

# NATIVE ROOTS

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

Vol 15 Issue #4 SEP-DEC 2019

## 2019 NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE – Tippecanoe Co. SWCD

Plant List/Order Form: [www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org)

ORDER by SEP 27<sup>th</sup> DEADLINE. Select from 36 native species grown in a local nursery in Hendricks Co. & sold in 3-gallon containers at \$25 ea. PICK UP on FRI OCT 11<sup>th</sup> 3pm-7pm (or call to arrange alternative times) at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds: 1406 Teal Road, Lafayette.

QUESTIONS? [chris.remley@in.nacdn.net](mailto:chris.remley@in.nacdn.net) 765-474-9992 x4001

## 2019 NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE – Hamilton Co. SWCD

Plant List/To Order from On-line Store: [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org)

ORDER by SEP 30<sup>th</sup> DEADLINE on-line or call 317-773-2181.

Select from 39 native species sold in 3-gallon containers at \$28 ea.

PICK UP on FRI OCT 4<sup>th</sup> between noon-6pm at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair Grounds Llama Barn: 2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville, IN 46060.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### West Central Chapter Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS)

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 at the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette

~open to public ~

#### MON SEP 23 “The State-Endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly and Other Projects at Kankakee Sands”

For the past twenty years, Alyssa Nyberg (Restoration Ecologist, TNC) has helped Kankakee Sands transform from 8,000 acres of agriculture to a prairie teeming with wildlife. Her primary responsibilities there are acquiring seed for the prairie plantings and coordinating outreach.

#### MON OCT 28 “A Deeper Look at Milkweeds in Late Summer”

The Xerces Society works to protect native insects which are intimately tied to native plants. Stephanie Frischie (Xerces Society, Indiana office) discusses the interrelationships of milkweeds and insects.

#### MON NOV 25 “Nectar Sources in Indiana Woodlands”

Kevin Tunesvick (Senior Ecologist with Eco Logic and one of Indiana's top botanists) talks about forest plants helpful to pollinators & others.

Pgm Chair: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com)

## BUILDING BIODIVERSITY: The ART and the SCIENCE

SAT NOV 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30am-4:30pm INPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE\*\*

Grand Wayne Convention Ctr, 120 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne 46802

\*\*REG by SEP 30<sup>th</sup> for discount (continental b'fast & lunch included)

TOPICS: The Holistic Landscape ~ Native Plants & Bird Survival ~ Climate Change & Indiana Plant Communities ~The Joy of Germinating ~ The Geology-Botany Connection ~ Hummingbirds ~ Naturally Indiana

NOV 8 & 10 Pre- & Post-Conf Field Trips – limited, so sign up early!

\*\*COST/DETAILS/REG: [indiananativeplants.org/ac2019-overview](http://indiananativeplants.org/ac2019-overview)

## The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

### WEST CENTRAL INDIANA BEEKEEPER Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> SATs

SAT SEP 21 & NOV 16 9am-noon Meeting – Topic/speaker to be decided

At Thorntown Public Library: 124 N Market St, Thorntown, IN 46071

SAT OCT 19 9am-noon Meeting – Topic/speaker to be decided

At St. Peter's Episcopal/Harvest House: 950 E Washington St, Lebanon

MORE INFO-Patty Jones: [WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com)

### The BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA 2019 FALL CONFERENCE

SAT OCT 26<sup>th</sup> 7:45am- 4pm (Pre-reg folder pickup starts at 7:15am)

at Historic French Lick Springs Hotel (French Lick, Indiana)

Conference cost: \$35memb/\$45non-memb/\$20child if 15 or under.\*\*

NOTE: Pre-reg closes midnight SUN OCT 20 ~ Child must be w/adult.

Workshops: Making Creamed Honey, Bottling Honey in IN, Apitherapy

Guest Speaker Randy Oliver went from 1966 hobbyist to keeping 1000-1500 hives with his two sons. His talk topics include Reading the Combs, Managing Colonies, and Simplified Breeding Pgm for Varroa Resistance

2019 Fall Beekeeping School for beekeepers with little to no experience:

Limited class size: \$40memb/\$50non-memb/\$20child if 15 or under.

\*\*For details/registration forms, visit: [www.indianabeekeeper.com](http://www.indianabeekeeper.com)

Question?Debbie Seib 317-432-9578 [beekeepers.indiana@yahoo.com](mailto:beekeepers.indiana@yahoo.com)

## SYCAMORE AUDUBON SOCIETY (SAS)

[www.sycamoreaudubon.org](http://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

except for SEP 12<sup>th</sup> which is a carry-in dinner at Lilly Nature Center.

~ open to the public ~

### THURS, SEP 12<sup>th</sup> Carry-in Dinner & Bring Your Own Program Night

Bring your own 5 or so minutes of digital images/slides/video to share: birds, plants, animals, vacation sites, etc.

Carry-in dinner 6pm (program 7:15): bring a dish to share or just come!

### THURS, OCT 10<sup>th</sup> “Migration Destination”

Jessica Outcalt, PhD student, Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources Dept, will talk about her research on this topic.

### THURS, NOV 14<sup>th</sup> “Antarctica is for the Birds”

A birding & travel trip presentation by Rick & Debbie Read. The snow & ice of Antarctica may make the local November weather seem balmy!

### THURS, DEC 12<sup>th</sup> Program to be announced later...

Come early to sign up/get forms for DEC 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count.\*\*

MORE INFO: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com)

### SAS FIELD TRIPS/HIKES

INFO: Barny 765-412-8760C, 765-494-3565W [jdunning@purdue.edu](mailto:jdunning@purdue.edu)

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD HIKES – weekly until end of fall migration

Meet at 8:00am in gravel parking lot at Celery Bog Nature Area on

the north side of Lindberg Rd between Northwestern & McCormick, WLaf.

SAT SEP 14 Fall Migrants at Celery Bog– 1620 Lindberg Rd, W Laf

Meet 7:45am at Celery Bog gravel parking lot to look in the woods and

on the water for both early water bird migrants as well as many land

bird migrants including Fall warblers (a half-day trip).

### AUDUBON at the Overlook in Prophetstown State Park

Join SAS members to see what's around & interact with park visitors.

More info: Chuck Tuttle 765-586-4806C, [chuckt1708@gmail.com](mailto:chuckt1708@gmail.com)

The overlook is at the end of the park road below the last parking area.

Park entrance fee is required unless camping or have a State Park Pass.

SAT SEP 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:30am ~Gate fee may still be charged at this time.

SAT NOV 16<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30pm ~Gate fee not charged at this time of year.

SUN DEC 8<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00pm ~Gate fee not charged at this time of year.

A chance to learn a bit more before the Christmas Bird Count.

### SAT OCT 19 Early Season Lake Shore Field Trip ~ all day trip

Meet 6:30am (early start) at Celery Bog gravel parking lot to carpool.

Going earlier in the year means no Snow Buntings or scoters, but a list

longer than in Nov & lakeshore species not seen elsewhere in Indiana!

### SAT NOV 9 Crow's Grove Field Trip ~ NICHES property – Warren Co.

Meet 8am at Celery Bog gravel parking lot to carpool. A chance to

see fall color and migrating land birds as well as become acquainted

with this NICHES preserve and its relic pre-settlement White Pines!

### SUN NOV 24 Jasper-Pulaski State FWA Sandhill Cranes Field Trip

3:30pm leave Celery Bog gravel parking lot (likely on a Purdue bus).

Watch the cranes dance, preen and greet each other before they go to

their evening roosting locations. May see a Whooping Crane with them!

### \*\* LAFAYETTE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SAT, DEC 14<sup>th</sup>

An all-day count covering a 15-mile diameter circle centered on

Lafayette. Find out details/sign up at DEC 12<sup>th</sup> SAS meeting with

compiler Ed Hopkins or email him at [birder4in@gmail.com](mailto:birder4in@gmail.com)

### 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 him if you wish to be added.

### SAT SEP 28<sup>th</sup> 8:45am-3:30pm CLIMATE FOR ALL AGES

at Hendricks County Fairgrounds: 1900 E Main St, Danville, IN 46122

Austin Pearson: "Climate's Impact on Horticulture"

Mike Homoya: "Shifting Baselines: IN Natural Landscape-1816 & Today"

Colletta Kosiba: "Poison in My Garden, Really?"

Ben Cohen: "Adaptation: Saving Seed for our Changing Climate"

Irvin Etienne: "When Pretty Ain't Enough"

REG/INFO: [hendricksgardeners.com](http://hendricksgardeners.com) Cost \$25 (includes lunch)

QUESTIONS: Karen Smith 317-513-6403 or [12208@aol.com](mailto:12208@aol.com)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS (cont'd)

SEP-NOV WEDNESDAYS in the WILD programs: in separate flyer  
AND on p. 4 of electronic version of this issue of Native Roots

### WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORP (WREC) EVENTS

**FRI SEP 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30-5pm WABASH SAMPLING BLITZ**  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
*No prior experience or equipment required! All ages will have a fun day sampling streams & learning about our local waterways.*

**FOR MORE INFO/TO REG: [www.wabashriver.net/blitz-registration](http://www.wabashriver.net/blitz-registration)**

**SAT SEP 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon GREEN TOUR**

*Meet at the Blackhawk Lane cul-de-sac in West Lafayette.*  
Free walking tour of best practices to reduce erosion above Happy Hollow Park and improve water quality in the Wabash River using rain gardens and native plantings with WREC's cost-share program!

**MORE INFO: [www.wabashriver.net/green-tours](http://www.wabashriver.net/green-tours)**

### NICK'S WABASH RIVER Heritage Trail WALKS

To contact Nick Harby: 317-370-2895, [nickharby@yahoo.com](mailto:nickharby@yahoo.com)

**Saturdays: OCT 5<sup>th</sup>, NOV 2<sup>nd</sup>, NOV 30<sup>th</sup>, DEC 28<sup>th</sup>**

Meet Nick at 2pm in the middle of the Lafayette-WL pedestrian bridge over the Wabash for a leisurely walk along the river to observe and discuss the wildlife and natural history of what is seen along the trail.

### Invasive Species Field Day Hosted by TICT\*

\* (Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce)

**SAT SEP 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-noon at Horticulture Park in West Lafayette.**

*Meet (& can park) at the parking lot in the middle of Hort Park OR park at Purdue Univ Early Childcare Center: 1568 W State St., WL 47906*

Learn the impact of common invasive plants, and how to identify and remove them. There will be time to actually practice removing some during this event, so best to dress in long pants and sleeves.

**QUESTIONS? Bryce Patz [bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov)**

### TREE IDENTIFICATION BASICS & FIELD PRACTICE WORKSHOP

**WED OCT 23<sup>rd</sup> 1-4:30pm at Wright Forestry Ctr 1007 N 725 W, W. Laf.**

Free program limited to 50 people, so register in advance by contacting Extension Forester Lenny Farlee [lfarlee@purdue.edu](mailto:lfarlee@purdue.edu) 765-494-2153

### PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK NATURE PROGRAMS \*\*

*Enter park via Swisher Rd (off N. 9<sup>th</sup> St, just south of Battle Ground)*

**Programs are part of park admission fee** unless noted otherwise.

**SAT SEP 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm Interested in starting your own Leaf Collection?**

Join Park Naturalist at far east end parking lot on a walk searching for and identifying leaves. Bring a bag and a note book.

**SAT SEP 21<sup>st</sup> 8-10am Seed Collecting for the Park with a Naturalist**

Meet at visitor's center. Bring water! Gather native wildflower seeds.

### PROGRAMS in PARK'S NATIVE AMERICAN VILLAGE

*Park at the Visitor's Center and safely cross the road!*

**SUN SEP 22<sup>nd</sup> 2-3:30pm Edible Plants: Aw Nuts!**

Explore past->present uses of acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts & hazelnuts!

**SUN SEP 29<sup>th</sup> 2-3:30pm Goldenrod in the Village**

Explore its uses and even experiment with some natural goldenrod dye!

**National Public Lands Day & Bike Your Park Day – FREE Park Entry!**

**SAT SEP 28<sup>th</sup> 8-9:30am Invasive Species Removal**

Meet at far east end parking lot. Wear long pants and bring water! Tools & training provided to remove honeysuckle, tree of heaven & more.

**SAT SEP 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30-11:30am Bike with a Park Naturalist**

Meet at far east end parking lot. Bring your own bike for a guided tour starting at the Circle of Stones, then on to the boardwalk and back.

**\*\*Details & many more events: [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2971.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2971.htm)**

**INFO: Jenna Parks Freeman 765-320-0503 or [jparks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jparks@dnr.IN.gov)**

### FRIENDS of the SANDS NATURE PROGRAMS

**SAT SEP 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm CDT Monarch Tagging -Kankakee Sands Nursery**

Meet at 1492 W 250 N, Morocco for this fun, family-friendly event. If weather not conducive to catching butterflies, come anyway and learn about monarchs and this citizen science project of Monarch Watch.

**INFO/RSVP: Jeanette Jaskula [jmjackula@yahoo.com](mailto:jmjackula@yahoo.com) 219-869-1004**

**SAT NOV 9 1:00pm CDT Colors of Conrad Station Savanna (CSS)**

Enjoy the changing fall colors of reddish sassafras amidst the majestic oaks. Meet at CSS parking lot on CR 725 N, a half mile east of US 41.

**INFO/RSVP: Stephanie [uschirfrischie@gmail.com](mailto:uschirfrischie@gmail.com)**

### GIBSON WOODS WILD ONES HIKES

WALK LOCATION: Gibson Woods—6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, 46323

**TALLGRASS PRAIRIE HIKE** (led by Park Naturalist)

**TUE SEP 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11am CDT** Enjoy the beauty of the prairie in autumn!

**WEEKLY BIRDING HIKES on Wednesdays** (led by Park Naturalist)

**SEP 4 thru OCT 2** starting at 9:30am CDT BIRD MIGRATION HIKES

**NOV 6-20, DEC 4-18 9:30-11am CDT NAME THAT TOON -Birdsong!**

**INFO/TO REG: Joy Bower 219-844-3188 or [jbower1126@aol.com](mailto:jbower1126@aol.com)**

## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Help RIP Squad Volunteers Remove Invasive Plants

**FALL 2019 Workdays: Tues & Thurs 3:00-5:00pm OCT 29-DEC 19**

Pulling/cutting/lopping/sawing invasive shrubs; herbiciding cut stumps.

*Long sleeves, long pants, gloves and boots are recommended.*

*Bring loppers, pruning saw, or stump pullers. Herbicide provided.*

**Tuesdays OCT 29 ~ NOV 5, 12, 19, 26 ~ DEC 3, 10, 17**

at **Prophet's Rock Woods**. Meet at the little parking lot near Prophet's Rock on Prophets Rock Rd, just north of 600N in Battle Ground.

**Thursdays OCT 31 ~ NOV 7, 14, 21 ~ DEC 5, 12, 19**

at **Ross Hills Park**. Take S River Rd/Division Rd past Ft. Ouiatenon, & past the Granville Bridge; then turn onto 875W (just past Ravines Golf Course buildings). Follow signs for the park, and take its entrance road to the Ross House parking lot (a left turn from entrance road).

### "PULLING for BATS" ~ BAT WEEK Oct 24-31!

Help bats & birds & native plants by removing invasive shrubs.

**SAT OCT 26 10am-1pm at Prophet's Rock Woods**

**SUN OCT 27 1-4pm at Ross Hills Park**

**Sponsored by West Central Chapter of INPS and Sycamore Audubon Society in cooperation with Tippecanoe County Parks.**

**FOR INFO, Workday Schedule, or IFFY Weather Questions: Patty at 765-463-3050, [removeinvasiveplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com)**

### NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!

INFO/Property directions at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)

**Office: Clegg Memorial Garden 1782 N 400 E, Lafayette 765-423-1605**

### VOLUNTEER STEWARD CALLOUT ~ THU SEP 19<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm

at Crow's Grove 3300 N 050 W Williamsport, IN 47993 (Warren Co.)

If you have ever wanted to take an active role in protecting, sharing, and stewarding our native Indiana ecosystems, join our Docent Training Event to learn how to: *Identify/remove invasive plants~ collect/process seeds ~ organize/run volunteer workdays ~ mix/apply herbicide!*

**FOR MORE INFO/TO RSVP: Sam Cody [sam@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:sam@nicheslandtrust.org)**

### NICHES VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Email [sam@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:sam@nicheslandtrust.org) to register & for event info.

**SATS 8:30-10:30am Clegg Garden every Saturday** (weather permitting)

Doing trail work, adding erosion control bars, and property maintenance

**SAT SEP 14 10am Sugar Creek Cleanup at Bachner ~Montgomery Co.**

Email Sam to reserve a boat & for directions to Bachner Preserve.

**SAT SEP 21<sup>st</sup> 1:30-3:30pm Shawnee Bottoms Workday ~ Fountain Co.**

Help remove interior fencing from our largest preserve. If you have a vehicle that can haul away the removed fence feel free to bring it.

### NICHES EVENTS/OUTINGS

**Oct 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> hikes: Wednesdays in the Wild** flyer & p.4 e-Native Roots

### WOLF PARK PROGRAMS (4004 E 800 N, Battle Ground) \*\*

**Guided Tours TUES-FRI 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15 ~ SAT/SUN 1-5/may vary**

**HOWL Nights FRI & SAT 7:30-9pm** (come early for Fox Talk at 7:15pm)

**\*\*NOTE:** Check website for Winter Season Hours DEC 1 – APR 30.

**INFO/COST/Programs/Seminars: 765-567-2265 or [www.wolfpark.org](http://www.wolfpark.org)**

### KANKAKEE SANDS VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS – Newton Co.

on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays led by staff from The Nature Conservancy in Indiana

**SAT SEP 14<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon CDT and SAT OCT 12<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon CDT**

**Seed Harvesting Workdays at Kankakee Sands Nursery (ALL AGES)**

Help collect seeds from native flower & grass species for use in our upcoming restoration plantings. NO EXPERIENCE needed. *Don't wear fleece or wool clothing since seeds stick & are hard to remove!*

Meet at Native Plant Nursery: 1492 W 250 N, Morocco 47963

**SAT NOV 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon CDT Seed Cleaning at the Seed Barn**

Warning: the work with native plant seeds can be a bit dusty & sneezy.

*Training, work gloves, eye protection & other protective gear provided.*

Meet at Kankakee Sands Seed Barn: 417 W 600 N, Lake Village, IN

**RSVP/INFO: Alyssa Nyberg [anyberg@tnc.org](mailto:anyberg@tnc.org) or 219-866-1706**

**SAT DEC 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon CDT "HACK and SQUIRT" Workday**

Short hike to site, then removing select tree saplings by girdling with hatchets & applying herbicides to prevent re-sprouting. *Basic protective gear (safety glasses, leather gloves) provided. Dress for the weather!*

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

**RSVP REQ'D/MORE INFO: Tony Capizzo [acapizzo@tnc.org](mailto:acapizzo@tnc.org)**

### 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 JAN-MAR issue need to reach me by DEC 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Please send your info to [mohrsamuels@comcast.net](mailto:mohrsamuels@comcast.net)

or call (765) 567-7023. **Joan Mohr Samuel, Editor**

# NATIVE ROOTS

## "Special Supplement" on COMMUNITY ACTION

### HELPING TURTLES

KEEP TURTLES & OTHER WILDLIFE from being ROADKILL

#### The Wabashiki Turtle Research & Rescue team

was founded in 2009 by Amber Slaughterbeck with the purpose of rescuing wildlife from Highway 40/150 and CSX railways in West Terre Haute, Indiana. Since 2009, the team has rescued and documented over 3,000 native turtles of six species. In 2014, the team achieved the installation of turtle crossing signs warning motorists to slow down for turtles. A few years later, in 2016, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) installed 8,000' of wildlife fencing along the highway. The wildlife fencing has stopped hundreds of turtles from venturing into the roadway.

Unfortunately the rescue is about to witness a major setback during 2020 with the construction of a pedestrian walkway and the plan to remove the wildlife fencing during construction. The Wabashiki Turtle Research & Rescue team will continue to advocate for a wildlife corridor to be installed *before the construction begins* to reduce the likelihood of increased wildlife casualties following the removal of the wildlife fence.

**The public is asked to contact INDOT before OCT 2019 to urge that the pedestrian walkway designs accommodate a wildlife corridor before the project begins by emailing or calling Communications Director Debbie Calder: [dcalder@indot.in.gov](mailto:dcalder@indot.in.gov) or 765-361-5236.**

**FOR INFO on Wabashiki Turtle Team, contact Amber: [amber@sicim.info](mailto:amber@sicim.info), 812-229-3539**

#### West Lafayette's first "TURTLE XING" SIGNS

go up thanks to the efforts of local 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader Jack Wietbrock! The signs went up after 8-year-old Jack wrote this letter to West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis:

"Dear Mayor Dennis, There are turtles crossing the road and they need our help. Can you please put up a turtle crossing sign? Thank you, Jack Wietbrock, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade."

On a second page of loose leaf paper, Jack drew a picture of a car stopped and someone carrying a turtle. He captioned it: "We saved a baby turtle."

Soon after the Mayor received this letter, Jack and his family were invited to a weekly board of works meeting and when Jack was asked to say a few words, he said "I just want to say I care about the whole Earth and everyone on it. That's all."

[Based on Dave Bangert's AUG 7, 2019 Journal & Courier article.]

## SAY'S FIREFLY & STUDENT RECOGNITION

**WL STUDENTS receive "Brilliant Firefly" award for work on NAMING Indiana's FIRST OFFICIAL STATE INSECT!**

Five years ago, then West Lafayette second grader Kayla Xu noticed that Indiana was one of the few states to not have a state insect. She and her other classmates, with the help of their teacher Maggie Samudio, began a years-long project writing letters and petitions to state elected officials, their representatives in Washington D.C. and to schools all over Indiana asking for support.

After years of hard work to get their bill past the committee stage at the state level, it was finally passed in February 2018 and Governor Eric Holcomb signed the proclamation into legislation making the Say's Firefly Indiana's first state insect! It is named after Hoosier and "Father of North American Entomology" Thomas Say, who first described the insect in 1826 while living in New Harmony. Say's Firefly is native to Indiana and other parts of North America.

On Friday, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Kayla and her West Lafayette classmates were presented with the inaugural "**Brilliant Firefly**" – an award commemorating young Hoosiers for outstanding achievement and extraordinary community involvement – "...for their thoughtful and tenacious civic engagement to name our state insect," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. She told these schoolchildren that *people can make a difference* and they themselves proved to everyone that it is possible.

[Based on Emily DeLetter's AUG 26, 2019 Journal & Courier article.]

## HELPING CLIMATE

"NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"  
~ the title of 16 year-old Greta Thunberg's book ~  
and here is another example confirming its truth:

#### FRI SEP 27<sup>th</sup> Climate Strike 1:30-3:30pm

West Lafayette H.S. students will be doing this again, as they did last May, in conjunction with the worldwide "Fridays for Future" movement started by Swedish high school student Greta Thunberg.

**NOTE: All community members are invited to participate.**

We will begin by marching from West Lafayette High School to the WL Public Library – a pickup spot for Purdue students, students from surrounding schools, and for community members.

We will all march together to city hall (the old Happy Hollow Elementary School) for speeches by empowered students.

Throughout, we will collect signatures on a petition to send to the statehouse.

We strike to empower our local politicians, as well as not so local, to take action against a crisis that is raging out of control.

We also strike to unite the community to fight for a common goal—ending the climate crisis. **This will be a peaceful protest.**

This strike is also completely student led and organized by my friends and me. **We hope to see a lot of people on Sep 27th standing up for our world.** ~ Annabel Prokopy, WL H.S. Student

Their local Facebook page is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2437628219627243/>

"Fridays for Future" website is: <https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/>

## Protecting Water & Air

**UPDATE on the proposed 4000+ cow "Natural Prairie Dairy" CAFO\* adjacent to TNC's Kankakee Sands**

HEC (Hoosier Environmental Council) and others are filing a Federal lawsuit citing that Natural Prairie Dairy (a Texas-based company) is in violation of the Clean Water Act after the Dairy illegally filled a tributary of the Bogus Island Ditch and filled farmed wetlands without obtaining the proper permits.

HEC and local citizens are challenging the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's decision to approve the dairy. A hearing in Indianapolis will occur by the end of the year. HEC reached a settlement with the Newton County Board of Zoning Appeals to conduct a public hearing on a petition to have the BZA revoke the special zoning exception based on the dairy's violations of the conditions of the special exception. A date for the public hearing is yet to be determined.

This poorly planned CAFO/\***Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation** poses a threat to local drinking water and the area's air quality.

To date, the citizen group (Protect our Kankakee River Basin) has raised \$5,500 to stop this CAFO from being built on the site of historic Beaver Lake. They are striving to raise another \$5,000 to pay for legal expenses related to this fight to protect the water & land, and are asking for help in reaching this goal. **FOR MORE INFO and TO DONATE: [www.gofundme.com/protect-kankakee-river-basin](http://www.gofundme.com/protect-kankakee-river-basin)**

# WEDNESDAYS in the WILD ~ SEP-NOV 2019

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips 1-3p.m. or As Noted (times are all Eastern time)

Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

- Sep 4<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Moyer-Gould Woods Hike** ----- **Battle Ground carpool 12:30pm** ----- outdoor pgm—**NICHES/MGW**  
**Gus Nyberg (Executive Director, NICHES Land Trust)** will lead a stroll through the hills along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County discussing the property's cultural history and appreciating the natural landscape work being done there.
- Sep 11<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Invasive Pests of Trees and Gardens** ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—**LNC**  
What's threatening your trees and garden? Learn to SPOT and STOP the invasive insects threatening your trees! **Dr. Cliff Sadoff (Purdue Univ, Extension), Elizabeth Barnes (Purdue Univ Exotic Forest Pest Educator) and Carrie Tauscher (IN DNR, State Community & Urban Forestry Coordinator)** will give an indoor presentation followed by a hike where you'll learn tree identification and the signs of these pests (if raining, indoors).
- Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm Boulder Baggage: The Stories Revealed by Glacial Erratics** --- **NOTE: late afternoon time** ---- outdoor pgm—**BNA**  
Join **Dean Ballotti (Senior Lecturer, Purdue University) and Andy Najafiarab (INDOT District Geologist)** on this rock ramble to examine a landscape where dozens of large glacial boulders were unearthed during quarrying operations at Bicentennial Nature Area. The geologic origins of the sand, gravel and rock resources that were mined here will be revealed, along with tales of their ice-age journeys and subsequent exposure through the process of removing these earth resources for use in products essential to our modern way of life.
- Sep 25<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Toxins on the Trail** ----- outdoor pgm—**WHT**  
While enjoying a stroll on trails through Indiana's woodlands and fields, do not be deceived by the superficial beauty of the plants along the path! Surprisingly, many common local plants have varying levels of toxicity to animals that encounter them. **Dr. Steve Hooser (Head Toxicologist, Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory)** will lead us on a hike to identify these potential hazards and discover their effects on animals.
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-9pm West Lafayette H.S. Students and Climate Activism/Outreach** ----- **NOTE: evening time** ----- indoor pgm—**LNC**  
A passionate group of West Lafayette high schoolers will discuss the work they have been involved with to get students and others in the community involved in climate action through school striking and speaking out. Members of this West Lafayette Climate Strike Committee include **Annabel Prokopy, Margaret Prokopy, Ethan Bledsoe, Gabriela Weiner, Zayne Shalabi, CeCe Holler, Molly Edwards, and Siya Goel.**
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm A Walk in Whistler Hare Woods** ----- **LNC carpool 12:15pm** ----- outdoor pgm—**NICHES/WHW**  
Come out and explore the woods, sandstone outcrops and valleys of NICHES newest addition in Fountain County with **Gus Nyberg (Executive Director, NICHES Land Trust)**. Moderate level hike.
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Under the Radar – Bird Migration at Celery Bog** ---- **Bring binoculars, if you can** ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—**LNC**  
**Jessica Outcalt (Ph.D. candidate at Purdue)** gives an indoor talk about bird migration and how to use weather radar to study it, followed by an outdoor walk to look for migrating birds.
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 7-9pm Tales from the Pleistocene: Moraines, Mega-floods and More!** ----- **NOTE: evening time** ----- indoor pgm—**LNC**  
The landscapes, soils, rivers and rocks of northern Indiana tell a story of ice sheets, permafrost, and giant outburst floods. Geomorphologist **Darryl Granger (Purdue University)** will talk about the landforms found around Tippecanoe County and discuss what they reveal about glaciation and cataclysmic floods during Indiana's ice age.
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Weiler Leopold Hike** ----- **LNC carpool 12:30pm** ----- outdoor pgm—**NICHES/WL**  
NICHES Land Trust has protected Weiler Leopold for 20 years. We will hike the trails with a focus on the management that has been done on this Warren County property since NICHES acquired it. Hike will be led by **Gus Nyberg (Executive Director, NICHES Land Trust)**.
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Tour of Indiana Dunes National Park** ----- indoor pgm—**LNC**  
**Kip Walton (Park Ranger/Outreach Program Coordinator)** of Indiana's FIRST National Park will take us on an end-to-end tour of this iconic property and highlight some of the most popular areas in the park. The incredible biodiversity of the Indiana Dunes will be showcased (including a visit with one of the park's educational animals!) and the story of the park's recognition as our 61st National Park will be shared in this wonderful armchair visit to this Indiana treasured landscape.
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Lafayette Water Conservation** ----- indoor pgm—**LNC**  
Have you ever wondered about the huge holding tanks that were buried in Lafayette? **Brad Talley (Lafayette RENEW Superintendent)** will be showing pictures and explaining how these will help the Wabash River and future riverfront development.
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Chillin' Out! - Nature's Winter Survival Strategies** ----- indoor pgm—**LNC**  
The annual arrival of winter brings profound changes in plant and animal communities as living organisms prepare for the challenges of the season. **Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tipp. Co. Park & Rec. Dept.)** will explore the incredible adaptations that enable life to persist & even thrive in the out-of-doors as we huddle in our climate-controlled dwellings; you will be amazed at nature's resilience!  
**(NOTE: NOV 20<sup>th</sup> is our last program in 2019. Wednesdays in the Wild programs will RESUME mid-JAN 2020.)**

## LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- BNA (Bicentennial Nature Area):** In Lafayette, on the north side of Sagamore Parkway between Duncan Road and Schuyler Ave. Take off ramps indicated by "Park Entrance" signs. Meet just past the entry gates.
- LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area):** 1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick in West Lafayette.
- NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods - 4620 N US-421, Delphi 46923):** Meet at 1pm in property parking lot (1 ¼ miles north of SR 18/US 421 intersection) OR join 12:30pm carpool from Battlefield Monument parking lot off N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. in Battle Ground.
- NICHES/WHW (Whistler Hare Woods - near 246-398 W Covered Bridge Rd, Attica, 47918):** Meet at 1pm in Whistler Hare Woods parking lot (directions at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)) OR join 12:15pm CARPOOL from LNC.
- NICHES/WL (Weiler-Leopold - N 1100 E, Otterbein in Warren Co):** Meet at 1pm in Weiler-Leopold parking lot (directions at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)) OR join 12:30pm CARPOOL from LNC.
- WHT (Wabash Heritage Trail):** To start the hike, meet in Battle Ground at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center at the end of the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

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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