Summer Camp!!

Ducktails ★ 4 - 5 yr. ★ 4 Weeks
June 20th  June 27th  July 11th  July 18th

Redwing ★ 6 – 11 yr. ★ 7 Weeks
June 20th thru August 5th

Redtail ★ 12 - 15 yr. ★ 2 Trips

Registration starts April 1st
See website for prices, dates, and themes.

www.BooneCountyConservationDistrict.org
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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- Dan Kane - Executive Director
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- Tina Dawson - Environmental Educator
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- Aarron Minson - Restoration Technician
- Mike Quigley - Crew Leader
- Pat Lupont - Field Technician
- Tom Berard - Field Technician

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.

If you are interested in volunteering at the BCCD, please fill out the form below and either bring it in to the nature center, fax it to (815) 547-7939 or mail it to 603 N. Appleton Road.

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

Name: _______________________________ Home Phone # ___-___-______

Address: ___________________________________________________________

Email or preferred means of contact ________________________________

Time available (hours per week/day(s) preferred) Hours ___/S M T W T F S (circle)

Talents you are willing to share: _______________________________________

What would you like to do for the BCCD? (If not below)
All necessary training will be provided.

**Check List**
- Heritage Gardens
- Brush Clearing
- Trail Maintenance
- Dog Park
- Painting
- Outdoor Cooking
- Rain Garden
- Wildlife Monitor
- Autumn Pioneer Festival
- Safety Patrol
- Teach Classes
- Your choice ______
- Seed Collecting
- Nature Guide
- Holiday Walk
- Clerical Work
- Cleanup (spring/fall/ storm/river)

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.

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!
The BCCD Needs Your Help in Monitoring Rare Population of Blanding’s Turtles!

In March of 2010, BCCD staff began monitoring Boone County’s only known population of the state endangered Blanding’s Turtle. Using visual survey, live-trapping and radio telemetry methods, BCCD staff hopes to obtain information about the size and dynamics of this rare turtle population.

Visual surveys simply involve venturing on foot to probable turtle locations, poking around in the muck and looking for basking turtles. However, this method leaves one wanting a more efficient means of acquiring turtles. Live-trapping methods involve the use of baited, collapsible hoop-net traps that safely secure the turtles, allowing staff members to capture them and record specifics about their size, sex, age, identifying features and overall health. This method allows BCCD personnel to determine approximate population size by trapping as many individuals as possible. It also provides BCCD staff the opportunity to apply radio transmitters (if available) on the turtles and track them through radio telemetry.

Once mounted on a Blanding’s turtle’s shell, a radio transmitter emits a signal that is picked up by an antennae and receiving equipment, allowing BCCD staff to pinpoint their location. So far, four turtles have been outfitted with radio transmitters that allow the BCCD to track and record their locations throughout their active season. The information acquired through radio telemetry is useful in determining where they spend their time and helps BCCD prioritize those areas for protection and habitat management.

The BCCD has tracked the four turtles to where they are now hibernating. Even while in their winter slumber, the well-being of these rare turtles and their habitat is on the minds of BCCD staff. As the BCCD prepares for continued Blanding’s turtle monitoring in the spring of 2011, we can’t help but be aware of the need for more hoop-net traps and radio transmitters that are such an integral part of the monitoring effort. Even as the turtles sleep, the battery power in their transmitters is waning, and there currently are no transmitters to replace them to continue the monitoring effort. Endangered turtles currently await transmitters and protection in the field.

Therefore, the Boone County Conservation District humbly requests monetary donations from willing and interested community members. These donations will be used exclusively for monitoring Boone County’s population of the state endangered Blanding’s Turtle. Your donation can help provide the effort with hoop-net traps (ranging from $20 to $140) that will allow for the discovery of new turtles and, ultimately, their protection. A donation can also provide this venture with radio transmitters (about $175 each) that allow for the continuing protection of these rare turtles and the habitats they occupy. To make a donation or if you have questions, call the BCCD office at (815) 547-7935.

Thank you for your time and consideration. And please remember that continued monitoring provides the continued protection of this Endangered Species.

Thank You

Photo Courtesy of Jason Ross
Horse Trail Zone Designations

Four Zone designations will be added to the Horse Trail this spring; dual-faced 4x4's bearing the Zone designation will be placed at the border of each Zone. The purpose of these Zones is so trail users can better pinpoint location when reporting a Medical Emergency or a needed trail repair.

The Horse Trail is naturally segmented by 4 waterways; crossing these waterways with Rescue/Repair vehicles is often impossible due to high water or excessive mud. The 2 obvious water crossings are the Kinnikinnick Creek crossings at the Eastern and Western edges of the Trail. The other 2 wet crossings are seasonal drainage ravines on the Northern and Southern sections of the Trail. These 4 water crossings naturally segment the Trail into 4 compass quadrants – SE, SW, NW and NE - these will be the Zone designations.

Each Zone can be accessed and searched by Rescue/Repair vehicles traveling solely on dry ground; this saves critical time and effort. As such, we ask that you at minimum keep track of what Zone you are in so you can identify the Zone should you need to report a problem. And any additional information within a Zone (e.g. Closer to the Creek, Midway Between or Closer to the Wet Ravine) would help us keep the Trail safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Lastly, you might consider adding the following numbers into your cell phone: Trail Emergency: BCCD Headquarters 815.547.7935 (weekday business hours only) Boone County Sheriff 815.544.2144 Trail Repair: BCCD Headquarters per above

Master Naturalist Program

The Winnebago County Extension Service is offering its Spring Master Naturalist Program beginning March 23rd. This excellent program is designed for adults of any age that desire the opportunity to learn about and positively impact our local environment. This innovative program combines classroom and field learning experiences. Participants must also complete 30 hours of volunteer service within the first year to become a Certified Master Naturalist. Registration opens February 1st, and space is limited to 20 participants. Visit Winnebago’s U of I Extension website or contact Jackie deBatista at jbatista@illinois.edu for more information.

Long Prairie Trail Clean Up
Sat., April 30th 8:30 a.m.

Join our “Friends of the Long Prairie Trail” group at the LPT parking lot in Poplar Grove for juice and donuts before tackling the trail clean up. Bring work gloves if you have them. If you have questions, please call (815) 547-7935.

Frogs
Sat., April 16th
10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Meet at the Gustafson Nature Center to learn about the frogs that are found in Boone County. We will start indoors to learn about the life history of the frog, then take a hike to the ponds and marsh to see if we can see or hear any frogs. All ages; under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is $4/person. Call (815) 547-7935 to register.

Bird Hikes
Tues., May 10th 4:00 p.m. and Sat., May 14th

Join BCCD Volunteer John Todt for a walk to view the birds. This is the time when a lot of species of birds might be migrating through the area. Meet at the Lion’s Shelter in Spencer Conservation Area. The shelter is located near the fishing ponds at the end of the park road. The entrance to Spencer Conservation Area is located on Appleton Road just north of the cemetery.

Flora Prairie Clean Up
Tues., March 15th 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Join us for the annual clean up at Flora Prairie. Volunteers will help clear brush and unsightly trash from the prairie. Wear comfortable clothing and bring work gloves. Call (815) 547-7935 for more information or for directions to Flora Prairie.

Your Help is Needed

The Education Department is looking for a tanned deer hide, fur, or for our educational programs and displays. If you have one to donate, call (815) 547-7935. Thanks for your help!
The Faces of Camp

Help keep these smiles on their faces—donate to the BCCD’s Send a Kid to Camp scholarship program.

Mail your donation to BCCD, 603 N. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008

Thank you.
Attention Bow Hunters

Qualifying for the BCCD archery hunt will be held on

**Saturday, May 14th**
7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Tuesday, May 17th**
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 19th**
11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(no make up or additional dates will be scheduled)

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

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