



Riffles and Eddies

603 N. APPLETON RD
Volume XXXV

BELVIDERE, IL 61008

(815) 547-7935
Summer 2009

"Going Green"

THINK
GLOBALLY,
ACT
LOCALLY

'Going green' is a phrase that we hear a lot of these days. Buy this laundry detergent; it is green. Buy this toothpaste; it is green. This is all very nice and the hope is that we all stay green. In the long run it will definitely benefit the planet. However, being completely green involves more than just buying the right kind of biodegradable toothpaste.

At its core the Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) is a green organization. We do a lot to promote 'going green'. For instance, our education department spends time with the public (especially our youth) teaching them how our planet functions, how we can take care of it, and most important, informing them about the natural areas and processes in Boone County. Second, we maintain our conservation areas in a way that people can relax and be involved in passive activities such as fishing, canoeing, hiking, wildlife watching, botany, and skiing. Third we purchase land that helps protect water quality, humans need for open space, and threatened/endangered species (plants and animals).

The BCCD has made a commitment to managing district properties in a way that promotes the re-establishment and management of native habitat. These habitats include; prairie, wetland, oak savanna, and woodland. By returning the biodiversity it makes for a healthier conservation area. The work that needs to be done to bring back biodiversity is technical, labor intensive, and frustrating. However, seeing a landscape come to life as a result of one's work is very exciting.

Enhancing, restoring, and managing a wide range of habitats is a growing focus of the district. Of particular interest are the few remaining patches of native remnants. A remnant is a niche habitat that has not been completely altered by humans. Generally, remnants are untouched enough so as to resemble presettlement character. If you have never seen a remnant, find one and visit or ask one of our staff to take you to one. It might be life changing.

It takes a lot of energy for the BCCD to establish and maintain all of these sites. More than the district can provide. With that being said, this is a call for volunteers to learn what habitat restoration is all about and to help manage our conservation areas with our natural resources staff. This can be done all year round after work, after school, or on weekends. If you have never done work like this and feel intimidated by it don't be. We are more than happy to teach and we always remember there was a point when we didn't know a whole lot about the subject either.

Our goal in the years ahead is to set up a stewardship network and have a small army of habitat restoration volunteers helping with numerous natural resources related tasks. Some jobs that volunteers can become involved with include: weed management, seed collecting, seed cleaning, broadcasting seed, planting, and biological inventory. Volunteers who show commitment and great interest will with anticipation one day manage an entire unit ranging from 1-40 acres in size.

For more information contact Josh Sage, BCCD Restoration Projects Manager at (815) 547-7935 or jsage@boonecountyconservationdistrict.org

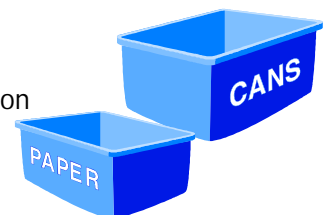
1st Grade No Waste Challenge Winners

1st place - Rasmussen - Immanuel Lutheran - .048 oz. per person

2nd place - Leese - Seth Whitman - .15 oz per person

3rd place - Drilling - Caledonia - .24 oz per person

CONGRATULATIONS AND KEEP RECYCLING!





The Mission of the Boone County Conservation District is to preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations.

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Riffles & Eddies is a free newsletter published quarterly. If you know someone who would like to receive this publication, or has an address correction, please call our office - (815) 547-7935

The Boone County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission or treatment, or employment in programs or activities. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217)423-7708.

Hide & GPSeek

Saturday, July 25th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Learn what the popular sport of geocaching is all about, then participate in a GPS led scavenger hunt through Spencer Conservation Area. We will meet at the pavilion and all equipment is provided. Cost is \$5.00/person or \$10.00/family. All children under the age of 15 are required to have an adult with them. Space is limited and prepayment and preregistration is required. GPS units furnished with 1 unit per family. For reservations call (815) 547-7935.



Connect with nature in your own backyard - or ours! Get ready for a night of outdoor fun when you participate in NWF's Great American Backyard Campout® on June 27th. Join the BCCD for our own "backyard campout" on

that night for anyone who wants to join in on the fun but needs a little help getting started. We'll teach you all you need to know and even supply a tent if you need one! Families can register for \$25 by calling 815-547-7935.

Forest Fitness Series

We are starting a new outdoor fitness series this summer. During June, July and August we will be hosting outdoor yoga classes on Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Each month the class will be at a different location. June 1st - July 1st: Edwards Park & Cons. Area; July 6th - 31st: Spencer Cons. Area; August 3rd - Sept. 4th: Kishwaukee Bend Cons. Area. Jeff Leach, a certified hatha yoga instructor since 1978, will be leading the class. Cost will be \$100/month or \$10/class. You may attend all or some of the sessions. All payments will be handled thru the instructor, not BCCD. Each season we will feature a new type of outdoor activity, designed to get you outside and moving. Information on our next series will be in the Fall newsletter. Please call our office to register for this exciting new program!! (815) 547-7935
You do not have to sign up for the entire series.

Scholarship Money Needed

The economy has been hard on everyone, including our camp families. If you are looking for a way to help, consider purchasing one of our vintage camp t-shirts for only \$5 or a two-disc storytelling CD by the Buffalo Man for \$30. Both purchases support our camp scholarship fund. Thank you for your help!

Spots Still Available

Camp Redwing and Camp Ducktails are accepting registrations until spots are filled. Call the office for details or stop in for a registration form. Hurry!!

Hooked on Fishing For Kids

Ages 5 - 15

Saturday, June 6th



The Coon Creek Casters will be hosting the annual Kids Fishing Clinic in Spencer Conservation Area. Meet at the Lion's Shelter in Spencer at 9:00 A.M. Bring your pole and tackle for an instructional clinic, lots of fishing, and line-reeling fun. Lunch will be provided along with bait, and prizes will be given at 1:00 P.M. Pre-registration is required, because space is limited. The clinic is free. Call BCCD after May 1st to register for this fun filled, fishing experience. The weekend of June 5th - 8th is the State of Illinois free fishing weekend, so adults do not need a license.

Boone County Conservation District
Phone 815 - 547-7935 Fax 815 - 547-7939
Web Site www.boonecountyconservationdistrict.org

Up Coming Events

Monthly Meetings

(Held at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center and open to the public)

BCCD Board-Wednesdays
5:00 p.m.

June 17th; July 15th; Aug. 19th

Garden Club-Tuesdays
7:00 p.m.

June 23rd; July 28th
No meeting in Aug.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on July 3rd, Sept. 7th for holidays and the 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 28th for the Autumn Pioneer Festival.

An Evening Among the Gardens

Sunday, July 26th
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Come to the BCCD festival grounds, 603 N. Appleton and explore seven different gardens.

These include a Butterfly, Herb, Potawatomie, Norwegian, Scottish, Yankee, German garden, and a rain garden. The event is free and refreshments will be served.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you like being outdoors and meeting new people? Come volunteer and become part of the very first Conservation District in the state. Call the BCCD volunteer coordinator at (815) 597-1097.



What's Happening

A link to a calendar of events for Boone County is available at boonecountyil.org. The BCCD along with other county organizations will post meetings, programs, etc. on this calendar to help you keep informed with what is happening in the county.

Kishwaukee River Clean Up

Saturday, Aug. 22nd
9:00 a.m.

Help us clean up the Kishwaukee River. Participants must provide their own canoe and equipment. Meet at Hickory Bills Island, Belvidere Park at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will float down river pulling trash and objects from the river and banks. Pick up point will be at the Distillery canoe launch at approximately 1:00 p.m. Drivers will be shuttled back to the beginning. Call the BCCD office at 547-7935 to register or to check if this program has been canceled due to weather or river conditions. This program is funded by a \$500 grant from the IL EPA's Streambank Clean Up and Lakeshore Enhancement Program.



Progressive Heritage Garden Dinner

Saturday, Aug. 8th
6:30 p.m.



Join local chefs as they use heirloom vegetables from the BCCD Heritage gardens to create dishes from the five ethnic groups that settled Boone County in the 1800's. Sample dishes from Native Americans, Norwegians, Germans, Scots and Yankees. This event will take place on the festival grounds. Cost is \$10.00 per person and space is limited. Prepayment and preregistration is required. Call (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot.

LPT Poker Run

Saturday, Aug. 8th
Join in the fun, win prizes, and ride the Long Prairie Trail. Call Bev Moore at (815) 569-2472 for more information.



Cooking with Heirlooms

Saturday, Aug. 29th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Not sure what to do with all the heirloom vegetables you've grown? This class will discuss ways to preserve and cook with heirlooms. Recipes and other informational handouts will be available to participants. Program size is limited. Cost is \$3.00 per person. We will meet at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center. Prepayment and preregistration is required, so call (815) 547-7935 to make your reservation.



Heirloom Tomato Tasting

Wednesday, Sept. 9th
6:00 p.m.



Sample more than 20 varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Participants will learn how to process and store seeds for next year's planting and also learn how to use their tomato bounty. Meet at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center. Cost is \$5.00 person and prepayment and preregistration is required. Space is limited, so call (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot.

Late Summer Prairie Wildflower Walk

Friday, Aug. 7th
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join BCCD Restoration Technician Aarron Minson for an evening hike to view the wildflowers that bloom in late summer. Meet at the pavilion in Spencer Conservation Area. There is no cost for the program, please call (815) 547-7935 and let us know if you will be joining the group.



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603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

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Stop by and visit with us at
the Boone County Fair,
August
11th -16th

Mark
Your
Calendars
for the 2009
Autumn Pioneer Festival
Sat., Sept. 26th
Sun., Sept. 27th
Watch for more
information in the next
issue

