



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 9, Number 4

October/November/December 2013

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Join Sugar Grove Nature Center for a day bursting with autumn activity. It's a fall event that has become a tradition for many families.

AUTUMN CELEBRATION!

Saturday, October 19, 2013; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Admission only \$3/person, 3 years & under, free!
There is a small fee for some activities. Members are invited to pick up 4 free activity tickets at the membership table!

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Live Music, Fall Color Walks, Scarecrow Factory, Pumpkin Bowling, Bobbing for Pumpkins, Nature Crafts, Campfire, Daytime Astronomy, Seasonal Treats & More!

PUMPKIN PATCH

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, and more Pumpkins! Visit our pumpkin patch and choose your favorite to take home and carve.....or stop by and decorate it at the pumpkin salon!

STEP BACK IN TIME

Visit a buckskinners' camp, meet with historical reenactors, blacksmiths, and woodturners for hand-crafted items!

VOLUNTEER!

Do you enjoy attending Autumn Celebration? Would you like to help make it all happen? Volunteers are needed for set up October 16 & 17, and on the day of the event, October 19. If you are interested, contact Janet at 309-874-2174 or janet@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

For more information and an event schedule, visit our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org.



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Sugar Grove Foundation Board of Directors

Linda Bristow, *President*
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Tricia Braid
Eric Funk
Richard Park
John Rehtmeyer
Don Schmidt
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— NATURE CENTER HOURS —

Please note that we will begin our
winter hours on November first..

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

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, October 16, 17, & 18
in preparation for Autumn Celebration
Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29
Monday, December 23 - Friday, December 27
Wednesday, January 1

*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.*



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,

While snuggled up in one of my many stealthy hiding spots, I sometimes overhear my staff reading stories to my younger guests. The kids certainly seem to like them. I can tell from their gasps and giggles. The other day, a book was left out with curious little stories that had rhyming words. It was written by, of all things, a bird! Her name was Mother Goose. Although I was slightly amused, I didn't feel the characters or content would be of any great interest to my guests. They seemed to be missing something, but what? Oh, yes...ME! Being the helpful kitty that I am, I decided to lend a paw to that feathered author, and revised her stories in my own fabulous style, of course. I'm sure you will like them much better.

Little Miss Daisy
Was feeling quite lazy
Resting up from a rough day.
Along came a spider,
That thought it would bite her
'Til Daisy made spider soufflé!



My friend, Jill,
Went up the hill,
To fetch me some kitty treats.
Jill fell down,
Food dropped on the ground,
Now, what am I to eat?

Hey diddle diddle,
I don't play the fiddle,
Astronomers looked at the moon.
I heard a big crash
And turned in a flash
To see trash raided by a raccoon.

Hickory dickory dock
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
the mouse ran down,
So I ate him.

No need to thank me, Mrs. Goose. It's all in a day's work.

Kitty Kisses,

Daisy 



WINTER HOURS & NATURE CENTER CLOSINGS

Our winter hours will begin on November 1 and will continue through March 31. The Nature Center building will be open Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sugar Grove Nature Center will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday - Friday, October 16-18 in preparation for our Autumn Celebration.

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving. We will reopen Saturday, November 30.

Monday, December 23 THROUGH Friday, December 27 for Christmas.

Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

The grounds, trails, and Imagination Grove will remain open daily from dawn until dusk.



This & That

THANKS, WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED!

We are so thankful for the support that Wild Birds Unlimited in Normal has provided over the years. Since first opening in 2004, WBU has provided all of the feeding stations and water elements for our bird garden. Early this summer WBU donated several new feeders, upgraded and repaired others, and made sure that our bird sanctuary was decked out with the best bird feeding options on the market. They also provided twelve new Eastern bluebird houses to update our bluebird trail, 6 house wren boxes to add to our woodland trail, and two bat boxes. Providing the elements of habitat--food, water, shelter, and space---for wildlife is important to us and we appreciate Wild Birds Unlimited's commitment to helping us do just that! Stop by the store to learn how you, too, can encourage wildlife to visit your yard. And, consider buying a bag of seed for the Nature Center when you are there. They'll give you 20% off the cost of the seed and store it until we stop in next to stock up.



LETTERS TO SANTA



Once again, the critters of Funks Grove will be collecting letters to Santa and delivering them personally! Boys and girls of all ages are invited to write their letters to Santa, either at home or at our "writing station" in the Nature Center, and drop them off in a special mailbox located along our Imagination Grove trail. It's not a long walk, just across the parking lot and over the Covered Bridge. The critters of Funks Grove will then promptly deliver them. Be sure to stop in the Nature Center first and pick up some food to offer the animals as a "thank you." The animals will be accepting and delivering Letters to Santa beginning November 27 until Christmas Eve from dawn until dusk, even when the Nature Center isn't open. Make this one of your Christmas traditions!



MEET THE INTERN

Hi everyone! My name is Izzy Moon and I am a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University! I am studying Psychology and Environmental Studies. I spent this past spring semester studying in Dunedin, New Zealand and absolutely loved it! Learning about the environment has always been a passion of mine and I am so excited to be following that passion by interning with Sugar Grove Nature Center. I plan on using the knowledge that I learn here as apply to work in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps, hopefully working somehow with sustainability. I ended up at Sugar Grove through two of my friends who also interned here and absolutely loved it. I love that I get to work with kids and be outside every time I come to work. My hobbies are running, hiking, camping, and traveling. I'm up for anything outdoors! I am so excited to get to spend the Fall semester at Sugar Grove and can't wait to see what it brings.



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

Little Wonders: Pumpkins, Squash, & Gourds

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, October 23; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m. (Note this is the fourth Wednesday of the month instead of the usual third.)

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

Round, long, skinny, fat- pumpkins, squash, and gourds come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. We'll use all our senses, even taste, to explore these symbols of fall.

Homeschool: Spiders

Ages 6-9

Friday, November 15, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$8/members; \$12/non-members; registration required.

Are spiders creepy or cool? Whichever way you think, you'll gain a better understanding and appreciation of them after this drop-off program.

Little Wonders: Daddy Longlegs

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

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

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

Daddy longlegs are not spiders. There are many other misconceptions about these spindly-legged creatures. Learn what is true and what is not in this fun class that features a craft, story, and snack.



Photo by Melody Arnold

Little Wonders: White-Tailed Deer

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

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

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

These cousins of Santa's reindeer take center stage today! Create a craft and enjoy a tasty snack while listening to a story.

Experience Winter

Ages 6-12: Thursday, January 2; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10/child members, \$14/child non-members; Registration required.

Don't spend your entire winter break inside! Step into the brisk air to explore, look for animal tracks, learn about snowflakes, take a hike, create a wintery craft, and much more. A lunch of hot dogs over the campfire and chicken noodle soup will be served. Dress for the weather!



Continued on page 6.

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



Upcoming Programs

PROGRAMS, *continued from page 5.*

ALL AGES

Family Nature Exploration Day

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

Saturday, November 2; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7; 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.!



Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: Our Galaxy, 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. Don't miss the last public viewing session of the year, featuring a presentation on the Milky Way, a sky tour using a laser pointer, and telescope observing. 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.

Nature Center Closed

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 16, 17, & 18 in preparation for Autumn Celebration.

Autumn Celebration

Saturday, October 19; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

See page one for additional information.



Campfire & S'mores Program: Bloodsuckers!

Sunday, October 27; 4:00-5:30 p.m. OR 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

Perfect for the halloween season, we'll learn all about the animals that drink blood, and how to keep from becoming their next dinner! Afterwards, head out to the campfire for scary s'mores and haunted hot chocolate.

Campfire & S'mores Program: Let's Talk Turkey

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

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

Turkey is a popular topic in November! Explore the lives of wild turkeys, create a turkey craft, and sing a turkey song around the campfire while enjoying s'mores and hot chocolate.

Continued on page 7.



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

Upcoming Programs

ALL AGE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 6.*

Blacksmith Demonstration

Saturday, November 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Saturday, December 21; 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, November 16; 10:00 a.m.-noon

Saturday, December 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.

Nature Center Closed

Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29

Happy Thanksgiving! Trails open! Come and hike off your turkey dinner!

Campfire & S'mores Program: Christmas Carol Campfire

Sunday, December 15; 4:00-5:30 p.m.

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

The whole family is invited to come out and make a Christmas ornament for your tree, then gather around the campfire and enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate while singing Christmas carols.



Nature Center Closed

Monday, December 23 through Friday, December 27

Wednesday, January 1

Happy Holidays and New Year's Day

ADULTS

Nature Center Work Days

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

Friday, November 1; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, December 6; 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.

Continued on page 8.

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



Upcoming Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS, *continued from page 7.*

ABC Run/Walk #90

Sunday, October 6, 8:00 a.m. (doors open at 7:30)

There is no fee, but donations in any amount are encouraged. Funds collected will benefit Heartland Head Start. No registration required.

The ABC (Adventures Benefiting Children) Runners invite everyone to join them for a autumn run in Funks Grove. The main course is a 7 mile loop. You can turn this into a shorter course by turning around at any point. Run on roads or adventurers can wind your way through wooded trails. Meg's coffee cake will be at the finish as well as water, coffee, bananas, and snack items provided by Heartland Head start. Bring something to share if you wish. For more information, call Merlin or Meg Anderson at 309.363.2854.

Happy Trails Hikes

Thursday, October 10; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 14; 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 12; 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!

Beginning Blacksmith Class

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. Form available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/registernow.pdf.

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

Stewardship Work Days

Saturdays, October 12 & 26; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, November 9 & 23; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, December 7 & 21; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Free; no registration required for individuals. Groups must contact the Nature Center.

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.

Winter Backyard Bird Watching Basics

Friday, November 8, 10:00 a.m. - noon

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

Winter brings many new birds to our backyards! Not sure what birds are visiting your feeders or need a refresher? Learn how to identify more than 30 winter residents and how to attract them!

Don't Miss It!

MCLEAN COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of your household hazardous waste at this event organized by the Ecology Action Center and sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Mitsubishi Motors North America.

Items such as household batteries, insecticides, fluorescent lamp bulbs, and electronics can be dropped off at Mitsubishi Motors, 100 N. Mitsubishi Motorway in Normal on October 5 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

For additional information, including a list of what will or will not be accepted, visit <http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org/wp/bngreen/2670/>.



MAPLE SIRUP EXPERIENCE REGISTRATION

It's hard to believe that Maple Sirup time is just around the corner! Sugar Grove Nature Center is excited to offer the Funks Grove Maple Sirup Experience to students throughout central Illinois and share this important part of Funks Grove Heritage. This is a unique opportunity to actively engage in the production of maple sirup and explore its history from Native American to modern times through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Each child will get to tap a tree and take home a sample of Funks Grove's finest.



The Maple Sirup Experience Field Trip is offered for first grade and up. The four-hour experience costs \$7/student. Our 2014 classes will be held on February 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, and March 7. Your field trip can be reserved with a \$100 deposit. We have also set aside three days especially for homeschool families: March 4, 5, & 6, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The fee is \$7 per student (ages 3 and over), \$2/teachers and chaperones. Registration by mail is required. Forms will be posted online at sugargrovenaturecenter.org by December 3.

A variety of other maple sirup programs are offered for scouts, groups, and the general public. They include the popular Maple Sirup Experience Tours on March 1, Sirup for Scouts on February 22, and Little Tappers for preschool children. More information, including prices and times, will be available in the January newsletter and online. Be sure to check out these one-of-a-kind programs and be one of the first to experience class in our new Saphouse!



Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

SENIOR/STUDENT

Sherian McGuire ❁ Ed & Blanche Schuck ❁ Muriel R. Walker

SUGAR MAPLE

George and Twila Braden ❁ The Heath Brandon Family ❁ The Brown Family ❁ William Buck
George & Kris Byrns ❁ Michael & Owen Byrns ❁ The Cook Family ❁ The Davis Family ❁ The Flint Family
Kevin & Cassie Hart ❁ Howard & Deb Heatherwick ❁ Amanda Hunt ❁ Amanda Mateer
Billie Jo Nussbaum ❁ The Gina & Sean O'Brien Family ❁ Jason & Kelly Richards ❁ The Rolfs Family
The Schmeiser-Morales Family ❁ Delores Volle

PAW PAW

Kris & Mike Hall ❁ The Heger Family

AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Fiona Glennon ❁ Doris Henderson ❁ Ken & Judy Miller ❁ Gregory W. Nussbaum

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Henry Safford Peacock Foundation

❁ *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 11 or visit our website for a membership form.

IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the friends and families of Anna Farnsworth and Martha "Marty" Boudeman. Contributions received in their memories will be so helpful in enabling us to continue sharing nature and touching lives. We hope this will be of some comfort to those left mourning and healing.

MEMORIAL GIFTS & BEQUESTS

We hope you will consider Sugar Grove Nature Center in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests are an important way you can make a lasting contribution to the preservation and maintenance of this important natural area and environmental education center. If you wish to make a provision in your will, the following general form is suggested: "I give Sugar Grove Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization (37-1338932), which receives mail at 4532 N 725 East Road, McLean, Illinois 61754, the sum of \$_____ or _____ percent of the residue of my estate (or specifically described property) for Sugar Grove Nature Center." If you have any questions, please contact Angela Funk, Director, at 309.874.2174.



Sugar Grove Nature Center Membership

Become a member of Sugar Grove Nature Center! Your membership supports quality environmental education programs, land stewardship, research opportunities, and so much more! Sugar Grove Foundation is a non-profit organization that receives no tax support. Memberships, program fees, private gifts, and corporate and foundation grant support are the lifeblood of our organization.

All Membership Levels, including **Student/Senior (\$15)**, **Sugar Maple (\$25)**, and **Paw Paw (\$50)**, receive:

- ✿ Discounts on classes, programs, and events
- ✿ Benefit of checking out books from the Nature Center Library
- ✿ Discount at Annual Spring Native Plant Sale
- ✿ Reciprocal membership at nature centers around the country

The Student/Senior level is for individuals. Family memberships begin at the Sugar Maple level.

Higher giving levels:

- ✿ **American Sycamore (\$100)**
All of the above benefits plus a 20% one-time discount at Wild Birds Unlimited in Normal, IL
- ✿ **Shagbark Hickory (\$250)**
All of the above benefits plus two Free Admissions to Annual Autumn Celebration
- ✿ **Black Walnut (\$500)**
All of the above benefits plus a nature photograph featuring the flora & fauna of Funks Grove
- ✿ **Blue Ash (\$1000)**
All of the above benefits plus a NatureScape Backyard Habitat Consultation
- ✿ **Bur Oak (\$5000)**
All of the above benefits plus a guided trail ride through Funks Grove



MEMBERSHIP FORM

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$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**



