

NATIVE ROOTS

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

Vol 16 Issue #4 SEP-DEC 2020

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)

~ open to public ~

While LNC is closed, there are no indoor WC-INPS meetings planned.

Per **DAN DUNTEN**: "Meetings or programs cannot be held in city buildings (including Lilly Nature Center) the remainder of this year because of the pandemic and the associated risks."

LNC Questions? Contact Dan: 765-775-5172

SUN SEP 20 3pm Explore Native Plantings at Master Gardener

Extension Gardens** (3150 Sagamore Pkwy S, Laf)

Mickey Penrod leads a tour of the plantings & big honeysuckle removal.

**RSVP: Mickey Penrod: 765-714-8971, cmpeprod@frontiernet.net

Pgm Chair Susan Ulrich: 765-585-6750C, sueandtedulrich@msn.com

INPS Online ANNUAL MEETING via ZOOM on SAT NOV 14th
with a tentative time of 1pm-3pm

We'll do an overview of the INPS year, have a few short talks of general interest, present the winners of the photo contest, and conduct an election of the nominated Board members for 2021.

MORE INFO: indiananativeplants.org

GIBSON WOODS ~ CHAPTER 38 of WILD ONES

(a national organization promoting native plants and natural landscapes)

Gibson Woods PROGRAM Meetings—first Saturdays at 10am Central
at Gibson Woods (6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN) 219-844-3188

~ open to public ~

SAT OCT 3 Guided Nature Walk at Gibson Woods...a state-designated nature preserve located on an old lakeshore of Lake Michigan—visited by over 160 species of birds and home to over 300 species of plants!

INFO: gw-wildones.org, Kim Moor 219-433-5731, kckim10@gmail.com

The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S "WINTER CLUSTER" SERIES

~ a webinar lunch and learn series for Bee Keepers & Enthusiasts!

Thursdays at noon on **SEP 10, 17, 24 & OCT 1, 8** **

SEP 10 Intro to the series – Brock Harpur, Kathleen Prough, Debbie Seib

SEP 17 Beekeeping 101 with youth – Alex Pettigrew

SEP 24 Fall garden management for bees – Cliff Sadof

OCT 1 Honey extraction and processing – "A beekeeper near you"

OCT 8 Winterizing your colonies – Sara Dzimianski

** Attendance is capped at 100 so join quickly!

Register at <https://bit.ly/3gWR6ij>

WEST CENTRAL INDIANA BEEKEEPER Meetings on 3rd SATs

NOTE: SAT morning indoor meetings are on hold for foreseeable future.

To get on list for emails about club meetings & alternatives, contact

Patty Jones: WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com

The BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA 2020 FALL CONFERENCE

SAT OCT 24th 7:45am- 4pm (Pre-reg folder pickup starts at 7:15am)
at Horizon Convention Center (Muncie, Indiana)

Conference cost: \$40memb/\$50non-memb/\$25child if 15 or under.**

Guest Speakers

Dr. Jay Evans—Research Leader focusing on bee health at USDA-ARS Bee Research Lab/Beltsville, MD. Before that he worked on a project focused on the production of honey bee queens at the Univ of Arizona. He lives on a "hobby farm" with sheep, goats, chickens, beehives and his three teenagers—they all eat a lot but are endlessly entertaining!

Kent Williams—EAS Certified Master Beekeeper (the first in Kentucky!) has been keeping bees for over 30 years & maintains about 800 hives in w. KY. He rents bees for pollination, produces honey, raises several thousand queens and produces nucleus colonies for local beekeepers. He developed a KW hive tool – a J-Hook & Kelley Hive tool all in one.

**For details/registration forms, visit: www.indianabeekeeper.com

Question?Debbie Seib 317-432-9578 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)

~ open to the public ~

As a result of LNC being closed, the status of monthly SAS programs is not known as of this Native Roots issue.

Per **DAN DUNTEN**: "Meetings or programs cannot be held in city buildings (including Lilly Nature Center) the remainder of this year because of the pandemic and the associated risks."

LNC Questions? Contact Dan: 765-775-5172

MORE INFO: VP Chuck Tuttle 586-4806C, chuckt1708@gmail.com or Susan Ulrich 765-585-6750C, sueandtedulrich@msn.com

SAS FIELD TRIPS/HIKES

INFO: Barny 765-412-8760C, 765-494-3565W jdunning@purdue.edu

FALL Possibility: Hummingbird Banding Trip Friday night & Saturday

Barny Dunning is looking into the feasibility of one of these popular trips where participants see hummingbirds in the hand and learn about banding them at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary south of Connerrsville.

They usually drive down Friday, camp overnight and see the banding early Saturday morning. It is possible to drive down very early on Saturday instead. **If interested let Barny know.**

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. He also uses it for updates to programs and field trips. *Contact him if you wish to be added.*

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD HIKES—weekly while interest lasts!

Meet at 8:00am in gravel parking lot at Celery Bog Nature Area on the north side of Lindberg Rd between Northwestern & McCormick, WLaf.

AUDUBON at the Overlook in Prophetstown State Park

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 12th 7:30-9:30am ~Gate fee may still be charged at this time.

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

More info: Chuck Tuttle 765-586-4806C, chuckt1708@gmail.com

HELPFUL HINT from Karen Griggs FOR SUET PURCHASES

Not too long ago I was dismayed to learn that the plastic tray holding the suet I buy is NOT RECYCLABLE (at least not locally in the Lafayette area), so I was delighted to read in Karen's article "Birdwatching for Beginners" (SAS Summer 2020 Sycamore Warbler Newsletter) that she found suet that comes without the plastic tray at the Rural King Store on Teal Road in Lafayette! I'm going to give it a try! ~NR Editor

Taking Requests for WABASH RIVER Heritage Trail PLANT WALKS

Nick Harby enjoys leading leisurely walks along the river to observe and discuss the wildlife and natural history of what is seen along the trail.

If you are interested in such a walk, or would like him to take a look at some wild land on your property, **contact him at: 317-370-2895, nickharby@yahoo.com**

INPS BIODIVERSITY GRANTS – Deadline OCT 1st

Awards of \$400 to \$1500 are made in three categories:

Research, Demonstration Garden, Land Management & Conservation

See details below for more information, online application forms and a downloadable template to help you organize your proposal.

DETAILS ~ <https://indiananativeplants.org/inps-biodiversity-grants/>

FALL 2020 NATIVE PLANT SALE

2020 NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE – Tippecanoe Co. SWCD

Plant List/Order Form: www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

ORDER by SEP 25th 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 THUR OCT 8th 3-7pm (arrange your individual pick-up time) at Ross Camp: 9225 W 75 S, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

QUESTIONS? chris.remley@in.nacdnet.net 765-474-9992 x101

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (cont'd)

SEP-OCT WEDNESDAYS in the WILD programs: in separate flyer
AND on p. 3 of this electronic version of Native Roots

LEARN ABOUT MONARCH BUTTERFLY FALL MIGRATION!

3rd Annual East Chicago Festival de la Monarca

SEP 14-19 ~ VIRTUAL Free Events & Activities

Enjoy learning about Monarch Butterflies in this whole week of inspiring stories, activities & lessons right in your own home or school!

To find out more about the festival, visit [nature.org/events](https://www.facebook.com/events/140202493983942) or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/140202493983942>

This event is hosted by TNC Lakeshore Office in partnership with the Field Museum, Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinze Land Trust and Audubon Great Lakes.

PROPHETSTOWN STATE PARK NATURE PROGRAMS

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

Programs are part of park admission fee unless noted otherwise.

Some Fall programs that are planned ~ archeology programs, programs on mussels, programs on prescribed fire at the park, and Fall Fest (OCT 16-18) which is awaiting State Board of Health approval.

Learn about upcoming events at [on.in.gov/prophetstown](https://www.in.gov/prophetstown) or visit Facebook page at www.facebook.com/prophetstownsp/

MORE INFO: Jenna Parks Freeman 765-320-0503, jparks@dnr.IN.gov

Kankakee Sands TNC & Friends of the Sands (FOS)

As is true for many organizations during these unpredictable times of COVID-19, advance scheduling of events is difficult and subject to change.

To stay informed about opportunities at Kankakee Sands & learn what the bison are up to, you can sign up for a delightful weekly email from Alyssa Nyberg (Native Plant Nursery Manager & Outreach Coordinator) by contacting her at anyberg@tnc.org.

To stay informed about FOS activities, follow the Friends of the Sands Facebook page or contact [Jeanette Jaskula jmjaskula@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeanette.Jaskula@yahoo.com).

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) Event

FRI or SAT/SEP 18th or 19th 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.

Details (including careful precautions being taken because of COVID-19) and sign up at: www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz

QUESTIONS? Stan Lambert 765-420-8505, slambert@wabashriver.net

Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District Event

SAT OCT 3rd 8am-2pm Low/No Contact Electronic Recycling Event

Oscar Winski E-Waste, 1449 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Lafayette

FREE for Tippecanoe County Residents ONLY

(bring proof of residency, otherwise you will be charged regular fees)

Accepting: devices such as TVs, computers, laptops, etc. for recycling.
NOT accepting: items with refrigerant such as AC units, refrigerators, dehumidifiers or freezers; large appliances such as washing machines or stoves (recycle those at Oscar Winski Scrap Metal 2407 N 9th St.)

MORE INFO: www.facebook.com/tippecanoecountywaste
or call [Amy Krzton-Presson 765-423-2858](tel:765-423-2858)

Tippecanoe County SWCD/Soil & Water Conservation District

Keep up with the latest updates on our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/TippecanoeSWCD/

FOR MORE INFO: contact Angela.Garcia-Miller@in.nacdnet.net

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

Wolf Park has REOPENED but face coverings are required for all visitors over the age of 2 for the guided tours and HOWL nights.

MORE INFO at: <https://www.wolfpark.org/covid-response/>

VISITORS MUST BOOK THEIR VISITS IN ADVANCE

Follow the Pack Tour – classic tour led by highly trained education docent, *Howl Night 7-8:30pm*, *Twilight Self-Guided Tour*, *Private Tour* to see the gray wolves, red foxes, gray foxes and bison (1 hour, \$75), *Self-Guided Tour* to view wolves, foxes, and bison at dawn when they're most active, *Howl-O-Ween Night* – walk the trail, learn about wolf misconceptions & mythology while warming up by a fire, *Follow the Pack through Indiana History* – tour with a focus on the behavior and ecology of wolves.

FOR MORE INFO & Details of dates/times/costs & special programs, please visit www.wolfpark.org or call [765-567-2265](tel:765-567-2265)

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

RIP Squad Volunteers Remove Invasive Plants such as Garlic Mustard and Asian Bush Honeysuckle

In light of COVID-19 restrictions,
no fall schedule has been set up at this time.

Sponsored by West Central Chapter of INPS and Sycamore Audubon Society in cooperation with Tippecanoe County Parks.
QUESTIONS ABOUT INVASIVES WORK? Please contact Patty Jones at 765-463-3050, removeinvasiveplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com

NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!

INFO/Property directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org

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

NICHES VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

FRI SEP 18 10-1pm Mulvey Pond Seed Collection ~ Tippecanoe Co.

Sign up with Sam Cody: sam@nicheslandtrust.org

SAT SEP 19 2-4pm Shawnee Bottoms Seed Collection ~ Fountain Co.

Sign up with Bob Easter: rb Easter@nicheslandtrust.org

SAT SEP 26 10-1pm Honeysuckle Removal Workday ~Tippecanoe Co.

Meet at intersection of Kerber & Division Road, West Lafayette.

Sign up with Sam Cody: sam@nicheslandtrust.org

Sam's CALLOUT for NICHES VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKERS

Over the past several months, as COVID-19 shut down public gatherings, we've noticed a large increase in the number of individuals using our hiking trails. Keeping these trails safe and maintained helps us play our part in the societal response to extended social distancing guidelines.

With over 15 cumulative miles of hiking trails, we need all the help we can get keeping them cleared, mowed, & litter free. Three ways to help:

- 1-To join **Clegg Memorial Garden Trail Crew** at our Lafayette headquarters, please email **Don Franzmeier: dfranzme@gmail.com**.
- 2-If you have your own field/brush mower and want to **adopt a grassland trail**, please email **Sam Cody: sam@nicheslandtrust.org** with your name and county of residence. Trail volunteers are asked to work remotely and keep trails mowed throughout the growing season.
- 3-To become a **general NICHES volunteer**, **register on our website at nicheslandtrust.org/volunteer** and select "trail maintenance" as your area of interest; we will reach out to you as tasks come up across our service range.

If QUESTIONS, email Sam Cody: sam@nicheslandtrust.org

NICHES 2020 TREE OF THE YEAR Contest

Submit a Photo by NOV 15!

Across the 3000+ acres of native Indiana forests and savannas that NICHES protects, there are millions of trees ~ but only one can be the 2020 tree of the year!

We need your help to discover and photograph the crown jewel of our service area. Contest participants have until November 15, 2020 to hit the trails (and off trails) to find and submit a photo of the tree they believe out-shades all the others.

The photo can be of any species, any size, may feature any part and may include people/wildlife.

Email your submissions to niches@nicheslandtrust.org with the subject line "NICHES 2020 Tree of the Year Contest" AND include the name of the property you found it on.

The top 7 submissions will be featured in our December e-news (The Acorn) and be voted on.

The winner will be announced in January e-news and will receive a hand-crafted Aldo-Leopold style bench. HAVE FUN & STAY SAFE!

Invasive Species ~ TICT*

* (Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce)

TICT doesn't have any events scheduled at this time, but the best way to stay up to date is to visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TippecanoeInvasiveCooperativeTaskforce/
FOR MORE INFO: contact Angela.Garcia-Miller@in.nacdnet.net

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 20th.

Please send your info to mohrsamuels@comcast.net or call (765) 567-7023. *Joan Mohr Samuels, Editor*

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD" ~ SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

REGISTRATION is required by noon on Monday prior to program: 765-567-2993 or mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov

**** Facial coverings and/or physical distancing are state mandated. ****

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips: 1-3pm OR as Noted

Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

SEP 2nd 1-3pm Experience Granville Sand Barrens ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/GSB

Enjoy a hike at Indiana's highest quality remnant sand barrens ecosystem, while viewing the state endangered golden aster and other rare plants. **Bob Easter (NICHES Land Trust Stewardship Director)** will also showcase the work being done by NICHES to conserve this unique site in Tippecanoe County. *Limited to 12 participants.*

SEP 9th 1-3pm Bryan Woods Nature Preserve—A Sobering Survivor of a Lost World ---CARAVAN (details in Locations section)-- outdoor pgm—BRYAN

Join **Tom Swinford (Assistant Div. Director, IDNR Division of Nature Preserves)** on a walk through these woods which give us a tantalizing hint of what things were like in central Indiana long ago! This preserve is a small example of a central tillplain flat woods. It is 29 acres in size and protects some surviving old, large trees (oaks--more than 4 feet in diameter and more than 250 years old!) and some typical understory plants. **NOTE:** There is limited parking & will likely have mosquitos present. *Limited to 15 participants.*

SEP 16th 1-3pm Human Nature: A Look at Management Decisions Related to Natural Resources ----- outdoor pgm—CBNA

Join **Lenny Farlee (Extension Forester, Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration)** and **Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.)** as they explore the role that humans have played in natural resource systems over time. Using the Celery Bog woodlands and wetlands as examples, they'll delve into the past and present impacts of natural area relationships to the people who live near these resources, and discuss how we can strive to manage areas to provide long-term benefits for society and the environment. *Limited to 25 participants.*

SEP 23rd 1-3pm From Cows to Now: Hiking in the Footsteps of David Ross ----- outdoor pgm—RHP

Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.) will lead a hike through the hills and hollows of Ross Hills Park, the former summer home of David Ross: Purdue benefactor, inventor and gentleman farmer. We'll tour "the house that David built" and then discover the special features of the oak woodlands and Wabash River bottomlands of this unique property. Moderate hiking; wear sturdy shoes and bring trekking poles, if you have them. *Limited to 25 participants. <--ALMOST FULL as of 9/13/20*

SEP 30th 1-3pm Ross Biological Reserve: A Gem of Natural Heritage & Laboratory for Ecological Study for over 70 Years - outdoor pgm—ROSS BR

Established by Dr. Alton Lindsey and colleagues in 1948, the Ross Reserve is one of the best understood forests in the midwest. **Dr. Kerry Rabenold (Prof. Emeritus of Biological Sciences)** will lead this stroll down toward the Wabash, revealing a surprising diversity of habitats. The changes that have occurred there over several time scales illustrates both the resilience and the vulnerability of forest ecosystems. Moderate hiking; wear sturdy shoes and bring trekking poles, if you have them. *Limited to 15 participants. <--FULL as of 9/13/20*

OCT 7th 1-3pm Prophetstown Fen Nature Preserve Hike -----Bring State Park pass; otherwise pay \$8 park gate fee----- outdoor pgm—PSTPK

Fen and seep wetlands were important repositories of unique plants and animals, and were utilized historically by Native Americans in a variety of ways. Currently, much of this flora and fauna is rare in our state. Join **Scott Namestnik (Botanist, Div. of Nature Preserves, IDNR)** on this exploration of a restored fen at our local state park and learn about the wildflowers in the area. *Limited to 15 participants. <--FULL as of 9/13/20*

OCT 14th 6-8pm Canid Co-Existence & Conservation --IF Wolf Park member, bring card; otherwise pay \$10 program fee--- outdoor pgm—WOLFPK

Wolf Park staff members will discuss co-existence with foxes and coyotes in our area. Following the presentation, participants will tour Wolf Park and learn about conservation practices at the park and efforts to educate Wolf Park visitors on conservation efforts they can practice at home to maintain backyard ecosystems favorable to wildlife. **NOTE:** this is a 6-8pm evening program. *Limited to 25 participants.*

OCT 21st 1-3pm Using Fire as a Tool: NICHES Land Trust Controlled Burn Program ---- CARAVAN leaves LNC 12:15pm ---- outdoor pgm—NICHES/WL

Hike with **Gus Nyberg (NICHES Land Trust Executive Director)** at this diverse property in Warren County and learn how and why NICHES uses controlled burns to manage natural areas. The hike through the restored prairie and oak savanna woodlands will showcase the positive impacts that fire can bring to landscapes! *Limited to 12 participants. <--FULL as of 9/13/20*

OCT 28th 1-3pm Prophet's Rock Ramble ----- Limited to 25 participants ----- outdoor pgm—WNC

Explore a local landscape, shaped by fire and ice, which was important in local legend and lore. **Naturalist Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.)** will lead this moderate hike featuring both human and natural history. Wear sturdy shoes and bring trekking poles, if you have them.

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTE: limited number of participants so RSVP is REQUIRED by noon on Monday prior to program!

BRYAN (Bryan Woods Nature Preserve): Meet 1pm at the preserve (4751 N Co Rd 450 W, Frankfort, IN 46041) OR join 12:15pm CARAVAN from the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off North 9th St. in Battle Ground.

CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area): Meet 1pm at Celery Bog Amphitheater (1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick, West Laf.).

NICHES/GSB (Granville Sand Barrens): Meet 1pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) in Tippecanoe County.

NICHES/WL (Weiler-Leopold): Meet at 1pm in Weiler-Leopold parking lot at N 1100 E, Otterbein in Warren Co (detailed directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) OR join 12:15pm CARAVAN from Lilly Nature Center parking lot—1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette.

PSTPK (Prophetstown State Park): Enter the park via Swisher Rd (off North Ninth St. just south of Battle Ground). Meet 1pm at Prairie View Picnic Area parking lot. **NOTE: Bring State Park pass; otherwise pay \$8 park gate fee.**

RHP (ROSS HILLS PARK): Take South River Rd/Division Rd past Ft. Ouiatenon, and past the Granville Bridge; turn left on 875 W (at the Ravines Golf Course). Follow signs for the entrance to Ross Hills Park. Meet 1pm at the Ross House (use 1st parking area on the left after entering park).

ROSS BR (ROSS BIOLOGICAL RESERVE): Meet 1pm at the Biological Reserve: 451 S. 875 W., West Lafayette.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): Meet 1pm at the Nature Center off North Ninth St. in Battle Ground.

WOLFPK (WOLF PARK): In Battle Ground, take Main to Jefferson (becomes Harrison Rd). Turn onto gravel road 800 N/Wolf Pk sign to parking lot.

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