

**April / May 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.

**Below: April “ Earth Day “ volunteers plant trees and shrubs at Nehring Forest Preserve**





***South Branch Prairie Streambank Stabilization partnership with Illinois Smallmouth Bass Alliance Grant***



*After the Spring prairie burns.....Spiderwort in bloom at Afton , Potawatomi Woods,  
the Great Western Trail and other forest preserve prairies*







***When dead trees were removed at Sycamore Forest Preserve, some of the stumps were left for wood carvings. Forest Preserve maintenance staff Bob Knuuttila, does beautiful wood carvings...pictured is an owl carved from a tree stump. Below: 200 large limestone boulders were placed along future roads and parking areas at Sycamore Forest Preserve to keep vehicles off grass and prairie areas.***



**Picnic shelters delivered to Sycamore Forest Preserve for future Great Western Trail picnic and trail head area.**



## **May 2016- Central and Southern Preserves Completed Project List-Josh Clark**

1. Continued planting trees throughout the district. A highlight was planting Pin Oaks along the road at Afton.
2. The playgrounds at Shabbona and Sannauk had mulch added to bring them up to safety standards.
3. Mulched trees at Afton, Shabbona and Sannauk.
4. Graded roads at Afton, Shabbona and Sannauk.
5. Built new doors for the outhouses near parking lot 3 at Afton. One was installed the other will be early June.
6. Grass mowing began early in the month.
7. Assembled picnic tables for Sycamore Forest Preserve.
8. Mowed areas for rip rap to be dropped for repairs to wetland banks berms at Afton.

***Bill Prain's northern preserves project report and Al Roloff's natural resource management report soon.....***

## Northern Preserves

### Projects April-May and June 2016

- Fresh painting of trash receptacles, lids, grills ,wood stoves and water pumps
- Install insulation and ceiling at Hoppe shed
- Install boulders in Poto and SFP parking areas
- Repair vandalism damage at Russell, SFP and Poto
- Research cost estimates for new restrooms and Nature Center entry doors
- Mowing
- Firewood supply
- Road and trail repairs and grading at Russell, Poto and Wilkinson
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Equipment and material support for Sycamore Forest Preserve staff
- Administrative Priorities as called for
- Safety investigation reporting and training
- Water well activation and testing
- Contractor assist McQueen House soffit repairs and Lodge electrical