



Dunes Echo

Winter 2019/20 (Dec, Jan and Feb) ~ Vol. XII #4

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

National Park Makes House Available as FRIENDS Office

This past year the Friends of Indiana Dunes began discussing the possibility of acquiring the use of an Indiana Dunes National Park house to be used as office space for the FRIENDS. Superintendent Paul Labovitz suggested the house located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oak Hill Roads, located north of the Chellberg Farm and south of the National Park's headquarters.

The Board has been working diligently to get the official paperwork completed which will allow the FRIENDS to rehabilitate and use this space. As you can see from the photos, we have completed exterior repairs to the house and the accompanying garage. Both the house and the garage have had all the bad lumber replaced and were painted in Creamy Mushroom accented with Bear Rug (cream and chocolate brown). All windows and storms have also been repaired and painted.

The interior will be the next phase. The plumbing in the kitchen and bathroom need to be replaced and updated. The walls need to be painted. The very old carpeting will be removed and replaced with laminate flooring. The Board hopes to host an Open House for all members sometime in early summer. Drive by and take a look. If you would like to volunteer to help with interior work, please contact us at (219)707-3617 or angel@dunefriends.org.



before and after photos



Special Holiday Happenings

French Christmas Concert - Sunday December 8 from 3:00 pm - 4:00pm

Celebrate the holiday season with a French Christmas concert by local folk trio Trois Canards. The songs, sung in both French and English, are accompanied by traditional instruments like the fiddle, hurdy gurdy, and dulcimer.



Swedish Breakfast – Saturday December 14 - two seatings at 10:00 and 11am

Join the Dunes Learning Center for a festive Swedish Pancake Breakfast. Purchase tickets online at the Dunes Learning Center website.

Holiday Traditions – Saturday December 14 from Noon - 3:00pm

Join us as we celebrate "Holiday Traditions in the Dunes" at the Chellberg farm and learn more about the region's cultural history while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon with family and friends.

Snowshoeing the Dunes

Weather permitting – need a 6-inch snow base

The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center will offer Snowshoe rentals every Wednesday to Sunday, in mid-December to mid-March between 9:30am and 4:30pm. A driver's license is required for the rental and the cost is \$5 per pair for the entire day. Reservations cannot be made. Call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 for questions on the snow conditions.

The Indiana Dunes National Park will offer snowshoeing on a ranger-led hike, every Saturday in in January and February from 1 – 3pm.. A limited number of snowshoes are available for loan or you can bring your own. If there is not enough snow, a traditional hike will be offered instead. Call the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 for snow conditions.



Snowshoes provided by FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes

National Park Programs

For more information call Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 or www.nps.gov/indu. All programs are free.



Bus Tour – Sunday December 15, January 19, and February 16 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 December 20, January 17, February 21 and March 20 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.



Movie Screening – Every Saturday and Sunday in January and February from 1 to 2pm

Come Saturday to the Douglas Center and on Sundays to the Visitor Center for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.

Miller Woods Hike – Sundays December 1, 8 and 15 and every Sunday in January and February 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 Dec 28 from 4:30 to 6:30pm, Jan 18 from 5 to 7pm, and Feb 15 from 5:30 to 7:30pm

Join fellow astronomy lovers and enjoy our night sky from the Kemil Beach parking lot, one of the darkest spots in the Indiana Dunes National Park. Telescopes will be provided for your viewing pleasure.

Art in the National Park – Saturday January 11 and February 8 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 January 25 and February 22 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.

Make Your Fishing Tackle Workshop – Saturday December 7 from 10am to Noon

In anticipation of the next fishing season, make your own fishing tackle under the expert guidance of a park ranger.



Birdwatching in Miller Woods – Saturday December 21 from 9 to 10:30am

Join Jennifer Johnson of Wild Indigo and Audubon Great Lakes for a beginning birding class. Fall and winter are still a great time to learn more about the incredible diversity of birds that use the Indiana Dunes as a migration refueling point.

Winter Solstice Hike and Campfire – Saturday December 21 from 3 to 5pm

Join rangers for a sunset hike at the Kemil Beach parking lot. Catch the sunset, the rising Full Moon, and enjoy the sweeping views of the Great Marsh from the top of the Dune Ridge Trail. After the hike, gather around a campfire and celebrate the shortest day of the year.

Christmas Bird Count – Friday December 27 from 10 to 11am

Join volunteers throughout the Americas for an adventure. Families, students, amateur birders, and scientists alike, arm themselves with binoculars, bird guides, and checklists and go out on an annual mission to count the world's bird populations. Register and learn more about where and when to conduct your bird count by contacting ranger Christine Gerlach at 219-395-1885 or christine_gerlach@nps.gov.



In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Saturday January 18 from 2 to 3pm

Celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. Join a Douglas Center ranger for a presentation of some of the national park sites that commemorate the struggle for civil rights.

Cabin Fever Festival/Groundhog Day – Saturday, February 1 from 9am to 3:30pm

Tired of winter and hoping that the Groundhog doesn't see his shadow? Then get out of the house and enjoy a day of fun, mostly indoor activities at both the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center. There will be a ton of fun activities for young and old along with free movies and music throughout the day. You can also join a ranger for an outdoor adventure hike or borrow some snowshoes or skis and explore Miller Woods on your own. For a detailed schedule, go to nps.gov/indu or call the information desk at 219-395-1882.



First Anniversary Open House for the Indiana Dunes National Park – Saturday February 15

On November 5, 1966, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established and on February 19, 2019 the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was re-designated as the Indiana Dunes National Park. Join us for Cake at our Anniversary Open House celebration. Go to nps.gov/indu for more information.

Dunes Learning Center Programs



Summer Camp Registration – Opens December 1

The countdown is on! For more information go to DunesLearningCenter.org.

Mycology 101 – Tuesday January 14 from 1 to 3pm

Join Dr. Peter Avis, Professor at Indiana University Northwest, to learn the basics of the world of fungi! Check out provided specimens up close using microscopes, then take a hike to find them in the wild. You'll never look at mushrooms the same way again! Purchase tickets online at the Dunes Learning Center website.

State Park Programs

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



Happy "OWL"-idays: December 21, 2 to 3:30pm

Join us at the Nature Center's Auditorium for some "OWL"-iday cheer with Humane Indiana Wildlife's live owl ambassadors. Education Director, Nicole Harmon, will introduce these native owls of our Indiana Dunes and talk about their interesting adaptations and characteristics. Visitors will be able to enjoy up-close views of these nocturnal creatures

Christmas Eve Morning Stroll: December 24, 10am to Noon

Bring some cheer and your whole family along for our annual Christmas Eve walk through the dune forests to relax and enjoy the spirit of the season! Meet the Naturalists at the Nature Center at 10 a.m. to begin this 1.5-hour walk to explore the winter life and beauty of the dunes.

The 3-DUNE Challenge 3-Dunes Challenge First Day Hike: January 1, 10am to Noon

As part of a 50-state initiative, America's State Parks First Day Hikes offer individuals and families an opportunity to begin the New Year with a rejuvenating healthy hike connecting with the outdoors. Strap on your hiking boots and meet the Indiana Dunes State Park's Interpretive Naturalists for a special 3-Dune Challenge covering 1.5-miles. Along the way you will be able to explore the beautiful park landscapes and learn some history about the 3 tallest dunes along the Indiana Dunes Lakeshore during this 1-hour jaunt.

Dunes Geocache Adventure Day: January 18, 10am to 4:30 p.m.

This is a fun annual geocaching event that lets any level of geocachers come together to compete and enjoy the beauty of our Indiana Dunes region. If you are a beginner or advanced geocacher, this program will not disappoint with its fun prizes and challenges. All you need is a GPS unit or the geocaching app on your cell phone along with a sense of adventure. Full details can be given by calling the nature center (219-926-1390) or searching for the event page with zipcode 46304 at www.geocaching.com.

Winter Full Moon Hike: February 8, 7pm (Indoor Presentation), 7:30 to 9pm Hike

Enjoy the beautiful moon with us during this special night program starting at the Nature Center. Naturalists and volunteers will share photos and details about our moon and its phases while "stellar" treats are shared thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes. After learning about our moon, naturalists will lead a night hike to Lake Michigan and back to see the moon rise over the Indiana Dunes Forest and its reflection over Lake Michigan. Call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 for more information or questions.

Mark Your Calendars

Maple Sugar Time – March 7, 8, 14 and 15, 2020



Enjoy an early taste of spring at the National Park's annual Maple Sugar Time festival. From 10am to 4pm, there will be free, one-hour, ranger-led tours of the sugaring operation at the historic Chellberg Farm. Tours will start every 20 minutes. Learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup and how the Chellberg family did in the sugar shack. Try your hand at drilling a tap hole, lug heavy sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke, or just enjoying a free taste of pure maple syrup! Warm up in the farmhouse and collect recipes featuring maple syrup. Pure maple syrup and related products will be for sale on site. A pancake breakfast will also be available for purchase.

23rd Annual Native Plant Sale – April 18, 2020

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 20, 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) with your available times.

**FRIENDS OF
INDIANA DUNES**

P.O. Box 166
Beverly Shores, IN 46301

Non-Profit Organization
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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

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Secretary: Kathy Wilder **Treasurer:** Zella Olson
Pat Carlisle Andrea Huntington
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Roy 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 _____