



# Dunes Echo

Fall 2020 (September/October/November) ~ Vol. XIV, #3

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

## Fall Programs Information

Currently programming information is ever changing as our partners continue to operate within the State of Indiana's "Getting Back on Track" and the CDC guidelines. New information becomes available at anytime, so it becomes exceedingly helpful to have a FRIENDS email database to communicate with our members. If you have not yet contacted us at [members@dunefriends.org](mailto:members@dunefriends.org) with your email information, please do it as soon as possible to receive updates/information on our partners' future programs.



**Indiana Dunes National Park:** Unfortunately, all public programs remain cancelled until further notice, including the popular Century of Progress House Tours, the Indiana Dunes Apple Festival and the Outdoor Adventure Festival. Most outside areas and park facilities are open except for Central Ave. and Lakeview beaches being closed due to erosion damage. The inside information desk at the visitor center is still closed with the rangers staffing an information tent outside the center. The bathrooms and the Eastern National Bookstore are open inside but require anyone entering to wear a mask. The Douglas Center is open and is also requiring visitors and staff to wear a mask inside.

We continue to look forward to the day when we can resume our normal operations and again offer ranger-led programs and special events to the public. Indiana Dunes NP ([nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu)) for more information. Submitted by Bruce Rowe, Supervisory Park Ranger



**Indiana Dunes State Park:** As we get closer to the great autumn camping weather, we are thinking about our fall festivals and events in light of COVID-19. Some activities may be cancelled for this year, but at this time, we expect that campsite decorating family-friendly interpretive activities will continue with some modifications. We are still evaluating trick-or-treating. For more information, go to Indiana Dunes State Park ([in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm](https://in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm)).

### **History Comes Alive Weekend: September 12-13th**

Join us for history programs you won't forget! Live re-enactors from the Ouatatonon Brigade will be on the beach acting out the fur-trading era. History hikes, talks and scavenger hunts will be offered throughout the weekend.

### **Singing Sands Stargaze: September 19th, 8:00-11:00 p.m.**

Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach near the pavilion for an annual event with local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society. Experts and Naturalists will be available for star stories and constellation talks.

### **Full Moon Hike: October 2nd (7:00 p.m.) and October 31st (6:00 p.m.)**

Join Naturalists and volunteers for this special hike to Lake Michigan and back. Meet at the Nature Center for some "stellar" treats provided by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

### **National Public Lands Day: September 26th**

On this day, each year hundreds of thousands of volunteers come together to help with projects to enhance public parks. Join us at the Indiana Dunes State Park for volunteer projects including marram grass transplanting and more. In celebration of National Public Lands day, the Indiana Dunes State Park will also be offering free entry on Sunday, September 27th.

### **Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival: October 16-17th**

Revel in stories for young and old throughout the day and evenings. Make plans on Saturday evening to join us at the Wilson Shelter for special sessions of "ghost tales!" Two sessions will cater to both young kids (5:30 p.m.) and older kids and adults (7:00 p.m.) Bring a blanket or lawn chair (and a friend to hold on to) and join us around the shelter campfire. The Friends of Indiana Dunes will again be providing free apple cider and cookies!

### **"Howl"oween at the Dunes: October 24th**

Enjoy everything fun, fall and spooky on this festive day at the Indiana Dunes State Park. You won't want to miss our owl hike, pumpkin decorating, campsite decorating, and more! Program support for this all-day event is provided thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Submitted by Marie Laudeman, Interpretive Naturalist



**Dunes Learning Center:** Our educational philosophy has always focused on outdoor experiences, something that schools are now discussing in the current pandemic climate. We can certainly attest to the positive effects, due to years of experience working with students and teachers. For the fall, our educators are developing online lessons and activities to support teachers and families. The pandemic is not changing what we do at the DLC, just how we do it. We hope you will be inspired to get outdoors with activities in our Distance Learning Collection ([DunesLearningCenter.org/activities](https://DunesLearningCenter.org/activities)). Getting outdoors is more important than ever in these unimaginable times.

The annual Dunes Learning Center gala, *A Dunes Affair*, is moving online from September 14-20th. Though we cannot be together in person, this year's gala is more important than ever. Your support now will help ensure that the DLC is here for students when it is safe to re-open our campus. Check out the gala videos online at [DunesLearningCenter.org/adunesaffair](https://DunesLearningCenter.org/adunesaffair).

Submitted by Heather Hahn Sullivan, Development and Marketing Director

*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.*

# Annual Meeting and Report

By Angel Gochee-Goins, Chair

Normally in September, the Friends Board of Directors would invite our fellow members to join them for our Annual Meeting at a local pizza place. However with the ongoing concerns to control the pandemic, this year's Annual Meeting will be cancelled and replaced by the following report.

The Friends continue to provide both financial and volunteer support to the Indiana Dunes National Park (NP) and Indiana Dunes State Park (SP) as well as the Dunes Learning Center (DLC). In 2019, the Friends entered into a Philanthropic Partnership Agreement with the NP which involved the Friends rehabbing a house located on the northwest corner of Oak Hill and Mineral Springs roads to be used as office space for the Friends for the next 30 years. The exterior and interior of the house have been painted and the old carpeting removed and replaced with vinyl flooring. Office furniture and computers were donated by the parks, DLC and Board members. Tables and chairs were purchased. The house is now ready for use as an office. In fact, several Board members wearing masks socially distanced ourselves while virtually talking with the NP, SP and DLC representatives for the July Friends' Board meeting.

In 2019, the Friends continued to support the many popular special events at the National Park such as Maple Sugar Time, Green Gary, Midsummer, West Beach Concert, Apples Festival, Outdoor Adventure Festival and Holiday Traditions as well as purchased the Bark Ranger tags, covered printing costs for the Junior Ranger booklets and covered the cost of catering the Volunteer Appreciation Hog Roast. Of special note, the Friends purchased the Art Panels for the NP Exhibit Room in the Porter County Tourism/NP Visitor Center.

The Friends continued to support the many Interpretive events at the State Park such as the First Day Hike, Full Moon Hikes, S'mores event, Hummingbird Banding programs, Sand Sculpture Contest, Quiatenon Brigade, Storytelling Festival, and the Christmas Eve Morning Stroll. We also covered costs associated with the Nature Center Summer Camps, bird seed, library subscriptions, and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Of special note, in 2019 the Friends purchased the supplies needed to complete the outdoor enclosure for the box turtle and for the Nature Center's new water bottle filling station. The Friends have designed and purchased metal water bottles with our logo and web address to be sold at the SP Nature Center.

The Dunes Learning Center continues to provide superior environmental education programming through their Frog in the Bog program and the Friends are pleased to continue to provide financial support for this residential program for area fourth graders. Of special note in 2019, the Friends were able to increase the overall amount of your financial support for the DLC and helped cover the costs associated with outreach programming such as the Citizen Science program.

The Friends hosted another very successful Native Plant Sale on May 1, 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic, the sale was postponed from its original date, changed to a pre-order only event with scheduled pick-up times and still was able to generate more profit than our 2019 Native Plant Sale. Please mark your calendars as the date for our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale has been set for April 24, 2021.

In late 2019, the Friends received a donation of \$5,000 from the Carmuese employees to be used to overhaul the bird viewing area at the SP as well as add a more active water feature to improve the overall wildlife habitat of this area. The estimate to complete this project is \$7,000 so the Friends will fund the difference. In early 2020, the Friends received a NIPSCO grant in amount of \$5,000 to develop a native pollinator garden just north of the NP Headquarters area. The Board wants to acknowledge the generous \$800 memorial received in July 2020 from the family of Vincent Dillman. His sister spoke of how their family would spend countless hours visiting and playing in the Indiana Dunes in their youth and continuing into their adult years. These funds will be used to help support family friendly events at the NP and SP.

Please accept our gratitude and thanks for your continued support of the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Your membership dollars mean even more this year as they allow the Friends to continue to provide the much-needed financial support to our partners. We all look forward to resuming being able to visit and play in a Covid free Indiana Dunes. Please be safe and stay healthy.

## Friends Board Members

**Chair:** Angel Goins      **Vice-Chair:** Roz Potter  
**Secretary:** Kathy Wilder      **Treasurer:** Zella Olson  
Andrea Huntington      Dorothy Meyers      Bonnie Miller  
Rudy Moyado      Tracey Stevens      Paul Stofko      Lori Weed  
**Newsletter Editor:** Cliff Goins  
www.friendofindiandunes.com      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.

**NOTE: 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

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|---|----------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen       | \$ 15    | Name _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family    | \$ 20    |                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Family    | \$ 40    | Address _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporation | \$100    |                      |
| Mail completed form to the address above.     |          | City/State/Zip _____ |
| Additional Contribution                       | \$ _____ | Phone _____          |
| Interested in Volunteering                    | _____    | Email _____          |