

Migratory Madness



Evening

Join local bird enthusiasts on a search for migratory birds stopping over at Glacial Park. Meet at the Powers-Walker House parking lot north of Harts Road. After the hike, we will head back to the house to share notes and refreshments. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Thursday, September 8, 5:30–8:00 p.m.

Glacial Park, Powers-Walker House

Code: 111500-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Morning

Join local bird enthusiasts on a search for migratory birds stopping over at Glacial Park. Meet at the kettle parking lot. After the hike, we will head to the Lost Valley Visitor Center to share notes and refreshments. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Saturday, September 17, 8:00–10:30 a.m.

Glacial Park, Kettle Lot

Code: 111502-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Strolling for Seniors

Wishing to get out and enjoy nature but looking for others with about the same speed and interests? Join us for a stroll where we'll discover the beauty and significance of this site and season. Dress for the weather and hike, and bring a sack lunch for after the hike if you wish.

**Tuesday, September 6,
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

Coral Woods

Code: 111350-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Century Hikers

Calling all hikers! Join us for a hike at Hickory Grove, and a chance to see how our season is beginning to change. Dress for the weather and bring your water bottle.

Monday, September 12, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Hickory Grove Riverfront

Code: 111352-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Late Bloomers, The Flowers of Fall

Unlike the woodlands, our local prairies put on one of their finest floral shows in early fall. We will enjoy the colors, fragrance and folklore of fall prairie flowers as we hike the trails at Lake in the Hills Fen. Meet at Barbara Key Park on Pyott Road to begin our hike through the fen. This program will include a mile long hike over rugged terrain.

Saturday, September 17, 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Lake in the Hills Fen, Barbara Key Park

Code: 111151-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Nature+Fitness=Good Health

If you've been wanting to find a different way to get your exercise and wishing you could spend more time outside, then this program is designed for you! A certified personal trainer from Centegra's Healthbridge Fitness Center will help you get more out of your nature walks health-wise, while our staff offers you insight into nature's seasonal occurrences. Dress for the weather and be ready to hike and learn more about this excellent combination for your "good health".

Saturday, September 24, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Pleasant Valley, Shelter #2,

Code: 111354-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Local Libations & Temptations

Age 21+

Join us in a celebration of our local Northeastern Illinois foodshed! Find out more about the concept of foodsheds, explore your personal connection with food production, learn about ways to support local producers, and enjoy the benefits of eating and drinking locally produced foods and beverages. This program will begin with a tasting of regional wines with pairings of appetizers and cheeses featuring locally harvested ingredients. Flatlander Market of Marengo will provide information on where you can find all of the delicious seasonal offerings made especially just for this event. Following the tasting portion of the event will be a presentation on foodsheds, advantages of local foods, and opportunities to find seasonal local harvests. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the seating. Dress for the weather, as this event will be entirely outdoors. *Participants must be 21 years of age or older. Registration must be received by 9/9/2011. No refunds for withdrawal after that date.*

Friday, September 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Marengo Ridge, Shelter #1

Code: 111109-01, \$45 R/ \$50 NR



LOOKING FOR MORE

HIKING OPPORTUNITIES?

Check out *Fall Hiking Spree*, page 14 and

Destinations, page 15 or locate a conservation site

near you at www.MCCDistrict.org.

Sunset from the Kames

One of the highest points in McHenry County offers a wondrous view of the sunset over Nippersink Creek and a place to relax after a guided hike through the beauty of Glacial Park. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Friday, September 30, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Glacial Park, Kettle Lot

Code: 111104-01, \$0 R/ \$2 NR

Sustainability 101:

Stormwater Management

During this presentation we will discuss the methods used at the Lost Valley Visitor Center to manage stormwater run-off as well as offer ideas for dealing with the issue at your home too. This will include a short hike around the building so please dress accordingly.

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 111252-01, \$0 R/ \$6 NR



Thinking Renewables?

Think Efficiency and Conservation First

Interested in renewables? Here's the good news. Solar electric systems are falling in price and increasing in efficiency. Inverters have improved dramatically. However, before investing in solar, you first need to work on efficiency and conservation. We are pleased to have Bob Vogl, President of Illinois Renewable Energy Association, and Dave Kozlowski of Little Green Houses, to provide us with up-to-date information on how to best take care of greening the energy in your home.

Monday, November 14, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 111357-01, \$0 R/ \$6 NR

Life of the Metis

Come meet living history interpreters as they discuss the life of the Metis in the mid to late 18th century. Who were they? What did they wear? How did they make a living? The answers to these questions and more await you. *There is a separate but simultaneous program for youth ages 5–11 on the same subject. See page 24 for details.*

Friday, November 18, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 111257-01, \$0 R/ \$6 NR

Fall Color on the Nippersink

This canoe trip on Nippersink Creek is for those already skilled in basic river canoeing techniques. We will paddle 7 miles of Nippersink Creek, from Pioneer Rd. Canoe Landing to Nippersink Canoe Base, to enjoy the beautiful colors of changing leaves along its banks. We will stop for a picnic, so pack a sack lunch. Also bring plenty of water, sunscreen, bug spray, and wear shoes suitable for wading.

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Glacial Park, Pioneer Rd. Canoe Landing
Code: 111304-01, \$8 R/ \$10 NR

Natural Crafts—Gourds

Learn to create some simple birdhouses, bird feeders, musical instruments, and other unique items using gourds. Native Americans and pioneers used this very old craft to attract birds to their homes and villages. You will bring home at least one finished piece from this hands-on workshop.

Tuesday, October 25, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center
Code: 111154-01, \$5 R/ \$6.25 NR



Make Your Own Snowshoes

During this three-session program, you will learn to make a fully-laced, workable pair of Ojibwe-style snowshoes. Participants will need to do some homework between sessions and will need to varnish on their own after completing the snowshoes. Determine your snowshoe size (based on your weight plus all gear): S(<140 lbs); M(<220 lbs); L(>220 lbs) and include this information with your registration. Program fee covers the frame, lacing, bindings, and 6 hours of instruction. *Registration is due no later than Friday, October 14, so supplies can be ordered. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after 10/14/11.*

Wednesdays: Nov. 2, Nov. 16, Nov. 30, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 111255-01, \$140 R/ \$175 NR

Geographic Information System (GIS) Day

Come celebrate National Geographic Information system (GIS) day, by learning how GIS technology is used by conservation organizations like McHenry County Conservation District. Our own GIS specialist will join us to share her expertise. This fun and informative class will offer an introduction to the free software ArcGIS Explorer and highlight the use of GIS in natural resource management.

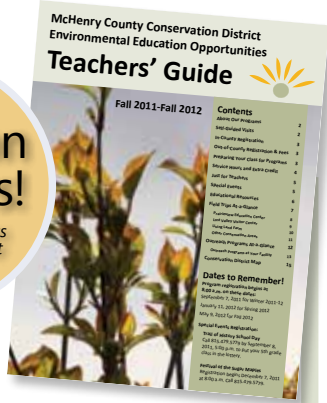
Wednesday, November 16, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center
Code: 111358-01, \$0 R/ \$6 NR



Attention Teachers!

Mark your calendars for these important dates...



Field Trips and Outreach Programs

Winter Registration opens Wednesday, September 7 at 8:00 a.m.

Trail of History School Day Lottery Deadline for 5th grade classes is September 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Program listings and registration procedures are in the 2011-2012 Environmental Education Opportunities Teachers' Guide. Download at MCCDistrict.org under About Us/Publications.

For more information call Prairieview Education Center at (815) 479-5779.



A Weekend of Restoration at Glacial Park — A Getaway that Makes a Difference

Get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life and spend a weekend in northeastern Illinois at McHenry County Conservation District's Glacial Park, one of the Chicago region's premier natural areas, with 3,300 acres of oak savannas, prairies, wetlands, and streams.

During this *Weekend of Restoration* you will learn about the plants and animals that inhabit Illinois wetlands, wetland ecology and hydrology, and how natural areas managers are trying to save and restore our wetland heritage. *But, you won't stop with just learning!* You will actually become part of the restoration effort as you help protect the site from erosion, plant wetland plants, and spread seed of wetland plants.

Be part of a unique and exciting experience of both learning and *doing*—a vacation that makes a difference!

When: September 23–25
Friday, 7 p.m. – Sunday, Noon
Glacial Park, Ringwood
Cost: \$60.

For more information and to register, contact Tom Simpson at tsimpson@mccd.org; (815) 678-4532 Ext. 8218.
Register by September 13, 2011.

Includes: Friday snack; Saturday continental breakfast/lunch/dinner; and Sunday continental breakfast. There are several economical motel options within 15 minutes of the park for those who need accommodations (information provided upon registration).

In partnership with: The New Academy for Nature and Culture

4th Annual BIONEERS at McHenry County College, Conference and Free Green Living Expo

Journey Into a Greener Tomorrow

Saturday, November 5
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Bill Wilson, Co-founder of Midwest Permaculture "Sustainable Land Design"

The Bioneers Conference program will also include great panels on saving water, local food, energy use, environmental ethics, and educating about climate change. *Also, featuring DVDs of 2011 National Bioneers Conference "hot topic" sessions!*

Breakout Session Topics:

- * Green It: Maximize Effort and Minimize Work
- * Earth Ethics Because Tomorrow Matters
- * Water Resources Perceptions and Realities
- * Innovative Institutions: Ramping Up Local Food
- * Alternative Energy The Discussion Continues
- * Educating about Climate Change

REGISTRATION

Adults: \$30 (\$35 day of event)
Students: \$20

Download registration form at www.mcbioneers.com or for more information, email conferencecenter@mchenry.edu or call Kristine Emrich (815) 479-7570 or Pat Dieckhoff (815) 479-7817.

[Note: Lunch is included and features local organic food prepared by MCC Culinary Management Program students in cooperation with Chef Zak Dolezal, Dukes Alehouse & Kitchen]

FREE to the public: The Green Living Expo, running concurrently from 10 am–3 pm, will feature over 60 businesses and organizations sharing their green products and services. Prize drawings for free green products and services! Located in MCC gymnasium.



McHenry County Conservation District and McHenry County College welcome you to the first-ever educational program of workshops designed around the practice and philosophy of ecological restoration. Whether you are a member of the general public or you are already working or volunteering in ecological restoration, you will find a workshop for you!

Choose one or two that interest you or complete the whole program. Certification requires attending 15, one-day workshops. The ten core workshops are denoted by an asterisk. In addition, a participant must take one plant identification workshop, two wildlife ecology workshops, and two electives (which may include additional plant identification or wildlife ecology workshops).

For more information, contact Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist, (815) 678-4532, tsimpson@mccd.org. Register through McHenry County College, online at www.mchenry.edu/coneduction or call (815) 455-8588.

Programs are held Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Cost: \$50. Much of the day is spent outdoors, come prepared for the weather. Bring a lunch and something to drink.



Invasive Garlic Mustard

Weeds and What We Do About Them: Invasive Plant Management* October 1

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: John Peters, Restoration Ecologist

Like landscapes all over the Midwest, Glacial Park is threatened by the invasion of exotic and invasive species we inherited when European-American settlement began in the early 19th century. These populations endanger native plants and animals. We will focus on the latest techniques the District uses to manage invasive plants. Participants will learn how to use and maintain a chainsaw; how to safely and efficiently clear invasive trees; when, where and how to apply herbicides for best effect; plus the applicability of seppi mowers, rotary mowers, and other large-scale equipment.

Changes in Native Landscapes* Focus on Wetlands October 8

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist

Nature is always changing—we are accustomed to hearing this old saying and believing it. Yet the ways in which nature changed two-hundred years ago are radically different than the way it is changing today. One hundred years of farming produced huge changes in the natural landscape—streams were straightened, wetlands drained, and prairies plowed, but a more insidious and equally important kind of change is happening all around us today. How should we respond as the custodians of these natural landscapes?

Getting to Know Your Land: Soil and Hydrology November 12

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist

Planning for conservation and ecological restoration requires understanding the natural resources on which plants and

animals depend. This workshop will allow you to learn about the soil and water resources of your own land. By the end of the day, each participant will prepare a summary of the soil and hydrology of their property with the help of expert instructors. For us to have the materials for your land ready by the time of the workshop, you will need to contact us by email by November 4 and provide a description and address of the tract of land on which you wish to work. Send the information to tsimpson@mccd.org. Part of the class will be outdoors, so dress for the weather.

Woody Plants II: Tree and Shrub Identification in Winter December 10

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist

Most of the trees, shrubs, and woody vines growing in Northeastern Illinois can be identified as easily in winter as in summer, it just requires refocusing our eyes on different features. Identifying woody plants in the leaf-off condition is important because brush removal and other ecological restoration efforts continue through the winter months. We will learn to use simple keys for twig identification, and spend much of the day outdoor studying growth forms and bark characteristics—all key to the winter ID of trees and shrubs. Come prepared for the cold winter weather!

Native Landscapes Prior to European Contact: Focus on Prairies and Savannas* September 10

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist

What was McHenry County like prior to the settlement of European peoples in the early 19th century? Did an uninterrupted prairie really stretch from Kane County to the Wisconsin border? What happened to the mastodons, giant beaver, and American lions that lived here for thousands of years after the glaciers left? Why were there so many fires 500 years ago and so few now? How could prairies and oak savannas have been as common as ecologists think they were, yet so few survive today? The evidence to answer these questions resides in the landscape of Glacial Park.

Restoring Vegetation* September 17

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

Instructor: Laurie Boldt, Plant Ecologist

Ecological restoration often begins with landscapes that have lost much of their native flora and fauna, and for this reason reintroduction of natives is a necessary part of the restoration process. This workshop will include the selection of plant species appropriate for each ecosystem type, the relative benefits of seeding versus planting, site preparation methods, and seed collection and processing techniques.



WANT MORE HANDS ON?

See page 28 and immerse yourself in a full weekend of restoration!