

March 2009

Here it is, March already. Wow – time passes quickly! The days are longer and the birds are beginning to be a bit noisier with their early spring calls. Even though we've had some mornings recently below zero, we've also had some days near 40 degrees. Time for sugaring in Maine! There are many places in the area that will be boiling sap very soon. Best of all, our trees WILL be tapped this year. We thought it wasn't going to happen – but it IS!! So we'll be serving that up on several breakfasts. Maple Sunday is March 22. If the sap has run, which it's done only a little so far, the Sugar Shack will be open for visitors to drop in to learn about the sugaring process as well as get their supply of the best Maple Syrup in the state! People often make the rounds that day, so here are a couple of other places that will be selling their syrup: in Weld there is Bramble Berry Farm (bramberry@megalink.net) and Day Mountain in Farmington (daymtnmaple@yahoo.com). Both provide syrup ALMOST as good as the syrup made in Madrid! Go to <http://www.mainemapleproducers.com/> for more places.

This month at Saddleback in Rangeley there is The Loppet, a cross country ski race as well as the Eastern High School Cross Country Ski Championships – just a couple of the activities the area offers. Star Barn has been honored to reserve rooms for families involved in both these events. We are so pleased that Rangeley is keeping busy and of course delighted to benefit from the overflow!

We've had a resident Barred Owl again this year. He (she?) is most entertaining as he sits in the tree in the back yard observing the coming and going of our feathered friends to the feeders as well as our four legged friends who enjoy the seed that's tossed to the ground. One night Mr. Owl was intently watching the snow from the lowest branch of his favorite tree. You could tell he was getting ready to launch when – he did! Talons first into the deep snow. He wiggled about 5 seconds, then lifted off, back to his branch where he enjoyed his prize mouse. What a privilege to be witness to nature in action. Maybe not everyone would appreciate that, but how amazing is it that this owl knew that below the snow a mouse was traveling. Radar?



As mud season approaches, we'll be heading to NJ to visit the twins – mud season, you know. But don't let that deter you. If you're aching for a chance to just get away to a peaceful and lovely location (even in mud season!) this is the place for you!

Take care!

Ginni and David