

**CALLING ALL NATURALISTS AND NATURALIST WANNA-BEs to
"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"**

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips 1-3p.m. or As Noted

JANUARY – MARCH 2016

- Jan 13th 1-3pm** "Indiana Forests: A Walk Through Time" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Join **Lenny Farlee, Purdue Extension Forester**, as we explore forest communities in Indiana from pre-Columbian to current day conditions and take a peek at the possible future of our Hoosier forests.
- Jan 20th 1-3pm** "Getting Wild in the City" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Megan Dillon, IDNR Urban Wildlife Biologist, will present information on Indiana's new Urban Wildlife Program which focuses on the new paradigm in wildlife management: "Can we co-exist with wildlife in the city?"
Learn about ways to serve wildlife without inviting a nuisance!
- Jan 27th 1-3pm** "Busy Beavers: Indiana's Native Builders" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
The natural ability of beaver to manipulate their surroundings will be examined in this program by **Shawn Rossler, IDNR Furbearer Biologist**, along with fascinating facts about the natural history & ecology of Indiana's largest rodent.
- Feb 3rd 1-3pm** "The Microbiome: Are Bacteria the Key to Save Amphibians?"----- indoor pgm—LNC
Obed Hernandez-Gomez, Purdue Ph.D candidate, will present a synopsis of how the analysis of skin microbial communities is being used to aid amphibians threatened by pathogens, including Indiana's most endangered salamander, the hellbender.
- Feb 10th 1-3pm** "Backyard Beetles" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
There are thousands of species of beetles in Indiana. Explore beetle biodiversity with **Jeff Holland (Associate Professor, Purdue Landscape Ecology Lab)** & discover the roles these animals play in several ecosystem services.
- Feb 17th 1-3pm** "Lions and Coyotes and Bears, Oh My!" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Across the country, large carnivores are expanding their ranges, often appearing in areas where they have not been seen for many years. **IDNR Conservation Education Supervisor, Warren Gartner**, will explain the biology behind this trend and provide tips for citizens who might encounter these large predators.
- Feb 24th 1-3pm** "A Tour of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
In honor of the National Parks Service's Centennial, we will take a virtual tour of our own national lakeshore: The Indiana Dunes. **Kip Walton, NPS Ranger and Outreach Program Coordinator**, will show us favorite landscapes, hidden gems, and discuss the diversity and challenges of this iconic park.
- Mar 2nd 1-3pm** "Big Things Start Small: Captive Rearing and Conservation of Indiana's Hellbenders" ---- indoor pgm—LNC
Captive rearing efforts in collaboration with three Indiana zoos hold promise for aiding reintroductions of our largest salamander, the hellbender. **Erin Kenison, Purdue Ph.D candidate**, will discuss her research which conditions hellbenders to risks which they may encounter once released in the wild.
- Mar 9th 1-3pm** "Connections Matter: Exploring the Relationship Between Aquatic and Terrestrial Landscapes"- indoor—LNC
Jay Beugly, Aquatic Ecology Specialist, Purdue/IL-IN Sea Grant, shares a review of the past and current research into the nature of reciprocal transfers of resources between aquatic and terrestrial environments, which surprisingly improves the function of both landscapes.
- Mar 16th 1-3pm** "Forest Bird Response to Clearcutting" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Patrick Ruhl, Purdue Ph.D. student, banded birds at six different clearcut sites in the Morgan-Monroe & Yellowwood State Forests to study how forest birds utilize early successional habitat. This talk will include a discussion of preliminary research findings & future research direction, plus a plethora of close-up bird photographs. Come and hear about the first confirmed successful breeding attempt of a bird species that hasn't bred in this region in over 20 years!
- Mar 23rd 1-3pm** "Indiana State Parks: The First 100 Years" ----- indoor pgm—LNC
IDNR Deputy Director for Stewardship, Ginger Murphy, will feature highlights and stories from our state park system's history, framed within the context of world history. Audience members will also have the opportunity to test their knowledge of our beloved state parks!
- Mar 30th 1-3pm** "Benefit of Controlled Burns" ----- wear closed-toed shoes ----- outdoor pgm—GSB/NICHES
Brad Weigel, NICHES Burn Boss-in-Training, will explain the benefits of Control Burn as a land management tool. Weather permitting, the site will have been burned March 2016 and we will tour the preserve and discuss benefits of a burn on ecosystems including: sand barrens, prairie and open oak woodland. Water bottles always encouraged.

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GSB/NICHES (Granville Sand Barrens): Meet 1pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) in Tippecanoe County, **OR join 12:30pm CARPOOL from LNC.**

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick - West Laf.

SPONSORED BY

Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Park & Rec Dept. — Sycamore Audubon Society — NICHES Land Trust

Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director, West Lafayette Parks & Rec Dept. — West Central Chapter of INPAWS

QUESTIONS? Mary Cutler 765-567-2993, Dan Dunten 765-775-5172, Joan Mohr Samuels 765-567-7023, mohrsamuels@comcast.net