

“notes  
from the  
dells”



50  
YEARS  
SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER



Calendar & Newsletter  
January - June 2026 | Volume 47 No. 1

*Rockford, Illinois*



The cover of this issue of Notes from the Dells may look a little different to some, but more familiar to others. For our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the newsletter, we utilized aspects from Notes from the Dells issues throughout the years. We hope you enjoy.

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This newsletter is printed on 70% recycled material.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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As we step into a new year, I find myself both grateful and energized. Grateful for the community that surrounds Severson Dells Nature Center—and energized by the momentum we’re building together. Each season offers us a fresh invitation to pay attention, engage deeply, and nurture a healthier relationship between people and nature.

This year is especially significant. In 2026, we will celebrate 50 years of being open to the public. For five decades, people of all ages have wandered these trails, engaged in nature education programs, lent a hand in habitat restoration, and found quiet places to connect with nature and each other. The memories shaped here are enduring, which you will see in this issue’s Supporter Spotlight with Ed and Judy Uchno.

Looking forward, we are excited to continue creating new opportunities for connection at Severson Dells and at our new property, the old Elliot Golf Course (its new name will be announced in the first half of 2026!). One of the most unique opportunities is Fore the Prairie, an event to help kick off the seeding of the first 50 acres of prairie. We hope you can join us on Saturday, January 31st to help us spread the seeds and learn about the restoration process and see what the long-term vision is for the property.

We look forward to you being a part of the journey to shape the next 50 years of nature education and environmental stewardship in our region.

With appreciation and anticipation,



# 50 years of SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

**Here.** Ten minutes outside the expanding cityscape of Rockford and against the backdrop of Midwest prairies and sparse oak savannas is where you’ll find **here:** an oasis for flourishing biodiversity and opportunity for planting seeds into growing minds. When Fannie Severson donated her 369 acre property and deer lodge to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County in 1975, she knew just how special **here** really was. But it was the years that followed that brought life into what here would become.

Over the past 50 years, **here** has become equal parts place and community. The vibrant wildflowers have been complemented by laughter of excited children joining us for a field trip. The trees have become

friends with eager hikers during Full Moon Hikes. Thousands upon thousands have entered into nature’s classroom and created a community more in tune with the natural world.

Inherently, we are connected to nature. We all coexist and compliment one another in the exchange of energy. It has been our mission to ensure that transfer of energy is a positive one where we can all thrive together. We’re thankful that our community has transferred their energy to Severson Dells and has helped us thrive for the past 50 years.

Take a journey with us back in time. Here are 50 of our favorite moments over the past 50-ish years.





On-lookers at the Dedication Ceremony of Severson Dells. 1975.



Josephine Severson Haag and Mark Keister, formerly of the Forest Preserve District of Winnebago County. 1976.

1. **April 30, 1975.** Fannie Severson donates the property now known as Severson Dells.
2. **June 26, 1976.** Severson Dells Forest Preserves opens to the public.
3. **1977.** Severson Dells hires their first Naturalist, Vicky Nuzzo.
4. **December 19, 1978.** Severson Dells Education Foundation is legally incorporated by the IRS as a nonprofit organization.
5. **1980.** The Education Center opens to the public after renovations.
6. **August 1980.** Notes from the Dells newsletter is established by John Alesandrini, Coordinator & Naturalist.
7. **1980s.** Ranger Rick's Nature Club is formed introducing kids to natural resources and areas in Northern Illinois.
8. **Summer 1981.** "Back to the Land" is established as a mix between workshops and articles to educate about the environment.
9. **September 11, 1981.** The Rockford DAR dedicates a plaque indicating the "Elijah Holt House" as the oldest residence in Winnebago township.
10. **1982.** Severson Dells begins hosting a Wildlife Art Show highlighting local talent and nature.
11. **September 1982.** Part of the property is designated as an Illinois State Nature Preserve.
12. **Fall 1984.** We develop a new agricultural resources program at the old Severson Dells Dairy Farm, & establish a spin-off of Ranger Rick's called Farmer Fred's.
13. **April 26, 1985.** John Severson & Jo Severson Haag, children of Harry & Fannie Severson, are awarded the Seth B. Atwood Memorial Park & Conservation Award for their continuation of their parents' dedication to conservation.
14. **1986.** Severson Dells celebrates 10 years. In a 'Notes from the Dells' issue, the Foundation had 3 employees and 35 volunteers.



A group explores the pond. 1994.

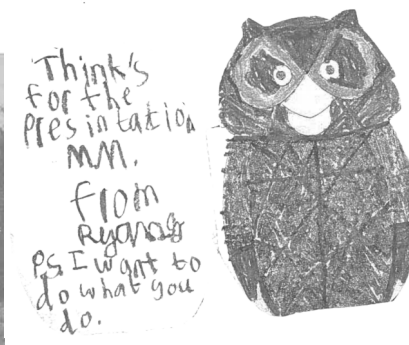


Volunteers help plant the Pollinator Garden. 1995.

15. **1988.** The paved loop trail is completed.
16. **October 29, 1989.** 'Eco-Halloween Hike' is held, which has evolved over the years and is now known as 'Spook the Dells.'
17. **1992.** Guided school field trips and experiences begin, helping to establish our legacy as the leaders of experiential nature education in Rockford.
18. **December 7, 1991.** An early version of Luminaria is established as 'Luminary Walk'.
19. **1993.** Early look into in-school field trips includes Sally Salamander, Owl Moon, Treasurers of the Deep, Prairie Promises, The Five R's, and Whitetails.
20. **1994.** Classroom space is added to the nature center to expand space for education.
21. **1995.** Severson Dells Education Foundation endowment fund reaches \$1,000,000.
22. **June 10, 1995.** The butterfly garden is planted by generous volunteers.
23. **1997.** The bird log (now located in the Exhibit Hall) notes 120 different species of birds.
24. **Summer 1998.** An early record of summer camp is themed 'The Why, Where, and How of Animals at Severson Dells'
25. **August 12, 1998.** The Perseids meteor shower is gazed upon at 'Family Star Gazing Night'. Now, we offer a similar program as 'Pastries & Perseids'!
26. **October 1998.** Don Miller, former coordinator of the nature center, is awarded the Illinois Environmental Educator.
27. **2000.** School field trip programs begin to include the "Low Waste Lunch" program to help students connect everyday choices to the environment.
28. **Spring 2000.** Music from the Dells is established to blend nature and the arts.
29. **Fall 2000.** Intern Courtney Clark on the power of experiential education writes: "Learning



Students exploring the prairie. 1999.



about wild places, exploring them, and having fun while doing all of this is what leads to a personal understanding of and connectedness to the natural world. You can tell a kid (or an adult) a hundred times that insects are fascinating or wildflowers are beautiful, but unless he sees and experiences these things for himself, he'll never really know... or care."

30. **June 18-22, 2001.** Blazing Paddles is offered for the first time.
31. **March 7, 2002.** Severson Dells Education Foundation celebrates the organization's 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with speaker Bill Walton, NBA Hall of Famer.
32. **2005.** The Historic Bird Display, now found in the Exhibit Hall, is donated. If you haven't seen this display, stop in to see a preserved Passenger pigeon, extinct since 1914.
33. **October 6-9 2005.** We host The Wonders and Experience of Nature weekend featuring hikes, workshops, and guest authors, including Robin Kimmerer.
34. **June 19-21, 2006.** Peek-into-Creek is offered for the first time.
35. **November 2006.** The 30th Anniversary of Severson Dells is marked with the singing of "Happy Birthday Severson Dells" by Jackson School in Rockford.
36. **2009.** The patio is installed, including memorial paver bricks.
37. **2013.** A branding transition is made utilizing the blue and green circle logo with the head and neck of a heron in the shape of an 'S'.
38. **Fall 2013.** James Marshall begins bringing undergraduate students from Rockford University to study birds. Dr. Marshall still returns each year with students.
39. **August 9, 2014.** The Grove Nature Playscape is opened to the public.
40. **2016.** Severson Dells celebrates 40 years with a weekend of activities for all to enjoy.

41. **2018.** Dance at the Dells begins hosting performances, creating an immersive art & nature experience.
42. **2019.** Ann Wasser, current Executive Director, is awarded the Outstanding New Leader Award by Association of Nature Center Administrators, helping to continue the Severson Dells' legacy.
43. **Fall 2019.** We became a host site for the AmeriCorps program to expand program capacity and train the next generation of environmental leaders.
44. **Spring 2020.** We join 1% for the Planet, in dedication to global environmentalism.
45. **Spring 2020.** Severson Dells begins coordinating the Rock River Valley team for City Nature Challenge, helping to contribute to nature research data collection
46. **September 25, 2021.** Severson Dells celebrates 45 years by establishing Golden Hour in the Grove.
47. **2023.** A partnership is established with City of Rockford Water Management Division and Four Rivers Sanitation Authority providing water management education to Rockford students.
48. **September 20, 2024.** Severson Dells Education Foundation purchases the former Elliot Golf Course with plans for restoration.
49. **Spring 2025.** The Rich Toppe Memorial Scholarship program is created to help children attend field trips and camp programs.
50. **December 2025.** We're wrapping up our 49th year at this preserve, hoping you'll join us for the 25th annual Luminaria!

This list highlights just some of the events that have made Severson Dells Nature Center who we are today. We invite you to visit us during our 50th year and share your Severson story with us. We hope that over the next 50 years (and many more) that you and your friends and family will join us **here**. This community has brought Fannie Severson's vision for what this place could be to life: protecting the land while also providing a space and opportunities for nature education for all in the community. We hope that she would be proud of what her family's home and land has become for this region.



Campers explore the muddy creek. 2010.



Campers exploring life in the waterways. 2021.



# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: JUDY & ED UCHNO



Often, you'll hear echoes of our community talking of 'magic' when you step onto the loop trail. For some, the trees form a tunnel or a portal to a place where the birds sing and the wildflowers dance and the sun shines just in your path, holding you, uplifting you, and awakening your own personal fairytale. These aren't just tales of something other-worldly; these are the very real life experiences we hear of everyday at Severson Dells.

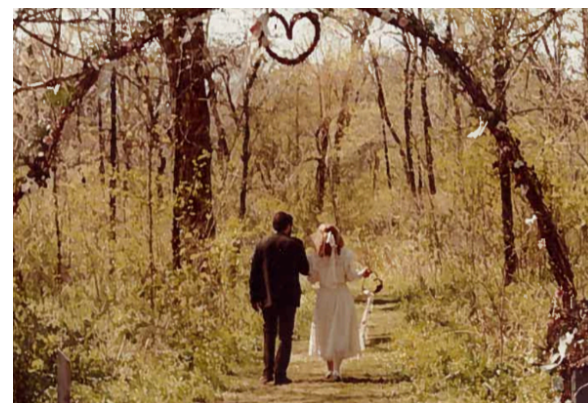
Yet another fairytale amongst us is the **story of Judy and Ed Uchno**.

As a young girl, Judy grew a deep love for nature. Not having much, her mother encouraged her to find the joy in the natural world. Doing just that, Judy would sit upon the Memorial Bridge at Severson Dells and dream of her future while finding comfort listening to the stream of Hall Creek below her. Shortly after, Judy met Ed. Like anyone would do, Judy introduced Ed to her old friends, but to Judy this old friend was a place: the bridge at Severson Dells.

The Memorial Bridge later became where Judy and Ed held their wedding on May 12, 1984.

Surrounded by generous friends, an arch was built from vines above the bridge symbolizing Judy and Ed's passage into their new life together. They were married at dawn to symbolize a new beginning. Another friend played the flute to which the birds responded in song. Visions of Lilies of the Valley bloomed around them as a symbol of good luck.

The old saying goes, 'if these walls could talk...'. But, **if that bridge could talk, it would tell quite the story of that day.**



*The Uchnos walking out from under the arch and into their life together.*



*Judy & Ed. May 12, 1984.*



*Henry meeting the opossum at Spook the Dells.*

Thirty and a half years later, their daughter, Anna, was married at the Severson Dells shelter house on August 22, 2015 to her husband, John. Now, the Uchnos bring their young grandson, Henry to Severson and walk across that same bridge. They've also helped to install a bench near the bridge for all to sit in this magical spot and find the same joy they have. As a family, Ed, Judy, Anna, Henry, and John have enjoyed Severson together including Spook the Dells, and Judy is looking forward to Grandparent's Camp this next year.

Over 40 years after Judy and Ed's day of magic at Severson, it's safe to say the luck from the Lillies of the Valley was in abundance.

## Extending the Magic

Judy and Ed have extended the magic that Severson has given them towards our greater Severson community.

Have you joined us for Spook the Dells and met our nocturnal animal actors in the past few years?

Have you visited Pollinator Palooza and taken pictures in our flower or monarch photo boards?

Or maybe seen a staff member buzzing around in a bee costume?

Or have you joined us for our Fungi Funday Science Saturday or Predator Prey Science Saturday or

visited the craft station during these events? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you've experienced the depth of Judy and Ed's gifts to Severson Dells.

From opossum costumes to mushroom hats and more, the Uchnos have helped thousands of visitors experience the same magic that they also know nature can hold. And these costumes and photo boards aren't just for our young learners, they're also for us adults, too.

In fact, Judy notes that she learns something each time she visits or volunteers at a Science Saturday. Last year, we challenged her to help us create a station relating the fibonacci spiral that is found so often in nature to something our young learners could cling onto. That Science Saturday lesson has stuck with her, and she says she often notices the fibonacci spiral when she takes the time to look upon the wildflowers in her prairie.

More than that, Judy says she learns from the kids who visit her station during Science Saturdays, as well. "You can bring the activity and kids will bring their magic and uplift it into amazing things. Every Science Saturday is just inspirational."

## Inspired by Nature

Severson's impact on the Uchnos has reached even further. Their love of the nature center inspired them to move out into the countryside where they'd be able to have their own place of magic everyday. What was once a conventionally-maintained lawn, Ed has worked to turn into a haven for wildlife. They worked with IDNR's Acres for Wildlife program and were able to plant 500



*Top left: Ann Wasser (director) & Julie Trank (volunteer) wearing mushroom hats created by the Uchnos.*



*Bottom left: Liz Wiener (educator) wearing the bee costume sewn by the Uchnos.*

*Top right: Henry (grandson of Uchnos) trying out the raccoon photo board created by the Uchnos.*



trees planted on the front section of their property. They also have a prairie and cut plants area surrounding their home, and this ‘rewilding’ of the space has definitely attracted an increase of biodiversity.

“If you build it, they will come,” the Uchnos joked.

Ed talks of a recent book they read: Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard by Doug Tallamy. The book mentions that you can have your own homegrown national park. Ed and Judy have done just that.

“Severson is a ray of sunshine”

... Ed says. The Uchno’s motivation to support Severson Dells is simple for them. They want the magic of this place to be experienced by everyone. “I don’t want flowers when I die, give money to Severson instead,” Judy jokes. Judy and Ed are supporters of Severson Dells because they want the experience to continue for all of us.



Judy volunteering during Science Saturday.

“Add your light to the sum of light,” Judy quotes Leo Tolstoy

The little increments are what matters most, they note. Volunteering your time or donating monetarily if you’re able in whatever amount makes an impact.

“Too often, we’re focused on gold this and gold that, but I was walking through the prairie and seeing all the golden rod and I thought - ‘this is the gold that is valuable’.”

We’re incredibly grateful that Judy and Ed have found the magic in the gold at Severson Dells. Their contributions to our community have been plentiful. They have been and will continue to be loved and loved for generations to come.

Find the Magic

Judy and Ed still walk the path at Severson on their anniversary, listening for the birds to once again sing them a song. This past year, they heard 34 different species of birds guiding their path back to that same magical bridge where they entered into their life together and inevitably joined their lives with ours here at Severson Dells.



As we wrap up our 50th year amongst this magical backdrop of the towering dells, streaming Hall Creek, and dancing prairie, we invite all of you to take a stroll through the portal of trees to find your own personal fairytale at Severson Dells. And once you find it, contribute and help us to help others experience the joy of Severson Dells.

Ed leaves us with this: “If you get them there, you’ve won. You’ll see how special this place is once you’re here.”



Judy & Ed on their anniversary. 2025.

If you’d like to make a contribution to Severson Dells either through volunteering or donating, let us know. More information on volunteering is on page 9. More information on donating is on page 17. Alternatively, you can reach out to Becca, at [becca@seversondells.org](mailto:becca@seversondells.org) or 815-335-2915 for more information.

# VOLUNTEER WITH US

The best gift you can give is YOU.

## RESTORATION / CONSERVATION CREW

Volunteers join us on restoration projects on the 2nd Saturday of each month (excluding December). Most projects include removing invasive species. No background knowledge is required. Tools are provided. Contact Liz at [Liz@seversondells.org](mailto:Liz@seversondells.org) for more information. Upcoming Restoration Work Days take place from 9am-12pm on the following dates:

January 10th	April 11th
February 14th	May 9th
March 14th	June 13th

## NATURE CENTER HOST

Volunteers staff the front desk in 4-hour shifts. Duties include answering the telephone, greeting visitors, conducting gift shop sales, and assisting members in checking out library materials. Apply online at [seversondells.org/volunteer](http://seversondells.org/volunteer)

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Volunteers help lead field trips at Severson Dells. We currently have a great need for guides on our Discover Nature Hikes, which focus on enthusiasm for nature! We provide all training necessary. School programs take place during the week from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Andrea at [Andrea@seversondells.org](mailto:Andrea@seversondells.org)

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Volunteers host stations for Science Saturdays and assist with other community events. If you enjoy crafts, demonstrations, sharing nature knowledge, and helping guests feel welcome, you would be a great fit! Shifts and dates vary, but you get to pick your hours. Contact Liz at [Liz@seversondells.org](mailto:Liz@seversondells.org) for more information.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

If you’re interested in volunteering at any of our special events like Golden Hour in the Grove, Luminaria, tabling events, or maybe you have a special interest you’re interested in sharing, let us know! Special events have fixed dates and times for volunteering, but other interests in volunteering can have self-directed hour contributions. You can contact Becca at [Becca@seversondells.org](mailto:Becca@seversondells.org) for more information.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY – JUNE 2026

Register at [SeversonDells.org/events](https://SeversonDells.org/events) or call 815-335-2915

Registration required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

## HIKES, WALKS, & STROLLS

### JANUARY

#### SELF-GUIDED WINTER WONDER WALK

January 1 Sunrise - Sunset  
Whether you're looking to enjoy the serenity of a solo walk or create memories with your family, stroll along our self-guided winter wonder walk on the paved loop. It's a great way to get outside, be present, & enjoy the wonders of the season.  
All Ages Free to attend

#### SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

January 10 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Participate in community-driven science on these monthly walks! Learn about our seasonal wildlife & plant monitoring techniques and try them out for yourself. A perfect way to learn more about the volunteer research & how to get involved.  
Ages 12+ Free to attend

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

January 20 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. We'll stroll at a gentle pace and pause to take in whatever beauty beholds us!  
Ages 18+ Free to attend

### FEBRUARY

#### FULL MOON HIKE

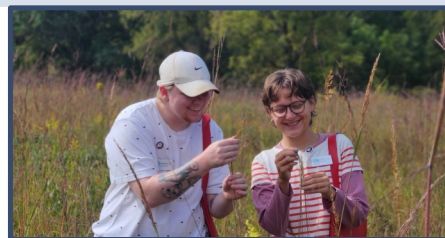
February 2 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Under the light of the Snow Moon, we will embark on a journey through the forest and prairie! Using our senses, we will discover the world after dark!  
Ages 8+ \$3/member ; \$5/non-member

#### SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

February 14 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Participate in community-driven science on these monthly walks! See January for full description.  
Ages 12+ Free to attend

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

February 17 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. See January for full description.  
Ages 18+ Free to attend



### MARCH

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

March 17 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. See January for full description.  
Ages 18+ Free to attend

### APRIL

#### SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

April 11 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Participate in community-driven science on these monthly walks! See January for full description.  
Ages 12+ Free to attend

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

April 21 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. See January for full description.  
Ages 18+ Free to attend

### MAY

#### FULL MOON HIKE

May 1 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Welcome to spring! As we explore under the light of the Flower Moon, we will talk about the various blooming wildflowers, and why May 2026 is a special month for full moons!  
Ages 8+ \$3/members ; \$5/non-member

#### SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

May 9 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Participate in community-driven science on these monthly walks! See January for full description.  
Ages 12+ Free to attend

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

May 19 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. See January for full description.  
Ages 18+ Free to attend



### JUNE

#### SCIENCE OF THE SEASONS

June 13 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Participate in community-driven science on these monthly walks! See January for full description.  
Ages 12+ Free to attend

#### WOODLAND WANDERERS

June 16 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Walk with friends in this free casual walking club. See January for full description.  
Ages 18+ Free to attend

## LECTURES, TALKS, & WORKSHOPS

### JANUARY

#### BOTANY OF KOMBUCHA

January 6 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Join Katie "The Booch Witch" as she walks us through the process of making kombucha--a delicious fermented beverage! She will walk us through the process, provide samples of kombucha to drink, and have supplies for sale!  
Ages 10+ \$20/member ; \$25/non-member  
Botany & Brews is sponsored by The Disruption Society.

#### WALKING STICK WORKSHOP

January 11 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Make your own honeysuckle walking stick to join you on your next outdoor adventure! We'll provide the sticks and tools, all you need to bring is your creativity. This workshop is great for people of all abilities.  
Ages 12+ \$20/member ; \$25/non-member

### FEBRUARY

#### BACKYARD BIRDING WORKSHOP

February 1 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Learn how to set up a great bird area in your backyard with Cathy & Dave Ott of Rock Valley Garden Center as they show & tell feeders, baths, & plants to create a haven for birds! Leave with great tips from this workshop!  
Ages 12+ \$15/member ; \$20/non-member

#### BOTANY OF BEER

February 18 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Barley? Hops? Yeast? Learn about the uses for and cultivation of the botanical ingredients in beer! Included in your ticket is sampling of a variety of beers and food pairings! 21+ with valid ID required for sampling.  
Ages 21+ \$25/member ; \$30/non-member

EVENT LOCATED AT PRAIRIE STREET BREWING CO.  
Botany & Brews is sponsored by The Disruption Society.

### MARCH

#### BOTANY OF SHRUBS

March 4 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
A shrub is a type of fruit-infused drinking vinegar! The Norwegian makes many of their shrubs in-house for delicious drinks. Learn about the history of this beverage, its impacts around the world, & try some samples!  
Ages 10+ \$20/member ; \$25/non-member

EVENT LOCATED AT THE NORWEGIAN  
Botany & Brews is sponsored by The Disruption Society.

#### NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WORKSHOP

March 15 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
This workshop hosted in partnership with Wild Ones of Rock River Valley will teach you everything you need to know about transforming your yard into a haven for wildlife! Leave with sample garden plans and more!  
Ages 16+ \$20/member ; \$25/non-member



#### PLAY WORKSHOP

This immersive two-part workshop will offer exciting play strategies for children and families to foster imagination, confidence, curiosity, & connection through nature play.

March 26<sup>th</sup> - Join us at Womanspace  
March 28<sup>th</sup> - Join us at Severson Dells with Liz Wiener

Adults & Children \$30/person for both dates  
\$5/additional child  
\$20/person for one date



Special Lecture Series at where experts give insightful and thought provoking talks & lectures.

No purchase of food or drink required, but Nature is on Tap for \$3/members & \$5/non-members. All ages welcome.

#### LIVERS OF THE RIVERS: MUSSELS

January 13 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
You might've heard 'Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell', but do you know what the 'liver of the river' is? It's mussels! Join Andres Ortega from the Urban Stream Research Center to find out all about it!

#### SNAKES AROUND THE WORLD

February 10 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Nathan Kutok travels the world documenting various snakes & other reptiles. The talk will focus on his documentations in Iran. Learn what a Spider-tailed horned viper is and more!

#### TICKS, TICKS, BOOM

March 10 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Terrified of ticks? The best way to get over a fear is to get educated about them; there is power in knowledge. Join researchers from University of Illinois to chat about tick-borne diseases and what we can do about it.

#### LGBTQIA+ NATURE JOURNALING

March 21 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
This is a space for folks who identify in the LGBTQIA+ community in partnership with the LIAM Foundation to explore nature journaling. A short walk will follow the journaling for those who wish to join.

All Ages Free to Attend





## LECTURES, TALKS, & WORKSHOPS CONTINUED



### APRIL

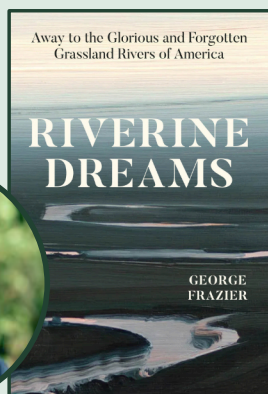
#### NATURE TECH WORKSHOP

April 14 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
iNat? Merlin? Seek? What are these apps and how can they connect you to the world around you? Join us to learn about how your phone can help you with community science & learn how to use their tools during City Nature Challenge!  
All Ages Free to attend

### JUNE

#### RIVERINE DREAMS: AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR GEORGE FRAZIER

June 11 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Join us for an evening with author George Frazier, as he takes us on a journey through the winding waterways & lost grassland rivers of America featured in his acclaimed book, Riverine Dreams: Away to the Glorious and Forgotten Grassland Rivers of America. Through stories, photographs, & reflections, Frazier reveals the beauty, history, and mystery of these overlooked landscapes—and what they teach us about connection, conservation, & rediscovery. A book signing will follow the presentation.  
All Ages \$5/member ; \$8/non-member  
EVENT TAKES PLACE AT THE ELLIOT CLUB HOUSE



## COMMUNITY & FAMILY ADVENTURES

### JANUARY

#### FAMILY HIKE SERIES: TRACKING

January 17 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Learn what walks in the woods and how you can identify them! Bring your family out for this fun and educational class. We will be inside for 20-30 minutes to learn what signs to look for, and then hit the trails!  
All Ages \$15/family



### MAY

#### ADVENTURE TRAILS!

May 23 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Hit the trails at Severson for this fun, drop-in style family scavenger hunt! Check in with our ranger station to get your mission and explore our trails on a self-guided adventure packed with hands-on activities for all ages!  
All Ages Free to attend

### JUNE

#### FAMILY CREEK WALK

June 20 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
Have you ever wondered what is beyond the path to the Dells? Join us for this adventure trek into the creek and beyond the riverbend. You will experience a hidden part of the creek most don't get to see as we walk in the water to view 30' tall rock walls, ancient fossils, and more! This trek takes place in the water on uneven and sometimes hidden rocks. Reasonable mobility is required for this adventure.  
Ages 7+ \$3/member ; \$5/non-member



#### LGBTQIA+ NATURE JOURNALING

June 20 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
This is a space for folks who identify in the LGBTQIA+ community in partnership with the LIAM Foundation to explore nature journaling. A short walk will follow the journaling for those who wish to join.  
All Ages Free to Attend

### MEMBER'S ONLY EVENT

#### MARCH

#### MEMBER'S BONFIRE & COCOA SOCIAL

March 7 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Warm up by the fire with a s'mores bar and hot cocoa! Plus meet other members, just like you!  
All Ages Free for Members



## HANDS-ON EDUCATION

### SCHOOL'S OUT CAMPS

#### PRESIDENT'S DAY CAMP

February 16 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
School's out, but that doesn't mean we have to spend a day hiding from winter! We will spend time outdoors exploring and playing games and indoors discussing important state symbols. This camp will split age groups. 5-8 year olds will explore Illinois mushrooms & 9-12 year olds will explore Illinois fossils!  
Ages 5-12 \$35/members ; \$40/non-members



#### SPRING BREAK CAMP

Mar. 30 - Apr. 3 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Just as nature is awakening for a full season of growth and activity, we will be springing into fun! This week is packed with hands-on activities, games, science lessons, and more. The best part? Building a mega-fort in the forest with friends! This camp will split age groups: 5-8 & 9-12.  
Ages 5-12 \$160/members ; \$190/non-members



### HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Homeschool programs are designed to provide hands-on nature education to your homeschooler! Programs are offered to those ages 5-12. Individuals can sign up for either a 10am-11:30am session or 1pm-2:30pm session. \$10/ members ; \$15/non-members.

#### TERRIFIC TRACKING

February 19  
Tracking can teach us so much about the hidden lives of animals! This session is packed with hands-on activities that will teach your student how to identify local animal tracks and search for signs of animals on the trail.

#### SPLENDID SPRING

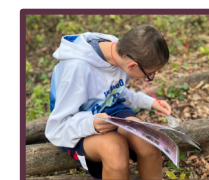
March 19  
Spring is a great time to look for early signs of life in the forest. We'll talk all about Phenology- the study of seasons and cycles- and make our own Phenology wheels before hitting the trails.

#### PUZZLING PONDS

April 16  
Our pond is teeming with life! We will look for little critters, identify macro-invertebrates, and learn all about the hidden, underwater life of the pond.

#### FANTASTIC FIRE

January 15  
Fire is an important tool for survival and land stewardship. This session is packed with hands-on activities that will teach your student the uses of fire, fire safety, and how to build a fire!

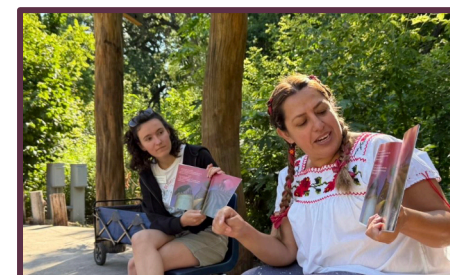


#### BRILLIANT BOTANY

May 21  
The forest is filled with wildflowers in May! We'll meet these woodland residents, compare and contrast their features, and learn to identify the most common spring wildflowers.

### READINGS FROM THE ROOKERY

June 12 & 26 July 10 & 24 10:00 am-11:30 am  
Engage your senses with storytime, a craft, and a nature activity designed for younger kiddos and their families! Each participant will leave with a free book!  
Ages 2-10 with an adult Free to attend



All Science Saturdays are open house styled & take place from 10am-2pm



### Pawprints of Fame January 3rd

What do Punxsutawney Phil & Koko the Gorilla have in common with Bambi & Nemo? They're all on the animal Walk of Fame! Learn all about these animals' contributions to nature!

### Sensory Science February 7th

Touch, smell, and listen to the nature around us! Feel the differences in animal fur, test your smelling ability with different flowers, and try to identify bird calls with us!

### Merry Migration March 7th

We're welcoming so many birds, insects, and animals back to Northern Illinois this month! Learn all about migration patterns and how to identify animals just passing through.

### Eggstravaganza April 4th

Animals and insects of all kinds lay eggs! Learn all about the beginning stages of life in this eggs-tra special Science Saturday.

### Pollinator Palooza May 2nd

Celebrate our pollinators! Learn about life cycles of bees, butterflies, birds, and more, meet live butterflies, and even take home Milkweed!

### Sun Spectacular June 6th

Our sun keeps us alive! Learn all about this magnificent star through UV experiments, sun-printing, and sun phenomena such as rainbows and shadows! Plus, learn how to make a sundial!





### DO YOU WANT TO HELP SCIENTISTS UNDERSTAND LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA?

People around the world are taking pictures of nature in their backyard and uploading it to a free and fun app called iNaturalist. The city with the most posts wins! Help put **Rock River Valley** on the top of the list!



#### OBSERVATION PERIOD

Time to explore and see what we can discover in the Rock River Valley region! With an emphasis on biodiversity, we will host a variety of hikes to see if we can identify as many varied species as possible! There will be many events hosted by a variety of partners so be sure to keep an eye out!

April 24-27

#### I.D. PERIOD

Now that we've observed so many organisms, now it is time to identify them! You can do this on your own through iNaturalist, or come hang out with us for an evening and work with a team of naturalists! Date and time of the ID party to be announced later!

April 28 - May 3

### EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

#### WILDFLOWER WALKS

These walks are offered in partnership with Natural Land Institute and will take place in April - June on alternating Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Confirmed dates will be announced by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**GOLDEN HOUR IN THE GROVE** – SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

**SPOOK THE DELLS** – OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

**LUMINARIA** – DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>

THE FORMER ELLIOT GOLF COURSE  
888 SOUTH LYFORD RD, ROCKFORD

JANUARY 31, 2026  
10 AM - 1 PM

# GOLF PLAYDAY FORE THE PRAIRIE

Join us for food, fun, and an opportunity to **hit prairie-seed "golf balls"** from the **former Elliot Golf Course Driving Range**.

**Free Admission** with the opportunity to launch seed bombs, play nature-related games, and to learn about rewilding the golf course. **All proceeds support the restoration** of the former Elliot Golf Course to a premier nature center featuring prairie, savanna, and hardwood tree plantings.

HIT GOLF BALL  
SEED BOMBS

HOT  
COCOA

NATURE EDUCATION ON  
PRAIRIE RESTORATION

S'MORES

MINI  
GOLF

SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER

SPONSORED BY:



# SUMMER CAMP



## WILD THINGS AGES 4-6

### LITTLE CRITTERS

June 8-12 9am-12pm

Explore creatures big & small in the habitats of Severson Dells! We will craft, play games, & learn about our prairie, pond, creek, & forest.

### LITTLE CREATORS

July 13-17 9am-12pm

Paint, dance, sing, & craft! Your little creator will get to explore nature through the arts & deepen their love for the outdoors.

### LITTLE SCIENTISTS

July 27-31 9am-12pm

Grab your lab coat & get ready to make the right kind of mess! Experiment with all sorts of exciting ecology geared for young learners.

### LITTLE PIRATES

August 10-14 9am-12pm

Join our pirate crew for a series of swashbuckling adventures on the high seas of Severson! We will catch critters, make boats, & search for lost treasure.

**\$130/members ; \$150/non-members**

## JR. NATURALISTS AGES 7-11

### PEEK IN THE CREEK

June 15-19 9am-3pm & August 3-7 9am-3pm

A Severson Dells Classic! Every day campers are in the creek, catching critters, exploring, and learning about this amazing ecosystem.

### SCIENCE EXPLORERS

July 6-10 9am-3pm

Join us for a week of science exploration! We will explore various science careers, design & develop experiments, & explore the woods of Severson Dells!

**\$160/members ; \$190/non-members**

## TEEN ADVENTURES

### BLAZING PADDLES AGES 12-16

June 22-26 9am-3pm

Our canoeing adventures will take us on beautiful rivers & lakes as we build technical & teamwork skills along the way.

**\$210/members ; \$240/non-members**

### ADVENTURE SQUAD AGES 11-14

July 20-24 9am-3pm

Step into a week filled with adventure, survival skills, teambuilding, & more! This is a camp perfect for tweens ready to try new things and practice early leadership skills through exciting activities.

**\$160/members ; \$190/non-members**

## GRANDPARENTS CAMP

### FINS

July 1<sup>st</sup> 9-12 or 1-4

Join us for a swimmingly good time as we explore the waters of Severson Dells! Catch crayfish, watch fish, and see what other creatures live just under the surface as you explore with your grandchildren!

### WINGS

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-12 or 1-4

Join us as we explore the terrestrial habitats of Severson Dells through the eyes of our winged creatures! We will play bird games, do an insect craft, and learn a little bit about flight.

**cost varies based on # of grandparents & littles**

**Register at: [SeversonDells.org/SummerCamp](https://SeversonDells.org/SummerCamp)**

**Camp registration is open for members from Dec 1-Jan 15th, then opens to the general public on January 16th.**

**Camp scholarships are available at [SeversonDells.com/RichToppeScholarship](https://SeversonDells.com/RichToppeScholarship)**





We're so elated to have spent 50 years with such a vibrant community. The very first edition of Notes from the Dells was published in August 1980 and was addressed 'To everyone who has an interest in Severson Dells Environmental Education Center.' As we author this newsletter in December 2025, we invite *everyone who has an interest in Severson Dells* to join us for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary special events. If you're unable to make the events, we invite you to stop in and share your Severson Dells story with us.

Thank you for helping our community thrive for 50 years and for helping us continue to grow for the next 50 (and hopefully many more).

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### OPEN HOUSE DISCOVERY DAYS

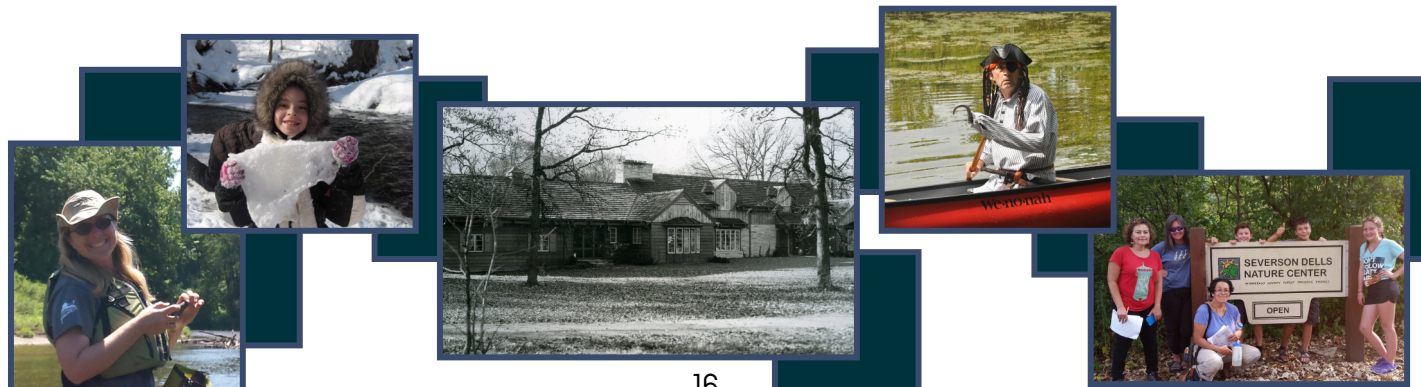
January 19 & April 3, All day long

Stop on in the nature center for an open house! We'll have coffee & hot cocoa and hands-on nature activities. Explore the trails with our Adventure Backpacks to add a fun spark of curiosity to your journey. Reconnect with the Nature Center in our 50<sup>th</sup> year!

### SEVERSON DELLS BIRTHDAY PARTY

June 27<sup>th</sup>

You're invited! Reconnect with Severson and our vibrant community on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This open house will feature hikes, games, crafts, gift shop sales, cake, and more! Join us to reflect on the past 50 years and celebrate the future of nature education for our community. A detailed schedule of events will be released in the spring.



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING SEVERSON DELLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

When you give to Severson Dells, you're not just keeping the lights on. You're nurturing a love of nature through hands-on, science-based activities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

As we celebrate our first 50 years and prepare for the next half century, we invite you to come with us on the journey. Join us as we hold fast to the tradition of Severson Dells and build new memories with the restoration of the former Elliot golf course.

Consider giving in one or more of the following ways:

- Recurring Monthly Gifts
- Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)
- Gifts from your IRA
- Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs) from your IRA
- Memorial and Tribute Gifts
- Appreciated Stock, Life Insurance, Real Estate
- Become a member of the Heritage Society

As an independent not-for-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of donors to support our work. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Severson Dells Education Foundation's EIN is 36-3985870

For more information, contact Linda Sandquist, Director of Development, at 815-335-2915 or [Linda@seversondells.org](mailto:Linda@seversondells.org).



## MEET OUR NEW AMERICORPS MEMBERS

The AmeriCorps program was reinstated until summer of 2026. We're still awaiting government decision making on the continuation of the program after the current contract period.

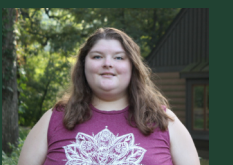
### CAEDYN WELLS



Hello! I am beyond excited to be serving Severson Dells! I graduated from Beloit College with an Environmental Biology degree with a Geology minor. Before accepting my AmeriCorps position, I managed the Beloit College boathouse for three years and connected college students to nature through canoeing, kayaking, & outdoor activities. Additionally, I took a field seminar in Puerto Rico & gained an understanding of severe weather events that affect the island & people. I am passionate about connecting people to nature through my role in community science. I hope to see you all in the field very soon!

Hi, I'm Caroline and I have my Bachelor's degree in Middle School Science Education from Southeast Missouri State University. I am new to northern Illinois, but grew up in Springfield. Most recently, I have been teaching middle school biology, where I got to interact and teach about the prairies of Illinois. But my love of nature started when I was much younger, as a Girl Scout and exploring my neighborhood park. I am passionate about sharing the importance of conservation and making the outdoors a space for everyone! I look forward to my time here at Severson Dells and am excited to get to know everyone.

### CAROLINE PACHECO



### LAUREN BONAVIA



Hi, everyone! I am so thrilled to be serving AmeriCorps as an Environmental Educator! Growing up in Rockford, the highlight of my summers was spending time as a camper at Atwood Nature Center learning about the world around me. I followed my passion & got a degree in Wildlife Ecology & Management from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Since then, I have worked as a field technician for the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. I feel immensely grateful to be here, and I look forward to meeting all of the people who make Severson Dells such a special place.

Hello! I am so excited to get to spend the year in Severson's beautiful prairie & forest ecosystems. Growing up along the Kansas and Missouri stateline, the hilly forests of Missouri and the rolling prairies of Kansas were never too far away—so I am happy to be here! I have spent the last seven years living in dense, urban environments—six years in Chicago where I went to North Park University and worked for two years, and one year in Madrid, Spain where I taught English. I am so excited to support the community members who visit Severson Dells as they connect with the unique plants, wildlife, and landscapes found on this land.

### OLIVIA PRICE







**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- A community of nature stewards & enthusiasts
- Helping to connect people to nature & each other
- Reduced admissions to Severson Dells programs
- Early summer camp registration
- Gift shop discounts
- Members-only events at Severson Dells
- Benefits at participating ANCA member nature centers around the country
- Notes From the Dells newsletter & e-newsletter
- Check-out privileges at our library

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$45         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$125    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$75             | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add-On Grandparent \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$600 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1000    |

Cut this form out and utilize the inserted envelope to submit payment or make a donation or join as a member online: [seversondells.org/become-a-member](https://seversondells.org/become-a-member)

**LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?  
WANT TO GIVE A GIFT WHILE  
SUPPORTING NATURE EDUCATION?**

**VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP!**

Stickers	\$3 - \$5
Nature Games	\$7 - \$15
Beanie hats	\$16
Waterbottles	\$20
Nature Pins	\$4
Nature Exploration Toys	\$6 - \$16
Severson bumper sticker	\$5
Nature jewelry	prices vary

**CONNECT**

[FACEBOOK.COM/SEVERSONDELLSNATURE](https://facebook.com/seversondellsnature)

[@SEVERSONDELLSNATURECENTER](https://www.instagram.com/seversondellsnaturecenter)

[LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/SEVERSON-DELLS-NATURE-CENTER](https://www.linkedin.com/company/severson-dells-nature-center)

[SEVERSONDELLS.ORG](https://seversondells.org)

SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

# SEVERSON DELLS ACTIVITIES

## JANUARY

- 1/1/2025 - *Self-Guided Winter Wonder Walk* - All day-All day
- 1/3/2025 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 1/6/2025 - *Botany and Brews: Kombucha* - 6pm-8pm
- 1/10/2025 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 1/10/2025 - *Friends in the Field* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 1/11/2025 - *Walking Stick Workshop* - 1pm-2:30pm
- 1/13/2025 - *Nature on Tap: Livers of the Rivers* - 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 1/15/2026 - *Homeschool: Fantastic Fire* - times vary
- 1/17/2025 - *Family Hike Series: Tracking* - 10am-11:30am
- 1/20/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 1/31/2025 - *Fore the Prairie* - 11am-2pm

## FEBRUARY

- 2/1/2025 - *Workshop: Backyard Birding* - 1pm-2pm
- 2/2/2025 - *Full Moon* - 5:30pm-7pm
- 2/7/2026 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 2/10/2025 - *Nature on Tap: Snakes & Reptiles* - 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 2/14/2026 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 2/14/2026 - *Friends in the Field* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 2/15/2025 - *Travelogue: Galapagos & Darwin* - 1pm-2pm
- 2/16/2025 - *President's Day Camp* - 9am-3pm
- 2/17/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 2/18/2025 - *Botany and Brews: Beer* - 6pm-8pm
- 2/19/2025 - *Homeschool: Terrific Tracking* - times vary
- 2/22/2025 - *Workshop: Rain Barrels & Gardens* - 1pm-3pm

## MARCH

- 3/4/2025 - *Botany and Brews: Shrub* - 6pm-8pm
- 3/7/2025 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 3/7/2026 - *Member Bonfire & Cocoa* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 3/10/2025 - *Nature on Tap: Ticks, Ticks, Boom* - 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 3/14/2025 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 3/14/2025 - *Friends in the Field* - 9am-12pm
- 3/15/2025 - *Workshop: Native Plant Garden* - 1pm-3pm
- 3/17/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 3/19/2026 - *Homeschool: Splendid Spring* - times vary
- 3/21/2025 - *LGBTQIA+ Nature Journaling* - 10am-11:30am
- 3/26/2025 - *Play Workshop w/ Womenspace* - 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 3/28/2025 - *Play Workshop w/ Womenspace* - 10:30am-12pm
- 3/30-4/3 - *Spring Break Camp* - 9am-3pm

## APRIL

- 4/4/2025 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 4/11/2025 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 4/11/2026 - *Friends in the Field* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 4/14/2025 - *Nature Tech Workshop* - 6:30pm-7:30 pm
- 4/16/2026 - *Homeschool: Puzzling Ponds* - times vary
- 4/21/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 4/24-4/27 - *City Nature Challenge Observation Period* - ongoing
- 4/28-5/3 - *City Nature Challenge ID Period* - ongoing

## MAY

- 5/1/2025 - *Full Moon* - 7:30pm-9pm
- 5/2/2025 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 5/9/2025 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 5/9/2026 - *Friends in the Field* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 5/19/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 5/21/2026 - *Homeschool: Brilliant Botany* - times vary
- 5/23/2025 - *Adventure Trails* - 10am-2pm

## JUNE

- 6/6/2026 - *Science Saturday* - 10am-2pm
- 6/11/2025 - *Riverine Dreams w/ George Frazier* - 6pm-7:30pm
- 6/12/2025 - *Readings from the Rookery* - 10am-11:30am
- 6/13/2026 - *Restoration Workday* - 9am-12pm
- 6/13/2026 - *Friends in the Field* - 2pm-3:30pm
- 6/16/2025 - *Woodland Wanderers* - 10am-11:30am
- 6/20/2025 - *LGBTQIA+ Nature Journaling* - 10am-11:30am
- 6/20/2025 - *Family Creek Walk* - 1:30pm-3:30pm
- 6/26/2025 - *Readings from the Rookery* - 10am-11:30am
- 6/27/2025 - *Severson Birthday Party*

## SUMMER CAMPS

- 6/8-6/12 - *Little Critters* - Ages 4-6
- 6/15-6/19 - *Peek in the Creek* - Ages 7-11
- 6/22-6/26 - *Blazing Paddles* - Ages 12-16
- 7/1 - *Grandparents Camp: Fins*
- 7/2 - *Grandparents Camp: Wings*
- 7/6-7/10 - *Science Explorers* - Ages 7-11
- 7/13-7/17 - *Little Creators* - Ages 4-6
- 7/20-7/24 - *Adventure Squad* - Ages 11-14
- 7/27-7/31 - *Little Scientists* - Ages 4-6
- 8/3-8/7 - *Peek in the Creek* - Ages 7-11
- 8/10-8/14 - *Little Pirates* - Ages 4-6



# NOTES FROM THE DELLS

Severson Dells Education Foundation  
8786 Montague Road  
Rockford, IL 61102-9713

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Our mission is to link people to nature through education and research, in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin Area.

We promote awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment, and preservation now and in the future.

Telephone: 1-815-335-2915  
Web: [www.SeversonDells.org](http://www.SeversonDells.org)  
E-mail: [info@seversondells.org](mailto:info@seversondells.org)

Monday-Saturday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Vice President** - Michelle Borgialli  
**Treasurer** - Jessie Madl  
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Ben Kimes  
Kerry Knodle  
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Michael Oliveri  
Cathy Ott  
Mark Samuelson  
Tasha Wendorf

50  
YEARS  
SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER

## NATURE CENTER STAFF

**Ann Wasser** - Executive Director  
**Andrea Wallace Noble** - Education Programs Manager  
**Elly Salazar** - School Programs Coordinator  
**Laura Sjoquist** - Administrative Assistant  
**Linda Sandquist** - Director of Development  
**Liz Wiener** - Public Programs Coordinator  
**Rebecca Rankins** - Community Engagement Coordinator

## AMERICORPS MEMBERS

**Caedyn Wells** - Community Science  
**Caroline Pacheco** - Environmental Ed.  
**Lauren Bonavia** - Environmental Ed.  
**Olivia Price** - Environmental Ed.

*Severson Dells Nature Center, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will assist in providing accommodations and adaptations for individuals with disabilities. Please notify us in advance of your needs that may require special staffing.*