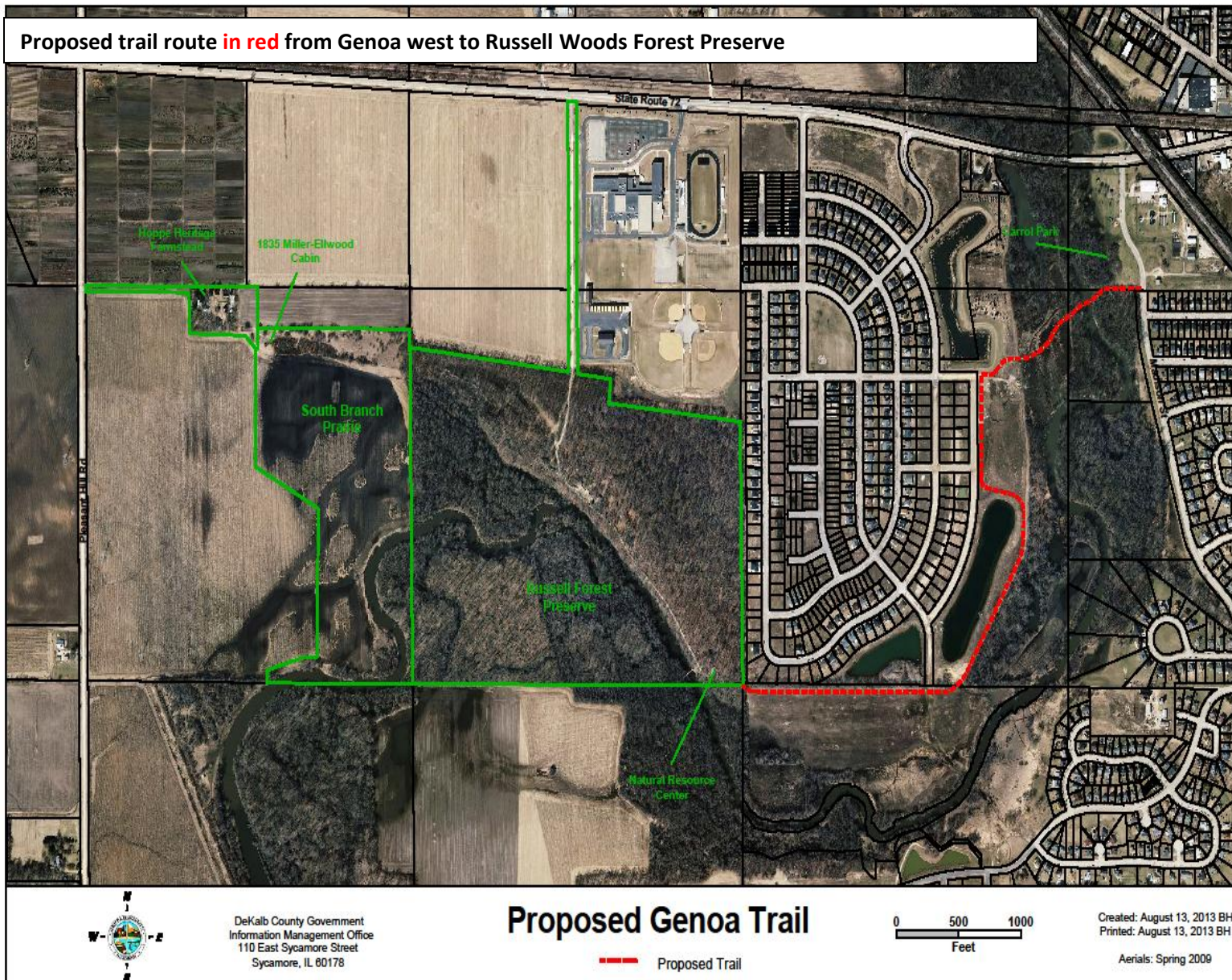


**November 2013. Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups.**

**Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching Fall school groups at Russell Woods. 1835 Miller -Ellwood Cabin work will continue with windows, doors and floor , also adz work on logs to match old logs to fill in where old log walls were cut out. Other projects include firewood cutting/splitting/ stacking for fall and winter shelter house rentals and sledding hill warming fires, maintenance shop improvements and corn crib new sliding doors being installed at the Hoppe Farmstead. Toilet rehab at Afton completed. Replaced old garage at MacQueen with new steel garage, Lodge and house painted at MacQueen. 1930 Pierce Town Hall exterior and interior painted and siding repaired at Merritt Prairie. New steel roof on shelter at Shabbona completed. Toilet improvements at MacQueen, along with new benches and fire pits constructed. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review went well and preparing for 2014 compliance . Natural Resource Center library and electrical improvements in progress.**





**The Genoa to Russell Woods Trail partnership with the City of Genoa will link Russell Woods (in background) to Genoa. The trail will go along the Kishwaukee River and through Genoa Prairie corridor ( in foreground) .**





If skies are clear, the NW Suburban Astronomers meet about every weekend at Afton or Potawatomi Woods to observe the night skies.







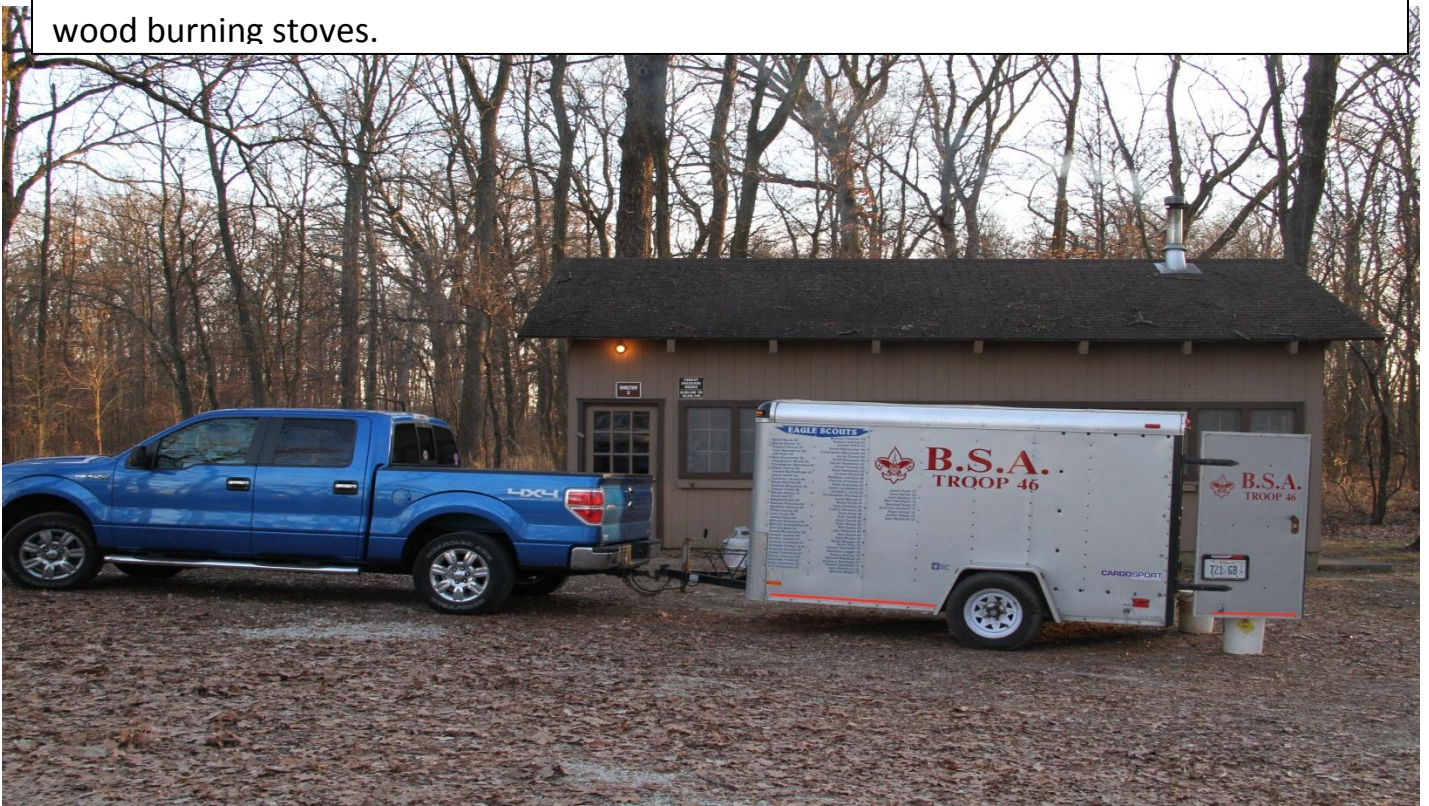
Scouts at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve build survival shelter for a cold night outside







Scout leaders enjoying the warm fire and food at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve shelter house. Every winter weekend 12 shelter houses are reserved at Chief Shabbona, Sannauk, Russell Woods and MacQueen for scouts and other groups enjoying the winter season. Forest Preserve staff cut, split and stack fire wood for wood burning stoves.







University of Illinois Extension and DeKalb County Forest Preserve District hosted a Master Naturalist Holiday Mixer at the Natural Resource Center at Russell Woods. . The purpose of the event was to bring post and present Master Naturalist graduates to meet and mingle to get to know each other and talk about their different volunteer projects they are involved in. The day went wonderfully and they left very satisfied with knowing others were working hard for the causes in the environment. Tom Hill from Rockford Park District's Atwood Center gave a program on birds of prey. Pictured here are a Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl and American Kestrel



Work will continue this winter on the 1835 Miller – Ellwood cabin restoration. These White Oak timbers are being worked on with adze and broad axe by forest preserve staff to match the look of the original cabin logs. These logs will be placed in the walls where some of the original logs were removed when the cabin was inside the old Nelson farmhouse on the Miller - Ellwood farm.

