



## The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 9, Number 1

January/February/March 2013

### Inside:

- 2 General Information
- 3 Musings & Meowings
- 4 Happy Trails
- 5 Corps of Discovery
- 6 Photography Contest
- 7 Programs
- 12 Maple Sirup Programs
- 13 Making a Difference
- 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! These programs fill quickly, so register early. Don't be left out in the cold!

### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

#### Maple Sirup Experience Tours

*Saturday, March 2, 2012*

*2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 3:00 p.m. Fee: \$5/adults, \$3/children (16 & under) members, \$7/adults, \$5/children non-members. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone, 309.874.2174.*

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, salads, 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!

### SCOUT GROUPS

#### Sirup for Scouts

*Saturday, February 23; 9:30 a.m. - noon or 1:00-3:30 p.m.*

*Fee: \$7/scout, \$2/leaders; registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone, 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, be sure to gather participant numbers for your entire troop so that no one is left out of this experience! *Note: in order to accommodate as many scouts as possible, we request that the number of adults is no more than one adult per five scouts, and no siblings, please. If you'd like to attend as a family, consider the Maple Sirup Experience Tours on March 2.*

*Continued on page 12.*

## Nature Center Staff

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)

Tia Miller  
Jennifer Twiddy  
Interns

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

## Sugar Grove Foundation Board of Directors

Linda Bristow, *President*  
Gary Huppert, *Treasurer*  
Craig Alexander, *Secretary*

Tricia Braid  
Eric Funk  
Richard Park  
John Rehtmeyer  
Don Schmidt  
Eric Vaughn

## — 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.  
Sunday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

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

### **Nature Center Closed**

*In the event that the Nature Center or portions  
of the grounds will be closed during what would  
normally be open hours due to programming or  
inclement weather, 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! The two hour party is \$60/members and  
\$85/non-members for up to 15 participants. You may  
choose from a variety of party themes. Reservations  
are required. Call 309.874.2174 or e-mail  
[jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:jill@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) for more information.



## 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](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) and  
place "Nature Alerts" in the subject line.

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

[www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org) 🍁 [facebook.com/sugargrovenaturecenter](https://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](mailto:info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org).



# Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

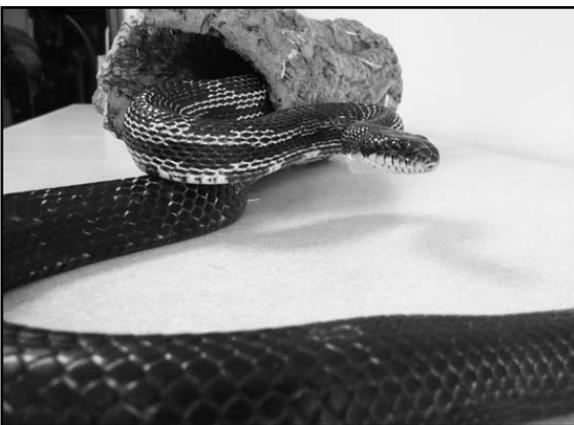
Dear Readers,

Oh, how I love celebrating the New Year, and this is sure to be the best one ever! I recently learned of this thing called the Chinese Zodiac, and it has proclaimed 2013 to be the Year of the Snack! Brilliant! It just so happens that I adore snacks. Naturally, I wanted to share the fabulous news with all of my Nature Center Critter Friends, since they also enjoy snacks. I told the turtles. I told the frog, toads, salamander, and crayfish. I even told a mouse that was scurrying across the floor...then I ate him. After all, Year of the Snack!

As I approached Sneaky's and Stryker's snake enclosures, they made me stop in my little kitty tracks. The snakes said that this was THEIR year, and I would have to take a back seat to THEM! "No," I calmly replied, "this is the Year of the Snack." I've never heard a snake laugh before, and truthfully, I still haven't, but I know that's what they were thinking, and I found their response to be a bit disturbing.



Sneaky, the Prairie King Snake



Stryker, the Black Rat Snake

I hurried back to my office and hopped on the computer to visit the web-googly thing. Imagine my shock and dismay upon learning that it is the Year of the SNAKE, not snack! My first New Year's resolution is to clean out my ears. Anyway, it turns out that there are twelve animals that take turns having years: the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. The Dragon is just finishing his year. My Nature Center doesn't have a dragon. Probably the closest critter is Gator the Salamander, at least he'd like to think so. Thank goodness there isn't a year of the turtle, or I'd really be in trouble, with all of those shelled creatures in here.

To keep the peace, I had to find some common ground with the snakes. But what could I possibly have in common with animals that have no fur or feet? After many hours of observation and research, I learned that we are surprisingly alike in many ways. We all eat mice. We like sleeping for long periods of time (although the snakes don't have eyelids, so their eyes are always open...creepy). We all enjoy a nice warm sunny spot. What else is there in life? Maybe we can be friends after all. Maybe we can share the New Year. But really, wouldn't the Year of the Snack be more fun?

Keeping things in perspective, snakes get only one year out of every twelve, so I'll let them have their fun. But EVERY day at Sugar Grove Nature Center is the Day of Daisy!



Kitty Kisses,

  
Daisy

# Happy Trails

Through a unique partnership between the Funks Grove Cemetery Association, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Sugar Grove Nature Center, over six miles of trails in Funks Grove can be enjoyed by visitors year-round daily from dawn until dusk. Over the past year, we have worked to link together a comprehensive trail system complete with directional arrows and a corresponding map, making the trails more visitor friendly and easy to enjoy. The map also includes hiking suggestions based on distance, habitat, and destination preferences. Maps can be obtained inside the Nature Center or are available for download on our website at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org).

Whether you are a bird watcher, photographer, love to cross country ski, hike, or run, we invite you to enjoy the trails! In addition, we will be offering a variety of programs and events celebrating the trails and natural features of Funks Grove throughout 2013. Monthly hikes for adults begin on January 10 at 10 a.m., and will take place the second Thursday of the month all year! We'll venture to favorite spots and hidden treasures and explore nature along the way. Families can participate in guided hikes during our Family Nature Exploration Days at 11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of most months. Gather a group of friends and schedule a guided hike focusing on your personal interests for a special occasion or for no reason at all! Hiking seminars, walking stick workshops, and other great opportunities to get out and hike are in the works! We'll even have stewardship work days assisting in the removal of exotic plant species to keep our trails healthy and looking great! Prices, dates, and times vary, so please see our program guide or call us for more details. And, of course, you can explore the trails on your own from dawn until dusk any day of the week.

Mark your calendars now for National Trails Day on June 1 and keep an eye on our schedule for more information about our big celebration.

The trail improvement project was made possible with mapping assistance from Farnsworth Group Incorporated, funding from the Lillian Harris memorial fund, and post placement by Eagle Scout candidate Jacen Barron. MANY Nature Center volunteers contributed to this project from determining trail sign needs to routing and painting over 150 arrow signs to erecting arrows at trail junctions. We are very thankful for the contributions made by everyone involved!



## STEWARDSHIP WORK DAYS

Maintaining and improving upon the natural areas and trails of Funks Grove takes a great deal of work. There are many ways to help! For over 20 years, Don Schmidt has led a loyal group of stewards for Saturday workdays, but they need your help. We are excited to add another regularly scheduled workday to the calendar, facilitated by Nature Center staff and volunteers. The first Friday of every month, from 9-11 a.m., we'll tackle exotic species eradication, tree planting, prairie management, trail work and so much more. Join an enthusiastic crew of individuals for a morning surrounded by nature and make a difference in the health and biodiversity of an amazing natural area. No registration is required. Just show up ready to work! Bring along a lunch if you like and we'll celebrate our accomplishments and socialize a bit after the work is done.

# Funks Grove Corps of Discovery

Inspired by journals created during Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition (1804-1806), biologists Dr. Michael R. Jeffords, Susan L. Post, and Carolyn Nixon, at the Illinois Natural History Survey, developed a program with a modern adaptation. Participants take workshops to develop skills in photography, writing, and sketching, which are then used to aesthetically document the changing environment. They have conducted this course at eight locations, the most recent being in Funks Grove at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Individuals then have the opportunity to continue working at the site, recording their own discoveries. Information on an upcoming Corps of Discovery course will be announced in our next newsletter.

## To Draw a Forest

*by Debbie Coleman, Funks Grove Corps of Discovery*

Draw a picture of a forest.

How do you draw a forest?  
I do not know.

How do you capture the overpowering majesty of heaven-reaching spires and hope to contain such grandeur in a small space?

How do you draw the pungent loam and earthy heart-tugging gravity of the forest floor that holds and grounds you more than the most luxurious carpet ever could.

How do you draw the millions of forest creature heartbeats and souls that have this way come, present and past, and shared their stories with these silent sentinels?

How do you draw a forest?  
I do not know.

How do you draw the terrible roar of a violent wind through the tree canopy on a stormy night or the shudder of the ground, like nature's death rattle, when the old oak can withstand the storm no more and heaves itself to the ground?

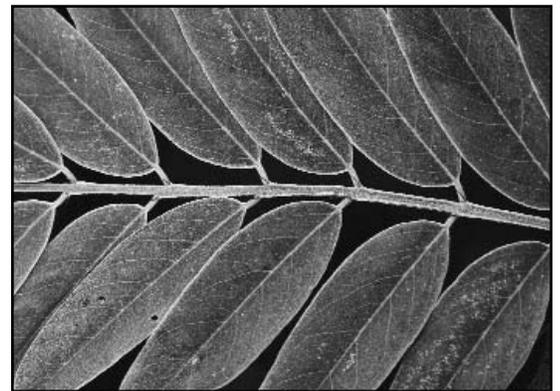
How do you draw a forest in peaceful tranquility that allows a whispering sigh through the pine boughs to remind you of a spiritual presence?

How do you draw a forest?  
I do not know.

If you cannot draw a forest, go then to the forest.

You may find that the forest draws you; draws you unto itself with an ancient, but powerful and primeval call.

How do you draw a forest?  
Perhaps you do not need to know.  
Perhaps you need only go to the forest...and stay awhile.



Patterns in Nature

*Janet Rasmussen*

*Funks Grove Corps of Discovery*

# Photo Contest Winners

We had another great response to our annual photography contest! Winners were announced in October. All winning photos were on display at Autumn Celebration, and will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Start taking your pictures now to enter next year's competition!

For inspiration, don't miss Tom Ulrich, nature photographer, at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. See page 9 for complete information.

## Best of Show

Dave Weth, "Busy Bee"

## Best of Funks Grove

Hope Brannon, "Silhouette from the Past"

## ADULT DIVISION

### People in Nature

1st Place: Anna Hubbard, "Creek Stomping"

2nd Place: Jill Luallen,  
"Growing in the Grove"

### Plants and Fungi

1st Place: Karen Goloff,  
"Tiny Moss Mushrooms"

2nd Place: Tonya Guo, "Woodland Jewel"

3rd Place: Pat Rudzinski, "A Prairie Grass"

### Landscape

1st Place: Madison Roberts, "Full Moon"

2nd Place: Deb Williams,  
"Early Morning Fog"

3rd Place: Lillian Goluba,  
"Evening Reflections"

### Wildlife

1st Place: Dave Weth, "Busy Bee"

2nd Place: Dave Weth, "Yellowlegs Reflection"

3rd Place: Susan N. Moreau, "Tom Foolery"

Honorable Mention: Karen Goloff,  
"White Face Fly"

## YOUTH DIVISION

### Nature

1st Place: Tyler Brandt, "My Backyard Friend"

2nd Place: Kristin Turner, "Petaling Ant"

3rd Place: Caleb Hubbard, "Prairie"

Honorable Mention: Jessica Hubbard, "Tree"



Dave Weth, "Busy Bee"



Hope Brannon, "Silhouette from the Past"



Tyler Brandt, "My Backyard Friend"

# January, February, & March Programs

*Your interest may be the deciding factor to run a program! Most programs require advanced registration. Some require pre-payment. Unless specified otherwise, please register by e-mailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org) or by calling 309.874.2174.*

## KIDS

### **Little Wonders: The Mitten**

*Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone*

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

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

Based on the popular book by Jan Brett, children 3-5 years with an adult chaperone will become part of the story as we hike and find all of the animals seeking shelter in the warm snow-white mitten. Afterwards, we will sing about our adventures, create a fun craft, and enjoy a snack.

### **Little Wonders: Little Tappers - Maple Sirup**

*Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone*

*Wednesday, February 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. OR*

*Saturday, March 9, 10:00 - 11:30 a.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. We will sing songs and make a craft while learning how to make maple sirup and listen to a sappy sirup story. Then, each child will get a turn at tree tapping and taste the real thing!



### **Sirup for Scouts**

*Saturday, February 23; 9:30 a.m.- noon or 1:00-3:30 p.m.*

*Fee: \$7/scout, \$2/leaders; 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 by calling 309.874.2174. See page 1 for description.*

### **Home School: Maple Sirup Experience Tours**

*Tuesday, March 5 or Wednesday, March 6; 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., bring a sack lunch.*

*Fee: \$7/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org). See page 12 for description.*

### **Little Wonders: Furry Friends in our Forest**

*Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone*

*Wednesday, March 20; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.*

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

Three to five year-olds with an adult chaperone are invited to come and learn about mammals that live around the nature center, like deer, coyotes, and raccoons. Listen to a fun story, create a furry craft, and enjoy a tasty snack.



*Continued on page 8.*



# January, February, & March Programs

PROGRAMS, *continued from page 7.*

ALL AGES

## Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturday, January 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 the feeding of the turtles and snakes at 1:00 p.m.!



## Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, January 19; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Free; no registration required.

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 heat, bend, and twist metal into art and tools!

## Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, January 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. 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).

## Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturday, February 2; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; see January 5 for description.

## Blacksmith Demonstration & Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, February 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon; see January 19 for description.

## Maple Sirup Experience Tours

Saturday, March 2, 2012; 2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 3:00 p.m.

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

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone, 309.874.2174. See page 1 for description. Please note that there will be no Family Nature Exploration Day due to this program.

## Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Jupiter & the Galilean Moons

Saturday, March 9, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

Don't miss the first astronomy public viewing session of the year! Join the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) as they explore the stars and other prominent sky objects. This month will focus on Jupiter and the Galilean Moons: large planet, large moons. The king of our solar system keeps many secrets and holds many surprises in his lofty realm. 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](http://www.tcaa.us).

*Continued on page 9.*

# January, February, & March Programs

ALL AGE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 8.*

## **Blacksmith Demonstration & Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session**

*Saturday, March 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon; see January 19 for description.*

## **Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session**

*Saturday, March 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon; see January 19 for description.*

## **Tom Ulrich, Nature Photography at IWU**

*Monday, March 18; 7:00 p.m.*

*Fee: Members of Sugar Grove Nature Center and JWP*

*Audubon - \$5/adult, \$2/children under 12*

*Non-Members - \$7/adult, \$3/children under 12; IWU, ISU, & HCC students - free with ID.*

*Registration is required by calling 309.874.2174 or emailing [register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org](mailto:register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org).*

*Location: IWU Center for Natural Sciences (CNS) Bldg., Room C101, 201 E. Beecher, Bloomington*

Each year, Tom Ulrich delights his audiences with amazing photographs and humorous narration. He will take us on a photographic journey of the year 2012 in the life of a wildlife photographer. This year's focus will include the nature of Alaska, Africa, and Glacier National Park with a special feature on the bird migration of south Texas. His narration includes insight on photo technique and animal behavior and is always riddled with humor. Mr. Ulrich is a renowned nature photographer whose work has been featured in National Geographic, National Wildlife, Time, Audubon, and many other publications. Tom has published several books, field guides, and calendars, presents photography workshops around the country and leads tours to remote parts of the world. Originally from Illinois, he now resides outside of Glacier National Park in Montana. To learn more about Tom, visit his website, <http://tomulrichphotos.com>. This special program is hosted by the Illinois Wesleyan University Environmental Studies Program and sponsored by John Wesley Powell Audubon Society.



## **Campfire Program: Coyotes & Cocoa**

*Friday, March 22; 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.*

*Fee: Free to members, \$5/person non-members*

Learn all about these dogs of the wild and create a coyote craft. Then we'll go outside to the campfire, howl at the moon, and enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate!

## **Great Garlic Mustard Smackdown**

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

*Free; registration required.*

Garlic mustard is an exotic invasive plant that crowds out native species, such as bluebells and spring beauties. Families, groups, and individuals of all ages are invited to take a stand against this bully of the forest! After a briefing on the enemy, you will be armed and sent into the woods. Snacks will be provided and prizes will be given to those showing bravery in combat. This is a great opportunity for those needing volunteer or community service hours. If you are interested in joining the fight but cannot make it on this day, please contact us for one-on-one training.

*Continued on page 10.*



# January, February, & March Programs

PROGRAMS, continued from page 9.

## ADULTS

### Stewardship Work Day

Friday, January 4; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required for individuals. See page 4 for description.

### Stewardship Work Day

Saturday, January 5; 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.

### Happy Trails Hike

Thursday, January 10, 10:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required.

"In every walk with nature one receives more than he seeks." ~ John Muir. This adults-only hike will go on and off trail, in search of any and all things of interest. Show up with a good pair of walking shoes and a sense of adventure!

### ABC Runners: Winter Wonderland Run

Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. (doors open at 8:30)

There is no fee, but donations in any amount are encouraged. Funds collected will benefit Sugar Grove Nature Center. No registration required.

Come out to enjoy a winter wonderland by running, walking, or cross-country skiing in Funks Grove with the ABC (Adventures Benefiting Children) Runners. The main running course is a 7 mile loop course on roads. You can turn this into a shorter course by turning around at any point. I hope to lead some adventurers on a trail run (conditions permitting). Beverages and snacks will be provided, and Meg will, of course, bring her signature coffee cake. Bring something to share if you wish. For more information, call Merlin or Meg at 454-4820.



### Stewardship Work Day

Saturday, January 19; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.

### Backyard Sugaring

Saturday, January 19; 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Have you ever thought about tapping that maple tree in your yard? Learn how with instructor, Jim Wilson, who has been transforming sap from his backyard into syrup for years! This program will give you the basics and direct you to the resources needed to turn your kitchen or garage into a sugar shack!

*Continued on page 11.*



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

# January, February, & March Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS, *continued from page 10.*

## **Backyard Bird Watching Basics & Log Feeder Workshop**

*Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. - noon*

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

Not sure what birds are visiting your feeders or just need a refresher? Join Janet Rasmussen (Grand Prairie Master Naturalist) to learn how to identify more than 30 winter residents as well as how to attract them! Participants will also receive a log feeder and learn how to make peanut butter suet-- a favorite of woodpeckers and nuthatches. Find out how you can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count held February 15-18! This program is sponsored by the John Wesley Powell Audubon Society.

## **Stewardship Work Days**

*Friday, February 1; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see page 4 for description.*

*Saturday, February 2; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.*

*Saturday, February 16; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.*

*Friday, March 1; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see page 4 for description.*

*Saturday, March 2; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.*

*Saturday, March 16; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.*

*Saturday, March 30; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see January 5 for description.*

## **Winter Tree Identification**

*Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.*

*Fee: \$20/members, \$25/non-members; lunch, snacks, Winter Tree ID Guide, and other resources included. Registration and prepayment required, forms available at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf) or call 309.874.2174 to request a form be sent to you. Continuing Education Units and CPDU's available.*

Join Trees Forever, University of Illinois Extension, McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Sugar Grove Nature Center as they team up to host a "Winter Tree Identification Workshop." Participants will receive in-depth training and practice identifying trees by their bark and twigs. The class will begin indoors learning basic plant morphology, characteristics, and terminology and studying twig specimens. Class will then move outdoors to practice identifying trees by putting your new skills to work! This program is sponsored by the McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District.

## **Happy Trails Hike**

*Thursday, February 14 & Thursday, March 14; 10:00 a.m.; see January 10 for description.*

## **Establishing a Purple Martin Colony Workshop**

*Friday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

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

These iridescent, dark purple birds perform aerial acrobatics as they catch insects in flight. In our area, they nest almost exclusively in man-made houses, in large colonies. Ron LeGrand, a successful purple martin landlord for over 20 years, has fledged thousands of martins from his colony in Mattoon, IL. Participants will learn the natural history of this interesting bird, techniques to attract and maintain a colony at your site including house selection/placement, and the ultimate important detail-- monitoring your colony once they have arrived.

# Maple Sirup Programs

## PRESCHOOLERS

### Little Tappers - Maple Sirup

*Wednesday, February 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. OR*

*Saturday, March 9, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

*Fee: \$5/child members, \$8/child non-members; 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!

## HOMESCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

*Tuesday, March 5 or Wednesday, March 6; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., bring a sack lunch.*

*Fee: \$7/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone. Registration & prepayment required.*

*Forms are available at [www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org](http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org).*

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!

## SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Sugar Grove Nature Center is pleased to continue offering the Funks Grove Maple Sirup Experience for first grade classes and up. We invite your school to take part in this unique educational experience. The program provides a special 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 \$7/student. Registration is underway and dates are filling fast. Currently, available dates are February 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, or March 7 & 8. 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 (usually after March 1st)! They also carry delicious handmade maple candies as well as other related merchandise. Call 309.874.3360 for availability or more information.

# Making A Difference

---

## GRANTS & DONATIONS

---

As a non-profit organization, Sugar Grove Foundation depends on grants, donations, and memberships. Procuring grants for everything from programs and events to resources and equipment is a constant and ongoing struggle. Securing funding for daily operations is the most challenging. We would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support of Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove.

McLean County Sportsmen's Association ❁ Decatur Audubon Society ❁ Robert & Helen Ritchie Charitable Foundation ❁ Syngenta ❁ Paul A. Funk Foundation ❁ Hazel Funk Holmes Trust

---

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

---

Many people ask how they can help. So we've made a wish list that includes a few of our current needs. If you are interested in contributing, please send us an email or give us a call.

### **McLean Heritage Barn Quilt Project**

We are excited to participate in the next phase of this project and plan to place a barn quilt on the corn crib this year. We need to raise \$400 towards the cost of the quilt. We've already had two pledges of \$25 bringing the need down to \$350.

### **Spotting Scope**

Thanks to a \$500 contribution from the Decatur Audubon Society, we are close to raising the \$850 needed to purchase a spotting scope. More powerful than a pair of binoculars, the scope will be perfect for our annual hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration, and will also be used throughout the year with groups of all ages.

### **Subscriptions & Memberships**

There are several organizational memberships and subscriptions that we would love to continue, but a tight budget limits the possibilities greatly. Are you interested in sponsoring one of the following?

American Hiking Society Alliance Membership, \$50

Environmental Education Association of Illinois, \$100 ❁ Illinois Native Plant Society, \$20

Birds & Blooms Magazine, \$20 ❁ Ranger Rick Magazine, \$20

---

## ANNUAL APPEAL

---

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Annual Appeal! We appreciate your generosity.

Dale Birkenholz ❁ Mr. & Mrs. Dick Funk ❁ Eloise Funk Stephan ❁ Eric & Angela Funk  
Doris Henderson ❁ Ed & Judy Hines ❁ Gary Hoover ❁ Betty Keough ❁ Larry Kupferschmid  
Kenneth Newgren ❁ Karin Nowers & Marc Gravel ❁ Marty & Patsy Oman ❁ Joyce Preston  
Janet Rasmussen & Phil Thornton ❁ Sherie Ross ❁ Marcia Rossi ❁ Karen Schmidt  
Joy Schuler ❁ Bill & Sherrie Snyder ❁ Jim Struebing ❁ Sharon Tallon ❁ Bette Tambling  
Martha Tyner ❁ Margaret Wilson Fred Wollrab ❁ Martin & Lin Wurbs

...and those who wish to remain anonymous

If you have not yet done so, please consider making a gift to Sugar Grove Nature Center. Any amount is truly significant in helping us provide a welcoming environment for people to learn about, experience, and enjoy the nature and beauty of Funks Grove.



# Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

## SENIOR/STUDENT

Marlene M. Aeschleman ❁ John & Linda Cully ❁ Bill & Rosalie Seymour ❁ Joyce Preston ❁ Margaret Wilson

## SUGAR MAPLE

The Meghan Austin Family ❁ Richard & Anna Marie Chrisman ❁ Jane Dresner ❁ Thad & Alicia Flohr  
Stephen A. Funk ❁ David Gehrt ❁ Nick & Karen Goloff ❁ Sue Gunder ❁ Tonya Guo ❁ C.J. Harrington  
Adam & Anna Hubbard ❁ Gene & Marianna Lessen ❁ Karen McCarey ❁ Valerie Parker ❁ Bob & Suzanne Quiggins  
John & Vickie Robertson ❁ Shirley Roemer ❁ David Roughton ❁ Ken & Margo Schwab ❁ Ken & Fran Smith  
The Torry & Kelli Steffen Family ❁ Larry & Darlene Tamburini ❁ Wayne & Crys Trotter ❁ Aaron & Kim Vercimak  
Delores Volle ❁ The Matthew & Marie Vose Family  
Ruth Wantling ❁ Doug & Sharon Welch ❁ Deb Williams ❁ David & Barbara Wilson

## PAW PAW

Mary Jo Adams ❁ Judy Adelman & Mike Fields ❁ R. Charles & Laura Baue ❁ Eric Bill ❁ Nick Brandt  
Joy Butler ❁ Eve Chandler ❁ Don & Phyllis Clay ❁ The Jill Daley Family ❁ The Dunlap Family  
Bob & Lynn Fearneyhough ❁ Frank & Janet Fraembs ❁ Don & JoAnn Hartman ❁ Robert & Barbara Hathway  
Matt & Connie Hughes ❁ Anthony & Addie Ince ❁ Sylvester Johnson ❁ Michael & Dianna Keough  
Norma Nelson ❁ Marty & Patsy Oman ❁ The Regnier Family ❁ David & Joyce Schmoeger  
Bill & Barbara Thatcher ❁ John Tobias ❁ In Loving Memory of Elsie Watkins

## AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Around About Acres ❁ Kenneth & Stacey Bill ❁ Jim & Roberta Bortell ❁ Mark & Carol Cabaj  
Ellen & Brian Dietz ❁ Bill & Lorraine Hetzler ❁ Ed & Judy Hines ❁ Larry Kupferschmid ❁ Fred & Elaine Noyes  
Ed & Marilyn Sams ❁ Juergen & Meredith Schroeer ❁ Louise Smith ❁ Bob & Marilyn Sutherland  
Tom & Carolyn Weiland ❁ Jim & Rachel Wilson ❁ Benjamin Funk

## HICKORY

Judie Bey ❁ Angelo Capparella and Gretchen Knapp ❁ Lee & Leslie Green ❁ Mike & Della Harris  
The Hedberg Family ❁ Gary A. Hoover ❁ Doug & Kay Oehler  
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - David & Pearle Jeffries Donor Advised Fund

## BLACK WALNUT

Carl & Carol Wenning

## BLUE ASH

Ina M. Rehtmeyer

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the friends and family of "Curly" Eugene Duncan Funk III. Thank you to those who chose Sugar Grove Nature Center for his memorial. Contributions received in his memory will be so helpful in enabling us to continue sharing nature and touching lives. We hope this will be of some comfort to those left mourning and healing.

## 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

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



