



Sprouts

DGC Sprout's February Maple Sugaring themed meeting was a sweet success.

We watched a few short videos on the art of maple sugaring and learned why the sap flows this time of year and about its role in the health of the tree.



DGC members Diane and Ray gave a hands-on demo about tapping a tree complete with a log, drill and stiles. They discussed their experience with collecting the sap and the process of boiling down the sap into syrup. We even tasted the fresh raw sap they collected. The children were very intrigued.



The organized crowd broke up and moved to the tables to taste test syrup from Vermont, Canada, and Wisconsin as well as Log Cabin. We passed out waffle bites for dipping into the favorites. There were a lot of yummmms in the crowd and everyone went home with a sweet taste in their mouth.

Cathy Streett



The next Sprouts meeting is Wednesday March 27.

<https://dariengardenclub.com/sprouts>

Forcing Spring



We celebrate the arrival of Spring

Many wonderful things happened early this month at our DGC Sprouts Learning Garden.

Phase ONE of local Eagle Scout candidate Alex S.'s project was completed. He led members of local BSA Troop 55, DGC Adult and Sprouts volunteers and church leadership as they cleared many invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from the space. It was an appropriate way to spend the last day of [National Invasive Species Awareness Week](#).

They also reconstructed a large three bin compost system for us so that we can practice and teach sustainability in the garden areas. We will share the area with other garden projects at St. John Lutheran Church, helping to keep yard waste out of the landfill. We have a compost themed meeting planned for our

Sprouts in April and will encourage our Sprouts to be part of the "compost club". The compost system came to us as a donation from Sunny Patch Community Farm. It was also an Eagle Scout Project and now has a new home. Recycling at its BEST! We are thankful to Alex for all the planning, organizing and his leadership for the project. We also thank the many volunteers who worked until blistered and sore and enjoyed the comradery, laughs and excitement when the stumps finally gave way. You gave it your all and we so appreciate your efforts down to the littlest Sprout who found worms and placed them into the compost to start the process. We look forward to Phase TWO when Alex will lead the Troop as they set up water barrels to aid in conservation of precious water on the site. *Cathy Streett*



before



before



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ek12VZRZ1BuTbzua6>



Art Fair Winner

Sprouts member Irisa was a double winner at the recent Darien Woman's Club Creative Youth Art Fair. Her "Pete" cat picture was a Division 2 Winner and her Falcon picture won a 1st place ribbon. Irisa's love for nature and art shines through in the lovely pieces she created! Congratulations!

Irisa's art and the other winning artwork is on display at Indian Prairie Public Library during March. More on the 2024 Art Fair:

https://www.darienwomansclub.org/what-we-do/youth-art-fair?fbclid=IwAR1I4NTyZrjaJj1NfMrwhRxN34IwWaNieEi-SaNT7karl9f_s1Efhq54O0l



From Iris:

"My hobby is making crafts, art and enjoy nature. Spring is here and Easter is coming. It's time to plant the seeds and making cute Easter decorations. I would like to share my idea to make a pretty and simple Easter Peep Bunny from yarn and cardboard. You can use some recycle items at home like cereal/ candy box, a little bit of yarn, buttons or gems to make this Easter Peep.

Please watch my YouTube video for all the material and step to make this amazing craft: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vorzTR0DSE4>

From this idea, you can design your own shape and color to make any decorations you like.

Happy Spring 💖 Iris - DGC Sprouts 💖"

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24

Join us for a fun and informative session on composting! Learn the basics of composting, its benefits and the process of turning food scraps and other materials into nutrient-rich soil for the garden.

We'll explore the learning garden's newly installed composting system. Bring along raw fruit/vegetable scraps (i.e. carrot peelings, apple cores, banana peels) to add to the pile and become a member of the Sprouts "**Compost Club**"!



**Composting STARTS
Now!**



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/composting-starts-now-with-dgc-sprouts-tickets-860219007207?aff=oddtcreator>

Mark your calendar: MAY 22

Pam Otto, our May Sprouts guest speaker was on WGN Morning News this month discussing owls. Watch the news spot and learn more about local owls here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfFEF4NTyul>

On May 22nd, she will talk about 17-year Cicada emergence and lifecycle with our Sprouts and then we'll tour the St. John grounds to look for signs of the first ones to appear. All are welcome to attend.