



Friends of Thorn Creek Woods

Thorn Creek News

Fall 2016

Fireflies

They begin their silent ascent as evening falls
Rising from the tall grasses and woods
Flashing their come-hither call of like to like
Above me in the trees
a single, sudden glow,
Then another, and another
Until, finally, dozens and dozens are casting their ethereal spell in synchronicity
A light show without music

Some hover in place between each magical flash
Others drift past...
Blinking, gliding, floating, luminously tempting.
Until the forest is alive with golden, ever moving, pinpoints of light.
How could our ancestors NOT have believed in fairies?

-Kendra Reinshagen

Fall Migration

For those of us left behind, the southward passage of the flocks in fall is a bittersweet time. The winter birds – nuthatch, woodpecker, chickadee, titmouse – have reclaimed the forest. Their calls remind us of the looming cold to come.

How different our feelings in spring when the arrival of migrants seems to promise endless youth. But perhaps for birds, spring may not be as much the joyous time we ascribe to it as it is a time of strong unruly passions. Adult birds are at its core, birds brimming with lust and aggression, soon to be shouldering heavy responsibilities– raising young with its combination of tedium and worry that afflict parents every-where. Not so in fall. The time that we perceive tinged with melancholy may be the truly joyous: young birds, meeting for the first time so many of their own kind, mingling with flocks of other species, ever moving south, embarked on the journey of a lifetime. What adventures they will face!

And how few will return. The birds of spring are the survivors of that journey, veterans of migration, ready once more to begin the serious business of perpetuating their kind. And we who were left behind in the cold, with spirits lifted, will once more be there to greet them.

-Jon Mendelson

Reprinted from *Thorn Creek News*, 9 October 2013

Thorn Creek Trail

A top priority has been to **stabilize and complete the new North Bridge**. The Thorn Creek Management Commission & Friends of Thorn Creek Woods Board approved a contract for \$3000 to bring rip rap to stabilize the North Bridge piers protecting them from further erosion. Also needed was a contract for clearing the way through the woods for the large rip rap truck for \$3100. Both funded by Capital Fund.

We're identifying a number of wet spots on our the Nature Center Loop and the Woodland Trail where **new boardwalks** need to be installed—great projects for the Trail Workdays or Eagle Scout projects.

Our **Owl Lake Trail** especially the portion looping around Owl Lake itself needs a lot of work including at least one boardwalk. And the small bridge between the pine tunnel and Owl Lake needs to be stabilized.

Some of the Work Accomplished This Spring and Summer

- ☐ Trail was trimmed along Nature Center Loop, Woodland Trail especially along N-S boardwalk and the length of the pine tunnel portion of Owl Lake Trail.
- ☐ Cut up small downed trees on trail.
- ☐ Brought in many old rotten boardwalk boards that were then disposed of by Jim Pisani.
- ☐ Mark Petnuch continued the essential work to replace boards on the long N-S boardwalk.
- ☐ Carolyn Gann weeded the nature center butterfly garden, and planted, marked and watered new plants there.
- ☐ A volunteer regularly takes out and brings in the recycling and garbage containers.
- ☐ Thank you to Forest Preserve District of Will County for regular mowing at nature center and special mowing at Camp Pompeii and the farm, plus the annual (this year twice) mowing and trimming along Owl Lake & Wetland Overlook Trails. They also picked up rotten benches and brush piles, and cleared large trees reported down on our trails and in parking lot.
- ☐ In July we had the services of the AmeriCorps volunteers on two days. They moved new lumber to long N-S boardwalk, brought in old wood from boardwalk area, cleared overgrowth from entire parking lot and behind kiosk and benches and cleaned out under NC back porch. On another day they were the fearless workers who cleared the trail through the pine tunnel.
- ☐ Art and Marva King, Javette Orgain, Deborah Orr and Georganne Higgins cleared at least 4 yard waste bags of wood and other plants from the Prairie Sampler on Workdays.
- ☐ Wendy and Brian Leonard, Michael Naglatt, Dan Moore, April Richards, Brian and Olivia Gann all helped at Trail and Workdays on tasks such as removing rotten benches, painting sign posts, clearing brush on trail, pulling garlic mustard near North Bridge, and leveling gravel in the parking lot.
- ☐ Two of the three kiosk area benches were rotten and are being remodeled by Wendy and Brian Leonard with wood and supplies purchased by Friends Capital Fund. The Village of Park Forest delivered the new lumber for kiosk benches and new water bars.
- ☐ Five new benches of the popular Aldo Leopold design (about 4 feet long with a back) were built by Dave Mauger from wood purchased by Friends of Thorn Creek Woods. Benches will be put out on trail at the September Workday.

Be Our Eyes and Ears on Trail How?

Leave a note on the blue Trail Watcher sheet
(sheets at kiosk).

Put any notes in the Drop Box
at the front door to nature center.

Or email us at thorn_creek@att.net.

Or stop in the nature center Friday or Sunday
from noon to 4 p.m.



Dear Friends,

To observe how far we have come, and how many necessary tasks are yet to be done, we're amazed that we've done so much of it on just a \$10 yearly membership. This amount has been in place since 1979, when it was increased from the \$5 for the previous ten years.

In looking for ways to go forward financially, it occurred to us that one way to distribute this need fairly among all the membership would be to raise the dues \$5 or \$10 making our annual dues \$15 or \$20.

One only need to review our list of necessary improvements and our everyday supplies, to understand why we are bringing this issue up to the full membership. There is time to review this issue before the annual meeting in November and into 2017.

Please give us your thoughts. All organizations run best with the approval of its full membership. E-mails, notes in the drop box at the nature center, mail to the Friends P.O. Box or phone calls will be most appreciated. This idea of raising our dues after so many years at the current rate, needs "a closer look."

Sincerely,
The Board

Helpers Needed

- Soup makers and bakers and parking attendants and helpers for our annual Woodland Carols Food Drive Saturday, Dec. 10. Can you help???
- Bottles of water for fall/winter programs
- Open Hours volunteers to work Friday or Sunday noon to 4 p.m. to greet visitors, answer phones and work on a whole variety of cleaning, office work, and miscellaneous jobs to keep our nature center open.

Stories of our Nature Center Building with Richard Stuenkel

Special guest speaker Richard Stuenkel treated the audience at our June 12 program to wonderful stories of the Thorn Creek Nature Center when it was the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, and of his life on a Monee Township farm.

The program was videotaped by Will Kelley of Governors State University. Displays showed the building as Lutheran Church, on the move to become Village Bible Church, then on the move again to become our nature center. Richard shared photos and models of the farm equipment commonly used, deeds and maps, and his knowledge and memories.

This gathering of Friends of Thorn Creek Woods was sponsored by the Jim Marzuki Fund, to enhance our public programming.

Thank you to Richard Stuenkel for a fun and enlightening afternoon.

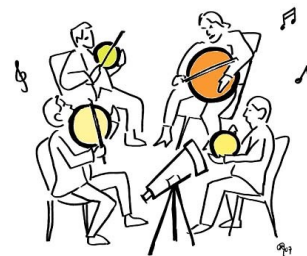
Thorn Creek Chamber Players

Friday, October 10

7-9 p.m.

Ages 12 or older

\$10 per person



Join cellist Ingrid Krizan and pianist Daniel Surma with a foray into the world of beginnings and endings.

Celebrate the cycle of Life.

Begin with Shostakovich's lyrical and youthful Sonata, Op.40.

"End " with Elgar's last major work, the poignant e minor Cello Concerto—and continue to other realms!

Pianist Daniel Surma is an accompanist and adjunct professor of piano at St. Xavier University, music director at St. Peter's UCC in Skokie, IL, and a free-lance accompanist throughout the Chicagoland area.

Get your tickets by Wednesday, October 5:
708.747.6320 or thorn_creek@att.net.

Children's Programming at Thorn Creek Woods

With the support Thorn Creek Audubon Society, our Partners for Programming, Thorn Creek naturalists gave Nature Education programs this spring and summer: Bat talk in June for the Monee Historical Society; a May program for high schoolers; in July a program for the Village of Park Forest Camp Out; and, two days of programming for the Glenwood Academy also in July. And this year TCAS gave a generous donation of \$750 for such programs including purchase of animal tracks molds, insect collectors, books for the Learn 70 Birds program and staff costs for two Nature Education programs.

In a change up, Naturalist April Richards is planning at least one public program each month for children, rather than the our old monthly Junior Ecologists program. This new exciting schedule of children's programs sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society includes:

*MAGICAL MOON NIGHT HIKE, Sunday, October 16, 6:30-8 p.m. Ages 16 years or younger.

*SOILS HIKE, Saturday, October 29, 1-3 p.m. Ages 8-16.

*WILD ANIMAL TRACKS, Sunday, December 4, 1-3 p.m. Ages 4-10.

*BEGINNING BIRDING FOR KIDS

4 weekly sessions Sundays, January 15 through February 5, 1-3 p.m. plus Saturday, February 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Ages 7-12. \$20 prepaid for full 5 sessions.

Impress your friends this spring with your birding smarts, binocular savvy and your very own life list of birds you have seen. Come get an early start with this popular hobby – bird watching. In the Sunday sessions, learn key shapes, markings, habits and songs for our most common local birds with crafts, activities, sounds and hikes. Create special projects for display at the Great Backyard Bird Count program February 11. Join the 9 a.m. Beginning Bird Hike and host activities at the event. Price includes your own field guide to birds.

*BEGINNING BIRDING FOR ALL in February

*HOO EATS WHOM for ages 8-12 in February

*TRACKING ANIMALS IN WINTER for all ages in February

*MAKE A GOURD BIRDHOUSE for all ages in March

*VIXEN'S TREK for children younger than 12 in March

Mark your calendars!



Nature Programs for Groups at Thorn Creek Woods

Calling all schools, home school groups, day cares, preschools, youth, adult and family groups. Nature Education Programs are scheduled at Thorn Creek Nature Center throughout the year where your group can discover the plants and animals of Thorn Creek Woods.

These Nature Education Programs are sponsored by the Thorn Creek Audubon Society giving valuable assistance to Thorn Creek Nature Center in providing nature programming for groups of area children and adults.

Some of the nature education programs offered include *Birding by Sight and Sound*, *Creek Walk* (the world of aquatic insects and metamorphosis), *Trees Big and Small* (identification by leaves and bark), *Insects Abound* (what makes an insect unique), the *Web of Life* (interdependence of producers, consumers, predators and decomposers), *Soils Hike* (how soil fuels and supports life), and *Night Hikes*.

On the *Fall Color Hike* learn why leaves change colors and what trees do to prepare for the long months of winter. Discover clues to wild animals' identities and behavior by trails and trails in *Wild Animal Tracks* and make your own track replica. On *Vixen's Trek* you are the fox following your daily routines on Thorn Creek trails. Or visit the *Historic Farm* in the woods to explore an early 1900's woodland farm.

Groups can also arrange for a naturalist to come to your location for programs such as *Wild Animal Tracks*, *Web of Life*, *Woodland Wildflowers*, *Soils*, *History of Thorn Creek Woods*, and the like.

For information or to register for a program or to receive a copy of the Nature Education Program Brochure, please contact Thorn Creek Nature Center, 247 Monee Road, Park Forest, at 708-747-6320 or thorn_creek@att.net. Visit our website tcwoods.org to download the Nature Education Program Brochure.

Thank You

☀ Richard Stuenkel gave a talk in June about his memories of the area. Will Kelley from GSU videotaped the talk for archives. Diane Kozlowski, Penny Chamberlain, Alice Hanes, Vicki & Dave Schmidt, Lisa Horvath, Dan Moore, Jim Pisani, Tom Gallagher, Karen Anderson and Milley Just helped with refreshments, parking, baking, set-up and clean up. Judy Mendelson hosted the talk and led a question and answer session.

☀ Lynda Randa led the annual Nature Retreat for Women.

☀ Penny Chamberlain provided cookie trays for GBBC and Woods Music.

☀ Naturalist Ingrid Krizan continued frog monitoring in the preserve with volunteers Dan Moore, Pat Romane and Jan Heideman.

☀ Penny Chamberlain and Alice Hanes hosted a table for TCNC at Senior Fair.

☀ Wendy Leonard, Diane Kozlowski, Jan Heideman, Lisa Horvath and Art King were program assistants.

☀ Thank you to the spring Chamber Players performers. Also Penny Chamberlain, Dave and Lisa Schmidt, Jim Pisani assisted with parking, refreshments, admissions, set up and clean up for spring Thorn Creek Chamber Players.

☀ Volunteers delivered flyers.

☀ Program brochures were collated taped and prepared for mailing and distribution by Diane Kozlowski, Karen Blackful, Alice McBride, Aura Duke, Mary Ann McLean, Allison McCray, Dave Harrell, Mike Plosk, Margrit Withers, Penny Chamberlain, Sue Lerner, Mary Lubertozzi.

☀ Dave Mauger presented our Earth Day program and hike on Amphibians. Penny, Diane, Alice Hanes, Susan Inman, Elaine Davis, Kristi Bauske, Vicki Schmidt and Lisa Horvath assisted at the event. Bakers for the bake sale were Diane, Carolyn Gann, Penny, Cosi Dean, Karen Anderson, Terri Cardin, Joyce Gallagher, Marva King, Mary Ann Ciesielski, Margrit Withers, Lisa and Jeanine Novak.

☀ Sue Zelek led the Learn 70 Birds multi-week program.

☀ 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, including: command hanging strips, batteries, coffee, containers, bottled water from Linda Gattis; garlic roaster, garlic cookbook from Sarah Chavria; 3-50lb bags of manure fertilizer from Emily Thiel; \$20 program fees, paper, crayons, markers, notebooks, supplies, birdseed from Penny Chamberlain; Illinois Mammals Booklet and mouse pad-Cousandra Armstrong; \$50 -Tracey Sandness; bird feeders- Mary Lubertozzi; artistic candlesticks-Sarah Brenne; 2 Native Bee Posters-Paul Blobaum; E-Bird checklists for TCWNP & Warblers Guide for Spring-Sue Zelek; containers and stuffed animals- Helen Funk.

☀ Friends donated money to laminate many posters and materials for nature center programs and displays.

☀ Thank you for Park Forest Garden Club donation and Thorn Creek Audubon Society \$250 grant.

☀ Friends purchased over \$400 worth of T-Shirts and donated them to the nature center to sell.

☀ 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 Open Hours helpers in order to remain open on Fridays and Sundays.

☀ Open Hours Vols = Penny Chamberlain, Tom Gallagher, Dan Moore, Mary Lubertozzi, Vicki Schmidt, Diane Kozlowski, Allison McCray, Lisa Horvath, Tomacenna Lyle, Thorn Creek Audubon Society members every third Friday.

☀ Thank you for donating funds for our Capital Fund, the Jim Marzuki Fund and for Friends general purposes.

☀ Thank you to New Community Church for allowing the use of their parking lot for Chamber Music, Stories of the Nature Center Building, Earth Day and many other programs.

Thank You All

Thorn Creek Woods

247 Monee Rd, Park Forest
708-747-6320 tcwoods.org
Thorn_creek@att.net

Nature Center open Friday &
Sunday, noon to 4 pm
Trails Open Dawn to Dusk

Wednesday Morning Walkers	Wednesdays 9-10:30 am Sept 7- Dec 14
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Know Your Oaks Hike	Saturday October 1 1-3 pm
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Thorn Creek Chamber Players	Friday October 7 7 pm \$10
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Autumn Night Hike	Friday, October 14 7-9 pm Adults & over 16 yrs
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Magical Moon Night Hike	Sunday October 16 6:30-8 pm Ages 16 & younger
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Faces of the Moon	Sunday, October 23 \$5/person 1-2 pm or 2:30-3:30 pm
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Soils Hike	Saturday October 29 1-3pm Ages 8-16
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Earth Underfoot: An Afternoon with Friends	Sunday, Nov 6 1 p.m. Meeting, Program, Pot Luck & Hike
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Wild Animal Tracks	Sunday December 4 1-3pm Ages 4-10
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Woodland Carols: Annual Food Drive	Sat., Dec 10 Noon-2 p.m.
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Newsletter editor:
Judy Dolan Mendelson
Friends: P.O. Box 159,
Richton Park, IL 60471,

So What Can You do?

- **Help staff Open Hours 12-4 p.m. on Friday & Sunday.** We had to close the nature center on Saturdays due to difficulty finding Open Hours volunteers. *It is vital to have volunteers to greet visitors and to do many housekeeping and office tasks – all to keep the nature center operating.*
- Be a Trail Watcher.
- **We have trail & boardwalk building projects for groups like Eagle Scouts.**
- Bake and/or make soup for our events
- Volunteers to assist at programs & nature hikes, and volunteers to assist in program planning and preparation.
- Donate money for nature preserve projects.
- Two or 3 members to work with the Friends Board on fundraising for the Capital Fund.
- Become a member of Friends.
- Know your local wildflowers? Come identify wildflowers and fungi depicted in our photos albums.
- Post Thorn Creek events on the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods Facebook page and on your own facebook pages.
- Share our updated Nature Education Program Brochure – available on our website and at the nature center—with your clubs, home school group, scouts seniors group, garden club or school.

Nature Center Needs

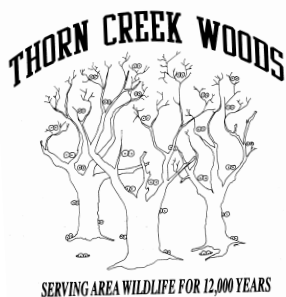
We Need:

- Binoculars—for adults and for children
- Night scopes
- Portable easels
- Hand clippers and loppers
- Hoes
- Cases of bottled water for our events
- Scissors—for adults and for children
- Batteries—C and AA
- Large plastic storage boxes about 1.5 ft by 3 ft
- Middle sized plastic storage boxes with lids
- Shoe-box sized plastic storage boxes with lids

Always needed:

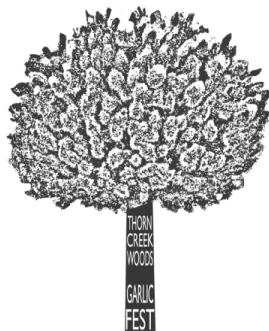
- Birdseed (mix or black sunflower seed—no corn)
- Stamps you saved for Audubon Society
- 3M Command medium Picture Hanging Strips
- 3M Command Poster Hanging Strips
- 1" x 2 5/8" address labels – ink jet or laser
- 6" x 9" mailing envelopes
- Suet cakes

Perfect Holiday Gifts



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

Design by Jon Mendelson



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

Get your Thorn Creek T-Shirts

Short Sleeve Thorn Creek Woods = \$ 10 + \$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

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 **Capital Fund** in memory of Jon Mendelson.

___I am donating \$_____ to the **Jim Marzuki Fund** for Thorn Creek
Public Programming.

___I am donating \$_____ to **Friends** general purposes.

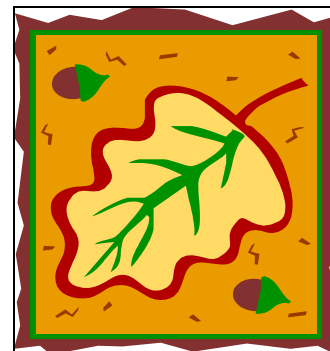
Total Enclosed \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone & e-mail _____



You can also become a member, renew or donate using Paypal on www.tcwoods.org

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods Board

The Nominating Committee is preparing
a slate of candidates for

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods Officers.

Voting will be at our Annual Meeting
November 6.

Currently the Board also includes four Directors.

Friends Bylaws allow for five Directors
appointed by the Officers.

Won't you volunteer to serve as a Director?

Interested in serving as an Officer?

**Do say "Yes" when
the Nominating Committee contacts you.
Come join us!**

*The Friends Board currently meets
the 4th Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m.
at the nature center.*

*For info email dolanmendel@aol.com or
call the nature center 708-747-6320.*



End of Year Treasurer's Report for

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods

as of June 30, 2016

Treasurer Dan Moore

—**Friends General Operating Funds** = \$6,121.23
which includes Membership funds, General donations and
Eugene Schwartz Library Fund

—**Prairie Chapel Print income**
(Artist Marikay Peter Witlock donated prints which
Friends sells for \$75 each, and these funds are then given
over to TC Management Commission annually) =
\$486.73

—**Jim Marzuki Fund for Public Programming** =
\$167.69

—**Capital Fund**
(for vital improvements to the trails &
the historic nature center building) = \$30,444.18
which includes:

Capital Fund—generally=\$15,152.18
Donated to Capital Fund in memory of
Jon Mendelson = \$14,367.00
Donated to Capital Fund in memory of
Larry Lubertozzi = \$925.00

For a total Friends of TCW = \$37,220.23

FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK WOODS is a tax-exempt
501(c)(3) organization.

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

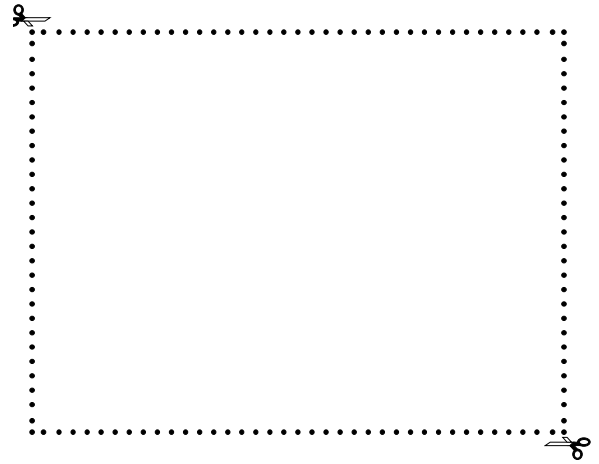
No Garlic Fest

We are sorry to say that Thorn Creek will not hold Garlic Fest.

Over many years our Garlic Fest provided lots of fun, information, delicious garlic food and, of course, garlic. Many, many wonderful volunteers and enthusiastic participants made it all possible. Thank you!

Our staff and volunteers have planned a full schedule of programs for this fall and winter. Come join us.

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



Renew Now!

EARTH UNDERFOOT: AN AFTERNOON WITH FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK WOODS Sunday, November 6, 1-4 p.m.

Join other nature lovers for our annual gathering.
Enjoy a program on the Will County Geologic Mapping project,
a fall hike & a pot luck
at Friends of Thorn Creek Woods annual meeting.



Olivier Caron, Quaternary Geologist with the Illinois State Geological Survey will tell us about the Survey's mapping project in Will County. This project is producing large-scale, 3D geologic maps of glacial deposits to gain a better understanding of the complex geology left behind by glaciations and associated flooding events.

Then join Olivier Caron and our naturalist April Richards for a hike exploring Thorn Creek Woods.

The event is open to the public ages 12-adult.

We'll find out what's going on in the preserve and learn about ways to help.
"Old" supporters of Friends, bring someone new as a guest. New folks will find out what makes Thorn Creek unique.

Registration required: 708.747.6320 or thorn_creek @att.net. Bring a dish to share.