

March 2017. 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, drinking water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2016 compliance.



This photo was taken at Potawatomi Woods forest preserve in March

Superbly camouflaged against the leaf litter, the brown-mottled **American Woodcock** walks slowly along the forest floor, probing the soil with its long bill in search of earthworms. This plump little shorebird lives in forests and shrubby old fields across eastern North America. Its cryptic plumage and low-profile behavior make it hard to find except in the springtime at dawn or dusk, when the males show off for females by giving loud, nasal buzzing and “*peent*” calls and performing dazzling aerial displays.

Thousands of Sandhill Cranes migrate over DeKalb County every Spring and Fall and stop by forest preserves to rest and feed (hopefully nest as well)pictured below are the very rare endangered Whooping Cranes flying over the South Branch Prairie



Forest Preserve maintenance staff Bob K. and more of his chainsaw “stump art” sculptures at Sycamore Forest Preserve



Cortland Volunteer Fire Dept. sponsored a Grassland Fire Training class at Merritt Prairie



Norm Schaeffer from DeKalb passed along this 1931 Chronicle news article about discussions to create a Forest Preserve District. Nice to know that 86 years ago people were thinking about preserving land for future generations to enjoy our local natural environments. DeKalb County has many beautiful forest preserves today because of their work and vision.....

WANT FOREST PRESERVES IN DEKALB COUNTY

Preliminary Meeting is Held at
Sycamore to Discuss Plans
for Preserves

1931

MASS MEETING SEPT 15TH

A meeting will be held at the court house at Sycamore Tuesday, September 15, to discuss plans for securing a Forest Preserve in this county.

A preliminary meeting was held at Sycamore recently and according to reports receive from various parts of the county there is a strong sentiment for a Forest Preserve here. E. G. Clarke of DeKalb was elected chairman at the preliminary meeting and Ronald Henrekin, secretary of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, was chosen secretary.

Ira Wetzal, president of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, in addressing the meeting pointed out that:

"In the past ten years about half of the virgin timber in the county has been cut down and the land put to cultivation. In another ten years, the county faced almost entire loss of wooded land.

"At the present time forest land can be purchased at almost its lowest figure. Timber is being cut off every year, and if the county ever plans to preserve a shaded picnic ground area and woodland for the future generation it is time to act now."

Chairman Clarke added, "DeKalb county farmers are not working their timber lands intensively and the creating of a Forest Preserve organization would enable them to dispose of the land either as a gift or as a sale, and so relieve themselves of the taxes. At present there is no organization in the county to whom such

(Continued on Page 4)

WANT FOREST PRESERVES IN DEKALB COUNTY

(Continued from first page)

land could even be given."

Several possibilities for a forest preserve are to be had in the county. Tracts of land near Kirkland, around the Boy Scout camp were mentioned and also wooded land along the Somonauk creek, and Little Rock creek.

Secretary Henrekin will conduct a survey to find out where the wooded land in DeKalb county is located. Maps of the county will be sent out to supervisors or other representative citizens in the various townships who will return them marked with the location of woodland in their respective township, together with the acreage. E. J. Raymond, DeKalb

Chronicle publisher, was made chairman of the publicity committee.

Tuesday, September 15, a big mass meeting will be held in Sycamore of all who are interested in the forest preserve work, and at that time it is expected to have officials of the Winnebago forest preserve in Sycamore to speak.

Forest preserves have become quite the thing in neighboring counties. Winnebago county has 1116 acres, Kane county has 310 acres and Du Page county has 1046 acres of forest preserves.

Summer Camps will be offered again at Russell Woods Forest Preserve

SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION FORM			
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SEX (M or F)	AGE
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME		PHONE (Home)	
EMAIL ADDRESS		PHONE (Work or Cell)	
CAMP WEEKS - CHECK ONE OR MORE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 19-23	Native American Camp	
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 26-30	Cold-Blooded Camp	
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 10-14	Naturalist Camp	
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 17-21	Magnificent Mammals Camp	
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 31-Aug 4	Rockin' in the River Camp	
Please pay \$120 for each week your child will be attending camp. Make checks payable to the DeKalb County Forest Preserve with the initials NREC in the memo space. Fill out form, detach, and mail with payment to: University of Illinois Extension - DeKalb County 1350 West Prairie Drive, Sycamore, IL 60178 <i>We are excited for another summer of learning!</i> If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact our office at least one week prior to the event.			

University of Illinois Extension

Camp Russell



Russell Woods Forest Preserve
(One mile west of Genoa on Rt. 72)

Volunteers in our Forest Preserves plant trees, pick up litter along trails, help with forest, prairie, wetland restorations and other wonderful work....Thank you !



March 2017-Completed Project List-Josh Clark & Staff Central and Southern Forest Preserves

1. Clean and organize barns and shop areas at Sannauk, Afton and Shabbona.
2. Equipment prep for the spring season.
3. Installed new information boards at Afton (Parking lot #3).
4. Prepared Afton future greenhouse site for water line installation.
5. Cleared trail edges at Sannauk near the corner where the future trail connection to Somonauk will come into the preserve.
6. Continued cleaning up overgrown areas along roads and near parking lots at Afton. We are cleaning up these areas to improve visitor experience and improve sightlines throughout the park.
7. Started the digging, separating and potting plants into plug trays for planting in the summer.
8. Cleaned and prepared backpack sprayers for weed season.
9. Prescribed fires took up a large portion of March. Good weather continued and were able to continue the spring fire season. The foamer units in the UTV's are a great asset. Details in AI's Natural Resource Report.