



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 6, Number 2

April/May/June 2010

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SPRING & SUMMER FUN!

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. It's time to get outside! Whether you are into gardening, hiking, learning about nature, or just relaxing, Sugar Grove has something for you!



SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER NIGHT AT THE NORMAL CORNBELTERS BALLPARK

on the Heartland Community College Campus
Friday, June 18, 2010

Join the Nature Center staff, family, and friends as we cheer on Normal's baseball team, the Cornbelters, from our own section in the stands! Gates open at 6:00 p.m., and the first pitch will be thrown at 7:00. Stick around for fireworks after the game! For each \$11 ticket purchased through us, \$3 will go to support Sugar Grove Nature Center programs. To reserve your tickets, call 309.874-2174 or email register-sgnc@earthlink.net.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT

A partnership of the Children's Discovery Museum & Sugar Grove Nature Center

*Set up camp at 3:00 p.m., June 26; Break camp at 10:00 a.m., June 27
Fee: \$8/member (either SGNC or CDM) per person, \$10/non-member per person ages 3 and above. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Payment must accompany registration. 24-hour cancellation required for credit. Register through Children's Discovery Museum. Call*

309.433.3444 or download a registration form at www.childrensdiscoverymuseum.net. Activity #: 906560-01

Grab your sleeping bag and tent and join us as we celebrate the great outdoors! The National Wildlife Federation is holding its sixth annual Great American Backyard Campout®, and we are joining in the fun as Camp Partners! Held each June, the Great American Backyard Campout® is a national event that encourages individuals, youth, friends and families to camp out together for one night.

Pitch your tent on the Sugar Grove Nature Center lawn. Enjoy science and art activities, listen to the sounds of the woods as you take a night hike, view the stars with the Twin City Amateur Astronomers, explore Imagination Grove, or just sit by the campfire for stories and songs. A campfire dinner and light breakfast are included. Minimum 20, Maximum 100.



Nature Center Staff

Angela Smith
Director

Jill Wallace
*Environmental
Education Specialist*

Randy Carriger
Education & Operations Assistant

Kristin Longman
Jessica Burton
Interns

Sugar Grove Foundation Board of Directors

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E-MAIL ALERTS

Would you like to receive periodic e-mail updates that include program reminders, local nature sightings, and nature news? If so, send an e-mail to infosugargrovinc@earthlink.net and include "nature alerts" in the subject line. Your e-mail address will not be shared.

NATURE CENTER HOURS

April - October

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November - March

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Our grounds, trails, and Imagination Grove
are open daily from dawn until dusk.*

HAVE A WILD PARTY AT

THE NATURE CENTER

Sugar Grove Nature Center is a great place to host a birthday party! We provide the space, tables, and an exciting nature program. You provide the decorations, cake, and guests! Reserve the classroom or picnic shelter for two hours---this allows ample time to eat cake, open gifts, play games, and have an hour of "wild" naturalist-led activities. The fee is \$50/members, \$75/non-members for up to 15 participants and \$5 for each additional person. Maximum group size is 20 for ages 4-6 and 25 for ages 7 and up. You may choose from a variety of party themes. Reservations are required at least one month in advance. Call 309.874.2174 for more information or to schedule your party!

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Your interest may be the deciding factor to run a program! Most programs require advanced registration. Please try to register at least 7 days in advance. Waiting until the last minute may result in a program being canceled due to low enrollment or missing out because it is full.

**Call 309.874.2174 or e-mail
register-sgnc@earthlink.net NOW!**

CONTACT US

You can reach us by phone at 309-874.2174, by e-mail at infosugargrovinc@earthlink.net, or visit us on the web at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

The Nature of the Grove is a free quarterly publication of Sugar Grove Nature Center. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, either electronically or by postal service, please call 309.874.2174 or e-mail infosugargrovinc@earthlink.net.

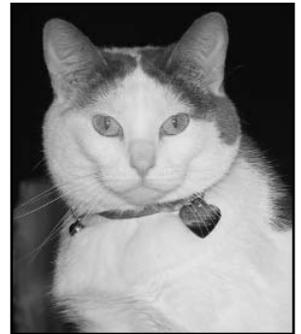


Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

Dear Readers,

I have heard it said that the eyes are the window to the soul. Humans have odd sayings! Even so, many of my visitors comment on how pretty my eyes are, and I certainly cannot disagree with this statement. However, my eyes are for so much more than gazing lovingly at my staff to get what I want. (*Although they do work perfectly for this purpose.*) They are also finely tuned tools of observation that serve me well in daily life. You see, my duties are not restricted to being an adorable hostess. I am also here to protect my staff and guests from menacing threats, no matter what form they may take.

One such situation presented itself just the other day. Upon waking from a nap, I sleepily hopped off my fur-covered chair to take a sip from my water bowl and rehydrate myself for the challenges of the afternoon. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I caught glimpse of a slight flutter. My senses leapt to full alert. With ears perked and all of my observation skills engaged, I set about finding the source. A quick scan of the room found nothing. On a second, more intent look, I noticed a shape, a color, a shadow that appeared suspicious. There it was. I pounced! The worthy opponent tried to escape, but it was no match for my cat-like reflexes. (*Wait a minute, I AM a cat. Make that simply my "cat reflexes."*) We wrestled, a full battle ensuing. As I gained ground over my adversary, I toyed with it, letting it think it might elude capture, only to snatch it up again with my unyielding paws. The struggle continued, fatigue setting in on both sides. In no way was this intruder was going to put MY Nature Center at risk! Mustering up every last ounce of strength from within, I made one final lunge. As the dust settled, I was victorious. The moth was mine, and my Nature Center was safe once more.



After such a strenuous encounter, it was time to close the curtains on the windows to my soul for a much needed and well deserved rest. At least until danger strikes again.

Kitty Kisses,

Daisy



ON THE POWER OF OBSERVATION

*By George A. Farnsworth
(In consultation with Daisy Kitty)*

*SUCCESS IN ALL OF LIFE, NOT JUST IN NATURE STUDY,
DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE UPON OUR POWER TO OBSERVE.*

One of the nice things about retirement is that you have time to talk to animals. During visits to Sugar Grove Nature Center, I've had some nice chats with Daisy Kitty, who has shared with me some of the secrets of her very nice life. Her most powerful secret, she claims, is an inborn skill which we hold in common with Daisy. It is her power to observe. You may see her napping and think she's off duty, but if you are a mouse nearby and you are thinking that, you are soon to be history. Exhibit A to the truth of what I say is Daisy's waistline.

Daisy was born with the necessary tools to see. Her mom stirred up these abilities in her early kittyhood and the necessity of survival drove Daisy to sharpen her power to fully see her surroundings. We too were born with sight. But we don't depend quite so much as Daisy on our skills to observe for basic survival and most of us haven't developed our seeing skills as well as Daisy. And Daisy thinks that we are the poorer for it, even though we are as well fed.

I would agree with Daisy. My experience, and that of many others, confirms that a rich, full enjoyment of life, beyond mere survival, depends heavily upon our ability to truly see all the elements of the world in their rich, connected fullness.

Continued on page 4.

The Power of Observation

Continued from page 3.

By 'connected fullness', I mean Naturalist John Muir's thought that, "when we try to think about something by itself we find it connected to everything else in the universe." And by 'truly see' I mean the effort to take in all that is there to observe. As we make conscious effort to observe any part of our world we are lead further abroad and deeper into it and we are rewarded with the richness we discover.

One can easily appreciate the need for sharp powers of observation to fully enjoy the world of nature on a visit to Sugar Grove Nature Center. But what does the skill to observe do for us in life outside Sugar Grove Nature Center? A short list of examples helps us answer that question... consider, please:

- ✿ The Observant Football Player: All-time great lineman Dick Butkus - With uncanny ability and hard work learned to quickly spot a masked pre-snap lineup. He could see the nervous flicker of eyes, slight telltale body shift or out of place foot in the opposing team formation that told him in advance of the snap where the play was really going, thus easily positioning himself to surprise the ball carrier with a bell-ringing tackle.
- ✿ The Observant Developer: I once asked a developer friend who has had a high project success rate over a long career about the use of a piece of property in town to locate a new public use facility. He said, "I've driven past there a thousand times, but give me a couple of days to look at it again. I often see the same spot differently with different thoughts in mind." He came back later with program-changing insights gleaned from his power to observe that my office study of the site hadn't revealed.
- ✿ The Observant Law Enforcement Agent: Doesn't the favorite TV series NCIS (whichever version) make the powerful case for skill in seeing? Forensic chemistry is wonderful, but an episode's outcome is always in the Good Guy/Girl's ability to see the clues.
- ✿ The Observant Parent: In an instant seizes that priceless teachable moment upon seeing a knit brow and wondering look on a child's face.
- ✿ The Observant Doctor: Has worked hard and long to learn how to quickly see the revealing signs of ill health in his or her patients.
- ✿ The Observant Husband: With an attentive eye to the Love of His Life, is ready for the day-making delivery of a glowing response to the question (usually rendered when least expected): "Notice anything different about me?"

If observing well reaps rewards in work life, how much more will it do for us in our engagement with the arts and literature where the senses are in full play? Consider further:

- ✿ The Observant Artist: One day I came across a woman on a Sugar Grove Nature Center trail walking while turning her head all about looking intently. When I asked what she was looking at she answered, "I'm memorizing the lighting of the woods for a painting I'm planning." Point made?
- ✿ The Observant Art Critic: Who will study this Sugar Grove artist's painting someday will need a sharp and practiced eye to appreciate and, perhaps to teach, what she has to say with choice of subject, composition, color and method.
- ✿ The Observant Writer: Watches human behavior carefully in all its nuances and learns the details of a real-life setting to frame a story that teaches, entertains and, perhaps, stirs us to action.

Louis Agassiz, 19th century professor of natural sciences at both Harvard and Cornell, and considered the greatest scientist of his day, greatly expanded the then known limits of the natural sciences through his own work and that of the many fruitful scientists he trained. Agassiz's teaching methods were founded on his belief that all things of the rich world of man and nature are discoverable by observation; that those facts gained from direct observation are personally owned and enrich the mind to a greater degree than do facts memorized from lists; and that the skill of observation learned in scientific study empowers learning in all other fields as well.

Towards the end of his fruitful career when asked the question, 'What do you regard as your greatest work?' Agassiz replied simply: 'I have taught men to see'.

In the next issue we will explore further how to observe.

Spotlighted Features

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Do you like to take pictures of animals, plants, or people in nature? Sugar Grove Nature Center is pleased to announce that we are sponsoring a Nature Photography Contest. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your photographic talent as well as the natural beauty of central Illinois. The contest includes both an adult and youth (under 13 years) division. Photographs must be taken in McLean or the surrounding counties in Illinois. There will be a prize for the best photograph taken in Funks Grove, and prizes will be awarded for winners in each division and category. Photographs taken from January 1, 2009 through October 1, 2010 are eligible for submission. Entry forms and rules for the contest are available at <http://www.sugar-grovenaturecenter.org/photocontest>

Want to learn more about nature photography before submitting an entry? Plan to join us for a **Nature Photography Workshop** on Saturday, July 24, from 8:30 a.m.- noon. Retired Miller Park Zoo Director, John Tobias, will share techniques and tricks for taking better photographs of nature and wildlife. The bulk of the morning will be spent outdoors photographing landscapes, plants, insects, and birds. More information about this workshop will be available in the next issue of The Nature of the Grove as well as on our website.

SATURN & ITS MOONS



Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 pm

Free, No registration required.

Join us for an evening celebrating the beauty of Saturn as we follow NASA's Cassini spacecraft to the ringed planet on a journey of discovery. Explore the rings as we see their delicate structure and unusual textures. Watch as we see Saturn's ring disappear during its spring equinox. Travel with the Huygens probe as it descends through the atmosphere of the largest moon, Titan, and explores the surface of this cold and wonderful world. Join Cassini as it passes through the geysers of icy Enceladus and observes the fascinating features found on this tiny moon.

NASA Solar System Ambassador Lee Green will be our guide as we explore Saturn and its many varied moons to see how they create and shape the Saturnian rings. After the 45-minute presentation, you can join us as we look through a telescope to view Saturn directly.

Meet the Interns

KRISTIN LONGMAN

Hello! My name is Kristin Longman and I am lucky to be interning out here at Sugar Grove Nature Center. I am currently a senior at Illinois State University. I am majoring in Biology along with an Organismal Biology and Public Outreach Sequence. When I'm out of the classroom much of my free time is spent working, jogging, or playing with my dog at the Dog Park. When the spring season arrives I spend many weekends at my family farm in Henry four-wheeling, camping, or hiking. I love to travel and have been all over this year, from San Francisco all the way to Costa Rica! As the weather begins to warm up, I hope you stop by for a brisk hike, a romp in Imagination Grove, or to explore the Nature Center!



JESSICA BURTON

I am a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University majoring in Biology and minoring in Psychology and Environmental Studies. I visited Sugar Grove Nature Center with an ecology class last semester and thought it was a wonderful community resource. It offers children and adults alike the chance to experience nature hands-on and really get excited about it. I am looking forward to being a part of that this semester while interning at Sugar Grove!



April~May~June Programs

Funks Grove Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, April 3 & 17; May 1, 15, & 29, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, June 12 & 26, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. (Please note earlier time.)

Free, No registration required for individuals. Please let us know if you are bring a group of volunteers.

Don Schmidt leads a faithful group of volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities every other Saturday throughout the year. Stop out on occasion or join the group on a regular basis to assist with exotic species removal, seed collection, and other projects.

Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturdays, April 3, May 1, & June 5; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free, No registration required.

Bring the family out for a day of fun at the Nature Center! A guided hike will take place at 11:00 a.m., stop inside to create a make-and-take craft at any time, and don't miss animal feeding time at 1:00 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it!

Flying WILD: Educator Workshop

Friday, April 9, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15, lunch provided, 4.5 cpdu's available, Registration required.

Flying WILD is an exciting new education program that provides interactive, interdisciplinary, standards-based activities to engage students in learning that helps them understand the importance of migratory birds and their conservation. Formal, non-formal, and homeschool instructors are invited to attend this training session that will provide practical information, abundant resources, and activities that can be used with students right away. For more information, visit www.illinoisaudubon.org/FW/FWSITE2/FW2aindex.html.



Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturdays, April 17, May 15, & June 19; 9:00 a.m. - noon

Free, No registration required.

On the third Saturday of every month, the public is invited to observe local members of the Illinois Valley Blacksmith's Association as they work at the Sugar Grove Forge, across the parking lot from the Nature Center.

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturdays, April 17, May 15, & June 19; 10:00 a.m. - noon

Free, No registration required.

Acoustic musicians of all levels are invited to join an Irish-music jam session at the Nature Center on the 3rd Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. - noon. Experienced players will be on hand to lead beginners through a couple of tunes at a slow pace to start, then they will progress to an up-to-speed session of traditional Irish tunes. Listeners (and players) are welcome to come-and-go as they enjoy all of the other activities at Sugar Grove Nature Center. For more details, contact Martha Tyner at mtyner@iwu.edu.

Girl Scout Wildlife Badge

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$7/scout, Registration required by Friday, April 9. Contact Robin Howard, Program Specialist for Girl Scouts of Central Illinois at 217.423.7791 ext 1302 or 309.662.5384 or email rhoward@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Girl Scouts are invited to spend a fun filled day learning about the plants and animals that live in and around Sugar Grove Nature Center while meeting all of the requirements to earn the Wildlife Badge. Bring a sack lunch, badges will be given at the end of the program. No tag-a-longs, please.

Continued on page 7.

April~May~June Programs

Continued from page 6.

Little Wonders: Become A Bird

Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/child members, \$7/child non-members, Registration required.

What better way to learn about birds than to become one! Three to five year-olds with an adult chaperone will explore the life of a bird, listen to a fun bird story, then become one by making their very own wings. (Warning: wings are not for actual flight.)

TCAA Public Viewing Session: Gibbous Moon & Saturn

Saturday, April 24, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers welcome all ages at the Sugar Grove Observatory to take part in a public viewing session. Each session begins with a short lecture on the featured sky object, as well as other interesting celestial objects that might be viewed that evening. This is followed by a sky tour of major constellations and planets. Dress appropriately for the weather. In the event of a cloudy sky, the observing session and associated talk may be cancelled. Call Carl at 309.830.4085 or Lee at 309.824.2804 after 6:00 p.m. to confirm if you are unsure. For more information, visit www.tcaa.us.



Family Campfire Program: Calling All Frogs!

Friday, April 30, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to members, \$3/person non-members, Registration required.

Today is "Save the Frogs Day!" (www.savethefrogs.com) Each species of frog makes its own sound. After learning about the frogs of Illinois and the sounds they make, we'll create our own frog chorus! Afterwards, gather around the campfire to relax, eat s'mores, and maybe even hear some toads and frogs sing to us!

A Walk in the Woods: Wildflower Walk

Saturday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to members, \$3/person non-members, Registration required.

Each year at this time, Virginia bluebells carpet the forest floor of Funks Grove. Violets, Dutchmen's breeches, Trout lilies, and other spring wildflowers are scattered among the logs and leaf litter, soaking up the sunshine and providing explosions of color to announce the arrival of spring. Join us for a leisurely stroll to identify and learn about the nature of spring in Funks Grove.

Homeschool: Wind Farm Tour

Thursday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Fee: \$3/person members, \$5/person non-members, Registration required.

Join us for a tour of the Twin Groves Wind Farm site with Randall Lloyd, Agriculture Awareness Coordinator for the University of Illinois Extension Office. Visit a turbine "up close and personal" while learning about the past and present influences on the land, including geology and geography, the early settlers, and agriculture. This is a family program, not drop-off. Upon registration, you will be informed where to meet, and we will caravan/carpool to the location.

Saturn & Its Moons

Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 pm

Free, No registration required.

NASA Solar System Ambassador Lee Green will be our guide as we explore Saturn and its many varied moons to see how they create and shape the Saturnian rings. See page 5 for complete details.

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Call 309.874.2174 or email register-sgnc@earthlink.net to register.



April~May~June Programs

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Little Wonders: Gardening Fun

Wednesday, May 19, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/child members, \$7/child non-members, Registration required.

Three to five year-olds with an adult chaperone will learn what it takes to create a garden. What kind of plants would you put in your garden? What would your plants need to grow? What is a weed? Find out the answers to all these questions, enjoy a snack during story time, and make a fun garden craft.

Native Plant Sale

Members Only Sale: Friday, May 21, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Open to the Public: Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

See page 13 for complete details.

Lasagna Gardening Workshop

Saturday, May 22, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Free, Registration required.

See page 13 for complete details.

TCAA Public Viewing Sessions

Variable Stars: Saturday, May 22, 9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Virgo Cluster of Galaxies: Saturday, June 19, 9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

See April 24 description.

Family Campfire Program: Turtles

Friday, May 28, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to members, \$3/person non-members, Registration required.

May 23 is "World Turtle Day!" Celebrate by learning all about the turtles of Illinois and visiting with the turtles of Sugar Grove Nature Center. Create a turtle puppet, then relax around the campfire with s'mores.

Imagination Grove Fun Day

Tuesday, June 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Free, although a donation of birdseed, sugar (for hummingbirds), or peanut butter would be appreciation.

No registration required.

While Imagination Grove, our nature play area, is open daily, we have designated this special day for you to meet other like-minded families that enjoy and appreciate nature-based play. Bring a nature item from home to trade at the Nature Trading Post: shells, nuts, rocks, or anything else you would like to trade. We will supply lemonade and snacks, you bring energy and imagination!

Cornbelters Baseball Game & Fireworks Show

Normal Cornbelters Ballpark on the Heartland Community College Campus

Friday, June 18; Gates open at 6:00 p.m., game begins at 7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$11/person, (\$3 from each ticket sold goes to support Sugar Grove Nature Center Programs!)

Contact the Nature Center to reserve your tickets! See page 1 for complete details.

Great American Backyard Campout

A partnership with Sugar Grove Nature Center and the Children's Discovery Museum

Saturday, June 26, 3:00 p.m. - Sunday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.

Fee: \$8/member (Sugar Grove Nature Center or Children's Discovery Museum), \$10/non-member; children under 3 are free. Registration is through Children's Discovery Museum.

Grab your sleeping bag and tent and join us as we celebrate the great outdoors for this national event! See page 1 for complete details.



Summer Nature Study Programs

What better way to spend the summer than exploring, discovering, and learning about nature! With a diverse range of topics geared towards ages 3 and up, you are sure to find a program to fit your interests! Advanced registration is required. To register, visit our website at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org, fill out the form under "Summer Nature Study Programs" and mail it in with your payment. If you do not have internet access, call 309.874.2174 and a form will be sent to you. Registrations must be received two weeks prior to the program start date. Programs may be cancelled if minimum participant numbers are not met.

LITTLE WONDERS

AGES 3-5

Wednesdays, June 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, & 14; 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$30/members, \$42/non-members (Must sign up for entire session), Registration required.

Three to five year-olds with an adult chaperone will explore a different nature topic each week through songs, stories, crafts, and games. This hands-on program will entertain and educate while building an appreciation for the world around us. Topics will include Sunshine; Giant Grasshoppers presented by the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST) at Illinois State University; Underground Tunnels; Fun on the Farm; Best Friends (Animals & Plants that Help Each Other); & Creek Critters. Minimum 8, maximum 15.

NATURE NUTS

AGES 6-8

Animal Homes

Thursday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Note: The printed version erroneously has the date as the 10th.

Fee: \$16/members, \$20/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

From a hole in the ground to a nest in a tree, animals are great home builders. Explore some of their construction methods & learn how they make houses that are perfectly suited for them. Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Nature Journaling: Nature Nuts

Tuesday, June 29; Wednesday, June 30; & July 1, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Fee: \$32/members, \$38/non-members, all supplies included; Registration required.

Express yourself while examining the natural world around you by starting a nature journal. Draw, write, and document what you see and how you feel. You'll be amazed what you can create! Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Best Friends: Animals & Plants that Help Each Other

Tuesday, July 13, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$16/members, \$20/non-members, Registration required.

Examine relationships of the natural world. Even plants and animals have "friends" that they rely on! Bring a sack lunch and make some friends of your own! Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Insects, Bugs, & Other Creepy Crawlers

Tuesday, August 3; Wednesday, August 4; & Thursday, August 5; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$48/members, \$60/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

Investigate bugs, insects, and other invertebrates up close. Plenty of time will be spent outside catching and studying what we can find. A guest presenter from the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST) at Illinois State University will lead us in interactive, hands-on activities involving the giant, poisonous, swamp lubber grasshoppers! Minimum 8, maximum 20.



A Day in the Creek

Tuesday, August 17, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$16/members, \$20/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

Spend a day looking for and learning about the plants and animals that live in the creek and Sugar Grove Nature Center! Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Continued on page 10.

Visit www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org or call 309.874.2174 for your registration form.



Summer Nature Study Programs

Continued from page 9.

ECO EXPLORERS

9-12 YEAR-OLDS

Fishing Fun

Friday, June 11; 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$8/members, \$10/non-members, Registration required.

Class will take place at Heartland Community College's Birkey Pond. Meeting place will be sent upon registration. A limited number of fishing poles are available. Please indicate if you are able to bring your own.

Learn about some of the fish of Illinois, then fish in the well-stocked pond at Heartland Community College. You'll learn how to tie knots, cast, and reel them in. Participants will practice catch-and-release.

Animal Architects

Tuesday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$24/members, \$30/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

From a tunnel in the ground to a nest in a tree, animals are great home builders. Explore some of their construction methods, and learn how they make houses that are perfectly suited for them. Bring a sack lunch.

Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Nature Journaling: Eco Explorers

Tuesday, June 29; Wednesday, June 30; & Thursday, July 1, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$32/members, \$38/non-members, all supplies included; Registration required.

Express yourself while examining the natural world around you by starting a nature journal. Draw, write, and document what you see and how you feel. You'll be amazed what you can create! Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Self-Defense for Plants

Thursday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$24/members, \$30/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

You've seen how animals defend themselves, but what about plants? They are not as helpless as you might think! Learn some of the tricks they have developed to protect themselves and to warn other plants of potential danger. Minimum 8, maximum 20.

Creek Adventure

Tuesday, July 20; Wednesday, July 21; & Thursday, July 22; 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$72/members, \$90/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch.

Study the aquatic life in Funks Grove! We'll spend lots of time in the water turning over rocks and digging in mud! Some specimens will be brought back to the Nature Center for further observation and examination with the microscope. In addition, data will be collected and turned in to the Illinois RiverWatch Network to assist in monitoring Illinois' waterways. Minimum 5, maximum 12.



ECO ADVENTURERS

13 - 15 YEAR-OLDS

Walk on the Wild Side

Tuesday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$24/members, \$30/non-members, Registration required. Bring a lunch.

Spend the day hiking on and off the trails of Funks Grove! Discover the treasures of nature by turning over logs & rocks, and looking high and low. Participants will get the chance to use GPS, compasses, and even a sun dial, if weather permits. Minimum 5, maximum 15.

Continued on page 11.



Visit www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org or call 309.874.2174 for your registration form.

Summer & Upcoming Programs

Continued from page 10.

ADULT ADVENTURES AGES 16+

Nature Play for Grown-Ups

Saturday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10/members, \$15/non-members, Registration required. Bring a sack lunch. Snacks provided.

We didn't forget the grown-ups who still like to play outside! Hike through the prairie & learn about these sun-loving plants. Explore the forest from fungus to trees. Tromp in the creek and discover mussels, crayfish, and more! We'll do it all!



HISTORY CAREERS DAY CAMP MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Session I: June 21 - 25; Session II: July 12 - 16; Session III: August 2 - 6; 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Open to students attending schools in McLean County and entering grades 4-6.

Fee: \$100/child, includes lunch, snacks, t-shirts, & transportation to partner sites. (Free for students whose families make \$30,000 or less.) Registration begins April 12 and ends May 28.

Sugar Grove Nature Center is excited to team up with the McLean County Museum of History for their History Careers Day Camp. During the week, students will get to explore the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, the McLean County Museum of History, and Sugar Grove Nature Center. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about the many career opportunities in the field of History, including Archaeology, Art and Architecture, Botany, and Environmental Science.

Registration is being handled by the McLean County Museum of History. Forms are available online at www.mchistory.org. For more information, please contact the Education Department at the Museum by phone at 309.827.0428 or by email at education@mchistory.org. Camp begins and ends each day at the McLean County Museum of History.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Look for more information in your next issue of *The Nature of the Grove*.

Illinois Butterflies - ENTICE Workshop

Monday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10, Register at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.

Flutter in and join other educators of grades kindergarten through six as we are introduced to the butterflies of Illinois! Butterfly life history, identification, conservation and adaptations will be discussed. Information on developing butterfly habitat will also be included. Learn about Monarch Watch and other butterfly conservation programs. We'll go outside to observe and identify butterflies in native habitats. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program.

Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration

Saturday, September 4, 2010

Autumn Celebration

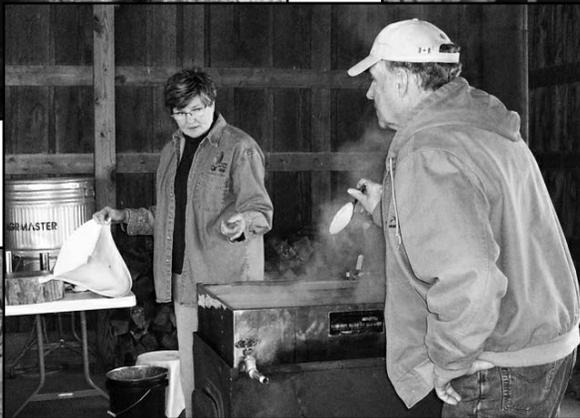
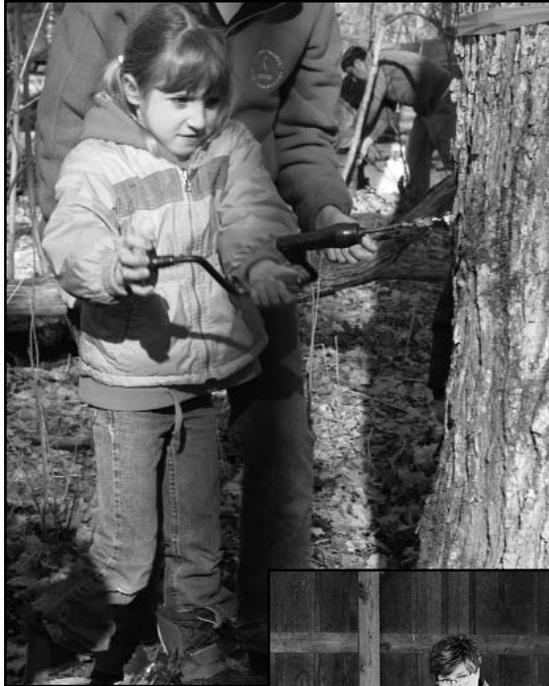
Saturday, October 23, 2010

Visit www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org or call 309.874.2174 for your registration form.



Maple Sirup Season

Maple sirup time is always busy at Sugar Grove Nature Center and this year was no exception! Over the course of 19 days, we welcomed more than 1,300 people for maple sirup experience programs! Over 500 volunteer hours contributed to the success of the program. Thanks to all of our fabulous volunteers!



Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup is open for business with this year's sirup crop! They are open Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. for as long as the sirup supply lasts, so hurry! They are located at 5257 Old Route 66 and can be reached at 309.874.3360 or visited on the web at www.funkspuremaplesirup.com.



Native Plant Sale

Members-Only Sale
Friday, May 21
4:00 -7:00 p.m.

Open to the Public
Saturday, May 22
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Plus....all members receive a 10% discount on their total purchase both days!
Not a member? Join now!

Bring back our natural heritage while attracting wildlife to your yard by planting native species. Not only are they beautiful, but they are adapted to our long, cold winters and hot, dry summers. They require no fertilizer and, once established, do not require watering.

Sugar Grove Nature Center is offering a wonderful assortment of harder-to-find native perennials and shrubs to diversify your garden with color, height, foliage, and beauty! These healthy, hardy, mature plants will arrive ready to begin landscaping your yard. Quantities are limited and subject to supplier availability! Visit our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org for more information and updated plant lists.

We will also be offering a **Lasagna Gardening Workshop** at noon on Saturday, May 22. Haven't heard of a Lasagna Garden? Here's a hint: it has nothing to do with the pasta dish! Lasagna gardening is named for its method of layering materials. Learn about this fun and increasingly popular sheet-composting garden. We'll share our secret recipe and technique, so you will be ready to start a lasagna garden at home. Look at the Programs on page 7 for everything you need to know. The workshop is free, but registration is required.

Do you have plants to share with other gardeners? Would you like to trade for something new to add to your landscape. Throughout the duration of the Native Plant Sale, we will have a **Plant Trade Table** set up. Bring your plants, potted and labeled, and add them to the selection, then choose some to take with you in exchange. All perennials, herbs, and healthy sprouts will be accepted except for invasive, exotic species. If you are not sure, give us a call!

SHRUBS- IN 5 GALLON POTS, \$20/EACH

Indigo Bush, *Amorpha fruticosa*
Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*

Nannyberry, *Viburnum lentago*
Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*

PREMIUM PERENNIALS - IN QUART POTS

Doll's Eyes, *Actaea pachypoda*, \$8
Lead Plant, *Amorpha canescens*, \$8
White Wild Indigo, *Baptisia leucantha*, \$8

Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum*, \$10
Dutchmen's Breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*, \$10

FORBS- IN 3" POTS, \$4/EACH

Purple Milkweed, *Asclepias purpurascens*
Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*
Marsh Marigold, *Caltha palustris*
Hairbell, *Campanula rotundifolia*
Joe Pye Weed, *Eupatorium maculatum*
Boneset, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*
Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale*
Royal Catchfly, *Silene regia*
Prairie Alumroot, *Heuchera richardsonii*
Blue Flag Iris, *Iris virginica shrevei*
Showy Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia speciosa sullivantii*

Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*
Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata*
Missouri Evening Primrose, *Oenothera macrocarpa*
Wild Sweet William, *Phlox divaricata*
Prairie Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*
Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
Early Sunflower, *Heliopsis helianthoides*
Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
Purple Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum dasycarpum*
Bellwort, *Uvularia grandiflora*



Make A Difference

Sugar Grove Nature Center, like many others, is feeling the strain of the current economic state. We appreciate the continued support of our members listed, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

SENIOR/STUDENT

Marlene M. Aeschleman ✿ Clara Ash ✿ Valle H. Funk ✿ Vernon & Amy Gehlbach ✿ Patricia Hamilton
Audrey Hart ✿ Mrs. Lorna Kavelman ✿ Harry R. Lovell ✿ Ron & Jo Ropp ✿ Bill & Rosalie Seymour
Sharon Tallon ✿ Wayne Trotter ✿ Delores Volle ✿ Muriel R. Walker ✿ Marilea White

SUGAR MAPLE

Merlin Anderson ✿ The Barth Family ✿ Kandy Baumgardner ✿ Dan & Lynnette Bixby Family ✿ Stacy Brandt
Beth Bristow ✿ Greg & Carrie Broguard ✿ Roxanne Castleman & Phillip Foster ✿ Mark & Pat Chamberlain
Richard & Anna Marie Chrisman ✿ Peter & Kristine Dederich ✿ Jane Dresner ✿ Darryl & Stephanie Fernandes
Erin Furimsky & Tyler Lotz ✿ C.J. Harrington ✿ Dr. Shawn & Amy Hohulin ✿ Dick & Barb Jurgens
John & Peg Kirk ✿ Gene & Marianna Lessen ✿ Kirk Lewis ✿ Howard Little ✿ Jason Marvel ✿ Karen McCarey
Charles & Barbara Meade ✿ Karin Nowers & Marc Gravel ✿ John & Linda Olson ✿ Raymundo & Tisha Ortega
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Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - Jim & Madge Williams Donor Advised Fund ✿ Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Yoder

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David & Laura Coe ✿ Dr. Jay Corwin ✿ The Jill Daley Family ✿ Forrest & Dottie Frank ✿ Adam R. Funk
Rob & Becky Glinka ✿ Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - George & Myra Gordon Donor Advised Fund
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SHAGBARK HICKORY

Judie A. Bey ✿ The Andy & Denise Hedberg Family ✿ Gary A. Hoover
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - David & Pearle Jeffries Donor Advised Fund ✿ Mark and Mary Kramp
CJ & Pat Oien ✿ Ms. Mary Lynne Poole ✿ Mike & Nadine Prall ✿ Joy Ralston
Tim & Vicki Tilton ✿ Carl & Carolyn Wenning

BLACK WALNUT

Gary & Linda Bristow ✿ George & Marylou Farnsworth ✿ John & Kristen Hendershott Family
Mary Kelly ✿ Ina M. Rehtmeyer

BLUE ASH

Edward & Judith Hines

Thank you to the Paul A. Funk Foundation for their annual contribution.

Please let us know of any typographical errors or omissions.



Sugar Grove Nature Center Membership

Become a member of Sugar Grove Nature Center! Your membership supports quality environmental education programs, land stewardship, research opportunities, and so much more! Sugar Grove Foundation is a non-profit organization that receives no tax support. Memberships, program fees, private gifts, and corporate and foundation grant support are the lifeblood of our organization.

All Membership Levels, including **Student/Senior** (\$15), **Sugar Maple** (\$25), and **Paw Paw** (\$50), receive:
Subscription to "The Nature of the Grove" published 4 times annually
Discounts on classes, programs, and events 🌿 Discount at Native Plant Sale
Invitations to members-only events 🌿 Reciprocal membership at nature centers around the country

Higher giving levels:

- 🌿 **American Sycamore** (\$100)
All of the above benefits plus a 20% one-time discount at Wild Birds Unlimited*
- 🌿 **Shagbark Hickory** (\$250)
All of the above benefits plus two Free Tickets to Annual Maple Sirup Experience
- 🌿 **Black Walnut** (\$500)
All of the above benefits plus a NatureScape Backyard Habitat Consultation
- 🌿 **Blue Ash** (\$1000)
All of the above benefits plus a guided trail ride through Funks Grove
- 🌿 **Bur Oak** (\$5000)
All of the above benefits plus a limited edition Funks Grove photograph

**Offer valid only at the Wild Birds Unlimited in Normal, IL*



MEMBERSHIP FORM

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15Student/Senior (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250Shagbark Hickory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25Sugar Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500Black Walnut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50Paw Paw | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000Blue Ash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100American Sycamore | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000Bur Oak |

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

- How would you like your newsletter recognition to be worded? _____
- I do not wish to be recognized in the newsletter.
- Please send me newsletters via email.
- Please send me newsletters via US Postal Service.

Please note: Memberships run from October to October.

Membership contributions are tax deductible.

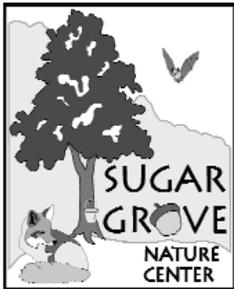
Please ask your employer about matching gift programs!

Sugar Grove Nature Center will neither sell nor trade personal information provided by donors.

**Make checks payable to Sugar Grove Nature Center and return to:
Sugar Grove Nature Center • 4532 N 725 East Road • McLean, IL 61754**



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*The Nature of the Grove is now
available electronically!
E-mail infosugargrovec@earthlink.net
to be added to the list!*

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Nature Center Hours

April - October

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November - March

Tuesday - Saturday

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Trails open daily dawn to dusk.

Contact us at:

Sugar Grove Nature Center

4532 N 725 East Road

McLean, IL 61754

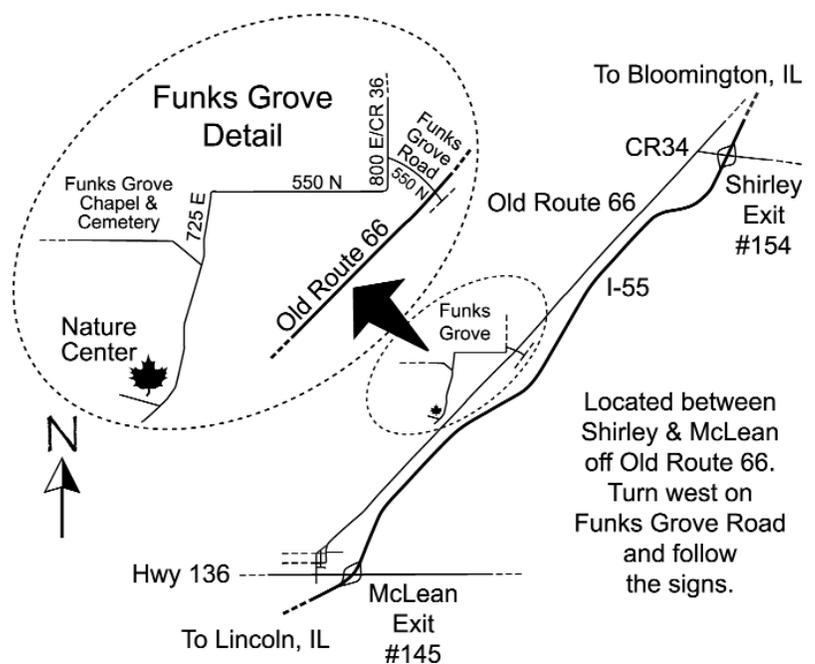
309.874.2174

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www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org

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Longitude: W 089° 08.007'



Located between
Shirley & McLean
off Old Route 66.
Turn west on
Funks Grove Road
and follow
the signs.