



WING's E-Newsletter

Jan-June 2006

Volume 1, Number 1

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Contact Us

<http://www.blackthornhill.org>

What's Happening at Blackthorn Hill?

If you read The Paper, you've seen that we had a Winter Hike on Feb. 25 to look for signs of wildlife. Many deer tracks were seen. Four turkeys were spotted walking along the top of a hill in the old woods.

On March 18th, we had a work morning. Volunteers were numerous and lots of work was accomplished! Fence and posts were removed through the activity area all the way to the 4 acre prairie. Dead trees in the activity area were cut down and cut into firewood. Firewood that was lying on the ground was stacked against large trees. Estimates are that we have enough firewood for a couple of years now! This work was done in preparation for bulldozing of the access road to the activity area. While there, their bulldozer will pop out stumps in the area and knock down thorny locusts or hedge trees expanding the activity area and making it safer for youth.

That afternoon, we held a Mystery Hike where 5 boys followed clues hidden in the woods by our resident leprechaun to find his Pot O' Gold, which we did! Two boys stayed and completed their 5 mile hike for rank in Boy Scouts.



April 8 we had scheduled a seed planting. Instead, Ron Noble, a volunteer with our group, acquired the equipment necessary to spray the 4 acre prairie with Roundup to kill the existing weeds from last year. He then rented a no-till drill and planted the 4 acres with seed donated by Angella Moorehouse from the IL Dept. of Natural Resources. The seed mix is over 40 varieties of native grasses and flowers. This recent rain is just what we needed. On April 27, four volunteers from GHS added seed mix gathered by board members and volunteers last fall. Thanks to Ted Turlentes for sharing his knowledge and organizing this addition to our prairie.

On the 6th of May, we will have a Wider Opportunity for kids to come out at 10:00 AM and go through different stations to learn about things such as wildflowers, first aid, knife safety, fire building, edible plants, etc. We hope to have lots of folks enjoy this activity at a cost of only \$3 and includes hot dogs, chips and drink.

June will bring us Water games on the 11th at 1:00. Come out for an afternoon of water balloons, water games and trying your luck at target shooting with water guns. Cost \$2.

Pre-registration required for all events by calling Lora at 343-4321 or emailing her at llwright@insightbb.com.

What Can I Do?



You can help WING (Western IL Nature Group) in many ways. Become a member by registering and paying annual dues of \$25 due in March each year. We have many volunteer opportunities. Contact us for more information on a job that fits you, your skills and your abilities. WING is always seeking donations from individuals and businesses as well as civic groups. Invite us to speak at your next club meeting. Adopt an acre for \$1600. Sponsor construction of a structure at Blackthorn Hill. This is a community group and we need the help and support of the community to continue to offer this 110 acre Nature Preserve and Youth Camp to the community. Our mortgage payments are ~\$500 per month. Could you make a payment for us? If you have other ideas of ways you can help, please contact Opal at 342-5493 or email her at murrays@galesburg.net.

Girl Scout Day Camp at Blackthorn Hill



The local Girl Scouts will hold their Day Camp at Blackthorn Hill for the second year during the week of June 19-23, 2006 from 9AM to 3PM. Girls getting out of Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to attend. Older girls and adults are welcome and needed as volunteers to help by being Program Aides, teaching crafts, assisting in archery, etc. You do not need to be a Girl Scout previously to attend this camp. Contact Carin Johnson at 343-4360 for details or visit the Girl Scout website at <http://www.gsmv.org/campregister.html>.