



# Notes from the Dells

July - September 2018



2017 Annual Report starts on page 17

## Note From The Director

Severson Dells has enjoyed a busy spring full of school programs and the beginning of camp. Children's voices ringing through the woods remind us of the pure joy that nature can bring. We adults are also reminded to get outside and connect with that joy, for it brings rejuvenation like few other things can. I am continually amazed at how much more relaxed I feel even after a 10-minute jaunt in the woods.

This summer and early fall we have a wide range of activities for visitors of all ages. Summer camp continues through the first week in August and many of our camps still have openings. Canoe Convoys launch every Monday evening through the end of July, and we have some amazing adventures coming up this fall with the Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt and a day trip to the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge.

We are excited to announce an amazing opportunity from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. They have awarded us a matching grant to support restoration and citizen science at Severson Dells. For every \$1 Severson Dells raises, Illinois Clean Energy will match it with \$3, up to \$21,000. This money supports a few areas of our restoration program: 1) the purchase of tools and safety equipment for our restoration volunteers, 2) the purchase of trees for planting this fall in the oak savanna restoration area, and 3) the purchase of monitoring equipment for our citizen science volunteers to monitor plants and animals before, during and after the restoration. There are two ways you can help. First, consider donating to Severson Dells in support of restoration to help us meet the match. Second, volunteer at one of our Conservation Crew workdays; once we reach 400 hours of restoration volunteer hours, Illinois Clean Energy will give us an additional \$4,000 towards restoration and citizen science efforts. This is a great opportunity to significantly improve the habitat at Severson Dells and we look forward to getting everyone involved.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer--we hope to see you out at Severson Dells soon!

Ann Wasser

## Severson Dells Annual Benefit Breakfast

Every fall there is a gathering of tremendously generous people who support Severson Dells Nature Center and our mission of connecting people to nature through education and research. This feel-good morning highlights the wonderful programs and the many people involved with Severson Dells. The breakfast is also an opportunity to see how your contributions positively impact the community and how you can contribute to Severson Dells future success.

We are hosting the breakfast at a new venue: The Pavilion at Orchard Ridge Farms on Thursday, October 25th from 7:30am-8:30am with the option for a morning hike afterward.

If you would like to attend this fundraising event, or host a table for the event, please contact us at 815-335-2915. Thank you so much to our amazing community of support!



# Calendar of Events

## Canoe Convoys

**July 2, 9, 16, 30**

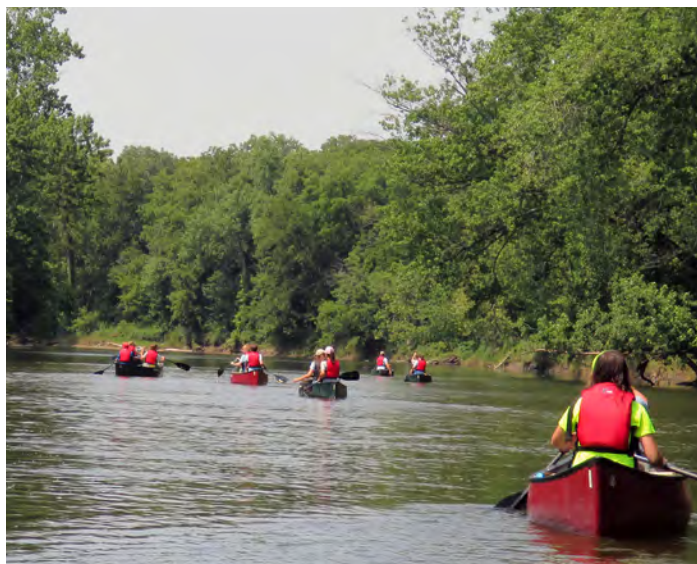
(No paddle on July 23 because of Blazing Paddles Canoe Camp)

**Paddling locations vary each week, but we will be off of the river by 9:00 pm at the latest.**

Join Severson Dells staff and volunteers as we explore miles upon miles of fabulous paddling opportunities on the Kishwaukee River! Our instructors help you learn to be a more skillful and confident paddler, and answer questions about river ecology. Equipment, guides and a shuttle are provided. Locations are determined the week before based on weather and river conditions.

Due to the extreme popularity of this program, we are limiting registrations to three trips per participant. If you are interested in participating in additional paddles, you will be placed on a wait list and contacted in the event that we have openings. All participants are required to attend our Quick Start paddle instruction before paddling with us. Quick Starts are offered at 5:30 pm before each trip. Please arrive early to check in before the Quick Start. If you have already participated in a Quick Start with us, please arrive by 5:40 pm to get checked in and geared up.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE 10 YEARS OR OLDER; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. We reserve the right to cancel evening paddles if conditions are unsafe (weather, water level, etc.).



## Nature Journaling Club

**July 15 at Kieselburg Forest Preserve**

**August 19 at Severson Dells**

**September 16 at Ferguson Forest Preserve**

Our monthly Nature Journaling Club continues through the summer. Join us on the third Sunday of each month, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, as we learn some new journaling skills and take to the woods or fields to record our experiences. Dress for the weather. Insect repellent, long pants and socks are recommended for ticks. Fee: \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Please register online at [www.seversondells.com/nature-journal-club](http://www.seversondells.com/nature-journal-club) or call 815-335-2915.



## Conservation Crew Workdays

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm on the second Saturday and fourth Monday of each month**

(Note that there will be no workday on July 23)

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 from the brush we cut. Dress in layers as appropriate for the weather and/or insects.

These restoration days are doubly important because Severson Dells just received a matching grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (see note from the Director on previous page). As a part of this grant, once we log 400 volunteer hours for restoration they will award us an additional \$4,000 to put toward additional restoration projects at Severson Dells. Come out and help us reach our goal while giving back to the land. Please let Greg Rajskey know to expect you: [gregr@seversondells.org](mailto:gregr@seversondells.org) or 815-335-2915.



## Readings from the Rookery

**July 13 and July 27**

**9:30 am - 11:00 am**

Severson Dells staff lead this fun program that introduces children to great nature books. After our story, everyone participates in outside activities that relate to the theme of the week. This program targets 5 to 8-year-olds, and focuses on the importance of getting kids outside. Space is limited, so register early to attend. Free! Register in advance at [www.seversondells.com/community-programming](http://www.seversondells.com/community-programming) or 815-335-2915.

## Outdoor Yoga

**July 20: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

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. Come for evening yoga and stay for the night hike that follows. Capacity is limited. Register in advance at [www.seversondells.com/natural-connections](http://www.seversondells.com/natural-connections) or 815-335-2915.



## Night Hike

**July 20: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Take this opportunity to explore Severson Dells at night! Most of the year our trails are closed after dark, so this is your chance to (potentially) encounter the nocturnal animals that call this place home. We might hear or see our resident barred owls, and if we are lucky, we might even encounter some bats! Space is limited, so please register in advance at 815-335-2915 or [www.seversondells.com/events/julynighthike2018](http://www.seversondells.com/events/julynighthike2018).

## **SAVE THE DATE** **Silent Nights:** **Luminaria 2018**

Mark your calendars for  
December 7th and 8th for  
our Luminaria weekend.  
Enjoy live music, a candle-lit trail,  
and refreshments inside.

## Science Saturday: Winged Wonders

**July 28: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Bats, beetles, and dragonflies, oh my!! Join us for a day all about the animals and insects that fly. What are the benefits and challenges of flying? Explore the science behind flight during this open house style event. Come when you can, stay as long as you like!

Hoo Haven will be here with their hawks and turkey vultures; with presentations at 10:30am and 12:30pm. [www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/](http://www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/).



**"HOO" HAVEN**  
Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center  
PO BOX 694, Durand, IL 61024 (815) 629-2212



## Morning Canoe Paddle

**August 4: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Help us wrap up our summer paddling with a full morning on the river. Bring a lunch and your sense of adventure. The paddling location will be chosen the week of the event based on water and weather conditions. \$20 for Severson Dells Members \$25 for Non-Members. Register at [www.seversondells.com/events/morningpaddle842018](http://www.seversondells.com/events/morningpaddle842018) or call 815-335-2915.

## Science Saturday: Amazing Migrations

**August 25: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

There are so many animals and insects that migrate great distances, chasing ideal weather for their species. Come and learn about a few of the fantastic migrations, why they migrate, and how they know where they are going! What if humans had to migrate thousands of miles each year to survive!?

Enjoy live music from the Animal Farm band at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm in The Grove (weather permitting) [www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/](http://www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/).



### **Mystery in the Dells**

**September 7: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Join us for an evening of intrigue and dinner at Severson Dells. This performance utilizes the backdrop of the Deer Lodge to create unique storyline and develops an atmosphere of mystery in the woods. Actors will be performing at the event and it is the audiences job to figure out who done it. Put your detective skills to work during this fun and engaging evening!

Fee: \$35- Severson Dells members; \$40- General Admission. Purchase tickets at [www.seversondells.com/events/mysteryinthedells2018](http://www.seversondells.com/events/mysteryinthedells2018) or call 815-335-2915.

### **Hand-sewn Journal Workshop**

**September 8th: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Are you a member of our Nature Journaling Club? Do you have a friend or family member who keeps a personal journal? Maybe you or someone you know is an artist who would enjoy a quality hand-made journal. Join us for an introductory course in bookbinding as we hand-sew the pages and wrap the covers in professional-quality bookcloth and decorate with festive cover sheets. Makes a great gift for the coming holidays. Bring your lunch or a snack. Ages 12 and up. Previous hand-sewing experience a plus, but not required. Spaces is limited; **pre-registration required by August 17th** so that we can order adequate supplies. Fee: Severson Dells Members- \$40, Non-Members- \$50. Register at [www.seversondells.com/events/handsewnjournal](http://www.seversondells.com/events/handsewnjournal) or call 815-335-2915

### **Lecture: Illinois 2218 - Ray Wiggers**

**September 11: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Predicting the future is always a risky business. Still, we can observe developing trends in both our local natural conditions and those on a global scale. What might the Prairie State--which has already seen such dramatic transformations in the past two centuries--look like at the end of the next two centuries? This talk by Ray Wiggers was created specifically to honor the Illinois Bicentennial. It incorporates the latest findings in climatology, biology and geology to offer informed analysis of the most possible futures for our state, and for our world at large.

Free, but donations are always appreciated. Please RSVP at [www.seversondells.com/events/illinois2218](http://www.seversondells.com/events/illinois2218)

### **Twilight Ramble at Deer Run Forest Preserve**

**September 19: 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Join us at Deer Run Forest Preserve for an evening ramble, following trails through floodplain forest and restored prairie. Featuring nearly 600 acres stretching north from the Kishwaukee River, Deer Run's beauty and diversity are sure to appeal. The entrance is at 5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016, about three miles southeast of Rockford. Please RSVP at [www.seversondells.com/events/deerruntwilight](http://www.seversondells.com/events/deerruntwilight) or by calling 815-335-2915.



### **Pest or Problem: What May Be Lurking in Your Trees**

**September 25: 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

*Presented by Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator for the State of Illinois*

Learn how to identify new and emerging tree pests and diseases that may threaten trees on your property or in your community. Join us for a lively discussion on how to identify potential threats, review tree health monitoring practices, and learn more about management of insect and tree-disease problems. This session is a must for those who have trees, care for trees, or care about trees.

Please RSVP at [www.seversondells.com/events/pestorproblem9252018](http://www.seversondells.com/events/pestorproblem9252018) or by calling 815-335-2915

### **Science Saturday: National Public Lands Day**

**September 29th: 10:00am - 2:00pm**

National Public Lands are among the United States' greatest assets. They include habitat for wild animals, areas for people to recreate, and amazing resources for communities of all shapes and sizes. Join us for a day all about our public lands. Learn how they are managed, and help our staff and restoration volunteers plant trees in the oak savanna restoration area.

[www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/](http://www.seversondells.com/science-saturdays/)



# SUMMER CAMP 2018



**Registration/Information:** [www.seversondells.com/camp](http://www.seversondells.com/camp)

**Contact:** 815-335-2915 or [ann@seversondells.org](mailto:ann@seversondells.org)

## Nature Play for ages 4-6

### Wild Things

**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

**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!).

### 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

**July 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.

Severson Dells Member- \$25 for one grandparent and one grandchild

Non-member- \$35 for one grandparent and one grandchild

Severson Dells Member- \$40 for one grandparent and two grandchildren

Non-member- \$50 for one grandparent and two grandchildren



**For more information or to register: [www.seversondells.com/camp](http://www.seversondells.com/camp)  
Contact: 815-335-2915 or [ann@seversondells.org](mailto:ann@seversondells.org)**

# Community Field Trips

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## Upper Mississippi River Day Trip

**September 22: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm**

Enjoy a day trip to the Mississippi River. We will spend the morning with US Fish and Wildlife Biologist Jeramie Strickland learning about the flora, fauna and current research being conducted at the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. After a break for lunch, we will head up to Mississippi Palisades State Park to hike some of the 15 miles of trails. Meet at Severson Dells at 7:30am and return by 5pm. Transportation is provided. Please bring a lunch. We will have coolers available to hold lunches. Register online at [www.seversondells.com/field-trips](http://www.seversondells.com/field-trips) or call 815-335-2915 by September 14th. Fee: \$35/members; \$42/non-members.



## Leopold Shack, Farm and Foundation Trip

**October 6: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm**

Join us for a day trip to visit Baraboo, Wisconsin to learn more about the legendary biologist and naturalist, Aldo Leopold. Severson Dells has a private tour arranged to visit Leopold's Shack, the Farm and the LEED-certified Leopold Center. Transportation from Severson Dells is provided. Meet at 7am at Severson Dells. Please bring a lunch. We will have coolers available to hold lunches. Register online at <http://www.seversondells.com/field-trips> or call 815-335-2915 by September 28th. Fee: \$40/members; \$50/non-members



# Music at the Dells

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## Kraig Kenning • Saturday, September 15 • 4pm

Kraig Kenning is returning to Severson Dells to help celebrate the 2nd Annual Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt (see more about this event further on age 14 or at [www.seversondells.org/scavenger-hunt](http://www.seversondells.org/scavenger-hunt)). Join us for this FREE concert and enjoy the wonderful folk/blues/roots rock/Americana style of Kraig Kenning on the outdoor stage in The Grove.

Thank you to Wired Cafe for supporting this event in honor of Brian Leaf. If you were fortunate enough to pick up one of Wired Cafe's Brian Leaf shirts, wear it to the show!

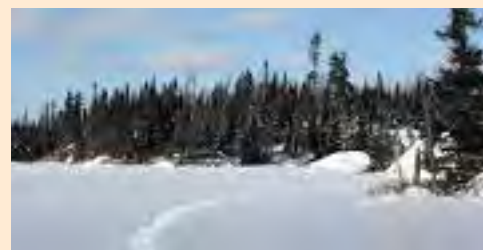




# Boundary Waters Winter Adventure

Enjoy the splendor of winter in the North Woods while sampling some of the many activities it has to offer. Dogsled across frozen lakes. Cross-country ski through snow-covered pine forests. Snowshoe under the stars. Enjoy the benefits of a wood-fired Finnish sauna, followed by a refreshing dip in the lake. Relax at night by a cozy fire in the lodge, recounting the day's adventures.

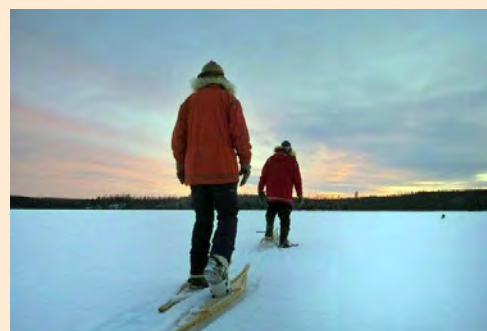
DAY 1: Depart Severson Dells by 9am and head to Duluth, Minnesota. We will spend the afternoon/early evening with The Duluth Experience, enjoying a behind-the-scenes look at the Arts Community, Restaurants and Breweries of Duluth and getting to know each other before heading up to the Boundary Waters the next morning.



DAY 2: We will depart Duluth mid-morning to arrive at Camp Menogyn near Bearskin Lake in the Boundary Waters Conservation Area by late afternoon. To reach the lodge we hike about a mile across the frozen lake. Upon arrival, we'll have time to settle into our accommodations before enjoying dinner. Afterwards, gather around the wood burning stove for an introduction to dogsledding and learning how to dress for the weather.

DAY 3: After breakfast, everyone breaks into groups for half- or full-day activities. Options include dogsledding, hiking to Caribou Rock, snowshoeing down the Back Trail, cross-country skiing to Rose Falls, or trying your luck ice fishing (don't forget your license). Enjoy dinner with the group before experiencing the stillness of a North Woods winter evening. Sleep under the stars in a quinzee (snow shelter) tonight, if you'd like!

DAY 4: If interested, rise early to assist the mushers with feeding and caring for the dogs before enjoying a warm breakfast. Try a new adventure or develop a recently learned skill as you decide between half- or full-day activities. A relaxing afternoon by the lodge's wood-burning stove is always an option, too! Enjoy one last dinner and then brave the sauna and a polar plunge in the lake, if you dare.



DAY 5: Early risers can enjoy one last ski or snowshoe outing before breakfast. Afterwards, pack and transfer personal gear back across the lake for the trip home. We will then hop in the vans and head back to Rockford.

## Travel, Terrain, Etc...

**TERRAIN/ROUTE:** Participants ski, snowshoe, and sled over lakes and through the woods. The frozen lakes provide level and open terrain. Portage trails through the woods can be hilly. The Boundary Waters offers a wide range of route options from easy to very difficult, perfect for a beginner or expert.

**TYPE OF TRAVEL/DISTANCE:** Participants use cross-country skis, snowshoes, dogsleds, and pulk sleds. Pulk sleds are one-person sleds, powered by another individual, used for transportation. An average day consists of 2-6 hours of activity, depending on weather conditions. Dogsledding is extremely dependent on weather, snow conditions, and the dogs. You can expect at least a 15-minute ride, but if conditions are right, plan on a much longer experience. Travel distances vary from 3-8 miles per day. No previous experience is needed to participate in this trip.

**WEATHER:** Temperatures in the winter months range from -40 F to +40 F. With proper gear and clothing you can stay very comfortable.

Register by December 15th at <http://www.seversondells.com/field-trips>

Fee: \$1,100 members; \$1,300 non-members

All travel, lodging, food and beverages are included in the cost of the trip.

Please contact Ann Wasser with any questions or for more details:

[ann@seversondells.org](mailto:ann@seversondells.org) or 815-335-2915.



# Girl Scouts & Scouts BSA Programs

Severson Dells is excited to offer scouting programs for the 2018-2019 school year. You do not have to be a scout to participate, but the programs are geared to fulfill badge requirements.

Programs meet at Severson Dells Nature Center, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Dress for the weather: we go out rain or shine. Each lesson meets partial requirements for earning the badge of the same title. We can take up to 15 scouts per lesson: they do not all have to be from the same troop. Fee is \$8 per scout with exception of the Cadette Primitive Camper and the Scouts BSA Field Botany that are \$15/scout and Basketry is \$20/scout because of the additional time and materials required. Registration: [www.seversondells.com/scout-programs/](http://www.seversondells.com/scout-programs/) or call 815-335-2915.

## Sept. 1: Scouts BSA – Insect Study

Armed with sweep nets, hand lenses, jars and pooters, we take to the field and woods in search of local insects. We review what makes an insect an insect, then learn the basic characteristics of several insect families. Register by 8/29.

## Oct. 13: Brownies – Bugs

Armed with sweep nets, hand lenses, jars and pooters, we take to the field and woods in search of local insects. We review what makes an insect an insect, then learn the basic characteristics of several insect families. Register by 10/10.



## Nov. 10: Scouts BSA– Basketry\*

Basket-weaving is a handy skill for any outdoors enthusiast to have. Knowing how to make a quick container while you are outdoors can be useful when berries are in season, while the same skills can yield you a nifty sun visor on a really hot summer day! Registration deadline: 10/28/18 – we need to know numbers to order supplies. Fee: \$20/scout



## Dec. 1: Cadette – Primitive Camper\*

Every girl scout should know how to “survive” in the woods if necessary. Join us to learn how to build a waterproof shelter, how to make cordage and tie knots, and how to get fire by ‘rubbing two sticks together’. \*This session runs longer than the usual two hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 am) – bring lunch. Register by 11/27.



## Jan. 5: Scouts BSA– Bird Study

Birds are everywhere, and bird-watching is one of the most popular activities in America! We help scouts learn the basics of bird identification: how to use binoculars, what traits to look for when starting bird ID, and how to attract birds to your feeders so you can bird-watch at your leisure. Register by 1/2.



### **Feb. 2: Senior Girl Scouts – Sky**

Sky-watching can be a lot more exciting than you might think. First, there are the clouds: you can tell a lot about the coming weather based on the kinds of clouds you see. Then there are the stars: even in a city, you can still make out some of our most basic constellations, like the Big Dipper and Orion. And although the sky may seem like a whole lot of empty space, it is really quite full of activity: from migrating birds, insects and spiders, to traveling chemicals and pollutants. We can help reveal some of the amazing things that are happening in the sky above. Register by 1/28.

### **Mar. 2: Scouts BSA – Forestry**

Need to learn some tree identification? How about examples of insect damage to native trees? Want to learn more about the role of fire in forest ecosystems? Let us help you on your way to earning your forestry badge by answering these questions and more! Register by 2/27.

### **Apr. 6: Jr. Girl Scouts – Animal Habitats**

Forget the monkeys and kangaroos – we want to teach you about the exciting animals that call Northern Illinois home! Our woods, grasslands and waterways are full of some truly amazing wildlife, and every scout who lives here should get to know it. Come explore our trails with us as we search for clues that will tell us which animals are living where at Severson Dells. Register by 4/2.

### **May 4: Scouts BSA – Field Botany (Plant Science)\***

Are you working on your Plant Science badge? Let us help you earn it by teaching you about some of the amazing native plants that grow in Northern Illinois. Spring is a great time to be introduced to field botany, for the woodland flowers will be in full swing, while the grassland plants are just getting started. We will help you learn to identify some of our native trees, shrubs, woody plants and flowers, as well as the most common invasive species. We will also help you learn how environmental factors affect what grows where. Participants will learn how we control invasives and encourage native species. \*This program is longer than the usual two hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please bring your lunch and dress to be outside. Register by 4/30.

### **June 1: Daisies – Outdoor Art**

You may not have heard of Andy Goldsworthy, but he is the inspiration for this hands-on outdoor art program. Using sticks, leaves and whatever else we find, we will create Outdoor Art. Some pieces may last only a few hours, while others may last a week or more. The only limit to our creations will be our imaginations. Dress to be outside and get dirty. Register by 5/29.

If you are interested in one of these badges, or any others, for your entire troop, please contact us at 815-335-2915. Pre-registration is required, and payment is due at time of registration. Refunds will be given to those who cancel five or more days before the class. We need a minimum of five scouts to register in order for the program to go.



# Homeschool Programs

Homeschool students/families are invited to join us for a variety of field trips throughout the year to build on your science lessons. Students ages 8 years and up are invited to come out and enjoy an educational morning in nature with our naturalists. All our lessons are at least partly outdoors, and most are entirely outside, so be sure everyone is dressed for the weather. All programs will meet from 9:30 am-11:30am.

## Registration Options

By the month - \$10/student/lesson;

Trimester (3 classes) \$25/student/;

Full School Year (9 classes) \$75/student.

Register at <http://www.seversondells.com/homeschool-programs/> or call 815-335-2915.

There is a minimum requirement of three students per class, and a maximum of 15 students per class. Cancellations received five or more days prior to lessons will be fully refunded, otherwise the registration fee can be applied to a future class during this school year.

## Sept. 20: Insect Exploration

Armed with sweep nets, hand lenses, jars and pooters, we take to the field and woods in search of local insects. We review what makes an insect an insect, then learn the basic characteristics of several insect families. Register by 9/13.

## Oct. 18: Outdoor Skills

Spending time outdoors can be a lot of fun, especially if you know how to take care of yourself while you are out there! We help build your confidence by teaching some basic outdoor skills, like knot-tying, shelter-building, camouflage and sneaking. Actual lessons taught depend on the age of the students who sign up, but all of these are possible. Register by 10/11.

## Nov. 15: Animals Prepare for Winter

Migration, hibernation, or staying put – these are the choices animals face when winter is on its way. How do they choose? Students learn about animals' various survival strategies indoors, and then we go for a hike to search for signs of what our local wildlife are doing. Register by 11/8.

## Dec. 20: Predator Prey Palooza

What is a predator? What is prey? Can you tell just by looking at a skull? Do you think you could survive as a predator or a prey animal? We use lots of hands-on fun and games in this up-close look at one of the basic lessons of life: who eats whom! Register by 12/13

## Jan. 17: Snow Patrol – Animal Tracking

Join us as we learn how animals move! Indoors we'll learn basic gaits, a few footprints, and play Animal Track Twister. Then we'll head outside to see what tracks we can find and see if we can read the stories they tell. Register by 1/10.

## Feb. 21: Birds of a Feather

Birds are the highly specialized descendants of dinosaurs! We'll look at beaks, feet and feathers, learn how to use binoculars as we watch the birds at our feeders, and make a bird feeder to take home. This lesson is mostly indoors. Register by 2/14.

## Mar. 21: Journaling and Nature Observation

Learning to be still and observe is an important skill for everyone, especially those who enjoy being outside and watching nature. Participants learn some basic observation techniques and how to record what they observe. Please come with your own journal and writing/drawing supplies. Register by 3/14.

## Apr. 18: Biodiversity Investigation

Exploration – that is the name of the game today! Armed with hand lenses and curiosity, we head off trail into the woods and grasslands looking for any and all signs of the critters that call these habitats home. Our goal is to discover which habitat has the greater number of critters (abundance), and which has more types of critters (diversity)...and figure out why. Register by 4/11.

## May 16: Aquatic Studies

Learning what lives in the water can be a real eye-opening experience! We spend this morning looking for who lives in the pond and the stream. Participants should expect to get wet – we will be wading in Hall Creek. Required: water shoes (old sneakers or boating shoes) – must completely and securely attach to the foot; no crocs or flip flops – Wellies are also not recommended. We also suggest bringing a change of clothes and a towel...just in case. Register by 5/9.





# Summer Events to Support Severson Dells

## Artale First Friday Wine Night Friday - July 6 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Artale & Co. are graciously hosting Severson Dells as part of their First Friday Wine Tasting series at their tasting room at 6876 Spring Creek Road. They will have 32 wines from around the world available for tasting and light snacks to nibble on. Admission is \$15 at the door and proceeds support Severson Dells education programs. Enjoy an evening out while supporting Severson Dells!

Check out the Artale & Co. website for more information and to see what they have to offer the local wine, beer and spirits aficionado or those that would like to learn more. <http://artaleandco.com/>.

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## Drinks for the Dells Saturday - August 11 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join us for a special fundraising event at Carlyle Brewing Company to celebrate Severson Dells and support youth nature education in our community. With your ticket, you will have the opportunity to taste nine samples or get three full pints of delicious Carlyle brews, win door prizes, have light snacks, quiz your friends with local nature and Severson Dells trivia, and receive a commemorative sample glass. Attendees can also purchase raffle tickets for a wide range of auction items provided by many of our local businesses. You can put your tickets in for the item(s) you would most like to win. It is sure to be a great night supporting Severson Dells and our mission of connecting people to nature through education and research.

### Tickets:

- In advance: \$35/individual or \$65/couple
- At the door: \$40/individual and \$75/couple

### How To Purchase:

- Online: [www.seversondells.com](http://www.seversondells.com)
- Over the Phone: 815-335-2915
- In person (during business hours) at Severson Dells Nature Center

Space is limited, so be sure to get your tickets early!!





September 14th & 15th, 2018

A 24-hour event that takes you off the beaten path to discover the wild, weird and wonderful secrets of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. Participate in feats of intrigue and daring!

Teams: 2 – 6 people

Entry Fee: \$50 (\$65 with food) per team

Grab a group of friends, family or co-workers and test your Severson Dells and Forest Preserve 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 75 questions related to Severson Dells and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. The team in each category (adults or mixed-aged) with the most points wins a fabulous grand prize! Second place prizes will be awarded and all teams will receive goodies for their participation.

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. 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!

All proceeds from the Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt benefit Nature Education programs at Severson Dells Nature Center and Volunteer Education programs that enhance habitat restoration throughout all 43 Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

For more information and to register: [www.seversondells.org/scavenger-hunt](http://www.seversondells.org/scavenger-hunt)





# Book Nook: Natural History

## Books Worth a Read

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### *Plant Families*

#### *A Guide for Gardeners and Botanists*

ROSS BAYTON AND SIMON MAUGHAN

Most of us lump plants together in one big family, and when pressed can only explain their grouping by what they're not—not an animal, not a mineral, and so just a plant. In reality, there are hundreds of different plant families, each grouped logically by a unique family history and genealogy. This system brings sense and order to the more than a quarter of a million different plant species covering a diverse spectrum that includes soaring sequoias (*Cupressaceae*), squat prickly pear (*Cactaceae*), and luxuriant roses (*Rosaceae*).

*Plant Families* is an easy-to-use, beautifully illustrated guide to the more than one hundred core plant families every horticulturist, gardener, or budding botanist needs to know. It introduces the basics of plant genealogy and teaches readers how to identify and understand the different structures of flowers, trees, herbs, shrubs, and bulbs. It then walks through each family, explaining its origin and range, and describing characteristics such as size, flowers, and seeds. Each family is accompanied by full-color botanical illustrations and diagrams. “Uses For” boxes planted throughout the book provide practical gardening tips related to each family.

We have much to gain by learning about the relationships between plant families. By understanding how botanists create these groupings, we can become more adept at spotting the unique characteristics of a plant and identify it faster and more accurately. Understanding plant families also helps us make sense of—and better appreciate—the enormous biological diversity of the plant kingdom.



### *The Evolution of Imagination*

STEPHEN T. ASMA

Consider Miles Davis, horn held high, sculpting a powerful musical statement full of tonal patterns, inside jokes, and thrilling climactic phrases—all on the fly. Or think of a comedy troupe riffing on a couple of cues from the audience until the whole room is erupting with laughter. Or maybe it's a team of software engineers brainstorming their way to the next Google, or the Einsteins of the world code-cracking the mysteries of nature. Maybe it's simply a child playing with her toys. What do all of these activities share? With wisdom, humor, and joy, philosopher Stephen T. Asma answers that question in this book: imagination. And from there he takes us on an extraordinary tour of the human creative spirit.

Guided by neuroscience, animal behavior, evolution, philosophy, and psychology, Asma burrows deep into the human psyche to look right at the enigmatic and powerful engine that is our improvisational creativity—the source, he argues, of our remarkable imaginal capacity. How is it, he asks, that a story can evoke a whole world inside of us? How are we able to rehearse a skill, a speech, or even an entire scenario simply by thinking about it? How does creativity go beyond experience and help us make something completely new? And how does our moral imagination help us sculpt a better society? As he shows, we live in a world that is only partly happening in reality. Huge swaths of our cognitive experiences are made up of “what-ifs,” “almosts,” and “maybes,” an imagined terrain that churns out one of the most overlooked but necessary resources for our flourishing: possibilities. Considering everything from how imagination works in our physical bodies to the ways we make images, from the mechanics of language and our ability to tell stories to the creative composition of self-consciousness, Asma expands our personal and day-to-day forms of imagination into a grand scale: as one of the decisive evolutionary forces that has guided human development from the Paleolithic era to today. The result is an inspiring look at the rich relationships between improvisation, imagination, and culture, and a privileged glimpse into the unique nature of our evolved minds.



# Severson Dells Nature Center 2017 Annual Report



January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

## President's Message: from Jake Loesch

Connectivity. Involvement. Focus. These are the three themes that our Board of Directors has committed to for 2018, understanding the responsibility we have on behalf of membership, staff, donors, and countless volunteers that provide support to the Severson Dells mission of connecting people to nature.

When did you first feel “connected to nature?” Was it in your backyard, a local park, a different state? Who was with you? How did it feel? I consider myself a late bloomer with this connection. Although I was exposed to the outdoors occasionally as a child, my great appreciation and education of the world around me didn’t blossom until it became a core part of my family’s identity. Our family has a strong belief that nature has a therapeutic quality and allows us to disconnect from our busy lives. This disconnection has been important for me many times over the past decade, and I’m glad that I have the opportunity to use my membership on the Severson Dells board to connect with our community and share why our mission is important.



Our board has confidence that the Severson Dells mission will be integral in continued progress and advancement of many communities in Northern Illinois. We strongly believe that expanding the depth and quality of our current programming and connecting with new audiences, will lead to better lives for our children and grandchildren, and will promote both unplugging from our busy lives and connecting to our natural world. To achieve our vision, we need your continued commitment, whether you volunteer your time to teach, restore, administer the education center, or align your passion with your resources. Most importantly, we need your involvement in our programs – bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and family members to Severson Dells. Take time to experience our corner of the natural world for yourself.

We wouldn’t be successful without the support of volunteers, without donors providing significant monetary support to specific programs, and without you connecting yourselves and your families to Severson Dells through school and family programs year round. We sincerely thank you for the past 42 years! As we look toward the future, we don’t simply want to continue what has been successful but focus on what our goals are for the future. Severson Dells’ staff and Board of Directors, along with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, have spent significant time in the past year documenting what we believe is an achievable vision and multi-year strategic plan for the programs, facility and public lands at Severson Dells. We are excited to share this with you over the course of the next several months. We look forward to maintaining our connection with you, increasing involvement with other science partners in the community, focusing our mission on what works now, and sharing one of Winnebago County’s best-kept secrets with an even bigger audience!



## Severson Dells Education Foundation

When Fannie Severson donated 369 acres to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, she dreamed of having a nature center in the family's "Deer Lodge." The Severson Dells Education Foundation was created to make that dream come true. Since 1976, donors to the non-profit foundation have supported great programs at the Severson Dells Nature Center that have helped teach more than a half million people about the natural world. The Foundation and Forest Preserve District are partners: the foundation pays for educational programs and the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District maintains the property and the facility. It is a relationship that allows the public to enjoy guided nature experiences in quality native habitats. The Severson Dells board and staff are grateful for the support.

### Financial Supporters

We have made every effort to list the individuals and groups who have supported Severson Dells Nature Center through memberships, donations, sponsorships, memorials and other gifts during the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

### Memorials/Honorariums were given in honor of:

Mary Blackmore's Birthday, Betty J. Burchfield, Kathy Doflinger, Betty Kalivoda, Fred Kalivoda, Cliff Knapp, Brian Leaf, Dennis Leaf, Dee Lenz, The Paul and Mary Kay Lizer Family, Garrett and Savannah Cussen-Lizer, and Betsy Lizer, Don Miller's Retirement-Severson Dells Nature Center, Fran Kerns Dewey, Tom Koerber, Mary Jo McKenzie, Dr. Allen Pang, Barbara Whatsitt.



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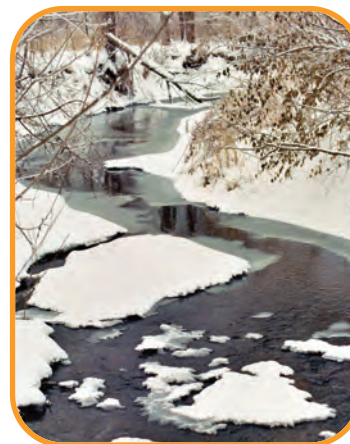
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# Severson Dells Programs

## January 1 - December 31, 2017

photo by Connie McIntosh

General Programs .....	3,988
School On-Site with Staff .....	2,169
In-School Programs .....	1,484
Off-Site with Staff .....	1,590
Use of Facilities .....	898
Registered On Their Own .....	1,394
Walk-In Visitors .....	2,416
Estimated Additional Trail Use .....	2,600

### General Public Programs:

#### January

Green Fire-Movie  
Severson Naturalist Night-Basics of Ecology  
Family Winter Walk

#### February

Bird Monitoring and Natural Resource Mgmt.  
Severson Naturalist Night-Geology  
Old Time Lantern Walk  
Workday and Bonfire  
Severson Naturalist Night-Botany  
Eastern United States Road Trip with Ann Wasser

#### March

Severson Naturalist Night-Prairie Ecology  
Animal Habitats at SDNC-Girl Scouts  
Science Saturday-Mammal Madness!  
Severson Naturalist Night-Dendrology  
Old Time Lantern Walk  
Meet and Greet Ellen Rathbone, SDNC Educator  
with Educator Volunteers  
Bison Impacts on Flora and Fauna

#### April

Boy Scout Hike  
SDNC Naturalist Night-Fire Ecology  
Girl Scout Program-Jen Shepeck  
Lecture, Ancient Life of Illinois  
Night Hike-SDNC  
John Craigie (Music)  
Bird Walk-SDNC  
Girl Scout Brownies  
SDNC Naturalist Night-Animal Behaviors  
Night Hike-SDNC  
Earth Day Hike  
Bird Walk-Ferguson FP  
Lecture, Geology and Earthquake History of Illinois  
Wildflower Walkabout, Anna Page Park  
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

#### May

Wildflower Walkabout, Pecatonica River FP  
SDNC Naturalist Night-Current Topics in Ecology  
Pond Exploration, SDNC  
Bird Walk-Hartley Memorial FP  
Wildflower Walkabout, Boone County-Piscasaw  
Fen Area  
Lecture: Local Vino with Dr. Jim Pennell

4H Group-Bob Viehl-Ellen R. leading  
Wildflower Walkabout/Naturalist Night,  
Kishwaukee River FP  
Belvidere Park District Adult Program  
Bird Research at SDNC w/Dr. James Marshall  
Bird Walk-Seward Bluffs FP  
Wildflower Walkabout/Naturalist Night, Howard  
Colman NP  
Severson Saturdays-Wildflowers, SDNC  
Wildflower Walkabout, Colored Sands FP

#### June

Frog Hike, Pecatonica River FP  
Readings from the Rookery  
Quick Start Canoers, FPWC (Quarry)  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
Wildflower Walkabout, Keiselberg FP  
Bat Hike, FP Headquarters  
Nature Play, Wildlife Wonders Camp  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
Wildflower Walkabout, Harlem Hills Prairie NP  
Readings from the Rookery  
Severson Explorers, Peek Into Creek Camp  
Wildflower Walkabout, Jarrett Prairie Center  
Pond Exploration, SDNC  
Severson Saturdays-Water Wonders, SDNC  
Severson Explorers, Jr. Biologists Camp  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
Wildflower Walkabout, Searles Prairie Nature  
Preserve

#### July

Bat Hike, Four Lakes FP  
Birding Hike  
Liv Lombardi-Music  
Nature Play, Art and Nature Camp  
Blazing Paddles Youth Canoe Camp  
Readings from the Rookery  
REAP Work Day  
Severson Explorers, Peek Into Creek Camp  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
The Lowest Pair, Music at SDNC  
Readings from the Rookery  
Severson Science Saturday: Nocturnal Nature  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River

#### August

The Waydown Wanderers, Music at SDNC  
Species Spotlight-Bat Hike w/Barbara Williams at  
SDNC  
Night Hike, SDNC  
Species Spotlight-Bats - Barbara Williams at SDNC  
4H Tech Wizards River Watch Program  
FPWC Invasive Plant Removal at SDNC  
Severson Science Saturday: Monarch Mania!  
Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
Education Volunteer Training

#### September

Lecture: Geologic Carbon Storage Research  
Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt 24 hours

Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River  
Lecture: Sand Bluff Observatory-50 Yrs. of Banding  
Research

Night Hike - Crepuscular Creep  
Center For Learning and Retirement-Land Ethic  
Lecture: Climate Change Adaptation on Public  
Lands at SDNC

Severson Science Saturday: Insect Insanity

#### October

Seed Collection and Dispersal  
Lecture: Mike Groves - Natural Resource  
Management for the FP and SDNC  
Fairy Houses  
Night Hike: Severson Dells  
Ken Yasukawa Lecture - Bluebirds  
Outdoor Skills for Kids: Fire by Friction  
Ecology Restoration Day  
Severson Fundraiser Breakfast at Giovanni's  
Science Saturday: Slithering Snakes and Creepy  
Crawlers

#### November

Volunteer Potluck  
Night Hike, Severson Dells  
Ecology Restoration Day  
Outdoor Skills for Families: Shelter Building  
Wild Turkeys in Fact and Folklore  
Science Saturday: Predator/Prey  
Ecology Restoration Day

#### December

Reclaiming our Place in Nature  
Luminary Walk  
Ecology Restoration Day  
Luminary Walk  
Bonnie Whitmore & Jon Dee Graham Music  
Owl Prowl  
Winter Solstice Concert, Music at SD  
Winter Day Camp - age 4-6  
Winter Day Camp - age 7-11





## School On-Site Programs with Staff:

### District #47...Dixon

St. Mary's Catholic School

### District #100...Belvidere

Belvidere South Middle School

### District #122...Harlem

Olson Park

### District #140...Rockton

Rockton (3 days)

### District #202 Lena-Winslow

Lena Winslow School

### District #205...Rockford

Cherry Valley (2 days)

Christian Life Schools

First Covenant Church

Froberg (2 days)

Haskell

Immanuel Lutheran

Kinder Care Learning Center (2 days)

Marshall (4 days)

Montessori

Nelson Elementary

Ralston School (2 days)

Rockford Lutheran

Rockford Lutheran Academy

Ryan Jury

St. Bernadette's

St. Bridget's Elementary

St. Rita

Spectrum

Spring Creek (2 days)

Thompson

Welsh Elementary (2 days)

West View (2 days)

White Swan

Whitehead (2 days)

### District #220...Oregon

Oregon Elementary (2 days)

### District #323...Winnebago

Aquin Elementary

Berean Baptist School

St. Peter's School

## Other On-site Programs with Staff:

Boy Scout Event

IL Environmental Share-A-Thon

Prairie Friends Garden Club

## In-School Programs:

Byron

Christian Life

Hillman (2 days)

Pecatonica Elementary

Rock Valley College Program

Rolling Green (2 days)

St. Bernadette's

St. Rita's

Simon-Pre-K

Simon (3 days)

Spectrum (2 days)

Welsh

## Other Off-Site Programs with Staff:

Byron Park District Summer Camp

DuPage County Soil & Water Conservation District

Envirothon

Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center (2 days)

Fairhaven Health Center

Heritage Kiwanis Club

Illinois Nature Preserve Mtg

Joe Haverly's Class-Earth Day Event, Rock Valley

College

McHenry County Soil & Water Conservation District

Envirothon

Rockford City Market (3 days)

South Beloit Public Library

Valley View Senior Citizen Apartments

Wesley Willows

Winnebago Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

Envirothon

Youth Groundwater Festival



## Use of Facilities:

Birthday Parties

Bluebird meeting

Center for Learning and Retirement- Rock Valley

College

CPR/AED Training

Cub Scout Pack 206 Crossover Ceremony-

Education Room

First Covenant Church

Girl Scout Program with Jen Shepeck

Grace Lutheran Church

Hoo Haven Birthday Party

NCIOS

NCIOS (Potluck) Meeting

RRFC Meetings

Sand Bluff Observatory

Severson Dells Board of Directors Meetings

Writer's Guild-James Marshall

## Registered On Their Own:

Birthday Party-Prairie Knoll Shelterhouse

Byron Forest Preserve Summer Camp

Byron Park District Summer Camp ( 2 days)

Byron High School (3 days)

Cub Scout Pack 5 Winnebago

Dennis Early Childhood

Dennis Early Education School

Dennis School Headstart Program

Fairgrounds/Rockford Headstart Preschool

Freeport High School Pack Group LIFT Academy

Girl Scout Troop

Headstart Group Independent

Highland Elementary (2 days)

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, Freeport, IL (4 days)

Marshall School Shelter house

Motorcycle Cancer Bike Run

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Private Wedding at SDNC "The Grove" Stage &

SDNC grounds

Rockford Lutheran Academy

Riverdahl School-Shelter House

Rockford Photo Club-Judy

Simon Elementary Kindergarten

Simon Elementary Preschool

Special Needs Picnic

Tinker Garden Group

Tinker Garden "The Grove" Rental

Winnebago Lion's Club-Shelter House

***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 Volunteers in 2017

Volunteers are involved in many different activities, limited only by enthusiasm, interest and available time. We realize that each volunteer is unique and therefore we provide many opportunities where their contributions can be recognized.

Volunteers' ages range from youth to senior citizens, and they gave a total of 2,665 hours of service during 2017.

To all the volunteers:

## THANK YOU!

We couldn't do it without you!

Em Alexander  
Bob Arevalo  
Jack and Joyce Armstrong  
Mayra Arteaga  
Francie Barnes  
Richard Benning  
Raoul Bergerson  
John Bergstrom  
Jane Bowers  
Bill and Carol Brosend  
Danni Brosend  
Sandi Campbell  
Sebastian Campos-Carrillo  
Kate Capriola  
Karen Clements  
Angel Conley  
Rick Cook  
Luisa Cortes  
Kathy Crandall  
Jessie Crow-Mermel  
Denise Delanty  
Juan Esparza

Mary Rose Fillip  
Jerelyn Forman  
Claire Gallenz  
Nancy Gates  
Valerie Gibbons  
Nyesha Gibson  
Joe P. and Bonnie Goodwin  
George and Sue Graham  
Dave and Linda Grass  
Gregory Groom  
Brett and Margret Hanson  
Joseph P. Hemlock  
Nancy A. Holstrum  
Daniel and Allison Huntley  
Jan Jensen  
Charles Johanssen  
Jamie Johanssen  
David C. and Anita J. Johnson  
Doug and Janet Johnson  
Mary E. Johnson  
Margaret Kaja  
Dick and Pat Kanka  
Dan Kasten  
Mary Kisamore  
Paul Kohnhorst  
Irv Koning  
Nancy Koteski  
Edward and Diane Kuehl  
Lorie Langan  
Arial Larson  
Edward Larson  
Ruth Larson  
Jake and Mackenzie Loescher  
Chris and Cecilia Mann  
James and Lori Marshall  
Paulette Matthews  
Brenda Mattis  
James and Barbara McIntosh  
Connie and Phil McIntosh  
Neil E. McLaughlin

Jane McMillan  
Don Miller  
Susan Molyneaux  
Andy and Toni Murray  
David Noel  
Courtney Oertel  
Dennis and Sharon O'Hara  
Mike Olderbak  
Patty and Sam Oliveri  
Kim O'Malley  
Gary and Vicki Pasch  
Carla and Jack Phillips  
Richard Reid  
Anne Remington  
Karol L. Rosman  
Greg Ruffner  
Hans Rupert and Amy Young  
Joan B. Sage  
Esther Schippers  
Jennifer Shepeck  
Michael Simmons and Lora McClelland  
Julie Smith  
Bob Spelman  
Ryan M. Sword  
Andrew R. Tatar  
Aleigha Taylor  
Mendy Thomas  
Miracle Toney  
Julie Trank  
Judy Uchno  
Andrea Valverde-Tapia  
Toni and Brad Vander Heyden  
Steve and Joy Vee  
Andrea Wallace  
Lenae Weichel  
Joylene Westphal  
Butch Whittaker  
Nancy Williamson  
Judy Wilson  
Dan and Ann Zeigler

photo by Connie McIntosh



On March 12, 2018, the Sikich LLP accounting firm completed an audit of Severson Dells Education Foundation's records for the FYE 12/31/17. The following is the condensed balance sheet as of 12/31/16. A copy of the complete audited financial statements is available on request.

#### **ASSETS**

##### **CURRENT ASSETS:**

\$122,948	Cash
14,575	Pledges receivable, current
3,761	Inventory
413	Prepaid expenses
<u>141,697</u>	<b>Total current assets</b>

##### **NONCURRENT ASSETS:**

655,143	Investments
19,153	Pledges receivable, long term, net
21,607	Office equipment
<u>(16,871)</u>	Less accumulated depreciation
4,736	Net equipment
54,423	Endowment investments
733,455	Total noncurrent assets
<b>\$875,152</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>

#### **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

##### **CURRENT LIABILITIES:**

\$ 4,271	Accrued expenses due to Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
2,000	Accounts payable
<u>15,000</u>	Deferred revenue
<u>21,271</u>	<b>Total liabilities</b>

##### **NET ASSETS:**

755,230	Unrestricted
Temporarily restricted -	
10,500	Programs
33,728	Time
11,423	Unappropriated appreciation of endowment funds
55,651	Total temporarily restricted
43,000	Permanently restricted
<u>853,881</u>	<b>Total net assets</b>
<b>\$875,152</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>



## **Become a Member of "Friends of Severson Dells" or give an additional gift**

#### **Members receive:**

- Discount at Severson Dells' Gift Shop
- 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 Association of Nature Center Administrators 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/](http://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.***

#### **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!**

**July 2018**

02	Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River	6 p.m.
05	Grandparents' Camp	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
06	Grandparents' Camp	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
06	Artale First Friday Wine Night	5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
09-13	Nature Play Camp: Wild Things # 2	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
09	Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River	6 p.m.
13	Readings From the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells	9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
14	Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
15	Nature Journaling Club at Kieselburg Forest Preserve	1 p.m.-3 p.m.
16-20	Severson Explorers Camp: Peek-Into-Creek, # 2	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
16	Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River	6 p.m.
20	Outdoor Yoga at Severson Dells	6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
20	Night Hike at Severson Dells	8 p.m.-9 p.m.
23-27	Teen Adventures Camp: Blazing Paddles Canoe Camp	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
27	Readings From the Rookery, The Grove at Severson Dells	9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
28	Science Saturday: Winged Wonders	10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
30-31-August 1-3	Severson Explorers Camp: Junior Biologist	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
30	Canoe Convoy Paddle the Kishwaukee River	6 p.m.

**August 2018**

04	Morning Canoe Paddle	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
11	Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
11	Drinks for the Dells-Carlyle Brewing Company	4 p.m.-7 p.m.
19	Nature Journaling Club at Severson Dells	1 p.m.-3 p.m.
25	Science Saturday: Amazing Migrations	10 a.m.-2 p.m.
27	Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**September 2018**

01	Boy Scouts-Insect Study	10 a.m.-12 p.m.
07	Mystery in the Dells	6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
08	Hand-sewn Journal Workshop	10 a.m.-2 p.m.
08	Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
11	Lecture: Illinois 2218-Ray Wiggers	7 p.m.-8 p.m.
14-15	Forest Quest Scavenger Hunt	3p.m. Friday- 4p.m. Saturday
15	Kraig Kenning Concert- FREE	4p.m.
16	Nature Journaling Club	1 p.m.-3 p.m.
19	Twilight Walk at Deer Run Forest Preserve	6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
20	Insect Exploration Home School Program	9:30a.m- 11:30a.m.
22	Upper Mississippi River Day Trip	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
24	Conservation Crew Volunteer Workday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
25	Pest or Problem: What May Be Lurking in Your Trees	6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
29	Science Saturday: National Public Lands Day	10 a.m-2 p.m.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**October 2018**

06	Leopold Shack, Farm and Foundation Trip	7 a.m.-6 p.m.
13	Brownies – Bugs	10 a.m.-12 p.m.
18	Outdoor Skills Home School Program	9:30a.m- 11:30a.m
25	Annual Breakfast at The Pavilion at Orchard Ridge Farms	7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

**Silent Nights: Luminaria- December 7th & 8th**  
**Boundary Waters Winter Adventure- February 5-9, 2019**

## NOTES FROM THE DELLS

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Rockford, IL 61125  
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