

# NATIVE ROOTS

To promote the enjoyment & stewardship of natural areas in West Central Indiana!

Vol 6 Issue #1 JAN-FEB 2010

## INPAWS 2010 SMALL GRANT DEADLINE: FEB 1<sup>st</sup>

(Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society)

INPAWS has a Small Grants Program which gives awards of up to \$1000 to support projects in line with its mission of promoting the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.

For details & a copy of the guidelines, go to [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org) or e-mail Jackie Luzar at [smallgrants@inpaws.org](mailto:smallgrants@inpaws.org)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### West Central Chapter of INPAWS - Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society

**WC-INPAWS PROGRAM Meetings**—fourth Mondays at 7pm at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette  
Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm at the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette  
~ open to the public ~

#### MON, JAN 25 – “The First Morel”

— a mushroom presentation by Don Ruch, Biology Professor at Ball State, who is currently writing a book about wild mushrooms!

#### MON, FEB 22 – “Exploration of the Natural History of the Kankakee Region”

— Gus Nyberg, Executive Director of NICHES Land Trust, will give a presentation on the natural history of this region with its black oak sand savanna, and wetland communities. He'll cover the current natural areas and the potential for long term prospects.

#### MON, MAR 22 – “Sedges: So What If they Are Not Orchids!”

— a presentation on the non-Carex sedges by Paul Rothrock, author of *Sedges of Indiana and the Adjacent States*—  
*The Non-Carex Species*. Books will be available for purchase.

**PgmChair: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com)**

### FREE WINTER SEED WORKSHOP on SAT, JAN 30 2-4pm at WINTERHAVEN WILDFLOWERS 5734 S 900 West, West Point

Reni Winter will demonstrate native seed preparation methods including cold stratification, scarification, and snow sowing. She will discuss pros & cons of cleaning seeds, indoor germination, and a sure-fire method of sprouting common milkweed seeds!

A variety of native seeds will be available for purchase; *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed) seeds will be available free. Reni is a Master Naturalist, president of the West Central Chapter of INPAWS, and owner/grower of Winterhaven Wildflowers.

RSVP Reni at 765-714-4288 or [wildflowers@winterhavenfarm.us](mailto:wildflowers@winterhavenfarm.us)

### Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Workshop

SAT, JAN 23 9am-noon – Free & Open to the Public  
“Stop and Smell the Geraniums”

Tippecanoe County Extension Office—3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette  
Learn about the cultivation & great variety of scented geraniums from Mark Davidson of Davidson's Greenhouse & Nursery.

Pre-register: 765-474-0793 or For info: [www.hort.purdue.edu/mg](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg)

### OTHER GARDENING EVENTS\*

SAT, JAN 23 9am-4pm 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening Show-Porter Co MG at Porter County Expo Ctr: \$7 admission; speakers from Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum, Possibility Place Nursery, more!

TUE, JAN 26 6:30-9pm Gardening with a Native Landscape  
The Beef House in Covington - \$20/person/payable at door incl meal  
Prof. Janice Coons & Rural Conservationist Megan Benage to speak.  
RSVP by JAN 19 [www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar) or 765-492-3394

\*DETAILS on these pgms & more at [www.hort.purdue.edu/mg](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg)

## SYCAMORE AUDUBON SOCIETY (SAS)

[www.sycamoreaudubon.org](http://www.sycamoreaudubon.org)

**SAS PROGRAM Meetings**—second Thursdays at 7:15pm at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette  
Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm at the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette  
~ open to the public ~

#### THURS, JAN 14 “Talking Turkey”

—Barny Dunning, Purdue Wildlife Ecologist, will share his birding adventures from this summer when he visited various sites in Turkey with Purdue forestry students.

#### THURS, FEB 11 “Indiana Bird Photography”

—Marty Jones has taken photos of 276 species of birds in Indiana. He will talk about bird photography (including camera techniques and equipment), interesting stories and memories, and his future photographic goals.

#### THURS, MAR 11 “Hellbender Stories”

—Rod Williams, Purdue Assistant Professor in Forestry & Natural Resources, will talk about this rarely seen large amphibian found in Indiana.

**PGM CHAIR—Diane Packett: [dlpacket@pex.net](mailto:dlpacket@pex.net) or 765-463-9231**  
**SAS FIELD TRIPS**

**Meet in gravel parking lot along drive to Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area—between McCormick & Northwestern/WL**  
**SAT FEB 13 Winter Birds Trip**

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 8:30am.

**Half day field trip** looking for winter visitors such as Longspurs, Long-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, etc.

#### SUN MAR 7 Woodcock Courtship Trip

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 6:30pm to carpool.

**Evening field trip to Purdue Wildlife Area (off SR 26)** in the hopes of seeing (or at least hearing) courting American Woodcock at sundown. RETURN around 8:30pm.

#### SAT MAR 20 First Day of Spring Migrant Trip

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 8:30am.

Look over the wetlands at Celery Bog for migrating water birds, and move to other areas if birds are being reported elsewhere.

For field trip info: Barny Dunning 497-3082h, 494-3565w

### SAT, JAN 30 Indiana Audubon Society Eagle Field Trip

On last year's trip, 48 bald eagles were seen in half an hour!!

#### Meeting times/places:

**EITHER 6:30am** (no later) at east end of Turkey Run Inn parking lot  
**OR 7:15am** at the West Union Covered Bridge in western Parke Co where eagles fly over the bridge going to the Wabash from their upstream roost; when eagle numbers start to drop, group will walk along the river bottoms to see eagles going about their day.

Bulk of trip is over by 1pm; lunch at Greenacres Restaurant--SR 63.

**\*\*NEW—FEE of \$15 for non-IAS members who are 18 and older**

**TRIP DETAILS/DIRECTIONS:** [www.indianaaudubon.org](http://www.indianaaudubon.org) or contact

**Trip leader Alan Bruner 765-562-2741/cell or [abbird@att.net](mailto:abbird@att.net)**

**Want to carpool from Lafayette area?**

**Contact Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com)**



### Hoosier Herpetological Society

meets third Wednesdays – 7:30pm

at Butler University in Gallahue Hall, Rm 105 or 108

For more info: [www.hoosierherpsociety.org](http://www.hoosierherpsociety.org) or contact:

Wendell Zetterberg, Jr. 765-249-2298 or [wzetterberg@gmail.com](mailto:wzetterberg@gmail.com)

### DELIGHTFUL WINTER PROGRAMS for CHILDREN

Zion Nature Center -- 690 Beech St, Zionsville (317-873-8950)

JAN-FEB program schedule is online at: [zionnaturecenter.org](http://zionnaturecenter.org)

Garfield Park Conservatory – 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis

SUN, JAN 31<sup>st</sup> 2-3pm Terrific Terrariums Ages 7-14 **FEE: \$3/child**

Live up your house this winter—make a terrarium of your own!

Register: 317-327-7580 or [www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org)

## "WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"

### Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips

JAN-MAR 2010 1-3pm or As Noted

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm Winter Animal Tracks & Trails** ..... LNC  
Join Naturalist Mary Cutler to decode the clues animals leave behind in the natural world. Indoor "how-to" session is followed by outdoor practice of tracking skills, so dress for the weather!

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm Radio Transmitters in Timber Rattlesnakes**  
—A Purdue Experience in Bloomington ..... LNC  
Steve Thompson (Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine) will give a presentation that includes pictures & video of handling, anesthesia, surgery and tracking of rattlesnakes!

Jan 27<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm Bringing Back the Bluebird .. "Bring hammer!.. LNC**  
Tipp Co Park & Rec Dept Naturalist Mary Cutler & Property Manager Brenda Moore team up to discuss this bird's natural history & how to become a "bluebird landlord." Bluebird boxes\* may be made for \$15 materials fee (limited scholarships available—contact editor, Joan).

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> **1-3pm Maple Sugaring at Home** ..... LNC  
Don Bickel (Retired Forester) will show how to get started in this fun pursuit on a small scale, followed by outdoor demo of tree-tapping!

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm Raptors in Rehabilitation and Education** ..... LNC  
Carol Blacketer (Exec Dir, Wildcat Wildlife Center) shares the unique challenges of rehabilitating raptors. The educational role they play may be displayed by a visit from the center's newest ambassadors!

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm Sturgeon Spawning in the Wabash** ..... LNC  
Marisol Sepulveda & Reuben Goforth (Purdue Professors, FNR Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences, involved in the big sturgeon project) will discuss the basic biology of sturgeon and radio tagging efforts.

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> **7-9pm Where Have All the Box Turtles Gone?** ..... LNC  
Purdue graduate students Steve Kimble & Andrea Currylow will provide a natural history overview of this once common turtle, discuss reasons for its decline, & tell of their diverse turtle research projects.

Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> **1-3pm Outdoor MOSS ID\* Noon carpool-LNC POTHoles**  
Purdue Dendrologist Sally Weeks leads this walk to explore amazing Fall Creek Gorge in Warren County with its spectacular diversity of mosses, & ID easier ones. **RUGGED TERRAIN; could be slippery!**

Mar 10<sup>th</sup> **1-3pm In Their Own Words: Nature Revealed Through the Observations of Lewis & Clark** ..... LNC  
Reenactor Rob Durrett, who spent 10 months following the course of this historic trek from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, will share unique insights about the natural features, plants, and animals encountered en route, both then and now.

Mar 17<sup>th</sup> **7-9pm The Habits and Haunts of Local Salamanders** LNC  
The fascinating lives of seldom-seen salamanders will be brought to life by Rick Howard (Purdue Biology Professor). Indoor program is followed by outdoor search for trapped salamanders & discussion of field research techniques. **Bring a flashlight!**

Mar 24<sup>th</sup> **7:30-9:30pm Sounds of Spring-Wacky Woodcocks! AMPH**  
Experience this spring ritual with Naturalist Mary Cutler & members of Sycamore Audubon Soc. **Binoculars, flashlights, dress warmly!**

Mar 31<sup>st</sup> **1-3pm Planning with POWER** ..... LNC  
Robert McCormick (Project Leader for Planning with POWER—Protecting Our Water & Environmental Resources) presents an overview of this program, highlighting smart growth initiatives and "Local Decision Maker" tools available through the program.

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LOCATIONS of these FREE PGMS—OPEN to the PUBLIC

**AMPH(Tipp Co Amphitheater):** Meet in parking lot on east side of North River Rd, near Soldiers Home Rd in West Lafayette

**LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area):** On north side of Lindberg Rd (betw Northwestern & McCormick) in West Lafayette.

**POTHoles (Fall Creek Gorge):** In Warren County.

**PARKING is LIMITED, so join carpool from LNC at 12 noon.**

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**Sponsored by:** Mary Cutler-TIPP CO Park & Rec Dept, Dan Dunten-WL Parks & Rec, Sycamore Audubon Soc, WC-INPAWS, NICHES  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact:

**Mary Cutler (765-567-2993), Dan Dunten (765-775-5172), or Editor**

## CALL OUT for Nature Center Volunteers!

If interested in attending upcoming volunteer training sessions for Lilly Nature Center and Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center, contact Naturalist Mary Cutler by JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> – 765-567-2993 or [mcut@msn.com](mailto:mcut@msn.com)

## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!**

[www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)

**NEXT BOARD MEETINGS -- 7 pm TUES: Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
in the Wells Center at 638 North St, Lafayette

### UPCOMING NICHES WORKDAYS/EVENTS

**(Property directions on website unless noted; times are EST.)**

**SAT JAN 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon Moyer-Gould Woods – Carroll County**  
WORKDAY to remove fencing & gates from this nature preserve protected by NICHES. Bring pliers, wire cutters, & leather gloves. If you want to haul some metal & make some money, bring a truck!  
**Directions:** 3 miles west of Delphi on SR 18, then north 1.3 mi on US 421. Look for black walnut-lined driveway on west side of road after crossing 400 N.

**More info: Fred Bergner 765-427-3475CELL or [bergner@ffni.com](mailto:bergner@ffni.com)**

**SAT JAN 30<sup>th</sup> 1pm "Wintertime Wander" at Black Rock Barrens**  
HIKE with Jeff Ganley through the crisp winter woods of this Warren County property. Listen for bird song & look for signs of wildlife!

**SAT FEB 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm at Granville Sand Barrens – Tipp. County**  
WORKDAY-brush pile burning, led by Brad Weigel, Stewardship Mgr

**SAT FEB 27<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm at Wright Rock Creek – Warren County**  
WORKDAY-garlic mustard removal, led by Jeff Ganley.

**INFO? Gus Nyberg 765-423-1605 or [gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org)**

**NICHES 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Celebrating Art & Nature**

### JURIED ART SHOW & EXHIBITION

**Artwork must be submitted by FEB 1, 2010**

for display at TAF-Wells Center APR & MAY

Separate awards (\$100-\$750) will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place for:

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (from a NICHES property)

**MIXED MEDIA** (inspired by our midwestern natural landscape)

**NOTE: no more than three submissions per artist.**

Sponsored by NICHES, TAF, & Lafayette Savings Bank

**DETAILS at [www.nicheslandtrust.org](http://www.nicheslandtrust.org)**

**or contact [gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org)**

### OHIO INVASIVE PLANT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

"Connecting Research and Land Management"

**THUR, FEB 18<sup>th</sup> 8:45am – 4:30pm**

at Franklin Park Conservatory – Columbus, Ohio

**Register before JAN 15<sup>th</sup> for early bird discount at: [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)**

### The Science, Practice & Art of

### RESTORING NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS—2010 Conference

FRI & SAT, JAN 22 & 23

**Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan**

Informative talks & workshops focusing on invasive plants and the threats they pose to native ecosystems!

**REGISTRATION DETAILS at: [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org)**

**Sponsors:** Stewardship Network & Midwest Invasive Plant Network

### Planet Indy: The Ascent of the Electric Car

**THUR, FEB 11 at Indianapolis Museum of Art—4000 Michigan Rd**  
**5:30pm Film:** "Who Killed the Electric Car?"

**7:30pm Talk** by filmmaker Chris Paine on relationship between good design & sustainability, & new ways of thinking about mobility!

### CONSERVATION DAY 2009\*\*

**TUE, JAN 26<sup>th</sup> -- 8:30am to 2:30pm**

at Indiana Statehouse & Indiana Government Center South  
200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis

Attend morning information session, then meet fellow conservationists, talk with legislators & voice your concerns about the future of our natural resources.

**The greater the attendance, the greater the impact!**

**\*\*FREE, but registration is required by JAN 16<sup>th</sup> online at: [www.nature.org/indiana](http://www.nature.org/indiana) (click on events)**

Sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA)—a statewide network of nonprofit organizations providing a unified voice for the protection, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources to enhance our quality of life.

**MORE INFO—Angela Hughes: [ahughes@tnc.org](mailto:ahughes@tnc.org) or 317-951-8818**

### Why this newsletter?

If you're like me, you'd like to have all your nature news in one place—so you don't miss out on some interesting natural history programs or stewardship opportunities. That's my intent here.

**Submissions for MAR-APR issue need to reach me by FEB 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Please send your info to [mohrsamuels@comcast.net](mailto:mohrsamuels@comcast.net)

or call (765) 567-7023. **Joan Mohr Samuels, Editor**