

The Nature Nuts News - May 2011

“Colorful, crusty, old codgers. Reclusive, hermitic rock lodgers”
-Will Lepage, an excerpt from *A Liking for Lichens* found in
A Park is a Poem on the Land.

Welcome to volume 4 issue 5 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.



Garlic Mustard!!! AAAAAHH!!

Why the long face? Have you experienced garlic mustard woes this spring? Why is everyone so afraid of it?

Well...According to Mark Renz of Michigan State University:

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a drought-sensitive biennial and most seedlings will die during a drought or if on sandy soils. So, why are they not dying on Fox Islands sandy soils??? Well, we have *moist*, sandy soils. Apparently they require *dry*, sandy soils to die. ARGH!

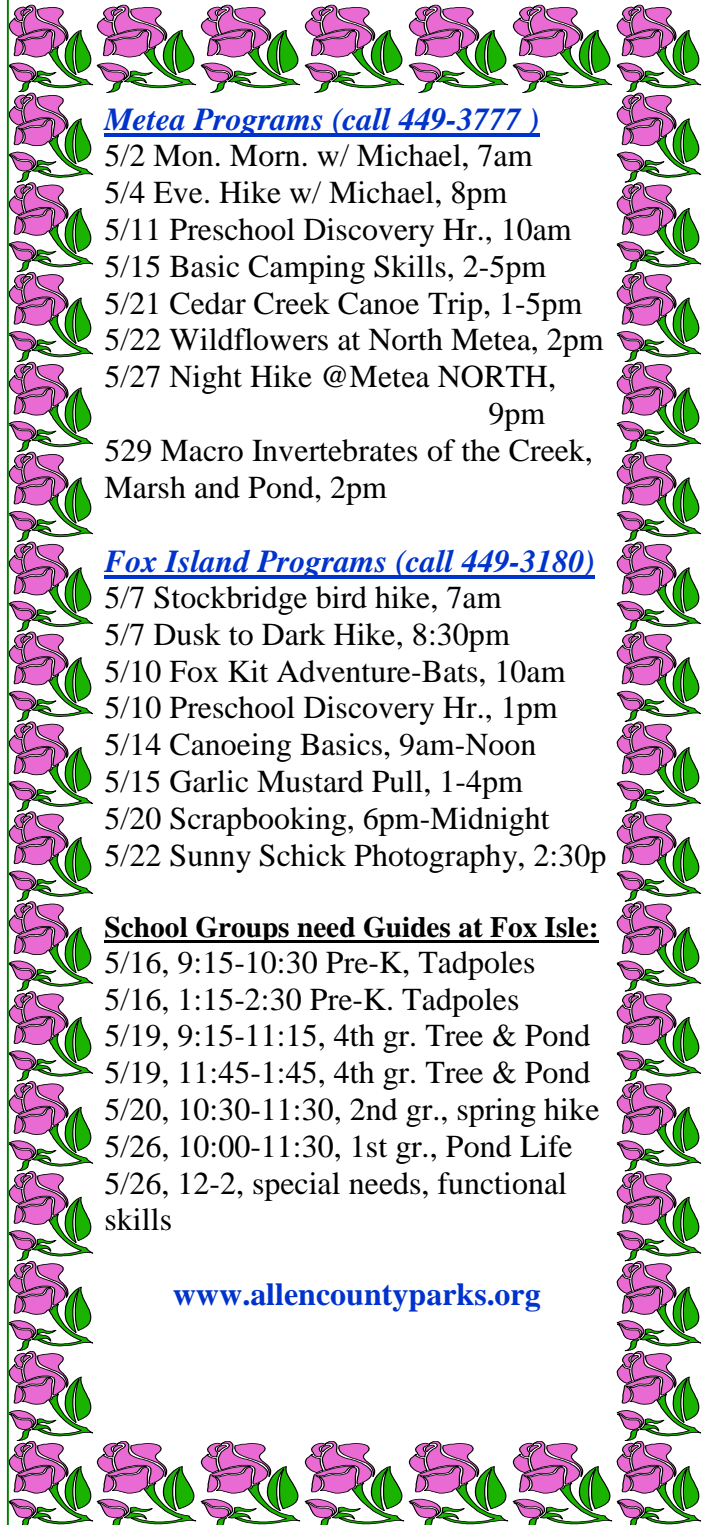
Garlic mustard is also allelopathic which means it kills native plants by releasing a fungicide of its very own!

This plant is capable of photosynthesizing (producing food) under a thin layer of snow or when the air temperatures start to reach 32 degrees F. Its seed is usually viable, once dropped to the soil, for 2-3 years, but may persist up to 12+ years.

Recently, scientists have found a few species of weevils that will attack the seed, leaves and root crown of garlic mustard. **GO WEEVILS!!!!**

Herbicide management is done in late September, mid-late Oct., and through the winter as long as the air temp. is above 32 degrees F. Use Glyphosate at a rate of 1-3%, rates of 2-3% in colder temperatures. A spring application will remove flowering garlic mustard and seedlings, but you will have a high chance of native flora damage.

The good news is that you can control it in the spring by pulling up the entire plant. Make sure to get all of the roots (so take a spade) or it will sprout 12 off-shoots from a solitary root left in the ground. If it is flowering, or heaven-forbid at seed, bag the pulled plants. Go Garlic Mustard **PULL-ATHONERS!!!**



Metea Programs (call 449-3777)

- 5/2 Mon. Morn. w/ Michael, 7am
- 5/4 Eve. Hike w/ Michael, 8pm
- 5/11 Preschool Discovery Hr., 10am
- 5/15 Basic Camping Skills, 2-5pm
- 5/21 Cedar Creek Canoe Trip, 1-5pm
- 5/22 Wildflowers at North Metea, 2pm
- 5/27 Night Hike @Metea NORTH,
9pm
- 529 Macro Invertebrates of the Creek,
Marsh and Pond, 2pm

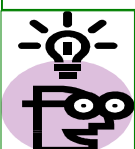
Fox Island Programs (call 449-3180)

- 5/7 Stockbridge bird hike, 7am
- 5/7 Dusk to Dark Hike, 8:30pm
- 5/10 Fox Kit Adventure-Bats, 10am
- 5/10 Preschool Discovery Hr., 1pm
- 5/14 Canoeing Basics, 9am-Noon
- 5/15 Garlic Mustard Pull, 1-4pm
- 5/20 Scrapbooking, 6pm-Midnight
- 5/22 Sunny Schick Photography, 2:30p

School Groups need Guides at Fox Isle:

- 5/16, 9:15-10:30 Pre-K, Tadpoles
- 5/16, 1:15-2:30 Pre-K. Tadpoles
- 5/19, 9:15-11:15, 4th gr. Tree & Pond
- 5/19, 11:45-1:45, 4th gr. Tree & Pond
- 5/20, 10:30-11:30, 2nd gr., spring hike
- 5/26, 10:00-11:30, 1st gr., Pond Life
- 5/26, 12-2, special needs, functional skills

www.allencountyparks.org



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.