

2010 SFEA Good Neighbor *Outdoor Club Calendar of Events*

For More Event Information Contact:

[SFEA-OutdoorClub-Officers-HR-HOME](#), [Steve Sewell](#) 309-763-2630, or [Gordon Larsen](#) 309-735-6456

Lunch and Learns: For most months there will be learning events held over the lunch hour on work days. These will be held at Corporate North and/or Corporate South. Details will be announced to Outdoor Club members typically through a calendar invite, weekly event update, or the club's news letter. There are several topics in the works or options to consider including but not limited to: Geocaching, Canoe Basics, GPS Mapping Software Demo, fishing topics, variety of travel destinations like parks and historic sites, Food Dehydrations, RV Camping, Tent Camping, Boating, Plant and Wildlife Identification, First Aid, Outdoor Photography Hints and Tips, Boating, Wind Power, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Wii Bass Fishing, etc. Topics are only limited to an outdoor theme and suggestions received by our membership.

NOTE: Dates and times below are subject to change by circumstances and participants. Any changes as well as any additional events will be communicated to members.

January

Outdoor Club Event (1/23): *Hiking at Starved Rock.* The hiking trails at [Starved Rock State Park](#) can lead you to large frozen water falls. Also this activity will coincide with the Eagle Watch Weekend(1/23 - 24; 9:00am to 5:00pm) which is hosted by the Illinois Audubon Society. Free lectures & exhibits on "Birds of Prey" at the Lodge. Eagle viewing from the Veranda, so bring your binoculars! Raptor awareness presentations at 10am, Noon, 2 & 4 by the World Bird Sanctuary feature birds of prey including a bald eagle. Also available just on the other side of the river from Starved Rock is the indoor water park at [Grizzly Jacks](#). (Contact [Sharron Baird](#), 309-212-3534)

February

Outdoor Club Event (2/25; 5:30pm-8:30pm; 2/18 Sign-up deadline): *Winter Party.* Don't miss this year's party because the guest speaker is professional fisherman Terry Brown, the president of Get Outside Media, LLC! There also will be a gourmet dinner catered by Longhorn Smokehouse, door prizes, outdoor equipment exchange, crafts for the kids and fun for the adults, all at the popular State Farm Beach House. (Contact [Gordon Larsen](#), 309-735-6456 or [Steve Sewell](#), 309-763-2630)

March

Outdoor Club Event (3/??): *Local Hike TBA* (Contact [Lisa Apple](#), 309-846-7670 or [Sharron Baird](#), 309-212-3534)

April

Outdoor Club Event (4/23-25): *Camping at Weldon Springs State Park.* The Outdoor Club's first camping trip of the season will be at [Weldon Springs State Park](#) which offers diverse and year-round recreational opportunities. Weldon Springs' is among the most comprehensive in the state park system and offers during the milder seasons opportunities to fish, boat, picnic, camp, hike, and view wildlife. Also there is a tournament-quality horseshoe pits. If you would like to camp as a group, request a campsite in the Lakeview Hill Campgrounds. There is also easy access to water. (Contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 or [Amy DeValle](#), 309-763-7222)

May

Outdoor Club Education (5/1; 4/13 Sign-up deadline): *Child/Adult Fishing Clinic at State Farm Park.* This is a great opportunity if you have, or know of, children that are either already interested in fishing or you would like to introduce them to fishing. Topics will include: All about fish, Safety and catching fish, Fishing regulations and conservation as well as Fishing equipment and setup. There will also be a fish touch tank. Many volunteer fishermen will be available for assistance to help adults help their child partner. So please sign-up early because this has been a very popular clinic in the past and the number of participants is limited. (Contact [Ben Dittmar](#), 309-838-8315 or [Lenny Tolonen](#), 309-766-8903)

Outdoor Club Event Weekend (5/21-5/23): TWO EVENTS IN ONE!

(5/21-5/23): *Camping with Outdoor Cooking Demos at Comlara Park.* [Comlara Park](#) is one of the club's favorite local campgrounds with good space between sites and lots of other things to offer. During this camping trip several demonstrations have been planned on camp cooking techniques including the use of a dutch oven. Also this camping trip has been scheduled to coincide with the Outdoor Club's sponsored Guided Bass and Crappie Fishing on nearby Evergreen Lake. The park offers in person reservations on Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 a.m., the order in which reservations will be made is determined by a midnight lottery the night of Friday, April 2 at the park Visitor Center. Tickets for the lottery will be handed out starting at 11:00 p.m. Friday night. Phone in reservations can be made starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 5th. (Camping contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 or [Amy DeValle](#), 309-763-7222; Outdoor Cooking contact [Jim Meizelis](#))

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(5/22–5/23; 4/30 Sign-up deadline): Guided Bass and Crappie Fishing on Evergreen Lake by professional fishermen and seminar speaker, Jim Kopjo. This activity is back by popular demand and Jim will have up to three boats available this year to accommodate the additional interest. (Contact [Lenny Tolonen](#), 309-766-8903 or [Steve Sewell](#), 309-763-2630)

June

Outdoor Club Event (6/4–6/6): Camping at Moraine View State Park with Panning for Gold Demos and day trip(s) to the Kickapoo Pow-Wow. While camping at [Moraine View State Park](#) (Dawson Lake) one or more day trips will be planned to attend the [Kickapoo Pow-Wow](#) located just down the road at Grand Village near Le Roy, Illinois. Pow-wow activities include Dancing, Handmade Jewelry, Children's Activities, Food, and View the Buffalo Herd. Moraine View Park itself has several things to offer such as hiking, horseback riding, swimming, boating, and fishing on the 158-acre lake.

Also while camping at Moraine View State Park there will be demonstrations presented by Rod Hawkins on Panning for Gold. Additionally, there will also be displays set up for viewing the equipment that is utilized for the panning for Gold process. A one-hour DVD demonstrating methods of prospecting/placer mining will be playing when an active demonstration is not taking place. A demonstration time will be held in the morning (10:00 a.m.) and afternoon (2:00 p.m.) to help accommodate everyone's availability.

It is highly recommended to reserve your campsite by **April 30th** due to the Pow Wow event. Reservations can only be made via mail. Gander Bay Campground is available for reservations. Please use the form below to make your reservation. (Contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 or [Amy DeValle](#), 309-763-7222)

Outdoor Club Event (6/11–6/13; 4/9 Sign-up deadline): Bear Paw Canoe/Kayak Wolf River Adventure.

This adventure includes at least one guide, equipment, and lunch on the river. A variety of watercrafts offered as part of the equipment included. Depending on river conditions Sunday will be more for beginners to intermediate experience (class I & II). Saturday will be for mostly intermediate (class I, II, III). Anyone in our group can sign up for one or both days of the river adventure. Tent camping and cabins available through [Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort](#), RV camping at nearby grounds. Great fishing available on the Wolf River and other activities available in the area. Come early or stay later by extending your weekend on one or both ends to enjoy many other local activities or just relax. According to Bear Paw's schedule they have a Family Kayaking Camp planned for the Wed -Fri before our planned weekend. (Contact [Gordon Larsen](#), 309-735-6456 or [Steve Sewell](#), 309-763-2630)

July

Outdoor Club Event (7/9 – 7/10): Camping at Comlara Park(2010 Pick-a-Campsite Contest Winner).

Join the Outdoor Club for its mid-season camping trip to [Comlara Park](#). You don't want to miss this trip considering a Fishing Contest and a Scavenger Hunt are being planned! There may even be small prizes offered for the winners of those participating in either event! Camping Reservations will need to be made individually by contacting the McLean County Parks & Recreation at (309)726-2022 or in person at the office at Comlara Park. **Camping reservations at Comlara are strongly encouraged to be made ASAP** since the spots fill up quickly in this very desirable campground. Camping fees vary on type of site you select. Visit <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/Parks/Camping.htm> for details. (Contact [Amy DeValle](#)(QPGT), 309-763-7222 or [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457)

August

Outdoor Club Service (8/17 – 8/19): Club Display at August SFEA Dinner. Set-up table and faux campsite at SFEA Dinner to raise club awareness and support.

Outdoor Club Event (8/27 – 8/29; 5/30 Sign-up deadline – see update below): [Camping at Pearl Lake](#)

[Campground.](#) [Pearl Lake Campground](#) is just 2 hours away in South Beloit, IL near the Wisconsin border. Camping at Pearl Lake is an enjoyable experience, whether you spend a weekend, a month or all season. If you are a camper who enjoys peace and quiet, Pearl Lake is the place for you. Secluded, wooded sites; 24 hour security; horseshoe area; paddle boat rental; groceries; camping supplies; snack bar and cocktail lounge; casual dining at [Pearl Lake Restaurant](#); fishing; [SCUBA Diving](#) for those certified. (Camping contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 or [Amy DeValle](#), 309-763-7222)

Deadline Update: Even though the deadline has passed, there are still campground sites available. Please contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 as soon as possible if you are interested.

September

Outdoor Club Event (9/28): Outdoor Club Summer Gathering/Cookout. Come out and meet other fellow club members at the West Wing of the large State Farm Park shelter! Plan to arrive at 5:30 PM when the Grilling starts and enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, and a presentation! Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share. The club will be providing the meat, condiments, and tableware. (Contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457)

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October

Outdoor Club Contest (1st Deadline of 10/4): 2010 Photo Contest – 1st deadline. Time for our 9th annual photo contest. This very popular contest will be just as much fun as always. Quality prizes will soon be purchased for those winning categories. There will be 6 categories that you can enter up to two photos. Each member of your family is a member of the SFEA Outdoor Club. Each can enter photos if you'd like. Reminisce through those cool vacation photos and other photo opportunities you've encountered *this year and any time last year*. Also think about or be on the lookout for a photo you'd like to take and enter. Remember we are looking for photos with an outdoor theme of some kind. For details see flyers located on this same webpage. (Contact [John M. Bare](#), 309-766-8790)

Outdoor Club Event (10/8-10/10; 4/8 Sign-up deadline – see update below): Camping at Sugar Creek Campground during the Covered Bridge Festival. This retreat will make a great way to end the camping season! [Sugar Creek Campground](#) is located 3 miles from Turkey Run State Park and Sugar Creek Canoe Rentals. Sugar Creek Campground has modern, primitive, group sites, and tent options available for camping. There are no tent regulations per site and you may have as many people in tents as you would like. Sugar Creek Campground offers a playground, Volleyball and other activities during your camping stay.

This trip is planned to coincide with the Covered Bridge Festival held during the first two weekends of October. Be prepared for flea markets, covered bridges, canoeing, hiking, and horseback riding. For those camping at Sugar Creek Campground you can still participate in the activities at Turkey Run State Park. Some activities at Turkey Run that you can participate in are horseback riding, trails, and a hayride. There will be a \$7.00 Park Entry for Turkey Run State Park at the Gatehouse of the Park.

There will be a potluck Saturday evening for all club members who wish to participate. Fee of \$20.00 per night is required. The reservation deadline has passed. However, for anyone still interested in attending the event, please contact Sugar Creek Campground directly to determine the availability of campsites. (Contact [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 or [Amy DeValle](#), 309-763-7222)

Deadline Update: The deadline for this event has passed but if you are still interested, you can contact the campground directly to check for availability. If any are available please send the funds directly to the campground and please send the form to [Tim Berndt](#), 651-983-0457 as soon as possible.

November

Outdoor Club Contest (11/1): 2010 Photo Contest – 2nd and Absolute deadline.

Outdoor Club Event (11/??) Local Hike TBA. (Contact [Lisa Apple](#), 309-846-7670 or [Sharron Baird](#), 309-212-3534)

December

Outdoor Club Contest (12/??): 2010 Photo Contest – People's Choice Voting.