

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2023**



Lighting Up the Night

A Grand Exhibit for
a Grand Reopening

Summer Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



Every summer in the forest preserves is special (and busy!) and this year is no different, but for many the main attraction this season will be the reopening of Mayslake Hall. Closed in 2022 for extensive repairs to the exterior, this historic building is getting ready to again welcome visitors to more seasons of programs, exhibits, special events, and performances. To mark this much-anticipated event, Mayslake Peabody Estate will be celebrating the work of Joel Sheesley and his impressions of life along the West Branch DuPage River. You can read all about this remarkable endeavor in “A Grand Exhibit for a Grand Reopening” on Page 16. Mark your calendar and come see the estate in all of its renovated grand glory.

Later this summer, we invite you to attend the Friends of the Forest Preserve District’s annual A Night for Nature at the St. James Farm pavilion. This year’s event benefiting the restoration of habitat and the preservation of wildlife in DuPage forest preserves will feature fellowship, food and drinks, music, a silent auction, and wagon rides. Details are on the back cover of this publication.

Of course, for all the latest, we recommend you check out our newly redesigned website at dupageforest.org and follow us on our social media pages. Don’t forget, you can also sign up for special text alerts related to our off-leash dog areas, pop-up programs, and more. Just click on “Text Alerts” on the homepage.

Whatever your plans are for the summer, you can find a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout your forest preserves and education sites. See you on the trails!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Karie Friling



BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Summer 2023, Vol. 60, No. 3



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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dupageforest.org

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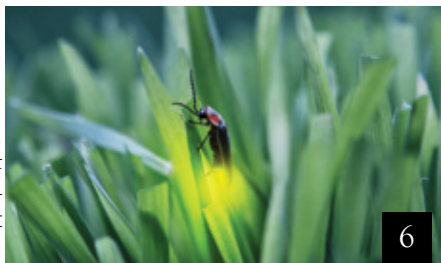
On the cover: Firefly by World Travel Photos/stock.adobe.com

OUR *Mission*

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens



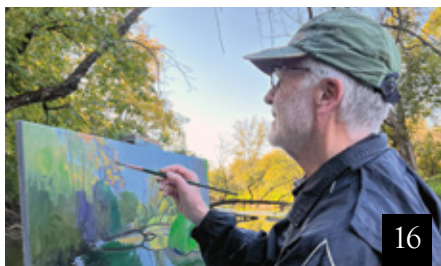
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6



8



16



18

news & notes

LIVE and on Demand

Can't make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under "About Us" and "Our Board." Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.



THE BRIDGES of Hidden Lake

In June the Forest Preserve District celebrated the reopening of two popular bridges at Hidden Lake. Both were removed in 2022 due to structural issues. One was replaced last fall with a 50-by-14-foot prefabricated bridge (shown above). The other, a historic cast- and wrought-iron structure and the only known one of its kind in the Chicago region, was sent off-site to be refurbished. The structure was manufactured by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, which only built this type of bowstring truss bridge during the 1870s. Its reinstallation this spring means it will again be able to serve trail users for decades to come.



NEW Danada Trail

A new 0.4-mile-long, 10-foot-wide limestone trail now connects Cromwell Drive at Butterfield Road to the Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail at Danada. It provides a vital connection to Wheaton's bicycle network via the signed on-street bicycle route on Cromwell. Associated improvements included pedestrian signals, crosswalk striping, and a detectable warning at the roadway intersections.



GREEN FLEET AGAIN RANKED IN TOP 100 NATIONWIDE

The Forest Preserve District ranked No. 34 in the 100 Best Fleets in the Americas Award by the NAFA Fleet Management Association, the world's largest membership association for fleet professionals.

The fleet management department also ranked fourth out of the top 50 leading fleets in the nation by *Government Fleet* magazine. Fleets are judged on showing leadership with staff, customers, and the community; staying efficient and competitive; overcoming challenges; and having a vision and direction for the operation. Ford sponsored the award, which is co-produced with the American Public Works Association.

The fleet is distinct in its variety of vehicles and its focus on alternative fuels. Currently, 95% of its 170 vehicles are powered by alternative fuels — liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, ethanol, biodiesel, hybrid electric, and electric. The District is committed to achieving a full alternative-fuel fleet as soon as possible.





THANK YOU *for Being a Friend*

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501(c)(3) organization engaging the community in philanthropy to advance the mission and purpose of the Forest Preserve District. We are grateful to recognize those who donated \$500 or more from January through March.

Gift of \$50,000 or More

Elaine Libovicz
Estate of Beth Fikar

\$10,000 – \$49,999

CNH Industrial

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Michael Firman and Marilyn L. Schweitzer

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Chicago Fire
Edward Jones Financial Advisor Mike Dyer

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Anonymous
Mary Ellen and Patrick Mauro
Eric and Erica Simmons
Virginia Stein

\$500 – \$999

Anonymous
Commissioner Jeff and Bonnie Gahrts
Kathy Isoda
Pat and Lara Pappas
Jefferson and Catherine Reiter
Martha and Bruce Sanders
Vanguard Charitable
Wheaton Garden Club

Contact Partnership & Philanthropy at fundraising@dupageforest.org or 630-871-6400 for more information. To donate online, visit dupageforest.org/friends. You can also mail a check made payable to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189.

COLLECTIONS *Corner*

For decades, Graue Mill ground wheat, corn, and other grains for local farmers. Today, the Forest Preserve District offers demonstrations of the mill's historic operations. Before corn can become meal, though, we first have to shell it, or remove the dry kernels from the cob, and one of the fastest ways to do so is to use a corn sheller. The one shown here at the mill is likely from the late 1800s or early 1900s, but U.S. patents for corn shellers date back to the 1830s.

The mill's corn sheller is basically a wooden box with an iron cylinder on the inside. The cylinder contains two vertical counter-rotating iron wheels fitted with teeth. A hand crank on the side of the box turns the wheels. The corn goes into the top of the machine, and the jagged wheels rapidly shave the kernels from the cob. The kernels then fall through a sheet of mesh wire near the bottom. The cob itself can't fit through the wire, so it pops out the other end of the cylinder.

To see corn shelling in action and other milling demonstrations, visit the Graue Mill and Museum at Fullersburg Woods Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.





Lighting Up the Night

by **ANDRES ORTEGA**, NATURAL RESOURCES

soupsstock/stock.adobe.com

For many of us, summer memories are filled with block parties, barbecues, fireworks, and ... fireflies (or lightning bugs to some). It seemed a rite of passage to have your parents poke holes in the lid of a mason jar so you could try to collect as many of the bright, shining bugs as possible. Unfortunately for many of us who want that same experience for our own children, fireflies aren't as abundant as they used to be, and our summer nights are a little less bright because of it. So why are they in decline, and what can we do to help bring the light back?

First, fireflies are not flies at all. They're a type of beetle in the aptly named family Lampyridae, and as with other beetles, they have distinct larval, pupal, and adult stages of development. Their larvae are usually on the ground near the edge of water or in other moist areas. Some can be in the water, but that's quite rare. (I once had a teacher bring in an insect found in a local creek, and to my surprise, it was an aquatic firefly larva, the first I'd ever seen!) They can stay in the larval stage for up to two years, developing in leaf litter or other vegetation, where they eat snails, worms, and small

insects. As adults, they live only a couple of weeks.

Fireflies get their name from their ability to produce light through special organs on their abdomens. What's unique about this light is that it's considered "cold light," meaning 100% of the energy produced is emitted as light. Compare this to your average incandescent light bulb, where only 10% is light and the other 90% is heat.

Fireflies mostly use this light to "talk" to each other, especially when adult males are looking for mates. The male will flash, and if a female is interested, she will flash back.

Not all adult Lampyridae emit light (those that don't use chemical smells to locate mates), but all larval fireflies do. At this stage, they're informally called "glow worms" (not to be confused with real glow worms, which are members of the unrelated Phengodidae family).

If you pay close attention to the flashes, you'll notice they often follow specific patterns that are unique for each species. One of the most common species in Illinois, *Photinus pyralis*, aka the big dipper, has a distinctive J-shaped flash. Some, like *Photinus ignitus*, have a single flash spread over a few seconds,



© Alexander Wild

- ▲ *Photinus pyralis*, aka big dipper fireflies, make distinctive J-shaped trails of light as they flash.



Cathy Kiefer/stock.adobe.com

- ▲ Fireflies get their name through an ability to produce light through special organs on their abdomens.



Karelian/stock.adobe.com

- ▲ Although adult fireflies can be spotted in woods, fields, and backyards, their larvae live discreetly near the ground.



© shnarchuk

- ▲ Like other beetles, the front pair of wings on fireflies are hardened into wingcases called "elytra."

and others, such as *Photinus consanguineus*, have a quick double flash every five to six seconds. In some areas of the country, this can put on quite the show when you get a "synchronous emergence" of fireflies, where large numbers develop into adults and start flashing in the same short time span. The Great Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina are particularly known for this.

But not all female fireflies flash to signal to mates. Some mimic the flashes of other species to attract other types of males, which then become meals. This allows the females to take in toxins from the males, which they pass on as a protective chemical defense to their eggs.

Communicating using light, though, means that fireflies are particularly vulnerable to light pollution. Where there were historically dark skies, today there's an overabundance of artificial light that makes it difficult for fireflies to detect others' flashes. Easily disoriented, fireflies may not be able to find mates, navigate, or function as they would in darker environments.

And light pollution isn't the only danger to fireflies. Like

many other insects they face severe threats due to habitat loss, pesticides, and invasive species.

So how can we bring these familiar flashes back? First, we can all be a little more conscious of our nighttime light habits. Decide which lights are essential and which can be left off during the summer when fireflies are active. (Hey, this can help save a little on your electric bill, too!) When choosing the type of light bulbs you use, aim for amber or red, which are less disturbing to several types of wildlife. You can also add covers or shades to your lights and install timers or sensors to ensure they're only on when you need them.

What you plant in your yard can help, too. Trees dampen the effect of nearby lights and increase the humidity under the canopy. (Remember, fireflies in all stages like moist conditions.) Gardening with native plants supports populations of native insects, which in turn provide prey for larval fireflies. And reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides around your home can be a big plus.

With these small changes we can ensure generations to come can enjoy these spectacular summer nature lights! •

summer calendar

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Health & Well-Being	Page 13	Nature Art & Culture	Page 14
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July

- 1

Picnicking for the Glorious Fourth
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wildflower Walk
- 7

Fresh Air Friday
Peabody's Pages Book Club Morning Discussions Begin
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 8

Backyard Reptile Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower Walk
- 9

Summer Haiku Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 12

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13

The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 14

Cocktails and Conservation: Plant Your Own Container
Garden
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 15

Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 16

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 22

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23

Archery: All Ages
- 26

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 28

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 29

Backyard Reptile Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery



Registering on dupageforest.org?

- Here's a quick way to find your program online.
1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
 2. Click the link to search by activity number.
 3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
 4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

August

- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower Walk
- 4** Fresh Air Friday
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 5** Archery: Open House
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wildflower Walk
- 6** Kayaking: Adventure Series Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Archery: All Ages
- 11** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Kayaking: Basics
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 17** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 18** Archery: Games for Adults
- 19** Backyard Reptile Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** The Art of St. James Farm
- 21** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 25** Cocktails & Conservation: Beers and Bats, Mules and Moths
- 26** Fishing: All Ages
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 27** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Wednesday Wilderness Walk

September

- 1** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
Wildflower Walk
- 7** Cocktails and Conservation:
Native Trees and Shrubs
Friends of the Forest Preserve
District Duck Race
- 8** Fresh Air Friday
- 9** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower Walk
Women's Series: Archery
- 10** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Forest Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 12** Archery: All Ages
- 13** Evening Hike Club
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 14** A Night for Nature
- 15** Bird Walk
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Women's Series: Kayaking
- 17** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Forest Hike
- 20** Evening Hike Club
Restoring Native Landscapes
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 22** Bird Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 23** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Forest Hike
- 27** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 28** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 29** Bird Walk
- 30** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Restoration Workday



Plants & Wildlife

Backyard Reptile Walk 23594

Have you seen a turtle basking on a log or spotted something slithering by as you walk along a trail? Discover the local amphibians and reptiles that live in DuPage and the behaviors and adaptations that make them so unique. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

July 8 & 29	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Aug. 19	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Bird Walk 23530

Enjoy birding camaraderie, and learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds on a casual 2-mile guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 15	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Springbrook
Sept. 22	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne
Sept. 29	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks

Cocktails and Conservation

Beers and Bats, Mules and Moths 23679

Join us as we raise a glass and toast to DuPage bats and moths. Grab a bat- or moth-themed signature cocktail at the Greenway Tap as you learn about these local creatures, and then join experts on a nighttime stroll through the preserve to identify these nocturnal animals and discover how the Forest Preserve District monitors their populations. Ages 21 and up. \$25 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 25	7 – 9 p.m. & 8 – 10 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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Native Trees and Shrubs 23527

Join our panel of plant experts for an evening of discussion and problem-solving. Have your questions answered as we address common challenges and share tips on successfully growing native trees and shrubs. One drink is included with registration. Ages 21 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 7	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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Friends of the Forest Preserve District Duck Race

Purchase a rubber duck for a chance to win \$500, and then watch it race along the newly restored Spring Brook! Sponsored by the 501(c)(3) Friends of the Forest Preserve District, this signature race supports the restoration of habitat and the preservation of wildlife in DuPage forest preserves. Ducks are available at dupageforest.org/friends, and only 250 are available. Age 18 and up. \$25 per duck or \$100 for five. Questions? Call 630-871-6400.

Sept. 7	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall 23521

Bring your family on this signs-of-fall scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of the preserve. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 24	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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A Night for Nature

Join us as we raise funds for the Friends of the Forest Preserve District 501(c)(3) to benefit wildlife and wild areas in DuPage County. This annual event includes fellowship, food and drinks, music, a silent auction, and wagon rides. Tickets are available at dupageforest.org/night-for-nature. Ages 21 and up. \$100 per person. Questions? Call 630-871-6400.

Sept. 14	5:30 – 8 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Wednesday Wilderness Walk 23598

Take a guided nature hike, observing the seasons, flora, and fauna in the lesser-known but greatly diverse Lincoln Marsh. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea as we discuss some of nature's wonders before we start the walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

Aug. 30	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
Sept. 6, 13 & 20	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh

Wildflower Walk 23539

Meet a plant expert for a leisurely walk to enjoy the blooms of summer. You'll learn about native wildflowers, how to identify them, and which varieties you can grow at home. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 5 & 8	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Aug. 2 & 5	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sept. 6 & 9	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Registering on dupageforest.org?

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3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Ways to Play

Archery

All Ages 23570

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug. 9	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 12	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Games for Adults

 23576

Compete with other participants in different archery games designed to be enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 18	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Open House

Learn about equipment, try some of the basics with a certified instructor, and talk to representatives from local archery groups at this fun family event. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Aug. 5	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Challenge your friends and neighbors, and show off your knowledge as you compete for prizes during this friendly quiz game featuring categories to test your familiarity with music, animals, geography, history, and more! Come with a team of up to six, or have us help you find one. Ages 18 and up. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

July 13	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Aug. 17	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Sept. 28	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

Fishing: All Ages

 23577

Don't rely on luck to catch fish! Learn basic skills to help make your family outings successful. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 26	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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More Ways to Play

KAYAK, CANOE, AND BOAT RENTALS

Rentals end one hour before closing and are \$15 per hour for single kayaks or rowboats; \$18 for two-person kayaks or canoes; and \$20 for paddle boats (Blackwell only). Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Blackwell

Saturdays & Sundays Through Sept. 30
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weekdays Through Labor Day
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Herrick Lake

Saturdays & Sundays Through Sept. 3
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Plus Independence Day & Labor Day
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

SCENIC OVERLOOK

Greene Valley

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

Saturdays & Sundays Through Oct. 29
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Blackwell

Enjoy nature under the stars at one of 60 sites. For weekend reservations visit dupageforest.org and click "Get a Permit." For additional nights around July 4 and Labor Day, call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

Friday & Saturday Nights Through Oct. 9
Plus Select Additional Holiday Nights

summer calendar



Returning in October!

Danada Equestrian Center

FALL FESTIVAL AT DANADA

The Forest Preserve District's largest event returns for two days this year! Festivities will include equestrian performances and demonstrations in the outdoor arena, wagon rides, pony rides and other children's activities, barn tours, and more. All ages. Admission and parking are free, but there are small fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 7 & 8

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

St. James Farm

Exercise and school your horse at this historic venue. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-580-7027.

Riding Lessons 23682

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in July, August, and September. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

Kayaking

Adventure Series 23578

Learn the basics as you explore different waters each week. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$80 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 6, Aug. 20 &	10 a.m. – Noon	Multiple
Sept. 3 & 17		

Basics 23575

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 15	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Women's Series

Archery 23579

Enjoy great camaraderie (and a lot of fun!) as you learn basic techniques and safety essentials of this classic sport at a program created for and led by women. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 9	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Kayaking 23580

Make new friends and learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak at a program created for women and led by women. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 16	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Fore!

The Preserve at Oak Meadows

Maple Meadows • Green Meadows

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit DuPageGolf.com.



Registering on dupageforest.org?

- Here's a quick way to find your program online.
1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
 2. Click the link to search by activity number.
 3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
 4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Health & Well-Being

Evening Hike Club 23534

Boost your outdoor wellness in a friendly group setting on a quick-paced 3- to 5-mile guided hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 6	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/HQ
Sept. 13	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Sept. 20	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 27	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Forest Hike 23523

Gear up and enjoy some healthy exercise on a quick-paced 3- to 5-mile guided hike through the wonders of the preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 11	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Cricket Creek
Sept. 18	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 25	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Springbrook

Fresh Air Friday 23501

Enjoy a relaxing lunch hour of mindful walking and immersive nature-based ways to tune in to the present on a 1-mile walk on crushed limestone and grass trails. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 7	9 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug. 4	9 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 8	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

Summer Haiku Walk 23520

Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk; then create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 9	2 – 3:15 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Living Green

Cocktails and Conservation: Plant Your Own Container Garden 23801

Learn about native wildflowers, how to identify them, and how to easily grow them at home in a container garden. Sip a signature cocktail made with native plant ingredients as you pot up your own container of native flowers, grasses, and sedges for home. Ages 21 and up. \$40 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 14	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

Shop online for native trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage conditions, and then pick up your plants at St. James Farm! Questions? Call 630-933-7247.

July 17	Plant list and sale details go online at dupageforest.org/fall-tree-shrub-sale.
Aug. 1	Online ordering begins and continues while supplies last.
Sept. 22 & 23	Pick up plants at St. James Farm. Plants must be ordered in advance; there will not be any in-person sales at the farm.

Heritage

The Art of St. James Farm 23522

Take a guided walking tour of the preserve's seven outdoor pieces of art. Learn about the inspiration for each piece, the artists and their creative processes, and how the artwork came to be at St. James Farm. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 20	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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summer calendar



1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Registration not required for these free programs. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

TIME TO GO CHORIN'

Help with chores around the farm. Mondays are for farmhouse chores, which often include laundering clothes the 1890s way. Thursdays are for barnyard chores, so make sure to wear shoes and clothes that can get dirty! All ages.

July 3 – Aug. 28

Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

FARM POWER: FARMHOUSE TOUR

Join a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on nonelectric tools and machines used to help with household chores. All ages; under 18 with an adult.

July 1 – Aug. 28

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

STORY TIME

Bring the family, and rest under the shade of a tree while a costumed interpreter shares lessons from the world of stories with different historic tales each week. All ages.

July 3 – Aug. 28

Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

FARMHOUSE TOUR:

BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE 1890S

Take a guided tour that focuses on going to school and education in the 1890s. All ages; under 18 with an adult.

Sept. 1 – 30

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

Picnicking for the Glorious Fourth

Party like the Victorians by bringing your own picnic to enjoy among the natural beauty of Kline Creek Farm at this celebration of our oldest national holiday. Explore our historical picnicking display, and help make a special dairy treat using ice from our ice house. Learn about period music, play historical games, and watch model hot-air balloon launches. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

July 1

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Kline Creek Farm

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy a 30-minute ride while learning about the forest preserve's heritage and natural areas. Rides begin at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m., and tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025 for St. James Farm and 630-668-6012 for Danada (including calls for private group rides).

July 7, 14, 21 & 28

1 – 3 p.m.

St. James Farm

Aug. 4 & 11

1 – 3 p.m.

St. James Farm

Sept. 23, 24 & 30

1 – 3 p.m.

Danada

Nature Art & Culture

Peabody's Pages Book Club ²³⁴⁴⁸

Sign up for these enriching meetings, where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans. In July we'll discuss *The Day the World Ended* by Gordon Thomas; in August, *The Mystery at Mount Forest Island* by Pat Camalliere; and in September, *Oddball Illinois* by Jerome Pohlen. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 7, Aug. 4 &

10 – 11:15 a.m.

Mayslake

Sept. 1



Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Restoring Native Landscapes 23463

You enjoy connecting to nature and exploring the trails, but what do you know about the restoration of the landscapes and streams at West Branch, Timber Ridge, Blackwell, and other favorite preserves? Discover clues in the paintings of the *West Branch Diary: A Painterly Perspective* exhibit, and then go back through the steps it took to restore those locations. All ages. \$5 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 20 6 – 7 p.m. Mayslake



Art and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

WEST BRANCH DIARY: A PAINTERLY PERSPECTIVE

For two years, artist Joel Sheesley crisscrossed DuPage with his easel and paints, breathing in the scope and details of the DuPage River watershed as it rolls through numerous forest preserves and putting that life to canvas. This exhibit of 55 paintings invites viewers to join Sheesley and the Forest Preserve District in experiencing nature in their own ways. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 1 – Dec. 2

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet the Artist Reception

Sept. 7

6 – 8 p.m.

AT HOME WITH NATURE TOUR

Learn some of the surprising history of Mayslake Hall, a landmark and architectural gem and the former home of F.S. Peabody, which has been surrounded by an oasis of nature for over 100 years. Ages 18 and up. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 1 – 30

Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 23639

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

Churchill Woods

July 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, 16, 29 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug. 5, 6, 12, 13, 26 & 27	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Churchill Woods Glacial Ridge

July 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Aug. 5 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Sept. 9 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial

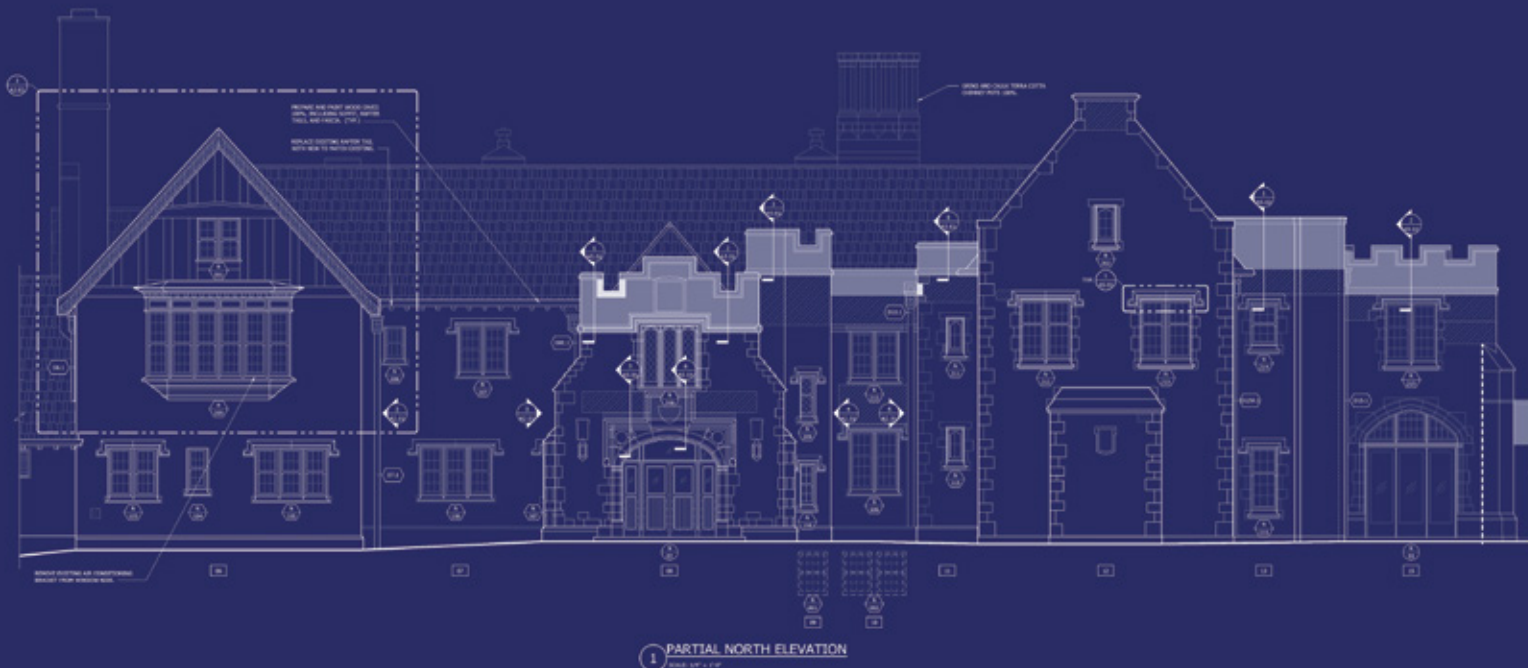
Oldfield Oaks

July 12 & 19	8 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Aug. 2 & 16	8 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Sept. 20	8 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 23552

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days for groups of five or more).

July 5, 10, 15, 21, 26 & 31	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Aug. 5, 11, 16, 21 & 26	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 1, 6 & 11	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 16, 22 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell



A Grand Exhibit for a Grand Reopening

by **DENNIS BUCK**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For over 100 years, Mayslake Hall has stood on the land that makes up today's Mayslake Forest Preserve. Designed by architectural firm Marshall and Fox and built in the 1920s for Francis S. Peabody, the Tudor Revival-style mansion is one of the few remaining examples of the country estates that dotted DuPage County during America's Gilded Age. Since 1992, this unique site has been open to the public as an oasis of natural beauty and a place to connect to nature through art, culture, and history.

Last fall, the Forest Preserve District embarked on a multifaceted project to repair and seal the building's exterior. Because of the extensive work, the hall has been closed to the public for several months. On Sept. 1, though, it will again welcome visitors, and to celebrate the grand reopening the Forest Preserve District is hosting an equally grand exhibit.

The Restoration and Reopening

Time and the elements had worn heavily on the exterior of Mayslake Hall. Over the years, leaks in the masonry damaged interior walls, so crews needed to remove and repoint all the mortar joints between the bricks and limestone, re-

creating and replacing the worst of the cracked limestone while preserving the carved faces, wild animals, and mythical creatures that adorn the building. The slate roof was repaired using salvaged shingles that matched the originals.

The project replaced exterior wooden features and stucco and removed existing original windows and doors for restoration. Windows that had been replaced over the years with late 20th-century styles were again replaced but with thermal-pane models designed to blend into the historic facade. In the library, the windows now open so visitors can step out onto a new patio.

A failed drainage system around the foundation led to a wet basement, so crews excavated the old and install a new perimeter system. They then graded the land to move water away from the foundation. The 100-year-old plumbing had also failed, so the project removed decades of rust from the sewer pipes and inserted a plastic liner cured in place with UV light. While all of this work was going on, crews also repaired sidewalks and parking areas to meet ADA regulations.

Now, with exterior renovations almost complete, the Forest Preserve District can begin plans for a restored interior.



- ▲ Roof repairs incorporated salvaged slate tiles, those naturally weather-worn, to best match existing ones.



- ▲ As part of the overall exterior repairs, all the mortar joints between the bricks and limestone were replaced.

The Exhibit

When Mayslake Hall reopens on Sept. 1, it will be hosting a special exhibit dedicated to the region's West Branch DuPage River, renowned local artist Joel Sheesley's *West Branch Diary: A Painterly Perspective*. It will be a pairing of nature and art that Mayslake Peabody Estate is dedicated to presenting.

The exhibit is a project of passion. For two years, Sheesley crisscrossed DuPage with his easel and paints, breathing in the scope and the details of the DuPage River watershed and putting that life to canvas *plein air*, or by painting in the outdoors. In an incredible burst of inspiration, he produced 55 paintings that invite viewers to explore and engage with the art, the artist, the world, and each other.

"As a *plein air* painter you not only cannot escape your presence in the work you make, but you also cannot escape your presence in the landscape itself, and maybe, the presence of the landscape in you," Sheesley explains.

On the surface, the works are classic landscape paintings, loving studies of favorite places and of the wild beauty that

exists across DuPage. But the purposeful expressions of experience, feelings, and history that underpin the work, the masterful interpretations of place, feel akin to portraiture. Whether bejeweled with flowers, swathed in velvety greens, accented with fiery colors, or cloaked in snowy white, each piece gives attention to the individuality and character of the landscape as viewed by the artist in that moment.

Sheesley has deep affection for the landscape of his home, and *West Branch Diary* is an ode to the connections we all share in nature. One person may recognize the view of their daily walk, while another may see a favorite fishing hole, and a third spot a bird habitat they have never visited before. It is in this vision of community that the artist's purpose and the Forest Preserve District's mission join.

Art supporting conservation. Nature inspiring art. Art as a guide to help others find their own connection to nature. We invite you to experience your own connection to nature through art at Mayslake. Exhibit details are on Page 15. •



© Joel Sheesley

- ▲ Sheesley's project took him to scenic spots along the West Branch DuPage River throughout the year.



- ▲ Artist Sheesley practices *plein air*, a French expression meaning the experience of painting outdoors.

directory



HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services

630-933-7248
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturdays June – August (except July 1)
(phone, email, and online chat only)
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Partnership & Philanthropy Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

FOREST PRESERVE *Hours*

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

PARTNER *Sites*

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388

EDUCATION *Centers*

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

3800 York Road • Oak Brook
630-850-8112

Open mid-April – mid-November
Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday Noon – 4 p.m.
Closed Monday – Wednesday

KLINE CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per
person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office & Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Due to work on the exterior, the interior of Mayslake Hall will not reopen until Sept. 1. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Animal Admittance

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Visitor Center and Outdoor Exhibit Trail

Although Willowbrook continues to accept animals, the visitor center will be closed until a new building opens in 2024. The outdoor exhibit trail is also closed. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

GOLF *Courses*

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

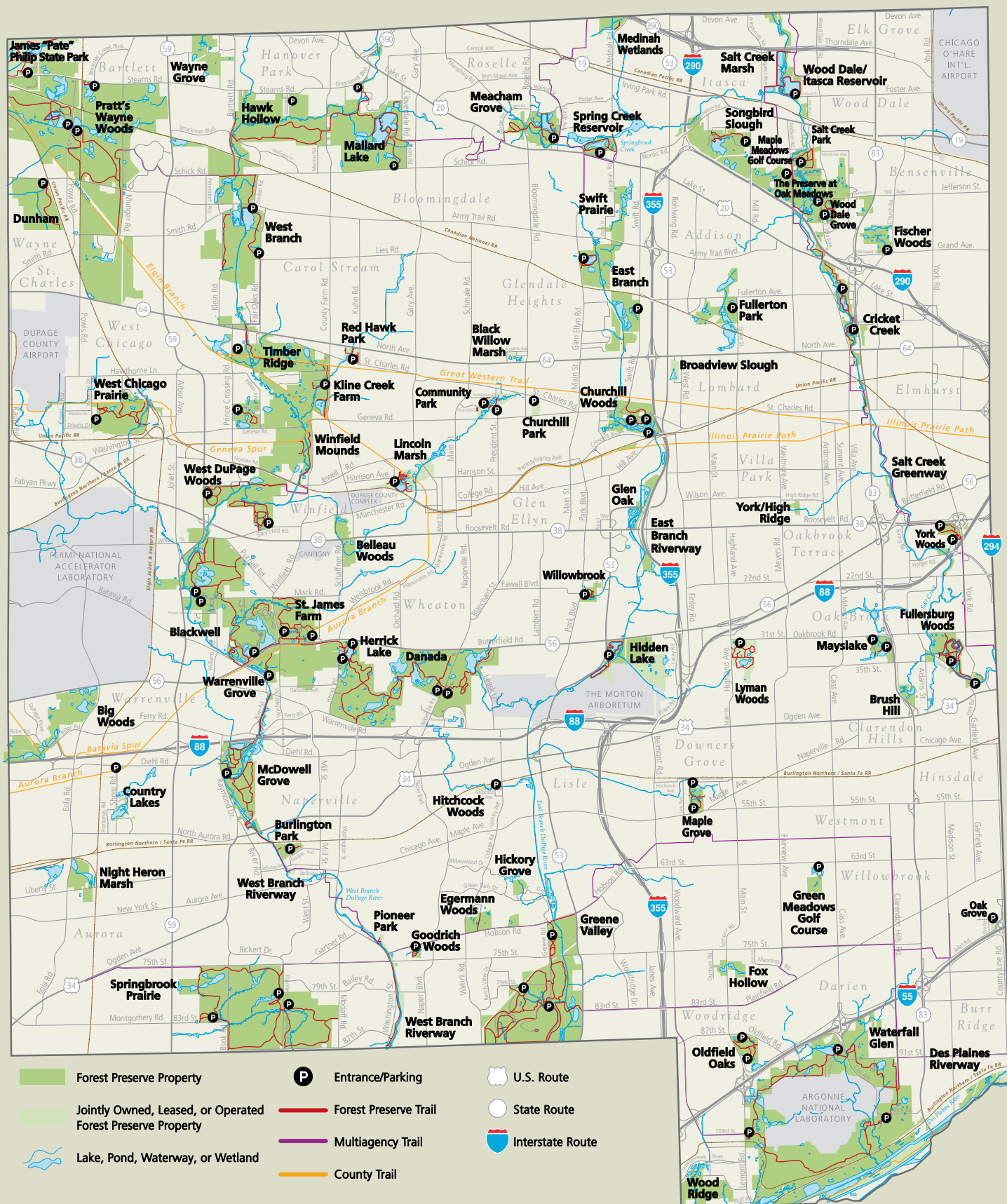
272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-871-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks prior to attending a registration-based program.





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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Wheaton, IL 60189

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2023**

A Night FOR Nature

A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • SEPT. 14 • 5:30 – 8 P.M.

ST. JAMES FARM FOREST PRESERVE

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville

Join us in the picnic pavilion for fellowship, food and drinks, music, a silent auction, and wagon rides. Our annual event supports the restoration of habitat and the preservation of wildlife in DuPage forest preserves. Ages 21 and up.

Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at dupageforest.org/night-for-nature.

Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.



Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County



Friends of the
Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County



Duck Race

A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • SEPT. 7 • 10 A.M.

ST. JAMES FARM FOREST PRESERVE

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville

Purchase a rubber duck for a chance to win \$500, and watch it race along Spring Brook!

\$25 per duck; \$100 for five. Purchase at dupageforest.org/friends. Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.