

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD" ~ APRIL - JUN 2024 ~ Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips: 1-3pm EDT (or as NOTED!)

Programs are LIMITED to 20 participants (EXCEPTIONS: JUN 12 limited to 15 participants, JUN 26 limited to 30 participants).

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

APR 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-3pm Regenerative Agriculture: The DeSutter Farm ----- outdoor pgm—DSFarm

Dan DeSutter has played a pivotal role in extending the positive impacts of regenerative agriculture globally. Join the DeSutter family as they highlight their regenerative agricultural approach, delving into how this method enhances soil health, minimizes external inputs, and fosters the growth of nutrient-dense crops.

APR 10<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Spring Wildflowers: More Than Just a Pretty Face ----- outdoor pgm—TIPP AMPH

Enjoy a woodland spring hike with Mary Cutler (Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept.) as she shares fascinating floral facts and folklore associated with the diverse wildflowers that can be seen along the Tippecanoe Co. Amphitheater trails.

APR 17<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm A Fresh Look at Fall Creek Gorge ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/FCG

Bob Easter (Director of Stewardship, NICHES Land Trust) leads this hike on new trails at Fall Creek Gorge Nature Preserve in Warren Co.; this property is re-opening to the public after being closed since 2021 due to overuse. Extensive stewardship is underway at the preserve along with vegetative monitoring which will guide future management. A special treat: we'll be joined by renowned watercolorist Rena Brouwer and others, who will be creating artistic responses to the beauty of the property along the trail. Experience the iconic landscapes of the Big Pine Valley on this moderate hike.

APR 24<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Moyer-Gould Mosey ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/MGW

Dan Childs (wildflower enthusiast and author) leads a leisurely stroll along the 1-mile trail at this NICHES Carroll Co. nature preserve, where a wide variety of spring wildflowers abound! Dan's wildflower books will be available for purchase (check or Venmo).

MAY 1<sup>st</sup> 1-3pm An Introduction to the Woodland Sedges of Ross Hills Park ----- outdoor pgm—RHP

"Carex" is a genus of sedges often overlooked or misidentified despite being one of the most diverse plant genera in North America. IU researcher Rich Hull discusses his work at the park on a hike showcasing the identifying features of a variety of sedges and where you can normally find them.

MAY 8<sup>th</sup> 9-11am Spring on the Wing at Celery Bog ----- NOTE: morning program ----- Bring binoculars --- outdoor pgm—CBNA/LNC

Join Kyle Gebhart (West Lafayette Parks Naturalist) and members of the Sycamore Audubon Society for a hike on the Celery Bog trails to see both returning migrants and resident birds. NOTE: IF RAINING, program will move indoors to Lilly Nature Center.

MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Exploring Hall Woods Nature Preserve (a moderate 1-mile hike) ----- Bring binoculars ----- outdoor pgm—HWNP

Tom Swinford (Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy) will share the unique ecology of this Putnam Co. nature preserve, consisting of rich oak woodlands & high-quality floodplains along Big Walnut Creek. Being part of the 3,500 acre Big Walnut Conservation Area makes site a magnet for migratory birds in the spring.

MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:30-4:30pm Fire and Ice at Indiana Dunes National Park: A Hike through Miller Woods --Bring binoculars-- outdoor pgm—IN-DUNES

Journey through a globally rare black oak savanna, around towering sand dunes, past interdunal wetlands, and along the shores of Lake Michigan on this hike through Miller Woods. Park Ranger Kip Walton (Outreach Coordinator, Indiana Dunes National Park) will share the story of a landscape shaped by the forces of nature. Entrance FEE \$25/car OR free entry with National Park Pass. NOTE: 2:30-4:30pm EDT (1:30-3:30pm CDT in Gary)

MAY 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Legislation & Stewardship: A Guided Hike at Laura Hare Bend of the Wabash East----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/GSB

NICHES Land Trust staff and State Senator Spencer Derry lead a hike through the Laura Hare Bend of the Wabash East property, weaving the interconnectedness of legislative and environmental preservation. NICHES staff will highlight the ongoing restoration of this site and Senator Derry will discuss legislation aimed at large water withdrawals proposed in the region.

JUN 5<sup>th</sup> 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! Preference given to those who have not previously attended this program.

JUN 12<sup>th</sup> 10am-12:30pm Unique Fen & Marsh Wetland Plants at Pisgah Marsh Nature Preserve --NOTE: morning program - outdoor pgm—PMNP

View a host of unusual and uncommon wetland plants at this off-trail hike in Kosciusko Co. through fen and marsh wetlands with Scott Namestnik (Botanist, IDNR Div. of Nature Preserves). Expect muddy, mucky conditions and shallow water; rubber boots and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Limited to 15 participants.

JUN 19<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Community Foresight & Protection: A Hike through Attica's Arms Woods ----- outdoor pgm—RP-AW

Justin Harmeson (NICHES Stewardship Mgr & Attica Park Board President) leads a hike through Arms Woods in Attica, a high-quality oak woodland nestled into the city. This hike highlights how ongoing management, long-standing protection, and current public use all mesh to create a healthy ecological system.

JUN 26<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm Nature's Sponge: Exploring Durkees Run Stormwater Park ----- outdoor pgm—DRSP

Learn about native plants, water resources, and how we can mimic natural processes to create sustainable solutions to environmental challenges in modern landscapes on this stroll through Durkees Run Stormwater Park with Jake Talley (Green Infrastructure Manager, Lafayette Renew). Limited to 30 participants.

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) that are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC\*\*

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CBNA/LNC (Celery Bog Nature Area/Lilly Nature Center): Meet 9am in front of Lilly Nature Center at 1620 Lindberg Rd., West Lafayette.

DRSP (Durkees Run Stormwater Park-Jefferson H.S.): Meet 1pm adjacent to Jefferson H.S. at 1801 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St, Lafayette.

DSFarm (DeSutter Farm): Meet 1pm at the DeSutter Farm: 3938 N SR 341, Attica.

HWNP (Hall Woods Nature Preserve): Meet 1pm at 3301-3727 E County Rd 675 N, Greencastle, IN 46135.

IN-DUNES (Paul H. Douglas Center): Meet 2:30pm EDT (which is 1:30pm CDT local Gary time) at the Center: 100 N Lake St, Gary, IN 46403.

NICHES/FCG (Fall Creek Gorge N.P.): Meet 1pm at the new Fall Creek Gorge parking lot along W. Twin Bridges Rd., Attica.

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

NICHES/MGW (Moyer-Gould Woods): Meet 1pm in the property parking lot (1 ¼ miles north of the SR 18/US 421 intersection) at 4620 N US-421, Delphi 46923.

PMNP (Pisgah Marsh Boardwalk): Meet 10am at 9939 E 350 N, North Webster, IN 46555 in Kosciusko County.

RP-AW (Ravine Park-Arms Woods): Meet 1pm at 801 Ravine Park Blvd, Attica, IN 47918.

RHP (Ross Hills Park): Meet 1pm at the Ross House: 8815 W 50 S, West Lafayette.

TIPP AMPH (Tippecanoe County Amphitheater): Meet 1pm at the end of Amphitheater parking lot: 4449 State Road 43 N, West Lafayette.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): Meet 1pm at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center at the Tippecanoe Battlefield off N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. in Battle Ground.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

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SPONSORED BY: Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept. — NICHES Land Trust — Sycamore Audubon Society

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