Marilyn F. Campbell
March 4, 1941 - September 21, 2017

“To assure our people permanent access to their outdoor heritage”
Director’s Dateline

Maple syrup season is here again. This year, because of favorable weather conditions, we tapped our sugar maple trees in the latter part of January. Ideal conditions include nighttime temperatures in the 20’s and daytime temperatures in the 40’s with sunshine. The last three years were not very productive and we produced only enough syrup to fulfill our Pancake and Sausage Dinner, which takes upwards of 20 gallons of syrup. Hopefully, this year will be more productive and we may have enough to also sell to the public.

This past December, our VCC Foundation was awarded a $25,000 check from Balloons Over Vermilion for construction of the Vermilion County portion of the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The state of Illinois has not yet released the trail match funds for the entire 3.3 miles of Phase I construction, however with this grant, we have enough local funds to complete 2.1 miles of the trail. The trestle bridge crossing the Middle Fork National Scenic River is the most expensive portion of Phase I, so for now, we will begin construction at Gray’s Siding and proceed through Oakwood. An update of the environmental survey has been completed and the engineering contract will soon be approved. IDOT manages the federal and state trail funds, so they will handle the bid letting for construction. Once a contractor is approved, hopefully construction may begin in June.

The VCCD pull-out calendar is included in this issue. Keep it handy to refer to District events and programs. I hope to see everyone at the Pancake and Sausage Dinner on March 18th!

Special Pull-Out Section Inside!

Our 2018 Calendar of Events is including in this Spring issue of the Conservationist! Be sure to keep this section handy so you can be informed of the many events and programs your county parks offers!

For up-to-date information on programs, nature news, events, and more; be sure to visit www.vccd.org and like us on our Facebook page under “Vermilion County Conservation District.”

You can contact us at:

Kennekuk County Park
22296 Henning Road, Danville IL, 61834
217-442-1691

Forest Glen Preserve
20301 E. 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883
217-662-2141

Email us at vccd@vccd.org
Marilyn Campbell has definitely left her legacy and made a major impact on the formation of the Vermilion County Conservation District until her retirement from the VCCD in 1994. Marilyn was the third person hired, behind executive director Ron Pennock and Lee Wright, groundskeeper, at Forest Glen Preserve. She was hired in 1969 as “Chief Naturalist” and was charged with implementing an education program for the District, which at the time was only Forest Glen Preserve. She also was instrumental in creating the Forest Glen trail system.

Marilyn hired an excellent staff to assist her. Staff members included Brian Baldwin, an entomologist and snake expert; Mark Pittman, a wildlife expert; Steve Weller, a landscape architect by trade; and Gary Wilford, an ornithologist and expert in almost all fields of nature. Mark and Steve were transferred to the new Kennekuk Cove County Park to head up the educational programs there, while Gary and Brian continued the programs at Forest Glen.

Marilyn’s vision of implementing an innovative conservation education curriculum was realized in 1972 with the Outdoor School program. The first classes were held at Forest Glen Preserve and then concurrent classes were later held at Kennekuk Cove County Park. I was fortunate to join this staff in 1987, hired by Marilyn to teach Outdoor School when a staff member resigned. Joining this staff paved the way for my future advancement, and I owe that to Marilyn for having faith in my abilities.

Marilyn was one of the most knowledgeable people that I knew and I learned so much from her. She was very active with our local Audubon Society and then was credited with saving the state society when she was named executive director of the Illinois Audubon Society. She had a keen business sense about her and always paid attention to detail. Our career paths paralleled each other in so many ways; first with her as my supervisor, and then me being hers. When I was named executive director, she was my associate director and we would always bounce new ideas off each other to keep our educational programs and events fresh and exciting. We both struggled with computers. Marilyn was still pecking away on a typewriter and I was learning how to use an Apple IIe computer. Even now, I struggle with my iPhone.

When Marilyn retired from the Audubon Society and moved back home to Georgetown, we renewed our friendship and I enjoyed when she stopped by my office during her walks with her therapy collies or on a bird watching stroll. She was an excellent photographer and I loved hearing about her world travels with the Audubon Society. I lost two great friends in 2017, first my wife Lorna, and then Marilyn. Both are missed by so many people.
FOREST GLEN PRESERVE'S ANNUAL

MAPLE SYRUP OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 18

11 A.M. - 4 P.M. C.S.T.

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DINNER

Featuring

Forest Glen's Famous Maple Syrup

Adults $5.00 ~ Kids under 12 $2.50

See Maple Syrup Production at the Sugar Bush and visit the Homestead Cabin.
If conditions permit...
Forest Glen's Famous Maple Syrup Available to purchase at the Nature Center
March 18, 11 am-4 pm while quantities last.

Hosted by the Vermilion County Conservation District
Forest Glen is located 7 mi. east of Westville, IL. For more information call 217-662-2142
“What happened to the turkeys that were next to the Nature Center at Forest Glen?”

Sadly, we think that they were killed by a mink or long-tailed weasel on the last weekend of January. There was no sign of an animal that burrowed beneath the fencing, so either of these mammals could have slipped through the fence wire. A mink is a member of the weasel family and both are vicious killers in the animal kingdom for their small size. When an animal panics, this excites the mink or weasel into a killing frenzy and they rarely consume the carcass. If we receive more turkeys in the future, we will have to cover the existing fence wire with a smaller mesh.

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Do you have a question about the Vermilion County Conservation District, but never bothered to ask? Whether it is general, park maintenance, conservation education, administration, research projects, or more, this section is for you! Simply send your question to our park headquarters or email us at vccd@vccd.org. We will print what space will allow without revealing your name. All questions will be personally answered even if not selected for the newsletter.
Spring Wildflowers

We all have our favorite “signs of spring,” whether it may be the warmer temperatures, longer day lengths, listening to birds singing in the morning, or seeing butterflies once again. Another important sign of spring is the arrival of ephemeral flowers that carpet the forest floors at Kennekuk and Forest Glen. Ephemeral means their days are short-lived, and refers to the fact that once their seed is ripe, the blooms and foliage of these perennials disappear, reappearing like a magic bouquet the following spring. Rediscovering the wildflowers again each spring is equivalent to a treasure hunt as you hike along the trails. Enjoy a hike along Lookout Point Trail at Kennekuk or Crab Tree Trail at Forest Glen and see how many of the spring wildflowers you can find below.

Prairie Trillium
Trillium comes from the Latin term “tres” meaning three and “lilium” for lily. As a member of the lily family, petals and leaves occur in units of three. There are three leaves, three sepals, three petals, six stamens, and a six-sided fruit. The common name is misleading because the Prairie Trillium occurs in woodlands like other trilliums, rather than prairies.

Spring Beauty
Spring beauty is probably the most common wildflower in Illinois. It spreads easily and carpets the open woodlands in large patches. The roots are edible, and may be boiled, salted, and eaten. They reportedly have the flavor of chestnuts. The young leaves are rich in vitamins A and C.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit
The club-like spadix is how this plant gets the name “Jack in the Pulpit” and is a favorite flower to find in the spring. The leaves are divided into three major leaflets that can be up to 7-inches long. The root causes a strong burning reaction and has a strong peppery taste if eaten raw.

Bloodroot
One of the first flowers to bloom in the spring, it makes most of its growth early before the forest floor is shaded by the foliage of trees. The long, palmate-lobed leaf unfurls after the flower appears, sometimes growing as much as a foot across and continues to stay green well into the summer months. As the name implies, a red coloration is found in the roots, which is poisonous if consumed. Native Americans would use the red juice as a dye for fabrics, tools, and war paint.

Dutchman’s Breeches
The clusters of fragrant, white, pantaloon-shaped flowers extending out on a leafless stalk give this plant its common name. The delicately divided leaves are just as attractive as the flowers which add to their popularity in wildflower gardens. Flowering from April to May, the flowers are pollinated by early bumblebees, whose proboscis (tube-shaped mouthpart) is long enough to tap the nectar.
Vermilion County Conservation District
2018 Calendar of Events
For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.vccd.org, call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691, Forest Glen at 217-662-2142, and like us on our Facebook page

March
17  Turkey Hunt Draw for hunting in Kennekuk; Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9 a.m.
18  Maple Syrup Open House & Pancake/Sausage Dinner, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
    Forest Glen's Gannett Education Center, Fee for the Dinner
    Free tours of the Sugar Bush and Homestead Cabin, Forest Glen
21  VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Forest Glen. Public Invited
26  Toddling Into Nature Camp “Wonderful Wetlands” - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers

April
13  VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9 a.m.
18  VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited
22  Volunteer Fair and Earth Day Event, 1 - 4 p.m. Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Free!

May
5-6  World War II Remembrance Days at Kennekuk County Park, Bunker Hill Historic Area, Free!
11  Conservation Olympics - area 6th grade students, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Edgewood Center, Forest Glen
16  VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited
TBD  Anglo-Scandinavian Living History Program at Forest Glen, Pioneer Cabin Area,
      Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free!
27  Historic Buildings at Forest Glen & Kennekuk open Sundays through Labor Day, 1 - 4 p.m.
TBD  Lake Vermilion boat ramp concessions open, call 217-442-1691 for hours

June
2   Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7 p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. $1/person Fee
2   Illini Bass Club & D.A.R.E. Kid’s Fishing Derby, Horseshoe Pond, Kennekuk, 9 a.m. Free!
4   VCCD Wildlife Programs begin for 9 weeks at Vermilion County Libraries. Free!
    Call your local library for dates and information
8   VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9 a.m.
20  Toddling Into Nature Camp “Wonderful Wetlands” - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
21  Toddling Into Nature Camp “Wonderful Wetlands” - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
26  Science in Nature Camp - 3rd-5th Grade; 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
27  Pioneer Kids Camp - 1st-3rd Grade; 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Forest Glen
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
28  Wonder Bugs Camp - K-2nd Grade; 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers

July
7   Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7 p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. $1/person Fee
10  Photographing Nature Camp - 5th-10th Grade; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
11  Toddling Into Nature Camp “The Need for Seeds” - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
12  Toddling Into Nature Camp “The Need for Seeds” - open to ages 3, 4, 5 yrs. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
    Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
14  Spinners & Weavers Day, Forest Glen’s Gannett Education Center; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free!
Vermilion County Conservation District
2018 Calendar of Events

For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.vccd.org, call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691, Forest Glen at 217-662-2142, and like us on our Facebook page

July Continued
14-15 French and Indian War Re-enactment, Forest Glen Homestead Cabin. Free!
18 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited
19 Creek Stomping Ecology Camp - 4th-6th Grade; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Forest Glen
   Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
21 Creek Stomping Ecology Camp - 4th-6th Grade; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Forest Glen
   Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
22 Forest Glen Preserve Whitetail Archery Deer Hunt Lottery Draw; Forest Glen Gannett Education Center
   For more information, call Cole Craft 217-369-0871
24 Kids Cooking Class - 3rd-5th Grade; 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Forest Glen Gannett Education Center
   Preregistration & fee required, registration form online at vccd.org or at park visitor centers
27 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9 a.m.

August
4 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 7 p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. $1/person Fee
5–10 VCCD Wildlife Display at the Georgetown Fair - Come visit us!
11 VCC Foundation “Cheeseburgers & Fun” at Kennekuk’s Bunker Hill Historic Area.
   Live bands, antique car show & entertainment. Call 442-1691 for details
15 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited

September
1 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 6 p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. $1/person Fee
10 Outdoor School begins at Forest Glen & Kennekuk for 8 weeks for area 4th & 5th graders.
15 Wool Dyeing Demonstration, Forest Glen Homestead Cabin; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free!
19 VCCD Board Meeting at Gannett Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Forest Glen - Public Invited
22 Haunted Happenings Advance Ticket Sales begin at noon, Visitor Center, Kennekuk.
   Sales continue while tickets last! Limited number of tickets available for Haunted Happenings!
22–23 Revolutionary War Re-enactment, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!
23 Pioneer Craft Day, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Homestead Cabin area, Forest Glen. Free!

October
6 Public Hayride at Forest Glen, 6 p.m. Meet at LJK Visitor Center parking lot. $1/person Fee
6 Vermilion County Conservation Foundation Sportsman’s Banquet; 5 p.m.
   Sleepy Creek Vineyard, Oakwood; call 217-442-1691 for ticket information
12 VCCF Board Meeting, Zack Hickman Room at Kennekuk Visitor Center, 9 a.m.
17 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited
20 Haunted Happenings at Kennekuk, gates open at 6 p.m. Tickets required

November
4 Thanksgiving at the Cabin, 1 - 4 p.m., Forest Glen Homestead Cabin area, Free!
14 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited

December
2 Holiday Open House, 2 - 8 p.m. Bunker Hill Historic Area, Kennekuk. Free!
2-31 Holiday Lights at the Bunker Hill Historic Area, each night 5 - 8 p.m. Kennekuk. Free!
5 VCCD Board Meeting at Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 4:30 p.m. Public Invited
7 VCCF Board Meeting, Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, 9 a.m.
We had another amazing year with the VCCD Volunteer Corps in 2017! From our first major event in March with the Maple Syrup Open House to the last event in December with the Holiday Open House, it was a busy year for volunteers! We had volunteers who contributed their time, energy and expertise not only from our own volunteer corps but also from the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Catholic HEART Work Camp Students, Golden K Kiwanis, Vermilion County Retired Teachers Association, Kickapoo Rail Trail Committees and others. Our parks - from events to trails to buildings - could not function without the support from volunteers. The staff of the VCCD is so very grateful for all of your support! Volunteers contributed 1,601 hours in 2017. The estimated value of volunteer time is $24.14/hour which puts our VCCD crew contributing $38,648.14 worth of in-kind time back to us! Amazing!

We still need volunteers for certain areas at the parks, mainly staffing buildings at both Forest Glen and Kennekuk. Our Bunker Hill Historic Area buildings, Forest Glen Nature Center and Homestead Cabin, and the Kennekuk Visitor Center and Environmental Education Center need volunteers on weekend afternoons to keep them open to the public. A Volunteer Fair will be held on Sunday, April 22 to hopefully recruit more building host volunteers - help us spread the word, more information is below!

Mark your calendars now - the summer volunteer appreciation cookout will be held on Sunday, August 26, 2018 at Kennekuk’s White Oak Barn at 5pm. More details to come, but we hope to see everyone there!

For more information on volunteering, please contact Lara Darling at 217-442-1691 or ldarling@vccd.org.

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**VCCD Volunteer Fair**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**1:00pm - 4:00pm**

Kennekuk County Park

at the

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center

Do you like being outdoors and meeting new people? Would you like to become a part of one of the premier park districts in the state? Then make plans to attend the Vermilion County Conservation District’s Volunteer Fair!

At the Volunteer Fair, you will be able to meet with our Volunteer Coordinator to learn about the volunteer opportunities available, including trail stewards, historical building hosts, secretarial, and special event volunteers.

Come out on April 22 to learn how you can begin your journey as a District Volunteer!

For more information, please call Lara Darling at 217-442-1691
Beginning in the fall of 2013, the Conservation District initiated a very limited controlled archery deer hunt to reduce the deer populations at Forest Glen Preserve. The program has continued successfully each year with the offering of lottery and auction hunts. Through these tightly controlled archery hunts we hope to reduce the deer population by 35%. Our goal is certainly not to remove all the deer in the park, but just to bring the numbers into a more manageable level so that the ecosystem that has existed for years and the diversity of life can continue for future generations.

Deer numbers within the park have reached a critical level. Even though there have been no scientific studies to support this, evidence that does exist include:

1. A definite browse line
2. Destruction of certain tree species by bucks rubbing antlers
3. Understory vegetation reductions
4. Increased crop damage in agricultural lands surrounding the park
5. Increased vehicle-deer collisions on roads bordering the park

Goals of the Deer Management Program:

1. Deer reduction – QDM (deer/sq mi & doe/buck ratio)
2. Nature Preserve management (habitat) – birds, trees, wildflowers
3. Education and youth involvement
4. Revenue
5. Provide hunting opportunities
6. Reduce vehicle vs. deer collisions along main roads
7. Reduce crop damage on neighboring agricultural land

There will be two changes to the program this year that will immediately go into effect. The first change is that all zones (excluding the two auction zones) will now be included in the Earn-A-Buck Program. This means that in order to shoot a buck you must first harvest a doe and show proof of your harvest. The second change is that there will be a youth archery season from October 1-7, 2018. All youth hunters must follow state laws and have all necessary permits and licenses required by the IDNR and VCCD. You must be 15 or under to apply for the youth season and be accompanied by an adult when hunting. To apply, youth hunters must fill out the same application that is required of adult hunters. The youth applications will be included in a lottery draw for the youth archery season.

Applications will be available for purchase in late March for archery/crossbow ONLY. Non-refundable lottery for all hunts at $25 per chance or 5 chances for $100. Each hunt is one week long – EXCEPT weeks of Illinois shotgun deer season. The drawing for each hunt will be July 22, 2018 at the Gannett Education Center, Forest Glen. Enter as many times as you like, but each applicant can only be drawn once. If you have questions concerning the program, please contact Cole Craft at 217-662-2142.
"Friends of the District"
Thank you!

Keith Hunter - Donation of microscopes, petri dishes, and equipment for education programs.
Madelle Hegeler - Monetary donation for Conservationist printing and mailing.
Sara Snyder - Monetary donation for educational programming materials and supplies.
James and Janis Kouzmanoff - Monetary donation in honor of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kent Robinson.
John P. Cadle Foundation - Grant for Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.
Mark Orsulak - Monetary donation for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.
Don and Sue Richter - Monetary donation to the VCCD.
Fred and Julie Hughes - Monetary donation to the Bunker Hill Herb Garden. Several new projects are planned for this and upcoming years.
Jeanne Burke - Monetary donation for the Conservation Olympics program.
Brian Wallen - Monetary donation for the VCCD.
Fred Faulstich - Monetary donation for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.
Darby L. Rude - Monetary donation towards trail projects at Forest Glen Preserve.
Daughters of American Revolution, Governor Bradford Chapter - Monetary donation for the Revolutionary War Reenactment event.
Judith Pece - Monetary donation for the VCCD.
Bill Spencer, U of I/Purdue - Monetary donation for the VCCD.
Jeff Binkley - Monetary donation to Lorna J. Konsis Memorial Fund.
Dave Dillman and Cheryl Vergin - Monetary donation for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.
Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation - Monetary donation for constructing a new concession building at Lake Vermilion.
Danville Kiwanis Breakfast Club - Monetary donation for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Balloons Over Vermilion granted the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation $25,000 December 6, 2017, for the Vermilion County portion of the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The Balloons Over Vermilion 2017 Host Class of Jessica Alyea’s students from Northeast Magnet Elementary School and the 2016 Host Class of Tia Peterson’s students from Bismarck-Henning Elementary School presented the check to VCCF Chairman Gordon Thoennes. The KRT and VCCF appreciate the support from the Balloons Over Vermilion Board of Directors for this generous donation!
In Memoriam

David L. Fraley of Danville passed away on March 25, 2017. Dave worked as a patrolman at Kennekuk County Park after his retirement from the Vermilion County Sheriff’s Department.

Frank J. Luzenske of Danville passed away on June 14, 2017 at Hawthorne Inn. Frank routinely did live radio shows for WDAN at our county parks with Mark Pittman and Ken Konsis.

Debra Borgwald of Danville passed away on June 25, 2017 at Carle Regional Health Center in Hoopeston. Deb and her “crew” performed many entertaining scenes on the haunted trail at Haunted Happenings.


Robert G. Miles of Catlin passed away on July 16, 2017 at his home. Bob served on the VCCD Board of Trustees from 2005-2010.

Richard E. Schlecht of Danville passed away on September 16, 2017 at his home. Richard was on the planning committee for the 1998 National Walnut Council Meeting and hosted a field day on his property in Rossville.

Louis L. Mervis of Danville passed away on October 8, 2017. Lou and his wife Sybil were great supporters of the District’s educational programs.

Carlyle V. Alexander of Danville passed away on December 29, 2017 at Hawthorne Inn. Carlyle was a long-time volunteer for the VCCD at many of our special events and as a building host and trail steward.

The following people gave monetary donations in the memory of Lucille Valantas. Thank you all very much; we are greatly touched by this tribute in her name. Donations will be earmarked to Forest Glen Preserve.

Patty and Jim Crossetti
Marian Lutchka and Family
John and Pam Brewer, A.J. and Kevin
John and Marcy Heeren
Mary Basham
The Ronald Hardgrove Family
The Chuck DeBarba Family
Jason Smith
Valantas Family, Mike, Pat, Tom, John, and Marry

World War II Remembrance Days
May 5-6, 2018
Kennekuk County Park’s Bunker Hill Historic Area

Mark your calendars for May 5-6 to attend the WWII reenactment at Kennekuk’s Bunker Hill Historic Area! The event will have many historic displays and activities related to the war. The U.S.O. ladies at the Atwood Home are a perennial favorite serving complimentary cookies and drinks. The reenactors encourage visitors to tour the camps and ask questions. Battle reenactments will take place each day as well. This event is free of charge and a schedule of activities will be available closer to the event. Watch for updates on our website and Facebook page!
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

This camp will introduce young children, ages 3-5, to the natural world, exploring through songs, activities, crafts, and more with a parent or guardian. Each class is organized around a theme and emphasizes active learning through sensory experiences, and movement activities. Children create with art materials, enjoy simple stories, and explore the great outdoors. Toddlers may sign up for one camp or all three. Fee is $5.00 per child per session, due upon registration. Each session is approximately one hour long:

Wonderful Wetlands - June 20 at 10:00am or 2:00pm; June 21 at 10:00am or 2:00pm
We will explore and discover the amazing plants and animals with a short hike to the Kennekuk Marshes.

The Need for Seeds - July 11 at 10:00am or 2:00pm; July 12 at 10:00am or 2:00pm
Kids will explore the different sizes, shapes and smells of seeds and will plant a seed to take home and watch grow!

If you have any questions regarding our camp programs, please call Kennekuk County Park at 217-442-1691. Registration forms are online at www.vccd.org, and at Kennekuk and Forest Glen staff offices.

Toddling Into Nature

Grades K-2nd, June 28, 9:00am - 11:30am
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

We explore the wonderful wetlands of Kennekuk through books, activities, and a nature hike. Kids will get an up-close hands-on aquatic experience with the plants and animals of the wetlands! Fee for camp is $10/child; fee includes activity supplies and snack.

Wonder Bugs

Grades 1st-3rd, June 27, 9:30am - 11:30am
Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

Come out and join us for a Pioneer focused hike in the woods. After arriving at the log cabin each camper will make a candle and everyone will help make an old fashioned sweet treat. Fee is $10/child, due upon registration, fee includes craft and snack.
**Kids Cooking Class**

Grades 3rd-5th, July 24, 9:00am - 12:30pm  
Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

This camp is for kids who want to try their hand at cooking. Campers will take a short walk to the homestead garden to cut herbs for pizza. Back in the kitchen they will create their own pizza and help with making hand-churned ice cream. At lunch everyone gets to eat their handy work and make an ice cream sundae for dessert. Fee is $10/child, due upon registration; Fee includes lunch.

**Science in Nature**

Grades 3rd-5th, June 26, 9:00am - 11:30am  
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

Campers will participate in hands-on science experiments connected with nature to show the fun side of science. Nature will be our laboratory so be sure to wear old clothes! Fee for camp is $10/child; Fee includes activity supplies.

**Creek Stomping Ecology Camp**

Grades 4th-6th, July 19 or July 21, 9:00am - 2:00pm  
Gannett Outdoor Education Center, Forest Glen Preserve

Spend the day getting wet while exploring Willow Creek. Follow our Naturalists on an adventure while searching for aquatic life and observing animal tracks along the way. After eating lunch a hayride will be given back to the Gannett Outdoor Education Center. Participants must bring their own lunch, water bottle, and should wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Fee is $25/child, due upon registration; fee includes snack.

**Photographing Nature**

Grades 5th-10th, July 10, 9:00am - 2:00pm  
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park

Kids who love nature and photography cannot miss this exciting new camp at Kennekuk! This introductory nature photography workshop for kids will cover basic digital camera operation, shot composition, lighting, and more. After lunch, we will go out on a photo nature safari hike to put our new skills to the test. The camp will be instructed by a professional photographer along with a VCCD staff employee. Participants must bring their own digital or point-and-shoot camera, no cell phone cameras allowed; as well as a lunch. Fee is $15/child, due upon registration.

Registration form available on next page, online at www.vccd.org, as well as the Kennekuk County Park and Forest Glen Visitor Centers.
Name: ______________________________________________________

Address, City, Zip: ____________________________________________

Home Phone: ________________________________________________

Daytime/Secondary Phone: _____________________________________

Grade Completed Spring of 2018: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________________

Special information we should know: medications, allergies, etc.: _________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

*If my child should be injured while attending the summer programs, I will be notified. If I cannot be reached, I authorize the VCCD staff to act on my behalf to secure necessary medical treatment for the above child. I understand that payment of any medical expenses is my responsibility.

Parent/Guardian Signature Required          Date

Frequently, the VCCD takes video or photographs of people enjoying programs and special events. These photographs are for VCCD promotions and marketing. They are used at the VCCD’s discretion and become its sole property. If a registered participant wishes to be excluded from any photographs, they may do so in writing to the VCCD or by simply stepping away from the camera.

Please Circle Appropriate Camp Date and Location. All Camp Fees are Non-Refundable.

Don’t forget to include your registration fee with your completed form.

Checks need to be made out to VCCD. Questions, contact Kennekuk County Park, 217-442-1691.

**Toddling Into Nature - Circle Date AND Time**

- $5 – June 20 or June 21  Time: 10am or 2pm (Wonderful Wetlands)
- $5 – July 11 or July 12  Time: 10am or 2pm (The Need for Seeds)

**Wonder Bugs**  
$10 – June 28

**Pioneer Kids Camp**  
$10 – June 27

**Kids Cooking Class**  
$10 – July 24

**Science in Nature**  
$10 – June 26

**Creek Stomping Ecology Camp**  
$25 – July 19 OR July 21

**Photographing Nature**  
$15 – July 10
Support Your Vermilion County Parks
Vermilion County Conservation Foundation
www.vccfoundation.info

The mission of the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation is to support the efforts of the Vermilion County Conservation District through the conservation of our natural resources, improvement of natural and scenic areas, scientific research, support of conservation education to citizens of Vermilion County, Illinois, and maintenance and support of capital projects to promote historical and natural preservation. The Foundation aspires to be an organization which is committed to all natural and wildlife resource conservation activities which ensure future growth, and scenic enhancements for public use. If you would like to join us, please use the form below, selecting the level of membership that is right for you.

$25  Regular
$50  Supporting
$100  Patron
$1,000 Life - Payable in up to four installments, if preferred

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ___________________________  Email: ____________________________________________________

Enclose this form with your tax-deductible check payable to VCCF and send to:
VCCF c/o Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 E. 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883