

Woods of Wisconsin

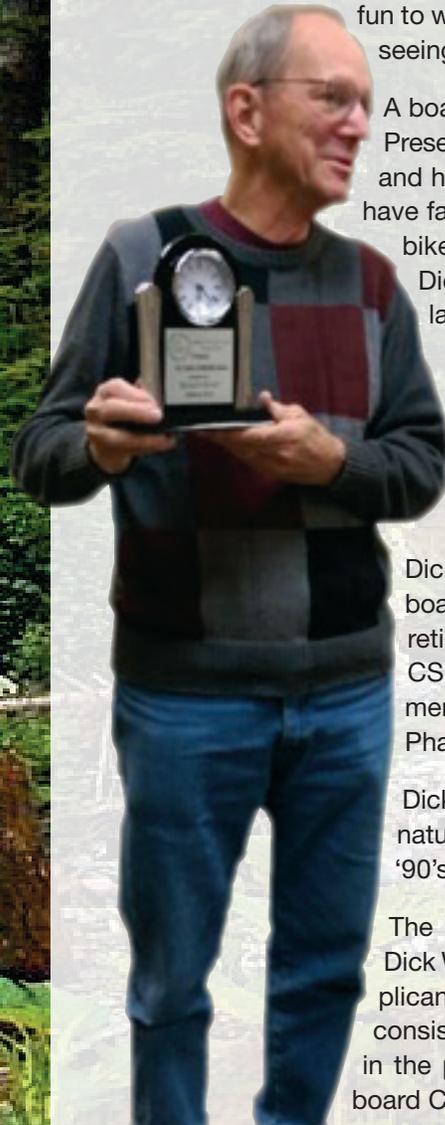
Newsletter
of the
Forest Preserve
District
of the Kankakee
River Valley

“All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively, the land... a land ethic changes the role of Homo Sapien from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it... it implies respect for his fellow members, and so also respect for the community as such.”

— Aldo Leopold, “Sand County Almanac”

Board Member Dick Weeks Honored

Dick Weeks has left the Forest Preserve Board, as he and his wife are planning to move to Wisconsin. Having a strong interest in all things natural, he has been a dedicated member of the board who became a Forest Preserve board member because he wanted to make a contribution. Board President Ken Allers says that he is a natural conservationist who knows his stuff. Board Secretary Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis observes that he is extremely knowledgeable, and has been an extremely valuable asset to the Forest Preserve District. The district administrator, Dale Huizenga states that Dick is fun to work with, good natured, knowledgeable and interested in seeing that things are done right.



A board member since 2008, Dick was honored by the Forest Preserve board at his last board meeting in January. Dick Weeks and his wife Mary will be moving to Madison Wisconsin. They have family in the region, and as avid bicyclists, Madison offers bike paths along most streets, and many miles of bike trails.

Dick is also an avid fisherman, and the area has abundant lakes and rivers.

He had met the Forest Preserve board president Ken Allers and board secretary Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis while working to prevent the Kankakee Valley Park District from trading the River Road Park to a subdivision developer in exchange for vacant farmland across River Road.

Dick was appointed to the board when long-time founding board member Chuck Smead retired from the board. Dick had retired in 2005 as director of the bioanalytical laboratory at CSL Behring where he had worked in research and development since 1969 when the company was known as Armour Pharmaceutical.

Dick is originally from Chicago, with a background in all things natural. Even before he was a board member, from the early '90's he regularly frequented the Gar Creek Trail.

The Kankakee County Board will appoint a replacement for Dick Week's position on the Forest Preserve District Board. Applicants must be residents of the forest district, which currently consists of Kankakee and Aroma Townships. Anyone interested in the position should contact their county board member, or board Chairman Mike Bossert.

Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

— John Muir

Urban Stewardship



Goldenrod

Landscape with These Great Native Plant Alternatives

What is an *invasive* plant, and why should we care? Invasive plants are aggressive and tend to overtake an ecosystem, crowding out native plant communities. Locally, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife and bush honeysuckle are some of the introduced plant species that overrun our natural areas. Often invasive species have been introduced from other areas of the world because they are very attractive, have fragrant blossoms, or will thrive in highly disturbed ground such as new housing developments. Some, like crown vetch, have been used to control erosion. Many of these exotic species are notorious for spreading outside of garden boundaries, causing havoc on natural areas. Honeysuckle shrubs smother woodland wildflowers; purple loosestrife and sweet clover spread and take over our natural areas. Introduced plants often have no natural enemy in our local ecosystem – neither insect nor disease – and the aggressive ones often will quickly produce abundant offspring, some spreading by more

than one method such as by seeds, root runners and/or re-sprouting shoots. Many invasive plants are unpalatable to deer and quickly take over where deer are abundant. In order to eradicate unruly invasives from your gardens, replace them with some new choices to your plant inventory. Leaving old garden standards behind is difficult but necessary if our natural parks, forests, and fields are to have a future



Yellow Coneflowers

That said, any of our favorite garden plants, both vegetables and flowers are not native to our region, yet are not invasive and will not overtake a local ecosystem. Conversely, not all native plants will do well in a home landscape, and certainly some native plants are both highly undesirable and aggressive – poison ivy is an example everyone is familiar with. For most home gardeners and landscapers, it is not practical – or necessary – to be a purist in the sense of having all native plantings in the yard. Many favorite non-native plants are not likely to rampage across the landscape crowding out the native plant communities. There is no reason to remove a favorite plant that isn't aggressive. As for those plants that are invasive, The Chicago Botanical Garden lists those aggressive plants that are a problem in the greater Chicago region, along with native species that can replace the undesirables with attractive and hardy native plants.



Prairie

When choosing a native plant alternative, think about the characteristics that you love about the invasive plant you are replacing. Using Japanese Wisteria as an example, its sweet fragrance and showy flowers might be the desired characteristics. So, replace the wisteria with fragrant summer bloomers like woodland phlox, or American wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens*. If you like the vine habit, add Trumpet Honeysuckle Vine, *Lonicera sempervirens*, a native summer-blooming native that

(continued on page 3)

is highly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. The new combination gives you everything you liked about the Japanese Wisteria without its devastating “weediness”.

If you’re ready to look for some great native plants, the following list of hardy alternatives should help. Though the list includes very resilient perennials and shrubs, they still must be cared for in their first year or two, and then they can tough it out with minimal care. Here is the key to the Chicago Botanic Garden Conservation Science Department Status:

R = Remove as soon as possible, including all cultivars, and/or do not add to collection in future;

P = Phase out (species that pose a lesser invasive risk, form significant structural features in landscape, and will be time-consuming to replace will be phased out over a five-to-ten-year period);

E = Evaluate species and cultivars, then remove invasive varieties;

W= Watch list (varieties not posing a serious invasive risk in the Chicago area currently, but may do so in the future.



Coneflowers



Rough Blazing Star

For more resources and information on invasive plants in your region, please check out the following web sites:

- Chicago Botanical Gardens: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>
- University of Illinois Extension: <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/wildflowers/nativeplants.cfm>
- U.S. National Arboretum, Invasive Plants Article: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: <http://www.wildflower.org/>
- Ecosystem Gardening: <http://www.ecosystemgardening.com>
- Illinois Natural History Survey: http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/animals_plants/prairie/plants/
- Illinois’ Best Plants: <http://www.bestplants.org>

To find sources for purchasing native plants, check out these growers:

- Possibility Place: <http://www.possibilityplace.com>
- Cardno JF New: <http://www.cardnojfnw.com>
- Midewin Alliance annual native plant sale: <https://sites.google.com/site/midewinalliance/>

Planting Trees

In the mating of trees,
the pollen grain entering invisible
the doomed room of the winds, survives
the ghost of the old forest
that was here when we came. The ground
invites it, and it will not be gone.
I become the familiar of that ghost
and its ally, carrying in a bucket twenty trees
smaller than weeds,
and I plant them along the way
of the departure of the ancient host.
I return to the ground its original music.
It will rise out of the horizon
of the grass, and over the heads
of the weeds, and it will rise over
the horizon of men’s heads. As I age
in the world it will rise and spread,
and be for this place horizon
and orison, the voice of its winds.
I have made myself a dream to dream
of its rising, that has gentled my nights.
Let me desire and wish well the life
these trees may live when I
no longer rise in the mornings
to be pleased by the green of them
shining, and their shadows on the ground,
and the sound of the wind in them.

– Wendell Berry

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Problem Species	Common names	Status	Alternatives
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed; Bishops weed; Snow in the Mountain; Ground elder	R	<i>Asarum</i> (wild ginger), <i>Epimedium</i> spp. (barrenwort), <i>Glandularia americana</i> (mock rose vervain), <i>Hosta</i> (hosta)
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding plumeless thistle	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant)
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted knapweed	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant)
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle		
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh plume thistle	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant)
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle		
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	R	<i>Achillea</i> spp. (yarrow), <i>Aruncus</i> spp. (goatsbeard), <i>Actaea merican</i> (black cohosh), <i>Filipendula</i> spp. (meadowsweet)
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown vetch	R	<i>Asarum</i> spp. (ginger), <i>Epimedium</i> spp. (barrenwort), <i>Glandularia mericana</i> (mock rose vervain), <i>Hosta</i> (hosta), <i>Viola</i> (violet)
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's lace	R	<i>Aruncus</i> spp. (goatsbeard), <i>Achillea</i> spp. (yarrow)
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cutleaf teasel		
<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Teasel	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. (black-eyed Susan)
<i>Echinops sphaerocephalus</i>	Globe thistle	R species E cultivars	<i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (beebalm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp. (meadowrue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy fireweed	R	(see <i>E. sphaerocephalus</i>)
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	R	<i>Origanum laevigatum</i> (ornamental oregano), selected <i>Sedum</i> spp. (stonecrop)
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	R	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold)
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy	R	<i>Ajuga</i> spp. (bugleweed), <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i> (leadwort), <i>Plumbago auriculata</i> (cape leadwort)
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> (locally invasive)	Tawny daylily	R	<i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids (daylily), <i>Lilium</i> spp. & cvs. (lily), <i>Papaver orientale</i> (Oriental poppy)
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	R	<i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (beebalm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp. (meadowrue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. Johnswort	R	Other <i>Hypericum</i> spp. (St. Johnswort)
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	R species E cultivars	<i>Iris fulva</i> 'Lois Yellow' (copper iris), <i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevii</i> (interior blue flag iris)
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese bush clover	R	<i>Baptisia</i> spp. (wild indigo)
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Butter-and-eggs	R	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i> cvs. (snapdragons), <i>Calibrachoa</i> cvs. (million bells), <i>Digitalis</i> spp. (foxglove), <i>Nemesia fruticans</i> cvs. (nemesia)
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort	R	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> (green and gold), <i>Origanum laevigatum</i> (ornamental oregano)
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	R	<i>Asclepias mericana</i> (swamp milkweed), <i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Vivid' (obedient plant)

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Problem Species	Common names	Status	Alternatives
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweet-clover	R	<i>Baptisia</i> spp. (wild indigo)
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet- clover	R	<i>Baptisia</i> spp. (wild indigo)
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Beefsteak plant	R	<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i> (red leaf hibiscus), <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> cvs. (basil), <i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i> (coleus)
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	Giant knotweed	R	(see <i>P. cuspidatum</i>)
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Purslane	R species E cultivars	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold), selected <i>Sedum</i> spp. & cvs. (stonecrop)
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Silver cinquefoil	R	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> (green and gold)
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping yellow-cress	R	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold), selected <i>Sedum</i> ssp. & cvs. (stonecrop)
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Bouncing bet	R species E cultivars	<i>Liatriis</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (bee balm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp. (meadowrue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Field sow-thistle	R	<i>Coreopsis</i> spp. (coreopsis); <i>Helianthus</i> spp. (sunflower)
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common valerian	R	<i>Liatriis</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (beebalm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp.(meadowrue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Flannel mullein	R	<i>Digitalis</i> spp. (foxglove)
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria	R	woodland phlox, <i>Phlox divaricatus</i> American wisteria, <i>Wisteria frutescens</i>

GRASSES

Species	Common Name	Status	Alternatives
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quack grass	R	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> cvs. (switch grass), <i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i> (prairie dropseed)
<i>Miscanthus sacchariflorus</i>	Amur silver grass	R	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> cvs. (switch grass), <i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i> (prairie dropseed)
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese silver grass	R var.	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> cvs. (switch grass), <i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i> (prairie dropseed)
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	R	<i>Spartina mericana</i> 'Aureomarginata' (variegated prairie cordgrass)
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	R	<i>Erianthus ravennae</i> (Plume grass)

TREES

Problem Species	Common Name	Status	Alternatives
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple	P	<i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple), <i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	R species E cultivars	<i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Marmo' (Marmo maple), <i>Acer miyabei</i> (Miyabe maple), <i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple), <i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven	R	<i>Fraxinus</i> spp. (ash species)
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (except male cultivars)	Amur corktree	R	<i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple), <i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (male cvs.), <i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm	R	Dutch-resistant cvs. Of <i>Ulmus mericana</i> (American elm)

Make Your Yard *Bird Friendly*

Adding plants to your yard that provide nesting and food resources is one of the best ways to help birds thrive. To attract birds and enjoy their beauty and song, create a patch of habitat in your yard, or a native plant container garden on your patio.

Your native plant patch will save on mowing while providing food and shelter for birds and adding attractive color to your garden. Use no chemical herbicides or insecticides, which will harm birds and beneficial insects. Native plants support a balance of predator and prey, thriving without added watering or pesticides. In the U.S., 80 million pounds of pesticides are applied annually to lawns. Annually, 800 million gallons of gas is used by lawn mowers.

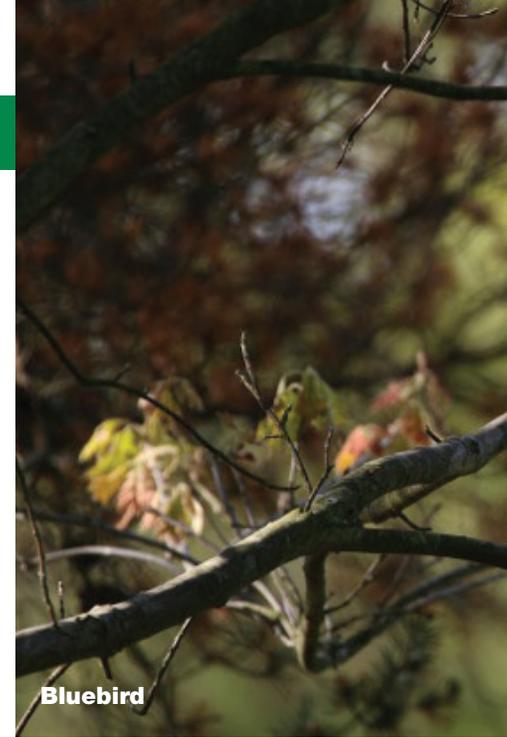
Many birds do not forage seeds, but instead will dine on insects or nectar. 96% of land birds depend on insects to feed their chicks. Choose local native plants that are rich in berries, nectar and seeds, or which attract insects that birds will feast on.



Robin



Indigo Bunting



Bluebird



Cardinal



Cedar Wax Wing

Choose native plants that are native to your area and adapted to growing conditions. Does your patch have shade or sun? What amount of rain will they need? What are the soil conditions? You can find plants that are adapted to dry conditions with well drained, sandy soils, or those that are best for heavier soils and thrive with just normal rainfall. Rain gardens are perfect for low wet areas, or those areas where the roof gutter downspout creates a mini wetland.

Focus on native plants that provide a variety and quantity of bird food:

- Trees such as oak, willow, birch, and maple
- Goldenrod and aster host many caterpillar species that are important protein sources, especially during nesting and feeding young.
- Sunflowers, asters and coneflowers provide nutrient-rich food for birds.
- Plants with red tubular flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds; columbine, jewelweed and bee balm are good choices and easy to grow.
- A seasonal variety of berry plants are important food sources for birds – dogwood and spicebush provide fruit in the fall for songbirds flying south; cedar and holly trees sustain our overwintering birds through winter.

A variety of kinds of plants give an attractive vertical structure to your garden and add protective cover for birds.

- Cluster the same species together
- Select plants for an attractive color palate and for blooming throughout the season
- Add features such to catch rainwater for drinking and bathing.



Hummingbird



Chickadee



Hybrid Vehicles, Carbon Footprint, and True Cost

Those of us who have to drive a car or truck, and yet are concerned for the carbon footprint we are producing, are faced with the question of how to lessen the impact of driving a vehicle. If you are like me, you may have felt guilty for being unable to afford a hybrid, fuel saving automobile.

But ... is a hybrid the only choice for those of us who strive to be environmentally responsible? A hybrid vehicle will typically run thousands of dollars more than the price for a five passenger subcompact; the savings in fuel costs do not make up for the high initial cost, even over a 10 year time span. The higher initial cost puts the price of a 5 passenger hybrid out of range for many. In addition, many fuel efficient subcompacts get 35 miles per gallon or more, whereas the hybrid will not realize the 45+ mpg unless you are doing mostly city driving. If you are doing primarily highway driving, the mpg is significantly less, and in fact many subcompacts will use less gas on highway driving than the hybrids.

As it turns out, it may be that we owners of oldies but goodies may be in the lead for saving carbon emissions after all. The carbon footprint for manufacturing a new car may be larger than the carbon emissions generated from running an average car for 10 years.

There are significant environmental costs in both the manufacture of a new automobile, and in disposing of the junk once it is no longer running. Research by Seiki in Japan, and Toyota found that from 12% to 28% of the carbon emissions of a typical automobile occur during its manufacture. According to the hosts of the NPR radio show "Car Talk", it is also far more cost effective to keep and maintain the car you have, assuming it is in reasonable condition. If you do sell the car while it is still in useable condition, you are not taking it off the road, merely passing it on to another driver. In this case, its carbon footprint will be the same whether you keep it or not.

Once your current auto is truly ready for the junkyard, you can select the most fuel efficient possible; consider a used car in good condition to reduce the carbon footprint from the manufacture of yet another new automobile

RESOURCES:

"Bringing Nature Home – How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants"
by Douglas W. Tallamy

Audubon Society – How to Make a Bird-Friendly Sanctuary:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-bird-friendly-sanctuary>

Illinois Native Plant Society
<http://www.ill-inps.org/>

Our Local Chapter - Kankakee Torrent Chapter:

<http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/kankakee-torrent-chapter>

RESOURCES:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=when-used-cars-are-more-ecofriendly>

Your Forest Preserve Staff is Reading

JEAN HURREL RECOMMENDS

The Light In High Places: A Naturalist Looks at Wyoming Wilderness – Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Cowboys, and Other Rare Species – by Joe Hutto

Bringing Nature Home: How you can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants – by Douglas W. Tallamy and Rick Darke

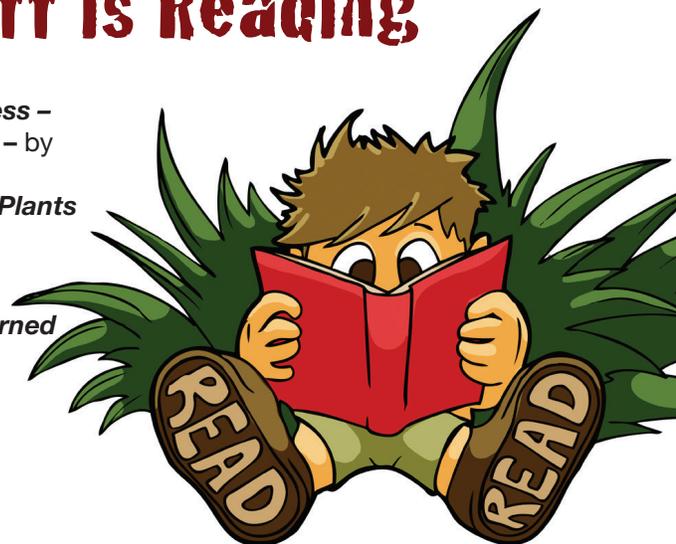
RICHARD WEEKS RECOMMENDS

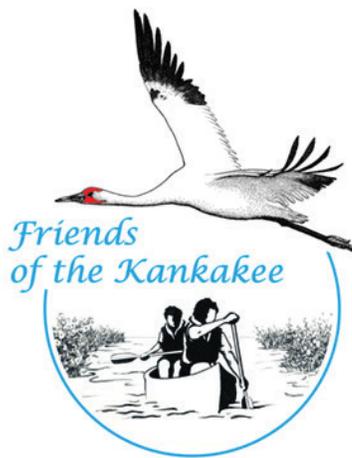
Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds – by Jim Sterba

Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life – by Edward O. Wilson

STEVE WORTH RECOMMENDS

American Canopy; Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation – by Eric Rutkow





Supporting A Refuge In The Historical Grand Marsh

The Friends of the Kankakee is a local not-for-profit organization that has been formed to promote the establishment of a Refuge as proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1997. Since 2003, the Friends of the Kankakee has focused on the acquisition of natural lands for a proposed Refuge to protect and preserve some of the ecosystem once known as the Grand Marsh, the "Everglades of the North". The proposed footprint in Illinois is to be near Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area and Iroquois County State Wildlife Area, and along the Kankakee River as it runs through Indiana. To date, the Friends of the Kankakee has purchased land which will be donated when the refuge is established. To find out more about this organization, go to the organization's website:

<http://friendsofthekankakee.org/>

2016 Programs At Your Forest Preserve

APRIL 23 AT 10 A.M.

Earth Day at

Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center

APRIL 30 AT 8 A.M.

Birding Tour Gar Creek Trail and Prairie Restoration
with John Baxter

MAY 7 AT 10 A.M.

Wildflower Walk Aroma Land and water Preserve

JUNE 25 AT 10 A.M.

Butterfly bonanza with Sally Wieclaw at
Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center

JULY 13 AT 6 P.M.

Summer Prairie Walk Aroma Land and Water Preserve

AUGUST 11 AT 6 P.M.

Waldron Arboretum Invasive specie

SEPTEMBER 24

Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center
National Public Lands Day event

OCTOBER 22:

Bat Walk Location and time to be determined

Look at the trees, look at the birds,
look at the clouds, look at the stars...
and if you have eyes you will be able to see
that the whole existence is joyful.

Everything is simply happy.

Trees are happy for no reason;
they are not going to become
prime ministers or presidents and they are
not going to become rich and they will
never have any bank balance.

Look at the flowers - for no reason.
It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are.

- Osho

Local Natural Areas to Visit This Summer

Kankakee Valley Park District:

<http://www.kvdpd.org>

Bourbonnais Township Park District

<http://www.btpd.org>

Chicago Wilderness:

<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/>

Nature Conservancy Sites:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/illinois/index.htm>

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, including Kankakee River State Park:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R2/region2.htm>

Morton Arboretum:

<http://www.mortonarb.org>

FOREST PRESERVE SITES

Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center and Administrative Office

This 46-acre preserve is located at 3301 Waldron Road in Aroma Park, along the Kankakee River. The Center provides space for programs about natural history, ecology and preservation of open space in the Kankakee River Valley. The walking trail area features plantings of many native trees and plants, including native tallgrass prairie species, a butterfly garden of native plants. The site includes ¾ mile asphalt and fine gravel walking trail, a picnic shelter, and picnic tables.

3301 Waldron Road
Aroma Park, IL 60910
41°04'47.61N
87°48'44.31"W

Aroma Land and Water Preserve

One of the best sites in the area for woodland wildflowers, this 140 acre site is located on Hieland Road, 1.4 miles south of Highway 17 East. A 1.2 mile walking trail winds through several different types of natural areas, including high quality forest, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. It also has nearly ¼ mile of Kankakee River frontage, and the associated floodplain forest.

The Forest Preserve mows a loop trail that branches off the existing 1 ¼ mile trail that meanders through the main body of the Aroma LWR. In the summer of 2011, 49.5 acres of mixed pine and hardwood forest was added.

Approximately 40 percent of the Aroma Preserve is a wetland and lies within the flood plain of the Kankakee River. In the spring, the wet oak forest gives a spectacular wildflower display while the wetland and sand prairie are the most colorful in the summer. There is ample parking in the parking lot on Hieland Road, and a playground, maintained by the Kankakee River Valley Park District, for children.

1578 South Hieland Road
St. Anne, IL 60964
41°06'02.90"N
87°45'24.08"W

Gar Creek Trail and Prairie Restoration

Approximately 85 acres, this site is located about one-half mile east of Route 45 on River Road adjacent to Kankakee Community College. The 16-acre restored tall grass prairie was planted in 1992. A 2.5 mile trail, suitable for hiking, bicycling, and cross country skiing, is a cooperative project with the Kankakee Valley Park District. The trail begins at the prairie, winds along Gar Creek, through oak woodland, and down to the banks of the Kankakee River.

At river's edge, the trail connects with the Kankakee Riverfront Trail Project, which will start at the Aqua Illinois property at Hawkins and Water Streets, go through Shapiro Developmental Center, Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve, Kankakee Community College, and connect with River Road Park and Splash Valley, of the Kankakee Valley Park District.

501 River Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
41°05'30.84"N
87°51'32.78"W

Waldron Arboretum

Located 1.1 miles south of I-57, this site was once a landscape nursery. On this 90 acre site there is a fine gravel hiking trail suitable for bicycling and cross country skiing. The trail winds through 30 acres of woods, including a small prairie restoration area.

In the winter of 2008, the District acquired an additional 60 acre parcel which had been primarily in agriculture. Future development plans are pending based on the districts needs and funds available through federal and state grants.

2755 Waldron Road
Aroma Park, IL 60910
41°05'36.28"N
87°49'26.51"W

Strasma Grove

Nestled in a neighborhood on in Kankakee, this site is 2 acres of mature native trees.

Duane Boulevard
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
41°06'28.33"N
87°50'43.56"W

Limestone Reforestation Site

This site is a 30 acre preserve and reforestation site, with mixed trees and grasses.

County Road 3750 West
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
41°08'38.96"N
87°56'51.08"W

Zeedyk Meadows

This is our newest Forest Preserve site, consisting of four acres of trees and grasses.

Warren Street
St. Anne, Illinois 60964
41° 06' 24.92" N
87° 44' 35.77" W

Snake Creek Preserve

5800 Darline Dr
St Anne, IL 60964
41.109752
87.756308



**Kankakee River Valley Forest
Preserve District**

3301 Waldron Road • P.O. Box 13
Aroma Park, Illinois 60910
815-935-5630

Web address: www.krvfpd.org
Email: forest@krvfpd.org

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ON TRAIL...

at the Forest Preserve

For information on times and dates for current programs at your forest preserve, call Jean Hurrle at 815-549-9072. Our programs include moonlight hikes, wildflower and native prairie walks, and local natural history. You can also find our programs advertised in the Outdoor section of The Daily Journal, or check out "programs" on our website: <http://www.krvfpd.org>

But when I consider that the nobler animals have been exterminated here - the cougar, panther, lynx, wolverine, wolf, bear, moose, deer, the beaver, the turkey, etc., etc. - I cannot but feel as if I live in a tamed, and as it were, emasculated country... I listen to a concert in which so many parts are wanting... for instance, thinking that I have here the entire poem, and then, to my chagrin, I hear that it is but an imperfect copy that I possess and have read, that my ancestors have torn out many of the first leaves and grandest passages.

- Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*, 1856

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