



# Thirteen Lines

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

Sept. & Oct. 2020

As a child, summer felt endless. Did it not? Every day blurred into the next one. For me, it was one long sweaty, bug bitten, scratched up season of bumping around in a tractor, playing with neighbor kids until dark, and showing at the 4-H fair. As an adult working as a naturalist in our amazing State Parks, summer became a race from one big weekend to the next. It was there and gone in a wink. Is it just me or did the summer of 2020 seem to take its time? I feel like I've been on a five month hike that constantly went from the desert to the jungle and back again. I'm ready for crisp air, apple cider, a sweatshirt, and falling leaves.

The official end to summer for most is the return to school. At my house, and maybe yours too, the return to school is my son walking from his bedroom to his Chromebook at the dining room table. He still spends most of the day outside playing and soaking up the last rays of the summer sun.

If you are a home school family, or a brand new e-learning family like mine, I have planned programs this fall to give your children, and you, excellent nature-based learning opportunities to get outside, make new friends, and have fun. Research has proven that our children need nature for physical, mental, and emotional growth. Research has also proven that nature, for adults, is a great peace maker. You are never too old to sit quietly at the foot of a tree.

If you are a teacher at *any* of our awesome LaGrange County schools who is looking for free activities and ideas for outdoor class time, please contact me. I'd be happy to assist you.

Happy autumn, I wish you all health and safety. The Monarchs are here!

Leslie A. Arnold

Naturalist

All LaGrange County Offices will be closed:

Monday, September 7: Labor Day

Monday, October 12: Columbus Day

Saturday, September 26: Indiana's Free Fishing Day





In accordance with the LaGrange County Health Department, you must wear a mask inside Park offices and buildings. You must also wear a mask if you are outdoors and cannot keep a 6 foot distance from strangers.

- [The trail system at Maple Wood is temporarily closed due to storm damage.](#) Please check our website, or call, for trail conditions.
- Dallas Lake Park Office is open regular business hours. All beaches, playgrounds, shelters, and lodges are open.
- Maple syrup may be purchased at both Maple Wood Nature Center and the Dallas Lake Park Office.
- The monthly Folk Jam program at Maple Wood Nature Center has been postponed until further notice. Please contact Erv Troyer at (260) 463-2247, for updates about the program.

Hunter's Education Courses: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/>

September 18-19: Pine Knob Park 161826

October 9-10: Dallas Lake Park 161827

October 23-24: Pine Knob Park 161828

To register, add the class number listed to the end of the web address above.

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## Make - n - Take Crafts

***Second Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Come anytime!  
Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center.***

September 12: Grasshopper Antennae

October 10: Leaf Rubbings

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



Left: Bow Ties - September  
Quilt Class pattern



Right: Courthouse Steps -  
October Quilt Class pattern



# September 2020



<p>September 1</p> <p>Monarchs!</p>	<p>10:00 - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Richard Gerber, from Chain O' Lakes State Park, will discuss the amazing Monarch life cycle and migration. He is planning to bring live caterpillars and more! RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 463-4022. <b>Meets at the Dallas Lake Park Office lawn.</b> LIMIT OF 30.</p>
<p>September 9</p> <p>Maple Wood Fiber Guild</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Bring a project to work on. Bring your own sack lunch and snacks. Donations for the Parks is appreciated.</p> <p>Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center. RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 363-4022</p>
<p>September 15</p> <p>Patchwork Trail</p>	<p>6:00 p.m.</p> <p>We're walking the Pretty Path (a portion, anyways!) around Pretty Lake in LaGrange County. Meet at the Pretty Lake Conservation Club.</p> <p>Address is 4410 S 890 E, Wolcottville, IN, 46795.</p> <p>Masks are required! RSVP to the LaGrange County Public Library at (260) 463-2841.</p>
 <p>Patchwork Trails</p>	
<p>September 16</p> <p>Breakfast with the Birds</p> <p>Pawpaw Party</p>	<p>8:30 - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Learn about the Indiana banana! Hopefully we'll be able to have a taste test! Take home a recipe for pawpaw cookies. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center. RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 463-4022. LIMIT OF 25. <i>This will be outside by the campfire.</i></p>
<p>September 19</p> <p>Quilt Class</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>The pattern is Bow Ties. It is a very traditional block with lots of options for the layout. It can be done in one color plus a background, or multiple colors. We have a great technique for making this an easy one.</p> <p>Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call 260-854-2225, or email <a href="mailto:larnold@lagrangecounty.org">larnold@lagrangecounty.org</a>. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given to Parks). Call Instructors Julia Wolhether 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson 260-367-1438 for information. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center.</p>
<p>September 23</p> <p>Sewing Group</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - <b>PENDING!</b></p> <p>Bring your sewing machine. Get help on current, or unfinished projects. Bring a sack lunch and your own snacks. \$5 donation for Park. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center. RSVP to Linda Grobis at (260) 351-3609</p>



# October 2020



October 2 Leaf Collections	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  We'll walk the trails and collect and identify different tree leaves to make a book. Learn about why trees need leaves and why leaves fall off of trees. <b>Meets at Dallas Lake Park Office lawn.</b> RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 463-4022 or <a href="mailto:larnold@lagrangeparks.org">larnold@lagrangeparks.org</a> . LIMIT OF 25.
October 14 Maple Wood Fiber Guild	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Bring a project to work on. Bring your own sack lunch and snacks. Donations for the Parks is appreciated. RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 363-4022. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center.
October 17 Birdhouse Build	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  Learn how to be a "Bluebird landlord" and build a Peterson-style Bluebird house. We will use cedar. Cost is \$25 - this includes the pre-cut lumber, hardware, and instructions. "Build at home" kits can be ordered for \$25 as well. <b>RSVP by October 14</b> to (260) 463-4022 or <a href="mailto:larnold@lagrangeparks.org">larnold@lagrangeparks.org</a> . You must RSVP for a take-home kit as well. Spaced is limited! <b>Meets at ParGil Natural Resource Learning Center</b> , LaGrange, IN. Hosted by LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District.
October 17 Quilt Class	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  Courthouse Steps is the quilt pattern. It is a timeless pattern many make for their first quilt. It can be done very scrappy or it can be sewn in a planned colorway. It's a variation of the popular log cabin pattern.  Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call 260-854-2225, or email <a href="mailto:larnold@lagrangeparks.org">larnold@lagrangeparks.org</a> . Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given to Parks). Call instructors Julia Wolheter 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson 260-367-1438 for information. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center.
October 21 & October 24 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Syrup Taste Test	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  Finally! Join Nature Leslie for a <i>sweet</i> morning. This was rescheduled from March. We'll taste test all the different grades of syrup and discuss why syrup comes in different colors. Go home with recipes! RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 463-4022. LIMIT OF 25 each day. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center <i>outside by the campfire</i> .
October 28 Sewing Group	9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - <b>PENDING!</b>  Bring your sewing machine. Get help on current, or unfinished projects. Bring a sack lunch and your own snacks. \$5 donation for Parks. Meets at Maple Wood Nature Center. RSVP to Linda Grobis at (260) 351-3609

# For “School At Home” Families



## Friday, September 11 - Butterfly Field Trip to Chain O’ Lakes State Park!

Meet at the Stanley Schoolhouse at 10:00 a.m.

Help Nature Leslie count butterflies for the North American Butterfly Association fall count at Chain O’ Lakes. We’ll divide up by families and count butterflies at various locations in the park. We’ll gather for lunch at the Stanley Schoolhouse and then you can enjoy the rest of the day on your own. You will get FREE ADMISSION to the park for the day if you pre-register for this field trip and participate in the count. You do not need to be able to identify butterflies to help. Paperwork and nets will be provided. Pack your own lunch. **RSVP by September 5** to (260) 463-4022 or [larnold@lagrangecounty.org](mailto:larnold@lagrangecounty.org).

## Thursday, September 17 - Birdhouse Build!

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Join Nature Leslie and the LaGrange County Soil and Water Staff for “Home Tweet Home Birdhouse Build!” [This program will be at ParGil Natural Resource Learning Center](#). Participants will learn what birds use houses and why, and then make a birdhouse to take home. Each family unit will be given a construction space 6 feet apart. This program is in a pole barn with open bays. Masks are not required unless you plan to socialize at a distance less than 6 feet apart. **RSVP by September 14**, at (260) 463-4022 or [larnold@lagrangecounty.org](mailto:larnold@lagrangecounty.org). Space is limited! You can purchase a “build at home” kit for \$5.00 each. You must RSVP for a kit as well, and they must be picked up during the program time.

ParGil is located at 2335 N SR 9, LaGrange, IN, 46761

## Thursday, September 24 - Fall Family Forest School Starts!

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**This program will meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday, at David Rogers Park, October - December 3.** Family Forest School is Kinder Forest with a pioneer twist! This is a child-led, nature-based, outdoor learning experience. Each class will have opportunities for unstructured play, sit-spots, handwork, and mindfulness exercises. Children will learn to deeply connect with nature using their senses. The handwork activity for each class will accomplish state education standards. Parents will be expected to fully participate as assistants. Throughout Forest School each child will create a journal to keep in addition to crafts. This program is geared towards children in grades K-3. Upon registration, you will be sent a list of simple items to bring each class. Forest School will run rain or shine! We will only cancel for severe weather and freezing temperatures. Handwork examples: apple cider pressing, leaf collections, cornhusk dolls, candle dipping, campfires, pick-up sticks, etc.

Nature Leslie is a Forest School Institute Certified Teacher. *Space is very limited.* **RSVP by Sept. 18** at (260) 463-4022 or [larnold@lagrangecounty.org](mailto:larnold@lagrangecounty.org).

This is completely outdoors - participate at your own risk.

Park address: 2355 W 550 S, Wolcottville

(There will be a spring Family Forest School at a different park on a different week day.)



## LaGrange County Parks

0505 W 700 S

Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-2225

[lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com](mailto: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

2nd & 4th Saturday 9:00a—5:00p

2nd & 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00p

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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0505 W 700 S  
Wolcottville, IN 46795

