



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 8, Number 2

April/May/June 2012

Inside:

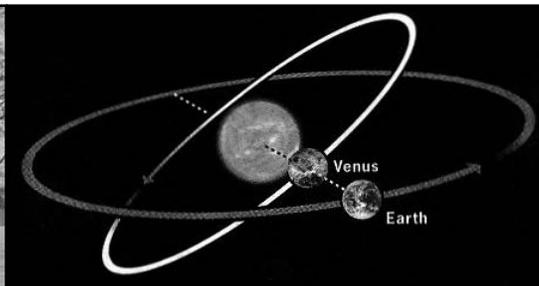
- 2 General Information
- 3 Musings & Meowings
- 4 Master Naturalist Training
- 4 Meet the Intern
- 4 Volunteer Opportunities
- 5 Program Schedule
- 12 Summer Nature Study
- 13 Summer Registration Form
- 14 Make a Difference
- 15 Membership Form

SENSATIONAL SPRING!

Spring has surprised everyone with an early arrival this year! In fact, winter was barely noticeable. Children normally bundled up in coats, hats, and mittens for Maple Sirup Field Trips were able to get away with light jackets on most days. This didn't hurt the sirup crop, though. With an early start on warmer days and several below freezing nights, Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup reported that they had a sweet season!

Weeks ahead of schedule, flowers have begun bursting through the forest floor and migrating birds are flying back from their southern retreats.

We share your enthusiasm for the warmer weather and are excited to offer a wide variety of programs for all ages to celebrate the fresh new season! Look over the program listings, and you're sure to find something to catch your eye and spark your interest!



Counter-clockwise from lower left: Go Batty, p. 8; Outdoor Hatha Yoga, p. 10; Venus Transit Event, p. 7; Basket Making, p. 11; Campout, p. 8; Watercolors, p. 10; Native Plant Sale, p. 11; RiverWatch, p. 10

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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.

Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

November - March

Tuesday - Saturday

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

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

*In the event that the Nature Center or portions of the
grounds will be closed during what would normally be
open hours, this information will be announced on our
voicemail and Facebook page.*

— 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! The party lasts two hours---this allows ample time to eat cake, open gifts, play in Imagination Grove, 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 or e-mail jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org for more information or to schedule your party!

— E-MAIL ALERTS —

Would you like to receive e-mail updates that include program reminders, local nature sightings, and nature news? E-mail info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org and place "Nature Alerts" in the subject line.

— VISIT US ON THE WEB OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK —

www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org 🌿 facebook.com/sugargrovenaturecenter

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 info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

Dear Readers,

The first Saturday in January started out just like a normal day. It was morning, not long after the warm sunshine woke me up from a deep slumber on my couch. I was preparing for the day - yawning, stretching, bathing - all at a leisurely pace. Then, a member of my staff arrived well before I had opened my Nature Center's doors for the day. No huge surprise there. My staff will occasionally show up early. They say it is to get some extra work done, but I know that it is because they miss me. Anyway, a few guests followed closely behind. Then more guests. And even more. They were all very friendly, and I welcomed them with open paws. Before I knew it, my Nature Center was full of people, all greeting each other and smiling. Their clothing was peculiar. It was kind of shiny and rather form-fitting. I think they must have noted my graceful yoga-like cat stretches, because soon they were all doing them. Not as elegantly as me, of course, but not bad for human people.

Then, the oddest thing happened. My guests all exited the building at one time and began running. Immediately, I became concerned for their safety. Had something scared them out of my Nature Center? I would certainly not stand for that. I made sure the snakes were securely in their enclosures and checked for other signs of distress, but found none.

As I watched out my Bird Room window, I saw some dashing into the woods, while others followed the driveway up to the road. Was something chasing them? I didn't see any prehistoric-type birds swooping down at them. There didn't appear to be a pack of blood-thirsty-zombie-coyote-monsters pursuing them. Maybe, just maybe, they weren't the ones being chased. Maybe they were doing the chasing. Like when I have to defend my Nature Center against such beasts as moths and spiders! But the expressions on their faces did not give the impression that they were on the hunt. No, they appeared to be enjoying themselves. Curiously, it seemed as if they were running solely for the fun of it. While I don't partake on a regular basis, every now and again, I enjoy a good dart across my Nature Center...while no one is looking, of course!



After a short time they returned, cheeks a little rosier. Before leaving, they petted me, and I said "Meow." (That means goodbye, as well as hello, feed me, and pet me.) Then they went on their way, leaving a huge pile of money behind! Over \$1,000!!! Upon further investigation, I learned that they call themselves the ABC Runners, and they raise money for charities. ABC stands for Adventures Benefitting....oh, I can't remember the word... it starts with a "C"... cats? Yes, it must be cats! What else could it be? All that money for me! Cashmere beds and rhinestone studded collars!



No? It's Adventures Benefitting Children? Well, that's very different. Nevermind. I understand that's a good cause, too.

Kitty Kisses,

Daisy 

Odds & Ends

ILLINOIS MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING TO BE OFFERED THIS FALL IN MCLEAN COUNTY

University of Illinois Extension, in partnership with Sugar Grove Nature Center, Heartland Community College, Parklands Foundation, Illinois Prairie Wild Ones, and McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District will offer the Illinois Master Naturalist (ILMN) training this fall.

The Illinois Master Naturalist (ILMN) program provides science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards. The program is designed for any adult, aged 18 or over, who is committed to life-long learning and stewardship of local resources. They must be members of the local community who are interested in habitats, ecosystems, natural resources and the environment and who are willing to devote time to volunteering and on-going training. The training course will be offered on Fridays, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, August 10 - October 26. Applicants will be informally interviewed in June. Once accepted, trainees will be required to attend all training classes, which will be led by University of Illinois Extension educators and regional scientists. Cost for the program is \$250, which consists of approximately 70 hours of classroom/field instruction and two field trips on topics related to local ecosystems.

For further information on this program or to express an interest, please visit the Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist webpage to download a brochure/interest form, or call Sharon Becker, Horticulture Program Coordinator, at 309-663-8306.



MEET THE INTERN

Hey, Everyone! My name is Beka Yates. I am currently living in Bloomington while attending Illinois State University, but I am originally from Springfield, IL. I grew up there with my mom, dad, three sisters and a menagerie of pets. I will graduate this May with a degree in Biological Sciences within the Organismal Biology and Public Outreach sequence. When I have graduated, I would love to work at a facility that brings science and nature to the public. I also love being outside, so an internship here at Sugar Grove Nature Center is a perfect fit. I love being able to interact with children and teach them new information about science. I am grateful to Sugar Grove Nature Center for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



VOLUNTEER GARDENERS & WOODWORKERS WANTED

While there are always volunteer opportunities available at Sugar Grove Nature Center, we are in particular need of specific skill sets in the coming months. With summer upon us, the gardens are filling in fast, and it takes a lot of work to keep them looking great. If you enjoy playing in the dirt and would like to spend some time caring for gardens that will be appreciated by thousands of people, we would like your help. We also have plans to spiff up our indoor displays, and are looking for talented woodworkers to take on the challenge! Projects may range from simple toy storage racks to more complex cabinetry with sliding doors. Email angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org if you are interested. Our volunteers make a world of difference!

April & May Programs

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 cancelled due to low enrollment or missing out because it is full.

Unless specified otherwise, please register by e-mailing register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org or by calling 309.874.2174. Summer Nature Study Programs are listed on page 12.

KIDS

Homeschool Program with Miller Park Zoo: Exploring Animal Senses

Ages 6-12 years old

Friday, April 13, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10/child members of SGNC or MPZ, \$14/child non-members; registration required.

Class will take place at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Registration is through SGNC. Please fill out the form at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf and send in with payment.

Miss Shannon from Miller Park Zoo and Miss Jill from Sugar Grove Nature Center have partnered up and created a fun class for homeschool students. We'll learn how animals use their senses to help them survive. Then we'll go outside to see what our senses can detect. A special critter guest will be visiting from the zoo, as well!

Little Wonders: April Showers

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, April 18; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/child members, \$8/child non-members; registration required.

What is rain, where does it come from, and where does it go? Learn all about the water cycle and why water is so important for all living things! Listen to a story, make a craft, and have a snack during this splish-splashy program!

Special Needs Campfire Program

Ages 7-10 with an adult chaperone

Saturday, April 21; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free/members, \$5/child non-members; registration required. No siblings, please.

Children with special needs are invited to attend this fun evening participating in nature-related activities and crafts, followed by s'mores and stories around the campfire. The program will be lead by Molly Legner, who is receiving her Master's Degree in Special Education and Amanda Rehtmeyer, a senior studying Special Education and Therapeutic Recreation.

Little Wonders: Totally Turtles

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, May 16; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/child members, \$8/child non-members; registration required.

This program is designed especially for children 3-5 years with an adult chaperone. Get up-close and personal with the turtles that live in the Nature Center and learn about others from all over the world! Create an turtle craft and listen to a terrific turtle story while enjoying a snack.

Continued on page 6.

April, May, & June Programs

Continued from page 5.

ALL AGES

Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturday, April 7, 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 the feeding of the turtles and snakes at 1:00 p.m. In addition, As Good As Gold Golden Retriever Rescue (www.asgoodasgold.org) will be on hand for a Meet and Greet. Learn about their organization while visiting with pups and pooches in need of a good home. Bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it! As Good as Gold will be guests at Family Nature Exploration Days on April 7, May 5, and June 2.

Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, April 21; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Free; no registration required.

On the third Saturday of every month, the public is invited to observe members of the Illinois Valley Blacksmith's Association as they work at the forge, across the parking lot from the Nature Center. Watch them bend and twist metal into art!

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, April 21; 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 third Saturday of every month. Experienced players will be on hand to lead beginners through a couple of tunes at a slow pace to start, then 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 mttyner@iwu.edu.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Mars, the Red Planet

Saturday, April 21; 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

With Mars visible in the early evening, take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about and view what is known as the Red Planet. Join the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) as they explore the stars and other prominent sky objects, such as planets, nebulae, and galaxies. A presentation will be followed by a sky tour using a laser pointer and telescope viewing. The program may be cancelled in the event of a cloudy sky. Phone Carl at 309.830.4085 or Lee at 309.324.2804 to confirm if you are unsure. For additional information, visit www.tcaa.us.

Family Nature Exploration Day, Saturday, May 5; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., see April 7 for description.

Blacksmith Demonstration, Saturday, May 19; 10:00 a.m.-noon; see April 21 for description.

Acoustic Irish Music Jam, Saturday, May 19; 10:00 a.m.-noon; see April 21 for description.

Continued on page 7.

April, May, & June Programs

ALL AGES, *continued from page 6.*

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Saturn, The Ring World

Saturday, May 19, 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

The ringed planet provides one of the most compelling sights you can view through a telescope. Join the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) as they highlight Saturn near its annual opposition. A presentation will be followed by a sky tour using a laser pointer and telescope viewing. The program may be cancelled in the event of a cloudy sky. Phone Carl at 309.830.4085 or Lee at 309.324.2804 to confirm if you are unsure. For additional information, visit www.tcaa.us.

Crayfish and a Campfire

Friday, June 1, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free/members, \$5/non-members; registration required.

No, we're not going to eat them! Learn about these little, lobster-like critters. Kids of all ages can create a crayfish craft, then everyone (except the crayfish) will head out to the campfire for s'mores and lemonade!

Family Nature Exploration Day, Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; *see April 7 for description.*

Twin City Amateur Astronomers: A Venus Transit of the Sun

THIS EVENT OFFERS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY IN OUR LIFETIME

Tuesday, June 5, 4:30-8:30 p.m. or as long as conditions allow.

Free; no registration required.

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) will be hosting a special viewing session as Venus crosses the face of the Sun (a transit). This will be humankind's last opportunity this century! Another chance at such a viewing will not occur again until 2117! A brief presentation on the history and cycles of Venus transits and their impact on astronomy will begin at 4:30, followed immediately by viewing. You may come at any time, but early viewing is encouraged to give the best opportunity to observe the event. Several transit-related activities are planned and variety of viewing options will be available for the public to safely observe the transit which begins with first contact at 5:07 p.m. local time. This event will occur rain or shine.

Imagination Grove Fun Days

Thursday, June 7; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 19; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Friday, August 10; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Free, although a donation such as birdseed, sugar (for hummingbirds), or paper towels would be appreciated. See our website for complete wish list. 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!

Continued on page 8.



April, May, & June Programs

ALL AGES, *continued from page 7.*

Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, June 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Free; no registration required.

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Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, June 16; 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 third Saturday of every month. Listeners and players are welcome to come-and-go. For more details, contact Martha Tyner at mtyner@iwu.edu.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Arc to Arcturus and Speed to Spica

Saturday, June 16; 9:00-11:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

Look at the constellations and point out how some of the brightest stars are used as guideposts to help you find other constellations. Many of the bright deep-space objects that are visible in the sky at this time will also be highlighted. A presentation will be followed by a sky tour using a laser pointer and telescope viewing. The program may be cancelled in the event of a cloudy sky. Phone Carl at 309.830.4085 or Lee at 309.324.2804 to confirm if you are unsure. For additional information, visit www.tcaa.us.

National Wildlife Federation Great American Backyard Campout

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

Saturday, June 23, 3:00 p.m. - Sunday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.

Fee: \$8/person members of Sugar Grove Nature Center or the Children's Discovery Museum, \$10/non-members. Children under the age of 3 are free. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required by calling the Children's Discovery Museum at 309.433.3444.

Grab your sleeping bag and tent and join us as we celebrate the great outdoors for this national event! Bring your family and enjoy nature-related 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. Payment must accompany registration.

Go Batty!

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/members, \$7/non-members; registration required.

This is the Year of the Bat! Learn about bats and see some up-close at this spectacular program! Joe Kath, Illinois DNR Endangered Species Program Manager, will give a presentation about bats and highlight those that might be caught during the program. Then, we'll use a bat detector and mist-nets to locate and (*hopefully!*) capture bats feeding along Timber Creek. This program is great for ALL ages! Participants will receive bat related materials and feast on a batty snack!

Continued on page 9.

April, May, & June Programs

Continued from page 8.

ADULTS

Workshop for Formal & Non-formal Educators:

Growing Up Wild/Early Childhood Project Learning Tree

Thursday, April 12; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$50 includes both curriculum guides, resources, and snacks. CPDU's available. Registration and prepayment required. Download form at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf.

Introduce your students to a critical component of childhood development.

Designed for early childhood educators of children ages 3-7, this program will provide an introduction to environmental education at a key developmental period in children's lives. You will learn how to encourage children to explore and discover their natural surroundings and communicate in expressive ways. Topics include exploring nature with five senses, meeting neighborhood trees, experiencing trees through the seasons, engages children in outdoor play, and much more. All lessons are correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains. In addition to the curriculum guides, participants will receive the accompanying PLT CD features music from children's musician Billy B. Brennan that encourages children to sing, dance and move. Project Learning Tree is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in Illinois by the Environmental Education Association of Illinois.

Stewardship Work Day

Saturday, April 14; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required for individuals. Groups interested in helping must contact the Nature Center at least one week prior to the workday to determine whether the planned activity is suitable. Don Schmidt leads a faithful group of volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities every other Saturday. Stop out on occasion or join the group on a regular basis to assist with exotic species removal, seed collection, and other projects. Work days include learning about Illinois' natural history first-hand, while spending a nice morning with friends who believe in the importance of being stewards of the environment.

Wildflower Walk

Sunday, April 22; 2:00 p.m.

Fee: Free/members of SGNC or Wild Ones, \$5/person non-members; registration required.

Celebrate Earth Day with a walk in the woods led by Wild Ones members to discover the flowers that carpet the forest floor every spring. Note that due to the early spring, the topic may be altered depending on what is in bloom.

Stewardship Work Day

Saturday, April 28; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required for individuals. Groups interested in helping must contact the Nature Center at least one week prior to the workday to determine whether the planned activity is suitable.

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

Continued on page 10.

April, May, & June Programs

ADULTS, *continued from page 9.*

RiverWatch Citizen Scientist Training Workshop

Saturday, April 28; 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$50/person, registration required. Registration is through the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. For more information on registering, visit ngrrec.org/riverwatch or contact Nate Keener at 618-468-2782 or nkeener@lc.edu. Please bring a lunch.

Join RiverWatch to become a part of a large network of volunteers who steward and protect Illinois streams. RiverWatch certified volunteers, referred to as Citizen Scientists, are trained to detect and track the changes in water quality as suggested by changes in the population of macroinvertebrates, such as dragonfly nymphs, beetle larva, midges, and snails. In doing so, they provide valuable insight to the health of our rivers and streams. This interactive workshop will give you the tools to test water quality and collect reliable data. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and the willingness to learn. Visit ngrrec.org to learn more about RiverWatch.

Watercolors Series with Cynthia Kukla: A Special Focus on Color, Spring

Sunday, April 29; 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$35/members, \$40/non-members, registration and prepayment required, form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf. Supply list will be sent upon registration.

Since color is one of the hardest areas to gain confidence with when you paint, Cynthia has designed a special set of workshops to help you gain in confidence with using color. The seasons naturally will guide us. For spring, we have colors to explore in the Delicate Triad and in full palette mixtures including cadmium yellow and red, alizarine crimson, violet, ultramarine blue and hooker's green (along with several variant colors.) Combining a rich investigation of color choices with the gentle and inspiring subjects available to us at Sugar Grove, we can have a great experience advancing our confidence with painting. Those working with acrylics are welcome to participate, too. All levels, from beginner to advanced, are encouraged to attend.

Stewardship Work Day

Saturday, May 12; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required for individuals. Groups interested in helping must contact the Nature Center at least one week prior to the workday to determine whether the planned activity is suitable. Don Schmidt leads a faithful group of volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities every other Saturday. Stop out on occasion or join the group on a regular basis to assist with exotic species removal, seed collection, and other projects.

Outdoor Hatha Yoga

Session I: Thursdays, May 17 to June 28; no class June 14; 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Session II: Thursdays, July 12 to August 16; 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Fee: \$50/members, \$60/non-members for each 6-class session. Registration and prepayment required, form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf.

Experience the bliss of yoga in nature! The beauty of the natural surroundings will enhance your ability to breathe, relax, and leave your stress behind as you perform asanas that will improve your flexibility, strength, and resilience. Katie Funk, a certified yoga instructor at Deoskar Integrative Health in Bloomington, will guide students of all levels through a fun and restorative yoga practice. No previous yoga experience required.

Continued on page 11.



April, May, & June Programs

ADULTS, *continued from page 10.*

Native Plant Sale

Member's Only: Friday, May 18; 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Open to the public: Saturday, May 19; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

All members receive a 10% discount on their total purchase both days! Not a member? We'll be happy to sign you up on the spot!

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. We will be 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, after May 1 for a list of available plants and prices.

Stewardship Work Day - *Saturday, May 26; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see April 14 for description.*

Illinois Prairie Wild Ones Native Plant Sale at U of I Extension Building

402 N. Hershey Rd., Bloomington, IL

Saturday, May 26; 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Discounts given to members of Wild Ones and Sugar Grove Nature Center.

It will be moved indoors to the auditorium if the weather doesn't cooperate. A list of plants will be available on the website (www.wildones.org/chapters/ilprairie/) closer to the time of the sale. In addition to many varieties of native flowers and grasses, pre-selected kits will be available for butterfly gardens, hummingbird gardens, and urban gardens. Experienced native plant gardeners will be available to help you with your purchases. For more information email ciwildones.pres@gmail.com.

Basket Making Workshop

Saturday, June 9, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40/members, \$45/non-members; all materials included. Registration and prepayment required by June 1, form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf.

Try your hand at weaving! Our participants in the February class had such so much fun, we decided to do it again. This time, create a beautiful Round Market Basket with instructor Trish Handel. These baskets are great for fruit, gift baskets, gardening, or decorating the home.

Stewardship Work Day - *Saturdays, June 9 & 23; 8:00-10:00 a.m.; see April 14 for description.*

Nature Photography Workshop with John Tobias

Saturday, June 30; 9:00 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$15/members, \$20/non-members; registration and prepayment required. Form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf. Ages 16+, class size is limited to 10.

Explore the art of nature photography with photography instructor John Tobias! Learn to use the features of your camera while creating gorgeous photographs of the natural world. If you haven't already started taking photos for our Nature Photography Contest, now is the perfect time to start. Most of the time will be spent outdoors fine-tuning your skills, so dress to be outside! Bring your camera, gear, extra batteries, and a large memory card (or two).

Forms for prepayment can be found at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf.



Summer Nature Study for Kids

Fostering a love and appreciation of nature at an early age is so very important. 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 and class size is limited. **To register, please fill out the form on page 13 or at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/sns12.htm and mail it in with your payment.** Registration 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 with an adult chaperone

Wednesdays, June 20 & 27; July 11 & 18; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee for the series: \$20/child members; \$32/child non-members, registration required.

Each program will focus on an exciting nature topic with hands-on activities, entertaining stories, yummy snacks, and creative crafts!

NATURE FUN CLUB

Ages: 6-12

Tuesdays, June 12-July 24; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee for the series: One child: \$80/members, \$100/non-members; additional siblings: \$60/members, \$80/non-members; registration required, please bring a lunch.

Discovery, investigation, and exploration will be emphasized in this exciting program. Along with environmental themes, show-and-tell, and projects, club members will enjoy plenty of unstructured time in nature. Kids may be divided by age and/or special interests.

CREEK STOMP

Ages: 6-8; Tuesday, July 31; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ages: 9-12; Wednesday, August 1; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ages: 13+; Thursday, August 2; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15/members, \$20/non-members; registration required; please bring a lunch.

Kids will love getting wet and muddy as they explore the banks and depths of a nearby creek! We'll start by learning about some of the aquatic creatures we might encounter, then head out to creek to see what we can find!

NATURE ART - CAVES & CLAY

AGES: 6-12

Ages: 6-12

Thursdays, June 14 & 21; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Fee for both days: \$25/members, \$30/non-members, all supplies included; registration required.

Artist & educator Sandy Bales is back, this time exploring the art of ancient caves! After studying cave art, participants will work together to create a cave with images of their choosing. Small clay pots will also be made and embellished with art.

Summer Program Registration Form

Please print. One student per form. You may copy this form as needed or print additional copies at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org. Please register two weeks prior to first day of the program. Programs may be cancelled if minimum enrollment is not met.

Student's Name: _____ Age: _____
Last First Age & Birth Mo/Yr

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____ Email: _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street City, State Zip Code

Day Phone #: _____ Emergency Contact & Phone #: _____

People, other than myself, authorized to pick up my child: _____

Any allergies, medical conditions, or special dietary needs we should know about (if applicable): _____

Rules

1. Students are expected to give proper respect to staff, volunteers, other program participants, equipment, and the grounds at all times.
2. Students must be dressed appropriately for weather and circumstances of the class. No sandals, please.
3. Participants will arrive and be picked up on time.
4. All behavior problems will be reported to parents. Any behavior problems which are not remedied will result in the expulsion of the student from class and forfeiture of any monies paid for the current class.
5. Refund policy: A full refund will be issued if cancellation occurs two weeks prior to program. After that date, credit will be given towards another program, to be used within six months.

I have read and understand the rules of Sugar Grove Nature Center. I understand that students will be expected to abide by these rules, and if misconduct occurs, I will be informed. I will not hold Sugar Grove Nature Center or the Sugar Grove Foundation or their agents liable in case of accident or injury to my child. I understand that my child may be photographed for future publications or promotional pieces.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enter information for your requested classes:

| Class | Date & Time | Cost |
|----------|-------------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ |

Total: _____

Please mail completed registration form with check to Sugar Grove Nature Center to: Sugar Grove Nature Center, 4532 N 725 East Road, McLean, IL 61754. You will receive confirmation upon receipt of your registration. If you have any questions, call 309-874-2174 or email register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

SENIOR/STUDENT

Buster & Marge Dyer ✿ Carolyn Erwin ✿ Stephen A. Funk ✿ Alice M. Gower ✿ Phyllis Kneeder ✿ Vicky Kramer
Faith Mund ✿ Margaret Quinley ✿ Larry Quinley ✿ Carolyn Redic ✿ Lona Robinson ✿ Jim Struebing
Sharon Tallon ✿ Dee Volle ✿ Muriel R. Walker

SUGAR MAPLE

Dan Anderson ✿ Luke, Kristen, & Lorelei Arnold ✿ Randy Barnett ✿ Steve & Jody Borbely ✿ Martha Boudeman
Hope Brannon ✿ John, Tara, & Hannah Braucht ✿ Laurine Brown ✿ Jeff & Deanne Colledge ✿ Bill & Mercy Davison
Jane Dresner ✿ Karen Dudek ✿ Stephen & Glaida Funk ✿ Linda L. Giles ✿ Charles & Cindy Goldstein
Karen Goloff ✿ Jacquelyn Hadley ✿ Mike Heffron ✿ Shane & Corie Hill ✿ Dave & Lis Hiltabrand
Sara Hostetter ✿ Sue Kiley & Grandchildren ✿ Darvis & Shelly King ✿ Jim Limer ✿ Bruce & Nancy Lindenfelser
The Lovell Family ✿ Lisa Loy ✿ The Malone Family ✿ Karen McCarey ✿ Dr. P.L. Moriearty
Marc Gravel & Karin Nowers ✿ Joan & Shorty Olson ✿ Paul and Jane Peak ✿ The Pierard Family
William & Betty Rennie ✿ Mary Ellen Schupbach ✿ Alan & Elizabeth Sender
Mark & Joni Smith ✿ Aaron & Kim Vercimak ✿ The Waddell Family ✿ Dave Weth

PAW PAW

The Amble Family ✿ Merlin & Meg Anderson ✿ Roger & Deb Aukerman ✿ Wes & Connie Becker ✿ The Bixby Family
Heather Boston ✿ Larry Bross ✿ Ellen & Brian Dietz ✿ Mr. & Mrs. Don Doty ✿ Larry & Emma Funk
Given & Jean Harper ✿ Lois Kelsey ✿ Michael & Mabel Lux ✿ The McDade Family ✿ Gretchen Monti
Dick & Marcia Nagy ✿ Tom & Susan Parrent ✿ Eric, Marty, & Shannon Payne ✿ Lance & Candy Rogers
Marcia Rossi ✿ Robby & Debbie Ruff ✿ Karen Schmidt ✿ David & Joyce Schmoeger
Bruce & Carolyn Sutter ✿ Charles & Karen Thompson ✿ Bryan & Bridgette VanHook ✿ Phylis VerSteegh

AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Tricia Braid & Family ✿ Around About Acres ✿ Sandy Bush ✿ Mark & Carol Cabaj ✿ Brian, Emilie & Cobi Chase
David & Laura Coe ✿ Forrest & Dottie Frank ✿ The Hedberg Family ✿ Tanja Mahner ✿ Larry & Jonalee Mikesh
Larry & Louise Reeser ✿ Gene & Mary Jane Roth ✿ Donald & Marjorie Sapp ✿ The Schaefer Family
Elinor Funk Urstadt ✿ Richard & Eileen Wagner ✿ John & Marilyn Freese
Gary Huppert ✿ Jane Huppert ✿ Clint & Cheri Rehtmeyer

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Michael & Maria Lamb ✿ Joy Schuler ✿ Herbert Sage Steffens ✿ Jim & Emily McLaughlin

ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

Mary Jo Adams ✿ Gary & Linda Bristow ✿ Kendra Coleman ✿ Anne Dickerson
George & Mary Lou Farnsworth ✿ Larry & Emma Funk ✿ Mabel Gast ✿ Shae Davidson & Johanna Haas
The Shawn Hohulin Family ✿ Gary Hoover ✿ Mary Horgan-Siegworth ✿ Phil Houser ✿ Larry Kupferschmid
Tanja Mahner ✿ Pat & Carroll Oien ✿ Jack & Ruth Pfaffmann ✿ Jim Struebing ✿ Sharon Tallon
Stephen & Marcia Thomas ✿ John Tobias ✿ Martha Tyner

PAUL A. FUNK FOUNDATION

In the mid-1990's the dream of creating a Nature Center in Funks Grove was well on its way to reality after the Funks Grove Cemetery Association purchased the area known as Sugar Grove. The Paul A. Funk Foundation has provided funding for Sugar Grove Nature Center from the very beginning and has continued to support our daily operations with an annual gift. Their continued support is vital to the programs that thousands of visitors enjoy throughout the year.

MEMORIAL GIFTS & BEQUESTS

We hope you will consider Sugar Grove Nature Center in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests are an important way you can make a lasting contribution to the preservation and maintenance of this important natural area and environmental education center. If you wish to make a provision in your will, the following general form is suggested: "I give Sugar Grove Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization (37-1338932), which receives mail at 4532 N 725 East Road, McLean, Illinois 61754, the sum of \$_____ or _____ percent of the residue of my estate (or specifically described property) for Sugar Grove Nature Center." If you have any questions, please contact Angela Funk, Director, at 309.874.2174.



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:

- ✿ Discounts on classes, programs, and events
- ✿ Benefit of checking out books from the Nature Center Library
- ✿ Discount at Annual Spring Native Plant Sale
- ✿ Reciprocal membership at nature centers around the country

The Student/Senior level is for individuals. Family memberships begin at the Sugar Maple level.

Higher giving levels:

✿ **American Sycamore (\$100)**

All of the above benefits plus a 20% one-time discount at Wild Birds Unlimited in Normal, IL

✿ **Shagbark Hickory (\$250)**

All of the above benefits plus two Free Admissions to Annual Autumn Celebration

✿ **Black Walnut (\$500)**

All of the above benefits plus a nature photograph featuring the flora & fauna of Funks Grove

✿ **Blue Ash (\$1000)**

All of the above benefits plus a NatureScape Backyard Habitat Consultation

✿ **Bur Oak (\$5000)**

All of the above benefits plus a guided trail ride through Funks Grove



MEMBERSHIP FORM

\$15Student/Senior (65+)

\$25Sugar Maple

\$50Paw Paw

\$100American Sycamore

\$250Shagbark Hickory

\$500Black Walnut

\$1000Blue Ash

\$5000Bur Oak

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ 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.

Memberships are valid for one year.

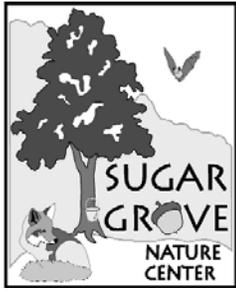
Membership contributions are tax deductible. Please ask your employer about matching gift programs!

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**



Sugar Grove Foundation
4532 N 725 East Road
McLean, IL 61754



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US POSTAGE
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BLOOMINGTON IL

Nature Center Hours

April - October
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

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

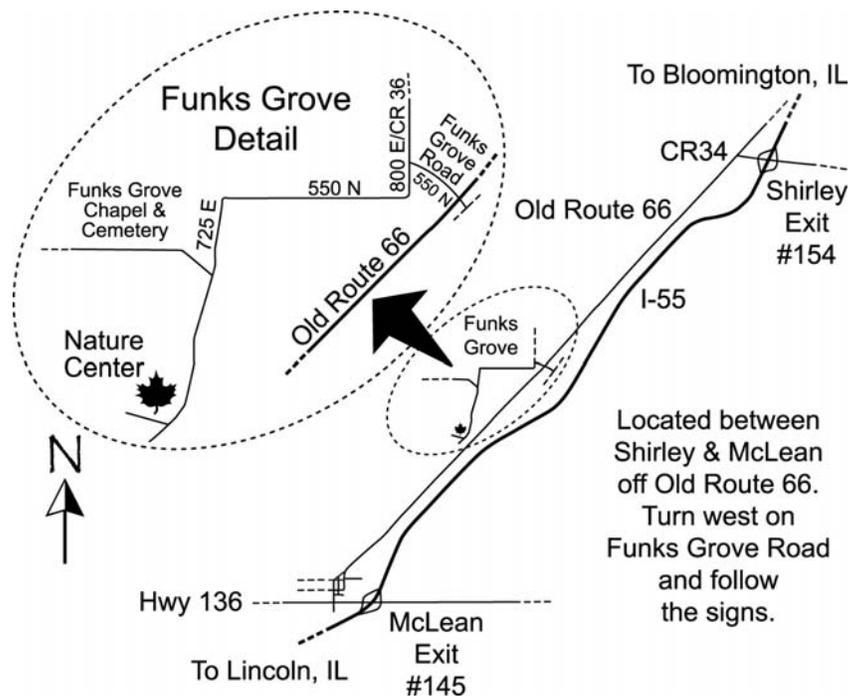
Grounds, trails, & Imagination Grove
open daily dawn to dusk.

Contact us at:

Sugar Grove Nature Center
4532 N 725 East Road
McLean, IL 61754
309.874.2174

info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org
www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org

Latitude: N 40° 20.893'
Longitude: W 089° 08.007'



The Nature of the Grove is now available electronically!
E-mail info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org
to be added to the list!