

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2019

**Celebrate OAKtober
With Us!**

Interview With an Oak

Extra Care for Oaks



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



It's not news that here at the Forest Preserve District we're all about trees. We even have one front and center on our logo, an oak. Some of the county's oaks have been around for over 200 years. Others in their 20s and 30s are in their infancies. Unfortunately, research is telling us there's no guarantee these stately trees will remain familiar parts of our landscape.

In balanced natural areas, when mature oak trees die the next generation is well on its way to take their place. But in many areas in the preserves, trees like elms, black cherry and European buckthorn are filling these gaps instead, not only taking soil away from oaks but also creating conditions too shady for oaks to grow

You might be thinking, "As long as some types of trees are growing there, what difference does it make?" It makes a big difference if you're a wild animal like a flying squirrel, yellowthroat, or woodpecker, all of which need oaks to survive (or if you're a human who enjoys having these animals in the area).

Red-headed woodpeckers and flying squirrels depend on oaks' large cavities to raise their young. Wilson's warblers, American redstarts, common yellowthroats and other migrating birds use oaks as guaranteed "fast food" stops for insects. Without oaks, many of these animals would relocate to other regions.

That's why the Forest Preserve District is joining other local agencies to mark OAKtober, a month-long tribute to these irreplaceable trees. In this issue of the *Conservationist* you can read our exclusive interview with an oak and find out why it's important to have oaks outside of the preserves. You'll also find a special lineup of programs, each focusing on oaks in a different way, from walks and volunteer workdays to tractor-drawn wagon rides.

So this fall, take a little time to learn about oaks, plant one or just give one a hug. We'll all be glad you did!

Daniel Hebreard
President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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



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Communications & Marketing Director

Tony Martinez Jr.



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189
630-933-7200, TTY 800-526-0857

dupageforest.org

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contents

Vol. 55, No. 4 | Fall 2019



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4



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6



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8



18



20

- 4 **News & Notes**
- 6 **Extra Care for Oaks**
- 8 **Fall Calendar**
- 18 **Interview With an Oak**
- 20 **Destination: Discovery**
- 22 **Directory**
- 23 **Map**

On the cover: Waterfall Glen © Adam Romanowicz/3scape.com

OUR Mission

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

news & notes



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MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between May 13 and July 31. To learn how your financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforest.org/friends. To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

David and Loretta Nienke

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Sierra Club River Prairie Group Members

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center in memory of Ruth Najacht

Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Ronald R. Bork Estate

\$95,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

\$21,000 — West Chicago Prairie restoration project

Rebecca Given

\$3,000 — Land management in memory of Phil Hadley

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\$742.40 — Danada Equestrian Center

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Leah Bricker

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Larry Larson

\$500 — Areas of greatest need in honor of Katie Gaskill

Gary and Judy Montgomery

\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

Carol O'Neal

\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Rotary Club of Elmhurst

\$500 — Law Enforcement search-and-rescue drone

Theodore Utchen

\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

2020 ANNUAL PERMITS ON SALE DEC. 1

Annual permits for private boating, archery, off-leash dog areas, and model crafts go on sale Dec. 1 at dupageforest.org under “Registration & Permits.” You can also purchase 2020 seasonal permits for stand-up paddleboarding.

New for 2020, active U.S. military personnel or honorably discharged U.S. veterans will be eligible for one free annual permit per household per year for all permit types.

Permits will also be available at Forest Preserve District headquarters, 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dog lovers can buy off-leash permits at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St. in Oak Brook, Wednesdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Questions? Call Visitor Services weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 630-933-7248 or use our convenient online chat at dupageforest.org.



GIVING THE GIFT of Nature

Looking for a gift for that someone who has everything? Want an easy way to pay for DuPage forest preserve summer camps? Then get a Forest Preserve District gift card!

Use the cards to pay for programs and camps; reserve picnic shelters and campsites; rent canoes, kayaks, or boats; or buy cool swag. You can buy cards through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or forest@dupageforest.org or at any Forest Preserve District education center. (See Page 22 for hours.) Interested in golf? Get gift cards good at all three Forest Preserve District courses at DuPageGolf.com.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

In August the Forest Preserve District was the lucky recipient of six free display cases from the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. It will use the cabinets at different sites to showcase its artifacts collection, first at Mayslake Peabody Estate for the *Mayslake Farms: A Gentleman's Dream* exhibit starting Sept. 14.

Valued at as much as \$20,000, the cases are an example of how the Forest Preserve District continues to acquire valuable resources at little or no cost and to collaborate with museums for the benefit of all visitors. To read about other collection finds, follow the Nature's Storytellers blog at dupageforest.org, and check out future "Collections Corner" features here in News & Notes.

LIVE and on Demand

Can't make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under "Our Board."

Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve 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; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.



BECAUSE DEER DON'T LOOK BOTH WAYS

A deer can run in front of your car anytime, but the risk goes up in fall, when these animals have one thing on their minds: finding mates. Because they're not concerned about you, it's up to you to watch for them.

- Be careful at dawn and dusk, when deer are most active and visibility is poor. Odds are higher along woods, fields, fencerows and rivers.
- Watch for deer-crossing signs. Agencies post them in areas that have had multiple accidents.
- Slow down when approaching deer. They may bolt or quickly change direction without warning.
- Deer often travel in groups, so if you see one, be ready for more.
- Don't swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid deer. Slow to a stop, wait and flash your headlights.
- If you have passengers, make sure they're on deer patrol, too.
- If you hit a deer, don't try to move it. Call law enforcement instead.



© Greg Lasley

GRANT BOOSTS BIRDING HABITAT AT SPRINGBROOK

Thanks to a \$2,500 grant from the DuPage Birding Club, the Forest Preserve District installed 1,848 plants in the 113-acre wetland southwest of Book Road and 75th Street at Springbrook Prairie, marsh species such as American sweet flag, common lake sedge and yellow pond lily.

Forest Preserve District volunteer site steward Joe Suchecki and volunteers from the DuPage Birding Club put a significant amount of the plugs in place, but before they began, Forest Preserve District contractors removed dense fields of invasive narrow and hybrid cattails to make room. As the new plantings repopulate, they should help keep invasive species in check naturally.

Birders have already spotted state-endangered king rails at the wetland as well as marsh wrens (shown above), pied-billed grebes, sandhill cranes and other species in greatest need of conservation. The hope is that a sustainable, more biologically diverse community of wetland flowers, rushes and sedges will attract a greater variety of marsh wildlife.



Extra Care for Oaks

by TOM VELAT, NATURAL RESOURCES

At Wayne Grove and West Chicago Prairie grow bur oaks that were mere seedlings when the Declaration of Independence was signed. Across several preserves most white oaks date back to the 1840s, 50s and 60s. (Not many are older because European settlers cut down oaks in large numbers in the late 1800s to build homes, barns and plank roads.) These oaks put the “forest” in DuPage forest preserves, but there’s a problem. For oaks to continue to enrich the landscape (and support the squirrels, woodpeckers, owls and other native wild animals that rely on them) a new generation needs to fill the ecological shoes of today’s mature trees. But research shows this isn’t happening.

Oaks have grown here for centuries, so in biologically diverse natural areas they need no help from humans. But oaks need a fair amount of light, and in some habitats they’re no longer getting enough of it.

In many areas once suitable for oaks, fast-sprouting, shade-tolerant invasive trees have spread, even natives such as basswood, sugar maple, wild black cherry, ironwood, and American elm. Young oaks may be able to successfully compete for soil but are soon shaded out and stunted by the

competition. As mature oaks get closer to the end of their natural lives, many arborists and restoration ecologists agree their struggling replacements may need some help.

Here at the Forest Preserve District, that help comes in many forms. Crews bring sunlight back to overgrown areas by removing the invasive competition, focusing on nonnatives like European buckthorn. Buckthorn creates dense shade and releases chemicals into the soil that prevent other plants from growing nearby.

Nursery-raised oaks in landscaping around picnic and other high-use areas, especially oaks from the Forest Preserve District’s own nursery, get extra care. Before performing a prescription burn, crews may mow around newly planted trees to create a buffer zone. Oaks evolved in ecosystems regularly visited by fire, so mature oaks have thick protective bark, but smaller ones may get scorched. Crews may also place protective screening around smaller oaks to keep them safe from hungry deer, eastern cottontails and small rodents. Trees can withstand some browsing, but too much can cause one to stop growing and eventually die. These extra steps not only give oaks a better chance of survival but also protect the



istock.com/bazat178

▲ Whether your oak is from a nursery or is one you raised from an acorn, the best time to plant it is spring or fall, when it's coming out of or going into winter dormancy. You can plant in summer but will have to spend more time watering.

Sandra Standbridge/Shutterstock.com

investment of time and money it took to grow them.

The value of oaks doesn't end at a forest preserve's property line, though. The next time you drive past the edge of a wooded preserve, pay attention to the oaks growing across the street in neighborhood parks, backyards or corporate centers. In some cases, the leafy canopy is seamless. It may not have been a conscious decision, but over time public and private landowners have created an expanded oak community. As older trees die, both types of owners are needed to ensure oaks remain on the DuPage landscape for centuries to come.

Looking for your own way to do something for the mighty oak? If you have space, consider planting one in your yard. "Nuts About Oaks" in the fall 2018 *Conservationist* shows how to start from a single acorn, and the box to the right has tips for taking care of your tree over its first couple of years. You can also learn more (and spread the word!) about oaks by registering for our OAKtober programs starting on Page 10. Join a walk. Paddle a kayak. Test your squirrel survival skills. Help out at a workday. Whatever you do, we guarantee you'll end up caring even more about oaks! •

Caring for Your New Oak

So you've decided to celebrate OAKtober by planting a tree. Fantastic! Below are some tips to give your oak a great head start.

Before digging, select a spot with the proper moisture, light and space. To prevent future issues with roots and branches, it should be at least 8 feet from any sidewalk, structure, sewer line, or fence and clear of power lines.

The hole should be twice as deep as the container you're transplanting from and deep enough for the tap root, the long white root that future roots will grow from.

Hold the tree with one hand so the tops of the roots are slightly below ground level. Use your other hand to fill the hole with loose soil. Pack the soil firmly around the roots to eliminate any air pockets.

Place a ring of 0.5-inch mesh hardware cloth around the oak so cottontails and other small mammals can't chew on it. The ring should be at least twice as tall and wide as the tree so the leaves don't touch it. Tie the ends together with zip ties, and use metal landscaping staples to secure it to the ground.

If you have deer in your area, cut a piece of hardware cloth to top off the ring like a lid. Deer can easily strip the top of your oak if it isn't covered.

In winter, protect your tree from snow and ice with an overwintering cone or tent.

Water as needed. During long droughts, water regularly until the drought subsides or the tree is large enough to support itself, about 4 feet. Mulching around the tree can help keep the soil moist, but make sure the mulch slopes away from the tree and doesn't touch the trunk.

Once your oak is 4 feet tall it should be able to withstand damage from animals, so you can remove the hardware cloth. If something's still nibbling on it, pound three or four 6-foot-tall T-posts in the ground around the oak, and wrap aluminum fencing around the posts.



Bradley D. Saum/Shutterstock.com

fall calendar



Plants & Wildlife Page 10
 Ways to Play Page 11
 Health & Well-Being Page 13
 Living Green Page 13

Heritage Page 13
 Nature Art & Performances Page 16
 Volunteer Page 17

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | dec |

October

- 1** Kayaking: Oak Reflections
- 2** Bird Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Fresh Air Friday
Mayslake Hall Franciscan Era Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Corn Harvest
Fishing: Families
Halloween Night Walks Ticket
Sales Begin
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 6** Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters: Woodchuck
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Designing Your
Photography Begins
Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 8** Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 9** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Bird Walk
Farm Talk Series: Gentleman Farms
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Autumn Moon
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 12** Corn Harvest
Farm to Table: Honeybees and
Local Cheese
Kayaking: Oak Reflections
Mindfulness Under the Oaks
Nuts for Nature
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Fall Festival at Danada
In and Out: Oaks
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
- 14** Archery: Families
Art at Mayslake: Family
Photography — Oaks
Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 15** Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 16** Bird Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Yoga on the Lawn
- 17** Farmer Is the Man
- 18** Bird Walk
Gas Lamp Ghost Stories
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Autumn Moon
- 19** Corn Harvest
Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters: American Kestrel
- 20** Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters: Woodchuck
- 21** Moonlight Mansion Tour
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 22** Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 23** Yoga on the Lawn
- 24** Farm to Table: Honeybees and
Local Cheese
- 25** Farm Talk Series: Farm to Forest
Halloween Night Walks
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Autumn Moon
- 26** Animal Care Experiences
Corn Harvest
Halloween Night Walks
Make a Difference Day
Sunset Hike at the Overlook
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Spring Brook Nature Walk
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Fall Oak Colors
Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat
- 28** Forest Hike
Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 29** Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 30** Yoga on the Lawn



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
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.

November

- 1** Fresh Air Friday
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Autumn Moon
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Random Acts of Kindness
Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 3** Tractor-Drawn Rides: Danada Horses
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
- 6** Forest Hike
Yoga on the Lawn
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Block Printing Holiday Cards
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9** Fishing: Families
Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Fishing: Illinois Smallmouth Alliance Early Show
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Art at Mayslake: Collage and Mixed Media
Studio Begins
- 13** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Archery: Active Adults
- 16** Thanksgiving Gratitude Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Forest Hike
- 23** Animal Care Experiences
Cast-Iron Cooking
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat
- 25** Forest Hike
- 29** Archery: Families

December

- 1** Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat
- 4** Forest Hike
- 7** Cast-Iron Cooking
Christmas on the Farm
Music at Mayslake: Acappellago
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Christmas on the Farm
Make a Snake Ornament Drop-In Family Activity
- 9** Forest Hike
- 12** Music at Mayslake: WDCB Jazz Salon
- 14** Animal Care Experiences
Holiday Art and Craft Market
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Holiday Art and Craft Market
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat
- 17** Archery: Active Adults
- 18** Forest Hike
- 21** Animal Care Experiences
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat
- 23** Forest Hike
- 29** Wildlife Encounters: Bobcat



Plants & Wildlife

Animal Care Experiences 16402

Get an exclusive, in-depth look at different aspects of animal care, and help prepare enrichments for some of the center's residents. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Oct. 26 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Nov. 23 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Dec. 14 & 21 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |

Bird Walk 16263

See how the diversity of birds changes from summer to fall on a naturalist-led hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-850-8110.

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 2 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Lyman Woods |
| Oct. 11 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | York Woods |
| Oct. 16 | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | McDowell Grove |
| Oct. 18  | 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |

In and Out: Oaks 16324

Explore the oak walls and floors of a century-old mansion, and learn why oaks are called “keystone” species on a walk through a savanna. (You might even meet a mythical forest creature along the way!) Then, enjoy white oak bark tea and acorn flour cookies. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| Oct. 13 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|---------------|----------|

Make a Snake Ornament Drop-In Family Activity

Get in the holiday spirit Willowbrook style! Craft a colorful ornament, and then meet DuPage snakes as you learn about their fascinating lives. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Dec. 8 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Willowbrook |
|--------|---------------|-------------|

Nuts for Nature 16400

Learn about the role squirrels play in replanting forests, and see if you have what it takes to be a squirrel survivor. Then, have a close encounter with Willowbrook's largest resident squirrel: the woodchuck. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Oct. 12 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Willowbrook |
|---------|---------------|-------------|

Spring Brook Nature Walk 16398

Learn about the restoration of Spring Brook and how it benefits surrounding ecosystems on a creek-side guided hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-580-7025.

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

Wildlife Encounters 16582

Join a naturalist and animal keeper to experience first-hand positive reinforcement training with one of the center's residents. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$50 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Woodchuck | | |
| Oct. 6 & 20 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| American Kestrel | | |
| Oct. 19 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Bobcat | | |
| Oct. 27 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Nov. 24 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Dec. 1, 15, 22 & 29 | 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |

CELEBRATE OAKtober WITH US!



What's so great about oaks?
Find out throughout the
month of OAKtober!

Look for green oak leaves
throughout the calendar for
featured programs.



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
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.

Ways to Play

Archery

Active Adults 16488

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Nov. 14 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Mayslake |
| Dec. 17 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Mayslake |

Families 16491

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Oct. 14 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Nov. 29 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | St. James Farm |

Cast-Iron Cooking 16509

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire as you learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 23 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Herrick Lake |
| Dec. 7 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Churchill Woods |

Fishing

Fall Trout Season Opener

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

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Oct. 19 | 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Multiple |
|---------|-----------------|----------|

Families 16505

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| Oct. 5 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Hidden Lake |
| Nov. 9 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Blackwell |

Illinois Smallmouth Alliance Early Show

Sit with some of the area's best fly tyers as they demonstrate their talents on a variety of patterns at Chicagoland's only fly-fishing show. Bring the kids for a free tying program, and shop from select vendors. All ages. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; under 13 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| Nov. 10 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|------------------|----------|



Fore!

*The Preserve at Oak Meadows
Maple Meadows • Green Meadows*

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit DuPageGolf.com.



No Rush Brush

Danada Equestrian Center

Interested in spending time with a horse but don't care to ride? Want to get comfortable on the ground before your first lesson? Then join us for 45 minutes of one-on-one grooming time followed by 15 minutes of lectures or ground work. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person. Register at 630-668-6012.



More Ways to Play

GROUP ADVENTURES BY REQUEST

Attention families, friends, Scouts, youth groups and seniors! Let us plan a ranger-led archery, fishing, kayaking or nature hike program for your group of 10 or more. Ages and fees vary by program. To schedule yours, call 630-933-7247.

SCENIC OVERLOOK

Greene Valley

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

Through Oct. 27

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weather or Illinois Environmental Protection Agency work may affect hours without notice.

SNOW TUBING

Blackwell

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 \$10 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Dec. 7 – Feb. 23

Saturdays & Sundays

Plus Dec. 23 – 27, Dec. 30 – Jan. 3, Jan. 17,

Jan. 20 & Feb. 17

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SNOWSHOES

Blackwell, Danada Headquarters & Fullersburg Woods

Explore the forest preserves by snowshoes! Rentals are \$10 for two hours or \$15 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.
- Rent weekdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Forest Preserve District headquarters at Danada. Call 630-933-7248 for availability.
- Rent Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Sundays 1 – 2 p.m. at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call 630-850-8110 for availability.

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! All ages; under 18 with an adult. Tickets go on sale Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. at Fullersburg Woods (in person; no phone or online sales). \$14 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Maximum 10 tickets per order. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

Ticket Sales

Oct. 5 9 a.m. Fullersburg Woods

Walks

Oct. 25 & 26 6 – 9 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Holiday Art and Craft Market

Shop for quality artisan holiday gifts for family and friends. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free admission. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Dec. 14 & 15 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mayslake



Kayaking: Oak Reflections 16495

Enjoy the fall oaks from a different point of view as you learn paddling strokes and safety tips. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1 3 – 5 p.m. Herrick Lake

Oct. 12 9 – 11 a.m. Herrick Lake



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
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.

Health & Well-Being

Forest Hike 16253

Gear up to enjoy some healthy exercise with one of our naturalists as you walk 2 – 5 miles while exploring the wonders of the preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-850-8110.

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 9 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Oldfield Oaks |
| Oct. 28 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Meacham Grove |
| Nov. 6 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Waterfall Glen |
| Nov. 20 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Springbrook |
| Nov. 25 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Dec. 4 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | W. DuPage Woods |
| Dec. 9 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Greene Valley |
| Dec. 18 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Danada |
| Dec. 23 | 8:30 – 10 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |

Fresh Air Friday 16378

Breath deep on a guided walk through the preserve. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------------|
| Oct. 4 | Noon – 1 p.m. | St. James Farm |
| Nov. 1 | Noon – 1 p.m. | St. James Farm |

Mindfulness Under the Oaks 16353

On a relaxing 1-mile stroll, learn why oaks are "keystone" species, and use them as guides as we reflect on personal keystone traits that carry us through our own environments. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|---------------|
| Oct. 12 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Greene Valley |
|---------|---------------|---------------|

Sunset Hike at the Overlook 16504

Drink in the sunset from 190 feet above the surrounding landscape. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at the hike, online or at 630-933-7248.

| | | |
|---------|------------|---------------|
| Oct. 26 | 4 – 6 p.m. | Greene Valley |
|---------|------------|---------------|

Thanksgiving Gratitude Walk 16352

Prepare for Thanksgiving in a new way, and contemplate what you're grateful for on a leisurely guided walk. Jot down your reflections and, if the mood strikes, share them with the group. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| Nov. 16 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|---------------|----------|

Yoga on the Lawn 16597

Start your day in nature with an outdoor yoga class for beginners led by experienced yoga practitioners. Ages 18 and up. \$40 per person in advance for all four classes; \$14 per class for drop-ins. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Oct. 16, 23 & 30 | 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Mayslake |
| Nov. 6 | 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Mayslake |

Living Green

Farm to Table: Honeybees and Local Cheese 16354

Wonder how much honey comes from one hive or how many gallons of milk it takes to make cheese? Find the answers as you taste local selections and learn how to pair the two. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|------------------|
| Oct. 12 | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
| Oct. 24 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |

Heritage

Christmas on the Farm

Learn the history of popular traditions, take a photo with Santa in his sleigh, sing carols around the warming fire, and enjoy cookies and hot apple cider. All ages. Free admission. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dec. 7 & 8 | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
|------------|------------------|------------------|



fall calendar



1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Registration is not required for these free all-ages 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.

FARMHOUSE MUSEUM TOUR

Explore the lifestyle of a successful farm family as you tour the farmhouse museum. Learn how the home was a place for work as well as relaxation and how it served as the building block of the rural community.

Oct. 1 – Nov. 26 (except Nov. 21)

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

And join these special seasonal tours, too!

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Discover Victorian holiday traditions.

Dec. 1 – Jan. 6

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the hour

LIVING BY LAMPLIGHT

What happens in the farmhouse once the sun goes down? How did farms and factories each mark time? Find the answers on this lively tour! .

Dec. 1 – 30

Thursday – Monday 4 – 4:40 p.m.

Corn Harvest

After a quick session in “Corn College,” experience life as a field hand as you help harvest this year’s crop and make corn shocks from the cut stalks. Then, create your own souvenir corn-husk figures for home. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26 1 – 4 p.m.

Kline Creek Farm

Fall Festival at Danada

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

Oct. 13

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Danada



Farmer Is the Man 16339

Explore the history and future of farming in Illinois with contemporary folk songwriter Chris Vallillo, who’s spent the last 35 years living and working in rural Illinois, documenting its music and chronicling its past and ever-changing future. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 17

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Mayslake



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
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.

Farm Talk Series

Farm to Forest 16338

Discover the history of former DuPage farms and how the District is restoring them. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|
| Oct. 25 | 10 – 11 a.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|--------------|----------|

Gentleman Farms 16335

Learn about the elaborate estates of several Illinois "gentleman farmers," who operated farms for pleasure rather than profit in the early 20th century. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|
| Oct. 11 | 10 – 11 a.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|--------------|----------|

Gas Lamp Ghost Stories 16536

Was that a cool October breeze or a chill running down your spine? Keep the spooks at bay with ghoulish grown-up tales told outside in the dark. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Oct. 18 | 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
|---------|------------------|------------------|

Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour 16342

Explore the mansion and learn about the structural, mechanical and electrical innovations used in its construction. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| Nov. 9 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------------|----------|

Mayslake Hall Franciscan Era Tour 16323

Learn about the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, which owned and operated Mayslake Hall as a retreat house from 1924 to 1991, and the "mad monks" who chased away curious visitors. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------|
| Oct. 4 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|-----------------|----------|

Moonlight Mansion Tour 16325

After the sun sets, enjoy a guided tour of the mansion, and hear urban legends, tales of hauntings, and stories of mischief while learning about the building's architecture, history, and ownership. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------|

Tractor-Drawn Rides

Autumn Moon 16365

Enjoy a rare chance to experience the preserve after the sun sets. Hear stories about the moon and the stars, and then enjoy hot cocoa and s'mores by the fire. Rides begin at 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Oct. 11, 18 & 25 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | St. James Farm |
| Nov. 1 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | St. James Farm |

Danada Horses

Learn about the history and horses of Danada on a 30-minute covered wagon ride through the equestrian center and preserve. Rides start at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. and all tickets go on sale at noon the day of the ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. For questions or private group rides call 630-668-6012.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Oct. 5, 6, 19, 20, 26 & 27 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Danada |
| Nov. 2 & 3 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Danada |

Fall Oak Colors 16379

Celebrate OAKtober on a 30-minute covered wagon ride through one of the largest oak forests in DuPage. Rides start at noon, 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Visit dupageforest.org for additional dates as the colors change. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 | Noon – 2 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|



Restoration-in-Progress Tours

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Wednesdays 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.

No tours Dec. 14 – Jan. 11.



Theater and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S *SHERLOCK'S LAST CASE*

When Sherlock Holmes' life is threatened, it's up to the ever-dependable Dr. Watson to solve the case. But as the tale progresses, bringing in not only Inspector Lestrade but also the children of arch nemesis Professor Moriarty, will anyone be ready for revelations when the truth is finally revealed? This is the Holmes and Watson story you never expected. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 – \$44 per person. Tickets at 630-986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Oct. 2 – 30

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

Sundays & Thursdays 3 – 5 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Mayslake Farms: A Gentleman's Dream

Through this interactive exhibit, discover the story of the people, animals and land that made up Mayslake Farms, Peabody's "gentleman" farm that was on the grounds from 1910 until 1922. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 14 – Nov. 7

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Nature Art & Performances

Art at Mayslake

Block Printing Holiday Cards 16346

Discover the relevance of holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and even mushrooms on Christmas and New Year's greeting cards, and learn basic relief printing techniques as you create your own beautiful cards in time for the holidays. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 7

1 – 3 p.m.

Mayslake

Collage and Mixed Media Studio

Six-Part Class 16344

Work independently on collages and mixed-media projects at this studio-style class, which will have discussions and demos on composition, design and techniques. Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$165 plus \$10 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 11 – Dec. 16

9:30 a.m. – Noon

Mayslake

Designing Your Photography Three-Part Class 16340

Learn to design images – not just take them – at an outdoor clinic on Oct. 13 led by professional nature photographers Lou and Todd Nettelhorst. Class includes informational (Oct. 7) and critique (Oct. 21) sessions with the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club. Camera with adjustable settings required; tripod, optional. Ages 18 and up. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 7 & 21

7 – 9 p.m.

Mayslake

Oct. 13

8 a.m. – Noon

Mayslake

Exploring Watercolor Six-Part Class 16345

Improve your skills at this intermediate-advanced, open-studio-style class. Work on independent and group projects with guidance from the instructor, and get feedback in group critique sessions. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 5 – Dec. 17

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Mayslake

(except Nov. 26)



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
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.

Family Photography — Oaks 16341

Spend part of the school holiday learning fun facts about oaks on a walk through a century-old oak savanna, and learn how to photograph these stately trees. Then, post your shots on Instagram. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| Oct. 14 | 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|---------------|----------|

Music at Mayslake

Acappellago

Join this a cappella chamber choir for *Escape to ... A Winter Wonderland*. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 – \$17 per person. Tickets at acappellago.org or 708-484-3797.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| Dec. 7 | 7:30 – 9 p.m. | Mayslake |
|--------|---------------|----------|

WDCB Jazz Salon 16348

Join us for a holiday concert featuring two of Chicago's most soulful jazz musicians: Typhanie Monique and Neal Alger. 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. 12 | 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|------------------|----------|

Volunteer

Make a Difference Day 15158

Join Scouts, families and other forest preserve fans to clean and beautify this popular preserve. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630.

| | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Oct. 26 | 9 a.m. – Noon | East Branch |
|---------|---------------|-------------|

Random Acts of Kindness 15155

Join Scouts, families and other forest preserve fans to clean and beautify this popular preserve. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Nov. 2 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Hidden Lake |
|--------|---------------|-------------|

Volunteer Restoration Workday 16434

Help improve a 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 (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 2 & 9 | 5 – 6:30 p.m. | Maple Grove |
| Oct. 4 | 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Oct. 5, 6, 20 & 26 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook |
| Oct. 6, 19, 20 & 26 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Maple Grove |
| Oct. 12 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill/Glacial |
| Oct. 12 | 1 – 4 p.m. | Springbrook |
| Oct. 12 | 9 a.m. – Noon | St. James Farm |
| Oct. 19 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
| Oct. 19 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| Nov. 1 & 8 | 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Nov. 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Maple Grove |
| Nov. 9 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill/Glacial |
| Nov. 9 | 9 a.m. – Noon | St. James Farm |
| Nov. 9 & 17 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook |
| Nov. 16 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
| Nov. 16 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Wayne Grove |
| Nov. 16 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| Nov. 23 | 1 – 4 p.m. | Springbrook |
| Dec. 7 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Springbrook |
| Dec. 14 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Churchill Woods |
| Dec. 14 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
| Dec. 14, 15, 21 & 22 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Maple Grove |

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 16426

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning 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 (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Oct. 5, 11, 16 & 21 | 8 – 11 a.m. | Blackwell |
| Nov. 2, 8 & 13 | 8 – 11 a.m. | Blackwell |



Interview With an Oak

by SHANNON BURNS, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

The Forest Preserve District recently had an offer to chat with a white oak and jumped at the chance. In honor of OAKtober, we thought we'd share the informative, fun conversation with our readers.

Thanks for taking the time to talk. Please tell us a little about yourself.

Well, I started off as an acorn in Lombard in 1872 and have lived there ever since. A young boy planted me as part of the nation's first Arbor Day celebration.

Wow. That makes you 43 years older than the Forest Preserve District. You're certainly a "mature" oak.

[Chuckles.] I suppose, but *Quercus* have been around for at least 20 million years, so I'm just a speck on a time line.

"Quercus"?

Quercus is an oak's "genus," which means "type" in Latin. A plant or animal's genus refers to the category of related organisms it belongs to. Not to brag, but *Quercus* is actually Latin for "fine tree." For people, your genus is *Homo*, Latin for "human being," which makes sense I guess.

How many *Quercus* are out there?

Over 90 types grow in the U.S. Six hundred worldwide. We're on every continent except Antarctica and Australia.

I get how the same genus of animal can end up in different parts of the world, birds or insects for instance, but how did a plant as rooted as an oak get so widespread?

Researchers think it's due to what they call "parallel evolution." There are different parts of the world where conditions like temperature, sunlight and rainfall are similar. In those areas, plants can evolve similarly as well. Scientists have found fossilized *Quercus* pollen on multiple continents.

But how do oaks spread regionally on a smaller scale?

With a lot of help. Plants like dandelions or milkweeds have light, wispy seeds that carry easily in the wind or on the feathers of a bird. Small animals may eat these seeds and then poop them far away from the original plants.

Acorns are too heavy to spread like that, so they rely on streams, animals and people. Water carries them downstream to new habitats. When squirrels or other animals forget where they've buried acorns they've gathered, those acorns can grow

into oaks. The process takes hundreds of years, but it works. People who liked oaks for their shade and lumber planted acorns as well. But that's not to say I'm not worry about our future.

Oaks are worldwide and live a long time, so what's the worry?

Yes, we live a while. Some of my acorns grew into trees before humans had electricity. In DuPage we can live to be 250 years old. But we don't live forever, and if there aren't enough larger younger oaks to replace us, our numbers could start thinning.

But an oak can produce around 10,000 acorns in a year.

How can there not be enough replacements?

Only one in 10,000 grows into a mature oak and only if conditions are just right. If other brushy, woody plants take over an area before a sapling gets big enough, it won't get enough sunlight to grow into a mature tree. And although humans have helped spread oaks worldwide, they've also turned oak habitats into farms and buildings, meaning less space for those saplings to grow. Add natural threats like oak wilt and gypsy moths, and our numbers can drop even more. And that can be the start of a chain reaction because we're a keystone species.

What's a "keystone" species?

A keystone species is a member of an ecosystem others can't live without. If a keystone species disappears, the entire ecosystem can change – or not exist at all.

More than 100 different animals eat our acorns. Fungi, bacteria and worms that live at our feet decompose dried leaves and other plant parts so the nutrients locked within them can return to the soil.

Hummingbirds pull lichens that grow on our trunks to build their nests, and squirrels winter in the crooks of our branches. Insects on our bark are vital "fast food" stops for warblers and other migrants in spring and fall.

Certain wasps lay their eggs inside our twigs, which form mostly harmless woody "galls" as the larvae grow under the surface. Woodpeckers and other birds look for galls for the tasty meals inside.

Humans use our wood to build homes, and our roots soak up enough water each day that we help prevent flooding in developed areas. The list goes on, but you get the idea.

Oaks are truly amazing. But sadly we're out of time. Any parting words for our readers?

Absolutely. This fall the Forest Preserve District and other agencies are holding special OAKtober programs highlighting all of the roles we *Quercus* play in DuPage. Readers can find ones in DuPage preserves starting on Page 10. Just look for the oak leaves.

They can also celebrate by visiting forest preserves like Herrick Lake, St. James Farm, Waterfall Glen, and Meacham Grove, where we'll be showing off our spectacular colors. If they're interested in planting oaks in their own yards, "Extra Care of Oaks" on Page 4 goes more into that.

Excellent. Thank you for joining us.

And thanks to your readers for caring about oaks! •



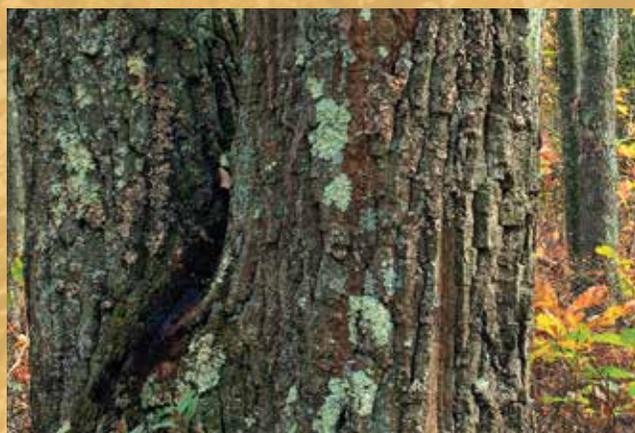
istock.com/ninreax

▲ Blue jay with an acorn



© Doug Hitchcock/Maine Audubon

▲ Downy woodpecker eating from an oak gall



© Nicholas A. Tonelli

▲ Lichen growing on a red oak



▲ Fall oaks at Herrick Lake

destination: discovery

YOUR QUICK GUIDE

To what's going on at the Forest Preserve District's six special destinations!



DANADA READIES FOR ANNUAL FALL FEST

Sure, you can drive to the outskirts this time of year to stare at a corn maze, pick through pumpkins or see some scarecrows. But there's only one place where you can watch daredevil riders on horseback, take a Percheron-drawn hayride through the autumn woods, meet an acrylic-painting Appaloosa-Clydesdale, step in a stall that housed a Kentucky Derby winner and eat great food — all without leaving DuPage.

On Oct. 13 Danada Equestrian Center will be hosting its annual Danada Fall Festival, the Forest Preserve District's largest one-day event. With flashy fall colors overhead and scenic white-fenced paddocks all around, the festival remains a matchless celebration of the equestrian life that defined Danada before it became a well-known forest preserve.

Admission and parking are free, but there are fees for some activities. Details are on Page 14.

KLINE CREEK FARM PUMPS IT UP FOR PARLOR GUESTS

If you haven't toured the farmhouse museum at Kline Creek Farm in a while, you're in for a melodic treat.

In 1987 a generous family from Lombard donated a 1864 Smith American pump organ to the farm. Since then, the piece has been the focal point of the farmhouse parlor.

A player pumps the foot pedals to fill bellows inside the organ with air.

Each time a key is pressed, air rushes up a metal "reed," causing the reed to vibrate and generate a sound. Each reed is tuned to a different pitch. To alter the sound, the player pulls out one or more knobs above the keyboard called "stops." (This is where we get the expression "pulling out all the stops.")

The instrument started to have mechanical problems in 2018, and after some in-house repairs the farm contracted with a company in Tennessee to rebuild the mechanical components, replace missing woodwork, and refinish the cabinet. It took the entire summer, but now at the end of each farmhouse tour visitors can hear one of the signature sounds of 1890s farm family entertainment. Tours are free and run Thursday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour. To read more about the renovation, visit dupageforest.org/blog/pump-organ.



ST. JAMES FARM'S *Age-Old Oaks*

Make sure to visit St. James Farm this OAKtober for a seasonal look at one of the county's largest woodlands. Trees here date back to the 1800s. One of the oldest living oaks in this preserve was growing the first rings of its trunk back in 1831.

Part of the woodland is dominated by red oaks, but the majority is anchored by more typical white and bur oaks. You'll get fantastic views walking or biking along a half-mile stretch of the McCormick Woods Trail, which bends through the northeast corner of the preserve, or relaxing under the dark amber and rust-colored canopy on a tractor-drawn ride. Find dates and times on Page 15.



MAYSLAKE STEPS UP *Staircase Restoration*

Like the rest of Mayslake Hall, the main staircase was designed by renowned Chicago architect Benjamin Marshall. It's the most important design feature of the mansion and has survived since 1921 nearly in its original condition. It's been repaired several times but had never been restored by skilled woodworkers — until now.

The first job was to remove carpet the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart had installed when it owned the mansion. Below the worn textiles were the original butternut treads and risers and walnut landing. After restoring these features, experts tested several stains (shown below) to select ones that matched the original finishes.

The balustrade (the vertical spindles that support the handrail) will be restored at a later date, but a thorough cleaning with mineral spirits revealed a lighter finish, a sign that nearly 100 years of time, smoke, light exposure and cleaning projects had dulled and darkened the wood. The final step of the current restoration project will be to install a period-appropriate runner sometime in September.

To plan your next visit to Mayslake Hall, see Page 22 for our hours. We think you'll agree the revitalized staircase dramatically transforms the stately entryway. We think Mr. Peabody would have agreed, too.



SUMMER CAMP 2020

The school year's just started, but like so many kids settling into homework, study halls and pop quizzes, the Forest Preserve District is already thinking about summer.

As in 2019, in 2020 we'll have camps for kids entering grades 1 – 8, each tying in with forest preserve experiences and many with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math. With plenty of time for team-building, exploration and play, kids might not realize they're firing up new neurons as they're making new friends!

Registration opens Jan. 1, and descriptions and fees go online in December, so add a link to dupageforest.org to your calendar and think summer!



WILLOWBROOK, FULLERSBURG WELCOME LITTLE DEVILS

Visitors to Willowbrook Wildlife Center and Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center will be some of the first in the county to learn about the Forest Preserve District's "devilish" efforts to help federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies.

In the wild, devil crayfish create 4- to 6-foot-deep burrows for shelter and access to groundwater during droughts. In habitats they share with Hine's emerald dragonflies, the dragonflies' larvae may use the burrows for homes of their own. To give the young Hine's emeralds more real estate options, the Forest Preserve District is formulating a program for raising devil crayfish in captivity to release in the wild.

This winter, visitors will have an exclusive opportunity to see live devil crayfish at both Willowbrook and Fullersburg Woods and to learn about the pioneering captive-rearing program. Behind the scenes, staff will be working with their coworkers in the Forest Preserve District's Natural Resources department to develop the artificial habitats needed to breed and raise the crayfish. In spring they'll collect eggs and care for the developing crayfish through summer before releasing them into appropriate wild habitats.

directory



HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services
630-933-7248

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Office
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services
630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions
630-933-7085

**Fundraising & Development
and the Friends of the Forest
Preserve District**
630-933-7097

Law Enforcement
630-933-7240

GOLF Courses

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE
272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE
18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330



HOURS

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset. Education centers have varying hours and are closed on select holidays.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please call the District's ADA coordinator at 630-933-7683 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit.

EDUCATION Centers

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER
35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

Office
Daily 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Barn
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE
EDUCATION CENTER**
3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 – 5 p.m.

KLINE CREEK FARM
1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Thursdays June – August 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Office
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Closed Sundays

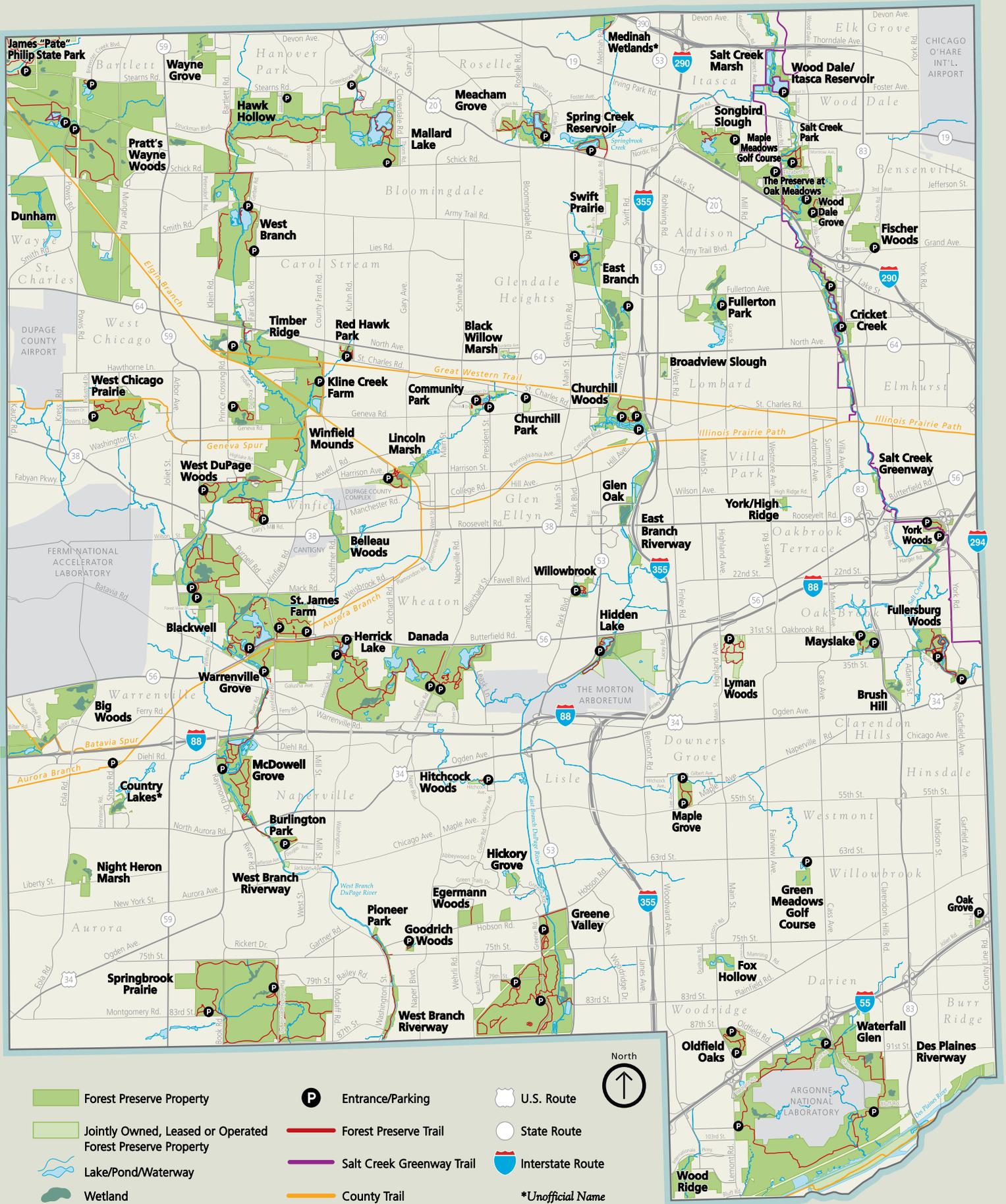
Tours
Wednesdays 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9, 9:30, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.
No tours mid-December – mid-January

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER
525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Visitor Center
Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Animal Admittance
November – March
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

April – October
Daily 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Forest Preserve Property

Jointly Owned, Leased or Operated Forest Preserve Property

Lake/Pond/Waterway

Wetland

P Entrance/Parking

Forest Preserve Trail

Salt Creek Greenway Trail

County Trail

U.S. Route

State Route

I Interstate Route

**Unofficial Name*





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

3580 Naperville Road
P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

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Fall 2019

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Forest Preserve District of DuPage County