

NATIVE ROOTS

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

Vol 15 Issue #1 JAN-MAR 2019

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

THU, JAN 31st 5:15pm-7pm ~ West Lafayette Public Library
(208 West Columbia St, WL)

Update by Amanda Shepherd of the Hoosier Environmental Council
5:15pm Refreshments. 5:30 Issue Updates & Questions
6:30pm Break 6:35 How to Voice Your Opinion Effectively
Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette
QUESTIONS: Liz Solberg jsolberg@earthlink.net

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

West Central Chapter of INPS (formerly INPAWS) – Indiana Native Plant Society

WC-INPS 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 28 "The State-Endangered Regal Fritillary and Other Projects at Kankakee Sands"

For the past twenty years, Alyssa Nyberg has seen Kankakee Sands transform from 8,000 acres of agriculture to a prairie teeming with wildlife. As Restoration Ecologist on this TNC property, her primary responsibilities are acquiring seed for the prairie plantings and coordinating outreach.

MON FEB 18* "Into the Woods" *(program was moved to 3rd MON)

Dan Childs, Bayer Weed Management Technology Development Representative for Indiana and Kentucky, takes us on a photographic trip through Indiana's spring woods, just as he does in his new book *Into the Woods*. Dan is also the author of *Back Roads* featuring native and non-native plants found along Indiana roadsides.

MON MAR 25 "Dragonflies!"

Loyce Fandrei, (aka "the dragonfly lady") has been working to expand the records of dragonfly species occurring in various Indiana counties. Her photographs get rave reviews.

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

The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

WEST CENTRAL INDIANA BEEKEEPER Meetings

SAT JAN 19th 9am-noon ~ Tippecanoe County Extension Office
(3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette, IN 47909)

Winter Feeding/Preparing Hives for spring – Mike Schluttenhofer
Purdue Research projects on bees in agricultural settings – talk by grad students Jacob Pecenka & John Ternest

SAT FEB 16th 9am-noon ~ starts at Camp Tecumseh Nature Center
(12635 W Tecumseh Bend Rd, Brookston, IN 47923)

Hives and observation hive—Keith Kalish (Camp Tecumseh Nature Ctr)
Maple syrup/honey operation—Richard Hines (Springboro Tree Farms)

SAT MAR 16th 9am-noon ~ Thorntown Public Library
(124 N Market St, Thorntown, IN 46071)

Talk about spring management, home-made Honey-B-Healthy, & more!

For Meeting Details/Location Info:

[Patty Jones WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:PattyJones@WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com)

The BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA – Indiana Bee School XVII

SAT FEB 23 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!

TWO Guest Speakers—

Dr. Tom Seely: Cornell Univ. (Neurobiology & Behavior), Author of *Honeybee Ecology*, *The Wisdom of the Hive* & *Honeybee Democracy*

Dr. Jeff Pettis: Former research leader of USDA-ARS Bee Lab in MD, now independent consultant. His focus is improving colony health by limiting the impact of pests, diseases & pesticides on honey bees.

AND CONTINUING THIS YEAR: Beginning Beekeeping Classes!

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

indianabeekeeper.com

INFO: Debbie Seib 317-432-5342, beekeepers.indiana@yahoo.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 FEB 14 "From Paper to Pixels"

Chuck Tuttle, SAS Vice-President, explains how figuring out "what that bird is" has become much easier with the use of Apps on phones and tablets. Learn what more there is to some apps than just a photo or drawing that you could find in a paper guide.

THURS MAR 14 "Jeep-birdy"

Come and test your avian skills playing one of the world's most beloved game shows, hosted by Wes Homoya--birder, tour guide, conservationist. His work has taken him to places as varied as Maui, Brazil, Galapagos, Hungary and Australia.

THURS APR 11 "Birding from a German Point of View"

Ann Marie Ackerman, birder & former SAS member who now lives in Germany, will tell us what German birding is like.

INFO: SAS President Barny Dunning jdunning@purdue.edu

SAS FIELD TRIPS/HIKES led by Barny Dunning

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot—off Lindberg Rd in West Laf
unless noted otherwise**

SAT JAN 26 8:30am Winter Birds Field Trip (half-day)

Carpool to wherever winter birds such as winter finches, owls, Rough-legged Hawks, and Lapland longspurs are being reported.

SAT FEB 23 8:00am Waterfowl Migration Trip (half-day)

Looking to see if the ducks and geese are on the move yet at Celery Bog. Visiting other locations if sightings suggest that would be profitable. Bald Eagles should be on their nests by now, too

SAT MAR 16 Audubon at the Overlook (a two-hour event)

**Meet 3:00pm at the end of the road at Prophetstown State Park. Let's see what birds March brought in.

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD WALKS – begin MAR 21st (~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 - Email List

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

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

WINTER BIRD COUNTS

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: FRI FEB 15 thru MON FEB 18

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

SAT FEB 16th 9am SAS Prophetstown GBBC

For details see Prophetstown State Park Nature Programs-next page.

Participation details & tracking data at gbbc.birdcount.org

EAGLES IN FLIGHT WEEKEND 2019 – FRI-SUN JAN 25-JAN 27

at Turkey Run State Park – 8121 East Park Rd, Marshall, IN 47859

Full event schedule/costs: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm

Explore the habitats of eagles, hawks and owls to discover nests, an overnight roost & hunting grounds, and meet some raptors in person!
Enjoy Bird Banding opportunities to see songbirds up close!

INFO: Aaron Douglass 765-597-2654, adouglass@dnr.in.gov

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP with Botanist Janet Marr
JUL 9-11 KEWEENAW – Copper Harbor/tip of Keweenaw Peninsula MI
Enrollment limited to 12 participants-so register early to get a spot!
FLYER with DETAILS/COST: irkpa.org/get-involved/workshops
QUESTIONS: Janet Marr 906-337-5529, jkmarr@mtu.edu

THINK SPRING & PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS!

Native Plants Unlimited: its 2019 Catalog of over 100 native species and an Advance Order form will be available to download in early FEB at nativeplantsunlimited.com. The sale will begin MAY 3rd. Details on this & other native plant sales in next APR-JUN issue of Native Roots.

MORE INFO: 317-607-7343 or george@nativeplantsunlimited.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (cont'd)

JAN-MAR 2019 **Wednesdays in the Wild** pgms in separate flyer
AND on p. 3 of electronic version of this issue of Native Roots

Usually Zonda Bryant's Junior Nature Club Classes are in this spot, but sadly she resigned from the Hands of the Future organization last summer. Fortunately she continues connecting children with nature in her Junior Nature Club at Mayflower Mill Elementary School where she and the children have created an unbelievable garden for wildlife!
Her dream of a Children's Forest is on hold for now.

MORE INFO: Ms. Zonda 765-366-9126, plantmomac@yahoo.com

FAMILY NATURE PROGRAMS

FRIENDS OF THE SANDS NATURE PROGRAMS

Children & families, and people of all ages and ability are welcome!

Meet at The Nature Conservancy's office 3294 N US 41, Morocco

...unless noted otherwise**

THU JAN 17th 11am CST Seed Workday & Winter Bison Adventure

Learn what seeds and bison need to survive the winter!

INFO: Jeanette Jaskula jmjaskula@yahoo.com

SAT FEB 2nd 4pm CST Winter Birding on the Prairie

Join Tisha Tolle & Barb Lucas to find Northern Harriers, Rough-legged hawks, & maybe a Short-eared Owl on the prairie.

Carpool from the TNC office to the best viewing locations.

Please RSVP to Barb: blucas1123@gmail.com

THU FEB 21st 10am CST Greenhouse Workday & Pot-Luck Lunch

****Meet at Kankakee Sands Nursery** (1492 W 250 N, Morocco). Bring a lunch dish/snack to share as we sow seeds prepared the last two months with cold/moist stratification to help them germinate.

INFO: Jeanette Jaskula 219-869-1004, jmjaskula@yahoo.com

SAT MAR 9th 1-3pm CST Fairy Shrimp Hike – Harbinger of Spring

****Meet at Holley Savanna** (3250 E 100 S, Mt Ayr) -NICHES preserve adjacent to North Star Cemetery. Gus Nyberg leads a fun & easy walk for all ages. **INFO: Gus nyberggus@gmail.com 765-427-4345**

PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK NATURE PROGRAMS **

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

INFO/RSVP: Jenna Parks 765-320-0503, jparks@dnr.in.gov

WINTER ACTIVITIES at VISITOR'S CENTER - 4112 E State Rd 225:

SAT JAN 19th 1pm Winter Workshop – Suet Feeders

RSVP by JAN 16th Materials provided - **\$10/feeder**

SAT FEB 9th 1pm Winter Workshop – Walking Sticks

RSVP by FEB 6th Materials provided - **\$7-\$10 each**

SAT FEB 16th betw 11&1 Backyard Birds & Pinecone Bird Feeders

Drop by to learn about Indiana's backyard birds, then make your own pinecone feeder: **\$2/feeder** – first come, first served.

SAT FEB 23rd 1pm Winter Workshop – Aldo Leopold Bench

RSVP by FEB 20th Materials provided - **\$30 each, 1 bench/family**

WINTER ACTIVITIES at THE FARM - 5545 Swisher Rd (off N 9th St):

SAT FEB 9th Betw noon&3pm Seed Saving/Composting at the Farm

Tips & free heirloom seeds (new seed library) **with park admission.**

SAT FEB 16th Noon-2pm Planting Seeds with Kids

Children can explore new seed library, plus plant and take home seed starters while learning to care for the plants. **Free w/admission.**

BIRDING at the OVERLOOK:

SAT FEB 16th 9am Audubon at the Overlook (GBBC count)

Join Sycamore Audubon Soc. members to look and listen for birds.

Scopes, binoculars, and bird books provided for program use.

Park at the Far East End Parking Lot & walk down towards Trail 2.

VOLUNTEER DAYS in the GREENHOUSE:

WED-FRI FEB 13th -15th Volunteer Planting Days in the Greenhouse

Want to be a part of native plant propagation at Prophetstown State Park? Sign up with Jenna Parks: **765-320-0503, jparks@dnr.in.gov**

****For More Details/Events: www.interpretive.services.in.gov**

www.facebook.com/ProphetstownSP

NICK'S NATURE HIKES

To contact Nick Harby: 317-370-2895, nickharby@yahoo.com

SAT FEB 2nd WABASH RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL HIKE -starts 2pm

Meet Nick at 2pm at the Lafayette Main Street Pedestrian Bridge over the Wabash for a leisurely walk north along the river to observe and discuss the wildlife and natural history of what is seen along the trail. **NOTE: May be cancelled if the river is flooded-check with Nick.**

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 email or call Nick.**

Want to identify a wild plant? Email or call Nick.

Emailing a photo would be helpful.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER with the RIP Squad

Remove Invasive Plants & HELP PROTECT OUR NATIVE PLANTS
SPRING 2019 WORKDAYS to pull GARLIC MUSTARD

3-5pm on Tues, **Wed****, and Thurs afternoons in parks and nature areas
Weeding bags will be provided, but bring gloves & dress for poison ivy!

TUESDAYS 3-5pm

West Lafayette Parks

Mar 12 Celery Bog Nature Area

Mar 19 Michaud-Sinninger N. A.

Mar 26 Happy Hollow Park

Apr 2 Celery Bog Nature Area

Apr 9 Michaud-Sinninger N. A.

Apr 16 Happy Hollow Park

Apr 23 Celery Bog Nature Area

Apr 30 Michaud-Sinninger N. A.

May 7 Happy Hollow Park

May 14 Celery Bog Nature Area

May 21 Michaud-Sinninger N. A.

May 28 Happy Hollow Park

THURSDAYS 3-5pm

Tippecanoe County Parks

Mar 14 Prophet's Rock Woods

Mar 21 Ross Hills Park

Mar 28 Prophet's Rock Woods

Apr 4 Ross Hills Park

Apr 11 Prophet's Rock Woods

Apr 18 Ross Hills Park

Apr 25 Prophet's Rock Woods

May 2 Ross Hills Park

May 9 Prophet's Rock Woods

May 16 Ross Hills Park

May 23 Prophet's Rock Woods

May 30 Ross Hills Park

For meeting locations and **WED schedule, contact: Patty Jones at removeinvasiveplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com or 765-463-3050

Sponsors West Central Chapter of INPS & Sycamore Audubon Society
in cooperation with the WL & TIPP CO Park Depts

NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!

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

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

For property directions visit the NICHES website.

NO OUTREACH OR VOLUNTEER EVENTS

in the NICHES on-line calendar for JAN & FEB

while the new person just hired to work on these programs

gets up to speed. Expect to see the calendar begin filling up in March.

INFO: Deputy Dir Julie Rubsam jrubsam@nicheslandtrust.org

or Executive Dir Gus Nyberg gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org

KANKAKEE SANDS – VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

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

"HACK and SQUIRT" to Remove Select Tree Saplings

SAT FEB 9th from 10am-noon Central time

The weather may be cold but the work will keep everyone warm!
Hatchets will be used to girdle select trees and herbicides will be used to prevent re-sprouting. *Dress for cold winter weather on the prairie.*

Basic protective gear (safety glasses, leather gloves) will be provided.

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

RSVP REQ'D/INFO: Tom Vanes vanes720@yahoo.com

SPRING IN THE GREENHOUSE

MAR 9th and APR 13th from 9am-noon Central time

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

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

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

GOOD NEWS & the Surprising SCOOP on BISON POOP

1-Proposal to build a dairy CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation)

adjacent to Kankakee Sands has been withdrawn!

2-The original 23 bison introduced at Kankakee Sands, have grown in

number to 58. Ten of the 35 "new" bison came from Wind Cave in

South Dakota, the remaining 25 are calves born at Kankakee Sands!

3-Results of initial studies based on plant DNA in the bison poop show

that most of the protein comes from eating willows not prairie grasses!

(From Sycamore Audubon & Kankakee Sands DEC 2018 Newsletters)

GIBSON WOODS NATURE PROGRAMS

at 6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN – **Details/REG 219-844-3188**

SUN JAN 20th 1pm Central time Digging into the Past – Les Marzalek

Learn about the Calumet region pre-European settlement—how

Native Americans lived & how their influence is still seen today.

SUN FEB 10th 1pm CST Amphibians & Reptiles of Calumet Region

The meeting of the eastern deciduous forest & the Midwestern prairie

make for a large number of amphibians & reptiles living in this region.

Talk by Alan Resetar, Field Museum Manager in Amphibians&Reptiles

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 email copy, contact me at: mohrsamuels@comcast.net or

call (765) 567-7023h, 532-3245c. **Joan Mohr Samuels, Editor**

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"

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

Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

JANUARY - MARCH 2019

Jan 9th 1-3pm A Stroll Through Geologic Time: Selected Tales and Mysteries ----- indoor pgm—LNC

From a snowball earth to mass extinctions, mega-volcanoes to asteroid impacts, our planet has experienced a wide range of incredible events and served as home to many bizarre life forms during its history. **Dr. James Ogg (Geologist, Purdue University)** will share the highlights of the past 4 billion years and explore Indiana's geology along the way. Prepare for a rocky trip, with a few oil slicks and monsters lurking along the path!

Jan 16th 1-3pm The Science Behind Local Weather Folklore ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Just how reliable is that Farmers Almanac? Prepare for some myth-busting as **Chad Evans (Chief Meteorologist, WFLI TV)** separates fact from fiction when it comes to weather folklore.

Jan 23rd 1-3pm Investing in Conservation ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Tom Swinford (Ecologist and Assistant Director, IDNR Div. of Nature Preserves) will share the challenges and rewards of making conservation initiatives a priority on properties throughout our state.

Jan 30th 1-3pm Invasives in Your County ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Join us for this vital discussion on the Top 10 invasive species in Tippecanoe County, led by **Amber Slaughterbeck (Regional Specialist, Indiana Invasives Initiative)**. Information will be shared about identification of each species, their impacts, eradication techniques and tools, and how you can get involved in the Indiana Invasives Initiative.

Feb 6th 1-3pm Tundra on the Wabash ----- indoor pgm—LNC

For a time after the end of the last Ice Age, northern Indiana was a treeless, frozen tundra landscape much like northern Alaska and Canada today. **Dr. Darrell Schulze (Professor of Soil Science, Purdue University)** will show that the evidence for the tundra is still all around us, if you know where to look.

Feb 13th 1-3pm Fire in the Eastern Forest: Not All Fire is Bad! ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Fire is a natural part of many forest ecosystems, not just out west, but also in the wetter, hardwood forests of eastern North America. **Dr. Mike Saunders (Purdue Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources)** will explore the critical role fire plays in promoting ecosystem health.

Feb 20th 1-3pm Indiana Natural Heritage Program: Celebrating Indiana's Diversity ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Teresa Clark (Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center) will provide an overview of the process used to determine how natural areas receive "high quality" designations, along with explaining how plants and animals are classified as endangered, threatened or rare. Unique plants and animals found throughout the state will also be highlighted!

Feb 27th 1-3pm Climate Change in the Hoosier State ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Climate change is not a far off problem in a far distant future, it is an urgent and highly relevant issue for every Hoosier. **Melissa Widhalm (Operations Manager, Purdue Climate Change Research Center)** will share conclusions from the newly released Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment in an attempt to answer the question: "What does climate change mean for Indiana?"

Mar 6th 1-3pm* Planting for Pollinators -----(*NOTE: First of our two programs today)----- indoor pgm—LNC

Learn about the biology and physiology of butterflies and other pollinators with **Sandy Belth (Asst. Naturalist, Monroe Co. Parks Dept.)** Host and nectar sources will also be covered, to aid in planning spring landscaping. Jeff Belth's book Butterflies of Indiana: A Field Guide will be available for purchase \$15 (cash only) -- a discount of \$5, courtesy of Von's Shops.

Mar 6th 7-9pm* West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Updates ---(*NOTE: Second of today's programs)---- indoor—LNC

Kathy Lorenzo (West Lafayette Parks & Rec. Superintendent) will discuss current projects at Morton Community Center, Happy Hollow Park, Cason Family Park and Lilly Nature Center, and provide details on the proposed Recreation and Aquatic Center.

Mar 13th 1-3pm Young Forests for Sustainable Habitats ----- indoor pgm—LNC

Lenny Farlee (Purdue Hardwood Tree Regeneration & Improvement Ctr) reviews characteristics of young forest habitats and their benefits for wildlife, then discusses management techniques used to conserve the communities that depend on these forests.

Mar 20th 1-3pm Literary Naturalists and Journaling ----- indoor pgm—LNC

After sharing some of the gems of environmental literature, from both familiar and new authors, **Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tipp. Co. Park Dept.)** will explore the process of journaling, from phenological and citizen science records to creative expressions of the natural world. **Brenda Moore (Property Manager, Tipp. Co. Park Dept.)** will then lead a journal-making session with tips on how to add artistic elements to your writing.

Mar 27th 1-3pm Novel Ecosystems ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—LNC

Stephanie Frischie (Agronomist/Native Plant Specialist, Xerces Society) expands our thinking of what is "natural" as she shares definitions & examples of novel ecosystems. Weather permitting, a walk will follow on the Celery Bog trails: is it a novel ecosystem?

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

Mary Cutler 765-567-2993; Dan Dunten 765-775-5172; Joan Mohr Samuels 765-532-3245, 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 INPS