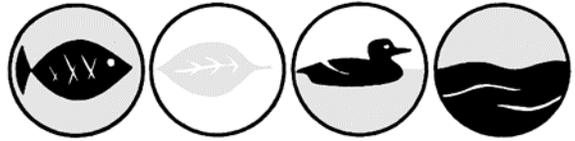


N.I.C.C.



September 2014 Newsletter



NICC is proud to work with local Scout Troops by providing them with resources necessary to achieve the requirements for their merit and achievement badges. This year we have 2 Eagle Scout projects, and one Hornaday Award.

Eagle Projects

Picnic table fundraiser

Justin Ehrenhofer of Troop 323 in Lake Villa, chose his project to construct new picnic tables replacing all the well worn ones. He has come up with the idea to make it a fundraiser. Individual donors are given the opportunity depending on their donation, to be recognized on our website up to \$50 or more: Text recognition on NICC website flyer, for \$100 or more: Logo recognition on NICC website flyer, \$200 or more: Brass plaque on picnic table with donors name. With the money donated he will be able to purchase the needed lumber and supplies. If you would like to make a donation you can contact Justin at 847-270-7885 or 224-938-0524

Fire Bowl

Thomas Even of Scout troop 92 here in Antioch, completed his Eagle project on Saturday, August 30. Some time ago, he came out to the property to see what areas were in need of restoration. His decision was to restore the area around the fire pit in the woods where scouts use to hold meetings and ceremonies. He planned and organized to have plenty of help. 30 workers helped unload several truckloads of wood chips to make trails to the entrance of the fire pit from the parking area, around the fire pit and a new trail leading out the back of the fire pit. They cleared debris from the area and then lined all of the trails and the fire pit area with fallen trees and branches.

What a beautiful site! He also built a shed for firewood. There is a stand for the water barrel donated by Butch Zehren a member of NICC to be used for future bonfires.

Hornaday Award

Bat Houses

Ben Nagelhout member of Crew 92 in Antioch. Ben came out to the property realizing many of the old bat houses were weathered and in disrepair. He then decided to use this opportunity for his project. This is not an Eagle project, this is for an award in scouts known as the Hornaday Award, a very rare feat in scouts as few youth in the program earn it each year. It's named after William T Hornaday who assisted in pushing for the US to set aside areas of land which are now some of our most famous national parks. In his honor, the scouting program created this environmental award. To apply, a scout has to submit 4 environmental projects of Eagle Project caliber and their own Eagle Project can count towards that as well. Once complete, the scout submits the package of documents showing the planning and such to the national council who will decide if they earned it or not. Ben does not belong to a troop because I aged out at 18, so currently he is a member of a venturing crew. The venturing program is another program within scouts meant for older boys and girls, you will see them with green uniforms instead of khaki.

Create some brush piles now and watch your local wildlife thrive!

Autumn is the best time of the year to create some brush piles for the birds in your backyard. Fall trimmings can be piled up in a corner or along the edge of the yard, where it will give ground-inhabiting birds additional cover against winter weather and predators.

About half the birds that we feed in our backyards spend much of their lives on the ground nesting, roosting and in search of food. Piles of brush are ideal protective cover for resident and migrating white-throated, white-crowned, and fox sparrows. Song sparrows, tree sparrows, and field sparrows all visit backyards, and should benefit from brush pile cover. Dark-eyed juncos, towhees, winter wrens, quail, pheasants, and ground doves, also spend a great deal of their lives on the ground, and seek the kind of cover in backyards that brush piles offer.

An evergreen tree that has been cut down will also make excellent cover for ground inhabiting birds when the tree is laid on its side along a fence row or in a corner of the yard. Discarded Christmas trees give the same kind of cover. Even piles of rocks and logs will furnish some cover for birds during cold weather or when there is a threat from predators.

So, next weekend, take a look around your yard for pruning and clipping opportunities. Not only will a little trimming improve the appearance of the yard, but it will also help a few birds and other wildlife survive the winter.

The above article from eNature.com Sept. 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sept 8** General/Board Meeting-----7 pm
- Sept 14** Trap Shoot-----10 am – 2 pm
- Oct 4** Adopt-A-Highway-----10 am
- Oct 13** General/Board Meeting-----7 pm

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY - OCTOBER 4, 2014 This is our 13th year to volunteer for Adopt-A-Highway in Lake County. We have been assigned the stretch of road between Rts 59 and 83 on Grass Lake Road. Come on out and join us to see who collects the most unusual item. All volunteers are asked to meet at 10 am at Triangle Sports & Marine just west of Rt. 83.

TRAP SHOTS – SEPTEMBER 14 & NOVEMBER 2

There's going to be a trap shoot on Sunday, September 14 and Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 am – 2 pm. Bring your own gun and ammunition. No need to register in advance. Children under 18 yrs. must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

WE WELCOME A NEW MEMBER Janet Lyons