

## Maple Sugaring Demonstration Returns to Friendship Botanic Gardens

Due to the unusually warm weather our region has been experiencing, the Friendship Botanic Gardens' annual maple sugaring demonstration is **POSTPONED** until **Sunday, March 5th, from noon to 3pm CDT**. Unfortunately, maple trees need cold nighttime temperatures to jump start the flow of sap, and Mother Nature hasn't cooperated so far this year. We apologize for any inconvenience and we hope to see you all on March 5th, from noon to 3pm CDT!

Friendship Botanic Gardens will host a free afternoon of winter wilderness discovery at the annual Maple Sugar Time Demonstration. Visitors can take a self-guided nature walk through old-growth woodland trails before stopping by the maple sugaring station to learn how the early inhabitants of North America produced maple syrup. Free children's crafts will be available at the Friendship Botanic Gardens welcome cabin.

Long-serving garden volunteer Jude Rakowski will demonstrate the processes of harvesting and boiling Red Maple sap to make a foodstuff that was crucial to the survival of the early settlers.

"The Indians taught the settlers how to do this," Rakowski said. "By spring, their supplies were almost gone and they would have almost nothing to eat except the sugar."

Rakowski is a dedicated garden steward who gathers and chops wood the entire year to fuel the fires used to boil the maple sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup.

Friendship Botanic Gardens is located at 2055 E U.S. Highway 12 in Michigan City Indiana.

For more information, call the Friendship Botanic Gardens office at 219 878-9885 or visit [friendshipgardens.org](http://friendshipgardens.org). You can also find Friendship Gardens on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/friendshipgardensindiana>.

