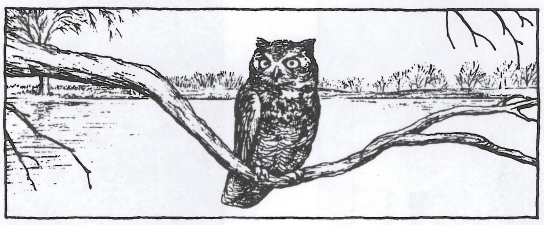
Hi Bob.
Got those articles in the "cloud" yet?
Happy New Year
Mark

STILLMAN NATURE CENTER



October, 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Stillman Nature Center,

The Stillman Nature Center really hit its stride in 2010. Given that the nature center owes its success to individual contributors, such as you, we thought we'd fill you in on a sampling of Stillman's accomplishments. If you're new to Stillman, our property is an 80-acre preserve located on the south side of Penny Road in South Barrington, and our principal mission is hands-on environmental education.

During the week the nature center offers programs for groups such as school classes and garden clubs. For example, all of Barrington District 220's first grade classes (see other side) came to Stillman this past spring while Schaumburg High School classes visited this autumn.

We also do educational demonstrations using our permanently-injured birds of prey. The hawks and owls have certainly made the rounds this year from nearby Lake Arlington up to Zion-Benton High School and down to the Garfield Park Conservatory. The Stillman raptors include a turkey vulture, peregrine falcon, broad-winged and red-shouldered hawks plus great horned, barn, and screech owls. Your donations help buy food such as mice, rats, and quail to keep the birds and our off-site offerings humming.

Speaking of birds of prey, we've had three Eagle Scout projects completed this year. As the picture indicates, Ryan Panasy engineered a beautiful boardwalk for our Goldfinch Trail. Kyle Darch spread chips over the Lakeside Trail and cleared brush along our east fence line. Last but not least, Arun Jayaraman constructed a sturdy woodshed. The Boy Scouts celebrated their 100th year in 2010. Kudos to Ryan, Kyle, and Arun and the time-honored scouting traditions they have shared with us at Stillman.

As you suggested

As always, volunteers and college student interns continue to clear trails, remove buckthorn, clean cages, water saplings, and collect seeds for our wildflower plantings. Both the woods and the prairie put on colorful shows this year.

Anyone can stop by free of charge on Sunday to see our flowers and raptors, hike the trails, or just enjoy the different seasons. Stillman is an independent nature center which is privately funded and receives no tax monies. We count on fundraising events and your support to keep our 80-acre center going.

To become or continue as a member of the Stillman Nature Center, please fill out and return the enclosed card with your check. With membership comes a quarterly newsletter which includes informative nature articles and a list of upcoming events and workshops. If you are feeling particularly generous, consider a $250 donation. At this amount, we will include a limited edition night-heron print by Nancy Fortunato. For details on this offer or to learn more about Stillman, go to www.stillmannc.org. No matter what amount suits you, many thanks for your commitment to the Stillman Nature Center.

With very best wishes,

Susan Allman
President

Mark Spreyer
Executive Director

Karen Lund
Membership Chair

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First graders "log in" along the Lakeside Trail.

Thanks to Ryan Panasy, there will be no more muddy shoes when hiking the Goldfinch Trail.

Arun Jayaraman and a crew of scouts raise the roof for the new woodshed.

The completed woodshed. We had nearly 60 people attend our first campfire in September. We've been busy filling the woodshed this fall.