



Thirteen Lines

News and Notes from the LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation

spring 2016

“What did you see outside?” Don’t ask me that question unless you really want to know because I will tell you and it might take a while. Some days are so incredible it might be shorter to answer “what did you not see?”

Outside is good for us. Greenspace or natural places are proven to calm and soothe. Concentration improves and stress releases when taking deliberate visits to nature. Some claim healing, literal and figurative, occurs when spending time in wild settings.

There is more than enough evidence to support the notion that we should spend more time outside. I suggest that you not be content to just “BE” outside, but go deeper. Commune, participate, observe, converse, listen, touch. Make a deliberate attempt to be a part of the living system you are in, rather than just a guest. I think the worst thing you can do is go into a habitat only thinking about yourself and what you can take.

Soon summer is going to spring from winter and it is nearly sensory overload for one like me. Once the big thaw starts, every day for weeks can present something new. There will be a bug, flower, frog, bird, leaf, and so on, that was not present the day before. This time of year I literally write days into my schedule to hide in the woods and be a part of it. (You should too!)

Sometimes I will ask a walker leaving a trail “what did you see today?” I hate the answer “nuthin’.” It’s all I can do to not burst out with “HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY SEE NOTHING OUT THERE!!!” If you cultivate your senses of awe and wonder and connectedness, there is always something to discover, or explore, or re-visit.

When I ask you “what did you see today?” I hope you can report a few things to me. I also hope you can respond “I met an old friend.” It’s good for you.

Naturally,

Scott Beam, LaGrange County Interpretive Naturalist





Maple Syrup Days March 19-20

Celebrate the annual Maple Syrup harvest

I know you can feel it, maple syrup season is just around the corner. Soon we will hang buckets and dance from tree to tree to gather the sweetest of sap.

Maple syrup season is worth celebrating and that is what we do.

Maple Syrup Days, our syrup harvest festival is March 19-20 at Maple Wood Nature Center. South Milford Lions serve pancakes from 7:00-2:30.



There's much more to experience than the meal. We show three different ways to make maple syrup; how we used to do it, how we do it now, and how you can do it at home.

Horse wagons carry visitors into the maple

woods to see the tapped maples. Interpreters introduce you to the trees and explain their life cycle. Tours through the woods and through the Sugar House are 8:00-3:00.

There will also be fresh popped kettle corn, maple games, and hourly shows by the Maple Marionettes.

Dress warmly to spend as much time as possible outside and enjoy all Maple Syrup Days has to offer.



Call for Sappers

Volunteers are valuable when it is sap gathering time. We keep a call list to alert volunteer sappers when the buckets are nearly full.

Do you want to be a part of our gathering team? Contact Maple Wood Nature Center, 463-4022.

We can give you more details and add you to the call list. You can also follow Maple Wood's facebook page where upcoming sap gathers will be posted.



Maple Syrup Programs

Maple Wood Nature Center hosts tours for Maple Syrup Making. Feb 23 – Mar 16. School and Senior tours are available.

Space is limited.

Request the Maple Syrup Making letter call or email LaGrange County Parks (260) 854-2225

lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com.



Sap Run 5K

Friends of LaGrange County Parks is hosting a syrup season 5K run and 1 mile walk.

Saturday, March 12, at 9 a.m. Packet pick-up starts at 8:30 a.m.

If you pre-register participants get a T-shirt, meal ticket for Maple Syrup Days, and a souvenir sized bottle of maple syrup.

The walk includes a digital scavenger hunt. Bring your camera or phone and snap photos of the listed items.

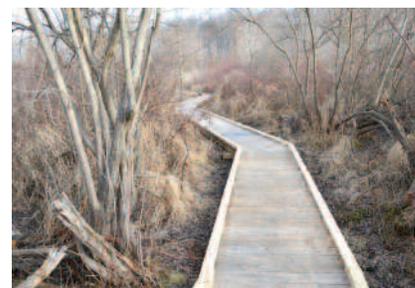
Cost for the Sap Run is \$25 adults, \$20 kids (11 and under)

Proceeds from the Sap Run will be applied to the fen restoration project at Pine Knob Park. Friends of LaGrange County Parks welcomes shirt sponsors. Get your name on a t-shirt, \$50. Register at the Friends facebook page.

Dallas Lake Trail Opening

There is a new trail in the Parks. Dallas Lake Park has added a 1.8 mile hiking trail. The trailhead starts from the Park Office parking lot. You can also access the trail from beach parking or the playground. The walk loops around Pond Lil and travels through marsh, oak forest, savanna, and along Dallas Lake.

The official trail opening is April's Patchwork Trails walk, Saturday, April 22, 1:30 p.m.



Patchwork Trails



Patchwork Trails is a walking program cooperative with LaGrange County Library and LaGrange County Parks. The complete 2016 walking schedule is still being finalized, but here are some of the upcoming featured walks.

Dallas Lake Park
Topeka Rock Walk
Parkview LaGrange

Par-Gil Trails
Shipshewana Mural Walk
Howe Cemetery



Hunter Safety Class

Hunter Safety is the state required curriculum that must be passed before obtaining an Indiana hunting license.

Participants must bring pencils and a lunch. Hunter Safety Class is no charge, expenses are paid with each hunting license sold in Indiana. Registration is required.

Register on-line at <http://register-ed.com/events/view/75209>. Other questions regarding hunting seasons and hunter eligibility can be answered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, in.gov/dnr or Indiana Conservation Officers at 260-244-3720.

• **April 2, Saturday 9:30-4:00 and 4, Monday, 5:30-9:00 Maple Wood Nature Center**

February 2016

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Groundhog Day				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	new moon		Ash Wednesday			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Presidents Day		8:30 Breakfast with the Birds SWCD			Quilt Class Maple Wood
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	full moon			7:30 Park Board		
28	29					
1:30 Folk Jam						

March 2016

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		new moon				Sap Run 5K Maple Wood
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
daylight saving time begins				St Patrick's Day		Maple Syrup Days
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Maple Syrup Days	first day spring		full moon	7:30 Park Board	Good Friday LaGrange County offices closed	
27	28	29	30	31		
Easter Folk Jam (no interpretive services)			8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Recipes			

April 2016

					1 Take a Naturalist to Lunch Day	2 Hunter Safety 1 Maple Wood 9:30-4:00
3	4 Hunter Safety 2 Maple Wood 5:30-9:00	5 Woodcock Watch 7:30 Delt Church	6 7:30 woodcock Pine Knob	7 new moon	8	9 Rug Hook Event Maple Wood
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Friends of Parks Annual Meeting free fishing day
17	18	19	20 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Hoosier Bicentennial	21 full moon	22 Arbor Day	23 Quilt Class MW Trail Opening Dallas Lake Park
24 1:30 Folk Jam	25	26 birthday John James Audubon	27	28 7:30 Park Board	29	30

Naturally Noteworthy

LaGrange County Offices closed

March 25, Good Friday

**Maple Wood Nature Center
closings this quarter:**
March 27, no interpretive
services

- **Receive 13 Lines** newsletter and monthly Park news as emails. Respond to our email address with "13 Lines" or "e-news" in the subject. Or download online at lagrangeparkparks.org.

- **2015 Parks Annual Report** is available for review at the Park Office or Maple Wood

- **2016 Park Special Events**
Maple Syrup Days
March 19-20
Dallas Lake Park Trail Open
April 23
Family Fishing Day
June 4
Delt Church Dash 5K
to be announced
David Rogers Country Fair
and Cowboy Day
August 27
Pine Knob Hunt & Fish Day
September 17

- **Pine Knob 3-D Archery Trail** re-opens in early April
- **Facilities are available for reservation.** Call Park Office, (260) 854-2225 for details.

Please inform us if you have difficulty accessing any facilities or programs. We are glad to accommodate and want to enhance your experience in the parks.



Breakfast with the Birds

Breakfast with the Birds is for anyone who is free one Wednesday morning of each month. The program starts with coffee and doughnuts. Then a talk or discussion is offered by the naturalist. Bring your binoculars and enjoy a hike in the woods afterward. Recommended donation is \$1.00.



SWCD

February 17 8:30a
LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District has an important job. They promote and assist proper use and management of soil, water, and related natural resources. We all leave an impact, but can lessen harmful impact with healthy habits.



Maple Recipes

March 30 8:30a
This is our favorite cooking program all year, cooking with maple syrup! We have learned it is not just for pancakes or desserts. Maple flavor works well as a glaze, in a stir fry, in salad dressing, in breads, and more.



Hoosier Bicentennial

April 20 8:30a
Indiana is celebrating 200 years of statehood and in that time we are still not sure what a Hoosier is. But, we do know what makes Indiana different. Who called Indiana home? What are the state symbols and how were they chosen?

Friends of LaGrange County Parks

[http://www.facebook.com/
FriendsOfLaGrangeCountyParks](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLaGrangeCountyParks)

Friends of LaGrange County Parks hop you join us for the Sap Run 5K. This race/run/walk is Saturday, March 12, around the bucketed trails of the maple woods. Pre-registration is available at the Friends facebook page.

Friends of LaGrange County Parks meetings:

February 17, Wed., 6:30 p, TBA

March 16, Wed., 6:30 p, Maple Wood Nature Center

April 16, 10:00 a. Maple Wood Nature Center - annual meeting, elections, snacks, geology talk, bring interesting rocks to share with the discussion.

Contact (260) 350-3036, friendsoflagrangeparcs@gmail.com.

Folk Jam



Folk Music Jam Sessions are hosted the fourth Sunday of each month. Jams are mostly folk, country and bluegrass music with other styles thrown in from time to time.

This quarter's Jams are February 28, March 27, April 24 1:30-5:00p.

For questions contact Erv Troyer, 463-2247, reo43@aol.com or Maple Wood at 463-4022, lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com



Woodcock Walks

The courtship display of this small migrant does not last long, but is very predictable. The woodcock courting display is aerial finesse that defies his stumpy, little shape. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather.

Delt Church Park is Tuesday, April 5. Meet at the Field Pavilion at 7:30 p.

Pine Knob Park is Wednesday, April 6. Meet at the program center at 7:30 p.

Spring Rug Hook Event

The Northeast Indiana Rug Hook Event moves to spring at Maple Wood Nature Center Saturday, April 9, 10:00-4:00.

Wooley for Ewe hooking group is sponsoring a day of personal projects and exhibits. Bring projects to work on while enjoying the woods setting. Participants are encouraged to bring finished projects for display and a bag lunch.

Seating is limited, so participants are required to contact one of the following;

Laurie Proctor RevDrPr@aol.com

Judy Werling werlingabout@frontier.com

Jan Ehle lynnjanehle@msn.com.



Spring Quilt Classes

Spring dates for quilt classes are February 20 and April 23. February is three variations on a pattern: quatrefoil, weathervane, prairie flower.

For project details contact quilt instructors Ira Johnson 463-1438 or Julia Wolheter 367-1449.

Register at LaGrange County Parks, 854-2225, lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com. Bring a dish to share for lunch.

**LaGrange
County
Parks**



and recreation

**0505W 700S
Wolcottville IN 46795**



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LaGrange County Parks

0505W 700S
Wolcottville IN 46795
(260) 854 2225
lagrangeparks@yahoo.com
<http://www.lagrangeparks.org>
Parks open 8:00 am - sunset

Park Office Hours: Monday-Friday

8 am - 12:00 noon, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

4550E 100S
(260) 463-4022

Hours: Wednesday 8 am - 4 pm
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

other days by special appointment
closed Sundays in July

LaGrange County Board of Parks and Recreation

Dr. John Egli: President
Ardala Hepler: Secretary
Mark Thompson
Julia Wolheter
Robert Arnold
Paul Yoder

download Rental Facilities brochure