



Thirteen Lines

News and Notes from the LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation

Fall 2023

Not so Spooky Trail

at Maple Wood Nature Center
October 20 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center
4550 E 100 S, LaGrange IN

A fall family program with little ones in mind.

- Wagon rides through the woods
- Pumpkin games
- Roasting marshmallows
- Face-painting
- Seasonal crafts
- Yummy snacks (donations appreciated)



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LaGrange County Offices Closed:

September 4: Labor Day

October 9: Columbus Day

Indiana Free Fishing Day: Sept. 23





Quilting Classes

Fall Quilt Classes: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August 26: Pumpkin Patch This is a fun fall pumpkin with a twist. This pumpkin includes a leaf in the middle. Make a table runner or table topper using fall colors.

September 9: Huckleberry This pattern is a split block. Half of the Diagonal is a star and the other half is up to you. Make the other half scrappy with squares or plain. We may have some other choices for the 2nd half as well.

October 7: Ruby Rose The sample "flower" is done in red but you can choose your color. The pattern is a table topper that looks more complicated than what it is. This will remind you of Carolina Lilly.



Above: September Pattern

Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office, 260-854-2225. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks). For more information, contact Julia Wolhuter, 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Please bring a sack lunch and/or potluck contribution. All classes are at Maple Wood Nature Center.



Left: August Pattern
Above: October Pattern

Walks



Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, August 15

ACRES Land Trust Marion's Woods

6:00 p.m. start

Come and check out a 20-acre mature woods nestled within Angola city limits. The trail is roughly a half mile in length and is rated 2 out of 5 for difficulty. Insect repellent and closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended.

Meet us at 805 Calvary Lane, Angola, IN.



Patchwork Trails

Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, September 19

Mike Metz Fen

6:00 p.m. start

Ending the Patchwork Trail season at the fen is becoming tradition. Join us to walk the newly dedicated Mike Metz Fen boardwalk trail. We will plan to walk roughly one mile of the trail. Participants can walk the full two mile trail on their own if they choose. The trail is ADA accessible. This trail is full exposure to the elements, so check the weather and dress accordingly. We will meet at the Pine Knob Clubhouse, 2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN.



LaGrange County
Public Library
www.lagrange.lib.in.us

Every Park Every Trail Fitness Walking Club

1st Saturday

9:00 a.m. start

August 5: Mike Metz Fen, start at Pine Knob Clubhouse, 2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN

September 2: Dallas Lake Park, start at the Park Office, 0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN

October 7: Maple Wood Nature Center, start at front porch, 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN

Park Staff will be present to record participation and answer any questions. Walk at your own pace and choose your distance. Dress for the weather and bring water. Insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses/hat are recommended. Walking may improve your strength, mood, sleep, and heart health.



Maple Wood Programs

Second Saturday Book Club

Saturday, October 14, 11:00 a.m.

In partnership with the LaGrange County Public Library, the Naturalist is hosting the monthly book club. If the weather permits, we'll meet around the campfire and enjoy the fall colors. We'll discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. For more information and to check on availability of copies, contact LaGrange County Library Adult Services at 260-463-2841x1030. Seating at picnic tables will be available; participants are welcome to bring their own camp chair.



LaGrange County
Public Library
www.lagrangelib.us

Sewing Group

Fourth Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What is a UFO? If you answered an un-finished object...this is the perfect sewing group for you!

Open to anyone! Bring your sewing machine. Get help and direction with a project, share ideas with others, and make new friends. Please bring a sack lunch and munchie to share. Please bring a \$5.00 donation for LaGrange County Parks. RSVP to Linda Grobis 260-351-3609

Folk Jams

Fourth Sundays, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music, with other styles occasionally added. Bring a snack to share if you like. For more information contact Erv Troyer, at 463-2247, or reo43@aol.com

August 27

September 24

October 22

Park Programs



Growing Up WILD *Virtual Training*

For Preschool and Lower Elementary Teachers
& Nature Educators



Thursday, October 5, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Registration Required! Call the Park Office at 260-854-2225

“Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education curriculum that builds on children’s sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.” - The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

The first 20 who register may receive a FREE copy of the Growing Up WILD guidebook. The guidebook must be picked up in person between September 1– 22, at the LaGrange County Park Office, Dallas Lake Park, 0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN, 46795. The free guidebooks are available thanks to funding from the generous support of the DNR/Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The guidebook may also be purchased online at Acorn Naturalists or www.fishwildlife.org/products.

Participants will be given “homework” activities to try at home with family or in the classroom prior to the virtual training. The “homework” must be completed and emailed/mailed to the Naturalist before the virtual training. The online evening will be spent together discussing the activities and adaptations, indoor vs. outdoor challenges and opportunities, and the benefits of kinder forest.

Certifications will be mailed out to participants, after the online meeting, who completed the “homework” and attended the online portion.

The virtual training is hosted in partnership with the Forest School Teacher Institute. Check out their classes at www.forestteacher.org.



Fun in the Parks

Mike Metz Fen Trail Project at Pine Knob Park

The end of this project is approaching! The park maintenance staff is currently completing the final portion of a three year grant. If you walk the fen trail, you will see construction of a shade shelter and vault toilet at the north end of the fen. Progress is going well, with completion anticipated for the end of August.

Nice work crew! Congratulations!



Summer Wildflower Walk with Blue Heron Ministries

Sunday, August 13

2:00—4:00 p.m.

Mike Metz Fen, Pine Knob Park, 2825 E IN 120, Howe, 46746

August is the best time of year to see color in the wetlands of northeast Indiana! Join Blue Heron Ministries as we take a stroll through the stunning beauty of Mike Metz Fen at Pine Knob Park. Bring your cameras, sunscreen, and potentially bug spray as we walk the new boardwalks around Duff Lake. There is a potential of going off trail briefly to look more closely at some species, so waterproof footwear may come in handy. Meet in the Pine Knob Park Parking Lot.

Questions? Please email John Brittenham at johnbrittenham@gmail.com.

Delt Church Playground Free Craft

August 12 & September 9, 11:00 a.m.

A Naturalist will have a free craft table set up at the Delt Church Playground. The crafts will be fun for all ages and are designed to be a simple make and take activity. The craft will change each month. If there is rain or storms, the free craft table will be canceled.

Fun in the Parks

A graphic with an orange background. The text "Save the DATE." is written in a large, black, stylized font. Below the text, there is a black swoosh that curves around a circular inset image. The inset image shows a disc golf basket with a yellow disc in mid-air. The background of the entire graphic is a blurred photo of a disc golf course with a person in a red shirt in the background.

**Save the
DATE.**

**Saturday,
October 14**

**18-Hole Disc Golf Tournament
at Delt Church Park**

Stay tuned for more information!

The Park Office will post information on our website and social media as tournament details are finalized. This event is geared for experienced tournament players. If you are a beginning level player or are interested in learning how to play, this event would be fun to watch and hopefully pick up tips! Come and enjoy the atmosphere and cheer on teams.

For more information, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225.

LaGrange County Parks

0505 W 700 S

Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-2225

lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com

<http://www.lagrangecountyparks.org>

Park Hours: 8:00am—Sunset

Park Office Hours: Monday-Friday

8:00am-Noon, 12:30-3:30pm

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Maple Wood Nature Center

4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN, 46761

(260) 463-4022

Hours:

Wednesdays 8:00a—4:00p

4th Sundays 1:00p—5:00p

To Receive *Thirteen Lines* Newsletter as an email, send us an email with “Thirteen Lines” in the subject. It is also available for download at www.lagrangecountyparks.org.

LaGrange County Board of Parks and Recreation

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Park Ranger Randy asks all patrons to please practice “leave no trace” when visiting our parks and beaches, and to follow posted speed limit signs for our children’s safety. Let’s all work together to keep our parks clean and safe.

