



Saturday, January 18, 2014

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Russell Woods Forest Preserve on Route 72 (1 mile West of Genoa)

Winterfest is FREE, so come for one activity or come for the entire day. We are celebrating the season of winter, whether there is snow or not and look forward to sharing the day with your family.

Events:

9:00 am - Indoor *Birding 101* at the bird feeding window.

10:00 am - Family hike in the woods followed by a scenic winter ride through the forest preserve on a horse drawn wagon.

10:00 am to noon - Staff members and volunteers will help guests make homemade candles, as well as other crafts for children to make and take all day.

2:00 pm - Peggy Doty will do the annual reading of "The Mitten" by Jan Brett.

3:30 pm - Join us for a family hike in the woods.

The local Prairie Gems 4-H club will be offering lunch and snack items for sale.

Winterfest is a chance for families to appreciate the season together.

For more information on this event,
call the Natural Resource Education Center at (815) 784-2000
or visit our Extension website at web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo.



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EXTENSION

investing in You

December 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 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 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 . 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. Winter snows have forest preserve staff snow plowing roads and parking lots for a variety of winter visitors (see photos below)



Winter visitors at Merritt Prairie..... hiking, dog walking, and cross country skiing



The 1930 Pierce Town Hall was moved 4 miles from the old location on Perry and Somonauk Rd. to Merritt Prairie in Pierce Township. This piece of local history was preserved and restored.



Winter birds: The Northern Cardinal , a year 'round resident in Forest Preserves and a rare Snowy Owl. Nathan Schwartz took this photo of the Snowy Owl taken on Cherry Valley Rd. near Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve. Another Snowy Owl was seen this winter at Afton Forest Preserve and another on Derby Line Rd. east of Genoa. In years with low Lemming food sources up north, Snowy Owls venture further south in search of food, mostly small mammals like mice, voles, and rabbits.





Somonauk Creek flowing through Sannauk Forest Preserve

On this winter hike along Somonauk Creek there were 4 Red Tailed Hawks, a Belted Kingfisher, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Tree Sparrows, Juncos, Canvasback Ducks, Crows and what looked like River Otter tracks.



Sledding at Sannauk and Russell Woods Forest Preserves



Forest Preserve shelter houses at MacQueen, Russell Woods, Chief Shabbona and Sannauk are used every weekend throughout the year



Snowmobiling on the Great Western Trail

December 27, 2013

Terry Hannan
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
110 E. Sycamore Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Re: 2013 Loss Control Award

Dear Terry:

I am pleased to inform you that we continue to acknowledge your agency's loss prevention efforts with a **Level C - \$500 cash award**. Our award recognition program now includes small plates to affix to the larger plaque PDRMA has provided your agency.

Enclosed is the Level C – award check, which we hope you will use to strengthen your agency's loss control program.

Please share this correspondence with your Safety Coordinator, Safety Committee, and all others involved in your loss control program.

Sincerely,



Dane Mall, MPA, AIC, ARM
Risk Management Services Manager

Enclosure

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