



Notes from the Dells

April - June 2018



photo by Connie McIntosh

Note From The Director

Happy Spring everyone! We hope you are enjoying the early spring wildflowers and are eagerly awaiting more blooms to come. It has been a busy winter at Severson Dells with changes all around the building. We invite you to come out and see what we have been up to and enjoy a program or two.

This spring is shaping up to be an active season full of exciting programs, new and old. Our Naturalist Night series runs every other Tuesday evening until May 15th. Wildflower Walks begin in late April and will take us all over Winnebago and Boone counties to witness the spring and early summer blooms through the end of June. Our new Nature Journaling Club is starting up in April and is an opportunity to learn a wide range of methods for observing and recording nature.

There is a special treat for our members on Thursday, May 3rd, Dr. Karen Oberhauser will be presenting her work on monarch butterfly conservation and citizen science. We expect a packed house for this event, so RSVPs are a must!

I hope this note finds you well and we look forward to seeing you out at Severson this spring.

Best,
Ann Wasser

Wildflowers

By Akanksha S.

There's something about Wildflowers
You don't have to intend a quest to find them.
They will meet you at every abandoned crack and corner,
And wave at you without arrogance.

There's something about Wildflowers
They rescue plain grass patches from monotony,
Lay a kaleidoscopic welcome beside mountain paths,
Despite being little noticed, never do they ever stop showing.

To me, this ordinary is more special than exotics
Which flourish only under perfect conditions
And wither to the slightest harshness
That the sun, the wind, the snow, the rain attempt.

There's something about Wildflowers
Much like an oblivious woman with no pretense
Who finds rhythm in everyday chores
But who possesses an endurance to stand great storms
And yet, bows like the weaker one.



Are You Connected?

by Connie McIntosh

When I was growing up, spending time outside was as natural as breathing. During a spring downpour, we gathered on the front porch to listen to the rain pounding on the roof, feel the electrifying sizzle of lightning, and flinch when the boom of thunder rattled our chairs. A snowstorm was a reason to bundle up and rush outside to experience what it would feel like to be inside a snow globe. The reward for raking leaves was jumping into a crunchy pile of color. Summer camping trips were spent exploring wooded trails, walking through fields of prairie flowers, and savoring the cool, freshwater streams. Through these childhood experiences, my parents gave me the greatest gift I can imagine: a deeply ingrained connection to the natural world that has continued throughout my lifetime in the Rockford area.

I wonder how many people realize that we inhabit a region overflowing with natural resources:

- More than 10,300 acres in the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
- Over 1,800 acres of Byron Forest Preserve property
- 5,000 acres owned by the Rockford Park District
- 3,000 acres in Rock Cut State Park, which includes Pierce and Olson Lakes that have over 200 acres of open water
- The Natural Land Institute owns 1,600 acres just in Winnebago and Ogle County alone with 90 miles of navigable waters

Add on the property acquisitions currently under way plus our four major rivers, and those numbers increase. We are indeed fortunate.



photo by Connie McIntosh

Maybe we can find a reason to connect with the natural world, delighting in what each season brings:

- Search the forest floor in spring for delicate woodland wildflowers bravely emerging despite remnant patches of snow.
- Listen to the symphony of life in the prairie on a warm summer day and feel the soft, scented breeze sweeping across the open expanse.
- Experience the patchwork colors of the autumn forest and listen to the crackle of leaves and the crunch of acorns under your feet.
- Be the first one outside after a fresh snowfall lays a thick blanket of white on the landscape; feast your eyes on the pristine beauty and breathe the crisp air.

Although nature will continue to unfold its year-round splendor whether we pay attention or not, the experiences I have had while in search of these seasonal gifts are, to me, priceless.

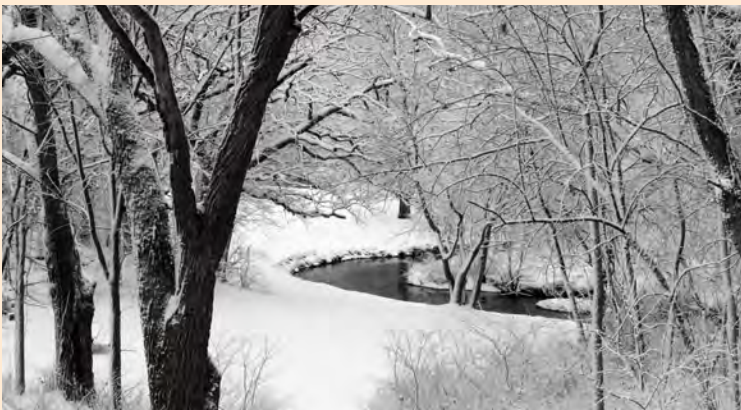


photo by Connie McIntosh



photo by Connie McIntosh

2018 Wildflower Walkabout Series

Co-Sponsored by: *Natural Land Institute/Severson Dells Nature Center*

SDNC: 815/335-2915 NLI: 815/964-6666

Come experience the north central Illinois landscape. Walk where flowers carpet the forest floor and birds fill the air. Severson Dells Nature Center and the Natural Land Institute are the organizing agencies of the event, with local groups providing leaders from their organizations. All walks begin at 6:00 p.m.



Tuesday, April 24 Anna Page Park

Local naturalist, Barbara Williams, leads this walk to find ephemeral spring wildflowers at this Rockford Park District property. We will mosey along an unpaved path through hardwood forest along the banks of Kent Creek. Depending upon the weather and the progress of the spring we may see Marsh Marigolds, Trilliums, Dutchman's Breeches, Virginia Bluebells, Skunk Cabbage, Hepatica and numerous other spring wildflowers. Moderate hiking, possibly with muddy areas. We will meet at the large parking lot at the westernmost point along the park loop road (NOT the parking area by the playground and bathrooms).

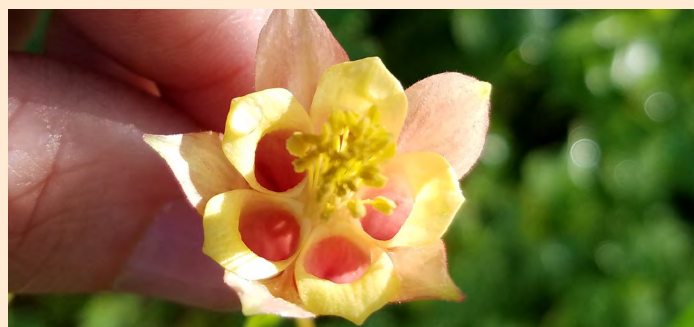
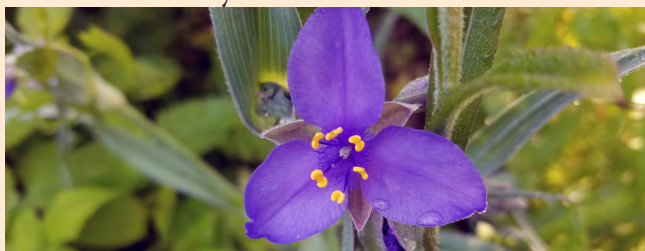
Wednesday, May 2

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, which runs south off of Edson Road. Edson Road is just south and east of the Village of Poplar Grove. Easy hiking.

Tuesday, May 8 Burr Oak Valley Preserve

The Natural Land Institute owns this 99-acre oak woodland with three small hilltop prairies. NLI staff member Ed Cope will lead this moderate hike through the woodlands, near an intermittent stream, and up the hills to the prairie openings. We can expect to see Blue-Eyed Grass, Columbine, Maidenhair Fern, and rare Kittentails. Park at the southern entrance in the Tina Lynn Court cul-du-sac. From Roscoe, drive east on Burr Oak Road, turn north on Kristi Hills Drive, and west on Tina Lynn Court.



Wednesday, May 16

Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve

Greg Keilback of Byron Forest Preserve District 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 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 1930s. 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.

Tuesday, May 22 Hall Memorial Woods

Nathan Hill, Rockford Park District Natural Areas Supervisor, will lead us through this RPD-owned 40-acre remnant upland forest. Many of the trees are old growth dominated by Red Oaks, Basswood, Slippery Elm, and Black Walnut. White oak is more common on the drier sites. White Ash, Black Cherry, Shagbark Hickory, Yellow Bud and Butternut are also common throughout. Ironwood, Choke Cherry, Hazel, Arrowwood, and Dogwood comprise the shrub layer. The herbaceous flora consists of nodding Trillium, Dutchman's Breeches, Wood Phlox, Wild Geranium, Wood Anemone, and Toothwort. We will meet at the corner of Euclid and Linden in Rockford. Moderate hiking.

Wednesday, May 30

Colored Sands Forest Preserve

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



Tuesday, June 5

Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve

We have the opportunity to explore the woodland wildflowers and limestone cliffs at the new Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve with Severson Dells naturalist, Greg Rajskey. We will walk 0.7 miles through newly planted prairie before we reach the wildflowers and walk 0.6 miles in the forest before we return to our cars. As a reward for your efforts you will find Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Geranium, Sharp-Lobed Hepatica, Bloodroot, and Red Trillium set in a forest canopy of Chinkapin, Bur, and Red Oaks. We will walk atop the most dramatic feature, which is the limestone cliff that follows the Rock River. Take Highway 2 south past the Rockford Airport and turn right on Kishwaukee Rd and drive for 3.8 miles. Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve will be on the right side of the road at 7901 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley. Moderate-difficult hiking.

Wednesday, June 13

Flora Prairie Nature Preserve

This 9.7-acre prairie is owned by the Boone County Conservation District. Aaron Minson, BCCD restoration technician, will lead us through the dry dolomite prairie, through a small wooded ravine and near several large, spreading Bur Oaks. The state endangered Woolly Milkweed was collected here in 1946 by Egbert Fell. Easy hiking.

Tuesday, June 19

Harlem Hills Prairie Nature Preserve

Gary Anderson and Jerry Paulson will offer their guidance on this visit to Harlem Hills Prairie. If the season is progressing typically, the hills should be pink/purple with thousands of Pale Purple Coneflowers. Always a great place to see a sunset. Meet on Flora Drive in Loves Park. Easy hiking.



Wednesday, June 27

Deer Run Forest Preserve

Mike Groves of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County will lead us on this walk of Deer Run Forest Preserve. We will enter between two prairie restorations undertaken in 2000 and will hopefully be able to compare a burned and unburned prairie (one side is slated to be burned in early spring). Spiderwort should be in full bloom, White Wild Indigos, Pale Purple Coneflowers, and Butterfly Weed will be starting to develop flower stalks and heads. June grass will be flowering and setting seed. Our hike continues along the river trail and through the floodplain forest. We should see more than just plants: hopefully many bird species, frogs, dragonflies, and butterflies will also be present. Three miles southeast of Rockford on River Road at 5691 River Road, Cherry Valley.



Calendar of Events

Naturalist Nights

Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.:

April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15

Join Severson Dells' Naturalist Greg Rajskey for any of these short sessions/outings to explore various aspects of natural history and ecology.

Citizen Science - April 3

(session led by Ann Wasser)

Documented citizen science projects have been occurring for well over 100 years in the United States. During this evening we will discuss different models of citizen science, the research that has been produced from a variety of citizen science projects, and learn more about how people can contribute data no matter their level of expertise.

Prairies and Savannas - April 17

Midwestern prairies and oak savannas are ecologically similar in a number of ways. Both are places of relatively abundant sunlight and may occupy similar positions on the landscape, thus sharing a similar flora. Come meet some of the plants that are characteristic of these grassy communities.

Woodland Wildflowers - May 1

The early blooms of springtime have inspired poets and nature lovers for time immemorial. These ephemeral flowers take advantage of the sunlight available to them before the trees put forth their leaves and shade the forest floor. Weather permitting, we'll explore the woods in search of these dainty denizens, *Dells' Belles*.

Legacy of the Oaks - May 15

Winnebago County is home to seven species of oak trees. In our region, oaks are seen as keystone species, supporting myriad other organisms and affecting the environment in a number of ways. Moreover, oaks have been profoundly influential in the development of human civilization. Celebrate our oaks at the final Naturalist Night of the season.

Severson Dells Conservation Crew – Volunteer Workdays in Ecological Restoration

- **April 14**
- **April 23**
- **May 12**
- **June 9**
- **June 25**

Because invasive species pose one of the most significant threats to nature in our time, vegetation management is a crucial step in the conservation of our natural areas. And you can help! Spend an invigorating morning (or several!) as a member of the Severson Dells Conservation Crew, working alongside fellow volunteers to remove invasive species from the woods. Weather permitting, we may make a cheerful fire of the brush that we cut. We work from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the second Saturday and fourth Monday of each month. *(Note that there will be no workday on May 28 due to the Memorial Day holiday.)* Dress in layers and let Greg Rajskey know to expect you: gregr@seversondells.org or 815-335-2915.

Kids Outdoor Skills – Know Your Local Dangers

April 14: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Kids ages 10-13 are invited to join us for another important lesson in Outdoor Skills – knowing your local dangers. We will discuss dangerous plants, wildlife, and landforms, what to do if you encounter them, and actions to take if avoiding the dangers are not possible. Limited to 10. \$5-Severson Dells Members, \$8-Non-Member. Register at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.



Nature Journaling Club

April 15: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

May 20: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

June 17: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Nature journaling is a tried-and-true way to connect with the natural world. Careful observation leads to a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the world around us. This monthly club (third Sundays) is open to anyone ages 12 and up who is interested in developing observation and journaling skills. Each session will highlight different aspects of journaling and observation in the field, including field sketching (you don't have to be an artist), map drawing, and creative and scientific writing. Club meets at Severson Dells unless otherwise noted. \$5 Severson Dells Members/ \$8 Non-Members. Register at <http://www.seversondells.com/ticket-sales/nature-journaling-club> or call 815-335-2915



Science Saturday – Celebrating Earth Week

April 28: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We will be looking at the many ways we affect the Earth and how we can all improve our relationship with our planet. Come and celebrate this phenomenal planet we call home!



An Amazing Change in a Living Landscape: The 200-year Transformation of Illinois with Ray Wiggers

May 7: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

At the dawn of its statehood in 1818, the Prairie State was truly that: almost two-thirds of its surface was a boundless sea of waving grasses and polychromatic wildflower communities. What has happened since is the story of humanity as a vast geologic and biologic force. This special talk, crafted specifically for the Illinois Bicentennial, examines the various ways the natural world of Illinois has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis. Free, donations always appreciated.

Kids Outdoor Skills – Camouflage & Sneaking

May 12: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Need an excuse to get muddy? Then this is it! Kids ages 10-13 are invited to come out and learn the fine art of camouflage and sneaking. Everyone is going to get dirty, from head to toe, so come dressed in your “best” outdoor play clothes (long pants strongly recommended). No sandals, flip-flops, crocs – real shoes required. Limited to 10. \$5-Severson Dells Members, \$8-Non-Member. Register at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.

Mindfulness in Nature

May 24: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Mindfulness is more than just a trendy buzzword; research-based evidence confirms the many benefits of deliberate mindful practice. Moreover, mindfulness amplifies the benefits of being in nature: improved mental and physical health, reduced pain, and increased happiness to the practitioner. This session will introduce you to intentional, nonjudgmental, moment-to-moment awareness through simple meditation techniques under the guidance of an experienced practitioner and guide.

Free, but registration is required at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.

Memorials

Our thanks go out to those who have given in memory of or to honor the following people connected to Severson Dells this past quarter:

**Cliff Knapp Honorarium to Don Miller
Honorarium to The Paul and Mary Kay Lizer Family,
Garrett and Savannah Cussen-Lizer, and Betsy Lizer**

Science Saturday – The Dirt on Dirt

May 26: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

It's all happening beneath our feet! Most of the time we take the ground we walk on for granted, but when you leave this month's Science Saturday, you will have a much greater appreciation for the importance of soil and what you can do to keep it alive.



Canoe Quick Start

**June 2: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
or 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Have you ever wanted to learn how to paddle a canoe? Or maybe your paddling skills are a bit rusty? Then come out for a Quick Start to learn how to safely enter and exit a boat and which strokes to use to go forward, backward and turn. We highly recommend this program if you are thinking of joining us on our Canoe Convoys this summer. Ages 10 and up. Space is limited, so register early at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.



Community Drum Circle

June 6: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Connect to the rhythms of nature that surround us, in close community with other drummers, bringing enhanced wellness to your life experience. Community hand drumming has been found to yield significant health benefits, such as boosting the immune system, lowering blood pressure, reducing anxiety, even promoting physical and emotional healing. By synchronizing the various areas of the brain, drumming can actually improve one's intellectual capacity. Weather-permitting, we'll drum outdoors. If you can, please bring a hand drum or other rhythm instrument; if not, we'll have some extras on hand for you. No experience necessary; all ages welcome. Capacity is limited; please register by Monday, June 4th. Register at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.

Yoga at Severson Dells

June 26: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of traditional yoga, both relaxing and invigorating, punctuated with periods of relaxation and brief, guided meditation. Weather permitting, the session will be held outdoors under an open sky. Bring a yoga mat (suitable for outdoor use) and drinking water. Register at www.seversondells.com/community-programming1.

Science Saturday – Life Under Water

June 30: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A healthy stream or pond is full of all sorts of life. Come learn about some of the incredible creatures that inhabit these watery worlds. Plan on getting a little wet during some explorations of the pond and stream!

Canoe Convoys

**June 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th**

Enjoy a Monday evening of paddling with Severson Dells staff and volunteers. Most paddles are on the Kishwaukee River, but location will be confirmed the Friday before the paddle based on current water conditions. Due to high demand for this program, please only register for **two** evenings. If you are interested in attending more than that, please call us at 815-335-2915 to be put on the waitlist.

MEMBERS NIGHT

Dr. Karen Oberhauser
University of Wisconsin Arboretum

Thursday, May 3rd
Hors-d'oeuvres and drinks at 6pm
Presentation at 7pm

We are happy to welcome Severson Dells Members to a special evening with Dr. Karen Oberhauser, the new Director of the University of Wisconsin and world-renowned monarch expert.



Dwindling numbers for an iconic insect: A conservation biologist ponders moving beyond the documentation of declines

Monarch butterfly populations have been declining over the last 20 years. Because insect numbers are notoriously difficult to assess, and because they often show large annual fluctuations, simply documenting this decline has been a challenge. It is now important to move beyond simple documentation, and toward responding to the challenge posed by monarch conservation, and insect conservation in general.



RSVP Information

All attendees must RSVP as space is limited.

Please RSVP at <http://www.seversondells.com/events/karen-oberhausermembers> or call 815-335-2915

SUMMER CAMP 2018



Registration/Information: www.seversondells.com/camp

Contact: 815-335-2915 or ann@seversondells.org

Nature Play for ages 4-6

Wild Things

June 11-15, 9am-12pm- Session 1

July 9-13, 9am-12pm- Session 2

\$80 for Friends of Severson Dells, \$95 for non-members

This week of half-day sessions is a great way to introduce your little ones to the wonder and excitement of the outdoors. Each day we explore another part of Severson Dells, playing outdoors and learning about the many things that share this landscape with us. Expect your child to get good and dirty as he or she explores.

Severson Explorers for ages 7-11

Peek in the Creek

June 18-22, 9am-3pm- Session 1

July 16-20, 9am-3pm- Session 2

\$110 for Friends of Severson Dells, \$140 for non-members

Are you ready to have a week full of wet adventures?! Every day we are at/in the creek. Each day we explore another area of science as it relates to Hall Creek at Severson Dells: biology, chemistry, physics, engineering. Play features prominently through it all. On the last day, we head downstream on the much-anticipated Creek Walk (water levels permitting!).

Fantasy in the Forest

June 25-29, 9am-3pm

\$110 for Friends of Severson Dells, \$140 for non-members

Did you know that Severson Dells is home Humphrey the Dragon and has a troll living under one of the bridges? This week of camp features these *fantastic* creatures and a whole lot more as we engage your child's imagination and creativity in discovering the fanciful and factual natural world at Severson Dells.

Junior Biologist

July 30-August 3, 9am-3pm

\$110 for Friends of Severson Dells, \$140 for non-members

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.

Teen Adventure for ages 12-16

Blazing Paddles

June 23-27, 9am-3pm

\$170 for Friends of Severson Dells, \$200 for non-members

Blazing Paddles is a Severson Dells tradition. We will explore several of the rivers that crisscross Winnebago County. The week begins with a day of training at Rock Cut State Park, and then weather and water levels permitting, we explore the Kishwaukee, Pecatonica, and Sugar Rivers the rest of the week.

Grandparents Camp

Grandmas and Grandpas, are you looking for a fun way to spend a morning with your grandchild outside this summer? We have just the thing!! Join us for a morning with your grandchild(ren) of walking in the woods, exploring the creek and enjoying the wilds of Severson Dells.

Grandparents' Camp 1- Thursday, July 5th

Grandparents' Camp 2- Friday, July 6th

9:00 AM-Noon

Bring your 5-10 year old grandkids out for a grand morning of outdoor fun with you. Everyone will crawl around and get dirty, or even wet, as we investigate the various habitats at Severson Dells. Imagination and natural history will be key in our explorations. Dress for the weather.

For more information or to register: www.seversondells.com/camp

Contact: 815-335-2915 or ann@seversondells.org



Music at the Dells

There are some amazing artists coming to play at the Severson Dells over the next few months. We look forward to seeing you out here!

Tickets Available at www.seversondells.org/music

Reina del Cid • April 8

\$12 Severson Members • \$15 General Admission

Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm

Part singer-songwriter group, part rock band, you can find Reina del Cid and company at the intersection of lyrical storytelling, catchy riffs, and scorching solos. They are coming down from St. Paul, Minnesota, to share their sophisticated sound with broad appeal, drawing in mixed crowds from jamheads to college students to white-haired intelligentsia.



Chicago Farmer and Rorey Carroll • May 4

\$15 Severson Members • \$20 General Admission

Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm

Spend an evening at severson Dells with two solo artists; Chicago Farmer and Rorey Carroll. Lyrically driven, Chicago Farmer delves into the social and political issues of today's world, taking it all in and putting it back out through music as a commentary on modern times in the Midwest. With his unfeigned and relatable approach, Chicago Farmer has earned a place in the heart of this generation's rise of protest songs. He composes music written and sung by and for the working man, the "regular person," bringing to mind modern-day folk tales.

Rorey Carroll has bluegrass, acoustic music, anti-folk, campfires in the heart of the humboldt trim scene, she has inhaled the great spirit of rock and roll. Self taught in theory, but in reality the curiosity of characters and songs on the road steered Rorey's musicianship.



Seth Glier • June 24

\$15 Severson Members • \$20 General Admission

Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm

Join us for an evening with Grammy-nominated musician Seth Glier. *Birds* is Glier's latest album in a burgeoning career that has included touring with artists such as Ani DiFranco and Ryan Adams. A singer-songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist who averages over 150 live performances annually, Seth has gone from opening act to headlining his own shows and playing major festivals. He has quickly become known for his passionate live sets and powerful command of both piano and guitar. Performing with 62-year old veteran musician Joe Nerney on harmonica, saxophone and harmony vocals, Glier's live show places his melodic contemporary pop under a blanket of roots & blues. His music has also caught the ears of fans, industry and critics alike, with USA Today stating that his "exquisite tenor echoes Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel." His first Daytrotter session, was called "a genuine revelation" by Blurt Magazine, and was praised by M Music & Musicians Magazine for its "shimmering, seductive melodies." More than just a musician, Seth is an avid activist. In 2016, he was chosen as a 2016 ChildFund Ambassador and traveled to Guatemala bringing music to remote areas and schools. He took home Best Social Action Song for his track "The Next Right Thing" at the 11th Annual Independent Music Awards, and is a National Spokesperson for Autism Speaks.

"An adept song craftsman elegantly emotional vocalist...harkening back to early pop/rock tradition of Billy Joel and early Springsteen." – iTunes Editorial

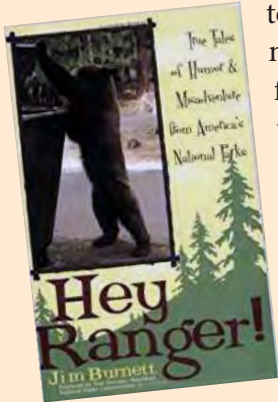


Book Nook- Natural History Books Worth a Read

Hey Ranger!

JIM BURNETT

Amusing and informative, *Hey Ranger!* teaches as it entertains with tales of boat ramp misadventures, lost Afghani campers, encounters with wild animals, dumb crooks, and more. One chapter, "Tales from the Wild Side," brings together unusual incidents from National Park Service reports, and the concluding essay, "Don't Be a Victim of Your Vacation," advises visitors on how



to avoid being a story on the evening news. *Hey Ranger* is a delightfully funny light read. It will amaze you to hear the downright ridiculous stories from rangers across our national parks. There were so many stories that they had to publish *Hey Ranger 2*.

The Laws Guide to Nature

Drawing and Journaling JOHN MUIR LAWS

Gold Medal, 2016 Foreword INDIES Book Award. A potent combination of art, science, and boundless enthusiasm, the latest art instruction book from John Muir Laws is a how-to guide for becoming a better artist and a more attentive naturalist. In straightforward text complemented by step-by-step illustrations, dozens of exercises lead the hand and mind through creating accurate reproductions of plants and animals as well as landscapes, skies, and more. Laws provides clear, practical advice for every step of the process for artists at every level, from the basics of choosing supplies to advanced techniques. While the book's advice will improve the skills of already accomplished artists, the emphasis on seeing, learning, and feeling will make this book valuable--even revelatory--to anyone interested in the natural world, no matter how rudimentary their artistic abilities.

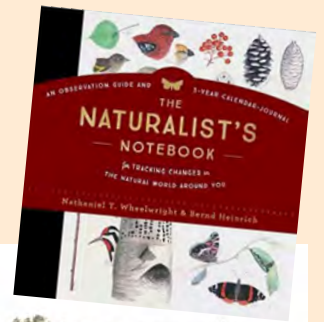
Note from Ann: I am not an artist at all and I found this book helpful in my rudimentary sketching. John also has an entire series on how to draw on his website--johnmuirlaws.com. I have had the pleasure of taking classes from him, as well as setting up classes for others, and I can't recommend him enough!!!



The Naturalist's Notebook: An Observation Guide and 5-Year Calendar-Journal for Tracking Changes in the Natural World around You

NATHANIEL T. WHEELWRIGHT and
BERND HEINRICH

Become a more attentive observer and deepen your appreciation for the natural world. The unique five-year calendar format of *The Naturalist's Notebook* helps you create a long-term record and point of comparison for memorable events, such as the first songbird you hear in spring, your first monarch butterfly sighting of summer, or the appearance of the northern lights. Biologist Nathaniel T. Wheelwright and best-selling author Bernd Heinrich teach nature lovers of all ages what to look for outdoors no matter where you live, using Heinrich's classic illustrations as inspiration. As you jot down one observation a day, year after year, your collected field notes will serve as a valuable record of your piece of the planet.





Friday, September 21 - Saturday, September 22, 2018

Grab a group of friends, family or coworkers and test your Forest Preserve and local nature knowledge! If you're up for the challenge, you'll be hiking, talking to forest preserve staff, looking for clues and working as a team to answer about 75 questions related to Forest Preserves of Winnebago County and local flora and fauna. The team with the most points wins a fabulous grand prize! Second and third place prizes will also be awarded.

The hunt will take you to several forest preserve locations throughout the county. Some spots you'll be able to reach by car; others will require venturing down a trail. Some questions require research to answer and others may require you to solve a riddle. As it is illegal to remove items from



the preserves, one digital camera with a flash memory card will be required per team. Questions are awarded point values based on level of difficulty. The team with the most points will get prizes, but everybody wins!

You may assemble your team with anywhere from two to six members. The Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt will take place over a 24-hour period with teams receiving their hunt questions via e-mail by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 21st and are due back at Severson Dells Nature Center no later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 22nd with your answers. Enjoy live music while scoring takes place. Celebrate your team's success at the post-race party!

All proceeds from the Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt benefit Nature Education programs at Severson Dells Nature Center and Volunteer Education programs to enhance habitat restoration throughout all 42 Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

For more information and to register go to:
www.seversondells.org/scavenger-hunt



New Membership Program

We are excited to announce our new membership program for Severson Dells! Memberships enhance our ability to deliver free and low-cost programs for our community. Thank you for the wonderful community support!

Severson Dells Nature Center has been a part of the Northern Illinois community for the last four decades. As a charitable nonprofit organization, we want to reinvigorate your relationship with the natural world. Help support our efforts to engage the community in nature education and outdoor exploration that leads to happier, healthier lives. Your membership helps support free and low-cost nature education programming for all ages.

Membership Benefits at all levels include:

- Reduced admissions to Severson Dells programs
- Members-only programs at Severson Dells
- Early Summer Camp registration
- 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 (see the ANCA website).

Individual- \$40

- Membership for one adult
- 10% discount at Severson Dells Bookstore

Family- \$65

- Membership for two adults and children that live in the same household
- 10% discount at Severson Dells Bookstore

Sponsor- \$125

- Membership for two adults and children that live in the same household
- 15% discount in Severson Dells Bookstore

Benefactor- \$300

- 20% discount in the Severson Bookstore

Sustaining- \$600

- 20% discount in the Severson Bookstore
- Guided hike for up to 10 guests

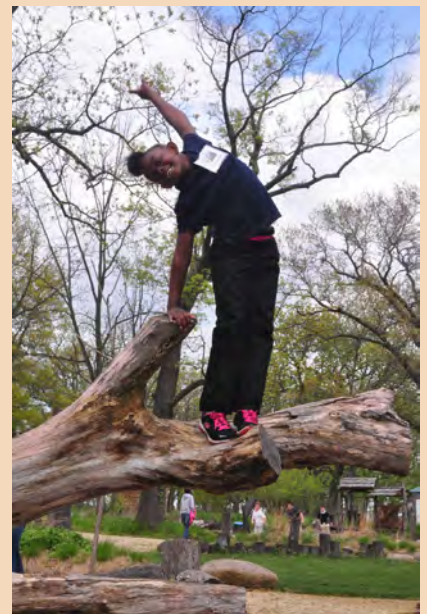
Patron- \$1,000

- 20% discount in the Severson Bookstore
- Guided hike for up to 10 guests
- Free rental (up to 6 hours) of classroom or porch with fireplace

BECOME A
MEMBER
JOIN TODAY!



CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ACTION!



Natural Connections



This season we are happy to launch our Natural Connections series. We are offering opportunities for immersion in nature through meditation, yoga, music, and journaling. All this in addition to the guided experiences you've come to expect through Severson Dells .

Mindfulness in Nature- May 24th

Drum Circle- June 6th

Yoga in the Dells- June 26th

Nature Journaling- April 15th, May 20th,
and June 17th

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

Members receive:

- Discount at Severson Dells Bookstore
- Reduced admissions to Severson Dells programs
- Members-only programs at Severson Dells
- Early Summer Camp registration
- 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 \$40
- ___ Family \$65
- ___ Sponsor \$125
- ___ Benefactor \$300
- ___ Sustaining \$600
- ___ Patron \$1000

Become a member online at
www.seversondells.org/become-a-member/

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

*Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Please consult your tax professional.*

Thank You For Your Support

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Name Severson Dells Nature Center in your will
or bequest. You will help us raise the next
generation of earth stewards. Contact your
attorney or financial advisor for advice.



Severson Dells Activities: 815-335-2915
Cut out and post where you keep track of your family's activities!

April 2018

- 03 Naturalist Night: Citizen Science Research Results 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 08 Music at the Dells—Reina del Cid 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
- 14 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 14 Kids' Outdoor Skills: Know Your Local Dangers 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- 15 Nature Journaling Club 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- 17 Naturalist Night: Prairies and Savannas 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 23 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 24 Wildflower Walkabout: Anna Page Park 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 28 Science Saturday: Celebrating Earth Week 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MAY 2018

- 01 Naturalist Night: Woodland Wildflowers 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 02 Wildflower Walkabout: Piskasaw Fen Conservation Area 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 03 Members Night with Dr. Karen Oberhauser 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- 04 Music at the Dells—Chicago Farmer and Rorey Carroll 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
- 08 Wildflower Walkabout: Burr Oak Valley Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 12 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 12 Kids' Outdoor Skills: Camouflage & Sneaking 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- 15 Naturalist Night: Legacy of the Oaks 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 16 Wildflower Walkabout: Colman Dells Nature Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 19 Nature Fiesta at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve 12 p.m.-3 p.m.
- 20 Nature Journaling Club 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- 22 Wildflower Walkabout: Hall Memorial Woods 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 24 Mindfulness Practice 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- 26 Science Saturday: Soil Science 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 30 Wildflower Walkabout: Colored Sands Forest Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

JUNE 2018

- 02 Quick Start Canoers, FPWC Hdqtrs. (Quarry) 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- 02 Quick Start Canoers FPWC Hdqtrs. (Quarry) 11 a.m.-12:30 pm
- 04 Canoe Convoy: Paddle the Kishwaukee River 6 p.m.
- 05 Wildflower Walkabout: Cedar Cliff 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 06 Community Drum Circle 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 08 Readings From the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- 09 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 11-15 Nature Play, Wild Things 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 11 Canoe Convoy: Paddle the Kishwaukee River 6 p.m.
- 13 Wildflower Walkabout: Flora Prairie Nature Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 17 Nature Journaling Club 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- 18-22 Severson Explorers, Peek-Into-Creek, #1 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 18 Canoe Convoy: Paddle the Kishwaukee River 6 p.m.
- 19 Wildflower Walkabout: Harlem Hills Nature Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 22 Readings From the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- 24 Music at the Dells—Seth Glier 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- 25-29 Severson Explorers, Fantasy In The Forest 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 25 Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 25 Canoe Convoy: Paddle the Kishwaukee River 6 p.m.
- 26 Yoga at Severson Dells Nature Center 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 27 Wildflower Walkabout:, Deer Run Forest Preserve 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 30 Science Saturday: Life Under Water 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE DELLS

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

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Permit No. 513

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT INFO

Telephone: 1-815-335-2915
Fax: 1-815-335-2471
www.seversondells.org
e-mail: ann@seversondells.org

Building Hours

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Grounds open daily Sunrise to Sunset

Severson Dells Nature Center Staff

Ann Wasser - Director of Nature Education
Nancy Bleile - Administrative Assistant
Ellen Rathbone - Nature Educator
Greg Rajskey - Naturalist / 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 provide
accommodations for those individuals with special needs.

*(Please notify us in advance of your
needs that may require special staffing.)*

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.*



2018 Severson Dells Nature Center Board Members

President - Jake Loescher
Vice President - Daniel Huntley
Secretary - Denise Delanty
Treasurer - Dan Zeigler

Jack Armstrong, Joe Hemlock, Janet Johnson,
James Marshall, Patty Oliveri, Hans Rupert,
Toni Vander Heyden, Steve Vee, Lenae Weichel