



# Dunes Echo

Spring 2020 (March, April and May) ~ Vol. XIII #1

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

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## Friends' Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 18

Spring is just around the corner and so too is the Friends 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale. From 8am until 1pm at the Indiana Dunes Tourism visitor center located just north of Interstate 80-94 and just south of US 20 on the east side of State Road 49. Ample parking on site and admission is free! All Native Plant Sale profits will support the mission of the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

The space for the plant sale is limited so we strongly urge you to pre-order. The Native Plant Sale pre-order forms are available at the State Park Office and Nature Center as well as at the Indiana Dunes Tourism visitor center. To request a pre-order form be emailed or mailed to you, please contact Angel Gochee-Goins, Chair of the Friends at [angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org) or by calling 219-707-3617 and leave a message. The deadline for submitting a completed native plant sale pre-order form is Friday, April 10.

As always, there will be open shopping of all plant material. The supply of plants on hand the day of sale is determined by their popularity as a pre-order item. Every year several varieties will have completely gone to the Pre-Order Customers! Bring your questions as our informed gardening consultants will be available to answer them all. A variety of free leaflets on planting and the many benefits of going native will also be available.

We will more than 100 native plant species, including woodland flowering plants and ferns; dry, medium and wet prairie flowering plants; as well as grasses, shrubs and trees. There will be a large selection of hard to find woodlands and ferns. All varieties come in pots and most species are native to northwest Indiana, northeast Illinois, and southwest Michigan.



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## Native Plant Talks on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Get ready for the 2020 Native Plant Sale by attending one or both Friends' sponsored informative programs. On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11:30am, Nathanael Pilla, a regional botanist, will present a historical and botanical journey through the Indiana Dunes flora and what we can do to minimize our impact where we live. On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 2:30pm, local plant expert Steve Sass will discuss plant communities and their essential role in the web of life.

Both programs will discuss the importance of using native plants in your home landscapes. Many people think of native plants as wildflowers only while ignoring the full range of plant types that make up the native plant palette. Learn how native plantings include trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, forbs (perennials) and ferns. Most of the species discussed in these programs will be available for sale at the Friends' Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. We can all better the ecosystem that surrounds us by using native plants.

These programs will be held at the Indiana Dunes Tourism visitor center located at 1215 North State Road 49 in Porter, Indiana. Very easy to find as it is just ½ mile north of Interstate 80-94 and just south of US 20 on the east side of State Road 49. Native Plant Sale pre-order forms will be available at these and volunteers will help you select the species best suited for your unique habitat.

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## Volunteer Help needed for Native Plant Sale

Volunteer help is always needed for the set-up of the plants and pre-order filling on Friday, April 17 from 9am to 4pm. On April 18, the day of sale, help will be needed from 7:30am until 1:30pm. Interested in helping, please contact Chair Angel Gochee-Goins at her email address ([angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org)) with your available times or by calling 219-707-3617 and leave a message.



**Maple Sugar Time**  
March 7, 8, 14 and 15  
Chellberg Farm  
10am to 4pm



**May 13 – 17, 2020**  
For more information,  
please go to:  
[indunesbirdingfestival.com](http://indunesbirdingfestival.com)

# National Park Programs

For more information call Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 or [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu). All programs are free.



## Bus Tour – Sunday March 22 and April 19 from 1 to 3pm

Join a ranger at the Visitor Center for a two-hour tour of the Indiana Dunes National Park in one of the 15-passenger shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required as space is limited. Call 219-395-1882.

## Music Heritage Series Concert – Fridays March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19 from 7:30 to 9pm

Come out to the Visitor Center for a night of music and song. The Save the Tunes Council is a group of local musicians devoted to preserving and passing on folk songs using a variety of traditional musical instruments.



## Miller Woods Hike – Sunday March 1, 22 and 29 and every Sunday in April and May from 1:30 to 3:30pm

Meet at the Douglas Center for a ranger-led hike through Miller Woods to the shore of Lake Michigan. This amazing hike goes through a globally rare black oak savannah and around towering sand dunes and interdunal wetlands.

## Stargazing Through Telescopes – Saturday Mar 21 from 7 to 9pm, Apr 18 from 7:30 to 9:30pm, and May 16 from 8 to 10pm

Join fellow astronomy lovers to enjoy our night sky from the Kemil Beach parking lot. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.

## Art in the National Park – Saturday March 14, April 11 and May 9 from 2 to 4pm

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to create their art. Learn how they photograph, paint, draw, and write. Programs may be inside the Visitor Center or outside. Please call 219-395-1882 for more information.

## Science in the National Park – Saturday March 28, April 25 and May 23 from 2 to 3pm

Meet local scientists or experts conducting research in the national park. There will be a 45-minute presentation about their research.



## Where to Fish in the National Park – Saturday April 4 and Sunday April 5 from 1:30 to 3:30pm

Join local fishing expert and park ranger Ryan Koepke to learn some of the best fishing locations in the national park and surrounding area. Saturday program is at the Douglas Center and Sunday program is at the Visitor Center.

## Gardening at Chellberg Farm - Saturday April 4 from 9am to Noon

Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm garden get off to a great start. A great way to spend the morning at your national park.

## National Park's Earth Day (Green Gary) – Saturday April 25 from 10am to 3pm

Celebrate Earth Day at this family-oriented event. Exhibits and interactive displays for everyone. Meet at Brunswick Park in Gary, IN.



## Woodland Wildflower Hike – Saturday April 25 and Sunday April 26 from 1 to 3pm

Meet at the Heron Rookery parking lot to explore the Calumet river floodplain and its great diversity of Spring wildflowers. Listen to the Spring songs of birds and frogs. Be prepared for muddy conditions.

## Logs to Lustrons Tour – Saturday May 2 from 8:30am to 5 pm

This tour covers over 150 years of architectural design while exploring historic buildings not currently open to the public. Reservations are required and are made online at [indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org).

## Lake Michigan Boat Tours – Saturdays May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 11am to 1pm

Join a ranger for a guided two-hour boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. There is a fee and reservations are required. Go to [harborcountryadventures.com](http://harborcountryadventures.com) for more information.



## Wildland Firefighters at the Visitor Center – Friday May 8 and 22 from Noon to 3 pm

Meet the Indiana Dunes National Park's at the Visitor Center to learn about the fire crew and their jobs and equipment.



## Mother's Day Wildflower Hike – Sunday May 10 from 10 to 11:30am and from 1 to 2:30pm

Join a ranger at the Heron Rookery for a hike in the best location to see what Spring wildflowers are blooming.

## Mother's Day Bus Tour – Sunday May 10 from 1 to 3pm

Join a ranger for a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Park in one of the 15-passenger shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required as space is limited. Call 219-395-1882.

## Pinhook Bog Tours – Saturday May 23 and 30 from Noon to 3pm

Take an hour long self-guided hike into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers and Volunteers are stationed along the trail to help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants.

## Bailly/Chellberg History Hike – Sunday May 24 and 31 from 2 to 4pm

Explore the grounds of these two historic home sites. Learn about settlers and farmers who came to this region in the early to mid 1800s.

# Dunes Learning Center Programs

For more information or to register for these programs go to [DunesLearningCenter.org/events](http://DunesLearningCenter.org/events)



## Spring Birding Bus Tour - Saturday March 7 from 7am-1pm

Visit the Kankakee River Valley to see many species of geese, ducks, and swans, along with raptors. Guide Matt Beatty serves on the Indiana Audubon Board and works for the Nature Conservancy. This very special tour is limited in size and includes lunch. Cost is \$75 per person.

## Spring Open House - Saturday March 14 from 11am-3pm

A day of FREE family fun! Explore camp and meet the staff. Take a hike led by expert naturalists. Enjoy live music, crafts, snacks, and more. Plus, take home pollinator seed bombs from Franklin Pest Solutions. Check out Maple Sugar time by riding the free shuttle bus to Chellberg Farm. Pre-registration requested.

## Forest Bathing - Adult Workshop - Friday May 8

Practice the Japanese art of "forest bathing" - experiencing the natural world with all of your senses. Registration is required.



## Lee Botts Memorial Celebration - Saturday May 16 at 11am

Celebrate and remember one of Dunes Learning Center's founders, a lifetime Dunes activist, and champion of the Great Lakes, Lee Botts.

## Summer Open House - Saturday June 13 from 11am-3pm

Get outdoors for FREE family fun! Take a guided hike, enjoy live music, nature crafts, and more. Ascend into the canopy with a tree climbing experience! Pre-registration requested.

## State Park Programs

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



### Full Moon Hike - Saturday March 7 from 6:30 to 9pm

Enjoy the beautiful moon with us on a special full-moon night hike from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan and back. Meet at the Nature Center at **6:30pm** for a short presentation about our moon along with some "stellar" treats. A moderate to rugged hike begins at **7:30pm** Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. If cloudy, we will still hike.



### Walk and Talk with the Timberdoodles - Saturdays March 21 from 5:30 to 8pm and April 25 from 6 to 8:30pm

Join us for a program at the Nature Center 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. We will quietly head out together in search of these beautifully camouflaged birds. Dress for the weather. There is limited availability of 30 people for this program. Please call the Nature Center with questions or to register at 219-926-1390.

### Full Moon Hike - Saturday April 4 from 7 to 9:30pm

Enjoy the beautiful moon with us on a special full-moon night hike from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan and back. Meet at the Nature Center at **7pm** for a short presentation about our moon along with some "stellar" treats. A moderate to rugged hike begins at **8pm** Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. If cloudy, we will still hike.



### Indiana Earth Day Celebration - Saturday April 18 from 9am to 4pm

Come visit our booth at the Porter County Expo Center which is one of the largest environmental Earth Day celebrations in Northwest Indiana.



### The Life & Times of Amphibians - Sunday April 19 from 2 to 3pm

Join us at the Nature Center's Auditorium where special guest Indiana University professor Spencer Cortwright will bring to life amphibians of the dunes as he illustrates their life cycle, habitat, identification, mating, egg-laying, and their tribulations.

### National Volunteer Week - Beach Litter Clean-up: Saturday April 25 from 9:30 to 11:30am

To help celebrate National Volunteer Week, join us on the east side of our State Park's Beach Pavilion any time between 9:30 and 11:30am. To help pick up litter that has washed up on our shore. Trash bags provided.

### Youth and Family Birding Day - Saturday May 16 from 9am to 4pm

Celebrate National Kids to Parks Day in this fun-filled day of birding activities with something for everyone! Beginning bird hikes will be offered every hour along with photo ID quiz giveaways, bird games, and bluebird house building, Scout birding merit badge activities, songbird and hummingbird banding 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.

**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

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*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.*

**Friends Board Members**

**Chair:** Angel Goins      **Vice-Chair:** Roz Potter  
**Secretary:** Kathy Wilder      **Treasurer:** Zella Olson  
Pat Carlisle      Andrea Huntington  
Dorothy Meyers      Bonnie Miller      Roy Olson  
Tracey Stevens      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 \_\_\_\_\_