

# Maple Leaf Rag

a newsletter for St. Joseph County Parks' volunteers and Friends of the Sugar Bush



## A Great Year for Syrup!

March 1 marked the first day for cooking this year and our last day was March 22. It was a great year for making syrup as we closed out the season with 81 gallons produced! We couldn't have asked for better weather conditions for making syrup. We were even able to accommodate all of our school programs, with no cancellations due to inclement weather.

Our clean-up went smoothly too! All lines are down, cleaned and stored in the sugar house, ready to go for next year. The sugar house has been cleaned and will also be ready to go for another season.

Thank you to everyone who helped cook in the sugar house, especially the few evenings we cooked. Also, to those who helped get everything cleaned up. It's a huge job and we wouldn't be able to do it without you!

Thank  
YOU for all  
of YOUR  
hard work!

## Rent-A-Sap Bucket

Our Rent-a-Sap Bucket program was once again very successful, with 76 buckets rented. It's always fun watching families hunt for their buckets during Sugar Camp Days.

Thank you to everyone who supported this program and rented a bucket and also to the New Carlisle Lion's Club for donating a breakfast ticket as a part of this program.

Donations raised from the Rent-a-Sap Bucket program help fund our sugar camp operations. **THANK YOU!**

## Sugar Camp Days Another Successful Weekend

We had another great Sugar Camp Days weekend with just over 2,400 visitors attending. Saturday's attendance was higher as the weather was just right. Sunday, we had rain in the afternoon, which put a bit of a damper on afternoon attendance.

Visitors enjoyed lots of sweet maple treats with the New Carlisle Lion's Club all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast, maple sloppy joes and hotdogs served up by the Friends, maple kettle corn, popped in the cast iron kettle, maple cotton candy and of course all of our delicious baked goods that could be washed down with a cup of maple coffee!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out throughout the course of the weekend. We couldn't do it without your assistance!



## Thank You Sugar Camp Days Sponsors!

St. Joseph County Parks staff would like to say thanks to our corporate and individual sponsors of our 2011 Sugar Camp Days:

- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Lehman & Lehman, Inc.
- Kruggel, Lawton & Company
- New Carlisle Animal Clinic
- Friends of Bendix Woods & Spicer Lake
- New Carlisle Lion's Club
- First Source Bank
- Vic & Marge Riemenschneider
- St. Joseph County Parks Foundation
- New Carlisle Lion's Club
- Rolling Prairie Gleaners - Arbor 557

## Maple Baked Goods Sale Yields Sweet Success!

Our Maple Baked Goods Sale was once again a big hit! The table was almost bare by the end of Saturday, so staff and volunteers went home and baked some more for Sunday! Thank you to everyone who spent a little time in the kitchen baking up some special maple treats. Your hard work brought in **\$891.75** for the weekend. Proceeds from the bake sale benefit the Harold "Pete" Runnels' Memorial Internship Fund.



## Sap Donors Help with Syrup Production

Contact us if you wish to bring in sap for us to cook.

Our sap donors helped contribute to our 81 gallons of syrup produced this season. Nine sap donors brought in a total of 689 gallons of sap this year.

Sap donors who volunteer at least 12 hours in the sugar bush receive a 50/50 split of the syrup produced from their sap. If they are not able to volunteer 12 hours in the sugar bush, a 60/40 split is then given. This year we were able to give back to our sap donors 9 gallons of syrup.

Our sap donors this year were The Zeiger Family, Dale Dyer, Nick Timm, Beth Cortelyou, The Clawson Family, Jeff Holston, Tom Demonia, Bobbi Densmore and Sean Hall and Gary and Nancy Beall.

Thank you sap donors for taking the time to tap your trees and bring in your sap!



## Sugar House is Rededicated

Due to a generous donation from Vic & Marge Riemenschneider, we were able to expand our current sugar house. On Saturday, March 19, we had a rededication ceremony for the sugar house, complete with a grapevine cutting ceremony!

Thank you to all who were involved in the ceremony and making the expansion of the sugar house possible!



Cutting of the grapevine for the rededication of the sugar house.