1963—Conservation District Act was passed

1964—Boone County Conservation District established—first conservation district in Illinois

1968—10 acre Flora Prairie purchased

1982—Nature Center opened, now dedicated to the first Executive Director, Roger D. Gustafson

3200+ acres managed by the BCCD

2 areas designated as Illinois Nature Preserves

30 + miles of trails

45,000 (est.) school children have attended BCCD programs

Operates with a staff of 8 full time employees and an annual budget of just over $1 million
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.

**BCCD Board of Trustees**
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**BCCD Staff**
Dan Kane - Executive Director  
Mick Johnston - Director of Operations  
Cathie Johnson - Office Manager  
Tina Dawson - Education Director  
Pam Stock - Special Events and Public Outreach Manager  
Joshua Sage - Restoration Resources and Natural Areas Manager  
Aarron Minson - Natural Areas Technician  
Mike Quigley - Maintenance Supervisor

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.

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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.

**Celebrating 50 Years of Preservation and Education**

Fifty years ago, on November 4, 1964, the Boone County Conservation District was founded. The first conservation district in the state of Illinois, BCCD was begun with a concern for the fate of the old Rainbow Gardens site just east of Belvidere. Belvidere Jaycees began a search for ways of using the site as a wayside park. Upon investigation, by Jaycee member Attorney David Babb, a newly passed law, the Illinois Conservation District Act, was found to be the best possible method to ensure a future conservation area and open space system for the entire county.

A brief but furious campaign complete with campaign buttons saw the November 4, 1964 election passing the required referendum to establish the first Conservation District in Illinois.

George Fell of Rockford, the “father” of the Illinois Conservation District Act was called upon to assist in organizing and providing direction for the new district. As Director of the non-profit Natural Land Institute, Mr. Fell agreed to have the NLI absorb the BCCD’s operating expenses for several months until the district was able to financially operate on its own, then reimburse the NLI.

On March 1, 1968 the Boone County Conservation District hired its first Executive Director, Roger Gustafson. Roger was the first State Park Naturalist in the state of Illinois, was Assistant to the Director at the Natural Land Institute from 1967-1968, and was the Executive Director of the Boone County Conservation District March 1968 until June of 1992.

Since its inception the Boone County Conservation District has grown to encompass more than 3,500 acres and 25+ conservation areas. It took 48 years until the Rainbow Gardens site was finally owned by the Boone County Conservation District.

To celebrate the BCCD 50th anniversary there will be a dinner celebration at the Apollo Theatre in Belvidere on November 1, 2014. Highlights of the evening will include a one man play *Aldo Leopold - A Standard of Change* starring Jim Pfitzer of Chattanooga Tennessee and a program highlighting 50 years of conservation in Boone County. Ticket price is $30 per person for dinner and the play.

Contact the BCCD office to purchase tickets or for more information at 815-547-7935.

**Lead Your Own Hike: Check out one of our backpacks!**

We have five differently-themed backpacks available at our Nature Center for you to use with your kids, students or scouts. They are free to borrow but you just need to leave your driver’s license or a deposit when you pick one up. One of the packs is specifically geared toward preschool/Kindergarten and the others are appropriate to use with children 6 years and up and the topics available are: Pond Study, Into the Forest, Birds, and Private Eyes.

We also have IDNR resource trunks available to check out at no charge. Topics include: Prairies, Invasive Species, and Illinois Symbols. Call ahead to reserve a pack or trunk or email Tina at tdawson@bccdil.org.

**Help us get kids outside!**

The District wants everyone to discover the benefits of recreation. For families considering any of our programs who have special considerations, such as diabetes, asthma or physical or cognitive disabilities, your participation is welcome too. The earlier you contact us so we can talk with you about how to make your experience safe and fun, the more likely it will be safe and fun!
**Monthly Meetings**

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

**BCCD Board of Trustees**

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., Sept. 17th, Oct. 15th, and Nov. 19th.

**Boone County Gardeners of America**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Oct. 28th. No meeting at the District in September, November or December.

**District will be Closed On**

Sept. 1st Labor Day

Sept. 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th and 30th APF set up and take down

Nov. 27th and 28th Thanksgiving

Dec. 24th—Jan. 2nd Christmas and New Years

**Open Pollinated Seed Saving Class**

Thursday, Sept. 4th

6 — 8 p.m.

Eat your veggies and save them too! Learn how to enjoy the fruits of your garden not once but twice by saving seeds from your garden. There is more to saving seeds than just drying them and more reasons to save them than you may imagine. Learn how to save seeds from fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs. Handouts and free seeds will be provided at the class. $5.00 class fee per person. Register at the Roger Gustafson Nature Center, 603 N. Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 815-547-7935

Class will be held in the Casters’ shelter (across the driveway from the nature center) so dress for the weather.

**Conservation Areas Closed**

Distillery Road and LIB will be closed to the general public on the dates listed below for hunting.

October 1st—5th

October 25th & 26th

November 8th & 9th

December 20th & 21st

January 10th & 11th

January 17th & 18th

Beaver Bluffs (dog park will be open), Ipsen Road, Kinnikinnick Creek, Kishwaukee Valley, and Pis-casaw Fen will be closed to the general public on the dates listed below for hunting.

October 1st—5th

October 25th & 26th

November 21st—30th

December 4th—31st

January 1st—18th

**Fall Color Cruise**

Wednesday, October 8th

9:30am — 4:30pm

Join us on a trip to LaSalle, IL where we will hitch a ride on an I&M Canal mule-pulled boat! We’ll stop at the Lock 16 Visitor Center where you can buy lunch and browse the gift shop. Our last stop will be a tour of the Hegeler Carus Mansion before heading back home. The cost is $40 a person and prepayment is required by October 1st. Please note that our office will be closed from September 23rd – 30th for the Autumn Pioneer Festival so call or stop in EARLY!

**Holiday Walk**

Saturday, December 6th

6:00 — 8:00 p.m.

Stroll along a luminary lit pathway and visit our authentic log cabins, eat popcorn popped fresh over an open fire, and see how Christmas was celebrated in the past. There is no cost for the evening and it is held at the Roger Gustafson Nature Center Festival Grounds. Call 815-547-7935 for information.

**Volunteers Needed**

The District is in need of volunteers to help at its Autumn Pioneer Festival on September 27th and 28th. If you would like to be a part of the festival, call 815-547—7935.

**Looking for Living History Program Cook**

We are looking for an individual to cook for our outdoor school programs. Programs begin in October and could run through end of November. Days will vary based on dates scheduled by the school. Hours will be from 7:30 am — 12:30 pm. Position is hourly at $10/hour. Individual can expect to work approximately 50 – 70 hours total. Days and hours depend on number of schools that schedule programs. A criminal history background check and drug screen is required. A complete job description and application are available on our website www.bccdil.org.

**Firearm Deer Hunt**

Last January the Boone County Conservation District board of trustees voted to implement a firearm deer hunt to replace the sharp shooting conducted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a measure of addressing the spread and prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease. The board had received overwhelming input from the public to do this. District staff is now charged with developing the criteria to implement this decision. Chronic Wasting Disease continues to be a threat to the health of the local deer population, and at this point in time, keeping the herd numbers low is the only effective method of minimizing the spread and prevalence of this always fatal disease.

The District is striving to implement the new hunting program in time for this fall’s deer hunting seasons. If the program can be developed in time, we hope to provide a firearm hunting experience at some district sites during the first and second shotgun season in November; and the first Chronic Wasting Disease hunt the first week of January 2015. More information will be posted on the District website as it becomes available.

Thank you! The BCCD would like to extend a big thank you to all the people and organizations who donated to our summer camp scholarship program. You are awesome!!
Riffles & Eddies

603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Return Service Requested

Autumn Pioneer Festival

Saturday, Sept. 27th  9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 28th  10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Travel back to the 1800's for a look at the lifestyles and crafts of the day. Talk to a flint knapper, watch a gun smith, eat buffalo stew, pioneer fries, sample bean soup and apple butter. Visit the harvest table to purchase fresh vegetables or just wander through the 5 ethnic gardens, the voyagers’ encampment, and 2 historic log cabins.

Admission is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted (Suggested donation of $5.00 per family)

603 N. Appleton Road
Belvidere, IL
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