

# The Nature Nuts News - February 2011

*"The bluebird carries the sky on his back." - Henry David Thoreau*

Welcome to volume 4 issue 2 of "The Nature Nuts News", a monthly newsletter keeping you updated with Allen County Parks Volunteer activities. Included is a monthly calendar of events for volunteers.

## "Aflockalypse"???

While reading Cornell Lab's "eNews", I ventured across a popular topic of interest: "Aflockalypse!" - Why did 1,000 blackbirds fall from the sky? The occurrence of blackbirds falling from the sky in Arkansas on New Year's Eve gave new meaning to the song-title and verse "Bye-Bye Blackbird"!

What is the significance, if any, to these occurrences? Although dramatic, losses of >1,000 birds at one time, have occurred before. "The US Geologic Survey has recorded 188 events during the past 10 years involving more than 1,000 birds per incident—about 18 events per year...or more than one per month."

According to Cornell, we should be more concerned with losses caused by habitat destruction, window collisions and cat kills. 100 million birds die from window collisions in the U.S. each year. That averages to greater than 270,000 per day. Cats are estimated to kill another 100 million per year as well. Habitat loss affects migration patterns by reducing available shelter, food, water and space.



[Metea Programs \(call 449-3777 to help!\)](#)

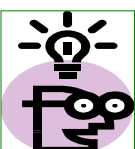
- Feb. 2, Groundhog Day, 10AM
- Feb. 4, Crayfish Dissection, 1-3PM
- Feb. 5, Camping Basics, 2-5PM
- Feb. 7, Mon. Morn. w/ Michael, 7a
- Feb. 8, 9,10,11, Stars in Your Eyes, 7:30-9PM
- Feb. 17, Trail Trekkers, 1-3PM
- Feb. 18, Fish Dissection, 1-3PM
- Feb. 18, Pre-Caving Class 7:30PM
- Feb. 25, Frog Dissection, 1-3PM
- Feb. 25, Night Hike at Payton, 7:30p
- Feb. 26, Caving Trip, All DAY

[Fox Island Programs \(call 449-3246 to help\)](#)

- Feb. 3, Trail Trekkers, 1-3PM
- Feb. 5, Scrap booking, 10a-8PM
- Feb. 5, Photo Safari, 3-4:30PM
- Feb. 5, Coyote Howl, 5:30-7PM
- Feb. 8, Fox Kit Adventure with Soarin' Hawk, 9:30-10:30AM

For more details visit:  
[www.allencountyparks.org](http://www.allencountyparks.org)

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!!!**  
**February 28th, 6:30PM! Fox Island County Park—Mark your calendars!!!**



Requests for assistance or suggestions on how the county can better meet the needs of those persons with disabilities may be submitted to the ADA Coordinator at:  
Human Resources Department, Room 208, 1 East Main Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, or by telephone at 260-449-7217, TDD 260-449-7881.

Allen County Park VIP's

# February 2011

*Metea County Park*

**Volunteer Pam George showing animal furs to Canterbury Pre-K**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Groundhog Day, 10a	3	4 Crayfish Dissection, 1-3PM	5 Camping Basics, 2-5PM
6	7 Mon. Morning with Michael, 7AM	8 Stars in Your Eyes, 7:30-9PM	9 Stars in Your Eyes, 7:30-9PM	10 Stars in Your Eyes, 7:30-9PM	11 Stars in Your Eyes, 7:30-9PM	12
13	14	15	16	17 Trail Trekkers, 1-3PM	18 Fish Dissection, 1-3PM, Pre-Caving 7:30PM	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Frog Dissection, 1-3PM, Night Hike at Payton, 7:30PM	26 Caving Trip—All Day
27	28					

## Metea County Park Volunteer Needs

Call 449-3777 for info.

Volunteer help needed for crayfish and frog dissections in February. Contact Ron Divelbiss at 449-3778 to help!



Make a gall exhibit for Metea!!!

Not hard. Just gotta have gall!!!



# February 2011

## *Fox Island County Park*

Learn how to teach 4th and 5th graders about Indiana's geologic history, including gems, minerals and fossils! Sat., March 5, 1-3PM.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Trail Trekkers, 1-3PM	4	5 Scrap 10AM-8PM Photo Safari, 3p, Coyote Howl 5:30p
6	7	8 Fox Kit Adventures with Soarin' Hawk, 9:30a	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



*A good time was had by all who attended the bluebird workshop on January 30th with guest speaker and local bluebird expert—Conrad Getz!*

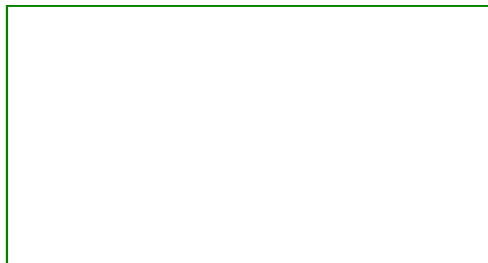




**Allen County Parks  
and Recreation**

7324 Yohne Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46809

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



## **The Nature Nut News**

A Publication for Allen County Parks Volunteers



**Allen County Parks would like to invite you to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner !  
Monday, Feb. 28, 2011  
Fox Island, 6:30PM  
RSVP: 449-3180  
Please bring your own table setting . We will provide warm food, refreshments and grateful appreciation!**