



Thirteen Lines

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

Winter 2024

“There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot.”

— Aldo Leopold

As I watch snow fall outside of my warm office on a cold December day, I’m reminded that its time to start my yearly read of “A Sand County Almanac”. Leopold’s collection of essays was introduced to me by a professor at Central Michigan University on a similarly cold winter day. It has become a yearly ritual to comb over the book as a reminder that the natural world around us is not distinct and separate but interconnected with our daily lives.

Coming back to the Michiana area is a connection I wasn’t expecting or planning on in my life. Leaving here for the Marine Corps six years ago, I never thought I would be coming back here to make it my home. In that six years I have had the pleasure to see natural wonders across the world and witness the connections between those wonders and the people that surrounded them. Diving into the waters surrounding Okinawa Japan on Christmas in 2019, I was able to witness the natural beauty teeming in those reefs. Later that day, I got to see (and taste) the connection that the residents of that island had with the marine life surrounding their home. I highly recommend the squid.

Returning here to the region that I first discovered a love for the outdoors, I am reminded of the simple joys of walking through mixed hardwood forests and crunching through the snow covered woods, looking for the signs of white tail deer or listening for the alarm call of a black capped chickadee that saw me before I saw them. While it’s not the woods that I grew up in, I am looking forward to making the connections with our county’s natural resources.

I encourage all of you to get out in these next few months and discover, or rediscover the stark winter beauty that our county holds and find those connections that you may have been missing in your life.

Daniel Schelinski

Naturalist

A Peak Inside

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LaGrange County Offices Closed:

- January 1st
- January 15th
- March 29th





Maple Wood Programs

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

January 13th: Star studded Puzzle- Looks intricate, but the steps are easy to follow. The completed pattern includes up to 4 colors on a background; and, has an intertwined design, similar to an old interlocking wood puzzle.



February 17th: Six Hour Quilt - A quick project in which you provide the top, bottom, and batting. It will take about 6 hours to sew, but your project will be finished. Directions will also be available for baby size and throw size.

Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office, 260-854-2225. Fee is \$25 per person per class. (\$5 is given back to Parks).

For more information, contact instructors Julia Wolheter, 260-367-1449, or Ira Johnson, 260-463-1438.

Breakfast with the Birds

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Coffee, Doughnuts, and Nature Conversation. For all Ages.

December 27

January 10

February 14

March 20

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

January 28th

February 25th

March 24th

Maple Syrup Days



March 16th and 17th

Maple Syrup Days

7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

7:00 AM - 1:30 PM (While supplies last)

South Milford Lions “all you can eat” pancakes and sausage

Bring cash or check for payment. Prices TBD.

8:00 AM—2:00 PM Free

Sugar Shack Open Tours

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides into the sugar bush

Puppet Shows

Backyard Syruping Demonstrations

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

Syrup Store

Accepts cash, check, & credit cards

(credit cards have a convenience fee)

Maple Tea and Maple Kettle Corn

Available outside — cash only



All things maple syrup!! Dress warmly to enjoy all that Maple Syrup Days has to offer!



March 9th

Sap Run & Syrup Stroll

5k Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk

10:00 AM Start



Sponsored by the Friends of LaGrange County Parks!

Registration information coming soon—check the park website or Facebook page for updates.

Packet pick-up is at 9:30. The run/stroll begins at 10:00.

For walkers and runners of all ages and ability levels.

The 5k run and 1 mile walk will be over handicap accessible limestone trails and the adjoining paved road.

The sugar shack will be open for free public tours from 9am-3pm. Maple syrup **samples** are for sale.



Walking Events

First Day Hike: A Glow Walk Trail

Monday, January 1, 2024 4:30- 6:30 p.m.

Pine Knob County Park

Be a part of the national movement of First Day Hikes and begin 2024 with a step towards good health. The glow walk trail is open from 4:30-6:30 p.m. You can come anytime and stay as long as you like. The glow walk trail will start at and end at the Pine Knob Clubhouse. We invite you to wear family-friendly glow in the dark clothes and accessories. Glow necklaces will be provided (while supplies last) and the trail will be marked with lights. Walk at your own pace.

Dress for the elements! Free hot beverages in the Clubhouse, for participants, while supplies last. RSVP's are encouraged! Call the Park Office at 260-854-2225, by Wednesday, Dec. 27th.

Leap Year Nature Walk

Thursday, February 29, 2024 4:30—5:30 p.m.

Maple Wood Nature Park

A guided walk on the trails of Maple Wood Nature Preserve. Dress for the weather.



JANUARY 2024

For program information: Check our Facebook Events or call office 260-854-2225






SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 First Day Hike Glow Walk trail @ Pine Knob Park 4:30-6:30 pm Park Offices Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Wood 8 - 10 am 	11	12	13 Quilt Class \$ Maple Wood Nature Center 9am-3pm
14	15 Park Offices Closed	16	17	18 Board Meeting Maple Wood 7pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Folk Jam Maple Wood Nature Center 1:30 - 5:00 pm	29	30	31		* = Reservations are appreciated	\$ = Class Fee is required

FEBRUARY 2024

For more information: Check our Facebook Events
or call office 260-854-2225

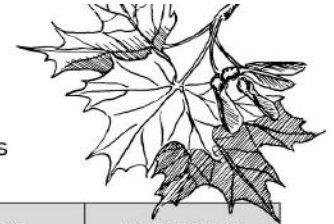
HAPPY
Leap day



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Wood 8 - 10 am	14	15 Board Meeting Maple Wood 7pm	16	 Quilt Class *\$ 17 Maple Wood Nature Center 9am-3pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Folk Jam 25 Maple Wood Nature Center 1:30 - 5pm	26	27	 28	Leap Year 29 Nature Walk Maple Wood @4:30pm	* = Reservations are appreciated	\$ = Registration Fee is required

MARCH 2024

For more information: Check our Facebook Events
or call office 260-854-2225



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
* = Reservations are appreciated					1	2 Sugar Shack Tours Maple Wood 9-3pm
3		5	6	7		 9 Sugar Shack Tours Maple Wood 9-3pm Sap Run & Syrup Stroll *\$ Maple Wood @ 9:30am
10		12	13	14	15	16 Maple Syrup Days Maple Wood 8-2pm (Pancakes 7am-1:30pm)
17 Maple Syrup Days Maple Wood 8-2pm (Pancakes 7am-1:30pm)	18	 Breakfast with the Birds Maple Wood 8 - 10 am	20	21 Board Meeting Maple Wood 7pm	22	23
24 Folk Jam Maple Wood 1:30 - 5pm	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday Park Office Closed	30 \$ = Registration Fee is required
31						

LaGrange County Parks

0505 W 700 S

Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-2225

parks@lagrangeparks.org

Park Office Hours:

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

www.lagrangeparks.org

Parks Open Daily

Winter 8:00am—Sunset

Summer (May 1—Labor Day)

Maple Wood Nature Center

4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN, 46761

260-854-2225

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.lagrangeparks.org.

Like us on Facebook!

LaGrange County Board
of Parks and Recreation

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

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

