

NATIVE ROOTS

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

Vol 13 Issue #1 JAN-MAR 2017

INPAWS 2017 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? Daryn Fair: 317-435-2918, 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 23 "Rare, Threatened & Endangered Plants on NICHES Properties"

Presentation by Bob Easter, NICHES Stewardship Manager. Each property gives the potential thrill of discovery of something unexpected. Enjoy photos of the lovely and obscure plants that have been found--and continue to be found--on NICHES 40+ properties!

MON FEB 27 *** Program to be announced ***

MON MAR 27 "Indiana Plant Atlas"

Rebecca Dolan, Director of the Friesner Herbarium of Butler University, will introduce us to a new website for plant identification and learning. Battle Ground naturalist & photographer Ed Zschiedrich supplied a number of the images.

MON APR 24 "Kankakee Sands: The Vision, the Restoration and the Bison-tennial Project"

Presentation by Alyssa Nyberg, Kankakee Sands Nursery Manager and Outreach Coordinator.

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

SPRING WILDFLOWERS with NICK HARBY

Tuesdays & Thursdays MAR 21 through APR 13

WALLA SPRING WILDFLOWERS COURSE - 10:30-11:45am

Indoors at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 4703 N 50 W, WL

COST/REG: www.wallaonline.org INFO: Mary Gardner 494-5760

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALKS - 12:15-12:45pm

Short and easy half-hour walks in Michaud-Sinninger/Cumberland Woods to see and ID the spring wildflowers. Meet at the parking lot in front of the woods (off Salisbury St just north of Cumberland Ave), WL.

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 Beautifully Natural Garden: Partnering with Native Plants

Triton College Performing Arts ~ Robert M. Collins Center

2000 5th Ave, River Grove, IL 60171

SAT FEB 11th noon-5:30pm CST

Rick Darke (co-author with Doug Tallamy of *The Living Landscape*) gives two talks: "Looking at the Layer" & "Designing and Managing for Beauty, Biodiversity and Function."

Heather Holm (author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*) talks on "Selecting Native Trees & Shrubs that Support Birds & Pollinators."

INFO/REG: westcook.wildones.org/the-beautifully-natural-garden-conference-2017

Great Transitions: The Origins of Birds - SUN JAN 22nd 1pm CST

at Gibson Woods: 6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN

Free documentary viewing for ages 16+ but

ADV REG Req'd: Joy Bower 219-844-3188, jbower1126@aol.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) Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm in the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette.

~ open to the public ~

THURS JAN 12 "Images & Stories of a Careered Nature Photographer"

Dan Griggs is a nature photographer and conservationist. For about 15 years, he earned a living from his images, at times as assistant to a National Geographic photographer.

THURS FEB 9 "The DNR in Indiana: An Update"

This is a chance to meet the new Dept of Natural Resources biologist for our area Allisyn-Marie Gillet, to learn about the DNR and how what she does helps Indiana's wildlife.

THURS MAR 9 *** Program to be announced ***

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

SAS FIELD TRIPS/HIKES led by Barny Dunning

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

SAT JAN 28 8:30am Winter Birds Field Trip (half-day, if weather is ok)

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

SAT FEB 25 8am Early Migration at Celery Bog (half-day)

Depending on the availability of open water, we will be looking to catch the start of waterfowl migration when mergansers & other diving ducks may be passing through.

SAT MAR 4 5:30pm Woodcock Ramble

We will carpool to an area where we can see/hear timberdoodles (aka American Woodcocks) doing their breeding display—the Purdue Wildlife Area or the Tippecanoe Amphitheater, depending on reports of active woodcocks. Sunset is 6:40pm.

SAT MAR 25 6-8pm Audubon at the Overlook—Prophetstown St. Pk.

Audubon members will be at the overlook at the end of the park road to interact with visitors to the park and identify birds in the area. Usually one Overlook event is scheduled each month in spring and summer.

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD HIKES - begin MAR 23rd (~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 FEEDER BIRD 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 17 thru MON FEB 20

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 27-JAN 29 - "EAGLES IN FLIGHT WEEKEND 2017"

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/kids/files/sp-Turkey_Eagle.pdf

MORE INFO: Aaron Douglass 765-597-2635, ADouglass@dnr.in.gov

WINTER BIRD ID - FRI FEB 3rd 10am CST

at Gibson Woods: 6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN

Free program but reservations required:

Joy Bower 219-844-3188, jbower1126@aol.com

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—1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette
Hands-on lessons, hikes (weather permitting), games, crafts & treats!
2016-2017 school yr: PreK thru 8th Graders—no membership fees
NEW for 2016-17: To accommodate this fastest growing group of kids, 3-year olds to 2nd grade children are being split into two groups:
PreK to K, and 1st – 2nd Grades.

Each class meets once every three weeks (no classes in Jan):

PK – K grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm

WINTER DATES: FEB 14, MAR 7, 28

1st – 2nd grades meet Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm

WINTER DATES: FEB 15, MAR 8, 29

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

WINTER DATES: FEB 21, MAR 14, APR 4

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

WINTER DATES: FEB 28, MAR 21, APR 11

WINTER TOPICS:

For the Love of Nature, Nature's Got Talent, Storms A-Brewin'

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

WINTER PROGRAMS AT PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK

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

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

NO gate fee if there's a workshop fee.

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

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

Winter Hours: Open SAT nights 7:30-9pm for Howl Night!

SAT JAN 14 & FEB 11 1-4pm 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

BUTTERFLY MONITORS NEEDED

MAY – SEPTEMBER in NW Indiana Natural Areas

*No experience is required but you will need to attend an annual training event (RSVP below **)*

Butterflies are a key indicator of the health of our prized, remnant ecosystems, like the globally rare dune and swale ecosystem, found in northern Lake County, Indiana, in the Tolleston Strand Plain.

To help track butterfly populations in various remnant natural areas, TNC's Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project Office is annually in need of monitors from May through September to collect data weekly on the same route.

**** SAT FEB 11 – Indoor Training Workshop for Butterfly Monitors**

10am-noon CST at Cedar Lake Public Library ~ Lake County

10010 W 133rd Ave, Cedar Lake, IN 46303

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

For more information, listen to a JAN 2013 interview with

John Henry Drake (Regional Ecologist, Indiana TNC) at

www.blogtalkradio.com/219greenconnect/2013/01/30/butterfly-monitors-needed

The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

West Central Indiana Beekeeper Meetings

9am-noon on SATs: JAN 21, FEB 18, MAR 25

at Thorntown Public Library – 124 N Market St

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

The BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA – Indiana Bee School XV

SAT FEB 25 8:30am- 5pm (folder pickup starts at 7am)

at Decatur Central High School, 5251 Kentucky Ave, INDY 46221

REG early—registration closes when full or end of day Feb 10th! **

Many speakers and concurrent sessions, so lots of up-to-date information for beginner to advanced beekeepers!

Guest Speaker: Susan Cobey – she has taught the specialized technique of instrumental insemination for more than three decades

NEW THIS YEAR: Beginning Beekeeping Classes!

****For details, agenda, and registration form, visit :**

indianastatebeekeepers.org/wordpress1/indiana-bee-school-xv

INFO: Debbie Seib 317-432-5342, beekeepers.indiana@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PROTECT OUR NATIVE PLANTS

Join RIP Squad Volunteers—PULL GARLIC MUSTARD!!!

The INPAWS RIP (Remove Invasive Plant) Squad could use your help at its SPRING 2017 workdays

Weeding bags will be provided, but bring gloves & dress for poison ivy!

TUESDAYS 3:30-5:30pm

THURSDAYS 3:30-5:30pm

West Lafayette Parks

Tippecanoe County Parks

Mar 14 Celery Bog Nature Area

Mar 16 Ross Hills Park & Prophet's Rock Woods

Mar 21 Celery Bog Nature Area

Mar 23 Ross Hills Park & Prophet's Rock Woods

Mar 28 Cumberland Woods (Michaud-Sinninger)

Mar 30 Ross Hills Park & Prophet's Rock Woods

NOTE: APRIL & MAY schedule in next issue of Native Roots.

To get on e-mail list for reminders, updates and weeding location directions: Patty Jones 765-463-3050, patricia.w.rader@gmail.com

Sponsored by: West Central Chapter of INPAWS and Sycamore Audubon Society in cooperation with the Park Depts (WL & TIPP)

NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!

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

NICHES ACTIVITIES

NICHES Office – Clegg Memorial Garden: 1782 N 400 E, Lafayette

For property directions visit the NICHES website.

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

MON JAN 16 9am-12:30pm Haul/Burn Workday - Moyer Gould Woods

Join Purdue volunteers & NICHES Stewardship Manager Brad Weigel hauling and burning brush and old trees that were removed during the DUKE Energy volunteer day. This work is part of a NIPSCO funded project to restore this property to open oak woodland.

Weekly TUESDAY WORKDAYS at Clegg Garden -- starting JAN 17

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!

SAT FEB 18 10am-2pm VOLUNTEER CALLOUT at NICHES Office

Stop by, meet the staff & learn about this year's volunteer opportunities.

Wear hiking shoes and check out the trails during your visit!

KANKAKEE SANDS – VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

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

JAN 14, FEB 11, & MAR 11 10am-noon CST

Removing Invasive Trees and Shrubs from the Prairie

The weather may be cold but the work will keep everyone warm! Hatches will be used to girdle small trees and herbicides will be used to prevent re-sprouting. Work will be focused on thinning out birch and cherry to make way for oaks. *Hot beverages & snacks provided, as well as basic protective gear (goggles, leather gloves).*

Meet at Kankakee Sands Office: 3294 N US 41, Morocco 47963

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

SAT SAT APR 8th 9am-noon CDT

Transplanting Seedlings at Kankakee Sands Greenhouse

Help transplant 3,000-5,000 native plant seedlings into individual pots in the warm, cheery greenhouse for planting later this year on TNC properties in Northern Indiana. (ALL AGES & ABILITIES welcome!)

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

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

KANKAKEE SANDS – VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Herbarium Volunteer ~ Greenhouse Volunteer

Animal & Insect Check-List Volunteer ~ Stewardship Volunteer

Trail Steward Volunteer ~ Water Level Monitor Volunteer

www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/volunteer/ has links to details for these volunteer positions.

QUESTIONS? Alyssa Nyberg anyberg@tnc.org or 219-866-1706

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 Samuels, 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 2017**

- Jan 11th 1-3pm The Post Glacial Geologic History of the Wabash River** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*Despite living on the banks of our state river, very few residents know about our river's origins, physical characteristics and connections to local land forms. Join **Dr. Dean Ballotti (Purdue Depts of Curriculum & Instruction and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences)** as he shares our local waterway's complex and fascinating natural history!*
- Jan 18th 7-9pm Indiana Raptors** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*Winter's lack of leaf cover provides the perfect opportunity to observe predatory birds in action. **Dr. Barny Dunning (Purdue Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources)** will shed light on the fascinating lives of birds of prey that either migrate through our state or call Indiana home, including both hawks and owls.*
- Jan 25th 1-3pm Herbivory & Neonicotinoids: The Effects of Agricultural Pesticides on Milkweeds & Monarchs -- indoor—LNC**
Paolo Olaya-Arenas (Purdue PhD Student, Dept of Entomology) will share results of her research which looked at the presence of ag pesticides on milkweeds adjacent to farm fields, and the resulting use of those plants for food for monarch caterpillars. Her research is part of an ongoing effort to understand the impact that certain pesticides have on non-target insects, with particular interest in the effects these chemicals have on the imperiled monarch butterfly.
- Feb 1st 1-3pm Maple Syrup Making** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Dr. Dan Cassens (Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources Professor) will demonstrate his equipment used for tapping trees. He will then walk us through the entire process of making maple syrup, from extracting the sap to the final tasty product.
- Feb 8th 1-3pm Native American Artifacts** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*Artifacts help us learn and appreciate the history of people who lived in this area. Join **Angie Manuel (Prophetstown State Park Interpretive Naturalist)** for an afternoon of information and sharing. **Steve Kerkhove (local collector)** will bring items he has found on his local farm. **Archaeologist, Cathy Carson**, will also be presenting information and be on hand to do artifact identification. Guests are welcome to bring unique items that they have found.*
- Feb 15th 10am-noon The Bald Eagles of Indiana** ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—ROSS
*From extirpation to recovery, the return of the bald eagle to Indiana is an amazing success story. **Allisyn Gillett (IDNR Nongame Bird Biologist)** will share the details of the eagle reintroduction program, the current status of eagles in our state, and (weather permitting) we'll visit a local, easily observed eagle nest. **Dress for the weather & bring binoculars.***
- Feb 22nd 1-3pm Indiana's State Forests: Working for the Future** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*Our state forests are working landscapes - working for the future of sustainable timber, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation & watershed protection. **Donna Rogler (Ind. Div. of Forestry)** will explore the history of our state forests, their purpose with respect to other public lands, and how they're being managed to provide benefits for Indiana's citizens.*
- Mar 1st 1-3pm Fire Ecology** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*In this presentation by **Andrew Reuter (regional ecologist)**, learn why Indiana natural areas need to be burned and how the DNR safely conducts controlled burns.*
- Mar 8th 7-9pm Sounds of Spring-Wacky Woodcocks! - Dress for the weather & bring binoculars - outdoor pgm—AMPH**
*Experience this spring ritual with **Naturalist Mary Cutler & members of the Sycamore Audubon Society.***
- Mar 15th 1-3pm Habitat Assessment 101** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*Explore the process of evaluating habitat with **Michael Mycroft (Wildlife Biologist, District 1)**. Presentation will include basic concepts and principles of addressing habitat diversity, quality, and quantity at different scales (5 acres to 5,000 acres for example).*
- Mar 22nd 1-3pm Indiana's Nature Preserves: Saving our Last Great Places** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Tom Swinford (IDNR Asst. Director, Div. of Nature Preserves) will share the events and people that led to the establishment of the Nature Preserves Act of 1967, followed by a survey of Indiana's system of over 50,000 acres of nature preserves that will provide a glimpse of the rich tapestry that is our state's natural history.
- Mar 29th 1-3pm Tippecanoe County Bicentennial Map** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
*This large map was created as a legacy project for the Indiana Bicentennial. **Mark Ehle (Tippecanoe County GIS Administrator)** will discuss how it was created, examine a few of the historic sites in detail, and introduce us to some online resources to further investigate the current state of historic landscapes in the county.*

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- AMPH (Tipp Co Amphitheater):** Meet in parking lot on east side of North River Rd, near Soldiers Home Rd in West Lafayette.
LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick - West Laf.
ROSS (Ross House): 8815 W 50 S, WL in Ross Hills Park (turn on 875W off Division Rd just past Ravines Golf Course buildings -Tipp County).

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

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

SPONSORED BY

*Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Park & Rec Dept. — Sycamore Audubon Society — NICHES Land Trust
 Dan Dunten, Lilly Nature Center Director, West Lafayette Parks & Rec Dept. — West Central Chapter of INPAWS*