

Nature's Notebook

SUMMER 2023 ISSUE

POLLINATOR PARTY

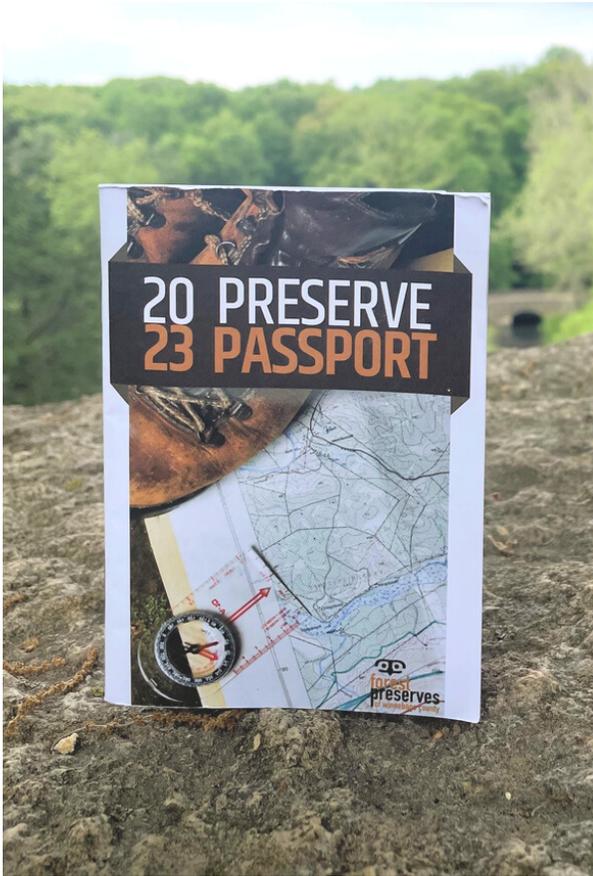
MOTH VS.
BUTTERFLY

BELL BOWL
PRAIRIE
RELOCATION

EXPANDING FOREST
PRESERVE LAND

NEW FOREST
PRESERVE FACES!





2023 PRESERVE PASSPORT PROGRAM

Have you joined our *free* back to nature challenge yet? Participate in self-guided and guided activities to earn points! Collect 25 or more points and you will be entered to win the ***Back-to-Nature Bundle Grand Prize!***

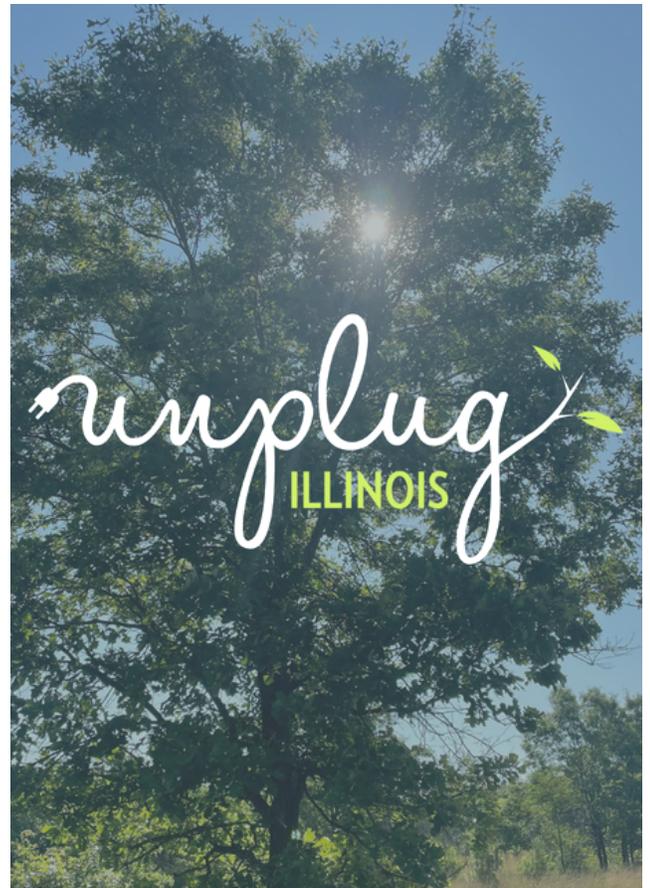
Learn more [HERE!](#)

UNPLUG ILLINOIS DAY SCAVENGER HUNT

Unplug and unwind on Saturday, July 15, 2023 - ***Unplug Illinois Day!***

Pick between 10 preserves and do a fun scavenger hunt!

Turn your papers in at Headquarters Forest Preserve by Wednesday, July 19, 2023 to be entered to win a prize! Learn more [here!](#)





BELL BOWL PRAIRIE RELOCATION

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, along with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is working with the Chicago-Rockford International Airport to relocate material from Bell Bowl Prairie. Prior to resuming construction, the airport agreed to set aside the top layer of prairie soil that would need to be removed to finish the road for the current airport expansion project. The soil removed from Bell Bowl Prairie still contains valuable roots, seed, fungi, and microorganisms that will help restore prairie at the nearby Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve.



On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, volunteers met FPWC staff at the Natural Resource Center/Farm to sift through top soil in search of remaining plant material, seeds, fungi, and microorganisms from Bell Bowl Prairie. Approximately 100 pots and several seed germination trays were filled with top soil and plant material in hopes to preserve the ancient species located at Bell Bowl Prairie. The pots and trays will be managed by the FPWC Natural Resource team and will eventually be planted at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve. Meanwhile, other FPWC Natural Resource staff worked to transport 150 cubic yards of material to a prepared area of prairie at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve.

On Sunday, June 4, 2023 volunteers and stewards met at Cedar Cliff

Forest Preserve. They walked the entire site to see why it was chosen for the Bell Bowl Prairie soil and talked about the stewardship opportunities in the coming months. They also did a bioblitz – a biological inventory or biological census of the entire site - to study the site so we can monitor and care for the Bell Bowl Prairie soils and surrounding ecosystem.

The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Chicago-Rockford International Airport to work towards conserving the soil diversity, genetics, and plant materials from Bell Bowl Prairie.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

We want to issue a great thank you to the volunteers who took the time & continue to help. Your passionate, hard work towards preserving the Bell Bowl Prairie is greatly appreciated!

POLLINATOR PARTY



LET'S TALK ABOUT POLLINATORS!

It is no secret that pollinators play a huge role in sustaining the health and biodiversity of our environment. Pollinators quite literally help put food on our tables! Pollinators also help sustain plant and wildlife communities by pollinating native plants that provide food, nesting and shelter for wildlife.

WHO IS A POLLINATOR?

Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes! Pollinators include hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, bees, beetles, bats, flies, wasps, and other insects. The vast majority of pollinators in North America are bees.

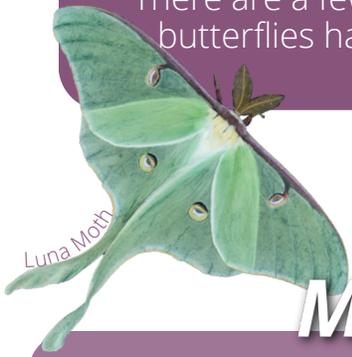
POLLINATOR PLANTS

Due to the use of pesticides and the removal of native habitat, it is more important than ever to help protect our pollinators! Here is a list of some native plants that are great for pollinators:

- asters
- beebalm
- native roses
- Joe Pye weed
- purple coneflower
- great blue lobelia
- white indigo
- lead plant
- blazing stars
- beard tongue
- bellflowers
- hollyhocks
- monkshood
- snapdragons
- sunflowers
- foxglove
- mints
- tomatoes
- butterfly weed
- goldenrod
- larkspur
- milkweeds

MOTH VS. BUTTERFLY

There are a few characteristics that species in this order have in common. All moths and butterflies have scales on their wings. Like most insects, moths and butterflies have a metamorphic life cycle.



MOTH

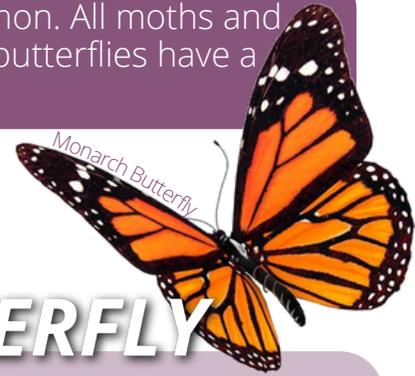
Moths typically have dull-colored wings.

Moths are nocturnal, meaning they're most active at night.

Many moth species form a cocoon to reorganize into an adult. Cocoons are soft and made of silk produced by the caterpillar, or larva, of a moth.

Moth antennae usually have side branches that have a feathery or saw-edges appearance.

Moth bodies are usually more bulbous and aren't as long as butterflies.



BUTTERFLY

Butterflies usually have intricate wing patterns with vibrant colors.

Most butterflies are diurnal. This means they're most active during the day.

Butterflies don't create cocoons. They form a chrysalis. A chrysalis has a similar shape to a cocoon, but it's hard and smooth.

Butterfly antennae are long, and most have round bulbs at the end of each antenna.

Butterfly's body is typically long and slender. They also have long, skinny legs.

SIMILARITIES



Most moths & butterflies have the same diet. They drink nectar from flowering plants.

They both have scales that cover their wings & body.

They both go through a metamorphic life cycle.

Moths & butterflies are thought to have co-evolved with each other. Their evolution is based upon the evolution of flowering plants.



EXPANDING FOREST PRESERVE LAND



The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is excited to announce the acquisition of 96.1 acres of new land to be restored and preserved. The land was acquired through a trust.

Currently, the land is farmed and will continue to be farmed until resources are available to restore it back to its natural state. Due to this fact, this property will not be open to the public until further notice.

It is not yet decided if this property will be in addition to County Line Forest Preserve or if it will be a new preserve on its own. The addition of this property increases the total acreage of preserved land to 11,639 acres in Winnebago County!



Legend

-  County Line Forest Preserve (7530 Ipsen Road Belvidere, IL 61008)
-  Newly acquired 'Oswalt Property'

NEW FOREST PRESERVE FACES!

Arnie Walker - Ranger



Tim Gunderson - Carpenter



2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

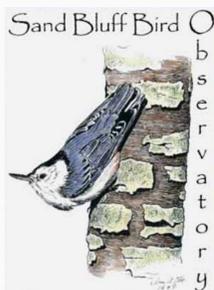
July

- 7 Hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve (815 Outside)
- 8 Walk With U Guided Walk at Deer Run Forest Preserve
- 8-9 Yoga in the Garden (Klehm)
- 9 Winnowing of Rye (Macktown Living History)
- 11 FPWC Guided Hike at Oak Ridge Forest Preserve
- 12 Little Seedlings 2023 Program (Klehm)
- 15 REAP Volunteer Work Day at Oak Ridge Forest Preserve
- 15 Bees, Birds, Bats & Butterflies...Oh My! (Klehm)
- 16 Woodsong Summer Concert-Whiskey Mil (Klehm)
- 19 Little Seedlings 2023 Program (Klehm)
- 20 Intro to Painting Landscapes in Watercolor (Klehm)
- 20 Hike at Hononegah Forest Preserve (815 Outside)
- 22 Monarch Wing Painting Workshop (Klehm)
- 22 80's Night! Couple's Nine & Dine Golf Event
- 26 Little Seedlings 2023 Program (Klehm)
- 27 Intro to Painting Landscapes in Watercolor (Klehm)

August

- 5 Walk With U Guided Walk at Kieselburg Forest Preserve
- 8 FPWC Guided Hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve
- 12 Surveying (Macktown Living History)
- 19 REAP Volunteer Work Day at Four Lakes Forest Preserve
- 20 Woodsong Summer Concert - South of Disorder (Klehm)
- 22 FPWC Guided Hike at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve

**CLICK ON THE LOGOS TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS!**



discover the nature of life.

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For complete details on Forest Preserves of Winnebago County facilities, programs, and events visit our website at **winnebagoforest.org**