

The Leaflet

Oak Decline on the Rise



KRT at Sleepy Creek

Dragonfly Event Center

Thursday, November 3, 2022

7:00 - 10:00pm

The Live Jukebox Show with David Howie

Silent Auction ends at 9:00pm

Tickets: \$50; couples \$100

includes 1 drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres

Sponsor a table of 10 for \$450

All proceeds go toward construction of the trail!



Wine. Music. Auction.

Instead of just planting an oak this **OAKtober**, please care for the ones you already have. Also, within recent years, experts across the Midwest have all noticed oaks seemingly spontaneously dying. The first signs include fine twig dieback and stag-horn growth, where you can see bare branches sticking out above the leaf canopy; bleeding cankers (dark bruising) on lower trunks; leaves turning Fall colors in July or August; and whole branches of leaves browning up but not falling. They end up dying within 2-3 years. This occurrence of Oak Decline is thought to be a culmination of stress brought on by the environment and existing diseases.

What exactly is stressing out these usually well adapted trees? Recent wetter springs with extreme precipitation events of 2+” followed by periods of drought are thought to be the trigger. This combined with soil compaction, fungal pathogens in poorly drained soils,

and/or inhospitable surrounding plant communities are threatening our oaks.

While experts are still working on solutions, we can monitor and help!

We know that super wet followed by super dry conditions make the soil a breeding ground for a common fungal pathogen (*Phytophthora*) that attack tree roots. Send root samples of declining oaks to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic, S-417, Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801, to test for their presence.

Oak roots grow out, not down. Plant native grasses and wildflowers *from the trunk* out to the canopy line to avoid soil compaction and support native soil fungi.

By Anna Scheidel

PROGRAMS & VIRTUAL EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, ccfpd.org

● OCTOBER ●

Wednesday, October 5

SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES HEALING PLANTS: NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS TO NATURE FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

Online Event, Streaming on the
Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook
& YouTube pages, 7 p.m.

Join us as we continue this special exhibit speaker series! Gina Roxas, a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Program Director for Trickster Cultural Center, will present this evening's program. This program is supported in part by our friends at Illinois Humanities. FREE.

Wednesday, October 12

INTRO TO LETTERBOXING

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake
Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

Ever wanted to go on a real-life treasure hunt? Attend this free training session to learn all about the art of Letterboxing, a unique treasure hunt that involves art, puzzle-solving, and using clues to find hidden objects. Recommended for ages 10 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by October 11 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, October 14

WALK WITH A NATURALIST

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake
Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

Join us for a guided walk along one of the trails at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by October 13 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, October 14 - Sunday, October 16

WILDERNESS LIVING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Burr Oak Group Campground,
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Spend 3 days camping in the hardwood forests of Illinois where you will learn to make use of the landscape around you. This is an exciting class with lots of hands-on practice in the essential skills of wilderness survival. Participants will learn to make rope, light fires with fire-by-friction, build a shelter that will keep you warm and dry, find food in the wild, and techniques of cooking food over a fire. All this while sleeping in the comfort of your own tent. Our instructors for this workshop are the highly experienced co-founders of Wild Nature Project. They have led this workshop at our location for 8 years, and we know you will enjoy them while learning so many new skills! \$200 per person. Adults only. Space is limited; registration required by October 1 at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, October 15

HARVEST FEST

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake
of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-5 p.m.

Autumn activities await you! Enjoy the fun traditions of the season, including pumpkin carving and decorating, hay-rack rides, apple peeling, and more! Register by October 12 to reserve a pumpkin. Pumpkins will be \$5 each and quantities will be limited. All other program activities will be free of charge. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday, October 18

SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES KIDS AND GERMS: CHILD HEALTH REFORM IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Online Event, Streaming on the
Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook
& YouTube pages, 7 p.m.

Dr. Lynne Curry, Professor Emerita of History at Eastern Illinois University, will present this program examining local child health reform activities in the early twentieth century as a reflection of broader developments in the medical history of childhood. This program is supported in part by our friends at Illinois Humanities. FREE.

Friday, October 21

HALLOWEEN FUN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AT THE MUSEUM

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake
of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-4 p.m.

All ages. FREE. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, October 29

SEED SCATTER: PRAIRIE PLANTS AND MARIGOLDS

Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods
Forest Preserve, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join us as we explore Buffalo Trace Prairie and all the seeds ready to be harvested. Ages 5-14. \$3 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited; registration required by October 25 at ccfpd.org.

● NOVEMBER ●

Saturday, November 5

EXPLORE ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake
of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-4 p.m.

Join museum staff, members of the East Central Illinois Archaeological Society (ECIAS), and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey in exploring the wondrous field of archaeology. At 2 p.m., Larry and Marilyn Kinsella, flintknappers and storytellers, will present a program titled "Stories 'N Stone." FREE. All ages.

Tuesday, November 8

(rain backup November 15)

2022 OWL NIGHT: AN UP-CLOSE EXPERIENCE WITH OUR ROUND-EYED, FEATHERED FRIENDS

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake
Forest Preserve, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Recommended for ages 5 and up. FREE. Rain backup date on November 15.

Wednesday, November 9

CRAFTERS WORKSHOP: AUTUMN HOMESCHOOL EDITION

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake
of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

Laugh, gather and create as we take advantage of nature's beauty to make unique seasonal crafts that will "leaf" you gathering for more. Available for homeschoolers ages 6 to 9. \$5 per child. Children do not need to be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited; registration required by November 2 at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, November 12

CRAFTERS WORKSHOP: AUTUMN EDITION FOR KIDS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake
of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.

Laugh, gather and create as we take advantage of nature's beauty to make unique seasonal crafts that will "leaf" you gathering for more. Available for kids ages 6 to 9. \$5 per child. Children do not need to be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited; registration required by November 2 at ccfpd.org.

Sunday, November 13

15TH ANNUAL LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES MEDICINE FROM THE PAST: A SAMPLING OF MEDICINE FROM THE CIVIL WAR ERA & THE SPRINGFIELD AREA

Hybrid Event - Program to be held
in-person at the Museum of the Grand
Prairie as well as streamed online on
the Museum of the Grand Prairie's
Facebook & YouTube pages, 2 p.m.

Join us for the 15th Annual Lincoln Lecture Series featuring this engaging program. Mike Moseley, Curator of the Pearson Museum in Springfield, Illinois, will present this program discussing various developments in medicine from the Civil War era as well as notable moments in Springfield area medicine. This program is supported in part by our friends at Illinois Humanities. FREE.

Friday, November 18

WALK WITH A NATURALIST

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake
Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by November 17 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, November 18

HOMESCHOOL AMERICA RECYCLES DAY: REPAIR IT AND RE-WEAR IT!

Museum of the Grand Prairie,
Lake of the Woods Forest
Preserve, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us at the Museum of the Grand Prairie to Recycle, Repurpose and Repair your textiles! BYO items are not required. Ages 5-16. \$3 per child. Space is limited; registration required by November 16 at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, November 19

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY: REPAIR IT AND RE-WEAR IT FOR KIDS!

Museum of the Grand Prairie,
Lake of the Woods Forest
Preserve, 1-2 p.m.

Join us at the Museum of the Grand Prairie to Recycle, Repurpose and Repair your textiles! BYO items are not required. Ages 5-16. \$3 per child. Space is limited; registration required by November 16 at ccfpd.org.

FRIENDS FOUNDATION ADDS MEMBERS

The Forest Preserve Friends

Foundation (FPFF) is a not-for-profit corporation organized for charitable and educational purposes. The Foundation supports the facilities, programs, services, goals and mission of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. In turn, it generates grant support and collaborative relationships with other agencies.



Merry Mitchell is a Champaign native who was looking to become more involved with the community. She studied History at Illinois State

University and has a minor in French. While studying at ISU, Merry did some internships, first at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, and then at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago. It was through these internships that Merry developed a love for historic—as well as environmental—preservation, and found that the best way to aid in the efforts of preservation was through community engagement. Through her participation on the FPFF board, she hopes that

LAKE OF THE WOODS GOLF COURSE

Recognized for Environmental Excellence

MAHOMET, IL - Lake of the Woods Golf

Course has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Joie Torres, Golf Course Superintendent, along with Chris Edmondson, Golf Course General Manager, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course. Lake of the Woods Golf Course was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2002 and is one of over 900 courses in the world to hold certification from Audubon International.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, Mexico, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

Lake of the Woods Golf Course



"Lake of the Woods Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the natural heritage of the area by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Kane. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Courses go through a recertification process every three years.

she can help make a positive impact in the Champaign County area. Merry works as the Community Relations Coordinator for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.



Brendan McGinty

manages several tech programs at the U of I's National Center for Supercomputing Applications and

is a former Champaign County Board member and Urbana Plan Commissioner. His father, Dave McGinty, was chief fisheries biologist and Asst. Superintendent of Conservation when he retired from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Brendan was a longtime corporate consultant and entrepreneur and is a proud graduate of the U of I. He lives with his wife, Susan, in Philo.



Carter Billingsley is a lifelong member of the Champaign-Urbana Community with a passion for the outdoors. Carter's love of the

outdoors spawned an interest in nature conservation. Carter is currently employed as an estate planning attorney with Meyer Capel law firm in Champaign. Carter has experience in

coordinating planned giving for clients as well as counseling individuals on aspects of business formation and governance. Before becoming an attorney, Carter worked as an educator and spent four years teaching abroad: two in Costa Rica and two in China. Carter's travels around the world helped him realize the importance of maintaining a connection to the Champaign community that provides many unique opportunities. In Carter's mind, there is no better way to contribute to a community by working to preserve natural resources and inspire other locals to become active in conserving and appreciating the beauty that surrounds us.



Nancy Guebelle is the Director of Gift Planning at the University of Illinois Foundation as well as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) Practitioner.

Nancy has lived in Champaign County for over 25 years with her family where they have benefited and enjoyed the many activities and locations serviced by the Champaign Forest Preserve. Nancy brings her financial experience and support to the CCFPD so the community can continue to have the same great experiences that her family did for generations to come.