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 25th. 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 canoeing in the Sylvania Wilderness in Michigan July 24-27 Equipment is provided and no experience is necessary. Cost is $200 per trip.

Camp Ducktails is offered one morning a week on Thursday for Pre-K 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 28th. Cost is $20/ session or $90 for all 5 sessions.

There are scholarships available to qualifying families for each camp.

Interpretive Hikes Are A Big Hit!

The local Parks & Conservation Foundation received six grants from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in support of installing public amenities at conservation sites that they assisted in preserving. Each grant funded improvements like a new site identification sign, picnic tables, and more. These six grants have an additional component – the local Parks & Conservation Foundation was provided an additional $500 to host a public event at each of the six sites. Our local foundation decided to host a series of six interpretive hikes. Four events have been held at the time this article was prepared, with an additional two events yet to occur on March 24th at the Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area.

These hikes have drawn a lot of interest. There has been an evening hike to seek out elusive owls, a tromp across the Ipsen Road prairie & wetland complex; and an introduction to behind the scenes conservation work where native plants are grown to produce seed for habitat restoration. If you want to attend one of the final two events – both held on March 24th, please call (815) 547-5711 to RSVP by Friday, March 23rd.
A Big Thanks to our Volunteers!

Ali, Nicole
Androwich, Ashley
Autumn Pioneer Festival Exhibitors
Balentine, Bev and Dick
Beckmann, Sean
Bellows, Carol and Lloyd
Belvidere North High School FFA
Belvidere North High Choral Group
Bielfass, Kenny
Bielski, Katie and Kenny
Biggins, Brandi
Blake, Donna
Bonacorsi, Tom
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
Brockman, Ron
Bruha, Mike
Budzynski, Barb and Bernie
Bullard, Matt
Burrow, Dan
Camelot School students
Carrick, Emily
Cesario, Geno
Chambers, Emily
Champion, Bob
Clanin, Marilyn
Coleman, Blake
Coon Creek Casters
Cunningham, Bill
Dawson, Grace
Dawson, Trevor
De La Cruz, Linda
Dewall, Brooklyn
Dolak, Mary
Dooley, Jim
Downey, Alicia, Justin, Ken
Drager, Karen
Due, Loren and Pat
Edgington, Wendy
Edwards, David
Egan, Frank and Mary
Ellingson, Bob
Ellingson, Dennis
Emling, Steve
Engelsken, Jack and Janet
Evans, Jim, Eli and Hunter
Evans, Meg
Fidder, Joan and Sharon
Flippo, Jeff
Gangel, Fred
Geist, Bill
Gierat, Claire
Greenlee, Jack
Grimm, Madison
Hammettime Dog
Park Volunteers
Hardy, Jim
Heck, Jeanine
Heisler, Sally
Huff, Patrick and Kristine
Isaason, Marie
Johns, Darlene
Johnson, Brent, Heaether and Sal
Johnson, Chad
Johnson, Marlene
Johnson, Marvin
Johnson, Ray
Kane, Diane
Kane, Katelyn
Kemp, Bob and Judy
Kinnikinnick Horse
Trail Volunteers
Klaas, Ron and Marlene
Klinger, Karen
Krause, Eva and Leon
Kudlcki, Judy
Laga, Kevin
Laga, Shane
Lager, Mike and Norma
Lambert Family
Lancaster, Jaissa
Landolt, Beverly
Larkin, Rachel
Lockman, Peg
Loepe, Susan
Loos, Deb
Luthin, Mark
Magdizar, Augie and Mitzi
Masanz, Richard
Meagher, Ilona and Tom
Menas, Cindy
Meyers, Kay
Miller, Don
Miner, Julie, Josh and Tyler
Moriarty, Joe and June
Mullins, Lili and Ross
Narapiromsk, Boon
Nelson, Cynthia
Newton, Becky
Ohlsen, Larry
Parker, April
Petersen, Michael, Alyssa, Carrie,
Chelsea, Hunter and Sabrina
Peters, Rick
Potempa, Patty
Racz, Andy
Raphun, Michelle and Sabrina
Rassmussen Sr, John
Reed, Diane and Gerry
Richardson, Keith
Rithome, Keith
Rivera, Daniella
Roach, Donna and Len
Rudie, Katie and family
Schultz, Janet
Scott, Brian
Sheppard, Jenny
Silberhorn, Mike
Slikitas, Connie and Dave
Spear, Ron
Steinkamp, Tom
Stirlen, Elba
Stonesifer, Cyndi
Stock, Mike
Studier, Emmylou
Suthers, Greg, Diana and Greg Jr.
Sutter, Emily
Thomas, George
Trurrage, Ariana
University of IL Boone County
Master Gardeners
University of IL Boone County
Master Naturalists
Valentino, S.
Van Dyke, Pat
Walley, Norris
Ward, Don
West, Sharon
Wheeler, Matthew and Lesley
Wilson, Jim
Wolfe, Alyssa, Liza and Marshall
Wych, Barb
Young, Arthur
Young, Zack
Zuromski, Bill and Pamela

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!
Attention Bow Hunters
Qualifying for the BCCD archery hunt will be held on:
Saturday, May 5th
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Tuesday, May 8th
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 10th
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

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. 16th, May 15th and June 19th.
Gardeners of America
Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Mar. 27th, April 24th, and May 22nd.

Boone County Community Clean Up
Sat., April 21st 8:30 a.m.
Join us at the Poplar Grove Village Hall 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. Included in this year’s clean up are Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area; Long Prairie Trail; and 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.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshops

Plant Science
Saturday, May 19th
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Indian Lore
Friday, July 27th
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost for each workshop is $8/in county residents; $10/out-of-county residents. Payments are non-refundable and MUST accompany registration.

Spring Wildflower ID Class
Saturday, May 5th
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area
FREE
Bring your favorite wildflower field guide and join BCCD Volunteer Brian Hale to learn how to identify spring wildflowers. There is no cost, but you need to register by calling (815) 547-7935.

Wildflower Walkabout
Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area
Wednesday, May 2nd - 6:00 p.m.
Additional dates/locations:
4/24 - Anna Page Park
5/8 - Burr Oak Valley
5/16 - Colman Dells
5/22 - Hall Memorial Woods
5/30 - Colored Sands Forest Preserve
6/5 - Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve
6/13 - Flora Prairie Nature Preserve
6/19 - Harlem Hills
6/27 - Deer Run Forest Preserve
All walks meet at 6pm

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.

Tree ID Class
Saturday, June 16th
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Spencer Conservation Area
(meet at pavilion)
FREE
Brian Hale, BCCD Volunteer
Textbook: Forest Trees of Illinois
You must register for this program by calling (815) 547-7935.

Bring your copy or purchase that morning for $13 (cash only)

Coon Creek Caster’s
HOOKED ON FISHING
(Ages 5 - 15)
Saturday, June 2nd
9:00 a.m.
The Coon Creek Casters 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!
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.

Join us for the 46th Annual Spring Bird Count

The annual Spring Bird Count was started in 1972 to get a record of birds throughout the state at a given time. This count is very helpful in learning more about migration patterns, nesting, and population sizes. This year’s count will take place on Sunday May 6th. There are two ways to help. First, is to be in the field counting birds in a section of the county. The second option is to stay at home and count the birds that visit your feeder. This is a great way to use your interest and knowledge of birds to help collect valuable data.

More information is available at http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu/collections/birds/sbc/
If you are interested in helping please contact Joel at wburkfdjoel@gmail.com.

Bird Hikes

Nest Box Walk Saturday, April 7th 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Take a morning hike through Spencer Conservation Area looking at the many nest boxes being utilized by resident birds. We will learn about the many different sizes and shapes used for different species. Also, learn more about maintaining and setting up boxes at home or as a volunteer for the BCCD.

Migration Walk Saturday, May 12th 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Get a chance to take a hike lead by Joel Neylon through the heart of Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area. We will search for the many birds that use this conservation area as a migration stop over. Come witness first-hand the biodiversity this conservation area contains.

Nesting Walk June 2nd 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Spend a morning hiking through Distillery Conservation Area at the height of nesting season. Distillery’s wide range of habitats should make for a very interesting morning. We will be searching the property for nesting birds within grasslands, wetlands and savannas.

Pre-registration is required for the hikes. Call the office at (815) 547-7935 to register, if you have questions or need directions.