

June / July 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 Summer Camps at Russell Woods. 1835 Miller -Ellwood Cabin work will continue with windows, doors and floor and log wall work. New siding being put on Afton maintenance shop. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review went well and preparing for 2014 compliance. Other projects planned for 2014: Genoa to Russell Woods Trail, Thompson Road property clean up, water and electric upgrades and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Community Gardens. **Other programs and events shown below:**

Annual Sycamore Cross Country Alumni Run and breakfast at Afton



Sycamore High School Cross Country teams Summer practice at Afton



Mid -Summer blooms at forest preserve prairies



Genoa to Russell Woods trail under construction (Russell Woods in far background, Genoa Prairie in foreground)



Over 100 people attended the Chief Shabbona History Sign Dedication Ceremony and picnic



Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal members unveil the new Chief Shabbona History Sign



Adventure Works installed “ Thank You “ benches at Afton South Prairie, South Branch Prairie and Prairie Oaks Forest Preserves. These benches commemorate **The Conservation Foundation, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Tom and Karen Sparks, and the Neighbors for Open Space, Clean Air and Water** who all helped preserve these beautiful places.





Camp Russell Woods 2014.

One of 6 week - long summer camps, "Dino Dynasty" taught archeological skills.

Other Camp themes are:
Magnificent Mammals, Native American Camp, Cold Blooded Camp, Naturalist Camp and Rockin' in the River Camp.



**Chief Shabbona Historical
Sign Dedication Program**

**Chief Shabbona Forest
Preserve**

**July 12, 2014
11:00 P.M.**

Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve
Shabbona, IL DeKalb County

Opening Remarks

Terry Hannan, DeKalb County Forest Preserve Superintendent

Moment of Silence for Jim Potter, Tribal Council Secretary

Denny Sands

Recognition of Tribal Members

Denny Sands

Welcome to Guests by Tribal Council Vice Joyce Guerrero

Prairie Band Potawatomi

"Our Land" – How Important It is

Thomas M. Wabnum - Prairie Band Tribal Council Member

Who Is Chief Shabbona? Presented by

Ron Klein – Vice President of the DeKalb County Historical & Genealogical Society

Blessing of The Tribal Grounds Where The Sign is Located

Billy Matchie - Prairie Band Potawatomi

Reading – The Story of Chief Shabbona as printed on the Sign

Jim Cox, Sue Cox & Sue Kupecz - Shabbona-Lee Rollo Historical Society

Unveiling of the Sign

Prairie Band Potawatomi

Retreat to the Shelter House for Lunch

Catered by Fay's BBQ

Blessing for Lunch

Pastor Jim Allen, Shabbona United Church Of Christ

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for our lunch and refreshments. And deep appreciation to the DeKalb County Forest Preserve for our new sign and sponsoring this event.



History marker pays tribute to Chief Shabbona

Published: Saturday, July 12, 2014 4:43 p.m. CDT

SHABBONA – Joyce Guerrero was impressed.

"It's heartwarming to see the respectful way the land has been kept up," she said, adding that she will tell everyone she meets.

Guerrero, Tribal Council Vice President of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, was one of the main speakers at the Chief Shabbona Historical Sign dedication Saturday at the Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve south of Shabbona.

Other members of the tribal council who flew out from their reservation near Topeka, Kansas, to be part of the dedication were Thomas M. Wabnum and Billy Matchie, who officially blessed the site. The Prairie Band are the direct descendants of the Potawatomi Indians who lived in northern Illinois for hundreds of years until they were relocated by the U.S. government. Many in the Prairie Band are descendants of Chief Shabbona or his wife, Pokanoka.

More than 100 people attended the hour-long ceremony, which was held under a cluster of oak and black cherry trees in the turnaround on the far side of the forest preserve.

According to Terry Hannan, superintendent of the DeKalb County Forest Preserve, the Chief Shabbona Preserve, purchased in 1940, is one of the oldest of the county's 17 forest preserves. He said the new sign, which was constructed by local woodworker Daniel Josh, replaces one that has been in the park for years but had to be taken down because it had gotten dilapidated.

The sign gives a brief history of Chief Shabbona, a Native American of the Ottawa tribe who married into the Potawatomi tribe in southern DeKalb County in the early 19th century. Shabbona was a peacemaker who settled tribal squabbles among the Three Fires Nation of Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa and who worked for peaceful relationships between American Indians and white settlers.

Hannan said the county was simply going to replace the sign, but Denny Sands, former owner of Lakeside Bait & Tackle and Pokanoka's Cafe at Shabbona Lake State Park and a past member of the DeKalb County board, suggested they hold a formal ceremony instead.

"It was going to be 10 or 12 people over coffee," Hannan said.

The new sign features Shabbona's story on vinyl attached to aluminum and covered by Plexiglas in a wooden frame. It is about halfway down Park Road, a half-mile from the forest preserve's

shelter area.

Like Guerrero, other members of the Prairie Band tribal council remarked they were happy to see the land well cared for. Though the tribe hasn't lived in DeKalb County since the mid-1800s, they said they still have a "spiritual connection" to their ancestors' land.

Ron Klein, vice president of the DeKalb County Historical and Genealogical Society, read an excerpt from the 1915 book "The Indian Chief Shabbona" by Luther A. Hatch, which said Chief Shabbona was "built like a bear, but gentle as a woman." The 5-foot-9-inch, 200-pound chief was a friend to all, riding hours to warn settlers of planned Indian attacks to prevent bloodshed on both sides. He died and was buried in Morris in 1859, at the age of 84.

"He might have been a great man of the world if he had had the educational opportunity," Klein said.

Sands said there was a wonderful turnout by both members of the tribal council and the local community for the sign dedication. The ceremony was originally scheduled to take place on June 23, but had to be rescheduled after one of the main speakers, Tribal Council Secretary Jim Potter, was killed when his motorcycle collided with a deer on June 11.



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Government Center

July 29, 2014

Terry Hannan
DeKalb County Clerk and Recorder's Office
110 Sycamore St.
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Terry:

On behalf of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to you for your participation in the Chief Shabbona Historical Sign dedication at the Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve. The Tribal Council members in attendance were extremely pleased with the large number of people attending, despite the rain showers. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation people hold this land dear to our hearts and we are glad that there are many people from the Village, Town and County who also care about and are interested in the land and its history. We enjoy our friendly relationship with the people in Shabbona and DeKalb County and look forward to continuing it.

Meg wich!

Sincerely,

Joyce Guerrero
Vice-Chairperson
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation