

# The TreeLine

A quarterly publication from the Forest Preserve District of Kane County [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com)



Spring 2018





The Forest Preserve District of Kane County was formed June 8, 1925.

Our mission is to acquire, hold and maintain lands within Kane County that contribute to the preservation of natural and historic resources, habitats, flora and fauna; and to restore, restock protect and preserve such lands for the education, recreation and pleasure of all Kane County citizens.

The District is governed by the Forest Preserve Commission. Kane County Board members serve as the Forest Preserve Commission. They are:

- Michael Kenyon, President, District 16
- Mark Davoust, President Pro Tem & Treasurer District 14
- Philip Lewis, Secretary, District 13
- Myrna Molina, District 1
- Theresa Barreiro, District 2
- Don Ishmael, District 3
- Angela Clay Thomas, District 4
- Bill Lenert, District 5
- Brian Dahl, District 6
- Monica Silva, District 7
- Barbara Hernandez, District 8
- Thomas (T.R.) Smith, District 9
- Susan Starrett, District 10
- John Martin, District 11
- John J. Hoscheit, District 12
- Barbara Wojnicki, District 15
- Deborah Allan, District 17
- Drew Frasz, District 18
- Kurt Kojzarek, District 19
- Penny Wegman, District 20
- Rebecca Gillam, District 21
- Douglas Schefflow, District 22
- Maggie Auger, District 23
- Jarett Sanchez, District 24

*The TreeLine* is published quarterly by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Issues are mailed or emailed to all subscribers, based on their preference. To subscribe to the print or electronic edition (or both), call 630-232-5980 or email forestpreserve@kaneforest.com and request your free subscription to *The TreeLine*.

**Monica Meyers**  
Executive Director

**Laurie Metanchuk**  
Director of Community Affairs & Environmental Education

**Brittany Kovach**  
Community Affairs Specialist

**Valerie Blaine**  
Nature Programs Manager

Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320  
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Phone: 630-232-5980  
Fax: 630-232-5924  
Email: forestpreserve@kaneforest.com  
Web: kaneforest.com  
Facebook: facebook.com/forestpreserve  
Twitter: twitter.com/forestpreserve  
Instagram: instagram.com/forestpreserve

**Cover Photo**  
*Shooting Star at Lone Grove Forest Preserve.*  
*Photo by Restoration Ecologist Pat Chess.*

## Calling all volunteers Join us for an Earth Day shrub planting

Help celebrate Earth Day with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Volunteers are needed to help plant shrubs at Freeman Kame Forest Preserve in Gilberts/Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls on Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. All are welcome!

Holes will be pre-dug. Volunteers will simply plant the shrub, tamp-down dirt, add water and mulch. It's easy! Be sure to arrive promptly at 10 a.m. Planting will continue until all shrubs are in the ground or 1 p.m. — whichever comes first!

This volunteer opportunity is perfect for individuals or groups, families, scouts, youth groups or other organizations. You're welcome to plant a single shrub or stay and plant as many as you like. You may wish to bring work gloves and a water bottle. We will have water and light snacks available on site.

Groups of 10 or more, please contact our volunteer coordinator at 630-762-2741 or volunteer@kaneforest.com to register. (Groups of less than 10 do not need to RSVP.) Freeman Kame Forest Preserve/Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls is located at 40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts. For more information, visit [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com).

Saturday, April 21; 10 a.m.  
Freeman Kame Forest Preserve/Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls  
40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts



Photo by Community Affairs Specialist Brittany Kovach

SAVE THE DATE:

# Monarchs & Milkweed Festival

**June 23**  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve



# Think spring – gardens, trees, butterflies, frogs, birds and more!

## ALL-AGES PROGRAMS

All ages are welcome to attend programs unless an age limit is specified. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Organized groups must schedule a separate tour for their group.

### Maple Sugaring Days

It's maple sugaring time! Come explore the art, science and folklore of the "sugar bush" or maple grove. Learn how to tap a maple tree, and you can try drilling and setting a tap. We'll simmer sap over an open fire and watch as it thickens to syrup. During a "Sugarin' Time" hike, you'll learn how to distinguish maples from other species of hardwood trees in the woodland.

Saturday, March 3; 1-4 p.m.  
& Sunday, March 4; 1-4 p.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W700 Dean St., St. Charles FREE



### Gross, Bad & Yucky

Sometimes, the yuckiest things in nature are the coolest. Some spiders make milkshakes from the guts of their prey. Other critters walk on their snot. And there's much more gross, bad and yucky to cover! This informative program will include a short hike outdoors and an activity in the nature center. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.*

Sunday, March 18; 10-11 a.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W700 Dean St., St. Charles  
FREE

## Feathered Friends

Are you curious about the birds in your backyard? Want to know more about birds that migrate in the spring? In this introductory bird walk, we'll cover the basics of bird identification — what to look for, how to find birds by silhouette, shape, size, behavior and song. We'll have binoculars to loan. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.*

Thursday, March 29; 10-11 a.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W700 Dean St., St. Charles  
FREE

## By the Light of the Moon Night Hikes

Traditional cultures have names for each month's full moon, signifying important natural events of the season.

Learn some of the lore, legends and science of the moon during these monthly night hikes. We'll enjoy an evening walk in the woods, even if the skies are cloudy! *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.*



### Worm Moon Night Hike

Saturday, March 31; 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W700 Dean St., St. Charles  
FREE

### Pink Moon Night Hike

Sunday, April 29; 8-9 p.m.  
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve  
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn  
FREE

### Flower Moon Night Hike

Tuesday, May 29; 8:30-9:30 p.m.  
Brewster Creek Forest Preserve  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
FREE

## Garden Workshops

Create a garden-in-a-pot while learning the stories of herbs, flowers and vegetables. Participants will be provided with a container, plants and all materials needed to create a potted garden. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.*

### Herb Garden Workshop

Sunday, April 8; 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
Fee: \$10/garden

### Earth Day Garden Workshop

Sunday, April 22; 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
Fee: \$10/garden

## Earth Day Shrub Planting

Calling all volunteers! Join Forest Preserve staff and neighbors as we plant shrubs in honor of Earth Day. We need you to simply place the shrub in pre-dug holes. Tamp down the dirt. Water, then mulch. It's easy! This is a perfect event for groups or individuals. All ages are welcome. Be sure to arrive at 10 a.m. sharp. We'll plant shrubs until 1 p.m. or until we run out — whichever comes first! You may wish to bring work gloves and a water bottle.

Saturday, April 21; 10 a.m.  
Freeman Kame Forest Preserve/  
Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls  
40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts FREE

## Earth Day Open House

Earth Day is every day at Creek Bend Nature Center, but April 22 is extra special! Throughout the day, there will be activities for everyone — from stories and crafts in the Nature Center — to a habitat restoration activity outside. We'll have Earth Day treats for all, and we'll even treat Mother Earth by cleaning up the trails. *Advance registration is required.*

Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.

**Bird Walk:** 8 a.m.

**Earth Day Garden:** 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Crafts and Games:** 12-4 p.m.

**Nature Hike & Trail Cleanup:** 1-2 p.m.

Sunday, April 22; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

FREE

## Evening Wildflowers

Stroll through the woods with a naturalist and learn the native wildflowers that carpet the forest floor. We'll go over tips for identifying wildflowers, and learn about the ecology of the woods where they grow. *Advance registration is required.* Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.

Thursday, May 10; 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn

FREE



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### Monthly Story Times at Creek Bend Nature Center

Treat your child to story times at Creek Bend Nature Center. This popular program series is for children (infants through 5-year olds) and their caregivers. St. Charles Public Library staff will read books, accompanied by finger plays, songs and more. All are welcome to enjoy the interactive exhibits in the nature center, following the program. *Advance registration is required.* Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.

Friday, March 2; 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

FREE

Friday, April 20; 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

FREE

Friday, May 18; 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

FREE

### Nature Tykes (for 3-year olds)

In this program, geared for 3-year olds and their parents, grandparents or guardians, we'll explore the natural world through a variety of activities, led by our naturalist staff. Sessions include a combination of stories, nature hikes, songs, games or crafts. *Advance registration is required.* Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.

### Nature's Sweet Treats

Thursday, March 22; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### Frog Pond

Thursday, April 26; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### So Many Butterflies!

Thursday, May 24; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### Little Naturalists (for 4-5-year olds)

In this hour-long program for 4-5-year olds, children will discover the wonders of nature through stories, nature hikes, songs, games or crafts. (Note: This is a "drop-off" program; adults and siblings may enjoy the trails or wait in the nature center during program.) *Advance registration is required.* Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.

### Nature's Sweet Treats

Thursday, March 22; 1-2 p.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### Frog Pond

Thursday, April 26; 1-2 p.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### So Many Butterflies!

Thursday, May 24; 1-2 p.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Fee: \$5/child

### Tales & Trails

Listen to flower stories, sing songs and make rhymes with staff from the Geneva Public Library. Then, take a naturalist-guided hike where you'll learn the names and colorful stories of native wildflowers. This program is for children of all ages, accompanied by an adult. *Advance registration is required with the Geneva Public Library.* Call 630-232-0893 or [www.gpld.org](http://www.gpld.org) to register.

Wednesday, May 2; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn

FREE



Photo by Naturalist Erica Lemon

# Maple Sugaring Days

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
March 3-4, 2018 • 1-4 p.m.



## The Sap's Rising — Celebrate Spring!

Naturalists from the Forest Preserve District of Kane County will teach you how to tap a maple tree. You can try drilling and setting a tap. Watch sap simmer over an open fire as it thickens to syrup. Join us on a "Sugarin' Time" hike to learn how to distinguish maples from other trees. Sample pure, local syrup. And, check-out the interactive exhibits inside Creek Bend Nature Center. Bring the whole family for this fun, free program. Make this your spring tradition!

**Creek Bend Nature Center**  
**LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve**  
**7W700 Dean St., St. Charles**

For more information, call 630-444-3190 or visit [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com).





## Hooked on Fishing

Join us for a free children's fishing event. We'll supply the fishing gear and bait. Light refreshments will also be provided. If you have fishing experience and would like to volunteer to help kids bait, cast, catch and release, call our volunteer coordinator at 630-762-2741.

Sunday, June 3; 8 a.m. – Noon  
Oakhurst Forest Preserve  
1680 Fifth Ave., Aurora  
FREE



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Senior Stroll

Seniors are invited to join District naturalists each month on a leisurely stroll through a Kane County forest preserve. Learn about the natural and cultural history of each preserve. The strolls last about an hour, with social time and refreshments following the walk. *No registration required.*

Thursday, March 1; 10 a.m. – noon  
Bliss Woods Forest Preserve  
55660 Bliss Rd., Sugar Grove  
FREE

Thursday, April 5; 10 a.m. – noon  
Les Arends Forest Preserve  
2S731 Lincoln Way Rte. 31, Batavia; FREE

Thursday, May 3; 10 a.m. – noon  
Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls  
40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts  
FREE

### Trek with a Naturalist

Get your 10,000 steps in during these brisk hikes! Each month, we'll take an invigorating hike at a different forest preserve. The naturalist will interpret the ecology of the preserve, as we hike. This program is for ages 18 and above. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or*

*email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

Thursday, March 15; 5-7 p.m.  
Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve  
5N753 IL Rte. 31, St. Charles  
FREE

Thursday, April 19; 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve (East)  
10N630 Nesler Rd., Elgin  
FREE

Thursday, May 17; 6-8 p.m.  
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve  
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn  
FREE

## Wildflower Walk for Twenties and Thirties

Explore Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve at the height of spring wildflower season. During this naturalist-guided walk, you'll discover the diversity of native flora and learn about the ecology of the woods. We'll include tips for identifying wildflowers, too. This program is designed for adults in their twenties and thirties. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

Thursday, May 3; 7-8 p.m.  
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve  
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn  
FREE

**Learn from the Experts** — *These classes, offer in-depth information and learning opportunities about our local ecology. The program series is cosponsored by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, the St. Charles Park District and the Geneva Park District. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

## Back Country Cooking

Discover how to make cooking the best part of your camping trip! There are lots of easy and great-tasting meals for backpacking adventures. We'll cover types

of camping stoves, stove safety, menus, food preparation and campsite kitchen gadgets. Bring your appetite! There will be delicious food to sample. The instructor for this program is Terry Bomkamp, owner of Emmaus Adventures. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

Saturday, April 14; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Creek Bend Nature Center  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W700 Dean St., St. Charles  
Fee: \$15/person

## The Ecology and Evolution of the Horse

Horses have shaped lifestyles and landscapes. Instructors Lisa O'Brien and Cindi Martinovec will present an overview of the evolution of *Equus calabus*, the domestication of species, and the influence of the horse on ecology and culture. First part of class will be indoors, second part will be outdoors. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

Tuesday, April 24; 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Frontenac Farm  
35W199 Boncosky Rd., Sleepy Hollow  
Fee: \$10/person

## Ethnobotany

Learn about the connection between humans and plants in this interactive program. Plant identification, folklore, history and science blend together in this class. We'll begin with an indoor presentation and then head into the woods to learn about edible, medicinal and other uses of native plants. *Advance registration is required. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.*

Saturday, May 5; 2-3:30 p.m.  
Brewster Creek Forest Preserve  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$10/person

# Explore Nature by Kayak

Tour our local waterways by kayak during these paddling adventures



Tour our local waterways by kayak, during these paddling adventures!

The series begins with shorter and less-strenuous sessions for beginners. As the summer progresses, there will be increasingly longer paddles for intermediate skill levels. Each session includes instruction on basic kayaking techniques from a professional kayaking instructor. After the introductory training, we'll take to the water for a naturalist-led exploration of the fascinating plants and wildlife along the waterway.

Participants may choose any number of sessions. The first session is recommended for novices, but it's not a pre-requisite for later sessions. For all

sessions, participants must be 16 years or older and able to:

- Hold breath under water while wearing a properly fitted life jacket
- Independently turn from a face down to a face up position, keeping head above water
- Effectively communicate with the instructor and other participants
- Manage all mobility and personal care independently, or with the assistance of a companion

## Session 1: Kayaking Basics

Learn the basics of kayaking on a still-water lake with an American Canoe

Association (ACA) certified instructor. For the first 90 minutes, students will learn how to dress for safe paddling, identify potential water hazards, perform a simple rescue, and efficiently enter and exit a kayak. Proper paddling strokes and maneuvers will be presented and practiced prior to the 30-minute naturalist-led voyage around the lake. The class ratio will be one instructor to every seven students. Advance registration is required at least two weeks prior to the program, with payment required at the time of registration. Call 630-444-3190 or email [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register. Rain will not stop a paddle, but trips may be cancelled (with full refund) due to lightning, low air/water temps, or unsafe water levels. Trip minimum = six.

Sunday, May 20; 10 a.m. - Noon  
 Oakhurst Forest Preserve  
 1680 5th Ave., Aurora  
 Fee: Single Kayak \$59 per person; includes use of kayak, personal flotation device and paddle

Later sessions will include a half-hour of instruction, followed by 2 ½ - 4 ½ hours of scenic paddling along different stretches of the Fox River. Below are dates and locations. Watch for additional details in summer's *The TreeLine!*

| Session | Date      | Time             | Put-in Location              | Paddle Distance | Skill Level             |
|---------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 2       | 6/9/2018  | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Voyageur Landing FP; Elgin   | 3-4 miles       | Beginner                |
| 3       | 7/14/2018 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Elgin Shores FP; Elgin       | 5-6 miles       | Beginner                |
| 4       | 8/11/2018 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Jon J. Duerr FP; South Elgin | 6-7 miles       | Beginner - Intermediate |
| 5       | 9/9/18    | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Fabyan FP; Geneva            | 7 miles         | Intermediate            |
| 6       | 10/6/18   | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Glenwood Park FP; Batavia    | 7 miles         | Intermediate            |



Photos by Volunteer Coordinator Robb Gene



Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
 1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320  
 Geneva, IL 60134

PRSR STD  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT NO 693  
 SAINT CHARLES IL

**Don't miss a nature program!**

**Subscribe to The Tree Line**

If you would like to be on a permanent quarterly mailing list for this publication, visit <http://bit.ly/ForestPreserve>, Email us at [forestpreserve@kaneforest.com](mailto:forestpreserve@kaneforest.com) or call 630-232-5980

**NATURE PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.** To register for programs and/or schedule school or scout field trips: **call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com.** Telephone reservations are accepted weekdays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Payment**

Make checks payable to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Mail to:

Creek Bend Nature Center  
 LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
 37W700 Dean St.  
 St. Charles, IL 60175

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Fee assistance is available upon request.

**Cancellations**

Please call us if you need to cancel, so that we may contact others on our wait list.

**Special accommodations**

Please let us know at least two weeks in advance by calling the program manager at 630-444-3191. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service or activity of the District, should contact the ADA Coordinator at Voice: 630-444-3950 or 630-232-5980, TTY Relay: 800-526-0844,

e-mail at [ada@kaneforest.com](mailto:ada@kaneforest.com) or mail at 1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320, Geneva, IL 60134, as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

**Program Waiver Release**

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) is committed to conducting its programs and activities in a safe manner and holds the safety of participants in high regard. The FPDKC continually strives to reduce risks and insists that all participants follow safety rules and instructions that are designed to protect the participant's safety. All registrants will be asked to sign a waiver and release.

**Photo Release**

By registering for a program, you consent to and authorize the use of any photographs and other audiovisual materials for promotional purposes, including printed material, educational activities, exhibitions, or for any other use for the benefit of the District.

**Nature Center Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Saturday & Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.

**Social Media**

[www.facebook.com/forestpreserve](http://www.facebook.com/forestpreserve)  
[www.twitter.com/forestpreserve](http://www.twitter.com/forestpreserve)  
[www.instagram.com/forestpreserve](http://www.instagram.com/forestpreserve)



The Forest Preserve District of Kane County is committed to recycling and green printing methods. This brochure is printed on recycled stock with soy-based ink. **When finished, please recycle this material.**