



DGC Sprouts
February and March 2024
Explore Maple Sugaring: Tap, Thicken,
Taste! with DGC Sprouts

Wed, Feb 28, 2024, 6:00 PM **at IPPL Keshav Sanghani Meeting Room on the 2nd floor.**

Join DGC Sprouts for a maple sugaring experience where you'll learn about tapping trees, thickening the syrup, and savoring the sweet taste!

Discover the fascinating process of maple sugaring as we tap into the sweet world of maple trees. Learn how sap is collected and transformed into the delicious syrup we all love. Our DGC Sprouts are excited to welcome you as this event promises to be both educational and fun!

During the event, you'll have the opportunity to taste REAL maple syrup and explore its various uses in cooking and baking. Whether you're a maple syrup aficionado or simply curious about this natural treat, this event is perfect for all ages.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maple-sugaring-tap-thicken-taste-with-dgc-sprouts-tickets-807323164317?aff=oddtcreator>



Wednesday March 27, Forcing Spring

Join us as we celebrate the arrival of spring by learning about spring planting techniques and enjoying hands-on activities.

- prepping dormant branches to force them to bloom early
- planting sweet peas in the St. John Learning Garden, weather permitting
- planning for our 2024 learning garden



Get ready to embrace the season and bring some early blooms into your life. Don't miss out on this fun and educational event!

Meeting will be held **upstairs at St. John Room C** - enter at south entrance to church

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forcing-spring-with-dgc-sprouts-tickets-851138978597?aff=oddtcreator>

The Sprouts Newsletter is now posted on the Darien Garden Club website.
Go to: <https://dariengardenclub.com/sprouts/sprouts-newsletter>



SPRING SUMMER

March 27, 6 pm

Forcing Spring

Learn about forcing spring branches like willows and forsythia, plus what to start planting in spring.

April 24, 6 pm

Composting STARTS NOW!

Discover composting, see our new composting system and be an original member of our 'Compost Club' by bringing your own food scraps.

MAY 18, 11am-1pm

Planting Day/ Pizza Party

Help plant this year's garden and enjoy pizza with club members. Registered Sprouts members will go home with plants to make their own 'Pizza Garden'. Tickets for pizza will be available for purchase.

May 22, 6 pm

Celebrating our Cyclical Cicadas

Presented by Pam Otto. Naturalist, Outreach Ambassador, St. Charles Park District

June 26, 6 pm

Art in the Garden

Get inspired by nature and make something to enhance the garden.

July 20, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Every Garden Tells a Story

Darien Garden Club Garden Walk

For details and registration, visit: dariengardenclub.com/sprouts

Help Wanted

Watch for email invitation and come out and help prepare a gardening site and compost bin at St. John Church, March 2 and 3.

From Cathy Streett:



A local Boy Scout troop led by an Eagle Scout candidate, Alex, will be lending a hand with some projects slated for the DGC Sprouts Learning Garden. The Eagle Scout candidate has planned for these projects and will be recruiting manpower for the day. There will be Scout adult supervision and volunteers in place. The project this weekend will be to clear land of invasive woody species and level the space for reconstruction and placement of a large wooden 3 bin compost system. The troop leaders will be supervising saws, and removal of small stumps etc. We are in need of DGC and DGC Sprout ADULT volunteers that are able to physically help. Please bring garden/work gloves and digging/cutting tools. We ask that you do not bring along children for safety reasons. You can stay as long as you want, there is no need to commit to the whole day. Alex is hopeful to complete the project on Saturday March 2nd. If additional time is needed the group will return on Sunday. There will be a separate Evite for March 3rd. We will cancel Sunday's work day late on Saturday if that decision is made. We are excited to have the help with this project that will enhance the sustainability of our garden and help to educate the children and families on the importance of composting. It will also rid the area of invasive woody species which is an eco-win! If able I hope that you would love to lend a hand and watch as this Eagle Scout led community

project kicks off our 2024 Sprouts Garden Season.

It's Maple Sugaring Time in Illinois!

If you are interested in learning about how maple sap is harvested and syrup is made, local organizations are offering these event Maple Sugaring Days

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

Maple Sugaring Days: March 2 & March 3

Learn about the sweet process of maple syrup making! Come sample pure maple syrup and purchase some of your own locally-sourced maple syrup to take home during Maple Sugaring Days.

Maple syrup is available while supplies last in the following sizes:

8 oz. - \$10 16 oz. - \$18 32 oz. - \$35

Saturday, March 2 & Sunday, March 3

Noon - 3 p.m.

Creek Bend Nature Center

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

37W700 Dean St., St. Charles

Free admission

https://kaneforest.com/upload/TL_Spring24_Final.pdf

Weekends in March at Kline Creek Farm

1N600 County Farm Rd, West Chicago, IL 60185

1-4pm

Discover how sap becomes syrup as you try tapping with tools from the 1890s, check the collection buckets, and watch sap thicken over the fire. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

<https://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/calendar-of-events?trumbaEmbed=filter1%3D1212549%26-index%26filterfield1%3D42008>

Registration for The Conservation Foundation's 2024 summer camps is open!

The camps are open to Elementary Age Students, spread the word.

"We offer unique, small group camp experiences at our McDonald Farm in Naperville, with five different sessions of Nature on the Farm Camp. All camps are Monday - Friday from 9:00am - 12:00pm."

<https://tcf.givecloud.co/mcdonald-farm-summer-camps>

SMILE

What does it mean if you find a four-leaf clover? That you have too much time on your hands!

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin

The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway. – Michael Pollan