

CCFPD 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Thursday, January 19

SENIOR MOMENTS: INTO THE WOODS—A VIRTUAL HIKE

Clark-Lindsey Village, 101 W. Windsor Road, Urbana, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Senior citizens and mobility-limited individuals are invited to experience the sights and sounds of a woodland hike in the spring—without ever going outside! Along the way, we will discover and explore local woodland flora and fauna. Free. Reservations are required if you are not a resident; call (217) 896-2455.

Friday, January 20

SENIOR MOMENTS: INTO THE WOODS—A VIRTUAL HIKE

Emeritus at Canterbury Ridge, 1706 E Amber Ln, Urbana, 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

See Jan 19 description.

Monday, January 23

GUIDED HIKE: NATURE AT NIGHT

Sugar Creek Shelter, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Enjoy a guided hike during the new moon to explore the landscapes of the stars above and the earth around us. We may even hear the calls of owls and coyotes. Discover what emerges when darkness falls. We will meet at the Sugar Creek Shelter, the first building on the left as you enter the preserve. Please dress for the weather. \$2 per person. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, January 31

SENIOR MOMENTS: INTO THE WOODS—A VIRTUAL HIKE

Windsor of Savoy, 401 Burwash Ave., Savoy, 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

See Jan 19 description.

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 3

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: NATURE OF WINTER

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Take a break from the indoors and gain a new appreciation for this surprisingly-active time of year. We will explore physical and behavioral adaptations that allow local flora and fauna survive winter and hike to observe these first-hand. This class is designed for children age 8 and up. Parental accompaniment is not required. \$3 per child; registration due by January 27. For further information and to register contact Stacey at (217) 896-2455 or sclementz@ccfpd.org.

Wednesday, February 8

SENIOR MOMENTS: INTO THE WOODS—FORESTS IN ART AND LITERATURE

Emeritus at Canterbury Ridge, 1706 E Amber Ln, Urbana, 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Windsor of Savoy, 401 Burwash Ave., Savoy, 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,” Robert Frost says of the woods on a snowy evening in his famed poem. Woods, or forests, have been depicted as beautiful, dangerous and unfathomable in art and literature since ancient times. Barb Garvey, Assistant Director of the Museum of the Grand Prairie, will take you on a multimedia tour of the famous forests of the past, real and imagined, and delve into how our perceptions of the forest are influenced by depictions of them in the arts. Free. Reservations are required if you are not a resident; call (217) 586-2612.

Thursday, February 9

OWL PROWL

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Explore nature at night as we learn all about owls, and then try to call them to us! Dress for the weather, as we will be going on a short hike. Register early for this popular program! \$4 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Thursday, February 9

SENIOR MOMENTS: INTO THE WOODS—FORESTS IN ART AND LITERATURE

Clark-Lindsey Village, 101 W. Windsor Road, Urbana, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

See Feb 8 description.

Monday, February 13

BE MY VALENTINE

Museum of the Grand Prairie and Rayburn-Purnell Woods, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Come one, come all to a Valentine's celebration that's not just for couples. We will venture on a guided hike through beautiful Rayburn-Purnell Woods, then warm-up inside the Museum of the Grand Prairie with hot drinks and refreshments. Create a unique Valentine card for someone special with materials provided. It will be an evening to remember! \$5 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration required by February 10, as space is limited; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, February 17

OWL PROWL

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

See February 9

Thursday, February 23

OWL PROWL

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

See February 9

MARCH

Tuesday, March 6

GROWING UP WILD: DINO-MITE!

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Dinosaurs once roamed the earth, but where are they now? Together, we will discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils through hands-on games, crafts, and more! This program is for preschoolers and their adults. Dress for the weather, as we will go on a short hike. \$5 per child. Registration required by March 2; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Wednesday, March 7

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: ACTIVITIES "BY THE BOOKS!"

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

In preparation for this morning, your family will read one or more of the following settler-themed books: *Farmer Boy*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Happy Birthday, Kirsten!* from The American Girls Collection; *L is For Lincoln*, by Kathy-jo Wargin; and *Kindle Me a Riddle*, by Roberta Karim. (All of these books are available through the Lincoln Trails Library System.) We will briefly discuss the books, see some artifacts that will look familiar from the books, and do many activities "By the Books." You may even come dressed up as one of your favorite characters! This will be a great experience-filled day with settler chores, crafts, and games not usually done during public events (or the settler course), such as churning butter. This class is recommended for ages 2 and up, with parental accompaniment required. \$3 per child; registration and payment due March 1. For further information and to register, call Sandy at (217) 586-2612.

Tuesday, March 13

GROWING UP WILD: DINO-MITE!

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

See March 6

Thursday, March 15

WOODCOCK WALK

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Witness the amazing courtship display of the American woodcock. A short presentation will be followed by a hike down Timberdoodle Trail to look for the sky dancers. \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, March 16

WOODCOCK WALK

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

See March 15

Saturday, March 17

PRESENTATION – 100 DISCOVERIES: THE NATURE OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Two centuries ago, Illinois served as the start for one of the greatest exploratory endeavors undertaken in North America—the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This expedition generated perhaps the most famous nature journals ever compiled during their two-year exploration of the American West. Today, a new Corps of Discovery has been developed by biologists from the Illinois Natural History Survey. Armed with pencil, paper, and camera, this new corps has set out to rediscover the Grand Prairie in central Illinois as it exists today. Join us for an entertaining multimedia presentation featuring the natural and cultural beauty of Illinois interpreted through artistic expression by members of the Corps of Discovery. This presentation will kick-off the grand opening of the 100 Discoveries temporary exhibit, running from March 1 to December 31, 2012 at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org.

Thursday, March 22

WOODCOCK WALK

Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, N. Lombard St., Mahomet, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Join us in a search for the elusive wood snipe, AKA the American woodcock, as we explore prairie life at dusk. Meet at the Buffalo Trace Prairie parking lot on Rt. 49 / N. Lombard across the street from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, March 23

LIVERS OF THE RIVERS – FRESHWATER MUSSELS OF ILLINOIS

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
How is a mollusk like a liver? It's no riddle—freshwater mussels are living filters that help to clean our waters and play many vital roles in a healthy ecosystem. Their unique life histories are bizarre and incredible, but their populations are declining at alarming rates. Guest presenter Alison Price, Mussel Field Biologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, will guide our exploration into the secret lives of these fascinating and understated animals. \$2 per person. Registration is required; please contact (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, March 27

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: NATIVE AMERICANS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Ancient native peoples are the topic of the day. Life thousands of years ago, settler life, and modern life will be compared and contrasted through discussion, activities, and exhibits. (Mammoths and extinction will be mentioned.) This class is designed for ages 6 and up, with parent accompaniment recommended. \$4 per child; registration and payment due March 20. For further information and to register, call Sandy at (217) 586-2612.

Saturday, March 31

FERNS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
Delicate, lace-like ferns can soften your home landscape, do well in shady areas, remove air pollutants from the atmosphere, and they have an interesting life history. This group of plants has even been around since before the dinosaurs, so kids, and the kid in you should want them around too! This program, designed with gardeners and homeowners in mind, will introduce you to several fern species that are locally available that can do well in your permanent and temporary landscaping plans. \$5 per person. Registration required, as space is limited; (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

APRIL

Tuesday, April 3

GROWING UP WILD: HIKING TYKES

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
There is nothing our preschoolers love more than to hike and explore! In this open-ended program, we will discover nature around us using our senses and a handy bag of tricks! Remember to dress for the weather, as we will be outside for the duration of the program. (In the event of severe weather, we will play indoors.) This program is for preschoolers and their adults. \$5 per child. Registration required by March 30; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, April 10

GROWING UP WILD: HIKING TYKES

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
See April 3

Friday, April 13

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: AQUATIC ECOLOGIST

Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Through hands-on scientific investigations, we will introduce you to the ecology of aquatic ecosystems. You will use nets to collect aquatic organisms and simple kits to test the water quality of the lake. We will tie your findings in to a discussion of watersheds, pollution, and water conservation. This class is designed for children age 9 and up. Parental accompaniment is not required. \$3 per child; registration is due by April 6. For further information and to register contact Stacey at (217) 896-2455 or sclementz@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, April 14

ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH REFRESHER WORKSHOP

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

This refresher workshop is open to all volunteers who have already attended a complete RiverWatch training workshop. We will begin with a lecture session indoors, followed by a field training session at a local stream. Please bring a snack or sack lunch. Registration is mandatory prior to attending the workshop. To register, contact the RiverWatch Office at 618-468-4870. The fee is \$10 and must be paid in advance. Make checks payable to Lewis and Clark Community College and send payment to Attn: RiverWatch, Lewis and Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035.

Sunday, April 15

LECTURE – ILLINOIS AND THE CIVIL WAR

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.

Dan Monroe, Professor of History at Millikin University, offers his insights on the contributions of Illinois soldiers and civilians alike to the Civil War effort. Monroe is currently writing a book on daily life before the Civil War. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, April 17

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: BOTANY BASICS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Explore the world of botany. Learn why plants are important, and study their diverse structures and adaptations. Students will learn some basic botany content, learn how to identify trees using a key, and plant some seeds to take home. This program is designed for ages 8-12, with parental accompaniment recommended. \$3 per child; registration must be made by April 10. Contact Ralph Bonati at (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, April 21

CYCLING SAVVY: TRAFFIC CYCLING COURSE

Lake of the Woods Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S. Lake of the Woods Rd., Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Would you like to use your bicycle more often but are reluctant to ride with motor traffic? This course will provide the foundation for safe and stress-free cycling. Certified instructors will cover the Rules of the Road, Bicycle Safety, and Traffic Cycling Problem Solving. Then an optional on-bike session (bring your bike!) will introduce bike handling and traffic cycling skills. For adults and teens age 15 and up. \$10 per person. Space is limited; call (217) 896-2455 or e-mail pleiter@ccfpd.org to register.

Saturday, April 21

HOW TO START A GARDEN

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Have you wanted to start a fruit and vegetable garden, but weren't sure how to begin? Our Naturalist/Garden Specialist will have a PowerPoint presentation, along with a discussion about why you should have your own garden and exactly how you can go about starting one this weekend! \$5 per person. Registration required, as space is limited; (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, April 21

CUAS STARWATCH

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 8:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Join the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society for an evening with the stars. Meet at the Activity Center at 8:00 P.M. for a short presentation, and then drive to the North Waterfowl Management Area to view the stars, planets, and more! Weather-permitting, the program will go until midnight. No cloud date. Free. For more information, call (217) 896-2455.

Sunday, April 22

BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL AT THE HOMER LAKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

See art alive at the beautiful and historic Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Local artists will have one-of-a-kind works on display and for sale. Visitors can experiment creating their own works of art with items from nature. You can even bring your own camera and art supplies; we'll provide the wildlife and scenery! All ages will be entertained. Free. For information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, April 22

BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL AT THE MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Join us for the Boneyard Arts Festival as we highlight local artisans. Activities for our visitors include easel painting, bubble creations, sketching, charcoal and pastel chalks, and photo blue paper images. Come help us create a special painting as you contribute to our giant 6' x 6' canvas. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, April 22

MAHOMET CIVIC GARDEN CLUB EARTH DAY EXPO

Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
The Mahomet Civic Garden Club will host their Earth Day event at the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. Festivities will include exhibitors with environmentally conscious arts and crafts, gardening supplies, and information about sustainability. The Lake of the Woods Naturalist/Garden Specialist will give a presentation at 2pm. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call Ellen Phillippe of the Mahomet Civic Garden Club at (217) 586-5821.

Saturday, April 28

4th ANNUAL BIRD MIGRATION FESTIVAL AT HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE

Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 1:00 P.M – 4:00 P.M.

Mist Netting with Jason Fisher: 11 A.M – 1:00 P.M, Interpretive Center

Main Event & Live Raptors: 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M., Walnut Hill Shelter*

Want to escape the hustle and bustle of the city? Bring your family and friends to Homer Lake to experience the sensations of spring and celebrate the migration season. We will have live raptors (birds of prey), crafts, hikes, and more! Acclaimed local storyteller Kathe Brinkmann will entertain from 2-3pm. All activities are FREE. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

*In the event of rain, activities at Walnut Hill will be relocated indoors to the Salt Fork Center.

MAY

Saturday, May 5

KIDS' TURN IN THE GARDEN

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Kids will learn about seeds, transplanting seedlings, how to grow food for their family, and take home some starter plants for their own kid's garden. \$5 per child. Registration required; (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, May 6

LECTURE- ILLINOIS IN THE WAR OF 1812

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.

This year, 2012, marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, sometimes called the "Second War for American Independence." The role Illinois played in the war was a pivotal event in the state's early history, but until now there has been scant attention paid to events in this state during the war. Gillum Ferguson has now filled that gap with the first full-length and comprehensive book on the subject, *Illinois in the War of 1812*, published by the University of Illinois Press Information. The War of 1812 was a crucial stage in opening the Grand Prairie to settlement, and to Central Illinois in particular. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, May 8

GROWING UP WILD: GARDEN ADVENTURES

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Preschoolers and their adults are invited to explore the sights, sounds, and smells of our native-plant garden in spring. We will learn and play as we investigate the plants, bugs, and other creatures that call the garden home. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to get a little dirty! \$5 per child. Registration required by May 4; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, May 11

BOINKS, PEEPS, & TWANGS: HOW TO IDENTIFY LOCAL FROGS

Interpretive Center and wetland, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Do frogs really say "ribbit"? What is that strange sound you hear every spring? Are there tree frogs in Illinois? Discover the answers to these questions and more during this family-friendly program! A multi-media presentation indoors will be followed by a hike to the restored wetland to look for frogs and practice your skills. Each participant will receive a complementary CD of local frog calls to take home. Program fee is \$2 per person. Mud-stomping shoes and bug spray are recommended. Registration required; contact (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, May 15

GROWING UP WILD: DISCOVERY GARDEN ADVENTURES

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Preschoolers and their adults are invited to join us at the Discovery Garden to explore the sights, sounds, and smells of the garden in spring. We will learn and play as we investigate the plants, bugs, and other creatures that call the garden home. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to get a little dirty! \$5 per child. Registration is required by May 11; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, May 26

TAKE ME FISHING

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Did you know that fishing promotes healthy minds and bodies? Bring your family and friends out for some free fishing fun! We welcome first-timers and experienced anglers alike. There will be kids' activities, prizes, and more! Basic fishing instruction will be available. The Illinois fishing license requirement has been waived for this event. Cane poles are available to borrow, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bait provided. Adult supervision of children is required. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

JUNE

Friday, June 1

FUNGUS AMONG US

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

From delicious morels to poisonous Amanitas, from bread molds to slime molds, fungi live among us. In fact, life as we know it wouldn't exist without them! Join us on the hunt for these bizarre, yet essential organisms. Illinois Natural History Survey mycologist Dr. Andrew Miller will first teach us about some of the edible and poisonous mushrooms of Illinois followed by a hike to search for them. Come prepared for an outdoor adventure to remember. \$2 per person. Registration required; contact (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Thursday, June 7

DON'T BUG ME

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

The coming of summer means warmer weather, longer days, and more outdoor fun. But an evening outdoors can quickly become miserable with the unwelcomed company of chiggers, ticks, spiders, and the all-to-famous mosquito! Discover the mysterious lives of these creepy, crawly, critters and learn some natural ways to get them to stop bugging you! This indoor presentation will include interactive family activities. Free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or ebickers@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, June 10

CONCERT IN THE GARDEN SERIES

Museum of the Grand Prairie & Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Join us behind the museum at our FREE garden concert series as we present local bands for your evening's entertainment. Pack a picnic dinner, bring chairs or sit on a blanket in the grass as the Ruthless Goats perform bluegrass and folk. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, June 30

TAKE ME FISHING

Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Did you know that fishing promotes healthy minds and bodies? Bring your family and friends out for some free fishing fun! We welcome first-timers and experienced anglers alike. There will be kids' activities, prizes, and more! Basic fishing instruction will be available. The Illinois fishing license requirement has been waived for this event. Cane poles are available to borrow, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bait provided. Adult supervision of children is required. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Summer camps: June 12 – July 27 (no camp July 2-6)

Grand Prairie Kids (Wednesdays 9:30-11:00am)

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

June 13: Cooking Up History – Part 1

No microwaves, plastic wrap or frozen dinners? What on earth did the early settlers eat, and how did they manage to cook it? Each of these three units will explore cooking methods, lore, and artifacts from the past. Kids will also have the opportunity to sample some traditional foods. Attend one, two, or all parts of this 3-part summer camp unit. *Cooking Up History* will coordinate with the loan kit that the museum creates for local librarians to use in their children's summer reading programs.

June 20: Grand Prairie Kids Outdoors!

New this year, *Grand Prairie Kids Outdoors!* will take place in Buffalo Trace prairie across from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Kids, come prepared to explore and experience this ecosystem just as the settlers did way back in the early 1800s.

June 27: Cooking Up History – Part 2

See June 13 description.

Eco-Adventures

(Stacey has day/time/location schedule)

June 12-15: Underground Life

Come to camp ready to explore the world beneath your feet. Identify underground critters, learn how soil is created and get dirty in the name of science.

June 19-22: Solar Blast

Unlock the mysteries of the sun! Learn how the sun affects our everyday lives—from its role in other cultures to today's uses of solar energy. Enjoy sun-sational crafts, solar snacks and more.

June 26-29: Winged Wonders

Hummingbirds hum, hawks soar, and dragonflies zip through the summer sky. Animals that fly are fun and exciting to investigate. Campers will search for great blue herons, butterflies, dragonflies, and more gravity-defying animals in an attempt to unlock the secrets of flight.

Garden Adventures (Mondays 9-11am)

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

June 11: Pioneer Gardening

Kids will learn how to plow like a pioneer, plant some seeds, transplant seedlings, and make a leaf shape collection.

June 18: Container Gardening

Kids will learn about the advantages of gardening in containers, and then create decorative stepping stones to be placed around the containers in the Discovery Garden as a pathway for people to enjoy. Kids will take home their stones on the last day of camp.

June 25: Organic Gardening

Kids will learn about sustainability, organic gardening, and composting. They will use biodegradable pots to plant something to grow at home.

TT Garden Adventures (Wednesdays 9-10:30am)

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

June 13: Pioneer Gardening

Kids will learn how to plow like a pioneer, plant some seeds, transplant seedlings, and make a leaf shape collection.

June 20: Container Gardening

Kids will learn about the advantages of gardening in containers, and then create decorative stepping stones to be placed around the containers in the Discovery Garden as a pathway for people to enjoy. Kids will take home their stones on the last day of camp.

June 27: Organic Gardening

Kids will learn about sustainability, organic gardening, and composting. They will use biodegradable pots to plant something to grow at home.

JULY

Thursday, July 5

FULL DAY CAMP: INTO THE WILD

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Campers will learn basic wilderness survival skills including how to build a campfire, proper gear for hiking, and orienteering. We will also learn what it takes to track animals in the woods and much more. For kids who have completed 2nd-5th grades. \$15 per child. Registration is required; (217) 896-2455 or sclementz@ccfpd.org.

Friday, July 6

FULL DAY CAMP: INTO THE WILD

Elks Lake Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
See July 5.

Saturday, July 7

CANOEING FOR BEGINNERS

Walnut Hill Boat Launch, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Never been in a canoe before? This program is the place to start! After learning the basics of canoeing and water safety, you will be a part of a canoe caravan around Homer Lake. We will explore the animals and plants of the water while practicing your canoeing skills. All equipment will be provided; please bring sunscreen and water to drink. Minimum age to participate is 8 years old; an adult must accompany children under 18. Space is limited so please register early. \$8 per person, or \$4 if you bring your own canoe. Registration by phone required: (217) 896-2455.

Sunday, July 8

CONCERT IN THE GARDEN SERIES

Museum of the Grand Prairie & Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Join us behind the museum at our FREE garden concert series as we present local bands for your evening's entertainment. Pack a picnic dinner, bring chairs or sit on a blanket in the grass as High Cross Road plays bluegrass. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, July 21

MEET THE ANIMALS

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Stop by anytime between 1pm and 4pm to meet and interact with live animals brought by Scovill Zoo's Mobile Zoo. Free. For further information, call (217) 896-2455 or pleiter@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, July 28

TAKE ME FISHING

Boathouse Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 101 N Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Did you know that fishing promotes healthy minds and bodies? Bring your family and friends out for some free fishing fun! We welcome first-timers and experienced anglers alike. There will be kids' activities, prizes, and more! Basic fishing instruction will be available. The Illinois fishing license requirement has been waived for this event. Cane poles are available to borrow, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bait provided. Adult supervision of children is required. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Summer camps: June 12 – July 27 (no camp July 2-6)

Grand Prairie Kids (Wednesdays 9:30-11:00am)

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

July 11: Cooking Up History – Part 3

See June 13 description.

Eco-Adventures

(Stacey has day/time/location schedule)

July 10-13: Wonders of Water

Water, water everywhere! Be prepared to get wet as we learn about water through experiments and activities.

July 17-20: Nature's Myths Busted!

Are snakes slimy? Do bats get tangled in your hair? Do toads give you warts? Come prepared to take a look at some of the myths that surround the plants and animals that call Illinois home.

July 24-27: Eco-Quest

This week campers will be using their eyes, ears, and noses to uncover some of nature's secrets. Come ready to explore the mysteries of the forest preserves.

Garden Adventures (Mondays 9-11am)

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

July 9: Wet Week

This week the kids will learn all about water, including the water cycle and how plants move water. We will have plenty of time to play in the water, too!

July 16: Bug Week

Kids will go buggy about bugs! We'll search for them, observe them, catch them, check out beeswax, and eat some honey. We will even make some creepy creatures to take home.

July 23: Scavenger Hunt and Pizza Week

This week the kids will search for hidden objects in the Discovery Garden to earn prizes. Then we will sample some pizza made with ingredients we grew in the garden.

TT Garden Adventures (Wednesdays 9-10:30am)

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

July 11: Wet Week

This week the kids will learn all about water, including the water cycle and how plants move water. We will have plenty of time to play in the water, too!

July 18: Bug Week

Kids will go buggy about bugs! We'll search for them, observe them, catch them, check out beeswax, and eat some honey. We will even make some creepy creatures to take home.

July 25: Scavenger Hunt and Pizza Week

This week the kids will search for hidden objects in the Discovery Garden to earn prizes. Then we will sample some pizza made with ingredients we grew in the garden.

AUGUST**Thursday, August 9****SUNSET PADDLE**

Walnut Hill Boat Launch, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Learn who comes out when the sun goes down as we explore aquatic life of Homer Lake via canoe. Previous canoe experience is required. All equipment will be provided; please bring water to drink and bug spray. Minimum age to participate is 8 years old; an adult must accompany children under 18. \$8 per person, or \$4 if you bring your own canoe. Space is limited. Registration by phone required: (217) 896-2455.

Sunday, August 12**CONCERT IN THE GARDEN SERIES**

Museum of the Grand Prairie & Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Join us behind the museum at our FREE garden concert series as we present local bands for your evening's entertainment. Pack a picnic dinner, bring chairs or sit on a blanket in the grass as the St. Joseph Jazz Band performs. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, August 18

CUAS STARWATCH

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 8:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Join the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society for an evening with the stars. Meet at the Activity Center at 8:00 P.M. for a short presentation by Staerkle Planetarium Coordinator David Leake. Then drive to the North Waterfowl Management Area to view the stars, planets, and more! Weather-permitting, the program will go until midnight. No cloud date. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, August 24

BATS AT THE BRIDGE

Elks Lake Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Did you know that bats provide billions of dollars worth of services to humans each year? Come learn more about these fascinating and often misunderstood mammals! After a short presentation, we will drive to the Covered Bridge to look for the bats living there. \$3 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration is required; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 7

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: INSECTS AND SPIDERS

Elks Lake Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

It's no mystery—insects and spiders are everywhere! Learn about insects and spiders' lifecycles, habitats, and adaptations. We will turn someone into an insect and a spider, learn what it's like to see through the eyes of an insect, and go on a bug hunt. This class is designed for children age 7 and up. Parental accompaniment is not required. \$3 per child; registration is due by Aug. 31. For further information and to register contact Stacey at (217) 896-2455 or sclementz@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, September 8

PLANT PARTS & PENS

Discovery Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

After some storytelling about nature, kids will try their hands at artistic sketching of natural garden scenes in the Botanical Gardens, and then learn how to record what they see and how they feel about their observations in a small journal. Naturalists and an early childhood specialist will be on-hand to assist kids with this unique way of learning about and enjoying nature. Program is designed for children age 5-8. \$5 per child. Registration required as space is limited; (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, September 11

GROWING UP WILD: FAIRY FORTS AND GNOME HOMES

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

Preschoolers and their adults are invited to use their imaginations and materials from nature to build miniature dwellings for our fantastical forest friends. We will start with a hike to gather supplies, then kids will be allotted "fairy tokens" to purchase additional building materials. You are invited to dress-up for this program! Remember to dress for the weather, as we will be playing outdoors. \$5 per child. Registration required by Sept. 7; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, September 15

PRAIRIE STORIES

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Join us for an afternoon of hands-on activities and demonstrations from settler times. Try samples of apple butter, hush puppies and fresh-churned butter. Enjoy *Banjulele* as they perform Illinois folk music. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, September 15

CUAS STARWATCH AT HOMER LAKE

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 7:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.

Join the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society for an evening with the stars. Meet at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center at 7:00 P.M. for a short presentation by Staerkle Planetarium Coordinator David Leake. Then head to the historic Maple Sugar Grove to view the stars, planets, and more! Weather-permitting, the program will go until midnight. No cloud date. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, September 18

GROWING UP WILD: FAIRY FORTS AND GNOME HOMES

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

See September 11

Friday, September 21

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: PRAIRIE ADVENTURES

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 9:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

The District education staff presents Prairie Adventures as a multi-disciplinary experience, incorporating settlers' harvesting, prairie animals, and prairie plants. Investigate Buffalo Trace (the prairie across from the museum), witness a prairie burn demo, see and touch harvesting tools and bison bones! This program is a somewhat-intense and busy day. Most of it will be outdoors with significant walking, so dress appropriately. It is recommended for children age 8 and up, with parental accompaniment suggested. No toddlers or strollers, please. \$3 per child; for further information and to register, call Sandy at (217) 586-2612.

Saturday, September 22

LANDSCAPING WITH PRAIRIE PLANTS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

In this adult program, you can find out what prairie plants might go well in your yard. \$5 per person. Registration required, as space is limited; (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, September 23

LECTURE- MARY TODD LINCOLN AND VARINA HOWELL DAVIS: CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.

For both Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, and Varina Howell Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis, the Civil War (1861-1865) and its aftermath had a major impact. This lecture discusses how these two Civil War wives coped with, confronted, and—at crucial times—overcame personal and political challenges.

Sharon Alter taught History and Political Science for more than 30 years and is currently Professor Emeritus of History & Political Science at William Rainey Harper College. She holds an MA in History and is active in promoting the history of women and women in politics in the United States. She has won numerous awards for her teaching and research interests. This lecture is funded, in part, by the Illinois Humanities Council. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org

Saturday, September 29

INTO TREES

Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Can't see the forest for the trees? Stop by the Homer Lake Interpretive Center and enjoy a day of tree-related crafts, activities, and more. Making a leaf collection? Join us for guided hikes leaving from the center at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Learn how to identify trees and which leaves are okay to collect, and special permission will be granted to remove leaves from the forest preserve. Free. For more information, (217) 896-2455 or ebickers@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, September 29

HOWL OF THE COYOTE: A FULL MOON HIKE

Sangamon River Forest Preserve, 2797 County Road 600 E, Fisher, 6:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Mythological tricksters... American jackals... Prairie wolves. Coyotes, despite their bad reputations, play a vital role in our rural and urban communities. But can we learn to coexist in peace? Guest presenter Lisa Braddock, local Corps of Discovery member and Master Naturalist, will explain why the coyote's resilience, adaptability, and intelligence deserve our respect. Join us for a glimpse into the lives of these elusive "song dogs." A short presentation will be followed by a hike in the light of the full harvest moon. Please bring your own bug spray. \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration required; call (217) 896-2455.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 2

GROWING UP WILD: BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

Preschoolers and their adults are invited to explore the lives of our feathered friends and what makes them different from other animals. Learn about the birds that live in our preserves, and where they go in the winter, through games, crafts, stories and more. Remember to dress for the weather, as we will go on a short hike. \$5 per child. Registration required by Sept. 28; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, October 9

GROWING UP WILD: BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

See October 2.

Tuesday, October 9

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: SEED SAFARI

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Students will learn some basic content related to seeds, take a short hike in the botanical gardens in search of seeds, and plant some seeds to take home. This program is designed for ages 5-8, with parental accompaniment recommended. \$3 per child. Registration must be made by October 2. Contact Ralph Bonati at (217) 586-2612 or rbonati@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, October 13

SOFT WALKING ADVENTURE

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Can you walk like a fox? Have you ever seen from an ant's eye-view or gotten up-close and personal with a tree? New worlds will open before your eyes during this family program, full of activities to excite your senses and renew your awareness of nature. During the hike portion, we will experience the world around us without using spoken words—it's easier than you think! What mysteries will we discover when we walk softly? \$3 per person; recommended for ages 8 and up with parental accompaniment. Registration required as space is limited; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Sunday, October 14

LECTURE – MY DEAR WIFE / DEAR DAVIE: LINCOLN, THE CIRCUIT AND LIFE AT HOME FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE OF DAVID AND SARAH DAVIS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.
When Abraham Lincoln travelled the 8th Judicial Circuit, the judge, David Davis, was his friend. Davis and his wife wrote hundreds of letters to one another during this era, many of which reveal important details about Lincoln and the life on the road. Pat Schey from the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site has spent the last several years transcribing these letters and offers her unique insight on Lincoln, Davis and the circuit. Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org.

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 4

LECTURE – ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S "CONFESSION"

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.
Stewart Winger, Professor of History at Illinois State University, is the author of *Lincoln, Religion and Romantic Cultural Politics*, a book which explores Lincoln's Romantic Protestant vision for America's identity and destiny through his major speeches. In this lecture, Winger investigates new information regarding Lincoln's views and the Second Inaugural address. In a letter to Thurlow Weed just after the Second Inaugural, days before his death, Lincoln wrote that "whatever of humiliation there is in it, falls most directly on myself." What was the "humiliation" Lincoln spoke of, and how did it apply to him? This remark presents an overlooked clue to the meaning of the Second Inaugural for Lincoln, and with that, the meaning of the Civil War. What was Lincoln confessing? Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or bgarvey@ccfpd.org

Tuesday, November 6

GROWING UP WILD: CAMOUFLAGE—NATURE'S DISGUISE

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
Camouflage colors, stripes and spots help wild animals to not get caught! In this program for preschoolers and their adults, we will discover what life is like for animals in disguise. Explore life hiding in the forest through games, activities, crafts, and more. Remember to dress for the weather, as we will go on a short hike. \$5 per child. Registration required by Nov. 2; (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Tuesday, November 6

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: OREGON TRAIL (PART 1 OF 2)

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Enhance your westward-movement curriculum with this 2-part class. Through primary documents, exhibits, discussion, and activities, you will gain new perspective on this event in our history. If you have participated in our settler course, this is a great follow-up for 8-15 year-olds. Chronologically, it ends with the Civil War period, which will be offered next spring. (Participation in any one of these classes is not dependent on having taken any of the others.) This class will be held in two parts, and you will be expected to attend both days; part 2 is on Nov. 13. There will be a homework assignment to complete between classes. It is designed for children age 8 and up, with parental accompaniment suggested. \$8 per child covers both days and materials. Registration and payment is due Oct. 30. For further information and to register, call Sandy at (217) 586-2612.

Tuesday, November 13

GROWING UP WILD: CAMOUFLAGE—NATURE'S DISGUISE

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 109 S Lake of the Woods Rd, Mahomet, 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
See November 6.

Tuesday, November 13

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: OREGON TRAIL (PART 2 OF 2)

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
See Nov. 6.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 5

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM: ACTIVITIES "BY THE BOOKS!"

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

In preparation for this morning, your family will read one or more of the following Christmas- or winter-themed books: *Christmas in the Big Woods*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Kirsten's Surprise*, from The American Girls Collection; *Prairie Christmas*, by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk; *A Prairie Boy's Winter*, by William Kurelek; or *The Long Winter*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. (All of these books, and many more similar options, are available through the Lincoln Trails Library System. Don't wait until the last minute!) We will briefly discuss the books, see some artifacts that will look familiar from the books, and do many activities "By the Books." You may even come dressed up as one of your favorite characters! This will be a great experience-filled day with Christmas and winter activities (some outside!) not usually done at the museum. (If you participated in the April "By the Books" program, this will be a similar format with mostly different activities.) This class is recommended for ages 2 and up, with parental accompaniment required. \$3 per child; registration and payment due November 28. For further information and to register, call Sandy at (217) 586-2612.

Saturday, December 8

...TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WE GO!

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N Lombard, Mahomet, 2:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Join us for our annual Christmas program. Nine stations will be available for children to make, wrap and take home presents and ornaments for their families and friends. Come join us for a great time with glue and glitter! Free. For information, (217) 586-2612 or ctice@ccfpd.org.

Saturday, December 8

HOMER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Join us at Homer Lake for our natural approach to creating unique holiday gifts. Stations will be set up for children to make, wrap, and take home presents and ornaments for their families and friends. You can also help us create treats to decorate the trees outside of the Interpretive Center as our gift to the wildlife that call this preserve home. There's no place like Homer for the holidays! Come and go at your convenience during program hours. Free. For information, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Thursday, December 20

REMARKABLE REPTILES

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Join a naturalist from the Homer Lake Interpretive Center for a close-up look at our resident snake & turtles. Learn their natural and personal histories. Free. Registration is required, as space is limited, (217) 896-2455 or shampson@ccfpd.org.

Friday, December 21

REMARKABLE REPTILES

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 3485 County Road 2700 E, Penfield, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

See December 19.