



Maple Sugaring Program

Allan and Andy Kinter will present a Maple Sugaring program on Saturday, April 4 at 2:00 pm.

Come see how maple trees are tapped and learn about the process of turning sap into



delicious syrup and sugar. There will be samples for tasting, and maple syrup and candy will be available to purchase as well as equipment to tap your own trees. The program is free, but contributions are greatly appreciated. As a non-profit organization, we are sustained through



donations, grants, and user fees. For additional information call 724-763-6316, or email elcaet@windstream.net.

Inside this issue:

<i>Wildflower Program</i>	2
<i>Spring Work Day</i>	2
<i>Alle-Kiski-Connie River Sojourn</i>	3
<i>Armstrong Conservation District's Outstanding Conservation Educator Award</i>	3
<i>Summer Camp Sponsorship</i>	4

Open House

Our annual open house will be held Saturday, May 2nd from 10am - 3pm. The day will be packed with fun things to do for all ages. Bring your friends and spend an afternoon at the ELC. We will have presenters from local nature

groups and watershed organizations, a nature walk beginning promptly at 10:30 am, and other fun events. If you have a special talent you would like to show off or would like to volunteer for the event, please contact the ELC to find out how you can help.

Come check out all the ELC has to offer at our annual open house. Rain or shine, the ELC plans to have something for everyone. For more information contact the ELC at 724-763-6316 or elcaet@windstream.net.



Wildflower Program

The Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center hosted a wildflower program on Sunday, March 1. The program featured woodcarver and artist, Bob Chilko and nature photographer John Kocon.



Bob Chilko took us on an indoor wildflower walk using the replica flowers, mushrooms, and wildlife he creates out of wood, wire, and paint.

After the indoor walk, nature photographer John Kocon presented a nature slide show featuring wildflowers and other wildlife using his own photographs.

About 100 people attended the wildflower program. This was our most well attended program to date.



Thank you Mr. Chilko and Mr. Kocon for coming to the ELC and sharing your knowledge and talents with us.



Spring Work Day

We had about 35 volunteers at this year's spring work day. There were volunteers from IUP Northpointe, the Steering Committee, and members of the community.



Volunteers cleaned debris from the yard, stained benches and picnic tables, changed light bulbs, cleared fallen trees, repaired the deer enclosure, and assembled an outdoor canopy.

Thank you to everyone who donated time, food, and energy to the ELC work day. It is extremely appreciated. I hope to see everyone at the next work day.



Alle-Kiski-Connie River Sojourn

The 12th annual Alle-Kiski-Connie River Sojourn will be held Friday May 14 through Sunday May 17 at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center. Join us for a scenic river adventure. We will be paddling through the beautiful Allegheny, Kiskiminetas, and Conemaugh Valleys. Come share the rich heritage of these unique waterways with us.

Registration Forms are available beginning in April at the Strongland Chamber Office at
1129 Industrial Park Road Suite 108 Vandergrift, PA
or on the Strong Land Chamber of Commerce Website www.strongland.org under events. 1, 2, or 3 day reservations are available.

For more information contact the Chamber at 724-845-5426 or strongland@windstream.net.



Armstrong Conservation District's Outstanding Conservation Educator Award



This year's Armstrong Conservation District's Outstanding Conservation Educator Award recipient is Dr. Holly Travis. Dr. Travis is a biology professor at IUP. She is originally from New York, where she attended Cornell University. She attended graduate school at IUP, where she researched tent caterpillars and webworms. Since then she went on to

get her doctorate in Education from IUP. She has presented her research at national conferences and co-authored a book on the Ferns of Pennsylvania. She is also the advisor for the IUP Equestrian Team. Holly is a great asset to the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center where she serves as the Steering Committee Chairperson. She volunteers her time when she can to help us with field trips, work days, and teacher workshops. She brings her biology students to the ELC as often as possible and also motivates them to help at the ELC. She helps with our summer camps, works with

American Adventure Sports and 4H, and with other summer camps throughout the state. Holly and her husband Gary live near Punxsutawney where she volunteers time with the Groundhog Day Event and is the Jefferson County Animal Response Team Coordinator. In her spare time, she takes care of her horses and raises Labrador Retrievers, along with a menagerie of other animals including millipedes and hissing cockroaches.

**Congratulations
Dr. Travis.**

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Mark Your Calendar

April 4 Maple Sugaring
Program

April 12 Easter

May 2 Open House

May 14-17 Alle-Kiski-Connie
River Sojourn

Summer Camp Sponsors



In the past we have offered a "Junior Naturalist Summer Camp" for youth ages 8 to 12. Unfortunately, last year we had to cancel the camp due to low enrollment, which we attribute largely to the economy, gas prices, and registration fees.

This year's camp will be held from July 13 to 17. In an effort to reduce registration fees and make the camp more attractive, this year we are seeking sponsors to help offset our costs. You can help us to make the camp a success with your sponsorship dollars.

By becoming a sponsor, you can help us to give our youth an appreciation for nature and the environment while helping us to promote resource conservation.

Platinum Sponsor \$600
Special recognition in newsletters, your logo on promotional materials, and 4 in. x 4 in. logo on T shirt

Gold Sponsor \$400
Special recognition in newsletter, your logo on promotional materials, and 3 in. x 4 in. logo on T shirt

Silver Sponsor \$200
Recognition in newsletter, your logo on promotional materials, and 2 in. x 3 in. logo on T shirt

Bronze Sponsor \$100
Recognition in newsletter, your logo on promotional materials, and 1.5 in. x 2.5 in logo on T shirt

Conservationist \$50
Recognition in newsletter

If you would like to become a sponsor or have any questions, please contact us at 724-763-6316 or elcaet@windstream.net.

Your contribution is tax deductible.