

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2022



**Planting for
Small Spaces**

Which Insect Is It?

Spring Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



Spring has sprung at the Forest Preserve District, and we're offering a great lineup of programs to celebrate! To begin with, our popular native plant sale is back at Mayslake Peabody Estate, this time in-person and with a new ticketed presale event on May 12 hosted by the Friends of the Forest Preserve District. If you want a head start on your plant shopping, I recommend you sign up for the presale event at dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale.

Speaking of Mayslake, this year we'll begin exterior renovations at historic Mayslake Hall, which will receive a major facelift. I'm also excited to share we've received a \$750,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help with this important renovation. The mansion but not the preserve will be closed to the public starting May 31, but we'll have a full lineup of programs for the reopening in 2023.

This spring, work will also begin on two bridges at Hidden Lake. The bridge on the south side of Round Meadow Lake will be replaced, and the bridge across the East Branch DuPage River, which dates back to the 1870s, will be removed, refurbished off-site, and reinstalled. Both bridges should be in place by fall. During construction, there will not be access to Eagle Lake, but most of the Round Meadow Lake Trail will be accessible.

Throughout DuPage, residents will see projects and restorations, and I ask for your understanding and patience as we continue to reinvest for future generations. Many of these projects take time, which we understand can affect visitors, but our team will work hard to limit disturbances and minimize negative effects wherever possible. I hope you'll agree the positive long-term benefits will far outweigh any temporary inconveniences.

As president, I'm always available to answer any questions or concerns, and you can reach me at dhebreard@dupageforest.org.

I'll see you on the trails!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Daniel Hebreard, Woodridge

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BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2022, Vol. 59, No. 2



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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dupageforest.org

The Conservationist is a quarterly publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Subscriptions are free for DuPage County residents and \$5 per year for nonresidents. To subscribe or unsubscribe, call 630-933-7085 or email forest@dupageforest.org. You can also read this and previous issues 24/7 at dupageforest.org. To receive an email when each new issue is available online, email forest@dupageforest.org.



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On the cover: Eastern tiger swallowtail by Sam Ray/Shutterstock.com



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OUR *Mission*

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens



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news & notes

MAYSLAKE HALL TEMPORARILY CLOSING FOR MAJOR EXTERIOR RESTORATION

Historic Mayslake Hall in Oak Brook will close for up to a year beginning May 31 for a major exterior improvement project. The certified master plan project will repair structural deficiencies and other problems with the roof, masonry, wood, stucco, windows, doors, and foundation. It will also improve drainage and accessibility.

A \$750,000 capital grant from the Public Museum Capital Grants Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Museum will help pay for the renovations. The Tudor Revival-style mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the last remaining examples of the country estates that dotted DuPage between 1880 and 1924.

Although the 100-year-old mansion will temporarily close starting May 31, the surrounding forest preserve will remain open. First Folio Theatre will have a 2022 – 2023 season at the estate but one built around the construction schedule.

The Forest Preserve District is already planning new exhibits and programs for Mayslake Hall's reopening in 2023, including an exhibit of Joel Sheesley's paintings of the West Branch DuPage River.



LIVE and on Demand

Can't make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under "Our Board." You can also link directly to live streaming video from the Forest Preserve District's Facebook page at facebook.com/dupageforest.

Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.

COLLECTIONS Corner

Over an extensive history of habitation, animals and humans have left traces of their existence in forest preserves across the county, and the Forest Preserve District is partnering with institutions, including the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, to advance the management of these significant finds.

An anthropology major with North Central College is inventorying the District's collection at the college's archaeology lab. When completed, the catalog will allow the District to better track and share artifacts with researchers for display or study, such as pieces currently on display through June 5 as part of the *People of the Prairie: 12,000 Years in DuPage County* exhibit at the Elmhurst History Museum.

Although artifact loans are a great start, future elements may include online exhibits and hands-on experiences to further connect DuPage residents to the land and its rich past.





MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. To learn how your financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforest.org/friends. To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

Joel Herning
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
DuPage Birding Club
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Howard Goldstein and Margaret McGrath
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Ellen Alekno Wier
\$8,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Anonymous (2)
\$5,500 – Greatest needs
G. Carl Ball Family Foundation
\$5,000 – Greatest needs
Larry Larson
\$3,000 – Greatest needs, Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle, Volunteer Services
Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation
\$3,000 – Danada Equestrian Center
Ranch Spur Charitable Trust
\$2,500 – Greatest needs
Harold and Mary Bamford III
\$2,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Elaine Novak Jans
\$2,000 – Greatest needs
Michael and Diane Webb
\$2,000 – Mayslake Peabody Estate restoration, Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Seth Becker and Helen Nam
\$1,605 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Carol Hughes
\$1,500 – Greatest needs
David Light
\$1500 – Greatest needs, Kline Creek Farm
Susan Carr
\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
James and Valerie Carroll
\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
David & Claudia D’Hooge
\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Domtar Paper Company
\$1,000 – Greatest needs
David Ginther
\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Judith Grey
\$1000 – Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle, Green Energy Endowment, Natural Resources habitat restoration
Mary Ann Mahoney
\$1,000 – Greatest needs
Carol McGee
\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Coral Baran
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Michael Firman and Marilyn Schweitzer
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle
Corryn Greenwood
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Chaney Kalinich
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center in memory of Daniel Motel

Denise Kennedy
\$500 – Preserve improvements in memory of James Kennedy
Tim Letizia
\$500 – Greatest needs
Francine Manilow
\$500 – Preserve improvements
Elaine McCluskey
\$500 – Greatest needs
Carol O’Neal
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
John and Gloria Page
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Pat Pappas
\$500 – Fullersburg Woods
Edmond Pereira
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Allison Riley
\$500 – Greatest needs
John Schofield
\$500 – Greatest needs
Alex Schut
\$600 – Greatest needs
John and Marion Tableriou
\$500 – Greatest needs
Heather and Mark Yeager
\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Douglas Zimmer
\$500 – Mayslake Peabody Estate

**FOR MORE NEWS & NOTES
SEE PAGE 19.**



◀ Spreading natives like wild geranium provide colorful fillers for any container garden.

Planting for Small Spaces

by **JENNY KAMM**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

As someone who loves to plant flowers and grasses but has little backyard space, I've learned to become a fan of container gardening. It might seem that these constraints would rule out enjoying the benefits of native perennials, but it's quite the contrary.

Native plants are one of the best things for any garden, even one in a container. They require fewer herbicides and pesticides than nonnatives, making them easier to maintain. They're cost-effective, too, because they return year after year, a fact that offsets any extra investments made up front. Aesthetically, they create a beautiful homage to the bountiful prairie lands that once dominated this region.

When considering this type of garden, the container is the most important part. Fortunately, you don't have to break the bank or reinvent the wheel to find the right one; you just need to keep two things in mind. First, any pot you use should have

drainage holes, be deep enough for long native roots, and be wide enough for growth. If a pot's deep and wide enough but lacks drainage holes, simply add a few yourself. You can also promote healthy drainage by placing rocks at the bottom so the roots don't get soggy in standing water.

Second, give thought to the material of the container, especially if you plan on moving it. Wood or porous clay pots can be attractive, but metal or plastic ones are usually more durable and weigh much less. To further reduce weight you can displace some of the soil with artificial fillers, such as cut-up pool noodles or empty water bottles. Fill the bottom quarter of your container with these items and then lay a sheet of landscaping cloth on top before adding the soil. And don't be afraid to get creative. Last spring I turned a 30-year-old wheelbarrow into a bed for shallow natives!

Selecting what soils or other elements you'll use to fill your

pot is next. Check your plant label for soil needs. Soil compacts over time so a mixture is a good option for container planting. For instance, if a plant requires sandy soil, add coarse builder's sand into the mix. In any case, avoid peat; it breaks down into carbon dioxide and water, not ideal conditions for plants.

And a word about fertilizer. Fertilizers aren't always necessary with native plants but can be helpful if natives are mixed in with annuals. Too much fertilizer, though, can kill a plant.

When it's time to water, you don't need a set schedule. Rain will take care of a lot of your needs, but plants do lose moisture on windy or hot days. To check the moisture level, stick a finger about 2 inches into the soil. If it's dry, you may need to water, but make sure you water the container thoroughly so all the plants get an even amount. For the best outcome, combine plants that like similar moisture levels. If you notice the leaves begin to droop or yellow, it's a sign the roots may be rotting and you're likely overwatering.

When it's time to start selecting plants, you'll need to assess how much light your garden will receive. Fortunately, an inexpensive light meter can help. As with moisture, it's best to calculate how much sun a spot will receive and then use plants with similar light requirements.

You'll also need to plan around the height and spread of plants when they're mature. After all, it takes about three years for plants to reach their maximum size. In addition to envisioning how plants will fill in, don't forget vertical growth. In some cases you may want to consider investing in a trellis or lattice to support taller individuals.

One way to select natives is to use the matrix planting technique: Plant a sprawling ground cover, and pepper in some taller plants to add dimension. At the center or "back" of the pot, bunch in some native grasses to add texture and height.

Another planting technique is to incorporate a "spiller," a "filler," and a "thriller." Low-growing spillers drape over the side of the pot. River oats is an attractive spiller because its seedpods bow down in delicate arches. Fillers take up the space between spillers and thrillers. They're low to medium growers that form nice clusters of vegetation. Wild geranium is an effective filler because it has attractive foliage as well as soft blossoms. Finally, thrillers are the exclamation points or statement pieces. Wild bergamot is a thriller with tall stalks and bright blooms. (Its leaves also have a pleasing basil scent.) Thrillers can stand alone, but they really shine when accompanied by fillers and spillers.

Regardless of which design technique you use, pay attention to plants' bloom times. Try to stagger them so you have color year-round, even if it's simply brown or red woody vegetation in winter. When winter arrives, though, you may want to bring plants indoors to prolong the life of your container. Deadheading flowers in February can also help.

There are many options for growing natives no matter the size of the space. Whatever container you choose, if you use native plants you'll not only enjoy a diverse array of colors and textures but also provide islands of habitat for local wildlife. So let's get planting! •



▲ Even a handful of native plants in a small backyard garden can provide vital food for native pollinators.



▲ An inexpensive light meter can show how much sun a small garden will receive each day.



▲ The seedpods of low-growing river oats spill over the edge of a pot, creating a delicate border.



▲ The electric lavender blooms of wild bergamot provide a vivid statement piece for any arrangement.

spring calendar



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April

- 1** Fresh Air Friday
Peabody's Pages Book Club: Three-Part Morning Program Begins
- 2** Fishing: Spring Trout Season Opener
Introduction to Prescription Burns
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 4** Forest Hike
- 5** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** After-School Wildlife Keeper Club Begins
Evening Forest Hike
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 7** Native Landscaping: Challenges Q&A
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Backyard Birds of Prey
Boater Education Course
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
Nature Scavenger Hunt
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 11** Forest Hike
- 12** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
Peabody's Pages Book Club: Three-Part Evening Program Begins
- 13** Evening Forest Hike
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 14** Pre-K Outdoor Play
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Bird Walk
- 16** All About Bats!
- 18** Forest Hike
- 19** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Evening Forest Hike
Wildflower Walk
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 21** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
- 22** Bird Walk
Earth Day Stroll
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower Walk
- 23** Earth Day: Working for Wildlife
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 24** Archery: Families
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Drumming Circle
Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
- 27** Evening Forest Hike
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 28** Archery: Active Adults
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Bird Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Volunteer Restoration Workday
WDCB's International Jazz Day Concert
Wildflower Walk



COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Forest Preserve District mask requirements and recommendations align with current Illinois guidelines.

PROGRAM CHANGES

This calendar is accurate at press time, but program dates may change. For the most recent information, especially for programs that do not require advanced registration, call the number listed in the description or visit dupageforest.org before heading out.

May

- 1** Hoo's For Dinner
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Forest Hike
- 4** Evening Forest Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wildflower Walk
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 6** Bird Walk
Fresh Air Friday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Mothers of Nature
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower Walk
- 8** Fishing: With Mom
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 9** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 11** Evening Forest Hike
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Bird Walk
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Warbler Walk
- 15** Nature Scavenger Hunt
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Forest Hike
- 17** Kayaking: Basics
- 18** Evening Forest Hike
Wildflower Walk
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 19** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Bird Walk
Spring Night Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 21** Fishing: Families
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Archery: Families
Willowbrook Happy Hour
World Turtle Day
- 23** Drumming Circle
Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Archery: Active Adults
- 25** Evening Forest Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 26** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 27** Bird Walk
- 28** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Backyard Habitats
Kayaking: Paddle With a Ranger
- 30** Willowbrook Happy Hour

June

- 1** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wildflower Walk
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 3** Archery: Families
Bird Walk
Fresh Air Friday
- 4** Kayaking: Basics
Long-Distance Hike
Warbler Walk
Wildflower Walk
- 5** Birding by Boat
Fishing: Rivers
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 8** Kayaking: Just for Kids
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 10** Nature Poetry Walk
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 11** Kayaking: Paddle With a Ranger
Summertime at Willowbrook
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Kayaking: Basics
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 17** Parent-Child Nature Journaling
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Fishing: With Dad
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Mammoth Walk
Summer Solstice Sunrise Hike
- 23** Archery: Active Adults
- 24** Archery: Games
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 25** Drumming Circle
Lights in the Night
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 26** Marvelous Monarchs
Volunteer Restoration Workday



Plants & Wildlife

After-School Wildlife Keeper Club

Four-Part Program 21391

Help with work that will leave you feeling you truly helped local wildlife and made a difference in bettering their lives. Ages 13 -17. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 6 – 27		
Wednesdays	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Willowbrook

All About Bats! 21379

In honor of “Bat Appreciation Day,” learn about these incredible mammals, which sometimes get a bad rap. Learn how they contribute to local ecosystems and what to do if you encounter one. Then, work together on a fun bat-themed craft! Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 16	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Backyard Birds of Prey 21380

Learn about the birds of prey that make their homes near ours and how to identify the most common types. Discover why our yards make such good habitat for these magnificent birds and how we can coexist with them. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 9	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Willowbrook
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Backyard Habitats 21381

Wildlife is all around us – sometimes in our homes or gardens. Learn how to have a healthy relationship with your wild neighbors and how you can coexist with and enjoy wildlife at the same time. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

May 29	11 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
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Bird Walk 21023

Join a casual, guided 2-mile walk where you’ll enjoy birding camaraderie as you learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 15	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Danada
April 22	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
April 29	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 6	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 13	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 20	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
May 27	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Songbird Slough
June 3	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Dunham

Birding by Boat 21382

Look for birds along the shoreline during a guided paddle. Paddling experience not required. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent a kayak for an additional \$15. Age 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 5	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Mallard Lake
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Earth Day: Working for Wildlife 21388

Celebrate Earth Day with Willowbrook! Help the center transition from winter and prepare for the busy spring season by working with a wildlife interpreter to prepare the outdoor exhibit trail. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 23	10 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
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Hoo’s For Dinner 21386

Ever wonder what an owl eats? Find out up close by dissecting an owl pellet and putting together the bones you find to discover the identity of “hoo” an owl had for dinner the night before. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per pellet. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

May 1	3:30 – 5 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Introduction to Prescription Burns 21147

Learn about the benefits of prescription burns and how and why the Forest Preserve District uses them. See a burn in progress, too, weather permitting. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 2	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Marvelous Monarchs 21153

Learn about our beautiful native monarch butterflies and how you can help them and other pollinators. Then join a leisurely 20-minute stroll to find monarchs in their various stages of life. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 26	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Mothers of Nature 21387

Wildlife mothers fill specific and important roles in caring for their young. Hear how birds, mammals, and reptiles care for their babies, and then work on a wildlife-themed Mother's Day craft. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

May 7	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring 21155

Bring your family on this signs-of-spring scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of the preserve. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 3	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Nature Scavenger Hunt 21121

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home during a guided scavenger hunt. Ages 5 – 8 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 10	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 15	10 – 11 a.m.	McDowell Grove

Summertime at Willowbrook 21390

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the season's happenings, including the care of orphans and injured and sick animal patients, all important and each with different treatment plans. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

June 11	3 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Warbler Walk 21412

Search for the bright colorful feathers of neotropical migrants on a guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
June 4	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

Wildflower Walk 21013

Join a plant expert on a leisurely walk to enjoy the first blooms of spring. Learn about native spring flowers, how to identify them, and what varieties you can grow at home. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 20 & 30	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
April 22	10 – 11 a.m.	Maple Grove
May 4 & 18	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 7	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
June 1 & 4	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Willowbrook Happy Hour 21394

Join us for an after-hours tour of the center's ambassador animals. During this quiet, small-group experience we'll deliver their dinners, discuss their stories, and share how we care for these wild residents. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 3 & 10	4 – 5 p.m.	Willowbrook
May 8, 22 & 30	4 – 5 p.m.	Willowbrook
June 5 & 19	4 – 5 p.m.	Willowbrook

Willowbrook Wilderness Walk 21392

Reconnect with your surroundings by developing an acute awareness of the stories told by local wildlife and the natural world through observation and deduction. Discover nature's clues by exploring animal tracks, signs, and evidence. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 6, 13, 20 & 27	8 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook
May 4, 11, 18 & 25	8 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook
June 1 & 8	8 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook

World Turtle Day

Celebrate World Turtle Day with us! Learn about local species, including the state-endangered Blanding's turtle, how they survive winter without taking a breath, and how their shells work, among other cool cold-blooded facts. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

May 22	10 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
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More Ways to Play

KAYAK, CANOE AND BOAT RENTALS

Rentals end one hour before closing and are \$15 per hour for single kayaks or rowboats; \$18 for two-person kayaks or canoes; and \$20 for paddle boats (Blackwell only). Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Blackwell

April 2 – May 29

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Open 8 a.m. Memorial Day, July 4 & Labor Day

Sept. 10 – Sept. 25

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Herrick Lake

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

SCENIC OVERLOOK

Greene Valley

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

May 7 – Oct. 30

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice.

FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Blackwell

Enjoy nature under the stars at one of 60 sites. For weekend reservations visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits." For additional nights around Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

May 6 – Sept. 25

Friday & Saturday Nights

Plus Select Additional Holiday Nights

Ways to Play

Archery

Active Adults 21129

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 28	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell
May 24	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
June 23	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Blackwell

Families 21125

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 24	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
May 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell
June 3	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell

Games 21146

Compete with other participants in different archery games designed to be enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 24	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Boater Education Course 21450

Learn about safety, equipment, regulations, and more at this eight-hour course, which meets Illinois boater education card requirements. For details on the state statute that requires individuals born on or after Jan. 1, 1998, to have boating education cards if operating motors over 10 hp, visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website. Ages 11 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 9	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Philip State Park
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

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2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Fishing

Families 21143

Don't rely on luck to catch fish! Learn basic skills to help make your family outings successful. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 21	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
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Rivers 21145

Discover techniques for fishing in rivers and streams at this intermediate clinic. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 5	10 a.m. – Noon	McDowell Grove
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Spring Trout Season Opener

Try your luck on Silver, Pickerel, or Grove lakes. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. No registration. Free. Questions? Call 630-933-7668.

April 2	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne Woods, and Wood Dale Grove
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With Dad 21142

Spend the morning by the lake with the dads in your life, creating memories and learning skills to increase your fishing successes. All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 19	4 – 6 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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With Mom 21141

Spend the morning by the lake with the moms in your life, creating memories and learning skills to increase your fishing successes. All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 8	4 – 6 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Kayaking

Basics 21133

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 17	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
June 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
June 15	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake



Time With Your Horse

Danada Equestrian Center and St. James Farm

Interested in getting the latest on obstacle course play dates, weigh days, indoor riding arena openings, and other opportunities? Then text HORSES to 866-743-7332 to sign up for text alerts. As we add them to the calendar, we'll get the word out!

Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

St. James Farm

Exercise and school your horse at the indoor riding arena. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. To register, call 630-580-7027.

Riding Lessons 21516

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in April, May, and June. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

spring calendar



Have It at Herrick!

BOATING, PICNIC, FISHING AND ARCHERY PARTIES FOR KIDS (AND ANY GROUP!)

Weekdays (Tuesday After Memorial Day – Friday Before Labor Day)

Two-, four- and eight-hour packages starting at \$250 for DuPage residents and \$300 for nonresidents

Exclusive use of the east picnic shelter and the entire fleet (12 kayaks, 12 canoes, six row boats)

Use of fishing poles and tackle

Help from our friendly staff

Ranger-led archery program with eight-hour package and an add-on with four hours

Plan your party with Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

Just for Kids 21140

Learn the basics in a kid-friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 – 12 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 8	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Paddle With a Ranger 21137

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program, or rent one for \$20 per person. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 29	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
June 11	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Lights in the Night 20969

Witness the spectacle of firefly displays on a 2-mile self-guided lantern-lit walk. Walks leave at 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 25	8:30 – 10:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Fore!

The Preserve at Oak Meadows

Maple Meadows • Green Meadows

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit DuPageGolf.com.



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Mammoth Walk 21041

Celebrate the 45th anniversary of the discovery of the McKee Marsh woolly mammoth while taking a 1-mile walk out to the historic 1977 dig site. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 21	6 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
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Pre-K Outdoor Play 20996

Engage your little ones in outdoor adventure as you participate together in stories, songs, movement, and games followed by a guided outdoor exploration activity. Ages 2 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 14	9 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 26	9 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm

Spring Night Hike 20999

Enjoy the sensations, sounds, and stars (clouds permitting) of an after-hours preserve experience on a 2-mile lantern-lit hike. Walks leave at 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 20	8:30 – 10:30 p.m.	Philip State Park
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Healthy Habitats Through Healthy Habits

Fullersburg Woods

Learn how you can help maintain healthy natural habitats through your personal healthy habits on a 1.2-mile self-guided scavenger hunt using your smartphone. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

April 1 – May 31

One hour after sunrise – one hour after sunset

Health & Well-Being

Evening Forest Hike 20987

Get some healthy exercise and enjoy the evening wonders of a DuPage forest preserve on a guided 3- to 5-mile hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 6	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell
April 13	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Greene Valley
April 20	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Oak Meadows
April 27	6:30 – 8 p.m.	McDowell Grove
May 4	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
May 11	6:30 – 8 p.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 18	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Philip State Park
May 25	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Forest Hike 20959

Get some healthy exercise and enjoy the wonders of a DuPage forest preserve on a guided 3- to 5-mile hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 4	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake
April 11	8:30 – 10 a.m.	West Branch
April 18	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook
April 25	8:30 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 2	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 9	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 16	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Mallard Lake
May 23	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen

Fresh Air Friday 21149

Breathe deep on a scenic guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 1	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
May 6	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
June 3	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

Long-Distance Hike 21022

Take your hiking to the next level on an invigorating 8-mile hike on limestone trails through native wetland and prairie habitats at Mallard Lake and Hawk Hollow. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 4	9 a.m. – Noon	Mallard Lake
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spring calendar



Nature Poetry Walk 21154

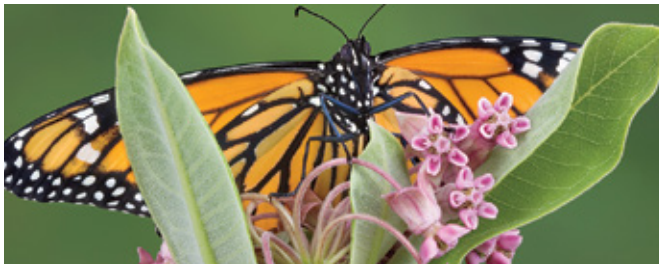
Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk; then create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 10 10 – 11:15 a.m. St. James Farm

Summer Solstice Sunrise Hike 21389

Hike atop the Meacham Grove overlook for a well-deserved look at the summer solstice sunrise. Learn about early morning wildlife and secrets of the solstice, and relax as you soak in the first rays of summer. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 21 4:30 – 6 a.m. Meacham Grove



NATIVE PLANT SALE

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Shop in person for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees!

Support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, and purchase a ticket for an exclusive in-person presale event May 12.

This year's sale will be in-person only. For a list of plants and info on the May 12 presale, visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale.

Questions? Call 630-933-7247.

May 12 (Ticket Required)
4 – 7 p.m.

May 13
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

May 14
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Get ready for this year's sale by signing up for one or more of our Native Landscaping programs on this page.

Living Green

Earth Day Stroll 21148

Learn ways you can help the planet on a leisurely 1-mile stroll through the woods. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 22 10 – 11 a.m. St. James Farm

Native Landscaping

Challenges Q&A 20819

Discuss common challenges faced in native gardening and find answers to questions that have arisen from your personal native-landscaping experiences. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 7 6:30 – 8 p.m. Online

Creating Your Garden Design 21457

Share drawings or photos of your yard in advance, and then get customized one-on-one advice at a one-hour meeting with a plant expert who will help you select native plants to match your goals and growing conditions. Ages 18 and up. Online is \$30 per meeting; in-person is \$20. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26 3 – 4 p.m. & 6 – 7 p.m. Online
April 10 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Fullersburg Woods
April 21 5, 6 & 7 p.m. St. James Farm

Heritage

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy a 30-minute ride while learning about the forest preserve's heritage and natural areas. Rides begin at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

June 10, 17 & 24 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm



Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Unless noted, these all-ages programs (under 18 with an adult) are free and do not require registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

EGG COLLECTING 21196

Collect eggs for home from the farm's chicken coop! (The number of eggs you get will vary.) \$15 per group up to 10 people. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

April 2 – June 26 (except April 17)

Saturdays & Sundays 10:30 – 11 a.m.

FARMHOUSE TOUR: DAIRY MONTH

Explore the home of an 1890s DuPage farm family with a focus on dairy and dairy artifacts on a guided interactive tour.

June 2 – June 30

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

JUST DAIRYIN' AROUND

June is Dairy Month, so help make butter, clean the cowshed, or work on other chores about the farm. Learn about the importance of dairy farms in the 1890s, and hang out with the new Shorthorn calves near the barn.

June 2 – 30

Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

SPRING PLANTING ON THE FARM

Tour the farmhouse to see how families worked together to get spring planting done, and then watch the farmers work in fields and gardens planting the year's crops (weather permitting). You might even get to help plant seeds in our kitchen garden!

April 1 – May 30 (except April 17)

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

STORY TIME

Bring the family, and rest under the shade of a tree while a costumed interpreter shares lessons from the world of stories with different historic tales each week.

April 4 – June 27

Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

Nature Art & Culture

Drumming Circle 21250

Encourage spring's arrival in a new way: by drumming! Bring your own drum, or borrow one of our homemade percussion instruments. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 25	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Mayslake
May 23	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Mayslake
June 25	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg

Parent-Child Nature Journaling 21156

Kids and parents, use your senses to observe the natural world while creating a memory journal you can return to for reflection or scientific value. Ages 7 – 10 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 17	10 – 11:15 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Restoration-in-Progress Tours

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Through May 31

Monday – Friday 12:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:30 a.m.



Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 21187

Sign up for these enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In April we'll discuss *Losing Eden*; in May, *The Hour of Land*; and in June, *The Orchid Thief*. Titles are subject to change. Register for either the three morning or three evening discussions. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 1, May 6 & June 3	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
April 12, May 10 & June 14	6:45 – 8 p.m.	Online

WDCB's International Jazz Day Concert

Enjoy an evening of jazz in the historic surroundings of Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. Purchase tickets at wdcb.org.

April 30	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

HIDDEN CREATIVITY: NATURE THROUGH THE EYES OF FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy nature-themed works by the talented people who keep the Forest Preserve District running.

Through April 30

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

STORY WALK: DANIEL FINDS A POEM

The lushly illustrated pages of *Daniel Finds a Poem* by Micha Archer come to life on large displays along a half-mile path that encourages children and their families to explore their surroundings and their inspirations. As you follow the story, you'll discover that nature and poetry are all around if you take the time to look and listen. The story walk begins at off-leash dog area parking lot.

April 1 – June 30

One hour after sunrise – one hour after sunset

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 21249

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

April 2, 3, 9, 10, 23, 24, 25 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
April 2, 5, 19 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
April 8 & 22	1 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
April 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Big Woods
April 9 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
April 14 & 28	2:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Big Woods
April 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
April 23	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
May 1, 7, 9, 14, 15, 21, 23 & 28	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 1	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
May 6 & 20	1 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
May 7, 14 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
May 12 & 19	2:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Big Woods
May 14 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
May 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Big Woods
May 21	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
June 5, 11, 12, 18, 20, 25 & 26	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
June 6 & 20	2 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
June 11 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 21348

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

April 23 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
May 4, 9, 14, 20 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
June 1, 6, 15 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell

news & notes

FLOODS WASH OUT BRIDGE AT WATERFALL GLEN

On Feb. 17 at Waterfall Glen flood waters washed out the pedestrian bridge over Sawmill Creek on the main loop trail between mile markers 5.5 and 6. While the Forest Preserve District works on plans to construct a new bridge, preserve visitors should avoid that stretch of the trail. For updates, visit dupageforest.org and click on “News” and “Upcoming Projects.”



NEW ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH AT BLACKWELL

In winter 2021 the Forest Preserve District installed an ADA-accessible launch for kayaks and canoes at Silver Lake at Blackwell. The launch features a boat slip and a transfer platform with handrails, which will allow individuals of all abilities to load and launch independently. An accessible path from the parking lot and a concrete sidewalk ramp to the launch area are also new additions to the site.

The launch, the first of its kind at a DuPage forest preserve, is also available to visitors who wish to rent kayaks on Silver Lake.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District provided \$15,000 in donations toward the \$75,650 project. The Forest Preserve District plans to open the launch April 2 and to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 23.

DISTRICT EARNS AAA Rating From S&P

The Forest Preserve District earned a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's Global Rating for its series 2022 general obligation limited-tax bonds, which will be used to pay for certified master plan projects without raising debt-servicing costs or increasing taxes.

S&P also affirmed its AAA rating on the Forest Preserve District's general obligation debt outstanding. This is the highest rating of credit worthiness attainable by any agency in the financial industry. The District has maintained this rating since 1997.

The ratings report notes many of the strengths of the District and states that the Forest Preserve District has “an extremely strong and stable credit supported by very strong management.” The full report can be found on dupageforest.org/about/financial-sustainability.



KEEP IN TOUCH BETWEEN ISSUES

Want to read the latest in between your quarterly issues of the *Conservationist*? Then subscribe to our monthly “Navigator” e-newsletter!

To sign up, visit dupageforest.org, scroll down to click on “E-Newsletters,” and when you sign up, select “Navigator.”



IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE

It's baby animal season, and Willowbrook Wildlife Center is reminding residents it's normal for wild animals to leave their young alone for several hours at a time. Human intervention may be helpful, though, if an animal is injured or truly abandoned.

If you have concerns about a wild animal, contact Willowbrook at 630-942-6200 or willowbrook@dupageforest.org for guidance. Calls are answered daily (see Page 22 for hours), and after-hours recordings provide general information.

VISITOR SERVICES

Saturday Phone Hours

This summer, the Forest Preserve District's Visitor Services office is making it easier on Saturdays to get answers to questions about permits, reservations, programs, boat rentals, and more.

Our Visitor Services team will be available for phone calls, emails, and online chats Saturdays June – August (except July 2) 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (The office is not open to walk-in visitors during these Saturdays.) To reach the office during these hours, call 630-933-7248, email permits@dupageforest.org, or chat online at dupageforest.org.

Which Insect Is It?



by **ANDRES ORTEGA**, NATURAL RESOURCES

Picture it. It's a beautiful summer day. You're on a DuPage forest preserve trail, and out of the corner of your eye you see ... something. Something small, something moving. Some kind of insect. Is it a bee, wasp, or fly? A beetle, butterfly, or moth? Insects are the most abundant and diverse group of animals on the planet (there are 30 million species worldwide), so figuring out who's who can be a task, but by looking at a few features, you'll find insect identification isn't as hard as it seems.

First, are you looking at an arthropod? Does it have distinct legs and a hard outer covering? If so, it's an arthropod. Not all arthropods are insects, though. Does it have wings? Then it's an insect. Insects are the only arthropods that have them. Spiders, daddy longlegs, centipedes, crustaceans, and other

arthropods don't have wings, so they're not insects. If you still aren't sure, look at the number of body segments and legs. Insects always come in threes: three body segments and three pairs of legs. Other arthropods typically have fewer body segments but more legs. Spiders have four pairs of legs, many crustaceans have five, and centipedes, well, they have a bunch.

So now that you know you're looking at an insect, it's time to look at divisions of insects, called orders, and who belongs to each. To date there are 29 different orders, which means it would be difficult to describe them all here, but we can look at some general features of a few that live in DuPage.

One of the most recognizable orders is Lepidoptera, the butterflies and moths. These are insects with large fully colored wings covered by "scales," which protect the wings and are unique to this order. Other insects may have pigmentation on their wings or scales on other parts of their bodies, but wings fully covered by scales tells you it's a Lepidoptera. But how can you tell the difference between butterflies and moths? Both can be colorful or drab, and both are active during the day, but butterfly antennae are thin with small bulbs on the ends; moths' are feathery or serrated.

Another order is Hymenoptera, which includes ants, bees, and wasps, most with pinched waists that give them an hourglass shape, although this can be difficult to see in bees, which are stocky. Two examples of Hymenoptera are the common eastern bumblebee, which like other bumblebees is quite stout and covered with hairs, and the paper wasp, which like most wasps is slender, smooth, and shiny.



▲ Bumblebees (left) and other bees tend to be stocky. Paper wasps and their ilk have more defined "waists."



◀ One way to tell a dragonfly, such as this eastern pondhawk, from a damselfly is to look at its wings at rest. Dragonfly wings are usually spread out. A damselfly's will be tucked over its body.

Anatoliy Lukich/Shutterstock.com

Of all the insect orders, Coleoptera, or beetles, are the most diverse. Beetle features are harder to see but make them easy to ID once you do. First, beetles have mouthparts called “mandibles” for chewing and not for stabbing (like mosquitoes) or sucking (like butterflies). Their first pair of wings are also modified into hard outer coverings, called “elytra,” that fully cover their soft flying wings. Common coleopterans include fireflies, ladybugs, and June bugs. You may also spot the distinctive (and fast) metallic green six-spotted tiger beetle on sunny forest preserve trails.

Now onto the order Orthoptera, the grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids, most with large well-developed hind legs for jumping. Grasshoppers, usually green or brown with short, stubby antennae, make clicking sounds with their wings as they spring from place to place. Crickets are black or brown and smaller with long, slender antennae. They produce a chirping sound with their legs. And if you see something big and green with long antennae (or hear a staccato “katy-did-katy-didn’t” call at night), that’s a katydid!

Both members of the Odonata order, dragonflies and damselflies, are often found near water (they spend most of their larval stages developing underwater), and both have large well-developed eyes and four distinct flying wings. But there’s one sure way to tell them apart. Dragonflies at rest hold their wings straight out from their bodies; damselflies usually fold their wings over their bodies like butterflies.

Finally, let’s wrap up our short selection of insects by looking at the “true flies” of the order Diptera. True flies are

unique because they have only one set of flying wings; the other pair is modified into tiny clubs that act as stabilizers. Like Odonata, true flies have large, well-developed eyes that take up much of their heads. One of the most well-known is the ubiquitous housefly, but if you spend time outside you’ve likely met its biting cousins, the horsefly and deer fly. Females of the latter two have sharp stabbing mouthparts like those of mosquitoes, which are another type of true fly. (Crane flies, large true flies with long, thin legs, are often mistaken for mosquitoes, but crane flies do not bite.) To make things more interesting, there are also syrphid flies, or hoverflies, many of which have yellow and brown stripes, which make them look like bees. However, syrphid flies have one set of flying wings and the stereotypical large eyes of true flies, and none of them sting.

There’s a lot to examine in the insect world, but if you grab a good field guide, focus on key features, and learn a few different ones each year, you’ll be on your way to identifying “which insect is it” in DuPage forest preserves in no time! •

You Can’t Judge a Lepidoptera by Its Cover

You may at one point have heard that you can tell butterflies from moths by their colors, butterflies being more vivid than their drab nighttime cousins. But some moths, like the cecropia silk moth at the top, are just as colorful as any butterfly. So how can you tell who’s who? One way is to look at the antennae. In most cases butterflies (including the eastern tiger swallowtail at the bottom) have antennae with clubbed tips; moths’ antennae are feathery.



© David Veary



directory



HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services

630-933-7248

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
plus by phone, email, and online chat only
Saturdays June – August (except July 2)
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Partnership & Philanthropy Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

HOURS

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-933-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks prior to attending a registration-based program.

EDUCATION Centers

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Closed Sundays

KLING CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per
person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office & Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

GOLF Courses

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Closed Sundays

Due to work on the exterior, the interior of Mayslake Hall will be closed for the year starting May 31. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Animal Admittance

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Outdoor Exhibit Trail

Daily 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Visitor Center

Although Willowbrook continues to accept animals, the visitor center will be closed until a new building opens in 2024. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

PARTNER Sites

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

Oak Brook • 630-655-2090

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388



**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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Wheaton, IL 60189

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2022

DuPage Forest Preserves

Native Plant Sale

Mayslake Peabody Estate • Oak Brook

Shop in person for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees!

Support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, and purchase a ticket for an exclusive in-person presale event May 12.

This year's sale will be in-person only. For a list of plants and info on the May 12 presale, visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale. Questions? Call 630-933-7247.

May 12 Ticket Required
4 – 7 p.m.

May 13
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

May 14
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

