



Contact: Jeff Long, Fox Valley Park District Public Relations Manager
Telephone Number: 630-966-4527
Fax Number: 630-264-7416
E-mail Address: jlong@fvpd.net
Web site: foxvalleyparkdistrict.org

Tap into fun at Red Oak Nature Center's free MapleFest

AURORA, Illinois (March 8, 2010) – Red Oak Nature Center, Rt. 25 one mile north of Butterfield Route (Rt. 56), will be offering an early, sweet taste of spring on Sat. March 20, when the annual MapleFest takes place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Programs begin on the hour (last one at 1 p.m.) and will treat visitors to free demonstrations on how Maple sap is turned into delicious Maple syrup. Groups will venture into the woods to tap a Maple tree, then witness the process of how sap is boiled and converted into syrup. Group taste-testings will follow.

"Early spring is the perfect time to collect maple sap because the days are getting warmer but the nights are still cold," said Jim Kenney, facility manager at Red Oak. "Visitors will get to witness this age-old practice of taking sap from a tree and turning it into the syrup you use on your pancakes."

Admission is free and registration is not required. Maple-themed beverages and hot beverages will be available for a small fee. Red Oak Nature Center is located on Route 25 in North Aurora, one mile north of Route 56. For more information, contact Red Oak at 630-897-1808 or visit the District's website at www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org.

The Fox Valley Park District is a dynamic and growing park district that serves a diverse population of more than 200,000 people. Recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Agency, Fox Valley holds the nation's highest honor as the 2009 National Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in park and recreation management. Serving the communities of Aurora, Montgomery and North Aurora, the District maintains 154 parks and 40 miles of interconnected regional trails amid 2,356 acres of parkland. Connected by the Fox River, our communities are tied together by the District's commitment to promote vibrant, healthy lifestyles through fun and safe recreation opportunities that are environmentally and fiscally responsible. The Fox Valley Park District ... Where Fun Begins!

ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at www.enjoyaurora.com and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369