

# The Tree Line



Nature programs from the Forest Preserve District of Kane County [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com) Winter 2012

## There's nothing like the preserves in winter, come enjoy it with us!

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

All ages are welcome to attend 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.

### Winter Solstice Campfire

Gather around a campfire with us as the sun sets on the shortest day of the year. The naturalists will tell winter solstice stories from different cultures

emphasizing the interplay of cultural and ecological events on this pivotal day. All ages are welcome to herald the return of the sun! *Space is limited, so register early! Registration is required.*

Wednesday, Dec. 21; 4-5 p.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FREE

### Tracks and Trails

Time to leave the house and the holiday food! Come on out to Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve for a guided hike in the winter woods. We'll look for animal tracks and learn how to "read" the signs they leave. *Dress for the weather! Registration is required.*

Tuesday, Dec. 27; 10-11:30 a.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FREE

### Owls at Dusk

Learn about the fascinating world of owls as darkness falls. We'll walk into the woods and try calling to owls to hear their response. *These programs are for ages 5 and up. Registration is required.*

Wednesday, Dec. 28; 4-5 p.m.  
Rutland Forest Preserve  
41W230 Big Timber Rd., Hampshire  
FREE

Thursday, Dec. 29; 4-5 p.m.  
Hannaford Woods/Nickels Farm Forest Preserve, 5S002 Merrill Rd., Sugar Grove  
FREE

### A-Mousing We Will Go

Mice are viewed as pests, as an annoyance, or as insignificant little beasts. However, these rodents play an essential role in ecology, and they are fascinating furry creatures in the wild. Come along on a mouse hunt. Learn how to identify mouse tracks and search for their signs. We'll also compare mice with their confusing counterparts — voles and shrews — and discover how they survive the rigors of winter. *Registration is required.*

Friday, Dec. 30; 2-3 p.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FREE

### New Year's Morning Hike

Greet the New Year with a healthy hike in the woods! Bring a coffee mug and we'll fill it with hot coffee. Bring binoculars and we'll show you cool birds. Bring your resolutions and we'll get your New Year started on the right foot! You won't want to miss this lively, group hike to kick-off 2012. (It's way more fun than battling crowds at the gym.) *Registration is required.*

Sunday, Jan. 1; 9-10 a.m.  
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve  
37W370 Dean St., St. Charles  
FREE



Photo by Volunteer Coordinator Robb Cleve

## Snow Birds

Learn about the birds that frequent your feeders in winter, as well as birds in the woods and fields. There will be a walk (weather permitting) to see birds in their natural habitat, as well as a presentation in the Nature Center. *Registration is required.*

Saturday, Jan. 21; 10-11 a.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FREE

## Snowshoe Adventure

Just because there's snow on the ground doesn't mean we can't get out and explore Burnidge Forest Preserve. We look for animal tracks, deer beds, mouse tunnels and other signs that the animals have been out and about. If there is not enough snow on the ground to snowshoe, we will still explore and hike the trails. *Dress for the weather. Registrants must bring their own snowshoes. For ages 7 and up. Registration is required.*

Saturday, Feb. 11; 10:30 a.m.-Noon  
Burnidge Forest Preserve  
38W235 Big Timber Rd., Elgin  
FREE

## Homeschool Explorations

This program series is specially designed for home school families. Activities will focus on ages 5-10 but all ages are welcome. Each month we will explore a different topic at a different forest preserve. *Advance registration is required.*

### Animal Tracks

Thursday, Dec. 8; 10-11:30 a.m.  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$2/person; \$8/family of four (or more)

### Owls

Tuesday, Jan. 31; 10-11:30 a.m.  
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve  
(Meet at the Cabin)  
41W600 Hughes Rd., Elburn  
Fee: \$2/person; \$8/family of four (or more)



Photo by Naturalist Eric Lemon

### Winter's Wonderful

Beat the blues and make the most of this snowy time of year. Weather you're looking for solitude, snowshoeing paths, places to cross-country ski, or an approved trail for snowmobiling — you'll find plenty of wintertime possibilities in the Kane County forest preserves. See our *Winter Activities* brochure at [kaneforest.com](http://kaneforest.com).

### Hibernating Animals

Wednesday, Feb. 15; 10-11:30 a.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
(Meet at the Nature Center)  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
Fee: \$2/person; \$8/family of four (or more)



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### Little Acorns

Children ages 4 and 5 will explore the natural world through a variety of activities during these hour-long programs at Brewster

Creek Forest Preserve in St. Charles. Sessions include a combination of stories, nature hikes, songs, games, or crafts. *Registration is required and begins Dec. 1 for the Winter series of "Little Acorns." Please select either the 10 a.m. or the 1 p.m. session.*

### Hibernation

Thursday, Dec. 15; 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$5/child (Registration fee may be paid in advance or at the door)

### Mice

Thursday, Jan. 19; 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek

6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$5/child (Registration fee may be paid in advance or at the door)

### Owls

Thursday, Feb. 16; 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$5/child (Registration fee may be paid in advance or at the door)

### Winter Adventure Camp

Children in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade are welcome to this fun half day camp at Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve during winter break. Each day we'll combine activities in the Nature Center with an exploratory hike outside to learn about the wonderful world of winter. Come prepared to discover something new each day! *Please register by Monday, Dec. 12. Registration is required.*

Tuesday - Thursday, Dec. 20-22  
10 a.m - 2 p.m.  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FEE: \$40



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Senior Stroll

Our monthly gatherings will take place indoors during the winter months. Light refreshments are provided. *Suggested donation: \$2. No Registration is required.*

### Holiday Potluck

Bring along a store-bought dish to share. We'll have holiday activities and celebrate a wonderful year exploring the forest preserves!

Thursday, Dec. 1; 10 a.m. - noon  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
FREE

### Explore Peru!

Former District Naturalist Jack

Pomatto will take us along on an adventure to Peru, via photographs and stories. Don't miss this program about Peru's wildlife, ecology and culture.

Thursday, Jan. 5; 10 a.m. - noon  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
FREE

### Ethnobotany

Have you hugged a plant today? Chances are, you have. People and plants are inextricably connected, even on a day-to-day basis. The study of the interconnection of plants and human culture is called "ethnobotany." Come prepared for a lively, interactive discussion on plants in our culture.

Thursday, Feb. 2; 10 a.m. - noon  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
FREE

### Maple Sugaring

The sap's rising! We'll demonstrate how to tap a maple tree and you'll have the opportunity to try drilling and setting a tap yourself. During the hike, learn how to distinguish maples from other species of hardwood trees.

Thursday, March 1; 10 a.m. - noon  
Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center  
35W076 Villa Marie Rd., St. Charles  
FREE

***Learn from the Experts** — The following classes are taught by experts in the field and offer in-depth information and learning opportunities about our local ecology. This award-winning program series is cosponsored by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, the Geneva Park District, and the St. Charles Park District. These programs are for ages 16 and up. **Checks for these sessions should be made out to the Geneva Park District. Call 847-741-8350 or e-mail [programs@kaneforest.com](mailto:programs@kaneforest.com) to register.***

### Gymnosperms

Naturalist Valerie Blaine of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County

will present the history and evolution of Gymnosperms, a large group of plants which includes those commonly known as evergreens. We will look at representative gymnosperms that live in our area and see their unique characteristics first hand. The program will be held indoors; specimens will be available in the classroom.

*Registration is required.*

Tuesday, Jan. 10; 7-8 p.m.  
The Lodge at Brewster Creek  
6N921 IL Rte. 25, St. Charles  
Fee: \$10

### Winter Wildlife Tracking

Naturalist Pam Otto of the St. Charles Park District will lead this interactive class. The class will begin indoors, with an overview of local fauna and tracking techniques. We will then head outdoors to practice what we've learned. You'll never look at 'bare' ground the same again. *Registration is required.*

Saturday, Feb. 4; 9 a.m. - noon  
Hickory Knolls Discovery Center  
3795 Campton Hills Rd., St. Charles  
Fee: \$15

### Beavers: Nature's Hydroengineers

Dr. Crystal Jones Pierce of Harper College will conduct this class about the natural history of beavers and the management of this intriguing species. *Registration is required.*

Wednesday, Feb. 22; 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Peck Farm Park  
4038 Kaneville Rd., Geneva  
Fee: \$15



## 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](mailto: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  
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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