



Dunes Echo

May to August 2019 ~ Vol. XII #2

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

Friends Native Plant Sale helps the Discovery Charter School

The Friends of Indiana Dunes have generously donated native plants to Discovery Charter School each year since 2014! The first project was a school-wide undertaking to establish a butterfly garden on the school grounds to follow the migration of monarch butterflies and their need for larval host and nectar plants. Donations in 2014 and 2015 supported the establishment of the garden, which continues to be a center for study and enjoyment for Discovery students.

In 2015-16, 8th grade students undertook an Earth Force project in conjunction with the Dunes Learning Center. The students learned about honeybee colony collapse disorder, and decided to start bee hives at the school. They received a donation of native plants for pollinator plantings in the vicinity of the hives.

In 2016-17, 7th grade students chose to work on Discovery's nature play space, including creating a better definition of its boundaries, pulling invasives in the adjacent woods, and using native plants donated by the Friends to establish woodland plantings in the areas now protected from trampling.

In 2017-18, 7th grade students again took on an Earth Force project, this time renovating a nature trail on Discovery property. They planted donated plants along the trail, and in an area that had been damaged by parking lot construction near the woods. This year, the same students, now 8th graders, are working with Sarah Pavlovic and their technology teacher to produce labels with QR codes to identify these plants and others along the nature trail.

This year, 2018-19, Discovery received a donation of native shrubs to enhance the outdoor classroom on the northeast corner of our campus. Students have been helping tidy up the area now that the weather is conducive to outdoor study, and we hope to see lots of classes using the space this spring!

Sarah says "the Friends have done so much for Discovery! Several of the donations of native plants have enhanced a project that students planned and carried out, and can claim as their contribution to the school and for the good of the Earth. That's an important lesson for middle school students. Thank you for your continued support."



West Beach Concert

This year's free concert by the Northwest Indiana Symphony will be held on Friday, August 2, at the Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach. The concert begins at 7:30 pm and the music will set amidst the backdrop of the setting sun over the beautiful Indiana dunes landscape. The Friends of Indiana Dunes are pleased to help provide funding for this special event. Under the direction of Conductor Kirk Muspratt, this 90 minute program will feature a mix of patriotic songs, light classical pieces, and movie and Broadway tunes. The stage and seating area will be set up in the southwest parking lot at West Beach. Limited seating is available so visitors are strongly encouraged to bring folding chairs. Purchase food from one of several food vendors who will be on site during the concert, or bring a picnic. The rain location will be the Chesterton High School at 2125 South 11th Street in Chesterton.

Midsummer Celebration

On Saturday June 22 from 1 to 3pm, celebrate the longest day of the year and learn about the traditions of the Swedish immigrants at Chellberg Farm from 1 to 3pm. Enjoy the folk music and food associated with this special day. Help decorate the traditional Midsummer pole with flowers prior to the dancing around the pole.



Century of Progress Homes Tour Update

This year the Century of Progress Homes Tours will be offered on Saturday September 28. Tickets for the tour may be purchased on Monday August 5th at 8am CT. Please mark your calendars as the tickets usually sell out within the first 2 hours of availability. Check the Indiana Landmarks website – www.indianalandmarks.org for more information.

Programs at National Park

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



Mother's Day Bus Tour – Sunday May 12 from 1-3pm

Join a ranger for a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Park in one of the park's 15-passenger shuttle buses. The tour is free, but reservations are required. Call 219-395-1882 to make reservations and to get more information.

Mother's Day Wildflower Hike – Sunday May 12 from 10-11:30am and 1-2:30pm

Join a ranger at the Heron Rookery to see what spring woodland flowers are blooming, the dunes' best location for spring wildflowers.

Music Heritage Series Concert – Fridays May 17, June 14, July 19 and August 16 from 7:30-9pm

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.

Beachside with a Ranger – Every Friday June 7 thru August 30 from 10am-2pm

Stop by and learn about our park's preservation story. We'll highlight some of the challenges the region faced in the past as well as the largest threats that confront us today.

Science in the National Park – Saturdays May 25, June 22, July 27 and August 24 from 2-4pm

Meet local experts and scientists who are conducting research in the national park. Examine knowledge gained by researchers during a presentation on their work followed by a short hike. Meet at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Stargazing Through Telescopes – Saturdays May 25, June 22, and July 27 from 8:30-10:30pm and August 24 from 7:30-9:30pm

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

Junior Wildland Firefighter – Saturday May 18 at West Beach, June 15 at Visitor Center, July 13 at Campground Amphitheater and August 10 at Douglas Center from 11am-Noon

Meet the Indiana Dunes National's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. After this hands-on program, children will receive their very own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch.



Pinhook Bog Open House – Every Saturday May 25 thru August 25 from Noon-3pm

Take an hour long self-guided hike into this amazing bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants and orchids.

Playdate in the Nature Play Zone – Saturdays June 1 & 15, July 6 & 20, August 3 & 17 from 1-3pm

Kids of all ages are invited to spend a couple of hours having fun in nature. Join a ranger and explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create awesome nature art, and so much more.

Lake Michigan Boat Tours – Every Saturday in May, June, July and August from 11am-2pm

Join a ranger for a guided two-hour boat tour on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures. There is a fee & reservations are required.

Biking and Birding – Saturday June 1, July 6 and August 3 from 8:30-11:30am

Bring your bike to the Douglas Center and we will provide the binoculars and take you to some fun spots in Miller to see birds and enjoy a morning bike ride. Get your exercise and learn some basic birding techniques.



Urban Farming Fun – Saturdays June 8, July 13 and August 10 from 1-3pm

Learn some tips/tricks of starting your own vegetable garden from rangers and volunteers at the Douglas Center's adjacent garden.

Beach Fun Saturday – Every Saturday from June 15 thru August 10 from 1pm until Sunset

Make it a beach day at West Beach! Join staff for activities such as kayaking, swimming, a sunset hike, and a beach campfire. Bring a picnic dinner and eat at a picnic shelter.

Mount Baldy Open House – Every Sunday June 2 thru August 25 from 1-4pm

Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot for a ranger-led hike to the top of the beautiful and famous Mount Baldy. The views of Lake Michigan and the surrounding area are spectacular. No reservation required.

Bailly / Chellberg History Hike – Every Sunday May 26 thru August 25 from 1-3pm

Explore the grounds of both historic homes. Learn about early settlers and farmers who came to this region in the 1800s.

Feeding at the Farm – Every Sunday June 3 thru August 26 from 4:30-5pm

Feed farm animals at Chellberg.



Miller Woods Hike on the Paul H. Douglas Trail – Every Sunday May 5 thru August 25 from 1:30-3:30pm

Meet at the Paul H. 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.

Dunes Learning Center Programs



Chellberg Farm Camp - Historic Chellberg Farm is the backdrop for a camp where kids can interact with the animals, explore the forest and play fun games to learn more about life at the farm. \$79 registration fee per session. Ages 5-6, Tuesdays 9am-2pm, **Session 1 June 11, 18, 25; Session 2 July 9, 16, 23**
Ages 7-8, Thursdays 9am-3pm, **Session 1 June 13, 20, 27; Session 2 July 11, 18, 25**

June 8 – Get Outdoors Day at Dunes Learning Center from 11am – 3pm

Get Outdoors and explore your National Park! Take a hike led by our expert DLC naturalists. Get your feet wet exploring the Little Calumet River. Climb into the canopy with our expert tree climbers. Go geocaching around the campus. Enjoy live music, nature crafts, and more. FREE open house - pre-registration requested at duneslearningcenter.org/events/goday.

Dunes Discovery Camp - Campers explore rivers, search for salamanders, identify insects, hike through dunes, cool off in Lake Michigan, laugh with new friends and sing around the campfire. \$479 registration fee. Ages 9-13, 5 days/4 nights. **June 24-28, July 15-19, July 22-26**

Dunes Adventure Camp – Teens develop important life skills as they take on new challenges and learning adventures from guided day and night hikes to a backcountry experience with additional options to learn fishing, kayaking, photography, artistic interpretation and more from nature experts. A beach party and glow night add to the fun. \$479 registration fee. Ages 14-17, 5 days/4 nights. **July 8-12**

Critter Camp – Budding naturalists spend their days exploring the parks, forests, streams, meadows and trails with new friends. Activities range from camp crafts and themed hikes to a day at the beach. \$199 registration fee. Ages 6-8, 5 days, 9am-3pm. **August 5-9**

State Park Activities

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

Youth and Family Birding Day - Saturday May 18th from 9am-4pm

This is a FREE event being hosted at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center during Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. There will be beginning bird hikes, live birds of prey, bird crafts, bird games, birdhouse making, freebies and more!



Summer Full Moon Hikes - Come along with Naturalists and volunteers for these special full-moon hikes to Lake Michigan and back. Stories about our moon and up-close views will be shared. Some “stellar” treats will be served thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Hikes meet at the Nature Center on **6/15, 7/16 and 8/16 @ 8:30 pm**.

Indiana Dunes State Park Annual Sand Sculpture Contest - Saturday July 13

Come out to this 22nd annual event and enter to win or just watch for fun! This year's theme is *Holidays*. The registration table opens by 9am for the first 25 teams, but groups may begin as early as 7 a.m. Judging starts after 11:30 a.m. with awards after 12:30pm. Whether building or not, come vote for your favorite in the *People's Choice Award*. Contact the Nature Center for more information and specific rules. Thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes for providing prizes to the contest winners!

Indiana Dunes Explorer Day Camps - July 15–19 ages 6–8 and July 22–26 ages 9-11 Meet Mon-Thurs 9am-12pm and Fri 9am–3pm. Join us for a summer of fun at the Indiana Dunes State Park! Each camp is perfect for the inquisitive child of the dunes and provides a low cost option close to home. More information or to register, visit or call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390. **Cost = \$30/child for the week.**

Indiana Dunes State Park Annual S'more's Day Fun - Friday August 9 at 7 pm

Help celebrate National S'more's Day by learning a little about the history of this delicious treat. Then help yourself to a *Smoregasbord* of different variations. Marshmallow games will be the entertainment for the evening for everyone to try. These activities take place at the Wilson Shelter and are provided by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.



Hummingbird Banding - Saturday August 10

Join us at the Nature Center as special hummingbird bander, Allen Chartier, joins us to study the tiny winged jewels of the dunes. Learn about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and see them up-close this morning! Program sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Perseid Meteor Shower & Star Gazing Event - Saturday August 11

This is an annual shooting star event that marks the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. Sky lore stories will begin at the State Park Pavilion at 8:30 p.m. with the best star observations taking place after 9:30 p.m. Naturalists will have a telescope on hand for deep sky viewing and constellation talks. Bring a chair or towel and enjoy these spectacular views from the State Park's beach until midnight.

There are lots of programs going on throughout the Spring and Summer that are not listed here. To keep up-to-date on current programs, visit www.dnr.in.gov/parklake/2980.htm or visit the state park Facebook page at www.facebook.com/indunes.

**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

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
Tyler Botbyl Pat Carlisle Andrea Huntington
Dorothy Meyers Bonnie Miller Roy Olson
Paul Stofko Lori Weed
Newsletter Editor: Cliff Goins
www.friendofindiandunes.org 219-628-4954

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 _____