



# Thirteen Lines

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

Spring 2023

*Saturday, April 22*  
*Mike Metz Fen Trail Dedication*  
*Pine Knob Park, Howe, IN*

**10:00 a.m.**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Fen Trailhead (Blue Trail)  
North of Archery Tower

**10:15 a.m.**

**fəNGkē 5K Fun Run & Walk**

Starts at Fen Trailhead after  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



fəNGkē is the phonetic spelling of “funky” and it contains the word fen!

Walkers and runners of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join park staff to officially open the new Mike Metz Fen Trail! The course is a combination of boardwalks and crushed limestone paths that meander through the woods and around the beautiful wetland.

Registration fees, pre-registration goody bag contents, and more details like food are coming soon to Facebook: LaGrangeCountyDepartmentofParksandRec and Website: [lagrangecountyparks.org](http://lagrangecountyparks.org).

Prizes awarded to 1st place runners! 1st male and female in adult, teen, and child categories. One prize awarded to overall top funky costume!

The trail is now open dawn to dusk daily. The fen trail can only be accessed from the trailhead at Pine Knob Park. Parking only at Pine Knob.

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LaGrange County Offices Closed:  
February 20  
April 7

Maple Wood Nature Center will be closed April 8.

Don't forget to shift your clocks forward one hour on March 12!





# Quilting Classes

## Spring Quilt Classes: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**February 18: Folded Corners** This quilt block is an optical illusion. It appears that each corner is folded toward the center. Use colors in the same color family to get the effect.

**March 25:** This class is held at the South Milford Community Center. The pattern is Amy's Quilt. Contact the instructors for more information.

**April 15: Irish Chain** This quilt block dates back to pre-Civil War era. We will be offering the double Irish Chain with two colors and a background.



Above: February Pattern

Below: April 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 Wolhete, 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Please bring a sack lunch and/or potluck contribution.

The February and April classes are held at Maple Wood Nature Center.



# Maple Syrup Events



**March 11**

**Sap Run & Syrup Stroll**

**5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk**

**10:00 a.m. start (9:15 a.m. begins packet pick up)**

Walkers and runners of all ages and skill levels welcome! Limited to 100 participants! The course is a limestone park trail and paved road.

Printable registration forms and link to online registration can be found on Friends of LaGrange County Parks Facebook page. Hard copies of the registration are currently available at Maple Wood Nature Center and Dallas Lake Park Office. Proceeds benefit LaGrange County Parks. Community sponsored!

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLaGrangeCountyParks>

\$30—Includes registration and goody bag: water bottle, pint of maple syrup, coupon for kettle corn or maple popcorn at Maple Syrup Days

\$15— Includes registration and coupon for kettle corn or popcorn ONLY

**March 18 & 19**

**Maple Syrup Days**

**7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

South Milford Lions “all you can eat” pancakes and sausage:  
7:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sugar Shack Open Tours: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Roz Puppets - 6 shows daily! Two different shows!

Horse drawn wagon rides into the sugar bush 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Maple syrup, maple kettle corn, maple cotton candy, maple suckers and candy for sale! The syrup store will also have maple themed cookbooks, activity books, stickers and more! Cash, check or charge accepted.

Dress warmly to enjoy all that Maple Syrup Days offers! Pancake breakfast will have roomier seating just like 2022. If you are ill for any reason, or have been with someone who is ill, please stay home and purchase your syrup later. Please help keep park staff and volunteers healthy and safe.





# Monthly at Maple Wood

## Make - n - Take Crafts

**Second Saturdays, Come at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.**  
**Maple Wood Nature Center - Free!**

February 11: Pinecone birdfeeders

March 11: Maple Syrup Activity Booklet containing several pages of maple syrup themed activity sheets. Stop into the Nature Center and pick up one for your child/student.

April 8: Closed for Easter Weekend



Photo credit: birdsandblooms.com  
Debbie Kaiman Tillinghast

## 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

\*This group is not meeting in February, but will return in March or April, weather dependent.

## 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

**February 26**

**March 26**

**April 23**

# Maple Wood Walks



## Homeschool Winter Tree ID Walk

Maple Wood Nature Center

Tuesday, February 28

10:00 a.m. (45 min. walk)

We'll take a short walk on the trail and get hands-on experience identifying trees by their bark. We'll compare a Sugar Maple to other trees commonly found in a Beech-Maple habitat. We'll look at different sized Sugar Maples and discuss the number of taps appropriate for each size tree when tapping for sap. The walk is 100% outside, so dress in winter gear. The nature center will be open for warming and to explore. Please RSVP by Feb. 24, to the Park Office at 260-854-2225. All ages are welcome; best for children 1st grade and older.

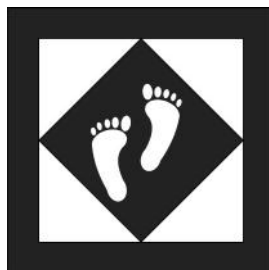


## Patchwork Trails

Maple Wood Nature Center Walk

Tuesday, April 18: 6:00 p.m.

This walk kicks off the 2023 Patchwork Trails walking schedule. These walks are offered in partnership between LaGrange County Parks and the LaGrange County Public Library. Join the Park Naturalist and Librarian for a lovely stroll through Maple Wood's spring wildflower show. The Naturalist will identify different flowers as we walk. Trails are crushed limestone and rated easy. We will walk approximately 1 mile in 1 hour.



Patchwork Trails



## Self-guided Wildflower Trail

Maple Wood Nature Center

April 12 - May 3

The Naturalist will mark blooming spring wildflowers along a designated trail. A brochure with identification information will be available to read while you walk. Please feel free to take pictures, but do not pick or cut the wildflowers. The early insects need them for food. The trail surface is crushed limestone and is ADA Accessible.





# Spring Programs

## Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, February 17

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Maple Wood Nature Center

Stop in anytime to help count birds that come to the feeders. It's a great time to learn to identify regular winter feeder birds.

Learn how you can continue to count birds at your home.



## Maple Syrup Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 11

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Maple Wood Nature Center

Participants will be given a list of clues to find 10 items connected to the process of making maple syrup. Look in the nature center or head down the trail through the sugar bush to complete the scavenger hunt. If you find/answer all 10, you will get a prize!

This scavenger hunt takes place both inside and outside, so dress for winter weather. This activity is fun for all ages. Come any time during the posted hours to participate.



## Woodworking Workshop - Flowers!

Thursday, May 4

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Dallas Lake Lodge

Join members from the Northeast Indiana Woodworkers to make an adorable wooden flower for Mother's Day or spring decoration.

**Minimum age for children is 8 years old.** Children must be accompanied by an adult over 18. Each child will get to cut dowel rods, sand, drill holes, and paint their flower. For safety, please have long hair tied back, no baggy clothing, and wear clothes suitable for painting. **Space is limited to 20 flower makers! RSVP to the Park Office by April 26, at 260-854-2225.** This workshop is **FREE!** (Cash donations for supplies appreciated.)

Flowers will be a variety of sizes. Tallest is 7.5 inches.



# Become a Friend



Please tear off or cut out this page, complete the form, and mail it to the address below to become a member.



## 2023 Friends Membership Drive!!

The Friends of LaGrange County Parks exists to support the County Park system by obtaining grants, holding fundraisers, and volunteering at Park events.

The more members, the more we can do.  
Please consider joining us today!!



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Level:

Seedling: \$10

Twig: \$25

Branch: \$50

Tree: \$100

Park Benefactor \$250

Individual Life Member: \$500

Make checks payable to: LaGrange County Community Foundation

Write in Memo Line: Friends of LaGrange County Parks

Mail to: Trenia Bowen  
1155 E. 455 S.  
LaGrange, IN 46761

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

LaGrange County Parks

0505 W 700 S

Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-2225

[parks@lagrangecounty.org](mailto:parks@lagrangecounty.org)

<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](http://www.lagrangecountyparks.org).

LaGrange County Board  
of Parks and Recreation

Dr. John Egli, President  
Paul Baker  
Ardala Hepler, Secretary  
Eric Maginn  
Julia Wolheter  
Paul Yoder

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.

0505 W 700 S  
Wolcottville, IN 46795

