Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at The Big Sit, an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. The concept is simple: find a good spot for bird watching, sit in one spot for a designated time period, and count all the bird species you see or hear. The Big Sit falls in October when fall migration is in full swing. Gather your closest bird-watching friends for a bird-a-thon, a perfect excuse to share good stories, meet new friends, enjoy the outdoors and appreciate our fine feathered friends. Stop by for a few minutes, stay a few hours or join the whole 10-hour sit. Bring a lawn chair and your binoculars and layered clothing. For more information visit Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge—hackmatacknwr.org.

Kraig Kenning
Friday, September 4, 7–8:30 p.m.
Fee: R $12.00/NR $15.00  Code: 6772
Contemporary folk, acoustic blues, roots rock, or even American fingerstyle—Kraig Kenning merges a bit of them all while maintaining a close connection with his audience. He has toured for three decades, showcasing songs from his eight CDs containing almost exclusively original material. Kenning has inspired comparisons with Eric Clapton, Duane Allman, Bob Dylan and Jackson Brown.

Lucky Pickers
Sunday, October 4, 1–2:30 p.m.
Fee: R $12.00/NR $15.00  Code: 6773
Lucky Pickers is an acoustic duet from Northern Illinois composed of singer songwriters, Despina Pafralides and Caleb Peters. When not traveling with their bands, Miles Over Mountains and Fox Crossing Stringband, the two multi-instrumentalists team up for an upbeat mixture of Americana and bluegrass driven tunes. Both Caleb and Despina have performed across the country at numerous venues, festivals, and events.

Migration Madness

Migratory Madness  Ages 14+
Join volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller on a search for migratory birds stopping over at Glacial Park. After the hike we’ll gather to compare notes and tally up all the species we spotted. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Evening
Tuesday, September 8, 5:30–8 p.m.
Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free  Code: 6725

Morning
Saturday, September 19, 8–10:30 a.m.
Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free  Code: 6714

VIP Sandhill Crane Experience  Ages 14+
Saturday, October 10, 6–8:30 p.m.
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Overlook Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R $20.00/NR $25.00  Code: 6718  Register by 10/8.
Sunset in the valley below the Lost Valley Visitor Center is made even more spectacular this time of year when the sandhill cranes gather on their migratory route southward. Graceful and majestic with a haunting call, these birds are perfectly situated below the windows of the Lost Valley Overlook Room. We will start your special evening with a presentation on the natural history of cranes, followed by plenty of time to watch and listen to the birds. We will cap off our wonderful evening with boxed dinners from a local eatery.

Live Music on the 4ths!

Sept. 4 & Oct. 4 — Lost Valley Visitor Center Patio, Glacial Park
Enjoy an exclusive, intimate evening of musical entertainment while you appreciate the stunning view of the Nippersink valley, under the branches of majestic oaks, on the patio at Lost Valley Visitor Center. A beautiful outdoor setting when you can spread out and listen to the music. One at sunset and one in the warm sun of an October day. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverage. No glass please. Registration Required to ensure social distance spacing—maximum 50 people. Face Covering required to and from seating.

Hosted by Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge & McHenry County Audubon Society with support from Illinois Department of Natural Resources
## Non-Competitive Recreational Triathlon

**14 mile Bike – 5 mile Hike/Run – 7 mile Paddle**

**Sunday, September 27 • 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**
North Branch, Richmond

- **Single Kayak**
  - Fee: R $70.00/NR $85.00
  - Code: 6768

- **Tandem Canoe**
  - Fee: R $50.00/NR $63.00
  - Code: 6769

- **Tandem Kayak**
  - Fee: R $50.00/NR $63.00
  - Code: 6770

**Ages 14+**  **Registration Deadline: Sept. 20 (No refunds after 9/20)**

Grab a friend or two for this non-competitive biking, paddling, and off-trail hiking adventure. This recreational triathlon starts at North Branch Conservation Area with a light breakfast and highlights of the ecosystems you’ll be venturing through. Provide your own bike. All canoe or kayak equipment is provided. Course support, refreshments and snacks available along the route. Participants receive a Glacial Park Challenge t-shirt to remember this momentous day. An information packet with additional details will be available after registration.

Teams must be a minimum of two; each person must register.

**Note:** There are multiple listings of this program with different water craft options for the paddling section. Be sure you and your teammates are registering under the listing for the water craft you prefer.

See SPECIAL NOTE pg. 19 regarding Kayak & Canoe Programs.

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## Weekend of Restoration XVII: Fire, the Great Transformer

**Ages 16+**

**Saturday, October 3 • 8 a.m.–5 p.m.**
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

**Cost:** $15 per person; $10 Seniors (60+); $10 Students (16–22);
**Fee includes a box lunch. Maximum 20 participants.**

**Code:** 6778  **Register by 9/25.**

Fire, water, earth, and air are the four sacred elements of ancient philosophy. Fire both destroys and renews life and also plays an important role in the ecology of the Midwest—and our attitudes toward fire have changed greatly over time. Seventy-five years ago we tried to stop every landscape fire as soon as possible. Now we set prescribed fires to achieve our strategic management goals. This dramatic cultural shift in attitudes appeared in popular culture, land management, and science.

Learn about fire, assist with reforestation efforts, plant trees and build protective cages. You can help make a difference!

Take a volunteer mini-vacation to learn about, engage with, and take part in conserving our local treasures!

**Visit our Facebook page @MCDDWEOR.**

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## Movie Watch Party: “Green Fire” **Ages 14+**

**Saturday, November 7, 7–9 p.m.**
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

**Fee:** R $3.00/NR $5.00  **Code:** 6743

Movie night! Join us for a viewing of the feature film Green Fire. This is the first full-length documentary on the life and work of conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film examines Leopold’s idea of a land ethic and its relevance to a population facing 21st century ecological challenges. The film describes the formation and evolution of Leopold’s idea, exploring how it changed one man and later permeated all areas of conservation. The film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the natural world. Enjoy light snacks and beverages while watching the film, then stick around to participate in a short discussion.

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## Craft Brew Crawl **Ages 21+**

**Friday, October 9, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**
Lost Valley Visitor Center Lobby, Glacial Park, Ringwood

**Fee:** R $15.00/NR $20.00  **Code:** 6730

Join us for a beer-tasting hike through Glacial Park. We will make several stops to taste different micro-brews from local breweries. While you taste your beer we’ll share some educational snippets to keep your brain and taste buds invigorated. Each participant will receive “no-touch” pours. You must be 21 and present a valid ID to attend this program.

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## Sites Seldom Seen: School Springs **Ages 14+**

**Saturday, November 14, 1:30–3 p.m.**  **| Park at Harts Road Shelter, Glacial Park, Ringwood**

**Fee:** R Free/NR $2.00  **Code:** 6755

Every few years the District gets involved in a really special and somewhat unique restoration project and we want to share it with you up close! Come discover how a former 75-acre agriculture field was transformed into a flowing stream and diverse wetland habitat. Wear shoes that can get muddy. Hike is roughly 2 miles, off trail.

Located in the southeast corner of Glacial Park, the School Springs Wetland and Stream Habitat Restoration Project was completed in fall of 2019. Thousands of feet of drainage tile put in place between 1939-1967 were removed, allowing natural springs to reappear. As the ground re-saturated, sedge meadow, wet prairie, and marsh habitat were restored. Of all the natural ecosystems the District works on, streams are one of the most dynamic, vigorous, and lively. Learn how the stream was constructed to look and function as natural as possible; and how aspects of geology, soils, engineering, chemistry and biology were incorporated to create a fully viable, high-quality stream.

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Visit our Facebook page @MCDDWEOR.
BIG WOODS
A LIVING GIFT FOR TOMORROW’S WOODLANDS

Donate native trees and shrubs to commemorate a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or help restore the oak savannas and woodlands of McHenry County. Tree and shrub plantings will restore historically wooded sites and reconnect existing stands to create contiguous oak savannas and woodlands. The long term plan includes restoring and reconnecting hundreds of acres of oak savannas and woodlands on McHenry County Conservation District sites!

Your donation of $50 will purchase and plant 2 native shrubs and/or trees.

Donors are invited to the annual planting if they wish to come out and help plant.

Online: bit.ly/BigWoodsDonation

Check and mail to:
McHenry County Conservation Foundation, Lost Valley Visitor Center, 7210 Keystone Rd., Richmond, IL 60071

Please note: The location where trees and shrubs will be planted cannot be specified. Each year this will depend on areas of greatest need across the county.

Over one-third of McHenry County’s land mass or close to 143,000 acres was once covered by an oak ecosystem in 1837.

Today, less than 18,000 acres remain—an oak loss of over 87%.

We are grateful for your support of our treasured oak savannas and woodlands.

Stoked About Oaks Family Day!

Saturday, October 24, 1–3 p.m.
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Registration required.
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00 Code: 6760

Oaks are a big part of our region’s heritage, and we’re stoked about it!
Bring the whole family out to help us celebrate the month of OAKtober with games, stories, crafts, and fun activities centered around our local oak species and woodlands. Dress for the weather as some activities will be held outside.
**Outdoors DIY**

### Roving Naturalists  Adults and Families

Stop by and visit with one of our Naturalists at a different conservation area each week. Ask questions about what is blooming, animals that are out and about, and get recommendations for a great hike. *No registration required.*

**Saturdays:** 10:00 a.m.—Noon

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### Create Your Own Adventure  Adults & Families

**Saturday, September 26, 10–11:30 a.m.**

Pleasant Valley, Shelter #1, Woodstock

**Fee:** R Free/NR $2.00; plus $10.00 Exploration Kit*  **Code:** 6748

Explore the outdoors as you participate in nature activities with your family at your own pace. We’ll supply the instruction and materials, you supply a zest for exploration! Families that attend the program will have the opportunity to keep the nature activities to encourage nature exploration at home. Kits may include laminated scavenger hunt sheets, bug boxes, mini magnifier, clipboard, insect pop-up net, and more! *Purchase take home exploration kits at time of registration for $10.00 each.

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### Outdoor Explorer

Don’t miss out, complete at least 10 pages of activities by **September 30, 2020** and redeem a prize! Notify us at Education@MCCDistrict.org when you have completed the activities.

Purchase online only; $3.00 per book for residents and non-residents.

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**Lost Valley Nature Detectives:**

**Self-Guided Explorations at Glacial Park**

Summer is coming to an end and fall is on the way. Visit McHenry County Conservation District’s website, [www.mccdistrict.org](http://www.mccdistrict.org), to learn about a new topic each month this fall with various crafts and activities!

**September — Fun Flowers**  The end of summer nears and the last wildflowers of the season are in bloom. Learn how different seeds spread and grow through various experiments. Take a hike at a Conservation Site and go on a wildflower scavenger hunt!

**October — Fall Colors**  As fall sets in, leaves are fading from green to bright beautiful colors! Do a “Tree Parts Dance” to learn the parts of a tree and make leaf paintings. Go on a fall scavenger hunt at a Conservation Site and see if you can find everything.

**November — Winter is Coming!**  As the fall season ends, we know that means winter is on its way! Learn what different animals do to prepare for colder months. Conduct experiments to see how some animals adapt to colder temperatures! Finally, bundle up and head outside to embark on a scavenger hunt in your own backyard!

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**Join FOX CLUB**

Families Outside eXploring

Here is a free opportunity designed to help you and your family spend quality time outdoors while learning about nature. FOX Club, families receive an exploration backpack, Conservation District site and trail maps, fun seasonal activity ideas, and a bimonthly newsletter. The club typically offers six gatherings a year, hundreds of outdoor exploration ideas, and a chance to meet other outdoor-loving families. As we navigate through our new normal we will find creative ways to keep your family engaged and connected!

Join online with Code 5123.

For more information, contact the FOX Club coordinator at (815) 479-5779.

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**Did you see this symbol?** Conservation District programs that are designed as free exploration outings are marked with the Leave No Child Inside logo. For more information on Leave No Child Inside, visit [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org).
Let’s Go for a Hike!

Century Hikers Club  
Ages 14+
Looking to get outdoors and enjoy the natural areas of McHenry County Conservation District? The Century Hikers will motivate you to hit different milestones and receive a variety of rewards! Members can participate in exclusive programs. Hike with others by joining “The Trail Pack.”

Enroll online at MCCD.me/Registration, enter code 5122. Want to pay with cash or check? Email the club coordinator at education@MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 479-5779.

Get started at: MCCD.me/CYW
Find us on Facebook @CacheYourWayAcrossMcHenryCounty

Cache Your Way Across McHenry County
August 2–November 30
Complete your sheet and claim your 2020 GeoCoin. This year’s theme is SQUIRRELS. All caches will be live on geocaching.com.

Note: This is a separate program from the GeoSeries. There are a limited number of coins—first-come, first served; one coin per household.

Autumn Wildflowers on the Move  
Adults & Families, Ages 5+
Monday, September 21, 5:30–7 p.m.
Kishwaukee Headwaters, Woodstock
Fee: Free  Code: 6728
Come out and enjoy some of the last blooming wildflowers of the season. Hike the trail in search of these autumn wildflowers while learning about how different plants get their seeds to disperse. Is it a Dropper? Plopper? Or is it a Popper?

Full Moon Hike  
Adults & Families
Friday, October 2, 8–9:30 p.m.
Pleasant Valley, Shelter #2 Amphitheater, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR $2.00  Code: 6749
The Harvest Moon signals a shift into the fall season and it’s light has guided our ancestors for millennia. Take in the sights and sounds of nature at night as we discover what makes this time of year special. Leave your flashlights at home and let the moon light the way on this 1.5 mile hike.

Sensory Night Hike  
Adults and Families, Ages 6+
Saturday, October 17, 7–9 p.m.
Rush Creek, Shelter
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6747
Not everything goes to bed when the sun goes down! Experience the nighttime by using sight, touch, taste, sound, and smell. We’ll learn about nocturnal animals and how they use their senses at night.

Owl Walk  
Ages 14+
Sunday, October 11, 5–7 p.m.
Lost Valley Visitor Center Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6731
Search for sights and sounds of the owls that reside in Glacial Park. The evening includes a guided hike to listen for owls. Inside we will show a slide presentation and a visit from a live owl to introduce you to these magnificent creatures. Dress for the weather and for walking one mile over hilly terrain.

Hike and Learn: Hibernation  
Ages 14+
Sunday, October 18, 2–3:30 p.m.
Rush Creek, Harvard
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6751
Join a naturalist for a guided hike through the fall woods. Learn about the animals that stay in McHenry County over winter, and how they survive!

Nocturnal Discovery Walk  
Adults & Families, Ages 8+
Friday, November 13, 7–8:30 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: R Free/NR $2.00  Code: 6761
What happens outdoors during the evening hours? During this evening program, we will explore the darkness with a sensory hike and outside games. Dress for the weather and hiking, and bring a small flashlight.

Youth 13 & under must be accompanied by an adult. All participants need to pre-register. Register online at MCCDistrict.org.
Outdoor Recreation

Family Campout  Adults & Families
Saturday, September 12, 3 p.m.–10 a.m.
The Hollows, Large Group Campground, Cary
Fee: R $10.00/NR $13.00  Code: 6738 (half off third person)
Create lasting memories on a camping trip full of fun. Campers of all experience levels are welcome. The campground opens at 3:00 p.m. District staff will be on site to greet you and help you choose a good area to set up camp. Explore on your own with a hike or other self-guided activities. For dinner, each family will receive a prepackaged meal kit to cook a hot dog dinner and s’more dessert over the fire. A prepackaged breakfast is included as well. Sorry, no pets please!

A Sweet Ride  Adults & Families
Saturday, September 26, 2–4 p.m.
Harts Road Shelter, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: Free/NR $2.00  Code: 6766
Enjoy a 5 mile round trip bike ride along the scenic Prairie Trail with a sweet stop in downtown Ringwood. Participants will have a chance to purchase and enjoy coffee or ice cream from a local establishment. Bring your bike and helmet. Participants are responsible for their own purchases.

Fall Bike Ride & Progressive Dinner  Ages 14+
Saturday, October 3, 4–7 p.m.
Harts Road Shelter, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R $35.00/NR $40.00  Code: 6729
Join us as we patronize a variety of downtown Richmond’s businesses in a progressive style multi-course dinner. We will bike a total of 12 miles, stopping at a minimum of four establishments. Food is covered in the registration fee and beverages are on your own tab.

Family Fall Kayak Trip
Saturday, September 5, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Keystone Road Landing, Glacial Park, Richmond
Single: Ages 8+  Fee: R $15.00/NR $20.00  Code: 6726
Tandem: Ages 5+  Fee: R $15.00/NR $20.00  Code: 6727
Spend a day in the wilds of McHenry County as we paddle seven miles of Nippersink Creek completely within the undeveloped areas of Glacial Park. We will start you off with learning some basic paddling techniques, kayak safety, and river kayaking discussion. The trip includes a stop for a primitive picnic so bring a sack lunch and plenty of water to drink. Wear shoes that can get wet and fully secure to your feet. Don’t forget sunscreen! Children ages 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. See SPECIAL NOTE below.

Fall Kayak Trip  Ages 14+
Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Keystone Road Landing, Glacial Park, Richmond
Fee: R $15.00/NR $20.00  Code: 6724
Spend a day in the wilds of McHenry County as we paddle seven miles of Nippersink Creek completely within the undeveloped areas of Glacial Park. Meet at Keystone Landing to learn basic paddling techniques, kayak safety, and river kayaking. The trip includes a stop for a primitive picnic so bring a sack lunch and plenty of water to drink. Wear shoes that can get wet and fully secure to your feet. Don’t forget sunscreen! See SPECIAL NOTE below.

Health & Wellness

Grateful Yoga  Ages 14+
Thursday, September 10, 5:45–6:45 p.m.
Pleasant Valley, Shelter #2 Amphitheater, Woodstock
Fee: R $10.00/NR $12.00  Code: 6759
Enjoy a session of gentle hatha yoga and a guided gratitude meditation with 25-year yoga practicing veteran Cara Chang Mutert in the beautiful surroundings of Pleasant Valley. All experience levels welcome for this outdoor practice. Dress for movement and the weather. Bring your own yoga mat.

Morning Yoga & Nature Hike  Ages 14+
Sunday, September 13, 9–10:30 a.m.
Lake in the Hills Fen, Shelter, Lake in the Hills
Fee: R $10.00/NR $12.00  Code: 6745
Start off your ‘self-care Sunday’ with outdoor yoga followed by a relaxing hike through beautiful Lake in the Hills Fen. Dress for movement and the weather, and bring your own yoga mat.

SPECIAL NOTE: Kayak & Canoe Programs: There are no restroom facilities along the creek. Due to social distancing regulations, we will not be able to shuttle participants between the landings. You will either need two vehicles, or a ride from a family member.

Youth 13 & under must be accompanied by an adult. All participants need to pre-register. Register online at MCCDistrict.org.
Nature Exploration

STEEM Explorations in Nature
Adults & Families
Saturday, September 12, 1–4 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6756
Science, Technology, Engineering, ENVIRONMENT, and Math, oh my! Join us for some family-friendly adventures as we weave the natural world into STEM concepts. Visit stations with hands-on activities that pique your natural curiosity and foster critical thinking.

Critter Crawl
Adults & Families, Ages 5+
Saturday, September 19, 1–3 p.m.
Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: Free  Code: 6715
Bring your family out with us to search for insects and other critters under leaf litter, logs, and dirt. Examine these little creatures up close with magnifying glasses and bug boxes. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty!

Fallen Log Nature Hunt
Adults & Families, Ages 5+
Monday, October 12, 1:30–3 p.m.
Harrison Benwell, Wonder Lake
Fee: R Free/NR $2.00  Code: 6744
Is a dead log really alive? Many animals call a dead tree home. How many animal homes can we find? Together we’ll listen to a story then explore what’s on, under and around dead logs. You might be surprised what you will find!

Geocaching
Adults & Families, Ages 5+
Monday, October 12, 10–11:30 a.m.
Pleasant Valley Shelter #1, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6750
What are those imaginary longitude and latitude lines circling the earth, and why should you care? Learn how to use a GPS unit and explore Pleasant Valley through a nature-based geocache hike. We provide the GPS units and brief instructions, and send you on your way to practice your new skills as you discover different geocaches along a mile-long loop.

Fort Building Fun
Ages 6+ w/Adult
Saturday, November 7, 1–3 p.m.
Rush Creek, Shelter, Harvard
Fee: Free  Code: 6720
Take advantage of this special opportunity! Participants are invited off-trail to use their creativity and ingenuity to build forts using the natural materials around them.

Eeew, Gross!
Adults & Families, Ages 6+
Saturday, November 14, 10–11:30 a.m.
Prairieview Education Center, Classroom 107, Crystal Lake
Fee: R $3.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6742
Let’s explore the ‘yuckier’ (but really cool!) parts about nature. We’ll hike to look for different animal tracks and see if they left behind any scat. You’ll also get the chance to dissect your very own owl pellet to discover what they had for lunch!

Tracking Trails
Adults and Families
Sunday, November 15, 2–3:30 p.m.
Boger Bog, Bull Valley
Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6737
Learn how hunters, naturalists and animal enthusiasts discover where an animal has been and how to find them as you solve a natural mystery! You will learn how to identify different types of animal signs such as tracks, scat, markings and fur.

Preschool Programs

Discovery Days  Ages 2–6 w/Adult
Enjoy an hour of fun including a game, craft, snack and other educational activities all based around the special theme of the day. Dress for a short hike, weather permitting.

Camouflage
Explore how animals survive by blending in.
Monday, September 28
10–11 a.m.
Winding Creek, Shelter, Hebron
Fee: R $2.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6716

Turtles
Explore what makes these creatures so unique.
Wednesday, October 7
10–11 a.m.
Hickory Grove, Highlands Shelter #1, Cary
Fee: R $2.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6757

Fur
Explore how animals have different coats and colors
Tuesday, November 10
10–11 a.m.
Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: R $2.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6752

Who Lives in These Woods?
Ages 3+ w/Adult
Sunday, October 18, 1–2:30 p.m.
Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: R Free/NR $2.00  Code: 6746
Preschoolers enjoy listening to a fun and interactive counting book before exploring what lives in the woods nearby.
Art in Nature

**Photography and Prose** **Ages 14+**

*Thursday, November 19, 7–8 p.m.*

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood

Fee: R $3.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6722

Join local professional photographer Weg Thomas as he shares his stunning photos that capture the intimate beauty of nature in our conservation areas and poetically professes his love for these places. You will be moved to get out and find your own inspiration in nature with or without a camera! Light refreshments will be served.

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**Fall Color Hike & Candle Luminary Craft** **Adults & Families, Ages 7+**

*Saturday, October 10, 1–3 p.m.*

Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo

Fee: R $3.00/NR $5.00  Code: 6717

Come out to Coral Woods and experience fall colors as they start to emerge. Be prepared to hike about 1.5 miles as we collect colorful fall leaves to create a fall candle luminary that you can take home with you! *Note: Collecting of any materials on District sites is against District ordinance unless authorized by staff.*

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**Make Your Own Paper** **Adults & Families, Ages 5+**

*Sunday, November 15, 1:30–3 p.m.*

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Tallgrass Classroom, Glacial Park, Ringwood

Fee: R Free/NR $5.00  Code: 6732

Learning to make your own paper is easy, fun, and environmentally friendly. Discover how you can reduce, reuse, and recycle all in one afternoon. Take your samples home and amaze your family and friends!

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**Inspired by Nature: Cozy Fall Crafts** **Ages 14+**

**Beeswax Candles and Autumn Leaf Coasters**

*Saturday, November 7, 1–3 p.m.*

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood

Fee: R $10.00/NR $15.00  Code: 6762

Step into the cozy fall spirit with an afternoon of autumn-inspired crafts! Take a short hike through a prairie and woodland to find artistic inspiration in the changing season. Back indoors participants will learn how to make a rolled beeswax candle and autumn leaf coasters for your favorite warm beverages. Materials provided.

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**Natural Wreath Making** **Adults & Families, Ages 5+**

*Sunday, November 22, 3–4:30 p.m.*

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Fee: R Free/NR $5.00; $10.00 wreath kit*  Code: 6736

Impress your Thanksgiving guests with a handmade wreath created from natural materials found in our prairies and woodlands. Take a short guided hike to take in the colors and textures of the autumn prairie. Under staff supervision, participants will collect materials to incorporate into their wreath creation. Bring home some of the beauty of these natural areas through your hand-crafted product. Instruction and basic wreath making materials will be supplied. *Wreath making materials are $10.00 each. Purchase at least one with enrollment.

You can also purchase one for each participant as well! *Note: Collecting of any materials on District sites is against District ordinance unless authorized by staff.*

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**STAR PARTY** hosted by Northwest Suburban Astronomers

*Friday, October 9, 6:00–10:00 p.m.*

Marengo Ridge, Marengo (Rain/weather alternate Oct. 10)

Northwest Suburban Astronomer members will be on hand to point out highlights in the night sky as they aim their telescopes at globular and open star clusters in the Milky Way as well as at planetary nebulae and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Dress for evening, bring a flashlight covered with red plastic or cellophane (red light preserves everyone’s night vision), and insect repellent.

You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars. NSA members will be happy to provide guidance in their use.

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**Youth 13 & under must be accompanied by an adult. All participants need to pre-register. Register online at MCCDistrict.org.**
Camp Local! Sleep under starry skies nearby...
The Conservation District has five group campgrounds and one with individual camp sites available to reserve online.

**Family Campout**
*Adults and Families, Ages 5+*  
**September 12**  
The Hollows, Cary  
*See page 19.*

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**Education Program Registration Procedures**

Choose one of the following convenient ways to complete your registration.

If you are registering by mail or drop off, make sure you sign the participant waiver at the bottom of the registration form, download at [MCCD.me/RegistrationForm](MCCD.me/RegistrationForm). Copies of the form are acceptable as long as they are legible. Payment must accompany your registration. We accept checks payable to McHenry County Conservation District and cash. Payment by credit card is accepted via online registration only.

- **Online:** MCCDistrict.org
- **Fax (no fee programs only):** (815) 479-5766
- **Mail:**  
  Attn: Program Registration  
  Prairieview Education Center  
  2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake  
  Mon.–Fri.: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
  Sat.: 12:30–3:30 p.m., Sun.: Closed
- **Phone:** (815) 479-5779
- **Drop off locations/hours:**  
  Prairieview Education Center  
  2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake  
  Mon.–Fri.: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Registration Dates**
Registration is processed first come, first served. Beginning on the following dates:

- **Residents**  
  **Non-residents**  
  **Fall:**  
  August 10  
  August 20

**Confirmation**  
You will receive a confirmation by email and/or mail to verify your space in the program.

**Register Early**  
Classes are typically canceled if they do not meet their minimums one week ahead of time.

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**Let’s Go Camping!**
**SPECIAL for 2020–DUE TO COVID-19:**

**Group Campgrounds** are limited to 10 people or less and offered as exclusive use of the site for your individual family, at discounted prices until further notice.

- $25 R/$50 NR per night. Max 10 people.
- Note: Holiday surcharge $10 R/$20 NR per night (Labor Day Weekend)

**Individual Camping** (single and limited RV sites)
Thomas Woods is open. Site availability will be limited as camp sites will be well spaced apart to allow for extra measures for social and physical distancing.

- **Reserve online** at [MCCD.me/Reservations](MCCD.me/Reservations).

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**Tip**
Sign up for multiple people/programs at once to incur only one $2.00 transaction fee. (Fee programs only).

**Withdrawal/Cancellation**  
If you need to withdraw from a class, please contact Prairieview Education Center at (815) 479-5779 or email Education@MCCDistrict.org as soon as possible. This information is needed for a number of reasons and also allows registrants on the waiting lists to be contacted. Unless otherwise noted, advance notice of five business days (ten in the case of summer camps) is required to receive a refund. Cancellations may occur if there are an insufficient number of people signed up or if severe weather is forecast.