

# Newsletter

*"Each moment of the year has its own beauty... a picture which was never before and shall never be seen again." -Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Summer 2013

## Franklin Creek Geology

Some of the most stunning geological features in Illinois are just down the road.

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## Headwaters Property

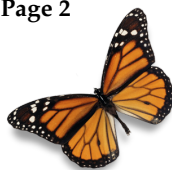
From the acquisition of the Franklin Creek Headwaters, an exceptional story unfolds itself before your eyes.

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## Fun Facts

Information for our nature enthusiasts! Learn about some of the hidden details of local wildlife.

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## A Bit of Business

Gratitudes  
Plans & Goals  
Volunteer Involvement  
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## Featured Recipe

From the Grist Mill to your kitchen. Create your own homemade specialty with traditional recipes for Mill goers.

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## Contact Information

Sign up for email as the Committee strives to utilize more eco-friendly resources for communication.

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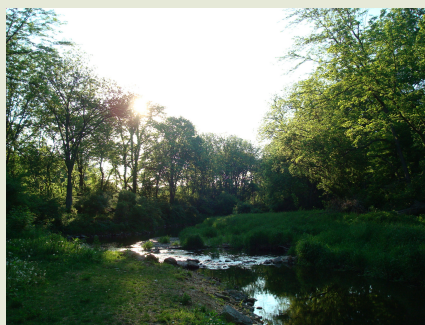
## Summer is here!

*The Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee 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.*

Welcome to the Franklin Creek State Natural Area and Grist Mill. Many exciting things are happening here and we would like to invite you to join in the fun.

### A retreat from your daily life

Now that the weather is warm and the spring rains have rejuvenated the land, life is blossoming all over Franklin Creek. Not only are the wildflowers blooming, but the birds are singing their sweet songs all throughout this natural area. The harmonious environment here is a vacation from the busy lives we



**Clear your mind and connect with the natural world around you.**

lead. Instead of coming home from work to watch the news or clean the house, you can come out and get a breath of fresh air to clear your mind and enjoy yourself.

Along with the surroundings, the Grist Mill is also blossoming. The regular tours and demonstrations are ongoing, but the Preservation Committee also has plans to enhance the Interpretive Center for all who visit. Educational opportunities about the ecological

importance and heritage of the area are in store. Additionally, with a variety of events throughout the year, there is something for all of our readers.

## Events at the Grist Mill

### Yoga

~ from June 6th through October 10th  
~ Thursdays from 3:45pm until 5:00pm  
~ Learn basic Yoga postures that lead to more natural respiration, increased flexibility and strength, stress reduction and more.  
~ Drop in for \$12 or pay \$10 a class for 6 or more classes.

### Through the Eyes of Leonardo DaVinci with Scott Shepherd

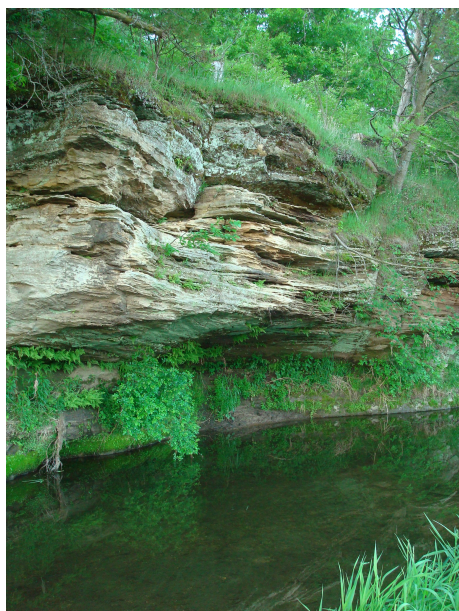
~ Sunday, September 29  
~ Dinner will be served at 1:00pm  
~ Program starts at 2:00pm  
~ Dinner tickets \$25

## Sticks and Stones

### *Franklin Creek Geology*

Can you imagine looking into the past, before the age of computers, televisions, cars, the light bulb, people, and ultimately to a time before dinosaurs? The geology of Franklin Creek is truly unique. The oldest rock formation in the entire state is found here.\*

Most people think of Illinois as being flat, so when you visit places such as this, that part of us that seeks adventure and exploration can be ignited. The glacial till that provides such fertile farmland for Illinois residents is just the icing on the cake, so to speak. The pleasant valleys of Franklin Creek contain three layers of exposed bedrock. St. Peter sandstone can be seen at the top of the gorge, and is approximately 460 million years old. The Shakopee formation exists just beneath the St. Peter sandstone. At the bottom, lies New Richmond sandstone which is the oldest, and is dated to be 500 million years old.\* The rocky walls adjacent to the Franklin Creek are quite a sight. They are visible along the trails and off of Twist road at Monday's Bridge.



The recently acquired Hurd property, located near the center of the natural area also holds terrific geological formations, and is a wonderful example of the determination of this Committee. Previously under private ownership, Hurd has been a highly desired property of the Committee for 40 years. This 40 acre acquisition is important, because the area is in pristine condition. Many native



flower species occur here, including the Spring Beauty, Toothwort, Common Phlox or "sweet William," Bluebells, Columbine, and many more. The peaceful hills of Hurd are also home to many birds, whose songs carry from the tall treetops and rocky gorge to our fortunate ears.

## Amazing Restoration

### *Welcome to the Headwaters Property*

In June of 2009, the committee purchased the Headwaters property that basically connects Franklin Creek State Natural Area with the town of Franklin Grove. Prior to this acquisition, the property was used primarily for farmland. With your help, we have saved the area from commercial development! Since then, the Committee has done exceptional work here with the involvement of the Future Farmers of America, and other volunteer efforts.

With agriculture being essential to the local economy, we have bettered the farmland of Headwaters. In cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District, we have taken some areas out of production, and are demonstrating all seven of the "best use" practices on the remaining active farmland. The waterways, filter strips and field borders, are just a few examples of these practices that are vital to the ecosystem here, because they enhance the quality of the water entering Franklin Creek.

The land that was taken out of production has been beautifully restored. Utilizing a more natural method of dormant seeding, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands, the entire area has flourished. With 10 acres

dedicated to wetlands, we are providing refuge for local and migrating birds. Various waterfowl, Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, and others have been seen here. A delight for your ears and eyes, this wetland area also includes 292 different aquatic plant species now. The Committee plans to encourage visitors with parking on the east end of the property, and a trail leading to a four seasons viewing platform. The observation area will have a wide span view over the wetlands for you to enjoy. Furthermore, the trail will then continue to connect with the rest of the Franklin Creek State Natural Area.



Additionally removed from production, is a 4 acre area dedicated for our lovely pollinating friends, the bee. This pollinator field has been planted completely with prairie flowers and will be monitored to deter the overgrowth of grasses. Being in a more remote area, the bees can do their work undisturbed.



## Interesting Facts...

~ White-Tailed Deer can run up to 30 miles per hour, leap as far as 30 feet and as high as 10 feet.\*

~ The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird can beat its wings up to 53 times in just one second, causing the humming sound we hear from these little birds.\*

~ Deer Ticks live approximately 2 years, and feed only 3 times throughout their entire life.\* These little bugs can be as small as a freckle, so be sure to look yourself over after outdoor activities.



# In Appreciation

*On behalf of the Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee...*

## THANK YOU

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands  
Future Farmers of America  
Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Individual Volunteers  
All other contributors

## PLANS & GOALS

Hire an Executive Director to provide staff leadership and implement the strategic plan  
Improve the Grist Mill as an educational and interpretive center  
Develop organized programs for volunteers  
Work on capital improvements at Headwaters to enhance the visitor experience  
Improve public relations and utilize more eco-friendly methods of communication

## GET INVOLVED

There is always something to do at Franklin Creek. Our volunteers have accomplished so much, and are greatly appreciated for their contributions. We could use more helping hands at the Grist Mill, and with land maintenance as well as restoration activities.  
If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact us for further information. Thank you!

**As always, we are deeply grateful for your donations.**

**Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation is a 501 c3 non-profit organization.**

**Please send any contributions to 1893 Twist Rd. Franklin Grove, IL 61031-9315**

**Thank you!**

## FEATURED RECIPE

### Cornbread

1 c stone ground corn	1 tsp salt
1 c flour	1 egg
4 tsp baking powder	1 1/2 c milk
1 T sugar	4 T shortening

*Sift together stone ground corn, flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Add beaten egg and milk, then the melted shortening and mix well. Bake in moderate oven for 40 minutes. Enjoy!*

*Adeline Jasper*

**More delicious recipes can be found in the *Recipes & Remembrances* book for sale at the Grist Mill.**

## \*Resources & Acknowledgements

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois State Geological Survey  
National Geographic Society  
National Audubon Society

## Public Relations

### Contact us at:

Franklin Creek Grist Mill

1893 Twist Road

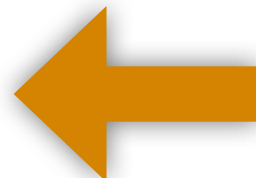
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

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### or visit our website at:

[www.FranklinCreekGristMill.com](http://www.FranklinCreekGristMill.com)



# Come over & enjoy yourself!

*Franklin Creek is buzzing with summer excitement. The Grist Mill is up and running, with grinding demonstrations that will get your gears turning. The nature trails are painted with beautiful foliage, and accompanied by the peaceful music of the Franklin Creek and its springs. So, come out and see what you discover!*



Nature Preserve



Franklin Creek Grist Mill



Mill Spring