

**April 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 Spring field trips and 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. 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 property clean up and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Community Gardens, repair rough places on asphalt on Peace Road Trail and Wilkinson Marsh Trail and Nehring shelter house roof replacment. Annual "Hustle at Russell" had 200 runners partcipate in the 5k run at Russell Woods. Below : new Chief Shabbona History sign ( with help from Denny Sands and Shabbona history group) will be installed soon at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve.**





# CHIEF SHABBONA HISTORY





It was in 1775, one year before the American Revolution that an Indian boy was born near the banks of the Kankakee River. A boy who would grow up to befriend the new nation's people. His Ottawa parents named him "Shab-eh-nay" (Shabbona), which means "Built like a Bear". And true to his name, he grew up to be a muscular 200 lbs., standing 5' 9" tall.

Around 1800, Shab-eh-nay was part of an Ottawa hunting party that wandered into a Potawatomi camp near the southern shore of Lake Michigan. All of the Ottawa returned to their own village, except Shab-eh-nay, who stayed through the winter.

Within a year he married Pa-kwuk-no-quah (Pokanoka), daughter of Spotka, Chief of the Potawatomi. His band grew crops such as corn and beans, and hunting animals from deer to prairie chickens. Shab-eh-nay and the Potawatomi lived peacefully on their ancestral homeland.

Shab-eh-nay fought with the British against the Americans in the War of 1812. He was second in command to Tecumseh. When Tecumseh was killed, Shab-eh-nay made a vow that if he were to escape death or capture; he would seek a path of peace – which he did faithfully for the rest of his life.

Shab-eh-nay returned to his Potawatomi village, located in Southern DeKalb County. Shortly thereafter Chief Spotka died, and Shab-eh-nay was elected Chief, not only because of his marriage to Spotka's daughter, but because of his leadership, courage and diplomacy. He also became a peace chief for the "Three Fires Nation", a group including Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa, deciding questions of tribal law and settling squabbles between Indians and the settlers.

Shab-eh-nay was interested in the welfare of both Indians and settlers. The newcomers taught him how to grow better crops and Shab-eh-nay shared his knowledge of nature – especially the medicinal powers of plants.

In 1827, the Winnebago planned an attack on the frontier village of Chicago; Shab-eh-nay rode to Fort Chicago to warn the white men. In 1832, he made a heroic ride when Blackhawk planned a raid to reclaim Indian land. The 54 year old Potawatomi Chief rode 48 hours to warn settlers through unmapped forest and vast prairies to prevent bloodshed of both settlers and Indians.

In gratitude for his peacemaking efforts, the United States, in Article III of the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, reserved 1,280 acres of land for Chief Shab-eh-nay and his Band. These lands were historically occupied by the Potawatomi in what is now DeKalb County, Illinois. All other Native Americans were forced to go west of the Mississippi.

On this reserved Tribal land, which includes the site of this sign, the Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve, the Shabbona Lake State Park, and nearby Village of Shabbona (which all bear his name), Shab-eh-nay and his family lived from 1836-1845. But, because Shab-eh-nay made trips west of the Mississippi to visit relatives, the land was declared forfeited and sold to settlers in 1849.

The Chief felt deeply betrayed when he returned to discover his land sold. For 7 years he wandered with his family until a 20 acre tract was bought and given to him by supportive settlers near Morris. Although a cabin was erected for him there, he preferred to eat and sleep beneath the big sky under the watchful eye of the "Great Spirit".

Shab-eh-nay died in 1859 and is buried alongside his wife, Pa-kwuk-no-quah at Evergreen Cemetery in Morris.

Figure 14 The woodland Potawatomi made their homes in wigwams made with poles covered with skins and bark.

Pa-kwuk-no-quah



Prairie burns were done at the South Branch Prairie, Afton, Merritt Prairie, Prairie Oaks and Potawatomi Woods





Woodland burns were completed at Knute Olson, County Farm Woods and Prairie Oaks





N.I.U. Cares Day volunteer project with land Stewards ....native plant garden, rain garden at Natural Resource Center







Sycamore Lions Club annual clean - up of 3 miles of Great Western Trail..... 99.9 % of the litter is from cars and trucks along Rt. 64.

Below: Kishwaukee Kiwanis volunteers picked up litter along the DeKalb / Sycamore Trail, most of this trash is from the nearby Movie Theater, Walmart and shopping center.

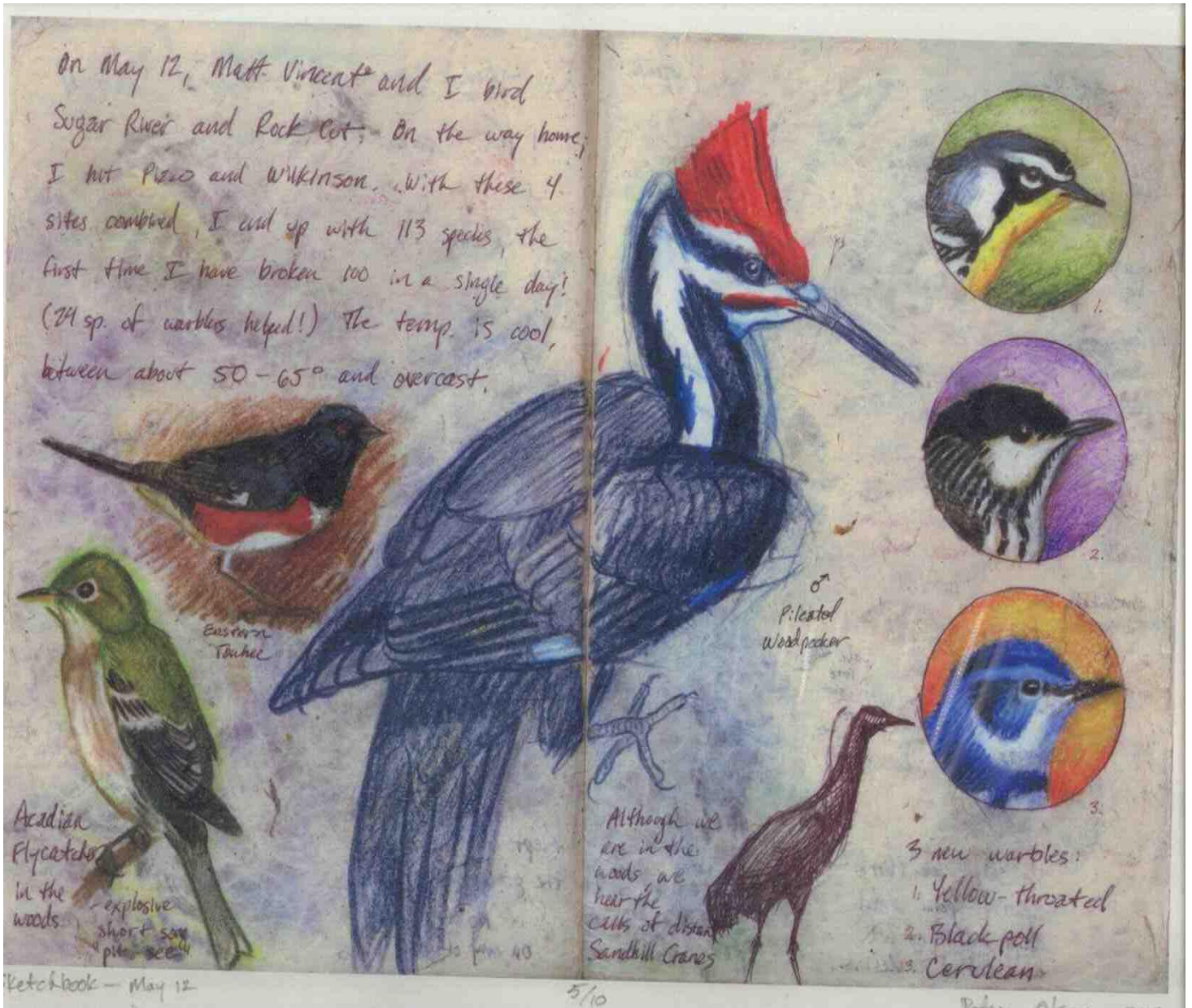




Volunteers from Bio-Life plant Redbuds trees at Nehring Forest Preserve







Large “crow-sized” Pileated Woodpecker observed at MacQueen Forest Preserve this Spring . These big woodpeckers were reported at Chief Shabbona, Russell Woods and Prairie Oaks in the last year.



## 2014 Russell Hustle 5K Trail Run

Genoa, Illinois  
Saturday, April 12, 2014 9:00 AM (Central Daylight Time)



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### Questions? Contact the Administrator

Contact: Ross Bubolz  
Phone: 815-895-5215  
Email: [Click here to email the Administrator](#)  
Website: <http://www.stmarysycamore.org/index.php?m=73>

### About This Event

DeKalb County's 3rd Annual Trail Run in its premier Forest Preserve. Winding through native growth timber on wide trails and single track as well as on prairie trail along the Kishwaukee River. Some trails are rustic and with steep inclines to test your mettle! And maybe some mud! We will run, rain or shine. The 2K Run/Walk also travels through the woods on the main lane; flat and even, but still beautiful. We will have a water stop at the half way point of both races and at end.

### Day of Event Registration/Package Pickup Open

7:30-8:30AM

### 5K Start

9:00AM

### 2K Start

10:00AM

### Early Packet Pickup

10:00AM -4PM Friday, April 11 at St. Mary's School 222 Waterman St., Sycamore

### Travel Information for Race

Russell Woods is located just west of Genoa, IL on Illinois Route 72 (Higgins Road) located about 15 miles north of DeKalb, 20 miles SE of Rockford, 25 West of Elgin. GPS Coordinates are 42.094974, -88.717353

### Parking at Genoa Kingston High School

Parking is at the High School located directly in front of Russell Woods at 980 Park Avenue, Genoa (Illinois Route 72)