



Franklin Creek Conservation Association

- Engage -
- Understand -
- Preserve -

Summer 2018

www.franklincreekconservationassociation.org

Photo Workshop

On June 2nd Jeff Schlesinger led a photo workshop hunting for wildflowers. Some of every skill set showed up with phones or cameras on hand. The picture to the right is of Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*). **Did you know...spiderwort flowers only bloom for one day and they can be used in salads?**

On the weekend of August 25 & 26, Jeff and Ed will be hosting a similar class for high school students. For more information, check our website and Facebook.



© Ed Kaleta

Youth Programs at Franklin Creek



©Katie McBride

At Franklin Creek Conservation Association, we know just how important it is to get kids outside. That's why we have been creating a Youth Program to get families engaged and exploring the natural areas. So far this summer, FCCA has held two evening programs for children, Closer to the Creek on June 14th and Playing on the Prairie on July 12th, the next scheduled Habitat Program is on **August 9th** where we will be exploring the woodlands and the animals that call it home. Parents are encouraged to join their children and required to stay for the length of the program. The cost is \$10 per child, these programs include dinner (hot dogs and s'mores).

At Closer to the Creek, the kids were tentative at first, as Katie and Megan found different examples of what lives in the creek, the children quickly began their investigation of the Franklin Creek. Despite the program being very centered around having fun and exploring, Katie and Megan found many teachable moments where the participants learned more about invasive species, habitat loss, and water pollution. All of

Thursday programs
are \$10/child
RSVP by phone or
email

[Continued on page 5...](#)

Franklin Creek Conservation Association

Enjoying the Season

In May we had our Open House, over 70 people came out to see our new exhibits and meet the new staff! There was delicious food (the mushroom pate recipe is on our website). And the fun continued on early in June with an Evening at the Mill, TREEVIA style. More great food, company, and tree themed questions. There were several categories of tree trivia, including music, books, uses of wood, and more.

We have also been doing Nature Walks and Stewardship Days. If you haven't been able to make it out for a Saturday event, don't worry, there's still time. We have also added in a couple more days to get work started on **1480 Old Mill Road**. If you missed the June 30th workday-there will be another on **September 29th (7 a.m.—Noon)**. We are looking for all kinds of skill levels. If you are interested in participating in this renovation come on out! Nature Walks are every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning (time varies) and Stewardship Days are every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m.—Noon.



Hello All,

My name is Megan Sneyd, and I am the new summer intern at Franklin Creek. I have a passion both for environmental education and history, so I am ecstatic for all the opportunities to learn and grow here at the Mill.

I grew up in Rochelle, Illinois, and I spent most of my childhood roaming the woodlands and prairies of Northern Illinois. My love for nature only grew as I got older, so I decided to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in policy at Northern Illinois University. During my time in school, I was very involved in the Illinois Lake Management Association where I learned more about stewardship and water ecology. There, I discovered my love for aquatic ecosystems and learned new ways to share that love with others.

Although I am still at the beginning of my career, I have held several internships that have helped me develop the skills to become an environmental educator. As a student at NIU, I worked for the Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability, and Energy to help publicize the different ways NIU is working to be a more sustainable and environmentally conscious campus. Following my graduation, I began an internship at the Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon, Illinois learning how to become an environmental educator. Since then, I have been promoted to an Education Program Specialist. I very much look forward to working here at Franklin Creek and learning all I can about the natural areas and the Mill itself.

Sunday, October 14

10 a.m.—6 p.m.

The Forest, the Trees, and the Autumn Leaves

Music by Chris Vallillo and by Steve Robery, Hawks by Northern Illinois Raptor, Derek Evans as “Teddy Roosevelt”, and much more at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill!

- 10:00-12:00 Autumn Woodland Nature Walk
 - 12:00-12:30 Music and Mill Tours
 - 12:30-1:30 President Teddy Roosevelt Returns in TR! By Derek Evans
 - 2:00-3:00 Live Hawk Presentation by Northern Illinois Raptor
 - 3:00-4:00 Music by Steve Robery, Stories, Tours, Cider Making, Pumpkin Decorating & More
 - 4:00-6:00 Evening at the Mill—Inside—Limited Space, Reservations Required
- Adults \$25, Students \$15, Children \$10
- 4-5 Dinner Pork and Apple Stew or Veggie Chili w/great sides
- 5-6 Songs of Rural Illinois—Performed by Chris Vallillo

Brats and other tasty treats available from noon—4 p.m.

**All proceeds from Singing Bird Chautauqua support
the youth programs at Franklin Creek!**

Franklin Creek Conservation Association
1893 Twist Rd.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
(815)456-2718
www.franklincreekconservation.org



@franklincreekconservation

Singing Bird Chautauqua

2018

Franklin Creek Conservation Association

Bio Blitz

September 8, 2018—A BioBlitz is an opportunity to get out and inventory the local flora and fauna of the area to help assess to biological diversity and determine restoration progress and set goals. If you are interested in helping out at our next Bio-Blitz contact

stewardship@franklincreekconservation.org or call at (815)456-2718. This is a FREE event.



Fall Fundraiser

September 20, 2018— Don't forget to save the date! We will be hosting a fundraiser at the Holloway Center in Dixon this fall. There will be dinner, drinks, and a video to showcase what we've been up to this year!

Donate Today

Help us protect, restore, and maintain the natural areas we all love so much...

Checks made out to **FCCA** can be mailed or dropped off at the Mill during Mill Hours:

1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Or scan:



C A J J H S I F Y A R C Y M X
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SCUD
CRAYFISH
CADDISFLY
LARVAE
SNAILS
CREEK
WOODLANDS
PRAIRIE
OAK
HICKORY
SPIDERWORT
MUSHROOM
TRIVIA
VENISON
LIBRARY

If you enjoyed this word search, check out our **NEW Jr. Naturalist Program!**

Check for updates and details on our website, Facebook, and Instagram.



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Franklin Creek Conservation Association

Habitats at Franklin Creek...

the participants said they had a wonderful time, and local ten year old Jordan said hunting for crayfish was, "even more fun than video games."

Playing on the Prairie was just as much fun, participants explored the variety of native plants and discovered how many different types and colors of flowers are blooming during July. The kids also got to learn what it feels like to be a fox on the hunt and just how hard it is to find food in the tallgrass prairie.

If you are unable to attend a program there are self guided activities on our website and at the gristmill. To acquire a Jr. Naturalist Certificate, participants must earn a minimum of 30 points by mixing and matching activities that are available on FCCA's website or at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Activities include scavenger hunts (3pts), service/restoration hours (5pts/hour, at

least one hour required to earn certificate), and attending a habitat program with a parent or group (3pts).

These programs are also available to groups at a time of their choosing. The habitat programs are offered for groups of 20 or more (max. 30) with a minimum cost of \$150. For every participant over 20 people there will be an additional \$5 fee (\$10 w/food). This is a 3-4 hour program with a focus on creek, prairie, or woodland habitats. If you are interested in one of these programs please contact us at (815)456-2718 or katie.mcbride@franklincreekconservation.org



We had such a blast with all of you! So glad you could make it out and enjoy some of our favorite things (food and nature)! Hope we see you again—Katie & Megan

katie.mcbride@franklincreekconservation.org OR megan.sneyd@franklincreekconservation.org

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Return Service Requested



Franklin Creek Conservation Association Exists for the care of the natural areas of Franklin Creek for current and future generations by striving to preserve, restore, and maintain those areas; involve individuals and organizations in Our common purpose and activity; build knowledge and appreciation of the natural area and our cultural heritage. Donations of time and money to help us achieve our goals are appreciated!



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To see more pictures, visit our website at www.franklincreekconservation.org