



What's happening at Beaver Bluffs?

As you drive by BCCD's Beaver Bluffs site on State Street between Shaw Road and Olson Road, you may notice some changes. A lot has been accomplished on this site within the last year and a half. First, there was a road! Then came a picnic shelter. Now a windmill, a shed and fence! How did that happen? Thankfully, the BCCD has been the recipient of many donations. It has been questioned by some that the "BCCD is spending a lot of money to develop this site." This could not be further from the truth. There have been many donors contributing their time, their energy, and finances to make this project a reality.

A grand opening for this site had been planned for mid October, but because of inclement weather it was postponed until spring of 2010. The final step at this site is the completion of an off-leash dog area, which will be called *Hammertime Unleashed*, in recognition of their support.

To use the off-leash dog area, you must purchase a dog tag (available now) at BCCD's Roger Gustafson Nature Center at 603 N. Appleton Rd. in Belvidere. The cost for the tag (which must be on your dog) is \$30/year for a Boone County resident. The nonresident fee is \$40/year. Additional dog tags may be purchased for an extra \$10/dog. You will be required to show proof of an up-to-date rabies vaccination. The tags will be good from now through December 31, 2010.

There will be four areas for users and their dogs:

Area 1 will be strictly for smaller or more timid dogs.

Area 2 will be a general open play area for all types of dogs.

Area 3 is a water attraction consisting of a windmill that pumps water to a small pool.

Area 4 has trails through the tall grassy part of the site.

All four areas will be fenced, with gates to get your dog into the different areas without leashing.

Boone County Animal Control will be working with the BCCD to offer many helpful classes at the site. They could include classes that will help an owner and dog be successful at using an off-leash dog area.

As soon as the fence goes up, the site will be open and ready for the dogs. For more information call 815-547-7935. *Hammertime Unleashed hats are on sale at the Nature Center for \$15.00. All proceeds from the sale of the hats will benefit the dog park.*



Mark your Calendars

April 24, 2010 is the date for BCCD's Green Ball, to be held at Bel-Mar Country Club. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to help build the Dawson River Road Schoolhouse. Enjoy a buffet dinner, dessert auction, 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Tickets are \$30 per person and will be available only at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center, 603 N. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL.





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

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Juice Pouch Collection

As some of you are aware we have been collecting juice pouches for recycling. We send used juice pouches to a company called TerraCycle where they are recycled into things like book bags, pencil cases, folders, etc...You may have seen some of these items at Shopko when shopping for school supplies this fall. If you purchased any then you completed the cycle: Buy-Use-Recycle-Rebuy!! If you would like to bring in your used juice pouches we ask for them to be bundled in groups of 25, to be clean and completely dry. To properly clean the pouches make a small slit in the bottom and rinse with water. Leave open to air dry. Do not cut off the top or bottom of the pouch. Please remove the straw and any of the plastic wrapping from the straw that sticks to the front of the pouch. Flatten each pouch after it is completely dry and put in a large Ziploc bag. When you have 25 in a bag drop them off at our office. Thanks!

Monofilament Recovery Bins

Eagle Scout project report

My name is Kyle Nelson, and I am a member of troop 425, based in Rockford. To receive my Eagle Scout Award, a community service project must be organized and performed. I contacted the Boone County Conservation District in order to find a project. Tina Dawson, an educator at the Conservation District, suggested that I create monofilament recovery bins, a disposal station for fishing line, which she saw in Florida. She felt it was necessary because many animals have been harmed or killed by loose fishing line. I decided to take on this project, because I felt it was a good way to help the environment.



Twelve monofilament recovery bins were built by fellow scouts, friends, and myself and placed at Spencer, Kishwaukee Bend, LIB, Beaver Bluffs, Distillery, Kinnikinnick, and Stimes Conservation Areas on August 23rd and the 31st. The bins have laminated stickers describing their purpose. Fishermen will be able to discard any extra fishing line into the tubes. Hopefully this will help fishermen keep the Conservation Areas clean.

The main reason why this project will be of benefit is to prevent the the killing of local wildlife. Many birds and fish have been found tangled in fishing line. By preventing the deaths of wildlife it will result in two positive outcomes. First, it will create a better environment for the wildlife to live. Secondly, it will keep the fishing areas cleaner and a better place for people to fish and enjoy their time. Wildlife needs to be protected as much as possible right now. They already struggle to live with the current pollution problem and destruction of habitat.

The project was completed successfully with no setbacks. Special thanks to Frank Mabry at Hugeprints for creating the stickers, to my friends for helping me complete the project, and Tina Dawson for suggesting and helping me plan the project.



BCCD Office Closed
The office will be closed Nov. 26th, 27th, Dec. 24th, 25th, 31st, Jan. 1st, and Feb. 15th.
Happy Holidays from the staff!

Garden Seed Sale
Sat., February 20th
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Roger D. Gustafson
Nature Center



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

What's Happening

Monthly Meetings

(Held at the Nature Center and open to the public)

BCCD Board - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Dec. 16th

Wednesday - Jan. 20th

Wednesday - Feb. 17th

Garden Club - 7:00 p.m.

No Meeting in Dec.

Tuesday - Jan. 26th

Tuesday - Feb. 23rd

Make a Canvas

Folk Floor Cloth

Sat., January 16th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Learn to make a canvas folk floor cloth. Cost of the class is \$20 and all

materials needed to make a 2'x4' floor cloth are included. Participants will meet at the Gustafson Nature Center and need to bring a lunch. Prepayment and preregistration is required. Call (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot or if you have questions.

Fly Fishing, Anyone?

Sat., January 30th

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Dennis Beaver, a member of the Rock River Fly Casters will teach the basics of fly fishing and how



to tie flies. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Class size is limited to 10 so call the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center at (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot.

Camp is on Facebook

View all the photos from this summer on our Facebook page. Username: bccdcamps

CFL Bulbs for Sale

CFL light bulbs are for sale at the BCCD. Proceeds benefit the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition. \$2.50 /100 watt bulb.

Eagle Watch

Sat., January 23rd

7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a day of eagle watching along the Illinois River at Starved Rock. There are programs featuring live birds of prey, nature seminars and exhibits. You can bring your own lunch or eat at the lodge. Bring binoculars if you have them. The cost to ride in our mini bus is \$15 for Boone County residents and \$20 for out-of-county residents. There is also a minimal charge to use the trolley at Starved Rock. We will leave the Nature Center at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited. Preregister and prepayment is required so call (815) 547-7935.



Holiday Walk

Sat., December 5th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Travel back in time for a glimpse of the holidays in seasons past. Luminaries will light the way to our log cabins where pioneer families will be celebrating. They might even be serving holiday goodies!! Stop by and share your holiday wishes with a Civil War era Santa. Enjoy freshly popped corn along the way and come inside the Nature Center to listen to the sound of music. Held on the Festival Grounds.



Critter Care

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to help with the routine care of our educational animals. We have two box turtles, two aquatic turtles, a gecko, hissing cockroaches, two snakes and a meal worm farm. It would involve cage cleaning and feeding. This would be ideal for a junior high or high school person after school, once or twice a week for an hour or two. Email Tina at tdawson@BooneCountyConservationDistrict.org if you are interested.



Broom Making

Wed., December 9th

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Make either a cobweb broom or a whisk broom using broom corn. Cost is \$7.00 per person and all materials needed are supplied. Space is limited. Pre-payment and pre-registration is required. To register or for questions, please call (815) 547-7935.



Deer Hides Needed



The BCCD is once again taking deer hides from hunters for its hide tanning class. Hides must be

fresh and in good condition (no extra holes, tears, knife cuts). No antlers, feet or other parts. Do not salt hide. Remove all meat and place folded hide in heavy plastic bag and freeze. You may bring hides to our office Mon - Fri from 8 -4:30. Thank you.

Conservation Areas Closed

Please note that Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, LI B Conservation Area, Distillery Road Conservation Area, Anderson Woods Conservation Area, Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area, Piscasaw Fen, and O. O. Stimes Memorial Park will be closed to the general public on Saturdays and Sundays Dec. 13th, 14th, Jan. 3rd, 4th, 9th and 10th for archery hunting.

Riffles & Eddies



603 Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

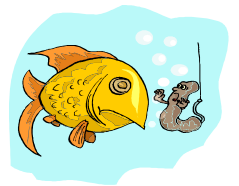
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Org.
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Kid's Ice Fishing Workshop

A FREE workshop for kids 5 -15 yrs. Lunch Provided.

Saturday, February 6, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



Program is sponsored by the Coon Creek Casters

Workshop will start at the Roger Gustafson Nature Center
603 N. Appleton Road , Belvidere, IL



Bring any ice fishing equipment you have, limited rigs available.

You must preregister for this program. Registration begins January 4, 2010 Call the BCCD at (815) 547-7935 to register.