



WING's E-Newsletter

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Contact Us

<http://www.blackthornhill.org>

What's Happening at Blackthorn Hill?

The winter has been a difficult one weather-wise. But our first Spring work day will be March 17th from 9AM to noon. If you bring a sack lunch, you can stay for a picnic then come along on our annual Mystery Hike. The leprechaun who is rumored to live in these woods hides clues as to where to find his pot-o-gold. There are lots of things needing done at the preserve and many volunteers are needed. Cost of the Mystery hike is \$1 and children must be supervised by an adult.

April 20 & 21 will bring our Mom and Me-Women in the Woods event where these ladies will learn outdoor skills such as fire-building and fire-safety, cooking, hiking, songs, crafts and archery on Saturday. If you'd like to come early and camp on Friday night that is available as well. Pre-registration is required by calling Lora at 309-343-4321 or email llwright@insightbb.com. Cost is \$20 and includes the food for the day.

May 26th at 1PM we will leave the parking lot on a Memory Hike for Memorial Day. We are gathering lots of local lore regarding the property and will have many stories to tell about the land on which we'll hike. Cost is \$1.

June 18 through the 22nd is the 3rd Annual Girl Scout Day Camp at the Blackthorn Hill, so the preserve will be closed to the public that week. If you know a girl in grade 1-6 who wants to attend camp, or if you are an adult Girl Scout wanting to volunteer, call Carin at 309-342-4360. This year's theme is Native Americans and we're working on tee-pees and Inali Dancers as well as all the usual fun and games. Once again we'll have the monkey bridge for the girls.

Last year we had a star-gazing event which was postponed several times for weather, but when it was able to happen, it was a lot of fun. Carl Sandburg students will be joining us when we host this activity again this year. Watch this website for the date to be set later.

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

What Can I Do?

Plenty is the answer that comes to mind for this question. We are always looking for a variety of volunteers to do everything from build a latrine, to clear trails, to writing and researching grants to manning our fund-raisers and more. If you have a love of nature and would like to hear more, contact us.

Workdays can be fun for everyone, and are opportunities to see and learn about wildlife and plants. If you can volunteer once a year, or once a month, all help is welcome and needed! Please contact Lora Wright, llwright@insightbb.com or 309-343-4321. If you have other ideas of ways you can help, please contact Opal at 342-5493 or email her at blackthornhill@insightbb.com.

Girl Scout Completes Gold Award Project at Blackthorn Hill

Lindsey Powell, member of Girl Scout Troop 3019 of Galesburg has completed the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Gold Award focuses on a 14- to 17-year old Girl Scout's interests and personal journey through leadership skills, career explorations, self-improvement, and service. Recipients devote at least 65 hours to complete a Gold Award Project, which fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project – it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills. More information is available at www.girlscouts.org.

Lindsey's Gold Award Project was a butterfly garden using plants native to the area and planted on the Main Trail at Blackthorn Hill. This Spring, there will be a dedication ceremony where the garden and a donated bench from the Girl Scout Service Unit 97 will be dedicated to the memory of Paula Patterson, a long-time Girl Scout co-leader and friend of the nature preserve and Girl Scouts in this area.

For more information about Girl Scouting, call Carin at 309-342-4360.

For Your Information

WETLAND ...

Wetlands are the link between the land and the water. Although wetlands are often wet, a wetland might not be wet year-round.

What wetlands do:

- Clean water by natural filtration
- Recharge water supplies
- Reduce flood risks
- Provide fish and wildlife habitat
- Provide recreational opportunities (hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and photography)
- Provide sites for research and education
- Potential for commercial fishery benefits