



Dunes Echo

Fall 2022 (September, October and November) ~ Vol. XVI, #3

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes Updates

The FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes would like to thank all who helped with our dedicated appeal for the State Park's ADA compliant Beach Mats. Most of the beach mats have been installed and are in use by visitors. We are receiving frequent appreciative attention from the public for our beach mat support, including from some of the mobility-impaired users who can now enjoy being on the beach in our State Park. Donations are still being accepted for the project at dunefriends.org/state-park-beach-mat-project as additional funding will be needed to help with upkeep and repair of the anchoring clamps for the beach mats.

The importance of creating maintenance funding became abundantly clear to the FRIENDS this summer when we discovered that three of the FRIENDS' purchased accessible ATVs at the State Park were out of commission. The Board quickly approved the needed funds to get them repaired as well as purchased back-up batteries to have on hand.



Hardship Help Fund
Call 219-707-3617

for financial help acquiring an
Indiana Dunes National Park Annual Pass

Helping make the Indiana Dunes accessible to all.

The FRIENDS have developed a Hardship Help Fund to help households within Indiana's Lake, Porter or LaPorte counties purchase an Indiana Dunes National Park Annual Pass at a reduced cost. Cards with FRIENDS contact information will be distributed at the discretion of National Park staff to an individual or Family that expresses the entrance fee is a hardship for them. We ask the participants to donate up to \$20 to help sustain the fund and in turn they receive a one-year complimentary FRIENDS membership.

The FRIENDS are pleased to announce that in partnership with the National Park we have created a Chellberg Farm Produce Stand in the parking lot adjacent to our Office. Extra vegetables from the farm garden and DLC's secret garden are placed in the stand and visitors are asked to leave a donation to the FRIENDS for the items they take. In addition to the goodies from the gardens, Maple Syrup produced from Chellberg Farm sap is available. All donations are being used to support Chellberg Farm. This fall the FRIENDS will be purchasing two beef calves to be housed at the farm. The plan is to primarily grass feed them, supplementing them with vitamins and minerals as needed, and in 18-24 months, FRIENDS members and/or National Park volunteers will be able to obtain the processed prime ground beef for a donation to the FRIENDS. The goal is to have farm animals at Chellberg Farm and raise them in an ecological manner. The hope is for this program to become self-sustaining.



Covid variants continue to be a challenge for our partners and their planned programs and changes occur with little warning. When we have your email address, a notice of the change can be quickly sent out. Please share your email information with the FRIENDS when you renew your membership or by simply sending it to members@dunefriends.org.

FRIENDS Celebrate 40 Years

Forty years ago, in the summer of 1982, a small group of National Lakeshore volunteers met and decided to create a group that could provide financial as well as volunteer support. They called themselves Friends of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Four short years later, this group changed their name to Friends of Indiana Dunes, incorporated, applied for not-for-profit status, and included the Indiana Dunes State Park as another recipient of their efforts. In those early years, the budget was tight and total funding to both parks was about \$5,000. However, this little group grew by diligently working to increase their membership (at one time there was slightly over 700 members) and their fundraising efforts, seeking corporate funding, memorial donations, and let's not forget, 26 years ago, the First Annual Native Plant Sale was held on a snowy day in early April. In 1998, the FRIENDS extended their support to include the newly opened Dunes Learning Center, an environmental overnight camp for school children.

However, as with all groups there were good and bad years. Membership, donations and fundraising went up and then down, but we survived. Membership has started to regrow and our total annual support for our three partners is \$75,000. Our fundraising is exciting and diverse. Still hosting the Native Plant Sale but it will occur the first Saturday in June starting next year. Social media is now the norm and we have developed several Facebook series to generate interest in the FRIENDS, our partners, and our Indiana Dunes.

The Board is hoping you will join us for a celebration on October 1. Your invitation is enclosed. Spend time with old friends and make a few new ones. Distinctive hikes and programs will be offered prior to lunch for our very special members. After lunch, we will have a short business meeting followed by a ribbon cutting for the FRIENDS' sign at our Office. We look forward to the next forty years!!

Chickens on Chellberg Farm

by Marti Pizzini, FRIENDS Board Member

It's summer and the chickens are loving it. In winter, they leave the coop in stately deliberation – in spring it's a happy wing flapping rush. The Chellbergs (Kjellbergs) had chickens. Anders Kjellberg, his wife Johanna and son Carl arrived in Duneland from Sweden in 1863. By 1869 they took title to the land where we now see Chellberg Farm in the Indiana Dunes National Park. They cleared the land and built the farm. They had cows, pigs, an orchard, a vegetable garden, five working horses and, in 1879, thirty chickens. The coop still stands, close to the back door of the house, where the chickens lived under the watchful eye of their farm family. The coop is unusually strong and spacious, testimony to their importance on the farm. Chickens provided both food and income for farm families. "Egg money" was earned by farmers' wives and was an important contribution to the family economy.



Today families love to bring their children to see the chickens and the chickens enliven and warm the visitor experience. Our chickens are Rhode Island Reds and Barred Rocks - the same breeds the Chellbergs kept. They are both dependable layers and meaty for good eating. They produce brown eggs - small ones when they are young and larger as they grow older. They easily live five years, and some go on to their eighth year. Our chickens are calm and at ease with strangers. At this point they are not really used to being handled but they run to greet us ...or to get treats!!!

In 2016, a plan was put into place where the national park would work with the Dunes Learning Center and the FRIENDS to bring some animals to the farm. The plan has the national park providing the space for the chickens in the historic coop. The current cows are contributed by area farmers, who house them at the farm and care for them with help from volunteers. The chickens are owned by Dunes Learning Center, which is responsible for their care. The Park appoints a ranger to be their liaison with the farm - for the animals, the garden and events at the farm. The Park assures that the facilities are kept in accordance with historical standards. The FRIENDS help pay for supplies for the chickens and in the recruitment of the volunteers who care for them.

The program depends on volunteers for its ongoing success. Volunteers drive up to the coop, year-round, in all kinds of weather, check on the chickens, count them, water and feed them and keep them safe. One can feel very pioneer while tramping through snow in the dusk of a cold evening, flashing your headlamp over "the girls" in the coop, satisfied that they are all there, snug on their roosts. It's quiet on the farm and the chicken care volunteers can savor the seasons as they do their rounds. One can do worse than being a person who cares for these wonderful chickens.

Dunes Learning Center Programs

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

A Dunes Affair - Friday, September 16 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm at Sand Creek Country Club

Dunes Learning Center's (DLC) annual gala raises funds so that all students, regardless of their capacity to pay, can experience the joy and wonder of outdoor learning inside our national park. This year we will honor Sarah Pavlovic with the Green Apple Award. Sarah is the now-retired naturalist from Discovery Charter School and has been a longtime partner of DLC. Join us for unique auctions, live music, delicious food, and fun with friends. Tickets: \$125 per person. More information at DunesLearningCenter.org/adunesaffair.



Forest Bathing - Saturday, September 24 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Back by popular demand! Practice the Japanese art of "forest bathing" - experiencing the natural world with all your senses. Explore around the DLC as you practice mindfulness in nature on this special guided hike led by Cynthia Smith. Register online at DunesLearningCenter.org/programs. Cost: \$35 per person.

A Special **THANK YOU** to the FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes for setting our new staff up for success! Each year, the FRIENDS help to purchase necessary supplies for staff and the summer camp. From new backpacks to water bottles, hula hoops, balls, and more, FRIENDS provide all the gear needed to make summer camp a success. Summer camp has wrapped up, but the naturalists will be carrying their backpacks even more throughout the fall as we welcome school groups back to the DLC.

National Park Programs

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



Outdoor Adventure Festival - Friday, September 9, 7:30am thru Sunday, September 11, 4:30pm

More than 50 events will take place over the weekend at parks and preserves throughout Northwest Indiana. The events include hiking, paddling, biking, geo-caching, photography, birding, and more events for visitors of all ages and activity levels. For the complete schedule of programs, times, and locations visit dunesoutdoorfestival.com. The FRIENDS are proud to provide the financial support for the Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival.



On Saturday and Sunday, look for our FRIENDS booth from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at the National Park's Chellberg Farm. Here you can enjoy **Chellberg Farm Fun!** There will be wagon rides, storytellers, musical groups, several historical demonstration booths, and food vendors.

Other weekend festivities include Leon's Obstacle Course Race from 9:30am to 2:00pm on September 11. There will be a 5K and 10K race over obstacles placed throughout the trails at the National Park's West Beach. The Leon's American Race Series helps support U.S. military, veterans, injured veterans, first responders and law enforcement. Register for the race at www.leonstriathlon.com.

Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 will be fee free at the Indiana Dunes National Park. The Chellberg Farm parking lot is located on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 12 in Porter, Indiana.

State Park Programs

For more information contact the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or on.IN.gov/indianadunes



History Comes Alive Weekend - Saturday, September 10, 9:00am thru Sunday, September 11, 12:00pm

Join us for history programs you won't forget! History hikes and talks will be offered throughout the weekend along with a special presentation from Serena Ard, Curator of the Westchester History Museum. Live re-enactors from the Ouatatenon Brigade will be on the beach acting out the fur-trading era.



Singing Sands Stargaze - Saturday, September 17 from 8:00pm to 11:00pm

Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach near the pavilion for an annual event with local astronomers from Calumet Astronomical Society. Experts and Naturalists will be available for deep sky viewing through telescopes and constellation talks.

Fall Full Moon Hikes - Saturdays, September 10 at 7:30pm, October 8 at 6:30pm, and November 5 at 6:00pm

Join us at the Nature Center for this special stellar hike to Lake Michigan and back. After a short presentation about the moon, we will head out on a 2-mile moderate hike to learn about the stars, our moon, and the dunes at night. Lunar treats will be provided thanks to the FRIENDS.



National Public Lands Day - Saturday, September 24

On this day each year hundreds of thousands of volunteers come together to help with projects to enhance public parks. Join us 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 25.

Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival - Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15

Revel in stories for young and old throughout the day and evenings. On Saturday, make plans to join us that evening at the Nature Center's Fire Ring (Wilson Shelter if rain) for special sessions of "ghost tales!" Two sessions will cater to both young kids (5:30pm) and older kids and adults (7:00pm). Bring a blanket or lawn chair (and a friend to hold on to) and join us around the shelter campfire. The FRIENDS will be providing free apple cider and cookies!



"Howl"oween at the Dunes - Saturday, October 29

Enjoy everything fun, fall and spooky on this festive day at the Indiana Dunes State Park. You will not want to miss our night hike, pumpkin decorating, campsite decorating, and more! Program support for this all-day event is provided thanks to the FRIENDS.

The Nature Center's Fall Hours: Open Daily 9:00am to 4:00pm Central Time

**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

**40th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, October 1
Invitation Enclosed**

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: Paul Stofko **Treasurer:** Tracey Stevens
Dan Barriball Sue Grossbauer Zach Lindeman
Bonnie Miller Rudy Moyado Zella Olson Marti Pizzini
Roz Potter Michelle Shebesh Lori Weed
Newsletter Editor: Cliff Goins
www.dunefriends.org 219-707-3617

Since 1982, our 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 our important work continues.

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

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 _____