

October 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 classroom visits. 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 and preserve safety tours this Summer and preparing for 2014 /2015 compliance. At Sannauk forest preserve, the annual Halloween fundraiser by Sandwich High School Music Department was held. 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.

Bicycle air pump and sign at Great Western Trail donated by North Central Cyclery in DeKalb



The 1835 Miller - Ellwood cabin is a work in progress

The new oak logs that filled in places in the walls where the original logs were cut out will weather gray to match the old logs. The new oak logs were hand adzed to match the old logs. The spaces between the logs will be chinked to fill in gaps.

Oak plank doors and floors will be worked on this winter. The windows in the cabin are temporary to keep weather out. Old looking windows will be put in window frames and window frames will weather to a gray color . The oak beams in cabin will be hand adzed to look old. The concrete pad that the boulder and plaque is on will be hidden with field stone and limestone like the foundation wall under the logs. Thank you to the Forest Preserve Commissioners and citizens of DeKalb County for their support in preserving land in DeKalb County. Thank you Hoppe family for working with the Forest Preserve District in preserving the beautiful land that is now the Hoppe Heritage Farmstead, 1835 Miller - Ellwood cabin and South Branch Prairie. Thanks to Tim Kilby our advisor and log cabin restoration expert, forest preserve staff and volunteers who worked on this project and donations from J. Ellwood Towle, DeKalb County Community Foundation, the Nicholson family, Kishwaukee Sunrise Rotary, John and Jane Ovitz, Ney Grange and other donors.



2014 8th annual "Jeff's Trees" family and friends plant trees at Afton



Eight years ago...first annual "Jeff's Tree's" planting at Potawatomi Woods

Maple trees in fall colors at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve



If weather conditions are favorable, Fall burn management will take place at certain preserves. Pictured is an oak savannah burn at Prairie Oaks forest preserve

