



## The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 7, Number 1

January/February/March 2011

### Inside:

- 2 General Information
- 3 Musings & Meowings
- 3 Birthday Parties
- 4 Maple Sirup Programs
- 5 Wild Ones
- 6 Great Backyard Bird Count
- 7 Program Schedule
- 11 Photography Contest Winners
- 12 Girl Scout Program
- 13 Master Naturalists
- 14 Members
- 15 Membership Form

### MAPLE SIRUP TIME!

It's coming soon! The time of year when buckets decorate the sugar maples throughout Funks Grove. Sugar Grove Nature Center invites you to participate in this important part of Funks Grove Heritage. We offer a wide range of maple sirup programs for everyone!

#### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

#### Maple Sirup Experience Tours

Have you ever tasted 'sweet water' dripping from a spile? Here's your chance! Please join us for the Sugar Grove Nature Center Maple Sirup Experience on Saturday, March 5. Gather around the fire at the sirup camp to learn how the Native Americans and early settlers collected and prepared sap. Visit the sugar shack where the smell of maple sirup hangs in the air. Journey into the sugarbush to tap a tree. Stop inside the Nature Center to sample a variety of sweet treats made with maple sirup including candy, cookies, fudge and more! Dress for the weather, as you will be outside for a major portion of the program. Experience an important part of Funks Grove heritage!  
**Saturday, March 5**

*2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 3:00 p.m.*  
*Fee: Members - \$5/adults, \$3/children (16 & under), non-members - \$7/adults, \$5/children. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or calling 309.874.2174.*

#### Maple Sirup Seminar

*Thursday, March 10, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.*

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

Suitable for adults, children, and groups. This primer gives the maple sirup basics from tree to table. We'll tap trees and taste the finished product.



*Continued on page 4.*

## Nature Center Staff

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## Sugar Grove Foundation Board of Directors

Linda Bristow, *President*

Gary Huppert, *Treasurer*

Craig Alexander, *Secretary*

Tricia Braid Terry

Eric Funk

Richard Park

John Rehtmeyer

Don Schmidt

Eric Vaughn

## E-MAIL ALERTS

Would you like to receive periodic e-mail updates that include program reminders, local nature sightings, and nature news? If so, e-mail [info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) and include "Nature Alerts" in the subject line.

## VISIT US ON THE WEB OR JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

[www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

## NATURE CENTER HOURS

Please take note of the following changes in Sugar Grove Nature Center's hours:

### Winter Hours

#### November - March

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

#### April - October

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

### Nature Center Closed

Saturday, January 1  
Happy New Year!

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

## NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please note our new e-mail addresses listed throughout the newsletter and update your address book. See page 13 for a list of addresses.

## 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 three hours---this allows ample time for setup and cleanup; 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 or e-mail [jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) for more information or to schedule your party!

*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](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org).



# Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

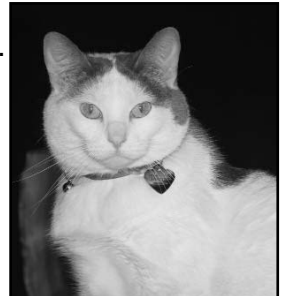
Dear Readers,

Although I am a creature of sophistication and domestication, I am nonetheless intrigued by my counterparts in the wild. They do have to go through many trials and tribulations for survival, especially now that cold weather is upon them. I can totally empathize. Just the other day, I was fast asleep on my chair in my office. One of my staff opened the door, and a gust of frigid air blew right over me. The chill went through my fur, awakening me and sending me scrambling for warmth. (Yes, I ran.) I had to go all the way to the other side of the room to escape the blustering cold. This got me pondering my method of dealing with winter. Maybe I could learn something from the animals outdoors.

Many of the birds that I watch from my Bird Room window migrate south for the winter in search of food and warmer weather. Maybe I should head south, as well. I could find a nice beachside resort with my own cabana cat who would keep my food bowl filled and my water fresh. Daily visits to the spa's mouse-seuse would keep me relaxed.

Or, I could hibernate. There's a great idea! I could curl up in one of my super-secret hiding places and fall into a deep sleep for a few months, dreaming of the mice of spring.

But, there is a major flaw in either of these plans. I mean besides sand in my fur and going without eating for several months. I'd really miss my guests, and I honestly don't believe my staff could survive without me. As tempting as these scenarios may seem, my place is here, keeping things running smoothly, guests entertained, and making sure the Nature Center is safe from mice & spiders. Come in and see me over the winter. You can warm your hands in my fur!



Kitty Kisses,

*Daisy*

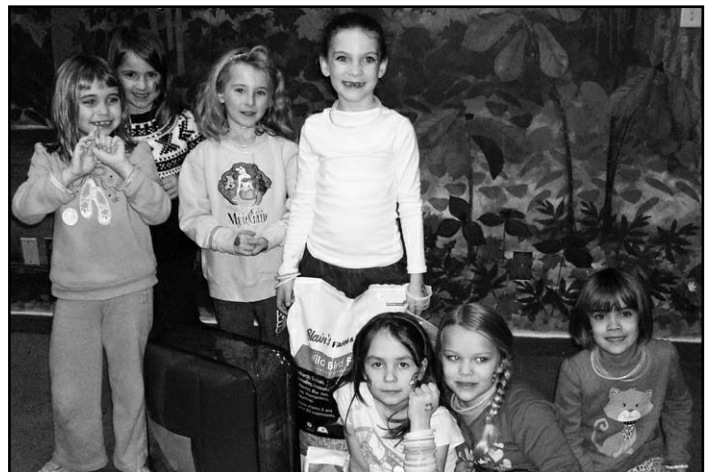


*p.s. I now have my very own e-mail address! My fans can reach me at [daisy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:daisy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org).*



## GENEROUS BIRTHDAY GIRLS

When Melissa F. (left) and Ashely H. (right) celebrated their birthdays at Sugar Grove Nature Center, they generously decided to have their guests bring donations to the Nature Center instead of gifts! Thanks, girls! You are fabulous!



# Maple Sirup Programs

Continued from page 1.

## SCOUTING GROUPS

### **Sirup for Scouts**

*Saturday, February 26*

*Boy Scouts- Cub Scouts & Webelos: 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.*

*Girl Scouts- Brownies & Juniors: 1:00-3:30 p.m.*

*Registration & prepayment required. Fees and forms are available online at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or calling 309.874.2174.*

Attention Boy and Girl Scout leaders! Your troop is invited to join in on the maple sirup fun! Scouts will learn how sap from the maple tree becomes sirup, and take part in the process from tree tapping to tasting! When registering, please be sure to gather participant numbers for your entire troop so that no one is left out of this experience!

## PRESCHOOLERS

### **Little Tappers - Maple Sirup**

*Saturday, March 12, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

*Wednesday, March 16, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.*

*Fee: Members \$5/child, non-members \$7/child; adult chaperone & registration required.*

This program is designed especially for children 3-5 years with an adult chaperone. We will sing songs and make a craft while learning how to make maple sirup and listen to a fabulous sirup story. Then, each child will get a turn at tree tapping and taste the real thing!

## ADULTS

### **Maple Sirup Traditions in McLean County**

*Saturday, March 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

*Ages: 18+, fee: \$7/person. Register through the McLean County Museum of History by contacting the Education Department via telephone at 309.827.0428 or via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org). Registration deadline is Friday March 4th, 2011. Registration is limited to 60 people so register early. Participants will need to provide their own transportation to Sugar Grove Nature Center.*

Join Sugar Grove Nature Center in partnership with the McLean County Museum of History for a fun and educational afternoon exploring the tradition and history of Maple Siruping in McLean County. This program is offered through the McLean County Museum of History in conjunction with their current exhibit, *Come & Get It! The Way We Ate, 1830-2008*; which explores the eating habits, cooking equipment, methods, and diverse food traditions of McLean residents since the early 1800's. A historic perspective of the Funk family will be featured, from making sirup after settling the area in the 1800's to the forming of Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup, a family business that continues today. In addition, participants will experience the Native American method of boiling sap, learn about maple tree biology, sample tasty maple snacks, and tap a tree.

## HOMESCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

*Tuesday, March 1 or Thursday, March 3; 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., bring a sack lunch.*

*Fee: \$5/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available online at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or by calling 309.874.2174.*

Homeschoolers of all ages can participate in the Maple Sirup Experience on one of two days set aside especially for them! This program fills quickly, so get your registration in soon!

*Continued on page 5.*

# Maple Sirup Programs

Continued from page 4.

## SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Sugar Grove Nature Center is pleased to continue offering the Funks Grove Maple Sirup Experience for 3rd-6th grade classes and invites your school to take part in this unique educational experience. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to actively engage in the production of maple sirup as they explore its history from pre-settlement to current day through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Every student will have the opportunity to tap a maple tree and take home a small bottle of Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup.

The four-hour experience costs \$5/student. Registration is underway and dates are filling fast. Available dates are February 22, 23, 24, & 25, or March 2, 8, 9, 10, & 11. Call 309.874.2174 or email [angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) for the most up-to-date availability. Your field trip can be reserved with a \$100 deposit by check or money order and a completed registration form, available online at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org).

## PURCHASING MAPLE SIRUP

Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup, located 1/4 mile south of Funks Grove Road on Route 66, will begin selling fresh Maple Sirup as soon as the sap is finished boiling down! They also carry delicious handmade maple candies as well as other related merchandise. Call 309.874.3360 for availability or more information.



## WILD ONES - NATIVE LANDSCAPING

The Bloomington-Normal area is fortunate to have a new chapter of the national organization Wild Ones. Wild Ones will be joining with other local environmental organizations and centers to promote and encourage the planting of native species. Their mission is to increase awareness of the importance of native plants and to promote sustainable landscaping practices through grassroots efforts by example, education, marketing, and personalized support. The chapter offers monthly meetings and presentations throughout the year. Visit Wild Ones on the web at [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) and consider joining and supporting this local chapter. For further information contact President Sherrie Snyder at 309-376-2070, [ciwildones.pres@gmail.com](mailto:ciwildones.pres@gmail.com).

### **"Meet the Natives"** Wild Ones Chapter Meeting Presentation

*Monday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.*

*McLean County Extension Bldg. Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey, Bloomington*

*Open to all and free of charge, no registration required.*

Mary Jo Adams presents a slide show and leads discussion on plants native to Central Illinois and where they like to grow - woodland (shade), prairie (full sun), savanna (part shade).

### **"Getting Started With Natives in Your Yard"** Wild Ones Chapter Meeting Presentation

*Monday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.*

*McLean County Extension Bldg. Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey, Bloomington*

*Open to all and free of charge, no registration required.*

President Sherrie Snyder will share her experiences and provide suggestions landscaping your yard with natives. She will talk about planning what to plant and where, integration with existing non-natives, benefits of natives, and local and mail order resources.



# Great Backyard Bird Count

Calling All Bird Watchers!!! THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS FEBRUARY 18-21, 2011! Do you enjoy watching birds in your backyard or while out on a hike? Would you like to learn more about birds that call central Illinois home during the winter months? This is your chance! You don't need to be a bird expert to contribute to this citizen science program. Each year, tens of thousands of volunteers help researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing - and how to protect them. We invite you to join the ranks of volunteers by counting at home or Sugar Grove Nature Center.

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count from novice bird watchers to experts. Observations can take place in your yard, at the park, or here at the Nature Center. You can count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as you wish) on one or more days of the event and report your sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). This is a great activity for families, groups, and individuals!

We invite you to join us for a special program, **Backyard Bird Watching Basics**, on Saturday, January 29, from 10:00 am until noon followed by a chili lunch. We will review basic bird identification techniques and show you how to identify more than 25 common winter feeder birds! Learn how to attract birds to your property by providing the appropriate feeders, feed, and other features, and then find out how easy it is to submit data for the bird count!

Sugar Grove Nature Center will be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count and we would love your help! Join us for a special **Breakfast with the Birds** on Saturday, February 19 at 9:00 am. Stop in to enjoy a light breakfast and hot beverage while identifying birds from the Hazel Funk Holmes Bird Observatory. If you would rather be outside, we invite you to hike a section of the trails and report your observations back at the Nature Center. Help us put Funks Grove on the map!

Whether you count at home or at the Nature Center we hope you will take part in the 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count! We are offering a limited number of binoculars and bird field guides for loan to help you get involved. More information on the Great Backyard Bird Count is available at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). JOIN THE FUN AND HELP AREA BIRDS!

We hope you will join us for one or both of these FREE programs, sponsored by the John Wesley Powell Audubon Society. Although it is not necessary to attend the January 29th program in order to assist with data collection during the count, we encourage you to enjoy both opportunities. All ages are welcome. Please register in advance for the programs you plan to attend by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) or calling 309.874.2174.



Photo by Dee Frautschi

# January, February, & March 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 canceled due to low enrollment or missing out because it is full. Please register by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) or by calling 309.874.2174.*

## **Nature Center Closed: Happy New Year!**

*Saturday, January 1*

## **Funks Grove Stewardship Work Days**

*Saturdays, January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19, March 5 & 19; 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.*

*Free, no registration required.*

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

## **Family Nature Exploration Day**

*Saturday, January 8; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Free, no registration required.*

Bring the family out for a day of winter fun at the Nature Center! A guided hike will take place at 11:00 a.m. See what tracks you can find in the snow. Stop inside to warm up with hot chocolate and create a make-and-take craft at any time. We'll feed the Nature Center animals at 1:00 p.m. Feel free to make a snowman on the lawn while you're here!

## **Blacksmith Demonstration**

*Saturdays, January 15, February 19, & March 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.

## **Winter Wonderland Run**

*Saturday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.*

*There is no fee for the event, but donations in any amount are encouraged. Funds collected will benefit our nature play area, Imagination Grove. No registration required.*

The ABC (Adventures Benefiting Children) Runners invite everyone to join them for a winter run in Funks Grove. Run on roads or wind your way through wooded trails. Throw snowballs, chase deer, and leap a creek!

The public is invited to join the ABC Runners for this Fun Run/Walk which includes 7 & 9 mile road courses. Shorter distances can be enjoyed by turning around at a chosen mile marker. Water & Gatorade will be available at the 3.5 mile point of the road course. Afterwards, warm up in the Nature Center with coffee, tea, hot cocoa, coffee cake, and other treats!

Today, the Nature Center will open at 8:30 a.m. Runners are encouraged to bring their families to explore the Nature Center while they run. No unattended children, please.

*Continued on page 8.*

E-mail [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) or call 309.874.2174 to register.



# January, February, & March Programs

*Continued from page 7.*

## **Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session**

*Saturdays, January 15, February 19, & March 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](mailto:mtyner@iwu.edu).

## **Little Wonders: The Mitten**

*Wednesday, January 19; 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.*

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

This program for three to five year-olds with an adult chaperone will be based on Jan Brett's book, *The Mitten*. After reading the book about a boy who loses his mitten in the snow and the animals who find it, we'll head out on a hike. Who knows what we'll find? Maybe the animals from the book will be out there... We'll also enjoy a snack and create a fun craft.

## **Backyard Birdwatching Basics**

*Saturday, January 29, 10:00 a.m. - noon, followed by chili lunch*

*Free, registration required.*

We will review basic bird identification techniques and show you how to identify more than 25 common winter feeder birds! Learn how to attract birds to your property by providing the appropriate feeders, feed, and other features, and then find out how easy it is to submit data for the Great Backyard Bird Count! For complete information on the bird count, see page 6. This program is sponsored by the John Wesley Powell Audubon Society

## **Family Nature Exploration Day**

*Saturday, February 5; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Free, No registration required.*

Bring the family out for a day of winter fun at the Nature Center! A guided hike will take place at 11:00 a.m. See what tracks you can find in the snow. Stop inside to warm up with hot chocolate and create a make-and-take craft at any time. We'll feed the Nature Center animals at 1:00 p.m. Feel free to make a snowman on the lawn while you're here!

## **Little Wonders: Straight from the Heart**

*Wednesday, February 16; 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 continue the celebration of Valentine's Day by learning all about animals' hearts. What does the heart do? Can you clap as fast as a hummingbird's heart beats? What animal has five hearts? Enjoy a snack, listen to a story, and make a heart craft in this fun class!

*Continued on page 9.*





# January, February, & March Programs

Continued from page 8.

## **Great Backyard Birdcount: Breakfast with the Birds**

*Saturday, Feb 19, 9:00 a.m.*

*Fee: Free, registration required.*

Sugar Grove Nature Center will be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, and we would love your help! Enjoy a light breakfast while identifying birds from the Hazel Funk Holmes Bird Observatory. If you would rather be outside, we invite you to hike a section of the trails and report your observations back at the Nature Center. For complete information, see page 6.

## **Great Backyard Birdcount: Stop In & Count!**

*Saturday, Feb 19, Drop in between 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Fee: Free, no registration required.*

Assistance will be on hand throughout the day to help you conduct a bird count. For complete information on the bird count, see page 6.

## **Sirup for Boy Scouts: Cub Scouts & Webelos**

*Saturday, Feb 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

*Fee: \$5/scout, \$3/leader or parent. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available online at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or calling 309.874.2174.*

See page 4 for complete information.

## **Sirup for Girl Scouts: Brownies & Juniors**

*Saturday, Feb 26, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.*

*Fee: \$8/scout (custom patch included), \$3/leader or parent. Registration & prepayment required. Register for these programs through the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Office by calling Robin Howard at 217.423.7791, ext. 1302. Visa, Master Card, check, & cash accepted. For more information, visit [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), e-mail [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or call 309.874.2174.*

This is part of the 2011 Sugar Grove Nature Center Participation & Fun Patch program! See page 12 for complete information.

## **Homeschool Maple Sirup Experience**

*Tuesday, March 1 or Thursday, March 3*

*10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., participants should bring a sack lunch.*

*Fee: \$5/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone. Registration & prepayment required.*

See page 4 for complete information.

## **Maple Sirup Experience Tours**

*Saturday, March 5*

*2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 3:00 p.m.*

*Fee: Members - \$5/adults, \$3/children (16 & under), non-members - \$7/adults, \$5/children.*

*Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org), or calling 309.874.2174.*

See page 1 for complete information.

Continued on page 10.

E-mail [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) or call 309.874.2174 to register.



# January, February, & March Programs

*Continued from page 9.*

## **Maple Sirup Seminar**

*Thursday, March 10, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.*

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

Suitable for adults, children, and groups. This primer gives the maple sirup basics from tree to table. We'll tap trees and taste the finished product.

## **Little Tappers - Maple Sirup**

*Saturday, March 12, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

*Wednesday, March 16, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.*

*Fee: Members \$5/child, non-members \$7/child; adult chaperone & registration required.*

This program is designed especially for children 3-5 years-old with an adult chaperone. We will sing songs and make a craft while learning how to make maple sirup and listen to a fabulous sirup story. Then, each child will get a turn at tree tapping and taste the real thing!

## **Maple Sirup Traditions in McLean County**

*Saturday, March 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

*Ages: 18+, fee: \$7/person. Register through the McLean County Museum of History by contacting the Education Department via telephone at 309.827.0428 or via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org).*

*Registration deadline is Friday March 4th, 2011.*

Join Sugar Grove Nature Center in partnership with the McLean County Museum of History for a fun and educational afternoon exploring the tradition and history of Maple Siruping in McLean County. See page 4 for complete information.

## **Woodcock Walk**

*Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.*

*Fee: Free/members, \$3/non-members; registration required.*

These ground-nesting birds exhibit one of the most delightful courtship flights just before dawn and at dusk. Join us to learn more about this fascinating game bird that returns to fields, prairies, and pastures throughout central Illinois in mid-March, then head outside to (hopefully) spot them as they spiral toward the sky and fall to the ground.

## **TCAA Public Viewing Session: Messenger to Mercury**

*Saturday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.*

*Free; no registration required.*

Join the Twin City Amateur Astronomers for their first Public Viewing Session of 2011! All ages are welcome at the Sugar Grove Observatory to preview the arrival of the MESSENGER at Mercury. This will be the first spacecraft to orbit the innermost planet in our Solar System and will give us a better understanding of this small, strange world. We will also tour the night skies, point out constellations, and give you a look through our telescopes at beautiful celestial objects. 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 their website at <http://twincityamateurastronomers.org>.



# Photography Contest Winners

Our First Annual Nature Photography Contest was a huge success! Congratulations to all of our winners. We invite you to visit our website, [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org), to view all of the winning photographs!

Start taking photos now to enter in next year's contest. More details about the 2011 photography contest are available on our website. We also invite you to several upcoming programs! Tom Ulrich, will stop by on his annual photo tour, on Monday, April 11th. New this year, he will be presenting a workshop on Nature Photography on Tuesday, April 12th. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn tips and pointers from a pro! We didn't forget the kids...a Youth Photography Workshop, led by John Tobias, is planned for late April. More information on all of these programs can be found in your next issue of "The Nature of the Grove."



Best of Funks Grove  
*On Stage*  
Todd Fisher



Best of Show  
*Butterfly Buckeye*  
Troy Marcy

Animals  
*You Can't See Me*  
Mary Jo Adams



Youth - Landscapes/Plants  
*Sunset Over Funks Grove*  
Grace Marcy



People in Nature  
*Brothers and Sisters*  
Troy Marcy

Landscapes/Plants  
*A Perfect Day*  
Mary Jo Adams



# Girl Scouts

## 2011 SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER PARTICIPATION & FUN PATCH PROGRAM

This special program is designed for Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts (grades 2nd-5th). Take part in one, several, or all of the programs to earn different patches! Through a variety of programs you will have the opportunity to visit the Sugar Grove Astronomy Observatory, learn all about birds, sing around a campfire, make a fairy home, get dirty exploring nature's wonders, and tap a maple tree!

Earn the special participation patch by attending the Maple Sirup for Scouts Program. Then, attend four other programs to earn fun patches! Register for these programs through the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Office by calling Robin Howard at 217.423.7791, ext. 1302. Visa, Master Card, check, & cash accepted. These programs are for scouts and their leader or parent chaperone (no tag-a-longs). The fees listed include cost of the patch. Please note registration deadlines.

### **Maple Sirup for Scouts** - Saturday, February 26, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

*Fee: \$8/scout (custom Sugar Grove Nature Center patch included); \$3/leader/parent chaperone. Registration Ends: 2/4/11. Min/Max: 15/45 girls.*

The large participation patch can only be earned by attending this special sirup program for girl scouts. You'll learn all about the process of collecting sap and making maple sirup plus you'll get to tap a tree! All scouts will receive a small bottle of Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup to take home.

### **Campfire Fun!** - Friday, March 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Fee: \$6/scout (fun patch included); \$3/leader or parent chaperone. Registration Ends: 3/4/11. Min/Max: 10/25 girls.*

Earn a S'more Fun Patch when you join us around the campfire to sing songs and make s'mores.

### **Astronomy for Girls Scouts** - Friday, April 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Fee: \$6/scout (fun patch included); \$2/leader or parent chaperone. Registration Ends: 3/18/11. Min/Max: 10/25 girls.*

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers will take scouts for a tour of the night sky! View from the observatory and ground telescopes as you learn about the moon, stars, constellations, and more!

### **Beautiful Birds** - Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*Fee: \$6/scout (fun patch included); \$2/leader or parent chaperone. Registration Ends: 4/22/11. Min/Max: 10/25 girls.*

Bird migration is in full swing! Learn all about woodpeckers, warblers, hawks, and hummingbirds at this fun program! We'll take a nature hike to look and listen for birds, make a craft, and more!

### **Fairy Homes & Nature Play** - Saturday, June 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

*Fee: \$6/scout (fun patch included); \$2/leader or parent chaperone. Registration Ends: 5/20/11. Min/Max: 10/50 girls.*

Make mud pies, help us dig to China, ride the zip line, and more after you've used your imagination to create a fairy home to hide among the trees in Imagination Grove.

These programs are co-sponsored by the Twin City Amateur Astronomers, John Wesley Powell Audubon Society, and Wild Birds Unlimited in Normal.

# Master Naturalists

## 2010 MASTER NATURALISTS COMPLETE TRAINING

The first class of Woodford-McLean-Livingston County Master Naturalists completed their training in November. Twenty participants attended classes every Friday for twelve weeks beginning in late August. Invited instructors from Universities, agencies, and other institutions conducted sessions on ornithology, herpetology, entomology, botany, urban systems, soils, geology, climatology and more! Field trip experiences were also provided throughout the duration of the course to explore local natural areas, urban and agricultural green projects, and visit Dickson Mounds Museum.

The Illinois Master Naturalist program provides an opportunity to experience nature, develop knowledge of and respect for the environment, and practice natural resources stewardship. Each year, graduates are required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service with program partner agencies and 10 hours of continuing education.

The Nature Center was pleased to host many of the classes and looks forward to welcoming several of the graduates to the Sugar Grove Nature Center Volunteer Family!



2010 Graduates: Back Row: Deanna Frautschi, Sharon Welch, Tom Haynes, Barb Gaffron, Paula Wager, Monica Fuller, Debbie Ruff, and Karen Gottlieb; Second Row: Diana Boschulte, Janet Rasmussen, Dee Woodburn, Judy Miller, Ellen Dietz, Mary Jo Adams; Front Row: Finn Amble; Jim Bortell, Phil Houser, Sherrie Snyder, Jack Pfaffmann; Not shown: Marcia Rossi



## E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

Our e-mail addresses have changed. Please update your contact lists.

To register for classes: [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

For general information: [info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

Angela Funk, Director: [angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

Jill Wallace, Environmental Educator: [jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

Randy Carriger, Education & Operations Assistant: [randy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:randy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

Daisy Kitty, Feline Relations Specialist: [daisy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:daisy@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)



# Thanks to Our Members

Thank you to the following members and those who wish to remain anonymous.

## SENIOR/STUDENT

Marlene M. Aeschleman ✨ George & Twila Braden ✨ Herbert & Flora Breidenbach ✨ Valle H. Funk ✨ Vernon & Amy Gehlbach  
Karol Loyd ✨ Joyce A. Manard ✨ Ron & Jo Ropp ✨ Roni Schultz ✨ Bill & Rosalie Seymour ✨ Larry & Darlene Tamburini  
Wayne Trotter ✨ Delores Volle ✨ Muriel R. Walker ✨ Bob Warfield

## SUGAR MAPLE

Mary Jo Adams ✨ Judy Adelman ✨ Merlin Anderson ✨ Michael Brown & Beverly Beyer ✨ Jim & Roberta Bortell  
Randy & Jackie Bradd ✨ Stacy Brandt ✨ Beth Bristow ✨ Randy & Shelly Brooks ✨ Laurine Brown ✨ Alan & Joy Burrell  
Jason & Deanna Campbell ✨ Nan Carlson ✨ Connie J. Carstens ✨ Richard & Anna Marie Chrisman ✨ The Crumbaugh Family  
The Stephen & Lara Darling Family ✨ Peter & Kristine Dedrich ✨ James & Michelle Duvall ✨ Barbara Ellis  
Todd & Stephanie Fisher ✨ Luke & Angie Funfar ✨ Stephen & Glaida Funk ✨ Tyler Lotz & Erin Furimsky ✨ David Gehrt  
Terence & Michelle Gilbert ✨ Patricia Hamilton ✨ C.J. Harrington ✨ The Hennenfent Family ✨ Pat Hiser ✨ Lois Hoffman  
The Hohulins ✨ Jane Hoobler ✨ Bill & Penny James ✨ Dick & Barb Jurgens ✨ Daniel & Karrie Kalmes ✨ Mrs. Lorna Kavelman  
John & Peg Kirk ✨ Darren Forgy & Lisa Kramer ✨ Peter & Betsy Kuchinke ✨ Aiden, Amy, & Jason Kuhlman ✨ Joe & Lyn Landon  
Paul & Pam Larson ✨ Gene & Marianna Lessen ✨ Roberta Lindenthaler ✨ Howard Little ✨ Jason & Kari Marvel  
Sherry McGuire ✨ Elaine McManus ✨ Paul & Deanna McNamara ✨ Bobby & Roberta Nelson ✨ Marc Gravel & Karin Nowers  
Mark & Roberta Overfelt ✨ The Pierard Family ✨ Bob & Suzanne Quiggins ✨ Cindy Quinn ✨ Curt Rehtmeyer ✨ David Roughton  
Marlene & Shane Rutherford ✨ Jason & Alicia Sanders ✨ Juergen & Meredith Schroeder ✨ Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Schwab  
Robert Shaw ✨ Ken & Fran Smith ✨ Lynn Spicer ✨ The Torry & Kelli Steffen Family ✨ Ms. Karen Stephens ✨ The Swope Family  
Ken & Pat Sylvester ✨ The John Thomas Family ✨ Tim & Tiffany Unger ✨ Larry & Arlene Van Hook ✨ The Vogel Family  
The Vose Family ✨ Sharon & Doug Welch ✨ Bridgette Wells

## PAW PAW

R. Charles & Laura Baue ✨ Kandy Baumgardner ✨ The Janet Beach Davis Family ✨ Eric Bill ✨ Brian & Sheri Bowman  
Larry Bross ✨ Joy Butler ✨ Don & Phyllis Clay ✨ Johanna Haas & Shae Davidson ✨ The Dunlap Family ✨ Orlyn & Jana Edge  
Saad & Julie Elzanati ✨ Bob & Lynn Fearneyhough ✨ Frank & Janet Fraembs ✨ John & Marilyn Freese ✨ Michael & Ann Fuller  
Michael & Carol Glennon ✨ Rob & Becky Glinka ✨ The Carol Hahn Family ✨ Kris & Mike Hall ✨ Donald & Joann Hartman  
Robert & Barbara Hathway ✨ Tom & Mary Haynes ✨ Brian & Yvonne Hoop ✨ Matt & Connie Hughes ✨ Sylvester Johnson  
Lois Kelsey ✨ April & Savannah McClellan ✨ Marty & Patsy Oman ✨ Tom & Susan Parrent ✨ Shirley Roemer  
Lance & Candy Rogers ✨ Ed & Marilyn Sams ✨ The Shultz Family ✨ Bill & Barbara Thatcher ✨ Charles & Karen Thompson  
Karen Timmerman ✨ John Tobias ✨ Phylis VerSteegh ✨ Ruth Wantling ✨ Jamie & Charlotte Warmbir ✨ Carol Weisheit  
Jim & Patricia Welander ✨ Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - Jim & Madge Williams Donor Advised Fund ✨ Summer Wollrab

## AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Roger & Deb Aukerman ✨ Kenneth & Stacey Bill ✨ Sandra Bush ✨ Patricia Carley ✨ Brian & Emilie Chase ✨ Charles N. Cherry Jr.  
David & Laura Coe ✨ The Jill Daley Family ✨ Forrest & Dottie Frank ✨ Al Bedell & Deanna Frautschi ✨ Adam R. Funk  
Joseph Grabill ✨ Lee Green ✨ Doris Henderson ✨ The Henry Safford Peacock Foundation ✨ Carla Hickey  
Angelo Capparella & Gretchen Knapp ✨ Larry Kupferschmid ✨ Jim & Emily McLaughlin ✨ Norma L. Nelson ✨ Fred & Elaine Noyes  
Doug & Kay Oehler ✨ Joni Poisel ✨ The Michael Regnier Family ✨ Ms. Louise Smith ✨ Bob & Jan Strawser ✨ Stephen P. Thomas  
Phil Thornton & Janet Rasmussen ✨ Pete & Susan Trotter ✨ Vernon & Laura Veal ✨ Ryan Weishalla & Tara ✨ Jim & Rachel Wilson

## SHAGBARK HICKORY

Judie A. Bey ✨ David & Andrea Bortell ✨ The Hedberg Family  
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - David & Pearle Jeffries Donor Advised Fund ✨ Mark Kramp ✨ CJ & Pat Oien  
Ms. Mary Lynne Poole ✨ Mike & Nadine Prall ✨ Joy Ralston ✨ Carl & Carolyn Wenning ✨ Mark & Carol Cabaj

## BLACK WALNUT

Dale Birkenholz ✨ George & Marylou Farnsworth ✨ Richard & Ann Funk  
John & Kristen Hendershott Family ✨ Ed & Judith Hines ✨ Ina M. Rehtmeyer  
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - Zimmerman Family Fund: Drake Zimmerman & Jan Elfline

## BLUE ASH

Gary & Linda Bristow

## 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 already named Sugar Grove Nature Center in your plans, we would like to acknowledge your meaningful gift. 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 NatureScope Backyard Habitat Consultation

✿ **Bur Oak** (\$5000)

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



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- \$15 .....Student/Senior (65+)
- \$25 .....Sugar Maple
- \$50 .....Paw Paw
- \$100 .....American Sycamore

- \$250 .....Shagbark Hickory
- \$500 .....Black Walnut
- \$1000 .....Blue Ash
- \$5000 .....Bur 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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*The Nature of the Grove is now  
available electronically!  
E-mail [info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)  
to be added to the list!*

## Nature Center Hours

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

April - October  
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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  
[info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org)  
[www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org)

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

