



Dunes Echo

Summer 2021 (June, July, and August) ~ Vol. XV, #2

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

Spring is always a busy time for the Friends with Maple Sugar Time, Native Plant Sale and Birding Festival occurring in March, April and May. This year Maple Sugar Time was cancelled due to the continuing concerns associated with the Covid Pandemic. Our 25th Annual Native Plant Sale was again Order Only with curbside delivery. It appears the sale will be slightly more profitable than last year. Birding Festival brought many visitors to both the National and State Parks. The Friends hosted a booth providing information about our upcoming events and our partners.

The Friends have also been busy this Spring working on our House/Office with Board Member Rudy Moyado organizing replacing shingles and installing new gutters with leaf guards. Board Member Tracey Stevens has spearheaded the landscaping – yuccas removed, native pollinator attracting plants have been added to front of the house, two Redbuds in the yard, and grass planted where the hedge was removed. Tracey also painted a beautiful rain barrel complete with native plants and pollinators – bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.



For Summer, the Friends have three State Park Beach Cleanup Days planned for Sundays at 8:00am on June 27, July 25 and August 29. We are partnering with Board Member Paul Stofko's Crazy Legs Running Series for these needed service days. Join us – all needed supplies and drinking water provided. Remember to follow us on our Web (dunefriends.org) and Facebook pages and at our new Instagram account.

Singing Sands Welcoming Article to Our Great Parks

The Singing Sands will soon be available in print at the Indiana Dunes National Park's Visitor Center, the Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center, The Douglas Center for Environmental Education, and the Friends Office. Included will be an excellent article about and welcome to our two wonderful parks and partners. Excerpts from this article are below.

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park... Our world is ever-changing so please enjoy your visit while paying attention to the current public health guidelines and regulations at the time of your visit. Respect others as you encounter them and thank them for showing consideration by doing the smart and right things to protect each other.

As the managers for each park, we are working to provide information to you, the visitor, for both the Indiana Dunes National Park and the Indiana Dunes State Park. What's the difference? Both are great public parks. The partnership here is not unique; there are many places where national and state parks overlap. The combination just means more and better opportunities for visitors.



Indiana Dunes National Park is one of 423 units of the National Park System that includes places like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite, a collection of America's greatest natural and cultural places and stories and is operated by the National Park Service...

Within the boundary of Indiana Dunes National Park is Indiana Dunes State Park, one of 25 State Parks managed by the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and part of state government. Indiana Dunes is one of the best examples of your state and federal governments working side by side to provide terrific public service and experiences...

We are working on ways to help visitors minimize the time they spend waiting to park to enjoy the beaches and trails. Our parking hotline (219-395-1003) is a good place to start as you begin your trip and get closer to the Indiana Dunes. Why get stuck in your car when you can find available parking and discover a new beach? With over 15-miles of beaches, there is always a place to find some peace and quiet here. You may have to be adventurous to find it. The best advice is get an early start, avoid the weekends if you can, and do some research on our website or app before you arrive.

National Park Programs

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



After a 14-month pause due to the pandemic, we are happy to finally be able to offer ranger-led hikes and programs to the public at the national park. Programs restarted on May 8th with two Spring Wildflower Hikes at Heron Rookery. For at least the first month of programs, reservations are required, and each hike will be limited to 10 people with masks required when social distancing is not possible. In mid-June, a determination will be made regarding increasing the number of people on a program and perhaps the loosening of other restrictions if enough progress against the pandemic has occurred. A summerlong schedule of programs is not finalized at this time, so check out the park's webpage, www.nps.gov/indu or the park's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS for program schedule updates. We look forward to seeing you again!

Unfortunately, some things will not be happening due to the pandemic. The popular Midsummer Festival at Chellberg Farm is cancelled. The crowds and large numbers of participants singing while dancing around the Maypole was not something that can be safely mitigated. We are making tentative plans for special events in September when we believe the pandemic will be under much better control. Be watching in the next issue for details.

On a happier note, we will have two more beach areas open this summer compared to last year. Both Central Avenue and Portage Lakefront will be fully open thanks to sand nourishment at both sites and a repair of the rock revetment at Portage. This should help ease a little of the crowding at our other beaches, but we still recommend that visitors arrive early on busy summer weekends and use our new Beach Parking Line, 219-395-1003, to get the latest information.

Thank you to everyone in the Friends for all your support and help over this last year! We could not have gotten through these difficult times without you.

Bruce Rowe - Supervisory Park Ranger, Indiana Dunes National Park

Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



After being closed to the public for over a year, children are starting to return to the Dunes Learning Center (DLC) campus! A few small groups are coming for day programs, following their online experiences earlier in the year. Our Outreach educators are also slowly returning to classrooms, wrapping up Citizen Science study programs and more. All staff is hard at work preparing for Summer Camp. New interns and fellows will be arriving at the beginning of June, with camps beginning later in the month. We are thrilled to once again share the beautiful Indiana Dunes National Park with kids!

Since late last year, DLC has been offering monthly community education workshops via Zoom. The online offerings have proven popular with both local Friends as well as folks across the country and beyond - February's Indigenous Astronomy workshop attracted more than a dozen people from Canada!

This summer, we'll take a deeper look at some of the fascinating animals in our area. Interested in a topic but can't make the date? No problem. All registrants will receive a recording after the workshop. Workshops cost \$10 per person. For details and registration, go to: DunesLearningCenter.org/programs.



Tuesday, June 22, 6:30-8:00pm: Beautiful Butterflies & Mysterious Moths: The Lepidoptera Around Us
Celebrate Pollinator Week with DLC! Join Steve Sass and Amanda Smith for a presentation about the amazing adaptations of butterflies and moths. They will highlight their popular Great American Indiana Nature Lepidoptera Project (GAINLP) and provide tips on butterfly and moth viewing and information about their importance in the ecosystem including as pollinators.

Wednesday, July 21, 6:30-8:00pm: Where Are The Turtles? -- Learn about the incredible diversity of turtles, some extraordinary adaptations, and how researchers find them in the wild. This webinar will introduce native turtle species from the Midwest, many of which can be found while hiking around the Dunes. Callie Klatt Golba, a turtle researcher, will discuss strategies used to study the state-endangered Blanding's turtle and turtle conservation efforts.

Heather Hahn Sullivan – DLC Development and Marketing Director

State Park Programs

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



Summer Full Moon Hikes meet at the Nature Center

June 24 at 8:30 pm, July 23 at 8:30 pm and on August 21 at 8:00 pm

Join Naturalists and volunteers for this special hike to Lake Michigan and back. Learn all about our moon along with enjoying some “stellar” treats.

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

Watch the sand come alive at this year’s 24th anniversary event! This year’s theme is “Nature.” Registration table opens by 9:00 am, but groups may begin as early as 7:00 am. Judging starts after noon with awards at 1 pm. Whether building or not, come vote for your favorite in the “People’s Choice Award.” Park volunteers will be judging sculptures for the funniest, most creative, and most thematic awards provided. All awards provided thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Indiana Dunes Explorer Day Camps - Cost is \$30/child for the week

July 19 – 23 for 6 - 8 years old and July 26 – 30 for Jr. Teen IMN Day Camp for ages 9 – 14 years old

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. For more information or to register, visit or call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

Indiana Dunes State Park Annual S’more’s Day Fun, Friday, August 6, 7:00 pm

Help celebrate National S’more’s Day by learning a little about the history of this delicious treat. Then help yourself to a S’moregasbord of different variations.



Hummingbird Banding, Saturday, August 7

Join us at the Nature Center as special hummingbird bander, Allen Chartier, teaches all about his work with these tiny-winged jewels of the dunes. Learn about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and see them up-close this morning!

Perseid Meteor Shower & Star Gazing Event, Saturday, August 14

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 pm with the best star observations taking place after 9:30 pm. There will be deep sky viewing and constellation talks. Bring a chair or towel and enjoy these spectacular views from the State Park’s beach until midnight.

Nature Center’s Summer Hours: Daily from 10:00-4:00 pm CST.

Marie Laudeman – Lead Naturalist, Indiana Dunes State Park

Indiana Dunes State Park Property Manager Promoted

The Friends are happy to announce Michael (Mickey) Rea has been promoted to the North Region Manager of Indiana State Parks. Mickey began his professional career as an attorney and in 2013, he joined Division of State Parks as Assistant Property Manager at Salamonie. In 2015, Mickey laterally transferred to Indiana Dunes and was promoted to Property Manager in 2018.

He graduated from Purdue University with a B.A. in Political Science, received his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law, and a Masters in Public Affairs from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Mickey and his wife Andrea are both very excited for this new opportunity and their dogs, Noodles and Reggie, don’t know what to think! We will miss Mickey as the State Park Liaison to the Friends Board but wish him only the best and look forward to his continued support of the Friends in his new role.

Friends of Indiana Dunes Membership Updates

The Friends Membership Committee wants to thank all the members who have updated their email addresses. Having this information allows us to quickly contact you about unexpected changes to National and State Parks’ schedules as well as advise you of upcoming Friends events.

Some of you have reached out to ask us about Friends Gift Memberships for events such as birthdays, graduations, or other special occasions. We are working on an easy way for you to do this online but in the meantime, just fill out the Online Membership Form with your name and information and in the Additional Information section, please write gift membership for and provide their name, mailing and email information or contact us at members@dunefriends.org with those details.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Friends or our partners, contact us at members@dunefriends.org or by calling 219-707-3617.

**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
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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 _____