



Thirteen Lines

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

winter 2017-18

One thing I have observed as an interpretive naturalist, is how much folks enjoy stories. In my programs I find there are some like me who find pleasure in learning something new. In my lesson prep I always have to be ready for the lover of statistics and numbers. I appreciate the skeptic who expects me to support what I say. But in general we all like a good yarn whether it is spun to make a point or to relate an experience.

Some stories are so ingrained in our culture that everybody knows them. A little hint is all it takes to bring the whole thing to mind; the Mayflower, “Watson, come here, I want you!”, the wonderful thing about tiggers, beware of kryptonite, they entered two by two.

Fairy tales are popular stories. They mostly come from the old world and have been told for hundreds of years. They are still repeated because they speak to our senses of justice, bravery, nobility, and magic. Have you ever looked at fairy tales as guidelines of how we should interact with the natural world?

Goldilocks went into a house that wasn't hers. She tasted all of the food. Finished the food she liked. She tried the furniture until she broke some and then made herself comfy to stay a while. What's the point? Don't move in and take over someone else's house. To put that in nature terms, don't take over or damage someone else's habitat, whether they are bears or eagles or orchids or butterflies.

The Bremen Town Musicians has lots of animals in the story. The animals all felt worthless. But they saved the day using their unique abilities. The wild lesson, all creatures have their place in the world and a specialty to survive. Don't discount any of their worth.

Consider the Ugly Duckling. It couldn't figure out how it fit in. Can't we all relate to that? As it grew its true beauty emerged. Do not be quick to judge where something's place is in the natural world. Many things are valued based upon their usefulness to us or their perceived beauty. There are other standards than human standards that matter in nature.

There are some stories, even about the natural world, that should not be repeated. They are nature versions of urban legends. I call them fakelore. They continue to get handed down by someone “authoritative” but they are not true. Hummingbirds do not migrate on goose-back. Daddy Long Legs are not the most venomous spiders in the world. They aren't even spiders nor do they have venom. Bats are not blind, at night they see rather well. Owls can not turn their head around in a circle. Owls can turn around nearly half circle in each direction. And here is the best; foxes do not escape danger by running into a marsh, reed in mouth, and submerge and breathe through the reed until danger is passed. That only happens in movies and not by foxes!

Listen to old stories and discern their truth. Then apply it to the natural world we share.

Naturally,

Scott Beam, LaGrange County Interpretive Naturalist





Pine Knob Bow Shoot, September 15, 2017



Winners of the Adult class. (l-r) Austin Pierson 2nd, Kyle Smith 1st, Bill Bohm 3rd.



Winners of the Youth class. (l-r) Aiden Keen 1st, Wyatt Rucker 2nd, Tyler Mueller 3rd.

David Rogers Country Fair August 26, 2017

Please take time to thank the sponsors of David Rogers Country Fair. We are grateful for your support.

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Crane Watch

Jasper-Pulaski FWA, Nov 9

LaGrange County Parks is hosting a bird watchers' trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, the Hoosier resting grounds of the Sandhill Crane migration.

Sandhill Cranes are gathering in Indiana as this is being written. Indiana has few of the major flyways for bird migration, yet the Sandhill Cranes have adopted the Hoosier State as one of their major routes north and south. Their layover occurs near Winamac at the Jasper/Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. There could be as many as 10,000 cranes on the day of our visit.

Cranes were severely affected by habitat loss and pesticide contamination. With deliberate protection, their population is recovering. One flock adopted J-P as their resting station decades ago. Now great legions of cranes depend upon J-P for their annual north and south treks.

LaGrange County Parks is leading a trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife area Thursday, November 9. We will leave at 1:00 pm from Maple Wood Nature Center. Plan to return by 9:00 pm.

Due to limited space in the van registration is required. Sign up at 260-854-2225 or send email to "crane watch," at lagrangeparkcountyparks@yahoo.com. Cost is \$6.00 per person. Bring binoculars and supper money. Dress quite warmly as it can be very windy at the Crane Observation area.

Park Education Programs

LaGrange County Parks has many natural resource and cultural resource education programs available to your school, organization, or club. For your students these programs fit Indiana Science and Social Studies proficiency standards. Listed below is a sample of programs offered.

Science Topics and Lessons

- geology - types of rocks, glaciers
- plants - tree identification, wildflowers, making maple syrup
- animals - classification, tracking, owls and pellets, wild turkeys, bears
- habitats - woodlands, grasslands, wetlands
- astronomy - moon, solar system

Cultural History Topics and Lessons

- Walk Through LaGrange Co. - build a map
- Crissy the Skunk Woman
- Theodore Roosevelt - conservation president
- Underground Railroad in LaGrange Co.
- LaGrange County Passed - interpreting cemeteries

Other programs can be available by special request. To schedule a program, please contact Maple Wood Nature Center, (260) 463-4022, lagrangeparkcountyparks@yahoo.com.

November

			1 All Saints Day	2	3	4 full moon
5 daylight saving time ends	6	7	8	9 Crane Watch Jasper-Pulaski	10 Veterans Day LaGrange Co offices closed	11
12	13	14	15 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Seeing Color	16	17	18 Quilt Class Maple Wood new moon
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 LaGrange Co offices closed Maple Wood closed	25
26 1:30 Folk Jam no interp services	27	28	29 Friends of LCP MW 6:30	30		

December

					1	2
3 full moon	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 new moon	19	20 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Yule Log	21 winter solstice	22	23 Maple Wood closed
24 1:30 Folk Jam	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Maple Wood closed	28	29	30
31	LaGrange Co offices closed	LaGrange Co offices closed				

January

	1 New Years Day LaGrange Co offices closed full moon	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Track Walk Maple Wood
14	15 Martin Luther King Day LaGrange Co offices closed	16 new moon	17 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Pigeon River FWA	18	19	20 Quilt Class Maple Wood
21	22	23	24 Friends of LCP MW 6:30	25 7:30 Park Board	26	27
28 1:30 Folk Jam	29	30	31			

Naturally Noteworthy

LaGrange County Offices closed

Nov. 10 - Veterans Day
Nov. 23-24 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 25-26 - Christmas
Jan. 1 - New Years
Jan. 15 - Martin L King Day

Maple Wood Nature Center closings this quarter:

Nov. 23-26 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 23-Jan. 1 - Winter Break

- **Maple Syrup** is still for sale at Maple Wood Nature Center or the Park Office.



- **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 lagrangepark.org.

2018 Park Events

March 17-18
Maple Syrup Days
August 25
Rogers Country Fair
September 15
Pine Knob Bow Shoot
dates still to be determined
Family Fishing Day
Water Fowl Event
Dog Walk
and many more in the works

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 \$2.00.



Seeing Color

November 15 8:30a
Autumn leaf color change is an effect of leaf chemistry. Though green is the dominant color throughout the color season, the autumn fireworks show is already contained within the leaves when they are formed. Test some leaves to find the other colors contained within.



Yule Log

December 20 8:30a
Is a Yule Log part of your Christmas? Yule logs have been a winter celebration tradition longer than even stories can remember. There is lots of meaning to be found. It was a lifeless stem from outside brought inside to light the way to a new year.



Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife

January 17 8:30a
Indiana has 26 fish and wildlife areas for conservation sports and preserving wild habitats. LaGrange County's Pigeon River FWA has around 12,000 acres for the wild feathered, furred, and foliaged. Special guest Savanna Vaughn comes to tell the Pigeon River story.

Friends of LaGrange County Parks

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

The Friends of LaGrange County Parks is holding a native plant sale. Deadline for pre-orders is March 30, 2018. Download the form or contact the Friends for details. <http://lagrangeparksparks.org/index.php/downloads/86-2018-fofp-native-flower-sale/file>

Friends of LaGrange County Parks winter meetings are November 29, January 24, 6:00 p at Maple Wood Nature Center. There is no December meeting. Contact (260) 350-3036, friendsoflagrangeparks@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 November 26, December 24, January 28, 1:30-5:00p.

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



REMC Community Day



Thank you LaGrange County REMC for helping complete a project at Dallas Lake Park beach as part of your annual Community Day. We could not have done it without you!



Winter Track Walk

Winter is an outstanding time to learn about our wild neighbors since they are easy to track. They also drop clues of their feeding habits. Evidence can still be found regarding their warm season lives.

Winter Track Walk is scheduled for Maple Wood Nature Center, Saturday, January 13 at 10a.



Winter Quilt Classes

Winter Quilt Classes are November 18 small zipper bag and January 20 table toppers, 10:00-3:30. Fee is \$25.

Registration is required, lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com or call the park office, (260) 854-2225. Or contact instructors Julia Wolheter, (260) 367 1449 or Ira Johnson, (260) 367-1438. Bring a dish for potluck 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
Robert Arnold; Vice President
Ardala Hepler: Secretary
Mark Thompson
Julia Wolheter
Paul Yoder

download Rental Facilities brochure