

March 2014. 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 school groups. 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 spring shelter house rentals. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review went well and preparing for 2014 compliance. Heavy winter snows and drifting snow have forest preserve staff snow plowing roads and parking lots for a variety of winter visitors . Bald Eagle and endangered Short Eared Owl sightings at Afton. New entrance and exit, signs, information sign and Chief Shabbona History sign at Chief Shabbona and new information sign at Knute Olson forest preserve will be constructed and insatllled by FP staff forest Preserve. Spring work includes: roads graded, prairie and woodland burns, forest preserve and trails Spring clean up, culvert replaced on the Great Western Trail. Other projects planned for 2014: Genoa to Russell Woods Trail, Thompson Road propery clean up and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Communkity Gardens, repair rough places on asphalt on Peace Road Trail and Wilkinson Marsh Trail and Nehring shletr house roof replacment.



Late March prairie and woodland burns begin and will continue through April





Soon after the fire, forest wildflowers emerge like Bloodroot and shown above in the prairies Yellow Coneflowers



