

"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"

# Woods of Wisconsin

## Thrushes

### THE SPOT-BREADED KIND

— by John Baxter

We have 5 species that come through here migrating north/south. Only the Hermit thrush goes to the southern states for the winter, the others travel to central and south America. Wood thrush, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Veery come by this way. Some stay and nest like the Wood t. and Veery. Not common though, and very declining over its ranges. The Cornell study on shrinking bird #s is disturbing. 40% or more depending on which habitats birds live and breed in. Thrushes like woods and deep woods, sometimes moist ones, but do not do well where cowbirds parasitize their nests. Getting back to the migrating part of my story, they come to my back yard. Yes, to rest, eat, get a bath, feel safe. A recent story in a popular birding magazine said Gray catbirds don't take food from people, which thrushes have similar tastes, not so. I emailed the editor to say this and offered pics to show that they do in fact eat food offered, not just fruit like berries, but PB suet. During the spring migration no berries are ripe or available on bushes or trees, but when thrushes see what local birds are having its a connection that they quickly make. Smart they are, and adapt to make out and survive.

I've watched the Wood thrush as it hopped around my "stick pile" to get small insects but also crumbs of suet offered. No, its not natural but it will do, and hunger is a determining factor. These thrushes are some of our finest songsters. Why not give them a meal or rest?

### Spring Wildflowers at the Hieland Land and Water Reserve



Winter is often at its coldest and snowiest after the holidays, yet hints of springtime whisper as the days grow a bit longer. Woodland walks will discover woodland wildflowers in the very early spring.

Many of these ephemeral plants will go through their entire cycle of bloom to seed before the tree canopy fully leafs out. In this way, they will gather early season sunshine, even though they live in what will be the deepest shade come summer.

March and April is the time to be looking for the earliest spring wildflowers; all of the following can be found in the woodland area at Hieland Land and Water Reserve, 1578 Hieland Road, St. Anne, IL 60964. The wet oak forest is one of the best places in the area for a spectacular wildflower display in the springtime.

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Newsletter  
of the  
Forest Preserve  
District  
of the Kankakee  
River Valley

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



# On Trail At The Forest Preserve

Check out our website for dates and updates for our 2020 program schedule  
[www.krvfpd.org](http://www.krvfpd.org)

Programs at the Forest Preserve are co-sponsored by Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District and University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee. For information about the programs please call the University of Illinois Extension Office at 815-933-8337. Unless otherwise stated, programs will meet at the Forest Preserve office at Shannon Bayou, 3301 Waldron Road, Aroma Park, Illinois.

## Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 18  
10:00 a.m.

Although Earth Day is officially on April 22, which is a Wednesday this year, Holly will have a book reading by the mayor of Aroma Park, and activities for children.

## Tree Pruning

March 5, 2020

## Toads & Lizards

April 24, 2020

## Wildflower Walk

No date set

## What's That Butterfly

No date set

## New Book Kickoff

Sometime in July

## OUTDOORS SKILLS PROGRAMS

University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee County Master Naturalists:  
[www.extension.illinois.edu/gkw/kankakee-county-master-naturalists](http://www.extension.illinois.edu/gkw/kankakee-county-master-naturalists)

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) – giving women introductory experiences and instruction in various outdoor activities. Three-day workshop activities include recreational activities, shooting sports, and outdoor crafts and hobbies:  
[www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BOW/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/BOW/Pages/default.aspx)

REI Classes and Events near Chicago, Illinois  
[www.rei.com/events/p/us-il-chicago](http://www.rei.com/events/p/us-il-chicago)

Wild Nature Project - Nature, Animal Tracking, Medicinal Plants, Youth Programs, Teen Camps, Wilderness Survival Skills, Leadership - Located in Bloomington, Indiana  
[www.wildnatureproject.com/index.html](http://www.wildnatureproject.com/index.html)

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REI Classes and Events near Chicago, Illinois  
[www.rei.com/events/p/us-il-chicago](http://www.rei.com/events/p/us-il-chicago)

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## Ode to the Wolf

– By Kathleen Harro Steffen

The Wolf hunts the Grazers  
To meet the pack's needs;

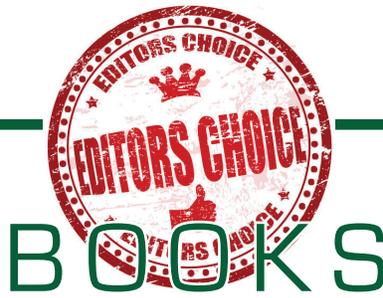
Keeping the Herds clean  
And free from disease

He stabilizes the Forest,  
Keeps it well balanced;

Without the wolf's presence  
Nature is challenged.

The Spirit of the Wolf  
Must be our Intention;

Without it, the Wilderness  
Faces extinction.



*Lorax*

A children's book by Dr. Seuss, his personal favorite. Published in 1971, it is a story concerning the destruction of the environment; "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

*Silent Spring*  
by Rachel Carson

*Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*  
by Sandra Steingraber

*Raising Elijah: Protecting Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*  
by Sandra Steingraber

*Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*  
by Sandra Steingraber

*Silence of the Songbirds*  
by Bridget Stutchbury

*The Dying of the Trees*  
by Charles E. Little  
*Hope for the Land*  
by Charles E. Little

*Tom Brown's Field Guide to Living With the Earth*

by Tom Brown Jr., with Brandt Morgan

*Tom Brown's guide to Healing the Earth*  
by Tom Brown Jr.,  
with Randy Walker, Jr.

*Botany in a Day*  
by Thomas J. Elpel

*Sacred Lands of Indian America*  
Jake Page, editor

*Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*  
by James Lovelock

*Our Stolen Future*  
by Theo Coburn

*All the Light in High Places*  
by Joe Hutto

*Touching the Wild*  
by Joe Hutto

*Illumination in the Flatwoods*  
by Joe Hutto

*A Sand County Almanac*  
by Aldo Leopold

*Half Earth*  
by E. O. Wilson  
Also, [www.half-earthproject.org/](http://www.half-earthproject.org/)

**WEB RESOURCES**

**ASTRONOMY & METEOROLOGY**

- [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) ..... National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- [www.ngdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov) ..... National Geophysical data center
- [www.hubblesite.org](http://www.hubblesite.org) ..... Hubble Telescope
- [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov) ..... National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- [www.skyandtelescope.com](http://www.skyandtelescope.com) ..... Astronomy site
- [www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/skychart/article\\_1220\\_1.asp](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/skychart/article_1220_1.asp) ..... (daily local sky chart)
- [www.usno.navy.mil](http://www.usno.navy.mil) ..... U.S. Naval Observatory (including moon phases)
- [www.tycho.usno.navy.mil/vphase.html](http://www.tycho.usno.navy.mil/vphase.html) ..... Virtual Reality Moon Phase Pictures
- [www.mlo.noaa.gov/](http://www.mlo.noaa.gov/) ..... Mauna Loa Observatory
- [www.who.edu/institutes/occi/currenttopics/ct\\_abruptclimate.htm](http://www.who.edu/institutes/occi/currenttopics/ct_abruptclimate.htm) ..... Climate Change

**GEOLOGY**

- [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov) ..... United States Geological Survey
- [www.scotese.com](http://www.scotese.com) ..... Paleo map Project
- [www.vulcan.wr.usgs.gov](http://www.vulcan.wr.usgs.gov) ..... Cascades Volcano Observatory
- [www.drgeorgepc.com](http://www.drgeorgepc.com) ..... The Tsunami Page

**FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES**

- [www.dnr.state.il.us/](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/) ..... Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/) ..... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/) ..... USDA Forest Service
- [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/) ..... National Park Service

**CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION**

- [www.amrivers.org/](http://www.amrivers.org/) ..... American Rivers
- [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) ..... The Nature Conservancy
- [www.naturalarea.org](http://www.naturalarea.org) ..... Natural Areas Association
- [www.lta.org/](http://www.lta.org/) ..... Land Trust Alliance
- [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org) ..... Ocean Conservancy
- [www.audubon.org/](http://www.audubon.org/) ..... Audubon

**SUSTAINABLE**

- [www.theresiliencyinstitute.net/](http://www.theresiliencyinstitute.net/) ..... Permaculture & medicinal herbal classes
- [www.buildinggreen.com/](http://www.buildinggreen.com/) ..... Green construction design

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.  
- Osbo

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

# 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 features plantings of many native trees and plants, including native tallgrass prairie species and a butterfly garden of native plants. The site includes 3/4 mile asphalt and fine gravel walking trail, a picnic shelter, and picnic tables.

The Storybook Trail at Shannon Bayou combines reading with physical fitness. The trail takes you around the perimeter of the Shannon Bayou savanna; pages from a picture book are framed and posted along the path. To read the whole story, the reader must walk (or run) from one sign to the other. The project was made possible by the George See Memorial, University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee County, and the Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve.

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

## Aroma Land and Water Reserve

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 1/4 mile of Kankakee River frontage and the associated floodplain forest.

The Forest Preserve mows a loop trail that branches off the existing 1 1/4 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 next to the playground.

1578 S. Hieland Rd. • 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 3/4 mile trail begins at the prairie and 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 starts at the River Road Ball Diamonds. It then continues through Kankakee Community College, Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve, and Shapiro Developmental Center. The trail connects through the City of Kankakee and runs through the Perry Farm which is a part of the Bourbonnais Township 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 Interstate 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 the other 60 acre parcel which had been primarily in agriculture. Future development plans are pending based on the district's needs and funds available through federal and state grants.

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

## Hieland Lakes Nature Preserve

The Forest Preserve has a new site located about three miles east of Kankakee on Route 17. The new site is 64 acres, including two connected lakes. An aquatic survey will be conducted to determine the fish population; meanwhile, limited fishing is allowed. Bluegill may be kept by anglers - all other fish are catch-and-release.

Plans for the site include planting native wildflowers, prairie restoration and creation of a walking path. At this time, there is a mowed walking path, a parking

lot, and a bridge at the point where the two lakes connect.

The site is a former sand gravel quarry, and while at this time before restoration gets underway, there is not much in the way of native ecosystem remaining. The site offers a sparse population of native plant life and the area is abundant with wildlife such as deer, fox, coyote, and waterfowl including wood ducks, great blue heron and egret.

6692 Route 17 East • St. Anne, IL 60964  
41°7'02.23"N  
87°44'24.82"W

## Strasma Grove

Nested adjacent to Sunnyside neighborhood in Kankakee, this site is 2 acres of mature native trees with a mowed trail.

Duane Boulevard • Kankakee, IL 60901  
41°06'28.33"N  
87°59'43.56"W

## Limestone Reforestation Site

This site is a 30 acre preserve and reforestation site, with mixed trees and grasses. The site is presently being managed by the Limestone Park District as part of an intergovernmental agreement.

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

## Zeedyk Meadows

Four acre sanctuary, although wet, contains many young trees and grasses that hold some songbirds and migrant species in the spring and fall. The Forest Preserve is still working on a long range development plan for this property. Located across the street from Station 2 of the Aroma Fire Protection District.

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

## Snake Creek Preserve

Four acre finger of property running parallel to Snake Creek as it meets the Kankakee River. The creek and small woods are full of birds, owls, ducks and heron. There are also beaver, muskrat, frogs and is a great place to fish or just relax.

5800 Darline Dr. • St Anne, IL 60964  
41.109752"N  
87.756308"W



## ***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](http://www.krvfpd.org)  
E-mail: [forest@krvfpd.org](mailto:forest@krvfpd.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KRVFPD/](http://www.facebook.com/KRVFPD/)

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Kankakee, IL

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### **Board of Commissioners**

Michael Quigley.....President  
Sharlene Parr.....Treasurer  
Amy Ciaccio-Jarvis.....Secretary  
Steve Worth..... Commissioner  
Tim Wilhelm ..... Commissioner

### **Staff**

Dale Huizenga..... Administrator  
Mike Morgan .....Maintenance Supervisor  
Doug Short ..... Restoration Ecologist,  
Site Development Director  
Jean Hurre .....Editor

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,*

**If you would like to subscribe to this  
free Newsletter, or to send an article,  
contact the Forest Preserve Office  
at 815-935-5630**

