

Environmental Education

- Maple syrup programming for school was challenged with the new IL State mandated standardized testing in the schools. Waukegan schools cancelled programs in March as a result. This testing may impact May programming as well.
- Weekend maple syrup programming has been a hit! All programs have been booked fully and staff added walk-in participants as well.
- Well over 2,000 people participated in the maple syrup programs this year; all getting a taste of syrup made at Ryerson Woods.
- After very successful programming last summer for the National Youth Leadership Forum: Explore STEM program, the group has once again contracted environmental education staff to present STEM related programming at Ryerson Woods as part of their 2015 summer experience. Each of the 350 middle school students will participate in two programs. One uses technology to look at the woodlands restoration project and the second program investigates the green technologies incorporated at the Welcome Center.

Lake County History Education

- Lake County history education activities were part of the opening event for the *Growing Up in Lake County* exhibit at the Lake County Discovery Museum.
- Staff is finalizing the schedule of speakers for the Inaugural Lake County History Symposium, which will take place on Sunday, April 26 from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Home Front to Frontline: The Impact of the Civil War on Lake County will feature ten speakers presenting their research. Presentations include research on Civil War veterans from Lake County, the Underground Railroad and African American history, letter writing during the Civil War and more – all with a specific Lake County focus. The event is open to the public.

The theme of the 2015 symposium ties in to the final year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. It is part of a local initiative of the Lake County Historical Alliance (a group of local historical societies and museums in which the District plays an active role) that promotes exhibits, programs and events commemorating these anniversaries.