



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 6, Number 3

July/August/September 2010

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HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL & POLLINATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 4th, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Free Admission!

Buzz on over to join us as we celebrate hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees! Learn from local experts about the important pollinators in Funks Grove by participating in programs, seminars, hikes, and more. Enjoy entertainment, food, and fun!



Photo by Kim Lauterbach



Vernon Kleen, from Springfield, Illinois, is one of the few licensed hummingbird banders in the United States. We are excited to welcome his return for the fourth year of hummingbird banding at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Participants will have a chance to feel the heartbeat of a hummingbird and are invited to "adopt" one of these winged wonders.

Learn all about Monarch tagging from McLean County Master Gardeners as well as tips and tricks to attract these beautiful insects to your yard. Wild Birds Unlimited will offer Hummingbird Seminars, resources, & products. Honey bee programs, kids activities, & garden tours are also part of the fun! Visit www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org for updated program information and a complete schedule of events as the date approaches.



This event is sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society, Wild Birds Unlimited of Normal, Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses, & Sugar Grove Nature Center.

Nature Center Staff

Angela Smith
Director

Jill Wallace
*Environmental
Education Specialist*

Randy Carriger
Education & Operations Assistant

Dave Hopwood
Intern

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

NATURE CENTER HOURS

April - October

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

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

November - March

Tuesday - Saturday

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

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

*Note: Sections of the grounds will be closed on
Saturday, August 28. Visit our website for details.*

HAVE A WILD PARTY AT

THE NATURE CENTER

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

E-MAIL ALERTS

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

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

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

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

CONTACT US

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

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



Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

Dear Readers,

I'm not finding myself very energetic these days. The air conditioner is barely keeping up with the heat outside, and my fur is frazzled by humidity. These days are made for napping away the afternoon...and morning, and evening...oh, and the night, too. In my sluggish quest for a column topic, I came across a particular type of poem called a haiku. Being a cat of culture, I decided to learn more about this form of prose. It seems to be based upon the number of syllables in each line: five in the first, seven in the second, and five in the third. Cat words are very different from people words. Meow can have one syllable (mrow), two (meow), or even five (me-er-oo-oh-ow). There are many permutations. So, cat haiku is fairly easy:

Meow mrow maroo
meow mrr mrr me-er-ow
mrow mrow meow mroo.

That doesn't really capture my feelings, though, and isn't that what poetry is all about? Over the last few days, I have taken my experiences here at my Nature Center and set them to verse. Please enjoy.

Sleeping in the sun
on a lazy afternoon
with no cares at all.

Pet me, scratch my ears,
tummy rubs are most welcome
kisses are nice, too.

The dog comes inside
I will keep a watchful eye
just don't eat my food.

CALLING ALL DAISIES!!!

In my next column, I'd love to show off some of the other fabulous "Daisies" out there - cats, dogs, guinea pigs, people, or anyone else! Send a photo of your Daisy with her last name to my staff at eesugargrovinc@earthlink.net. They will make certain I receive it. I really have to get my own email address one of these days!



Kitty Kisses,
Daisy



Meet the Intern



Hello! My name is David Hopwood and I am interning this summer at Sugar Grove Nature Center. I recently completed my senior classes at Illinois State University (ISU) and will earn a degree in Recreation and Park Administration upon completion of my internship. I first learned about the Nature Center through a professor at ISU, and after visiting I knew this is where I wanted to intern. Sugar Grove Nature Center is an incredible asset to central Illinois and I feel very privileged to learn from the knowledgeable staff here. I look forward to meeting many of you this summer!

Art in the Grove

PAINT-OUT AT SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

Saturday, July 17, 2010

9:00 a.m. - noon

Fee: \$3/member, \$5/non-member

No registration required.

Grab your paints, brushes, and easels! Join plein air painter Dale C. Evans for a fun day at Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove.

Plein air is the art of painting "in the open air," and a paint-out is a gathering of plein air artists. The day will start with a brief introduction to materials and techniques for the outdoor artist. Then, find a beautiful spot to create your work of art. The painting session will be followed by a sack lunch (bring your own) and "show and tell."



This paint-out is open to artists of all levels of experience and all media (oils, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, etc.). A list of recommended supplies can be obtained on the Nature Center website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org, or by contacting Dale C. Evans at ukelinatik@aol.com. This event will take place rain or shine. There are plenty of locations under cover.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 24, 2010

8:30 a.m. - noon

Fee: \$5/member, \$7/non-member

Registration required.

Retired Miller Park Zoo Director, John Tobias, will share techniques and tricks for taking better photographs of nature and wildlife. His combination of years of experience working with animals and spectacular photographic skills makes him a uniquely qualified instructor. John has taught many photography courses and has been on the jury of several photo competitions. The bulk of the morning will be spent outdoors photographing landscapes, plants, insects, and birds.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Do you like to take pictures of animals, plants, or people in nature? Sugar Grove Nature Center is pleased to announce that we are sponsoring a Nature Photography Contest. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your photographic talent as well as the natural beauty of central Illinois. The contest includes both an adult and youth (under 13 years) division. Photographs must be taken in McLean County or the surrounding counties in Illinois. There will be a prize for the best photograph taken in Funks Grove, and prizes will be awarded for winners in each division and category. Specific prizes will be announced no later than August 1, and will include items such as gift cards, photography books, and Nature Center Memberships. Photographs taken from January 1, 2009 through October 1, 2010 are eligible for submission. Entry forms and rules for the contest are available at <http://www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/photocontest>.

Photography Contest Entry Form

Who can enter? All photographers are eligible for entry.

What are the age divisions? Adult and Youth (under 13 years).

What are the categories? There are three categories within each Division: Animals, Landscapes and/or Plants, People in Nature (written release required from people shown in the photograph).

Rules:

1. Fee \$3.00 per entry, limit of two entries per photographer.
2. Photographs must be taken in McLean or surrounding counties in Illinois between the dates of January 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.
3. Photographs must be either 8" X 10" or 8.5" X 11" (excluding matting) and be matted. Matting should not exceed 16" X 20".
4. No framed prints will be accepted.
5. No names should appear on the front of a print.
6. All entries must include the following information (printed neatly) on the back of the photograph: name, address and phone number of photographer; title of photograph, location and date photograph was taken; age division and category (see above).
7. Minor alterations (e.g. 'red eye', cropping, etc) of photographs via computer hardware/software means are acceptable for all categories.
8. Entries are to be submitted between September 15 and October 1, 2010. Entries received outside of these dates will not be accepted. No e-mail entries will be accepted.
9. Sugar Grove Nature Center reserves the right to reject any entry deemed necessary.
10. Entering the contest gives the Sugar Grove Nature Center the right to use the photographs to promote the Nature Center and conservation.
11. Winning entries will be asked to provide a jpeg digital copy of the photograph to the center by October 15, 2010. Failure to provide a jpeg digital image may result in forfeiture of the prize.
12. Non-winning entries will be returned if a stamped self addressed envelope is provided or the photographs can be picked up at the Nature Center during the month of November during normal business hours.
13. All winning photographs will be displayed on the Sugar Grove Nature Center Website. Photographs awarded First place, Best in Show, and Best of Funks Grove will also be on display at Sugar Grove Nature Center during the annual Autumn Celebration on October 23, 2010.
14. Winners will be publicly announced on October 15, 2010

Sugar Grove Nature Center Nature Photography Contest Entry Form 2010

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Title of Photograph: _____

Category (circle one): Animal Landscape/Plants People in Nature

Division (circle one): Youth Adult Fee Paid(\$3 per entry): _____

Make checks payable to Sugar Grove Nature Center. Mail Entries To:

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

Questions? Contact us at 309.874.2174 or infosugargrovinc@earthlink.net



Program Spotlights

ILLINOIS BUTTERFLIES - ENTICE WORKSHOP

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

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

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



GOING BATTY

Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

This program is back by popular demand! 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! Wear long pants and close-toed shoes.



NATURE PLAY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20, Registration required.

Educators, administrators, and parents are invited to join us for this engaging workshop! Learn how you can help bring back this endangered facet of American childhood. We will explore design principles for nature play spaces as well as resources and ideas for creating nature play components at your location. Guest presenter, Sarah Livesay, from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, will share important information regarding 'No Child Left Inside' and research that supports the importance of nature play. Karen Stevens, Director of Illinois State University's Child Care Center, will share a presentation on nature play areas and children's gardens from across the country including the University's Outdoor Learning Environment. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn from others who share a passion for this important topic! Lunch, snacks, and resources will be provided.

Program Spotlights

GREEN FÊTE

Saturday, September 25, noon - 6:00 p.m.

The Green Fête Festival is a family friendly gathering of green living, sustainability, organic, vegan and raw foods, music, art, dance and more. Green Fête "Workshops" and "Festivals" are community events for people seeking a positive and healthy lifestyle. Organizations and businesses will be showcasing programs and products that promote a healthy/green lifestyle.

The Green Fête Festival will have speakers and instructors from various subjects presenting short workshops with the festival audience. Represented are Yoga, Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, NIA (Neuromuscular Integrated Aerobics), Meditation, Organic Food, Raw Food, Bee Keeping, Alternative/Renewable energy and others. Performing between workshops is the artist cooperative called "Human Element." Visit greenfetefestival.com for more information and fees. Follow Green Fête Festival on Facebook and Twitter!



ILLINOIS MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING TO BEGIN THIS FALL IN MCLEAN COUNTY

University of Illinois Extension, in partnership with Heartland Community College, Sugar Grove Nature Center, and Parklands Foundation will begin to offer the Illinois Master Naturalist (ILMN) program 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 McLean County Master Naturalist program will be offered on Fridays, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM from August 27- November 12. Applicants will be informally interviewed in July. Once accepted, trainees are required to attend all training classes, which will be led by University of Illinois Extension educators and regional scientists. The training will consist of a minimum of 40 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 McLean County Extension's Horticulture webpage to download a brochure/interest form, or call Sharon Becker, Horticulture Program Coordinator, at 309-663-8306.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Share your experiences and photos with other Sugar Grove Nature Center Fans!



Summer Nature Study Programs

Summer is well underway, and so are Nature Study Programs! There is still time to take part in these fun, educational classes! To register, please call 309.874.2174 to check availability, then visit our website at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org, fill out the form under "Summer Nature Study Programs" and mail it in with your payment. If you do not have internet access, call 309.874.2174 and a form will be sent to you. Registrations must be received two weeks prior to the program start date. Programs may be cancelled if minimum participant numbers are not met.

NATURE NUTS

AGES 6-8

Best Friends: Animals & Plants that Help Each Other

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

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

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

Insects, Bugs, & Other Creepy Crawlers

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

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

Investigate bugs, insects, and other invertebrates up close. Plenty of time will be spent outside catching and studying what we can find. Minimum 8, maximum 20.

A Day in the Creek

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

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

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

ECO EXPLORERS

9-12 YEAR-OLDS

Creek Adventure

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

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

Study the aquatic life in Funks Grove! We'll spend lots of time in the water turning over rocks and digging in mud! Some specimens will be brought back to the Nature Center for further observation and examination with the microscope. Minimum 5, maximum 12.

ECO ADVENTURERS

13 - 15 YEAR-OLDS

Walk on the Wild Side

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

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

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



July-August-September Programs

Funks Grove Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, July 10 & 24, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. (Please note earlier time.)

Free, No registration required for individuals, but please let us know if you are bringing a group.
Don Schmidt leads a faithful group of volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities every other Saturday throughout the year. Stop out on occasion or join the group on a regular basis to assist with exotic species removal, seed collection, and other projects.

Family Nature Exploration Day

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

Free, No registration required.

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

Imagination Grove Fun Day

Friday, July 9, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Paint-Out! Plein Air Painting

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Fee: \$3/member, \$5/non-member

No registration required.

For complete information, see page 4.

Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Free, No registration required.

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

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, July 17, 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.

Continued on page 10.

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



July-August-September Programs

Continued from page 9.

TCAA Public Viewing Sessions: Globular Star Clusters

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

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

Illinois Butterflies - ENTICE Workshop

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

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

Flutter in and join other educators of grades kindergarten through six as we are introduced to the butterflies of Illinois! Butterfly life history, identification, conservation and adaptations will be discussed. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this workshop is part of the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program.

Photography Workshop

Saturday, July 24, 2010

8:30 a.m. - noon

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

For details, see page 4.

Funks Grove Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, August 7 & 21, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. (Please note earlier time.)

Free, No registration required for individuals, but please let us know if you are bringing a group.

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

Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturday, August 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Note: September's Nature Exploration Day will be substituted by our Hummingbird Festival on Saturday, September 4. There will be many free activities available for your family to enjoy.

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

TCAA Public Viewing Sessions: Planets & the Zodiac

Saturday, August 14, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Please see July 17 description.



July-August-September Programs

Continued from page 10.

Imagination Grove Fun Day

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

Free, although a donation of birdseed would be appreciation, No registration required.

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

Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Free, No registration required.

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

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, August 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 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.

Going Batty!

Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

For details, see page 6.

Saturday, August 28

Portions of the Nature Center Grounds will be closed. Visit our website for more details.

Funks Grove Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, September 4 & 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Free, No registration required for individuals, but please let us know if you are bringing a group.

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

Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration

Saturday, September 4, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For details, see page 1.

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



July, August, September Programs

TCAA Public Viewing Sessions: Stars of Red, White, and Blue

Saturday, September 11, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

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

Homeschool: Praying Mantises

Tuesday, September 14, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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

Ages 6 and up are invited to this exciting program on one of the most fascinating insects around! Learn about their anatomy and behavior & create a craft in this fun class.

Little Wonders: Praying Mantises

Wednesday, September 15, 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 explore the world of the praying mantis! You'll also munch on a snack fit for a mantis, hear a fun story, and create a fabulous mantis craft!

Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday, September 18; 9:00 a.m. - noon

Free, No registration required.

Please see August 21 description.

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

Saturday, September 18; 10:00 a.m. - noon

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. 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.

Nature Play Workshop

Tuesday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20, includes lunch, snacks, and resources, Registration required.

For details, see page 6.

Green Fête Festival

Saturday, September 25, noon - 6:00 p.m.

For details, see page 7.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our **Autumn Celebration** will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010.
Look for more information in your next issue of *The Nature of the Grove*.

Photographers in the Grove

We are thrilled that so many professional photographers find our grounds and facilities to be perfect for family portraits, senior pictures, and children's photo sessions.

We work hard to make Sugar Grove beautiful and wish to thank those photographers who show their appreciation by giving back. See below for more information!

STUDIO J PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Celebrate Summer

Summer days: the sound of cicadas in the warm sun, butterflies floating through the air like a petal in the wind, the tickle of the grass under your toes, and a childhood to spend your days embracing it. Celebrate summer capturing those wonderful days! Studio J Photography will be scheduling 'Summer Days' sessions for children at Sugar Grove Nature Center on Saturday, August 7th. For every session scheduled, Studio J Photography, Inc. will make a donation back to the Nature Center. For more information and to schedule your session, call Studio J Photography, Inc. at (309) 828-4200 or email at info@studiojphotography.net.

Studio J Photography, Inc. will also be scheduling a special event for fall family portrait sessions at Sugar Grove Nature Center to take place on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Watch for more information to come! You may also contact Studio J Photography for more information at (309) 828-4200 or info@studiojphotography.net. For every session scheduled, Studio J will make a donation back to the Nature Center!



TREASURED IMAGES BY SARA

Childhood Is Calling...

Join Treasured Images by Sara on October 8th & 9th, 2010 for portrait mini-sessions. Blow bubbles, play hide & seek, make mud down by the creek, whirl hula hoops, look for shapes in the clouds or share your own idea - let Sara help you capture the simple joys of childhood. Just like all 2010 Treasured Images by Sara sessions, 10% of your session price comes back to Sugar Grove Nature Center. Additionally, with these mini-session dates 25% of any A La Carte or ders will also be donated back to the Nature Center.

Due to time constraints if you have more than 2 children or you wish to do multiple activities, 2 or more time slots may work better. Email Sara through the Treasured Images by Sara website to chat about your ideas. Sara specializes in on-location, natural light photography of newborns through young children as well as maternity portraits in Central Illinois.

<http://www.treasuredimagesbysara.com>



Make A Difference

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

SENIOR/STUDENT

Marlene M. Aeschleman ✦ Clara Ash ✦ Herbert & Flora Breidenbach ✦ Valle H. Funk ✦ Vernon & Amy Gehlbach ✦ Patricia Hamilton
Audrey Hart ✦ Mrs. Lorna Kavelman ✦ Harry R. Lovell ✦ Joyce A. Manard ✦ Ron & Jo Ropp ✦ Bill & Rosalie Seymour
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