



# Dunes Echo

Spring 2021 (March, April and May) ~ Vol. XV, #1

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

## Friends' 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale

With all the snow on the ground it is hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner. However, the Friends are currently thinking Spring and planning our upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale. This year's sale will be offered as Order Only due to the continuing Covid-19 restrictions. Order forms will be available on the Friends website ([dunefriends.org](http://dunefriends.org)), at [Facebook.com/friendsofindianadunes](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofindianadunes), the Indiana Dunes National Park Visitor Center within the Indiana Dunes Tourism building, and the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center. You can also email the Friends at [members@dunefriends.org](mailto:members@dunefriends.org) to request a Native Plant Sale Order Form be mailed to you.

There will be a limited quantity of each plant variety available from our supplier - Possibility Place Nursery of Monee, IL. Orders will be filled in the sequence in which they are received so please complete and return your Order Form as soon as possible. Completed Order Forms must be received by April 10, 2021. Remember all Native Plant Sale profits will support the mission of the Friends.

Curbside pick-up of Native Plant Sale orders will occur on Saturday, April 24. When an order is placed, customers will select their preferred scheduled pick-up time between 8am and 1pm. Orders will be picked up from the Friends' House located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oakhill Roads in Porter, IN. The Friends house is just north of the Chellberg Farm with GPS coordinates of 41.629814 – 87.087099. Federal mandates require masks must always be worn during the pick-up process.



As always there is a large selection of the hard-to-find woodland flowering plants and ferns; dry, medium and wet prairie flowering plants; grasses, shrubs and trees. All plant varieties come in pots and are native to northwest Indiana, northeast Illinois, and southwest Michigan unless specifically marked as non-native. Every effort has been made to keep prices low.

Volunteer help is always needed for the set-up of the plants and order filling on Friday, April 23 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. On April 24 help will be needed from 7:30am until 1:30pm for the curbside deliveries. Interested in helping, please contact Angel Gochee-Goins at her email address ([angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org)) or by calling 219-707-3617 with your available times.

The Dunes Learning Center will be hosting a Zoom program "Native Plants: Improve Your Backyard Habitat" on April 1. For more details on how to register, please see page 3 of this newsletter.



## Diana of the Dunes Dare

The Friends of Indiana Dunes are pleased to partner with the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes Tourism to present this exciting new hiking challenge! We are daring you to be like the dune advocate Alice Mabel Gray, also known as Diana of the Dunes, who hiked and lived in the Indiana Dunes.

It is simple to take the Diana of the Dunes Dare. There are only four steps. (1) Go to West Beach located at 376 North County Line Road in Gary, IN or GPS Coordinates 41.622934 - 87.207747. (2) Follow in Diana's footsteps by hiking the trail and reading the waysides. (3) Share your Dare by taking a selfie and posting at [#DianaDunesDare](https://www.instagram.com/DianaDunesDare). (4) Get your Badge of Honor by collecting the Diana Dunes Dare sticker at the Friends' House or at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or the Douglas Center. The Friends of Indiana Dunes have provided the above pictured sticker for this hiking challenge. The newly named Diana's Dune is traversed by hiking a portion of the existing Succession Trail at West Beach. Along the trail, there are two waysides that provide information about Alice Mable Gray and the diverse habitats of the dune ecosystem.

Dare to become a positive force in protecting this dune ecosystem much like Diana did. The Friends' Board would like to encourage our members to hike this trail and provide their feedback on what they think about the new Diana Dunes Dare. Please candidly share your ideas and reactions by sending an email to [kimberly\\_swift@nps.gov](mailto:kimberly_swift@nps.gov).

# National Park Programs

For more information contact the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center  
at 219-395-1882 or [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)



Unfortunately, we will not be able to safely present the annual Maple Sugar Time festival at Chellberg Farm this March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We looked at modifying the event but could not determine a way to reduce the danger of large groups of people crowding around displays during one-hour guided tours. Instead, we will offer online virtual programs, tap some trees and have the sugar shack open for people to see on self-guided walks. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the sugar shack but can observe through its open doors. Go to the park's website at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) to learn about virtual maple sugar programs.

Depending on progress made against the pandemic, the park is tentatively planning to offer some outdoor guided hikes in mid to late May. These hikes will be by reservation only to maintain a limit of 10 participants and will require the wearing of masks. Look for information to come out in late April or early May on these programs. Updates will be posted on the Friends' Facebook page.



The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, May 13-16, is being planned as a hybrid/virtual event in 2021. The 4-day festival will offer both in-person, outdoor activities, as well as virtual programs and live streams for both in-person and virtual registration options. All CDC and Indiana Department of Health precautions are being taken to provide for a safe and healthy festival until all vaccines are distributed. The full list of programming options can be found at [indunesbirdingfestival.com](http://indunesbirdingfestival.com). Registration begins as early as March 11 for priority access.

Progress continues on reopening national park beach areas that have been closed due to erosion from the high-water levels of Lake Michigan. Central Avenue Beach reopened in late January after being closed since the spring of 2020. This reopening follows the completion of an Army Corps of Engineers project that placed 56,000 tons of sand on the beach. This was the second sand nourishment project completed at the national park in the last year. The other occurred in the fall of 2020 at the park's Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site.

Despite the pandemic or perhaps in some ways because of it, the national park had its largest number of visitors ever. In 2020, 2,360,773 people visited surpassing the previous high of 2,158,471 in 2017. This number would have been even higher if Central Ave Beach wasn't closed much of the year and Lake Front Drive hadn't been closed for several weeks due to erosion damage.

*Bruce Rowe - Liaison, Indiana Dunes National Park*



## Art in the Park

Friends of Indiana Dunes are sponsoring in partnership with the Indiana Dunes National Park and the Art Barn School of Art a virtual painting class series. An experienced art instructor will guide students through the process of painting a scene inspired by our Indiana Dunes. Every session will feature a different theme related to the National Park or the dunes. No prior experience is necessary. The classes are free, open to beginners, and accessible to those with physical limitations. Zoom is required for these virtual programs. Registration will open one month before the session date and close one week before or when filled. Each session is limited to 20 participants per virtual session. Please register at [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org).

The first virtual session entitled "Birds at the Shoreline" will be Saturday, April 10, 2:00-3:30pm and explores bird shapes, specifically seagulls with a little personality on the beach. Participants will explore how to create birds, sand and a little water to make their picture complete. Image is submitted by Lee Bauman at [LeeBauman.com](http://LeeBauman.com).

There will be two more virtual sessions on Saturday, June 12, 2:00-3:30pm "Waves, Water & Sun" and Saturday, July 10, 2:00-3:30pm "Butterflies on a Floral Grassland".



A supply kit (including a canvas, acrylic paint, a brush and a list of needed supplies found in your own home) may be picked up at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center before the event. If you cannot pick up a kit, please call 219-395-1882. The Indiana Dunes Visitor Center is located at 1215 North State Road 49, about one mile north of Interstate 94.

By coming together our organizations are collectively able to accomplish a common goal of reaching more individuals through cultural programming that links art and nature together. These virtual events may be recorded and used by the Art Barn, National Park Service or Friends of Indiana Dunes for later use. By registering for the event, you acknowledge that we are recording the event, including questions and comments from participants. You may refrain from voicing a question or comment if you do not want to be recorded.

*Kelly Cadell - Ranger, Indiana Dunes National Park*

# State Park Programs

For more information contact Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)



The DNR is committed to ensuring that our guests and staff continue to have safe and memorable outdoor experiences at the Indiana Dunes State Park considering Covid-19. We are following the lead of the Indiana State Department of Health and many local county health departments. Visitors must wear masks indoors and outdoors where they cannot maintain the recommended six-foot social distancing. Registration is required to limit visitors at programs that would otherwise be open to all. Visitors should check [on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19](http://on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19) for current news.



**Full Moon Hikes: Sat, March 27, 7:30-9:30pm & Sat, April 24, 8:00-10:00pm:** Enjoy the beautiful full moon and night sky on these special night hikes from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan and back. Stories about our moon, up-close views, and “stellar” treats will be shared thanks to the Friends of the Indiana Dunes. This hike has limited capacity. Please call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 to register.

**Walk & Talk with the Timberdoodles: Sat, April 10, 7:00pm & Sat, May 1, 7:30pm:** Join us for a program to learn all about the plump little shorebirds called woodcocks, bogsuckers or timberdoodles. Unlike their coastal relatives, these birds inhabit young forests, our foredunes, and old fields. From the east side of the park’s pavilion, we will quietly head out on a 1-mile moderate hike together in search of these beautifully camouflaged birds. Dress for the weather. There is limited availability for this program.

**National Volunteer Week: Beach Litter Clean-up: Sun, April 18, 10:00am-Noon:** To help celebrate National Volunteer Week, join us on the east side of our State Park’s Beach Pavilion any time between 10:00 and Noon to help pick up litter that has washed up on our shore. Trash bags provided.

**Youth & Family Birding Day: Sat, May 15, 10:00am-3:00pm:** Celebrate National Kids to Parks Day in this fun-filled day of birding activities with something for everyone! All will be taking place at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center. These programs are a part of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival and are free of charge after paying the park’s entry fee.

**Nature Center’s Hours: Wednesday - Sunday from 10am-4pm CST and closed Monday / Tuesday and state holidays.**

Check out [www.events.in.gov](http://www.events.in.gov) to see dates of other 2021 Special Events and park programs! Call 219-926-1390 to pre-register for programs.

*Marie Laudeman - Naturalist and Liaison, Indiana Dunes State Park*

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## Dunes Learning Center Programs

For more information, please go to: <https://duneslearningcenter.org/>



**Summer Camp 2021:** Registration opened to the public on February 22! With day and overnight camps, there are options for ages 5-17. Due to the pandemic, camp will look different this year, but there will still be plenty of fun for all!

**Community Workshops:** Learn from your own living room! Information on all workshops can be found at [DunesLearningCenter.org/programs](https://DunesLearningCenter.org/programs). Tickets are \$10 or \$20 for multiple viewers. A recording will be shared with all registrants afterwards.

**Biocultural Conservation: Stingless Bees in the Peruvian Amazon: Wed, March 10, 6:30-8:00pm:** Travel \*virtually\* to the Peruvian Amazon to learn about stingless bee ecology, conservation, and beekeeping with indigenous communities. Elizabeth Benson will share OnePlanet’s work with Maijuna people who are innovating indigenous knowledge to earn a sustainable income on their ancestral lands. We will discuss stingless bees, their ecology, and their role in conservation.



**Native Plants: Improve Your Backyard Habitat: Thu, April 1, 6:30-8:00pm:** Why are native plants important? Dr. Spencer Cortwright and Angel Gochee-Goins will offer information for beginners as well as more experienced gardeners. Covering habitat assessment, specific plant recommendations, planting techniques, and more, you’ll come away with tools to create or improve your backyard habitat. This program is in partnership with the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

**Indigenous Science Webinar Recordings:** Over the last few months, DLC has presented a series of webinars featuring indigenous people sharing their perspectives on the environment we all share. View the recordings of these sessions whenever you like! Diversify your science skillset while exploring the strengths and limitations of using Western Science and how Indigenous Science can help to manage our resources for a sustainable future. [DunesLearningCenter.org/programs](https://DunesLearningCenter.org/programs), price varies.

May Workshop to be announced soon!

*Heather Hahn Sullivan - Development and Marketing Director*

**FRIENDS OF  
INDIANA DUNES**

P.O. Box 166  
Beverly Shores, IN 46301

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 37  
Michigan City, IN 46360

*Our mission is to enhance and foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Indiana Dunes through financial and volunteer support of the State and National Parks as well as the Dunes Learning Center.*

**Friends Board Members**

**Chair:** Angel Goins    **Secretary:** Kathy Wilder  
**Vice-Chair:** Roz Potter    **Treasurer:** Tracey Stevens  
Dan Barriball    Dorothy Meyers  
Bonnie Miller    Rudy Moyado    Zella Olson  
Paul Stofko    Lori Weed  
Newsletter Editor: Cliff Goins  
www.dunefriends.org    219-707-3617

Since 1982, our Friends organization has supported the interpretive and resource management programs of the Indiana Dunes. The Friends sponsor the kind of interpretive programs that make a visit to the Indiana Dunes informative and fun.

Membership in the Friends is vital to creating this positive impact.

Please support the Indiana Dunes by joining the Friends today.

Your financial contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your support will make a difference and assure that our important work continues.

**Current Friends Members will receive a renewal form in the mail when your renewal is due.**

**New, Friends Membership Application**

P. O. Box 166 ~ Beverly Shores, IN 46301-0166

- Senior Citizen            \$ 15
- Individual/Family        \$ 20
- Sustaining Family       \$ 40
- Business/Corporation   \$100

Mail completed form to the address above.

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_