



The Newsletter of Sugar Grove Nature Center

Volume 10, Number 1

January/February/March 2014

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MAPLE SIRUP TIME

It's coming soon! The time of year when buckets decorate the sugar maples throughout Funks Grove. Sugar Grove Nature Center invites you to participate in this important part of Funks Grove heritage. We offer a wide range of maple sirup programs for everyone! These programs fill quickly, so register early. Don't be left out in the cold!

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Maple Sirup Experience Tours

Saturday, March 1

2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 10:00 a.m., noon, & 2:00 p.m.

Fee: Members \$5/adults, \$3/children (16 & under), Non-members \$7/adults, \$5/children. Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone, 309.874.2174.

Gather around the fire at the sirup camp to learn how the Native Americans and early settlers collected and prepared sap. Visit the sugar shack where the smell of maple sirup hangs in the air. Journey into the sugar-bush to tap a tree. Stop inside the Nature Center to sample a variety of sweet treats made with maple sirup including candy, cookies, fudge, salads, and more! Dress

for the weather, as you will be outside for a major portion of the program. Experience an important part of Funks Grove heritage!



SCOUT GROUPS

Sirup for Scouts

Saturday, February 22; 9:00-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$7/scouts & siblings, \$2/leaders & adults; registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone, 309.874.2174.

Attention Boy and Girl Scout leaders! Your troop and their families are invited to join in on the maple sirup fun! Scouts will learn how sap from the maple tree becomes sirup, and take part in the process from tree tapping to tasting! When registering, be sure to gather participant numbers for your entire troop so that no one is left out of this experience!

Continued on page 11.

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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 —

November - March

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

April - October

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

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

Nature Center Closings

The building will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.
The grounds, trails, and Imagination Grove will remain
open from dawn until dusk.

Please note that portions of the grounds, including
Imagination Grove and the Picnic Shelter, will be closed
to the public during Maple Sirup programs. Dates and
times will be announced on Facebook and voicemail.

In the event that the Nature Center or portions
of the grounds will be closed during what would
normally be open hours due to inclement weather or
programming, this information will be announced
on Facebook and voicemail.



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 Friends,

Cold weather has arrived. Despite the lovely indoor life that I enjoy, blasts of frigid air burst through the door as my staff enters and exits throughout the day. Even when the door is closed, the temperature is much chillier. My soft thick fur keeps my body nice and warm, so what is the problem you might ask. My nose is cold! Will these hardships I face never end?

In a search for a solution to this dire situation, I turned to other animals to seek out their advice. The birds outside the window are very vocal, and since there was glass between us, they felt it was safe enough to talk to me. The cardinal said that lots of birds travel to faraway warm places to keep their noses (or beaks...whatever) warm. I have several problems with this. First, I don't like to go outside. I prefer to stay within the safe confines of my Nature Center. Second, a trip just to the vet feels too far for me. I can't even fathom traveling hundreds of miles! Finally, and most importantly, my staff and guests would miss me too much. It would be selfish of me to deprive them of my company for that length of time. Traveling for warmth is not for me.

Normally, I don't take much stock in what the silly turtles have to say, but as I understand, most turtles live outside. Maybe they would be able to offer some uncharacteristically wise guidance. Sherwin said that if he lived outside, he'd dig deep into the ground and sleep until warm weather returned. I guess that's so they don't notice that their noses are cold. That's fine for them, but if I dug deep into the ground it would take me months to get the dirt out of my fur! I would just get cleaned up and it would be winter again. And while sleeping for months initially sounds appealing, after a day or two (okay, an hour or two) my tummy starts grumbling and it's time for lunch. Or dinner. Or a snack. Or a mouse. Speaking of mice, lots of them keep their noses warm by coming into my Nature Center. Yum. But I'm already in here, so that won't work.

I've seen my staff and guests wearing things around their necks and faces to keep their noses warm. Scarves, they call them. Scarves are a lot like collars, but are wider and longer, and wrap around several times. They don't have a pretty gold tag with the person's name and phone number on them like my collar does, and I haven't seen any scarves with little shiny bells either. I wonder why not? Anyway, I did try to wear a scarf. The ends dragged on the floor and it was very difficult for me to walk. I also could not reach behind my neck to groom my pretty fur. I quickly decided that the scarf was better as a toy than a nose warmer.

Exhausted from all this research, I hopped onto my chair for a cat nap. Suddenly, the answer appeared right before my eyes! Actually, it appeared right beneath my eyes. As I curled my body into a tight ball, my nose fit snugly under my paw and tail, just like it was meant to be there. Ah, finally, wonderful warmth. With a renewed sense of calm, I drifted into a deep sleep, dreaming of an early spring.

Kitty Kisses,

Daisy 



Annual Appeal

MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED!

WE ARE HALFWAY TO REACHING OUR GOAL, WILL YOU HELP US?

We hope you have been visiting us regularly to see the exciting new projects and additions to the Nature Center, to take part in our programs and special events, or to just enjoy the simple opportunity to connect with nature on a hike or by relaxing in a rocking chair in the Corn Crib.

As we near the end of another fulfilling year, we ask you to consider making a contribution to our Annual Appeal. **And, we are excited to announce that a challenge grant from the Hazel Funk Holmes Trust will match all contributions up to \$20,000!** This is just the boost that we need to ensure the continued success of Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove! Membership and program fees cover only a small portion of our operating expenses. Your essential support through this Annual Appeal provides the critical operating dollars that enable us to do what we do best – provide engaging programs for families, quality educational experiences for school children, a warm and friendly facility, and beautiful grounds to explore! By reaching our \$40,000 goal through this campaign, Sugar Grove Nature Center will be able to cover the annual salary of one full-time employee, utility bills, and food for our resident animals.

Please know that every contribution, of any size, to this Annual Appeal is significant. We ask you to contribute what you can with the knowledge that your 100% tax-deductible contribution is critical to the very existence and future of Sugar Grove Nature Center. We will only receive a match for what we are able to raise, so please help us make the most of this opportunity.

Annual Appeal giving is powerful! Your contribution will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated. We hope that you have created many lasting memories during your visits to Sugar Grove, and look forward to making more in the years to come. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring the continued success of Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove! Please contact us if you have questions, would like more information about IRA Charitable Rollover options, or work for a company that matches donations to non-profit organizations.

Thanks to the generous donors listed below (and those who wish to remain anonymous) we have already raised \$10,000. Please help us make the most of this opportunity! Thank you!

Meghan Austin ❁ Sandy Bales ❁ Wes & Connie Becker ❁ Sharon & Tony Becker
John & Diana Behnke ❁ Dale Birkenholz ❁ Steven & Jody Borbley ❁ Jim & Roberta Bortell
Gary & Linda Bristow ❁ Sandra Bush ❁ Paul & Gwinn Campbell ❁ Angelo Capparella
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David & Joyce Schmoeger ❁ Bill & Rosalie Seymour ❁ Donna Sinn ❁ Judith Stone
John & Linda Stuckey ❁ Martha Tyner ❁ Delores Volle ❁ Carl & Carolyn Wenning

Sap & Honey House

SAP HOUSE READY FOR THE SEASON!

It was a busy summer and fall of projects at Sugar Grove Nature Center! Thanks to a fabulous and talented volunteer work crew, our new Sap and Honey House is ready. We are so excited to utilize it as part of our Maple Sirup Experience Tours which run mid-February to mid-March. During maple sirup season, volunteer Jim Wilson, will man the evaporator converting hundreds of gallons of sap into delightfully sweet maple sirup. Check our program schedule to learn about all of the opportunities to experience this important part of Funks Grove heritage!



The Sap and Honey House is a valuable site feature addition to the Nature Center. Not only during sirup season, but all year through, it will be utilized as program space, for honey extraction, and more. This project was made possible by the Dick Quinton Memorial Fund and other private donations in combination with a grant from the Illinois State University Student Sustainability Fund in partnership with the ISU Beekeeping Club.



ANNUAL APPEAL FORM

Yes, I Want to Help Sugar Grove Nature Center!

I proudly enclose my gift of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Other: _____

Email: _____

Please check here if you don't want to be listed in the newsletter.

Please make check payable to Sugar Grove Foundation.

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Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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



Twin City Amateur Astronomers

Last year's viewing season introduced our observing guests to our newest facility, the Prairie Sky Observatory (PSO). This facility has greatly expanded our viewing and photographic resources as well as our capacity to involve the public in astronomy. We hope that many people will come out to SGNC to enjoy our interesting presentations and take advantage of the opportunity for fun and free family viewing at our monthly Public Observation Sessions. Clear Skies!

~Tom Weiland, TCAA President

2014 PUBLIC OBSERVING SESSIONS

From March through October, the Twin Cities Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) holds monthly observing sessions that are open to the public. These "star parties" are held at our observatory at the Sugar Grove Nature Center, a dark sky site southwest of Bloomington.

In 2014, we will hold the following observing sessions. Additional prominent sky objects such as planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies will be viewed when visible.

March 29: A Trip to the Sun, 7:15-9:15 p.m.

April 26: Mars in All its Glory, 8:15-10:15 p.m.

May 31: Star Birth and Open Clusters, 8:45-10:45 p.m.

June 21: Ringed Worlds of the Solar System, 9:00-11:00 p.m.

July 26: Star Death - Supernovas, 8:45-10:45 p.m.

August 30: From Earth to the Edge of the Universe, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

September 27: Globular Clusters, 7:15-9:15 p.m.

October 25: The Andromeda Galaxy, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

A Typical Public Observing Session includes a 20-30 minute lecture about the featured object and other interesting celestial objects that might be viewed that evening, a sky tour using a laser pointer and a telescope observing session.

More information will be posted in the "Upcoming Programs" section of this newsletter, or download a brochure from tcaa.us.

ASTRONOMY BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE

Saturday, March 1; 6:00-8:00 p.m. **AND** Saturday, May 24; noon-4:00 p.m.

You ***must*** attend both sessions to meet all requirements.

Fee: \$10/scout (Instruction, materials, and snacks provided.)

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone.

Attention Boy Scouts! Earn your Astronomy Merit Badge by participating in activities and observations with the Twin City Amateur Astronomers. Both individual scouts and troops are invited to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. This program is for scouts only (no parents or siblings). Troop leaders are welcome to attend. Space is limited, so please register by February 15.

For all questions regarding this event, contact Sugar Grove Nature Center at 309.874.2174 or info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

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

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!



Little Wonders: Winter Tracks

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

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

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

Whose footprints are those in the snow? (Or mud...) Which way are they going? Learn all about tracks, create a fun craft, then head outside to find out who has been walking in the woods! A snack will be provided.

Little Wonders: Little Tappers

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, February 19; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m. OR

Saturday, March 15; 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

See page 11 for description.

Sirup for Scouts

Saturday, February 22; 9:00-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$7/scouts & siblings, \$2/leaders & parents; registration & prepayment required.

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone.

See page 1 for description.

Home School: Maple Sirup Experience Tours

Tuesday, March 4; Wednesday, March 5; or Thursday, March 6; 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.,

Fee: \$7/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone.

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone.

Bring a sack lunch.

See page 11 for description.

Continued on page 6.



Upcoming Programs

KIDS PROGRAMS, *continued from page 7.*

Little Wonders: Drip, Splish, Splash - Water in Nature

Ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone

Wednesday, March 19; 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

Water is all around us, from melting snow to goopy mud! Explore the different ways water is found in nature, create a splishy, splashy craft, and enjoy a wet snack.

Boy Scout Astronomy Badge

*Saturday, March 1; 6:00-8:00 p.m. **AND** Saturday, May 24; noon-4:00 p.m.*

You **must** attend both sessions to meet all requirements.

Fee: \$10/scout (Instruction, materials, and snacks provided.)

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone.

See page 6 for description.

ALL AGES

Nature Center Closed

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Portions of the grounds, including Imagination Grove and the Picnic Shelter, will be closed to the public during Maple Sirup Field Trips and programs. Dates and times will be announced on our Facebook page and voicemail.

Family Nature Exploration Day

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

Saturday, February 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.! (*There will be no Family Nature Exploration Day in March due to Maple Sirup Experience Tours.*)



Blacksmith Demonstrations

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

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

Saturday, March 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 tools, art, and other objects!

Continued on page 9.

Upcoming Programs

ALL AGE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 8.*

Acoustic Irish Music Jam Session

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

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

Saturday, March 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.

Maple Sirup Experience Tours

Saturday, March 1; 2-1/2 Hour tours begin at 10:00 a.m., noon, and 2:00 p.m.

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

Registration & prepayment required. Forms are available on our website or by phone.

See page 1 for description.

Tom Ulrich, Nature Photography at IWU

Wednesday, March 5; 7:00 p.m.

Fee: Members of Sugar Grove Nature Center and JWP Audubon-\$5/adult, \$2/children under 12

Non-Members-\$7/adult, \$3/children under 12; College & university students, free with ID.

Registration is required by calling 309.874.2174 or emailing register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

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

See page 13 for description.

Twin City Amateur Astronomers Public Viewing Session: A Trip to the Sun

Saturday, March 29; 7:15-9:15 p.m.

Free; no registration required.

Though the Sun is the closest star to planet Earth, many people really don't know much about it. This program focuses much needed attention on our "day star." Don't miss the first public viewing session of the year! A 20-30 minute presentation on the featured topic will be followed by 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.

ADULTS

Stewardship Work Days

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

Saturdays, February 1 & 15; 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, March 1, 15, & 29; 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 environmental stewards.

Continued on page 10.

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



Upcoming Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS, *continued from page 9.*

Happy Trails Hikes

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

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

Thursday, March 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 hiking shoes and a sense of adventure!

ABC Runners: Winter Wonderland Run

Saturday, January 11, 9:00 a.m. (doors open at 8:30)

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

Come out to enjoy a winter wonderland by running, walking, or cross-country skiing. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Bring something to share if you wish. The main running course is a 7 mile loop course on roads. You can turn this into a shorter course by turning around at any point. If conditions permit, those adventurous enough can opt for a trail run. This event is free, with the opportunity for a free-will donation to Sugar Grove Nature Center. The funds contributed will go toward new puppets for the puppet stage, children's books, and environmental education resources.

Backyard Sugaring

Saturday, January 18; 1:00-2:30 p.m.

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

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

Winter Backyard Bird Watching Basics

Saturday, January 25, 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, as well as how you can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February.



Song Sparrow

Woodcocks & Wine

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.

Fee: \$3/members, \$5/non-members; registration required.

You must be 21 years old to attend this program.

These ground-nesting birds exhibit one of the most delightful courtship flights just before dawn and at dusk. Join us to learn more about this fascinating game bird that returns to fields, prairies, and pastures throughout central Illinois in mid-March, then head outside to (hopefully) spot them as they spiral toward the sky and fall to the ground. Bring your lawn chair, wine glass, and favorite wine. We'll also have some wines to sample from local wineries. You must be 21 to attend this program.



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

Maple Sirup Programs

Continued from page 1.

PRESCHOOLERS

Little Tappers

Wednesday, February 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, 1-2:30 p.m.

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

This program is designed especially for children 3-5 years with an adult chaperone. We will sing songs and make a craft while learning how to make maple sirup and listen to a fabulous sirup story. Then, each child will get a turn at tree tapping and taste the real thing! The majority of this program will be held indoors, and in the event of extremely cold temperatures it will be adapted to be completely inside.



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Sugar Grove Nature Center is pleased to continue offering the Funks Grove Maple Sirup Experience for first grade classes and up. We invite your school to take part in this unique educational experience. The program provides a special opportunity for students to actively engage in the production of maple sirup as they explore its history from pre-settlement to current day through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Every student will have the opportunity to tap a maple tree and take home a small bottle of Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup.

The four-hour experience costs \$7/student. Registration is underway and dates are filling fast. Currently, available dates are February 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, and March 7. Call 309.874.2174 or email angela@sugargrovenaturecenter.org for the most up-to-date availability. Your field trip can be reserved with a \$100 deposit by check or money order and a completed registration form, available online at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

HOMESCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, March 4; Wednesday, March 5;

or Thursday, March 6; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$7/student (ages 3 and up), \$2/teacher or chaperone.

Registration & prepayment required. Bring a sack lunch.

Forms are available at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org.

Homeschoolers of all ages can participate in the Maple Sirup Experience on days set aside especially for them! This program fills quickly, so get your registration in soon!

PURCHASING MAPLE SIRUP

Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup, located 1/4 mile south of Funks Grove Road on Route 66, will begin selling fresh Maple Sirup as soon as the sap is finished boiling down (usually after March 1st)! They also carry delicious handmade maple candies as well as other related merchandise. Call 309.874.3360 for availability or more information.



Photo Contest Winners

BEST OF SHOW

Dave Weth, "Beautiful Bluebird"

BEST OF FUNKS GROVE

Mary Jo Adams, "Sit for Awhile"

ADULT: PEOPLE IN NATURE

1st Place: Kyle Jones, "Calypte Caught"

2nd Place: Jeanna Powell, "Making a Connection" 🌟 3rd Place: Mabel Lux, "Can I Feed You?"

ADULT: PLANTS AND FUNGI

1st Place: Kristi Lewis, "Urban Spiderwort"

2nd Place: Kristi Lewis, "Flower in Sun" 🌟 3rd Place: Mary Jo Adams, "Glory of the Prairie"

ADULT: LANDSCAPE

1st Place: Madison Roberts – "Bare Winter"

2nd Place: Mary Jo Adams, "Sit for Awhile" 🌟 3rd Place: Bill Beavers, "Sap's Running"

ADULT: WILDLIFE

1st Place: Dave Weth, "Beautiful Bluebird"

2nd Place: Karen Goloff, "Spider in Web" 🌟 3rd Place: Sidney Weth, "Preying for Food"

YOUTH:

1st Place: Lilly Ortega, "Mantis"

2nd Place: Benjamin Guo, "The Ruby King" 🌟 3rd Place: Kristen Turner, "All Curled Up"

To see all winning photographs in color, visit our website at sugargrovenaturecenter.org/npc.html

Dave Weth, "Beautiful Bluebird"
Best of Show
1st Place: Wildlife



Mary Jo Adams, "Sit for Awhile"
Best of Funks Grove



Lilly Ortega, "Mantis"
1st Place: Youth



Photography

Kristi Lewis, "Urban Spiderwort"
1st Place: Plants & Fungi



Kyle Jones, "Calypso Caught"
1st Place: People in Nature

Madison Roberts, "Bare Winter"
1st Place: Landscape



Start taking photos now for next year's Nature Photography Contest. Need some inspiration?
Do you love photos of animals and nature? Check out this program!

TOM ULRICH, NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER

presented by Sugar Grove Nature Center
sponsored by John Wesley Powell Audubon Society

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Each year, Tom Ulrich delights his audiences with amazing photographs and humorous narration. He will take us on a photographic journey of the year 2013 in the life of a wildlife photographer. This year's focus will include the nature of Florida, Glacier National Park in Montana, and South Texas. A special feature includes photographs from Tom's travels to Rome, Greece, and Turkey. His narration includes insight on photo technique and animal behavior and is always riddled with humor. Tom is a renowned nature photographer whose work has been featured in National Geographic, National Wildlife, Time, Audubon, and many other publications. He has published several books, field guides, and calendars, presents photography workshops around the country and leads tours to remote parts of the world. Originally from Illinois, he now resides outside of Glacier National Park in Montana.

Fee: Members of Sugar Grove Nature Center and JWP Audubon \$5/adult, \$2/children under 12. Non-Members \$7/adult, \$3/children under 12. College & university students, free with ID.

This special presentation is hosted by the Illinois Wesleyan University Environmental Studies Program in the Center for Natural Sciences Building Auditorium. The Center for Natural Sciences (CNS) Building at Illinois Wesleyan University is located at 201 Beecher, just east of Main Street. Parking is available just north of the CNS and east of the Hansen Student Center. Registration is required by calling 309.874.2174 or emailing register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org.



Making A Difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

SENIOR/STUDENT

Marlene M. Aeschleman ❁ Bonnie Bernardi ❁ Bill & Rosalie Seymour ❁ Larry & Darlene Tamburini
Deb Williams ❁ Margaret Wilson

SUGAR MAPLE

The Bauer Family ❁ Bob & Nancy Daniels ❁ Jane Dresner ❁ Nick & Karen Goloff ❁ Sue Gunder ❁ C.J. Harrington
Kyle Jones ❁ Gene & Marianna Lessen ❁ Karen McCarey ❁ Crosby & Karen Monk ❁ Peggy Myers
Valerie Parker ❁ John & Vickie Robertson ❁ Ken & Fran Smith ❁ Torry Steffen & Family
The Stenger Family ❁ Crys & Wayne Trotter ❁ The Vose Family ❁ The Wade Family ❁ Dee Woodburn

PAW PAW

Mary Jo Adams ❁ R. Charles & Laura Baue ❁ Kandy Baumgardner ❁ Wes & Connie Becker
Joy Butler ❁ Richard ❁ & Anna Marie Chrisman ❁ Don & Phyllis Clay ❁ John & Linda Cully ❁ The Jill Daley Family
Orlyn Edge ❁ Bob & Lynn Fearneyhough ❁ Frank & Janet Fraembs ❁ David & Barbara Gaffron
Mabel Gast ❁ Don & JoAnn Hartman ❁ Matt & Connie Hughes ❁ April & Savannah McClellan
Norma Nelson ❁ Marty & Patsy Oman ❁ The Regnier Family ❁ David & Lisa Mullen Roughton
The Shultz Family ❁ John Tobias ❁ Jeff & Jane Turley ❁ David & Barbara Wilson

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Tom & Carolyn Weiland ❁ Jim & Rachel Wilson

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BLACK WALNUT

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BLUE ASH

Ina Rehtmeyer

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

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- ✿ **Blue Ash** (\$1000)
All of the above benefits plus a photograph featuring the nature of Funks Grove
- ✿ **Bur Oak** (\$5000)
All of the above benefits plus a private tour of the Nature Center & grounds for a group of up to 10 (by appointment only)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25Sugar Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500Black Walnut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50Paw Paw | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000Blue Ash |
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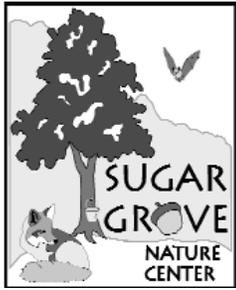
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Nature Center Hours

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



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



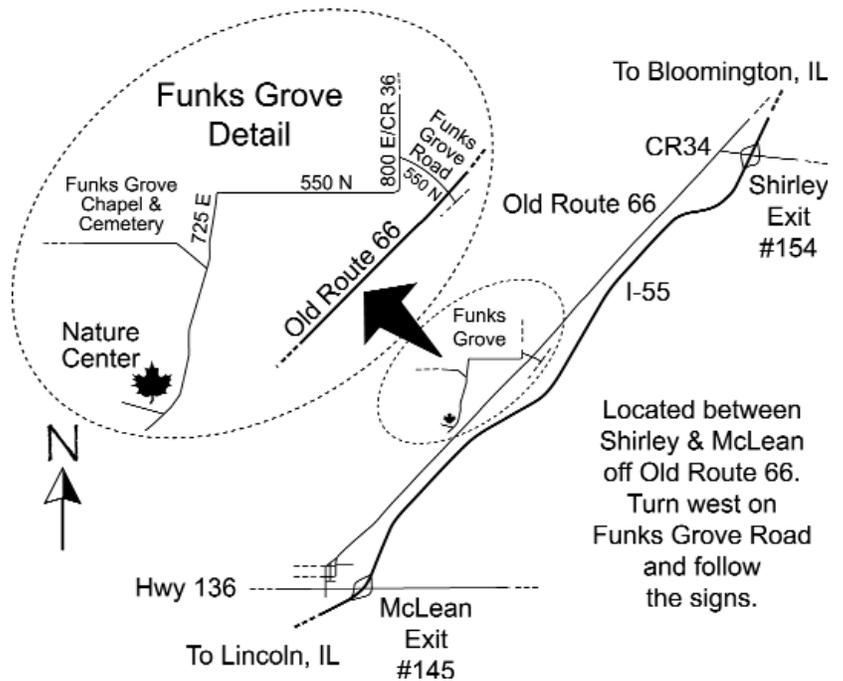
The grounds, trails, & Imagination Grove
are open daily dawn to dusk.

Contact us at:

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

info@sugargrovenaturecenter.org
www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org

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