

TRAILSIDE MUSEUM

708-366-6530

☺ **Nature Story Time:** Nature-inspired stories, crafts and activities for ages 3 – 5, with an adult. \$1.00 per child. Thursdays, March 3, 17, & 31 10:30 a.m.

Volunteer Work Day: Help us restore and beautify Trailside's grounds and surrounding preserve. Call for details. Saturday, March 5.

Family Nature Walk: Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? Say goodbye to winter on a walk through Thatcher Woods. Dress for the weather. Free family program, registration required. Sunday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.

Feeding Time at Trailside: Join us at feeding time to learn about Trailside's resident outdoor animals and their roles in our ecosystem. Sunday, March 13, 1:00 p.m.

Morning Fitness Hike: Greet the beginning of spring on a brisk Naturalist-led hike on our scenic trails. For Adults; please dress for the weather and rough, muddy ground Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.



Gardening for Birds, Butterflies and You: Join a discussion on designing an easy-care garden to attract birds and butterflies. Learn how to attract desirable wildlife using native plants

in your garden. For adults; registration required. Sunday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.

Spring Nature Break: Children with an adult are invited for nature walks and activities. Guided hikes will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Simple crafts and other nature activities will be on going. Join the fun; no registration needed! Wednesday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



RIVER TRAIL NATURE CENTER

847-824-8360

What's On The Menu? Join us at feeding time to learn about our resident display animals and their habits. Every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Woodland Walk: Join us for a short walk to search for skunk cabbage, our earliest flowers, and more woodland wonders. Sunday & Monday, March 6 & 7, 1:30 p.m.

Maple Month at River Trail!

Sap's Rising: Walk in the maple forest as winter comes to an end, to learn about dormancy, spring renewal and maple syrup making. Sunday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.

Maple Syrup Days: Celebrate spring's arrival while learning about traditional and modern methods for harvesting sap and making maple syrup. Come and enjoy two days of guided walks, tapping demonstrations, maple syrup making, maple syrup samples, puppet shows, storytelling and more. Saturday and Sunday, March 19 & 20, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bucket Bug Hunt: Sweet maple sap attracts insects too! Join us on a hike through the sugar bush to identify critters hanging out in and around the remaining sap collecting buckets. Sunday, March 27, 1:30 p.m.



CRABTREE NATURE CENTER

847-381-6592

☺ **Budding Naturalist - Crabtree Explorer:** Grab an activity kit and go explore what is happening in nature this month! Kid friendly family program. Every Saturday & Sunday in March, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Spring Search: Spring is coming - find out how plants and animals respond to the change of seasons, and plant some seeds for your home. Registration required. Sunday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.

Waterfowl Welcome: This casual workshop will help you start discovering native waterfowl. Sunday, March 13, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Woodcock Walk: See the unforgettable sunset display of woodcocks' courtship flight. Registration required. Fridays, March 18 & 25, 6:45 p.m.

Seed Sowing: Learn about the history and future of tall grass prairie, and help sow seeds we've collected. Dress for working outdoors; Registration required. Sunday, March 20, 1:00 p.m.

Frogs: Enjoy frogs and toads by learning their calls and other identification tips, and find out how they live. Sunday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.



SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER

708-868-0606

Sand Ridge Audubon Society Meeting: All are invited for a program and socialization. Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.

Live Healthy - Discover Nature: Join our monthly hiking club for "scenic exercise!" A naturalist will lead a vigorous two mile hike on our beautiful trails. Saturday, March 5, 1:30 p.m.

☺ **Wee Wonders - Foxes and Their Kin:** Pre-schoolers are invited for their very own story and activity about our marvelous wild dogs. Thursday, March 10, 1:30 p.m.

Seed Starting Workshop: Master gardener Ray Norder will discuss seeds and show best practices for starting seedlings. Materials for starting some plants will be provided. For ages 12 and up; registration by March 10 required; \$3.00/person. Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.

Moonlight Hike: The nearly full moon will guide us on a search for animals in the woods, while we listen to the sounds of a spring evening. We'll stop by the pond and try to glimpse a beaver! Registration required by March 16, Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m.

Get Started Watching Birds: You can enjoy bird watching almost anywhere and anytime, alone or in groups, and with little equipment. Bring the family to see how easy it is. Saturday, March 19, 1:30 p.m.

Backyard Bird Houses: Its fun to observe birds in a birdhouse you've offered. We'll show you how to market your birdhouse real estate. Saturday, March 26, 1:30 p.m.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

NATURE CENTER

708-839-6897

Fossils - Flora and Fauna: We'll take a close look at plant and animal fossils from our ancient Silurian sea. Saturday, March 5, 1:30 p.m.

☺ **Drop In On Mother Nature - All Things Green:** Children and families are invited for activities and crafts. Sunday, March 6, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

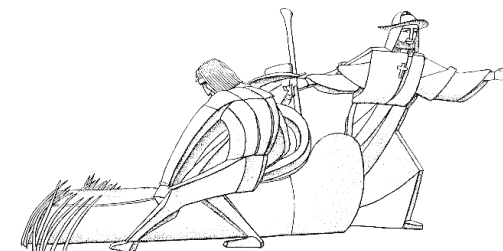
White Oak Trail Work Day: Grab your gloves - we're taking our trail back from invasive species. We'll bring tools and light refreshments. Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Beautiful Buteos - Hawks: Some hawks are swift and agile, others soar. Learn about buteos, our soaring hawks. Sunday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday Matinee: Warm up this winter day with a seasonal nature program! We'll bring hot chocolate and popcorn. Saturday, March 19, 1:30 p.m.

Spring Equinox Frog Walk: Longer days awaken some frogs. We'll check our trails for the sounds of frogs in early spring. Sunday, March 20, 1:30 p.m.

Chicago Portage Work Day: Spring at the Chicago Portage is something to celebrate, and you can help restore the past beauty of this historic ground. Restoration includes brush removal and trash pick up. Bring gloves if you have them. Groups are welcome! The Chicago Portage National Historic Site is at 49th & Harlem, Lyons. Saturday, March 26, 9:00 a.m. - Noon.



Naturalist's Choice: Come for a seasonal surprise, perhaps a walk or naturalist's presentation. Sunday, March 27, 1:30 p.m.

**SAGAWAU ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER
630-257-2045**

Canyon Tours: Wade the creek to see flowers, ferns, and rock formations in Cook County's only canyon. Be prepared for wet feet. Saturdays, March 19 & 26, 1:00 p.m.

Search for Signs of Spring: Explore for migrant birds, budding flowers, and other signs of the changing season. *Registration requested.* Sunday, March 20, 1:00 p.m.

Spring Migration - Search for Salamanders: Help us find the Sagawau salamander, and enjoy other early spring delights. First of a series. *Registration requested.* Sunday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.



Your preserves are open every day of the year for walks, bike rides, and free exploration. We encourage parents, grandparents, and mentors to bring kids out to enjoy healthy activities for mind and body. Most programs at District nature centers are family friendly, and we offer a variety of exploratory programs for children. Come out and enjoy the wonders of nature and healthy activities in your big back yard.



Persons believing that they have been discriminated against by the Forest Preserve District on the basis of color, race, national origin, handicap or sex, may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Forest Preserve District of Cook County or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C.

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Maple Syrup Days
at River Trail Nature Center
847-824-8360**

**Saturday and Sunday, March 19 & 20,
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Celebrate spring's arrival while learning about traditional and modern methods for harvesting sap and making maple syrup. Come enjoy two days of guided walks, tapping demonstrations, maple syrup making, maple syrup samples, puppet shows, storytelling and more. Free family program; call for more information.



APRIL EARTH DAY EVENTS:

**Explore Earth Day at Crabtree Nature Center
847-381-6592**

April 17, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Connect with the earth and explore Crabtree with our special outdoor activities.

**Earth Day at Sand Ridge Nature Center
708-868-0606**

April 23, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a day set aside to remind us that we all need to be concerned about our planet every day. Activities include displays, walks, puppet shows, Earth Day Jeopardy, and a kid's craft.

**April is Earth Month at Trailside Museum
708-366-6530**

Programs throughout the month will have an Earth Month - Earth Friendly theme.

**Volunteer Resources
773-631-1790**

Call for information about joining or conducting an Earth Day event at a District location.

Visit

www.fpdccvolunteers.org

for a calendar of volunteer work days and locations.

Crabtree Nature Center
Palatine Rd. one mile west of Barrington Rd.
Barrington, IL 847-381-6592

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 S. Willow Springs Rd.
Willow Springs, IL 708-839-6897

River Trail Nature Center
3120 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, IL 847-824-8360

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St.
Lemont, IL 630-257-2045

Sand Ridge Nature Center
15891 Paxton Ave.
South Holland, IL 708-868-0606

The Harold "Hal" Tyrrell Trailside Museum
Chicago and Thatcher Avenues
River Forest, IL 708-366-6530

**The Mathew Bieszczyk
Volunteer Resource Center**
6100A North Central
Chicago, IL 773-631-1790

Brookfield Zoo
31st St., west of First Ave.
Brookfield, IL 708-485-0263

The Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake Cook Rd. east of Edens Expressway
Glencoe, IL 847-835-5440



For information or special assistance for people with disabilities, please call the host site or the Department of Resource Management, 708-771-1335, at least 48 hours in advance.



Most programs on this calendar are presented by FPDCC Naturalists at the facilities listed. Many programs require registration in advance, and some require fees. Please consult listings under individual sites, and call the host site for details.

☺ **families please note children's programs**

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County
**LIVE HEALTHY,
DISCOVER
NATURE**

March, 2011



River Trail Sugar Bush



**Forest Preserve
District of
Cook County
Board of
Commissioners**

www.fpdcc.com

536 N. Harlem Ave.
River Forest, IL 60305

For information:
1-800-870-3666
TDD# 708-771-1190