



Dunes Echo

Fall 2021 (September, October and November) ~ Vol. XV, #3

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

The Friends have had a busy summer. We partnered with both Save the Dunes and Crazy Legs Race Series (administrated by our Board Member Paul Stofko) for several beach clean-up dates at the Indiana Dunes State Park. It was amazing the amount of trash picked up by our participants. The Friends continue to promote “no plastics” by recommending using our metal water bottle to further protect our dunes environment. Need a Friends water bottle? They are available for \$5 at the State Park’s Nature Center gift shop or at our pop-up tents which you may see at some of our Partner activities.



The Friends will be purchasing three benches made of recycled plastic for placement on and near the Bird Tower Platform at Indiana Dunes State Park to recognize our members for their dedication to our mission. A plaque will be placed on one of the benches for remembrance of Friends’ members who have passed away. The plaques on the other benches will invite visitors to sit and enjoy the magnificence of our dunes. The Friends’ Board is hoping that many of our current members, such as yourself, will donate on our website (dunefriends.org) to help with the costs of these benches.

The Membership Committee (Board Members Roz Potter, Tracey Stevens and Lori Weed) has been busy encouraging former members to rejoin the Friends. Membership has increased by over 50%. They have also improved the online process for joining the Friends, continuously monitor the members’ support email, sending out information to all registered member emails of changes to programming or upcoming park events, and recognizing all donations made by members. Have not yet registered your email address with the Friends? Please send it to members@dunefriends.org. Remember a Friends’ Membership is the gift that keeps on giving. A huge shout out of thanks goes to these three dedicated women for a job well done!!

The Friends continue to work on our office space. If you have a chance, stop by and check it out. The Friends’ Office is manned every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-4:00pm and on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00am until Noon, unless it is a recognized Federal Holiday such as the upcoming Labor Day. Masks are required for entry and all federally mandated Covid restrictions are observed.

The Friends are expanding our social media presence. In addition to our website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts we will be adding a Twitter account. Board Member Dan Barriball has agreed to help our newsletter editor and social media guru, Cliff Goins, by spearheading our Twitter account. Look for updates on when it will go live on our other social media platforms.

The Friends are appreciative of being selected as the recipient of a generous donation from the organizers of Brewski Fest. We will use the funds received to help the Dunes Learning Center and their unwavering dedication to environmental education.

Meet the new State Park’s Property Manager



Please join me in congratulating David Snodgrass on his role as the new Property Manager at Indiana Dunes State Park! David began his life in public service at the age of 15 when he started working for the Parks and Recreation Dept. in Terre Haute as a Lifeguard and Grounds Crew Member. After High School, he served as an Army Paratrooper for 4 years. In 2008, David was hired as the Fulltime Security Officer at Monroe Lake. During his time at Monroe, he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology from Indiana University. In 2016, David was promoted to the Assistant Property Manager Position at Clifty Falls State Park; he transferred to Brookville/Whitewater in 2017 to gain additional experience, and then in June 2021 onto the Dunes. In his off-time David enjoys hiking and spending time with friends and family. He is joined by a golden retriever named Chloe and 2 cats, Noah and Sadie. (Picture from S’mores Night)

State Park Programs

For more information contact the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or www.interpretiveservices.in.gov



History Comes Alive Weekend – Saturday and Sunday, September 11th and 12th Join state park naturalist staff and their guests for history programs you won't forget! Live re-enactors from the Ouiatenon Brigade will be on the beach demonstrating the fur-trading era. History hikes, talks and scavenger hunts will be offered throughout the weekend at this Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsored event.



Singing Sands Stargaze – Saturday, September 11th, 8:00-11:00pm Bring a blanket and join state park naturalist staff on the main beach near the pavilion for an annual event with local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society. Experts and Naturalists will be available for deep sky viewing through telescopes and constellation talks.

Fall Full Moon Hikes - September 18th at 7:00pm, October 22nd at 7:30pm, and November 19th at 6:30pm This is a stellar special event hike to Lake Michigan and back. There will be a short presentation about our moon before heading out on a 2-mile moderate hike to learn about the stars, our moon, and the dunes at night. There will be lunar treats provided thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 25th On this day, each year hundreds of thousands of volunteers come together to help with projects to enhance public parks. Join us at the Indiana Dunes State Park for volunteer projects including marram grass transplanting and more. In celebration of National Public Land's Day Indiana State Parks will also be offering free entry to all visitors on Sunday, September 26th.

Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 15th to 17th Revel in stories for young and old throughout the days and evenings. Make plans on Saturday to join us that evening at the Wilson Shelter for special sessions of "ghost tales!" Two sessions will cater to young kids (5:30pm) and older kids and adults (7:00pm). Bring a blanket or lawn chair, maybe a friend to hold on to, and join us around the shelter campfire. The Friends of Indiana Dunes will be providing free apple cider and cookies.



"Howl"oween at the Dunes – Saturday, October 30th Enjoy everything fun, fall and spooky on this festive day at the Indiana Dunes State Park. You won't want to miss our owl hike, pumpkin decorating, campsite decorating, and more! Program support for this all-day event is provided thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Marie Laudeman, State Park Interpretive Naturalist

Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



Dunes Learning Center is fully staffed and open for all types of programs this fall, including overnight programs! The "outdoor classroom" of the National Park is a wonderful place for safe activities. Programs have been adapted to allow for greater physical distancing and will take place outdoors as much as possible. We will work with teachers and schools to meet any necessary health and safety protocols required. Staff is also regularly tested for Covid-19.

Shipwrecks of the Dunes - Wednesday, September 22, 6:30-8:00pm

Learn about the shipwrecks of the Dunes and our Lake Michigan maritime heritage. Dr. Charles Beeker is the director of Indiana University's Center for Underwater Science and Academic Diving Program. Join us on zoom for a fascinating look at some of our nearby cultural and natural history!

Batty for Bats! - Wednesday, October 13, 6:30-8:00pm

October is a great time to learn about our native Indiana bats! Speaker Annette Hansen is the Executive Director of the Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, which has been volunteering in bat monitoring and habitat restoration since 2018. You will hear about tips for attracting bats to your own yard, as well as ways to get involved with Citizen Science projects.

November - Watch for an announcement about an Indigenous Science workshop to celebrate Native American Heritage Month!

Heather Hahn-Sullivan, Development and Marketing Director

National Park Programs

For more information contact the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center
at 219-395-1882 or www.nps.gov/indu



Our ranger-led outdoor programs are in full swing, and it has been another summer of record visitation. Mt. Baldy programs and the Lake Michigan Boat Tours remain extremely popular. We look forward to the Fall festival season although with some trepidation as Covid-19 cases begin to spike again. We remain cautiously optimistic and continue to plan for several special events in September. Modifications are being made to each event to help keep our visitors, volunteers and staff safe and healthy. Cancellations will be announced on the National Park's and Friends' websites.

Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival - September 10th to 12th Features more than 50 programs that are led by rangers or subject matter experts. This year it is free and has no registration. Visit www.dunesoutdoorfestival.com for details. A highlight of the event is "**America's Race**" on September 11th at West Beach. This is part of a national recognition of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and honors our military veterans and first responders. It features 5K and 10K races through obstacles representing numerous American conflicts. To learn more or sign up for the race, go to <https://leonstriathlon.com>.

Apple Festival – September 18th and 19th Returning to Chellberg Farm with a few changes. Kid's Corner and some hands-on activities will be missing to keep people safe. There will still be plenty to see and do. Making apple cider, apple butter and other products will be demonstrated as well as traditional crafts like crocheting and knitting. Free tasting of most of these products will still be available. Purchase a snack from one of the food vendors and enjoy your treats while listening to local musicians or the Northwest Indiana Storytellers. Explore the historic farmhouse. Check out the resident animals in the barn and chicken coop. See the farm animals get fed at 3:30pm each day of the festival.

Century of Progress House Tours - September 25th and 26th This year's tours are already sold out; however, look at the Indiana Landmarks website (www.indianalandmarks.org) to learn about these historic houses originally displayed at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair before they were moved the shoreline of Indiana. This website is where next year's tickets will go on sale.

With Covid cases going up, final plans for ranger-led hikes in the fall are not yet complete. We plan to offer traditional hikes like the Miller Woods Walk, Mt. Baldy Summit Hikes and Fall Colors Tours. Keep an eye on the National Park's and Friends' websites and social media to see the schedule of programs.

Let me close by saying that most of these special events and many of our programs would not have been possible without the generous support of the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Thank you!

Bruce Rowe, Supervisory Park Ranger/Public Information Officer



State Park Honored

Rock climber Maiza Lima and adventure photographer Willie Woodward set out in a specially equipped Bronco Sport for a month-long camping trip that would include overnight stays at 15 of America's State Parks. The Indiana Dunes State Park was selected as the final destination on this Bronco/Marmot "States of Adventure" campaign. The Friends of Indiana Dunes provided a motorhome rental for the weary travelers. Former State Park Property Managers Brandt Baumann and Michael Rea were the DNR representatives for the event while Marie, Jake and David represented our Indiana Dunes along with a few Board Members from the Friends.

A true honor for our Indiana Dunes State Park and the Friends of Indiana Dunes as there are over 7,000 state parks nationwide. Check out the Friends' Facebook post from Friday, August 13th for more details and photos.

FRIENDS Need You: Have you ever considered serving on the Board of Directors for Friends of Indiana Dunes? Must love the Indiana Dunes. Enjoy programming provided by the Indiana Dunes National and State Parks? Think kids need parks and parks need kids? No special skills required. The Board meets bi-monthly on the second Tuesday for approximately 2 hours. Other time commitments might be needed such as helping at Native Plant Sale, festivals and special events, staffing an information booth, etc. If you are interested, please contact Angel at 219-707-3617 or angel@dunefriends.org.

**FRIENDS OF
INDIANA DUNES**

P.O. Box 166
Beverly Shores, IN 46301

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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 **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 _____