

Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation

Newsletter

- Chautauqua—Page 4 & 5
- New Woodlands Exhibit—Page 1 & 2

www.franklincreekgristmill.com

Summer 2017

Upcoming Events

The Forest, the Trees & the Autumn Leaves —

2017 Singing Bird Chautauqua

Sunday, October 15th, 12 PM—6 PM

An afternoon of family fun at the Grist Mill full of Drama, Art, Stories, Music, Learning, Nature & Food. Contact Alyssa at (815) 456-2718 to purchase tickets or for info. Details page 4 and 5.

Explore the World of Trees Nature Day at Franklin Creek

Saturday, August 5th 9 AM—12 PM

Spend the day taking a closer look at the nuts and trees along the creek. Kids program (adults invited). Details page 3.

Woodlands & Trees of the Prairie State Exhibition

Through October 31

Special exhibit devoted to the woodlands on display on the 2nd floor of the mill. Details to the right.

Ongoing Events

See page 3 for more details.

Bird Walk: Monthly, 8 AM Free

Geology Walk: Monthly, 9 AM Free

Franklin Creek Grist Mill Hours:

- April through October: Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 12pm-4pm. Stop in for a grist mill tour, view new nature exhibits on the 2nd floor, & find out about local nature.
- Grinding demonstrations are held on the last Saturday of every month and stone ground corn is always available for sale! See our featured recipe on page 3.

(815) 456-2718

info@franklincreekgristmill.com

What's New at Franklin Creek!

"Woodlands and Trees of the Prairie State" - New exhibits!

Welcome to the year of woodlands at Franklin Creek! We have some great opportunities for you to visit the Grist Mill and learn more about our local trees and woodlands as well as the flora and fauna that inhabit them. This summer we opened a new Woodlands exhibit on the second floor of the



Grist Mill. The exhibit investigates the history of forests in Illinois, introduces you to "forest bathing", hone your skills at writing poetry, and explores the benefits of live and dead wood. You can view some local Franklin Creek trees, and find out how the mill was built. Visit this inspiring exhibit with your friends, family, school, church, or group today.

Hurray! New grants support upcoming improvements at Franklin Creek

We are very pleased to report that six new grants totaling \$53,000 have been awarded to FGC&PC since May 1st. Together they boost our ability to preserve and restore the Franklin Creek area and to build the understanding and involvement of people like you in the natural world.

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is providing \$48,500 of the grant funds! Amenities grants of \$5,000 each for the Headwaters, Kelley and Hurd properties will support a range of improvements from benches and picnic tables at the Headwaters, to new trails at Kelley, to removing debris and securing the Hurd barn. \$500 for outreach at each site will be pooled to support volunteer participation in a Bio-Blitz to be held for Earth Day next spring to inventory trees, wildflowers and early birds on and near these sites.

A \$32,000 Stewardship Grant will restore more of the Headwaters prairie, wetland and woodlands. It will help fund an updated inventory of plants and animals in the area, support volunteer involvement in stewardship activities, purchase equipment and pay for the initial engineering for a trail under the bridge at Route 38 and Franklin Creek to connect the north and south parts of the Headwaters property.

(continued on page 2)

**This grant requires a match of \$8,250 from donors like you.
Each \$1 you contribute will allow us to access \$3 from this grant.**

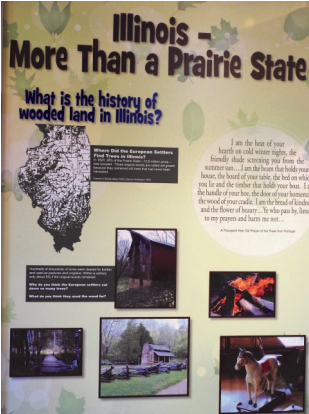
Please help us raise the required match.

**You can make your contribution check payable to:
FGC&PC, 1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031**

Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation

(continued from page 1 Grants)

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), awarded us \$4,000 to create a new website. Unfortunately, our old website was hacked and the platform can no longer be secured. As a temporary work around, if you go to www.franklincreekgristmill.com today, you will be forwarded to our Facebook page.



The new website will be more user friendly, debut our recent branding work and be easier and cheaper to update.

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitor's Bureau awarded us \$500 to help pay for our new educational exhibit at the Grist Mill, "Woodlands and Trees of the Prairie State". This exhibit provides easy to understand information about the history of trees and forests in Illinois, tree habitats, woodland animals and plants, trees in poetry, the health benefits of "forest bathing", the benefits of trees – dead and alive, and much more. Bring your friends and family – the exhibit is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 4 through October 31st and is well worth the trip.

We are grateful to each of our funders for their support of the Franklin Creek eco-system, its plant and animal inhabitants and your experience there.

Nature Notes: Meanings in Nature

Dr. Clifford E. Knapp

I've had a love affair with language for many years. One focus of my love is the word, "nature" (sometimes capitalized, "Nature"). The word comes from the Latin, "to be born". That seems to indicate something that is new and uncontaminated by pollution. Nature can have many meanings, but it also can be a broad and slippery term. You might be thinking, "Why not just go to the dictionary to find its meaning?" After doing that, I was even more confused. *The Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1933, pp. 41-42) contains at least 15 definitions of the word. In a 1948 article by A. O. Lovejoy he identified 66 different meanings of the term. Go to an unabridged dictionary and see how many you can find.



When I hear the word, "nature", I think of what someone once said, "I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant." I believe that the word carries many meanings for people. One way to explain what complex, abstract words mean is to create metaphors. A metaphor is a figure of speech using a direct comparison of one thing to another. For example, "Love is the heart's burning flame." Many different metaphors for nature have been suggested to help communicate its meaning.

Nature can serve as a healer or a hospital. Many people find emotional peace and comfort in going to natural places. The Japanese go to the forest to relax and call it forest bathing. Nature can also be a physical healer because of the medicinal teas, salves, and pharmaceuticals found there. Do you know of a special place outside where you go to be emotionally or physically healed? John Burroughs wrote: "I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more."

Nature can be a teacher or a source of wisdom. There are many lessons to be learned from observing nature. I sometimes can estimate the age of an old field by noticing the kinds of plants growing there. If I find box elders, black cherries, or staghorn sumac, the field may have been abandoned about five to ten years ago. William Wordsworth believed this too: "Come forth into the light of things, let Nature be your teacher." Juvenel, the ancient Roman poet, wrote, "Never does Nature say one thing and wisdom another."

Nature can be considered to include humans. The term "human nature" reminds us that we are a part of nature. When we harm nature, we are really harming ourselves. Humans are made up of the chemicals found in the earth, even some of the poisons. Thomas Berry, a theologian, wrote: "Humankind is nature, looking into nature."

Nature can be a machine, separate from humans. Sometimes, the material world is divided into two parts: people and all they produce *and* nature, meaning everything else not connected to humans. This separation can lead to the awareness that we have a responsibility to care for nature as we would a machine or it can lead to ignoring its care. Loren Eiseley asked an important question: "How can we reenter the first world of nature, from which we have alienated ourselves?" One way is to care for nature as a delicate machine.

What other metaphors can you think of for nature? Have you considered nature as a creative power, place of worship, treasure storehouse, playground, art gallery, mystery, and an economist? I think that nature can be all of these and more.

Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation

Become a Stewardship volunteer along the Franklin Creek!

Come join the Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation help restore our natural areas around Franklin Grove. From the woods to the prairies, we may be pulling weeds or picking native seed while enjoying our time outside.



Meet at the Grist Mill on the Sundays listed below from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather as we will be outside the whole time, rain

or shine. Closed toed shoes, pants, hat and sunglasses are all recommended along with either a t-shirt or breathable long sleeve shirt.

Stewardship Volunteer Days:

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Sunday, October 22, 2017

If you have any questions, please feel free to email kalebbaker91@gmail.com or call the Grist Mill at (815) 456-2718.

FEATURED RECIPE

Cornmeal Pancakes with Blackberry Syrup

Ingredients: (for 4 servings)



Pancakes

- 1 1/2 cups (heaping) STONEGROUND CORNMEAL (available at the grist mill)
- 1 1/2 cups (scant) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 Tablespoons baking powder
- 4 Tablespoons sugar
- 2 1/4 cups whole milk (more if needed)
- 2 whole large eggs
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 Tablespoons butter, melted

Blackberry syrup

- 1 pint blackberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 Tablespoons cornstarch
- Extra butter for serving
- Maple or pancake syrup for serving (optional)

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Directions:

1. Mix together cornmeal, flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar in a bowl. Set aside.
2. In a separate bowl, mix milk, eggs, and vanilla. Pour into the dry ingredients, stirring gently.
3. Stir in melted butter. Set batter aside. If batter is overly thick, splash in a small amount of milk.
4. In a saucepan, combine blackberries, sugar, and water. Bring to a gentle boil and cook for 5 minutes on low. Stir in cornstarch, then continue cooking, using a whisk or spoon to mash the larger pieces of blackberries. Remove from heat when it's nice and thick.
5. Heat 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet over medium-low heat. When heated, drop 1/4 cup batter per pancake and cook until golden brown on both sides. Remove from skillet and set aside.
6. Stack three pancakes, placing a pat of butter between each pancake. Drizzle with warm maple syrup, then spoon blackberry syrup over the top.

Bird Walks

~The second Saturday of every month, May-October at 8am. Meet at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Join seasoned birders as they lead a walk through the Franklin Creek State Natural Area highlighting the migrating birds and the ones who make the natural area their home. **Mark your calendars for August 12, September 9, and October 14.**

Geology Walks

~The last Saturday of every month, May-October at 9am. Meet at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Get ready for a lesson in geology! For starters Franklin Creek State Natural Area has the oldest exposed bedrock in Illinois. At 500 million years old, the New Richmond Sandstone is remarkable. **Mark your calendars for August 26, September 30, and October 28.**

Become a Volunteer

Do you love spending time at the Grist Mill? Do you enjoy nature, the outdoors, or how mills work and machinery? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, think about becoming a volunteer. Please contact the mill for more info: (815) 456-2718 or email info@franklincreekgristmill.com.

Explore the world of Trees at Franklin Creek with your family on Saturday, August 5th!

Come spend a morning learning about trees. We will explore the edible uses of at least 6 Illinois trees with tasting of maple and walnut syrup, cracking and eating different nuts, pine needle tea, and acorn pancakes. There will also be a forest ecology hike, learning games, and other activities with sticks and wood.

We will meet at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill at 9am till noon on Saturday, August 5th and travel to the woods. This event will be focused for ages 8 yrs and older. Adults are welcome to join as well. Limited to 30 kids. Please RSVP with a number of children you will be bringing or for more information, call the Grist Mill at 815-456-2718.

Bring bug spray, good walking shoes, and appropriate clothing for being in the woods.

Please note that we will be working with a variety of nuts and tasting nut products.



Singing Bird Chautauqua 2017 Presents

The Forest, the Trees, and the Autumn Leaves

An afternoon of family fun at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill full of:

Drama, Stories, Art, Music, Learning, Nature and Food

Sunday, October 15th, noon-6:00 p.m.

Free after 3:00 p.m.



Enjoy the splendor of *The Forest, the Trees, and the Autumn Leaves*. There will be a variety of events throughout the afternoon all centered around the theme of trees, forests, woods, and more; including music, activities, and performances.

Schedule of Events:

Noon—1:00 PM

Fall color nature walks, Corn grinding demonstrations, Mill tours

1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Special Dinner and Program

Join us for dinner from 1-2pm and from 2-3pm enjoy the tales of renown storyteller and author Brian “Fox” Ellis who will inspire guests with Tree Tales of the Native Americans.

Ticket Reservations Required for Dinner and Program:

\$25/adult, \$8/student (18 years and younger.)

3:00 PM—4:30 PM

Tent

3:00 PM— Bob & Laurene Logsdon will perform guitar and dulcimer music & Bob Logsdon Sr. will explain how to make dulcimers

3:30 PM—Presentation & question and answer session on the Care of Trees with Lant Huntley

4:00 PM—Steve Robery performing with guitar

Food

Autumn Stew

Bison brats

Cornbread and salad

Deserts

Kettle corn and Caramel apples

Midway Activities

Plant an Acorn

Pumpkin Decorating (fee for pumpkin)

Wood Carving Demonstration

Make a Bird House or Bat House (fee for materials)

Apple Cider Making

Wagon Ride from 3:15 to 4:15

Face Painting and Children's Crafts

Catch the Apple on a String

Vendors

Silent Auction and Art Raffle



4:30 PM—5:30 PM

Wildlife Presentation about Owls by the Northern Illinois Raptor Association

Take a closer look into the world of owls. Owls need woodlands and trees to survive, build their nests, and hunt for food in. This educational program will bring an understanding of owls, their habits, and “live” owls on display.

5:30 PM—6:00 PM

More Music

Enjoy the tunes while relaxing at the end of the day.



Singing Bird Chautauqua 2017 Presents

The Forest, the Trees, & the Autumn Leaves

An afternoon of *family fun* at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill
full of: Drama, Stories, Art, Music, Learning,
Nature and Food

Sunday, October 15
12pm - 6pm

- Special program & dinner at 1-3pm
“Native American Tree Tales” by
Brian “Fox” Ellis
(\$25/adult, \$8/student)
- Free events after 3pm
- Food available for purchase
all day
- Live Owl program, build a
bird house, wood carving
demonstration, learn
how to care for trees
- Listen to music galore

For more details:

www.franklincreekgristmill.com
(815) 456-2718

Franklin Creek Conservation Association
Franklin Creek Grist Mill
1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove IL



Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation
1893 Twist Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031-9315

Return Service Requested



So Much to See and Do!

Enjoy a nature walk with
a volunteer guide.



**at Franklin Creek
State Natural Area**

Singing Bird Chautauqua
October 15 (pg 4-5)

Family and group tours
available!



New Woodlands Exhibit through
October 31 (pg 1-2)

The Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation strives to preserve and protect high quality natural areas in the Franklin Creek watershed, while providing educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for the public to discover, explore and experience the area.