

NATIVE ROOTS

To promote the enjoyment & stewardship of natural areas in West Central Indiana!

Vol 12 Issue #1 JAN-MAR 2016

INPAWS 2016 SMALL GRANTS DEADLINE: FEB 1st

(Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society)

INPAWS has a Small Grants Program (with awards up to \$1000) to support projects in line with its mission of promoting the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana & educating the public about the value, beauty, diversity & environmental importance of indigenous vegetation. For details & application guidelines: www.inpaws.org "About Us" QUESTIONS? e-mail Daryn Fair: smallgrants@inpaws.org

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

West Central Chapter of INPAWS - Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society

WC-INPAWS PROGRAM Meetings - fourth** Mondays at 7pm at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area (West Lafayette) Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm in the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette ~ open to the public ~

MON JAN 25 "Butternuts and Black Walnuts in Indiana"

Lenny Farlee, Extension Forester at Purdue, will tell the story of two species of trees that produce large edible nuts. Black Walnuts are doing very well in the state, but the Butternut has declined in the past decades. Why and what is being done? Learn about the needs and history of these important forest species.

MON FEB 22 "Orchids of Woods, Wetlands, and Prairie"

Learn all about this fascinating plant family with Derek Luchik, The Nature Conservancy's North Central Field Steward. Did you know there are 42 native species found in Indiana? Some are small and easily overlooked, others are incredibly showy. About 15 species were known to occur in our local counties, but a new species was recently discovered—with more eyes looking, others may be found.

MON MAR 21** "How to Restore a Marsh" (Note: 3rd MON, not 4th)

Join David J Hicks, Biology Department, Manchester College & learn what went into the Tippecanoe Audubon Society's restoration of the Flory-Gemmer Marsh in Wabash County, from planning to planting using lots of volunteers to ongoing maintenance and control of invasives. Flory-Gemmer Marsh is one of three nature preserves owned by this National Audubon Society Chapter to our northeast.

PgmChair: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com

HISTORICAL PLANTS & THEIR STORIES

SAT JAN 23rd 3pm at Cool Creek Nature Center

2000 E 151st St, Carmel, IN 46033 More INFO: 317-774-2500

Presentation by Amanda Smith, INPAWS Central Chapter President

HUNTING for MUSHROOMS & WILD EDIBLES with NICK HARBY!

LAFAYETTE MUSHROOM HUNTERS GROUP

holds forays looking for mushrooms in different Lafayette areas.

LAFAYETTE EDIBLE WILD PLANT WALKS

to identify plants we see growing wild, with emphasis on edible plants.

Places and times are to be determined, so e-mail or call Nick.

FOR MORE INFO: nickharby@yahoo.com or 317-370-2895

The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

West Central Indiana Beekeeper Meetings at Thorntown Library

9am-noon on SATs: JAN 16, FEB 13, MAR 12

SAT JAN 16 Discussion of winter hive preparation, feeding, & more!

MORE INFO: MSchluttenhofer@fbbuildings.com or 765-427-2818

BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA – new organization!

-- a merger of the two Indiana Beekeeping Clubs (IBA & ISBA).

SAT FEB 27 8:30am*-4:30pm Indiana Bee School XIV

at Decatur Central High School, 2521 Kentucky Ave, INDY 46221

Last year it sold out at 900 people, so pre-register by Feb 8th ! **

Many speakers and concurrent sessions, so lots of up-to-date information for beginner to advanced beekeepers! (*7am folder pickup)

Guest Speaker: Kim Flottum, Editor of Bee Culture Magazine

**INFO/REG: Mike Seib 317-432-5342, www.indianabeekeeper.com

SYCAMORE AUDUBON SOCIETY (SAS)

www.sycamoreaudubon.org

SAS PROGRAM Meetings—second Thursdays at 7:15pm

at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area (West Lafayette)

~ open to the public ~

Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm in the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette.

THURS, JAN 14 "200 Years Along the Wabash"

In honor of Indiana's 200th anniversary, Wabash Riverkeeper Rae Schnapp will lead us on a virtual tour to view the changing roles of the Wabash River, from a transportation corridor to its value as a natural resource. The Wabash Riverkeeper Network provides volunteer opportunities to improve the water quality of the Wabash.

THURS, FEB 11 "Soundscapes: Landscapes of Sound and the Birds that Create Them"

The word "soundscapes" may be unfamiliar to you, but they are just what the word implies- auditory "landscapes" created by all the living and non-living elements contained within a particular location. Tonight our speaker, MaryAm Ghadiri, will share insights from a Purdue Center for Global Soundscapes Study of how spatial and structural habitat features affect bird diversity.

THURS, MAR 10 "Should We Bother with the Big Day Anymore?"

Ornithology has benefited over the years from collaboration with amateur birders. At present these collaborations are called "citizen science" and include the Christmas Bird Count, Indiana Summer Count and the Big Day in May. In 2015, the Big Day was almost cancelled due to a lack of support. Are these projects still worth doing? Who gains? See the results of the 2014 citizen science projects & join a discussion of their future with Barny Dunning, Purdue Wildlife Ecology Professor.

PGM CHAIR—Wes Homoya: 317-452-5355, whomoya@yahoo.com

SAS FIELD TRIPS/HIKES led by Barny Dunning

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot—off Lindberg Rd in West Laf.

SAT JAN 30 8:30am Winter Birds Field Trip (half-day)

Carpool to where interesting birds are being reported such as Snowy Owls, Trumpeter Swans, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings.

SAT FEB 27 8am Early Waterfowl & Nesting Eagles (~ half-day)

In recent years, waterfowl migration has often started in late Feb, so mergansers & other diving ducks may be passing through. We will go to areas with open water to see what is moving about. Local Bald Eagles should be on the nest, so we will visit at least one along the Wabash.

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD HIKES – begin MAR 24th (~1 hr)

A fun way to start your day—birding at Celery Bog Nature Area!

Meet at 8:00am in gravel parking lot at Celery Bog!

Birding on the Fly - E-mail List

If there is an unusual bird sighting locally or around the state, Barny sends out an e-mail to this list. Contact Barny if you wish to be added.

INFO: Barny 765-412-8760c, 494-3565w, jdunning@purdue.edu

WINTER BIRD COUNTS

WINTER BIRD FEEDER COUNT: 20th-25th of NOV, DEC, JAN, FEB

REPORT FORMS (due MAR 15) are at www.indianaudubon.org

QUESTIONS? E-mail John Castrale: jsascastrale@gmail.com

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: FRI FEB 12 thru MON FEB 15

Help scientists get the "big picture" about changes in bird populations!

Participation details & tracking data at gbbc.birdcount.org

EAGLES –Fieldtrips, Roosts, Information & More...!

FRI-SUN JAN 29-JAN 31 – "EAGLES IN FLIGHT WEEKEND 2016"

at Turkey Run State Park, 8102 East Park Rd, Marshall, IN 47859.

Explore the habitats of eagles, hawks and owls to discover nests, an overnight roost & hunting grounds, and meet some raptors in person!

BROCHURE: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Turkey_Eagle.pdf

MORE INFO: Barbara Tibbets 765-597-2654 or btibbets@dnr.in.gov

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (cont'd)

JAN-MAR WEDNESDAYS in the WILD pgms in separate flyer
AND on p. 3 of electronic version of this issue of Native Roots

NATURE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

JUNIOR NATURE CLUB (JNC) meets at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area—Lindberg Rd betw Northwestern & McCormick
Hands-on lessons, hikes (weather permitting), games, crafts & treats!
2015-2016 school yr: K through 8th Graders –no membership fees

Classes this school year are split into three age groups by grade; each class meets once every three weeks (no classes in Dec & Jan):
K – 2nd grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm:

WINTER DATES: FEB 16, MAR 8, 29

3rd – 5th grades meet Thursdays from 6pm to 7:30pm:

WINTER DATES: FEB 18, MAR 10, 31

6th – 8th grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm:

WINTER DATES: FEB 23, MAR 15, APR 5

WINTER TOPICS: *Follow Me, Growth Spurts, Sky Hunters*

For full JNC schedule and lots more info: www.hands-future.org

Sponsored by Sycamore Audubon Society & Hands of the Future

To volunteer or donate, contact: Ms. Zonda (Bryant) 765-366-9126

HEARTLAND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE KIDS

Led by Brooke Criswell, NICHES Education & Outreach Coordinator

SAT JAN 30 10-11:30am Granville Sand Barrens (Tipp. Co.)

Bundle up for a winter exploration of this NICHES property in search of signs of animal activity & to take a close look at plant life in winter!

SAT FEB 27 10-11:30am Moyer-Gould Woods (Carroll Co.)

Come out for a hike and explore this NICHES property with its hills, vales, riverside, rocky outcrops...so many fun features to see!

INFO/Property Directions: 765-423-1605, www.nicheslandtrust.org

WINTER WORKSHOPS AT PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

Enter park via Swisher Rd (off N. 9th St, just south of Battle Ground)

Meet at Park Visitor Center. *NO gate fee if there's a workshop fee.*

**** Pre-registration required! ****

SAT JAN 30 1pm Winter Sowing – \$5 workshop fee

SAT FEB 13 1pm Hypertufa – \$10 workshop fee

SAT FEB 27 1pm Bluebird House Building – \$10 workshop fee

SAT MAR 5 1pm Walking Sticks – \$5 workshop fee

SUN MAR 6 1pm Walking Sticks – \$5 workshop fee (*overflow reg*)

SAT MAR 19 1pm Leopold Bench – \$25 workshop fee

****REG/ INFO: Angie Manuel 765-567-4919 or amanuel@dnr.in.gov**

Maple Sugaring at Prophetstown Village (no registration required)

SAT-SUN MAR 12-13 noon-4pm Free program after paying gate fee.

Monthly program schedule at: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2971.htm

PROGRAMS AT WOLF PARK (4004 E 800 N, Battle Ground)

Winter Hours (JAN-MAY): open every SAT 7:30pm for Howl Night

SAT JAN 16 1-4pm Wolf Park's Winter Wolves in full winter coats!

Tours, games, butchering demo, Warm up with hot drink indoors.

MORE INFO/COST: 765-567-2265 or www.wolfpark.org

Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) Course **

at Lilly Nature Center – 1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette

Hands-on opportunities to learn about Hoosier natural resources!

Wednesday Evenings 6-9pm FEB 3rd - APR 6th (8-week course)

****Class size is limited, so sign up early to reserve a spot!**

REG/Info: Naturalist Mary Cutler mcut@msn.com or 765-567-2993

OTHER IMN Courses: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/6323.htm

CONSERVATION DAY at the STATEHOUSE

THUR JAN 28th 9:15am – 1pm

For Schedule: sustainableindiana2016.org/events/conservation-day-at-the-statehouse

Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) — will share success stories of three important conservation programs in Indiana: *Clean Water Indiana, the Indiana Heritage Trust, and the Bicentennial Nature Trust.*

Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District

WED FEB 24 6pm SWCD DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING

At Wright Forestry Center. *Learn about local conservation work and be entertained by Tom Turpin, Purdue Entomologist & BUG Bowl creator!*

MORE INFO & Make required dinner reservations: 765-474-9992 x3

Ouabache Land Conservancy Annual Meeting – FRI APR 8

at MCL Restaurant – Ohio Blvd & 25th St, Terre Haute

6pm Social Hour & Silent Auction – 7pm Dinner

Guest Speaker: Gus Nyberg, Executive Director of NICHES Land Trust

Limited seating/RSVP early: **Evan Boyer e.boyer13@yahoo.com**

MORE OLC INFO: ouabachelandconservancy.org or 765-548-4007

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!

Website: www.nicheslandtrust.org ~ Office: 765-423-1605

NEXT BOARD MEETING – 6:30pm TUES, FEB 23rd at the NICHES Office – Clegg Memorial Garden: 1782 N 400 E, Lafayette

NICHES ACTIVITIES

MORE EVENTS/DETAILS in calendar at www.nicheslandtrust.org

TUESDAYS at CLEGG GARDEN

Morning Weekly WORKDAY at Clegg Garden

9:30am Meet for coffee/tea & discussion (of tasks, tools, progress...).

10-noon Join NICHES staff member for workday tasks.

Wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and long sleeve shirts are encouraged, & bring work gloves if you have them. Drop ins welcome!

Afternoon Weekly NATURE WALK at Clegg Garden -Meet at the porch

5:15-6:15pm Nick Harby shares his knowledge of the woodland flora.

Evening KNITTING & CROCHET at Clegg Garden

6-8pm Join Brooke Criswell every second Tuesday of the month.

Bring your self-contained project along to work on as you converse and enjoy the woodland scene just outside the picture window. Coffee & tea will be served. All skill levels welcome; supplies on hand for new learners.

WED JAN 20 5-6:30pm Wildcat Creek Conservation Resources Chat

At this 'drop-in' style open house, Gus Nyberg, NICHES Exec Director, will be on hand at Clegg to talk about NICHES vision for stewardship along Wildcat Creek, and about conservation strategies and resources to help landowners along the creek apply best practices to their land.

NICHES Courses in conjunction with Morton Community Center

222 N. Chauncey Ave, West Lafayette

Register with Morton Community Center at 765-775-5120.

TUE, JAN 19 & 26 2-4pm Invasive Plant Species ID (Ages 10 & up)

Bob Easter leads this educational workshop on identifying and managing invasive plant species of particular threat to local native ecosystems. The first class will be in Room 108 at Morton; the second class will be at a NICHES property.

TUE, FEB 16 & MAR 15 1-3pm Control Burn Workshop (Ages 18 & up)

Brad Weigel leads this educational workshop about Control Burn as a means for land management; participants may be able to join a control burn. First class-Room 108 at Morton; second class at a NICHES prop.

INFO: Brooke Criswell 765-423-1605, brooke@nicheslandtrust.org

NICHES leads a Wednesdays in the Wild Program

MAR 30th 1-3pm "Benefit of Controlled Burns" at Granville Sand Barrens

DETAILS: Wednesdays in the Wild flyer & electronic Native Roots p.3

KANKAKEE SANDS – VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

on 2nd Saturdays led by staff from The Nature Conservancy in Indiana

SAT JAN 9th & SAT FEB 13th 9am-noon CST

Brush Cutting of Trees and Shrubs

Work—lightly to moderately physically strenuous—involves "hack & squirt" method on larger plants, and hand loppers & herbicide for smaller twigs, saplings. Training, work gloves, and protective gear provided. *Bring a water bottle. Weather-appropriate clothing and work boots (hiking or leather) along with cold-weather gear are strongly recommended.*

Meet at Nature Conservancy Office: 3294 N US 41, Morocco 47963

RSVP/INFO: Tony Capizzo acapizzo@tnc.org or 219-285-2184

SAT MAR 12th & SAT APR 9th 9am-noon CST

Transplanting Seedlings at Kankakee Sands Greenhouse

Native plant seeds sowed in February are ready to be transplanted into individual pots in the warm, cheery greenhouse. (ALL AGES welcome) *Bring sunglasses, hat & lots of clothing options since greenhouse temp can be warm (90°!). Wear green shirt to celebrate the growing season!*

Meet at Kankakee Sands Greenhouse: 1492 W 250 N, Morocco 47963

RSVP/INFO: Alyssa Nyberg anyberg@tnc.org or 219-866-1706

ROSS HILLS PARK Workday - Sycamore Audubon Society
SUN FEB 7 (or FEB 21, if bad weather on 7th) from 1:30-3:30pm**

"Winter can be a good time for removing woody vegetation as well as escaping the indoor winter blahs" says Susan who invites you to join her for 2 hours of taking out invasives & improving habitat for returning migrants--***only if no more than 1-2 inches of snow covers the ground!*

DETAILS: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com

Why this newsletter?

If you're like me, you'd like to have all your nature news in one place —so you don't miss out on some interesting natural history programs or stewardship opportunities. That's my intent here.

Submissions for APR-JUN issue need to reach me by MAR 15th.

To get e-mail copy, contact me at: mohrsamuels@comcast.net

or call (765) 567-7023.

Joan Mohr Samuel, Editor

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