



Thirteen Lines

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

Winter 2022

Mike Metz Fen Trail Update

George DeWald, Superintendent, and our outstanding maintenance crew have been working nearly nonstop to complete the much anticipated two mile trail that meanders through and around the Mike Metz Fen adjacent to Pine Knob Park in Howe, Indiana.



George is pleased to report the boardwalk portions are all built and most of the gravel sections of trail are also complete. Still on the to-do list is to finish putting down gravel, roll all gravel trails, finish the transitions between boardwalk and gravel trails, complete the edge protection on some of the boardwalk, and post informational signs.

We hope to announce a ribbon-cutting date for the trail soon! Other projects like a small shelter and pit toilet are slated for construction in spring 2023.



Our community has been excited to watch the trail take shape.

We are humbled by the level of anticipation and interest this trail project has received. Thank you for your support! We know everyone is curious to walk somewhere new and soak in the beauty of the fen, but we do ask for you to remain off the trail until it is officially open. We want everyone to stay safe.

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LaGrange County Offices Closed:

November 8, 11, 24, 25

December 23, 26

January 2, 16

Photo Credit: Left—Daniel Swihart
Drone, 8/28/2022





Maple Wood Programs

Make - n - Take Crafts

Second Saturdays, Come at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

Maple Wood Nature Center - Free!

November 12: Pinecone Turkey

**December 10: Magic Reindeer
(and bird) Feed**

January 14: Cardinal Handprint



Audubon 123rd Christmas Bird Count

**Come and join in the nation's longest-running
community science bird project!**

Maple Wood Nature Center Count

Wednesday, December 14

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Make a pinecone birdfeeder to take home and help the Naturalist count birds who visit the feeders. Come anytime and stay as long as you want to count.



Tufted Titmouse. Photo: Michele Black/Great Backyard Bird Count

Pigeon River Count

Date and Times to be determined. If you're interested in participating in this count, please contact Naturalist Leslie Arnold at larnold@lagrangecounty.org or 260-854-2225.

Pokagon Count

Wednesday, December 28

More information will be provided upon registration. If you'd like to participate in this count circle, please contact coordinator Fred Wooley at fwooley@frontier.com.

Maple Wood Programs



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

December 3: Highland Plaid

This can be done in any size. It is a fairly simple pattern that can become a Christmas gift. It looks really plaid with the right color placement. (top photo)

January 21: Ferris Wheel

This is a great 2 color quilt with a background. It can be done in several sizes. It looks complicated but you will find easy construction. (bottom photo)

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 instructors Julia Wolheter, 260-367-1449, or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438.

Please bring a sack lunch and/or potluck contribution. There will be no November class to celebrate Thanksgiving.



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

November 27

No December

January 22



Walking Events

Sandhill Stroll

Saturday, November 19

4:00 p.m.

Pine Knob Park, Mike Metz Fen

We'll meet in the parking lot at Pine Knob Park and walk to the fen surrounding Duff Lake. We will walk a portion of the new boardwalk trail that is still under construction. We'll enjoy the beauty of the fen in fall as well as listen and look for migrating Sandhill Cranes. Hiking boots are recommended. Check the weather forecast and dress for success outdoors! Walk will last approximately 1.5 hours. Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225 before Nov. 18.



Photo credit: Matt Weldon, Pigeon River FWA, 2/21/2020

First Day Hike: A Glow Walk Trail

Sunday, January 1, 2023

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Delt Church Park, New Shelter! *

Be a part of the national movement of First Day Hikes and begin 2023 with a step towards good health.



The glow walk trail is open from 5:00-6:30 p.m. You can come anytime and stay as long as you like. The glow walk trail will start at the brand new shelter at Delt Church Park. Walk at your own pace along a self-guided luminary path that follows some of the newly renovated disc golf course tees. All participants will be given a glow in the dark necklace to wear as well. Feel free to wear family friendly glow in the dark clothes and decorations.

Water resistant boots and snow gear is strongly recommended. There will be a toasty fire going in the shelter and free hot cocoa for participants, while supplies last. Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225, by Wednesday, Dec. 28.

*If the new shelter is not completed in time, we will meet at East River Pavilion.

Cabin Fever Programs: Christmas Break Activities



Winter Solstice Trail Art

Maple Wood Nature Center

Wednesday, December 21

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Help park staff gather up natural items like sticks and leaves, as well as animal food like seeds and nuts. We'll make some fun, beautiful nature art along a trail. We'll leave the art in place so animals will get a winter snack and other walkers can enjoy it. Come and celebrate the winter season arriving and more sunshine in our days. This activity is suitable for all ages! It will be 100% outside, so dress for winter weather. Waterproof gloves are highly recommended. Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225.



Christmas Ornament Scavenger Hunt

Maple Wood Nature Center

Wednesday, December 28

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate winter and the holiday season with a fun scavenger hunt! The Naturalist will hide 12 Christmas ornaments along a trail. See if you can find all 12 to receive a prize! Enjoy the beauty of the woods and stretch your legs. This activity is 100% outside, so dress for winter weather. Waterproof boots and snow gear are strongly recommended. The scavenger hunt is suitable for all ages! Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225.



Makin' Tracks

Maple Wood Nature Center

Wednesday, January 4

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

We'll go on a walk in the woods to look for animal tracks and other signs of animal activity. Make a track stamp booklet to take home. This program will be outside 50% of the time, so dress for winter weather. Waterproof boots and snow gear are strongly recommended. This activity is best suited for elementary aged children and older, but all are welcome! Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225.



LaGrange County Parks

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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

2nd Saturdays 9:00a—5:00p

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.

