

Outside in Franklin Township

By Jonas Thompson, honorable mention, third grade

Susan Rainaldi, teacher

Franklin Township has many cool things to see outside. There are deer, foxes, huge turkey vultures, hawks, frogs, turtles, and lots and lots of bugs. There are also beautiful flowers and so many trees. My favorite trees in my backyard are the maple trees.

In my backyard, there are mostly red and silver maples. They are very adaptable and can live in wet swampy soil or sandy rocky places. All maple trees have leaves with three to five triangular lobes, and in the fall their leaves turn to a beautiful yellow or red in Franklin Township. Maple trees can be found anywhere from woods to trails to people's backyard.

One of the best parts about maple trees is that they make maple syrup. A couple of years ago, my family wanted to make maple syrup from our own trees. Some people think that you can only make maple syrup from sugar maples, but you can actually make it from most types of maple trees. It took a really long time but we got sap from the trees and then boiled the sap all day. It took five gallons of sap to make two cups of maple syrup. That was only enough for one pancake breakfast for our family, but it tasted delicious.

Another reason I like the maple trees in our yard is because my dad built a zip line from one of them. I helped him build a platform high in the tree, then my dad put the cord up. My friends and I go on it a lot, and it is so much fun zipping through my yard high up in the trees.

I am glad I live in Franklin Township because there are so many beautiful and exciting things to see and do outside.