

FRIENDS OF CEDAR CREEK MEETING OF MARCH 20, 2018

The Friends of Cedar Creek met at 5:30 p.m. at the Yoder sugar bush on Chapman Road. The meeting announcement was shared on FaceBook, so we had a great attendance. Many new young families! Dave Van Gilder, President, welcomed members and attenders (36 people, of which 16 were children). All were asked to sign up with email addresses for notification of future meetings and potential membership opportunities.

Larry Yoder demonstrated the making of maple syrup with stories and work opportunities for the participants. The emptying of sap buckets, lugging the sap, checking on the evaporator were all part of the show and tell of syrup production. Pancakes were served with fresh syrup. Some pancakes were very small as were the children, but all participants had plenty to eat.

Larry Yoder noted there were two other active syrup makers in the area. Sowles and Surfus were historically in the area as was the Feitler property in DeKalb County in the 1930s.

Wildlife notes: Shirley Meighen saw an adult bald eagle flying over the sugar bush at 4:30 p m on March 14 and a male cardinal attacking the shiny steel sap storage tanks. The latter observation was confirmed at the meeting: the cardinal was trying to scare away its image during one of the talks. Sue Diefenbach saw a coyote and bufflehead and ring neck ducks along with lots of spring peeper frogs. Mary Anna Feitler observed a pair of wood ducks. A mink was observed on the Dustin Preserve driveway by Al Diefenbach.

The meeting was disbanded, if not adjourned, at 7:30 p.m. while Larry Yoder was using a hollow log to show how to cut children in half. The two ends of the children did not match each other, which comforted the parents..

Respectfully submitted,

MA Feitler, Secretary