



# Thirteen Lines

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

Autumn 2009

If you haven't lately, then now is the time to do so. Go outside and get your hands dirty. There is stuff to plant, stuff to nurture, and stuff to harvest. There are trees and rocks to climb. There are trails to hike. There are birds to find. There are cute little creatures to hunt and slay.

Whoa, does that sound right? Getting your hands dirty by killing things? Is that the kind of dirty hands to be proud of?

Try and think more metaphorically with me. Getting your hands dirty is a figure of speech referring to not standing around and watching, but doing something. Think of it this way. When I was a boy I had patches on my pants. Those patches were on my knees because I spent lots of time on my knees. Sometimes I see folk with patches on their back sides and I think I know why. They don't get their hands dirty.

Well over 100 years ago hunters noticed that many of the traditional game creatures were getting harder to find. A few creatures had been eliminated completely, while others were well at risk to disappearing for good. The hunters not only noticed, they decided to do something about it. They formed organizations. They purchased and protected habitat. They pledged and raised money to support breeding and stocking programs. They followed new rules that limited hunting to a seasonal activity. They restored damaged or missing ecosystems. They got their hands dirty.

At first it seems odd that the hunters would be protecting things just to shoot them. But their efforts reach out beyond the game animals. Everything, plants and critters, that lives in the repaired habitats have benefitted. Many of the small living pieces of the repaired habitats were also at the brink of extinction. But they too have been restored to thriving. And the game animals are doing fine. Some of the wild game creatures have even increased their habitation range compared to 100 years ago.

These wonderful things have happened not because of gardeners, not because of bird watchers, not because of hikers. It is because the hunters and sport fishermen were willing to get their hands dirty and do something. Now there are local, regional, and national organizations to belong to who are continuing the restoration started long ago. For example; Whitetails Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Boone & Crocket Club, Pope & Young Club, National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, ACRES Land Trust.

So get out there. There are fish to catch. There are (fill in blank here) to hunt. There is wildlife to watch. There are organizations to join. Get your hands dirty. That is, get involved in conserving natural habitats and those that live there too.

naturally,

Scott Beam

LaGrange County Interpretive Naturalist





# David Rogers Days

## August 22 & 23, 2009

Pioneer Living History Festival    David Rogers Memorial Park

When we remember the pioneers that preceded us, how can we help but be grateful? The wilderness they landed in was not the oppressive jungle as was first thought. Instead it was the provider of all needs. From logs to build the house and furniture to the clay to make bricks to the flavors that are there for the picking, there was a wealth of living for the industrious to enjoy.

Join us to spend a day in the life of the pioneers of 1845. David Rogers Days is August 22-23. There will be demonstrations of the hand skills of days past and entertainment to remind us that life is not all about work. You will not go hungry either. There will be plenty of pioneer food for the feasting.

Special events for David Rogers Days are the Saturday night Folk Dance and a Sunday visit from the circuit riding preacher.

David Rogers Days is Saturday, August 22, 10:00-4:30, Folk Dance, 6:30; Sunday, August 23, 12:00-5:00. Admission is \$2 per person, 5 or more \$10.

As always, please visit Dr. Rogers' monument and remember his generosity.



[www.davidrogersdays.org](http://www.davidrogersdays.org)

**Saturday 10:00-8:00**

10:00 programs begin

4:30 Haystack Benefit Supper

6:00 Folk Dance

**Sunday 12:00-4:30**

12:00 programs begin

2:00 Circuit Rider



# 20 Years of Maple Wood Nature Center

LaGrange County Parks celebrates a milestone. Maple Wood Nature Center and the LaGrange County Nature Preserve have served LaGrange County and guests for 20 years.

This park started with the generous donation from Dr. Ken and Genevieve Lehman. The diversity and health of the woods clearly showed a special place. A nature center was designed as headquarters for Park environmental education programs. The timber frame



was raised in two days with loads of volunteers. In October of 1989 Maple Wood opened to the public. The National Association of County Park & Recreation Officials recognized Maple Wood for outstanding

design in 1991. In 1996 the classroom was added. Maple Wood is now hosting the third generation of park patrons.

Thursday, October 15, is our celebration for Maple Wood's first 20 years. At 6:00 p.m. there will be brief recognitions then a chili supper is served. At 7:00 is a concert by our favorite, Foster Brown of Nature Theater. After the concert is a guided night walk through the Maple Woods. Maple Wood is at 4550E 100S.



# Pine Knob Hunting and Fishing Day

LaGrange County Parks is celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day at Pine Knob Park, Saturday, September 26, 10:00-4:00.

By highlighting the skills and culture of wildlife conservation, the Parks hope to introduce newcomers to become involved and to encourage the next generation of caretakers.

Modern conservation practices owe a great deal to the efforts of generations of conscientious hunters and fishermen. Locally they have brought about the restoration of deer, wild turkey, and river otter. Nationally, efforts have returned Bald Eagles, Bison and Grey Wolves from near extinction.

The 3-D accessible archery trail will be fee free for the day. Youth and novice archery instruction is available at the field target range. There will a tent for vendors, conservation organizations and special presenters. Ham & Beans, a long tradition at Pine Knob, will be served 11:00-3:00.

Pine Knob Park is 2825E SR120, three miles east of Howe. A downloadable map is at [www.lagrangecountyparks.org](http://www.lagrangecountyparks.org). Contact LaGrange County Parks for more information, 854-2225, [lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com](mailto:lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com).



# August 2009

<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
			full moon			<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Persied Meteers Dallas Park viewing zone	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Pioneer Game	<b>20</b> new moon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> David Rogers Days and folk dance
<b>23</b> David Rogers Days 1:30 Folk Jam	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 Park Board	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Hunters Safety Maple Wood 9:00-3:30
<b>30</b> Hunters Safety Maple Wood 12:00-4:00	<b>31</b>					

# September 2009

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
					full moon	Maple Wood closed
<b>6</b> Maple Wood closed	<b>7</b> Labor Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00 Breakfast with the Birds Weather	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> new moon	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Autumnal equinox	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 Park Board	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pine Knob Hunting & Fishing Day 10:00-4:00
<b>27</b> 1:30 Folk Jam	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

# October 2009

				1	2	3
4 Harvest Moon	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15 6:00p 20 Years of Maple Wood Celebration	16	17 10a Outdoor Photographer Class
18 new moon	19	20	21 8:30 Breakfast with the Birds Magic of Nature	22 7:30 Park Board	23	24 Autumn Art Class 10:00-4:00
25 1:30 Folk Jam	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Naturally Noteworthy

LaGrange County Offices closed  
Mon, Sept 7, Labor Day  
Mon, Oct 12, Columbus Day

### Maple Wood Nature Center closings this quarter:

- David Rogers Days -  
August 22-23
- Labor Day - Sept 5-7

- Register for the Star Party Call List, 854-2225. When conditions are right a call will go out for Dallas Lake Park star party, 0505W 700S.

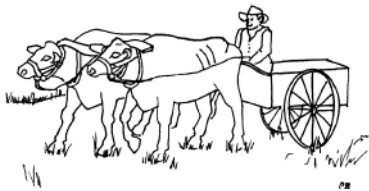
- Receive *13 Lines* newsletter and monthly Park news as emails. Respond to our email address with "13 Lines" or "e-news" in the subject. Or download online at [lagrangecountyparks.org](http://lagrangecountyparks.org).
- Watch the Perseid Meteor Showers. Dallas Lake Park remains open Wednesday, August 12 as a meteor viewing zone. Bring tarps, blankets, sleeping bags or whatever to stretch out in the grass and cast your gaze skyward. Best viewing is usually from 11:00p to 2:00a.
- Indiana Community Tree Stewards is training for anyone having an interest in learning more about trees and community forestry. Topics include tree identification, how trees grow, and various management issues. Seminar is September 12 & 19 in Fort Wayne. For more information contact 317-591-1170, or [amurray-clayton@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:amurray-clayton@dnr.IN.gov).

Please inform us if you have difficulty accessing any facilities or programs. We are glad to accommodate and want to enhance your experience in the parks.



# Breakfast with the Birds

Breakfast with the Birds is for anyone who is free one Wednesday morning of each month. The program starts with coffee and doughnuts. Then a talk or discussion is offered by the naturalist. Bring your binoculars and enjoy a hike in the woods afterward. Recommended donation is \$1.00.



## The Pioneer Game

August 19 8:30a

Generations ago hardy folk established what we now call home. Before them the first ones lived off the land for thousands of years. Do you have what it takes to set up a homestead? Participate in this role play game relying on your skills to succeed against the fickle finger of fate.



NOTE: CHANGE IN TIME

## Weather

September 16 11:00a

According to Al Nino, the Wacky Weatherman, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes." How do you know which clothes to wear? Pay attention to the weather forecasts. Special guest this morning is Mike Hoffman of WNDU to explain how weather predictions are made.



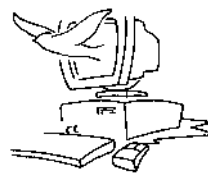
## Magic of Nature

October 21 8:30a

Pulling a rabbit out of a hat is child's play compared to pulling a real butterfly out of a chrysalis. But tricks and illusions are great tools to help illustrate the mysterious workings of the natural world. Have your wands ready and cheer on the woodland wizard for his magic to work.

## NatureWeb

Explore the World Wide Web to learn more about our natural world.



<http://www.nhfday.org/>  
National Hunting and Fishing Day homepage

[http://www.in.gov/dnr\\_old/fishwild/hunt/season2.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr_old/fishwild/hunt/season2.htm)  
Indiana Hunting Seasons

<http://library.thinkquest.org/18424/home1.html>  
understanding weather and weather phenomenon

<http://www.weather.com/outlook/driving/fallfoliage/regiondetail/in1>  
fall foliage color forecast

## Folk Jam



Folk Music Jam Sessions are hosted the fourth Sunday of each month. Jam sessions are mostly folk, country and bluegrass music with other styles thrown in from time to time.

This quarter's Jams are August 23, September 27, and October 25, 1:30-5:00 p.m. If you have any more questions contact Erv Troyer, 463-2247, reo43@aol.com or Maple Wood at 463-4022, maplwood@ligtel.com.



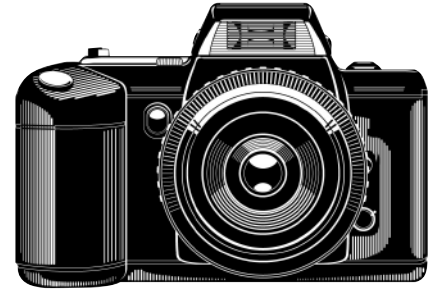
## Autumn Art Class

Autumn Art Class focuses on common fall colors on a misty morning. The subject is a deer among the turning leaves. Autumn Art Class is appropriate for any level of painter.

Hosted at Maple Wood Saturday, October 24, 10:00-4:00. Supplies are provided. Bring your own paints and brushes if you have them. Also bring your lunch.

Cost is \$20. Register at [maplwood@lignetel.com](mailto:maplwood@lignetel.com) or call the Park Office, 854-2225.

## Outdoor Photographer Workshop



This workshop will travel to David Rogers Memorial Park and Delt Church Park for an opportunity to shoot some fall color photos. Local photographer Guy Thompson will help participants create fall foliage shots on site.

Following the outdoor shoot is extra instruction on how to enhance your photographs to bring out their best.

Outdoor Photographer Workshop is Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. at Maple Wood Nature Center. Cost is \$15.00. Bring a lunch. Register at LaGrange County Parks, 854-2225 or [lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com](mailto:lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com).

## Hunter's Safety Class

Hunter's Safety Class is August 29-30 at Maple Wood Nature Center. If you were born after December 31, 1986, this class is required before obtaining a firearms hunting permit. It is recommended for hunters of any age who have not gone through this or a similar course. Class time is Saturday, August 29, 9:00-3:30 and Sunday, August 30, 12:00-4:00.

Participants must bring pencils and a lunch.

Hunter's Safety Class is free, expenses are paid for with each hunting license sold in Indiana. Registration is required due to space limitations. Email to [lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com](mailto:lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com) or call 854-2225 to register. Other questions regarding hunting seasons and hunter eligibility can be answered by the Indiana Conservation Officers at 367-2185.



**LaGrange  
County  
Parks**



**and recreation**

**0505W 700S  
Wolcottville IN 46795**



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### **LaGrange County Parks**

0505W 700S  
Wolcottville IN 46795  
(260) 854 2225  
lagrangeparks@yahoo.com  
<http://www.lagrangeparks.org>  
Parks open 8:00 am - sunset

**Park Office Hours:** Monday-Friday  
8 am - 12:00 noon, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

### **Maple Wood Nature Center**

4550 E 100 S  
(260) 463-4022  
maplwood@ligtel.com  
Hours: Wednesday 8 am - 4 pm  
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm  
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

other days by special appointment  
closed Sundays in July

### **LaGrange County Board of Parks and Recreation**

Dr. John Egli: President  
Pat Pichon: Vice President  
Ardala Hepler: Secretary  
Mark Thompson  
Julia Wolheter  
Robert Arnold