



theConservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2017

The Secret Lives of Dragonflies

Don't Panic!
Getting to Know Nature's "Nasties"

Tips for Trail Trips



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



As president of the Forest Preserve District, I gain great satisfaction from helping to ensure our agency remains fiscally responsible, a leader in the field of conservation and a model for successful partnerships. But, I have to admit, I also love some of the cool things I continue to learn along the way.

For instance, did you know the roots of butterfly milkweed can grow over 6 feet deep? Like other “native” plants, milkweeds have been blooming in this area for centuries, over which time they’ve developed extensive roots to pull as much moisture as possible from the soil, even during the driest growing seasons. (If you think that’s impressive, think what using plants like these could mean to your water bill.)

And did you know adding a rain garden to your yard can help fish, mussels and dragonflies in our region’s rivers and streams? A rain garden is a small shallow depression filled with wet-soil-loving native plants. Instead of rain running from roofs, driveways and sidewalks directly into storm sewers — which carry it untreated directly into local waterways — the water settles in the rain garden. There, over a few hours or so, it slowly seeps into the ground, where soil and sand filter out pollutants before the water trickles into the groundwater. (I’d share what I’ve learned, too, about the connection between dragonflies and rivers, but I’ll let you find out for yourself in our feature story on Page 6.)

Ecological benefits like these are why for the 10th year in a row, the Forest Preserve District will be hosting a native plant sale at its Mayslake Peabody Estate, where you can not only shop for plants but also ask our experts for helpful hints and tips. This year’s sale is on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13, but if you just can’t wait, visit dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale today to see this year’s lineup (and maybe get in a presale order as well!)

Happy spring, everyone, and happy planting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Cantore". The script is fluid and cursive.

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2017, Vol. 53, No. 2

Editor

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



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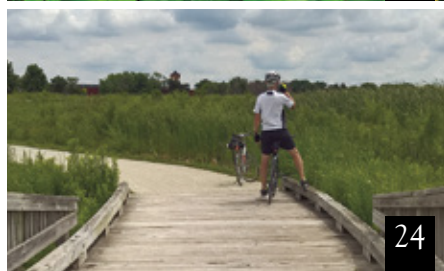
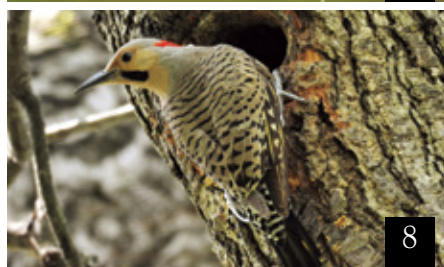
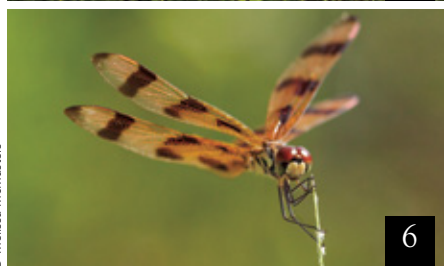
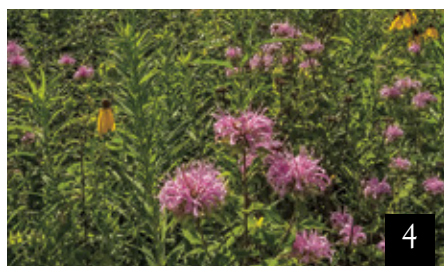
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On the cover: Mosaic darter © Kevin Rodde

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



© Melissa McMasters

© Mike Uno

news & notes

MCDOWELL GROVE TO GET NEW BRIDGE

This spring, the Forest Preserve District will begin to replace the entrance bridge over the West Branch DuPage River at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve.

The bridge will have two lanes for vehicles and a separate elevated path for people on foot or bicycle, providing safer access to the popular 23-mile West Branch DuPage River Trail (pictured below), which crosses the preserve. It will be 10 feet higher than the current structure and have supports bored into the shoreline, giving it a clear span over the river. In addition, the project will reconfigure the entrance road off Raymond Drive, which has a steep, sharp curve that can make travel hazardous if the road's wet or icy.

The existing one-lane bridge is shared by vehicles and pedestrians and has a 5-ton weight limit, affecting access for maintenance and emergency vehicles. Its elevation leaves it prone to flooding, and support pillars set into the riverbed turn it into a collection point for branches and other debris, factors that limit the structure's overall ability to withstand the stresses of heavy storms.



© synspectrum

CONNECT *With Us* 24/7

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



COMING THIS SUMMER: THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

After two years of extensive renovations, Oak Meadows Golf Course is reopening in 2017 with a new look and name. The Preserve at Oak Meadows will be a world-class 288-acre 18-hole course that promises to be “high and dry” and free of the flooding issues that hampered operations in the past.

In harmony with the recreational improvements, the transformation will enhance natural habitat throughout the property, improving water quality within Salt Creek, increasing the land's stormwater-carrying capacity by 20 million gallons, and creating an environmental haven where golfers and nongolfers alike can connect to nature.

The majority of construction was completed before winter, and the greens, tees, fairways, wetlands and native areas will fill in throughout spring. Weather-permitting, the Forest Preserve District hopes to announce opening day over the next few months as the turf takes hold. For updates visit dupageforest.org and dupagegolf.com.

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 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.



HABITAT AND STORMWATER WORK AT DANADA

In February the Forest Preserve District began work to create 21 new acres of wetlands and 23 new acres of prairie at Danada Forest Preserve. In addition to providing improved habitat for native wildlife, the project will also improve the land's ability to manage stormwater, a plus for nearby homes and businesses. The Forest Preserve District expects the work to be completed by 2022.

During this project, crews will remove buried agricultural tiles and mow and remove aggressive, invasive nonnative woody plants, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. The forest preserve and its trails will remain open during most of the work, but the Forest Preserve District may need to temporarily close trails and natural areas for visitors' safety. Visitors should be careful near construction areas and follow all signs and workers' instructions.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Nov. 14, 2016, and Feb. 5, 2017. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org. To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

Anonymous	Ruth Cloonan
\$25,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Danada Equestrian Center	\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Anonymous	Patrick and Mary Ellen Mauro
\$17,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Mayslake Peabody Estate	\$700 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Anonymous	Margaret Bartel-Stanitz
\$5,206.27 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Mayslake Peabody Estate	\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Max and Sally Baumgardner	John and Nancy Buttita
\$2,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Seth Becker	Richard James McCann Foundation
\$1,720 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Harold and Mary Bamford	Judy Susarrey-Montgomery
\$1,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
	John and Marion Tableriou
	\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District



ST. JAMES FARM MCCORMICK WOODS TRAIL

The Forest Preserve District is finalizing design and permitting documents for the construction of a trail through an area known as McCormick Woods in the northern half of St. James Farm Forest Preserve.

In winter the Board of Commissioners approved a contract to start preparing the area for the new trail. When completed, the extension will connect the forest preserve's main looped trail with a pedestrian bridge over Spring Brook Creek, which the District constructed in anticipation of the trail in 2015 during restoration work along the waterway.



◀ Halloween pennant
(*Celithemis eponina*)

Secret Lives of Dragonflies

by **ANDRES ORTEGA**, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES

They're usually the first insects you see this time of year (and the biggest), but there's more than meets the eye when it comes to DuPage dragonflies.

Dragonflies are most noticeable in spring and summer, when they're darting through the air looking for meals or mates, but they actually spend most of their lives underwater. They have what ecologists call a "complex life cycle." As adults, they live on land, but as immature insects, which are called "larvae" or sometimes "naiads" or "nymphs," they're solely aquatic.

The cycle begins with a pair of adults. After attracting a female, the male grasps her by the head using two special appendages at the tip of his abdomen. (They look like stingers, but they're not. Dragonflies don't sting.) In many cases, the male hangs on after mating until the female lays her eggs in the water, likely to ensure she doesn't mate with another. It's common to see joined pairs zipping through the air with the male in the lead, occasionally resting on grasses or branches.

Once the underwater eggs hatch, the larvae remain submerged, eating and growing until they're fully mature, at which point they crawl out of the water onto tall grasses or reeds. There, they shed their skins, emerging as winged adults. If the

larvae don't mature by fall, they enter a period of low activity called "diapause" and remain underwater over winter, waiting for spring to continue to develop. There are exceptions, but most dragonflies in DuPage progress from larva to adult within a year.

As either adults or larvae, dragonflies are voracious predators called "generalists," which means they'll eat almost anything they can catch. Adults dine on insects — mosquitoes, beetles, moths, even smaller dragonflies — which they grab midair with their legs. Dragonfly larvae eat mosquito larvae and microscopic animals called "zooplankton," but they can also catch tadpoles and minnow-sized fish thanks to an impressive modified mouth structure called an "extendable labium," which juts out, snags a meal and snaps back faster than the eye can see.

As you watch adult DuPage dragonflies catching meals on the fly, you'll notice the county's forest preserves have an incredible diversity of species. Even a small body of water can be home to half a dozen different kinds, although they're generally sorted into two broadly defined groups: still-water and moving-water dragonflies.

Still-water species prefer to lay their eggs in calm waters found in marshes and other wetlands and in the shallow areas of lakes



© K. Homer

▲ Black saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*)



© Royal Tyler

▲ Blue dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)

and ponds. They include members of the skimmer family, such as black saddlebags, Halloween pennants and blue dashers, and the darners, such as the green darner, one of the largest dragonflies in DuPage and usually one of the first to appear and last to leave during any given year.

Not as abundant but just as interesting are moving-water species, such as the emeralds, snaketails and clubtails, which usually lay their eggs in creeks and rivers. One of the rarest dragonflies in DuPage is a moving-water species: the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly. With dwindling numbers, the odds of seeing one in the wild are low, but thanks to a recent grant, the Forest Preserve District is now raising these dragonflies at its Urban Stream Research Center and hopes to augment the local population to one day make these beauties a frequent sight.

If you're interested in learning more about the dragonflies that call DuPage County home, spring is a great time to start. That's why the Forest Preserve District has a special ID sheet featuring dragonflies (and their cousins, the damselflies) at dupageforest.org/dragonflies-damselflies. With facts, photos and helpful tips, you'll know your darners from your dashers in no time! •



© J. N. Stuart

▲ After they mate, some dragonflies, like these green darners, stay together until the females lay their eggs in the water.



© Gary Meszaros-Science Source

▲ Even at 1 to 2 inches long, mature larvae can have big appetites with diets that include tadpoles and small fish.



© Alejandro Samillana

▲ After a dragonfly larva leaves the water, it sheds its skin and waits for its wings to dry before flying away as an adult.



© Brian Gooding

▲ A dragonfly's tail may look a bit threatening, but the two appendages on the tip are used for grasping — not stinging.

spring calendar

See pages 11 – 21 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary.
You can register for most programs online at dupageforest.org.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30						

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April

- 1** Cache In, Trash Out:
Restoration Workday
Fishing: Spring Trout
Season Opener
Make a Bee Abode
A Night With the Stars
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Art at Mayslake: Intro to Drawing
and Painting Begins
Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Photography: Introduction to
Photography I Begins
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 5** Archery: Adults
Forest Fitness Walk
Photography: Digital Photography
Fundamentals I Begins
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Collage and
Mixed Media Begins
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst
Symphony Orchestra
- 7** FullersBird Friday
- 8** Navigation: GPS 101
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Introduction to Prescription Burns

- 10** Forest Fitness Walk
Full Moon Hike
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 12** Forest Fitness Walk
- 14** Fishing: Family Fishing 101
FullersBird Friday
Lectures at Mayslake: 60 Miles
Under the Loop
Ranger Adventure Day
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Introduction to Prescription Burns
- 17** Forest Fitness Walk
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 18** Art at Mayslake: Exploring
Watercolor Begins
Lectures at Mayslake:
Benjamin Marshall
- 19** Archery: Families
Forest Fitness Ride
Forest Fitness Walk
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 20** Music at Mayslake: WDCB
Presents Libby York
- 21** Fishing: For Carp
FullersBird Friday

- 22** Lamb and Wool Festival
McKee Marsh History Hike
Navigation: Geocaching
Spring Brook Creek: Back From
the Dead
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23** Lamb and Wool Festival
Native Landscaping:
All About Plants
Nature Scavenger Hunt
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
Photography: Introduction to
Photography II Begins
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 25** Native Landscaping: For Birds, Bees
and You
Volunteer: National Volunteer
Week Celebration
- 26** Archery: Adults
Forest Fitness Walk
Native Landscaping: Design
- 28** FullersBird Friday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Nature: The Video Game
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Forest Fitness Ride



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

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

May

- 1** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Compass 101
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 2** Spring Wildflower Hike
- 3** Archery: Families
Forest Fitness Walk
- 5** Archery: Families
FullersBird Friday
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 6** Fishing: For Bass
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 7** Paddling: With a Ranger
- 8** Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Photography: Intermediate Photo Composition Begins
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9** Full Moon Hike
Photography: Wildflower Photography Begins
Spring Wildflower Hike
- 10** Archery: Adults
Forest Fitness Walk
Photography: Digital Photography
Fundamentals II Begins
- 11** Archery: Active Adults
- 12** FullersBird Friday
Native Plant Sale
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** International Migratory Bird Day
Native Plant Sale
Nature Date With Mom
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Fishing: With Mom
Forest Fitness Ride
- 15** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 16** Spring Wildflower Hike
- 17** Archery: Families
Forest Fitness Walk
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 18** Music at Mayslake: Sinfonietta Bel Canto
- 19** Archery: Adults
Fishing: Family Fishing 101
FullersBird Friday
Parents Night Out
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 20** Home Sweet Home
Paddling: With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Fishing: Off the Beaten Path
Turtle Day
- 22** Forest Fitness Walk
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 24** Forest Fitness Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 25** Navigation: GPS 101
- 26** Fishing: Family Fishing 101
FullersBird Friday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Family Field Day at St. James Farm
Mayslake Gardens and Grounds Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Music at Mayslake: Picosa
Navigation: Aquatic Geocaching
- 29** Memorial Day Remembered
Nature Scavenger Hunt
- 30** Photography: Dusk at Mayslake Excursion
- 31** Archery: Adults
Forest Fitness Walk



June

- 1** Country Dance With the Blind Squirrel String Band
Evening in the Country
Fishing: Adult Intro to Fishing Course Begins
- 2** Fishing: Flowing Waters
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 3** National Trails Day Hike
Paddling: With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 4** Birds of Prey
Mayslake Garden Party
- 5** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Compass 101
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
Scraps of Quilting
- 7** Archery: Families
Forest Fitness Walk
Tales From the Rails and Caboose
- 8** Evening in the Country
- 9** Archery: Families
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10** Backpacking Basics
Hoof Prints Through History
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Fishing: Just for Kids Fishing Derby
Forest Fitness Ride
- 12** Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike
Navigation: Geocaching
- 14** Archery: Families
Forest Fitness Ride
Forest Fitness Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 15** Evening in the Country
History Hunt: Pioneer Park
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst College Jazz Band
- 16** Fishing: By Kayak
Fishing: Family Fishing 101
- 17** Dad and Me and the Great Outdoors
Sensory Discovery Walk
Trek Sawmill Creek
- 18** Fishing: With Dad
- 19** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 20** Paddling: Kayaking Kids
- 21** Archery: Families
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
Mammoth Discovery: 40th Anniversary Hike
Ranger Trek Jr.
- 22** Evening in the Country
Ride the Trails History Tour
- 23** Archery: Families
FullersBird Friday
- 24** Backyard Chickens
Great American Campout
Navigation: GPS Games
Navigation: Orienteering for Beginners
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Paddling: With a Ranger
- 27** Archery: Just for Kids
- 28** Archery: Families
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 29** Celebrating the Fourth
Evening in the Country
Fishing: Flowing Waters
- 30** Fishing: For Carp
Paddling: Kayaking Basics



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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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.

Archery

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

Active Adults 10893

Ages 50 and up.

May 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
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Adults 10128

Ages 18 and up.

Apr 5, 26	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 10, 31	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 19	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Families 10252

Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Apr 19	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 3, 17	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 5	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
Jun 7, 14, 21, 28	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 9	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 23	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Park

Just for Kids 10910

Ages 5 – 8 with an adult.

Jun 27	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake

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

Collage and Mixed Media 10227

Work independently on collages and mixed media projects at this studio-style class with weekly topics and demos on composition, basic design skills, glues, image transfers and knowing when a piece is finished. Thursdays. \$175 plus \$10 supply fee per person.

Apr 6 – May 11	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Exploring Watercolor 10231

Explore and enhance your artistic style at this six-part intermediate-advanced class. Tuesdays (except July 4). \$125 per person.

Apr 18 – May 23	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Jun 6 – Jul 18	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Intro to Drawing and Painting 10223

Gain a basic understanding of techniques and tools used to draw and paint with a focus on water-based mediums. Mondays. \$125 plus \$20 supply fee per person.

Apr 3 – May 8	6 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Backpacking Basics 10906

Learn about equipment, cooking and water-filtration systems and how to pack for a trip. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 10	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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Backyard Chickens 10876

Learn how to buy and raise chicks for eggs and meat as you learn about shelter, care, nutrition, breed characteristics and processing for the dinner table. Ages 18 and up. \$40 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 876-5900.

Jun 24	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Be a Junior Ranger! 10798

Explore nature and work on leadership, navigation, first aid, geocaching and other skills rangers use at this five-part program on Mondays (except May 29) that meets at Churchill Woods, Willowbrook and Hidden Lake. Ages 6 – 12. \$45 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 3 – May 1	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Multiple
May 8 – Jun 12		Ages 6 – 8
Apr 3 – May 1	6 – 7 p.m.	Multiple
May 8 – Jun 12		Ages 9 – 12

Birds of Prey 10916

Learn about falcons, hawks and owls and see live animals up close. Ages 7 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Jun 4	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Cache In, Trash Out: Restoration Workday 10216

Step into the woods with your fellow geocachers to help remove weedy brush. Ages 4 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 1	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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spring calendar



Celebrating the Fourth

Experience the excitement of one of the country's first holidays. In the afternoon, play baseball using rules from 1887, make crafts and watch model hot-air balloon launches. At 5 p.m. enjoy a reading of the Declaration of Independence and an ice cream social, and stick around for wagon rides at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult for wagon rides. Free admission; wagon rides \$5 per person ages 5 and up (under 5 free). Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 29 1:30 – 8 p.m. Kline Creek Farm



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.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Spread a blanket on the ground, and enjoy an hour of popular children's stories from the 1890s.

June 5 – Aug. 28

Mondays at 10 a.m.

FARM CHORES

Kids, learn firsthand how 1890s children helped around the house and farm. Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

June 1 – Aug. 31

Mondays and Thursdays 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 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

Country Dance With the Blind Squirrel String Band

Get swept off your feet with music by the Blind Squirrel String Band and barn dancing for beginners and pros alike – no partners required! Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, too, at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult for wagon rides. Free admission; wagon rides \$5 per person ages 5 and up (under 5 free). Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 1 5 – 8 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Dad and Me and the Great Outdoors 10782

Take Dad on an adventure with a nature scavenger hunt, s'mores, lemonade, songs and a craft. Ages 5 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 17 2 – 4 p.m. St. James Farm

Evening in the Country

Pack a picnic dinner and relax on the grounds as you experience the farm at dusk. Horse-drawn wagon rides begin at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult for wagon rides. Free admission; wagon rides \$5 per person ages 5 and up (under 5 free). Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 5 – 8 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the farm's heritage at this annual event featuring equestrian, canine and sheep-herding demos, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, kids activities, archery, fishing and food. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 580-7025.

May 27 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. James Farm

Fishing

Bring your fishing gear and pick up tips and tricks for fishing forest preserve lakes. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248 unless noted.

Adult Intro to Fishing Course 10901

Learn the basics at this four-week course on Thursdays with indoor instruction and fishing at a different lake each week (Mayslake, Hidden Lake, Warrenville Grove and Herrick Lake). Ages 18 and up. \$59 per person.

Jun 1 – 22 9 – 11 a.m. Multiple



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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By Kayak 10907

Learn how fishing on water differs from fishing on shore at this intermediate clinic. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent a kayak for \$20 per person. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Jun 16	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Family Fishing 101 10246

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free.

Apr 14	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 19	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 26	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Jun 16	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Flowing Waters 10902

Learn how to fish in rivers and streams at this intermediate clinic. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free.

Jun 2	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 29	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

For Bass 10886

Try some of the most effective lures on the market on one of the county's best bass lakes. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free.

May 6	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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For Carp 10867

Get tips for hooking one of the biggest, strongest, easiest to find fish. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free.

Apr 21	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Jun 30	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove

Just for Kids Fishing Derby 11062

Bring the family to this friendly fishing competition just for kids 15 and younger. Free. Children can also register at the event.

Jun 11	8 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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Off the Beaten Path 10895

Join a ranger for a 2-mile off-trail hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free.

May 21	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Spring Trout Season Opener

Try your luck on Silver, Pickerel or Grove lakes. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7668.

Apr 1	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne, Wood Dale Grove
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With Dad 10909

Hey, kids, enjoy a morning by the lake with Dad as you learn about different kinds of fish and how to catch them. Ages 6 – 15 with an adult. Free.

Jun 18	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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With Mom 10894

Hey, kids, spend an afternoon by the water with Mom as you learn how to catch different kinds of fish. Ages 6 – 15 with an adult. Free.

May 14	4 – 6 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Forest Fitness Ride 10157

Bring your bike and join a ranger and naturalist for some healthy exercise on these 11- to 18-mile rides. Ages 18 and up. \$6 per person in advance; \$8 at the ride. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 19	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Cricket Creek
May 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Res.
Jun 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada
Jun 14	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	West Branch



Family Camping

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The campground has over 60 sites with electricity and is open Friday and Saturday nights May 5 – Oct. 1 and additional nights around the holidays. For dates, times and permits, call (630) 933-7248 weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. or visit dupageforest.org and click on "Register" and "Reserve Facilities."

spring calendar



Forest Fitness Walk 10164

Enjoy the wonders of the preserves mornings or evenings 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 or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 3	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Apr 5	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove
Apr 10	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Apr 12	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
Apr 17	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Apr 19	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
Apr 24	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
Apr 26	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
May 1	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 3	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 8	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Springbrook
May 10	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 15	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Oak Meadows
May 17	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Oldfield Oaks
May 22	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Blackwell
May 24	6 – 7:30 p.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 31	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Jun 5	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 7	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 14	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Mallard Lake

Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike 10195

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

Jun 12	8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Golfing

A round at a Forest Preserve District course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Outings and leagues are available for golfers of all abilities. For tee times and specials, visit dupagegolf.com.

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

Green Meadows 9 Holes
Westmont • (630) 810-5330

The Preserve at Oak Meadows
18 Holes & Practice Range
Addison • Closed for Renovations Until Summer 2017

FullersBird Friday 10196

Join these short naturalist-led walks to see how the diversity of birds changes throughout spring. Ages 16 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 7	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Blackwell
Apr 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 21	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Apr 28	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 5	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 12	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 19	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 26	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Springbrook
Jun 23	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne

Full Moon Hike 10956

Enjoy a 3-mile hike under a full moon as you take in the sights and sounds of a forest preserve at dusk. Ages 18 and up. \$6 per person in advance; \$8 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 10	7 – 9 p.m.	Meacham Grove
May 9	7 – 9 p.m.	Greene Valley

Great American Campout 10182

Bring your tent and gear for a family-fun campout with picnic games, archery, a scavenger hunt, evening nature programs, a guided night hike and an egg-drop contest. Campfire dinner, s'mores and continental breakfast included. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Jun 24 – 25	1 p.m. – 11 a.m.	Greene Valley
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History Hunt: Pioneer Park 10284

Uncover clues to over 100 years of history hidden at this small but significant preserve as you hear stories of early settlers and the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 15	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Pioneer Park
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Home Sweet Home 10288

Search for the different places wild animals call home. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

May 20	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Hoof Prints Through History 10293

Learn about the McCormick family's equestrian roots, from their world-class steeplechase events to their involvement with therapeutic riding. Ages 12 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 10	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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International Migratory Bird Day

Have a flock of fun celebrating the spring migration with guided walks, bird-banding demonstrations and a possible release! Activities ongoing. Bring binoculars. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

May 13	8 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
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Introduction to Prescription Burns 10250

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

Apr 9, 16	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Apr 16	1 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm

Lamb and Wool Festival

Watch farmhands shear the sheep, and see how trained border collies herd a flock. Learn how washed wool becomes dyed, spun yarn, and enjoy quilting and other handwork demonstrations. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 22, 23	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Lectures at Mayslake

Discover local history and lore. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

60 Miles Under the Loop 10229

Hear about the fascinating 62-mile network of tunnels under the Chicago Loop, mostly forgotten until the flood of April 13, 1992. \$10 per person.

Apr 14	10 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Benjamin Marshall 10230

Learn about the architect behind Mayslake Hall from his larger-than-life personality to his contributions to Chicago architecture. \$5 per person.

Apr 18	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Little Sprouts Tales and Trails 10176

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

Apr 19 <i>Spring</i>	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 17 <i>Flowers</i>	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 21 <i>Turtles</i>	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Make a Bee Abode 10224

Learn what makes a bee a bee and help local bees by building a home to hang in your backyard. All ages. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Apr 1	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Mammoth Discovery:

40th Anniversary Hike 10286

Learn about the 1977 discovery of mammoth bones at McKee Marsh on a 2-mile guided hike to the site, and then help "build" a mammoth from the ground up. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 21	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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Horse-Drawn Hayrides

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Hear about farming with real horsepower on a 30-minute ride through the farmstead and fields. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Rides are first-come, first-served and registration is not required. For questions or to arrange for private rides, call (630) 876-5900.

April 29 – May 21

Saturdays and Sundays at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m.

spring calendar



Mayslake Garden Party 10245

Get gussied up, bring your sidekick, and get a wiggle to this shindig on the lawn filled with activities, horseless carriages, games, a silent auction and music. Proceeds will benefit the restoration of Mayslake Hall. Ages 18 and up. \$65 per person. Purchase tickets at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9588.

Jun 4	1 – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Gardens and Grounds Tour 10240

Explore the gardens and learn about the carved treasures on the mansion's facade. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 27	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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McKee Marsh History Hike 10271

Learn about natural and cultural history on this 2-mile ranger-led hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 22	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Memorial Day Remembered

Observe Memorial Day with music and drama in a ceremony rooted in the history and traditions of the late 1800s, when the holiday was known as "Decoration Day." All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

May 29	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Music at Mayslake

Elmhurst College Jazz Band 10244

Enjoy an evening with this internationally acclaimed ensemble under the direction of Doug Beach. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 15	8 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Take in a performance of "All That Jazz" featuring favorites and lesser-known gems. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or (630) 941-0202.

Apr 6	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Picos

Enjoy contemporary and traditional chamber music, and then stay for 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.

May 28	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Sinfonietta Bel Canto

Celebrate the interpretive period of Mayslake Hall (1880 to 1922) with a night of orchestral and vocal music. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$24 per person. Purchase tickets at sinfoniettabelcanto.org.

May 18	7:30 – 8:45 p.m.	Mayslake
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Kayak, Canoe and Boat Rentals

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Explore Silver and Herrick lakes from a different point of view. Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are \$10 per hour and \$50 per day. Boats with trolling motors (Blackwell only) are \$15 per hour and \$75 per day. Rentals end one hour before closing. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Opening Day (April 1 at Blackwell and May 6 at Herrick Lake) – May 28
Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Day – Labor Day
Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Open at 8 a.m. Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day

Sept. 9 – Oct. 1
Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



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WDCB Presents Libby York 11020

Spend an evening with jazz singer Libby York as she performs songs from her latest release, "Memoir," accompanied by pianist Jeremy Kahn. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Purchase tickets at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 20 8 – 10 p.m. Mayslake

National Trails Day Hike 10905

Take part in this national celebration as you learn 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 or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 3 Noon – 1:30 p.m. Meacham Grove

Native Plant Sale

Attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators with flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage conditions, and get advice from Forest Preserve District plant experts while you shop. For details and presale orders, visit dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale.

May 12 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Mayslake
May 13 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mayslake

Because this year's sale is going to be our biggest and best yet, we're offering three special programs before the main event to help you make the most of it!

Native Landscaping: All About Plants 10217

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 or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 23 1 – 2:30 p.m.,
3 – 4:30 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Native Landscaping: Design 10220

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 or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 26 6 – 8 p.m. Fullersburg Woods



Theater and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

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.

Through April 29

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

OAK BROOK ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

Enjoy works by members of this talented league. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

May 3 – June 30

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.

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Saturdays at 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

spring calendar



Native Landscaping: For Birds, Bees and You 10183

Learn how to create a beautiful, lower-maintenance, highly productive, resource-conserving backyard landscape that benefits wildlife and you. Ages 12 and up. \$7 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 25	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Nature Date With Mom 10292

Bring Mom to this adventure featuring nature bingo, s'mores, hot cocoa, songs and a craft. Ages 5 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

May 13	2 – 4 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Nature Scavenger Hunt 10869

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 or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 23	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 29	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Nature: The Video Game 10871

Experience nature with your iPhone or similar Apple device with mobile data access by playing an augmented-reality game with environmental clues. Ages 9 – 14 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 29	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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Navigation

Discover new ways to find your way through the preserves. Equipment provided. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Aquatic Geocaching 10899

Jump in a kayak and search for caches on the water and along the shore. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person.

May 28	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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Compass 101 10276

Learn one of the oldest survival skills – how to use a compass – and then join a fun activity. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free.

May 1	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 5	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell

Geocaching 10272

Try a family-friendly treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Apr 15	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Apr 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Apr 24	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 15	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Jun 12	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell

GPS 101 10845

Learn how to mark waypoints, measure distances, follow routes and check elevations. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Apr 8	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 25	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

GPS Games 10913

Use technology to put a modern twist on capture the flag and other outdoor games. Ages 8 – 12. \$5 per person.

Jun 24	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Orienteering for Beginners 10285

Learn how to use a map and compass to navigate over varied terrain, and then use your new skills to complete a 1.2-mile orienteering course. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Jun 24	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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A Night With the Stars

Join a ranger and an astronomer for a look at celestial bodies from the top of the scenic overlook. Equipment provided. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 933-7248.

Apr 1	7 – 10 p.m.	Greene Valley
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Paddling

Explore the preserves from the water. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Kayaking Basics 10280

Learn the basics of kayaking, such as parts of the boat, paddling strokes and safety tips. Equipment provided. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person.

May 5	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jun 2, 30	6 – 8 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jun 28	10 a.m. – Noon	East Branch



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Kayaking Kids 10911

Learn basic techniques in a friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 – 13 with an adult. Free.

Jun 20	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
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With a Ranger 10888

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent a kayak for \$20 per person. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult.

May 7	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 20	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Songbird Slough
Jun 25	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Parents Night Out 10181

Drop the kids off for dinner and nature fun while you enjoy nearby restaurants, shops and entertainment. They'll learn about yucky, sticky, stinky creatures with animal "grossology" activities and games and then wind down with an educational movie at 9 p.m. Ages 5 – 12. \$25 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

May 19	6 – 9:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Photography

Learn tricks and tips in a scenic setting. Ages 18 and up unless noted. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Digital Photography Fundamentals I 10226

Learn about the important features of digital cameras and the aesthetics of great images. Wednesdays. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person.

Apr 5 – May 3	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Digital Photography Fundamentals II 10238

Learn to create images using your camera's shutter priority, aperture priority and manual modes. Prerequisite: Digital Photography I or equivalent. Wednesdays. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person.

May 10 – Jun 7	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Dusk at Mayslake Excursion 10242

Bring your camera and explore the estate at dusk with a photography instructor and a Mayslake heritage interpreter. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person.

May 30	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Intermediate Photo Composition 10236

Explore curves, lines, circles and other power shapes; point and counterpoint contrasts; and ways to capture the decisive moment at this five-part class. \$150 per person.

May 8, 15, 22	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
May 13, 20	TBD	TBD

Introduction to Photography I 10225

Enjoy an introduction to the basics of photography as you begin to explore the artistry behind exposure at this three-part class. \$80 per person.

Apr 3, 10	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
Apr 8	8 – 10 a.m.	TBD

Introduction to Photography II 10234

Learn about the basics and begin to explore the artistry behind composition at this three-part class. \$80 per person.

Apr 24	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
Apr 29	8 – 10 a.m.	TBD
May 1	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake



Riding Lessons 10542

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Learn valuable horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with private lessons. Lessons for new to advanced riders begin in April, May and June. Ages 12 and up. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 668-6012.

spring calendar



Wildflower Photography 10237

Learn how to capture the beauty of close-ups as you explore the art of photographing wildflowers at this five-part class. \$150 per person.

May 9, 16, 23	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
May 13, 20	8 – 10 a.m.	TBD

Ranger Adventure Day 10864

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.

Apr 14	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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Ranger Trek Jr. 10912

Learn about critters that live in the preserves as you explore different habitats on a guided hike. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 21	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Ride the Trails History Tour 10947

Bring your bike and join a ranger on a 10-mile historical tour. Ages 18 and up. \$6 per person in advance; \$8 at the ride. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

Get a bird's-eye view from 190 feet above the landscape. Please note that poor weather or Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities may prevent the overlook from opening or cause it to close early without notice. Questions? Call (630) 792-2100.

May 6 – Oct. 29

Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Scraps of Quilting 10243

Enjoy a performance by singer-songwriter, storyteller and poet 'Lil Rev during his personal ode to quilters, who keep us warm, provide a piece of home in wartime, and tell stories through stitches. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$12 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 6	7 – 8:15 p.m.	Mayslake
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Sensory Discovery Walk 10290

Celebrate the upcoming summer solstice while you sharpen your sensory and observational skills. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 17	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Spring Brook Creek: Back From the Dead 10287

Learn about the restoration of Spring Brook Creek during a guided creek-side nature walk. Ages 12 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Apr 22	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Spring Wildflower Hike 10872

Enjoy the season's short-lived blooms along the trails and in the woodlands and prairies on this ranger-led hike. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 2	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
May 9	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 16	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

Storytime at Fullersburg Woods 10206

Enjoy a nature story in the visitor center before taking a short walk to look for flowers, trees, insects and surprises along the way. Then, stop back in to explore the center's fun nature displays and activities. Ages 6 and under with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Apr 3, 10, 17, 24	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 1, 8, 15, 22	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

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

Tales From the Rails and Caboose 10291

Hear stories about the early railroad days around the campfire as you enjoy a s'more, and then take a tour of the fully restored caboose. All ages; under 13 with adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 7	6 – 8 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Trek Sawmill Creek 10908

Hike with a ranger and discover what lurks in and around Sawmill Creek. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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Turtle Day

Celebrate World Turtle Day! Meet turtles that live in DuPage and enjoy fun, educational activities. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

May 21	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Volunteer: National Volunteer Week Celebration

Drop in to learn about the fun, interesting ways you can help at the District as we celebrate the 900 volunteers who donated time over the past year. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7233.

Apr 25	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Danada/Headquarters
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Volunteer Restoration Workday 10779

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

Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Apr 14, 28	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Danada
Apr 22	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
May 6, 13, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
May 12, 26	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Danada
May 13, 20, 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
May 20	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Jun 3	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Jun 3, 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jun 3, 10, 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jun 9	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Danada

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 10850

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 at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 at least five days in advance. Students fulfilling requirements and groups of five or more must register by phone 10 days in advance.

Apr 29	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
May 8, 13, 19, 24	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Jun 3, 9, 14, 19, 28	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

When Darkness Falls 10887

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 or (630) 933-7248.

May 6	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

St. James Farm in Warrenville

Learn about the buildings, natural areas and equestrian roots of this preserve on a 30-minute covered-wagon ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free.

Join us one of two ways!

Just stop by. Rides on Friday and Wednesday afternoons are first-come, first-served and don't require registration.

June 2 – 30

Fridays and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

NEW! Register in advance. Register for Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening rides at dupageforest.org (program 11083) or (630) 580-7025.

June 4 – 25

Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

June 14 – 28

Wednesdays at 6 and 7 p.m.

Getting to Know Nature's "Nasties"

by **NIKKI DAHLIN**, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION, AND **ABIGAIL DEAN**, NATURALIST, FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Ah, spring in DuPage County. Time to reintroduce ourselves to the incredible array of plants and wildlife that call the forest preserves home. Sure, the thought of a few of them might make your skin itch or crawl, but learning what makes them do what they do — and what we can do to avoid them — can alleviate a lot of the uneasiness. So take a deep breath and read on!

Poison Ivy

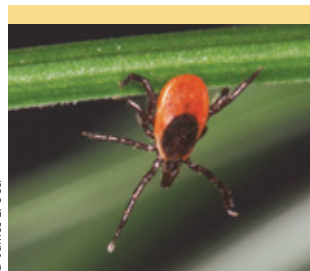
Poison ivy can grow on the ground or up a tree, but it always grows in leaflets of three. Other plants have similar leaves, but unless you're a plant ID pro, the rhyme "leaves of three, let them be" is good to follow if you want to avoid poison ivy's nasty rash.

The culprit behind the rash is an invisible oil called "urushiol," which spreads once it hits the skin. The rash isn't contagious, but urushiol on clothes or pets can easily rub off on people. If you come in contact with poison ivy, wash your skin with dish soap as soon as you can to break down the oils. Soaps specifically made to remove urushiol are sold at drug stores, too.

Believe it or not, if you were a woodpecker, warbler or deer, you wouldn't mind the plant. Urushiol has no ill effects on most wild animals, who readily eat the ivy's leaves, stems and berries.

Ticks

It may be hard to imagine a benefit to an eight-legged bloodsucker capable of carrying disease, but ticks do fill an important niche. (They've been around long enough to make dinosaurs miserable, so they must be doing something right.) Just like owls, coyotes and hawks, ticks can help keep wildlife populations strong. They're not a big menu item for other creatures, but ticks do their part by culling individual animals too



© James L. Ocki

◀ Tick bites can be unpleasant, but research on protein in their saliva may someday help treat heart attacks and strokes in people.

weak to fight disease, keeping them out of the reproductive pool. (Incidentally, scientists are looking at the anti-clotting features of tick saliva for ways to treat heart attacks and strokes in humans.)

Luckily, we can avoid tick bites by wearing light-colored long-sleeved clothes, using products containing DEET as directed, and checking for ticks after spending time in the preserves, especially in spring and fall.

Millipedes and Centipedes

Turn over a log or rock, and you'll likely spot one of these multilegged crawlers. They're both descendants of some of the first creatures to live on land, but they have their differences, and it's good to know what they are.

Millipedes are round with two pairs of legs per segment. They're also slow-moving and docile; pick one up and it simply rolls into a spiral.



© Leslie Graus

▶ Often mistaken for earthworms, millipedes are big players in plant decomposition.



© Anna Hesser

© Mike Uno

- ▲ Poison ivy becomes easier to spot in fall when its “leaves of three” turn red.

Because they’re “detritivores,” which means they eat rotting plants and fungi, they’re big players in a habitat’s decomposition cycle.

Centipedes are flat with one pair of feathery legs per segment and are helpful predators that keep populations of spiders and insects in check. They attack using claws behind their heads called “maxillipeds,” which are connected to poison glands. They avoid humans when they can, but they can deliver bee-like stings, so it’s best to leave these hunters alone.

Chiggers

If you’ve never heard of chiggers, you’ve likely never had chigger bites. Chiggers are “trombiculidae,” pinhead-sized mites in the soil that eat plants and smaller creatures and form one of the building blocks of the food web. As adults they’re harmless to humans, but as juveniles they can be, well, irritating.

Microscopic chigger larvae hang out in moist grassy areas like prairies or picnic spots, waiting for something warmblooded. They latch onto people and animals using claws that punch tiny holes in the skin. They then inject a kind of super saliva that liquefies the cells, which they suck up for food. (They don’t burrow in the skin.) The saliva causes the spot to itch — and itch it will for a couple of weeks. The good news, though, is chiggers don’t drink blood or spread disease and you can avoid them just as you would ticks.

Wood Nettle

If you come in contact with this common summer perennial, it’s an experience you’ll remember. Wood nettle may appear harmless, but its stems are covered in small hollow hairs that inject irritants into the skin like tiny hypodermic needles. For wildlife that can avoid the hairs, the plant offers protective cover,



© naturalis339

© Andy Rogers

- ▲ Red admirals aren’t bothered by wood nettle’s stinging hairs. In fact, they rely on the plant to feed their caterpillars.

and for the caterpillars of some butterflies and moths, it’s an important source of food.

For humans, though, wood nettle produces a burning, itching inflammation that can last several minutes, but over-the-counter steroid-based ointments like hydrocortisone creams usually offer relief. To stay sting-free in the forest preserves, stay on marked trails and footpaths.

- Like many spiders, a jumping spider’s fangs cannot penetrate skin (but its schnauzer-like “mustache” can make it look quite cute).



Spiders

These arachnids may be at the top of the “ick” list for many people, but of the 60 common kinds that call northeastern Illinois home, most are essentially harmless to humans. (Northern black widows do live in the region but are extremely rare.) Spiders as a whole are actually helpful pest controllers that eat flies, centipedes, ants and other arthropods.

A few spiders have fangs that can break human skin, and some can inject venom into a bite, but the bites are usually mild. More importantly, they’re not common. Studies show that 80 percent of reported “spider bites” are from other creatures or conditions, such as dry skin.

So the next time you’re in a forest preserve and come across something that gives you pause, remember it’s there for a good reason (and then keep moving on!) •

"On Your Left" & Other Trail Tips

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

DuPage County forest preserve trails are popular with all kinds of springtime visitors, some on foot, some on wheels and others on horseback. They help people get closer to prairies, woodlands, wetlands, lakes and rivers and offer 145 miles of varied terrain, including crushed limestone (the most common), turf, asphalt, wood chips and back-area footpaths. Maps showing trails, restrooms, drinking water and alternative trailheads are available online at dupageforest.org and at information kiosks at most forest preserves.

Trails not only offer fresh air and the sounds of nature

but also give you the opportunity to experience the peace and tranquility you can only find at a DuPage forest preserve. They let you "unplug" and look and listen for the latest in the great outdoors. (You wouldn't want to miss a deer grazing a few feet off the trail because you're checking your Facebook page, would you?) They give you "bonus" ways to learn about plants

and animals, either by pausing to read an interpretive sign or joining a ranger-led hike, and when you're in need of rest or a place to sit and relax, they've got trailside benches waiting just for you.

The most important thing to remember on any trail, though, is to be safe, and part of being safe is being courteous. Here's how!

- Keep to the right to allow for two-way traffic. If you're running or biking in a group, go single file. This allows others to easily pass with a clear line of sight.
- If you find yourself passing on a trail, always pass on the left, making sure you can see what's ahead of you before you do. And don't be shy: Loudly announce to other trail users (some who may be wearing headphones) that you're "passing on the left."
- When meeting different types of trail users, remember: First yield to horses, then to hikers and then to bikers. Because of their nature, horses always get the right of way, and because people on foot are slower than those on wheels (and can't maneuver as quickly) they get preference next.
- When allowing a horse and rider to pass, stand quietly aside and ask politely if you are in a good place. Always ask permission to pass a horseback rider on the trail.
- Only ride bikes on trails marked for bicycle use. In most cases, these are the nice 8-foot-wide crushed limestone trails



▲ Keep on the lookout!
Remember, more than just people use the trails.



▲ Because of their size and nature, horses always get the right of way.

you see at most preserves. When in doubt, check the forest preserve's map. Rangers often see bicyclists lured by the thrills of narrow dirt paths, but biking on these trails is illegal and dangerous, especially for hikers who aren't expecting to encounter someone on two wheels.

- When you do find the perfect bike trail, travel at a safe speed and slow down as you near other visitors, go around corners or travel downhill.
- Consider leaving your earbuds at home. We all love to tune in to our favorite music while jogging, but listening to the sounds of the forest preserves frees your senses and lets you hear other visitors who might be getting ready to pass.
- Plan on bringing Spot, but remember that dogs must be on leashes under 10 feet long and may not be allowed on trails in ecologically sensitive areas. If you do bring your pup, please keep it next to you on the same side of the trail; it makes things safer for your pet and for other visitors. And remember, no matter where you are in a forest preserve, it's your responsibility to "scoop the poop."
- Share the trails with DuPage County's wildlife, and respect the irreplaceable forest preserve habitats they call home.
- Finally, use trash containers and recycling bins, and pack out anything you pack in. When you can, leave the forest preserves cleaner than they were when you arrived.

We hope you'll take time this spring to enjoy the county's forest preserve trails and to do what you can to make the experience as safe as possible. If you're interested in not only exploring the trails but also celebrating them, join our "National Trails Day Hike" on June 3, or sign up for one of our other great guided trail tours. Our full lineup starts on Page 8. •



▲ Check your map before you hit the trail. Dirt footpaths or trails through high-quality habitats may be for foot traffic only.



▲ Dogs on leashes under 10 feet long are welcomed on the trails as long as you remember to "scoop the poop."



▲ Take breaks and stay hydrated, but remember to do so on the side of the trail.

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

Email Address

forest@dupageforest.org

Main Number

(630) 933-7200

TTY

(800) 526-0857

CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION LINE

(630) 933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

(630) 871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(630) 933-7240

VISITOR SERVICES

(630) 933-7248

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(630) 933-7233

GOLF *Courses*

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
(630) 810-5330

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale, IL 60191
(630) 616-8424

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

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

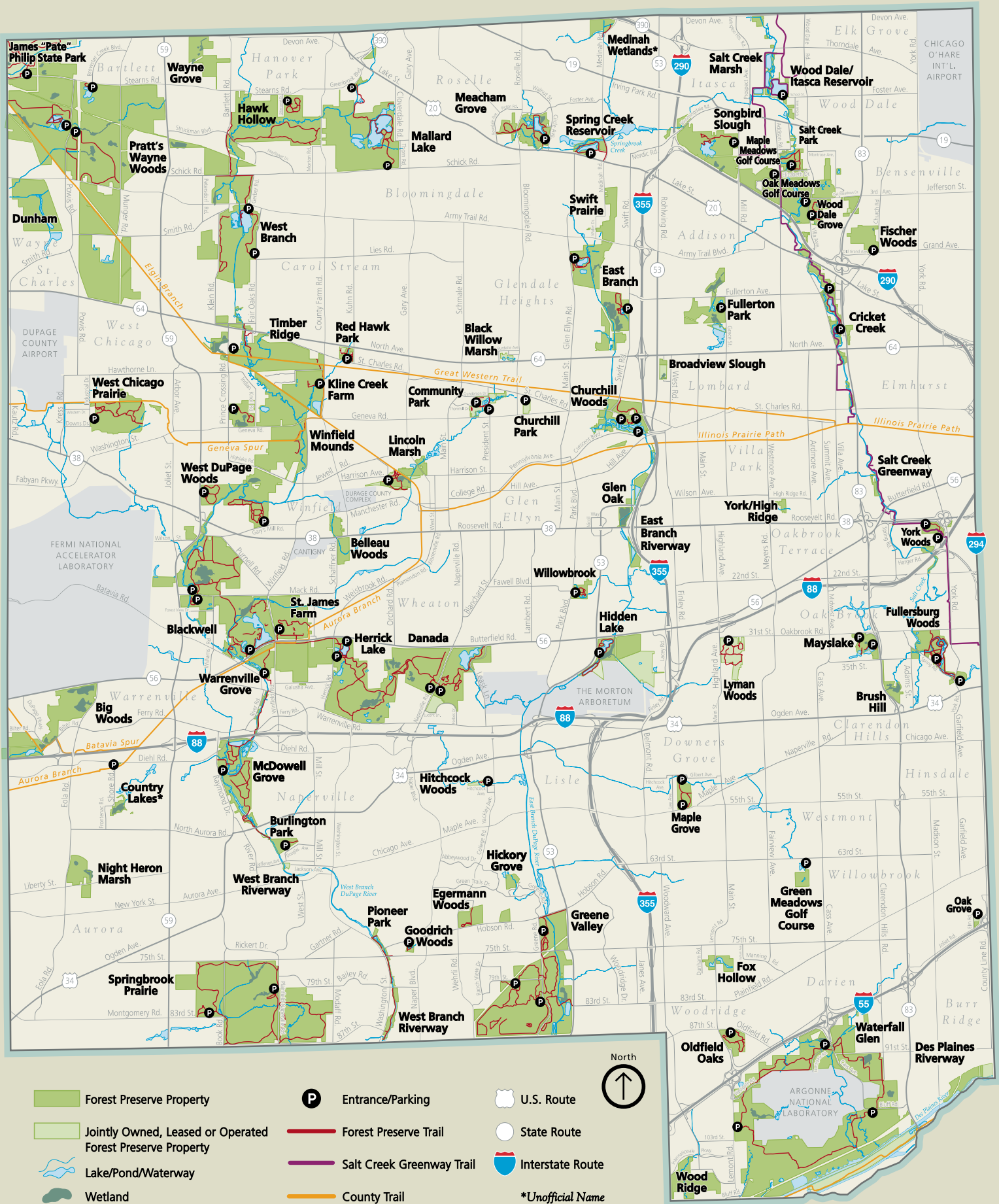
The estate is open only during scheduled programs and events.

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.

Correction: The owl print image on Page 18 in the winter 2017 issue was taken by Chris Campbell. The editor apologizes for the error.





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

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A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2017



© John Flannery

Want to help these?

Then plant some of **these!**

Native Plant Sale

Friday, May 12, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

Flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs perfect for
creating habitat in your own backyard

Advice from Forest Preserve District plant experts

Tips for attracting butterflies, bees and other pollinators

For details and presale orders, visit
dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale.

