

Courtesy, Champaign County Historical Archives, The Urbana Free Library

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, presidentlincoln!

Champaign County is gearing up for the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009!

Lincoln visited many local communities during the time he served as a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit. When he came to the area, he would enter the county just south of Mahomet, near what is now River Bend Forest Preserve. He stayed at the Nine Gal Tavern east of Mahomet on the dirt road that followed the same general path as what is now US Route 150. Lincoln once gave a speech in Champaign against slavery, and he defended the first murderer tried in Champaign County (losing the case). After leaving the courthouse in Urbana, he would have crossed the Salt Fork River south and east of St. Joseph, in the area that is now Homer Lake Road.

He once had his picture taken in Urbana, with the artist having to loan him a coat; and in 1861, before leaving for Washington, Abraham Lincoln made his last speech to the people of Champaign County at the Tolono train station (now a park).

Many activities are being planned throughout the newly-designated Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area that includes Champaign County. One of the larger and more permanent projects is a joint effort between the Early American Museum and Champaign County, that will construct an exhibit at the Champaign County Courthouse. It will include a jury panel, archives and audio depictions illustrating

courthouse proceedings in Lincoln's time. It will also provide an interactive learning experience for children, placing Lincoln in the context of their own community.

Another exciting initiative is in the works by WILL-TV. The station is producing a series on Lincoln's life as an 1850s attorney. Part of the *Prairie Fires* program, it will feature reenactments and interviews.

Yet another production is *Champaign County's Lincoln*, a 30-minute DVD revealing Lincoln's local experiences. It is being distributed to area libraries, schoolteachers and community centers free of charge, and is available for purchase at the Early American Museum or the Champaign County Archives in the Urbana Free Library.

A number of communities are establishing wayside exhibits as part of a statewide effort by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. A series of beautifully-designed storyboards with pictures, images and historical text, they tell unique stories about Abraham Lincoln and his connection to their communities. They are termed "wayside" exhibits because they will be placed along streets and sidewalks. Signs will be in Champaign, Urbana, Mahomet, Tolono, Homer and St. Joseph. Two of the first signs in the area are on display now at the Early American Museum in Mahomet.



CCFPD employees Roy Woodmansee II (left) and Brad Houchens stand next to the Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibit they installed at the north end of Homer Lake Forest Preserve, just off Homer Lake Road. This is the road Lincoln traveled as a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit.

Our own Early American Museum, designated as a Looking for Lincoln location, tells the story of earlier residents of the Grand Prairie. It provides a wealth of activities in its Discovery Room as well as throughout the various exhibits.

Although the museum is normally open through December, and then starts its season again in March, this year, you may also visit on February 12th as we celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday!

What are you going to do to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event? Remember, it's February 12, 2009. Do something creative and unique to honor our nation's 16th president! For more information, visit <http://www.co.champaign.il.us/lincoln>.

NEW THIS YEAR AT THE EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM!

Champaign County's Lincoln will be a new permanent exhibit providing visitors with a glimpse of what Champaign County was like when Lincoln spent time here. *The Puzzle of Slavery* re-creates the interior of the Goose Pond Church, featuring voices of local anti-slavery and anti-abolition forces, and *Our Friend and Fellow Citizen* explores how Lincoln's political friends and rivals rallied behind him as he was elected President and executed the Civil War. It will include his relationships with many of our community's founders.

In addition, the special exhibit, *The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln*, will investigate various aspects of Lincoln's life and personality and how these have been communicated in print, photography and art over the past two centuries.

MUSEUM HOURS

Daily 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. March through December with Special Hours for Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 2009

Additional Summer Hours:
10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Mondays-Saturdays in June, July and August

For more information, call (217) 586-2612 or visit www.earlyamericanmuseum.org.



beyondsustainability

PART 2



The world seems to be going green, and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is no exception. Through conserving energy, reducing fuel use, removing invasive species, and many more conservation efforts, the District strives to be an environmental steward of our county's lands and resources. Here is how we are "Making Green Even Greener."

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In 2006, employees of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District developed a District-wide strategic plan to address the most important issues we face. One important issue that came to the forefront was the need to measure our environmental impact and put forth efforts to reduce our impact on the environment. Although we are inherent stewards of the environment through our preservation and restoration efforts, we

recognized there are opportunities to further improve environmental quality. Our first step in this endeavor was to create an environmental assessment intern position that would assess the daily operations of all departments and set goals for more sustainable, efficient use of resources.

Our environmental assessment is focusing on four areas where we can reduce our negative impacts on the environment—pollution prevention, energy conservation, water conservation and waste reduction. At the completion of the assessment, Forest Preserve District staff will receive a report detailing past and current practices and their impacts, goals for improving environmental stewardship, and action steps to achieve these goals. Actions such as converting to more efficient light bulbs and vehicles, and reducing water loss due to leaks, will not only benefit the environment, but result in financial savings as well. Ultimately, we hope to share what we've learned in this process with the public so that together we can strive for a more sustainable existence.

A BRIGHT IDEA!

The CCFPD was recently awarded a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for energy-efficient lighting throughout all the preserves. Operations staff at each preserve changed out energy-inefficient bulbs and ballasts with state-of-the-art hardware. The benefits of this changeover were threefold. First, the new lighting system lasts longer than the traditional system. Secondly, the new systems are more energy-efficient when they are in use. Early estimates are that electrical savings may be greater than 5% annually. Thirdly, greenhouse gases and pollutants are greatly reduced. For example, with the new system in place, there would be an astounding 40,000-pound reduction in CO₂ versus the old system. (This is based on the assumption that all lights in all preserves were on for eight hours a day for one year). To top it off, all of the old materials were recycled locally. This is a small change that has huge results.

IF IT IS GREEN AND GROWING, ISN'T THAT GOOD?

Our natural areas also need to be sustainable, and every individual should strive to help improve these areas. A sustainable natural area is one that has the ability to maintain its structure and function over time in the face of external stress. Because many of the pre-settlement natural processes have been eliminated from our landscape, in order for natural areas to survive, land management must take place. In central Illinois our biggest threat to the health of our ecosystems is nonnative invasive plant species. These species crowd out native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, change hydrology, and alter soil chemistry. The bottom line is that they drastically change the natural processes of our woodlands, prairies, rivers and wetlands, and reduce the biodiversity of the area.

We know that a high biodiversity maintains the health of all species and offers essentials such as food, natural resources and pollution control. However, the more fragmented and degraded our areas become, the less stable the environment becomes.

The formula is simple:

Greater Biodiversity = Denser Gene Pool = More Sustainability = Healthier Life

You can learn more about invasive plants in this area by visiting the Midwest Invasive Plant Network at: <http://mipn.org>

— Dan Olson, Mike Daab, Cassie Carroll



volunteerspotlight



DONNA BECK

For the past eight years, the Volunteer Team at the Early American Museum has been extremely fortunate to include the service of Donna Beck. Donna's involvement with the CCFPD began when mutual friends brought the two together back in March of 2000.

Donna was born in Paxton, and shortly after getting married, she and her husband relocated to Florida. While in the Orlando and Lakeland area, Donna was employed in the personnel department at the home office of Scotty's Building Supplies. They returned to Central Illinois in 1988.

At the age of 35, Donna was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease that challenges her speech and select motor skills. She was determined to not let her disability get in the way of her zest and drive for life. She commented that she had a lot

of her mother in her. One favorite remembrance she shared of her mother was that she would read the paper each morning, specifically the obituaries, and if she didn't see her name listed, she would comment, "Well, looks like I need to get dressed and get going!"

Donna mentioned volunteering is her motivation and reason to get up and get going each day. She shares every Thursday with the museum. In bad weather, she is most likely found working from home.

When Donna began, her efforts focused on filing and organizing. She transformed and updated the filing system. In the first couple of months, she reduced the filing cabinets from six to four, making the system much more efficient and easily accessible, and utilized by the entire staff!

Her organizational skills went on from there to coordinate the large files accumulated with the Doris Hoskins Archive on Cultural Diversity. Donna leaves no stone unturned when it comes to organizing the museum office.

In just spending a few moments with Donna, it is very clear to see that she lights up the room on her days in the office. While the staff never misses the chance to kid around, they say

Donna can definitely take it, but she also can definitely dish it out too! She's also gained the reputation of making the best peach cobbler in the District. The volunteer carpenters at the museum schedule their days according to when Donna brings in her cobbler!

When she's not sharing her time and talents with the CCFPD, Donna enjoys reading, cross stitch, crocheting and spending time with her special cat, Jose. Donna also has siblings in Aurora, Urbana and Springfield, MO.

Each day holds special challenges for Donna. It may take her a little longer to walk to her destination, and a little longer to get her point across verbally, but you will never hear her complain or feel sorry for her situation. Donna has an exceptional outlook on life; she is thankful and appreciative, and focuses always on the gifts in her life.



It is our great privilege to include Donna as a CCFPD volunteer. For her incredible commitment and dedication, we highlight and honor Donna in this month's volunteer spotlight . . . someone very special to know! — Kim Horbas



IMPORTANT missing piece

FOR PRIME FOREST PRESERVE PROPERTY

One of our highest-quality landholdings, **Patton Woods**, is a 14-acre site located near the **Middle Fork River Forest Preserve** in northeast Champaign County. It is rich in both history and in unique natural resources, containing a mature oak-hickory forest which has been left largely undisturbed since the first inhabitants settled here in the mid-1850s.

Adjoining the forest preserve property is a 4.68-acre parcel that was part of the original woodland, but has been owned privately. This is an important piece of property to the Forest Preserve District because its acquisition will protect the entire Patton Woods.

Most of the large trees in Patton Woods are white and red oaks with shagbark and bitternut hickories scattered among them. Also contributing to the forest canopy are walnut, basswood, white ash, cherry, and shingle oak. Smaller trees and shrubs occupy the middle story of the forest, including slippery elm, prickly ash, sassafras, and hawthorn.

The forest is beautiful at all times of the year, but a trip to Patton Woods in the spring when the wildflowers are in bloom is a special treat. Hikers can find purple trillium, spring beauty, dutchman's breeches, rue anemone, phlox, and mayapple adding color to the forest floor. The land also provides protected habitat for a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

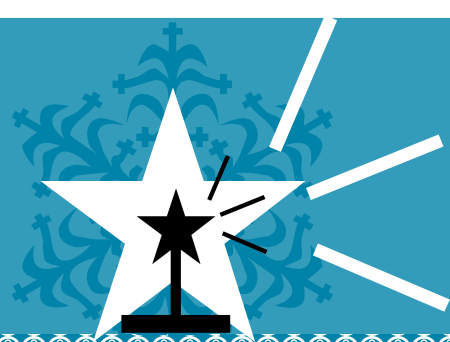
Patton Woods was named after the family that originally settled the land in 1854. David Patton and his wife Jane owned upwards of 2,000 acres that stretched from northern Champaign County into southern Ford County. Most of the land was cleared for farming and for the family's homestead; but this 19-acre section of wooded land was never disturbed. After the death of Jane Patton, who lived to be 96 years of age, the heirs to the family's estate deeded 14 acres of the forest land to The Nature Conservancy so that it might be preserved as a natural area in memory of "Grandma" Jane. The Nature Conservancy then deeded the land to the Forest Preserve District in 1994 so the site could be locally managed and protected.



We just received word that we were awarded a \$22,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to assist us in purchasing the "missing piece"—the 4.68-acre adjoining parcel. The grant covers slightly more than half the total purchase price, and we are hoping to raise approximately \$10,000 through public donations. If you would like to help with this effort, please send your tax-deductible donation to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Foundation (PO Box 1040, Mahomet, IL 61853). You will have the satisfaction of knowing you helped to preserve a unique natural asset for Champaign County.

— Mary Ellen Wuellner

MORE RECOGNITION FOR ccfpdvolunteers



Not long ago, we told you about spouses Phil Hult and Gail Snowdon being named Statewide Volunteers of the Year by the Illinois Association of Park Districts for their outstanding prairie restoration efforts. After that major award, we nominated them for recognition by the National Park and Recreation Association, and you probably know where this is going, the winners of the Outstanding Citizen Award for the NRPA Great Lakes Region in 2008 are – Phil Hult and Gail Snowdon!

The two were honored recently at a ceremony during the NRPA National Congress in Baltimore. Their work began with the CCFPD when they envisioned restoring a prairie that could be used for education and recreation, and create vital habitat that has been lost in Champaign County. In 2000, they began with a small prairie planting on some fallow fields at Lake of the Woods. Today, the area is known as Buffalo Trace Prairie, and expansion of that prairie continues each year. In addition, Phil and Gail have participated in PrairieWatch, butterfly monitoring, training of interns, and organization of numerous workdays for invasive species removal and seed collection. They have spent thousands of hours in the field and in the garage cleaning seed. We are greatly indebted to Phil and Gail for all the work they do. Congratulations to them both!



Gail Snowdon and Phil Hult receive their award in Baltimore.



Phil Hult (right) with Grand Prairie Friends interns Justin Meissen and Brandon Cheek (left) proudly stand over a large pile of invasive parsnip that had been removed from a Buffalo Trace Prairie restoration.



transitions

Over the past weeks, we have had to say farewell to some valued employees. **Tonya Maier**, who was with the District for more than eight years, was known to many. After working at the golf course for several years, she moved over to Headquarters and was the Administrative Assistant until this month, when she accepted a job in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. She coordinated the Mindy Harrington Memorial Golf Outing this past year; she was the editor of the popular, internal newsletter, "Word of the Woods"; and she has done a great deal over the years to keep the District Board, staff and volunteers on the right track.

Rachel Dawsey, our Horticulture Educator, left when she opted to stay home with her little ones. Rachel did a tremendous amount to advance our horticulture education division, including her very active involvement in the revamping of the children's Discovery Garden.

One of our valued Natural Resources staff members, **Colin Vaughan**, left for a job with the McHenry County Conservation District law enforcement department. Colin contributed much to our agency, and was particularly instrumental in the Master Naturalist training program.

Two employees from our Construction Department, **Vince Gustafson** and **Karl Olson**, also left recently. While they were here, they were involved with numerous projects, some of which include the construction of the Middle Fork residence, sidewalk repair throughout the District, renovations in the home at Sangamon River, and construction of many of our signs. We wish both of them continued success, and we welcome their replacements, **Kyle Welborn** and **Joe McMahon**.



comingsoon

TO A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR YOU



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2

GROWING UP WILD – GROUNDHOG DAY

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

IZAAK WALTON CABIN
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Who's Punxatawny Phil and why look at his shadow? Preschoolers, bring along an adult to come out and learn about this furry animal, where he lives and why he is so special. \$5 per child. Registration required by January 29; call (217) 896-2455.

FEBRUARY 2

SENIOR MOMENT – CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S LINCOLN

PRAIRIE WINDS OF URBANA
1905 S. PRAIRIE WINDS DR.
URBANA | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Join us for a viewing of the video produced by the Lincoln Exhibits Committee, with a brief introduction before, and discussion after, by Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey, Early American Museum Curator of History. Reservations required by January 31; call (217) 586-2612.

FEBRUARY 6

SENIOR MOMENT – CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S LINCOLN

WINDSOR OF SAVOY
401 BURWASH AVE.
SAVOY | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE
101 W. WINDSOR RD.
URBANA | 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

[SEE SENIOR MOMENT – FEBRUARY 2](#)

JANUARY

JANUARY 17

WINTER QUEST

ELKS LAKE PAVILION
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Just because it is cold doesn't mean you have to hibernate indoors! 6-12 year olds can join us for an exciting winter scavenger hunt. \$9 per child. Registration is required by January 15; call (217) 896-2455.

JANUARY 19

WINTER QUEST

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

[SEE JANUARY 17](#)

JANUARY 31

KIDS' GARDEN CLUB – TERRARIUMS

ELKS LAKE PAVILION
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Tired of the winter? Bring your family out to the forest preserve to create a living green world! Each family will create a unique terrarium to take home and watch grow. \$5 per child. Registration required by January 29; call (217) 896-2455.

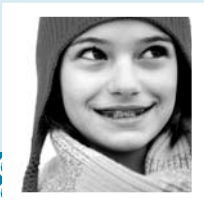
JANUARY 31

TRAIL STEWARD ORIENTATION AND WORKSHOP

GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

This is open to all individuals who would like to explore the volunteer opportunity to adopt a trail. No commitment is needed at this time. CCFPD staff will share detailed information focusing on the responsibilities and annual timeframe for a steward. At the conclusion of the workshop, if participants are interested in committing to the program, they are encouraged to sign up for a trail. For further details, contact Kim Horbas at (217) 493-7199 or khorbas@ccfpd.org.





FEBRUARY 6
NATIVE SEED PROPAGATION

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

The seeds of prairie plants need special care for them to germinate in a timely manner. Join Jamie Ellis of Grand Prairie Friends to learn how. Free. Registration is required; call (217) 896-2455.

FEBRUARY 12
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABE LINCOLN!

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Come celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday at the Early American Museum as we open this year's special exhibit, "The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln," examining some lesser known facets of Lincoln's life and personality, as a reader, a father, a surveyor, a backwoodsman. Have a piece of cake and enjoy the day! Free. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

FEBRUARY 13
OWL PROWL

ELKS LAKE PAVILION
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Explore nature at night as we learn all about owls. Register early for this popular program! \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration is required; call (217) 896-2455.

FEBRUARY 17
SENIOR MOMENT – WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS

CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE
101 W. WINDSOR RD.
URBANA | 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

This is a multi-media presentation about the residents of wetlands, their diversity and the importance of Illinois in the Mississippi Flyway. Seating is limited. Free. Reservations are required by February 16; call (217) 896-2455.

FEBRUARY 20
OWL PROWL

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

SEE FEBRUARY 13

FEBRUARY 28
KIDS' GARDEN CLUB – SEED STARTING

BOTANICAL GARDEN GREENHOUSE
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Learn the basics of seed starting. Plant your own seeds to take home and grow. \$5 per child. Registration is required by February 26th; call (217) 896-2455.

GOOSE POND LECTURE SERIES

Abraham Lincoln spoke at the Goose Pond Church in West Urbana in 1856 to a crowd of antislavery proponents and abolitionists in support of Fremont, the presidential candidate for the newly-formed Republican Party. In honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial, through a grant provided by the Illinois Humanities Council, the Early American Museum presents the Goose Pond Lecture Series in February, March and April of 2009. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

FEBRUARY 28
LECTURE – AFRICAN AMERICANS IN FRONTIER ILLINOIS: RELIGION AND ATTITUDES TOWARD SLAVERY

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Although African Americans were, in theory, free, many restrictions were placed on their lives and liberties in the frontier "west" of Illinois. In this lecture, Illinois Wesleyan University Professor James Simeone will discuss the plight of freed blacks and fugitive slaves in the state of Illinois before the Civil War. Free. Part of the Goose Pond Lecture Series, this program is supported in part by the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Council of Negro Women, Community United Church of Christ, and the Douglass Branch Library, Champaign. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.



MARCH

MARCH 1
SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

Call (217) 586-3360 or visit www.ccfpd.org for registration materials.

MARCH 1
EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON

The Early American Museum opens for the season today. Hours are 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. daily through December with extended hours of 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Mondays through Saturdays in June, July and August. For more information, call (217) 586-2612 or visit www.earlyamericanmuseum.org.

MARCH 2
GROWING UP WILD – PINT SIZE SCIENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

IZAACK WALTON CABIN
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Bring your preschool budding scientists out for a program that will introduce them to the wonderful world of science. Come prepared for hands-on activities, experiments and games. \$5 per child. Registration required by February 26; call (217) 896-2455.

MARCH 6
FULL MOON HIKE

RIVER BEND FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Enjoy nature at night as we watch the full moon rise over the lake. We may also get to see the courtship display of the American Woodcock. \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration is required; call (217) 896-2455.

MARCH 7
LECTURE – "BRING ON YOUR ARGUMENTS, GENTLEMEN": WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ABOLITION

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
805 S. 6TH ST.
CHAMPAIGN | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

In this talk, Bradley University Professor Stacey Robertson explores the complex and lively relationship between the movement to battle slavery and the movement to battle women's oppression. Part of this year's Goose Pond Lecture Series, this program is supported in part by the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Council of Negro Women, Community United Church of Christ, and the Douglass Branch Library, Champaign. Free. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

MARCH 10
SENIOR MOMENT – WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS

WINDSOR OF SAVOY
401 BURWASH AVE.
SAVOY | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

PRAIRIE WINDS OF URBANA
1905 S. PRAIRIE WINDS DR.
URBANA | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

This is a multi-media presentation about the residents of wetlands, their diversity and the importance of Illinois in the Mississippi Flyway. Seating is limited. Free. Reservations are required by March 9; call (217) 896-2455.





MARCH 21

LECTURE I – ILLINOIS IN THE 1850s: CHIPPING AWAY AT RACISM

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Jane Ann Moore will speak about the Underground Railroad and Illinois Black Laws of 1853, Frederick Douglass's visit to Illinois, and how Illinois colonization laws and black school laws of 1855 were used to maintain the dominant Democratic political power in Illinois. Free. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

LECTURE II – HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN HELD THE RAG-TAG COALITION TOGETHER

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

Bill Moore will discuss the political fusion process of Conscience Whigs, Anti-Nebraska Democrats, Know Nothings, German Americans and the Antislavery Movement, who all came together at the Bloomington Anti-Nebraska Convention in 1856. Moore will explore the important roles that Joseph Cunningham and Champaign County played in helping Lincoln and Owen Lovejoy to mold that convention into an effective Republican Party. Free. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

William F. Moore and Jane Ann Moore are ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ and co-directors of the Lovejoy Society. Part of this year's Goose Pond Lecture Series, this program is supported in part by the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Council of Negro Women, Community United Church of Christ, and the Douglass Branch Library, Champaign.

MARCH 24

WOODCOCK WALK

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Witness the amazing courtship display of the American Woodcock. \$2 per person; children 2 and under are free. Registration is required; call (217) 896-2455.

MARCH 27

WOODCOCK WALK

SANGAMON RIVER FOREST PRESERVE
FISHER | 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

SEE MARCH 24

MARCH 28

KIDS' GARDEN CLUB – SPRING BASKETS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Families can plant a container of herbs, lettuce, or flowers to take home and watch grow. \$5 per child. Registration required by March 26; call (217) 896-2455.

APRIL



SATURDAYS THROUGH OCTOBER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER OPEN

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Explore interactive displays, see live animals and enjoy natural history exhibits at the Environmental Education Center. Admission to the center is free. Call (217) 896-2455 for more information.

APRIL 4

TROUT SEASON OPENING DAY

LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 5:00 A.M.

Be ready to fish for rainbow trout in the main lake of Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve when the spring trout season begins today. For more information, call (217) 586-3360 or visit our website.

APRIL 4

ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH WORKSHOP

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Want to get involved in the stewardship of the state's rivers and streams? Grab your rubber boots and join the Illinois RiverWatch Program. During this interactive workshop, we will learn to identify stream macroinvertebrates (e.g., dragonfly and mayfly nymphs, beetles, snails, and much more) and practice proper monitoring techniques at a local stream. After completing the workshop, you may adopt a local stream site and monitor annually. Fee: \$20/person. For more information, call (217) 896-2455 or visit our website.

APRIL 4

LECTURE – THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN ILLINOIS

DOUGLASS BRANCH LIBRARY
504 E. GROVE ST.
CHAMPAIGN | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Owen Muelder, Director of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center at Knox College, will trace the history of slavery and how it came to the New World and North America, the emergence of abolitionism and the Underground Railroad nationally, and the antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad in Illinois. His talk will conclude with a discussion of the place of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in the national discussion of slavery. Free. Part of the Goose Pond Lecture Series, this program is supported in part by the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Council of Negro Women, Community United Church of Christ, and the Douglass Branch Library, Champaign. For more information, call (217) 586-2612.

APRIL 6

GROWING UP WILD – ANIMAL HOMES: WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

IZAAK WALTON CABIN
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 1:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Animals live in a wide variety of places, ranging from a burrow in the ground to a hole in a tree. Preschoolers and their adults can come and learn about these various animal homes. \$5 per child. Registration required by April 2; call (217) 896-2455.

APRIL 15

DISCOVERY GARDEN VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

DISCOVERY GARDEN
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Volunteer to help us get the garden ready for the season. Free. Please register by calling (217) 896-2455.

APRIL 18

C-U ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY STARWATCH

ACTIVITY CENTER
MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE
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 Waterfowl Management Area to view the stars and other cool stuff. Saturn will be visible. Weather-permitting, the program will go until midnight. Cloud date April 19—no presentation, meet at the Waterfowl Management Area at 8:30 P.M. Free. For more information, call (217) 896-2455.



APRIL 25-26
TWO-PERSON SEASON OPENER
GOLF TOURNAMENT

LAKE OF THE WOODS GOLF COURSE
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 8:00 A.M.

For more information on this golf tournament, call (217) 586-2183 or visit golfthelake.com.

APRIL 25
BIRD IS THE WORD WORKSHOP

SALT FORK CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Join Brian "Fox" Ellis for his exciting Bird is the Word Workshop to learn about journaling, poetry, nonfiction writing, and ornithology. A poet's eye and gift for language is very similar to the detailed observation and ability to communicate complex ideas required of field ecologists. In this participatory workshop you will learn some tips for effective journaling. You will learn to use haiku to focus your eye and ear. You will learn to use poetry to help you write clearer, more exciting essays and turn your field notes into publishable articles. Come to celebrate the voices of nature and find your voice in the natural world. \$10 per person. Registration and payment due by April 23; call (217) 896-2455.

APRIL 25
MIGRATION FEST

SALT FORK CENTER & EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Celebrate the migration season with a live raptor presentation, acclaimed story teller Brian "Fox" Ellis as J.J. Audubon, crafts, hikes and more! For more information, call (217) 896-2455.

homeschoolactivities

The Forest Preserve District provides several programs designed specifically for homeschool groups. For more information on fees, registration and age groups, visit our website.

FEBRUARY 25

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Celebrate Abe Lincoln's 200th birthday! Get a sneak-peek at our 2009 Lincoln exhibit at the museum. We will get to know Abe, the man, before his presidency; and, yes, what's a birthday party without cake! This class is designed for the whole family, with parental accompaniment required. For more information, call Sandy Osborne at (217) 586-2612.

MARCH 10 & MARCH 17

CIVIL WAR CLASS

EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM
LAKE OF THE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE
MAHOMET | 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

We will focus on the effects of the Civil War on Champaign County citizens. Components include exploring our Civil War gallery, businesses, lives of farmers and soldiers, and more. You will attend both days, and there will be homework to do between sessions. For more information, call Sandy Osborne at (217) 586-2612.

APRIL 7

REMARKABLE REPTILES

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
HOMER | 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

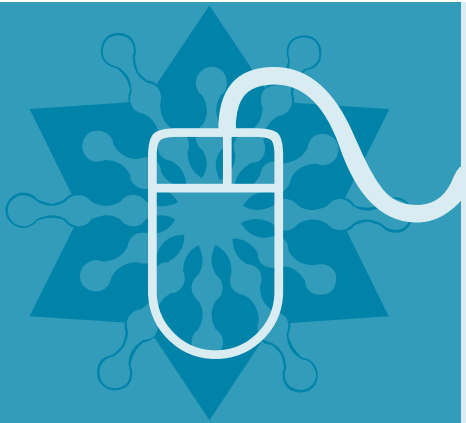
Reptiles are unique members of the animal kingdom. In this class we will focus on reptiles' life cycles, survival strategies, and the physical characteristics of snakes and turtles of Illinois. You will also have the opportunity to meet our resident reptiles. For more information, call (217) 896-2455.



SUBSCRIBE TO
E-News!

You now have the option of receiving your newsletter electronically. People on the electronic mailing list will receive this newsletter three times a year, a special E-News publication several times, and occasional major announcements.

If an electronic newsletter is not a good option for you, we will happily continue sending you our printed format. If you want to opt out of this version and sign up for electronic mailings, please visit our website at www.ccfpd.org.





September 21st, we celebrated the dedication of the Sangamon River Forest Preserve. Pictured here are representatives of the Nelson and Cook families, previous residents of the property, who shared the privilege of unveiling the sign with five-year-old Felicity, symbolizing the preservation of this beautiful area for generations to come.



sangamonriver

GRAND OPENING



When you visit the Sangamon River Forest Preserve, you'll notice only a small amount of development. In addition to the parking area, restroom, roadway and trails, we plan to add a few more trails along with a shelter. This will be an ideal setting for low-impact activities, such as picnicking, bird-watching and hiking.

The goal for this land is to restore the landscape as closely as possible to its original pre-settlement conditions. Then we will no longer have to imagine what it once looked like because we will be able to see it with our own eyes.

Original surveyor's maps will guide the restoration of our landscape heritage. The upland soil will again hold the roots of the prairie plants that evolved and thrived here for thousands of years following the retreat of the last glacier.

The transitional oak savanna ecosystem that has persisted on the east side of the site will continue to tower above the grasses below. With individual branches as large as most trees, these craggy giants reach out in every direction to capture the light.

Fortunately, the low, bottomland areas have already been planted with thousands of native trees by the former landowners, Ron and Karen Cook. These thriving young trees will become the backbone of the restored Sangamon Grove. The result—visitors will someday be able to experience what their forebears did when they arrived at this challenging and amazing place on the Illinois frontier, known as the Grand Prairie. In short, it will be a window to our past.



LOOKING FOR INFO ABOUT theCCFPD?

You can find us online now in several ways! One way is through our Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, just search for "Champaign County Forest Preserve District." Then join in for all the latest news. If you don't have an account, it's very easy to establish one at no charge. Just go to facebook.com and follow the instructions.

We also now have an electronic newsletter that comes out several times a year. You can link

to it through our website, on the publications page, or you can sign up for our electronic mailing list, and receive an e-mail whenever there's a new issue. That's also very easy to do. Just go to our website at www.ccfpd.org and follow the directions on our homepage.

Thanks to Brock Peoples, who developed the Facebook page for us, and Kirby Pringle, our e-newsletter editor. Both have done a fine job in providing these new offerings.





DID YOU KNOW?

Most birds fly south for the winter (migrate), but some birds stay in Illinois. Can you match these birds that stay with their names?

CARDINAL



GREAT HORNED OWL



BLUEJAY



MALLARD DUCK



TURKEY



PILEATED WOODPECKER



WINTER ANAGRAM

Can you unscramble the words?

WOSN _____

REEVNREGE _____

LDOC _____

ZUBZDARI _____

NEIP NECO _____

BEHRITEAN _____

RESIBRE _____

LICCEI _____

HELP FEED THE WINTER BIRDS!

YOU NEED: Peanut butter, pinecone, birdseed, string, plate

INSTRUCTIONS: Spread peanut butter all over pine cone. Pour the birdseed on a plate. Roll the pinecone in the birdseed. Tie string to the pinecone. Hang it somewhere outside where you can see the birds enjoy it!



RIDDLE: What do snowmen like to eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes!

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

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Brenda Molano-Flores

GENERAL INFORMATION

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