



Dunes Echo

Winter 2022/2023 (December, January and February) ~ Vol. XVI, #4

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes Updates

2022 has been a wonderfully special year for FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes. We started the year fundraising for the State Park's ADA compliant Beach Mat project. Thanks to all your generous appeal donations and memorials as well as using some returns on our investments, we were able to supply over \$32,000 to complete this important project. FRIENDS are happy to continue helping the State Park with their steadfast commitment to increasing accessibility of the Indiana Dunes.



This year the Annual Native Plant Sale was held at FRIENDS' Office. The sale was a successful fundraiser for FRIENDS, but we discovered a few improvements were needed to make the sale safer. The driveway has been blacktopped to create a level walking area and several large sturdier canopies have been purchased to protect our shoppers and the plants. Due to a request from our long-time plant supplier, our Annual Native Plant Sale will now be held on the first Saturday in June.



This year FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes have created a few new fundraising ideas in conjunction with the Chellberg Farm. We offered real maple syrup flavored snow cones for a donation at the annual Maple Sugar Time. They were hugely popular with the visitors. A few of our Board Members have bottled the syrup produced in March and it is now available for a donation to the FRIENDS. In early summer 17 turkey poults were purchased and raised at the Chellberg Farm. After donating to FRIENDS, many park volunteers enjoyed these free-ranging organic birds at their Thanksgiving dinner. Throughout the summer excess vegetables and flowers from the farm garden were available for a donation at our Produce Stand. In September, the FRIENDS purchased two calves that will call the farm home as they graze and grow. In about 16-18 months, ground beef will be available for a donation.

On October 1st we celebrated our 40th Anniversary with special hikes and programs, an outdoor down-home buffet and prizes. To top off the event all in attendance were invited to the FRIENDS' Office for a house tour and the unveiling of our new sign which was made from lumber grown and milled at Chellberg Farm. Our beautiful logo is hand carved and painted. Thanks to the National Park's staff for this beautiful tribute of our organization and our efforts to rehab the house which is now our office.



FRIENDS have some sad and happy news to report. Geof Benson, the executive director of the Dunes Learning Center for the past decade is retiring in February. However, DLC's chief operating officer, Heather Hahn-Sullivan, has been selected to take the helm. Heather has been spearheading the DLC's fundraising efforts for the past four years. FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes will miss Geof as our liaison but look forward to working with Heather. Geof, thanks for all your help on our behalf and congratulations to Heather!

Early in November the FRIENDS Board of Directors met at the Dunes Learning Center for a half-day retreat to discuss our present financial position, membership concerns and future goals for our organization. As with all non-profit organizations, we are faced with challenges to keeping up our financial and volunteer support of our partners. With the current nationwide economic concerns, it was decided to make a slight increase to the membership dues and to change the levels from personal information to successional plant levels within the dunes. Please note the FRIENDS have not increased their memberships dues in over three decades. These changes will occur with 2023 membership renewals. We are also looking at other fundraising options to further support our financial needs.



If you are looking for holiday gift ideas that help support our majestic Indiana Dunes, please consider a FRIENDS Metal Water Bottle which also helps reduce dangerous microplastics in our environment. Chellberg Farm Pure Maple Syrup makes a sweet treat and helps keep animals at Chellberg Farm. A membership in the FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes provides financial support of our partners and with this associated newsletter, keeps the recipient up-to-date on all things Indiana Dunes. All gifts are available at the FRIENDS office every Wednesday 1:00-4:00pm or by calling 219-707-3617 to schedule pick-up time.



Thanks to all who have made this FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes' 40th year so remarkable!

National Park Programs

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



Music Heritage Series - Fridays, December 16, January 20 and February 17 from 7:30-9:00pm

Come out for a night of music and song at the Visitor's Center auditorium. 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.



Winter Solstice Hike - Wednesday, December 22 from 3:00-5:00pm

Join rangers for a sunset hike on the shortest day of the year at the Kemil Beach parking lot. Catch the sunset and enjoy 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.

Holiday Sing-along with the Browns – Sunday, December 11 from 3:00-4:00pm

Tune up your vocal cords and join fellow visitors at the Visitor's Center auditorium for a not so silent night of holiday songs with musicians Susan and Garry Brown.

Christmas at Chellberg Farm Open House – Saturday, December 17 from Noon until 3:00pm

Join us as we celebrate a traditional Swedish Christmas at the Chellberg Farmhouse. Learn more about the Region's cultural history while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon with family and friends.



123rd Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 31

Join tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas for an adventure. Families, 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. Participants need to register in advance. Contact ranger Christine Gerlach at christine_gerlach@nps.gov or call her at (219) 395-1885. The count circle is Indiana Dunes National Park West (INDW). The exact location of the circle can be seen by visiting Audubon's web site at www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count.



National Park Themed Movie – all Saturdays in January and February at 10:00am and all Sundays in January and February at 2:00pm

Escape the cold, join a ranger and fellow visitors for a National Park Themed Movie in the Visitor's Center auditorium. Movies will change every weekend and will run between an hour to an hour and a half in length.

Mount Baldy Summit Hike - Saturday, January 28 from 9:00am-12:00pm and Sunday, February 12 from 1:00-3:00pm

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 reservations required. Hike will occur regardless of weather conditions.

Cross Country Skiing under the Full Moon – Saturday, February 4 from 3:00-6:00pm

Bring your skis out to Glenwood Dunes and join a ranger and fellow visitors for an evening jaunt through the woods by moonlight. Call 219-395-1882 for snow conditions. Bring a flashlight and headlamp.



Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



Dunes Camp 2023 - The countdown is on! Summer camp dates are posted at DunesLearningCenter.org/summer. Check out both overnight and day camp offerings. Registration opens mid-January. Sign up for the email list or watch social media for further details.



Snowshoe Science - Sunday, January 22 from 2:00-4:00pm

Learn about the science behind snowshoes, including the local animal species that have been using this science to their advantage for thousands of years. Then join us in a snowshoe tour of the national park! Snowshoes provided or bring your own. Kids 10 and up are welcome. \$15/adult, \$5/kids ages 10-17. Register online: DunesLearningCenter.org/events

State Park Programs

For more information contact the Nature Center at 219-926-1390
or www.interpretiveservices.in.gov All Programs are Central Time



First Day Hike - January 1 at 10:00am

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 to start this adventure at the Nature Center. Visitors will be invited to complete a 2-mile loop along scenic Trail 9. Along the way you will be able to explore the beautiful park landscapes and learn some history about the park on this 2-hour hike. At the end, hikers will be welcomed by park volunteers with snacks and a cozy campfire provided by the FRIENDS of the Indiana Dunes.



Full Moon Hike - January 6 and February 4 at 5:30pm

Enjoy the beautiful full moon and night sky on these special night hikes from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan and back. Stories about our moon, up-close views, and "stellar" treats will be shared thanks to the FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes.

Running with the Irish 5K Race - March 11 at 8:00am

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend this year by joining the St. Patrick's Parish in its 23rd annual pre-spring event! Over 1,000 people enjoy a relaxing walk or run on the Dunes State Park's roads with glimpses of beautiful Lake Michigan. Race registration details have not been released. *Please Note: Park roads will be congested before and during the event.*

To see the complete list and dates for other 2023 park programs and Special Events
please go to www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Nature Center Winter Hours: Every day from 10:00am to 4:00pm CT. Closed state holidays.

Snowshoeing the Dunes Weather permitting – need a 6-inch snow base

The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center will offer Snowshoe rentals every day from mid-December to mid-March between 9:00am and 4:00pm for all ages! A driver's license is required for the rental and the cost is \$10 per pair for the entire day. Reservations cannot be made. For questions on the snow conditions please call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.



At the Indiana Dunes National Park on every Saturday and Sunday in January and February from 1:00pm until 3:00pm, you can try out snowshoeing and wander through a winter wonderland at Chellberg Farm. Meet the ranger at the Park Connection Office. There are a limited number of snowshoes available for loan but feel free to bring your own. A hike will be offered if there is not the needed snow base.

Snowshoes provided by FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes

Mark Your Calendars



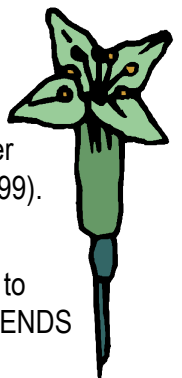
Maple Sugar Time – March 11 and 12 from 10:00am until 4:00pm

Enjoy a sweet taste of spring at Indiana Dunes National Park's 47th Annual Maple Sugar Time. Self-paced tours will guide visitors through the history of maple sugaring. Eastern National will be selling Maple Sugar products. The FRIENDS will be offering maple syrup flavored snow cones to children of ages.

27th Annual Native Plant Sale – June 3, 2023

At the request of our long-time plant supplier, Possibility Place Nursery, our Native Plant Sale will be held the first Saturday in June. The sale and pre-order pick-up will be held at the FRIENDS' Office located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oak Hill roads (1000 W. Oak Hill Road) in Porter, IN (GPS coordinates 41.629814 – 87.087099). Pre-sale order forms will be mailed by April 1 to all who purchased plants in the past three years.

Volunteer help is always needed for the set-up of the plants and pre-order filling on Friday, June 2 from 9:00am until to 4:00pm. On the day of sale, help will be needed from 7:30am until 1:30pm. Interested in helping, please contact FRIENDS Chair Angel Gochee-Goins at angel@dunefriends.org.



**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 **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

Mail completed form to the address above.

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Interested in Volunteering _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____