

NATIVE ROOTS

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

Vol 14 Issue #1 JAN-MAR 2018

FIRST ANNUAL LILLICH LECTURES

Honoring the legacy of Helen Lillich—founder of the West Lafayette Tree Friends and passionate advocate for the importance of trees for a healthier and vibrant community!

WED JAN 31st 11am-2pm – The Climate of Change

How our Changing Climate is Affecting Tree Stewardship and the Landscape

at Lilly Nature Center (1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette)

FOR AGENDA/SPEAKERS/REG (\$15 includes lunch):

www.edustore.purdue.edu/wk_group.asp?wk_group=Climate

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 22 "Natural Areas in the Lafayette Park System"

Don Staley, Natural Resources & Recreation Planner for Lafayette Parks & Rec, will talk about the parks you can visit in Lafayette, what is being planned for them, and how you can help them out.

MON FEB 26 "The Morel"

Steve Russell, President of the Hoosier Mushroom Society, will talk about the various species of Morel Mushrooms—how they grow, where they like to grow, and much more...!

MON MAR 26 "Saving the Monarch"

Barb Lucas, Naturalist & Photographer, presents this program on the Monarch butterfly and what to plant in your yard to meet their needs.

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

NEW RULES & OCT 1st DEADLINE for INPAWS GRANTS

(Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society)

Details/new application guidelines: www.inpaws.org "About Us" QUESTIONS? Daryn Fair: 317-435-2918, grants@inpaws.org

MIDWEST NATIVE PLANT 10th Anniversary CONFERENCE

JUL 27-29 at Bergamo Center, Dayton, Ohio

REGISTRATION OPENS MAR 10th www.midwestnativeplants.org

Last year's conference sold out in just 3 days, **so register MAR 10!!!**

NICK'S NATURE HIKES

FOR MORE INFO: nickharby@yahoo.com or 317-370-2895

SAT FEB 3rd WABASH RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL HIKE -starts noon

Meet Nick at noon 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 e-mail or call Nick.

Project BudBurst – Chicago Botanic Garden

A national network of citizen scientists monitoring plants as the seasons change.

Participants report the first leaf, flower, fruit and other aspects of individual plants over a period of time or as single observations. The collected data helps scientists understand the effects of climate on plant & animal life. Visit budburst.org for info on how to get started.

For MORE INFO: budburst@chicagobotanic.org

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 11 "Bison and Kankakee Sands"

Barb Lucas, a naturalist, photographer and TNC Kankakee docent, gives a program covering Kankakee Sands, the bison experiment, and her experiences there.

THURS FEB 8 "Bird Migration through Hoosier Landscapes Heavily Impacted by Human Land-use"

Barny Dunning, Purdue Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources, discusses the studies he and his students have begun on this issue. We will hear about studies involving songbirds, owls and shorebirds that use our forests, wetlands and agricultural fields.

THURS MAR 8 "What Role Does Hunting Play in Conservation?"

Jarred Brooke, Wildlife Extension Specialist in Purdue's Forestry & Natural Resources Dept, gives this program. He is relatively new to Purdue and teaches a course in hunting.

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 27 8:30am Winter Birds Field Trip (half-day)

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

SAT FEB 24 8:00am Spring Waterfowl Trip (half-day)

Looking for water birds at Celery Bog, at Pine Creek Gamebird Area, and along the Wabash; & will visit at least one Bald Eagle nesting area.

SAT MAR 3rd American Woodcock Evening Walk ~ a rite of spring!

**Meet 6:20pm at the Tippecanoe Amphitheater parking lot to spend the evening listening for and possibly seeing Woodcock (aka "Doodle bird") males going through their spring courtship routines!

THURSDAY EARLY BIRD WALKS – begin MAR 22nd (~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: indianaudubon.org/winter-feeder-bird-count

DUE MAR 15th: John Castrale, 780 Lawrenceport Rd, Mitchell, IN 47446

QUESTIONS? John Castrale: jsascastrale@gmail.com

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: FRI FEB 16 thru MON FEB 19

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

Participation details & tracking data at gbbc.birdcount.org

FRI-SUN JAN 26-JAN 28 – "EAGLES IN FLIGHT WEEKEND 2018"

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!

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

Friends of the Sands Activities (open to the public)

SAT FEB 24th 4:00pm Central time – Short-eared Owl Viewing

Meet at The Nature Conservancy's office (3294 N US 41, Morocco, IN); then carpool to best owl-viewing locations with Jeanette Jaskula and Barb Lucas. Please RSVP to Barb: blucas1123@gmail.com

SAT MAR 10th 1-3pm Central time – Fairy Shrimp Hike—Newton County

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

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!
2017-2018 school yr: Pre-K thru 8th Graders—no membership fees

Each class meets once every three weeks as follows:

PK – K grades meet Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm
DATES: FEB 13, MAR 6, MAR 27, APR 17, MAY 8

1st – 2nd grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm
DATES: FEB 13, MAR 6, MAR 27, APR 17, MAY 8

3rd – 5th grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 7:30pm
DATES: FEB 20, MAR 13, APR 3, APR 24, MAY 15

6th – 8th grades meet Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm:
DATES: FEB 27, MAR 20, APR 10, MAY 1, MAY 22

TOPICS: *Native Americans & Mother Earth, The Secret Life of Bees, Food from our Farmer Friends (Local Food), Let's Get Froggy, Pirates of the Bog (Annual Treasure Hunt)*

For full 2017/18 JNC schedule thru AUG 28th

plus lots more info: www.hands-future.org

Sponsored by Sycamore Audubon Society & Hands of the Future

For MORE INFO, 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).

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 13 & FEB 10 1-4pm Winter Wolves in full winter coats!
How animals survive winter, games.... Warm up with hot drink indoors.

SAT MAR 3rd 1-4pm DOLLAR DAY—special \$1 admission!!
Self-guided tours, booths about upcoming season & more for just \$1.

SAT MAR 24th 1-5pm EASTER PARTY (annual Easter Egg Hunt)
Enrichment for wolves & humans—visitors can help hide treats for the wolves; afterwards egg hunt for kids with candy treats—not meats!

MORE INFO/COST: 765-567-2265 or www.wolfpark.org

The LATEST BUZZ on BEEKEEPING

INDIANA BEEKEEPING SCHOOL ~ JAN 2018 2-day Class

FRI JAN 19th 4-9pm & SAT JAN 20th 7am-5pm

at Henricks Regional Health YMCA (301 Satori Parkway, Avon)

Tuition cost is \$120 and includes snacks FRI night, breakfast & lunch on SAT, plus course materials.

There's still time to buy optional hive kit and have it delivered to class.

Textbook deadline has passed, so ordering them now means they may come after the class.

You can register right up to the class, but class notes require a couple of days notice for copying. **REGISTER at IndianaBeekeeping.com**

Questions: info@indianabeekeeping.com

WEST CENTRAL INDIANA BEEKEEPER Meetings

SAT JAN 20th 9am-noon ~ at Trinity United Methodist Church
(on the southwest corner of 6th & North Streets in Lafayette)

Come to the basement using the double doors at the east end of the church building on North St. These doors have steps. If you need an elevator, use the door at the west end of the church building.

Parking is across North St from the church (enter from North or 5th St.)

Meeting DETAILS & News of Future Meetings: Patty Jones

WestCentralIndianaBeekeepers@gmail.com

The BEEKEEPERS of INDIANA – Indiana Bee School XVI

SAT FEB 24 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 11th !!

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

Guest Speaker: Jeff Harris, extension/research apiculturist at Mississippi State University, is best known for breeding lines of honey bees that express high levels of Varroa Sensitive Hygienic behavior—a primary mechanism of resistance to Varroa mites.

CONTINUING THIS YEAR: Beginning Beekeeping Classes!

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

www.indianabeekeeper.com

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

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PROTECT OUR NATIVE PLANTS

Join RIP Squad Volunteers—PULL GARLIC MUSTARD!!!

The INPAWS RIP (Remove Invasive Plant) Squad

SPRING 2018 Workdays Begin MAR 6th

~ 3-5pm on Tues, Wed, & Thur afternoons in parks and nature areas ~
Weeding bags will be provided, but bring gloves & dress for poison ivy!
For Spring schedule/locations and additional special workdays, contact

Patty Jones: removeinvasiveplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com

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

GRASSROOTS NETWORKING & RESOURCES TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES IN INDIANA

Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC) 3rd Biannual Conference

THUR FEB 15th 9am-3pm COST \$25 (includes lunch) **

at Hendrick's County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conf Center
(1900 East Main Street, Danville, IN 46122)

A day of networking and collaboration to discuss activities & tools to manage invasive species, including new legislation & statewide projects.

Questions: Dawn Slack dawn.slack@tnc.org

****MORE INFO & TO REGISTER: www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc**

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
CLEGG WORKDAYS are now on the 1st & 3rd TUES of each month:

9:30am Meet for coffee/tea & discussion (of tasks, tools, progress...).

10-noon Join NICHES staff member for conservation work.

Wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and long sleeve shirts are encouraged, & bring work gloves if you have them. Drop ins welcome!

MON JAN 15th 10am-1pm MLK Workday – Granville Sand Barrens

Join volunteers & NICHES Staff working on clearing brush.

SAT MAR 10th 10am Maple Syrup TAPPING at Clegg Memorial Garden

Learn from an experienced tapper and taste some maple syrup with the best combo: breakfast food!

KANKAKEE SANDS – VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

on 2nd Saturdays led by staff from The Nature Conservancy in Indiana
Thinning Trees and Shrubs from Central Savanna Area in Unit H

JAN 13, FEB 10 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. *Hot beverages & snacks provided, as well as basic protective gear (safety glasses, leather gloves).*

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

RSVP/INFO: Tony Capizzo acapizzo@tnc.org

Spring in the Greenhouse

MAR 10, APR 14 from 9am-noon Central time

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES in the 2018 Indiana General Assembly

WED, JAN 31st 5:15-7pm ~ West Lafayette Public Library

(208 West Columbia St, WL)

Presented by Amanda Shepherd of the Hoosier Environmental Council

5:15 Refreshments 5:30 Issue Presentation & Questions

6:30 Break 6:35 How to Voice Your Opinion Effectively

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette

QUESTIONS: Liz Solberg jlsolberg@earthlink.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 APR-JUN issue need to reach me by MAR 15th.

To get e-mail copy, contact me at: mohrsamuels@comcast.net or (765) 567-7023h, 532-3245c. **Joan Mohr Samuel, Editor**

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"

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

Like us on Facebook!

JANUARY – MARCH 2018

- Jan 10th 1-3pm Saving a Species: Helping Whooping Crane Recovery** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
James Kawlewski (Indiana Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant) will share the International Crane Foundation's mission to save the world's cranes from extinction. Focusing specifically on whooping crane recovery, this program will engage the audience in ways they can contribute to the restoration of eastern flocks of this highly endangered bird.
- Jan 17th 1-3pm The Wea Plains of Tippecanoe County** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Tom Swinford (IDNR Nature Preserves Conservation Scientist) will provide insight into the enigmatic Wea Plains; a large grassland adjacent to Fort Outiatenon. The unique natural history of this site will be examined through geology, biology, early European accounts and archaeology to gain an understanding of the dynamic relationship between this land and humans.
- Jan 24th CANCELLED to be rescheduled for spring --The Amazing Axolotis: Secrets of an Endangered Salamander—LNC**
Sometimes known as the Mexican walking fish, the axoloti (related to native tiger salamanders) has an incredibly unusual life history, which has made it of great interest to scientists throughout the world. **Eli Prather (breeder of this critically endangered species)** will share the unique biology of this amphibian and will bring a variety of axolotis of varying ages and sizes for the audience to meet!
- Jan 31st 7-9pm Invaders from the North: Winter Owls in Indiana** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Snowy, saw-whet, and long and short eared owls often make their way into Indiana during the winter months, affording residents an opportunity to see these unusual birds. **Dr. Barny Dunning (Purdue Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources)** will share natural histories of these owls and provide guidelines for responsible viewing of these travelers.
- Feb 7th 1-3pm What is a Mature Forest Bird? Habitat-use of Breeding Birds in Southern Indiana** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Patrick Ruhl (PhD student, Purdue Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources) will share his research findings on the habitat associations of mature forest bird species through work conducted as part of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment since 2015.
- Feb 14th 1-3pm River Otters & Bobcats: Indiana Conservation Success Stories** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
IDNR Furbearer Biologist Geriann Albers will showcase the natural history of these charismatic mammals and will provide information about opportunities to help survey and monitor Indiana's wildlife.
- Feb 21st 1-3pm Bluebird Basics** ----- ****if making a box, bring a hammer & \$10** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Join **Mary Cutler & Brenda Moore (Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.)** to learn tips and techniques for becoming a bluebird landlord! ****NOTE:** The program will also include the opportunity to make a bluebird box; cost \$10.**
- Feb 28th 1-3pm Wildflower Identification: A Family Matter** ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Learn how to ID common wildflowers based on plant family characteristics with **Dan Childs (author of Back Roads - A Pictorial Guide to Common Midwestern Forbs, Flowers & Grasses)**. While learning botanical terms and characteristics, participants will also learn how many "weeds" play important roles in local ecosystems.
- Mar 7th 1-3pm A Year in the Life of a Fisheries Biologist** ---- **Carpool 12:30 from Battle Ground** --- indoor pgm—DPL
Tom Bacula and Bri Clara (IDNR Fisheries Biologists) will discuss the methods used to study and enhance local fishing opportunities, focusing on Bicentennial Nature Area, Wildcat Creek and other local waterways. The program will also include a fish age estimation activity, which provides connections to water quality.
- Mar 14th 1-3pm Migration & Citizen Science: The Big Day in May Bird Count** ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—LNC
Spring provides an opportunity to observe migratory species and add to our knowledge of bird migration. **Susan Ulrich (Sycamore Audubon Society)** will introduce common spring migrants, share information about International Migratory Day and the Big Day in May Bird Count, and take participants on a hike at Celery Bog to view migrants and permanent bird residents.
- Mar 21st 1-3pm Winter Tree ID** ----- **Carpool 12 noon from LNC** ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—WPL
Sally Weeks (Retired Purdue Dendrologist) will guide participants through the process of learning how to identify trees before the leaves come out! Following the indoor session, she'll lead a hike to the local fairgrounds to test your ID skills.
- Mar 28th 1-3pm Landscaping for Butterflies & Other Pollinators** ----- 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 for \$20 (cash or check.)

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DPL (Delphi Public Library): Meet 1pm at the library: 222 E Main St, Delphi, IN 46923 OR join 12:30pm carpool from Battlefield Monument parking lot off North 9th Street in Battle Ground.

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

WPL (Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library): Meet 1pm at the library: 28 E 2nd St, Williamsport, IN 47993 OR join 12 noon carpool from LNC.

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 INPAWS