

The Franklin Creek Chronicle

Have you made someone's day?

Yes, you have! These explorers are here because of YOUR support!

Thanks to you the Fossil Hunt this past July was a success! By donating to FCCA you are helping to fund the education programs here at Franklin Creek. We couldn't do this without you!

The kids were so excited to get out and look for fossils. "Stacey" told her son it was time to get ready for bed the night before and with an excited grin on his face he said, **"That's right! Because the fossil hunt is tomorrow!"**

We got started with the hike and the kids were racing through the trails. They hardly paid any attention to the delicious black raspberries off to the side. While the adults hiked and snacked the kids were off to find any trace of a fossil.

Once we arrived at our destination, the kids were set on finding the best fossil. We found a few fossils of shells throughout the area and lots and lots of dendrites (they look like stamps of ancient plants). With your help we can continue to provide these educational experiences for eager young learners. Consider making a donation to FCCA today!



Left: Parents and children search for elusive fossils during the 2019 Fossil Hunt. Kids were able to learn about the different types of rocks and fossils thanks to your support!



Above: Eric licks a rock to taste for fossils. (This can be used as a last resort method to see if you've found a fossil. If you did, your tongue would stick just a little to the fossil in question. Eric did not find a fossil.)

YOU can...

Restore our natural areas! Get families and individuals involved with our local history and ecosystems!

Checks made out to FCCA can be mailed to:

1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Or visit franklincreekconservation.org

FEB2020NL

Thank you to our sponsors for the 2019 Chautauqua: The Forest, the Trees, and the Autumn Leaves

- **The Lincoln Way Inn**
- **Bradford Victor Adams Mutual Insurance Company**
- **American Leak Detection**
- **Books on First**
- **The Loft at K's Korner**
- **The Fallon Family in memory of Dr. Jim Fallon**



Above: Getting crafty designing and making our very own Talking Feathers! Kim Sigafus led this activity and more during our 5th annual Chautauqua. We also learned about the Jingle Dress Dance and some got to learn the steps themselves!



Right: Tim Benedict and Ellen Baker stop for a picture during the days festivities. Tim brought his delicious local honey and some of the bees from his colony!



Left: The proud smile of an accomplished Talking Feather participant. Thanks to our generous sponsors we are able to host events where people can learn and experience new activities! **If you or your company is interested in sponsoring an FCCA event, please call 815.456.2718**



Planning a field trip? Service project? Large group outing?

Visit us at the **Franklin Creek Grist Mill!**

We have the **ONLY** fully water powered gristmill in the state! Bring your group out to the Mill to experience history with a private tour or bring your group out for the day and rent the mill!

The Mill is available for tours starting April 1, 2020

Field Trip/Home School/ Scouts:

Cost is \$3/ student, no charge for teachers, chaperones, or bus drivers.

Please plan at least an hour for the tour and exploring the mill.

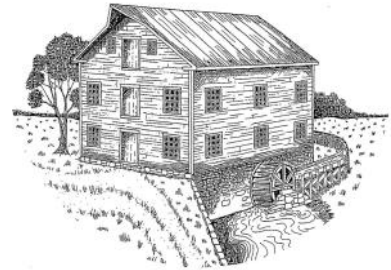
If you would like to add an outdoor educational experience to your visit please visit our website for a full list of activities and descriptions.

- Prairie Ecology
- Surviving the Woodlands
- Water Ecology
- Geology
- Service Project

Our Field Trip Scholarship form can be found on our website.

Private Tour:

There is a \$75 charge for private tours.



Mill Rental:

Perfect for your wedding, board meeting, or company retreat.

The minimum for any rental is \$100 for 4 hours. For more details, please contact us at engage@franklincreekconservation.org or by phone at 815.456.2718.

We NEED you!

Left: Volunteers hard at work making our natural areas beautiful! By removing invasive species we create a more diverse and healthy habitat. **Below:** Thanks to your donations we have been able to make significant progress on the 1480 Project!



Your time—

If you would like to learn more about how YOU can get involved at FCCA please contact Katie at 815.456.2718 or at engage@franklincreekconservation.org



2020 Calendar of Events

Franklin Creek Grist Mill

Opens Saturday, April 4th
Closes Sunday, November 1st

The Mill is open from Noon-4PM Saturday and Sunday throughout the season and Noon-4PM on Fridays during June, July, and August.

Evenings at the Mill

Registration Required

April 18, 6-9PM

Mark Heinrich (\$25/person)

June 13, 6-9PM

Trivia Night (\$15)

October 18, 5-7PM

Dead People of Illinois presentation by John Lynn (\$25/person)

Stewardship Workdays

Meet at 1480 Old Mill Road
9AM-Noon

Thursdays

April 2, 9, 16

May 14, 21, 28

Saturday April 25

Saturday May 23

Guided Hikes

Meet at 1480 Old Mill Road unless otherwise noted.

Registration Required

Sunday, March 8, 2PM

Hound Hike, All dogs must be leashed, friendly, and vaccinated. *Meet at Norwegian Hills-Banker Shelter*

Saturday, April 4, 10AM

Spring Clean Up Hike (trash pickup along creek)

Wildflower Wednesday Hikes

Last Wednesday of May, June, July, August, and September from 6-8PM (meeting locations vary)



Trail Clean Up*

Meet at 1480 Old Mill Road
9AM-Noon

Saturdays

June 20

July 18

August 15

***Requires advanced registration.** Please contact Katie at 815.456.2718 if you or your group is interested in helping with trail maintenance.

Check our website for the most up-to-date activity list.

Chautauqua

Sunday

September 27

2020



www.FranklinCreekConservation.org