



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Jeff Baudry  
(414) 257-4575  
[jbaudry@milwcnty.com](mailto:jbaudry@milwcnty.com)

For Immediate Release:

## Maple Sugar Days at Wehr Nature Center *Maple Sugarin' for the Whole Family!*

Franklin, WI (March 3, 2014) — Celebrating the arrival of early spring, Wehr Nature Center presents the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Sugar Days, Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, from 1-4 p.m. Wehr Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave.

With above-freezing temperatures during the day and below-freezing temperatures at night, the sap in Wehr's sugar maples begins to flow. From sap collection to boil-down, Maple Sugar Days will highlight the syrup-making process.

Families will go on a guided trek through the woodland to the sugarbush to see tapped sugar maple trees and to taste sap as it drips from a tree. Then, visitors will follow the sweet aroma of maple syrup to the sugarin' camp, where clear sap is boiled down to form dark syrup. A sugar maker will tell tales of camps long ago. Walks to the camp will last about 45 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to dress in layers and to dress to keep feet warm. The first tour will start at 1 p.m.; the last tour, 4 p.m. Hikes will go on rain or shine.

Hands-on activities for young and old will include using a hand drill on a log, trying Native-American methods of boiling sap without metal pans, and making a craft. The sweet reward will be real maple syrup on a pancake and maple sugar on a stick.

Instructions and equipment for tapping maple trees as well as maple-candy treats will be on sale in the Friends of Wehr Nature Store. Food and beverage concessions will include popcorn, hot dogs, brownies, hot chocolate, coffee, soda, and made-on-site maple-sugar cotton candy.

Admission for Maple Sugar Days is \$5 per person age 3 and up; children age 2 and under are free. The regular parking fee will be in effect. Pre-registration is not necessary.

A free booklet, "Backyard Maple Sugaring, or, The Family Boils Down," is available on the parks website.

For more information go to [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) or call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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ADDRESS  
9480 Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX  
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)  
fax: 414 / 257 6466

EMAIL  
[parks@milwcnty.com](mailto:parks@milwcnty.com)

WEBSITE  
[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

