

37th Annual Festival of Spring

An Earth Day Celebration

Co-sponsored by DECATUR AUDUBON SOCIETY and
MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ROCK SPRINGS CONSERVATION AREA, 3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018
8am-4pm

Canoeing \$2/person, Pony Rides \$3/child, all other activities are FREE

BIRD BANDING - Information Shelter, north of the parking lot, **8am-10am**

Dr. Travis Wilcoxin, from Millikin University, will host a bird banding event in the area near the pavilions. Learn about banding and see local song birds in person and up close.

SPRING MIGRATION WALK - Information Shelter, north of the parking lot, **8am-9am**

Join a knowledgeable Audubon guide for a walk on the trails in search of early spring migrants as well as birds who are in Central Illinois year round. Spring is a wonderful time to discover new birds. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours.

SANGAMON RIVER CLEAN UP – Information Shelter, **Register at 9:30am, clean up runs 10am-12pm**

Help make the river a safer and more beautiful place for people and wildlife. Dress to get dirty and **bring your own gloves** if you can. Garbage bags and a few gloves will be available. Families and individuals welcome! **Organized groups are required to preregister by calling 217-423-7708.** Sponsored by Macon County Conservation District and Community Environmental Council.

FOOD & DRINKS, Information Shelter, **12pm-3pm**

Sandwiches, drinks, and snacks are available for purchase at the Information Shelter, on the north end of the main parking lot.

All remaining activities are 12-4pm, unless otherwise noted:

TICKETS TO TREASURES, Rock Springs Nature Center, East entrance and at activity stops

Kids ages 12 and under are invited to get a ticket and have it marked while visiting various activity stops. Children will be awarded a prize when they turn in their ticket. Free and available at all activities marked with TREASURE STOP.

CANOE RODEO, Cattail Ponds

Learn how to get in and out of a canoe, learn paddling strokes, and safety tips. **\$2/person.** Register and pay at the Cattail Ponds. Recommended for adults and children age 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

DIP & SCOOP, Cattail Ponds

Visit the Cattail Ponds to discover the aquatic life that thrives below the surface. Nets and buckets are provided to dip and scoop up some fun!

WEB OF LIFE GAME, Pavilion 1, near the woods (TREASURE STOP)

Children can pretend to be an animal and try to stay alive. Prizes will be awarded and kids will have fun as they play this environmental game. Provided by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

PAINTING NATURE WITH NATURE, Pavilion 2, near the pond (TREASURE STOP)

Create your own art as you paint with nature's natural palette: flower petals, leaves, stems, and charcoal. For all ages. Provided by Decatur Audubon.

PONY RIDES, Picnic Area, 1pm to 4pm

Children can enjoy a ride on a real pony led by an experienced handler from Shiloh Stables. **\$3/child.** Register and pay at the picnic area.

RIBBON CUTTING for NEW PLAYGROUND, Picnic Area, 1pm

Join us for the grand opening of the new nature themed playground at Rock Springs Conservation Area. Funded by generous donors through the Macon County Conservation Foundation. Afterwards, enjoy exploring this new attraction.

OPEN HOUSE at HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM & WOODSHOP (TREASURE STOP)

Tour the homestead and woodshop. Meet historical interpreters in period clothing and learn how people lived and survived in the 1800s. Children and adults can try historic games.

PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE ANTIQUE MARBLES, Homestead Prairie Farm

See a variety of antique marbles. Learn how marbles were, and still are, popular toys.

MUSIC, Homestead Prairie Farm, 2-3:30pm

Enjoy some gospel music played by local group, Cross Country Classics.

BABY FARM ANIMALS, Homestead Prairie Farm

Visit with baby chicks, turkeys and ducklings. These traditional barnyard animals are available thanks to Rural King.

BUZZING BEES & HONEY, Homestead Prairie Farm

Honey bees provide us with much more than honey. Apples, cucumbers, soybeans, peaches, sunflowers, and more. Some say honeybees are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat. The Sangamon Valley Beekeepers Association will help you discover the wonder of this little insect that plays a key role in our lives every day.

FISH OF LAKE DECATUR, Homestead Prairie Farm

Visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources boat to learn about fish collected directly from Lake Decatur.

ROCK HOUND ROUND-UP, Rock Springs Nature Center, East Lawn

Children 12 and under can dig for buried treasure. Discover crystals, fossils, agates, and more to take home. Limit three per child.

TEMPORARY TATTOOS & CHALK ART, Rock Springs Nature Center, East Lawn
Stop by for a temporary tattoo or two, and create your own art with sidewalk chalk.

WAGON RIDES, Rock Springs Nature Center, South entrance, **12-3:30pm**
Wagon rides will be available every half hour starting at noon and continuing until 3:30pm. Sign up for your FREE tickets at the Information Island inside the nature center.

BIRDS & BLOSSOMS HIKE, Rock Springs Nature Center, West entrance deck, **1-1:30pm**
Join a naturalist for a guided hike through the forest and prairie. We'll examine spring wildflowers and look and listen for migratory birds. Binoculars provided.

DULCIMER CLUB, Rock Springs Nature Center, East Conference Room, **12-2pm**
Enjoy local musicians as they practice for future concerts. Dulcimers, guitar, penny flute, harp and autoharp.

ILLINOIS RAPTOR CENTER WILD BIRD SHOW, Rock Springs Nature Center, Auditorium, **12pm, 1:30pm, and 3pm**
You will never forget the first time you see a hawk, owl, or falcon right in front of you. Meet these predatory birds while you learn how they survive in the wild habitats of Central Illinois. Seating is limited, so don't miss this incredible show of beauty and force.

FEISTY & FRIENDS, Rock Springs Nature Center, Children's Awareness Room
Visit a lovable ferret and his reptilian friends. Hoggy the snake and Boxy the turtle will entertain and educate you about their fascinating lives.

MONARCH MURAL CHALLENGE, Rock Springs Nature Center, Upper Level Conference Room
Pick a square to color on our 32 piece monarch mural. Once the mural is completed, we will assemble it and display it in the Nature Center.

MAKE A PINECONE BIRD FEEDER, Rock Springs Nature Center, North Exhibit Hall **(TREASURE STOP)**
Children can make a simple pinecone bird feeder to take home, while parents learn about backyard birds from a bird expert with the Decatur Audubon Society.

ILLINOIS BICENTIAL: A MACON COUNTY STORY, Rock Springs Nature Center, North Exhibit Hall
Explore Macon County's story, from early settlement and Lincoln's connection, to local industry and sports.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON BLAZER, Rock Springs Nature Center, North Gallery
Enjoy photos of backyard animals and landscapes by this talented local photographer.

ART BY TRACY MARAS, Rock Springs Nature Center, South Gallery
Connect with and develop a sense of wonder for the world around you through works in pastels depicting flowers, animals, and natural landscapes.

EXHIBITS & BOOTHS

PLANT EXCHANGE, Rock Springs Nature Center, South Lobby, **12pm until plants are gone**

Bring plants you can spare and trade them for others. Donations are welcome if you would like a plant but have none to trade. By Decatur Audubon Society.

BOOK EXCHANGE, Rock Springs Nature Center, South Lobby, **12pm until books are gone**

Bring books to exchange. You're not limited to environmental and birding books, but those types of books would be good to bring. Clear your shelves of unwanted books! No books to trade? Leave a donation for the books you take. By Decatur Audubon Society.

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION, Rock Springs Nature Center, Main Lobby

Browse camp activities for ages 1-15 at Rock Springs Conservation Area this summer. Options range from single day camps to full day, all week day camps with optional before and after care (7am-6pm). Swimming and field trips included.

DECATUR AUDUBON SOCIETY, Rock Springs Nature Center, North Exhibit Hall

Co-sponsor of the Festival of Spring, Audubon is not "just for the birds." Discover more about this organization and stop by to receive a free Illinois Bats poster.

MASTER GARDENERS, Rock Springs Nature Center, Activity Room **(TREASURE STOP)**

We can help you plan your vegetable and flower gardens. Children can "Plant a Seed" and take it home to watch it grow. Sponsored by University of Illinois Extension.

GLACIER'S EDGE MASTER NATURALISTS, Nature Center, Orientation Room **(TREASURE STOP)**

Explore our collection of skulls. Try to match the headgear with the animal pelt it belongs to, and learn more about the Master Naturalist program. Sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension.

RESTORATION STATION, Picnic Area

How does the Macon County Conservation District manage thousands of acres of natural areas and wildlife habitat? Check out the equipment we use and meet the Natural Resources staff. Discover how you can make a difference by volunteering.

MERCY GARDENS, Picnic Area

Discover how you can grow your own garden, pick up plants to get started, and learn how to be a part of Mercy Gardens. All plants have been grown by the Mercy Gardens students.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, Picnic Area

Learn more about this organization which promotes conservation, preservation, restoration, and environmental awareness in Macon County. Co-sponsor of Sangamon River Clean-up. Kids will enjoy a special activity. Free reusable bags for the first 100 visitors.

FRIENDS OF LINCOLN TRAIL HOMESTEAD STATE PARK, Picnic Area

Discover this new organization which is working to bring historic preservation and environmental restoration of the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park. We aim to engage the public through trail and river access, historic and environmental educational programs, and site enhancement. Kids can participate in a special Lincoln activity.

MACON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT, Picnic Area

Kids can learn about watershed health by using the Enviroscope, a micro table top community that shows how water moves throughout a town, and how we can keep it clean as it moves through fields, parking lots and homes before winding up in our streams and lakes.

DECATUR BICYCLE CLUB & DECATUR BICYCLE SHOP, Picnic Area

See how you can be a member and learn what is planned for the season. You can also find out about the Decatur Bicycle Shop. They not only sell used and new bicycles but provide repair services and supplies.

SUSTAIN OUR NATURAL RESOURCES (SONA), Picnic Area

This new organization is working to make Macon County a place where citizens and visitors thrive from the benefits provided by protected and nurtured open spaces and natural areas. Learn how trees and forests are important. Seedling redbud trees will be given to the first 100 families who can give them a good home!

THE SIERRA CLUB, Picnic Area

Founded by legendary conservationist John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club is now the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Learn more about this important conservation organization and how you can become a part.

DUCKS UNLIMITED, Picnic Area

DU is the world's Leader in Wetland & Waterfowl Conservation: 14 million acres and counting. Its mission is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. Learn how you can help.

IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE, Picnic Area

For nearly 100 years, the Izaak Walton League has fought for clean air and water, healthy fish, and wildlife habitat, and conserving special places for future generations. Learn about our local chapter.

Learn more

Decatur Audubon Society - www.decaturnaudubon.org

Macon County Conservation District - www.maconcountyconservation.org

Community Environmental Council - www.maconcec.org

University of Illinois Extension - <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state>

Friends of Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park - www.lincolntailhomesteadstatepark.com

Additional sponsors

Community Environmental Council

Golden K Kiwanis

Glacier's Edge Master Naturalists

Save the Date

The next Festival of Spring will be Saturday, April 20, 2019