



Thirteen Lines

News and Notes from the LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation Spring 2020

Happy Retirement Mike! Thank you!

A few parting words...

"Time flies when you're having fun! My career at LaGrange County Parks started over 36 years ago. My time here has been rewarding and memorable. Some projects that stand out include the construction of the nature center, Delt Church playground, and restoring the log cabins at Rogers. I think the most significant work we accomplished were the land acquisitions, and natural area restorations.

I've had a great Park Board and Staff through the years, the key to any success I have had.

I wish Thom, the new director, the best in the future, and hope they are able to continue to improve and expand parks and programs.

I will be spending my time fishing, hunting, and visiting my grandkids. I'll do a little taxidermy work for fun money. You'll still see me walking park trails occasionally."

Best,

Micheal K. Metz

Introducing our new Director, Thom Miller...

"The LaGrange County Parks and Recreation department has accomplished so much over the last 30 plus years to create such pristine eco-systems and provide high quality parks to the community, but there is still much to do. I am excited and energized to become a part of this on-going project. The Park Board has a vision, and I will not only share that vision, but work tirelessly on bringing it to fruition. Providing community gathering spaces where families, co-workers, and groups can gather outdoors and experience play and the environment will be a forefront goal. These places will allow the community the chance to enjoy the moments of togetherness and create memories."

Thom is coming to us from the Calumet Memorial Park District, where he served as Director of Recreation.

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Maple Syrup Days, March 21 & 22

Maple Wood Nature Center will be closed April 12 for Easter.

LaGrange County Offices will be closed April 10 for Good Friday.

Indiana's Free Fishing Days are May 3, June 6-7, September 26.





Special Events

Great Backyard Bird Count
Saturday, February 15
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Help the Naturalist count the different birds that visit the feeders at Maple Wood. We'll contribute our list to the national database. This is a great way to learn the names of common backyard birds while staying warm and dry. Each count must last for 15 minutes. Free hot cocoa and snacks for participants while they last.

Great Backyard Bird Count
23rd Annual • Feb 14-17, 2020

Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.
birdcount.org

Carolina Wren Photo: Jenny Burdette/
Great Backyard Bird Count



MAPLE WOOD NATURE CENTER DONATIONS WISH LIST:

- Plastic Totes of all sizes with lids
- Bird feed of any kind
- Finch socks for thistle
- Washable, child safe ink pads in any color

Thank you!

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

Special Events



Maple Syrup Days, March 21 & 22 7:00-3:00

- South Milford Lions “all you can eat” pancakes and sausage 7:00-2:30
- Sugar Shack tours, 8:00-3:00
- The Roz Puppets returns! Nature themed children’s activities will alternate with shows. 8:00-3:00
- Horse drawn wagon rides into the Sugar Bush, 8:00-3:00
- Maple kettle corn, maple cotton candy, games, backyard sugar making demonstrations
- Maple syrup and maple syrup candies for sale
- Dress warmly to enjoy all that Maple Syrup Days offers!
- All activities take place at Maple Wood Nature Center



Sap Run & Syrup Stroll



5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Stroll

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Maple Wood Nature Center

Walkers and runners of all skill levels welcome!

The course is a limestone park trail and paved road. Socialize around a campfire afterwards.



Printable registration forms and links to online registration can be found on the Facebook page: Friends of LaGrange County Parks

Goody bags include an event stocking cap, syrup, and a ticket to the all-you-can eat pancake and sausage meal at Maple Syrup Days, March 21 & 22! \$30 for full goody bag. \$15 for run and meal ticket only.

Proceeds will go to LaGrange County Parks Department. Thank you generous community members.





Monthly at Maple Wood

Make - n - Take Crafts



Easy nature crafts for the entire family!
Free of charge (donations appreciated).

Second Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

February 8: Thumbprint Ants and Ants on a Log snack

BONUS February 29: Animal Leap Game

March 14: Maple Syrup Activity Sheets

April 11: Fawn Puppets



Maple Wood Fiber Guild

Second Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. (No March Meeting)

Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, dyeing, tating, embroidery, and more!

Bring projects to work on, get inspiration from others, or learn a new hobby. *Children welcome!*
Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch and cash donation for LaGrange County Parks.



Put that Sucker on Spin: April Quilt Class



Hatbox Hexies: February Quilt Class

Monthly at Maple Wood



Breakfast with the Birds - Now once a season!

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Spend the morning with fellow nature lovers. All ages are welcome. Doughnuts and hot beverages will be served while supplies last. This is a casual, social atmosphere. We'll take a short walk after the talk if weather permits.

Spring: Wednesday, March 25: Maple Syrup Recipes

Enjoy samples of freshly made recipes incorporating maple syrup.

Summer: Wednesday, June 17: Happy Hummingbirds

Learn about the fascinating abilities of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and get tips on feeding hummingbirds at home. Make a perch!

Fall: Wednesday, September 16: Pawpaw Party

We'll explore all things Pawpaw: tree identification, the benefits of the fruit, and recipes. Keep your fingers crossed for ripe fruit to sample.

The winter meeting is yet to be determined.



Spring Quilt Classes at Maple Wood, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

February 22 and April 18

February: Hatbox Hexies

Want a quilt with hexagons? Here's your chance! We are using oversized hexies to make the construction easier. Make a table runner or bigger project. This is a 10" square (or layer cake) "friendly" project.

April: Put that Sucker on Spin

This looks a lot more complicated than it is; you will not get dizzy. You'll have fun sewing this together.

The March class is at the South Milford Community Room. It is a patriotic piece called Liberty.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office, 260-854-2225, or email lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

For more information, contact the instructors Julia Wolheter, 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438.



Monthly at Maple Wood

Folk Jams

1:30 - 5:00pm

Folk Jam music sessions are hosted the 4th Sunday of each month. Jams are mostly folk, country, and blue-grass music, with other styles occasionally added.

February 23

March 29 (5th Sunday)

April 26

For more information, contact Erv Troyer, at 463-2247, reo43@aol.com, or Maple Wood at 260-463-4022.

Sewing Group

April 22, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What is a UFO? If you answered an un-finished object...this is the perfect sewing group for you!

Open to anyone! Bring your sewing machine. Get help and direction with a project, share ideas with others, and make new friends. Bring a sack lunch or munchie to share, and \$5.00 donation for LaGrange County Parks. Questions? Contact Linda Grobis (260) 351-3609

Breakfast with Homeschool - Now once a season!

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

These mornings are designed for outdoor-loving, curious children! Every program will have a craft or activity. If the weather permits, we'll also go for a hike. The programs have been developed from Project WET and Project WILD curriculum and meet many state proficiency standards. Children aged for K - 5th grade will enjoy these mornings the most, but younger and older children will have fun too! Younger siblings are always welcome. Doughnuts and hot beverages served while supplies last.

Spring: Wednesday, February 19: First Impressions

A gentle way to discuss emotions and learn to make graphs. Play spider-themed games and hunt for insects.

Summer: Wednesday, May 20: Hiding in Plain Sight

Learn about the importance of camouflage, make color collages, and play hide-n-seek. Live amphibians.

Fall: Wednesday, August 19: Butterfly and Grasshopper Safari

Make a butterfly life cycle chart. Study grasshoppers up close. Discover their awesome jumping skills and practice measuring distance.

The winter meeting is yet to be determined.

Hit the Trail



Wild Walkers

This is an adult walking group coordinated through City of Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation. They travel across the region twice a month to various parks and natural areas to enjoy a good walk and good company. For more information or to be added to the distribution list, contact Eden Lamb, at 260-427-6008, or eden.lamb@cityoffortwayne.org.

Friday, February 14: Delt Church Park
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Spring Wildflower Walks at Maple Wood

Let's see what's blooming! Join the Naturalist to look at wildflowers!

Wednesday, April 15: 8:30 a.m., 1 hour

Saturday, April 18: 10:00 a.m., 1 hour

Saturday, April 25: 2:00 p.m., 1 hour



Patchwork Trails Gene Stratton-Porter Walk-n-Talk 2020

In partnership with the LaGrange County Public Library, "Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun!" Join us for a mobile book club. Participants can choose to read the book, or simply come and enjoy a walk. FREE



Patchwork Trails



Tuesday, April 21: Gene-Stratton Porter State Historic Site, Rome City

The grounds will hopefully be a carpet of beautiful spring wildflowers. Trails are easy and well maintained in gardens. Copies of the book will be available at the library for checkout.

6:00 p.m.
Meet in the Parking Lot.
Book: *A Girl of the Limberlost*



LAGRANGE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

LaGrange County Parks

0505 W 700 S

Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-2225

lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com

<http://lagrangecountyparks.org>

Park Hours: 8:00am—Sunset

Park Office Hours: Monday-Friday

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

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Maple Wood Nature Center

4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN, 46761

(260) 463-4022

Hours:

Wednesday 8:00a—4:00p

Saturday 9:00a—5:00p

Sunday 1:00p—5:00p

(Closed Sundays in July)

To Receive *Thirteen Lines* Newsletter electronically, send us an email with "Thirteen Lines" or "e-news" in the subject. It is also available for download at <http://lagrangecountyparks.org>.

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of Parks and Recreation

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