

Celebrating our 20th YEAR! ~ "WEDNESDAYS in the WILD" ~ APRIL - JUNE 2021

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"

- Apr 7th 1-3pm Lugar Woods: A Restoration of Neglected Natural Areas ----- outdoor pgm—LFF**
Brian Beheler (Purdue Farm Manager) will provide a tour of Purdue's Lugar Forestry Farm, a 430-acre property which had 90% of its woodlands impacted by multi-species invasive plants when its management as a fruit orchard was abandoned. Come learn some of the science behind invasive species removal and discover hidden gems rebounding on the land. People movers will provide some transport. [Participant limit: 25]
- Apr 14th 1-3pm Walk NICHES Newest Property: Parker's Hickory Grove Farm ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/PHGF**
Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) will lead a hike to introduce this new, easily accessible West Lafayette property. The recently completed easy trail system crosses meadow and woods, and the cultural and natural history of the land will be shared on the hike. [Participant limit: 12]
- Apr 21st 1-3pm Watching the Woods Awaken ----- Book available for purchase (\$10 cash/check) ----- outdoor pgm—CB/AMPH**
*Mickey Penrod (Master Gardener, Indiana Native Plant Society Chapter President) will share the story of *Wake Up, Woods* and then use the book as a guide to explore the Celery Bog woods in search of the spring flowers depicted in verse, illustration and text. [Participant limit: 20]*
- Apr 28th 1-3pm Birding for Beginners -- Bring field guides/binoculars, if you have them (otherwise provided) -- outdoor pgm—CB/AMPH**
Lise Schools (IDNR Interpretive Planner) will walk participants through the basics of taking up birding. Field guide options, optical equipment selection/use, birding resources, & key ID characteristics will all be covered before we hit the trails in pursuit of our quarry! [Participant limit: 12]
- May 5th 1-3pm Ephemeral Spring Wildflowers at Ross Biological Reserve -- trekking poles may be helpful- outdoor pgm—ROSS BR**
Mature forests in Indiana harbor a great variety of understory plants that flower briefly in the spring and then shrink back to their long-living root systems. On this hike, Dr. Kerry Rabenold (Prof. Emeritus of Biological Sciences, Purdue Univ.) will discuss these plants' relationships with pollinators, seed dispersal strategies, and sensitivity to soil types and disturbance. Moderately rugged hike. [Participant limit: 20]
- May 12th 1-3pm Birding with Apps ----- Bring binoculars, if you have them, and cell phones ----- outdoor pgm—CB/AMPH**
Discover birding with technology with Chuck Tuttle and other members of Sycamore Audubon Society. An introductory session will provide an overview of the most popular and useful birding apps, followed by a hike on Celery Bog trails to test the use of these tools. [Participant limit: 25]
- May 19th 1-3pm Woodland Wildflower Hike ---- Dan's wildflower guides available for purchase (\$10 cash/check) ---- outdoor pgm—MSW**
Join Dan Childs (wildflower enthusiast and author) on a hike through Michaud-Sinninger Woods. We'll identify spring wildflowers and also learn tips on controlling invasive plants. Enjoy some exercise on a beautiful spring day and increase your knowledge: a win-win! [Participant limit: 25]
- May 26th 1-3pm Restoration Revealed: A NICHES Property Case Study ---- LNC caravan 12 noon --- outdoor pgm— NICHES/WHW**
NICHES Stewardship Director Bob Easter will lead this Fountain County hike focusing on the ongoing transformation of Whistler Hare Woods, involving six adjacent landowners. Moderate hiking, with opportunity to explore more rugged terrain afterwards. [Participant limit: 12]
- Jun 2nd 1-3pm Bikes, Boots & Brushes: Exploring a Multi-Purpose Trail System ----- outdoor pgm—TIPP**
AMPH
The 166-acre home of the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater offers multi-purpose trails throughout the woodlands adjacent to Burnett's Creek and the Wabash River. Hike with Naturalist Mary Cutler (Tipp. Co. Park Dept.) to explore the human and natural history of this property, learn how citizens can use these trails, and see Rena Brouwer & other local artists demonstrate artistic inspiration from the property! [Participant limit: 25]
- Jun 9th 1-3pm A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds ----- outdoor pgm—**
WNC
Join Dr. Mickey & Sally Weeks (Purdue University, Retired) as they share the scientific practice of mist-netting: capturing and banding birds to study. Birds will be caught at this presentation and participants will be allowed to ID and hold birds, if desired! [Participant limit: 25]
- Jun 16th 1-3pm Partnerships in Management Along the Wabash ----- LNC caravan 12:30pm ----- outdoor pgm—KERBER/DIV**
Justin Harmeson (NICHES Steward) and Shannon Stanis (WREC Watershed Coordinator) lead this hike to see a major invasive species removal project on beautiful ravines leading to the Wabash River. Moderately rugged hike includes a fen; trekking poles helpful. [Participant limit: TBD]
- Jun 23rd 1-3pm Spiders of Indiana: Incredibly Important Members of Healthy Functioning Ecosystems! ----- outdoor pgm—CB/AMPH**
Dr. Marc Milne (Assoc. Prof of Biology, Univ. of Indianapolis) will discuss spiders common to Indiana, provide tips for identifying them, describe methods to capture them safely, and then explore Celery Bog trails to locate and identify some of these spiders. [Participant limit: 20]
- Jun 30th 1-3pm Exploring the Ouiatenon Preserve National Historic Landmark ----- outdoor pgm—OPO**
Colby Bartlett (Ouiatenon Preserve Director) and Angie Miller (Tipp. Co. Soil & Water Conservation District) will share the natural and human history and archeology of Fort Ouiatenon and adjacent Native American village sites. Artifacts from the site will be displayed and the environmental restoration work and future development plans for the property will be discussed. [Participant limit: 25]

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTE: Caravans meet at LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog) parking lot (1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette)

CB/AMPH (Celery Bog Amphitheater): 1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick in West Lafayette, 47906.

KERBER/DIV Kerber Rd/Division Rd): Meet at the intersection of Kerber Rd. and Division Rd. in West Lafayette OR join 12:30pm LNC CARAVAN.

LFF (Lugar Forestry Farm): Meet 1pm at 555 N Sharon Chapel Rd, West Lafayette, 47906.

MSW (Michaud-Sinninger Woods): Meet 1pm at the trailhead in Cumberland Park at 3101 N. Salisbury St., West Lafayette, 47906.

NICHES/PHGF (Parker's Hickory Grove Farm): Meet 1pm at 833 N 400 W, West Lafayette, 47906.

NICHES/WHW (Whistler Hare Woods - near 164 W Covered Bridge Rd, Attica, 47918): Meet at 1pm in Whistler Hare Woods parking area (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org ~ 0.4mi gravel lane is across from mailbox #164 on W Covered Bridge Rd) OR join 12 noon LNC CARAVAN.

OPO (Ouiatenon Preserve Overlook): Meet 1pm at the Ouiatenon Preserve Overlook, 3429 S. River Rd., West Lafayette, 47906.

ROSS BR (Ross Biological Reserve): Meet 1pm at the Biological Reserve, 451 S 875 W, West Lafayette, 47906.

TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater): Meet 1pm in Tippecanoe County Amphitheater parking lot at 4449 State Road 43 N, West Laf., 47906

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): In Battle Ground, at the end of the Tippecanoe Battlefield parking lot off N. 9th St. (Battle Ground, 47920)

**MORE INFORMATION: Mary Cutler 765-567-2993; Dan Dunten 765-775-5172; Joan Mohr Samuels 765-532-3245,
mohrsamuels@comcast.net**