

### Padding the Nippersink Info Night

Ages 14+

**Wednesday, March 11, 7–8:30 p.m.**

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood  
Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: 6458

Have you wanted to canoe or kayak the beautiful and peaceful Nippersink Creek but you aren't quite sure how to plan your trip? Join us as we give you all the information you need to know before you go -- how to dress, how to plan your shuttle, how to read the USGS water level website, where to get equipment, and more!

### Cast Iron Cooking: Spring Favorites

Ages, 10+

**Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, Room 220, Crystal Lake  
Fee: R \$15.00/NR \$19.00 Code: 6461

Learn to cook some tasty Dutch oven spring recipes while also learning about cast iron use and care. Most importantly, we'll be preparing lunch with a main dish, dessert and bread that we can then eat. Taught by the one and only Dutch Oven Diva, Lesley Tennesen. Leave with knowledge as well as recipes!



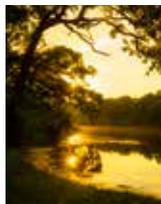
### Photography and Prose

Ages 14+

**Thursday, April 23, 7–8 p.m.**

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood  
Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: 6477

Join local professional photographer Weg Thomas as he shares slides of the beauty of nature in our conservation areas and poetically professes his love for these places. Light refreshments will be served.



### Brunch and Learn: Flooding

Ages 14+

**Saturday, May 2, 10–11:30 a.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake  
Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: 6437

Scientists predict rainfall amounts will continue to rise through the next decade. Join us for a light brunch and learn about the ecosystem services provided by Conservation District sites. Learn what to expect from future weather patterns and take home ideas of how to mitigate increased rainfall in your own yard.



Clockwise from top left: *October Drift, Selene, Sunset, Swept*. Photos by Weg Thomas

**Registration Tips:** *Register early*—Classes are typically canceled if they do not meet their minimums one week ahead of time. *Sign up for multiple people/programs at once* to incur only one \$2.00 transaction fee. (Fee programs only). *If your plans change*—contact Prairieview Education Center at (815) 479-5779. Unless otherwise noted, an advance notice of five business days is required to receive a refund.



Nine Worlds Ensemble

### An Evening of Chamber Music

Ages 14+

**Friday, April 3, 6:30–9 p.m.**

Lost Valley Visitor Center, Overlook Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood  
Fee: R \$25.00/NR \$32.00 Code: 6459

Join us for an intimate evening concert in a beautiful setting featuring Nine Worlds Ensemble. Nine Worlds Ensemble is a new approach to chamber music. With backgrounds in classical, jazz, pop, rock, and more, Nine Worlds bring a diverse approach to music performance. This approach to music results in the groove of pop music, the improvisation of jazz, the complexity of world music, and the sensitivity and emotionality of classical music. Nine Worlds released "The Seasons" double album in 2017. It is a 2-hour whirlwind of music inspired by the four seasons. Coffee, tea, and gourmet sweets will be provided. Space is limited so reserve your seat today!

## Outdoor Explorations

### Color Changing Bacteria

All Ages, 7+

**Thursday, March 19, 6:30–8 p.m.**

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

Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: [6440](#)

We may know some of the larger animals that call the Nippersink Creek home, but what about the microscopic ones? Come and learn all about the bacteria that live in the local bodies of freshwater and how they change color. After learning about the important role they play in our world, you will be able to make your own bacteria garden to take home and observe their amazing color changing abilities!

### Build a Bee Hotel

All Ages, 5+

**Sunday, March 29, 1–2:30 p.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6434](#)

Red, yellow, black, green and blue...native bees come in all these shades! Learn more about the bees that call McHenry County home by creating a home for native bees. Not all bees live in a colony and hives like the European Honey Bee, but they are all essential for pollinating our flowers! *Bee hotel kits are \$7.00 each. Purchase at least one with your enrollment. You can also purchase one for each participant as well!*

### Conservation Egg Hunt

Ages Infant–13 w/Adult

**Sunday, April 5, 2–3:30 p.m.**

Stickney Run, Shelter, McHenry

Fee: R \$5.00/NR \$7.00 Code: [6435](#)

A short hike leads kids to various bird habitats where they search for “eggs” of local birds. Everyone finds eggs and everyone gets a prize!

## Just for Kids

### Critter Crawl

Ages 5–13



**Sunday, April 19, 2–3 p.m.**

Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo

Fee: Free Code: [6447](#)

Leave No Child Inside! Drop your kids off with us to search for insects and other critters under leaf litter, logs, and dirt. We provide magnifying glasses and bug boxes. Kids should wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty!

### Nature Play Open House

Ages Infant–5 w/Adult

**Monday, April 6, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6445](#)

Parents and tots are invited to experience the fun and learning available within the Prairieview Education Center. Play with nature puzzles, games, puppets and more. A guided hike is planned at 11 a.m. and a craft table is open throughout the program. If you plan to join the hike dress for the weather.

### Discovery Days

Ages 2–6 with 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.

**Friday, March 6, 10–11 a.m.**

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

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6457](#)

**Thursday, April 30, 10–11 a.m.**

Winding Creek, Shelter, Hebron

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6449](#)

### Playtime in the Woods

Ages 4–13 w/Adult



**Sunday, May 3, 1:30–3 p.m.**

Brookdale, Main Parking Lot, Woodstock

Fee: Free Code: [6454](#)

Bring the family for an off trail woodland adventure where you can explore the hidden wonders of the forest. Staff will guide you to an area where you can search for animal tracks and scat, investigate the hidden life under logs, build a fort, and sit and listen to the sounds of nature. Field guides, magnifying glasses and other nature exploration tools will be available to enhance your outdoor exploration experience.

### Songs of Spring

All Ages

**Wednesday, April 29, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Rush Creek, Shelter, Harvard

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6462](#)

Would you like to hear the magic of nature’s music? This beginning program will introduce you to the sights and sounds of spring with games, activities, and a short hike. We’ll make our own animal “instrument” so we can join in on the chorus!

### Fabulous Frogs

All Ages

**Friday, May 15, 7:30–8:30 p.m.**

Exner Marsh, Lakewood Shelter, Woodstock

Fee: R Free/NR \$5.00 Code: [6451](#)

We will start at the shelter with a short presentation about some of the native frogs and toads we will hear and hopefully see. Then we are off to explore the marsh as the amphibian chorus starts to sing! Wear appropriate footwear to walk through wet areas. Meet at the Lakewood Road entrance to Exner Marsh.

### Playtime at the Pond

Ages 4–13 w/Adult



**Sunday, May 17, 2–3:30 p.m.**

Fel-Pro RRR, West Shelter, Cary

Fee: Free Code: [6439](#)

Bring the family for an adventure at the pond where you can explore the hidden wonders living in the water. Staff will guide you to the pond and provide instruction on how to safely catch and release critters using a variety of nets and techniques. Field guides, magnifying glasses and other nature exploration tools will be available to enhance your outdoor exploration experience.



**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).

### Creek Peek

Ages 5–13



**Saturday, May 16, 1:30–2:30 p.m.**

Keystone Road Landing at Nippersink Canoe Trail, Glacial Park, Richmond

Fee: Free Code: [6469](#)

Leave No Child Inside! Drop your kids off with us to explore the amazing underwater world of the Nippersink Creek! They will search for little critters and learn why they are so important to the creek. Kids should wear shoes they can wade in and be prepared to get wet.

