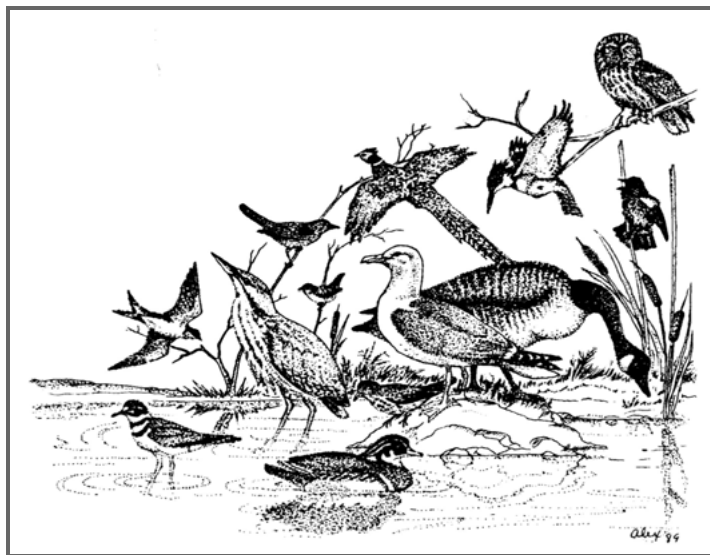




Friends of Thorn Creek Woods

# Thorn Creek News

Fall-Winter 2015



## Learn 70 Birds by Spring

Fridays  
January 8 through March 11  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
and  
Field Trip Saturday,  
April 2, 9 a.m.-noon

Bird identification can be overwhelming,  
but learning only 7 birds per week makes it fun and easy!  
Weekly lessons given by master birder Sue Zelek  
on the key shapes, markings, habits and songs  
for 70 of our most common local birds  
will make spring bird watching a snap!

Price includes a spring field trip to put your new skills to work  
and a Field Guide to Birds.

*Birders of all levels welcome!*

**Ages 11-Adult**

**\$50 prepaid for full series**

*Registration and payment required by Thursday, December 31*

## Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 13

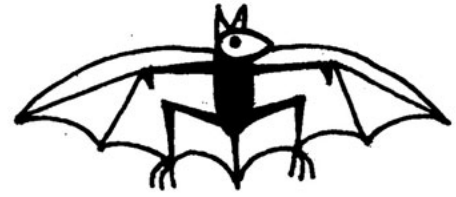
9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Bird Watching Hikes at 9 a.m. and noon

Come to the GBBC open house for help with *all things BIRDS!*



## Bat Monitoring at Thorn Creek Woods



Instead of writing a descriptive list of the species of bats found around Thorn Creek, I thought I'd tell a little bedtime story.

Hang around in a hammock or paddle in your backyard pool on a summer's evening at dusk, and you might see bats winging overhead, snatching sluggish moths waking from daytime slumbers, or skimming other insects over the surface of the water. You are fortunate to have such industrious neighbors on the wing, as one big brown bat (genus *Myotis* or "mouse-eared") eradicates between 3000-7000 mosquitoes, moths, and other night flying insects every night. No other nocturnal predators provide this pest control service.

On summer evenings at Thorn Creek Woods, we notice bats hunting in the old field of the "Camp Pompeii" site. But when we assisted Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg with the Forest Preserve District of Will County bat monitoring program, we also encountered bats in the woods--and got to know some on a species-name basis!

We monitored on two separate evenings and at two different sites at Thorn Creek Woods.

That first evening, meeting at the parking lot well before sunset, we carried netting, poles, mallets, sling chairs, monitoring equipment, a machete, and plenty of bug repellent. We wore rubber boots (some hip boots), long pants, hooded windbreakers, headlamps, and more bug repellent.

The goal was to set up the nets just as the sun went down. Juanita directed us to the site of the old south bridge. We unknotted tangled towlines and assembled a mist net across our trail. Placing the poles and ropes at the correct angle and tension proved to be a precision task--the webbing needs to be loose enough to capture the animals, yet tight enough that they do not become dangerously entangled. The less time the bats spend in the net and being handled, the healthier.

We raced to set a second net across Thorn Creek, finishing soon after the sun sunk from sight. Then we waited. And applied more insect repellent.

Fireflies emerged from the wingstem plants. A couple of female fireflies flickered by our feet, and the males, cruising at waist level, responded. As the evening wore on, we checked the Anabat bat ultrasonic monitoring device and noted the gracefully ascending curve of bat echolocation calls, ranging between 25-55 kHz. "Small Brown Bats, likely", Juanita thought at one point, referring to the Anabat readings.

Every 15 minutes we checked the nets with our headlamps. Eventually another species of firefly rose up in higher and longer flash flights.

Applying more bug repellent, we talked about a previous year's catch of an Io moth. These gorgeous yellow Saturniids' eye spots warn would-be predators to stay away, even though they shed their toxic larval spines during pupation.

I was one of those kids who heard extremely high and low frequencies, as well as extremely faint sounds. (During primary school hearing exams, the person administering test called in the office staff to watch my hearing test and exclaimed "That's way up in dog-whistle range--and these vibrations are so low she shouldn't be able to tell the direction")... Adults particularly lose acuity at the top end of hearing range--much to my relief when dealing with buzzing institutional lighting fixtures, for example--so the next development in the bat survey delighted me.

Well after 9 p.m. a creek side net checker shouted "Bat"! We all sloshed after Juanita, who, aided by a powerful flashlight, gently extracted the tiny creature from the fine mesh of the net. The light beam revealed a delicate arcing of bones and veins nestled within the gossamer wing membranes. The round ears trembled on the fuzzy head as the mouth opened and a minute pink tongue emerged. At this moment the most interesting phenomenon occurred. The bat's tiny mouth gyrated open & shut with inaudible indignation. But seconds later the gaping mouth emitted an insistent and assuredly audible chittering of protest!

Understand that I have rescued more than one brown bat from hysterical humans who disturbed their roosts in dusty auditorium curtains, camp ground restrooms, or disused lean-tos. Yet this was the first time I heard a bat make sounds audible to the human ear. Perhaps those previous bats, captured and released during the daytime, were too sleepy and confused to protest. But this post-lactating female big brown bat definitely let us know that we were disrupting her evening hunt!

Juanita, wearing surgical gloves to protect the bats, deftly slipped our reluctant survey participant into a small linen bag. We weighed her, measured her wing span, marked her, recorded her species, sex, and size stats, then let her go on her way. It was all over within 5 minutes, maybe less.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

On the second evening we set up along the creek in old "Camp Pompeii" across from the nature center building. A doe started from the forest edges, and balls of white Allium flower heads sprang from the sides of the ravine in fairyland contrast to our heavy-footed intrusion with technical equipment. This time both nets spanned the creek, approximately 500 ft from one another.

The Anabat recorder picked up a wider range of calls this night, suggesting the possibility of a greater variety of species present. We also set up a black light moth lure amongst the hickories above the creek, hoping to attract some giant silk worm moths. (The light did attract insects, but mostly mosquitoes and a couple of smaller leaf litter moths. The cooler night suggested less moth activity.) This night less bug repellent was needed, yet more bats entered our nets. At one point a distant screech owl's unearthly quaver echoed through the ravine.

One male big brown bat entered our nets twice--first on one side, then, upon release, he flew directly into the other. Juanita and a trained assistant carefully disentangled him, cutting the net and releasing him farther away the second time. Apparently a double-catch of one individual is a highly unusual occurrence.

Thorn Creek Woods provides refuge to both small and big brown bats, though we only caught big browns this summer. We also likely accommodate red bats and other species.

It was very rewarding to note that several of the bats we observed were mothers whose pups had recently nursed. Watching the released individuals climbing tree trunks and flying into the velvet night created a sense of wonder rivaling any childhood nighttime adventure.

I hope that the bats we caught represent only a small sliver of the Thorn Creek Woods bat population. I hope that our preserve is able to sustain a sizable and healthy colony of this important and fascinating link in our ecosystem's food web. In coming years we will continue to monitor and learn about our neighborhood bats.

-Ingrid Krizan



## In Memory

Jean Miller

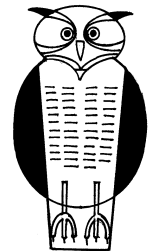
Jean, the mother of our Sue Zelek, was a long time member of Friends of Thorn Creek Woods—a Cicada member—and an ever cheerful volunteer at the nature center. Jean died February 27, 2015.

Marge Friedman Scherr

Passed away September 2015. Marge and her first husband, Dr. Arnold Friedman were Owls—founding members of Friends of Thorn Creek Woods. Marge's support continued through the years.

Larry Lubertozzi

Passed away October 22, 2015. Larry, with his wife Mary, were Owls—founding members of the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods. He was active in the Sauk-Calumet chapter of the Sierra Club and the Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Larry was an avid birdwatcher.



*Thorn Creek Woods as a nature preserve represents a peoples' effort led by the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods with its beginnings in the 1960's. From the start, caring people have given their time, funds, efforts and support to preserve these woods as a natural resource that everyone can enjoy, and a place where plants and animals can live in peace.*

*Through all the seasons of the years, Thorn Creek Woods volunteers continue this tradition of lending time and talents, not only to protect Thorn Creek Woods, but also to make it a resource for all times and all people.*

*We remember and honor the Thorn Creek Woods Volunteers.*

**1960's & 1970's OWLS** These wise owls provided the vision, ingenuity, tenacity & plain hard work of the early years.

**2000's CICADAS** The Cicada volunteers emerge whenever help is needed with repairs, programs and displays, and the sounds of their efforts reverberate throughout Thorn Creek Woods.

## Woodland Carols



### Our Annual Food Drive

Saturday, December 12, Noon-2 pm  
\$10/person or 1 bag groceries/person

Savor all-you-can-eat homemade soups while listening to cheerful holiday tunes provided by students at Homewood-Flossmoor Suzuki Strings, seasonal favorites by beloved folk-singer Anna Stange, and eclectic and improv pieces by cellist Ingrid Krizan. The afternoon concludes with our annual sing-along.

All proceeds donated to Rich Township Food Pantry  
Call Nature Center 708-747-6320 to register now

## Friends Annual Meeting November 2015

At our Friends Annual Meeting, President Sue Zelek spoke of her more than 20 years with Thorn Creek Woods, as a student, hiker, naturalist and now volunteer. She was very pleased to represent Friends in April at the ceremony inducting Friends into the Park Forest Hall of Fame. She noted the hard work that volunteer Mark Petnuck has been doing for the past few years keeping the old long boardwalk in good repair. Sue reported on the outstanding turnout for the Earthday Celebration of Jon Mendelson and the success of another Garlic Fest.

The current Friends Directors were introduced: Penny, Carolyn and Diane (Alice was absent at a family event). Penny spoke of Open Hours Volunteers (see page 6). Diane reported that we have 237 members with 10 new members this year. 185 members are current with dues, so Diane reminded members who are not current to send in this year's dues soon.

The Treasurer's report summary for our fiscal year end June 30, 2015 is in the August 2015 *Thorn Creek News* newsletter.

We elected the slate of officers: Sue Zelek-*President*; John Cirm- *Vice President*; Dan Moore- *Treasurer*; Judy Dolan Mendelson-*Recording Secretary*.

Many items were discussed including the status and ideas about the steeple repairs and a new south bridge, the status of the Illiana expressway and the third airport. Naturalist April Richards told the group of upcoming programs.

The scheduled program with Olivier Caron, Quaternary Geologist with the Illinois State Geological Society was cancelled due to illness in his family. We hope to reschedule Olivier's talk for 2016. April lead a hike in the woods.

At the Friends Board Meeting December 2, Board Directors were reappointed for one years terms: Penny Chamberlain- Open Hours Coordinator; Carolyn Gann- Assistant Secretary; Alice Hanes-Director at-Large; Diane Kozlowski-Membership Coordinator. Alice Hanes and Judy Dolan Mendelson were reappointed to represent Friends to the Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission.

*Friends Board usually meets 4th Wednesday each month at the nature center at noon.*

*Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission meets every third Wednesday at 1 p.m.*

*For meeting information call the nature center 708-747-6320.*

## Fall-Winter Events at Thorn Creek Woods

247 Monee Rd  
Park Forest  
708-747-6320

Thorn\_creek@att.net  
Nature Center open Friday-  
Sunday, noon to 4 pm  
Closed:  
December 25-27  
January 1-3

Wednesday Morning Walkers	Wednesdays 9-10:30 am  Ends Dec. 16
Junior Ecologists Club Age 9-12	Saturdays Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 5. Noon-3 p.m.
Learn 70 Birds by Spring Register by Dec 31	Fridays, Jan 8- Mar 11, 6:30-7:30 pm \$50/series
Woodland Carols: Annual Food Drive	Saturday December 12 Noon-2 pm, \$10 or bag of groceries
Thank You Thorn Creek Volunteers	Sat, Jan 30 Noon-4 pm Pot luck, hike
Tracking Animals in Winter	Sunday February 7 1-3 pm Free! All ages
Great Backyard Bird Count	Saturday Feb 13 9 am-2 pm
Chili Evening Hike	Sunday February 21 5-7 pm \$5/person
Make a Gourd Birdhouse	Sunday March 6 1-2 pm & 2:30-3:30 \$10/birdhouse

Newsletter editor:  
Judy Dolan Mendelson  
Friends: P.O. Box 159,  
Richton Park, IL 60471,  
dolanmendel@aol.com

## Garlic Fest 2015

*We raised \$3227! We had great weather and the event went like clockwork!*

- About 200 visitors attended with 111 cars and 3 bikes paying \$505 admission.
- Sold and used over 1000 bulbs - making \$1984.
- We had a great variety of baked goods with and without garlic making \$192.
- Braiding took in \$120 and the Raffle was huge with \$130!
- Sold T-shirts, garlic roasters, keepers and gardening books for \$76. And donations brought in \$210.

Many, many friends of Thorn Creek Woods made this event possible and so successful



\* Art King and other Master Gardeners present worm composting to the delight of kids & adults. Gardeners Art, Denise Brady, Carmen Holmes, Beth Murray and Carolyn Smith were assisted by JEC member Anly Okada.

\*Our Garlic Gurus —Kathy Tovey & Judy Mendelson

\* Maureen Chappell of The Herb Basket and Emily Thiel and Nicole Novak with PoopyDoo Farm compost

\*Items for the fabulous raffle baskets were donated and arranged by: Penny Chamberlain, Mary Ann Transon, John Cirn, Cindy Harn and others

\* Emily Thiel led our Fall Hike.

\*Volunteers at the telephone, the Information table, Refreshment table, Raffle table, T-Shirt table, Garlic & Gardening stuff tables: Penny Chamberlain, April Richards, Sue Zelek, Carolyn Gann, Elaine Davis, Linda Gattis, Vicki Schmidt, Diane Kozlowski, Alice Hanes, Sue Lerner

\*Many people roasted garlic and baked goodies-many with garlic- including Dorothy Darden, Penny Chamberlain, Marva King, Joyce Gallagher, Marcy Marzuki, Ian Murphy, Diane Kozlowski, Carolyn Gann, Marissa Mantel, Janine Novak, Cosi Dean, Margrit Withers, Mary Ann Ciesielski, Cousandra Armstrong, Alice Hanes.

\*Paul Zelek brought thermoses of hot chocolate and coffee and delivered these to our volunteers and Judy Mendelson provided sandwiches for our volunteers.

\*The parking people-directing traffic, crossing guards, directing car parking: Dave Mauger, Tom Gallagher, Jim Pisani, Ingrid Krizan, Rob Gabriel, Dave Schmidt, David Harell

\*Garlic Marketplace sellers Mary Ann Transon & Claudia Mendelson

\*Set up helpers were Dave Mauger, Tom Gallagher, Rob Gabriel, Jim Pisani, Marcy Marzuki, Judy Dolan Mendelson, Diane Kozlowski, Ingrid Krizan, April Richards.

\*Special thank you to Maureen Chappell for herbs and plants for braids, and her extra donation for the day!

\*This year featured chefs Tim Chappell & Shawn Hammende demonstrating garlic preparation with the able assistance of Mary Hellings, Dorothy Darden and Ian Murphy. Cindy Harn and Dorothy Darden made garlic soups to sample. Visitors loved sampling the garlic treats!

\*Garlic Braiding was in the able hands of Marva King and Diane Kozlowski and Krys Bauske,

\*Garlic and organic gardening books and garlic stuff were donated by Judy Mendelson and Marcy Marzuki

\*Forest Preserve District of Will County provided mowing. Park Forest delivered tables.

\*Friends of Thorn Creek Woods purchased food items & miscellaneous supplies for the fest.

\*Judy and Jon Mendelson donated all the garlic!

\* Garlic was dug by Judy Mendelson, Chuck & Lori Roth, Penny Chamberlain, Claudia Mendelson, Marcy Marzuki, Margrit Withers, Nicole & Jeanine Novak, Rob Gabriel, Kendra Reinshagen.

\*Twelve volunteers helped clean garlic in August.

\*September Clean Up Day helpers and Open Hours workers helped prepare the nature center: Penny Chamberlain, Diane Kozlowski, Sue Zelek, Ingrid Krizan, April Richards, Dan Moore, Mike Ploski, Tom Gallagher, Carolyn Gann and Diane Kozlowski among others.

\*Photographer/videographer for the day - Ken Jaeger

\*New Community Church for graciously providing parking.

## Thanks to you all

## Bird Print Art Person Needed



The late Jim Marzuki was a naturalist, an artist and a collector. His daughter Marcy has donated to our Capital Fund a

number of antique prints of birds by Audubon, Gould, Ridgeway, Catesby and others. (We hope to keep the prints of *local* birds for the nature center).

However we need expert advice about what we have before we can begin to sell them. We need someone who will donate their services to us, who will look at these prints and determine what they are (knowing the edition of the book the print came from is important), their condition and thus their rough value. We would also need advice on how to sell them—which auctioneer to use for which prints, or which to sell at a benefit, or which to raffle off.

So, do you know of an art/book/antique print person, or someone who works at a gallery, bookstore, museum or archive (like the Newberry Library), who could help us or who could perhaps suggest someone to help us?

Friends Vice President John Cirn is working on this project. If you can assist him please e-mail me at [dolanmendel@aol.com](mailto:dolanmendel@aol.com).

-Judy Dolan Mendelson

## Thank You

- ☀ Welcome to new members of Friends.
- ☀ Thanks to donors of stamps for Audubon.
- ☀ Thank you to donors of books for our library, and items needed for our raffles and our programs and general use.
- ☀ Thank you to all the hardworking helpers at September's Clean-Up Day.
- ☀ Thank you to volunteers handling nature center open hours, and our Open Hours coordinator Penny Chamberlain This volunteer work allows us to keep the nature center open to the public! We need more such helpers.
- ☀ Thank you to garlic digging, garlic cleaning and garlic planting volunteers.
- ☀ Thank you for donating funds for our Capital Fund and for Friends general purposes.

## Nature Center Needs

### We Need:

- ▶ **Helpers for Nature Center Open Hours**, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 pm
- ▶ Batteries—C and AA
- ▶ Cases of bottled water
- ▶ Shoe-box sized plastic storage boxes with lids
- ▶ Middle sized plastic storage boxes with lids

### Always needed:

- “ **Birdseed (mix or black sunflower seed—no corn)**
- “ **Suet cakes**
- “ 1” x 2 5/8” address labels – ink jet or laser
- “ Stamps you saved for Audubon Society
- “ 3M Command medium Picture Hanging Strips
- “ 6” x 9” mailing envelopes

## Open Hours Volunteers are Special & We Need More of You!

They greet nature center visitors— usually lots of visitors in fall and spring.

They answer phones and allow the Nature Center to have regular hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

And, just as important, these volunteers do regular chores— feed the birds, empty garbage and recycling containers and the like— that are so important to running a nature center and preserve.

And then they do additional and varied assignments as needed. Anything from decorating the nature center to mopping floors to creating databases, painting signs, hauling boxes, updating our library, sorting posters or slides or photos— just about any task where we need help and expertise.

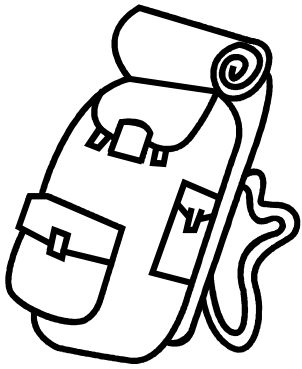
Volunteers from Thorn Creek Audubon Society come once a month for Open Hours and typically create our displays.

Sign up now to give us one day a month as an Open Hours Volunteer.

We provide training, snacks and a variety of fun tasks.

[Thorn\\_creek@att.net](mailto:Thorn_creek@att.net)  
708-747-6320





## Letting Go

“Well, what do you think?”

Steve stood in the door holding our back packs. They weren't the ones we carried on our inaugural trip to Glacier National Park in 1986, when Jeanette was only nine. But they did represent all of our many adventures on the trail since that first trip: chasing a bear who had snagged the majority of our food supply off its tree branch - until we realized we had no plan for what to do if we caught him; discovering that one of our new water bags had a hole in it when we hit our first refill spot on a five day desert hike. Glimpses of moose and grizzly bear, eagles and elk and mountain goats. Climbing through the mists of a Yosemite waterfall, hiking across a beaver dam in Maine, respectfully stepping around a stone circle at the top of a mesa in New Mexico and stepping - even more respectfully - off the path on Isle Royale as a moose came ambling toward us down that same path. Those critters are big!

Steve's question came as we were gathering things to sell at a flea market last summer. We have graduated to a small RV named Amanda (with a real bed!) and haven't used our back packs in years. But saying “Yes” to putting them in the pile with the other flea market items? I wasn't sure I was ready to acknowledge that this part of me, that had been so integral to of my identity for many years, was now in the past.

My family started camping when I was 8 years old. My mother loved nature and traveling and it was a cheap way to enjoy both. For sure, the sleeping bags weren't as warm in the 1950's, the tents were made of heavy canvass with VERY inflexible poles, and cooking on an open fire was a challenge. But that was a problem for the adults. My brother and I loved swimming in Wisconsin lakes, exploring the woods, finding crawdads and minnows in the streams and the sense of adventure that accompanied every trip.

It was a great introduction to an activity that I have continued to pursue into adulthood. Since that first backpacking trip in 1986, we've explored trails out west, on the east coast and in between. Working to pay the bills limited the amount of time we had for those kinds of trips but, fortunately, we live in a county that provides some great opportunities right outside our door.

Forest Preserve District of Will County offers lots of hiking trails, bike paths and places to canoe and kayak.\* We've been using them for years and go back to them often. The District also has a number of places to tent camp and even offers camping classes for families that want to learn what equipment they need to acquire, how to use it, and where to find it. Will County has also forged partnerships with local and State agencies to create Old Plank Road Trail, the biking/hiking trail along the I&M Canal and helps maintain Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve in Park Forest, one of our local jewels.

I've felt the same sense of serenity at Owl Lake or walking through the pines in Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve that I experienced in some of the more remote State and National Parks across the country. The blue bells in Raccoon Grove can still take my breath away in the spring as much as the views in Yosemite National Park did. Watching a heron float over the water at Monee Reservoir can cause my heart to soar as swiftly as when I glimpsed my first mountain goat in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Change tends to creep up on you when you're looking elsewhere. It's easy to let things drift and pretend that you'll get back, someday, to that activity you loved so much. Being suddenly forced to acknowledge that the activity is irrevocably in your past can be a jolt. And that jolt can come very unexpectedly in a simple question: “Well, what do you think?” The instinct is to retreat into denial again. I took a deep breath, acknowledged the truth and replied “It's time. Put them with the rest of the stuff for the flea market.”

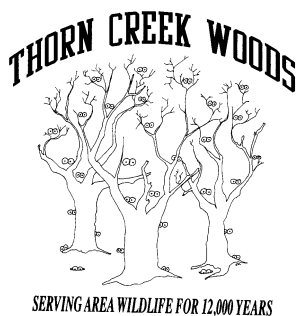
Our backpacks were purchased by a young Hispanic father who was planning his first outdoor adventure with his ten-year-old son. He was delighted to find such high quality packs at an affordable price. We were delighted to know that they were passing to another generation who would create their own stories with them. We wished the father as much joy as we had had. And I have realized that change also means moving forward. The backpacking days are behind me. What they gave me is not. Hey, did you know that Gen Xers are taking to RV's full-time to explore the country? They call themselves Xcapers. Who knows, maybe we'll meet some of them on the road next summer.



\* For information on trails, classes and camping sites, go to [www.fpdwc.org](http://www.fpdwc.org)



## Get your Thorn Creek T-Shirts— Perfect Holiday Gifts



Long sleeve -  
Sagestone with Green Design  
Short sleeve -  
Blue with White Design



Short sleeve Garlic  
T-Shirts  
Dark Brown with Blue Garlic  
Scape Design

Short Sleeve Thorn Creek Woods = \$ 8 + \$3 per  
shirt shipping/handling  
Short Sleeve Garlic Fest = \$10 + \$3 per shirt  
shipping/handling  
Long Sleeve = \$15 + \$3 per shirt shipping/handling

Please make your check to:

Thorn Creek Nature Center  
247 Monee Road  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
708-747-6320

Or stop by the nature center Friday–Sunday  
Noon-4 pm

## Prairie Chapel

The perfect gift for a

\*Nature Lover

\*Art Lover

\*Thorn Creek Supporter

A quiet and haunting image of the prairie...

Inspired by the Thorn Creek Nature Center, *Prairie Chapel* is an original graphite drawing by artist Marikay Peter Witlock. Through a generous donation by the artist, the *Prairie Chapel* print is available with a donation to Friends of Thorn Creek Woods of \$75 or more. 100% of donated dollars will benefit Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve.



Intrigued by a promise of a patch of prairie, Witlock visited Thorn Creek Nature Center in the late summer of 1988. She left that visit with a vision of prairie and chapel woven as one, and a profound sense of the sacred in the land. *Prairie Chapel* became the first in a series of over 35 drawings combining architectural elements with the grasses and forbs of Illinois.

A local professional artist and tireless volunteer for the arts, Marikay's current artwork is available through The Illinois Artisans' Shop, Chicago, Illinois, and Union Street Gallery, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

The *Prairie Chapel* print is a limited edition of 300 signed and numbered prints, with image size of 13" x 17" and finished size of 18" x 21". It is printed on acid free 80 lb. paper. Friends of Thorn Creek Woods is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to Friends, over the value of the *Prairie Chapel* print (valued at \$75) are tax-deductible.

For more information please contact: Thorn Creek Nature Center, 708-747-6320 or [thorn\\_creek@att.net](mailto:thorn_creek@att.net). To view a framed *Prairie Chapel* print, visit Thorn Creek Nature Center Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.



## Be a FRIEND OF THORN CREEK WOODS

Membership.....\$10 Organization & Business.....\$50 Life Membership.....\$150

☐ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I'd like to help as a volunteer at Thorn Creek Nature Center, please call me.

\_\_\_\_ I am donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the **Thorn Creek Woods Capital Fund** for improvements in the Nature Center building & in the Preserve.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the **Jim Marzuki Memorial Fund** - to make a difference in Thorn Creek public programming.

\_\_\_\_ I am donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to **Friends** general purposes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

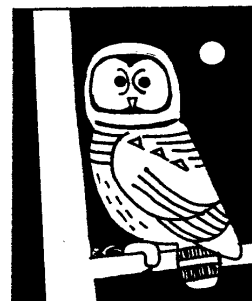
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK WOODS, Box 159, Richton Park, IL 60471



Annual Renewal Date is May 1st



### Calling Young People Age 9 to 12!

Thorn Creek's Junior Ecologists Club offers fun-filled nature activities each month for young people. They explore the woods, track seasonal changes and discover woodland plants and animals.

JEC meets one Saturday each month from noon to 3 p.m. at Thorn Creek Nature Center.

Registration is required by the Thursday before each meeting. Program is free.

January 9—Musher Mania  
at Monee Reservoir

February 6—Tracks!! - Be a detective and decipher animal activity in the woods, then make your own track replicas.

March 5—Birds of Thorn Creek Woods.

*Junior Ecologists Club  
Uncover the mysteries of nature  
first-hand while exploring  
Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve,  
and working on projects and studies.*

Call or email now for information

### Great Backyard Bird Count Saturday, February 13 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.



Come to the GBBC  
open house  
for help with  
*all things BIRDS!*  
And sip hot chocolate,  
tea or coffee  
at the bird viewing  
Window

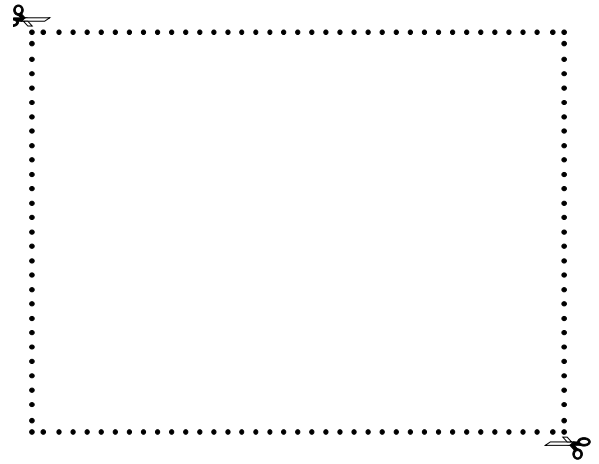
*Birders of all levels  
welcome!*

*Great for beginners and children!*

Tips on Identifying Birds  
**Bird Watching Hikes at 9 a.m. and noon**  
Games \* Crafts \* Slides \* Viewing Window  
Bird Feeders and Seed How To's  
Thorn Creek Audubon Society Exhibits  
Bird Checklists & Field Guides  
Using Binoculars

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods  
Box 159  
Richton Park, IL 60471

Please clip commemorative stamps  
& bring to Nature Center for  
Audubon Stamps  
for Wildlife Habitats



Want to receive  
*Thorn Creek News*  
only via email-  
then email editor  
Judy Dolan  
Mendelson at  
dolanmendel@aol.com

**Renew Now!**

*Friends & Volunteers of Thorn Creek Woods*  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**THANK YOU THORN CREEK VOLUNTEERS PARTY**

*An afternoon for Friends, volunteers & supporters!*

Saturday, January 30, noon-4 p.m.  
Registration by Thursday, January 28

Volunteers gather for a fun-filled afternoon  
with a pot luck, prizes and a hike in Thorn Creek Woods.

We'll provide the drinks and fried chicken,  
you bring whatever  
-appetizers, breads, desserts, veggie trays or ....

**Call or drop by the nature center**  
**NOW to sign up !**

708-747-6320      thorn\_creek@att.net

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\* Pot luck \*  
\* Bingo Contest \*  
\* Animals in Winter - \*  
\* Program & Hike \*  
\* Nature Quizzes- with Prizes! \*  
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