



Friends of Thorn Creek Woods

# Thorn Creek News

Fall 2019

## FOCUS ON THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY

### *An Afternoon with Friends of Thorn Creek Woods*

All across Will County there are woods, prairies, lakes and creeks, visitor centers, regional trails, picnicking, camping, dog parks, and much more. Learn about the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center at the DesPlaines River in Channahon, Isle a la Cache Museum along the DuPage River, and Lake Renwick heron rookery. And eastern Will County features Monee Reservoir and Plum Creek Nature Center.

Bringing people and nature together is the District's motto. Come find out all about the natural wonders managed by the Will County Forest Preserve District.

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods welcomes Ralph Schultz, the Forest Preserve's chief operating officer and long-time member of the Thorn Creek Management Commission. Ralph's presentation will explore the District's facilities and programs.

At our annual gathering of nature lovers which is open to the public, there will be a short Friends meeting, the presentation and refreshments.

Saturday, November 2

1-3 p.m.

Free. Ages 12-adult.

Open to the public.

Freedom Hall,

410 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest

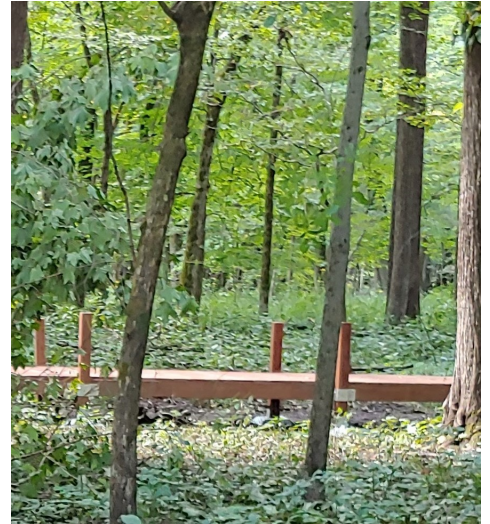


## FRIENDS CAPITAL FUND – Focus on our Trails



Old boardwalk just west of North Bridge

A new 64 foot long and 6 foot wide boardwalk was built in four days by the AmeriCorps young adult program from Park Forest. It replaced a dilapidated 2 foot wide raised boardwalk built in the 1970's and repaired many, many times over the years.

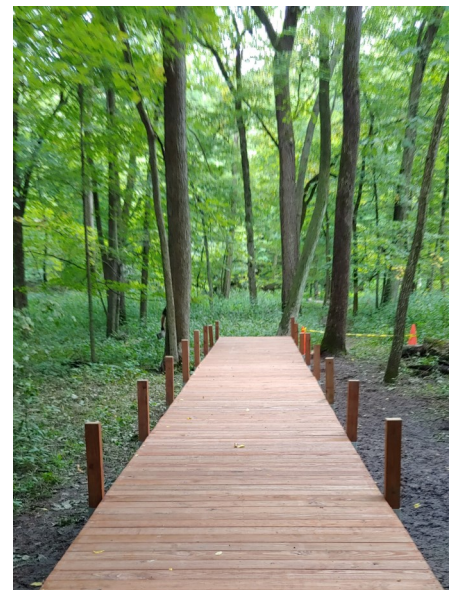


New boardwalk built August 2019

Friends Capital Fund contributed \$4600 for all the lumber, aluminum pans and hardware to build the boardwalk. Friends also donated \$500 for a new battery powered drill & driver kit for use on this project and will be vital for all our trail building projects. And member Anthony Rozic donated funds for the hand tools and protective gear (eye covering, gloves and the like) for this and future projects.

### Other 2019 Trail Projects

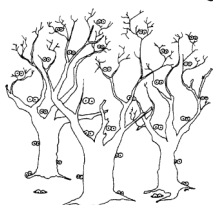
At an April workday, students from a local high school and Governor's State University cleared brush from the weedy south corner of the Prairie Sampler, removed old wood steps from the preserve and other kiosk and nature center projects. Volunteer Jim Pisani filled the potholes in the parking lot. At two June Prairie Sampler Workdays volunteers weeded and planted in the Prairie Sampler and butterfly garden, cleared trail overgrowth, corrected a drainage water bar, and cleared and mowed the entire Nature Center Loop Trail. And in August, Jason Tyler' Eagle Scout project replaced old round water bars, finishing the installation and replacement of bars on the trails.



Friends members spent a lovely afternoon at a summer picnic at Park forest's Central Park

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

THORN CREEK WOODS



*Serving area wildlife for 12,000 years*

Long sleeve -  
Forest Green with Mint Design  
Short sleeve -  
Blue with White Design

Thorn Creek Woods



*"Serving area wildlife for 12,000 years"*

**NEW DESIGN**  
Short sleeve -  
Maroon with Crème Design

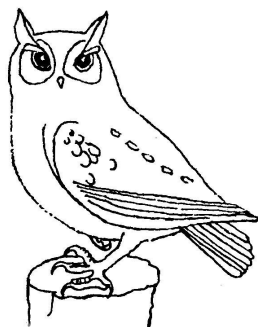
Short Sleeve = \$ 10 + \$3 per shirt shipping/handling  
Long Sleeve = \$15 + \$3 per shirt shipping/handling

Please make your check to:  
Thorn Creek Nature Center, 247 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL, 60466  
Or stop by nature center Friday or Sunday, Noon-4 p.m.

### Jeri Setzke

Jeri Setzke passed away April 10, 2019 at the age of 101. Jeri was a joy to be around. She was a grand supporter of Thorn Creek Nature Center and the Garden Club of Park Forest. She loved attending nature center programs especially the Nature Camps for Senior and the music programs. Jeri will be missed.

Her family very kindly requested that memorials to Jeri be made to Friends of Thorn Creek Woods.



### Drawing Owls: Art Program at Thorn Creek

Sunday, October 6  
1-2 p.m.

All ages. Children younger than age 6  
should be accompanied by an adult.  
\$5 per person

Registration required by Friday, October 4

Internationally known artist Pat Moore will help young artists draft from nature, studying real owl taxidermy specimens, exploring the basics of realistic drawing, shading and texture. During the hands-on program, each student will create naturalistic compositions, suitable for framing.

All materials will be provided

### Fall at Thorn Creek Woods

247 Monee Rd, Park Forest  
708-747-6320

Thorn\_creek@att.net  
tcwoods.org

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

Wednesday Walkers	Wednesdays 9 a.m.
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September Night Hike Ages 16-adult	Thursday September 12 6:30-8:30 pm
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Fall Workday Ages 15+	Sunday September 15 Noon-3 p.m.
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Garlic for Sale At Park Forest Farmers Market	Saturday September 21 7 am-noon
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Trees for Kids Ages 9-12	Sunday September 29 1-3 p.m.
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Drawing Owls All Ages \$5/person	Sunday October 6 1-2 p.m.
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Autumn Night Hike Ages 10+	Sunday October 13 6-8 p.m.
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Animals in Autumn- For Kids Ages 6-9	Sunday October 20 1-3 p.m.
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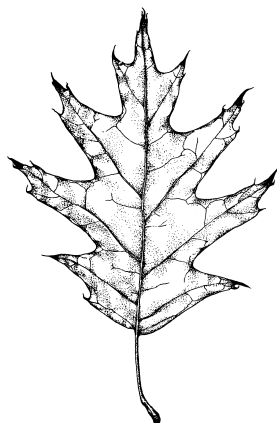
Focus on Will County Forest Preserves	Saturday November 2 1-3 p.m.
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Know Your Oaks Hike Age 10-adult	Sunday November 3 1-3 p.m.
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Fall Colors Walk for Kids Ages 7-12	Saturday November 9 1-3 p.m.
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Pie in the Sky Night Hike Ages 10-adult	Tuesday November 12 4:30-6:30p.m.
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Newsletter editor:  
Judy Dolan Mendelson  
Friends: P.O. Box 32,  
Richton Park, IL 60471,  
dolanmendel@aol.com



Be a member in good standing of  
Friends of Thorn Creek Woods.  
Check your mailing label and make  
sure you renewed for May 2019.

## Nature Center Needs

### We Need:

- Cases of bottled water
- Large plastic storage boxes about 1.5 ft. by 3 ft.
- Middle sized plastic storage boxes with lids
- Night scopes
- Portable easels
- Hoes and loppers

### Always needed:

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

## Thank You

- \$50 donated to Nature Center from Garden Club of Park Forest; \$262 from Park Forest Environment Commission.
- Welcome to New Members: Jon Vanderbilt, Tava Oosterbaan, Bobby Hernandez, Elaine Garcia.
- Donations in memory of Geri Setzke to the Friends Capital Fund of \$1800 from: Penny Chamberlain; Julie Townsend (Garden Club of Park Forest); Plum Creek Nature Center & Monee Reservoir; Joyce Glandon (Garden Club of Park Forest); Dawn Means; Peter Larson; Raymond & Susan Setzke; Nancy Dannels.
- Donations to Friends Capital Fund from: Dean Zajicek in memory of the Past and in honor of the Future; John Klingelschmitt; Linda & Lisa Bronson; Darlene Obejda; Andy Micetich; Susan Hoffer in memory of Andrew Hoffer; Karen Anderson; Terry Medhurst.
- Donations to Friends Jim Marzuki Fund: Mary Lubertozzi, Darlene Obejda, Judy Johnson.
- Donations to Friends General Purposes Fund from: William Andrews Jr; Richard Treptow; Anne Marie Lefonti; Ronald & Jan Harris; Thomas Wegrzyn; Aura & Sidney Duke; Mark Petnuch; Sevena Merchant; Linda & Lisa Bronson; Darlene Obejda; Tava Oosterbaan; Carolyn Gann; Melinda Geist; Barbara & Al Sturges.
- Many membership renewals.
- Many donations of items: Swiffer mop kit, bird games & cases of water– Linda & Lisa Bronson; batteries, bird seed & suet–Penny Chamberlain; bird seed– Tom Wegrzyn; paper plates & program materials–Monica Banaszak; prairie seeds–Barb Varner; cases of water–Sue Zelek; wall hanging strips–Linda Gattis; hand tools–Judy Mendelson; case of water–Susan Inman; gas for lawn mower–Mel Hedden.

Thank you for your support and kindness





## Be a FRIEND OF THORN CREEK WOODS

\_\_\_ Membership \$20 \_\_\_ Organization & Business \$50 \_\_\_ Life Membership \$200

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.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

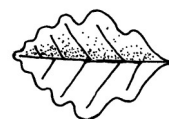
City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK WOODS, Box 32, Richton Park, IL 60471



**Annual Renewal Date is May 1st**  
Send in your dues today!  
Or renew & donate using PayPal at [tcwoods.org](http://tcwoods.org)



### So What Can You do?

- Help staff Open Hours at the nature center 12-4 p.m. on Fridays & Sundays
- Be a Trail Watcher. **Trail Watchers** are our eyes & ears on the trails. Use the blue Trail Watchers forms or email nature center with concerns.
- Join our Fall Workday, September 15
- We also have trail & boardwalk building projects for individuals and for groups like Eagle Scouts
- Bake and/or make soup for our events
- Volunteers to assist at programs & nature hikes
- Donate money for nature preserve projects
- Become a member of Friends.
- Post Thorn Creek events on the Friends Face Book page.
- Share our Nature Education Program Brochure – available on our website & at Nature center—with your clubs, home school group, scouts, seniors group, garden club or school.

### Garlic For Sale One Day Only

Saturday  
September 21  
7 a.m. - Noon

Thorn Creek  
Nature Center  
booth  
at Park Forest  
Farmers  
Market,  
152 Main Street,  
next to  
Dollar General



Garlic bulbs of 20 varieties, all grown at Thorn Creek's Historic Farm, will be sold for \$2.50 per bulb, for eating and for planting this fall.

We have garlic to buy and planting information will be available.

Friends of Thorn Creek Woods  
Box 32  
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  
Thank you-  
it helps save on  
printing & postage

*Won't you please renew  
your membership now?*

## Fall Workday

Sunday, September 15  
Noon-3 p.m.

Join in sprucing up the nature center,  
preserve clean up, and  
trimming & maintaining the trails.  
Or come help weed and nurture our  
Prairie Sampler and butterfly garden.

Ages 15-adult  
Registration required  
2 days before the program day.

Community groups are welcome!

