



WING's E-Newsletter

July-Dec 2007

Volume 1, Number 4

In This Issue

- What's Happening at Blackthorn Hill?
- What can I do?
- A First for Blackthorn Hill
- For Your Information

Contact Us

<http://www.blackthornhill.org>

What's Happening at Blackthorn Hill?

The latrine is finished! Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and contributors Blackthorn Hill's activity area now has a lovely latrine in the area used for day camp, programs, picnics, etc.

Day camp in June was once again a huge hit with the Girl Scouts. We'd love to host the Cub Scout day camp, but we will need to build a storm shelter first to meet their guidelines. Look for this sometime in the future.

This summer Norm Gross and Dave Wujek once again hosted a Stargazing Event which was well-attended. Everyone learned a lot and saw many constellation and shooting stars.

We had a Prairie Walk with Angella Moorehouse from the IDNR this fall. Angella is a wealth of information concerning habitat, plant, animals and insects. It was a gorgeous evening. Our prairie is now two years old and thriving. We have mowed an "X" across the four acre prairie so that visitors may enjoy getting into the thick of things with a clear walking path.

In September and October we held a campaign to raise \$10,000. By doing so, we were able to also obtain a \$15,000 matching grant from an anonymous organization. We will use these funds to construct a platform tent unit with all the amenities needed for overnight camping.

The events committee has met and we have many fun things planned for 2008. Be sure to check our website often for information. 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.

We will be forming committees soon to make volunteering in areas of interest to you easier and more efficient. 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! Our workdays are the last Saturday of each month weather permitting. We'll start up again in March. If you have other ideas of ways you can help, please contact Opal at 342-5493 or email her at blackthornhill@insightbb.com.

A Wedding at Blackthorn Hill

Blackthorn Hill had a first ever event on November 3rd. One of our board members and our board treasurer, Ron Hunt and his fiancé Chris Berrigan were married in the activity area overlooking the hills. Best Wishes go out to the newlywed couple as they begin their lives together.

For Your Information

STREAMS STABILIZATION From the ILICA SHOW 2005

By Rob Meats, Streams Specialist

Streambank erosion and streambed degradation have become serious threats to the land, water, plant and animal resources along many streams in Illinois. When left unchecked either can be responsible for the damage or loss of valuable farmland, wildlife habitat, buildings, roads, bridges and other public and private structures and property.

Stream erosion is also a major source of sediments deposited in Illinois ponds, lakes, streams and backwater areas, contributing as much as 30-50% of the downstream sediment load. Sediment reduces stream channel capacity, which may increase flooding and Streambank erosion, or reduce the depth and holding capacity of lakes and reservoirs. Excessive sedimentation also degrades water quality and destroys fish and wildlife habitat.

The Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program has been created in Illinois to demonstrate effective, low cost vegetative, stone structure and other bio-engineering techniques that may be used to stabilize eroding stream banks and bottoms and control the problems mentioned above from becoming a more severe problem within the water transport system in Illinois.

For more information, contact the USDA office in Galesburg.