



# Dunes Echo

Winter 2021/2022 (December, January and February) ~ Vol. XV, #4

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

## Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

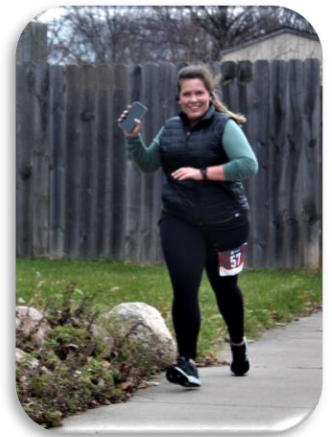
It has been a busy Fall for the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Many of our Board Members have been helping out getting the house looking more like an office. Pictures have been hung with each room having a different theme – farm life, local birds, sandy beaches, aviation (Chanute gliders to NIKE base) and voyageurs. The Friends' Office is open the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m.- Noon and every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Masks are required for entry in accordance with federal Covid mandates.

The Friends added four new Board members this Fall. Welcome to Sue Grossbauer, Zach Lindeman, Marti Pizzini, and Michelle Shebesh. All have great enthusiasm and skills which will enhance our Board of Directors. We are hoping to add a few more Directors in Spring 2022. The current Board will be retreating in January to develop short and long-term goals for the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

This year the Friends have been the recipient of many Memorial donations. Two large donations were for memorial benches at the State Park which will be placed into service Spring 2022 along with the three benches the Friends purchased for the Bird Tower Platform. Thanks to all the members who sent donations to help cover the cost of the Friends' benches.

To further our support of the Dunes Learning Center (DLC), the Friends covered the cost to send eight DLC interns to the fall session of the Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) program at the Indiana Dunes State Park. The interns will create short videos or written presentations on an environmental topic they particularly enjoyed or learned more about. These programs will be shared on the Friends website ([dunefriends.org](http://dunefriends.org)) and Facebook page. Special thanks to our Friends' members who serve as coordinators for IMN class.

Several Friends Board Members helped our new Vice-Chair Paul Stofko with his Crazy Legs Race Series' 5K Turkey Toss at Hawthorne Park in Porter on Sunday, November 28. A portion of the registration fees for the race were donated to the Friends. Not sure who had more fun - the runners or the Board Members helping with the race from check-in to keeping runners on track. Even our very own Marie Laudeman, Indiana Dunes State Park Interpretive Naturalist, ran the race.



Covid variants continue to be a challenge for our partners as they plan their upcoming programs. The best way for the Friends to update you, our members, on these changes is for you to share your email address with us when you renew your membership or by simply sending it to [members@dunefriends.org](mailto:members@dunefriends.org).

## Friends House/Office Update



The Friends' Chair has been working with Serena Ard Curator/Historian at the Westchester Township History Museum on the ownership history of the Friend house/office. In 1905, Alfred Borg bought from Frances Howe the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 27 in Township 37 Range 6 West in Porter County (approximately 38 acres) for \$2000. Alfred Borg was married to Emily Chellberg, the daughter of Anders and Johanna, who owned the farm just to the south.

In 1919, Alfred and Emily Borg sold 9/10 of an acre of land to Elmer and Violet Johnson for \$100. This parcel was basically where the house and adjacent parking lot now used by the Friends is located. The price seemed exceptionally cheap, but Violet's maiden name was Borg, Alfred and

Emily's daughter. Elmer Johnson was a partner in the Flynn Funeral Home, which eventually became Flynn-Johnson. We know the Friends house is a typical 1920s clap board style probably built by Elmer Johnson. In the late 1940s, Steve and Olga Slamka purchased the property and then sold it in 1978 to the National Park Service. In late 2019, the Friends acquired a thirty-year lease from the Indiana Dunes National Park for the use of the house and adjacent garage as office and storage space.

# National Park Programs

For more information contact the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center at 219-395-1882 or [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)



## Winter Wonderland Bilingual Program: Saturday, December 18, 2021 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. CST

Join a ranger for a short presentation and learn about what animals do during the winter (hibernation, migration, and adaptation). After the presentation, we will go on a short hike in Miller Woods trail and come back to the Douglas Center to do a winter art craft. Enjoy this family friendly exploration at Indiana Dunes National Park. The presentations, hike, and craft will take place in both Spanish and in English. The presentation in Spanish will take place from 1:30–1:45 p.m. followed by an English presentation from 1:45–2:00 p.m. After the presentations, follow the ranger outside for a hike in beautiful Miller Woods to search for signs of animals preparing for the winter. Afterwards, warm up inside the Douglas Center with a hot beverage supplied by the Friends of Indiana Dunes while the kids do a winter craft.



## Winter Solstice Hike: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. CST

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. Perhaps no other place shows off the park's natural wonders like the Dune Ridge Trail.

## 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Wednesday, December 29, 2021

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](mailto: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](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count).

## Martin Luther King Day of Service: Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon CST

In honor of the holiday, join staff and fellow volunteers in helping to care for your local national park while remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Meet at the Park Connection Office.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Mount Baldy Summit Hike: Sundays, January 30 & February 13, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. CST

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.

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## Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



November 15 was National Philanthropy Day. This year, Dunes Learning Center nominated the Flora Richardson Foundation as the Foundation Philanthropist of the Year for their generous support of Duneland School students. Each year, every 3rd and 4th grader in the district is able to attend a program at Dunes Learning Center. The Philanthropy Day awards ceremony took place outdoors, with representatives from Dunes Learning Center, the Flora Richardson Foundation, and the local Association of Fundraising Professionals. Please check out the video at: [Facebook.com/duneslearningcenter](https://www.facebook.com/duneslearningcenter)



Students are back at Dunes Learning Center for programs!



# State Park Programs

For more information contact the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 or [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)



## **Happy OWL-idays!: December 18, 2021 from 1:30–3:00 p.m. CST**

Join us at the Nature Center's Auditorium for some OWL-iday cheer with Humane Indiana Wildlife's live owl ambassadors. Director, Nicole Harmon, will introduce these native owls of our Indiana Dunes and talk about their interesting adaptations and characteristics! Visitors will be able to enjoy up-close views of these nocturnal creatures. This will be an outdoor program. If there is inclement weather, this program will be moved inside the Nature Center's Auditorium. This program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

## **3-Dunes Challenge First Day Hike: January 1, 2022**

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 the rugged 3-Dune Challenge Trail covering 1.5-miles. Along the way you will be able to explore the beautiful park landscapes and learn some history about the 3 tallest dunes along the whole Indiana Dunes Lakeshore during this 1-hour jaunt. At the end, hikers will be welcomed by park volunteers with snacks and a cozy campfire provided by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes. Porter County Indiana Dunes Tourism will award completing participants a 3-Dune Challenge sticker.



## **Full Moon Hike: January 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. CST**

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.

To see the complete list and dates for other 2022 park programs and Special Events please go to [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)

**Nature Center Winter Hours:** Every day from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST. Closed state holidays.

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## Mark Your Calendars



### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale – April 23, 2022**

Hoping to be in-person this year at the Indiana Dunes National Park Visitor Center. Volunteer help is always needed for the set-up of the plants and pre-order filling on Friday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On April 23, the day of sale, help will be needed from 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Interested in helping, please contact Friends Chair Angel Gochee-Goins at [angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org) with your available times.

### **Friends of Indiana Dunes celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This summer we will party – date not yet determined – check out Spring Dunes Echo for details and invitation to the get-together!

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## Snowshoeing the Dunes

**Weather permitting – need a 6-inch snow base**

The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center will offer Snowshoe rentals every Wednesday thru Sunday, from mid-December to mid-March between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A driver's license is required for the rental and the cost is \$5 per pair for the entire day. Reservations cannot be made. Call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 for questions on the snow conditions.



Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing can be enjoyed on most Indiana Dunes National Park Trails. If you don't have your own equipment, there are a limited number of snowshoes available for loan at no cost for use on the Miller Woods Trail at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Call 219-395-1824 for snow conditions and snowshoe availability. In January and February on every Saturday (1:30-3:30 p.m. at Douglas Center) and most Sundays (1:00-3:00 p.m. at Visitor Center) join a ranger to try your feet on a guided snowshoe hike.

**Snowshoes provided by Friends of Indiana Dunes**

**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   Sue Grossbauer   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**

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_