

The Tree Line



Nature programs from the Forest Preserve District of Kane County www.kaneforest.com Fall 2010

Spooky scenes and a harvest festival — Fall nature programs abound

FAMILY PROGRAMS

All ages may register for family programs unless an age limit is specified. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Organized groups must schedule a separate tour for their group.

Life in Miniature

Join us on a makeshift journey into the amazing world of microscopic life! During this indoor program, we'll take a tour of a miniature world of beauty and wonder using microscopes, hand lenses and other aids to peer into the realm of tiny creatures. You'll see teeming life in a spoonful of soil, in a drop of pond water and on a piece of moss-covered bark. *Note: This program is for ages 10 and above.*

Tuesday, Sept. 21; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
Fee: \$2/person; \$8/family of four or more

Shutterbugs in Nature

Learn to view nature from different angles. Fall foliage, grasses backlit by the autumn sun, cottonball clouds in the cobalt October sky — the subjects are endless! Bring your digital or 35 mm camera and learn fun ways to photograph. *Note: The program is for beginning photographers, ages 10 and up.*

Sunday, Oct. 24; 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
Fee: \$2/person; \$8/family of four or more

Nature Creations and Crafts

Families with children ages 6 and above are invited to a fun-filled Saturday morning of creating fall-themed crafts at The Lodge at Brewster Creek. We'll delve into the world of art, get creative, and use a variety of natural items to make several crafts. All materials are provided.

Saturday, Nov. 6; 10-11:30 a.m.
The Lodge at Brewster Creek
6N921 Rte. 25, St. Charles
Fee: \$5/person or \$20/family of four or more

Friday Night Frights

Venture by car into the deep dark woods of Camp Tomo-Chi-Chi Knolls for an evening of nocturnal nature at its scariest. Look for a mysterious greeter at the gate holding a lantern. Only the brave (and pre-registered) will be admitted to drive along the long, winding road towards the lodge, deep in the woods. As you navigate the twists and turns along the mile-long drive, peer out of the car windows to glimpse mysterious animals lurking in the shadows. Drive slowly past ancient oak trees whose gnarled limbs appear ready to reach out and grab passers-by. After the drive, enter the lodge where bats, snakes and spiders await you. Therein, you'll learn myths about animals

Harvest of the Acorn Moon

Celebrate the harvest season at our annual fall festival! Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora provides a lovely autumn setting for the festival's offerings: hay rides, nature crafts, pumpkin painting, games, folk music, guided nature walks and more! All ages are welcome to this fun, family event! *Note: No registration is required.*

Sunday, Oct. 3; 1 – 4 p.m.
Oakhurst Forest Preserve, 1680 Fifth Ave., Aurora
Admission is free; there is a nominal fee for crafts and hayrides



Photo by Laurie Melanchuk

and what makes them so scary. You'll also discover the truth about these animals that are so important in our ecosystem. There will be stations set up in the lodge with live (and un-live) animals, activities and crafts for all ages. Guided hikes begin at dusk.

Friday, Oct. 29; 7 – 9 p.m.
Camp Tomo-Chi-Chi Knolls
40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts
Fee: \$5/person or \$20/family of four or more

Hard Rock Geology

The variety of rocks, minerals and gemstones is truly staggering. The beauty of these different materials when viewed closely provides a better appreciation of the planet upon which we live. We will examine a variety of samples and study some of the processes that created these remarkable materials. *Note: This program is for ages 10 and up.*

Tuesday, Nov. 16; 7 – 8 p.m.
The Lodge at Brewster Creek
6N921 Rte. 25, St. Charles
Fee: \$2/person or \$8/family of four or more

Over the River and Through the Woods

Come to Tekakwitha Woods for a fun, naturalist-led walk over the Fox River and through the woods. We'll begin at the parking lot, wind our way through the woods, and cross the Fox River on the bike bridge. Along the way, we'll look for wildlife and learn about how the natural world prepares for winter. The program concludes at the Nature Center, where families are welcome to warm-up and enjoy the hands-on exhibits and displays.

Friday, Nov. 26; 10 – 11 a.m.
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
FREE

Homeschool Explorations

Join us each month for a program that focuses on a different topic at a different forest preserve. Activities include locating spiders, examining seeds, searching for

deer and more! *Note: This program is designed for homeschool families. All ages are welcome but the activities are geared for kids ages 5-10.*

Spiders

Wednesday, Sept. 15; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Campton Forest Preserve
4N379 Town Hall Rd, St. Charles
Fee: \$2/person or \$8/family of four or more

Seeds

Tuesday, Oct. 26; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Dick Young Forest Preserve
39W115 Main Street, Batavia
Fee: \$2/person or \$8/family of four or more

White-tailed Deer

Wednesday, Nov. 17; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
Fee: \$2/person or \$8/family of four or more



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Little Acorns

Children ages 4 and 5 explore the natural world through a variety of activities during these hour-long nature programs. Sessions include a combination of stories, nature hikes, songs, games and crafts. *Note: Sign-up for either the morning or afternoon session. Registration opens Sept. 1.*

Squirrely Squirrels

Thursday, Sept. 16; 10-11 a.m. OR 1-2 p.m.
The Lodge at Brewster Creek
6N921 Rte. 25, St. Charles
Fee: \$5/child

Pumpkin Patch

Thursday, Oct. 21; 10-11 a.m. OR 1-2 p.m.
The Lodge at Brewster Creek
6N921 Rte. 25, St. Charles
Fee: \$5/child

Turkey Tales

Thursday, Nov. 18; 10-11 a.m. OR 1-2 p.m.
The Lodge at Brewster Creek
6N921 Rte. 25, St. Charles
Fee: \$5/child

Story Time in the Woods

Parents and caregivers of young children (infants through age 5) are invited to special story times in the woods. You'll

hear a variety of fun stories presented by librarians from the St. Charles Public Library. After the program, explore the Nature Center, walk the trails, and enjoy nature at its best. *Note: To accommodate as many families as possible, a family may register for only one date.*

Friday, Oct. 22; 10:30 – 11 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 29; 10:30 – 11 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 5; 10:30 – 11 a.m.

Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
FREE

Nature by Stroller

If you'd like to get out in the forest preserves with your infant during the lovely fall season, this program is for you! Bring your stroller and the diaper bag, click the seat belt on the baby, and enjoy a guided stroll with Naturalist Erica Lemon. We'll take a relaxed walk on stroller-friendly trails and soak in the seasonal joys of nature. Fussy as well as quiet babies are welcome, interruptions are expected and feeding and/or diaper stops are allowed!

Friday, Sept. 24; 9 – 10 a.m.
Dick Young Forest Preserve
39W115 Main St., Batavia
FREE

Friday, Oct. 15; 9 – 10 a.m.
Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve
39W933 Russell Rd., Elgin
FREE



ADULT PROGRAMS

Knitting in Nature

Bring your needles and yarn and join fellow knitters at Tekakwitha Woods to work on your projects and share ideas. We will begin the program by presenting information on dyes and fibers that can be used from the natural world. The remainder of the program will involve individuals working on personal projects with the company of others in a beautiful

wooded setting. *Note: This program is for ages 16 through adult.*

Saturday, Oct. 9; 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center
35W076 Villa Marie Road, St. Charles
FREE

Senior Stroll

Seniors are invited to join District naturalists each month on a pleasant stroll through our natural areas. Each month, we visit a different site and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area. Social time and refreshments follow each walk. *Note: Registration is not required. Donations are welcome.*

Burnidge Forest Preserve

Thursday, Sept. 2; 10 - 11 a.m.
14N035 Coombs Rd., Elgin

Big Rock Forest Preserve

Thursday, Oct. 7; 10 - 11 a.m.
46W524 Jericho Rd., Big Rock

Camp Tomo-Chi-Chi Knolls

Thursday, Nov. 4; 10 - 11 a.m.
40W095 Freeman Rd., Gilberts

December Preview

Join us Dec. 2 for our annual year-end gathering. We'll meet at the Lodge at Brewster Creek to share food, fellowship, and festivities during this lively Senior Stroll tradition. *Please note: Due to health code and building regulations, food must be store-bought and pre-packaged. No homemade food will be permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.*

Learn from the Experts — *The Forest Preserve District of Kane County teams up with the St. Charles Park District, the Geneva Park District, and the Fox Valley Park District to offer a series of classes for adults (ages 16 and up) focusing on a variety of topics in local ecology. The following classes offer in-depth information and learning opportunities. Registration is required for all Learn from the Experts classes. Checks for these sessions should be made out to the Geneva Park District. To register, call 847-741-8350 or e-mail attendee(s) name and contact information to programs@kaneforest.com.*

St. Charles History on the Move

Resorts, industry, farming, millionaires, riots and politics — St. Charles was home to it all! Take a walking tour with guides from the St. Charles Park District and the St. Charles Heritage Center to learn about this town's varied and fascinating transformation from wide spot on the Fox River to booming tourist destination. We'll begin at Pottawatomie Park's large pavilion, then head off to view historical and natural sites that date from the Native Americans and settlers through present day. *Note: Please wear comfortable shoes, bring water, your camera and plenty of questions!*

Wednesday, Sept. 15; 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Pottawatomie Community Center
8 North Avenue, St. Charles
Fee: \$15

Ecocruise on the Fox River

Treat yourself to a cruise! All aboard a luxury liner — also known as the St. Charles Paddlewheel Riverboat — for a leisurely ride up and down the Fox River. Learn the natural history of the Fox River as the scenery floats by; spot local wildlife and ponder the impacts our river faces today as staff naturalists narrate your tour. The program will begin with an introduction to local ecology at Pottawatomie Community Center before boarding the riverboat for a 90-minute cruise.

Sunday, Sept. 19; 1 - 3 p.m.
Pottawatomie Community Center
8 North Avenue, St. Charles
Fee: \$20

Ethnobotany: People and Plants

Ethnobotany is the study of plants and human culture. We'll explore the origins of ethnobotany and investigate the intricate relationship we humans have with the green growing things around us. The first portion of the class will be held indoors and will include an interactive discussion on plants in our culture. During the second part of the class, we will head outdoors for a hike and trail-side activities.

Sunday, Oct. 10; 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve
(Meet in the cabin)
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn
Fee: \$10

What's that Tree? Fall Dendrology

Learn the basics of tree identification and gain experience using a botanical key. Nature Programs Manager Valerie Blaine will share tips to help de-mystify tree i.d., and will emphasize observation of bark, branches, form, habit, habitat, twigs, leaf scars and buds. The session will begin indoors with a lecture/presentation. During the second portion of the class, we'll head into the woods to practice our tree identification skills.

Sunday, Oct. 17; 1 - 4 p.m.
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve
(Meet in the cabin)
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn
Fee: \$10

Survival Supper

Step out of the kitchen and into the outdoors for this rustic cooking program. Participants will learn how to prepare food in a survival situation utilizing things found in nature. Discover the secrets of building a fire without matches, making utensils out of nature, and using rocks to cook delicious recipes.

Saturday, Nov. 6; 4 - 7 p.m.
Peck Farm Park
8W199 Kaneville Rd., Geneva
Fee: \$10

The Gales of November

Many legendary storms have passed over the Great Lakes region in November, as the weather transitions from fall to winter. The most well known of these may be the *Edmund Fitzgerald* storm of Nov. 10, 1975. However, two other noteworthy storms of the 20th century have been the Armistice Day storm of Nov. 11, 1940, and the Great Lakes storm of Nov. 7-10, 1913. The 1913 storm killed over 250 people and sank 19 ships. This

program will discuss the nature of these storms and what made them so deadly. Dr. Jim Angel, Illinois State Climatologist will be our guest presenter.

Thursday, Nov. 11; 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Stephen Persinger Recreation Center
3507 Kaneville Road, Geneva
Fee: \$10

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Attention all teachers: The outdoor classroom awaits you! If you haven't already signed-up for a forest preserve field trip with your class, call 847-741-8350 or e-mail programs@kaneforest.com to reserve your spot!

Our environmental education programs are described on our Web site. Visit www.kaneforest.com and click the Environmental Education link at the upper right. School programs are FREE to in-county schools.

NATURE PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

To register for programs and/or schedule school or scout field trips:

**Call (847) 741-8350 or
E-mail programs@kaneforest.com**

Telephone reservations are accepted weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Payment

Make checks payable to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Mail to:

Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve
35W076 Villa Marie Rd.
St. Charles, IL 60174-6692

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Fee assistance is available upon request.

Cancellations

Please call us if you need to cancel, so that we may contact others on our wait list.

Special accommodations

Please let us know at least two weeks in advance by calling the program manager at (847) 741-9924.

Suggested attire

Most of our programs involve outdoor activities such as walking on trails. Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots (no sandals!) and long pants.

Weather

Severe weather cancels most programs. Call (847) 741-8350 for program updates and cancellation announcements.

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