



## A Sweet Wisconsin Tradition

As the seasons change from winter to spring, the process of changing maple sap into maple syrup takes over the woods at Wehr. Every March make it a family tradition to sample the original candy, pure Wisconsin maple syrup. Come join in this Wisconsin tradition at one of Wehr's Maple Sugar Programs.

### Maple Tapping Workshop

Sunday, February 28, Noon- 2 pm

See page 9 for details

### Maple Sugar Days for Scouts

Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20, Noon- 1 pm

Pre-registration Required- See page 10 for details

### Maple Sugar Days for Families

Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20, 1-4 pm

See page 10 for details



## New Wehr Naturally Series

### Teaches How To Live Lightly On The Earth



**Wehr Naturally**

The Friends of Wehr is sponsoring a new series of Do It Yourself adult programs in 2016. Recycling expert Lisa Perkins of Re-Creation Station (<https://www.facebook.com/Re-CreationStationWI/>) will offer a group of programs based on re-purposing materials into something useful in the "Creative ReUse" series. Projects will include bird feeders, giving old photographs new life, and "up cycling" garden containers. Shannon Francis of Resiliency Training, LLC (<http://resiliencytraining.net/>) will offer workshops in self-reliance and holistic health. Learn how to make cold processed soap, herbal lotions, healing salves, and natural insect repellants during the year. Come summer, look for classes by Stacy Joers (<http://www.cookingwithclass.us/>) on how to turn your herb garden into gourmet treats! Check page 9 for details

## Owl Prowls

**Owl Prowl for Adults**

January 15 7-9 pm

**Twilight Owl Prowl for Adults**

January 16 3:30-5:30 pm

**Nighttime Owl Prowl for Adults**

January 16 7-9 pm

**Owl Prowl for Scouts**

January 23 4-6 pm

**Twilight Family Owl Prowl**

January 30 3:30-5:30 pm

**Nighttime Family Owl Prowl**

January 30 6:30-8:30 pm



Dick Oehler



## Center News

### Looking Forward to 2016

Wehr Nature Center is the place to be in 2016. New programs, more renovations, and continuously awesome nature. Anyone visiting Wehr can see the dramatic difference investments by the community, Friends of Wehr, and Milwaukee County have made in the physical condition of the visitor center and amphitheater. The next big challenge is helping Wehr become more financially sustainable. This process provides us with the opportunity to evaluate how we do business and the programming we offer.



Throughout 2015 Friends of Wehr held a series of sustainability meetings to get input from the membership as well as the public. As a result of these meetings, groups were formed to work towards making Wehr more financially sustainable. In addition, the Friends of Wehr Board approved advancing the money needed to renovate the amphitheater while fund raising efforts continued. The amphitheater renovation that began in August 2015 has created an attractive rental site for weddings, small concerts, or outdoor performances that will help raise revenue. Forty-five benches have been installed and an additional forty will be installed at a later time. Donations and the Milwaukee County Amenity Matching Fund

are helping the Friends fund this amazing project. To date, eight benches have been donated. That leaves 37 left to fund, so please consider helping by donating towards a bench. Your \$1000 donation would be recognized with a plaque on the bench and is completely tax deductible. The Friends hope to raise sufficient funds to complete the amphitheater renovation by re-decking the stage this summer.

The front walkway that was originally planned for 2015 will be installed in 2016. There is still time to purchase bricks of all sizes to honor someone and help Wehr. Bricks are also still available for the amphitheater.



The FOW Partnership Development group has been developing a strategy to increase corporate and business sponsorship of the Center and its programs. The group has created an outline for a development plan and is working on promotional materials. The Program Development group has created a series of adult programs called *Wehr Naturally* to help bring in new audiences and members. *Winter Walk Our Way at Wehr* is another new program, offered in partnership with Home Fitness, LLC. See page 9 for details

We are excited about the launch of Volgistics our new volunteer tracking program. It has already made keeping track of volunteer hours and data more efficient and in 2016 it will allow volunteers to sign up for specific volunteer opportunities on-line. Volunteers are vital to the operation of Wehr and Volgistics helps us tell their story to our visitors and public officials. Every hour of volunteering provides value to Milwaukee County citizens and their quality of life. Documented volunteer hours can also be leveraged as tax-payer money saved and can be used to raise our sustainability.

Restoration of the Open Oak Woodland uphill from the amphitheater continues to expand, and the resulting change in vegetation and wildlife habitat bring new discoveries every season. The renovation of the amphitheater and the change in water drainage patterns provides the opportunity to expand restoration work on the wetland area between the amphitheater and the lake.

2016 is going to be exciting and full of new things. Come experience it with us...see you at Wehr.

Start the New Year off right...shop at AmazonSmile and they will give back to Wehr Nature Center! Just switch your regular Amazon account to AmazonSmile-all the same shopping, shipping, etc.-even Prime. Pick Friends of Wehr as your charity. Amazon gives .05% of your purchases to WNC! And that will make us ALL smile!!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

[Click here to start helping today!](#)



## Friends Of Wehr

### Thank You!

Your contributions to the Friends of Wehr are appreciated and always used with careful consideration.



#### DONATIONS

Gary Smieja  
 Jack Mangi  
 Safeway Pest Management  
 Wil-Kil Pest Control  
 SC Johnson & Son, Inc.  
 Batzner Pest Management, Inc.  
 Dean and Mary Rockstad  
 Sharon Fliess  
 Barbara Nellen  
 GE Foundation  
 Scott Bolte  
 Whitnall Pointe Apartment Homes  
 Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society  
 Diane Lembck  
 Kohl's  
 Jack Mangi

#### MEMORIALS/DONATIONS

*In Memory of Violet Fojut*  
 Kurtis and June Rojahn  
*In Memory of Pat Adas*  
 AWAMC Pharmacy

*In Memory of Art Bzdusek*  
 Barbara Nickel  
*In Memory of Robert Best*  
 Shirley Erwin

#### BOARDWALK

Ann Bleck  
*In Memory of Trevor Holmes*  
 Dianne Fennig  
*In Memory of Paul Andre*  
 Joe and Susan Allen  
*In Memory of Patricia Brick*  
 Judith Knezik

#### ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT PAVER

Rachel Finger  
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 Joe and Pat Roubik  
 Craig Siemsen  
 Tari Jurkowski

Sue Cottingham  
 Melissa Rivest  
 Karen and Jesse Daso  
 Jason Eiling  
 Linda Rohrbach  
*In Honor of Paula Zamiatowski*  
 Howard Aprill

*In Memory of Violet Fojut*  
 Pat and John Fojut

*In Honor of Nature In the Parks*  
 Pat and John Fojut

*In Memory of Eugene and Eleanor Birkholz*  
 Phyllis Birkholz

*In Memory of Edward Lanke*  
 DiAnn and Harry Stasik

*In Memory of Matt and Viola Chednick*

*In Memory of Donald Novotny*  
 Thomas and Carla Hawley

*In Memory of David Polacheck*  
 Bob Koebert

#### ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT BENCH

Betty Storey  
 Anonymous  
 Beth and David Wilmoth  
*In Memory of Robert Best*  
 Shirley Erwin

#### IN-KIND DONATION

Pat Brust

Thank you to Jackie Crivello's Wild Birds Unlimited for their continuing support in keeping our feeders full and our birds happy. Please support their business located at 4454 S. 108th St. Greenfield.



Wild Birds Unlimited

### Calling all Chili Lovers!

**Saturday, February 6, 6-8:00 pm**

Don't hibernate this winter! Join other chili enthusiasts for the 3rd Annual Friends of Wehr Groundhog Day Chili Cook-off. Be a chili contestant or simply come taste and enjoy a variety of chili and vote for your favorite. The top-rated chili cook will take home the coveted, traveling Groundhog Trophy! The meal includes assorted side dishes, breads, corn muffins, chili condiments and delectable desserts. Bring your wallet and bid at the Silent Auction. All funds raised by this event will support Wehr's Accessibility Renovations.

*\$25 per person, includes one beverage of your choice; extras available for purchase*

*Reservations guarantee a seat. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.*



#### Chili Cooks Wanted

Call Wehr at (414) 425-8550 by Friday, January 29 to register as a chili cook. Bring six quarts of your recipe ready to serve to Wehr by 5:30 pm on February 6. Chili Cooks receive their meal FREE.

### Mother's Day Plant Sale



**Saturday & Sunday,  
 May 7 & 8, 9 am to 3:30 pm**

*Pre-order Forms Due By Thursday, April 20*

The Annual Native Plant Sale and spring are right around the corner. Pre-order forms will be coming out around the third week in February and will be available for pick-up at Wehr or for download at: <http://www.friendsofwehr.org/spring-events/mothers-day-native-plant-sale/>. Pre-ordering gives you the best chance at getting the plants you want. Contact Mark at mark.verhagen@ces.uwex.edu if you have questions or would like the order form emailed to you.



WEHR WORDS - Editor: Bev Bryant  
 Contributors: Deb McRae, Mary Guab,  
 Karen Kerans, Emily Brown, Mark Verhagen





## Nature Volunteer News



### Upcoming Opportunities for Current Volunteers

**Dotty's Crafters:** Wednesdays, January 6, February 3, March 2, 1-3 pm

**Maple Sugar Days:** Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20; shifts between 11 am to 5 pm

**Maple Sugar Volunteer Training and Brunch:** Saturday, March 19: Training at 9 am; Potluck Brunch 10 am  
Volunteers helping with the Maple Sugar Days event are encouraged to attend the training and stay to share some of Wehr's homemade syrup at the potluck brunch.

#### Teaching Naturalist Trainings:

Possum's Adventures and Winter Puppet Show:

**Monday, January 25, 1-4 pm**

Maple Magic Training:

**Monday, February 29, 9 am-Noon WNC;**

**1-4 pm Outreach at Ross Lodge**

Spring Program Training:

**Thursday, March 24, 9 am-Noon**

#### Burn Training

**Tuesday, March 8 1-4 pm**

Wehr volunteers who intend to help with prescribed burns at the Nature Center are required to attend this classroom training session. An outdoor training session will be held on a future date to be announced. For further information call Mark Verhagen at (414) 425-8550.



#### Ongoing Opportunities:

Phenology, Wheel n Chip, Critter Care, Teach School Groups-

**To become a volunteer and start helping,** visit [friendsofwehr.org](http://friendsofwehr.org) and go to the volunteer page to fill out an online application or contact **Mary Gaub** at [mary.gaub@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mary.gaub@ces.uwex.edu).



*Click to email!*

### New! Sign-up for Shifts Using Volgistics

A big thank you to all of our volunteers for a successful transition to Volgistics. We greatly appreciate your patience and flexibility in adapting to this new system. We have just one more hill left to climb! Maple Sugar Days will be our first event that will utilize the self-scheduling or "sign-up" tool in Volgistics. All volunteers will be asked to sign-up for their desired shift/time slot on the computer. This can be done via home computer or the computer station in the volunteer room. Wehr staff will be available to assist you with this process. The volunteer team will be happy to meet with you one-on-one if you are feeling uneasy about this process.



2014/15 Top Volunteers: Lynn Burke, Rich Sterle, Barb Nellen and Judy Brooks-Levar (left to right)

### Volunteers Make a World of Difference

On November 1st Wehr Nature Center staff and nearly 90 volunteers gathered to honor the volunteers who donated their time and talent to the nature center this past year. During the 2014-15 year, over 300 volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours to the Center. This includes not only those faithful individuals who volunteer on a regular basis, but also the many corporate groups and service learners who also contribute their time. This year we honored five top individual volunteers: Lynn Burke, Judy Brooks-Levar, Barb Nellen, Rich Sterle, and Paul Brings. These five volunteers contributed almost 1/10 of Wehr's 2014-15 total volunteer hours.

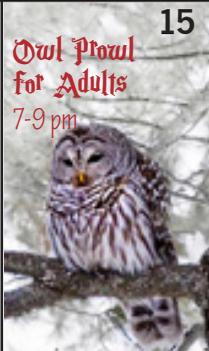
This year we tried a little different format for this annual celebration. We celebrated with a brunch on a Sunday afternoon rather than an evening potluck dinner. Let us know how you liked it! We were captivated by our guest speaker's presentation. Howard Aprill, US Army Major and long-time Wehr Naturalist shared a special program, "An American Naturalist In Afghanistan" covering his experiences while serving with NATO forces. It was great to hear how Howard was able to use his "interpretive" skills to help make a difference in Afghanistan, and it was also the inspiration for our brunch theme, "Volunteers Make a World

of Difference." All of this class of volunteers were recognized for their contributions with the creation of a permeable paver that will be added to the amphitheater accessibility project.

*"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect... compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."* ~Erma Bombeck We couldn't have said it better, Erma Mary Gaub, Volunteer Coordinator

# JANUARY

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

|  |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>For more information call 414-425-8550<br/>All programs &amp; events subject to change.<br/>Parking fees may apply.</p> |        |   | <p>Happy New Year!<br/>Wehr Nature Center is Closed</p>  |   |  |   |
| <p>3</p>   | <p>4</p>  | <p>5</p>  | <p>6<br/>Dotty's Crafters<br/>1-3 pm</p>  | <p>7<br/>Winter Walk<br/>Our Way<br/>1-2 pm</p>     | <p>8</p>   | <p>9<br/>Wehr Camera Club<br/>9-11 am<br/>Wild Ones<br/>1:30-3:30 pm</p>  |
| <p>10<br/>Little Wonders<br/>2 yr olds<br/>9:30-10:30 am<br/>3 yr olds<br/>11 am-noon</p>                                  | <p>11</p>   | <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p>   | <p>14<br/>Winter Walk<br/>Our Way<br/>1-2 pm</p>  | <p>15<br/>Owl Prowl<br/>for Adults<br/>7-9 pm</p>  | <p>16<br/>Twilight Owl Prowl for Adults<br/>3:30-5:30 pm<br/>Nighttime Owl Prowl for Adults<br/>7-9 pm</p>  |
| <p>17<br/>Little Wonders<br/>2 yr olds<br/>9:30-10:30 am<br/>3 yr olds<br/>11 am-noon</p>                                  | <p>18</p>   | <p>19</p>   | <p>20</p>   | <p>21<br/>Winter Walk<br/>Our Way<br/>1-2 pm</p>  | <p>22</p>  | <p>23<br/>Owl Prowl for Scouts<br/>4-6 pm</p>    |
| <p>24<br/>NatureNauts<br/>1-2 pm</p> <p>31</p>   | <p>25<br/>NatureNauts<br/>9:30-10:30 am<br/>Teaching Naturalist Training<br/>1-4 pm</p> | <p>26<br/>Wehr Naturally Resiliency Training<br/>6-8 pm</p>  | <p>27</p>   | <p>28<br/>Winter Walk<br/>Our Way<br/>1-2 pm</p>  | <p>29</p>  | <p>30<br/>Twilight Family Owl Prowl<br/>3:30-5:30 pm<br/>Nighttime Family Owl Prowl<br/>6:30-8:30 pm</p>   |

# FEBRUARY

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6   |
|   |   | Wehr Naturally<br>Creative Reuse<br>6:30-8:30 pm<br> | Dotty's Crafters<br>1-3 pm   | Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>   |  | Groundhog Day<br>Cookoff<br>6-8 pm<br> |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13  |
|   | Little Wonders<br>2 yr olds<br>9:30-10:30 am<br>3 yr olds<br>11 am-noon |   |  | Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>   |  | Camera Club<br>9-11 am<br>Wild Ones<br>1:30-3:30 pm   |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20  |
| NatureNauts<br>1-2 pm   | NatureNauts<br>9:30-10:30 am  |   | Wisconsin Metro<br>Audubon Society<br>"Wolf Information<br>Now" presented by<br>Gloriann Klein<br>7 pm | Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>Wehr Naturally<br>Creative Reuse<br>6:30-8:30 pm<br> |  |   |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27  |
|   | Little Wonders<br>2 yr olds<br>9:30-10:30 am<br>3 yr olds<br>11 am-Noon |   |  | Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>   |  |   |
| 28  | 29  |   |  |  |  |   |
| Maple Tapping<br>Workshop<br>12-2 pm<br> | Teaching<br>Naturalist<br>Training<br>9 am-Noon<br>1-4 pm               | <p>For more information call 414-425-8550<br/>All programs &amp; events subject to change.<br/>Parking fees may apply.</p>            |  |  |  |   |

# MARCH

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
|   |  | 1   | 2<br>Dotty's Crafters<br>1-3 pm  | 3<br>Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>    | 4   | 5  |
| 6  | 7<br>Little Wonders<br>2 yr olds<br>9:30-10:30 am<br>3 yr olds<br>11 am-Noon   | 8<br>Burn Training for<br>Volunteers<br>1-4pm<br>Wehr Astronomical<br>Society 7 pm<br>Presenter Joe<br>Swiggum, Post-doc<br>UWM Astrophysics<br>Dept. | 9  | 10<br>Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br>   | 11  | 12<br>Camera Club<br>9-11 am<br>Wild Ones<br>1:30-3:30 pm  |
| 13<br>NatureNauts<br>1-2 pm  | 14<br>NatureNauts<br>9:30-10:30 am   | 15  | 16<br>Wisconsin Metro<br>Audubon Society<br>7 pm<br>"An American<br>Naturalist in<br>Afghanistan"<br>Howard Aprill,<br>Wehr Naturalist | 17<br>Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm<br> | 18  | 19<br>Maple Sugar Days<br>Volunteer Training<br>9 am /Volunteer<br>Brunch 10 am<br>Maple Sugar Days for<br>Scouts Noon- 1pm<br>Maple Sugar Days for<br>Families 1-4 pm |
| 20<br>Maple Sugar Days<br>for Scouts<br>Noon-1 pm<br>Maple Sugar Days<br>for Families<br>1-4 pm<br> | 21<br>Wehr Naturally<br>Resiliency Training<br>6-8 pm<br><br>Wehr Naturally | 22  | 23   | 24<br>Teaching Naturalist<br>Training<br>9 am-Noon<br>Winter Walk<br>Our Way<br>1-2 pm   | 25  | 26   |
| 27<br>Happy Easter!<br>Wehr<br>Nature Center<br>is Closed!<br>                                      | 28   | 29  | 30   | 31   | For more information call 414-425-8550<br>All programs & events subject to change.<br>Parking fees may apply. |  |



## Nature Discovery For Children



### Little Wonders

A program for 2 and 3 year olds to share with their favorite adult

**Times: 9:30-10:30 am for Two Year Olds 11 am-Noon for Three Year Olds**

### Swirling Snowflakes

**Mondays, January 11 & 18**

Bundle up your tots in their snowsuits and bring them over to Wehr's Winter Wonderland. We will read *Millions of Snowflakes* by Mary Siddals, make snow art, and eat a yummy snowflake snack.

### Winter Sleepers

**Mondays, February 8 & 22**

Wear your pajamas and slippers to the Nature Center and discover what animals snooze away the winter. We will read *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson, eat a bedtime snack, and make ourselves some cozy dens to sleep in.

### Spunky Skunks

**Monday, March 7**

Your child will love being a little stinker at this program! We will learn all about those smelly, striped critters of the night as we enjoy an hour of pretending to be skunks. We will read a story about a spunky skunk, *The Bravest of the Brave* by Shutta Crum, make and wear our own skunk costume, and eat a snack fit for a skunk.



## NatureNauts

A series of fun-filled programs for children 4-6 years old and their favorite adult

**Times: 1-2 pm for Sunday Classes 9:30-10:30 am for Monday Classes**

### Tracks and Scat

**Sunday, January 24 or Monday, January 25**

Winter means wildlife! Tracks, droppings, homes, and feeding signs are all clues of our wild neighbors. Learn how to decipher wildlife signs and then, weather permitting, go exploring for signs of our winter wildlife

### Groundhogs Galore

**Sunday, February 14 or Monday, February 15**

Learn the origins of Groundhog Day as we dig deep into these cute critters. NatureNauts will make their own craft groundhog that pops out of a hole. Come prepared to go outside for a short walk in search of groundhog burrows.

### Maple Magic Sunday, March 13 or Monday, March 14

Come learn about sap, sugar, and syrup from Wisconsin's State Tree- the Sugar Maple. Children will hear the story *Maggie the Maple Tree* by Karen Kerans and visit the Sugarbush to meet Maggie and give her a hug. After a short walk, everyone will be enjoy a maple syrup treat.



Pre-registration is required for all children's programs Deadline is the Friday before the program date

Fees: \$10 per child \$7 Milwaukee County Residents \$5 Friends of Wehr Members



# Nature Discovery for Adults

## Wehr Naturally

Projects for adults that help us live lightly on the earth.



Wehr Naturally

### Resiliency Training: Make Your Own Herbal Body Butter Tuesday, January 26, 6-8 pm

Want a natural, organic body butter with a scent that you really like? Learn how to infuse your favorite herb or essential oil into ingredients gentle enough for even the most sensitive skin. Take home the sample you make in class. All materials provided.

### Creative ReUse: Inspired by All That's Around Us Tuesday, February 2, 6:30-8:30 pm

What inspires you? Share your reuse/upcycle ideas and/or learn new ideas from others, and make an "Open Creation" take-home item. Lisa Perkins of Re-Creation Station will present information on creative reuse and the effects of waste and pollution on our environment and all living things. Materials provided, or bring your own.

### Creative ReUse: Ways to Help Our Feathered Friends Thursday, February 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

Join Lisa Perkins of Re-Creation Station to create a birdhouse or feeder using recycled or re-purposed objects. Lisa will also lead a discussion on the impacts of waste and pollution on birds and wildlife, and what we can do as a community to make a difference, through re-use, up-cycling and recycling. Materials provided, or bring your own.

### Resiliency Training: Cold Process Soap Making Tuesday, March 22, 6-8 pm

Soap making is easy and fun! Learn the cold process method, and how to add herbs, scents and dyes to enhance the quality of your soap. Take home the sample you make in class. All materials provided.

*Pre-registration is recommended. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.*

*Fee: \$25 per person; \$20 for Friends of Wehr Members*

*Discount! Sign-up for three classes at a time and save \$5*

## Owl Prowl for Adults

Friday, January 15, 7-9 pm

Saturday, January 16, 7-9 pm

and NEW, Twilight Session 3:30-5:30 pm

Join a naturalist for an evening out with the owls. An interactive program will highlight the habits and adaptations of our nocturnal neighbors. Then we will walk the woodlands of Wehr listening and looking for Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls.

*Fee: \$10 per person, \$7 Milwaukee County Resident,*

*\$5 for Friends of Wehr members*



## Maple Tapping Workshop



Sunday Feb. 28, 12-2 pm

Join an expert maple syrup maker and learn how to turn your backyard maple tree into liquid gold! The workshops will cover how to identify a suitable tree, the tools and tricks of drilling and tapping, how to safely store and boil-down sap, and the process of "finishing off" and storing syrup. Sample delicious syrup on pancakes and take home a set of tapping supplies, including a spile, bag, and holder.

*Reservations guarantee a seat.*

*Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.*

*\$25 per person; \$20 for Friend of Wehr Members*



Listen for winter birds and look for signs of deer as you walk for fitness with DiAnn Stasik, owner of Home Fitness, LLC. Do guided warm-up exercises in Wehr's Fireplace Room before you head outside. Use this program to achieve fitness goals including cardiac health, bone density and muscle strength, weight loss/maintenance, and learn more about fitness activity trackers. Program accommodates people at all fitness levels and can be modified to meet individual needs.

### Monthly Session Dates Time: 1-2 pm

January Session, Thursdays, 7, 14, 21, & 28

February Session, Thursdays, 4, 11, 18, & 25

March Session, Thursdays, 3, 10, 17, & 24

*Pre-registration is requested.*

*Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.*

*Fee: \$25 for a monthly session;*

*\$20 for Friends of Wehr members*

*Early Bird Discount! \$15 per month;*

*\$10 for Friends of Wehr members*

*Pay for a monthly session two weeks prior to the first meeting to receive this discount.*

Offered in partnership with Home Fitness, LLC.,

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



## Nature Discovery for Families

### Family Owl Prowl

Saturday, January 30  
New Times! Twilight Walk at 3:30-5:30 pm or  
Night Walk at 6:30-8:30 pm

Join a naturalist for an evening out with the owls. An interactive program will highlight the habits and adaptations of our nocturnal neighbors. Then we will walk the woodlands of Wehr listening and looking for Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls. Families will dissect an owl pellet and discover what the owl ate for dinner!

Fee: \$10 per person,  
\$7 Milwaukee Co. Resident,  
\$5 Friends of Wehr Members



**Maple Sugar Days for Families**  
Saturday & Sunday  
March 19 & 20  
1-4 pm

Celebrate the spring thaw and our Wisconsin heritage at Maple Sugar Days March. The program includes a short walk to the sugarbush, a visit to an old-time sugarin' camp, a boil down demonstration and hands-on activities for children. A pancake with real maple syrup will top off your day. The guided hikes begin at 1 pm and continue every 15 minutes until 4 pm. Maple sugar treats and tapping equipment will be available for purchase.

Fee: \$6 per person, payable at the door  
Free for children ages 2 and under

## Nature Discovery For Youth Groups

### Owl Prowl for Scouts

Saturday, January 23, 4-6 pm  
Location: Ross Lodge in Whitnall Park

Scout and youth groups are invited to spend twilight with the owls. Children will learn about amazing owl adaptations and habits through fun activities and then head out into the woods to look and listen for owls.

Ages: Children in 2nd grade and older  
Fees: \$10 per person, \$7 Milwaukee County residents,  
\$5 Friends of Wehr Members  
One adult must accompany every five children  
Registrations is required by Wednesday, January 20



### Maple Sugar Days for Scouts

Saturday & Sunday, March 19 and 20  
Reserved Hikes Start at 12:00,  
12:20 and 12:40 pm

Youth and scout groups are invited to join in the Wisconsin spring tradition of Maple Sugarin'. This 2-hour program includes a guided walk through the sugarbush, tree drilling practice, a visit to an old-fashioned sugarin' camp, activities that teach about the Native American origins of maple syrup, and a taste of real maple syrup on a pancake. Refreshments including popcorn and maple sugar cotton candy will be available for purchase.

Pre-registration is required and begins Monday, January 12  
\$6 per person  
Optional Maple Sugar fun patches can be pre-ordered at time of reservation for \$2 a patch



## FRIENDS OF WEHR NATURE STORE

### MAPLE SUGARING TIME IS HERE!

We carry supplies, books and guides for your sweet adventure.  
Be sure to check out our other nature books, jewelry, toys, kits, cards and clothing.



All proceeds go to Friends of Wehr to support the educational programs at Wehr Nature Center.

Open 8:30 am-4 pm



## Community Organizations

Wehr is fortunate to host several organizations who share their passion and knowledge about the natural world with the public. For more information about these organizations and details about their programs, please visit their websites or call Wehr (414) 425-8550.



**Wehr Camera Club** is dedicated to sharing a passion for photography and nature. Visit [www.wnccameraclub.com](http://www.wnccameraclub.com) for program information. Public programs are held the 2nd Saturday of the each month, Sept. to June, from 9-11am.

**Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society** is a chapter of the National Audubon Society that encourages environmental stewardship through education and conservation. Public programs are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9 pm, September to May. Visit [www.wimetroaudubon.org](http://www.wimetroaudubon.org) for program information.

**Wild Ones, Natural Landscapers Inc.** supports the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities by promoting the use of native plants in landscaping. Meetings are held at WNC from 1:30-3:30 pm the second Saturday of each month from September to April. Please call 414 299-9888 ext 2 for program information.

**Wehr Astronomical Society** is a group of amateur astronomers that promote the study of astronomy. Meetings are from 7-9 pm the 2nd Tuesday of Feb.-June and Sept. & Nov.; 1st Tuesday evening in October. Visit [www.facebook.com/WehrAstronomicalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/WehrAstronomicalSociety) for information.

## Adventure Summer Day Camps

### Give Your Child the Gift of Nature This Summer

Have your child join our professional naturalists for outdoor adventures that spark their curiosity, make memories and lead to personal discovery. For complete program descriptions and on-line registration go to: <http://www.friendsofwehr.org/childrens-programs/adventure-summer-camp/> or call Wehr at (414) 425-8550.

### Nature Camps

#### Nature snoopers

Ages: 6-8

**August 1-4, 9 am-Noon**

Wehr Nature Center  
Become a super sleuth and uncover the mysteries of life around you. Each day will focus on a different topic such as mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians.  
\$125 Limit 16 campers

#### You can survive

Ages: 10-13

**June 28-30, 9 am-4 pm**

Ross Lodge in Whitnall Park  
Do you have what it takes to survive in the wild? Children will discover they can do things they never thought possible. They'll use landmarks, compass and maps to find their way through the forest. They'll build shelter from natural and man-made materials as well as learn fire building skills. Campers will make a survival kit. Finally they'll compete in survival games to test their skills and see who can survive.  
\$150 Limit 16 campers



The Friends of Wehr is hosting a series of fund raising opportunities with local restaurants. Donating a percentage of their proceeds is a way that local restaurants support area non-profits. In the fall of 2015 FOW hosted their first fund raiser at the Culver's on Hwy100 and Forest Home. The second event is scheduled on **Feb. 8, 2016** at the Cousins on 76th in Franklin. The coupon is available as an insert in the newsletter, on the FOW website, and at the Nature Center.

To help, turn in your flyer when you order a Cousin's sub on **Feb. 8th between 4 and 7 pm.**

Our spring restaurant fundraiser will be at Panera's on Layton. Watch for more details in the spring newsletter. Thanks for supporting the Friends of Wehr.

**Cousins SUBS**

**DONATION NIGHT**

FEBRUARY 8, 2016  
4PM - 7PM

15% of sales will be donated to  
**FRIENDS OF WEHR**

FRANKLIN  
7178 S. 76th St. • 414-529-5904  
COUSINSSUBS.COM

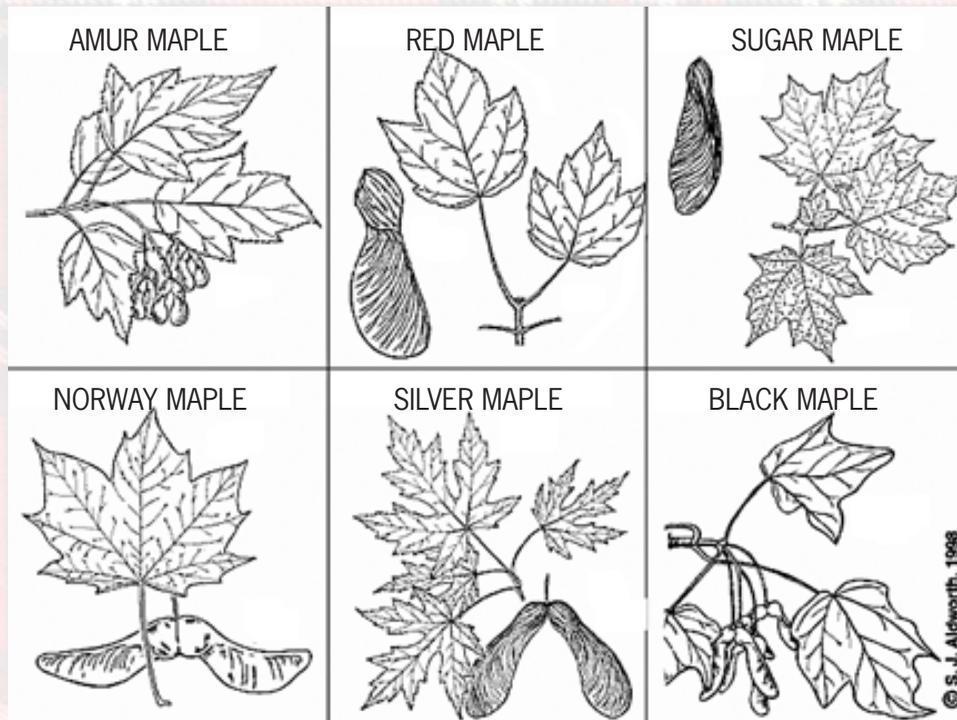
# The Backyard Maple Syrup Maker

Making maple syrup from trees on your own property is the ultimate Do-It-Yourself experience. All you need are some basic tools, a ½ hour or so a day during the sap run and a day or two at the end to boil down your syrup, and, of course, a maple tree!

## Here's How to Do It...

**WHEN:** The best time for tapping is in late February or early March when the nights are below freezing and days are about 40°F. Sap can be collected until the buds open or about 4 weeks. When the buds open, the flow of sap slows and the taste becomes bitter or “buddy.”

**WHICH TREE:** Any maple tree can be tapped but sugar maples have the greatest sugar concentration.



**HOW TO I.D.:** Maple trees have opposite branching and slender twigs and buds (1/4 “ in diameter). The other common opposite branched tree is the ash, but ash twigs are clubby and the bark has distinct diamond-shaped ridges.

**SIZE OF TREE:** Trees should be at least 12-15” in diameter for one tap. If the tree is 20” or more, two taps may be drilled. We recommend no more than two taps in any tree. This assures that the sapwood, that layer of wood just under the bark through which the sap flows, will be thick enough that you can tap without penetrating heartwood. If your tap enters the heartwood, the tree becomes vulnerable for bacterial or fungal invasion.

**HOW TO TAP:** Use a drill with 3/8" bit. This will produce a hole the right size for a metal spile you can purchase at Wehr or a maple sugar supply website. Drill in 1"-1 1/2" with a slightly upward slant.



Then insert the 1" tapered end of the spile into the hole and gently tap it in place with a hammer. It should be snug enough so that it can't be pulled out by hand. Hang a bucket, bag, or a plastic jug onto the spile and check and/or collect your sap every day. You may have to collect twice when the weather is warm.



**STORAGE:** Sap will spoil if not refrigerated. Boiling it down in smaller batches (5-10 gallons) right away is best for the backyard syrup maker. If the sap turns cloudy before you start to boil, it has spoiled. Throw it out!



**COOKING:** If you can boil water, you can make maple syrup. That's what you do—boil. Sap is 97% water so to create syrup you must evaporate A LOT of water. The steam you create in the process can loosen wallpaper and ruin paint, so it is best to boil outside. A large flat pan that provides lots of surface area for evaporation works best. Any kind of fuel is fine but the hotter the better. Bring the sap to a rolling boil and sit back and relax.



Keep a close watch as the sap becomes darker and thicker because you will want to transfer it to a smaller pot to “finish off” on the stove. You can filter the “almost syrup” though a cotton or linen towel (cheesecloth is too porous) to remove the precipitate that has formed. When the thermometer reads 219°F or 220°F, the syrup is finished.

Make sure to boil to this temperature because “almost syrup” is a wonderful place for bacteria to grow! Pour your syrup into clean glass jars to await the hot stack of pancakes with melted butter! Enjoy!



<http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/pubs/trees.htm>



**Friends of Wehr**

**At Wehr Nature Center**  
 9701 W. College Ave.  
 Franklin, WI 53132 In Whitnall Park  
 Open Daily 8-4:30  
 (Check for holiday hours)  
<http://www.friendsofwehr.org>



Learn more about activities and events throughout the Milwaukee County Parks



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### Wish List

Contributions of any amount will be appreciated for an exhibit-building toolbox. These **NEW** tools and supplies will be used to produce exhibits in the Nature Center display cases.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| heavy duty latched toolbox       | Stanley quick change knife & blades            |
| hammer                           | key hole saw set                               |
| adjustable wrench                | small level                                    |
| 25' tape measure                 | scissors for fabric                            |
| standard pliers                  | mallet   |
| needle-nose pliers               | ratchet screwdriver set (flat & phillips bits) |
| wire cutter                      | large roll 3M foam tape 3/4"x1/8"              |
| tin snips                        | 3M adhesive transfer tape rolls                |
| slim Exacto knife and #11 blades |  |



If you are interested in donating any of these items, or would like to contribute money towards their purchase, please contact Carol at (414) 425-8550. Your contributions are tax deductible when made to the **Friends of Wehr**.

**Membership Application: This is an annual membership from January - December**

Mail to: Friends of Wehr 9701 College Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 Make checks payable to Friends of Wehr or renew online at [www.friendsofwehr.org](http://www.friendsofwehr.org)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY-STATE-ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

|                    | Individual                     | Family                         |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Regular            | \$25 <input type="checkbox"/>  | \$35 <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Senior (65)        | \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>  | \$30 <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Supporting         | \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteer (50 hrs) | \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>  | \$30 <input type="checkbox"/>  |

Payment Method  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Friends of Wehr) Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge (Visa MC Discover AE) # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

