

January 2016. 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, drinking 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. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2016 compliance.

Forest Preserve staff completed a 30 acre " frost seeding" at the Sycamore Forest Preserve (former Evergreen Village). The prairie seed will melt through the snow, germinate and work it's way into soil. About 40 species of prairie grasses and flowers were in the seed mix. Some of the seed was purchased and some of the seed was harvested from DeKalb County forest preserve prairies. It will take 2-3 years for most of the plants to set roots and bloom. This area will have hiking and cross -country ski trails through the prairie. At the end of March there will be a draft landscape design for review for Sycamore Forest Preserve including parking areas, green space, trails, Great Western Trail connection and trail head, picnic areas, picnic shelters ,interpretive trails, information signage, and fishing pond.



Frost seeding the 30 acre Sycamore Forest Preserve prairie looking north to old abandoned R.R. Right of Way..... Many species of birds on site including Wild Turkeys and a Bald Eagle along East Branch of the Kishwaukee River, more to come as habitat improves.



January 2016- Projects : Central and Southern forest preserves

- Continued brush cutting with the front end mower (Brush Cat) in several locations. Prairie remnant along great western trail, Bi-Centennial grove at Afton, and the future park areas at the Sycamore Prairie.

The Bi-Centennial grove at Afton has some nice Oaks and Hickories that were planted 1976 by Terry and others. Many of these trees have grown to a nice size. Invasive shrubs (Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive) had moved into the area. Most of these shrubs were removed by the mowing and the grove now more resembles an open savanna. Future plans include seeding with native savanna grasses and forbs and a prescribed fire.

- Prepared seed mixes for the prairie at Sycamore Forest Preserve. The weekly stewards group assisted us with this.
- Picked up drop seeder from Nachusa Grasslands (a big thank you to them) and seeded the future prairie at Sycamore forest preserve. With the exception a few equipment issues this project went smoothly. Overall it took Al, Dale and I two days to complete. We are very excited to see how this prairie matures. This growing season we will monitor weeds and spray and mow as needed.
- Painted gates for Sannauk Forest Preserve-Will install in spring
- Continued painting garbage barrels for southern preserves. All barrels in southern preserves will be a uniform brown color.
- Built bird houses with the weekly stewards group.
- Cleared of debris from trails at Sannauk.
- Equipment cleaning and maintenance.
- Continued updating shop at Afton.
- Snowplowing

Projects northern preseres January – Feburary 2016

- Snow plowing/Road ice control**
- Sled hill safety maintenance**
- Chainsaw maintenance**
- Preparation for Winter Fest**
- Sign storage organization**
- Shelter repairs**
- Restore Miller Cabin Windows and Shutters-In process**
- Fabrication of new benches, pipe gates and split rail fence repairs -Complete**
- Administrative Priorities as called for**
- Safety investigation and reporting**
- Shop cabinet construction**
- New signs for Sycamore Forest Preserve and Swanson Grove at Prairie Oaks South**
- Planning for wheelchair accessible deck overlooking Kishwaukee River at Natural Resource Center**

Sycamore Fire Department practices ice rescue training at Sycamore Forest Preserve



160 people attended the Winter Fest weekend at Russell Woods







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 2016
Volunteer and Educational Opportunities

Russell Woods Maple Syrup Day

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

Saturday, March 5th

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

Sycamore Lions Club

Great Western Trail Clean-up

Saturday, April 16th

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 23rd

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

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

Afton Forest Preserve

Volunteers are welcome to join

N.I. U. CARES DAY

Tree planting Saturday April 16th 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Meet in Middle Parking Lot

(Wear water proof boots)

Afton Forest Preserve

Tree Planting Saturday, April 23th 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:

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

200 N. Main Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone (815) 895-7191

www.dekalbcounty.org

Fax (815) 895-1686

2016 SPRING BIRD MIGRATION WALK & TALK WITH PETER OLSON

Sunday, May 1st,

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Afton Forest Preserve

13600 Crego Rd

DeKalb, IL

Meet at central parking lot

Sunday, May 8th (Mother's Day)

8a.m. to 10 a.m.

Sannauk Forest Preserve

15250 US Hwy 34

Somonauk, IL

Meet by the #1 shelter

Avid birder and acclaimed bird artist Peter Olson will lead groups to learn about bird identification, bird songs and their habitat. Bring binoculars, a bird field guide and sturdy footwear for hiking. All ages are welcome!