

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

200 N. Main Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone 815-895-7191 www.dekalbcounty.org Fax 815-895-1686



DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

Spring 2014

Volunteer Opportunities

Sycamore Lions Club

Annual Great Western Trail Clean-up

Saturday, April 19th

8:00 a.m. – 10a.m.

Meet at Great Western Trail (west end) at Rt. 64 and Airport Rd. (just east of Doty Concrete Products)
1 mile east of Sycamore.

Kishwaukee Kiwanis Earth Day Event

Annual DeKalb/Sycamore Trail / County Farm Woods Clean-up

Saturday, April 19th

8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Meet along trail behind the Movie Theaters by WalMart
in DeKalb.

Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve

7535 Cherry Valley Rd. Kingston, Illinois

Volunteers welcome to join **N.I. U. CARES DAY**

Saturday April 12th

9a.m. to Noon

Wetland, Forest and Prairie restoration

Russell Woods Maple Syrup Day, Tree Identification & Forest Restoration Work

Russell Woods Forest Preserve 11750 State Rt. 72 Genoa, Illinois

Saturday, March 1st

9:00 a.m. Maple Syrup Program and Pancakes

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tree Identification and Forest Restoration

Meet at the Natural Resource Center.

Afton Forest Preserve Tree Planting

Saturday, April 26th 9 a. m. - Noon

13600 Crego Rd. DeKalb, 1 ½ miles south of Perry Rd.

Meet in Middle Parking Lot

At all events wear work clothes and gloves, dress for the weather.

All ages welcome to Volunteer.

Look for upcoming Summer and Fall volunteer opportunities:

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

110 East Sycamore Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone (815) 895-7191 www.dekalbcounty.org Fax (815) 895-1669

2013 SPRING BIRD MIGRATION WALK & TALK WITH PETER OLSON

Sunday, May 4th,

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh.

25855 Annie Glidden Rd., Clare, Illinois 60111

(Annie Glidden Rd. 1/4 mile north of Rt. 64)

West side of Road

Meet in parking lot

Sunday, May 11th

8a.m. to 10 p.m.

Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve

7535 Cherry Valley Rd., Kingston , Illinois 60145

Cherry Valley Rd., 1 mile west of Annie Glidden Rd.

South side of Road

Meet in parking lot

Avid birder and acclaimed bird artist Peter Olson will lead groups to learn about bird identification, bird songs and their habitat.

Bring binoculars, a bird field guide and sturdy footwear for hiking.

All ages are welcome!

January 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 winter and spring shelter house rentals and sledding hill warming fires. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review went well and preparing for 2014 compliance. Natural Resource Center library and electrical improvements in progress. Heavy winter snows and drifting snow have forest preserve staff snow plowing roads and parking lots for a variety of winter visitors . Winterfest 2014 photos and report below.



Winterfest 2014 was a huge success. We offer this winter event each year as an opportunity for families, groups, and individuals to get out and explore their forest preserve, have some fun together making crafts, recreating, and most importantly learning something together. The event is offered free of charge and if people want to stay all day there is food for purchase from our local Prairie Gems 4-H club out of Genoa. This event, as well as the upcoming Maple Fest on Saturday March 1st is fund raising activities for the club.

This year we had rope making, candle dipping, two make and take crafts, and a carver who was carving a bird. He showed people the tools and discussed this art form. We also had bird identification, nature awareness, tracking, and two winter ecology hikes which I led myself. The first hike at 10:00 a.m. had over 40 people in attendance!

The Nielsen Belgium horses and wagon were back this year and as always were a huge hit. People could get on and ride through the scenic forest preserve on the wagon. It was beautiful with the snow coming down from 9:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. The horse drawn wagon was also helpful for those parking way down at the other end of the park as they could hitch a ride to the event and back to their car.

For the annual reading of *The Mitten* by Jan Brett I was pleased to sit in the newly renovated Little Seeds Library that is located in the Natural Resource Education Center. I finished the painting the day before and it was great to have a pile of children and puppets for the annual reading. (Pictures included)

In the end we had two staff, three volunteer presenters, seven volunteers (two of which were new Master Naturalists) helping to keep order and assist visitors, and over 150 people. I feel we served the community well.

Hope to see you at Maple Syrup Fest on Saturday, March 1 at Russell Woods, Peggy Doty



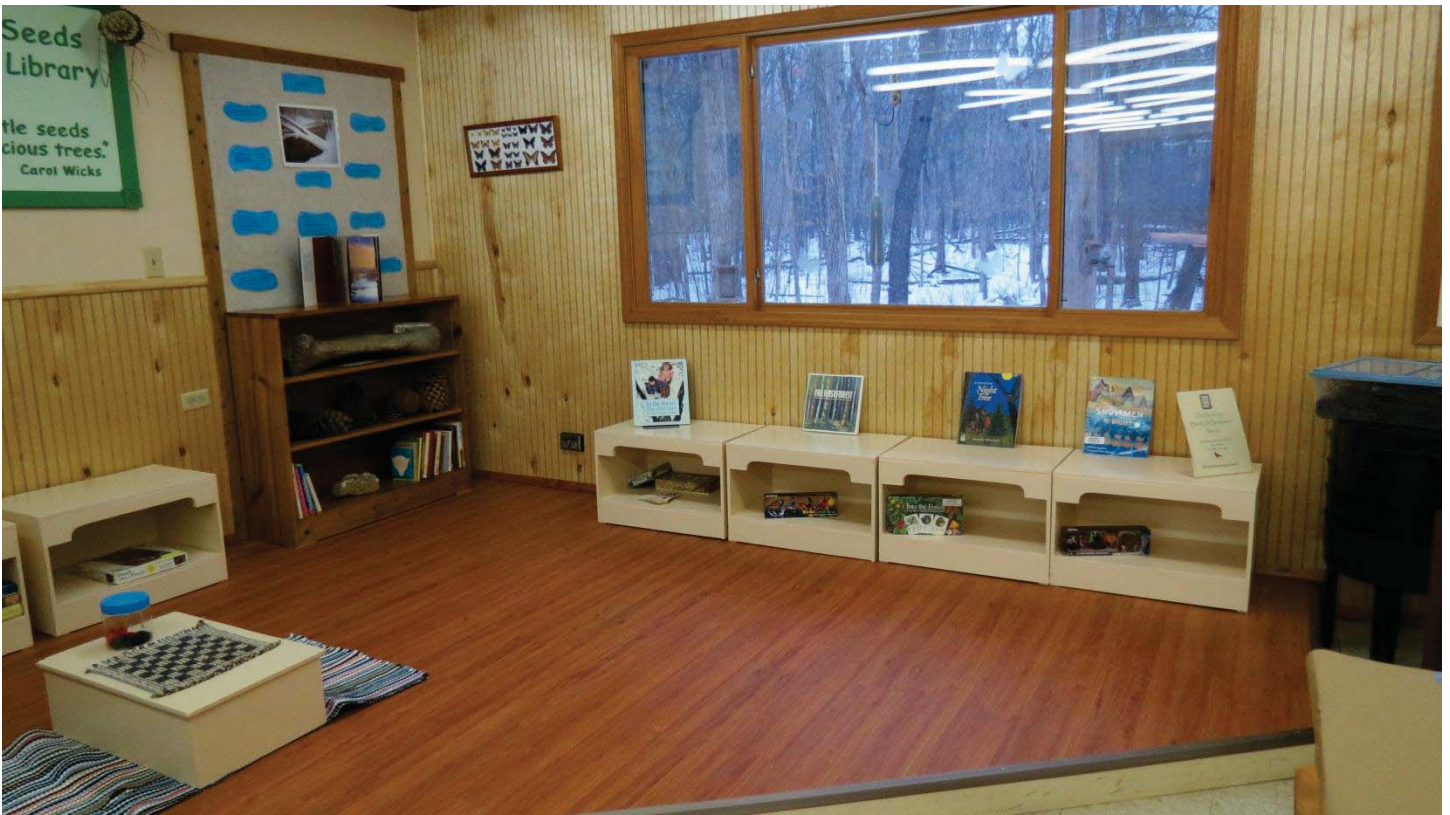




Sledding Hills at Russell Woods and Sannauk Forest Preserves enjoyed by many visitors this 2013 -2014



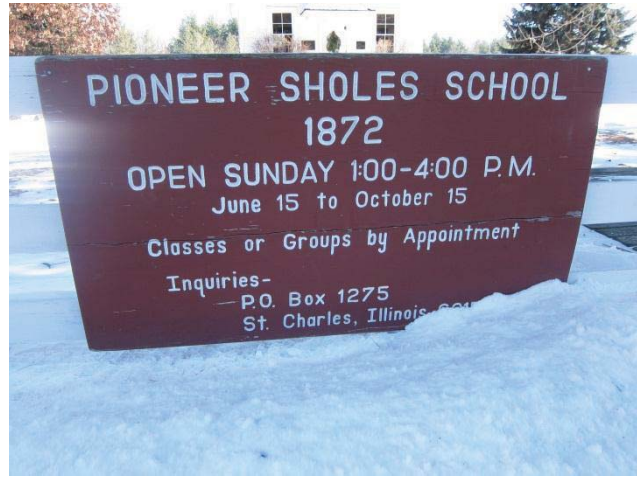
***Nature Library at the Natural Resource Center
was remodeled by forest preserve staff***





The Genoa Ney Grange is interested in moving the Pleasant Hill School House (above) about 1 mile to the Hoppe Heritage Farmstead. If this building is structurally sound this may be a possibility. Other forest preserve districts in Illinois have done similar projects like this for educational opportunities and historical preservation. Below is the 1872 Pioneer Sholes School moved to LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in Kane County. When the Hoppe sisters agreed to sell part of their land to the Forest Preserve District, restoring Illinois prairie habitat and preserving local history was envisioned on their land. The 1834 Miller - Ellwood cabin was moved to and is being restored at the Hoppe Heritage Farmstead.





PIONEER SHOALS SCHOOL

1872

OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00 P.M.

June 15 to October 15

Classes or Groups by Appointment

Inquiries -

P.O. Box 1275

St. Charles, Illinois 62276



“Sun Dogs” a reflection of sunlight off the ice crystals in the clouds. It's a common atmospheric phenomenon in the Arctic, but in DeKalb County lately it isn't all that different from the Arctic. This photo was taken in DeKalb County one bitterly cold January morning.



Cross –country skiers enjoy the trails at Afton and other forest preserves