



# Notes from the Dells

April, May, June, July 2017 Vol. 38 No. 2



# Calendar of Events



**Please register for events at:**

**[www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915**

## **Adult Programs**

Severson Naturalist Night • Tuesday Evenings • 7pm-8:15pm

April 4th - Fire Ecology

April 18th - Animal Behavior

May 2nd - Current Topics in Ecology

May 16th - Field Trip to Colman Dells Nature Preserve • 6pm

Join us for a continuation of this spring series. If you are in need of brushing up on your local naturalist knowledge, we will be exploring a range of topics every other week through lecture and hands on activities.

## **Bird Walks**

Monday Mornings • All walks begin at 9am

April 10th - Severson Dells Forest Preserve

April 24th - Ferguson Forest Preserve

May 8th - Hartley Memorial Forest Preserve (be prepared to be off-trail for this walk!)

May 22nd - Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve

See whats happening in the world of birds this spring during a guided walk on one of the forest preserves. Please register. Free (suggested donation of \$5).



## **Lectures**

**Ancient Life of Illinois-Ray Wiggers, College of Lake County • Tuesday, April 6th • 7pm**

Are you curious about the sea that used to be over what is now Illinois? The Past Revealed in Our Fossil Record: The geologic and biologic history of Illinois, as revealed by its fossils — from marine invertebrates of the Ordovician sea of half a billion years ago, to the luxuriant, equatorial coal swamps of the Pennsylvanian period and to the massive “megafauna” mammals of the modern Ice Age. Free (suggested donation of \$5).





**Geology and Earthquake History of Illinois-Dr. Phillip Carpenter, Northern Illinois University**  
**Tuesday, April 25th • 7pm**

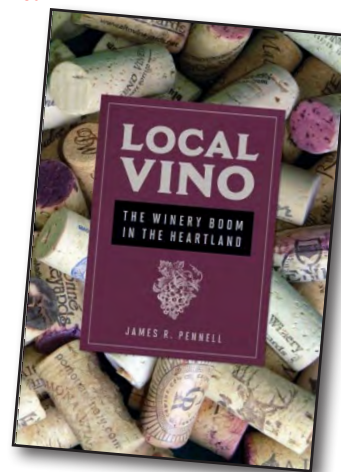
Geology rocks (pun intended)!! Earthquakes may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Illinois geology, so come and learn about the earthquake history and geology of Illinois from Dr. Phillip Carpenter from Northern Illinois University. Free (suggested donation of \$5).

**Local Vino-Dr. Jim Pinnell • Friday, May 12th • 7pm**

Join us for a fun evening of wine, history and science with Dr. Jim Pinnell of the University of Indianapolis. Dr. Pinnell will be speaking about his new book *Local Vino: The Winery Boom in the Heartland*. This book travels through the Midwest interviewing vintners to learn about the unique challenges of growing grapes in Midwestern soils, the history and sociology of local wine as well as the business challenges and opportunities. During this special event, we will be offering wine tasting from DC Estate Wines in South Beloit. Dr. Pinnell will also have his books for sale with the opportunity to have them autographed.

Friends of Severson Dells-\$10, General Admission-\$15. **This is a 21 and over event.**

Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at : [www.seversondells.com/lectures/](http://www.seversondells.com/lectures/) or by calling 815-335-2915



**Bird Research at Severson Dells-Dr. James Marshall • Thursday, May 18th • 7pm**

Learn about the active research program happening at Severson Dells on local birds by Rockford University professor, Dr. James Marshall. The work he and his students are doing will hopefully help long-term in the management of the Severson Dells property to help bird populations and managing invasive plants.

**Family Friendly Events**

**All our welcome, but these events are appropriate for children, too.**

**Night Hikes**

Friday, April 7th • 7pm-8:30pm

Friday, April 21st • 7pm-8:30pm

Friday, July 21st • 8:30pm-10pm

Friday, August 4th • 8:30pm-10pm

Enjoy a walk in the woods at Severson Dells at night. Learn about the nocturnal creatures that call this place home. Please feel free to bring a small flashlight.

Free event (donations are always appreciated).

**Bat Hikes**

Thursday, June 8th - Forest Preserve Headquarters • 8:15pm-9:15pm

Thursday, July 6th - Four Lakes Forest Preserve • 8:15pm-9:15pm

Learn about these unique flying mammals that call our area home with local naturalist Barbara Williams. Also learn about the bat citizen science program Severson Dells and the Forest Preserves will be embarking on in the coming year.



### Earth Day Hike • Saturday, April 22nd • 9:30am-11:30am

Come and celebrate Earth Day at Severson Dells with a guided hike and appreciation led by Ann Wasser. Who knows what we'll find during these early days of spring?! Please register. Free (donations are always appreciated).



### Severson Saturday-Bird Bounty Saturday, April 29th • 10am-2pm

Join us for a day all about birds in this open house style event. Learn about the physics of flight, the parts of a feather and make a bird craft to take home. Guided bird walks will also be available for visitors to partake in. Feel free to bring your binoculars!

### Pond Exploration • 9:30am-11am Saturday, May 6th • Thursday, June 22nd

Kids, bring your grown up to Severson Dells for some hands on exploration of our pond. We will meet at the Nature Center and walk down to the pond with all the gear one could want for discovering the critters that live there. We will not be getting in the pond, but the area around the pond can be quite muddy, so appropriate footwear is a must. Free, but registration is required. Space is limited.

Please register at: [www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915.



### Get Outside, Get Healthy! Kickoff Event Saturday, May 20th • 12pm-3pm • Hononegah Forest Preserve

Come out for this kick off to summer! Learn about all of the free community offerings for the summer of 2017 through the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County with a wide range of hands-on activities for all ages to enjoy.



photo by Jamie Johannsen

### Severson Saturdays-Wildflowers • May 27th • 10am-2pm

The hills and forests are abloom with wildflowers! Come and learn about the unique and beautiful wildflowers that call Northern Illinois home. Dissect a flower to learn about its parts, make flower imprint art and head out for an exploration of the wildflowers at Severson Dells. Join us for this open-house style event. Free, no registration required.

### Frog Hike at Pecatonica River Forest Preserve • Thursday, June 1st • 6:30pm-8pm

Meet at the Pecatonica River Forest Preserve shelter house. Severson Dells staff will present a brief introduction to local frogs and toads and the importance of their role in natural communities. Depending on the weather, we will hike down to the oxbow lake (an easy 1 mile round-trip) to listen for our amphibian friends. If time allows, we will carpool over to the Pecatonica Wetlands to give a listen there, too! Free. Please register at: [www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915. Space is limited.





### Severson Saturdays-Water Wonders • June 24th • 10am-2pm

Water, water everywhere!! Learn about one of the most important elements of life on earth and some of the amazing properties that make it act like no other. During this event, we will explore some of the bodies of water on Severson Dells as well! This open house style event allows you to drop in (pun intended) at your leisure.



### Youth Events

Readings from the Rookery • Fridays • 9am-10:30am

June 2nd • June 16th • June 30th

July 14th • July 28th

Join us at Severson Dells for a morning of science and reading. Each day will focus on a nature-based children's book and associated science activities outside. This program is for youth ages 5-8. Please register at: [www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915. Free (donations always appreciated).

### Canoe Programs

Canoe Convoy • Monday Nights • 6pm • Locations to be determined

June 5th • June 12th • June 19th • June 26th

July 10th • July 17th • July 24th • July 31st

Join us for a summer of canoeing adventures on the Kishwaukee River! Staff instructors and volunteers will help you learn to be a more skillful and confident paddler while answering questions about the river flora and fauna. Equipment, guides and a shuttle are provided. You must call to register and find out the location for the evening's paddle. Every week will feature a different stretch of the river. Times will vary in length, but we will be off the river before 9pm.

All paddlers are required to attend a quick start program before they can paddle. The quick start programs begin at 5:30pm before the paddle. Ages 10 and up, those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Paddles may be cancelled due to inclement weather or water conditions. Free (donations always appreciated).

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE PADDLE.**

Please register at: [www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915. Space is limited!!

Canoe Quickstart • Forest Preserve Headquarters

Saturday, June 3rd • 9am-10:30am or 11am-12:30pm

Join us for an introduction to paddling with Severson Dells staff and volunteers. This session will teach you the basics of paddling to make you a more skillful and confident paddler. This is for beginner and intermediate paddlers. Anyone wishing to participate in the Canoe Convoys will have to attend a Quick Start. For ages 10 and up, those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Paddling instructions as well as paddle time on quarry lake included. Free. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER BY THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST**

Please register at: [www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming-1/) or call 815-335-2915.



# SEVERSON DELLS MUSIC

## JOHN CRAIGIE

THURSDAY - APRIL 13, 2017

Doors open at 6pm and show starts at 7pm

Tickets: \$15 General Admission • \$10 Severson Dells Members

Purchase tickets in advance: [www.seversondells.com/music/](http://www.seversondells.com/music/)

Cash bar provided by Prairie Street Brewhouse. (Please no BYOB)



If John Prine and Mitch Hedberg had a baby, the resulting product would resemble something very close to Portland, OR singer-songwriter John Craigie. Musically comparable to Prine, with the humor and wit of Hedberg, the humble, gracious, and hilarious Craigie is one of the best storytellers of our time. It's no wonder that Chuck Norris sends him fan mail, and Todd Snider brings him gifts on stage.

The vagabond troubadour has charmed audiences in all 50 states and throughout much of Europe, with a DIY spirit seldom seen these days.

While touring solo and with the likes of Todd Snider, the Shook Twins, Nicki

Bluhm, and ALO, Craigie has taken the stage at festivals, sold out venues, intimate house concerts, center camp at Burning Man and even Gregory Alan Isakov's farm. Although based in Portland, Craigie's true home is on the road, and just like that he's on to the next town, playing and singing and telling stories to everyone who wants to listen.

He'll make you laugh and make you cry, all in the same song. With a fan-base that is more of a continually-expanding circle of friends, John Craigie's true passion is connecting with people through shared experiences, stories, and song. [www.johncraigiemusic.com/](http://www.johncraigiemusic.com/)







# Summer Camp at Severson Dells

Register your camper online at  
[www.seversondells.com/summer-camp/](http://www.seversondells.com/summer-camp/) or call 815-335-2915

## **NATURE PLAY • AGES 4-6 • MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9AM-1PM**

**WILDLIFE WONDERS—\$80 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS, \$95 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**JUNE 12TH-16TH**

Discover the many critters that call Severson Dells home while hiking the trails, exploring the mud and Hall creek and playing nature games. Come join us for a week of fun in the woods!!

**ART AND NATURE—\$80 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS, \$95 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**JULY 10TH-14TH**

Get crafty and dirty during this week full of finding the art in nature. We will explore the many habitats of Severson Dells while playing with paint and making crafts from natural materials.



## **SEVERSON EXPLORERS • AGES 7-10 • MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9AM-3PM**

**PEEK-INTO-CREEK—\$110 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS, \$140 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**SESSION 1: JUNE 19TH-23RD**

**SESSION 2: JULY 17TH-21ST**

Jump into the science of creek life! This week will be full of hiking, watery explorations and the legendary slosh through Hall Creek. Come join us for a week of fun and science in the dells!

**JUNIOR BIOLOGISTS—\$110 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS, \$140 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**JUNE 26TH-30TH**

Are you ready to become a scientist for a week at Severson?! We will dive into the ecology, biology, ornithology and many other *ologies* that make Severson Dells special, while playing nature games and creating a personal field guide to take home.

**ART AND NATURE—\$110 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS, \$140 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**JULY 24TH-28TH**

Take a look at the creative side of Severson Dells! This week full of science, sketching, painting, games and investigations will leave you seeing this place in a whole new light.



## **TEEN ADVENTURES • AGES 12-16**

**JULY 10TH-14TH • 9AM-3PM**

**BLAZING PADDLES CANOE CAMP—**

**\$170 FOR FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS,**

**\$200 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

Join us for a week of adventure by canoe along the waterways of Winnebago County. Each day we will explore a different area (each day will have a different drop off location), learning and improving our paddling technique while learning about the local plants and animals and enjoying river fun.



# 2017 Wildflower

**AN ANNUAL FAVORITE RETURNS! Join Severson Dells and Natural Land Institute**  
**All walks begin at 6pm • No fee for the walks, but membership in SDNC**



Photo by Scott Evers Photography



Photo by Scott Evers Photography

## **Wednesday, April 26th**

### **Anna Page Park**

Barbara Williams from the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society will lead this walk. We will meet at the shelter house for a tour of wildflowers and birds at this Rockford Park District Property. We will travel through a variety of natural communities, from creek bottoms to maple forest to view marsh marigolds, trillium, blue-eyed Marys and numerous other spring flowers. Moderate hiking in wet areas.

## **Tuesday, May 2nd**

### **Pecatonica River Forest Preserve**

Join retired Severson Dells director, Don Miller, for a romp in the woods. Enjoy the Creekside and river edge floodplain forest, several old field meadows, gorges and upland forest sites. Within this 55 acre preserve lies an oxbow lake with a minimally disturbed mesic forest with a variety of unique flora. Hiking will be easy to moderate. Meet at picnic shelter house off of Brick School Road.

## **Wednesday, May 10th**

### **Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area**

Join volunteer Brian Hale on a hunt for spring wildflowers in the fen and oak savanna habitats of the Piscasaw Fen. Participants will also see the habitat restoration that is in process at this Boone County Conservation District site. The Piscasaw Fen Area is located at the south end of Norris Lane. Norris Lane runs south off of Edson Road. Edson Road is just south and east of the Village of Poplar Grove. Easy hiking.

## **Tuesday, May 16th**

### **Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve**

Greg Keilback of Severson Dells Nature Center will lead this hike on property owned and managed by NLI. This 55-acre Nature Preserve is located along Hall Creek, southwest of Rockford. One of the attractive features of this preserve is a series of cliffs known as the dells. Many unique plants restricted to limestone and dolomite outcrops are found here, as well as some northern



# ower Walks

Institute staff and volunteers on an exploration of the areas local wild flower hotspots.  
NC and/or NLI is encouraged • SDNC: 815.335.2915 • NLI: 815.964.6666

relict plants. The floral display in the upland woods is one of the best in Winnebago County. Aldo Leopold and Paul Riis conducted some early deer studies in this preserve in the mid 1930's. Located near the intersection of East Severson Road and North Weldon Road. From Meridian and Montague Road, drive south and turn west onto McGregor Road, turn north onto Weldon Road. Moderate-difficult hiking.

## **Wednesday, May 24th** **Rotary Forest Preserve**

Jerry Paulson, former executive director of Natural Land Institute, will lead this tour through the limestone ravines, extreme topography, and the beautiful Kishwaukee River Valley. Botany and geology will be braided together to explain the great variety of plant life found there. 5390 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley, between I-39 and Mulford Road. There will be many scenic views of the river on this moderate to difficult hike.

## **Tuesday, May 30th** **Colored Sands Forest Preserve**

Join Sand Bluff Bird Observatory's naturalists Lee and Lynda Johnson for a wildflower walkabout of the beautiful sand country at Colored Sands Bluff Forest Preserve. The vegetation is unique to dry sand prairies, which once dominated the area but now are very rare. This level hike will be good for beginners as well as the experienced. Meet at the Banding Station parking lot at the end of Haas Road near Durand.

## **Wednesday, June 7th** **Keiselberg Forest Preserve**

Eric Bednar, with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, will lead this field trip to discover the natural beauties of native prairie remnants and restorations of North Central Illinois. Tour many prairie and sedge meadow types from dry to wet. Kieselburg is located at 5801 Swanson Road in Roscoe. Hiking will be moderate.

## **Tuesday, June 13th** **Harlem Hills**

Gary and Judy Anderson will lead the group on a tour of Harlem Hills Prairie. If the season is progressing normally, the hills should be alight with the pinks and purples of the Pale Purple Coneflowers. Always a beautiful place to see at sunset. Easy hike. Meet on Flora Drive in Loves Park.

## **Wednesday, June 21st** **Jarrett Prairie Center**

Mark Herman, Education Superintendent of the Byron Forest Preserves, will lead us through the fields adjacent to the Jarrett Prairie Center. With gorgeous views of the rolling hills and the Rock River, this is a walk not to be missed. Come early and visit the newly remodeled Jarrett Prairie Center. Meet at the Jarrett Center parking lot. Moderate hike.

## **Tuesday, June 27th** **Searls Prairie**

Jack Armstrong, Rockford Park District and Severson Dells board member, will lead this hike with Nathan Hill, Rockford Park District Supervisor of Horticulture and Natural Areas, through this mesic and wet-mesic prairie where prairie dropseed, indian grass and bluestems grow. This site is one of the highest quality wet prairies in the state and will be full bloom. Easy hiking, but the area may be wet. Meet across from the soccer fields on Central Ave, Rockford.



Photo by David C. Olson



# Another Look at Leopold

Greg Keilback



Throughout the Land Ethic, other essays, and notes, one can find examples of Leopold's belief in humans' right (duty) to uphold a high standard of conduct for land relations. After listing conflicting examples of "what and whom do we love," Leopold scorns our past actions of wastefulness. He then defines the limitations of a Land Ethic stating, "A land ethic of course cannot prevent the alteration, management, and use of these 'resources,' but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state" (p. 204). Rather than focusing on human rights, however, Leopold focused on the rights of the biotic community to exist and our role within this community.

Holmes Rolston III (1991) in a response to Callicott's (1991) essay "The Wilderness Idea Revisited", points out that it is Leopold's belief in wilderness conservation as the essential right to a continued existence in a natural state (p.384).

I will further this idea and propose that Aldo was laying the base premise: If we have land that we reside upon, then it is our duty to preserve the integrity of the land's right to exist. Therefore, we, as humans and part of the biological community, should develop habits that cause such needed outcomes. Within his notes from Round River (1953) on conservation, Aldo states, "We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty of people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive" (p. 155). This "striving" leads to a development of repeated behavior, and behavior can thereby evolve into a virtue – an intrinsic habit that appreciates, conserves, and protects the land because it is the right thing to do.

In this way, I would argue that Leopold's own Land Ethic evolved with time and experience in the growing field of ecology. What began as a belief that land has the right to exist and it is humans' duty to preserve it, transformed to a virtue – Leopold's "higher aspiration". He implores humans to see that all things in the natural community are interrelated, and that developing habits that serve the natural community are "right" because they serve humans as a part of it. One action has a ripple effect throughout the entire community, and eventually humans will experience that effect, whether it is deforestation, pollution, urban sprawl, extinction, or any other action affecting natural resources. Virtue theory best explains the climax of Leopold's argument with his often quoted, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise" (p. 224). This thinking paved the way for modern conservationists like Michael Nelson (1998) who states, "Long-lasting ethical change can only be affected by means of the modification of one's worldview, the way one conceptually visualizes the world" (p. 742). Further, using this "Leopoldian Rule", Shaw (1997) identified three such environmental virtues - respect, prudence, and practical judgment. For Leopold himself, these virtuous habits of preserving and protecting land deepened to a worldview of intimate relationship with the land.

In the Land Ethic, Leopold depicted his own set of virtues with the statement, "It is inconceivable to me that an ethical relation to land can exist without love, respect, and admiration for land, and a higher regard for its value. By value, I of course mean something far broader than mere economic value; I mean value in the



philosophical sense” (p. 233). Virtues of love, respect, and admiration describe a successful relationship – whether it be between humans or humans and the land. Leopold’s views stretched even further beyond the limits of virtue theory, where the “habit” of protecting natural resources transformed into a spiritual and philosophical connection. It is this connection that I, and many of Leopold’s disciples, strive to achieve with their human and land community. For example, Leopold’s own daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley (2002) speaks of her father’s ideals on our needs as a species for shelter, clothes, and food. She states, “But he also realized that we need a great deal more if we are to lead sane and honorable lives; we need beauty, community, and purpose; we need “spiritual relationships to things of the land” (p. xii).

Throughout the Land Ethic, other essays, and notes, one can find examples of Leopold’s belief in humans’ right (duty) to uphold a high standard of conduct for land relations. After listing conflicting examples of “what and whom do we love,” Leopold scorns our past actions of wastefulness. He then defines the limitations of a Land Ethic stating, “A land ethic of course cannot prevent the alteration, management, and use of these ‘resources,’ but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state” (p. 204). Rather than focusing on human rights, however, Leopold focused on the rights of the biotic community to exist and our role within this community. Holmes Rolston III (1991) in a response to Callicott’s (1991) essay “The Wilderness Idea Revisited”, points out that it is Leopold’s belief in wilderness conservation as the essential right to a continued existence in a natural state (p.384).

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In this way, I would argue that Leopold’s own Land Ethic evolved with time and experience in the growing field of ecology. What began as a belief that land has the right to exist and it is humans’ duty to preserve it, transformed to a virtue – Leopold’s “higher aspiration”. He implores humans to see that all things in the natural community are interrelated, and that developing habits that serve the natural community are “right” because they serve humans as a part of it. One action has a ripple effect throughout the entire community, and eventually humans will experience that effect, whether it is deforestation, pollution, urban sprawl, extinction, or any other action affecting natural resources. Virtue theory best explains the climax of Leopold’s argument with his often quoted, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise” (p. 224). This thinking paved the way for modern conservationists like Michael Nelson (1998) who states, “Long-lasting ethical change can only be affected by





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Leopold's Land Ethic is an attempt for all of us, specifically land owners, to operate in such a way that positive action occurs from the development of these intrinsic habits. I do not think it is coincidence that Leopold studied and wrote extensively about the value of wilderness, defining the parameters of the time as science, recreation, and wildlife. He wrote a plea, urging us to become "a militant minority of wilderness-minded citizens" available to join in fight to preserve not just the landscapes remaining, but also the cultural values that bind us to our land (p. 200). This was not Leopold's only plea within *The Sand County Almanac*. Within his final summary conclusion section, "The Outlook," Leopold mentions his title term Land Ethic five times while reiterating the conditions needed for a proper ethical relationship with land, and gives us guidance on how to develop our own relationships and deeper understanding of land. Aldo Leopold developed - through the evolution of his own philosophy from a rights-based to a virtue-based worldview - a Land Ethic where we recognize and acknowledge our reciprocal relationship with land. This real-world account of how Aldo Leopold, a man who has been referred to as a farmer/poet, hunter/preservationist, scientist/scholar, is a classic example that when ethics enter our lives and change our behavior, as Kupperman (2009) states, must "assign a major role to virtue ethics" (p. 252). I believe that Leopold's interest in the ethical development of people, and the habitual actions we as land occupants develop in order to preserve the our relationship with land, jumped into the realm of virtue ethics from the time he shot the wolf in Arizona and pondered the "hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men" (p. 133).

References for this piece can be found in the full-version on the Severson Dells website: [www.seversondells.org](http://www.seversondells.org)







## **In the Water World**

*by Evaleen Stein*

**Down among the water-weeds,  
Darting through the grass,  
Round about the tasseled reeds,  
See the minnows pass!  
See the little turtles there,  
Hiding, half asleep,  
Tucked in tangled mosses where  
tiny crayfish creep!**

**Watch the trailing grasses string  
Strands of purple shells  
That the lazy ripples ring,  
Sweet as silver bells;  
Watch the sunshine sift and drift  
Down the eddy whirls,  
Whence the laden whiteweeds lift  
Loads of blossom pearls;**

**While the limpid shadows slip  
Softly in between,  
And the pussy-willows dip  
Lightly in the green  
Of the mocking trees that grow  
Down the water-sky,  
Flecked with fleecy clouds that blow  
Where the reed-birds fly.**

**Oh, such marvels manifold  
Fill the summer stream,  
Such enticing things untold  
Through the ripples gleam,  
If you could a moment turn  
Into what you wish,  
Would it not be fun to be  
Yonder little fish?**



# Thank You to Our Volunteers!!

In honor of volunteer appreciation week, the staff at Severson Dells wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to our volunteers for all of their service. Severson Dells would be hard pressed to meet its mission of linking people to nature through education and research in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin without the generous contributions of our volunteers as school program guides, hosts and hostess, Tuesday Weed Warriors, as well as canoe program guides. In 2016, volunteers helped with 3,600 students during field trips, 2,500 visitors in the nature (not part of organized programs) and removed countless amounts of honeysuckle and other non-natives at Severson Dells.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



## Support Severson Dells While Shopping

Do you shop on Amazon.com or locally at Schnucks grocery store? If so, then you can contribute to Severson Dells without spending any more of your own money.

We are a member of the Amazon Smile program, where shoppers can login into smile.amazon.com and select Severson Dells as their charity of choice. Once you select your charity you can shop like normal and 0.05% of your purchase will go back to Severson Dells.

This may not seem like a lot, but it adds up quickly!!



For those shopping more locally, Severson Dells is part of the Schnucks escrip program. This program allows you to select Severson Dells as the recipient of upto 3% of your purchases when you use your My Schnucks card. If you already have a card you can register your card online at [escrip.com/schnucks](http://escrip.com/schnucks) or by calling 1-800-931-6258.





## MEMORIALS

Our thoughts and prayers for those who have given in memory of or in honor to the following people connected to Severson Dells this past quarter.

**Fran Kerns Dewey**  
**Don Miller's Retirement**  
**Betty Kalivoda**  
**Dr. Allen Pang**

### Severson Dells Activities: 815-335-2915

Cut out and post where you keep track of your family's activities!

#### April 2017

04 Severson Naturalist Night-Fire Ecology, 7-8:15 p.m.  
06 Lecture, Ancient Life of Illinois, Ray Wiggers of College of Lake County, 7:00 p.m.  
07 Night Hike, Severson Dells, 7-8:30 p.m.  
10 Bird Walk, Severson Dells Forest Preserve, 9:00 a.m.  
18 Severson Naturalist Night-Animal Behavior, 7-8:15 p.m.  
21 Night Hike, Severson Dells, 7-8:30 p.m.  
22 Earth Day Hike, Severson Dells, 9:30-11:30am  
24 Bird Walk, Ferguson Forest Preserve, 9:00 a.m.  
25 Lecture, Geology and Earthquake History of IL, Dr. Phillip Carpenter, 7:00 p.m.  
26 Wildflower Walkabout, Anna Page Park, 6:00 p.m.  
29 Severson Saturdays-Bird Bounty, Severson Dells, 10-2:00 p.m.

#### May 2017

02 Wildflower Walkabout. Pecatonica River FP, 6:00 p.m.  
02 Severson Naturalist Night-Current Topics in Ecology, 7-8:15 p.m.  
06 Pond Exploration, Severson Dells, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
08 Bird Walk, Hartley Memorial Forest Preserve, 9:00 a.m.  
10 Wildflower Walkabout. Boone County-Piscasaw Fen Area, 6:00 p.m.  
12 Lecture, Local Vino, Dr. Jim Pinnell, 7:00 p.m.  
16 Wildflower Walkabout, Kishwaukee River FP, 6:00 p.m.  
16 Severson Naturalist Night-Ecologists Today, 7-8:15 p.m.  
18 Bird Research at Severson Dells, Dr. James Marshall, 7:00 p.m.  
20 Get Outside, Get Healthy! Kickoff Event, Hononegah FP, 12-3:00 p.m.  
22 Bird Walk, Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve, 9:00 a.m.  
24 Wildflower Walkabout, Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, 6:00 p.m.  
27 Severson Saturdays-Wildflowers, Severson Dells, 10-2:00 p.m.  
30 Wildflower Walkabout, Colored Sands FP, 6:00 p.m.

#### June 2017

01 Frog Hike, Pecatonica River FP, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
02 Readings from the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells, 9-10:30 a.m.  
03 Quick Start Canoers, FPWC (Quarry) 9-10:30 a.m., 11-12:30 p.m.  
05 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
07 Wildflower Walkabout, Keiselberg FP, 6:00 p.m.  
08 Bat Hike, Forest Preserve Headquarters, 8:15-9:15 p.m.  
12, 13, 14, 15, 16 Nature Play for Little Kids, Wildlife Wonders, 9-1:00 p.m.  
12 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
13 Wildflower Walkabout, Harlem Hills Prairie NP, 6:00 p.m.  
16 Readings from the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells, 9-10:30 a.m.  
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 Severson Explorers, Peek-Into-Creek # 1, 9-3:00 p.m.  
19 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
21 Wildflower Walkabout, Jarrett Prairie Center, 6:00 p.m.  
22 Pond Exploration, Severson Dells, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
22 Severson Saturdays-Water Wonders, Severson Dells, 10-2:00 p.m.  
26, 27, 28, 29, 30 Severson Explorers, Jr. Biologists, 9-3:00 p.m.  
26 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
27 Wildflower Walkabout, Searls Prairie Nature Preserve, 6:00 p.m.  
30 Readings from the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells, 9-10:30 a.m.

#### July 2017

06 Bat Hike, Four Lakes Forest Preserve, 8:15-9:15 p.m.  
10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Nature Play for Little Kids, Art And Nature, 9-1:00 p.m.  
10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Teen Adventures, Blazing Paddles Canoe Camp, 9-3:00 p.m.  
10 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
14 Readings from the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells, 9-10:30 a.m.  
17, 18, 19, 20, 21 Severson Explorers, Peek-Into-Creek # 2, 9-3:00 p.m.  
17 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
21 Night Hike, Severson Dells, 8:30-10:00 p.m.  
24, 25, 26, 27, 28 Severson Explorers, Art And Nature, 9-3:00 p.m.  
24 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.  
28 Readings from the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells, 9-10:30 a.m.  
31 Canoe Convoy Paddles the Kishwaukee River, 6:00 p.m.

#### August 2017

04 – Night Hike, Severson Dells, 8:30-10:00 p.m.

**Become a Member of  
“Friends of Severson Dells”  
or give an additional gift**

#### Members receive:

- \* 10% discount at Severson Dells Bookstore
- \* reduced admissions to Severson Dells programs
- \* members only programs at Severson Dells
- \* check-out privileges at Severson Dells Library
- \* “Notes From the Dells” quarterly newsletter with calendar of programs and special events
- \* free admission to participating ANCA member nature centers around the country

#### Annual Membership:

- Individual \$30
- Family \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining \$1,000

**Become a member online at  
[www.seversondells.org/become-a-member/](http://www.seversondells.org/become-a-member/)**

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**I would like to support the mission of SDNC  
with a gift of \_\_\_\_\_ at this time.**

***Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.***

**Thank you  
for your  
support!**

***What Will Your Legacy Be?***

Name Severson Dells Nature Center  
in your will or bequest.  
You'll help us raise the  
next generation of earth stewards.

Contact your attorney or  
financial advisor for advice.

# NOTES FROM THE DELLS

Severson Dells Nature Center  
8786 Montague Road  
Rockford, IL 61102-9713

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**TELEPHONE: 1-815-335-2915**  
**FAX: 1-815-335-2471**  
**www.seversondells.org**  
**e-mail: ann@seversondells.org**

**Hours:**

**Mon. - Sat.: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Sun.: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Severson Dells Nature Center Staff:**

Ann Wasser - Director of Nature Education  
Nancy Bleile - Administrative Assistant  
Ellen Rathbone - Nature Educator  
Greg Keilback - Biologist / Educator



Severson Dells Nature Center  
is a cooperative effort with the  
Forest Preserves of Winnebago  
County.

Severson Dells Nature Center and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act will assist in providing for those individuals with special needs. *(Please notify us in advance of your needs that may require special staffing.)*

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*Our Mission: To link people to nature through education and research, in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area. We promote awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment, and preservation now and in the future.*



**Severson Dells Nature Center  
Board Members:**

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*Vice President - Steve Vee*  
*Secretary - Dan Huntley*  
*Treasurer - Dan Zeigler*

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