



## Blanding's Turtles Discovered on BCCD Land!



"Betty" the Blanding's Turtle with mounted transmitter

The BCCD is pleased to announce the presence of the State Endangered Blanding's Turtle on district land. The Blanding's Turtles that inhabit our area have captured the attention and excitement of BCCD staff and state biologists. Monitoring methods such as live-trapping and radio tracking of this rare population are currently underway.

Blanding's Turtles are long-lived, living up to eighty years in the wild. They have likely lived in our county for countless generations. These turtles, as well as the multitude of other reptile and amphibian species that accompany them, are indicators of a high quality waterway. The Blanding's Turtle is a medium-sized turtle, up to 9 1/2 inches in length. They have dome-shaped shells and distinct, yellow throats and chins. An extremely friendly and mild-mannered turtle, Blanding's appear to have a constant grin and are a delight to handle and study.

Blanding's Turtle populations are on the decline throughout its range due to habitat destruction and fragmentation. A semi-aquatic turtle, Blanding's Turtles require a variety of habitat types including marshes and dry, upland areas for nesting and terrestrial movements between habitats. The loss of even a portion of its habitat will stress and even doom populations of this rare turtle. The BCCD strives to provide them with ample, high-quality habitat to ensure that they thrive in our area for countless more generations

*Remember, keep the "wild" in wildlife! Don't take wildlife as pets!*



## BOONE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 - (815) 547-7935

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# Campers Take To the Mountains

Six campers who attended Boone County Conservation District's



Camp Redtail went backpacking in Michigan's Porcupine Mountains. After a long drive the campers, who ranged in age from 12 to 16 years old, were ready to hit the trail. With backpacks weighing 30 to 35 pounds the campers were able to hike 2

miles into the wilderness area before a rain storm hit. After setting up their tents in the forest the group huddled under a tarp while cooking dinner over a small camp stove. With lightning and thunder crashing the tired campers settled into their dry tents.

The next morning was clear and cool, a great day to backpack. It was 5 more miles of hilly terrain to the next camp site located on the shores of Lake Superior. The afternoon was spent setting up tents and playing along the lake shore. That evening the campers were treated to an amazing sunset.

Since this was only a four day trip it was time to start the hike out of the wilderness, using the same trail they used hiking in, the Little Carp River Trail. The packs were lighter and the campers were getting used to carrying their homes on their backs, so the return trip went faster. On this trail there were two stream crossings and five steep hills to climb, but the hardest part of the trail were the huge trees the campers had to climb over while maintaining their balance with the packs on their backs.

The Porcupine Mountains are known for bears, so each night the campers made sure they did not have any food or scented items in their tents or backpacks. All food was hung at least 12 feet up on a bear pole. Bears are not the only wildlife that are in search of food. Chipmunks, squirrels, mice and raccoons are out looking for food and can damage a tent or pack during their search.

The last mile of the trip went by quickly the next morning, as the idea of a hot shower awaiting gave them the motivation they needed.

This was one of the best backpacking trips that Camp Redtail has ever offered. Call Boone County Conservation District in April to see what trips will be offered in 2011.



View Camp photos at Facebook/  
BCCD Summer camps

# Up Coming Events

## Monthly Meetings

(held at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center and open to the public)  
 BCCD Board - 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Sept. 15th  
 Wednesday, Oct. 20th  
 Wednesday, Nov. 17th  
 Garden Club - 7:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 26th  
 No meetings here at the District in Sept., Nov. or Dec.

## APF Help Needed

The District is in need of volunteers to help during the Autumn Pioneer Festival. If you like dressing up and talking to people, give Bev a call at (815) 597-1097. We also need people who are willing to come in before the festival and help with chopping vegetables, packaging beans, etc.

## "Going Batty!"

Friday, Oct. 22nd  
 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Children in grades K-3 are invited to join us for an evening learning all about

bats! We will get ready for Halloween by listening to a story and making a craft. At the end of the program, we will venture outside to find our very own "bats" to take home. Cost is \$3/child and space is limited, so call (815) 547-7935 to register.

## With Gratitude

The BCCD would like to extend a great big thanks to all the people and organizations who donated to our summer camp scholarship program and for all of the supplies donated to help restock the rec hall after the fire. You're awesome!!

## Office Closings

The District office will be closed on Sept. 23rd, 24th, and 27th for the APF and also closed on the following holidays: Sept. 6th, and Nov. 25th and 26th.



## Conservation Areas Closed

Please note that Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, LIB Conservation Area, Distillery Conservation Area, Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area, O.O. Stimes Memorial Park, Kishwaukee Bend Conservation Area and Piskasaw Fen Conservation Area will be closed to the general public on Saturdays and Sundays on the dates listed below for archery hunting:

|              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Oct. 2 & 3   | Nov. 6 & 7   | Dec. 11 & 12 |
| Oct. 16 & 17 | Nov. 13 & 14 | Dec. 18 & 19 |
| Oct. 30 & 31 |              | Jan. 1 & 2   |

## Fall Color Cruise

Wednesday, Oct. 20th  
 9:00 a.m.



Join BCCD staff on a trip to Galena and view the fall colors

along the way! You will be free to explore the town on your own once we arrive. We will leave the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 5:30 p.m. The cost for the bus ride is \$20.00 per person for in county residents and \$25.00 per person for out of county residents. There is the possibility of an optional tour of Grant's home for an additional fee. Lunch and an afternoon ice cream stop are on your own. To register or if you have any questions, please call (815) 547-7935. Space is limited.

## Discovering Fall Wildflowers

Thursday, Sept. 9th  
 6:00 p.m.



Join BCCD volunteer, Brian Hale, at the Tuttle Clarkson Natural Area to discover what wildflowers

bloom in the fall. There is no cost, but please call (815) 547-7935 to let us know if you would like to join the hike or if you need more information.

**Have a happy fall!**

## Heirloom Tomato Tasting

Wednesday, Sept. 8th  
 6:30 p.m.

Sample more than 20 varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Participants will learn how to process and store seeds for next



year's planting and also learn how to use their tomato bounty. Cost is \$5/person and prepayment and preregistration is required. Space is limited, so call (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center.

## Dyeing With Plants

Saturday, Oct. 9th  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Learn how to dye wool or cotton yarn and cloth using plants such as

Goldenrod, Queen Anne's Lace and Sumac. Bring a large skein of wool yarn or 1 yard of white cotton cloth to dye and a pair of scissors. Cost of the class is \$5/person which includes dyes and all handouts. The class will be held at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center. Preregistration and prepayment is required, so call (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot.

## Fall Seed Collecting

BCCD collects prairie seed during the fall. If you would like to help collect seed, please call 815-547-7935 for dates, times and for more information.

**Riffles & Eddies**



603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

Return Service Requested

Non-profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Belvidere, IL



# Autumn Pioneer Festival

Saturday, September 25

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 26

10:00 a.m. - 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, visit a Scottish encampment. Eat buffalo stew, pioneer fries, homemade rootbeer, sample bean soup and apple butter. Visit the harvest table to purchase fresh vegetables or just wander through our five ethnic gardens.

*Admission is free,  
but donations are  
cheerfully accepted!*



BCCD Festival Grounds

603 N. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL

(815) 547-7935