



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 9, Number 3

July/August/September 2013

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HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL & POLLINATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 31, 2013

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

Plan to attend our 7th Annual Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration! Celebrate hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies - the vital pollinators for countless varieties of plant life in Funks Grove. Enjoy entertainment, education, food, and fun!

What is pollination and why are pollinators important? Join us to find out! All ages are encouraged to learn about pollination and pollinator migration from local experts during seminars, classroom programs, guided hikes, and



Photo by John Tobias.

garden tours. Children will especially enjoy watching puppet shows, making crafts, and overcoming obstacles in a life-sized game of migration.



Photo by Janet Rasmussen.

We are excited to welcome back Vern Kleen of Springfield, Illinois, to the Festival again this year. Vern is one of the few licensed hummingbird banders in the United States. During the day he will demonstrate catching, banding, and releasing hummingbirds. Celebration participants will have the chance to feel a hummingbird's record-speed heartbeat and "adopt" a bird to receive updates if it is recaptured.

Continued on page 6.

Nature Center Staff

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Olivia Harris
Amanda King
Beth Long
Jason Solberg
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Daisy Kitty
Feline Relations Specialist
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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 —

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 Closings

*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,

As the morning sun rises, its rays shine into my Bird Viewing Room, blanketing everything with light and warmth. Having positioned myself perfectly on my couch, I soak up the heat on the fur of my back before the light hits my eyes. Birds chirp, peep, and sing as they arrive for breakfast at the feeders. Ah! Such a gentle alarm clock to pull me into consciousness.

Lately, however, my morning bliss has turned into a dreadful nightmare! Instead of this calm coziness, I am roused from slumber by the rumbles and roars of vehicles maneuvering between my sanctuary and the prairie! There is no road there! The birds squawk and squeal as they fly away, also clearly disturbed.

In addition to this, my astronomer friends have been exhibiting odd behavior. Normally, they show up to visit me after the sun goes down. But lately they have been coming and going at all hours, day and night. Coincidence? Turns out, no. The rumbly trucks have been going over by the sky-watch-silo. I've peeked out the window and it appears that they are making a new building to watch stars. The whole roof just slides right off so they can see the sky and moon and stars! How clever! Maybe if I ask nicely, my staff will make the roof in my Bird Room slide off. Then, I'd be able to get ALL the sun as it comes in every morning! Also, birds would fly right in and I could finally catch them- something I've dreamt about for a long time.

But, that isn't the only place the bothersome trucks were going. Sometimes they would go down the lane and across the parking lot where I couldn't see them. Some of my volunteer friends have been spending a lot of time there, too, arriving way earlier than my staff (which isn't that hard to do on most mornings), making loud banging sounds, and coming in hot and sweaty. Clearly, they are in on this building thing, as well. Normally, if it is out of my sight, it just doesn't matter. But whatever this was, could potentially affect my guests, so I had to find out just what was going on. After some additional kitty detective work, I've found out that the new building is going to be used to help people learn how make sticky stuff like maple sirup and to get honey from the bee hives. I'm really glad that they aren't going to do that kind of thing in my building, because when things like that get in my fur, it is such a mess and takes days to clean.



While I am losing sleep now, in the long run I think this will be a good thing. Maybe more people will come out at night to see stars with my astronomer friends (they have special nights where anyone can join them), and my guests will have a nice warm building to learn about sirup in the wintertime. But until the buildings are done, I'll just have to take extra naps during the day. Oh, the hardship!

Kitty Kisses,

Daisy 

New Faces

WELCOME, JANET!

Sugar Grove Nature Center is excited to welcome Janet Rasmussen to the staff! We are a small, but mighty staff of three (well, Daisy would say four). Janet brings not only an enthusiasm and love for nature in general and Sugar Grove in particular, but also a wealth of experience and expertise.

Those of you who frequent the Nature Center may have already met her, since she has been an active volunteer for the last four years, leading programs, spear-heading the photography contest, and assisting with everything from fundraising to special events. Janet relocated to the area four years ago from Jacksonville where she taught at MacMurray College. Prior to that, she had some exciting experiences serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in southern Africa, followed by teaching wildlife ecology and directing research projects at the School for Field Studies in Kenya.

Her volunteer involvement started in high school as a volunteer at the Oklahoma City Zoo. And, not only has she been an active volunteer here since moving to Bloomington, but she is the Vice President and newsletter editor for the local Wild Ones Chapter. She also participated in the first Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist Course through University of Illinois Extension and hosted at Sugar Grove in 2010.



We are thrilled to have Janet fill the role of Environmental Support Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator! Be sure to introduce yourself the next time you are out for a visit!

SUMMER INTERNS

Jodi Becker



Hey there! My name is Jodi Becker and I just graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and Environmental Studies. After I finish my internship here, I hope to find a job somewhere like Sugar Grove, where I can continue to learn and share my knowledge about the environment. The time I have spent at Sugar Grove Nature Center has been...well, awesome! I have learned so much in just a short period of time. I am so glad I was able to do my internship here. I can't imagine doing it anywhere else. It will be a sad day when my hours are complete, but if there is one thing I do know, it's that I will definitely be back! See you all soon!

Olivia Harris

Hello! My name is Olivia Harris, and I am a junior majoring in Agricultural and Environmental Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am fascinated by the many ways people identify with nature and how their experiences in and around nature affect their lifestyle choices regarding the environment. I've yet to find an environmental subject that didn't interest me, whether it is honey bee pollinators, the link between agriculture and the environment, or controversy about atmospheric science. Overall, I am passionate about being a good steward of our amazing planet. During my time at the Sugar Grove Nature Center, I have learned the ropes of being involved in hands-on environmental advocacy and am excited to apply my knowledge to the new school year and my later career.



New Faces

SUMMER INTERNS, CONTINUED

Amanda King



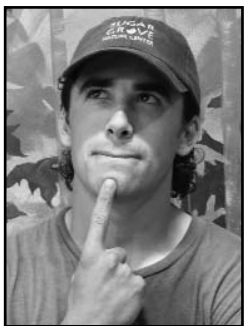
Hello everyone! My name is Amanda King and I am going to be a Junior at Illinois Wesleyan University! I am an Environmental Studies major concentrating in International Environmental Sustainability with a minor in Political Science. As the future goes, I will be exploring my true love of the environment this fall by studying abroad in Australia! My program will take me to Sydney and Melbourne to study urban sustainability, allow me to camp in Tasmania, and I even get to stay with an Aboriginal family to study how they live sustainably. I think its safe to say that I am beyond excited to go! As for my others hobbies, I am currently a cheerleader at Illinois Wesleyan and I am also very involved with my sorority on campus. Besides school, I love to hike, take photos of everything, travel around, run half marathons, and if you name it, I'd probably like to try it. Sugar Grove Nature Center is such a wonderful place and I am beyond words excited to be interning here. I'm even more excited to see what the rest of the summer brings!

Beth Long

Hey! I'm Beth, a summer intern here at Sugar Grove Nature Center. I'm a Senior at Illinois State University, studying Organismal Biology and Environmental Studies. I ended up here at the Center through recommendations from previous interns and it was a wonderful decision. I have a passion for the environment and its connection and impact on animals. I hope one day to travel to different countries, studying marine mammals and their adjustment to rising global temperatures. Sugar Grove has been my first hands-on experience in my field of study and has confirmed my question about if I was in the right field. It's a small piece of untouched land that is rare to find anywhere, especially coming from the big city. I'm proud to be a part of something bigger than myself, bringing awareness to the importance of understanding nature.



Jason Solberg



Hello, all! My name is Jason Solberg, and I recently finished my studies at Illinois State University as an Environmental Health Major. I grew up in Bloomington, Illinois, and attended Bloomington High School prior to I.S.U. I'm a major dog lover, although Daisy Kitty has slowly but surely won me over after spending as much time as I have at Sugar Grove Nature Center. I now have a newfound love and respect for the feline community. Every morning I go on a walk/run with my dog, Rhoda, a Rhodesian Ridgeback mix, out on some trails near our home in Normal. I find myself being at my happiest when out in nature, away from the sounds of every day hustle and bustle. My time spent at Sugar Grove has given me a new sense of appreciation not only for wildlife, but also for the work it takes from countless volunteers to keep the place up and running. I plan on moving with my family somewhere along the east coast in the next year, but I know that Sugar Grove will be a place I will continue to visit for years to come no matter where I go.



Photography Contest

FOURTH ANNUAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Sugar Grove Nature Center is excited to announce the "Call for Entries" for our Fourth Annual Nature Photography Contest! From a close-up of a tiny insect to the vast expanse of a landscape, every year we are astounded by our guests' abilities to capture the natural beauty of Funks Grove and its surrounding areas by camera.

Any photo taken between the dates of January 1, 2012 and September 27, 2013 in McLean and the surrounding counties are eligible for submission. The photos with completed forms and entry fee must be delivered to Sugar Grove Nature Center in person or by mail between September 1 and September 27, 2013. There will be several categories judged in the adult division, and a special division will be held for youth, 13 years-old and under. A complete list of contest rules and entry forms are available on our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org, by calling 309.874.2174, or emailing info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org. All winning photographs will be displayed on the Sugar Grove Nature Center website. Winning photographs will also be on display during our Autumn Celebration on October 19, 2013.



2012 Best of Show
"Busy Bee" by Dave Weth

HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL & POLLINATION CELEBRATION

Continued from page 1.



Attend hummingbird seminars led by experts and visit with local businesses featuring an assortment of products for attracting hummingbirds and other pollinators to your yard and garden. Learn about Monarch butterfly tagging, tour our new Monarch WayStation, and visit with Wild Ones members to learn more about the incredible value of planting native plants (especially milkweed) on your property. Explore our honey bee hives and sample some Sugar Grove honey!

Follow us on Facebook or visit our webpage at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org to find a complete schedule of events, updated program information, and previews of the days' activities as the festival approaches.

Please Note: Guests will not be permitted on the grounds before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the festival.

Upcoming 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

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 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.

Sketching Nature in Pencil

Ages: 9-12

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

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

Little Wonders: Little Nature Center on the Prairie

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, August 21; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

Explore the prairie while learning about the plants and animals that call it home. We'll enjoy a snack and story, create a prairie craft, and of course, hike in the tall grasses and flowers!

Little Wonders: Little Campers

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

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

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

The classroom turns into a campground as we experience an overnight campout in just an hour and a half! Enjoy camp snacks, songs, and a craft at this fun program for ages 3-5 with an adult.

ALL AGES

Family Nature Exploration Day

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

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

Saturday, October 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.!



Continued on page 8.

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



Upcoming Programs

ALL AGE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 7.*

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Meteors, Space Rocks, and Comets

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

Free; no registration required.

You never know who you'll run into around here! Join us as we meet some of our celestial neighbors. A presentation by the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) 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.

Imagination Grove Fun Day

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!

Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, August 17; 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, August 17; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Saturday, September 21; 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.

Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration

Saturday, August 31; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

See page one for complete information.

Campfire & S'mores Program: Sounds of the Night

Friday, September 6; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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

From rustling leaves to the chirp of an insect or the hoot of an owl, we'll learn what to listen for, then head out to hear for ourselves. We'll end the evening at the campfire with s'mores and lemonade.

Continued on page 9.

Upcoming Programs

ALL AGE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 8.*

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: The Births and Deaths of Stars

Saturday, September 7; 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

The study of the life-cycles of stars helps us understand the unexpected formation and violent ends of these distant worlds. See August 10 for more information.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: The Milky Way

Saturday, October 5; 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

The view from inside of our home galaxy provides many unexpected perspectives. Take a look for yourself during the last Public Viewing Session of the year. Don't miss it! See August 10 for more information.

ADULTS

Nature Center Work Days

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

Friday, September 6; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, October 4; 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, August 8; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 12; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 10; 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 hiking shoes and a sense of adventure!

Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, August 17 & 31; 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Saturdays, September 14 & 28; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, October 12 & 26; 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. 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.

Continued on page 10.

Upcoming Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS, *continued from page 9.*

Beginning Blacksmith Class

Saturday, September 21 OR Saturday, October 12; 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40/members of Sugar Grove Nature Center or Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association, \$50/non-members; lunch, tools, and materials included. Registration and prepayment required by September 6 (September class) or September 27 (October class). Form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf. Indicate preferred date on registration form.

If you have ever thought about trying your hand at pounding, bending, and twisting metal, this one-of-a-kind program is for you! In this hands-on program, you will work side-by-side with a blacksmith who will give you guidance and encouragement every step of the way. By the end of the day, you will have one or two small completed projects to take home.

The Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association's mission is to help people realize their dreams and aspirations of constructive and creative metalworking through participation in their many blacksmith demonstrations, education, and training programs, and by capitalizing on and sharing in the vast and varied experiences of their membership and by utilizing their library and video resources for blacksmiths.



Anyone 16 and older is welcome to register. Spots are limited. In order to ensure a quality program and plenty of personal attention, there will be a maximum of 8 participants per class.

For additional information about the class, contact Bill Kauffman at 309.208.2505.

Participants are asked to wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants made of cotton or wool; no shorts or open-toed shoes, please. NO clothing or shoes (such as some athletic shoes) with nylon or other flammable materials. Safety glasses must be worn and will be provided if needed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUTUMN CELEBRATION!

Yes, we are already looking ahead to October! Make plans to join us for our annual Autumn Celebration! This year, it will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Spend the day enjoying music, food, games, historical reenactors, pumpkin decorating, and so much more!



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

Funks Grove Corps of Discovery



Compass Plant

A Yellow Compass plant scans the horizon,
Like a prairie periscope searching
for a distant rain cloud.

~Debbie Coleman



Damselfly

Little flying jewels,
onyx and emerald,
sparkling in the sun.

~Linda Giles



Buttonbush

Buttonbush blossom,
with the immaculate geometry
of a prairie sea urchin.

~Linda Giles

The Funks Grove Corps of Discovery is a group of volunteers that have received training through the Illinois Natural History Survey for the purpose of documenting the natural environment of Funks Grove through drawing, writing, and photography.



Projects & Additions

—BARN QUILT HERITAGE TRAIL - MCLEAN COUNTY—

Sugar Grove Nature Center is excited to participate in the Barn Quilt Heritage Trail - McLean County, thanks to funding from Lorraine (Light) & David Darnall, David Wilson, Anna Marie Chrisman, and Jane Dresner in honor of Joyce Schmoeger. Our quilt will be placed on the corn crib in late August. Nine other barn quilts (including one at Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup) will be placed in the Shirley-Heyworth area, bringing the total to 21 quilts in McLean County.

To kick off the second year of Barn Quilt Heritage Trail - McLean County, an opening event has been planned at David Davis Mansion on August 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities will include poets reading original poems about the barn quilts and their owners at 10:15; an auction of 2 x 2 wooden quilts for those who like barn quilts, but don't have a barn at 11:00; music by "Don't Fret" Band from 11:30-12:30; barn dancing by the Bloomington Twirlers from 12:30-1:30; and food from 11:00-1:00. Brochures will be handed out so that guests can go on a self-guided tour of the 21 barns. Come and join the fun. Free!

For more information, visit mcleancountybarnquilts.com or "Like" them on Facebook, Barn Quilts Heritage Trail - McLean County.

—EXCITING BUILDING PROJECTS UNDERWAY—

We know that most loyal readers read "Daisy Kitty's" Column first, in which case you already know about our two building projects. Our Sap & Honey House is funded through private donations and a grant from the Illinois State University Student Sustainability Fund. What a great addition to our Maple Sirup Experience! This facility will also be used for honey extraction and pollinator education as well as serve as an additional, and much needed, program and meeting space. We would like to thank our dedicated volunteer work crew for sharing their carpentry and construction skills!



The Twin City Amateur Astronomers secured donations to construct a new roll off roof observatory. Increased interest and participation in the club and public observing sessions will benefit from this added structure. We'll update you on these fabulous additions to our site features in the next newsletter, but in the meantime please stop out often this summer to keep tabs on the progress.

Making a Difference

Donations Large & Small--They All Make A Difference!!

Many people don't realize that Sugar Grove Nature Center is funded entirely through donations, grants, memberships, and program fees. From large grants to items from our wish list, every contribution is important to enabling us to do what we do. A welcoming Nature Center, beautiful grounds and site features, and quality programs and events are the result of hard work, wonderful volunteers and the financial resources to make them possible.

Equipment & Resource Acquisition

Thanks to a grant from the Decatur Audubon Society and donation from Darnall Printing we were able to purchase a spotting scope to use at special events and with our classes. Seeing hummingbirds feeding up-close, spying on a great-blue heron nest, and watching beavers busy at work will all be possible now thanks to these generous contributors. Join us at our Hummingbird Festival and Pollination Celebration to try it out for yourself!

Monarch WayStation

A Schoolyard Habitat Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided \$1,000 to establish a Monarch WayStation. This WayStation enhances and expands existing habitat for monarch butterflies, and other pollinators by planting various species of native milkweed and other important pollinator nectar and larval host plants. It also serves to educate people of all ages about the importance of habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Planning and planting assistance from Master Naturalists, Wild Ones members and other volunteers, interns, scouts, and Nature Fun Club last summer has resulted in a beautiful habitat just buzzing with visitors. Take a tour of the garden at our Hummingbird Festival & Pollination Celebration!



SGNC Reusable Water Bottle Initiative

Thanks to Around About Acres in Clinton, IL for providing the initial investment to purchase SGNC reusable water bottles. Bottles are available at our special events and they are only 2 bucks!

Magazine Subscriptions

Thank you to David and Joyce Schmoeger for donating a 2-year gift subscription of Ranger Rick to the Nature Center, and to Juergen & Meredith Schroeer for sponsoring our Illinois Native Plant Society Membership.

Program Support

Every year Tom Ulrich, renowned nature photographer from Montana, makes an outstanding photography presentation on behalf of Sugar Grove Nature Center. We are thankful for the continued support of John Wesley Powell Audubon and the Illinois Wesleyan Environmental Studies Department for their sponsorship. This year, Ryan Weishalla, Sugar Grove Nature Center friend and volunteer helped to make Tom's visit possible with a donation in support of his presentation fee.

Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

SENIOR/STUDENT

H. & F. Breidenbach ❁ Vicky Kramer ❁ Doris Koppersmith
William & Betty Rennie ❁ Lona Robinson

SUGAR MAPLE

Alison & Justin Allen ❁ Luke & Kristen Arnold ❁ Eric & Kristin Boeck ❁ The Braid Family
Jerry & Margaret Bratcher ❁ Randy & Shelly Brooks ❁ Lyndsey Camey ❁ Kevin & Kim Crutcher
Mr. & Mrs. Don Doty ❁ Lisa Dzhafarov ❁ Darren Forgy & Lisa Kramer ❁ Linda L. Giles
Jacquylen Hadley ❁ Cari Hieronymus ❁ James L. & Barbara S. Johnson ❁ Lois Kelsey ❁ Amy & Todd King
The Knobloch Family ❁ Karen Maharas ❁ Ashley Moulton ❁ Randy Neal ❁ Gina Neitzel
The Privett-Groth Family ❁ Lindsay Record ❁ Craig, Kathy, Taylor, & Holyn Roesch ❁ The Steege Family
Deirdre Steele ❁ Kira Stevens ❁ The Swope 5 ❁ The Thorndyke Family ❁ Rick Tindall
Elizabeth Weir ❁ Tim & Connie White Family ❁ Bob Williams

PAW PAW

Rosemary Dustman ❁ Tanja Mahner ❁ Kent Meister ❁ Gretchen Monti
Jack, Patty, Sarah, & Christian Pitts ❁ M.J. Rhymer Nature Preserve ❁ John & Linda Stuckey

AMERICAN SYCAMORE

The Becker (Clinton) Family ❁ Abby Jahiel & Family ❁ Martha Tyner ❁ Richard & Eileen Wagner

HICKORY

Kim & Dave Eaton ❁ Illinois Prairie Community Foundation - David and Pearl Jeffries Donor Advised Fund

BLACK WALNUT

Richard C. & Ann A. Funk ❁ The Mike Prall Family

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

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!
See page 15 or visit our website for a membership form.

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"/> \$15Student/Senior (65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250Shagbark Hickory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25Sugar Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500Black Walnut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50Paw Paw | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000Blue Ash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100American Sycamore | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000Bur Oak |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- How would you like your newsletter recognition to be worded? _____
- I do not wish to be recognized in the newsletter.
- Please send me newsletters via email.
- Please send me newsletters via US Postal Service.

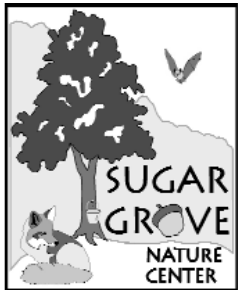
Memberships are valid for one year.

*Membership contributions are tax deductible. Please ask your employer about matching gift programs!
Sugar Grove Nature Center will neither sell nor trade personal information provided by donors.*

**Make checks payable to Sugar Grove Nature Center and return to:
Sugar Grove Nature Center ● 4532 N 725 East Road ● McLean, IL 61754**



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



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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.

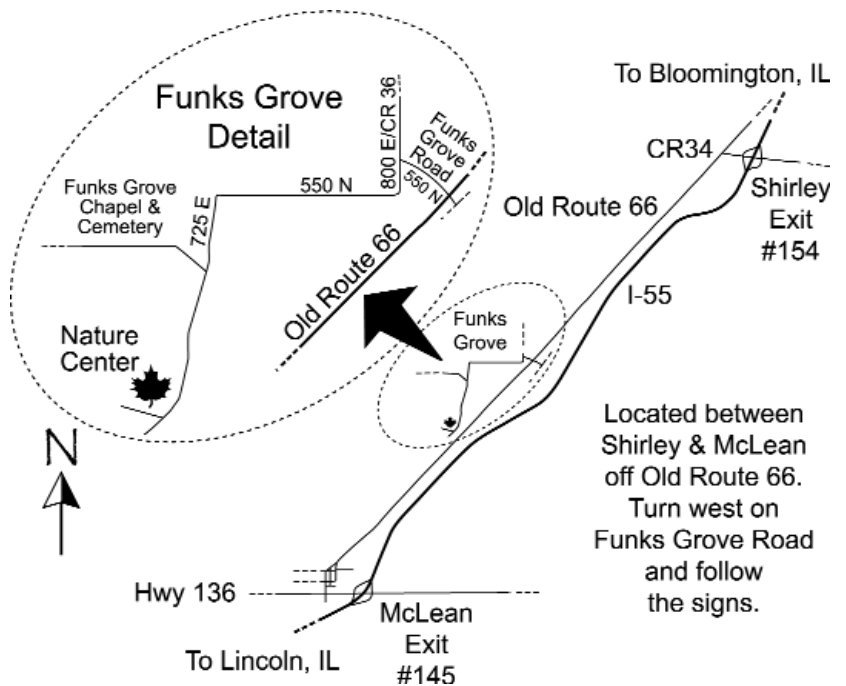
The grounds, trails, & Imagination Grove
are open daily dawn to dusk.

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'



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