

March 2015 . Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. 1835 Miller -Ellwood Cabin work will continue with windows, doors and floor and log wall work. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2014 /2015 compliance.

Controlled burns begin in March in woodlands and prairies



Forest preserve staff working on forest management burn at MacQueen forest



Forest preserve staff working on prairie management burns at Afton forest preserve





Prairie burn at Hoppe Heritage Farmstead



More areas are scheduled for burns if weather permits

Oak plank floor and west wall chinking completed at 1835 Miller - Ellwood cabin by forest preserve staff. Oak doors and window work next.



Next month April tree plantings at forest preserve sites will be completed by forest preserve staff and many different volunteer groups. Pictured are Scouts from DeKalb planting oaks at Afton



**Public Star Party
May 16, 2015
Afton Forest Preserve**

The Northwest Suburban Astronomers (NSA), in cooperation with the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District, will be hosting a public star party on Saturday, May 16th at Afton Forest Preserve (north entrance) in DeKalb County, Illinois. Look at stars, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters with the help of NSA member telescopes. Observing highlights will be Venus (early in evening) and Jupiter, globular/open clusters M3, M13 and M44, and galaxies M65 and M66 in the constellation Leo among others.

Dress for a chilly evening and bring a flashlight covered with red plastic or cellophane (red light preserves your night vision), also insect repellent if needed. Please arrive around 8:00 p.m. (sunset is at 8:09 p.m. CDT) or come early and hike the trails. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars. In the event of inclement weather the event will be canceled. There is no cost to attend and no registration is required.

Afton Forest Preserve is located at 13600 Crego Road, DeKalb, Illinois (approximately 1 mile east of Illinois Route 23 and 1 mile south of Perry Road). Please park in the main parking lot and walk to the west where we will be set up.

<http://dekalbcounty.org/ForestPreserve/starz.html>
<http://www.nsaclub.org/>

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