

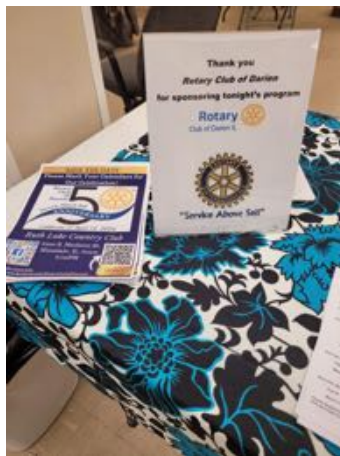


Sprouts Children's Group

On Wednesday, January 24th, and over fifty people, both adults and children attended the Owls program. **Mark Spreyer** from **Stillman Nature Center** helped participants become more familiar with local owl species, bringing four live owls and many stories of his experiences with owls and other birds of prey.



Thank you Rotary Club of Darien for Sponsoring the January DGC Sprouts Program.



Earlier this month member Chris Bosacki attended the Rotary Club of Darien January meeting and presented their president Ashley Szabo with a Certificate of Appreciation for their sponsorship of this program. Our DGC Sprouts and many others enjoyed the January DGC Sprouts Owl educational program.

Thank you Rotary Club of Darien!



---More on the Owl Presentation



Mark Spreyer from the Stillman
told birds of prey from other birds.
eyes and where they sit on their

their head 270 degrees. There was discussion about their diet of furry boney prey and their hunting skills. He explained what happens to the unwanted non-nutritive, indigestible parts as well as how examination of owl pellets can open the door to the bird's diet. He discussed how the shrinking forests and lack of habitat is affecting the population and how we need to look at the big picture. Each owl was introduced and took a tour of the room with his assistant Laura. It was an awesome experience for all ages.

There were many oohs and aahs when each of the birds made their appearance from behind their enclosures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MLrHeoXkJwap5rq3A>

Education for all ages!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/i4hnQSx2grXAHNmz9>

One of our Sprouts youngsters reported "the baby owl is my favorite". His mom explained that it was a screech owl, male, and that's just how big they get.

Comments from a Sprouts parent:

"So great! I was really impressed! I learned so much and how they are adapting to us and how different they all are. Amazing! Well Done!"

From Bob Fisher, DGC, DuPage Birding Club, Bird Conservation Network member: "This was the best program I've ever seen on owls. Seeing them up close was a highlight for me."

We enjoyed hosting this event that was supported by a generous donation from Rotary Club of Darien. Members of the Rotary were in attendance and some are also DGC members. We really appreciate the support from Rotary as well as the great turnout from the community. It was a wonderful way to kick off our 2024 DGC Sprouts year!

MANY more up close and personal photos and fun videos on the website January 2024 photo album.
Cathy Streett



We had a packed house for the "Who's Who of Owls" Program at the January Sprouts meeting. It was a great evening with education, humor, and four amazing guest owls. Our speaker, award-winning naturalist Nature Center explained how to He discussed the color of their heads, and their ability to move



My family really enjoyed the Owl 🦉 event,
Here is the review from Iris.

"Owl is one of my favorite bird, I was so excited to meet various kinds of Owls, see them very close and learn more things about Owl. I like the Barn Owl most, seeing face to face with the owl let me have an idea to draw a picture of him. I wish I could touch the owl."

And here is Iris's picture. feel free to post it on DGC website or share it with the owl speakers if you like. Thank you all very much for having this interesting learning event.

Bests,
Iris's family



Explore Maple Sugaring



Coming in February
**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>

Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 Plainfield Rd, Darien

Smokey Bear Poster Contest

Sprouts children have sent in entries for the Smokey Bear contest. Here are some examples of their talent! Irisa is a 2nd grader and has been a Sprouts member for about a year. She entered a sculpture and the poetry contest as well.

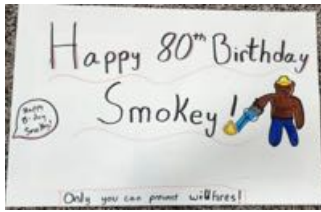
For the Sculpture: The idea about this sculpture is to make a paper binocular toy or a pencil holder. The decoration theme is loving the nature (flowers, butterflies). The sculpture made from 2 cut paper towel tubes, and 2 recycle school papers with 1 side white. Just cut the papers, draw, color on the white side, and glue them around the tubes. Glue two tubes together and then make some decorations. Now it becomes a binocular toy, or we can use it like a pencil holder.

Here is Irisa with her unfinished poster project at Sprouts meeting and the second photo is the final entry for the Smokey Bear contest.





Here are more Sprouts Smokey Bear contest entries:



The 2024 Smokey Bear and



Woodsy Owl poster contest is dedicated

to **Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday**. Smokey Bear is recognized both nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention, with his motto being **"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"**! Since 1944, Smokey Bear has taught people how to help prevent wildfires and how to be careful with campfires, barbecues, matches, and more. In 1977, **Woodsy Owl** teamed up with Smokey Bear to help encourage personal responsibility in caring for our environment. Woodsy Owl's motto is **"Lend a Hand, Care for the Land"**! (from the National Garden Club website)

<https://www.gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>

Sprouts Field Trip to Field Museum

We took our December Sprouts meeting on the road, turning it into a family field trip to the Field Museum. Taking advantage of the museum's opportunities for schools and groups to have free field trip passes for children and chaperones, 7 families met during our members' winter break from school and enjoyed much of what the museum has to offer. First we toured the immersive "Underground Adventure" exhibit, which was perfect for young gardeners. Described by the museum here: "In this immersive exhibition, you'll "shrink" to 1/100th of your actual size—smaller than a penny—to take a closer look at the soil beneath our feet. Once you're down to size, you'll meet a creepy, crawly cast of characters, including a giant mole cricket and a wolf spider. You'll learn about

the diversity of life that soil supports and how every species needs soil to survive and thrive."

After that we split into groups to see more, including the dinosaur, gem and biomechanics exhibits. It was a wonderful way to spend the day learning and exploring with our Sprouts friends.

