



# Dunes Echo

Spring 2023 (March, April and May) ~ Vol. XVII, #1

Enhancing the Visitor Experience Today and Tomorrow

---

## Friends of Indiana Dunes Updates

On March 11 and 12, the Friends of Indiana Dunes will be sponsoring our Maple Sugar Time Snow Cone booth at the National Park's Maple Sugar Time Festival at the Chellberg Farm. Stop by and for a donation to the Friends you get a snow cone made with maple syrup. A sweet treat sure to please children of all ages! Last year the Friends were able to raise over a \$1,000 at this unique fundraiser to support future programs at the Chellberg Farm. The Friends will also be supplying the Maple Cream cookies and pure Maple Syrup for the tasting enjoyment of visitors to Maple Sugar Time.



The Friends will be holding our Annual Meeting at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center on Monday, April 24 at 6:30pm. All members are invited to attend in person or virtually by joining us via Zoom. Invitations will be arriving in your mailbox in late March. This is a great way to meet other Friends' members, your Friends' Board of Directors and representatives from our three fantastic partners – Indiana Dunes National Park, Indiana Dunes State Park and the Dunes Learning Center.



We would like to congratulate Friends' Board Member Dan Barribal on his receiving the 2022 Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer of the Year Award from the National Association for Interpretation. Dan is a long-time volunteer at the Indiana Dunes State Park and is well known for his Night Sky and Full Moon hikes.

The Friends of Indiana Dunes would like to thank all who have generously donated to the Trail 8 Boardwalk accessibility project. Completion of this project will make the majestic views of the Great Marsh accessible to individuals with mobility limitations. Sadly, the Friends have not yet reached our goal to raise the \$8,000 match needed to complete this project. We are about \$2,500 short. If you can help, donations are still being accepted at our website, please go to [www.dunefriends.org/state-park-trail8](http://www.dunefriends.org/state-park-trail8).

Mark your calendars, the Friends of Indiana Dunes will be partnering with Vice-Chair Paul Stofko's Crazy Legs Race Series to sponsor four Indiana Dunes State Park Beach Clean-Up dates this summer on Saturdays, May 27, June 24, July 22 and August 26 from 8:00am -10:00am. Meet at the Friends' booth by the Pavilion. Buckets will be provided but please bring your own gloves. Water and snacks will be available for volunteers.

---

## Friends Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, June 3

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale will be held at the Friends' House/Office located on the northwest corner of Mineral Springs and Oak Hill roads (1000 W. Oak Hill Road) in Porter, IN. This will also be the location for pickup of Pre-sale plant orders. Please park in the adjacent parking lot or in the Indiana Dunes National Park's Headquarters' Complex which is directly to the north off Mineral Springs Road. Just a short walk to the Native Plant Sale tents.

Pre-sale order forms will be available to download and print at [www.dunefriends.org/native-plant-sale-2023](http://www.dunefriends.org/native-plant-sale-2023) or from our Facebook page in mid-March. You can pick up a printed copy at the front desk of the National Park's Visitor Center and the State Park's Nature Center. To request a copy be mailed to you, email your contact information to [nativeplants@dunefriends.org](mailto:nativeplants@dunefriends.org).

Pre-sale ordering of native plants is strongly encouraged as every year, on the day of the sale, some native plant varieties will be unavailable due to their popularity during the order period. Pre-sale orders must be received by May 20. New this year at the sale, we will be offering starter kits for Mesic Woodland, Tall Prairie and Short Prairie habitats. Each kit will contain 3 multiples of 5 different, successful and popular habitat specific plant species.

Volunteer help is always needed for the set-up of the plants and filling the pre-sale plant orders on Friday, June 2 from 9:00am - 4:00pm. On June 3, the day of the sale, help will be needed from 7:30am until 1:30pm. Interested in helping, please contact Chair Angel Goins at the Native Plant Sale email address ([nativeplants@dunefriends.org](mailto:nativeplants@dunefriends.org)) with your available times or by calling 219-707-3617 and leaving a message.



Many of the programs, events and supplies needed by our partners - Indiana Dunes National Park, Indiana Dunes State Park and Dunes Learning Center - are supported or sponsored by your FRIENDS of Indiana Dunes. Below is a sampling for this Spring season. For more information about what all we do, please go to our webpage: [www.dunefriends.org](http://www.dunefriends.org).

## National Park Programs

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



### **Maple Sugar Time Festival: Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12 from 10:00am - 4:00pm**

Enjoy a sweet taste of spring during the 46th annual Maple Sugar Time festival. Take a self-guided tour of the sugaring operation at historic Chellberg Farm which will be bustling with maple sugaring activities.

Learn how Native Americans first boiled maple sap into sugar and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. While walking along the maple trail you will pass by the sugar shack where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellberg family did it back in the 1930s. You can even learn how to make maple syrup at home and how modern maple sugar farmers use advanced technology to make syrup today. Kids can learn how to tap a tree at the Maple Fun Zone and can meet some of the farm animals. Before you head home, stop by the front of the farmhouse where Indiana-produced maple syrup and related products will be for sale. Saturday March 11 and Sunday March 12 will be Fee Free throughout the Indiana Dunes National Park for the Maple Sugar Time Festival.

### **Chellberg Farm Open House: Sundays, March 19, 26; April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and May 7, 14, 21 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm and Memorial Weekend – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 26, 27, 28 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm**

Stop by the historic Chellberg Farm to tour the farmhouse and visit the animals. Rangers and volunteers will be on hand to share the area's history.

### **Gardening at Chellberg Farm: Saturdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and May 13, 20, 27 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**

Spend the morning helping the Chellberg Farm Garden get off to a great start. Gardening is a great way to spend a morning at your local National Park.



### **Art in the National Park: Saturday, April 8 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Come to the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion learn how to paint a plant themed painting with a local artist from the Art Barn. A canvas and paints will be provided for this class. Class size is limited to 15 adult painters. Register at [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org).

### **Community Park-wide Cleanup for Earth Day: Friday, April 21 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**

Spend the morning at the 2nd annual Indiana Dunes Trash Trekkers Earth Day Cleanup. This year's cleanup is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes Tourism, and Mermaid Straw.



### **Birding Festival: Wednesday-Sunday, May 10, 11, 12, 13, 14**

The festival showcases the abundance of migratory birds in the Indiana Dunes and offers countless walks, hikes, talks, and programs. Visit the official website at [www.indunesbirdingfestival.com](http://www.indunesbirdingfestival.com) for information on the many programs and activities and how to register. There is a fee. Entrance fees for both the National and State Parks not included!

### **Dog Days at Chellberg Farm: Wednesday, May 17 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Bring your four-legged friend and join a ranger and volunteers at Chellberg Farm. Learn about the rules of B.A.R.K. and how your dog can become a B.A.R.K. Ranger. After getting sworn in, take your furry companion for a hike on one of the nearby trails. B.A.R.K. ranger tags are provided by Friends of Indiana Dunes.



### **Feeding Time at Chellberg Farm: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 26, 27, 28 from 4:30pm - 5:00pm**

Help feed the cows and chickens that call the historic Chellberg Farm home.

# State Park Programs

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



**Walk & Talk with the Timberdoodles: Saturday, March 25 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
and Friday, April 21 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

Join the naturalist on west side of the Beach Pavilion as we quietly head out together in search of these beautifully camouflaged, plump little shorebirds often called woodcocks, bogsuckers or timberdoodles. Hike is moderate and just over 1-mile long.



**Indiana Earth Day Celebration: Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am - 1:00pm**

Come visit our booth at the Porter County Expo Center which is one of the largest environmental Earth Day celebrations in Northwest Indiana.

**National Volunteer Week – Volunteer Days: April 16-22**

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, stop by the Nature Center any day between 9:00am and 4:00pm to do a variety of jobs to help our park. Volunteers can assist with pulling garlic mustard, transplanting marram grass, performing general yard work and picking up litter. Thank-you for your support!



**Youth & Family Birding Day: Saturday, May 13 from 9:00am – 4:00pm**

This is a fun-filled day with something for everyone! As a part of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival there will be beginning bird hikes starting every hour on the hour at the Nature Center. You will not want to miss the bird games, bluebird house building, photo ID quiz giveaways and more! All activities are free. For more details go to [www.indunesbirdingfestival.com](http://www.indunesbirdingfestival.com)

---

## Dunes Learning Center Programs

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



**Nature Photography: Sunday, March 12 from 1:00pm - 3:30pm**

Explore our National Park in a fun and exciting way! Join the Dunes Learning Center team in a two and a half hour program packed with fun. We will start our time together at Dunes Learning Center learning from local photography expert Donna Lind. After that, we will travel to the National Park Service Portage Lakefront trail. There we will go on a guided photography hike along the shore of Lake Michigan. Tickets: \$15 per person for adults ages 18+ only at [duneslearningcenter.org/programs](http://duneslearningcenter.org/programs).



**Tour de Parc: Saturday, May 20, Times to be determined**

Spend a day with Dunes Learning Center exploring your National Park on bike! Join us on this 11-mile bike ride filled with interpretive and scenic stops. More details to come!

**Summer Camp Registration** has begun! Unplug, Explore, Hike, Splash, Discover, and Play! With options for ages 5 to 17, Dunes Learning Center is the place to be this summer! Spots are going quickly for both day and overnight camps. Register at [duneslearningcenter.org/summer](http://duneslearningcenter.org/summer).

---

## Friends of Indiana Dunes hosted the Annual Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs' Northern Region Friends Group Gathering on February 11

Our Friends were pleased to spend the day with representatives from six other Indiana State Park Friends groups, four representatives from the DNR Central Office and Tom Hohman from Indiana Parks Alliance. All shared ideas on how they provide both financial and volunteer help to support their individual parks. Friends' Board Member Dan Barringall spoke on the training available to volunteers through the National Association for Interpretation. Friends' member Betsy Fleek spoke about the design of our popular Indiana Master Naturalist program.



**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      Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Cottonwood      \$ 50
- Jack Pine      \$100      Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Black Oak      \$250

Please mail completed form to address above.      City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Interested in Volunteering \_\_\_\_\_      Email \_\_\_\_\_