

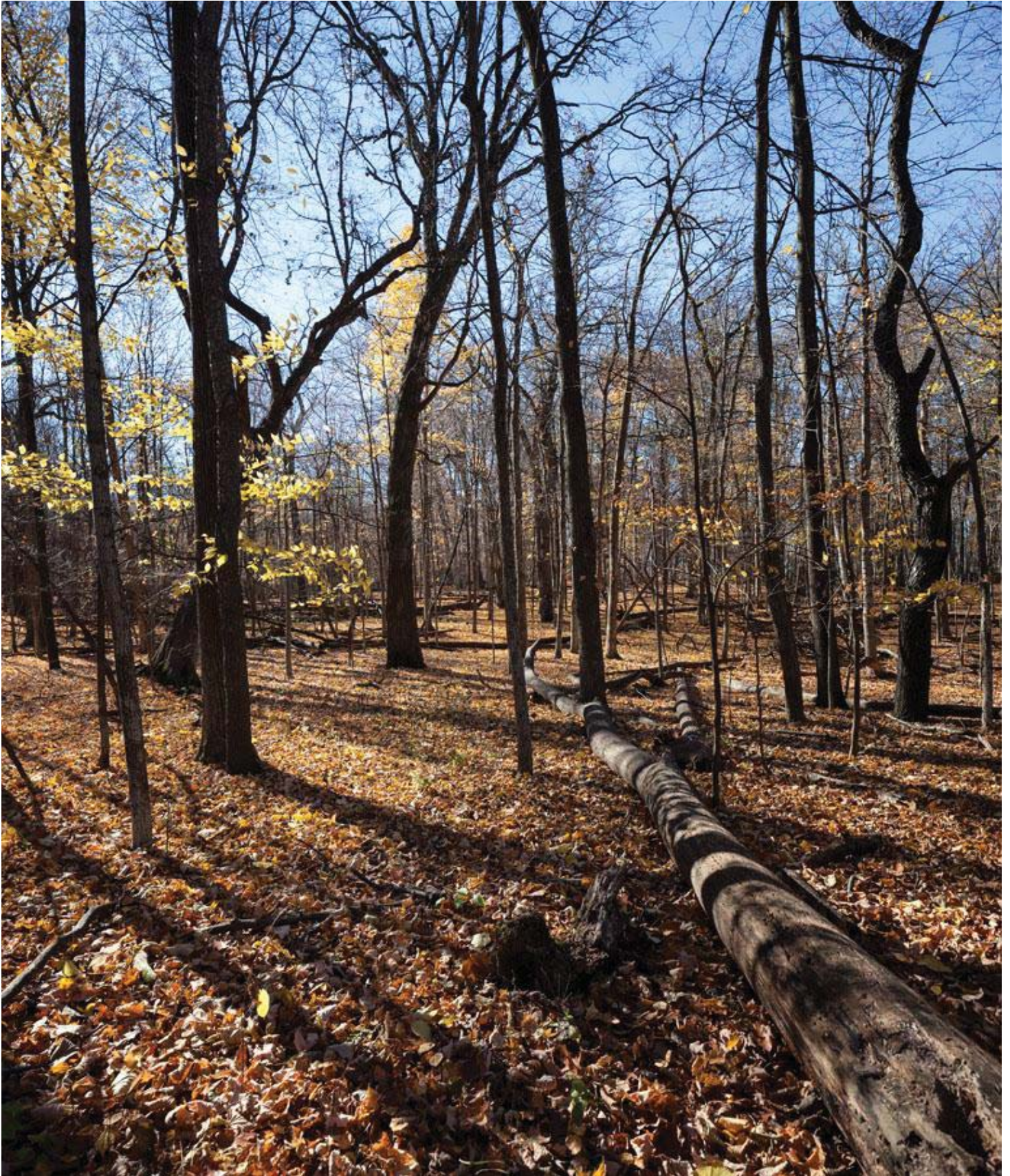
**November 2014.** Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting 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 Fall school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. 1835 Miller - Ellwood Cabin work will continue with windows, doors and floor and log wall work. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety tours this Summer and preparing for 2014 /2015 compliance. At Sannauk forest preserve many ash trees ( dead or dying from the Emerald Ash borer) posing safety hazards along roads, trails, picnic and playground areas were cut down. The wood will be kept on site for shelter house wood burning stove firewood. There will be more ash tree removal at other preserves. Other projects in 2014: Genoa to Russell Woods Trail, Thompson Road property clean up, water and electric upgrades and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Community Gardens.

Ash trees dead or dying from the Emerald Ash borer were removed from picnic and playground areas and along roads and trails at Sannauk forest preserve. The wood will be used for shelter house warming fires in wood burning stoves. This ash tree removal work will also be done at other preserves as needed. Dead ash trees in areas that are not a safety concern will be left as habitat for birds and animals. In 2015 and future years, FP staff and volunteers will plant acorns and other native northern Illinois trees to fill in areas where ash trees have died.



Tom Robbins is a local photographer who has many beautiful photos of scenery and wildlife in DeKalb County forest preserves ( see DeKalb County Facebook page). Below: Afton wetlands at sunrise and Knute Olson forest preserve on Thanksgiving Eve and the maple forest at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve.





Local birder and artist Peter Olson from DeKalb uses the forest preserves for some of his beautiful bird artwork. Peter has painted all months of the year illustrations, here are shown common December birds.



The Birds of Northern Illinois, December, Peter Olson



Another Tom Robbins photo: Great Horned Owl chicks on the nest at Wilkinson Marsh