

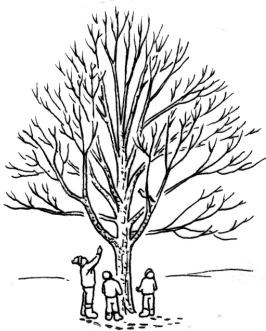
LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE NATURE CENTER

708-839-6897

The Winter World of Hawks and Owls: How do hawks and owls survive through winter? We'll look at different ways raptors adjust to cold and snow. Saturday, December 3, 1:30 p.m.

White Oak Trail Workday: Grab your gloves! We're taking back our White Oak Trail from invasive plant species. Have fun learning more about stewardship and restoration as we tackle these "weeds." Tools and light refreshments provided. Saturday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Chicago Portage Work Day: Step back in time to trace the paths of Native Americans and explorers, and help restore biodiversity on this historic site by removing invasive plants. Groups welcome! This is a great way to fulfill community service requirements. At 49th & Harlem, Lyons. Saturday, December 17, 9:00 a.m. - noon.



Trees of Winter: Snow and cold blankets our woodlands as winter unveils her splendor. Despite the weather, life abounds in our woodlands. Join us as we identify winter trees and explore their beauty. Saturday, December 17, 1:30 p.m.

Winter Bonfire: Following traditions of many cultures and times, we'll celebrate the winter solstice with a short walk, songs around the bonfire, and trimming a wildlife tree. *Pre-registration in person is required; \$3.00/person. No Groups Please.* Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Saturday Matinee: Bring the family to warm up with a nature inspired film. The topic will be appropriate for the season. Refreshments will be available. Saturday, December 31, 1:30 p.m.

All FPDC nature centers are closed Christmas and New Years Days - Happy Holidays!

RIVER TRAIL NATURE CENTER

847-824-8360

What's on the Menu? Join us at feeding time to learn about our display animals and their unique habits. Every Saturday and Sunday in December, 3:00 p.m. *except* December 25 - center is closed.

Wonderful Winter Wildlife: Our Forest Preserve's wild residents must sleep, go somewhere else, or make other changes to survive winter. Come to find out more about seasonal survival. Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18, 1:30 p.m.

☺ **Small Serendipity:** Join us for a story and craft or other activity *for preschool and kindergarten age children, with an adult. \$1.00 per child.* Wednesdays, December 14 and 28, 10:00 a.m.

Nightlife - Winter Solstice Celebration: Join us for a magical night with a walk at the beginning of winter. Then warm up with snacks and hot chocolate. *Registration required; \$2.00 per person. No Groups Please.* Friday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

☺ **Winter Discovery Days:** Join the nature center staff for a fun week of activities, games and explorations to experience the wonders of nature in winter. Many activities will be outdoors! *For children in grades 1 - 5. Pre-registration with parent's signature is required; \$25 / child.* Monday - Friday., December 19 -23, 9:30 a.m. - noon.



SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER

708-868-0606

Sand Ridge Audubon Society Meeting: Everyone is invited for a program and social/business meeting. Friday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Craft - Grapevine Wreath: Join in the fun as we create a beautiful grapevine wreath made from a variety of materials and elegant ribbon. Make one for yourself or to give as a gift. *For ages 13 and up. Registration required by Dec. 1. Bring a food or cash donation for a local food depository, in lieu of a fee.* Saturday, December 3, 1:30 p.m.

☺ **Wee Wonders - Where do Fish go in Winter?** Where do fish, frogs, and turtles go in winter? *Preschoolers, with an adult,* are invited for a fish story, and to learn how these animals adapt to winter. Thursday, December 8, 1:30 p.m.

☺ **Nature Tales - Dinosaurs!** Come learn about the magnificent, but extinct, animals that roamed the Earth for 150 million years. You'll meet some present day descendants! *For children in grades K-4.* Saturday, December 10, 1:30 p.m.

Candle Lantern Hike: Candle lanterns will be available for adults for this night hike. Search the night sky, listen for owls, and enjoy what nature has to offer. *Registration required by December 14.* Friday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

On Dasher, On Dancer... We'll have an afternoon of fun learning about Rudolph's cousins, white-tailed deer. As beautiful as Santa's reindeer, but not as hard to find, see how deer have adapted to suburban life. Saturday, December 17, 1:30 p.m.



CRABTREE NATURE CENTER

847-381-6592

☺ **ESI - Environmental Scene Investigation for Budding Naturalists:** Follow tracks, examine scat (droppings), and listen to animal sounds to see if you can solve these mysteries! Indoor program, every Saturday and Sunday in December, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Natural History of Holiday Plants: Take a break from the holiday madness to learn more about the plants that have become icons of the season. Sunday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.

Who-o-o's Out There? Discover the curious world of owls. We'll take a close-up look at these nocturnal hunters to identify survival adaptations, and examine owl pellets. *Registration required.* Sunday, December 11, 1:00 p.m.

Evening Owl Hikes: Join us for an informative talk about these nocturnal hunters. Afterwards we'll take a look for these unique predators. *Registration required.* Fridays, December 9 and 16, 7:00 p.m.



Animal Tracks: Animals are always present at Crabtree, but often not seen. Learn ways of identifying animals by the signs they leave around the area, and make an animal track of your own to take home. Sunday, December 18, 1:00 p.m.



TRAILSIDE MUSEUM

708-366-6530

☺ **Nature Story Time:** Nature-inspired stories, crafts and activities *for ages 3 - 5 with an adult. \$1.00 per child.* Thursdays, December 1, 15 and 29, 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Work Day: Help us restore and beautify Trailside's grounds and the surrounding preserve. *Please call for time, meeting location, and other details.* Saturday, December 3.

On the Trail of the Whitetailed Deer: Learn about our area's largest mammals on a hike to look for tracks, scat, and deer! Please dress for the weather. *Registration required.* Sunday, December 11, 1:00 p.m.

Morning Fitness Hike: Take a brisk one hour hike with a naturalist to see what is going on in nature this month. Dress for the weather! *For adults; free.* Saturday, December 17, 9:00 a.m.

☺ **Naturalist's Choice:** Looking for fun with your kids during their winter school break? Drop in at Trailside Museum to enjoy resident wildlife, and make simple crafts to take home. *All children must be with an adult. Free!* Thursday, December 22, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Feeding Time at Trailside: Join us for an informal outdoor animal program, as our resident animals get their dinner. Saturday, December 24, 1:00 p.m.



A Winter's Walk: Enjoy a guided nature walk through the hushed winter woods, followed by a snack and hot cocoa. *For families; \$1.00/ person. Registration required. Remember to dress for the weather!* Tuesday, December 27, 1:00 p.m.

**SAGAWAU ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER**

630-257-2045

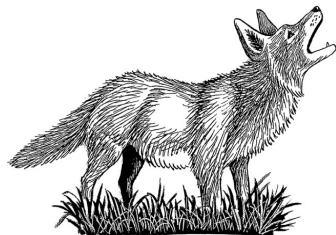
Sagawau ski trails and rentals will be open through February when weather permits. Watch for announcement of ski lessons schedule.



Nordic Ski Seminar:
Let our certified ski instructors tell you what it's all about, as you get ready to enjoy a season of trail skiing. *Registration requested.* Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.



The FPDCC and other Chicago Wilderness coalition members encourage parents, grandparents, teachers and mentors to bring kids out to enjoy healthy activities for mind and body. Most programs at District nature centers are family friendly, and we offer a variety of exploratory programs for children. Come out and enjoy the wonders of nature and healthy activities in your big back yard.



For information or special assistance for people with disabilities, please call the host site or the Department of Resource Management, 708-771-1335, at least 48 hours in advance.

**Wonderful Winter
Celebrations**

The winter solstice has been a time for celebrations for centuries. We still mark the turn of seasons as the slow decrease in daylight reverses, bringing the promise of spring.

River Trail N.C. - Winter Solstice Celebration: A magical night with a walk at the beginning of winter, stories, snacks and hot chocolate. *Registration required; \$2.00 per person. No Groups Please.* Friday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Somme Woods Winter Solstice Celebration: Join volunteers around a bonfire; Dundee and Waukegan Roads, Northbrook; www.northbranchrestoration.org. Sunday, December 18, 2:00 p.m.

Little Red Schoolhouse Winter Bonfire: We'll celebrate the solstice with a short walk, songs around the bonfire, and trimming a wildlife tree. *Pre-registration in person is required; \$3.00/person over 4 years old. No Groups Please.* Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

Bartel Grassland: Help our volunteers celebrate another season of great habitat restoration, with socialization around a bonfire. Flossmoor Road at Central Avenue, Matteson; www.bartelgrassland.org. Wednesday, December 21, 4:00 p.m.

Contact the Volunteer Resource Center, 773-631-1790, for other winter celebrations and workdays, and check the website for full schedules: www.fpdccvolunteers.org

Don't hibernate this winter!

Your preserves are open every day of the year for walks, bike rides, and free exploration. Skiing and snowshoeing are great ways to enjoy the outdoors this winter. Check with a nature center for tips on trails and other winter pleasures.



Most programs on this calendar are presented by FPDCC Naturalists at the facilities listed. Many programs require registration in advance, and some require fees. Please consult listings under individual sites, and call the host site for details.

© families please note children's programs

Crabtree Nature Center
Palatine Rd. one mile west of Barrington Rd.
Barrington, IL 847-381-6592

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 S. Willow Springs Rd.
Willow Springs, IL 708-839-6897

River Trail Nature Center
3120 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, IL 847-824-8360

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St.
Lemont, IL 630-257-2045

Sand Ridge Nature Center
15891 Paxton Ave.
South Holland, IL 708-868-0606

The Harold "Hal" Tyrrell Trailside Museum
Chicago and Thatcher Avenues
River Forest, IL 708-366-6530

**The Mathew Bieszczat
Volunteer Resource Center**
6100A North Central
Chicago, IL 773-631-1790

Brookfield Zoo
31st St., west of First Ave.
Brookfield, IL 708-485-0263

The Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake Cook Rd. east of Edens Expressway
Glencoe, IL 847-835-5440



The FPDCC welcomes volunteers for the Preserve Keeper Corps, ecosystem management, nature center assistance, trail maintenance, and more.

Contact: Volunteer Center: 773-631-1790
www.fpdccvolunteers.org



Persons believing that they have been discriminated against by the Forest Preserve District on the basis of color, race, national origin, handicap or sex, may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Forest Preserve District of Cook County or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC .

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County

**LIVE HEALTHY,
DISCOVER
NATURE**

December, 2011



Somme Woods



**Forest Preserve
District of
Cook County
Board of
Commissioners**

www.fpdcc.com

536 N. Harlem Ave.
River Forest, IL 60305

For information:
1-800-870-3666
TDD# 708-771-1190