



Thirteen Lines

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

spring 2018

I was sitting on a grant review panel many years ago for arts agencies. It was exciting to be in a position to promote support for organizations trying to make a difference in lives. One funding request, however, had me baffled. They asked for funding so they could support children getting their dance lessons. They actually said it was critical for students to start young to properly develop their dancing career. Huh?! My comment was that it is critical to be training doctors, engineers, knowledgeable voters, citizens who are generous and ethical.

How do you train for what you really need? We all have critical training we need, because what comes natural is also the stuff that causes lots of grief. In our natural state we are already prone to be defensive, suspicious, reactionary, clannish, selfish. I have found time in wild places and with wild things can train me better in the things I really need.

Begin your training now. Feed the birds; be more generous and calm. Plant more trees; be more nurturing, look towards the future. Find flowers; be more observant, be more appreciative of beauty. Sit and watch/listen/smell; be more patient, be more peaceful. Talk to turkeys and frogs; be multilingual, be a better listener. Cultivate nettles and thorny raspberries; be more forgiving, be appreciative of hidden gifts. Watch birds; be more neighborly, keep track of your friends.

How do you train? Find a mentor, find a pupil. Experiment based upon things you already know. Take chances. Listen to insight, yours and someone else's. Be skeptical and seek truth.

And, very important, make maple syrup; be a little sweeter.

Couldn't the world use more folks that are generous, calm, nurturing, and so on? Couldn't the world use more folks like you?

Naturally,

Scott Beam, LaGrange County Interpretive Naturalist





Maple Syrup Days

March 17-18, 7:00-3:00

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 Days, our syrup harvest festival is March 17-18 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 shows by the Maple Marionettes.

For 2018 we welcome the Roz Puppets! Their version of Little Red Riding Hood is a little bit fractured and somehow still includes maple syrup.



Maple Marionettes and Roz Puppets alternate at the top of the hour, 9:00-2:00.

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

Syrup Season Helpers

Volunteers are valuable during maple syrup season! We need sappers, Nature Center hosts, and table helpers

Sappers empty buckets.

A call list alerts sappers when the buckets are nearly full.

Nature Center Hosts welcome guests on Sun. afternoons.

Table Helpers work a 2 hour shift at Maple Syrup Days.

Do you want to be a part of our team? Contact Maple Wood Nature Center, 463-4022. You can also follow Maple Wood's facebook page where upcoming sap gathers will be posted.





Beginner's Backyard Sugaring

If you have decided it is time to make your own maple syrup, then this is your seminar. Beginner's Backyard Sugaring is at Maple Wood Nature Center on Saturday, February 17, 9:30-11:30. Cost is \$30.

The basics of maple syrup making are covered so that you can start producing this season. Topics include identifying maple trees, tapping, collecting and storing sap. Multiple ways are presented how to boil the sap.

Most important is finishing and canning the syrup to be sure you enjoy your harvest later. Registration is required. Each participant leaves with a syrup season starter kit. Register at LaGrange County Parks 260-854-2225, or email to lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com.

Frog Call Census

Mar. 27 Dallas Lake Park 7p

Mar. 28, Pine Knob Park 7p

Springtime is the most important time of the year for most Hoosier frogs. It is when they have families.

The competition to attract a mate is fierce since they are all trying to talk at the same time. It turns into a shouting match.

Each specie has their own shout, so it is easy to identify who is there. This spring's inventory is of Dallas Lake and Pine Knob Parks. Dress warmly. If you have sensitive hearing, you may want to bring ear protection.



Patchwork Trails



This summer's walks incorporate the summer reading theme: Libraries Rock! Trail walks start April 24, 6p. at Maple Wood Nature Center for Wildflowers and Eratics. By mid-February you can download the entire Patchwork Trails flier at lagrangecountyparks.org/downloads.

May 22 - Howe Riverside Cemetery

August 28 - Shipshewana Rock Walk

June 26 - LaGrange Rock Walk

September 25 - LaGrange Riverside Cemetery

July 24 - Topeka Rock Walk



Sap Run and Syrup Stroll



Friends of LaGrange County Parks is hosting a syrup season 5K fun run and 1 mile walk, Saturday, March 10, at 9 a.m.

Packet pick-up starts 8:30 a.m. Register online at the Facebook page Friends of LaGrange County Parks, events. Registration forms can also be downloaded to print or picked up at Maple Wood Nature Center or LaGrange County Parks office. Sponsorship information is also available on the same page.

The event is open to runners and walkers of all skill levels. Goody bags include a meal ticket to Maple Syrup Days, t-shirt and syrup. Cost for the Sap Run and full Goody Bag is \$25, The run and meal ticket is \$10.

February

				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8 Boy Scout Day	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 new moon	16	17 9:30 Backyard Sugaring MW
18	19 Presidents Day	20	21 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Frog Serenade	22 7:30 Park Board	23	24 Quilt Class Maple Wood
25 1:30 Folk Jam	26	27	28			

March

				1 full moon	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Sap Run & Syrup Stroll Maple Wood
11 daylight saving time begins	12 Girl Scout Day	13	14	15	16	17 Maple Syrup Days new moon
18 Maple Syrup Days	19	20 first day spring	21 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Recipes	22 7:30 Park Board	23	24
25 1:30 Folk Jam	26	27 7p Frog call census Dallas Lake Park	28 7p Frog call census Pine Knob Park	29	30 Good Friday LaGrange County offices closed	31 full moon

April

1 Easter Sunday Maple Wood closed	2	3	4 Hunter Safety 1 Maple Wood 5:30-9:00	5 Hunter Safety 3 Maple Wood 5:30-9:00	6 Hunter Safety 3 Maple Wood 5:30-9:00	7
8	9	10	11 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Alaska Travelogue	12	13	14
15 new moon	16	17	18	19	20	21 Quilt Class Maple Wood free fishing day
22 1:30 Folk Jam	23	24 6:30 Patchwork Trails MW wildflowers	25	26 birthday John James Audubon 7:30 Park Board	27	28 Rug Hook Event Maple Wood
29	30					

Naturally Noteworthy

LaGrange County Offices closed

March 30 - Good Friday

Maple Wood Nature Center
closings this quarter:
April 1 - Easter Sunday

- **2017 Annual Report** is available at the Park Office for review.
- **2018 Park Events**
June 2 - Family Fishing Day
Pigeon River FWA
Sept. 15 - Bow Shoot
Pine Knob Park
Follow park news for more events still in process.
- **3-D Archery** targets at Pine Knob Park will be in place by end of the first week of April. Check April 1 for exclusive one day targets!
- **Free Fishing Days 2018**
no fishing license needed for Indiana residents; April 21, May 19, June 2-3.
- **Facilities are available** for reservation. Call Park Office, (260) 854-2225 for details or download the Rental Facilities flier at lagrangecountyparks.org.

● **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 lagrangecountyparks.org.

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.



Frog Serenade

February 21 8:30a
The frogs will be serenading soon! It is usually a frog song that broadcasts the end of syrup season. There is more than one way they produce their chorus. Every specie has its own song. Sometimes weather, sometimes the calendar signals when to hear their song.



Maple Recipes

Mach 21 8:30a
Our annual tradition shows off delicious recipes that are made with genuine Maple Syrup. There is so much more to do than pour it on pancakes. Be it a salad dressing, dessert, sweet bread, or something else not imagined, maple sugar is a great way to sweeten your cooking.



Alaska Travelogue

April 11 8:30a
It is The Last Frontier, Land of the Midnight Sun, Seward's Folly. Its wilderness is mountains, marshes, rivers, coast, glaciers, volcanoes. It is home to the largest deer and largest bear. Special guest Jake Carlile presents his recent adventure to Alaska.

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://lagrangecountyparks.org/index.php/downloads/86-2018-fofp-native-flower-sale/file>

The Friends are coordinating meal volunteers for Maple Syrup Days. Contact Mandy Williams 260-316-5284 mandywilliams5284@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 25, March 25, April 22, 1:30-5:00p.

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



Hunter Safety Class

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

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

Class is April 4-5-6, Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, 5:30-9:00 MapleWood Nature Center.

Registration is required. Register on-line at <http://registered.com/events/register/117687>.

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.

Quilt Class

Spring Quilt Classes are February 24 and April 21, 10:00-3:30. Fee is \$25. Registration is required, lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com or call the park office, 260-854-2225.

February Quilt Class is Dancing Stars. Two samples are posted below.

For more details contact instructors Julia Wolheter, 260- 367-1449 or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Bring a dish for potluck lunch.



Rug Hook Event

The Northeast Indiana Rug Hook Event is at Maple Wood Nature Center Saturday, April 8, 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 Judy Werling, 260-414-4645



**LaGrange
County
Parks**



and recreation

**0505W 700S
Wolcottville IN 46795**



Thirteen Lines

News and Notes from the LaGrange County Parks

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