

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2017**

## 2017 Guide to Happy (Summer) Campers

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Freeze! Life Under Ice

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Animal Track ID



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

# from the president



If I strike up a conversation with someone when I'm at the store or taking my oldest to get his hair cut, the subject frequently makes its way to the forest preserves. (Hey, what can I say? I like talking about them!)

I often learn a thing or two from longtime fans who share their favorite spots or let me know what they thought about our latest special event, but I meet a lot of first-time visitors, too. In those cases, whether I hear how much someone enjoyed a particular trail or natural feature, the comments usually end with a familiar sentiment: "DuPage County's forest preserves are the area's best-kept secrets."

"Best-kept secrets" are hidden gems people don't know about that end up on top-10 lists once they're discovered. I agree our forest preserves are the best, but I have to admit I feel like we're missing out when people who live in the county call them "secrets."

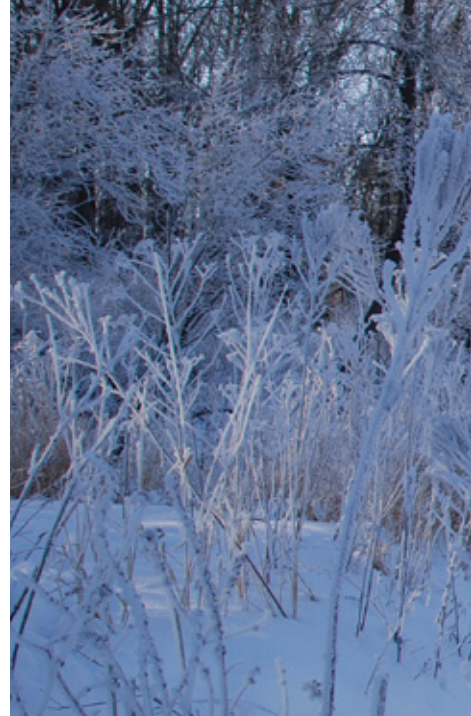
If you're reading this, I hope it means you're taking full advantage of all of the trails, centers, landscapes and programs our employees and volunteers work year-round to offer. If so, I have a favor to ask you for the new year: Spread the word! We do everything we can to keep people updated on the Web, via social media and in the news, but sometimes it takes a first-hand account to grab a person's attention.

Just get back from a fun guided nature hike at Fullersburg Woods? Tweet about it with #dupageforest. Heading out to Hidden Lake to fish? Check in on Facebook. Signing your kids up for a summer camp on Jan. 1? Click the "share" button after you register. (You can find details on our summer camps on Pages 20 and 21.) And if anyone asks, let them know they can get all of the latest 24/7 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Thanks!

Wishing you and yours all the best in 2017 —

**Joseph F. Cantore**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### President

Joseph F. Cantore, Oak Brook

### Commissioners

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Jeffrey Redick, Elmhurst — District 2

Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3

Tim Whelan, Wheaton — District 4

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Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6



## BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

Winter 2017, Vol. 53, No. 1

### Editor

Jayne Bohner



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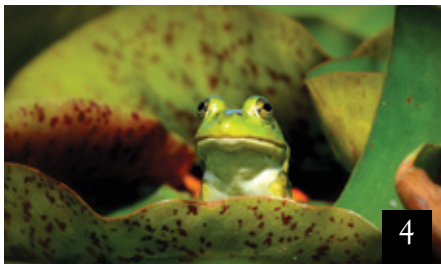
The Conservationist is a quarterly publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Subscriptions are free for DuPage County residents and \$5 per year for nonresidents. To subscribe or unsubscribe, call (630) 933-7085, or email [forest@dupageforest.org](mailto:forest@dupageforest.org).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





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**On the cover:** Snowflake © iStock.com/jefunne

## 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



© Greg Lasley

## HELP FOR HINE'S EMERALDS

The District is receiving nearly \$70,000 in grant money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to fund a four-year project to raise federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies at its Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve.

The grant is designed to support efforts to preserve and recover endangered species and boost the state's biological diversity, and the District's receipt of the funds underscores its reputation as one of the top research partners in the Chicago region.

Hine's emerald dragonflies are known to live in only six places in the U.S., one being the Des Plaines River Valley in northeastern Illinois. The District will use the grant money to raise dragonfly larvae at the center and then release the adults into the wild to boost the natural population.

## CONNECT *With Us 24/7*

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

## LIVE and On Demand

Can't make it to an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting? Find the latest schedules and agendas and watch proceedings live or on demand at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) under "About Us" and "Meetings and Agendas." Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Normally, commission meetings are at 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.

## 24 NEW ACRES AT SALT CREEK MARSH

Thanks to a generous 24-acre donation, Salt Creek Marsh Forest Preserve grew to 131 acres in August. The donated land — one of the few remaining privately owned parcels of its size along the northern corridor of Salt Creek — contains wetlands, floodplain, and a quarter mile of the creek, attractive habitat for great blue herons and other water birds. Visitors can view the property from the north side of the looped trail at Wood Dale/Itasca Reservoir.



## TAKE 5 (AND BOY DID YOU!)

4,039. That's how many images forest preserve fans sent in during our eight-week Take 5 Photo Contest. We received hundreds of amazing images, including the grand-prize-winning bullfrog at St. James Farm (shown here) from Mia Majetschak of Woodridge. Interested in seeing more examples of what five minutes in a forest preserve means to different people? Visit [dupageforest.org/photo\\_contest\\_favorites](http://dupageforest.org/photo_contest_favorites).





## HILLTOP HABITAT RESTORATION

In September the Board of Commissioners approved a three-and-a-half-year contract that will allow the District to begin managing over 900 acres of habitat on and adjacent to the closed landfills at Blackwell, Greene Valley and Mallard Lake forest preserves.

When the landfills closed near the end of the 1990s, the companies managing the sites seeded each with short grasses to stabilize the “cap,” the barrier between the surface and the materials below. They mowed the grasses annually, but over the years unwanted, invasive plants — plants that don’t hold soils as well or provide ideal wildlife habitat — started to take over.

Now, by working with an ecological contractor to remove the unwanted plants, the District hopes to convert the areas into attractive habitats for grassland birds that also better support landfill operations.

## MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between July 4 and Nov. 13, 2016. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit [dupageforestgiving.org](http://dupageforestgiving.org). To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit [dupageforest.org/donate](http://dupageforest.org/donate).

### Gifts of Note

Daily Herald

\$15,000 — In-kind support of the Take 5 Photo Contest

Twentieth Century Fox Television

\$10,000 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Whole Foods Market, Wheaton, Illinois

\$3,929.20 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District grant from Community Support Day Aug. 9, 2016

CNH Industrial Foundation

\$2,500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District grant for St. James Farm indoor riding arena

Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

\$2,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District grant for Danada Equestrian Center herd

William and Patricia Smith

\$1,501 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Kline Creek Farm blacksmith shop

Albert and Allison Claus

\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District tribute gift for Natural Resources in memory of Robert Claus

Susan Wachowski and Family

\$1,000 — Tribute bench at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in memory of Guy Wachowski

The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation

\$750 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Gary Dobson and Cynthia Rein

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center “Adopt an Animal” program

Elaine Jans

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Louis and Cosette Kosiba

\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Donald and Susan Panozzo

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for St. James Farm

Roux Associates Inc.

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center “Adopt an Animal” program

Bruce and Martha Sanders

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

Marilyn Schweitzer

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

Ray and Louise Vogt

\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Wim Waal

\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Willowbrook Wildlife Center Raptor Housing Project (\* and Night Owl Benefit Partner)

\$1,345 — Joseph and Judi Biewer

\$1,095 — Irene McMaster

\$1,070 — Dr. Jessica Von Waldau

\$1,000 — James and Heide Reilly \*

\$960 — Robert and Kelly Johnson

\$960 — Gerald and Amy Tavalino\*

\$720 — Steven King and Sherry Smoak

\$680 — Brian Smith and Parvaneh

Shidnia-Smith

\$680 — Commissioner Tim Whelan\*

\$655 — Dennis and Debra Dean

\$600 — Garden Club of Downers Grove

\$600 — Glenn Hofstra and

Stephanie Touzalin

\$570 — Michael and Diane Webb

\$570 — Dennis and Rosemary Wisnosky

\$550 — Judy Marazas

\$540 — Brian and Adriana Thomas





# Life Under Ice

by JENNIFER RYDZEWSKI, FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER



Backswimmers survive winter within the protective space of an air bubble.

After the last leaves fall and the cold winds start to blow, winter settles across DuPage County. Ground squirrels and woodchucks hunker down in underground burrows. Tree squirrels and deer remain active, continuously searching for shelter and food, and adventurous people bundle up to enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the forest preserves. Savvy anglers are out because they know the fish are still biting, but what else is going on under the ice?

Below the frozen surface, the eggs and larvae of dragonflies, damselflies, stoneflies and mayflies burrow in mud and other organic matter. Most of the adults of their kind have died off. Within the ice itself, water striders, backswimmers and similar insects that live on the surface of the water spring through fall hang in pockets of trapped air. This drop in insect activity lowers the food supply for fish and other animals and can have a big effect on survival, but underwater plants can affect wintering aquatic wildlife, too.

Aquatic plants and algae continue to grow under thin layers of transparent ice, but when thick ice and snow block the sunlight, they die back to the roots or become inactive spores.

As all of this green stuff decays, it uses up dissolved oxygen — microscopic bubbles of oxygen that are mixed in with the water. Oxygen in the air can make its way into open water to replenish the supply, but when lakes and rivers freeze over, that supply's cut off, which can be a problem for animals that need dissolved oxygen to survive.

Fish absorb oxygen in the water through their gills. Without it, they suffocate. In winter, turtles and frogs living under the ice absorb it through their skin. For many aquatic animals, a decrease in dissolved oxygen this time of year can be as challenging as a decrease in water temperatures, but they have some incredible adaptations that help them survive the harsh conditions.

Fish, turtles and frogs are “ectothermic,” or as some call it, “cold-blooded.” Unlike birds and mammals (including us humans), they can't generate enough heat on their own to maintain optimal internal body temperatures. Instead they rely on heat from external sources, such as the air and water, to get their bodies moving (one reason a frog may not quickly hop away from you on a chilly day). When air and water temperatures, food supplies, and oxygen levels drop low





◀ As long as sunlight can penetrate the ice, algae can continue to survive.

▶ The spring peeper is so well-adapted for winter that even if its body fluids freeze and its heart and breathing stop, it can thaw unharmed in spring.

◀ Some snapping turtles may share winter burrows and lodges with muskrats and beavers, but many spend winter below the ice.

enough, ectotherms survive by entering “torpor,” a period of inactivity lasting days or weeks at a time that allows them to conserve energy.

Largemouth bass and other fish move downstream or to the deeper parts of a lake, where the water’s warmer. To compensate for scarce food supplies, their metabolism slows. The amount of dissolved oxygen is a bigger limiting factor for fish survival, though. Thick ice, heavy snow, decaying plants and shallow water can significantly deplete oxygen by mid- to late winter, but by entering torpor fish are able to endure.

Sluggish adult snapping turtles may spend winter in muskrat burrows or beaver lodges, but snappers born earlier in the year burrow in the bottom of shallow waters. There, they remain like motionless rocks until the spring thaw. Like other DuPage turtles, snappers adapt to the cold by entering a state called “brumation,” which is similar to hibernation. During brumation, metabolism drops so low that turtles do not need to eat or use their lungs to breathe for months at a time. The latter adaptation is crucial because they may not be able to surface for air once the ice thickens. Their bodies absorb oxygen in the water through special tissues in their throats and near their tails (so in a sense

they “breathe” through their rear ends this time of year!)

Aquatic frogs such as American bullfrogs spend winter nearly motionless at the bottom of rivers and lakes. Their metabolism slows greatly, and they only occasionally move. They may seek some shelter in the mud, but because they need to absorb oxygen through their skin, they would suffocate if they buried themselves completely. Spring peepers, on the other hand, overwinter on land. Like other frogs, they have high concentrations of glucose, a sugar that acts like a natural antifreeze and prevents ice crystals from forming inside cells — and organs from freezing. But spring peepers take this “freeze tolerance” survival strategy to the extreme. As glucose floods their bodies, their hearts stop beating, their blood stops flowing and they no longer breathe. Amazingly, when the air temperature warms, these “frogsicles” thaw unharmed.

The next time you’re ready to fuel your own inner furnace with metabolism-boosting activity, bundle up and head out to a DuPage forest preserve. And if you pass a frozen pond or stream, think about the plants and animals below and the amazing adaptations that help them survive winter under the ice. •

# winter calendar

See pages 10 – 17 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary.  
You can register for most programs online at [dupageforest.org](http://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	jan			

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	feb			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
mar			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	

## January

- 1** New Year's Day Hike
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Winter Adventures
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Vision Board Workshop  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Animal Tracking  
Critter Chat  
Snowshoe Hike
- 9** Forest Fitness Walk
- 10** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins  
Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age Begins
- 11** Archery: Active Adults
- 12** Art at Mayslake: The "Tree Spirited Woman" Begins  
Full Moon Cross-Country Skiing
- 13** Archery: Active Adults
- 14** Fishing: Hard Water Classic  
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra  
Pie-Baking Class
- 15** Animal Tracking  
Archery: Families  
Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families

- 16** Ranger Adventure Day
- 18** Snowshoe Hike
- 21** Squirrel Appreciation Day  
Volunteer: "Pitch In & Volunteer!" Open House  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Critter Chat  
Snowshoe Hike
- 23** Forest Fitness Walk
- 25** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Active Adults
- 26** Photography: Lightroom I Begins
- 27** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Ice Harvest
- 28** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Ice Harvest  
Nature Scavenger Hunt  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Ice Harvest  
Wilderness Survival





## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

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

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Register."
2. In the search box, enter the four-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.

## February

- 1** Volunteer: "Pitch In & Volunteer!"  
Presentation  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Fullersburg Frosty Friday
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wonders of Winter
- 5** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Hoo's for Dinner?  
Photography: Winter  
Delights Excursion
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Botanical Art,  
Hibernating Nature Begins  
Forest Fitness Walk  
Photography: Inspiring Images  
Begins
- 7** Photography: Winter  
Photography Begins
- 8** Fishing: Ice Fishing for  
Active Adults  
Snowshoe Hike
- 9** Fishing: Ice Fishing for  
Active Adults
- 10** Fullersburg Frosty Friday  
Wildlife Sleepover
- 11** Romantic Night Hike  
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 12** Archery: Families  
Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families
- 15** Snowshoe Hike
- 17** Fullersburg Frosty Friday
- 18** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Cocoa and Coloring  
Taffy-Pulling Party  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Great Backyard Bird Count
- 20** Forest Fitness Walk  
Get Outside! Kids' Day Off  
Taffy-Pulling Party
- 22** Archery: Active Adults
- 24** Fullersburg Frosty Friday
- 25** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Taffy-Pulling Party  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Critter Chat  
Native Landscaping 101:  
All About Plants  
WSI: Wildlife Scene Investigations
- 28** Art at Mayslake: Exploring  
Watercolor Begins  
Short-Eared Owl Hike

## March

- 1** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Read Across America Day: Read  
and Hike
- 3** Maple Syrup! Kids' Day Off  
Ranger Adventure Day
- 4** Maple Sugaring  
Music at Mayslake: Picos  
Navigation: GPS Explorers  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Animals and Winter Survival  
Maple Sugaring  
Navigation: Geocaching
- 6** Forest Fitness Walk
- 8** Native Landscaping 101: Design  
Threshold: A Magic Show
- 9** Threshold: A Magic Show
- 10** Threshold: A Magic Show
- 11** Archery: Families  
Buzzards Day  
Fishing: Explore Your Tackle Box  
Threshold: A Magic Show  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Photography: Lightroom II Begins  
Woodcock Walk
- 18** Bread-Baking Class  
Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Day  
Music at Mayslake: Acappellago  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Navigation: Geocaching
- 20** Forest Fitness Walk
- 25** Animal Tracking  
Fishing: Trout Fishing for Kids  
Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
When Darkness Falls
- 27** Camp Danada: Spring Break Begins  
Spring Break Spruce Up
- 29** Ranger Adventure Day
- 30** Spring Break Spruce Up  
Take a Walk in the Park Day
- 31** Spring Break Spruce Up

# winter calendar

© Kimberly Emerson



## Animals and Winter Survival 9282

Learn how wild animals survive winter despite frigid temperatures and a lack of food. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$2 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 942-6200.

Mar 5	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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## Animal Tracking 9149

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 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 942-6200.

Jan 8	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Jan 15	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Mar 25	3 – 4:30 p.m.	McDowell Grove



## 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.**

### LAMBING

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

**Jan. 15 – Feb. 27**

**Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

### LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOUR

Tour the farmhouse for a glimpse of 1890s life.

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

## Archery

Learn the history and basic techniques of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

### Active Adults 9112

Ages 50 and up.

Jan 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 13	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Feb 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake

### Families 9118

Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Jan 15	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 12	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Mar 11	3 – 4:30 p.m.	Blackwell

## Art at Mayslake

Expand your creativity and gain inspiration in a scenic, historic setting. Ages 18 and up. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 206-9566.

### Botanical Art, Hibernating Nature 9089

Study the colors and textures of plants at Mayslake, learn how to record your observations in a sketchbook, and develop a finished piece in graphite or watercolor. Mondays. \$130 plus \$10 supply fee per person.

Feb 6 – Mar 13	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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### Exploring Watercolor 9064

Explore and enhance your artistic style at this five-part intermediate-advanced class. Tuesdays. \$125 per person.

Jan 10 – Feb 14	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Feb 28 – Apr 4	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake

### The "Tree Spirited Woman" 9068

Explore personal thought and meaning with images and words in an art-journal forum. Readings of Colleen Baldrice's "Tree Spirited Woman" and inspiration from nature will guide you. Thursdays. \$185 per person.

Jan 12 – Mar 2	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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### Vision Board Workshop 9072

Use writing, drawing, mark making and image gathering to ignite creative insight that brings themes of change, adventure, personal interest and inspiration to the surface of a large board. \$75 plus \$5 supply fee per person.

Jan 7	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

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

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2. In the search box, enter the four-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.

### Bread-Baking Class 9326

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 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$40 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 876-5900.

Mar 18	9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Buzzards Day

Celebrate the spring return of nature's cleanup crew: the turkey vultures! Learn about our native vultures and other birds of prey, join fun activities, and meet some of the center's resident birds face-to-face. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

Mar 11	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Willowbrook
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### Camp Canada: Spring Break 9416

Enjoy hands-on horse time and help with stable chores at this four-day camp that includes games, crafts and supervised lead-line rides. Ages 10 – 14. \$125 per DuPage resident; \$150 nonresident. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 668-6012.

Mar 27 – 30	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Danada
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### Cast-Iron Cooking 9127

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 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 22	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 27	5 – 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 18	1 – 3 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 26	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

### Cocoa and Coloring 9090

Break free of cabin fever and spend the afternoon coloring while enjoying hot cocoa. Coloring pages, markers, colored pencils, crayons and cocoa provided. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 206-9566.

Feb 18	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Critter Chat

Stop by the visitor center each Sunday to meet some of the toads, snakes and turtles that call Fullersburg Woods home. We'll have one featured guest each week. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 850-8110.

Jan 8 – Feb 26	12:30 – 12:50 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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### Fishing

Find tips and tricks for fishing forest preserve lakes. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248 unless noted.

#### Explore Your Tackle Box 9298

Bring your tackle box and learn how to use what's inside. See how lures look to fish and get your questions answered. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free.

Mar 11	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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#### Hard Water Classic 9351

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Bring your own equipment and bait. All ages. \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the event.

Jan 14	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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#### Ice Fishing for Active Adults 9132

Learn about safety, equipment and techniques, and then try fishing on the ice, if conditions allow. Equipment and bait provided. Ages 50 and up. Free.

Jan 25	9 – 11 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 8	9 – 11 a.m.	Mallard Lake
Feb 9	9 – 11 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove

#### Ice Fishing for Families 9137

Learn about safety, equipment and techniques, and then try fishing on the ice, if conditions allow. Equipment and bait provided. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free.

Jan 15	10 a.m. – Noon	Songbird Slough
Jan 28	1 – 3 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne
Jan 29	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
Feb 5, 19	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb 12, 25	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake

#### Trout Fishing for Kids

Introduce your young anglers to trout fishing at this pre-season event that's just for them! Bait provided. Ages 15 and under with an adult. Free. Registration not required.

Mar 25	8 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
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# winter calendar



## Forest Fitness Walk 9176

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 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

Jan 9, 23	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb 6, 20	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Mar 6, 20	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

## Fullersburg Frosty Friday

Explore the woods Friday evenings in February. Bring your skis to this free program, rent snowshoes for \$8 per person, or simply stroll through the winter wonderland. Then, warm up in the nature center during special extended hours. All ages. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 850-8110.

Feb 3 – 24	5 – 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

*St. James Farm in Warrenville*

Enjoy the beautiful scenery on a wintry 20-minute ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Rides are first-come, first-served and use wagons if there's not ample snow on the trails. Registration is not required. To arrange for private rides, call (630) 580-7025.

**Wednesday – Saturday**  
**Dec. 21 – Jan. 7**  
**2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.**

## Full Moon Cross-Country Skiing 9167

Bring your skis for a self-guided tour of lantern-lit trails under the full moon, and talk with a ranger about the plants and animals you see along the way. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 12	6 – 8 p.m.	W. DuPage Woods
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## Get Outside! Kids' Day Off 9333

Hey, kids, spend your day off from school with the gang at Fullersburg! Depending on the weather, enjoy snowshoeing, bird-watching, hiking, geocaching or other outdoor adventures. Inside the nature center, have a blast with crafts and games. Equipment provided. Ages 5 – 8 and 9 – 13. \$60 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

Feb 20	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Day 9267

Discover the sweet secret of turning tree sap into syrup and enjoy samples along the way on a 75-minute guided tour. Tours start every 20 minutes. All ages. \$10 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

Mar 18	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Great Backyard Bird Count 9310

Take part in this international birding event without leaving DuPage County! Look for different species and then record your sightings online. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Feb 19	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Hoo's for Dinner? 9143

Find out first-hand what owls eat by dissecting a real owl pellet. Then, meet one of Willowbrook's own nighttime birds of prey. Ages 7 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 942-6200.

Feb 5	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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## Ice Harvest

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

Jan 27, 28, 29	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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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 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.

Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age 9248

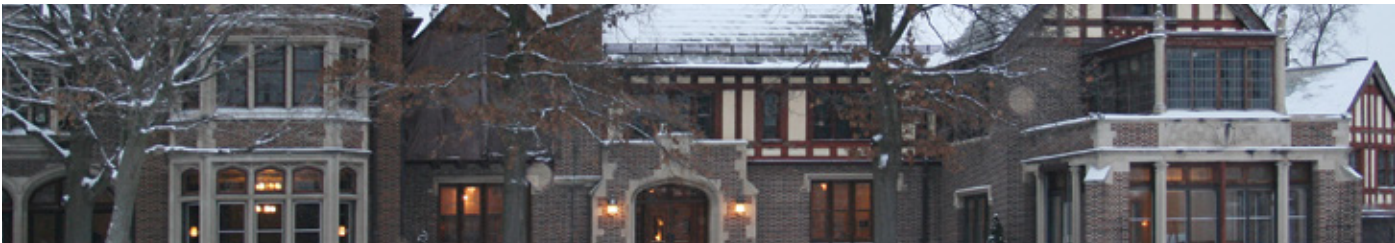
At this two-part program, learn about the habits and complex social behaviors of the mammoths and mastodons that once roamed DuPage. Examine a 13,000-year-old woolly mammoth skeleton, and visit the site where District crews unearthed the remains in 1977. Ages 15 and up. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Location. Rows: Jan 10, 9 - 10:30 a.m., Fullersburg Woods; Jan 11, 9 - 10:30 a.m., Blackwell.

Maple Sugaring 9263

Discover how sap becomes syrup! See how to tap trees with tools from the 1890s, help check the collection buckets, watch sap thicken over the fire, and try a taste of real maple syrup. These one-hour tours start at 9 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Location. Row: Mar 4, 5, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Kline Creek Farm.



Mayslake Peabody Estate

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "CAPTAIN BLOOD!"

Unjustly sentenced to slavery in the Caribbean, Dr. Peter Blood falls in love with Arabella, the lady of the plantation. When he escapes and takes up life as a pirate, they seem separated forever — but are they? With sword fights and pirate battles, love and treachery, and even a song or two, this adventure is perfect for the whole crew. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Jan. 25 – Feb. 26
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.
Sundays and Thursdays 3 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "SILENT SKY"

Henrietta Leavitt was one of the "computer ladies" at the Harvard observatory in the early 1900s. She was never allowed to use the telescope, but she made ground-breaking discoveries that paved the way for Hubble and other more well-known astronomers. This poignant but funny play tells her true story. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

March 29 – April 30
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.
Sundays and Thursdays 3 p.m.

ALLIANCE OF FINE ART BEST OF THE BEST EXHIBIT

This annual exhibit features local artists who distinguished themselves over the past year. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

March 1 – April 29
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER EXHIBIT: BLIZZARDS AND BEAUTY

Enjoy winter-themed works by the talented people who keep the Forest Preserve District running. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Jan. 11 – Feb. 24
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$8 per person. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

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

# winter calendar



## Maple Syrup! Kids' Day Off <sup>9262</sup>

Enjoy a sugaring adventure through the woods to discover how Native Americans and pioneers made maple syrup. Learn how to identify and tap maple trees, collect sap, and boil sap into syrup. Ages 6 – 8 and 9 – 13. \$60 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

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Mar 3	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour <sup>9102</sup>

Explore the mansion and learn about the structural, mechanical and electrical innovations used in its construction. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 206-9566.

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Mar 25	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Music at Mayslake

### Acappellago

From a bevy of swans to a watch of nightingales, this chamber choir's "Escape to ... Birdland" is a birder-lover's delight! Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$12 – \$15 per person. Purchase tickets at [acappellago.org](http://acappellago.org) or (708) 484-3797.

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Mar 18	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy a Baroque experience, "Concerto Mania: Vivaldi & Bach," with soloists on harpsichord, flute, violin and cello. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at [elmhurstsymphony.org](http://elmhurstsymphony.org) or (630) 941-0202.

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Jan 14	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Picosa

Hear works by Mansurian, Stravinsky, Beethoven, Kirk, Kim and Ran, and then join a "meet the musicians" gourmet dessert reception. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at [picosamusic.com](http://picosamusic.com).

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Mar 4	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Native Landscaping 101: All About Plants <sup>9281</sup>

At this 90-minute program, learn about the benefits of native plants and how their root structures differ from ornamentals'. Get tips and tricks for planting natives in your own yard to attract pollinators and other wildlife. Ages 18 and up. \$7 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

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Feb 26	1 and 3 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Native Landscaping 101: Design <sup>9304</sup>

Bring digital or hand-drawn pictures of your landscaping plan to this customized design session. By sharing ideas and gaining knowledge from our experts, you'll leave with a design for your own backyard habitat. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

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Mar 8	6 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Nature Scavenger Hunt <sup>9287</sup>

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home during a guided scavenger hunt. Ages 5 – 8 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

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Jan 28	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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## Navigation

Find a new way to explore the preserves! Equipment provided. \$5 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

### Geocaching <sup>9146</sup>

Try a family-friendly treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult.

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Mar 5	1 – 2:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Mar 19	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Blackwell

### GPS Explorers <sup>9296</sup>

Learn how to mark waypoints, measure distances, follow routes and check elevations. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult.

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Mar 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## New Year's Day Hike <sup>9161</sup>

Ring in the New Year and learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a ranger-led hike. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

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Jan 1	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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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 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.

## Photography

Expand your creativity and gain inspiration in a scenic, historic setting. Ages 18 and up unless noted. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

### Inspiring Images 9087

Go beyond the technical aspects of photography as you discover the complex ways photographers choose what to shoot and develop ideas for linking experiences and preferences to your own images. Mondays. \$150 per person.

Feb 6 – Mar 6 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

### Lightroom I 9062

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. Thursdays. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person.

Jan 26 – Feb 23 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

### Lightroom II 9063

Continue work with Lightroom's Develop module as you learn how to integrate Lightroom with Photoshop. Thursdays. Lightroom I or equivalent required. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person.

Mar 16 – Apr 13 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

### Winter Delights Excursion 9071

Bring your camera phone, point-and-shoot or SLR on a winter walk with a photography instructor and a tour guide from St. James Farm. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person.

Feb 5 9 – 11 a.m. St. James Farm

### Winter Photography 9088

Learn how to dress yourself and your camera for winter and how to best capture the beauty of the season at this five-part class. \$150 per person.

Feb 7, 14, 21 7 – 10 p.m. Mayslake  
Feb 11, 18 8 – 11 a.m. TBD

## Pie-Baking Class 9374

Learn secrets you wish your grandmother had taught you! Working in pairs, start with fresh ingredients and historic recipes and finish with a mouth-watering confection. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$40 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Jan 14 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

## Ranger Adventure Day 9170

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

Jan 16	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Mar 3	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
Mar 29	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

## Read Across America Day: Read and Hike 9306

Join this nationwide celebration of literacy – held each year on the birthday of Dr. Seuss – by reading "The Lorax" with a ranger and then taking a guided hike. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 2 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Hidden Lake

## Romantic Night Hike 9175

Enjoy a lantern-lit, self-guided walk through the woods with your sweetheart; then, warm up with hot cocoa around a cozy fire. Rent snowshoes for an extra \$8 per person, bring your own, or simply stroll along the trail in your comfy boots. Ages 18 and up. \$7.50 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Feb 11 7 – 9 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

## Short-Eared Owl Hike 9183

Venture into the hunting grounds of the short-eared owl, where you may get a glimpse of one of twilight's silent hunters. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Feb 28 4:30 – 6 p.m. Springbrook

## Snowshoe Hike 9057

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 for \$8 per person. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 8	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan 18	9 – 11 a.m.	Greene Valley
Jan 22	9 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Feb 8	9 – 11 a.m.	Meacham Grove
Feb 15	9 – 11 a.m.	Maple Grove

# winter calendar



## Spring Break Spruce Up

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

Mar 27, 30, 31	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## Squirrel Appreciation Day

Celebrate your friendly neighborhood squirrel and learn about these acrobatic rodents with lots of "nutty" squirrel-related activities. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

Jan 21	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Willowbrook
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## Taffy-Pulling Party <sup>9249</sup>

Tour the 1890s farmhouse and learn how kids lived more than a century ago. Then, make taffy from molasses to take home. These one-hour programs start at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 876-5900.

Feb 11, 18, 20, 25	10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## Take a Walk in the Park Day <sup>9307</sup>

Celebrate the day by learning about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a ranger-led hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 30	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove
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## Threshold: A Magic Show <sup>9097</sup>

Experience an unforgettable show that shatters the mold of traditional magic performances with illusions for all five senses, which take place in five distinct areas of historic Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 206-9566.

Mar 8, 10, 11	8 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Mar 9	3 – 4:30 p.m.	Mayslake

## Volunteer

Make a resolution to join the Forest Preserve District's team of volunteers! All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7233.

### "Pitch In & Volunteer" Open House

Talk with employees and volunteers from all 11 programs and learn about the 50-plus ways you can help out at the Forest Preserve District. A one-hour presentation starts at 10 a.m.

Jan 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada/Headquarters
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### "Pitch In & Volunteer" Presentation

Join us for a one-hour presentation that explains the different ways you can volunteer.

Feb 1	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/Headquarters
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## Volunteer Restoration Workday <sup>9334</sup>

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Free. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for students fulfilling requirements and groups of five or more).

Jan 4, 7	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jan 7	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jan 21	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
Jan 28	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Feb 1, 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Feb 4	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
Feb 25	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Mar 1, 4, 11, 18, 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Mar 25	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie

## When Darkness Falls <sup>9301</sup>

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 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Mar 25	5 – 7 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Wilderness Survival <sup>9145</sup>

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 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 933-7248.

Jan 29	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

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2. In the search box, enter the four-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.

### Wildlife Sleepover 9314

Bring your sleeping bag for a night at Willowbrook! Meet a few of the animals, enjoy evening and late-night programs, join a guided hike in the dark, and then spend the night in the visitor center. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$12 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 942-6200.

Feb 10 – 11      7:30 p.m. – 8:30 a.m.      Willowbrook

### Winter Adventures 9247

Hey, kids, cure cabin fever and spend part of your winter break with our naturalists and rangers. Explore your surroundings, learn about nature and enjoy fun hands-on activities. Ages 7 – 9 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

Jan 4      10 a.m. – Noon      Fullersburg Woods

### Wonders of Winter

Go on a horse-drawn hayride, take a nature hike, and try ice fishing, geocaching, snowshoeing, and other ways to enjoy the outdoors in winter. Then, warm up inside Mayslake Hall with fun activities and helpful facts about forest preserve plants, animals and programs from our rangers, naturalists and volunteers. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Feb 4      10 a.m. – 1 p.m.      Mayslake

### Woodcock Walk 9244

Witness firsthand one of nature's most fascinating courtship displays: the "sky dance" of the woodcock. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 850-8110.

Mar 16      7 – 8:30 p.m.      Greene Valley

### WSI: Wildlife Scene Investigations 9297

Discover how to identify wild mammals that live in DuPage County by studying real skulls and bones, learning basic natural history, and using techniques that unravel wildlife mysteries. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Register at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or (630) 942-6200.

Feb 26      2 – 3:30 p.m.      Willowbrook



## 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

**Dec. 3 – Feb. 26 (except Dec. 25)**

**Plus Dec. 19 – Jan. 3, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20**

**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.



# Who Goes There?

by **JAYNE BOHNER**, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Ask people what they enjoy about DuPage forest preserves, and wildlife sightings will be near the top of the list every time, even in winter. Sure, woodlands and prairies are sheltering their fair share of hibernating woodchucks and 13-lined ground squirrels this time of year, but most mammals must continue to hunt or forage even when temperatures drop below freezing. You might not be able to catch one in the act, but if you hit the trails on a snow-covered day, you can get a good idea of what you missed.

Snow acts like a time-lapse camera, capturing series of steps, leaps and trots for later examination. But it's not a perfect preserver. Unlike mud, which can retain shapes after it hardens, snow compacts, melts and refreezes, often turning once-identifiable tracks into nondescript, oval-shaped pits.

Drawbacks aside, learning to identify tracks in the snow can give you a better understanding of the wild animals that call the forest preserves home and how they move around in winter. See a second set of coyote tracks magically join a first in the middle of a trail? You're likely seeing signs of a coyote that was using the tracks of a predecessor to conserve energy before setting off



▲ Snow can also reveal why tracks come to an abrupt end. A hungry owl was likely the cause here.

on its own path. Following the trail of a squirrel that stops in the middle of a field? You may very well see impressions from a feathered wing of a hungry great horned owl at the same spot.

You may have to visit the forest preserves a few times under different conditions to hone your tracking skills this winter, but hey, who couldn't use a worthwhile excuse to get outdoors and enjoy the trails this season? To help you get started, we've paired illustrations you'd find in a field guide with photos of actual tracks on the next page. For even more tracking tips, register for one of our upcoming "Animal Tracking" programs, detailed on Page 10.

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© Chris Campbell



### Eastern Gray Squirrel

Except in the worst weather, gray squirrels remain active in winter, especially at the peak of the mating season in January. Tracks often lead to small mounds of disrupted snow, showing where a squirrel's been digging for buried nuts and acorns. In fresh snow, you may be able to make out individual claw-tipped toes.



© Kristin



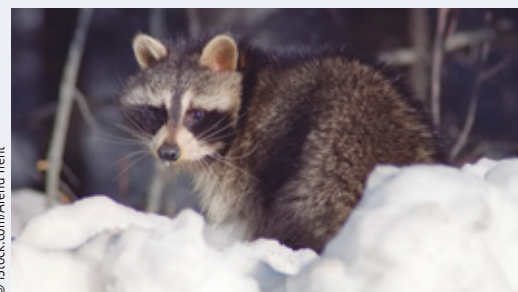
© iStock.com/Mireax

### Common Raccoon

Raccoons do not hibernate but can store up enough fat in fall to spend up to a month sleeping in tree hollows or burrows. When they do venture out for food, their feet leave behind five-toed prints. Their unusual stride lands each large hind foot near the print made by the front foot on the opposite side.



© Lorna Bernard



© iStock.com/Arend Trent

### Virginia Opossum

Even with bare ears and tails prone to frostbite, opossums need to go out on snowy days for food. Clean tracks reveal five finger-like toes spread widely apart. The prints of their hind legs often show off their opposable thumbs, which may stick out at right angles from the other four toes.



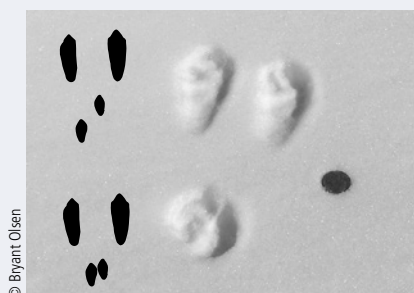
© Tagrocky



© iStock.com/Adam Larsen

### Eastern Cottontail

When they're not taking shelter under thick shrubs or in abandoned burrows, cottontails are looking for tasty bark, buds and twigs. Because their feet are so furry, their tracks usually do not feature defined toes. They land each leap with their large hind feet in front, and if their two smaller prints touch, it looks as if a three-legged creature has been by.



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### Coyote

Coyotes hunt for small mammals year-round, making tracks similar to those of a domestic dog. Coyote tracks are more oval-shaped, though, and are likely to show claws. If you're in a forest preserve and spot a set in the snow without human tracks nearby, it's a good sign they were made by a coyote. (Dogs, after all, are not allowed off-leash in the preserves.)



© Animal Diversity Web



### White-Tailed Deer

As deer look for buds and twigs, their two-toed hooves create heart-shaped tracks (if you look at them upside-down). In deep snow they may step in tracks made by other deer, leaving behind a single row of deep channels. They form large saucers of compacted snow when they bed down to sleep or wait out bad weather.



© Kristine Paulus



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# Best. Summer.

by COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

**C**harlie, 10, stands at the shooting line. When he hears the single whistle command, he draws back his bow and then releases it. His arrow hits the target slightly off center, but he's encouraged.

"Good release, Charlie. Now stand tall, shoulders back. You got this," says Adam Carlson, a Forest Preserve District ranger and camp instructor. Charlie shoots again, this time hitting his mark. He gives Carlson a high-five.

Charlie and 11 other children are taking part in the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's "Ranger Adventure Camp," which introduces archery, paddling, fishing and hiking as well as team-building, navigation and wilderness-survival skills at Mayslake and Herrick Lake forest preserves.

"The kids like the autonomy the camp provides, but they also quickly pick up on the different ways each activity ties in with the natural features of our forest preserves," explains ranger David Sima.

These ranger-led programs are just two of 26 camps the Forest Preserve District is offering throughout summer 2017 for ages 4 to 15, each designed to inspire a spirit of adventure and build a strong connection with nature.

"Not too long ago our summer camps were at two or three locations. Now they take place at almost a dozen forest preserves across the county," says Chris Gingrich of Community Services & Education. "And with easy online registration, it's no longer 'How do we sign up?' but 'What are we going to sign up for?'"

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, St. James Farm and Willowbrook Wildlife Center programs focus on the plants, wildlife and landscapes that make up DuPage County. Fullersburg alone offers "Bug Buddies," "Habitat Hunters," "Trailblazing Adventures" and 12 other camps that allow kids to investigate the outdoors like real naturalists.

"My kids are now excited about science and nature"

"They hike, fish, invent, hunt for and examine rocks, try experiments, get dirty, all while learning about science and nature — often without realizing it!" says Fullersburg naturalist Susan Urasky.

Little explorers at St. James Farm learn about prairies and woodlands on guided hikes and enjoy activities inside a real caboose at "Choo-Choo and Nature, Too." At Willowbrook







**Trust us. Summer will be here before you know it.**

So start planning now for our must-have three-, four- or five-day camps for kids ages 4 – 15. Visit [dupageforest.org/camps](http://dupageforest.org/camps) today for info on activities, fees, ages and dates and **register starting Jan. 1!**

Wildlife Center, campers come face-to-face with birds, bugs, snakes, frogs, toads and turtles during “Wildlife Explorers” or “Cold-Blooded Critter Camp,” and in 2017 older kids will be able to spend time behind-the-scenes at this one-of-a-kind wildlife rehabilitation facility.

“Our new ‘Junior Keeper Camp’ gives ages 9 to 12 a rare chance to help the injured or orphaned wildlife that make up such a large part of what we do here at Willowbrook,” explains Stephanie Touzalin, a naturalist at the center. “Children will help prepare special foods, clean the cages, and, in many cases, know the thrill of releasing rehabilitated animals back into the wild.”

Of course the District’s summer lineup would not be the same without three long-standing favorites. For nearly 30 years Kline Creek Farm’s “Farmhands” has let boys and girls experience first-hand how children lived in the 1890s, from feeding livestock, doing the wash and preparing a noon meal from scratch on a wood-burning stove to playing old-fashioned games and taking horse-drawn hayrides.

“It’s always great to see how they gain so much enjoyment from activities that would have made their 1890s counterparts, well, less than enthusiastic,” muses Wayne Hill, a heritage interpreter at the farm.

Danada Equestrian Center has welcomed kids

and teens for almost as long to “Horse Sense,” where hands-on experiences with horses mix with stable chores, games, crafts and lead-line rides, and “Riding Sense,” which adds the challenges of a riding program and daily instruction.

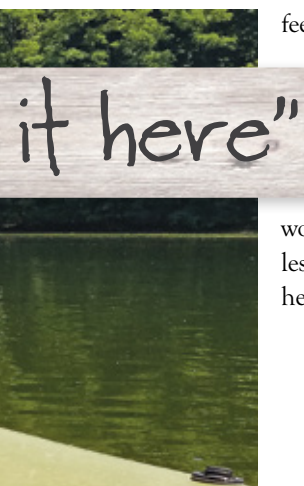
“People have been fascinated with horses for as long as there have been people and horses, so we’re thrilled here at Danada to be able to offer today’s kids and teens a way to form their own connections with these remarkable animals,” says Shelley Schweitzer, who works at the center and has helped with camps for several years.

*“Can’t wait to sign up each year”*

This summer, the Forest Preserve District also has options for young nature lovers who like to put pen or paint to paper. New this year, “Creativity Camp” at Mayslake Peabody Estate guides artists through literature- and writing-related games or experiments with oil painting, printmaking and more unconventional mediums.

“Exploring the outdoors is vital to any child’s development but so is learning how to creatively express and share what those experiences mean,” says Kendra Strubhart, the heritage interpreter at Mayslake who helped develop the camp.

If you couldn’t tell, the Forest Preserve District is looking forward to a summer of fun, and we hope your young campers will be a part of it! •



# directory



## GENERAL *Contacts*

### HEADQUARTERS

#### Street Address

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

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

#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 5000  
Wheaton, IL 60189

#### Website

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

#### Email Address

[forest@dupageforest.org](mailto:forest@dupageforest.org)

#### Main Number

(630) 933-7200

#### TTY

(800) 526-0857

### 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

### OAK MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

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



## PRESERVE *Hours*

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

## ACCESSIBILITY

Individuals with accessibility needs or concerns should contact the District's ADA coordinator at (630) 933-7683 or TTY (800) 526-0857 at least 48 hours before their visit.

## 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.

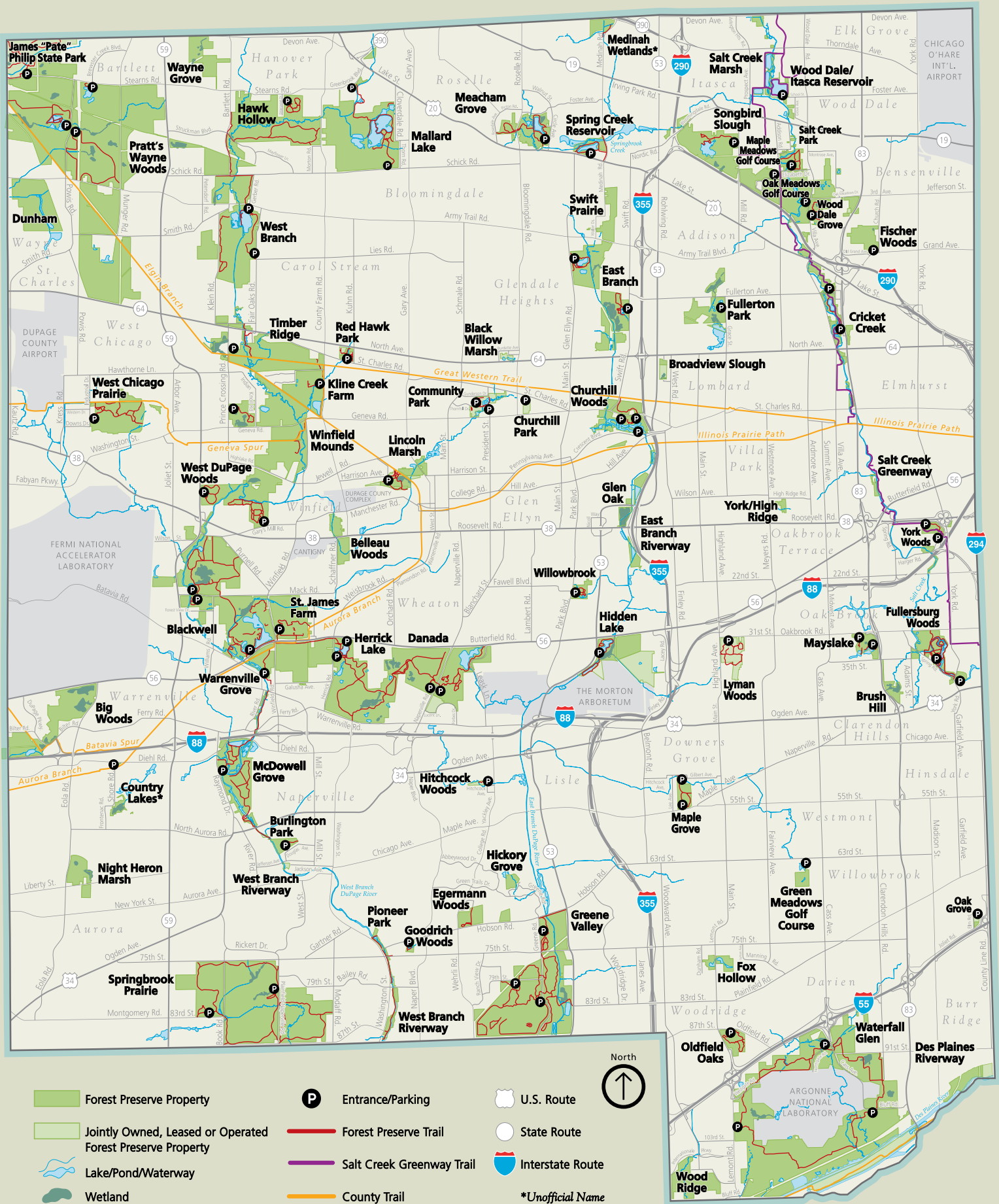
### WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

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.

Dark-eyed junco © iStock.com/Charles Brutlag







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

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# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2017

## It's **ANNUAL PERMIT** time.

We've changed things up a bit, but it's easier than ever to get your permits and get out in the preserves!



**Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)** 24/7 for off-leash dog areas, private boats and model crafts. Click "Register" and "Purchase Permits."

**For dogs**, your receipt is your permit. Just print it or save it to your phone. (No more plastic cards.) **For boating and model crafts**, your receipt's your temporary permit until your decal or tag arrives in the mail.

**Have questions?** Call or stop by Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248 or 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and we'll be glad to help!



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