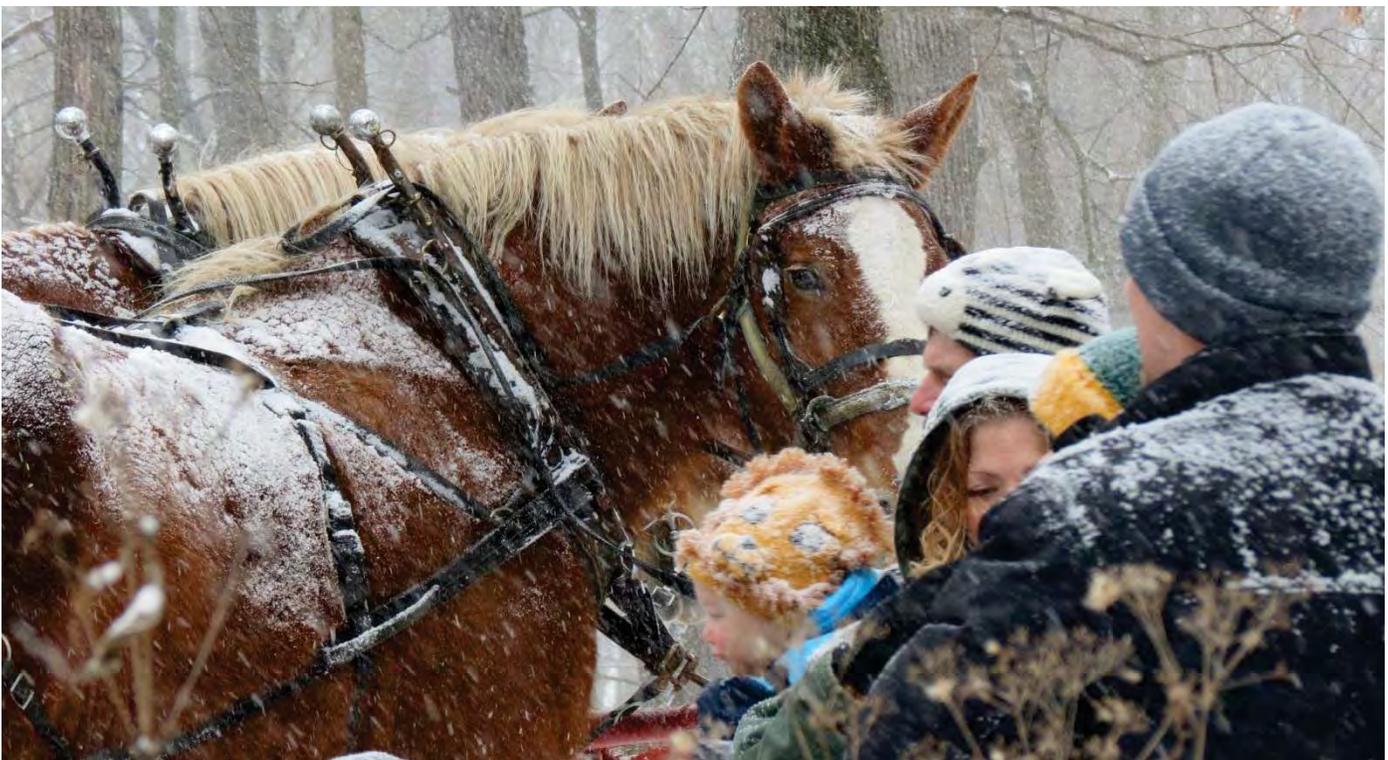


December 2014 / January 2015 . Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals 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.

Annual Winter Fest at Russell Woods forest preserve will be Saturday, January 17th from 9am to 4pm



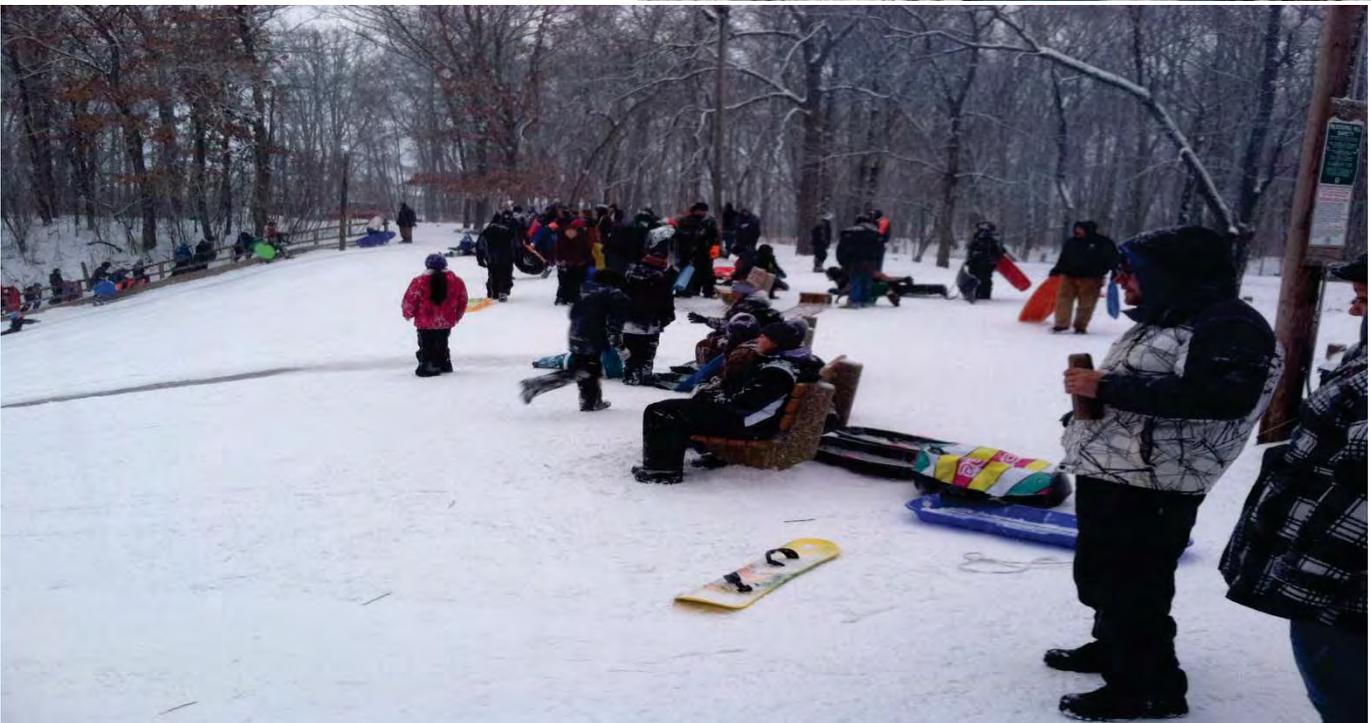
Winter birds.... Tree Sparrow and female Cardinal

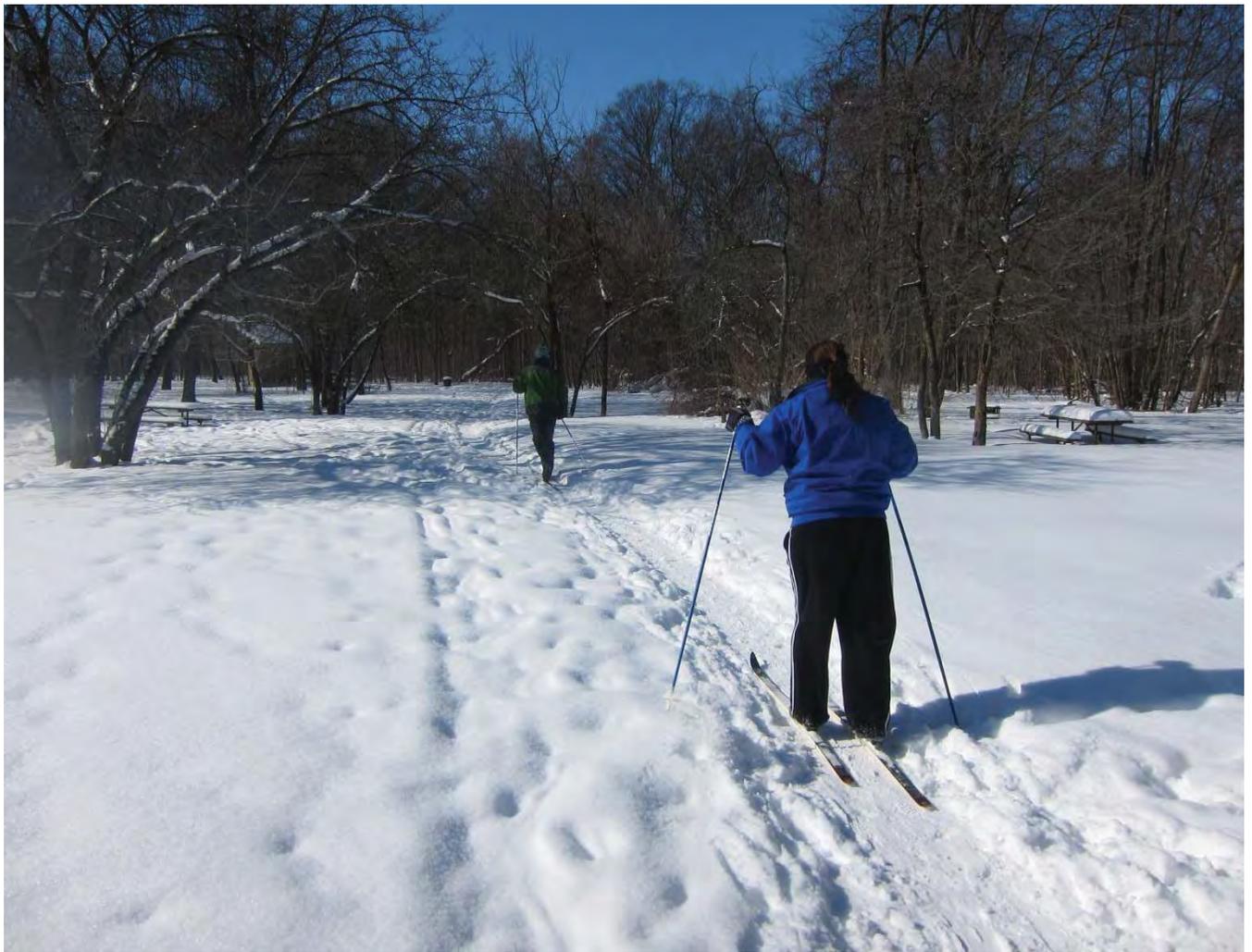


Blue Jay and Red Bellied Woodpecker



Winter forest preserve activities









Forest Preserve staff keep forest preserve roads, parking lots, trails, sledding hills, shelter houses and Natural Resource Center open for many winter visitors



Forest Preserve Activities -- Winterfest 2015



The annual Winterfest will be held this Saturday, January 17, 2015 in Russell Woods Forest Preserve located 1 mile west of Genoa on state route 72. We offer activities from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is a celebration of winter and encourages families to get out together and enjoy a day of fun educational and recreational activities. We start the day with an indoor bird identification lesson and winter bird food conversation at the bird viewing windows. Each year we feature Mr. Phil Nielson, and family, of Waterman and their beautiful Belgian horses. The Nielson's offer horse drawn wagon rides through Russell Woods Forest Preserve from 11 to 2 p.m. In the Natural Resource Education Center, the heart of environmental education for DeKalb County, the staff offers make and take crafts for children, family hikes, and guest speakers on a variety of topics. The Prairie Gems 4-H Club will offer snacks and lunch items at a fair cost. You may eat outdoors. "Join us for a day in the woods."

Questions ??? Call 815-895-7191 or
www.dekalbcounty.org/ForestPreserve

Winterfest

Saturday, January 17

~ SCHEDULE ~

9:00 a.m. ~ Bird Behaviors & Identification

If you are a beginning birder, or just enjoy watching birds, join us inside the Natural Resource Center to learn simple techniques for identifying birds as you watch our feeding station.

10:00 a.m. ~ Family Hike

Take a guided walk through the woods. (Meet Outside)

11:00 a.m. ~

Join Shea Quinn of Sycamore for a presentation on his time spent in Alaska as a muskoxen farmer.
(Meet in the small classroom.)

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ~ Candle Making

Volunteers will be on hand to assist in the making of hand-dipped candles that you can take home with you. (One per person, please)

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ~ Crafts & Activities

We will have make & take crafts with helpful volunteers available to assist as well as other ongoing family-friendly activities. (Large classroom)

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ~ Snacks & Lunch

Available for purchase from the Genoa Prairie Gems 4-H Club

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ~ Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy Russell Woods from the comfort of a wagon, and let the horses walk you through the winter scenery.

(Pick up & drop off in front of the Natural Resource Center)

2:00 p.m. ~ Tracking

Join Jason Thompson for an interesting lesson on tracking that is sure to make your next outdoor adventure much more interesting.

(Meet in small classroom.)

2:00 p.m. ~ Story Time

Join Martha Brunell for story time in the Little Seeds Library. She will bring her favorite winter stories to read to the whole family.

(Meet in Little Seeds Library.)

3:00 p.m. ~ Family Hike

End the day with a walk through the woods. (Meet outside)



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

200 N. Main Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone 815-895-7191 www.dekalbcounty.org Fax 815-895-7284



DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Spring 2015 *Volunteer and Educational Opportunities*

Russell Woods Maple Syrup Day, Tree Identification

Russell Woods Forest Preserve 11750 State Rt. 72 Genoa, Illinois

Saturday, March 7th

10:00 a.m. Maple Syrup Program and Pancakes

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tree Identification

Meet at the Natural Resource Center.

Sycamore Lions Club

Great Western Trail Clean-up

Saturday, April 18th

8:00 a.m. – 10a.m.

Meet at Great Western Trail (west end) at Rt. 64 and Airport Rd. (just east of Doty Concrete Products)
1 mile east of Sycamore.

Kishwaukee Kiwanis Earth Week Event

DeKalb/Sycamore Trail and County Farm Woods Clean-up

Saturday, April 18th

8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Meet along trail behind the Movie Theaters by WalMart
in DeKalb.

South Branch Prairie Forest Preserve

31966 Pleasant Hill Rd. Kingston, Illinois

Volunteers welcome to join **N.I. U. CARES DAY**

Saturday April 18th

10a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tree planting

Afton Forest Preserve Tree Planting

Saturday, April 25th 9 a. m. - Noon

13600 Crego Rd. DeKalb, 1 ½ miles south of Perry Rd.

Meet in Middle Parking Lot

(Wear water proof boots)

At all events wear work clothes and gloves, dress for the weather.

All ages welcome to Volunteer.

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Land Stewards meet every Wednesday morning at forest preserves to work on a variety of forest, prairie and wetland restoration projects. For information call 815-895-7191

Look for upcoming Summer and Fall volunteer opportunities: