

Riffles & Eddies

Quarterly publication of the Boone County
Conservation District

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center
603 N. Appleton Rd.
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 547-7935

Spring 2019

Send A Kid To Camp



Camp Redwing is an outdoor environmental education day camp for children ages 6 – 11 years. It runs for 5 weeks. Each week offers a new theme, fishing, crafts, labs, swimming, a family night, field trip and lots of outdoor fun! Camp starts the week of June 24th. Cost is \$100 per week.



Camp Redtail is an outdoor adventure camp for youth ages 12 – 15 years. It offers a 4-day overnight wilderness camping trip. This year's trip is backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains State Park along Lake Superior July 23-26. Equipment is provided and no experience is necessary. Cost is \$200.

Camp Ducktails is offered one morning a week on Thursday for children ages 4 and 5. Each week a new nature topic is introduced and includes story-time, snack-time, and crafts. Ducktails will start on June 27th. Cost is \$25/ session or \$90 for all 5 sessions.

There are scholarships available to qualifying families for each camp

Help us get kids outside!
Donate to
BCCD's Send a Kid to Camp
scholarship program.
Mail your donation to
BCCD,
603 N. Appleton Rd.,
Belvidere, IL 61008

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Silberhorn

Conservation Area is 25 acres along the Kishwaukee River near Garden Prairie, Illinois.

Doug and Susie had invited Roger Gustafson, the Boone County Conservation District's first executive director, to take a walk on their property by the Kishwaukee River. During that walk Roger quickly pointed out several plants whose roots were tied to the area's natural history. Several sprawling oaks and tall, straight hickories guarded clusters of spring wildflowers growing under their burly branches. That walk with Roger left an impression that mixed well with the Silberhorn's desire to leave this site undisturbed.



In 2013, Doug Silberhorn suddenly passed away. Susie and the family wanted to create a conservation area along the Kishwaukee River - one of Doug's favorite spots. Existing BCCD commitments had postponed that effort until now. We are grateful for the family's patience as pieces of the acquisition puzzle have finally fallen into place.



The Savanna Oaks Conservation Area is 28.81 acres adjacent to the Piskasaw Creek north of Belvidere. Boone County is generally not on most people's radar when it comes to relics of natural awe and wonder. That is a shame, because there are some truly unique and wonderful patches of natural history still growing here. Piskasaw Creek still shows off its natural heritage as it winds sinuously across the countryside.

Savanna Oaks Conservation Area is the result of an unplanned diversion from the normal route taken between point A and point B. This patch of widely spaced burr oak and hickory trees standing over a lush growth of grasses had caught our eye of appreciation numerous times in the past. But last July we noticed something different as we drove past, a for sale sign proclaimed that this relic patch of living history had a willing seller!

For more information on these two new acquisitions please visit the District's Facebook page or web site.



The Mission of the Boone County Conservation District is to preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations.

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Riffles & Eddies is a free newsletter published quarterly. If you know someone who would like to receive this publication, or has an address correction, please call our office at (815) 547-7935.

The Boone County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission or treatment, or employment in programs or activities. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217)423-7708.

Thank You to all our Volunteers



Ainley, Jessica
Androwich, Ashley
Avilla, Alex
Axemark, Pamela
Balentyne, Bev and Dick
Balzer, David and John
Baumann, Abigail, Jenna ,Toni
Beckmann, Sean
Becker, Sadie
Bellows, Carol and Lloyd
Belvidere North High Choral Group
Berg, Emily and Madeline
Biggins, Brandi
Blake, Donna
Bodey, Les
Bonacorsi, Tom
Bonev, Slavi
Boone County Boys Scouts of America
Boone County Fair Queens
Boone County Garden Club of America
Boone County Girl Scouts of America
Boone County Probation
Bowers, Jeri
Bullard, Matt
Burns, Carol
Clanin, Marilyn
Comcast Cares Day Volunteers
Crabtree, Brianna and Jersey
Croucher, Chelsea and Elizabeth
Coon Creek Casters
Davies, Ben
Davis, Katelyn
Dawson, Grace
Dawson, Trevor
De La Cruz, Linda
DeChatelets, Jackie
Dolak, Mary
Domek, Sandy & granddaughter
Downey, Alicia, Justin, Ken
Drager, Karen
Due, Loren and Pat
Edgington, Wendy
Edwards, David
Egan, Frank and Mary
Emling, Steve
Engelsen, Jack and Janet
Ermillio, Trinity
Evans, Eli, Hunter and Jim
Fidder, Joan and Sharon
Gamble, Rebecca
Gangel, Fred
Geist, Bill
Gierat, Claire
Godina, Lynn
Graves, Kara and Madison
Hale, Brian
Hammertime Dog Park Volunteers
Hanson, Brett and Margaret
Hardy, Jim
Heck, Jeanine
Heisler, Sally
Hornick, Anna
Huff, Easton, Kristine and Pat
Ibeling, Craig
Isaacson, Marie
Johns, Darlene
Johnson, Brent, Heaether and Sal
Johnson, Denis
Johnson, Lisa
Johnson, Ray
Kane, Diane

Kane, Katelyn
Kashmier, Tim
Kemp, Bob and Judy
Klinger, Karen
Koch, Nichole
Krause, Eva and Leon
Kudlicki, Judy
Lager, Mike and Norma
Lambert Family
Landolt, Beverly
Larkin, Rachel
Limonas, Alicia
Little, Jennifer and Natalie
Littlejohn, Pat
Lockman, Peg
Loken, Dylan
Loeper, Susan
Loos, Deb
Luthin, Mark
Magdziarz, Augie and Mitzi
Magdziarz, Mikala
Masanz, Richard
Maple, Olivia
Meagher, Ilona and Tom
Meyers, Kay
Miller, Don
Miner, Julie, Josh and Tyler
Mleziva, Shari
Mobilia, Cuda
Morelock, Griffin
Moore, Bev
Nelson, Cynthia
Ohlsen, Larry
Parker, April
Perry, Mike
Petersen, Alyssa, Carrie, Chelsea, Hunter, Mike & Sabrina
Racz, Andy
Ranum, Tricia
Rasmussen Sr, John
Reed, Diane and Gerry
Richardson, Keeley, Mandy and Seth
Rudy, Evelyn, Katie, Karl and Julia
Ruffner, Greg
Sagenda, Robert
Schultz, Janet
Scott, Brian
Schossoco, Shylah
Sheppard, Jenny
Sliktas, Connie and Dave
Smerko, Tony
Steinkamp, Tom
Stirlen, Elba
Stock, Mike
Sullivan, Elissa and Kaylene
Sunleaf, Ryan
Thomas, George
U of I Boone County Master Gardeners
Van Dyke, Pat
Vittore, Chris
Wasser, Ann
Werchower, Maria
Weger, Lyla
Wheeler, Matthew and Lesley
Whidby, Hannah
Wick, Heather and Kora
Wilson, Jim
Wolfe, Alyssa, Liza and Marshall
Worthy, Hailey
Wych, Barb
Ziller-Wiemann, Hailey
Zuromski, Bill and Pamela



Prescribed Fire Season



Conservation District land management staff will be conducting prescribed burns at several of our conservation areas in the early spring. Prescribed fire is an essential and efficient management practice for the health of our native ecosystems, including prairies, savannas, and woodlands. Fire helps return nutrients to the soil, helps control undesirable exotic weeds and shrubs, increases blooming and seed production among our native plants, and stimulates the growth of our native prairie and woodland plant species. District staff manage the burns to minimize smoke on highways and neighboring properties.

Parks and Conservation Foundation

Community Clean Up Sat., April 27th 8:30 a.m.



Join us at the Pavilion in Spencer Park for juice and donuts before tackling the clean up projects. Comcast is sponsoring the event and all participants will receive a free t-shirt and lunch. Bring work gloves if you have them. The focus of this year's clean up will be Spencer Park. In order to receive the free t-shirt and lunch you must register for the clean up. Call (815) 547-7935 to register.

LPT Update

Work is continuing on the trail as weather permits. The trail is still closed so please avoid the section between Capron Road and Beaverton Road. Thank you for your patience.

Monthly Meetings

(All meetings held at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center are open to the public)

BCCD Board of Trustees

Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m., Apr. 23rd, May 21st, and June 18th.

Gardeners of America

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., April 23rd, and June 25th. No meeting at the District in May.

Wildflower Walkabout



Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area
Wednesday, May 1st
6:00 p.m.

Join Aaron Minson, BCCD Natural Areas Technician, and Brian Hale, Conservation District Volunteer, as they take you through the recently restored prairie and basswood, hickory and white oak forest to explore the wildflowers in northern Boone County. Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area is located 3.2 miles north of Route 173 on Cal-edonia Road. The entrance is just north of North Boone School Road. Moderate hiking. Registration not required.

Spring Wildflower Hikes

Wednesday, May 8 - 6:00 p.m. at
Tuttle/Clarkson Natural Area

Wednesday, May 15 - 6:00 p.m. at
Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area

Join BCCD Volunteer Brian Hale on these spring wildflower hikes.

Tuttle/Clarkson is located at 7300 Rt. 173, Poplar Grove, IL

Piscasaw Fen is located at 8605 Norris Lane, Capron, IL

There is no cost, but you need to register by calling (815) 547-7935.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 181 for their donation of 6 bat houses.



Attention Bow Hunters

Qualifying for the BCCD archery hunt will be held on:

Saturday, May 4th

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Tuesday, May 7th

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9th

12:00 noon. - 7:00 p.m.

(no make up or additional dates will be scheduled)

Kishwaukee Valley
Conservation Area
9416 US Rt. 20
Garden Prairie, IL

For more information visit our website: www.bccdil.org

Firearm Hunt Information

We will post qualification times, dates, cost and all other information on our web page, www.bccdil.org or on our Facebook page as the information becomes available.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshops

Indian Lore

Wednesday, Aug. 14th
9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Cost is \$8/in county residents;
\$10/out-of-county residents.

Soil & Water Conservation
Monday, October 14th
10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Cost is \$5/in county residents ; \$8/out-of-county residents.

Payments are non-refundable and MUST accompany registration. You may stop in or mail your registration to our office. For more information call 815-547-7935.

Riffles & Eddies



603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

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Spring Bird Count

Join us for the 47th annual Illinois Spring Bird Count for Boone County. We will be out on Sunday, May 5th attempting to count as many birds as possible in one day. There are two ways that people can join in, if you can take a field assignment, you will be given an area of the county to spend the day counting, or you can sign up as a feeder counter and count birds that come to your feeders for a couple of hours.

If you wish to join in or have questions regarding this, contact Joel Neylon at wburkfdjoel@gmail.com. You can also read more about it at <https://www.inhs.illinois.edu/collections/birds/sbc/>

Coon Creek Caster's

HOOKED ON FISHING



(Ages 5 - 15)

**Saturday, June 8th
9:00 a.m.**

The Coon Creek Casters fishing club is hosting the annual Kids Fishing Clinic in Spencer Conservation Area. Bring your pole and tackle for an instructional clinic, lots of fishing, and line-reeling fun. Lunch will be provided along with bait. Prizes will be awarded at 1:00 P.M.

Pre-registration is required, because space is limited.

The clinic is free. Call BCCD at (815) 547-7935 to register for this fun-filled, fishing experience!

Climate Change Teacher Workshop

Saturday, May 11th
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Roger D. Gustafson
Nature Center, Boone County
Conservation District

FREE to Boone County middle and high school teachers

This workshop is for educators interested in integrating climate change into their existing curriculum. Educators will investigate the STEM behind Climate Change in a 6-hour hands-on training followed by site visits to local industries utilizing green initiatives. Participants will receive Project Learning Tree Climate Change curriculum, supporting resources, lunch, transportation to site visits and CPDU's. Space is limited.

Training provided through a BCCD Science Literacy grant and CPDU's provided by the Environmental Education Association of Illinois. Visit eeai.net to register.