

August 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. Other projects planned for 2014: Genoa to Russell Woods Trail, Thompson Road property clean up, water and electric upgrades and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Community Gardens. **Other projects, programs and events shown below:**

Prairie Oaks forest preserve entrance trail, and prairie restoration.



Pete Peters, Dennis O'Brien and Jolie Krasinski from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation toured Prairie Oaks forest preserve to observe and talk about forest, oak savannah, prairie and wetland restoration work and other land improvements over the past 3 years. The Forest Preserve District was awarded a \$200,000 grant from I.C.E.C.F. to preserve this beautiful area for public enjoyment environmental education and plant and wildlife habitat. Thank you to the citizens of DeKalb County, Neighbors for Open Space, Clean Air and Water, I.C.E.C.F., The Conservation Foundation, Tom and Karen Sparks, DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Commissioners, staff and volunteers who all helped preserve and restore Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve.



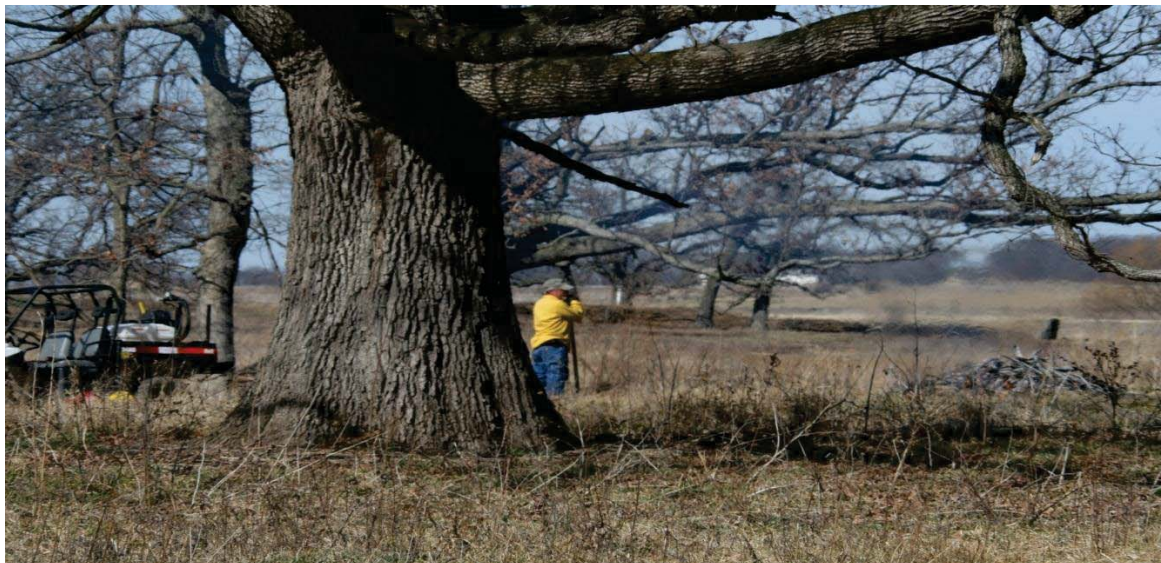
Natural Resource Manager Al Roloff talks about the land management practices at Prairie Oaks to I.C.E.C.F. members and the volunteer Land Stewards

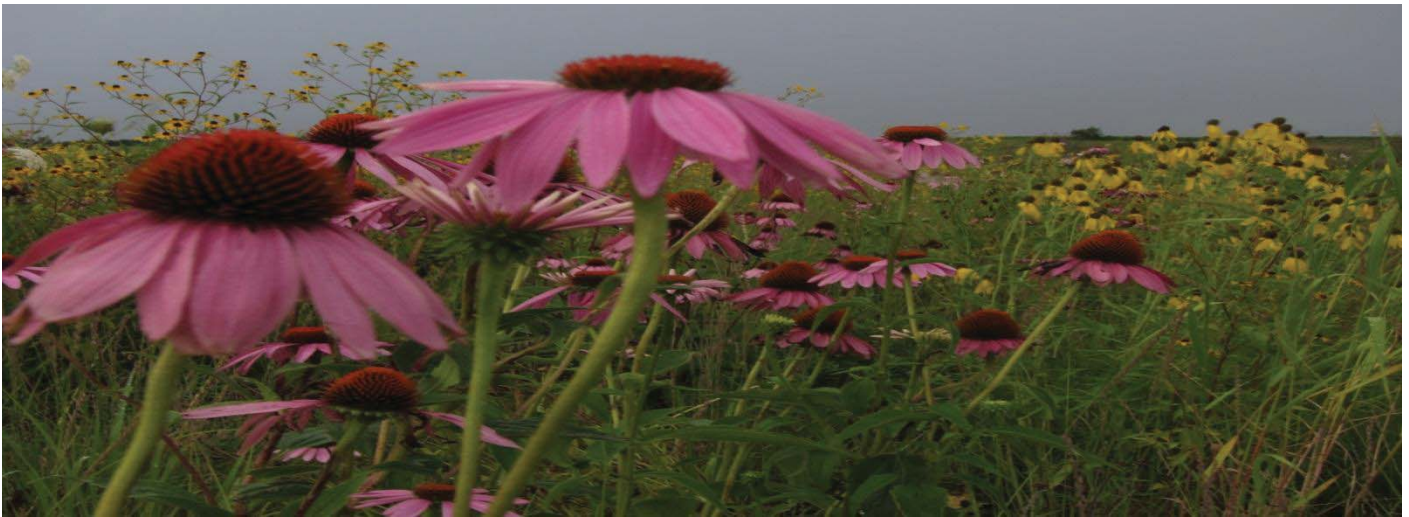


..... and a nice picnic lunch



Photos below show some of the work and results at Prairie Oaks forest preserve land restoration





These 2 photos at Prairie Oaks from photographer and volunteer Land Steward Tom Robbins



These photos from volunteer Land Steward Ron Cress





**Public Star Party
September 13, 2014
Afton Forest Preserve**



The Northwest Suburban Astronomers (NSA), in cooperation with the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District, will be hosting a public star party on Saturday, September 13th at Afton Forest Preserve (north entrance) in DeKalb County, Illinois. Look at stars, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters with the help of NSA member telescopes. Observing highlights will be the planets Mars and Saturn (early in the evening), globular clusters M15 and M22, open cluster M11, the Swan Nebula (M17), the Lagoon Nebula (M8) and the Andromeda Galaxy (M31) (late in the evening) among others. A waning gibbous moon will rise at 10:08 p.m. CDT.

Dress for a chilly evening and bring a flashlight covered with red plastic or cellophane (red light preserves your night vision), also insect repellent if needed. Please arrive around 7:30 p.m. (sunset is at 7:08 p.m. CDT) or come early and picnic or hike the trails. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars. In the event of inclement weather the event will be canceled. There is no cost to attend and no registration is required.

Afton Forest Preserve is located at 13600 Crego Road, DeKalb, Illinois (approximately 1 mile east of Illinois Route 23 and 1 mile south of Perry Road). Please park in the main parking lot and walk to the west where we will be set up.

<http://www.dekalbcounty.org/ForestPreserve/>
<http://www.nsaclub.org/>

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