

For the Love of Birding

Watch Out for Waterfowl **DROP-IN**

Ages 14+

Saturday, April 11, 8–10:30 a.m.

Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free Code: [6446](#)

New and experienced birders enjoy a spring walk with volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller. We'll drive to various locations in search of migrating waterfowl and other birds, then return to the Powers-Walker House to compare notes. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Dress for the weather and the possibility of wet feet. We will occasionally be off-trail.

Woodland Wandering **DROP-IN**

Ages 14+

Thursday, April 16, 6–8:30 p.m.

Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free Code: [6460](#)

Volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller leads this spring evening 2-mile hike through the woods. Catch a glimpse of the birds that are passing through on their migration and search for those that stay as summer or year-round residents. Join the group for discussion at the Lost Valley Visitor Center following the hike. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Along the Bluebird Trail

All Ages

Sunday, May 3, 10–11:30 a.m.

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6453](#)

Spring is an exciting time when the area comes alive with a variety of birds looking for the perfect nesting place. After a brief presentation about bluebirds and some of the birds that compete for their nest boxes, take a leisurely walk through the hilly prairie trails in search of these beautiful birds. Bring binoculars if you have them. A limited number of binoculars will be available.

Wetland Birds **DROP-IN**

All Ages

Thursday, May 7, 6–8 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: Free Code: [6466](#)

Meet volunteer birding enthusiast Dave Miller for an early evening walk along the Nippersink Creek and its wetlands. Search for wetland birds on this 2-2.5 mile hike. Walking will be over uneven terrain and wet ground. Wear waterproof boots and bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. The program concludes at the Powers-Walker house to tally up our bird counts.

*No registration is required for designated "drop-in" programs but, **Check Before You Go**, cancellations may occur due to weather or staff emergencies. For the most up-to-date information look under Site Advisories on [MCCDistrict.org](#) or in the online registration system.*

Birding Blitz **DROP-IN**

All Ages

Saturday, May 16, 8–10:30 a.m.

Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free Code: [6468](#)

Are you ready for some serious birding? Join volunteer birding enthusiast Dave Miller as we explore the woodlands and grasslands in search of as many species as possible. Can we break our former record? Bring your binoculars and field guides if you have them, and have your eyes and ears ready for a careful, searching, but steady 2-3 mile hike. The program concludes at the Lost Valley Visitor Center to tally up our lists.

Birds of Marengo Ridge **DROP-IN**

Ages 14+

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Marengo Ridge, Shelter #1, Marengo
Fee: Free Code: [6450](#)

Join fellow bird enthusiast Dave Miller as we look for migratory and resident birds at the Marengo Ridge Conservation Area. We will be looking for colorful woodland birds and walking on hilly terrain up to 2 miles! Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Register Early — this one fills fast!

Kayak to a Heron Rookery

All Ages, 10+

Saturday, May 2, 8–10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Riverfront, Cary
Fee: R \$15.00/NR \$20.00, per person

Single Kayak Code: [6464](#)

Tandem Kayak Code: [6465](#)

Spend a spring morning kayaking on the Fox River learning about this riparian habitat and visiting a heron rookery. We provide all kayak equipment, but bring binoculars (or borrow ours) and drinking water. This kayak trip is not suitable for beginners. Every participant, including children, must be confident in their ability to paddle both up and down stream for two miles. Note: Indicate at registration a single or tandem kayak.



Top: Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) by Ken Wick.
Middle: Orchard Oriole [M] (*Icterus spurius*) by Tracy Mathesius.
Bottom: Common Yellowthroat [M] (*Geothlypis trichas*) by Marty Hackl.

Let's Take A Hike

Moonlit Hike

All Ages

Friday, March 6, 6:30–8 p.m.

Marengo Ridge, Shelter #2, Marengo
Fee: R \$2.00/NR \$5.00 Code: 6433

Enjoy the sights and sounds of a late winter night during a moonlit walk at Marengo Ridge. Learn what cues the plants and animals respond to as they prepare for the beginning of spring! Stick around after the hike for a sweet treat around a warm fire. We will hike just over a mile on potentially snowy trail conditions. Dress for the weather. Leave your flashlights at home and let the moon light the way.

Backpacking Basics

All Ages, 10+

Tuesday, April 7, 7–8:30 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: 6476

Thinking of tackling backpacking? This indoor presentation will include the steps to take in planning a trip and will help you decide what gear you will need. We will also demonstrate the best way to pack that gear for a successful adventure.

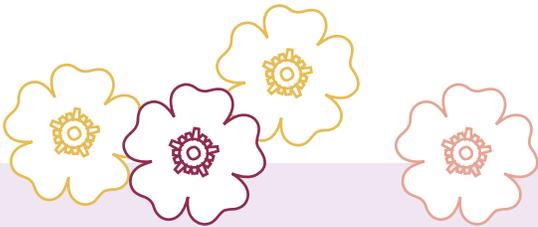
Spring Break Hike:

Discover Boone Creek All Ages, 8+

Saturday, April 11, 2–3 p.m.

Boone Creek, Shelter, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: 6452

Get out into the fresh air and get moving on this moderately paced, 2-mile hike over hilly terrain. Get a dose of vitamin N searching for hidden treasures like spring wildflowers, vernal pools and signs of animal activity, while also getting some healthy outdoor exercise. "Vitamin N" is a complete prescription for connecting with the power and joy of the natural world.



Spring Wildflower Walks DROP-IN

All Ages

Wednesday, April 22, 3–4:30 p.m.

Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: Free Code: 6448

Saturday, May 2, 2–3:30 p.m.

Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: Free Code: 6438

Friday, May 22, 6:30–8 p.m.

Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo
Fee: Free Code: 6471

The woodlands spring to life with colorful wildflowers in April and May, before the trees leaf out and shade the forest floor. Join us for a 1.5 mile hike through the woods to take in the beauty of the ever-changing palette of our favorite native flowers.

Geocaching

All Ages, 5+

Saturday, April 25, 1:30–3 p.m.

Pleasant Valley, Shelter #1, Woodstock
Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: 6436



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 then send you on your way to discover your geocaches along a mile-long loop.

Stroller Strut

Ages Infant–5 w/Adult

Thursday, May 14, 10–11 a.m.

Fox Bluff, Shelter, Algonquin
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: 6455

Explore and enjoy nature on this casual stroller walk. By using our senses and descriptive words, we become more familiar with the natural world around us. Dress for the weather and bring your own water, sunscreen, and/or insect repellent to ensure the comfort of your child.

Family Scavenger Hunt

All Ages



Saturday, May 30, 1:30–3 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake
Fee: Free Code: 6456

Bring your family out for a spring scavenger hunt adventure! Start at the center for an introduction and to receive your maps and scavenger hunt sheets. Bring your completed worksheet back to the center for a prize!

Wild Orchid Walk Ages 14+

Friday, May 22, 5:30–7 p.m.

Near Woodstock, IL
Fee: R Free/NR \$2.00 Code: 6431

This private nature preserve managed by McHenry County Conservation District has the largest concentration of white lady's slipper orchids in the county. It is accessible to a limited number of people only once a year by public tour. There are no trails through this nature preserve, so please be prepared to hike up to two miles through wet, uneven terrain. The program leader will contact all registrants and provide directions and additional information after registration is processed. Please note the program date is subject to change depending on when the flowers are in bloom.

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."

Enrollment is easy! 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.

