



SEVERSON DELLS
NATURE CENTER

NOTES FROM THE DELLS

Calendar & Newsletter

May - August 2022 | Volume 43 No. 2

Rockford, Illinois



Dance at the Dells

A Site-Specific Dance

Sponsored By



PAGE 14

Photo by Jessie CrowMermel

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On the cover: Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) by Jessie Crow Mermel

CITY
NATURE
CHALLENGE
2022

ROCK RIVER VALLEY

APR 29- MAY 02

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Nature Challenge is an international competition between cities to document plants and wildlife on iNaturalist, a free and easy app and website.



- 1. OBSERVE NATURE**
 anything counts, from plants to animals to fungi!
- 2. TAKE PHOTOS**
 of nature in your backyard, local park, forest preserve, or natural area between April 30 and May 3.
- 3. UPLOAD PHOTOS TO INATURALIST**
 to automatically add them to our project! Your observations will be shared with scientists around the world.

Rock River Valley team is organized by



City Nature Challenge is organized by



Questions? Contact Andrea at 815-335-2915 or andrea@seversondells.org, or visit www.seversondells.com/city-nature-challenge

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's that lovely time of year when mother nature starts to green the world around us. This is a great opportunity to slow down and appreciate the little things happening in nature -- woodland ephemeral flowers budding, trees leafing out and the some of our favorite birds returning.

A perfect opportunity to make these observations count is by participating in the **City Nature Challenge**. This four day worldwide event collects millions of observations that help researchers and land managers get a snapshot that allows them to better understand phenology, species distribution and so much more. It's a great way to get outside, enjoy nature and support local science.

There is an expansive list of other opportunities to get outside this spring and summer. Wander your way through 10 weeks of **Wildflower Walkabouts** with Severson Dells and the Natural Land Institute. Celebrate the **centennial of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County** at Hononegah Forest Preserve on Saturday, May 14th. Lastly, join us for **Drinks for the Dells** on Saturday,

June 18th, at Severson Dells this year. There will be multiple breweries serving, live music in The Grove and games all to help raise funds for the free and low-cost education programs at Severson Dells Nature Center.

I hope the beginning of 2022 has treated you and your family well and we look forward to seeing you out on the trails soon.

Happy trails,

Ann



ANN WASSER, DIRECTOR

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 10 | 5 TO 7:30 PM

Bask in the beauty of the golden light at this exclusive down-to-earth fundraising gala. Explore The Grove, our unique Nature Playscape, on this late-summer evening just for adults. With your ticket, enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres by The Norwegian, a signature cocktail or mocktail by VeeDubs Mobile Cocktail Bar (cash bar also available), a gourmet s'more station by the fire, fun games, and live music by Trillium.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT:

JOY AND STEVE VEE

BY JESSIE CROW MERMEL

For many people, visiting Severson Dells becomes a deeply-rooted family tradition. That is the case for Steve and Joy Vee, who have been visiting the nature center and forest preserve since their adult children were little sprouts. Their kids loved family hikes through the woods and prairie and summers spent at camp playing in the creek. A sense of gratitude for all that comprises Severson Dells pervades Joy and Steve's attitude and it reflects in their stewardship. They are always eager and enthusiastic to help out, whether it is stuffing envelopes, hacking honeysuckle on the Conservation Crew, or serving on the Board of Directors.



Painting of the dells by Steve Vee

Joy and Steve are rooted in the midwest. They moved to Rockford in the 1970s from Dekalb and Minnesota, respectively, and became active in the community. Joy spent the majority of her career as the Emergency Room Unit Clerk and Supervisor at Swedish American Hospital (now UW Health). She has been a long-time member and volunteer at Bethesda Covenant Church, and tutored elementary children for many years through IRead. Steve taught Biology (mostly Environmental Science and Zoology) at Rock Valley College for 30 years, serving as Division Chair for the last 19 years. While a professor at Rock Valley, Steve, along with his co-conspirator, Joy, led tropical marine biology trips for Rock Valley College students in Jamaica and Belize for many years. They would take 12-22 students for 12 days for a hands-on intensive. Some of his students went on to receive PhDs in Marine Biology after this transformative experience. Steve also coached men's tennis for 34 years and women's tennis for 10 years at the college, his teams winning 4 national championships. He was named national coach of the year 4 times.

Steve started volunteering with Severson Dells 15 years ago as a nature hike leader for school groups. As a former professor, Steve loves to instruct, but he feels that entertainment is equally important on field trips — he wants students to get over their fears and assumptions about bears or lions in the woods and have a great time. Steve goes on to explain the joy he gets from students, especially underserved kids: “Their enthusiasm is infectious, you just can’t help but have a good time.”

Ten years ago, Steve joined Severson's board, serving stints as Secretary, Vice President, and President. He is also a dedicated member of our Conservation Crew and enjoys picking invasive garlic mustard and cutting and burning honeysuckle. When asked why he enjoys restoration work, he explained that he enjoys the challenge of the hard work, and also, he hates honeysuckle! Joy jumps in to lend a hand with whatever is needed, always with a smile on her face. Last fall, they helped sponsor our first-ever Golden Hour in The Grove event. Naturalist Andrea Wallace Noble says of the two, “Steve and Joy are special because they have supported Severson in so many different ways. I’m grateful for their dedication, dependability, and good humor.”

In addition to their service at Severson Dells Nature Center, Steve and Joy serve the community in a myriad of ways, while still finding time to indulge in their retirement hobbies. Joy has an honorary taxi service helping people with limited mobility get to appointments. She also enjoys a large network of friends and tending to the Earth with gardening. When Steve isn't out at Severson Dells, you can usually find him at the golf course or painting. He has a large collection of Van Gogh reproduction paintings (lovingly called VanVeEs) and paints original works, as well (see his



Joy and Steve Vee. Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel.

remarkable painting of the dells). They also enjoy spending time in Florida, walking along the seashore and dunes. Fortunately, they always return back to Rockford and get back to the trails at the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

Joy and Steve are dedicated to promoting nature appreciation in the community. They explained why they support Severson Dells Nature Center: “We are inspired by the commitment to environmental education shown by the staff and volunteers at SDNC to all age groups, but especially to children, impacting most of them for a lifetime.” They love that Severson Dells “serves as a sanctuary for all ages to escape to nature, meeting a growing need,” they expressed. They look forward to seeing how Severson Dells Nature Center grows and develops in the years to come.

The Vees’ adore walking through Severson Dells prairie in the autumn when the goldenrod are in bloom, but they love hikes through the Dells at any season. They love to take the “high road” to the dells where a bench offers a panoramic view that they say is perfect for quiet contemplation. If they have kids in tow, they never skip the pond. The addition of The Grove has made it even harder to end their trips, as the kids never want to go home.

We are so grateful that Steve and Joy have been such an integral part of supporting Severson Dells over the years in so many different ways. They have touched many lives, both here and in the community beyond. We find their spirited and good-natured enthusiasm to be infectious as well, and absolutely love it when they are around.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT SEVERSON DELLS

Be like the Vees! Volunteer with us at Severson Dells. We have positions for many different skills and abilities, as well as to suit different time availability. We would love to have you join our wonderful team of volunteers!

Education Programs Volunteer - Our education volunteers help lead programs for school groups participating in our onsite education programs, which serve approximately 4,000 students each year. Group size ranges from 10 to 20 students, and are mostly preschool through 5th grade. Lessons can include, but are not limited to, predator-prey relations, aquatic studies, general nature hikes, animal adaptations, outdoor skills, and ecosystem dynamics.

Nature Center Host Volunteer - Nature Center Host Volunteers staff the front desk on Saturdays and Sundays in 4-hour shifts. Volunteers are also needed occasionally during the week when all staff are out of the office for various functions.

Conservation Crew - Help remove invasive plants, collect native seed, and plant new seedlings with the Severson Dells Conservation Crew. Restoration volunteers meet the second Saturday and fourth Monday of each month from 9:00 AM to noon.

Community Science - Community Science Volunteers help us collect valuable data on wildlife that we use to inform our land management practices and secure grant funding. Our volunteers can participate in many projects, including: Bat Monitoring, Bluebird Monitoring, Bumblebee Monitoring, Calling Frog Monitoring, and Plant Monitoring.

AmeriCorps Service Opportunities - Severson Dells partners with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, Boone County Conservation District, Dekalb County Forest Preserves and the Natural Land Institute to offer opportunities for AmeriCorps volunteers to engage in environmental education, habitat restoration and community science.

For more information, visit:

seversondells.org/ameri-corps-opportunities
seversondells.org/volunteer

THE SUBTLE BEAUTY OF GRAVEL PRAIRIES

BY MEGAN BERTUCCI, AMERICORPS MEMBER

If you aren't local to the area, you might look at a prairie and think "What's so special?" It doesn't have the soaring mountain peaks, gushing waterfalls, or towering trees that we often associate with the beauty of nature. You don't often see a prairie on the cover of a magazine (except maybe this one!) or as a calendar background. I didn't grow up around prairies. I wasn't taught about the incredible ecosystems they support or their picturesque floral blooms. I had no idea why they were special.

That was until I moved to the Rockford area this winter, during the heat of the Save Bell Bowl Prairie movement, which inspired me to learn more about prairies and what makes them unique. Over the last few months, I have learned about the incredible biodiversity of prairies, especially gravel prairies, and have come to appreciate their importance and beauty. If you have a great love of prairies, I hope this article validates your love for them and gives you a new appreciation for what makes a gravel prairie so special. And if, like me, you never really gave prairies much thought, I hope I will inspire you to go out and explore one (or more).

Let's start with what makes a prairie a prairie. A prairie is defined as a large, generally flat, area that is dominated by grasses (as opposed to trees). What makes a gravel prairie different? The first thing is the geology! Long ago, when glaciers moved through Illinois, they left behind glacial till, which is made up of the smaller rocks that glaciers moved as they traveled across the landscape. When the glaciers melted, this till was deposited in mounds, which we call kames, and ridges, which we call eskers. Our gravel prairies grew on top

of these amazing geological features, starting roughly 8,000 years ago.

Kames and eskers make gravel prairies hilly and the soil gravelly. Before the glaciers moved through Illinois, our region consisted largely of limestone bedrock; as a result, the gravel that makes up these prairies is primarily limestone. Limestone is interesting because it has a high pH, which makes the gravel alkaline (similar to dish soap), and full of calcium carbonate. The loose granular nature of gravel also helps the soil drain water quickly. Therefore, the plants that colonized these gravelly soils had to be tolerant of drought, high alkalinity, and have

a preference for raised calcium levels. For instance, plants found in gravel prairies have to compete for limited water. To combat this, many have deep roots, which help them to reach water deep below the soil surface. They also tend to have specialized leaves that help prevent them from losing what water they do have. The leaves of gravel prairie plants tend to be narrow, upright, thick, and/or hairy. A few of these species include Prairie Smoke, Pasqueflower and Hill's thistle. The

nature of these special plants create a healthy habitat for a variety of animal species, many of them rare or threatened.

Whether plant or animal, these prairie species are so specialized that they often cannot survive outside of gravel prairies, meaning they cannot be moved into new habitats. Therefore, it is important to protect what little gravel prairie we have left and to keep it intact. When larger habitats are broken up and separated by development, such as roads or buildings, we end up with habitat fragmentation, which limits species' ability



Bell Bowl Prairie in late September, 2021. Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

to find the resources (food, shelter, water) they need to survive and reduces their ability to successfully reproduce and maintain healthy genetics.

Some people view gravel prairies as prime real estate for urban development. The thick, gravel soils are a great base for supporting structures, but gravel prairies are much more than that. I have often heard the phrase that beauty is in the details, and I believe that gravel prairies are a perfect example of that. Even when the iconic compass plants and pale purple cone flowers aren't in bloom, there is beauty in the safety they provide to animals. There is beauty in the nutrients they give to the rare plants that call these habitats home. I cannot wait for the weather to warm and the flowers to bloom so I can see the subtle beauty of gravel prairies firsthand.



Pasqueflower (*Anemone patens*) at Stone Bridge Forest Preserve. Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

Did you know?

Bell Bowl Prairie was part of Camp Grant (1917-1946) and served as a remount station. Horses and mules were brought to Bell Bowl to be transported for use in World War II. This brought in non native plants that found Bell Bowl to be a great habitat. Although they are not native, they exist to this day in Bell Bowl, reminding us of our rich history.

If you are interested in learning more about the Save Bell Bowl Prairie movement, please visit <http://www.savebellbowlprairie.org>.

Rare Flora and Fauna of Gravel Prairies



Rusty-patched bumblebee. Photo by Ellen Rathbone.

- Rusty-patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*)** -
 - Federally endangered
- Prairie dandelion (*Nothocalais cuspidata*)**
 - Endangered in IL
- Black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)**
 - Threatened in IL
- Large-flowered beardtongue (*Penstemon grandiflorus*)** - Endangered in IL
- Regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)**
 - IL threatened species
- Ottoe skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*)**
 - State threatened
- Red-tailed Prairie LeafHopper (*Aflexia rubranura*)**
 - Globally imperiled, but not listed in US
- Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Poliocitellus franklinii*)** - IL threatened
- Hill's thistle (*Cirsium hillii*)** - rare
- Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**
 - Endangered in IL



Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Photo by Steve Berardi, Wiki Commons: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/33017468@N07/5580490317>



DRINKS FOR THE DELLS
A SEVERSON DELLS FUNDRAISER

**JOIN US FOR TRAILS AND ALES AT
SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER
ROCKFORD, IL**

JUNE 18, 2022 | 12 PM TO 4 PM

**THIS YEAR, WE ARE PARTNERING WITH
PRAIRIE ST. BREWHOUSE AND SEVERAL
REGIONAL MICRO BREWERIES TO OFFER
GREAT BREWS WITH AWESOME VIEWS
RIGHT HERE AT SEVERSON DELLS!**

**FEATURING MUSICAL GUESTS
GROOVE HOTEL & SWINGBILLY RFD**

**FOOD AVAILABLE BY
BIG JON'S DOGS N' MORE**



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**Severson Dells Nature Center connects people to nature through
education and research.**



**SEVERSON DELLS
NATURE CENTER**

8786 Montague Rd.
Rockford, IL

SUPPORT NATURE EDUCATION

Order your \$35 tickets online today!

seversondells.com/drinks-for-the-dells



Ahoy!

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OF CANOEING ADVENTURES!



Staff instructors and volunteers will help you learn to be a more skillful and confident paddler while answering questions about local flora and fauna. Equipment and guides are provided. You must register to find out the location for the evening's paddle. Ages 10 and up.



CANOE CONVOYS

www.seversondells.org/canoeconvoy



Forest Preserves of Winnebago County 100th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, May 14, 2022 | 10am-2pm

Hononegah Forest Preserve

80 Hononegah Rd, Rockton, IL

food | activities | games
guided hikes & more

www.winnebagoforest.org



Wildflower Walkabouts

Wednesday, April 27 | Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve

Zach Grycan and Jerry Paulson will lead this hike on property owned and managed by NLI. This 96-acre Nature Preserve is located along Hall Creek, southwest of Rockford. One of the attractive features of this preserve is a series of cliffs known as the dells. Many unique plants restricted to limestone and dolomite outcrops are found here, as well as some northern relict plants. Located near the intersection of East Severson Road and North Weldon Road. From Meridian and Montague Road, drive south and turn west onto McGregor Road, turn north onto Weldon Road. Moderate-difficult hiking.

Tuesday, May 3 | Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve

Connie McIntosh and Kathy Martinez will take us on a tour of the Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve, which includes river edge floodplain forest, oxbow pond marshes and upland forest along the Pecatonica River. The site has outstanding spring flora and birdlife. Please meet on Blair Road on the north side of the forest preserve. Hiking will be easy to moderate.

Wednesday, May 11 | Kinnikinnick Creek Conseration Area

Aaron Minson, Boone County Conservation District, and Brian Hale, Conservation District Volunteer, take us through the recently restored prairie and basswood, hickory and white oak forest to explore the wildflowers in northern Boone County. Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area is located 3.2 miles north of Route 173 on Caledonia Road. The entrance is just north of North Boone School Road. Moderate hiking.

Tuesday, May 17 - Funderburg Forest Preserve

Join Forest Preserves of Winnebago County staff, Mike Groves and Steve Hornbeck, for an exploration of one of the newest forest preserves. We will be on the lookout for many of our favorite woodland wildflowers and learn more about the dramatic restoration plans for the 868-acre preserve on the southwest side of Rockford. Please park at the trailhead on Meridian Road, roughly a mile south of Montague Road. Moderate hiking.



Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) and Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) growing on a dolomite cliff at Burr Oak Valley

Wednesday, May 25 | Burr Oak Valley Nature Preserve

Zach Grycan and Tyler Pellegrini, Natural Land Institute staff, will lead us through some of this 99-acre property that is owned and managed by NLI. The natural communities we will visit include mesic upland forest, dolomite prairie, dolomite cliff and intermittent stream. Expect to see blue-eyed grass, Columbine, maidenhair fern, and the rare kittentails. Please park at the northern entrance of the preserve at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, 7404 Elevator Rd. in Roscoe. Moderate hiking.

Join Severson Dells and the Natural Land Institute staff and volunteers on an exploration of many of the local wildflower hotspots. Wildflower Walks showcase what is currently in bloom at various woodland and prairie preserves around Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. All walks will begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no fee for the walks, but membership in Severson Dells and/or the Natural Land Institute is encouraged.

Registration for all of the walks will be required this year through EventBrite. Each walk has two leaders, and each group will allow reservations for 15 people.

For more information, please call 815/335-2915 (SD) or 815/964-6666 (NLI).

Tuesday, May 31 | Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve

Explore one of the newest forest preserves with Mike Brien and Steve Hornbeck from the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. We will walk through a fourth year restored prairie and head to the forest full of Chinquapin, Bur and Red Oaks on the cliffs overlooking the Rock River. Take Highway 2 south, turn right on Kishwaukee Road and drive for 3.8 miles. Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve will be on the right side of the road at 7901 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley. Moderate-difficult hiking.

Wednesday, June 8 | Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve

Join Byron Forest Preserve naturalists Russell Brunner and Austin Webb to search the prairie for early summer wildflowers. We will meet at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron and explore the Indigo Trace Trail. This will be an easy hiking adventure. Please bring comfortable hiking shoes and binoculars if you're interested in seeing some of our summer resident beauties.

Tuesday, June 14 | Deer Run Forest Preserve

Join us for an evening with Mike Groves and Richard Benning from the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. We will be on the lookout for a variety of milkweeds (and the monarchs that love them), lupines and more as we enjoy the prairie at Deer Run. Located 3 miles southeast of Rockford city limits on River Road. Easy hiking.



Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)



Wildflower Walkabout hikers examining a Compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*)

Wednesday, June 22 | Searls Prairie Nature Preserve

Joni Denker of the Rockford Park District and Jack Armstrong, Severson Dells and Rockford Park District board member, will lead this hike through mesic and wet-mesic prairie where prairie dropseed, Indian grass, and big bluestem grow. This site is one of the highest quality wet prairies in the state. Meet at Searls Park on Central Avenue in Rockford across from the soccer fields. Easy hiking, but the area may be wet.

Tuesday, June 30 | Pecatonica Ridge Prairie

NLI staff Zach Grycan and Laura Helmich lead a tour through this beautiful upland prairie, located east of Winnebago. From U.S. Route 20, turn north on Conger Road and drive one mile. Keep driving straight where Berglund Road meets Conger Road. Prairie smoke, leadplant, birdsfoot violet and New Jersey tea may be seen at this native prairie. Easy hiking.

Photos by Jessie Crow Mermel

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for programs at seversondells.org/events or call 1-815-335-2915

For the most up-to-date information on potential program postponement or cancellations, please visit our website at www.seversondells.org. Registration is required for all programs.

City Nature Challenge

April 30 to May 3 Observation Period

May 4 to 9 Identification Period

4/29	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Aldeen Park
4/29	9 - 11 a.m.	LIB Conservation Area
4/30	7 - 8:30 a.m.	Ipsen Road/ Newburg Village Conservation Area
4/30	9 - 11 a.m.	Flora Prairie Conservation Area
4/30	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Nicholas Conservatory
4/30	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Nygren Wetlands Preserve
4/30	12 - 3 p.m.	Atwood Park
4/30	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve
4/30	8 - 9 p.m.	Severson Dells Nature Center
5/1	2 - 4 p.m.	Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve
5/1	9 - 11 a.m.	Tuttle Clarkson Natural Area
5/2	1 - 2 p.m.	Spencer Conservation Area
5/2	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Harlem Hills Nature Preserve



For more information, please visit our website: <http://bit.ly/CityNatureChallenge22>



DIY Field Guide

Saturday, May 7, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Celebrate spring by creating your very own field guide to the season. Each participant makes their own “map fold” booklet and fills the diamond-shaped pages with illustrations and notes of what we discover along the trails. Birds, flowers, insects, and poetry are examples of what you might put in your book. We provide the paper, glue, colored pencils, magnifiers, binoculars, sit-upons and nature. Optional items you can bring with you include: pen and ink; watercolors and brushes. Bring a refillable water bottle. Ages 14+. Members/\$15, General Admission/\$20.

Forest Preserves 100th Anniversary Celebration

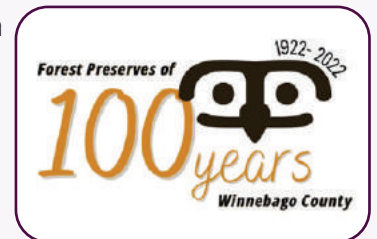
Saturday, May 14, 2022

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Hononegah Forest Preserve

Celebrate a century of protecting and enhancing Winnebago County’s natural heritage at the FPWC 100th anniversary event. Enjoy interactive activities, food, and giveaways at our county’s first forest preserve.

Activities Include: Guided Hikes, Golf, Make your own hiking stick, Live birds with Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education, Face painting, S’mores station, Learn about the plants and animals that call your forest preserves home, Crafts, Drawings for free shelter house rentals, rounds of golf and camping, and Food Trucks: Disco Chicken and The Olive Branch. Free event.



Conservation Crew Restoration Workdays

May 14, 23, June 11, 27, July 9, 25, August 13, 22
9 a.m. to Noon

Our volunteer crew helps to restore and maintain balance in the ecosystem by removing invasive plants like Asian bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard, and by collecting native seeds for propagation. Working alongside fellow volunteers in the beauty of the outdoors is both gratifying and invigorating. No experience necessary; training and tools are supplied. Bring a water bottle to stay hydrated. Dress in layers and expect to get dirty! RSVP to Andrea, andrea@seversondells.org.





Photo by Ellen Rathbone

Full Moon Hike

Monday, May 16, 2022 | 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Join us to wander the woods and prairie during the Flower Moon. You'll get the opportunity to tour the forest preserve after dark and learn about moon lore, nocturnal animals and their adaptations, and experience the wonder of nature at night! Members/\$3, General Admission/\$5.

Drinks for the Dells

Saturday, June 18 | 1 to 4 p.m.

This year, we are partnering with Prairie St. Brewhouse and several regional micro breweries to offer great brews with awesome views right here at Severson Dells! Featuring Musical Guests Groove Hotel & Swingbilly RFD. Food available by Big Jon's Dog N' More. \$35/ticket.

Family Frog Adventure at Pecatonica Wetlands Preserve

Saturday, June 4, 2022 | 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Pecatonica Forest Preserve as we learn about our local frogs: their life cycles, their calls, and where they live. Members/\$10, General Admission/\$15 per family.



Readings from the Rookery

Fridays, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Severson Dells staff lead this fun and engaging program that introduces children and their parents to great nature books. After our story, everyone participates in outside activities that relate to the theme of the week. This program targets 5-to 9-year-olds and focuses on the importance of getting kids outside. Free event, registration required.

CANOE CONVOYS

Mondays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 18, 25

Join Severson staff and volunteers for a Monday sunset paddle and experience nature from one of our canoes!



5:20 p.m. - Quickstart Sign-In

5:45 p.m. - Regular Sign In

Before each paddle, we offer an introductory canoeing lesson, our "Quickstart Program," for paddlers* who have not participated in a Canoe Convoy before.

Due to high demand for this program, please only register for two evenings. Please RSVP online or call. If you are interested in attending more than two, please call us at 815-335-2915 to be put on the waitlist. We require a \$10 deposit for all paddlers because of the high rate of no-shows the last couple of years. If you show up or cancel your reservation by the Friday before the paddle you will receive a full refund. You can donate your deposit to help keep this program going. Donations help keep this program afloat and allow us to offer our program for "free" to those who may not be able to afford a trip elsewhere.

**Due to safety considerations, this program suitable for children 10 and up. People under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for programs at seversondells.org/events or call 1-815-335-2915

For the most up-to-date information on potential program postponement or cancellations, please visit our website at www.seversondells.org. Registration is required for all programs.

Family Creek Walk June 11, 2022 | 1 to 3 p.m.

This camp classic is now available for the whole family! Get your feet wet as we walk through Hall Creek and along the towering cliff faces of the Dells. This is your chance to explore parts of Severson that very few



Photo by Ellen Rathbone

people get to encounter! This adventure is great for families with children 6 and up. We will be walking on uneven ground and in a moving current. Closed-toed shoes required. ***Due to the fragile aquatic environment, we do not recommend taking a creek walk unless accompanied by a Severson guide.** Ages 6 and up, anyone under 16 needs to be accompanied by an adult. Members/\$3, General Admission/\$5.

Kindred Spirits Camp Saturday, July 7 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For those adults who want a summer camp experience, come and join us for a day of camper fun. Games, crafts and exploration will fill our hours. Members/\$35, General Admission/\$45.

Full Moon Hike Sunday, July 13, 2022 | 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Join us to wander the woods and prairie during the Buck Moon. Learn about nature at nighttime! Members/\$3, General Admission/\$5.

Full Moon Hike Thursday, August 11, 2022 | 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Join us to wander the woods and prairie during the Sturgeon Moon. Learn about nature at nighttime! Members/\$3, General Admission/\$5.

Dance at the Dells Saturday, August 20, 2022 | 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for the fourth and final year of this beloved event that celebrates performing art in nature! At 5:00 PM, we will embark on a journey through the Dells, interspersed with site-specific choreography by professional dancers and sisters, Meghan and Caitlyn Baylor. The hike will culminate at 6:30 PM with a performance at The Grove Nature Playscape. If you are unable to join us on the moderately challenging hike, please join us for the performance in The Grove. RAINDATE: August 27. Members/\$15, General Admission/\$20, Children under 12 are \$5. Register by 8/18. Space is limited, so please register early.

Sponsored by Gibbons Electric, LawnCare by Walter, and Workplace



Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

Paint Night Thursday, August 25, 2022 | 6 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to paint elegant, wall-worthy leaf prints with the cheerful guidance of Andrea Wallace Noble! Join us for a night of creativity and fun and learn about local trees along the way. No experience necessary and all materials provided. This includes light snacks and drinks in addition to a casual, cozy atmosphere. Ages 10+. \$30.



Hikes & Bikes



Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

815 Outside is continuing with regular hikes and bike rides. All events are free and require registration. **See details and sign up at www.815outside.com under Events.** Email info@815outside.com with questions.

05/13 | 1 to 3 p.m. | Guided Hike at Nygren Wetland

Join us for a hike, led by Tyler Pellegrini of the Natural Land Institute, during peak bird migration.

05/18 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Spencer Conservation Area

Join us for a hike along the beautiful trails that border the Kishwaukee River in Spencer Conservation Area.

5/26 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Guided Pollinator Walk at Atwood Park

This walk, led by Joni Denker of the Rockford Park District, takes us through the beautiful prairie at Atwood Park and teaches us about some of the amazing native pollinators in our region.

05/28 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Hike at Sugar River Forest Preserve

Join us for a calming hike through the woods along Sugar River.

06/01 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve

Join us for a walk through the sandy soil prairies and oak savannas at this Byron Forest Preserve.

06/09 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. | Bike Along the Rock River Recreation Path

Enjoy the beauty of Rockford as we bike along the Rock River Recreation Path.

06/15 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Kid's Monarch Walk at Nature at the Confluence

Join us at Nature at the Confluence, to learn all about the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, view the Monarch exhibit, and meet munching caterpillars. Then we head outdoors to learn about their habitat and how you can help monarchs in your own backyard or community.

06/25 | 10 to 11 a.m. | Short Walk at Baumann Park

Take a break and get outside on this short stroll.

07/02 | 10 a.m. to noon | Newburg Village Conservation Area

Join us for a beautiful summer walk.

07/06 | 10 a.m. to noon | Hike at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve

Join us for a hike and enjoy the views over the Rock River.

07/14 | 10 a.m. to noon | Hike at Jensen Forest Preserve

Enjoy the beauty on this calming summer hike in Rockton.

07/23 | 10 to 11 a.m. | Short Walk at Aldeen Park

This short walk is the perfect way to get outside and enjoy our beautiful local woodlands.

07/27 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. | Bike Along the Winnebago County Section of the Stone Bridge Trail

Get outside and enjoy the sunshine on this beginner-friendly bike ride along the Stone Bridge Trail.

08/06 | 10 a.m. to noon | Hike at Atwood Park

Join us for a fun hike through the woods at Atwood Park.

08/10 | 10 a.m. to noon | Howard Coleman Hall Creek Preserve

Enjoy a stunning hike and observe the bluffs and restored prairies that make this site unique.

08/20 | 10 a.m. to noon | Guided Hike at Pecatonica Ridge Prairie

Join us for a guided hike and learn about the biodiversity of this unique preserve.

08/27 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. | Bike Along Boone County Section of the Stone Bridge Trail

Join us for a bike through part of the Boone County section of the Stone Bridge Trail!

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Find Your Wild



Photo by Ellen Rathbone



Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel



- JUNE 06-10** ● **Wild Things Camp - Little Heroes | Ages 4-6 | 9am-noon**
● Embrace your inner hero as we learn how to save nature, tackle fun challenges, and train to be the best versions of ourselves along the way! \$90 (Members)/\$105
- JUNE 13-17** ● **Amazing Adventures Camp | Ages 7-11 | 9am-3pm**
● Each day is a new adventure. This year our adventures include Survivor Day, Cave Man Day, and Nature Hero Day. \$120 (Members)/\$150
- JUNE 20-24** ● **Wild Things Camp - Little Creators | Ages 4-6 | 9am-noon**
● Paint, dance, sing, craft! Your little creator will learn more about nature through the arts and deepen their appreciation for the outdoors. \$90 (Members)/\$105
- JUNE-JULY 27-01** ● **Peek-in-the-Creek | Ages 7-11**
● Our daily creek adventures include boat races, getting muddy, and catching crayfish. \$120 (Members)/\$150
- JULY 06** ● **Grandparents Camp - Aquatic Habitats | 9am-noon & 1-4pm**
● Make boats, catch crayfish, explore the creek, and spend time making priceless memories. Prices vary, see website.
- JULY 07** ● **Grandparents Camp - Terrestrial Habitats | 9am-noon & 1-4pm**
● Roam through the prairie, sweep for insects, and create your own nature craft! Prices vary, see website.
- JULY 11-15** ● **Blazing Paddles Canoe Camp | Ages 12-16 | 9am-3pm**
● Explore the rivers of Winnebago County by canoe, build teamwork and leadership skills, and partake in crazy fun camp traditions. \$180 (Members)/\$210
- JULY 09** ● **Kindred Spirits Adult Camp | Ages 18+ | 9am-3pm**
● For those adults who want a summer camp experience, come and join us for a day of camper fun. \$35 (Members), \$45
- JULY 18-22** ● **Call of the Wild | Ages 7-11 | 9am-3pm**
● Campers get in touch with their inner cave people, minus the cave. Each clan builds a home base from which they sally forth to explore. \$120 (Members)/\$150
- JULY 25-29** ● **Robin Hood Camp | Ages 8-12 | 9am-3pm**
● After building our hide-out in the woods, our band of merry campers do good (nature-themed) deeds throughout the week. \$120 (Members)/\$150
- AUGUST 01-05** ● **Wild Things Camp - Little Pirates | Ages 4-6 | 9am-noon**
● Our pirate crew will be sailing the "high seas" of Hall Creek as we catch critters, make boats, and search for lost treasure! \$90 (Members)/\$105



For more information on our camps and to register, visit seversondells.org/camp

#SEVERSONTRAVELS



PLANNING SUMMER TRAVEL?

TAKE SEVERSON DELLS WITH YOU
AND YOU COULD WIN!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

TAKE A PHOTO OF YOURSELF ON YOUR TRAVELS WITH YOUR SEVERSON DELLS GEAR ON, POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TAG US, ALONG WITH #SEVERSONTRAVELS (OR SEND THE PHOTO TO US AT INFO@SEVERSONDELLS.ORG) AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A NEW SEVERSON T-SHIRT AND A GUIDED HIKE FOR YOU AND UP TO 10 OF YOUR FRIENDS! FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.SEVERSONDELLS.ORG/SEVERSON-TRAVELS



Annual Report

2021



Photo by Alizé Jireh

Good day, Severson Dells supporters and community. I hope this day finds you well, and that you're as excited about the beginning of springtime as I am. Observing nature greening up again after the winter always offers a sense of renewal and resilience of the natural world.

My name is Chris Samuelson, and I'm excited to be part of the Severson Dells board, currently serving as Board Chair. It's an honor to be part of this wonderful organization whose mission is to connect people to nature through education and research. I am a Rockford native, having graduated from East High School and Rockford University. I'm celebrating my 25th year with Thermo Fisher Scientific where I currently support a global Operations team. My wife Courtney has been an early childhood special education teacher for over 20-years, and we have two boys, Landon and Wes, who are 14 and 11 respectively. We truly find spending time outdoors centers our family, which is why the mission of Severson Dells is so near and dear to my heart.

Now that you know something about me, let's talk Severson Dells and an important attribute of our organization: resilience. The definition of resilience, simply put, is the ability to bounce back from setbacks or failures. Often resilience is framed as an individual attribute. These individuals have a certain amount of "grit" that allows them to struggle through the pain and ultimately overcome challenges. We often use resilience or grit as a barometer of success. However, according to a recent Harvard Business Review article titled, "The Secret to Building Resilience", the author states, "that resilience is not purely an individual characteristic, but is also heavily enabled by strong relationships and networks. We can nurture and build our resilience through a wide variety of interactions with people in our personal and professional lives" (Cross, Dillan, & Greenburg, 2021). The author goes on to say that "resilience is a team sport."

Over the past two years, the Severson Dells organization has embodied these statements. We are resilient through the strong network of relationships that our organization has cultivated over the decades. More recently, Ann's leadership and her team have excelled at fostering these relationships that have allowed Severson Dells to successfully navigate pandemic-related challenges. We are resilient because of people like YOU who support us and help nurture our mission even through difficult times.

Considering our mission, we can also learn from nature and what it teaches us about resilience. This past summer our family and a close group of friends visited Yosemite National Park. We did all the park things, but one trip stands out above all. Our rental home was located in a small town just south of the park and we were told to travel up a rustic road and observe an area that locals refer to as "moonscape." It was the aftermath of the Creek Fire (2020) that destroyed nearly 400,000 acres of land. Despite the utter devastation and loss of life, it was incredible to see nature once again making a comeback. Beautiful yellow flowers dotted the landscape and made for striking images against the backdrop of charred pines.

From the Severson Dell's staff to the community and our donors, thank you. Your support has been overwhelming, sincerely appreciated, and unprecedented. We hope that despite our recent challenges, recent events have taught us all how to be a bit more resilient.

Best,
Chris Samuelson,
Board President



The Samuelson Family: Courtney, Landon, Wes, and Chris

On March 17, 2022, the Sikich LLP accounting firm completed an audit of Severson Dells Education Foundation's records for the FYE 12/31/21. The following is the condensed balance sheet as of 12/31/21. A copy of the complete audited financial statements is available on request.

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

\$ 205,062	Cash and cash equivalents
8,417	Grants receivable
2,664	Pledges receivable, current
23,220	Inventory
413	Prepaid expenses
0	Investments
<hr/>	
239,776	Total current assets

NONCURRENT ASSETS:

2,474,183	Investments
102	Pledges receivable, long term, net
39,612	Equipment
-	Construction in progress
(25,431)	Less: Accumulated depreciation
14,181	Property and equipment, net
81,058	Endowment investments
<hr/>	
2,569,524	Total noncurrent assets
<hr/>	
\$ 2,809,300	TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

-	Accrued expenses due to Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
\$ 9,268	Payroll liabilities
2,550	Accounts payable
5,336	Deferred revenue
<hr/>	
17,154	Total current liabilities

NET ASSETS:

\$ 2,677,968	Without donor restrictions
114,178	With donor restrictions
<hr/>	
2,792,146	Total net assets
<hr/>	
\$ 2,809,300	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS



2021 SEVERSON DELLS PROGRAMS

TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED IN 2021
10725

up from 5819 in 2020



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

2795

up from 1354 in 2020

SCHOOL ON-SITE

1427

up from 278 in 2020



IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

226

up from 82 in 2020



OFF-SITE WITH STAFF

2021

up from 736 in 2020



USE OF FACILITIES

1470

up from 1133 in 2020



WALK-IN VISITORS

4624

up from 2236 in 2020



MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

SEVERSON DELLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

When Fannie Severson donated 369-acres to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, she dreamed of having a nature center in the family's "Deer Lodge." The Severson Dells Education Foundation was created to make that dream come true. Since 1976, donors to the non-profit foundation have financed great programs at Severson Dells Nature Center that have helped teach more than a half million people about the natural world. The Foundation and Forest Preserve District are partners: the foundation pays for educational programs and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County maintains the property and the facility. It's a relationship that has improved the quality of life for area residents by linking them to the forests, rivers and prairies of the region.



FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

We have made every effort to list the individuals and groups who have supported Severson Dells Nature Center through memberships, donations, sponsorships, memorials and other gifts during the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

IN 2021, MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS WERE GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

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 Paul and Sharon Werther
 Joylene Westphal
 Joe Whinnery
 David and Rosalie Whitehouse
 Barbara and Daniel Williams
 Kevin Williams
 Teresa C. Wilmot
 Keith and Diane Wilson



Douglas and Diane Wilson
 L.C. and Regina Wilson
 William S. and Cathryn P. Wilson
 Melissa Autumn Wong
 Claudia Woodward
 Samuel and Janna Wyant
 Jill Zawacki
 Dan and Ann Zeigler
 Matthew and Nanette Zickert

FOUNDATION & BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Anonymous
 Accurate Accounting & Payroll Services, LLC
 Broadmoor Agency Inc.
 Jean Cassens/Casler Foundation
 Chartwell Agency
 Comcast Corporation
 Community Foundation of N. IL
 Crusaders Health Foundation



Culver's of Winnebago
 Eickman's Processing Company, Inc.
 Fehr Graham
 Fitzgerald Equipment Company, Inc.
 German American Bank
 Gibbons Electric, Inc.
 Gloyd Family Foundation
 Guy B. Reno Foundation
 History Factory
 Manpower
 Mary's Market Cafe & Bakery
 Midland States Bank
 Nicholson Hardware
 Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
 Rock Valley Garden Center, Inc.
 Rockford Art Deli
 Savant Capital Management, Inc.
 SIKICH LLP
 Sjostrom & Sons Foundation, Inc.
 Specialty Screw Corporation
 Carol Freeman/Team Green Environmental Network
 Team Sold On Toni, Inc.
 The Ben Harding Family Foundation
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund
 The Chicago Trust Company / Wintrust Bank / Brubaker Charitable Trust
 The Kjellstrom Family Foundation c/o Pam Clark Reidenbach
 Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence
 The Unitarian Universalist Church
 ThermoFisher Scientific
 Wild Ones Rock River Valley
 WilliamsMcCarthy LLP



Photos by Ellen Rathbone and Jessie Crow Mermel

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are involved in many different activities, limited only by enthusiasm, interest and available time. We are so grateful for the many unique talents our volunteers share with visitors, program participants, and staff. Volunteers' ages range from youth to senior citizens, and they gave a total of 1706 hours of service in 2021.

Tor Andaas
 Gary Anderson
 Jen Anderson
 Margaret Archer
 Jack Armstrong
 Becky Asher
 Francie Barnes
 Judy Barnard
 Jeanne Bergstrom
 Kathleen Bierman
 Danni Brosend
 Russell Brunner
 Steve Carry
 Cynthia Chmell
 Rob Clark
 Darra Clarkston
 Karen Clements
 Aidan Coen
 Christopher Collier
 Sylvia Coogan
 Tim Damm
 Lois Davis
 Joni Denker
 Callie Dixon
 Katie Eickman
 Nora Fallis
 Sophia Fallis
 Wyatt Fallis
 Gienne Fegen
 Claire Gallenz
 Jeanette Jess Geraghty
 Mike Groves
 Zach Grycan
 Peter Gustafson
 Paul Haeflinger
 Brian Hale
 Brett Hanson
 Margret Hanson
 Laura Hemlich
 Jarrod Hennis
 Daniel Huntley
 Donald Ivacic
 Adam Jacobs
 Charles Johannsen
 Lee Johnson
 Linda Johnson
 Mark Keister
 Thomas Kellogg

Andy Kimball
 Mary Kisamore
 Susan Kleiman
 Carol Kraft
 Ed Larson
 Ryan LeFavre
 David Lindberg
 Jakob "Jake" Loescher
 Devin Lorio
 Tyler Mabery
 Jessie Madl
 James Maier
 Shawn Makulec
 Cecilia Mann
 Chris Mann
 Winnie Marema
 Jeremy Martinez
 Paulette Matthews
 Lora McClelland
 Jim McFarlane
 Connie McIntosh
 Aaron Minson
 Laura Medina
 Cheryl Metz
 Norm Metz
 Scott Meyers
 Steven Meyers
 Don Miller
 Kyle Mitchell
 Toni Murray
 Jillian Neece
 Jason Needham
 Laura Needham
 Patricia Nicolosi
 Brendan Noble
 David Noel
 Steve Nofsinger
 William (Bill) Nutini
 Patty Oliveri
 Siena Oliveri
 Cathy Ott
 Jerry Paulson
 Tyler Pelligrini
 Dan Petersen
 John Peterson
 Carla Phillips
 Jack Phillips
 Catherine Povalitis

Keevin Quillen
 Chris Reisetter
 Jacqueline Rheaume
 Stephen Rohl
 Karol Rosman
 Greg Ruffner
 Hans Rupert
 Ginney Samons
 Chris Samuelson
 Esther Schippers
 Marissa Schneider
 Marjorie Seith
 Brandon Simmons
 Michael O. Simmons
 Angelina Siriann
 Carly Siriann
 Brett Starkey
 Hayley Starkey
 Rodger Swing
 Nikelle Synove
 Walt S.
 Tyler Tesdorff
 Skeyler Tewell
 Rich Toppe
 Julie Trank
 Ben Ubert
 Julie Uram
 Joy Vee
 Steve Vee
 Lenae Weichel
 Joylene Westphal
 Butch Whittaker
 Barbara Williams
 Linda Williams
 Andrew Wooten
 Jack Wooten
 Rodger Wooten
 Kristen Zambo
 Dan Zeigler

VOLUNTEER HOURS BY PROJECT

176	BLUEBIRD MONITORS
289	CANOE PROGRAM
509	RESTORATION
100	EDUCATION
247	SDNC BOARD
153	SPECIAL EVENTS
232	FRONT DESK
1706	TOTAL HOURS



BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Your business has thrived and now you want to give back. Severson Dells offers several ways that your business can be involved in supporting nature education and natural science research in your community. Sponsor one of our amazing events, become a business member, have your team join us for a service workday or go the extra mile and join 1% For The Planet.



EVENT SPONSORSHIP

We offer several exciting events throughout the year catering to different audiences. Choose to sponsor one or sponsor them all! We offer multiple levels of involvement to fit your needs.



BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

By becoming a Business Member, your company can support nature education while also receiving recognition, exclusive benefits for your employees, and much more!



SERVICE & TEAMBUILDING

The Great Resignation showed us that employees are looking for more meaning in their work. Partner with us to provide healthy, outdoor teambuilding service opportunities.

Why support Severson Dells?

For over 45 years, Severson Dells Nature Center has been providing the greater Rockford community with high-quality, low-cost nature programming for all ages. Last year, our programs reached over 5,000 people. In addition to programs to help connect people to the natural world, we also offer opportunities for people to be involved with community science and ecological restoration. For more about us, visit our website at www.seversondells.org/business-supporters

Thank you to our Business Members

Specialty Screw CORP.



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

MEMORIALS

BARBARA BATES
 KEITH BLACKMORE
 R. A. BRANDYS
 ANTHONY J. CAPRIOLA, SR.
 PETER J. DAMBY
 FRAN KERNS DEWEY
 LEONA FREY
 ANNA FRANCIK
 RICHARD FREEMAN
 CAROL MCKNIGHT-FOSTER
 DAWN AND LEE MILLER
 JOHN AND JAN SEVERSON
 FLORENCE G. SWINSON
 EDWIN W. STIRLING
 JUDE C. TORRE

HONORARIUMS

JESSIE CROW MERMEL
 JOHN AND JEAN FRANA
 DON MILLER
 THE MOORE/KUSNER
 FAMILY
 ELLEN RATHBONE



Severson Dells Nature Knowledge Trading Cards are now available in our gift shop

We are always looking for new ways to interest people of all ages in learning about the nature of Severson Dells (and beyond). Now we have our Nature Knowledge Trading Cards! It is hoped that these cards, which have been a year in the making, help children and adults alike learn about our local nature in bite-sized chunks. There are also several games that you can play with them. These decks that were designed by our Nature Educator Ellen Rathbone sell for \$10 each and are available in our gift shop.

For more information, check out our blog: www.seversondells.com/blog/tradingcards



BECOME A MEMBER OF

"FRIENDS OF SEVERSON DELLS"

OR GIVE AN ADDITIONAL GIFT

MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Discount at Severson Dells' Gift Shop
- Reduced admission to Severson Dells' programs
- Members-only programs at Severson Dells
- Early Summer Camp registration
- Check-out privileges at Severson Dells' Library
- "Notes From the Dells" newsletter, with calendar of programs and special events mailed directly to home
- Free admission to participating Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) member nature centers around the country

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ___ Individual \$40
- ___ Family \$65
- ___ Sponsor \$125
- ___ Benefactor \$300
- ___ Sustaining \$600
- ___ Patron \$1000

Become a member online at

www.seversondells.org/become-a-member/

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to support the mission of SDNC with a gift of _____ at this time.

Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please consult your tax professional. Thank You For Your Support!

SEVERSON DELLS ACTIVITIES

Please register at least two days in advance by phone 815-335-2915
or on our website: seversondells.org. 815 Outside Hikes are listed on page 15.

April

- 29 CNC - Lib Conservation 9-11 a.m.
- 29 CNC - Aldeen Park 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 30 CNC - Ipsen Rd. 7-8:30 a.m.
- 30 CNC - Flora Prairie 9-11 a.m.
- 30 CNC - Nicholas Conserv. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 30 CNC - Nygren Wetlands 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 30 CNC - Atwood Park noon-3 p.m.
- 30 CNC - Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve 6:30-8 p.m.
- 30 CNC - Severson Dells 8-9 p.m.

May

- 01 CNC - Seward Bluffs 2-4 p.m.
- 01 CNC - Tuttle Clarkson 9-11 a.m.
- 02 CNC - Spencer 1-2 p.m.
- 02 CNC - Harlem Hills 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 03 Wildflower Walkabout 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- 07 DIY Spring Field Guide 9:30 a.m.-noon
- 11 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 14 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 14 Forest Preserves 100th Anniversary Celebration 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 16 Full Moon Hike 8-9:30 p.m.
- 17 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 23 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 25 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 31 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.

June

- 04 Family Frog Adventure at Pecatonica Wetlands 10-11:30 a.m.
- 06 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 06 Little Heroes Camp 9 a.m.-noon
- 08 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 10 Readings from the Rookery 9-10:30 a.m.
- 11 Family Creek Walk 1-3 p.m.
- 11 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 13 Amazing Adventures Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 13 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 14 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 18 Drinks for the Dells 1-4 p.m.
- 20 Little Creators Camp 9 a.m.-noon
- 20 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 22 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.
- 24 Readings from the Rookery 9-10:30 a.m.

June, cont.

- 27 Peek-in-the-Creek Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 27 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 27 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 28 Wildflower Walkabout 6-7:30 p.m.

July

- 06 Grandparents Camp I- Aquatic Habitats 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.
- 07 Grandparents Camp II- Terrestrial Habitats 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.
- 08 Readings from the Rookery 9-10:30 p.m.
- 09 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 09 Kindred Spirits Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 11 Blazing Paddles Canoe Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 13 Full Moon Hike 8:30-10 p.m.
- 18 Call of the Wild Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 18 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 22 Readings from the Rookery 9-10:30 a.m.
- 25 Little Pirates Camp 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 25 Canoe Convoy 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 25 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon

August

- 01 Robin Wood Camp 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 11 Full Moon Hike 8-9:30 p.m.
- 13 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 20 Dance at the Dells 5-7 p.m.
- 22 Restoration Workday 9 a.m.-noon
- 25 Paint Night 6-8 p.m.



Photo by Jessie Crow Mermel

NOTES FROM THE DELLS

Severson Dells Nature Center
8786 Montague Road
Rockford, IL 61102-9713

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockford, IL 61125
Permit No. 513**

CONTACT INFO

Telephone: 1-815-335-2915

www.seversondells.org

e-mail: info@seversondells.org

Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Severson Dells Nature Center is a cooperative effort with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.



Severson Dells Nature Center and the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will assist in providing for those individuals with special needs. (Please notify us in advance of your needs that may require special staffing.)



SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER STAFF:

Ann Wasser - Director

Nancy Bleile - Administrative Assistant

Ellen Rathbone - Nature Educator

Andrea Wallace Noble - Naturalist/Educator

Jessie Crow-Mermel - Marketing & Development Assistant

AMERICORPS MEMBERS:

Megan Bertucci - Education

Ashlyn Rogers - Community Science and Volunteer Support

Lydia Wilson - 815 Outside

BOARD MEMBERS:

President - Chris Samuelson

Vice President - Catherine Povalitis

Treasurer - Jessie Madl

Jack Armstrong

Katie Eickman

Jarrod Hennis

Daniel Huntley

Jakob Loescher

Jessie Madl

Patty Oliveri

Cathy Ott

Catherine Povalitis

Hans Rupert

Dan Zeigler



Photo by Jillian Neece