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March is Maple Month

Making maple syrup is a fun late winter activity with sweet rewards. Sap flows best when the weather is sunny and above freezing during the day and below freezing at night, and supplies can be found at many local stores or online.

We are piloting the process at Columbus County Park, and you can help! If you'd like to try getting your hands dirty (and sticky), our volunteer Maple Mentors are ready to show you the ropes!

Contact Kirsten at klyons@stclaircounty.org or 810-989-6317 for more information.

Weeds or Wildflowers? Yes!

Master Gardeners of St. Clair County will be holding an interacive presentation on what makes a plant a weed or a wildflower. How do we know which ones to pull and which to protect? What soil stories do plants tell? Can we eat the weeds we're pulling out? Learn how restoration gardeners, ecologists, volunteers, and land managers use conservation terms and concepts to study nature, prioritize field work, avoid burnout, and have fun! This presentation will help chase away the cabin fever we all get this time of year. A question and answer session will be held at the end.

Tuesday, March 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. St. Clair County Administration Building – Don Dodge Auditorium, 200 Grand River Ave., Port Huron MI 48060 Contact Kirsten at klyons@stclaircounty.org or 810-989-6317 for more information.

Eco Gardens*

Experience Goodells County Park in a brand-new way this winter! Our Eco Gardens volunteers are working to remove invasive species, prepare for public education programs, and restore natural areas of the park. No experience or special tools are needed, just bring your warm, rugged clothing and cheery attitude. If the weather is inclement we will work on indoor tasks such as native/medicinal plant research.

We meet at Goodells County Park office building, 8254 County Park Drive, Goodells February Dates: 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 1-3 p.m.

Forest Fridays*

Join County Parks volunteers and staff and Friends of the St. Clair River as we team up for fun and fellowship to manage invasive species in high quality forested areas of the rustic and beautiful Columbus County Park. Learn about which common landscape shrubs are invading natural areas and how you can help. Wear clothing that can get snagged, wet, and dirty and bring heavy/leather gloves and pruning tools if you have them. We will have extra tools and garden gloves. In case of inclement weather we will work on indoor tasks such as wildlife specimen recording and research.

We meet at the Columbus County Park Lodge, 1670 Bauman Rd, Columbus February Dates: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 10 a.m-12 p.m.

*Master Gardeners: Earn two volunteer hours for each of these workdays. Record your hours under St. Clair County Parks.

<u>Click for more info on these and other upcoming</u> <u>events with St. Clair County Parks!</u>