



Dunes Echo

Fall 2023 (September, October and November) ~ Vol. XVII, #3

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

Hard to believe that summer is already coming to an end but many of the leaves are changing color as our nights are cooling down. The Friends' produce stand is still going strong with the weekly filling of delectable vegetables from the Chellberg Farm. For a small donation to the Friends, visitors to the produce stand have been able to acquire heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and squashes of several varieties. Speaking about Chellberg, the Friends have recently purchased new chickens to fill the farm's coop which is undergoing some upgrades. In order to help defray costs associated with keeping these chickens healthy and happy, the Friends will be unveiling an "Adopt a Chicken Program" at the upcoming Duneland Fall Festival.



Along with the new chickens, the Friends have purchased fifteen turkey poult to raise up at the Chellberg Farm. These turkeys will be all dressed up and ready for your Thanksgiving dinner table in early November. If you are interested in donating to the Friends for one of these tasty birds, please contact the Friends at angel@dunefriends.org to get your name on the list.

The Chellberg Farm Herefords are contentedly grazing away in the north pasture. They will be processed in late December and bundles of Chellberg Farm ground meat will be available for donation. Look for more information on this fundraising event to help keep animals at the Chellberg Farm in our Winter Issue of the Dunes Echo.



Other fundraising efforts such as the Indiana Dunes National Park's BARK Ranger tags and the Maple Syrup are going well. The Friends will again be offering Field Courses, a fundraising program we did regularly in the 1980/90s. This November we will be offering a Natural Basket Weaving workshop (see details below) and Friends' members will be able to take the field courses at a reduced rate. We are asking you, our members, to suggest ideas for other Field Courses. Do you have a particular talent that you would like to share with others? It could be making a craft, leading a specialty hike, offering a canoe adventure, etc. Please let us know at angel@dunefriends.org.

At the end of June, Superintendent Paul Labovitz retired. We will miss his leadership and creative thinking at the helm steering the Indiana Dunes National Park into new and exciting ways. Paul worked with the Friends to make our office space and our fabulous sign happen. His friendship and support of the Friends of Indiana Dunes are greatly appreciated.

At the State Park, the Friends hosted the Annual Sand Sculpture Contest on July 15 and Smokey and S'mores on August 4. Both were well attended, and we actually ran out of s'mores as over 250 people attended this event, the biggest crowd on record. Smokey was well photographed and was willing to share a moment with the State Park's Property Manager David Snodgrass and our Chair, Angel Goins. The Dunes Learning Center's Summer Camps were again highly successful and the Friends were able to help by offering our office location for their pre-camp curb-side Covid testing site.



The Friends are looking forward to a busy Fall with lots of Friends' sponsored events at both the National and State Park and have included their schedules in this event. We hope to see you at one of these wonderful events.

Natural Basket Weaving Workshop

November 5th from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Instructor Renell Roebuck learned how to weave baskets from her grandmother in Gladwin, Michigan where she grew up. Thirty years later she began teaching classes for the Wood County Park District. Since 2007, she has been teaching basket weaving classes as part of her role as a Naturalist for the Geauga Park District in Northeast Ohio. We are excited to host this special field course where participants will leave with a storage bin basket that has a 12" X 7" base and is 5.5" high with leather handles and color accents. Spaces are limited for this course and pre-registration is required by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390. Workshop fees for this creative field course are \$60 for Friends members and \$75 for non-members.





Duneland Fall Festival

Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 from 10:00am until 4:00pm

Visit the heart of the Outdoor Adventure Festival at Chellberg Farm for a day of Fall fun. There will be musical groups, storytellers, and demonstration booths showcasing skills that farmers would have used in the early 1900s. Wagon rides will be available for a suggested donation to the Friends of Indiana Dunes to help maintain the farm. Food trucks will be on site.



Fee Free Days This Fall

National Public Lands Day

September 23 – “National Public Lands Day” at the Indiana Dunes National Park
September 24 – “National Public Lands Day” recognized at the Indiana Dunes State Park
November 11 – “Veterans Day” at the Indiana Dunes National Park



National Park Programs

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



Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date

Every Saturday in September, October, and November from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Visit the Paul H. Douglas Center for a day of family friendly fun. Enjoy the free nature themed craft set up in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone. This program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Chellberg Farm Open House

Every day from Friday September 1 to Monday September 18 from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Friday September 22 and 29 and Monday September 25 from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Stop by the historic Chellberg Farm to tour the farmhouse and visit the animals. Rangers and volunteers will be on hand to share the area’s history. This program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Feeding at the Farm

Sunday September 3, 10, and 24 from 4:30pm until 5:00pm

Every Sunday in October from 4:30pm until 5:00pm

Join a volunteer or ranger and help feed the cows and chickens at the historic Chellberg Farm. This program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.



Outdoor Adventure Festival

Friday, September 8 thru Sunday, September 17 all day

Celebrate the outdoors at the Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival. The festival stretches over a week with over 100 events taking place at different parks and preserves throughout Northwest Indiana. There are events for visitors of all ages and activity levels, include hiking, paddling, biking, photography, yoga, birding, and more. For the list of programs, times, and locations visit www.dunesoutdoorfestival.com

Furs to Farm Flashback

Saturday, September 23 and 30, and Sunday, September 24 from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Every Saturday and Sunday in October from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

Take a self-guided hike and travel through time to meet up with rangers stationed at two of the park’s historic sites. Visit the Bailly Homestead, where the chapel and fur traders’ cabin will be open for viewing and learn about the area’s early settlers. The main house will be closed due to ongoing restoration efforts. At the historic Chellberg Farm, tour the farmhouse and visit the animals. Rangers and volunteers will be on hand at each location to share the area’s history. This program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.



State Park Programs

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



Full Moon Hikes: August 30 at 8:00pm and September 29 at 7:30pm

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: September 23

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 September 24.

Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival: October 20 and 21

Revel in stories for young and old throughout the day and evenings. Make plans on 10/21 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 campfire. The Friends of the Indiana Dunes will be providing free apple cider and cookies!



"Howl"oween at the Dunes: October 28

Enjoy everything fun, fall and spooky on this festive day at the Indiana Dunes State Park. You won't 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 of the Indiana Dunes.

Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



Northwest Indiana Wild Edible Hike: September 23 (English 10:00am -12noon) and (Spanish 1:00pm-3:00pm)

Embark on an exploration into local ecology with our Wild Edible Hike, presented by Dunes Learning Center and local wild edible expert Dr. Ezekiel Flannery. Traverse the remarkable landscapes of our region and unveil the secrets of local plants that bring us life. This immersive experience delves into the uses and significance of wild edibles. As you stroll along curated trails, you'll learn to identify these natural treasures and explore their roles in human lives. All age groups welcome (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Cost: \$10

Canoeing Experience with Dunes Learning Center: early October date and time yet to be determined

Embark on a captivating water experience with our Canoeing Adventure. This interactive experience invites you to explore the beauty of local waterways. Led by expert guides, this program offers an introduction to canoeing techniques and a chance to uncover the vibrant life along our waterways. Engage in informative conversations about the significance of water ecosystems and their impact on the environment. For children ages 8 and up (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Cost: \$10



Plant Keeping and Propagation: November 8 with time to be determined (2-hour program)

Unlock the secrets of thriving plants and plant keeping with Dunes Learning Center. This hands-on journey is your gateway to mastering the art of nurturing and multiplying plants within your living spaces. Guided by our master gardener Mellisa, this experience delves into the world of plant keeping. Discover the keys to successful plant care, from selecting the perfect specimens for your environment to creating optimal conditions for growth. For ages 12 and up (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Cost: \$15

Trivia Night!: December 4 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm

Get ready to put your knowledge to the test in an evening of fun and excitement with our Trivia Night hosted by Dunes Learning Center. Join us for a brain-teasing adventure that combines friendly competition, intriguing facts, and a dash of learning. Gather your team of trivia enthusiasts and join us for a captivating night where you'll navigate through a variety of categories, challenging your wits and collaborating with teammates to claim the title of trivia champions! For ages 14 and up (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Cost: \$5

**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: Paul Stofko **Treasurer:** Tracey Stevens
Dan Barriball 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

- Marram Grass \$ 25
- Cottonwood \$ 50
- Jack Pine \$100
- Black Oak \$250

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail completed form to the address above.

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Phone _____

Interested in Volunteering _____

Email _____