

STEPPING STONES

SPRING 2015

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

This will be the final paper version of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District's *Stepping Stones* newsletter. While this is our final paper edition, please take a moment to subscribe to the new e-Newsletter edition by visiting our website homepage at <http://www.co.kendall.il.us/forest-preserve/>. On our homepage, you will find a feature article inviting you to join, and a link to start the enrollment process.

Those subscribers already receiving *Stepping Stones* electronically, or who have sent an e-mail request to KCForest@co.kendall.il.us are automatically enrolled and will receive a copy of our new eNewsletter in March.

Our eNewsletter subscribers will continue to receive forest preserve public program announcements, news features highlighting the natural and cultural history of the Kendall County forest preserves, special promotional offers for programs, overnight camping, lodge and meeting room rentals, and opportunities to connect with nature through support of stewardship activities taking place year-round.



EMERALD ASH BORER IMPACTING PRESERVES

The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) was first detected in Kendall County in 2009, a brief seven years following its accidental introduction in southeastern Michigan. Since 2009, the beetle has spread far beyond Kendall County across the State of Illinois, decimating over 99% of all North American species of ash trees encountered including green, white, and black ash present and common within forest preserve areas. Researchers report a high likelihood that ash trees will be functionally extirpated from preserve areas within a short span of years.

Over the next several weeks, removal efforts will begin to clear standing dead or dying trees around buildings and central pathways at Hoover and Harris forest preserves. Removal efforts will continue as hazardous tree locations are identified along trails and within preserve open spaces over the coming year. Preserve visitors are encouraged to exercise caution, particularly on high-wind days, and to report trail impacts encountered by calling the District's main phone line at (630) 553-4025, or e-mailing us at KCForest@co.kendall.il.us.

ELLIS HOUSE PARTNERS WITH THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION IN LOW-GROW NATIVE PLANTING

LyondellBasell Industries, a global corporation located in Morris, Illinois, recently awarded a grant to The Conservation Foundation to support the establishment of a demonstration native planting area at the Kendall County Forest Preserve's Ellis House at Baker Woods Forest Preserve. The one-acre planting site, scheduled for seeding this fall, was selected in cooperation with the Aux Sable Creek Watershed Coalition. Seeds from The Conservation Foundation's new Meadow Mix will be sown along the Ellis House and Equestrian Center's entry drive. The mix, produced in partnership with several area seed source and native landscaping companies, offers several colorful native plants in a low growing seed mix. Native plants help promote rainwater infiltration into the soil instead of running off the surface as stormwater, as well as provide habitat for important pollinators in the environment. Such plantings are one of the best management practices recommended by the Foundation's Conservation@Home and Work programs. Residents often prefer the lower growing plants near their homes, and plantings can be used in home or business sites. For more information, contact The Conservation Foundation at 630-428-4599 at extension 115, or visit The Conservation Foundation's website at <http://www.theconservationfoundation.org/>.



From the President...

Kendall County
Forest Preserve District

President
Jeff Wehrli, Oswego

Vice-President
Lynn Cullick, Oswego

Secretary
Elizabeth Flowers, Montgomery

Commissioners
Bob Davidson, Plano
Judy Gilmour, Yorkville
Scott Gryder, Oswego
Dan Koukol, Oswego
Matt Prochaska, Bristol
John Purcell, Yorkville
John Shaw, Yorkville

110 West Madison Street
Yorkville IL 60560

Information & Reservations:
630 553-4025

Administration:
630 553-4131

*Laws of Nature Center &
Education Programs:*
630 553-4111

*Ellis House &
Equestrian Center:*
815 475-4035

[www.co.kendall.il.us/
forest_preserve](http://www.co.kendall.il.us/forest_preserve)

As we move from winter's icy grip into the beauty of spring there are several new things happening at your Forest Preserve District. First is the addition of Dave Guritz as the new Director of the KCFPD. Dave came to us with his years of experience with the DuPage Forest Preserve District, bringing new ideas and skill sets. In his first months, he has focused on addressing issues facing our District, and the work and commitment he has shown is greatly appreciated!

This issue of Stepping Stones will be the last printed and mailed copy as stated in our last newsletter. For those of you that have not done so yet, please get us your email address so we can continue to stay in touch. We will also reach out to senior centers and other local entities that can help us distribute District updates and program opportunities.

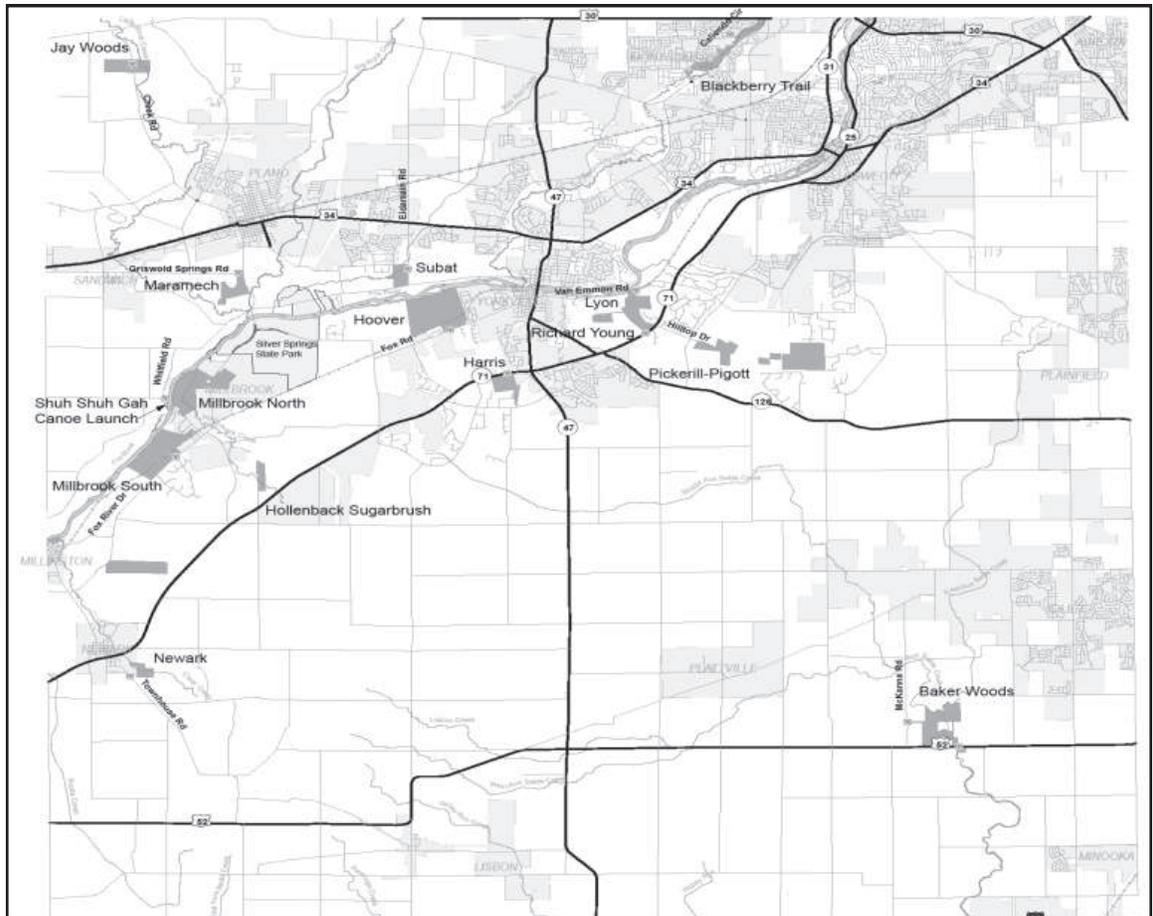
Finally, your trips to Hoover and Harris Forest Preserves in the next couple of weeks will be met with the sound of chain saws, as impacts from the emerald ash borer have made it necessary to remove a large number of trees that surround the buildings, campsites and trails at the preserves. Just as Dutch elm disease decimated trees in all our communities, this exotic insect is taking its toll on our woods as well. The proximity of affected trees to high activity areas makes it necessary to remove them prior to the start of our busy season. The work should be completed by the end of April, and we will continue to monitor the preserves for potential problems.

Please take some time in the upcoming weeks to get out into the Preserves as the transformation of our woods and prairies from a snow covered wonderland to a landscape full of rebirth allows us to witness a change in seasons that has been enjoyed throughout the decades by all who pass through it.

See you on the trails!

Jeff Wehrli

President



News and Notes

KENDALL'S DEDICATED ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES



Figure 2. Locations of the 200 officially dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves as of August 2006.

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission was created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1963 to guide the purchase of Department of Conservation parklands, and to manage the Illinois nature preserves system. Today, Illinois Nature Preserves extend the highest protection for rare and endangered habitats across Illinois, helping to conserve the plant and animal species that inhabit these natural community remnants. Ranging in size from one acre to more than 2,000 acres, nature preserves protect tall grass prairies, oak groves, sandstone bluffs, wetlands, bogs, and other threatened natural areas.

Kendall County is home to two dedicated nature preserves. Maramech Forest Preserve is a 92-acre preserve located at 14780 Griswold Springs Road south of Plano. The preserve is open to the public, and a trail extends down to viewing platform of the nature preserve area. The preserve is best known for its northern flatwoods and seep springs. Northern flatwoods occur on glacial moraines in northeastern Illinois and are dominated by white oak, swamp white oak, and American elm trees. Because of its Nature Preserve status, certain activities are not allowed at Maramech. Signage at the preserve must be obeyed to protect the fragile habitats, including travelling only on established trails.

Tucker-Millington Fen, or Tucker's Fen was acquired by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District in 2011 as a previously dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve with an additional conservation easement held by The Conservation Foundation. The primary ecotype within the 4.5 acre holding is a remnant fen community. Fens are a type of wetland found in low-lying wet areas, typically hydrated by groundwater seeps. While Tucker's Fen is not accessible to the public, volunteer work days may be scheduled in the future to support ongoing habitat improvement efforts at both Maramech Forest Preserve and Tucker's Fen.

New volunteers are always welcome. To apply to serve as a natural area volunteer, contact Jody Strohm at (630) 553-2298, or send an e-mail to: JStrohm@co.kendall.il.us.



VISITORS & CANINE COMPANIONS WELCOME

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District encourages preserve visitors to head out and enjoy the return of spring and the greening up of preserves areas. With the return of warmer weather, please be reminded of regulations in place for the protection of our visitors, your canine companions, and forest preserve wildlife. Per District Ordinance, leashes 10 feet or shorter in length are required for all dogs in forest preserves. Kindly consider other forest preserve users in cleaning up pet waste. If you forget to bring a bag, there are doggie bags conveniently located at stations by the trail heads of most preserves.

Please be aware that larger predators such as coyotes have returned to our area. While wildlife encounters pose little threat to canine companions with their owners close by, should you encounter a threatening situation, call 911. If calling from a mobile phone, remember to first state your location in case the call needs to be transferred to Kendall County.

To report an encounter with an off-leash dog, or request support from a law officer to address a situation involving an off-leash dog, contact KenCom at (630) 553-5856.

Spring Program Guide

Please Note: Pre-registration is required for all Education Department (ED) programs. Please see the registration deadline dates for each program being offered. If a class does not meet its minimum enrollment requirement, it will be cancelled two days prior to the event. All programs with a fee must be paid prior to the event.

March Programs



Restoration Workday (Ages 16 and up, NAV)

Saturday, March 28
Noon - 3:00 PM

Jay Woods Forest Preserve - Woodland
Fee: Free

Join us to tackle invasive garlic mustard in this beautiful oak woodland. See page 8 for more information.

Sweet Sugar- Maple Tapping at the Library

(Families - All ages welcome)

Monday, March 30 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Oswegoland Library -
Montgomery Campus

Registration Deadline: March 27

Fee: Free

How do you make a pancake taste great? Maple Syrup! Come and enjoy this hands-on program that will take your taste buds from tree to table. Registration for this program is through the Oswegoland Public Library. Please call (630) 978-1272.

Black Bears: Dispelling the Myths for Peaceful Existence

(Ages 12 and up)

Tuesday, March 31; 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Hoover Forest Preserve
Meadowhawk Lodge

Registration Deadline: March 26

Fee: Suggested Donation of \$5 to EEAI

Did you know that myths and misconceptions are the biggest problems that black bears face? The North American Bear Center's Education Outreach Program, in conjunction with the Wildlife Research Institute, will present a program that will share the facts about the return of this animal to the Chicagoland area. Event sponsored by Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI).



Credit: Painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

The Forest Preserve District strives to make our programs fun and educational as our commitment to you. **If a class does not meet its minimum enrollment requirement, it will be cancelled two days prior to the event.** Early registration prevents cancelled classes!

For fee-based programs, we accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

In the event of a cancellation of a fee-based class, a refund will be made.

(ED) Education Department: Register for programs with this notation through the Education Department by calling the Registration Hotline at 630 553-4025 or via email to kcforest@co.kendall.il.us.

(EHEC) Ellis House and Equestrian Center: Register for programs with this notation by contacting Ellis House & Equestrian Center at 815 475-4035 or via email to info@ellishec.com.

(NAV) Natural Areas Volunteer Program: For more information about page eight (8) program listings, call 630 553-2298, or e-mail jstrohm@co.kendall.il.us.

(A) Allergy Note: Indicates food allergies may be present in class.

(B) No dogs are permitted at Forest Preserve District programs unless indicated in the program description.

April Programs

Toddling Naturalist: Welcome Spring!

(Ages 1-3 with caregiver)

Tuesday, April 7; 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Hoover Forest Preserve,
Meadowhawk Lodge

Registration Deadline: April 2

The winter snow is melting and spring is in the air. Who is awake? What is blooming? How are the seasons changing? Come and celebrate as we get some fresh air. Weather permitting; we will take a small hike outside, so please dress appropriately.

Babes in the Woods: Welcome Spring!

(Ages 3-6 with caregiver)

Tuesday, April 7; 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Hoover Forest Preserve
Meadowhawk Lodge

Registration Deadline: April 2

Fee: Free

The winter snow is melting and spring is in the air. Who is awake? What is blooming? How are the seasons changing? We will plan to enjoy some fresh air, so please dress appropriately.

Earth Day Entomologists: Insect Exploration

(Ages 6 and up)

Sunday, April 26, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Harris Forest Preserve

Registration Deadline: April 22

Fee: \$5 per child (adults free)

Head, Thorax, Abdomen! Come out and celebrate Earth Day with our six-legged friends—Insects! You will explore both the prairie and pond in search of who makes their home in these two diverse habitats. This program will be held outside so please dress appropriately and closed-toe shoes are a requirement for all participants.

Spring Program Guide



Restoration Workday
(Ages 16 and up, NAV)
Saturday, April 18
Noon – 3:00 PM
Lyon Forest Preserve
Fee: Free

Clear out invasive garlic mustard and perhaps honeysuckle to help restore this management zone.

See page 8 for more information.

May Programs

Family Fun Night
(Families - All ages welcome)
Friday, May 1; 5 - 8 PM
Ellis House and Equestrian Center
Fee: Free*

Join us for an evening of fun and games! Family Fun Nights at Ellis feature pony and hay rides, nature hikes, crafts, games, concessions, an evening bonfire, and more.

*Fees for pony rides and concessions.



Restoration Workday
(Ages 16 and up, NAV)
Saturday, May 16
Noon - 3:00 PM
Millbrook South Forest Preserve
Fee: Free

This day of service we will be revisiting a woodland trail to follow-up on garlic mustard removal.

See page 8 for more information.



Upcoming Programs

Celebrate Spring! Nature Play Area & Garden Open House

(Families - All ages welcome)
Saturday, June 6; 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Hoover Forest Preserve
Eagle's Nest Shelter and Play Area
Registration Deadline: None
Fee: Free

Spring has sprung! The Exploration Station, featuring Stefanie's Garden, is hosting an open house that will be full of hands-on activities celebrating the awakening of the garden and leave you with your hands dirty. Come outside and play!

Frozen Mini Camp

(Ages 3-5)
Mon. - Wed., August 3-5
9:00 - 11:30 AM
Hoover Forest Preserve
Registration Deadline: July 17
Fee: \$60

Hot summer days and icy fun! Join Olaf, Elsa, Anna, and Kristoff for some cold and hot adventures. Enjoy a creek walk to see some melted ice along with tons of ice experiments and games. These three jam packed days will satisfy your wish to build a snowman even though it is summer. Register now!

Frozen Mini Camp

(Ages 6+)
Mon. - Wed. August 3-5
1:00 - 3:30 PM
Hoover Forest Preserve
Registration Deadline: July 17
Fee: \$60

Hot summer days and icy fun! Join Olaf, Elsa, Anna, and Kristoff for some cold and hot adventures. Enjoy a creek walk to see some melted ice along with tons of ice experiments and games.

These three jam packed days will satisfy your wish to build a snowman even though it is summer. Register now!

Badge Bonanza: Girl Scouts

(Ages Girl Scouts by Level)
Tuesday, August 11; 9:00 - 11:45 AM
Hoover Forest Preserve
Registration Deadline: July 28
Fee: \$5 per Scout

Time to get outside to learn and play. Scouts will participate in a variety of activities that will lead to the completion of badge requirements:

Brownie

Hike Badge 1-4

Girl Scout Junior

Camper Badge 1-3

Girl Scout Cadette

Trailblazing Badge 1-3

To register, contact Deanna Bazan Kendall Co. Outdoor Education Center 630-553-7108 or dbazan@roe24.org.

Badge Bonanza: Cub Scouts

(Ages Cub Scouts by Level)
Tuesday, August 11; 1:00 - 3:45 PM
Hoover Forest Preserve
Registration Deadline: July 28
Fee: \$5 per Scout

Time to get outside to learn and play. Scouts will participate in a variety of activities that will lead to the completion of badge requirements:

Cub Scout Wolf

Achievement 7 (except e), 8e, Elective 13 (except e)

Cub Scout Bear

Achievement 5, Achievement 9b, 9d, 9e, 9g

Cub Scout Webelo

Forester 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9

To register, contact Deanna Bazan Kendall Co. Outdoor Education Center 630-553-7108 or dbazan@roe24.org.

Summer Camps 2015



Registration is open for our popular Summer Day Camp programs at Ellis House & Equestrian Center! Ellis day camps are not just fun and games, they are *educational too!* Day camps provide children the opportunity to learn all the basics of horse care including feeding, grooming, bathing, behavior, and nutrition. Fun and educational activities include hands-on horse handling that teach safe responsible care for horses.

Pony rides, games, and crafts will be provided each day. All Ellis day camps meet at

the Ellis House & Equestrian Center, 13986 McKanna Road, Minooka. A welcome letter will be sent prior to camp with more complete details about the camp you have registered for. To register for a session, please email info@ellishec.com or call (815) 475-4035. Registration packets are available online at <http://www.ellishec.com/>. Payment must accompany registration.

Pony 1 Day Camp for Parents & Tots: Our Parent-Tot camp is a two-hour camp for children ages 3-5. Spend time with your child learning about horses through grooming, crafts, games, and pony rides.

Age: 3-5 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:00 AM **Dates:** June 1, June 4, July 6, or July 9

Fee: \$40 in county / \$45 out-of-county and includes riding.

Pony 1 Day Camp: Our one-day camp for children ages 6-8 is a great way for younger children to learn about and play with the horses. Children are introduced to grooming, feeding and handling horses through hands on activities. Games such as pony leading relay races offer a fun way to test their skills. Kids also get a chance to let their artistic side shine through crafts. Children also learn about conservation on a horse themed nature tour.

Age: 6-8 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Dates:** June 2, June 30, or July 7

Fee: \$60 in county / \$65 out-of-county and includes riding.

Pony 3 Day Camp: Our three-day camp for children ages 9-13 offers children a thorough introduction into the world of horses. Kids get to experience a variety of activities involved in the daily care and management of horses. Kids learn about and assist with feeding, grooming, handling, saddling and bridling horses. A variety of topics are covered including horse shoes, health care, horse behavior and feeding. Each day includes horse games, crafts to bring home, and pony rides. Kids also learn about conservation, and how horses affect nature through daily nature hikes.

Age: 9-13 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Dates:** Each consecutive three-day session begins June 8, June 16, July 14, or July 27

Fee: \$190 in county / \$195 out-of-county and includes riding each day.

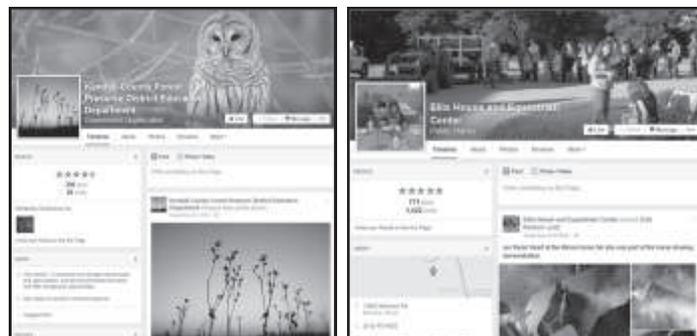


PROGRAMMING NEWS @ YOUR CONVENIENCE

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is now on Facebook. The two sites created feature posts by the Education Department and Ellis House and Equestrian Center staff and volunteers, offering convenient program reminders, nature tips, postings of seasonal observations, and more. Facebook users visiting the site may post comments from your preserve visits and experiences, and 'like' us to keep in touch.

Ellis House and Equestrian Center:
<https://www.facebook.com/EllisHouseandEquestrianCenter>

Education Department:
www.facebook.com/kcfpdeducation



Summer Camps 2015

Registration is open for our popular “Walk in the Wild” summer camp programs! Kendall County Forest Preserve District summer camps are a great way to discover nature and connect to the natural world. In addition, summer camps are an affordable way to have some good old-fashioned summer fun! Our summer camps include an engaging mix of outdoor experiences, hikes, games, hands-on learning, and special opportunities for your child.

All “Walk in the Wild” camps meet at the Eagle’s Nest Shelter at Hoover Forest Preserve, 11285 Fox Road, Yorkville. A welcome letter will be sent prior to camp with more complete details about the camp you have registered for. To register for a session, please email rantrim@co.kendall.il.us (preferred) or call (630) 553-4025. Payment and camp forms are required **2 weeks prior** to camp. If payment has not been received, your name will be removed from the class roster.

Little Garden Sprouts: How does your garden grow? Come and explore as we learn what plants need to grow. We will play with dirt and seeds as your little one tries out his green thumb!

Age: Ages 1-3 **Time:** 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Dates: June 8, 10, 12 **Fee:** \$25

Explore Nature with Sesame Street: Big Birds knows birds, Kermit how to hop with frogs and Elmo and Grover love anything fuzzy. Get ready to fly, hop, jump, crawl and hike as we meet the birds, amphibians and mammals who live in the woods!

Age: Ages 1-3 **Time:** 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Dates: July 20, 22, 24 **Fee:** \$25

Super Scientist: Come and explore! During this hands on camp, you will be a Meteorologist, Herpetologist, Geologist, Botanist and Entomologist and become an all around “Super Scientist!” Each day will include hands on experiments and exploration.

Age: Pre-K—Kindergarten **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Dates: June 8-12, June 22-26, July 20-24 **Fee:** \$80

Weird Nature: Weird? Wacky? Wild? This camp will have you exploring the odd side of nature as we look at how plants and animals survive the wild side. Be ready to be amazed at the unusual and sometimes gross things that happen in nature.

Age: Pre-K—Kindergarten **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Dates: June 15-19, July 6-10, July 27-31 **Fee:** \$80

Earth Warrior: Being a warrior for planet earth means living closely with the plants and animals that surround us. Learn how to track wildlife, practice camouflage and much more in this hands on nature camp.

Age: Grades K-2 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Date: June 8-12, June 22-26, July 20-24 **Fee:** \$80

Stupendous Snakes & Salamanders: If you think turtles are terrific and frogs are fun, then this camp will make you “hoppy” all week. Have fun searching in the creek and forest for turtles, snakes, salamanders, frogs, and toads. Enjoy a visit from LIVE reptiles and amphibians.

Age: Grades K-2 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Dates: June 15-19, July 6-10, July 27-31 **Fee:** \$80

The Native People of Illinois: Step back into the past as you learn about the Native Americans who called Illinois home in the 1700’s. How did you find food, build your shelter and start a fire? See if you can survive this camp!

Age: Grades 3-5 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Date: June 8-12, June 22-26, July 20-24 **Fee:** \$80

Animalistic: Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! Find out who really lives in the terrestrial and aquatic habitats in Illinois. You’ll be amazed at the awesome creatures that call this place home. This camp takes place at Hoover and Harris Forest Preserves.

Age: Grade 3-5 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Date: June 15-19, July 6-10, July 27-31 **Fee:** \$80

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Night Camp: The night is full of adventures! Come and explore Hoover as it transitions from day to night. We will spend one overnight in a cabin as we learn what it means to be nocturnal.

Age: Grades 1-3 **Time:** 6:30 - 9:00 PM from Monday-Wednesday, Thursday 6:30 PM drop-off for overnight to

Friday 9:00 AM pick-up

Dates: July 13-17 **Fee:** \$100

Paddle & Play: This camp combines canoeing and two overnights for an exciting outdoor adventure! We’ll canoe the Fox River by day and return to Hoover for fun evening activities. Mature and experienced instructors will safely lead students in canoeing and the overnights.

Age: Grades 4-6 **Time:** 9:00 AM drop-off on Monday for two overnights to Wednesday 10:00 AM pick-up

Dates: July 13-15, August 3-5 **Fee:** \$150

FOR OLDER YOUTH

Adventure Road—Discover the Fun!: The Fox Valley region is filled with amazing parks and nature centers. This camp will take a field trip each day to discover the many wonders of the area.

Come ready to explore!

Age: Grades 5-6 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Dates: June 15-18, July 20-23 **Fee:** \$80

Nature Quest: We’ve teamed up with the Kendall County Outdoor Education Center once again to offer a jam-packed schedule of fun, including a bike ride, canoe trip, overnight campout and many other awesome outdoor experiences!

Age: Grades 7-9 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM, Thursday overnight to Friday 10:00 AM pick-up

Dates: June 22-26, July 6-10 **Fee:** \$110

Natural Areas Volunteer Program

The Evolution of the Volunteer Management Zones

There are two areas under the stewardship of our Natural Areas Volunteers. These Management Zones are high-quality natural areas of concern within well-defined woodlands encircled by trails at both Jay Woods and Lyon Forest Preserves.

The Jay Woods Zone is being restored to its historic significance as a savanna. Savannas are open woodlands dominated by oak trees with open canopies, where the sunlight that reaches the ground is much higher than other woodlands.



When the Kendall County Forest Preserve District first obtained this property, the southwest woods were overwhelmed by garlic mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*). This fast-growing, early blooming plant multiplies quickly and replaces the native flora. Forest preserve staff members worked to reclaim the woodland floor from garlic mustard. *Alliaria* persists year after year, and maintaining these restored areas is labor-intensive and time-consuming.

This is where volunteer stewards come in. With consistent management over time *Alliaria* can be controlled. The NAV's yearly maintenance has allowed the native understory flora and fauna to revive.

The south woodland trail is maintained by NAVs who continue to eradicate this invasive pest, and with each year, there is less and less of it. By reducing the garlic mustard from the ground and reducing

the canopy coverage from above, great strides have been made to restore the Jay Woods savanna. Walk the south woodland trail and compare what you see to the north woodland trail, which is not part of the management zone, and you will begin to get a sense of what natural savannas were like. We will be continuing land management this spring. Join us in March for our Saturday Workday!

Many of you who visit Lyon Forest Preserve are familiar with the boardwalk that meanders through the fen. This fen has been under restoration for many years. Continue past the fen and there is a fork in the trail. Straight before you is a bench, and just beyond that is the NAV Management Zone at Lyon Forest Preserve.

Before the Workday of November 2010, the area within the forked trails was an impenetrable mass of invasive honeysuckle, much of it over 10 feet tall! On a cold, drizzly day, a small band of hardy volunteers worked to begin an amazing transformation.

Hidden within the walls of honeysuckle, concealed from sight and sorely impacted by encroachments is another fen. It has many of the same rare and specialized plants occurring in the adjacent fen.

Within this Management Zone you can now see graceful undulations within the landscape, home to Shagbark Hickory, Ironwood and stately Oaks. We continue to maintain the restoration by controlling re-growth of new honeysuckle plants. In continuing efforts to manage the honeysuckle and the garlic mustard, we will return to this Zone for our April Saturday Workday.

Come help give our native woodland flowers room to thrive!



November 2010 Workday at Lyon FP. All the dense understory brush in this picture is invasive honeysuckle.

Restoration Workdays



Get Out There!

Brush/Garlic Mustard Clearing Workday

Jay Woods Forest Preserve

When: Saturday, March 28

Noon - 3:00 PM

Honeysuckle/Garlic Mustard Demolition Day

Lyon Forest Preserve

When: Saturday, April 18

Noon - 3:00 PM

Garlic Mustard Demolition Day

Millbrook South Forest Preserve

When: Saturday, May 16

Noon - 3:00 PM

Restoration Workdays are for adults 16 years and up. The District provides the tools and snacks, you provide your time and energy! Be kind to the environment and bring your own water bottles. We also have gloves, but you may prefer to use your own; wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. NOTE TIME OF WORKDAYS: NOON TO 3:00 PM

Call Jody at 630 553-2298 or e-mail jstrohm@co.kendall.il.us with questions.

Birds of Concern at Kendall County

Many people know that Kendall County's forest preserves have wonderful gems of nature, but what you might not know is that several of them are also homes to some of the area's rarest birds. Birds with crazy sounding names like the black-billed cuckoo, red-headed woodpecker and bobolink are all experiencing fast population declines. These and other very rare birds nest in Kendall County Forest Preserves.

The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) is a coalition of 20 organizations that share an interest in the conservation of birds. BCN members monitor bird populations in the Chicago region during the breeding season and throughout the year. The BCN has published a list of the birds needing the most attention and management. The Birds of Concern (BOC) list includes more than a dozen birds that nest in Kendall County Forest Preserves.



The BCN uses citizen scientist monitors who go to their local natural areas and look for birds. Specific methods create data that can be used by land managers to know if their conservation techniques are working. The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is in its fourth year with the BCN. The more we learn about the rarest of our birds, the more we will know about all of our birds and about the habitats they need. Kendall County's forest preserves are not just important recreational areas, they are important conservation areas. They are already helping rare birds, and as we monitor their bird populations, we will find better ways to protect them.

This article is written by Jeff Rugg. Check out his website at www.GreenerView.com.



KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
110 WEST MADISON STREET
YORKVILLE, IL 60560



PLEASE DELIVER TO CURRENT RESIDENT

WHERE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION TAKE FLIGHT!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS



The Kendall County Forest Preserve District would like to express its appreciation for the volunteers and sponsors of our 6th Annual 5K Reindeer Run held on December 14, 2014, and our 3rd Annual Ellis House and Equestrian Center Bridal Expo held on February 15, 2015. Events such as these would not be possible without the financial support of our sponsors, and event staffing from District volunteers. Thank you!

All Points Printing
ARMOR Enterprises Weddings
4B Tack Shop in Newark
Chloe & Isabel
Dove Chocolate Discoveries
Hampton Inn, Yorkville
Hampton Inn & Towne Place Suites
It Works! Global
Limelight Music Service
Mary Kay
Naked Sun Salon and Spa

Remus Photography
Riemenschneider Electric, Inc.
SoPrime Entertainment
Southtown Entertainment
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