



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 9, Number 2

April/May/June 2013

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National Trails Day Celebration

presented by the Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists

June 1, 2013

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

Join in the celebration of America's trails at the Funks Grove National Trails Day (NTD) Celebration!

Through a unique partnership between the Funks Grove Cemetery Association, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Sugar Grove Nature Center, over 7 miles of hiking trails can be enjoyed in Funks Grove. Explore the diversity of plants and animals that live in the prairie, woodland, and savanna habitats. Visit creeks and streams where herons hunt and beavers are busy. Get to know the trails of Funks Grove!

A variety of activities will take place in the Nature Center, on the grounds, and throughout the trails. Take part in guided hikes lead by Master Naturalists or explore on your own. Enjoy seminars, informational booths, fun activities, and so much more! Stop in any time between 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m., check-in at NTD Celebration Headquarters to pick up your hiking passport, and begin your journey. There is no cost, and registration is not required.

This event will feature activities and hikes for adults, families with children, and even four-legged friends. Special opportunities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are planned, too! We encourage you to pack a picnic lunch and plan to stay all day! Explore and enjoy the nature of Funks Grove! Get your heart pumping, take a deep breath of fresh air, and leave your stress at the trailhead. There is no wi-fi in our forest, but we promise you will find a better connection!



Keep an eye on our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org for more information and a complete schedule of events.

*I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown,
for going out, I found, was really going in. ~ John Muir, 1913*

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Sugar Grove Foundation Board of Directors

Linda Bristow, *President*

Gary Huppert, *Treasurer*

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Eric Funk

Richard Park

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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.

Sunday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

November - March

Tuesday - Saturday

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

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

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 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 and
place "Nature Alerts" in the subject line.

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

www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org 🍁 facebook.com/sugargrovenaturecenter

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



Musings & Meowings by Daisy Kitty

Dear Readers,

There is a saying that "Dogs have a master. Cats have a staff." Nothing could be more true. I thought I'd take this opportunity to offer you, my readers, a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes world that allows me to be at my best as the Sugar Grove Nature Center Feline Relations Specialist. There is a surprisingly large group of people that work tirelessly to support my celebrity status. Some come in daily, some weekly, some occasionally, but all play an important role and have a special place in my kitty heart.

My kitchen staff must mobilize first thing in the morning. After a challenging night of mouse and spider chasing, I am hungry! Without adequate and delicious sustenance, there is no way I'd be able to make it through my day. Massage therapy follows, preferably performed by someone trained in the fine arts of belly rubs and behind-the-ear scratching, to relax and center me for the busy day ahead.

I thoroughly enjoy greeting my public, however, my groupies can occasionally become a bit overwhelming and I need to make a quick escape to one of my top secret rejuvenation hideaways. That's when I call in the body guards and paparazzi control for an escort.

To maximize my kitty cuteness, I rely on my stylist for keeping my fur shiny and soft. My wardrobe consultant is required to provide me with the most chic, in-season collars. My melodic meows are attributed to a vocal coach and hours of intense practice.

My health is, of course, of paramount importance. I have qualified top-notch doctors in my corner to provide stellar care, whether it is preventative medicine or helping me heal from an occupational hazard. Then there is the sanitation department...I don't believe any further explanation is necessary.

On the business side of things, I have a publicist to ensure that I receive all the attention that I deserve. As for having a manager, that may be helpful for human celebrities, but as a cat I don't take well to being managed.

I try to remain humble, but I must confess that I enjoy basking in the adoration of my entourage as they remind me what a pretty kitty I am, and stroke my fur and ego. A few silly people have gone so far as to suggest that I add a personal trainer to my staff, but what would I need one of those for? Let's not get crazy here!



Kitty Kisses,

Daisy 

Meet the Interns

TIA MILLER

Hey everyone! My name is Tia Miller and I'm a senior at Illinois State University. I'm majoring in Biology with an Organismal and Public Outreach concentration, and minoring in environmental studies and English. Originally an English major, I took an environmental course and realized that was where my true passion was; so, I switched majors and here I am! It was one of the best choices I could have made. My time spent at Sugar Grove thus far has been absolutely amazing and has encouraged me to pursue environmental education. My ultimate passion lies within conservation, and after graduating this spring I will be moving to Florida to work with Disney as a Conservation Education Intern! So I'm going to be able to have the best of both; conservation and education! I can't wait to see what this spring brings here at the Nature Center, and I feel lucky to be able to be a part of it. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!



JEN TWIDDY

Oh, hey there! My name is Jen Twiddy, and I am a Senior Environmental Studies major at Illinois Wesleyan University. I am originally from the "burbs" of Chicago but after studying abroad for a semester in Copenhagen, Denmark and researching climate change in Greenland, my love of the world has expanded and I hope to make new roots for myself after graduation. If it were possible I would major in Undecided due to my many interests, but if there is one thing I know for sure, it is my love for animals and the great outdoors. Working at Sugar Grove Nature Center allows me to embrace both of those passions while having fun! I am so excited to be here at the Nature Center and I can't wait to see what the rest of the semester brings!



ALY WOODWORTH

Hi! My name is Aly Woodworth, and I'm a senior at Illinois State University. I'm a Biological Sciences major, Environmental Health minor, and am completing the Organismal Biology and Public Outreach program. I absolutely love animals, learning, and sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Last year I was lucky enough to get to conduct independent research in Costa Rica, which really sparked my interest in the protection of threatened and endangered species. My #1 on my bucket list is to help rescue sea turtle hatchlings, and am now the proud mother of three turtles of my own! As my graduation quickly approaches, I know Sugar Grove Nature Center is the perfect place for me to gain experience before entering the job market. I can't wait to see what the rest of the semester has in store!



April, May, & June 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 or by calling 309.874.2174.

KIDS

Little Wonders: Animal Tails

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, April 17; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

Animals have tails that come in all shapes and sizes. Find out how each tail helps the animal move, communicate, and even fool predators! Listen to a fun story, create a craft, and enjoy a tasty snack.

Homeschool Program: Bees

Ages 6-8; Thursday, May 2, 10:00 a.m.-noon. Fee: \$8/members, \$10/non-members.

Ages 9-11; Thursday, May 2, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Fee: \$10/members, \$12/non-members.

Ages 12-16; Tuesday, May 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Fee: \$10/members, \$12/non-members.

Registration and prepayment required.

While honey bees and bumble bees are the most recognizable, there are many types of bees that live in Illinois. Learn about their life cycles, where they live, and why they are so important to the environment.

Little Wonders: Busy Bees

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, May 15; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

Buzz on in and bee ready for a fun time as you learn all about bees! Listen to a fun story, create a craft, and enjoy a tasty snack.

ALL AGES

Family Nature Exploration Day

Saturday, April 6; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 4; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1; 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.!

Campfire & S'mores Program: Turtles

Sunday, April 14; 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

Learn all about turtles and meet our resident turtle friends! Then head out to the campfire for a special concoction: turtle s'mores! (These will be made with chocolate, carmel, and nuts...not turtles.)



Continued on page 6.



April, May, & June Programs

ALL AGES, *continued from page 5.*

Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, April 20; 10:00 a.m.-noon

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

Saturday, June 15; 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, April 20; 10:00 a.m.-noon

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

Saturday, June 15; 10:00 a.m.-noon

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.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Our Marvelous Moon

Saturday, April 20, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

The moon is our closest neighbor and constant companion, and affects us in many surprising ways. Join the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) as they explore the moon, stars and other prominent sky objects. A presentation will be followed by a sky tour using a laser pointer and telescope viewing. Programs will be held even in the event of an overcast sky. The presentation will be given and tours of the Sugar Grove Observatory will be available. Active rain, however, will cause a cancellation of the event. Phone Carl at 309.830.4085 or Lee at 309.824.2804 to confirm if you are unsure. For additional information, visit www.tcaa.us.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: The Expanding Universe

Saturday, May 11, 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

Take a cosmological journey to discover "island universes" (galaxies), red shift, deep fields, curved space, dark matter and dark energy. See April 20 for details, including inclement weather policy.

Campfire & S'mores Program: Bees

Friday, May 17; 7:30-9:00 p.m.

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

Learn all about bees, then buzz on out to the campfire and enjoy tasty s'mores, made with honey graham crackers, of course!

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 1; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Free, no registration required.

See page 1 for description.



AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®

Continued on page 7.



E-mail register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org or call 309.874.2174 to register.

April, May, & June Programs

ALL AGES, *continued from page 6.*

Campfire & S'mores Program: Animal Homes

Friday, June 7; 7:30-9:00 p.m.

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

Discover the many places that animals call their homes. After learning how they are made and what to look for, there will be just enough light for a walk to search for animal homes. We'll end up at the campfire for s'mores and lemonade.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Astronomical Curiosities of Saturn

Saturday, June 8, 9:00-11:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

Can you imagine what surprises we'll find as we investigate the mysteries of the ringed planet? See April 20 for details, including inclement weather policy.

Imagination Grove Fun Day

Friday, June 14; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 20; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 15; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Free, although a donation such as birdseed, sugar (for hummingbirds), or paper towels would be appreciated. See our website for complete wish list. No registration required.

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

Great American Backyard Campout

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

Saturday, June 29, 3:00 p.m. - Sunday, June 30, 10:00 a.m.

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

Grab your sleeping bag and tent and join us as we celebrate the great outdoors! Bring your family and enjoy nature-related science and art activities, listen to the sounds of the woods as you take a night hike, view the stars with the Twin City Amateur Astronomers, explore Imagination Grove, or just sit by the campfire for stories and songs. A campfire dinner and light breakfast are included. Payment must accompany registration.

Upcoming Programs for All Ages...

Family Nature Exploration, *Saturday, July 6; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. See April 6 for description.*

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: The World's Great Telescopes *Saturday, July 6, 9:00-11:00 p.m.*

Free; no registration required.

Take a look at some of the famous telescopes around the world and review their contributions to the science of astronomy. See April 20 for details, including inclement weather policy.

Continued on page 8.



April, May, & June Programs

ALL AGES, *continued from page 7.*

Go Batty!

Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

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 resources and feast on a batty snack!

Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 31! Look for details in our July/August/September issue of *The Nature of the Grove!*

ADULTS

Nature Center Work Days

Friday, April 5; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, May 3; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, June 7; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free, no registration required.

Work with Nature Center staff and volunteers to 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. Bring along a lunch if you like and we'll celebrate our accomplishments and socialize a bit after the work is done.

Happy Trails Hikes

Thursday, April 11; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 9; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 13; 10:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required.

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!

"In every walk with nature one receives more than he seeks." ~ John Muir.

Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, April 13 & 27; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, May 11 & 25; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, June 8 & 22; 8:00-10:00 a.m. **Note earlier start time.*

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. Work days include learning about Illinois' natural history first-hand, while spending a nice morning with friends who believe in the importance of being stewards of the environment.



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April, May, & June Programs

ADULTS, *continued from page 8.*

RiverWatch Citizen Scientist Training Workshop

Saturday, April 27; 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

Join RiverWatch to become a part of a large network of volunteers who steward and protect Illinois streams. RiverWatch certified volunteers, referred to as Citizen Scientists, are trained to detect and track the changes in water quality as suggested by changes in the population of macroinvertebrates, such as dragonfly nymphs, beetle larva, midges, and snails. In doing so, they provide valuable insight to the health of our rivers and streams. This interactive workshop will give you the tools to test water quality and collect reliable data. Visit ngrrec.org to learn more about RiverWatch.

Wildflower Walk

Sunday, April 28; 2:00 p.m.

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

Enjoy a stroll through Funks Grove with Wild Ones members to discover the diversity of woodland wildflowers that carpet the forest floor every spring.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18; 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Special discount for Sugar Grove Nature Center members! See page 12 for description.

Upcoming Programs for Adults...

Zentangle: Patterns in Art & Nature

Thursday, July 11; 10:00 a.m.-noon.

Fee: \$12/members, \$15/non-members; registration and prepayment required.

Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. It increases focus and creativity, providing artistic satisfaction along with an increased sense of personal well being. Certified Zentangle Instructor, Ellen Baranowski, uses this method to create nature inspired artwork. See examples of her art on page 11. This program will teach you the basic patterns and how to use them in your artistic endeavors and for relaxation. For more information on Zentangle, visit zentangle.com.

Nature Journals: Learning to See Like an Artist

Tuesday & Thursday, July 23 & 25; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$25/members; \$30/non-members; registration and prepayment required. Learn the basics of keeping a nature journal focusing on drawing and using color. Instructor Sandy Bales with Jill Wallace will introduce you to methods of creating journal entries using pencil, colored pencil, and watercolor. Emphasis will be placed on value, lines, and shapes to create form. These skills can then be used to draw just about anything! All materials will be provided.

Grown-Up Creek Stomp

Saturday, July 27; 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10/members, \$12/non-members; registration and prepayment required. Why should kids have all the fun? Learn about mussels, crayfish, and other invertebrates. Then head out to explore the creek! Bring a sack lunch, and be ready to get wet.

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



Summer Nature Study for Kids

Fostering a love and appreciation of nature at an early age is so very important. What better way to spend the summer than exploring, discovering, and learning about nature! With a diverse range of topics geared towards ages 3 and up, you are sure to find a program to fit your interests! Advanced registration is required and class size is limited. **To register, please fill out the form on page 11 or at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/sns13.html and mail it in with your payment.** Registration must be received two weeks prior to the program start date. Programs may be cancelled if minimum participant numbers are not met.

LITTLE WONDERS

Ages: 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Tuesdays, June 11-July 16 (6 classes); 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee for the series: \$25/child members; \$35/child non-members, registration and prepayment required.

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

NATURE FUN CLUB

Ages: 6-12

Wednesdays, June 19-July 31 (7 classes); 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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

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

CREEK STOMP

Ages: 6-8; Thursday, June 27; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ages: 9-12; Friday, June 28; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ages: 12-16; Friday, July 19; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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

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

NATURE ART

Youth Nature Photography Workshop

Ages 9-13

Saturday, June 22; 9:00 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$10/members, \$12/non-non-members, registration and prepayment required.

Explore the art of nature photography with John Tobias! Learn to use the features of your camera while creating gorgeous photographs of the natural world. Please bring a digital camera with fully charged batteries (or extra batteries), and a memory card that can hold up to 100 images. You will spend some time outdoors, so dress for the weather.

Continued on page 11.



Summer Nature Study for Kids

SUMMER NATURE STUDY, *continued from page 10.*

Zentangle

Ages: 9-12

Thursday, July 11; 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$12/members, \$15/non-members, registration and prepayment required.

Zentangle is an easy-to-learn and fun way to create beautiful images. Students will learn basic patterns that can then be repeated and combined with other patterns. It increases focus and creativity, and is an ideal way for all ages to gain confidence in drawing. Certified Zentangle Instructor, Ellen Baranowski, uses this method to create nature inspired artwork. For more information on Zentangle, visit zentangle.com. All materials will be provided.



Zentangle Butterfly by Ellen Baranowski

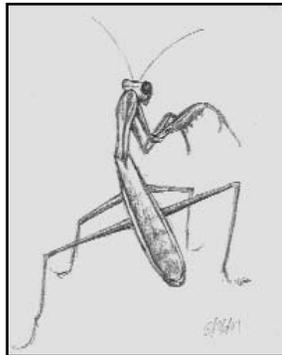
Sketching Nature in Pencil

Ages: 13-16; Tuesday & Thursday, July 23 & 25; 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Ages: 9-12; Tuesday & Thursday, July 30 & August 1; 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15/members, \$18/non-members; registration and prepayment required.

Learn the basics of nature sketching from instructor, Jill Wallace. Using pencil, we'll go over shading, line, negative space, shapes, and more to create beautiful drawings of plants and animals. All materials will be provided.



Mantis Sketch by Jill Wallace

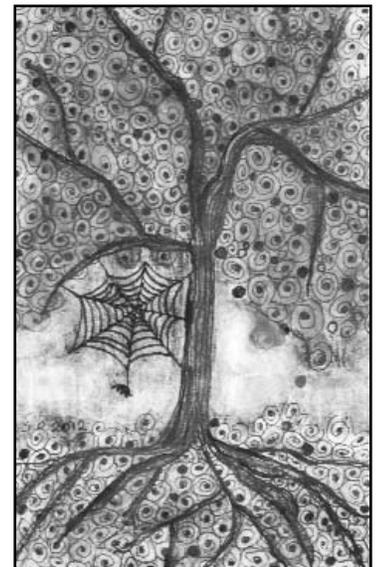
The Shapes of Nature

Ages: 6-8

Tuesday & Thursday, July 30 & August 1; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$15/members, \$18/non-members; registration and prepayment required.

Students will look closely at items in nature, identifying the shapes that comprise them. Then, by putting together these simple shapes, they can create drawings of plants, animals, and other nature related subjects. All materials will be provided.



Zentangle Tree
by Ellen Baranowski

REGISTRATION

Please register by using the form on page 12 or obtaining a form at sugargrovenaturecenter.org, and sending it along with payment to Sugar Grove Nature Center, 4532 N 725 East Rd., McLean, IL 61754. You may also register in person. We are unable to accept credit cards.

ADULTS

We didn't forget the grown-ups that are looking for a summer adventure! See "Upcoming Programs" on page 9.

Forms for prepayment can be found at sugargrovenaturecenter.org/sns13.html or page 12.



Summer Program Registration Form

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

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

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

Address: _____
Street City, State Zip Code

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

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

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

Rules

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enter information for your requested classes:

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

Total: _____

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



This & That

Wild Ones to Sponsor Native Plant Sale

Illinois Prairie Wild Ones will sponsor a native plant sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 in the auditorium of the U of I Extension Office at 402 North Hershey Road in Bloomington. Members of Sugar Grove Nature Center will receive a discount!

A tentative list of plants included in the sale is available on the website www.wildones.org/chapters/ilprairie/.

Experienced native plant gardeners will be available to answer questions and to help in the selection of native plants and flowers for hummingbird gardens, butterfly gardens, shade gardens, drought tolerant gardens and urban gardens (those plants less than three feet tall).

Proceeds will support the chapter's monthly programs to educate people on the use of native plants in landscaping designs.

Master Naturalist Training to Be Offered this Fall in McLean County

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

The Illinois Master Naturalist (ILMN) program provides science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards. The program is designed for any adult, aged 18 or over, who is committed to life-long learning and stewardship of local resources. They must be members of the local community who are interested in habitats, ecosystems, natural resources and the environment and who are willing to devote time to volunteering and on-going training.

The training course will be offered on Fridays, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, August 9 – October 25. Many of the classes will be held at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Applicants will be informally interviewed in June. Once accepted, trainees will be required to attend all training classes, which will be led by University of Illinois Extension educators and regional scientists. Cost for the program is \$250, which consists of approximately 70 hours of classroom/field instruction and field trips on topics related to local ecosystems.

For further information on this program, please visit the Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist webpage at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/mn/> or call Sharon Becker, Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, at 309-663-8306.



Making A Difference

NEW GAZEBO

The next time you are out for a visit, take a stroll down to the new gazebo on the lawn down by the stage. Thanks to Eagle Scout Andrew Johnson for completing his project at Sugar Grove. Andrew was able to salvage and reuse several parts of our old gazebo and make improvements by adding a metal roof. The gazebo is available for casual visitors and will also serve as a program site for Trees Forever programming and field experiences.

WEBSITE REDESIGNED

Sugar Grove Nature Center would like to thank Robin Fraser for volunteering her time, talent, and expertise in redesigning our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org. The new website, implemented in January of this year, features updated graphics and a more user-friendly format, allowing users to easily access our current and past newsletters, membership and program information, and additional information.

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 4 pledges of \$25 bringing the need down to \$300.

Subscriptions & Memberships

Thank you to David and Joyce Schmoeger for donating a 2-year gift subscription to Ranger Rick to the Nature Center! There are several other 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 ❁ Birds & Blooms Magazine, \$20
Environmental Education Association of Illinois, \$100 ❁ Illinois Native Plant Society, \$20

ANNUAL APPEAL

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

Sandra Bush ❁ Dottie Frank ❁ Larry & Emma Funk ❁ Nancy Johnson

H. Kirk Lewis, in Memory of Bob & Sally Rehtmeyer ❁ Eric & Marty Payne ❁ Debbie Ruff

Shawn Smith ❁ Phil Thornton & Janet Rasmussen

Chris & Mimi Waddell, in Memory of Bob & Sally Rehtmeyer ❁ Tim & Connie White & Family

...and those who wish to remain anonymous

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Every membership makes a difference! Become a member today and add your name to the list of fabulous supporters that we cannot do without! Visit our website or stop by for a membership form.



Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS! SENIOR/STUDENT

Mary Campbell ❁ Faith Mund ❁ Lucy Patterson ❁ Carolyn Redic
Mary Kay Stimpert ❁ John Vogel

SUGAR MAPLE

Jim & Deb Bacigalupo ❁ Jane & Rich Beal ❁ Steve & Jody Borbely ❁ Kathy Clesson ❁ Debbie Coleman
The Peter Dederich Family ❁ Kevin & Tamara Fahling ❁ Stokes Schwartz & Sonja Fritzsche
Charles & Linda Grotevant ❁ Mike Heffron ❁ The Shane & Corie Hill Family ❁ Dave & Lis Hiltabrand
Gina Hunter ❁ Nigel Keen ❁ Kevin Lee ❁ Dave & Karen Lowery ❁ Edward & Patricia Matesevac
Joan & Shorty Olson ❁ Captain & Mrs. Paul R. Peak ❁ The Pierard Family ❁ Mary Ellen Schupbach
Raymond Sevier ❁ Karen Stephens ❁ Bruce & Carolyn Sutter ❁ John Traynor ❁ Larry & Arlene VanHook
Bryan & Bridgette VanHook ❁ Chris & Mimi Waddell ❁ Dave Weth

PAW PAW

Merlin & Meg Anderson ❁ Roger & Deb Aukerman ❁ Janet Beach Davis & Family
Tony & Sharon Becker ❁ Richard & Diana Boschulte ❁ Larry Bross ❁ Laurine Brown ❁ Larry & Emma Funk
Given & Jean Harper ❁ Michael & Mabel Lux ❁ Tanja Mahner ❁ Pat & Carroll Oien
Tom & Susan Parrent ❁ Lance & Candy Rogers ❁ Bill & Kathy Rous ❁ Alan & Elizabeth Sender
The Shultz Family ❁ Jim Struebing ❁ Sharon Tallon ❁ Jeff & Jane Turley

AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Finn & Laura Amble ❁ John & Diana Behnke ❁ Sandy Bush ❁ Dr. Jay Corwin ❁ John & Marilyn Freese
Gary Huppert ❁ Jim & Emily McLaughlin ❁ Larry & Jonalee Mikesch ❁ Robby & Debbie Ruff
Donald & Marjorie Sapp ❁ Judith Valente Reynard ❁ Ryan Weishalla & Tara

HICKORY

David & Laura Coe ❁ Phil Houser ❁ Jane Huppert ❁ Mike & Maria Lamb
Mary Lynne Poole ❁ Larry & Louise Reeser ❁ Joy Schuler

BLACK WALNUT

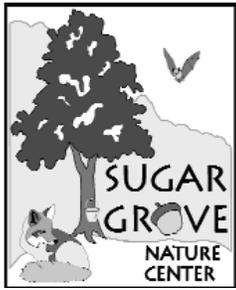
George & Marylou Farnsworth

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.

❁ *Thank you to the Paul A. Funk Foundation and Hazel Funk Holmes Trust for their continued support.* ❁

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



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Nature Center Hours

April - October
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

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

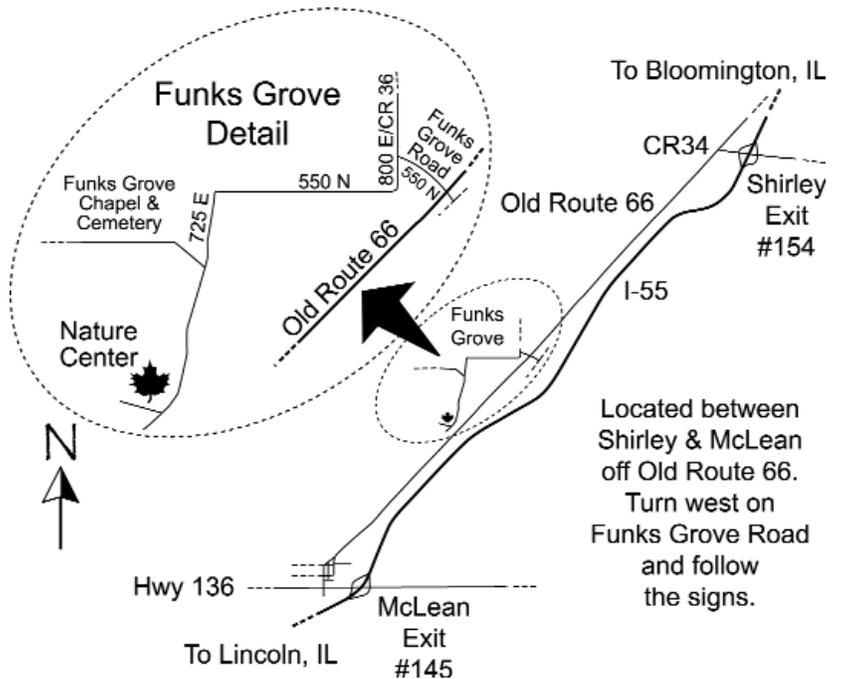
The grounds, trails, & Imagination Grove
are open daily dawn to dusk.

Contact us at:

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

info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org
www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org

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



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

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