuPage mammals are true hibernators. Among them are bats and woodchucks, which eat as much as they can to pack on the pounds that will sustain them through the weeks ahead. During hibernation, they can be motionless for days at a time. Their breathing, metabolism and other processes slow so significantly that body temperatures can drop by half.



- ▲ Unlike other species that hibernate in colonies of 1,000 or more, big brown bats prefer groups of two to five.



- ▲ Because meadow voles are active throughout winter, they don't need to prepare for hibernation in fall as other animals do.

Heart rates of woodchucks in particular can fall to only four beats per minute.

To conserve body heat, many bats hibernate in groups — some numbering in the thousands — in caves or hollow trees called “hibernacula.” Most of the 12 bats native to Illinois migrate to southern Illinois and beyond, where they use abandoned silica mines, but big brown bats are different. These cold-tolerant flyers remain minimally active for most of winter, although two to five will hibernate together for short periods when the weather is exceptionally bitter.

Unlike bats, woodchucks hibernate alone and spend fall digging wintering burrows, long tunnels with chambers lined with soft grasses. Once a woodchuck's work is done, it moves inside and closes the entrance with soil.

Winter can be a difficult time for animals, but in fall the native animals that call DuPage forest preserves home show they have lots of interesting ways to prepare and survive. •

fall calendar

See pages 10 – 17 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary.
You can register for most programs online at dupageforest.org.



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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
dec					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						

October

- 2** Forest Fitness Walk
- 3** Birding for Beginners
- 4** Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
Fall Colors Wagon Tour
FullersBird Evening at The Preserve
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** FullersBird Friday
Lectures at Mayslake: Preserving
Family Heirlooms
Night Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 7** Archery: Families
Halloween Night Walks Ticket
Sales Begin
Honeybees and Local Cheese
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Danada Fall Festival
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Art at Mayslake: The Artist's Way
Begins
Fall Colors Wagon Tour
Forest Fitness Walk
Ranger Adventure Day
- 11** Archery: Adults
Fall Colors Wagon Tour
- 12** Archery: Active Adults
Music at Mayslake: WDCB Jazz
Presents Willie Pickens/Peter
Lerner Continuation Trio
- 13** FullersBird Friday
- 14** Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 15** Fall Colors Wagon Tour
Paddling: Fall Colors Along Salt
Creek
- 16** Navigation: Geocaching
- 17** Birding for Beginners
Fall Colors Hike
Photography: What's Your
Photographic Style? Begins
- 18** Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 19** Art at Mayslake: Collage and the
Spirit Animal Begins
Fall Colors Hike
- 20** Autumn Moon Hayride
Fishing: Family Fishing 101
- 21** Corn Harvest
Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener
Paddling: West Branch Color Tour
Sunrise Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 22** Archery: Families
Birds of Prey
Corn Harvest
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wilderness Survival
- 23** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 24** Birding for Beginners
Fall Colors Hike
Myths and Legends
- 25** Archery: Adults
- 26** Ride the Trails Fall Colors Tour
- 27** Art at Mayslake: Mind, Body and
Creative Spirit
Autumn Moon Hayride
Halloween Night Walks
- 28** Halloween Night Walks
Lamplight Stories
Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour
Volunteer: Make a Difference Day
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
- 31** Fall Colors Hike

November

- 1** Photography: Photoshop I Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Autumn Moon Hayride
Mayslake Hall 25th Anniversary Open House
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 4** Fishing: Family Fishing 101
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer: Random Acts of Kindness
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Introduction to Prescription Burns
- 6** Forest Fitness Walk
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
Birding for Beginners
- 8** Archery: Active Adults
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10** Autumn Moon Hayride
Ranger Adventure Day
- 11** Autumn Moon Hayride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Fishing: Illinois Smallmouth Alliance Early Show
Introduction to Prescription Burns
Wilderness Survival
- 13** Forest Fitness Walk
- 15** Archery: Active Adults
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 17** Lectures at Mayslake: Pointillism
- 18** Owl Extravaganza
- 19** Cast-Iron Cooking Thanksgiving
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Forest Fitness Walk
- 24** Walk-It-Off Post-Thanksgiving Hike
- 25** Holiday Sweets
- 26** Holiday Sweets
Nature Scavenger Hunt
- 27** Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike
Story Time at Fullersburg Woods
- 29** Archery: Active Adults

December

- 2** Music at Mayslake: Acappellago
Talons and Claus
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Forest Fitness Walk
Story Time at Fullersburg Woods
- 5** The Dirt on Worms
Music at Mayslake: Picoso
- 6** Archery: Adults
Music at Mayslake: WDCB Jazz Presents Carmen Stokes
Photography: Photoshop II Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Fishing: Explore Your Tackle Box
- 9** Christmas on the Farm
Holiday Art and Craft Market
Team-Building Games
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Animal Tracking
Cast-Iron Cooking
Christmas on the Farm
Holiday Art and Craft Market
- 11** Forest Fitness Walk
Story Time at Fullersburg Woods
- 16** Animal Tracking
Snowshoe Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Wilderness Survival
- 18** Forest Fitness Walk
Story Time at Fullersburg Woods
- 20** Archery: Adults
- 22** Camp Fullersburg: Winter Break
- 23** Camp Fullersburg: Winter Break
Snowshoe Hike
Wilderness Survival
- 26** Camp Danada: Winter Break Begins
- 27** Nature Scavenger Hunt
- 28** Ranger Adventure Day



fall calendar



Animal Tracking 12263

Learn how to identify tracks and other signs animals leave behind, and then look for critters on a guided hike. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 10 & 16	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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Archery

Active Adults 11873

Learn the basic techniques and safety of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 12	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Nov. 8, 15 & 29	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake

Adults 11867

Learn the basic techniques and safety of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 11 & 25	3 – 4:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Dec. 6 & 20	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake

Families 11970

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 7	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
Oct. 22	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Art at Mayslake

The Artist's Way 13-Part Class 11915

Use Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* as a jumping-off point for creative inspiration as you work on small weekly projects and share discoveries in a group setting. Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$165 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 9 – Jan. 15 (except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Collage and the Spirit Animal Eight-Part Class 11917

Explore the artistic spirit of the animals around us as you create collage papers, stencils and mixed-media art. Thursdays. Ages 18 and up. \$185 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 19 – Dec. 14 (except Nov. 23)	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Exploring Watercolor Six-Part Class 11914

Explore and enhance your artistic style at this intermediate-advanced class. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 7 – Dec. 19 (except Nov. 21)	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mind, Body and Creative Spirit 11918

Your creative spirit will flow as you focus on yoga, guided meditation, and art, including a segment featuring mixed-media books. Ages 18 and up. \$140 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 27	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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Autumn Moon Hayride 11963

Enjoy a rare chance to experience the preserve after the sun sets and hear stories about the moon on a tractor-drawn ride. Then, enjoy hot cocoa and s'mores by the fire. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

Oct. 20 & 27	6, 6:30 & 7 p.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 3, 10 & 11	6, 6:30 & 7 p.m.	St. James Farm

Be a Junior Ranger! Five-Part Program 12260

Explore nature and work on leadership, navigation, first aid, geocaching and other skills rangers use. Wednesdays. Ages 6 – 12. \$45 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 4 – Nov. 1		
Ages 6 – 8	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Multiple
Ages 9 – 12	5 – 6 p.m.	Multiple

Birding for Beginners 12221

Learn basic identification and common bird behaviors. Ages 16 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 3	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Blackwell
Oct. 17	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Oct. 24	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Mallard Lake
Nov. 7	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Canada

Birds of Prey 12245

Learn about falcons, hawks and owls and get face-to-face with live birds. Ages 7 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 22	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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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 five-digit number next to 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.

Camp Danada: Winter Break

Four-Day Camp 11964

Warm up in the barn with chores and hands-on horse time and enjoy games, crafts and supervised lead-line rides. Ages 10 – 14. \$125 per DuPage resident; \$150 nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

Dec. 26 – 29	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Danada
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Camp Fullersburg: Winter Break 11947

Join a four-hour nature adventure with winter experiments and crafts, animal encounters, games, and more! Friday focuses on animals in winter; Saturday, on "frozen science." Ages 4 – 9. \$60 per DuPage resident; \$75 nonresident. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Dec. 22 & 23	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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Cast-Iron Cooking 11889

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire as you 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 online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 10	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Cast-Iron Cooking Thanksgiving 11986

Celebrate Thanksgiving by helping to prepare a traditional meal over an open campfire. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 7 – 12. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 19	11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Christmas on the Farm

Visit the animals; enjoy hot spiced cider and carols by the fire; visit the farmhouse decked in greens; and stop in the visitor center for a picture with a Victorian Santa in his sleigh. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Dec. 9 & 10	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Corn Harvest

Take a horse-drawn hayride to the fields and help shuck and store corn to feed the farm's cows and sheep in winter. Stop by the farmhouse, too, to make a corn-husk figure for home. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Oct. 21 & 22	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Danada Fall Festival

Join a celebration of the horse and the season at this annual event. Enjoy a parade of breeds, continuous equestrian performances, hayrides, pony rides, face painting, grooming demonstrations, educational displays, food and more. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free admission and parking; fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 8	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Danada
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1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Registration is not required for these free programs. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

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.

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM HOUSE TOUR

Enjoy the house decked in ornaments and greens, savor the spicy aromas of holiday treats as they bake in the wood-burning oven, and discover the origins of holiday foods, cards, decorated trees and other traditions.

Nov. 30 – Jan. 8 (except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

LIFE BY LAMPLIGHT HOUSE TOUR

What happens in the farmhouse once the sun goes down? Is there work to be done in the dark? What are the differences between how farms and factories marked time? Find out the answers on this lively tour.

Nov. 30 – Jan. 8 (except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)

Thursday – Monday 4 – 4:30 p.m.

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOUR

Tour the farmhouse for a glimpse of 1890s life.

Through Nov. 27 (except Nov. 23)

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

fall calendar



The Dirt on Worms 11990

Celebrate World Soil Day as you learn about soil and how worms keep it rich. Then, find out how you can harness the composting power of worms at home to lower your effect on the environment and raise your garden's output. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 5	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Fall Colors Hike 11978

Learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a guided hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 17	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Oct. 19	3:30 – 5 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Oct. 24	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Oct. 31	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

Fall Colors Wagon Tour 11962

Learn about trees, natural areas, buildings and the equestrian roots of this preserve on a 30-minute tractor-drawn ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

Oct. 4, 9, 11 & 15	1 & 2 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Fishing

Explore Your Tackle Box 11991

Bring your tackle box to this indoor program and learn how to use what's inside! See what lures look like underwater to a fish and get your questions answered. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 8	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Fall Trout Season Opener

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

Oct. 21	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Wood Dale Grove, Pratt's Wayne
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Family Fishing 101 11883

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 20	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell

Illinois Smallmouth Alliance Early Show

Don't miss Chicagoland's only fly-fishing show! Sit with some of the area's best fly-tyers as they show how to create a variety of patterns. Bring the kids for a free youth fly-tying program, and view bugs that fish eat under a high-powered microscope. Shop from select vendors as well. All ages. \$10 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Nov. 12	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Forest Fitness Walk 11817

Enjoy the wonders of the preserves with a ranger and naturalist, and get some healthy exercise on these brisk walks that increase in distance every week. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 2	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Oct. 9	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Oct. 30	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Philip State Park
Nov. 6	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 13	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov. 20	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Mallard Lake
Dec. 4	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Oak Meadows
Dec. 11	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Blackwell
Dec. 18	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Danada

Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike 11827

Join a naturalist and take in the sights and sounds of the woodlands and prairies on a special 10-mile version of this popular program. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Nov. 27	8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Springbrook
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FullersBird Evening at The Preserve 11264

Join a naturalist on this special evening hike for a look at the new golf course and the birds that call it home. Ages 16 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 4	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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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 five-digit number next to 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.

FullersBird Friday 11263

Sharpen your birding skills on these naturalist-led hikes, and see how bird diversity changes from summer to fall. Ages 16 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 6	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Oct. 13	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Philip State Park

Halloween Night Walks

Enjoy Halloween tricks and natural-history tales during a 75-minute guided walk through the woods after dark. Short stops along the way will delight you with dramatic antics and humorous tales. These walks are a spook-tacular treat! Ages 2 and up; under 18 with an adult. Tickets go on sale Oct. 7 at 9 a.m. at Fullersburg Woods (no phone or online orders). \$12 per person; max. 10 tickets per order. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

Oct. 27 & 28	6 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Holiday Art and Craft Market

Shop for quality artisan holiday gifts for family and friends. Part of the proceeds will benefit the next restoration project at Mayslake Hall. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Dec. 9	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec. 10	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake

Holiday Sweets

Learn how to make bright, colorful hard candies and take home recipes to start your own holiday tradition. Programs begin at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Nov. 25 & 26	12:30 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Honeybees and Local Cheese 11946

Have you ever wondered how much honey can come from one hive or how many gallons of milk it takes to make cheese? Discover the histories of making cheese and harvesting honey, and learn how to pair the two as you taste local selections. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

Oct. 7	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Introduction to Prescription Burns 11886

Learn about the benefits of prescription burns and how and why the Forest Preserve District uses them. See a burn in progress, too, weather permitting. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 5	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov. 12	1 – 3 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Lamplight Stories

Halloween isn't just for kids, and this program isn't the farm's "Children's Story Hour"! Enjoy an evening of ghoulish tales told outside in the dark. Ages 15 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Oct. 28	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Lectures at Mayslake

Pointillism: A Short Period in Art History 11922

Learn about this technique of painting with small dots, developed by artists such as Georges Seurat, who created the Art Institute of Chicago's iconic *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte*. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 17	10 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
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Preserving Family Heirlooms 11921

Learn ways to preserve and store documents, photos, fabrics and glass for future generations as well as dos and don'ts for preserving scrapbooks. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 6	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Golfing

A round at a forest preserve is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. For tee times, specials, and outings and leagues for all abilities, visit dupagegolf.com.

Maple Meadows 18 Holes
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

Green Meadows 9 Holes
Westmont • 630-810-5330

The Preserve at Oak Meadows 18 Holes & Practice Range
Addison • 630-595-0071



fall calendar



Little Sprouts Tales and Trails 11937

Ignite your toddler's sense of wonder for the natural world as you enjoy stories, songs, movement and guided outdoor explorations together. Ages 2 – 5 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 18 Pumpkins	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Nov. 15 Leaves	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Mayslake Hall 25th Anniversary Open House

Stop by this open house and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the voter-approved referendum to save the estate on a tour of the mansion. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Nov. 3	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour 11927

Explore the basement and unseen archives of Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 28	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake

Acappellago

Join this a cappella choir for “Escape to ... Christmas in the Americas,” a musical journey of songs from the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 – \$17 per person. Tickets at acappellago.org or 708-484-3797.

Dec. 2	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Hear about farming with real horsepower on a 20-minute ride through the farmstead and fields. Rides are first-come, first-served and use wagons if there's less than 4 inches of packed snow on the trail. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. For trail conditions or to arrange for private group rides, call 630-876-5900.

Dec. 21 – 23 & 28 – 31
2, 2:30 & 3 p.m.

Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy classical music with a twist with styles and eras from bebop jazz, electronic pop and original compositions to jazzed-up classical selections. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or 630-941-0202.

Nov. 19	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Picosa

Enjoy music from this Chicago-based mixed chamber ensemble known for its signature symphonic sound and virtuosity. Then, join a lively “meet the musicians” gourmet dessert reception. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free – \$25 per person. Tickets at picosamusic.com.

Dec. 5	7 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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WDCB Jazz Presents Carmen Stokes 11931

Enjoy an evening with singer and pianist Carmen Stokes. All ticket proceeds will go to the restoration of historic Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Dec. 6	8 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
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WDCB Jazz Presents Willie Pickens/Peter Lerner Continuation Trio 11930

Spend an evening with two legendary jazz musicians. All ticket proceeds will go to the restoration of historic Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 12	8 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
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Myths and Legends 11925

Do bats really get caught in your hair? Was there a glass coffin hidden on the estate holding the remains of the original owner? Enjoy s'mores and a discussion around the campfire as you discover the truth behind wildlife myths and the legends of Mayslake Peabody Estate. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 24	7 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Nature Scavenger Hunt 11989

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home during a guided scavenger hunt. Ages 5 – 8 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 26	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec. 27	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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Navigation

Geocaching 11877

Try a family-friendly treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit. Equipment provided. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 14	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Park
Oct. 16	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Oct. 30	4 – 5:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 4	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Night Hike 11967

Experience nature during this special time of day. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 6	6 – 7 p.m.	Meacham Grove
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Owl Extravaganza 11952

Hike through the forest as you learn from our expert owl team. Meet owls up close and personal with live animal encounters and find out how these birds of prey fly, see, eat and catch their food. Then, purchase activity patches, owl sweatshirts, stuffed animals and more at a special one-day gift shop. Tours begin every 20 minutes. Ages 2 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Nov. 18	2 – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Paddling

Fall Colors Along Salt Creek 12553

Enjoy the fall color show as it dances and shimmers on the water during this guided paddle. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent a kayak for \$20 per person. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 15	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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West Branch Color Tour 12552

Hey, skilled paddlers, get a double dose of fall colors in the treetops and on the water during this 8.5-mile guided trip from downtown Winfield to Warrenville Grove. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent a kayak for \$20 per person. You must arrange for your own ride back to the launch site. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 21	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Multiple
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Photography

Photoshop I Five-Part Class 11919

Learn how to evaluate and correct color, sharpen, dodge, and burn. Best with Photoshop CS5 or later. Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 1 – 29	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Photoshop II Five-Part Class 11920

Explore color and learn how to straighten, crop, remove scratches, use masks, and adjust shadows and highlights. Photoshop I required. Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Dec. 6 – Jan. 10	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
(except Dec. 27)		

What's Your Photographic Style? Five-Part Class 11916

Use your existing photos to expand your artistic vocabulary, define your style and demonstrate your vision in this class for advanced amateurs. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 17 – Nov. 14	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Ranger Adventure Day 11973

Hey, kids, find out what it takes to be a ranger as you try archery, go on a guided hike and enjoy other outdoor fun while learning about plants and animals. Ages 9 – 12. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 9	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov. 10	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec. 28	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake

Horse-Drawn Hayrides

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Take a seat on a straw bale and enjoy a leisurely 30-minute ride around the center and through the forest preserve, weather permitting. Rides are first-come, first-served. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration.

Oct. 1 & Oct. 21 – Nov. 5

Saturdays & Sundays 1, 1:45 & 2:30 p.m.

For private group rides Friday – Sunday evenings
Oct. 20 – Nov. 5, call 630-668-6012.

fall calendar



Ride the Trails Fall Colors Tour ¹¹⁹⁸⁸

Bring your bike and tour several preserves on a 15- to 18-mile ranger-led ride. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 26	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Danada
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Snowshoe Hike ¹¹⁸⁹⁰

Learn about safety and then hit the trail with a ranger. Bring your own snowshoes to this free program or rent a pair for \$8 per person. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 16 & 23	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Blackwell
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Theater and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S *THE MAN BEAST*

A loup-garou — a werewolf — is suspected of leaving a trail of blood and death across the 18th-century French countryside. When Louis XVI puts a bounty on the animal, the mystery and horror only deepen. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 – \$44 per person. Tickets at 630-986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Oct. 4 – Nov. 5

Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 8 – 10 p.m.

Thursdays & Sundays 3 – 5 p.m.

Plus Oct. 21 – Nov. 4 Saturdays 4 – 6 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Through Dec. 6

Wednesdays 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.

ART EXHIBITS

All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 20 – Nov. 7 Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists

Nov. 8 – Dec. 2 Chicago Pastel Painters

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Story Time at Fullersburg Woods ¹¹⁹⁴¹

Enjoy a nature story in the visitor center before taking a short walk to look for winter animals, snowflakes, birds and surprises along the way. Then, stop back to explore the center's fun nature displays and activities. Ages 5 and under with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Nov. 27	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Dec. 4, 11 & 18	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Sunrise Hike ¹¹⁹⁸⁴

Enjoy sunrise from the scenic overlook as you learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 21	6:45 – 7:45 a.m.	Greene Valley
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Talons and Claus

Have your picture taken with Santa and his wildlife friends during a holiday open house. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free admission; \$10 per photo. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

Dec. 2	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Team-Building Games ¹¹⁹⁹²

Develop leadership skills and learn to work with a team with outdoor games, puzzles and problem-solving fun. Ages 8 – 12. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 9	10 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
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Volunteer: Make a Difference Day

Help pick up a preserve and be one of thousands of volunteers improving the lives of others during the largest single-day event of its kind in the U.S. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at 630-462-8707.

Oct. 28	9 a.m. – Noon	East Branch
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Volunteer: Random Acts of Kindness

Bring your families, Scout troops and friends and help make this popular preserve look even better! All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at 630-462-8707.

Nov. 4	9 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

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3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Volunteer Restoration Workday 12126

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

Oct. 4, 7, 8, 14, 21, 22 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Oct. 7	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Oct. 7 & 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Oct. 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Oct. 14	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Oct. 14	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods
Nov. 1, 11 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Nov. 4	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Nov. 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Nov. 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Nov. 11	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Nov. 11	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods
Dec. 2	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Dec. 2	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Dec. 6 & 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Dec. 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Dec. 16	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Dec. 16	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 12228

Help weed, water, or collect and clean seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance. Groups of five or more must register by phone 10 days in advance.

Oct. 6, 14, 18, 23 & 28	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 3 & 8	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

Walk-It-Off Post-Thanksgiving Hike 11987

Walk off some of those extra Thanksgiving calories and learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a guided hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 24	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
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When Darkness Falls 11983

Hike the dark woods with a ranger and learn how to use your senses like a nocturnal predator. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 21	6 – 8 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Wilderness Survival 11880

Learn how to set up camp, build a fire and perform other vital survival skills. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 22	2 – 4 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov. 12	2 – 4 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Dec. 17	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec. 23	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Winter Fun

SNOW TUBING

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are allowed. Rentals are \$5 per tube per day (\$7 for nylon tubes) and end at 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 2 – Feb. 25

Saturdays and Sundays

**Plus Dec. 26 – 29, Jan. 1 – 5, 15 and 22, and Feb. 19
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.

On With the Show

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Eastern cottonwood *Populus deltoides*

Sugar maple *Acer saccharum*

istock.com/ibakcey

Northern red oak *Quercus rubra*

© Susan Elliott

Bur oak *Quercus macrocarpa*

© P. Verdink

In summer, leaves make a chemical called “chlorophyll.” It helps them turn sunlight into energy and makes them look green. In fall when leaves stop making chlorophyll, other chemicals — and their colors — take center stage.

Carotenoids make leaves yellow and orange. They’re in leaves throughout the growing season, but you can’t see them because chlorophyll’s green blocks them out. Because they’re always in the leaves, the fall colors they produce are pretty much the same year to year.

Anthocyanins make leaves red and purple. Leaves that produce this chemical don’t start doing so until late summer or early fall. This means weather plays a role in fall colors. Plants produce the most anthocyanins — and the brightest colors — after dry, sunny days followed by cool, dry nights.

Tannins make leaves look brown. They’re the chemicals that are left once leaves stop making chlorophyll, carotenoids and anthocyanins. Tannins start to show when temperatures drop below freezing.

Of course you don’t need to know a thing about chemistry to enjoy the show, but if you are interested in knowing who’s who, here’s a guide to some of the forest preserves’ most popular performers. •

Red maple *Acer rubrum*

Red but sometimes orange or yellow

Sugar maple *Acer saccharum*

Brilliant yellows, oranges or reds

Northern red oak *Quercus rubra*

Dark red or brown

White oak *Quercus alba*

Reddish purple or brown

Bur oak *Quercus macrocarpa*

Yellow-brown (Look for acorns with fringed caps.)

Shagbark hickory *Carya ovata*

Golden brown (Look for the namesake shaggy bark on the trunk.)

Eastern cottonwood *Populus deltoides*

Yellow or brown

Smooth sumac *Rhus glabra*

Brilliant to dark red

Smooth sumac *Rhus glabra*

White oak *Quercus alba*

Red maple *Acer rubrum*

Shagbark hickory *Carya ovata*



Fun: Right on Target

by **JUSTIN FREDERICK**, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

Since the archery area opened at Blackwell Forest Preserve nine years ago, more and more people have become regulars at its beginner, advanced and interactive ranges. All three are open daily year-round and are popular destinations for people training for competitions or fine-tuning their skills. Many archery fans escape during their lunch breaks or after work to enjoy the relaxing rewards of the sport, and some curious visitors just drop by to watch.

But attendance at the area isn't the only thing that's grown over the years. So has the lineup of ranger-led Forest Preserve District archery programs. After all, anyone can participate in archery regardless of age or skill level. It's a great family activity, too, that teaches children rules and responsibilities and allows everyone to spend time together outside while practicing one of the world's oldest sports.

Rangers offer simple introductions at events like Family Field Day at St. James Farm and the Danada Fall Festival and in-depth instruction at programs year-round. Kids can try archery during summer's "Ranger Adventure Camp" and after school as part of the "Be a Junior Ranger" series. In 2017 rangers partnered with the College of DuPage for "Women of the Woods," which featured a popular archery component, and brought archery programs for kids, families and active adults to forest preserves

across the county thanks to the addition of a new activity trailer. The rangers who lead these programs are USA Archery level 1 certified instructors, and some have reached trainer level 2 certification, allowing them to train fellow rangers.

All Forest Preserve District programs include equipment and a strong lesson in safety. Safety's important with any activity but is especially critical with archery. Archers must know not to move to the shooting line until the range is clear and to keep their arrows in their quivers (the bags that hold the arrows) until they're ready to shoot. They should only point arrows at the ground or the target and only shoot at the target. They also need to make sure someone sounds an "all clear" before retrieving any arrows. (At Blackwell's interactive range, a flag on the bow rack signals someone is on the range retrieving arrows.)

After a few of these programs, you may very well get hooked on this classic sport, which means it'll be time to go shopping. There are different bows on the market, but the three basic types are the longbow (or straight), recurve and compound. When selecting one, the best advice is to keep it simple but to do some research and look for knowledgeable staff at archery pro shops or sporting goods stores. They can help you select and set up the right one and pick the proper arrows to go with it.

The longbow, the simplest and oldest type of bow, has a



iStock.com-Wave Break Media

- ▲ Recurve bows have ends that curve away from the archer, a design that delivers more energy when the arrow's released.
- Compound bows, which rangers use at forest preserve programs for kids, families and adults, have pulleys and cables that make it easier to pull back the string and stabilize the shot.

string attached to each end of a flexible limb, traditionally one of wood. On a recurve bow, which is often made with fiberglass or carbon, the ends of the limb curve away from the archer when in the shooting position. Without getting too heavy into the physics of the design, recurve bows allow arrows to fly faster than longbows and let archers use shorter bows to hit the same distance. (They're also what you'll see in Olympic competitions.) Developed in the 1960s, compound bows have cables and pulleys that bend back their aluminum or carbon limbs. They often have sights to better focus on the target and stabilizers that steady the bow as the arrow's released. Another optional mechanism allows



© Ann Fisher

- ▲ One of the great aspects of the sport of archery is fans can enjoy it year-round at Blackwell Forest Preserve.



archers to hold and then release the string with the squeeze of a trigger, reducing vibrations that can make the arrow quiver.

When it's time to select arrows, you can choose from different shafts and heads, but only field points are allowed at Blackwell. Broadheads, which have razor-sharp triangular tips for hunting, damage the targets. For everyone's safety, archers at Blackwell should always review the safety rules posted at each range.

So are you ready for your shot at the bull's-eye? Check out the calendar starting on Page 8 or visit dupageforest.org for our lineup of fall archery programs. When it comes to outdoor fun, we promise they'll be right on target! •

Keeping Your Eye Right (or Left) on Target

Just as you have a dominant hand, you likely have a dominant eye. It's important to know which one it is because you'll end up holding the bow with the hand on the opposite side. To determine dominance, look at an object in the distance. Raise your arms in front of you, and cross your fingers on both hands so you create a triangular opening when your thumbs touch. Move your hands so you can see the object through the opening, and then slowly bring your hands toward your face, keeping the object in the middle. Your hands will eventually end up directly over one eye, and that'll be your dominate one.



directory



GENERAL *Contacts*

HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

The office is open Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and is closed on
Saturdays, Sundays and select holidays.

Website

dupageforest.org

Email Address

forest@dupageforest.org

Main Number

630-933-7200

TTY

800-526-0857

CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION LINE

630-933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

630-871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

630-933-7240

VISITOR SERVICES

630-933-7248

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

630-933-7233

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

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101

630-595-0071



© Gilles Gonthier

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 –
Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and is closed on
Saturdays, Sundays and select holidays.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

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

April – October the center is open daily
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. but is closed on select
holidays. November – March hours
may vary.

KLINE CREEK FARM

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

The farm is open Thursday – Monday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and select holidays.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

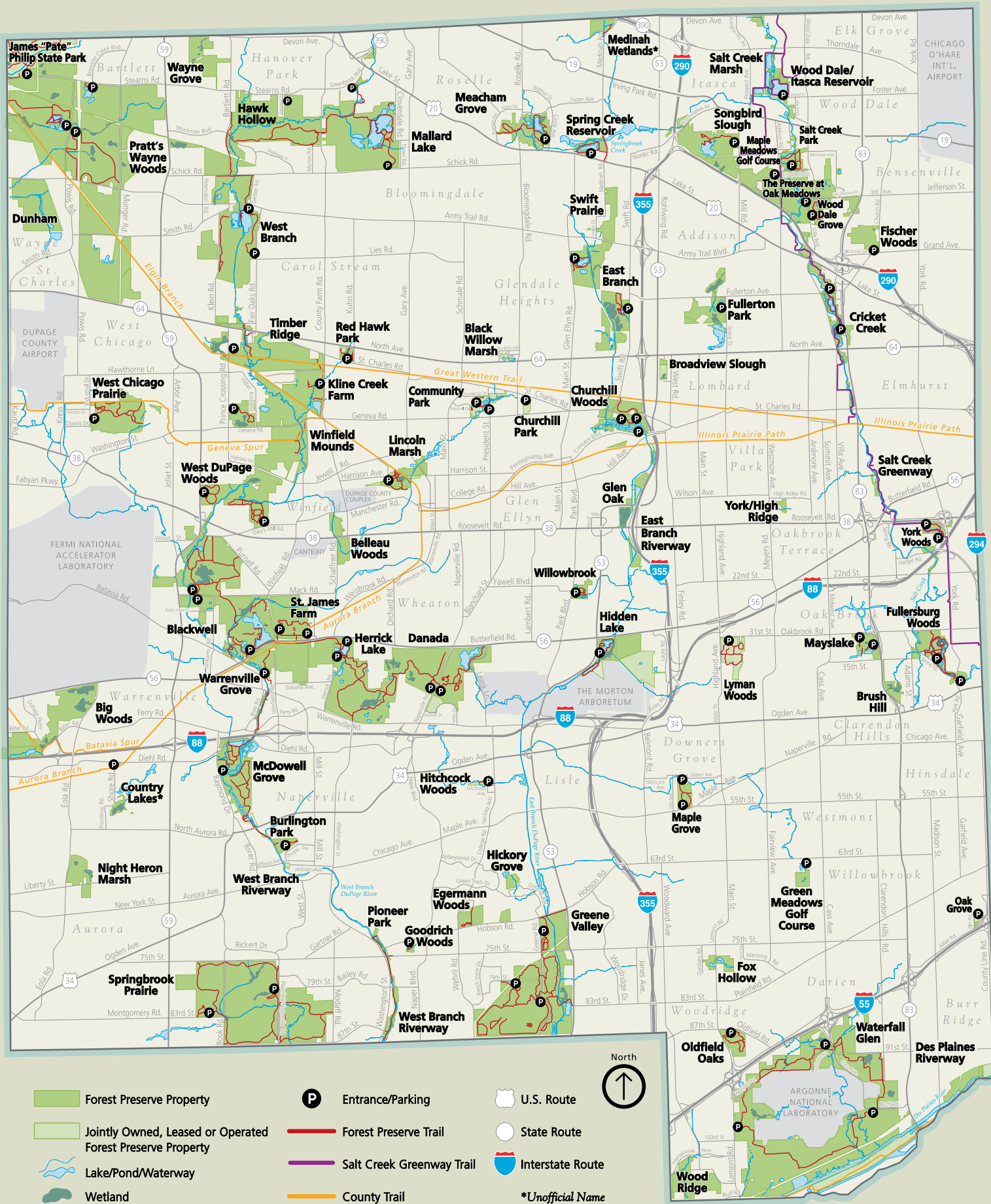
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
630-206-9566

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
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The animal admittance
area is open 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. All areas
are closed on select holidays.





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

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2017

THIS FALL

Tell us what you think and show us what you love.



HELP US
PLAN
FOR THE
FUTURE

The Forest Preserve District is working on a plan to guide its efforts over the next five years, and we need your opinions. Here's how you can help!



TALK WITH US at one of six community events.



CHECK YOUR MAILBOX or inbox to see if you've been randomly selected to complete our survey.



VISIT DUPAGEFOREST.ORG if you didn't complete a random survey to contribute your ideas to our research.

For dates and all the details, visit dupageforest.org/master-plan.



DuPage Forest Preserves PHOTO CONTEST

**5 MINUTES IN A DU PAGE FOREST PRESERVE
CAN MEAN A ...**

HEALTHIER BODY SHARPER MIND HAPPIER YOU

AND REALLY COOL PRIZES!

Sept. 1 – Oct. 27

Visit dupageforest.org/take5 for details.