

LAKE METROPARKS

FARM PARK

Snowman




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FARMPARK IS A LAKE METROPARKS FACILITY.

Farmpark’s mission is to help our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber and other products that sustain and enhance human life. *Farmpark Almanac* is published three times a year by Lake Metroparks. This publication is sent free to Farmpark members.

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COVER PHOTO

Fun at Ice Festival
 PHOTO BY EARL LINABURG

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FROM the HILLTOP

Planning an Exciting Year in 2020

by Lee J. Homyock, *Farmpark Administrator*

Farmpark has set an exciting schedule for 2020 not to be missed. We will celebrate the products of the farm with a new Honey BBQ Paring Dinner and Milk and Honey Weekend (formerly Ice Cream Weekend) featuring our honey and dairy products. Come out and enjoy the tastes of milk and honey along with other related products and special programming to learn about the food and fiber produced on the farm. Don’t miss the special Endangered Species Quilt Show featuring beautiful handmade quilts representing rare and endangered wildlife. Save the dates for:

- January 25 & 26 **Ice Festival**
- February 8 through March 8 **Quilts 2020**
- February 17 **Farmer Monday**
- March 6 **Maple Sugar Pairing Dinner**
- March 7 & 8, 14 & 15 **Maple Sugaring Weekends**
- May 8 **Shearing Weekend Pairing Dinner**
- May 9 & 10 **Sheep Shearing & Fiber Arts Weekend**
- May 16 & 17 **HorseFest**
- June 6 & 7 **Railroads in the Park**
- June 13 **Working Dog Day**
- June 23–July 5 **Endangered Species Quilt Show NEW!**
- July 10 & 11 **FarmFest: Ribs, Brew & Music**
- July 17 **Honey BBQ Pairing Dinner NEW!**
- July 18 & 19 **Milk & Honey Weekend NEW!**
- August 7 & 8 **Vintage Ohio wine Festival**
- September 1–October 11 **Corn Maze**
- September 17 **Senior Day**
- September 19 & 20 **Village Peddler Festival**
- September 25 **Apple Harvest Pairing Dinner**
- September 26 & 27 **Apple Butter & Cider Weekend**
- October 3 & 4 **Horsepower Weekend**
- October 10 & 11, 17 & 18 **Corn & Pumpkin Festival**
- October 16 & 17, 23 & 24, 30 & 31 **Halloween Hayrides**
- November 27-30, December 1-6, 9-23 **Country Lights**

The development of the new shelter and courtyard at the Hilltop will provide a great place for weddings, organizational meetings and family get-togethers. Please consider Farmpark the place you can come enjoy, learn and relax with the entire family.

As always, please contact Farmpark staff with your suggestions on how we may improve service to our members.



EARL LINABURG

LAKE METROPARKS FARMPARK

MAPLE SUGARING PAIRING DINNER



Friday, March 6

5:30 to 9 pm • \$45 per person

Register at lakemetroparks.com or by calling 440-358-7275.

Registration required by March 2. This event is for adults 21 and older only.

Before the first crocus pokes its petals through the snow cover, the sap from Farmpark's many maple trees may already be flowing. This is the first true sign of spring for Farmpark staff as they set up the taps that will take the maple sap to the sugar bush for boiling into tasty maple syrup.

At Farmpark, we celebrate all things maple during our Maple Sugaring Weekends March 7 and 8 and March 14 and 15. Guests can witness sap being boiled down into syrup, take a tour of the taps and even make maple candy.

Farmpark staff is excited to host another Maple Sugaring Pairing Dinner this year on March. Participants will take a guided behind-the-scenes tour of our sugar bush and tapping system to learn how maple syrup is made on the professional and backyard levels from a Farmpark maple sugaring specialist.

Following the activities, guests will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by J&J Catering with wine pairing by Debonné Vineyards! The menu includes appetizers, mixed greens with maple Dijon vinaigrette, maple bourbon glazed chicken over green beans, roasted sweet potatoes and dessert.



Farmpark CALENDAR

1 JANUARY

5 Lake County FREE DAY

21 Lake County FREE DAY

ICE FESTIVAL

**Saturday, January 25 9 am to 9 pm &
Sunday, January 26 9 am to 5 pm**

Shake the winter blues that fall upon Ohioans every January. The Farmpark Ice Festival will kick off with the unveiling of the Farmpark-themed ice chair and an ice carving demonstration. The night will end with a battle between fire and ice! On Sunday, witness some of the best ice carvers from around the country take part in a speed carving competition. Then come sit by one of our fire pits and warm up with hot cocoa (additional charge in cafe) and s'mores in the courtyard. Plus, many other winter-themed family fun activities.

2 FEBRUARY

2 Lake County FREE DAY

QUILTS 2020

Presented by Vista Springs Quail Highlands

February 8 through March 8

Farmpark presents one of Ohio's finest quilt shows, with more than 200 quilted works on display. Features workshops by internationally-acclaimed visiting artist David Taylor of Henniker, New Hampshire and a judged show of quilts completed by regional artists from Northeast Ohio and around the United States. To heighten an appreciation for the art of quilting, workshops and lectures are offered. Visitors vote for People's Choice award.

FARMER MONDAY

February 17

Enjoy a special day at Farmpark on Presidents' Day, with fun for the whole family! Find out what a farmer does during the winter months through hands-on activities and games. During this event you can also enjoy Quilts 2020. See lambs display their acrobatics in the arena and try snowshoeing at the Plant Science Center. Bring your little farmers out for family fun farm experiences!

18 Lake County FREE DAY

QUILT VENDOR DAYS

February 28, 29 & March 1

A three-day event of quilts, demonstrations and shopping at quilt vendor booths! Don't be left out in the cold. Farmpark is the place to be for all your quilting needs!



Farmpark is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm.
 Open Monday, February 17/Presidents' Day
 Open 9 am to noon New Year's Eve
 CLOSED Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Day
 Regular Farmpark admission is waived for Lake County residents on
 "FREE DAY" (Proof of Lake County residency required).
 Every day is "Free Day" for Lake Metroparks Farmpark members.

For more information about Farmpark programs and events:
 440-256-2122 • 800-366-3276 • lakemetroparks.com



EARL LINABURG

3 MARCH

4 APRIL

1 Lake County FREE DAY

MAPLE SUGARING PAIRING DINNER

March 6, 5:30 to 9 pm

One of the first signs of spring is the sap running in the maple trees. Join us for an evening of good wine, food and maple sugaring. Take a tour of our sugar bush and learn how maple syrup is made on the professional and backyard level from a Farmpark maple sugaring specialist. Then, enjoy a delicious meal prepared by J&J Catering with wine pairing by Debonné Vineyards! This event is for adults 21 and older only. Menu includes mixed greens with maple dijon vinaigrette, maple bourbon glazed chicken over green beans and roasted sweet potatoes followed by a delicious dessert. Fee: \$45 per adult 21 and older, pre-registration required

MAPLE SUGARING WEEKENDS

March 7 & 8, 14 & 15

Visitors take a wagon ride to the Woodland Center to witness the maple production process as sap is collected from our network of tubing and 1,000 taps! After collection, watch as the sap is boiled and turned into maple syrup and candy. Discover how trees are tapped and see the tubing that connects the taps. Sample maple syrup and candy, make a maple craft, help gather sap and learn how to make maple syrup in your own backyard! Pancakes served all day in the café (\$7 ages 12 and older; \$4 ages 2 to 11). Farmpark's own maple syrup and candy will be for sale.

SPRINGTIME ON THE FARM INDOOR PLAY AREA

March 13 through May 3 (Open Tuesday through Sunday)

Don't let spring showers put a damper on the fun! Your little sprouts can play in our spring-themed indoor playground. Watch newborn spring lambs, learn about plant life and make a spring craft (weekends only).

17 Lake County FREE DAY

5 Lake County FREE DAY

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

April 3, 4, 9, 10 & 11

Bunny visits children in the café. After breakfast, take a photo with Bunny in his arbor in the theater. Visit lambs in the Well Bred Shed (photo opportunity). Tickets go on sale online only at 8 am for Lake Co. residents on Monday, March 2 and out-of-county on March 3.

21 Lake County FREE DAY



Get Involved! For details on sponsorships, call 440-256-2122 x3063.

BACK A BREED

Become a barnyard parent by supporting the animal of your choice through the Back a Breed program. Three levels of sponsorship are available, starting at \$25. Your sponsorship goes toward food and care of the animals. A portion of all donations is tax deductible.

Requested Programs

DRAFT HORSE DRIVER TRAINING

Ages 18 and older, Fee: \$20 for two hours

Learn to drive a team of draft horses with one-on-one instruction. Additional lessons are available after initial session. Call Johnathan Squibbs at 440-256-2122 x3141 to schedule training.



BRIDGET GANDEE

WINTER *on the* FARM

by Steve Ohmes, Assistant Farmpark Administrator

We received an interesting question recently, “What do farmers do in the winter?”

To the non-farming population, it may look like not much happens on a farm from winter to spring, but nothing could be further from the truth!

For farms and ranches raising livestock, the winter and spring can be the hardest time of the year. Ensuring the livestock’s water doesn’t freeze, the herd or flock has protection from the elements, the nutritional needs are being met and trying to manage the spring mud season are just a few of the factors farmers and ranchers must consider. Besides managing livestock, the cold weather and mud can wreak havoc on the equipment used to feed the stock and clean the pens. In addition to caring for the animals, repairs must be made to the equipment and facilities as needed.

For the crop farmer, winter into spring is a time for planning. Farmers review soil tests to plan proper fertilization applications, ensure the best crop rotations are being followed and possibly deliver stored hay to customers. A huge planning consideration is the proper variety selection for the crops grown. Factors such as day length, disease resistance, yields and price are all taken into consideration. In addition to crop planning, farmers must make repairs to equipment so that when the weather is right, the equipment is ready to be used in the field.

Winter is also a time for evaluation. Are the methods being used the most efficient and profitable? Should the farm cut back, stay the same or expand? These are the business decisions faced by farms and ranches that must be discussed.

Farm and ranch work and planning never stops. The decisions made on ranches and farms to ensure what is best for the livestock, land, water quality and sustainability of the operation all while focusing on growing a safe and healthy product for the consumer could never fit into one article. This article highlights just a small sample of what occurs on a farm from winter to spring.



Longhouse Building



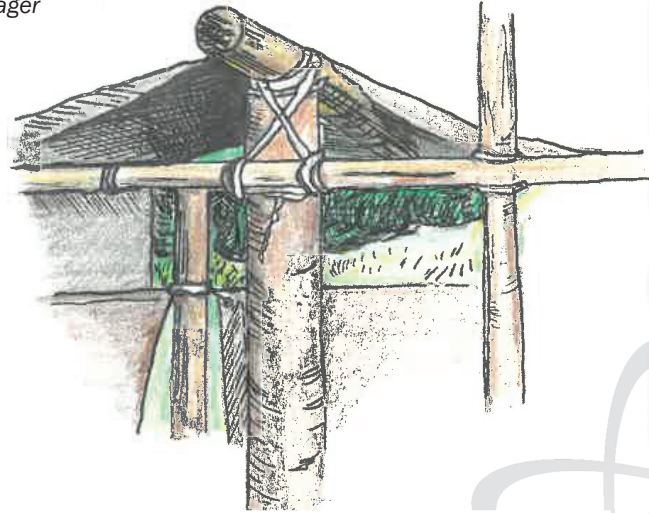
Students work together to create a structure used by ancient civilizations

by Christina Bellas, *Interpretation & Education Manager*

Lake Metroparks Farmpark's new Longhouse Building program was inspired by a similar program at Monmouth County Park System in New Jersey. In our retired program, Native Americans: Ohio's First Farmers, children explored ancient cultures that lived and traveled in this area. They went on a hike to see environmental resources available for food, medicine and dyes. We showcased our 20-foot-tall teepee, did an artifact exploration and learned about horses in Native American culture. Why not highlight what they may have lived in and use this as an opportunity to give children a more hands on approach to learning?

Having the kids work together to make a shelter offers a great opportunity for teamwork and cooperation. Some of the children may have put up a tent in scouts or have been camping with their families, but can they work together with their classmates to build a house from canvas and poles? Can they do it in a limited time frame? Specific length canvas pieces have been purchased and grommeted to match the top and sides of the longhouse. The various-sized posts and poles will be measured and cut. This shelter will use a four-inch diameter ridge pole to support it, with the length of that specific pole at 16 feet. The height of the supporting middle beam is more than seven feet tall. Each longhouse building allows up to 25 children to work together on its construction. The program is 3.5 hours with a 30-minute lunch break.

Why the farm connection with the longhouse build? The canvas represents bark and materials used by early people who could create a permanent village and become seminomadic. They may have grown corn, beans, squash and created gardens. They may have gathered nuts, berries and mushrooms grown seasonally for their food sources. What a neat opportunity to have a teambuilding project, to learn about our beautiful natural resources and study ancient civilizations.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM



SCIENCE & EDUCATION



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