



Greetings from the Black River State Forest! This is the fourth in a series of articles celebrating the State Forest's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When we first were discussing how we wanted to commemorate this milestone one of the things that was decided upon was more naturalist programs and special events for the public. From the turnout at our two April events I am happy to say this has been well received.

The first naturalist event of the season was a Frog Night Hike. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 29 people visited three different sites in the forest to listen to frog mating calls. Just as birds sing for mates so do frogs. There are 11 species of frogs in Wisconsin and four can be heard in the Black River State Forest. The group heard three species that night and from all accounts thoroughly enjoyed the event.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> the State Forest hosted an Earth Day clean up and Forest Fair event. The event was cosponsored by the Friends of the Black River, UW-Extension, and the Black River Falls School District. The morning was spent picking up garbage that had been illegally dumped on the property. The afternoon included the unveiling of a new interpretive kiosk at the start of the Castle Mound nature trail, a guided hike of the trail, and an urban tree planting and care session.

Thank you to all who helped that day with either the clean up or the event. Illegal dumping continues to be a problem on the State Forest. Almost every week we identify a new area where trash has been dumped. The types of trash found include appliances, old furniture, tires, and bags of household garbage. Sometimes we are able to track the garbage back to its source and issue a hefty citation. This is the second year of the clean up event. Hopefully, with more attention drawn to this problem the need for this event will diminish.

Several naturalist events are planned for the month of May. There will be two spring wildflower hikes at Perry Creek. These will be on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. On Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 AM there will be an early morning bird hike at Dike 17. On Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM there will be a guided nature hike at the Castle Mound nature trail.

Additional events are planned throughout the summer. Some events require pre registration. For additional information on these please call us at (715) 284-1403 or visit our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/StateForests/SF-BlackRiver/> and look under the education/interpretation link.