



# Vermilion Conservationist

## Spring 2019

Forest Glen

Kennekuk

Lake Vermilion

Heron

### It's Maple Syrup Season!

There will be plenty for you and the family to enjoy at the annual Maple Syrup Open House at Forest Glen Preserve on Sunday, March 17. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. CST. At the Gannett Education Center, we will be serving pancakes and sausage with our homemade Maple Syrup! Adults are only \$6.00 and children under twelve are \$3.00.

At the Sugar Bush, you can watch the process of turning sugar maple sap into maple syrup as it boils in the evaporator. We will be serving sassafras tea and maple syrup cookies and treats at the Pioneer Homestead Cabin. If we are able to produce enough maple syrup, we will have it for sale beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Nature Center until quantities last. For more information, call 217-662-2142.

### Did You Know?

Here are some maple syrup facts to get ready for the event:

- \* Our sap comes from the Sugar Maple tree, which needs to be approximately 40 years old before it is big enough to tap.
- \* It takes roughly 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup. Fresh sap has a very low sugar content, yet high-quality maple syrup is composed, at minimum, of 66 percent sugar.
- \* Most trees only yield 5 to 15 gallons of sap per season.
- \* Aunt Jemima and Mrs. Butterworth don't know what they're talking about. That "maple flavored" breakfast syrup is really corn syrup (plus a lot of other stuff). Sure, it's economical, but it doesn't even come close to the real thing.
- \* In 2018, The United States maple syrup production totaled 4.16 million gallons!
- \* The 2017 United States average price per gallon for pure maple syrup was \$33.00, down \$2.00 from 2016.



**"To assure our people permanent access  
to their outdoor heritage"**



## Vermilion Conservationist

This newsletter is a publication of the Vermilion County Conservation District. It covers news, programs, and natural history information of interest to residents of Vermilion County. It is free upon request from:

Vermilion County Conservation District  
22296 Henning Road  
Danville, IL 61834

**Editor**  
Lara Darling

### Newsletter Contributors

Jamie Pasquale  
Susan Biggs Warner  
Amy Steeples  
Kimberly Fox  
Lara Darling  
Cole Craft  
Nick Jeurissen  
Rhonda Orndorff

**Executive Director**  
Jamie Pasquale

**Board of Trustees**  
Jonathan A. Myers  
Charles B. Schroeder  
Doug Staske  
Randy Johnson  
Shelley McLain

The Vermilion County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in admission to or treatment or employment in program activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution.

## Director's Dateline

Construction on the Kickapoo Rail Trail will resume in April on the trail from Oakwood east to Grey's Siding Road. The 1.8 mile section will be completed this year and open to use for non-motorized activities. Plans for another section starting at Grey's Siding Road going east to the Fairgrounds road will be finalized this year and bids for construction will be solicited in August or September with construction starting in 2020. This section is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and will include construction of the trestle bridge over the Middle Fork River.

The VCCD is hoping to complete several park improvements and upgrades that were not completed last year as well as begin work on some new improvements. The Middle Fork Audubon Society, Vermilion County Conservation Foundation, and the VCCD plan to resurface the Beach Grove Handicap Trail at Forest Glen.

The Vermilion County Conservation Foundation and the VCCD are also working jointly to rebuild the classroom facilities at the Gannett Center at Forest Glen. Plans include rebuilding and slightly expanding the back half of the building to allow for 2 classrooms and storage, and remodeling the front interior. Funding for this project is from private donations and bequest to the VCCF & VCCD.

The VCCD pull-out calendar is included in this issue. Keep it handy to refer to District events and programs. I hope to see everyone at the Pancake and Sausage Dinner on March 17th!

## Special Pull-Out Section Inside!

Our 2019 Calendar of Events is included in this Spring issue of the Conservationist! Be sure to keep this section handy so you can be informed of the many events and programs the VCCD offers!

For up-to-date information on programs, nature news, events, and more; be sure to visit [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org) and like us on our Facebook page under "Vermilion County Conservation District."

You can contact us at:

Kennekuk County Park  
22296 Henning Road, Danville IL, 61834  
217-442-1691

Forest Glen Preserve  
20301 E. 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883  
217-662-2142

Email us at [vccd@vccd.org](mailto:vccd@vccd.org)

# Bee Research Conducted at VCCD Nature Preserves

Recently, Madeline Kangas, a Graduate Research Assistant from the University of Illinois, began a research project on population of bees at various locations in Vermilion and Champaign County. The Doris Westfall Nature Preserve at Forest Glen Preserve and Windfall Prairie Nature Preserve at Kennekuk County Park were two of her sampling sites.



The goal of her research is to assess the effectiveness of agricultural pollinator habitat. In order to establish a baseline of possible bee diversity and abundance, she sampled in both nature preserves and pollinator-designated habitats. Madeline visited sixteen pollinator sites and seven nature preserves which included among them Westfall and Windfall Prairies. Sampling occurred once a month from May-July using a pan trapping method. In addition to bee collection, she also surveyed sites for flower diversity and availability of nesting resources. Bee nesting resources included bare soil, hollow stems, and wood. She collected far more bees than anticipated, which is a great sign that bees are alive and well in this area. From here, Madeline will be going through an intensive species identification process to see what bee species she collected. Field work will continue in 2019 with an increase to the sample size to analyze trends in bee abundance/richness between nature preserves and the 16 Conservation Reserve Program pollinator habitat sites. She will also be looking at how availability of nesting resources impacts bee community composition. Then, the whole process starts again with another field season beginning in May 2019.

At the sixteen pollinator sites and seven nature preserves, Madeline counted a total of 18,492 flowers, 8,268 bees, and completed 92 nesting surveys.



## WESTFALL

Date	Bees	Flowers
June 1	104	26
June 19	67	172
July 24	65	290
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>488</b>

## WINDFALL

Date	Bees	Flowers
June 1	87	13
June 17	34	50
July 19	88	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>90</b>

Comparison chart showing the number of bees and flowers found at Doris Westfall Nature Preserve (left) and Windfall Prairie Nature Preserve.

VERMILION COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# HUNTER SAFETY COURSES

*Sportsman's Educational Services will be  
hosting Hunter Safety Classes at the  
Environmental Education Center at  
Kennekuk County Park on the following  
dates in 2019:*

APRIL 12 & 13  
JUNE 21 & 22  
AUGUST 16 & 17  
SEPTEMBER 13 & 14  
OCTOBER 18 & 19

All classes are Friday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm and  
Saturday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Attendance at both sessions is required.

To register for a Hunter Safety Class you must visit Sportsman's  
Educational Services website:

<http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>  
and complete the registration form.

Occasionally I will get asked if my position with the Vermilion County Conservation District is a full-time job or is it seasonal with school programs. Our education staff is very busy year-round offering a wide range of affordable programs and camps to encourage people of all ages to get out and explore the outdoors and appreciate the amazing diversity of nature that can be found right here in Vermilion County.

During the months of January, February, and March, the education team of Susan Biggs Warner, Nick Jeurissen, and I are busy with the Traveling Naturalist program. VCCD's Program Secretary Amy Steeples mails invitations to all Vermilion County elementary schools offering an educator, or two depending on school size, to visit the school for a day to share information on various nature topics. This free program runs from January through early March and primarily targets grades K-3. Teachers are able to select from one of three topics for a 45-minute presentation. The topics for 2019 included Reptiles and Amphibians, Let's Take a Hike! and Where Did the Animals Go? Elementary schools that participated this year included Schlarman Academy, Armstrong, North East Magnet, Pinecrest, Bismarck, Edison, Judith Giacomini, Salt Fork North, Rossville, Potomac, Garfield, Danville Lutheran, Oakwood, Meade Park, Mark Denman, and Liberty.



Students from North East Magnet School, Danville, check out items from the "Where Did the Animals Go?" presentation in January.

Susan was also scheduling Maple Syrup Day Visits in late February and early March inviting schools to come out to Forest Glen Preserve to learn about the maple syrup production process. She had students from Salt Fork South, Danville Lutheran, Oakwood Elementary and Junior High, Schlarman Academy, Southwest Elementary, Mark Denman, Bismarck, Salt Fork North, and Homefires Homeschool. Students from Georgetown, Northridge, and Oakwood's Project Success program also attended.

Outdoor School then begins in March lasting eight weeks, and picks up again in September for an additional eight weeks. Each week, 4th grade or 5th grade students from one school will attend four consecutive days at either Forest Glen or Kennekuk getting an in-depth study on the forests, wetlands, prairies, and local wildlife. Nick and Lisa Witsman are the two Outdoor School instructors at Forest Glen while Mollie Pletch and I are working out of Kennekuk. Our Outdoor School program has 100% participation from all Vermilion County schools as well as several out of county schools. We are currently in our 46th year of Outdoor School which is offered at no charge to Vermilion County students. Since Outdoor School is offered to 4th or 5th grade students, Susan has a full schedule of one-day field excursions from other grade levels throughout the spring and fall months.

June and July are full with our Summer Camp programs. Check out our 2019 summer camp programs on pages 13-14 of this issue. Susan also sets up a traveling nature exhibit each week at a different Vermilion County library in the summer months, giving a presentation to the general public each week.

The education team also offers special programs and events throughout the year, including a Full Moon Hike in April, Paddling Lake Mingo in July, and a new program called "Wander Through The Woods" at Forest Glen this summer. You can also find many living history programs at Kennekuk and Forest Glen, as well as a mushroom identification class this October. Our 2019 Calendar of Events is included in this newsletter!

This September, we are excited to offer a new program: Outdoor School for Adults! Participants will explore the woods, prairies, and wetlands and learn straight from the Outdoor School workbook. Hands-on explorations and in-depth studies with our education team will make this a do-not-miss program! Stay tuned to our website, Facebook page, and summer newsletter for future information on this new program, including registration price and how to register.

So, yes, our Education Department is busy throughout the entire year. Hope to see you out at the parks at one of our programs!

# Camping at Forest Glen Preserve

by Helena Gondry, EdD, RD

At the Sign near the Ranger's office, the RV paused and idled peacefully, humming a lullaby. In those brief moments I gazed out the window and recalled a walk in the preserve that I had taken with our dog a few years back. We had set out at sunrise like no other I had seen before. It was as if someone had brushed the night stars before sending them to bed and star dust fell through a fine mist. The landscape was painted in a pale lemon yellow hue. Trees stood in quietly the sun's glow. I greeted them with a few lines by nature poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850):

“Two miles I had to walk along the fields  
Before I reach'd my home. Magnificent  
The Morning was, a memorable pomp,  
More glorious than I ever beheld;”

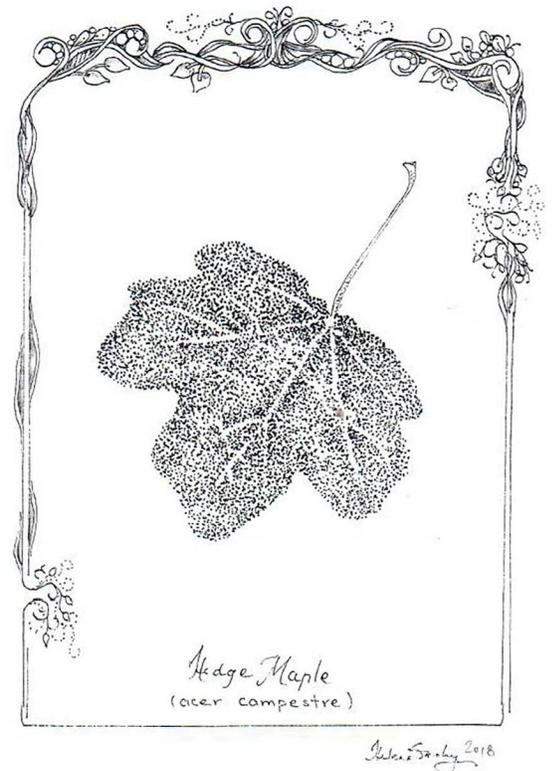
I was startled from my reverie and the road now clear pointed to the campground ahead. As before, we had “saved an hour” in our travels from our summer home in West Virginia and arrived several days before Labor Day weekend. Later in the week, my husband and I would be joining his classmates from the class of 1955 of Oakwood Township High School. They get together on a 5th Thursday of the month. At the beginning of the year we check the calendar to see when we could venture westward and have been making the trip for more than 14 years to Forest Glen. Dave's classmates are warm and gracious, appreciative of the life they've lived. In merriment of the day, they once again share memories from teenage years and of course, the cars they drove.

Dave's family home of Alpha and Lucille Gondry was just outside of Danville. Carolyn, his older sister by 3 years had attended Danville High School. While in Westville we visit with his cousin Vinnie Gondry. Once again, his wife Wanda, herself a bouquet of joy and delight, has baked a sweet banana-nut bread and made coffee, strong enough to walk itself back to the campground!

This past autumn I was practicing some pen & ink techniques. As I sat at the picnic table, I spotted a single small leaf behind the RV. Perfect! In fact it was the only one on the ground. The others were still in the young green canopy. Curiosity led me to Susan Biggs Warner at the park office. Perhaps she could help me identify the leaf. A few months later, I called Susan who traced the history of the tree. Thanks to the park naturalist, it was identified as a Hedge Maple (*Acer campestre*).

Oh, do you remember the Sign I spoke of at the begin of this story? Well, I can assure you that Forest Glen Preserve will stir your imagination from its slumber. How could it not when the Sign at the park entrance says. “All butterflies have the right of way”!

Helena and Dave Gondry live on a Civil War Battlefield at Droop Mountain, West Virginia and on an emerald lagoon in the Florida Keys.



# Vermilion County Conservation District

## 2019 Calendar of Events



For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org), call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691, Forest Glen at 217-662-2142, and like us on our Facebook page.

### March

- 16 Turkey Hunt Draw for hunting in Kennekuk; Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 17 Maple Syrup Open House & Pancake/Sausage Dinner, Forest Glen, 11a.m. - 4p.m.  
Gannett Education Center, Fee for the Dinner  
Free tours of the Sugar Bush and Homestead Cabin
- 20 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 25 Outdoor School begins for 8 weeks for area 4th & 5th graders at Forest Glen & Kennekuk

### April

- 7 Volunteer Fair, 1 - 4p.m., Kennekuk Environmental Education Center  
Learn how to become a VCCD Volunteer!
- 12 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 12-13 Hunter Safety Course, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Pre-registration Required  
Register at <http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>
- 17 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 19 Full Moon Guided Night Hike, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, \$5/person, Time TBA

### May

- 4-5 World War II Remembrance Days at Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk.  
Saturday 10a.m. - 4p.m.; Sunday 10a.m. - 3p.m. Free!
- 10 Conservation Olympics - area 6th grade students, 9a.m. - 3p.m. Edgewood Center, Forest Glen
- 15 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- TBA Anglo-Scandinavian Living History Program, Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen.  
Saturday 10a.m. - 4p.m.; Sunday 10a.m. - 3p.m. Free!
- 26 Historic Buildings at Forest Glen & Kennekuk open Sundays through Labor Day, 1 - 4p.m.
- TBA Lake Vermilion boat ramp concessions open, call 217-442-1691 for hours

### June

- 1 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. \$1/person Fee
- 3 VCCD Wildlife Programs begin for 9 weeks at Vermilion County Libraries. Free!  
Call your local library for dates and information
- 8 Illini Bass Club & D.A.R.E. Kid's Fishing Derby, Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk, 9a.m. Free!
- 14 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 19 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 19 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Feathered Flyers" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10a.m. or 2p.m.\*\*
- 20 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Feathered Flyers" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10a.m. or 2p.m.\*\*
- 21-22 Hunter Safety Course, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Pre-registration Required  
Register at <http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>
- 24 Nature Connect Camp - K-2nd Grade, 9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Kennekuk\*\*
- 25 Pioneer Kids Camp - 1st-3rd Grade; 9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Forest Glen\*\*
- 26 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Animal Hide-and-Seek" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10a.m. or 2p.m.\*\*
- 27 Toddling Into Nature Camp "Animal Hide-and-Seek" - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10a.m. or 2p.m.\*\*
- 29 "Wander Through The Woods at Forest Glen" Guided Hike with a Naturalist, 10a.m., \$5/person

### July

- 6 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. \$1/person
- 9 Paddling Around Lake Mingo for Kids Only, 9a.m. - 11a.m. Kennekuk, \$10/person\*\*
- 10,11 Paddling Around Lake Mingo Days, 9a.m. - 11a.m. Kennekuk, \$10/person;  
First Come, First Serve! Call 442-1691 for more information

**\*\* VCCD Summer Camps and Programs require Preregistration & fee, registration form online at [vccd.org](http://vccd.org) or at park visitor centers**

Watch for the VCCF Sportman's Banquet to return in Spring 2020!

## July Continued

- 13 Spinners & Weavers Day, Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen; 10a.m. - 3p.m. Free!
- 20, 21 18th Century Living History Event, Pioneer Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!
- 16 Young Explorers Camp at Kennekuk - K-5th Grade; 9a.m. - 3p.m.\*\*
- 17 Young Explorers Camp at Forest Glen - K-5th Grade; 9a.m. - 3p.m.\*\*
- 17 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 19 Creek Stomping Ecology Camp - 4th-6th Grade; 9a.m. - 2p.m. Forest Glen\*\*
- 21 Forest Glen Preserve Whitetail Archery Deer Hunt Lottery Draw; Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen.  
For more information, call Cole Craft 662-2142
- 23 Kids Cooking Class - 3rd-5th Grade; 9a.m. - 12:30p.m. Forest Glen Gannett Education Center\*\*
- 25 Kids Cooking Class - 3rd-5th Grade; 9a.m. - 12:30p.m. Forest Glen Gannett Education Center\*\*
- 26 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 27 "Wander Through The Woods at Forest Glen" Guided Hike with a Naturalist, 10a.m., \$5/person
- 31 Kids Cooking Class - 3rd-5th Grade; 9a.m. - 12:30p.m. Forest Glen Gannett Education Center\*\*

## August

- 3 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. \$1/person Fee
- 4-9 VCCD Wildlife Display at the Georgetown Fair - Come visit us!
- 10 VCC Foundation "Cheeseburgers & Fun" at Kennekuk's Bunker Hill Historic Area. Call 442-1691 for details
- 16,17 Hunter Safety Course, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Pre-registration Required  
Register at <http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>
- 21 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 31 "Wander Through The Woods at Forest Glen" Guided Hike with a Naturalist, 10a.m., \$5/person

## September

- 7 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 6p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. \$1/person Fee
- 7 River to Rail Bike Ride for the KRT, Preregistration & fee required, call 442-1691 for more information
- 13,14 Hunter Safety Course, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Pre-registration Required  
Register at <http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>
- 14 Wool Dyeing Demonstration, Homestead Cabin, Forest Glen. 10a.m. - 3p.m. Free!
- 16 Outdoor School begins at Forest Glen & Kennekuk for 8 weeks for area 4th & 5th graders.
- 18 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited
- 20 Civil War School Days for area 6th grade students at Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk
- 28-29 Revolutionary War Re-enactment, Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!  
Saturday 10a.m. - 5p.m., Sunday 10a.m. - 4p.m.
- 29 Pioneer Craft Day, 10a.m. - 3:30p.m. Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!

## October

- 5 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 6p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. \$1/person Fee
- 11 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 12 Fall Mushroom Program and Hike with Andrew Miller, Mycologist from Illinois Natural History Survey  
Forest Glen Preserve, 10a.m. - 12p.m. Preregistration and Fee Required
- 18,19 Hunter Safety Course, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Pre-registration Required  
Register at <http://sportsmansed.com/schedule--registration.html>
- 16 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen, 4:30p.m. Public Invited

## November

- 3 Thanksgiving at the Cabin, 1 - 4p.m. Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!
- 20 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited

## December

- 1 Holiday Open House, 2 - 8p.m. Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk. Free!
- 1-31\* Holiday Lights at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk, **Friday-Sunday only\***, 5 - 8p.m. Free!
- 6 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9a.m.
- 18 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30p.m. Public Invited

**\*\* VCCD Summer Camps and Programs require Preregistration & fee, registration form online at [vccd.org](http://vccd.org) or at park visitor centers**

# In the World of Volunteers

by Lara Darling

We had another amazing year with the VCCD Volunteer Corps in 2018! From our first major event in March with the Maple Syrup Open House to the last event in December with the Holiday Open House, it was a busy year for volunteers!

Starting this spring, volunteers will start receiving an electronic newsletter in their email inbox. This newsletter will be every other month and have up-to-date volunteer opportunities and information. I'm also hoping it will encourage more volunteers to host a building at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, Forest Glen Nature Center and Homestead Cabin, and the Kennekuk Visitor Center and Environmental Education Center on Sunday afternoons to keep them open to the public. Please feel free to send me your email address so I can add you to the electronic newsletter mailing list at [ldarling@vccd.org](mailto:ldarling@vccd.org).

Mark your calendars now - the summer volunteer appreciation cookout will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at Kennekuk's White Oak Barn at 5pm. More details to come, but we hope to see everyone there!

For more information on volunteering,  
please contact Lara Darling at 217-442-1691 or [ldarling@vccd.org](mailto:ldarling@vccd.org).

## Want to Be a VCCD Volunteer?

Come out and learn how to become a part of the VCCD Volunteer Team at Forest Glen Preserve, Kennekuk County Park, Lake Vermilion, and Heron County Park!

Volunteers are needed to staff the Visitor Centers and Historic Buildings, become Trail Stewards, assist with Special Events, and more!



## VCCD VOLUNTEER FAIR

Learn how to become a volunteer for the VCCD!

Sunday, April 7 1:00-4:00pm

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center

Call 217-442-1691 for details



# Chronic Wasting Disease in White-tailed Deer

by Cole Craft



Chronic Wasting Disease is a deadly disease found in deer, elk, caribou, and moose. Until recently, it was assumed that this disease was caused by prions, which is a malformed protein. However, scientists have recently found out that the disease is caused by a previously undiscovered bacteria known as Spiroplasma. The Spiroplasma affects the brain and nervous system of its host, and the prions are a byproduct of the disease. CWD can be spread directly from animal to animal through saliva or other bodily fluids, which is commonly spread in areas where these animals eat and drink. A deer that has been affected will experience dramatic weight loss, excessive salivation, increased drinking, and a decrease in social activity.

It is possible for it to take up to a year before a deer shows any signs of being infected.

In 2002, CWD was first discovered in Illinois along its northern border. CWD has been found in 17 Illinois counties so far, all of which are in Northern Illinois. The closest recorded reports to Vermilion County were found in Livingston and Kankakee County. At this time, the goal of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is to reduce the herd population in specific counties to slow down the spread of CWD. Many northern counties have limitless gun permits and hire sharpshooters in order to reduce their populations.

Chronic Wasting Disease is causing mass hysteria throughout North America. One of the biggest fears is that the disease will be spread to humans. At this time, there are no recorded cases of this happening. However, researchers have recently found that monkeys are susceptible to CWD. Since we now know that CWD is caused by Spiroplasma and not a prion, scientist say that we could possibly have a cure within the next 12-18 months. The scientists working on this research have made connections between this bacterium and many neurodegenerative diseases that humans already experience, Alzheimer's being one of those diseases. They believe that this research will make it more possible to find a cure for Alzheimer's as well as the other neurodegenerative diseases that affect humans.

With the help of the IDNR and University of Illinois we hope to be able to start having deer that have been harvested at our parks tested for CWD. The plan is to start testing this coming deer season. According to the DNR it will take many years for CWD to spread throughout the state, but it is never too early to start testing for it.

For more information on CWD in Illinois visit: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/CWD/Documents/CWD%20Summary%202018.pdf>

# "Friends of the District" Thank you!

In Memory of Marilyn F. Campbell, monetary donations for Beech Grove Trail & Site Improvement:

Lee & Roseann Sherman  
Sons of the American Legion, Georgetown Post 203  
Barbara Arens  
Valeria Blaine

In Memory of Vernon Fultz Donations:

James & Mary Toy  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Arnett  
Kenneth & Anita Whitt  
Virnita Whitt  
Jennifer Steiling

Kenneth Kuhn for Kickapoo Rail Trail development  
Kennekuk Road Runners for the education department  
Brian Wallen for the education department  
Gary Whittaker for improvements to Kennekuk County Park  
Chrisman Public Library for the education department  
Kiwanis Noon Club of Danville for the education department



The VCCD wishes to thank all the Master Gardener volunteers who contribute their time and hard work keeping the gardens at the Kennekuk County Park's Herb Garden and Atwood Home (above) beautiful. In 2018, volunteers contributed 178 hours to the Herb Garden and 338 hours at the Atwood Home for a total of 516 hours! A vegetable garden planted each year at the Atwood Home also grows about 1000 pounds of vegetables that is donated to the food pantry as well. The Master Gardener program is offered through the University of Illinois Extension Office, for more information please visit <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/default.cfm>.

# From the Recipe Book

by Susan Biggs Warner

This is maple syrup time and that's a sure sign of spring. If you're lucky enough to have some of our syrup or even another producer's real maple syrup you might want to try these easy maple bars. By the way, these are one of the treats that will be given out with sassafras tea at the log cabin on March 17th for the Maple Syrup Open house. Hope to see you there.

## DOUBLE-NUT MAPLE BARS

### For Crust:

1- $\frac{1}{4}$  cups unbleached all purpose flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
Pinch of salt  
6 Tablespoons ( $\frac{3}{4}$  stick) chilled unsalted butter,  
cut into pieces  
1 large egg yolk  
1 Tablespoon whole milk

### For Filling:

1/3 cup pure maple syrup  
1/3 cup (packed) golden brown sugar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup whipping cream  
2 Tablespoons ( $\frac{1}{4}$  stick) unsalted butter  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pecans, toasted, coarsely chopped  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup walnuts, toasted, coarsely chopped  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla extract

### Make Crust:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter 8 x 8 x 2-inch metal baking pan. Combine flour, sugar and salt in processor and blend. Add butter and process until mixture resembles coarse meal. Combine egg yolk and milk in a small bowl. Drizzle egg mixture into processor; process using on/off turns just until dough clumps together but is still dry. Transfer dough crumbs to prepared pan. Press crumbs onto bottom and halfway up sides of pan. Bake until crust is set and pale golden, about 25 minutes. Transfer crust to rack and cool.

### Make Filling:

Combine maple syrup, sugar, cream and butter in heavy medium saucepan. Bring mixture to boil. Boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour filling over crust, spreading nuts evenly & bake until filling bubbles all over, about 8 minutes. Transfer to rack and cool completely. Cut into bars and serve at room temperature. May be prepared 1 day ahead.

~ Bon Appétit



Conservation News  
January/February

## Sign Up for the Conservation News!

The Vermilion County Conservation District is now publishing an electronic newsletter every other month filled with the latest district news and information on programs and events. This is a free newsletter that can be delivered right to your inbox! If you are interested in receiving the Conservation News, please send your name and email to Lara Darling at [ldarling@vccd.org](mailto:ldarling@vccd.org).

# 2019 Summer Camp Programs at the Vermilion County Conservation District

The Vermilion County Conservation District's Summer programs offer outdoor fun for children ages 3 and older. With almost 4,500 acres between Kennekuk County Park and Forest Glen Preserve, children will gain appreciation and knowledge of wildlife and the great outdoors. Our camp programs give children the opportunity to explore their natural world through hands-on discoveries, hiking excursions, and art experiences.

If you have any questions regarding our camp programs, please call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691. You can register online at [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org). You can also mail or drop off your registration using the order form found at our website, or at the Kennekuk and Forest Glen Visitor Centers.

## Toddling Into Nature

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

This camp will introduce young children, ages 3-5, to the natural world, exploring through songs, activities, crafts, and more with a parent or guardian. Each class is organized around a theme and emphasizes active learning through sensory experiences, and movement activities. Children create with art materials, enjoy simple stories, and explore the great outdoors. Toddlers may sign up for one camp or both. Fee is \$5.00 per child per session, due upon registration. Each session is approximately one hour long:

Feathered Flyers - June 19 at 10:00am or 2:00pm; June 20 at 10:00am or 2:00pm

Soar into the world of birds as we learn about their amazing adaptations!

Animal Hide-and-Seek - June 26 at 10:00am or 2:00pm; June 27 at 10:00am or 2:00pm

We will explore and discover all the fascinating ways animals can hide in nature!

## Nature Connect

Grades K-2nd, June 24, 9:30am - 11:30am

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

Sign up for this new camp where children will explore nature and how it all works together: from the trees to flowers, and the not-so-creepy crawly insects to other wildlife. We will hike a trail and make a craft to take home. Fee is \$10/child, due upon registration, fee includes craft.



## Pioneer Kids Camp

Grades 1st-3rd, June 25, 9:30am - 11:30am

Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

What was it like to be a kid in the 1850's? Come out and join us for Pioneer Kids Camp to find out! Campers will hike to the Pioneer Homestead and make a candle to take home. Before leaving, we will cook a sweet treat on the hearth and enjoy it too. Fee is \$10/child, due upon registration, fee includes craft and snack.

## Paddling Around Lake Mingo

Grades 4th-7th, July 9, 9:00am - 11:00am

Lake Mingo Boat Ramp, Kennekuk County Park

We explore Lake Mingo in canoes and kayaks on a guided tour with District naturalists. Learn about the diversity of plants, fish, birds, mammals, and more that call Lake Mingo home. Canoe and kayaking basics will be covered before we head out onto the water. All participants are required to wear a provided life jacket. Fee for camp is \$10/child.



## Young Explorers

Grades K-5th, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park, July 16

Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve, July 17

We are bringing back our classic Young Explorers Camp for 2019! Throughout the fun-filled summer camp day, your child will participate in a nature hike, hayride, arts and craft session from the Young Explorers archives with experienced camp counselors. The July 16 camp session at Kennekuk will include fishing while the July 17 camp session at Forest Glen will have an up-close visit with some reptiles and amphibians. Fee is \$35.00/child, due upon registration which includes wiener roast lunch, snacks, and a nature craft to take.

## Creek Stomping Ecology Camp

Grades 4th-6th, July 19, 9:00am - 2:00pm

Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

Spend the day getting wet while exploring Willow Creek. Follow our Naturalists on an adventure while searching for aquatic life and observing animal tracks along the way. After eating lunch a hayride will be given back to the Gannett Outdoor Education Center. Participants must bring their own lunch, water bottle, and should wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Fee is \$25/child, due upon registration; fee includes snack.

## Kids Cooking Class

Grades 3rd-5th, July 23 or July 25 or July 31, 9:00am - 12:30pm

Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

Back by popular demand, the Kid's Cooking Class will be offered on three different dates this year. Each camp will have the same format, so please only register for one date. This camp is for kids who want to try their hand at cooking. Campers will take a short walk to the homestead garden to cut herbs for pizza. Back in the kitchen they will create their own pizza and help with making hand-churned ice cream. At lunch everyone gets to eat their handy work and make an ice cream sundae for dessert. Fee is \$15/child, due upon registration; Fee includes lunch.

**You can register online at [www.vccd.org](http://www.vccd.org). You can also mail or drop off your registration using the order form found at our website, or at the Kennekuk and Forest Glen Visitor Centers.**

## Other Summer Programs That Do Not Require Pre-Registration

### "Paddling Around Lake Mingo"

Come out to the Lake Mingo Boat Ramp at Kennekuk County Park on July 10 or July 11 to learn about the diversity of plants, fish, birds, and mammals that call Lake Mingo home. Canoe and kayaking basics will be covered before we head out onto the water. This event is open to all ages and is on a first come, first serve basis for canoe and kayak use or feel free to bring your own. The lake cruise will run from 9:00am - 11:00 am. Fee is \$10/person.

### "Wander Through the Woods at Forest Glen"

Join a District Naturalist on a guided hike showing you the unique locations throughout Forest Glen Preserve. These hikes will begin at 10:00am, lasting a couple of hours, on June 29, July 27, and August 31. The hikes will be different each month and are open to people of all ages, adults are required to attend with children under 16 years of age. Fee is \$5/person.

**Vermilion County Conservation District  
2019 Summer Opportunities Program Registration**

Please complete the registration form below and return with fee to:  
Vermilion County Conservation District, Attention: Summer Camp Registration  
22296 Henning Road, Danville, IL 61834

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime/Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed Spring of 2019: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Special information we should know: medications, allergies, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*If my child should be injured while attending the summer programs, I will be notified. If I cannot be reached, I authorize the VCCD staff to act on my behalf to secure necessary medical treatment for the above child. I understand that payment of any medical expenses is my responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Required

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Frequently, the VCCD takes video or photographs of people enjoying programs and special events. These photographs are for VCCD promotions and marketing. They are used at the VCCD's discretion and become its sole property. If a registered participant wishes to be excluded from any photographs, they may do so in writing to the VCCD or by simply stepping away from the camera.

**Please Circle Appropriate Camp Date and Location. All Camp Fees are Non-Refundable.**

**Don't forget to include your registration fee with your completed form.**

**Checks need to be made out to VCCD. Questions, contact Kennekuk County Park, 217-442-1691.**

**Toddling Into Nature - Circle Date AND Time (Kennekuk)**

\$5 – June 19 or June 20    Time: 10am or 2pm (Feathered Flyers)

\$5 – June 26 or June 27    Time: 10am or 2pm (Animal Hide-and-Seek)

**Nature Connect (Kennekuk)**

\$10 – June 24

**Pioneer Kids Camp (Forest Glen)**

\$10 – June 25

**Paddling Around Lake Mingo (Kennekuk)**

\$10 – July 9

**Young Explorers**

\$35 – July 16 at Kennekuk County Park

\$35 – July 17 at Forest Glen Preserve

**Creek Stomping Ecology Camp (Forest Glen)**

\$25 – July 19

**Kid's Cooking Class (Forest Glen)**

\$15 – July 23 OR July 25 OR July 31

Vermilion County Conservation District  
22296 Henning Road  
Danville, IL 61834

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Danville, IL  
Permit No. 839

Printed on Recycled Paper



Vermilion County  
Conservation Foundation

[www.vccfoundation.info](http://www.vccfoundation.info)

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019  
VERMILION COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION?**

The Mission of the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation is to support the efforts of the Vermilion County Conservation District through the conservation of our natural resources, improvement of natural and scenic areas, scientific research, and support of conservation education to citizens of Vermilion County, IL, and maintenance and support of capital projects to promote historical and natural preservation.

Join the VCCF in making a difference in your community and commit to all natural and wildlife resource conservation activities. Currently, the Foundation is working with the VCCD on Beech Grove Trail and Site Improvement at Forest Glen Preserve and the Kickapoo Rail Trail construction.

Your VCCF membership at any level entitles you to a 10% discount on District rentals and user fees, and expires each December 31. Choose a membership today that is right for you!

- \$25 Regular
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Patron
- \$1,000 Life – payable in up to four installments, if preferred

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose this form with your **tax-deductible check** payable to VCCF  
and mail to: VCCF, c/o Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 E 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883

