

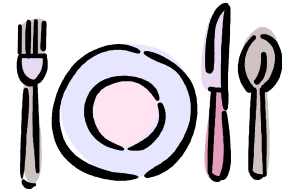
The FOP Newsletter
Happy New Year!

January, February, March ~ 2012



At the sun's roar, African lions rise. Brave in their crude
 strides in a pride, they survey the land for what to eat.
 From the shoulder on an ancient rock their manes dazzle in
 the morning's air, their tails drag behind like princely robes
 . . . Olatayo K. Osunsan (Born 1978, Lagos, Nigeria)

You are cordially invited to attend the annual
Friends of the Parks Potluck Dinner featuring the program
"African Safari" to be presented by Jim and Clarice Reber.



"Friends" members and your guests . . . mark your calendar!

Enjoy a luscious evening of dining, learning, escaping to
 the second largest continent on our planet, and **friendly** fellowship.

✓**DATE:** SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012 ~ 6 PM

✓**LOCATION:** The Indiana Fire Station on Indian Springs Road.

✓**PARKING:** There is plenty of parking for all! Once parked or arrived . . .
 enter the building and take either the stairs or the elevator to the handicapped accessible
 dining room on the lower level of the fire station.

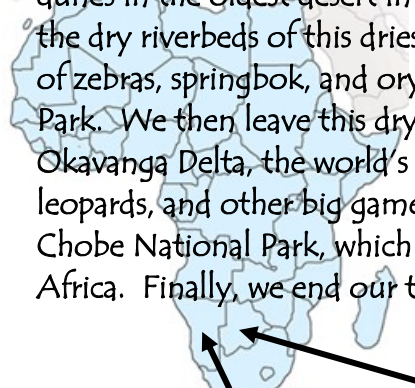
✓**RSVP:** Pre-registration is required for the dinner. Please call Indiana County Parks at
 (724) 463-8636 to pre-register. And, we have a special request: **Please bring friends
 with you, who are not members, so that they can be introduced to the wonderful
 Friends of the Parks programs.**

✓**WHAT TO BRING:** The FOP Board Members will provide a ham, chicken, cake and
 beverages. As it is **POTLUCK** ~ YOU may bring your culinary desire—perhaps a cherished
 or "secret" recipe! It could be a side dish, casserole, salad, etc. Please remember to
 bring your own table setting, napkins, drinking glass and/or coffee/tea mug. Thank you.

✓**THE PROGRAM:** At 7:00 PM we will be treated to ~

"An African Safari to Namibia and Botswana"

Enjoy an African safari to Namibia and Botswana through the lens of
 photographer Jim Reber. View the Sossusvlei dunes, which are the tallest sand
 dunes in the oldest desert in the world. See the desert elephants as they roam
 the dry riverbeds of this driest country south of the Sahara. Watch the flow
 of zebras, springbok, and oryx, to and from the waterholes of Etosha National
 Park. We then leave this dry area to see the contrasting wet areas of the
 Okavanga Delta, the world's largest inland delta. Here we will view lions,
 leopards, and other big game, as well as the spectacular bird life in and around
 Chobe National Park, which has one of the largest concentrations of game in
 Africa. Finally, we end our trip looking at rainbows over Victoria Falls.



The Republics of Namibia and Botswana



The Pennsylvania Game Commission's mission is:

- ✓To manage and protect wildlife
- ✓To manage wildlife habitat
- ✓To inform and educate the public on wildlife and safe hunting practices

Roaming through their website, I came across "Ten Things You Can Do for Wildlife".

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=621001&mode=2>

The ten are: ❖Respect the Environment ❖Conserve Water ❖Don't Pollute or Litter ❖Leave Baby Animals Alone ❖Feed Birds in Winter ❖Plant Seedlings ❖Learn and Obey the Game Laws ❖Promote Scientific Wildlife Management ❖Support the Game Commission's "Working Together for Wildlife" Program, and . . .

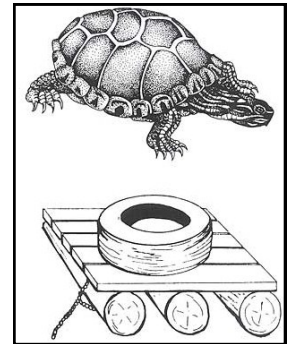
❖**Build and Erect Bird Houses** ~ Artificial nest boxes provide many kinds of cavity nesting birds with places to raise their young. House wrens, house finches, bluebirds and woodpeckers are just some of the bird species which can be expected to nest in appropriately placed nest boxes.

Hmmm . . . The idea of preparing safe havens for creatures sounds like a great indoor winter project. So, I roamed a bit more, and found this link ~

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=622397&mode=2>

Voilà! Yipee! The link will take you to "WOODCRAFTING PLANS" in PDF format, in black and white, 34 pages. It is **FREE** for you to print off . . . ALL of it . . . or just the plans that you desire. You can find project ideas such as: Gourd racks; houses or havens for small birds as well as for owls, ducks, raccoons, and squirrels; bat house; osprey nest platform (bottom sketch); a turtle and duck loafing platform (sketch on the right); Canada goose nest; Mallard nest cylinder; butterfly hibernation box; solitary bee nesting block; and predator guards. All interesting!

Each project plan will provide a list of all the materials you will need as well as complete assembly instructions. So go ahead ~ ~ review all of the project plans, select your project, and make your shopping list of materials needed. **Enjoy your efforts to assist our wildlife creatures!**



"The Migrant" © ~ Jack Peachum

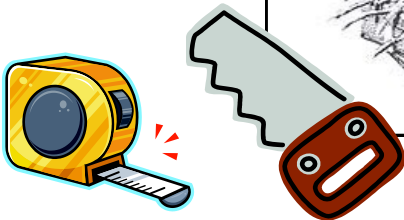
Hobo Autumn hoists his bindle,
hitchhikes out to another year, a warmer clime,
hoping to catch up with Spring—
then Winter arrives, demanding entrance,
banging at the door with cold fists as if he lives here,
doffing his hat to show where he keeps long nights—
when he opens his suitcase in the dank hallway,
darkness spills onto the floor,
a few icy stars roll across the rug—
he hands out freezing rain as if it were candy,
and from his frozen pockets he draws forth
a penny-whistle for the children,
upon which he blows a chill wind.
We give the old miser the extra room,
the one with the leaky window
where the draft comes in,
counting the days until he moves on.



REMEMBER:

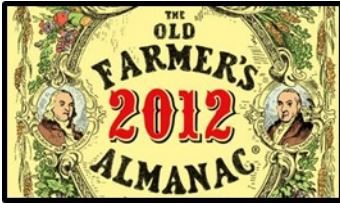
**Measure/Mark
TWICE**

**Cut
ONCE**



. . . Finding bright ~ blinding white . . . Snowball ~ snowfall . . . Moonscape ~ snowscape . . .

“Full Moon Names and Their Meanings” ~ *From the Farmers’ Almanac 2012*



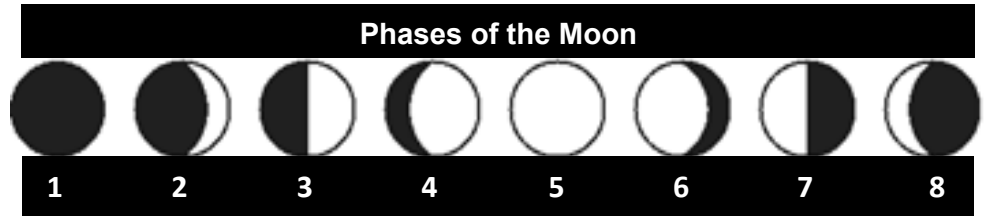
<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/full-moon-names/>

Full Moon names date back to Native Americans, of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior.

European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full Moon dates shift from year to year.

- **9 January ~ Full Wolf Moon** . . . Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January’s full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon.
- **7 February ~ Full Snow Moon** . . . Since the heaviest snow usually falls during this month, native tribes of the north and east most often called February’s full Moon the Full Snow Moon. Some tribes also referred to this Moon as the Full Hunger Moon, since harsh weather conditions in their areas made hunting very difficult.
- **8 March ~ Full Worm Moon** . . . As the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. The more northern tribes knew this Moon as the Full Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full Moon of winter.

Moon Facts
from various
web sources.



- 1.) New Moon 2.) Waxing Crescent 3.) First Quarter 4.) Waxing Gibbous,
5.) **FULL MOON** 6.) Waning Gibbous 7.) Last Quarter 8.) Waning Crescent.

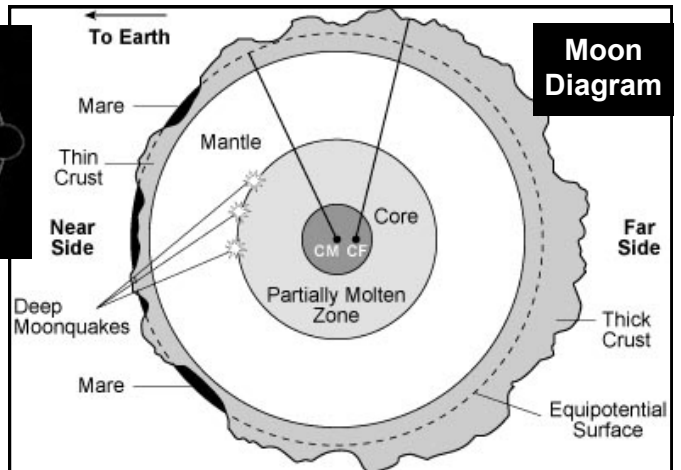
“**MOON**” derives from *moone* (around 1380), which developed from *mone* (1135), which derives from Old English *mōna* (before 725), which, like all Germanic language cognates, ultimately stems from Proto-Germanic *mæ̯nōn*.

“The Freedom of the Moon” ~ *Robert Frost*

I’ve tried the new moon tilted in the air
Above a hazy tree-and-farmhouse cluster
As you might try a jewel in your hair.
I’ve tried it fine with little breadth of luster,
Alone, or in one ornament combining
With one first-water start almost shining.



I put it shining where I please.
By walking slowly on some evening later,
I’ve pulled it from a crate of crooked trees,
And brought it over glossy water, greater,
And dropped it in, and seen the image wallow,
The color run, all sorts of wonder follow.

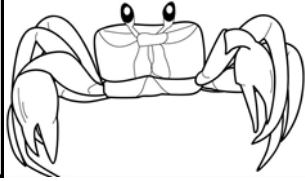


... Frostbite ~ dost bite ... Rococo swirls ~ hot cocoa curls ... Icy glove ~ spicy love ...

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

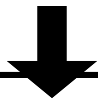
1128 Blue Spruce Road, Indiana, PA 15701 . . . 724-463-8636

Rebecca Sterley, FOP Newsletter Editor



**Explore (link below) and SAVE THE DATES
for these FOP Programs:**

- 1/14** Digital Photography
- 1/28** Friends Potluck Dinner
- 2/11** How to Grow Great Vegetables
- 2/17** Japanese Gardens (Photo Tour)
- 2/24** Crabbing and Oysters: A Dying Industry
- 3/18** Maple Sugaring
- 3/31** Bird Walk



Explore and attend FOP programs! <http://www.indianacountyparks.org/happenings/programsnewpage1.html>

OH How Sweet It Is . . .

Maple syrup was first collected and used by indigenous people of North America. The practice was adopted by European settlers, who gradually improved production methods. Technological improvements in the 1970s further refined syrup processing. Quebec, Canada is by far the largest producer, making about three-quarters of the world's output; Canada exports more than C\$145 million worth of maple syrup a year. Vermont is the largest producer in the United States, and generates about 5.5 percent of the global supply.

Cultural significance of Maple Syrup/Sugar . . . Maple syrup and maple sugar were used during the American Civil War and by abolitionists in the years prior to the war because most cane sugar and molasses were produced by Southern slaves. Because of food rationing during the Second World War, people in the northeastern United States were encouraged to stretch their sugar rations by sweetening foods with maple syrup and maple sugar, and recipe books were printed to help housewives employ this alternate source.

Maple products are considered emblematic of Canada, in particular Quebec. The sugar maple's leaf has come to symbolize Canada, and is depicted on the country's flag. Several US states, including New York and Vermont, have the sugar maple as their state tree. A scene of sap collection is depicted on the Vermont state quarter.



. . . Huddle in ~ cuddle in . . . Rock salt ~ clocks halt."