

The Nature Nuts News - July 2011

“And the snake-feeder’s four gauzy wings fluttered by
Like the ghost of a daisy dropped out of the sky,
Or a wounded apple-blossom in the breeze’s control
As it cut across some orchard to’rds the old swimming’-hole.” - Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley

Welcome to volume 4 issue 7 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.

DRAGONS IN THE SKY!!!

Oh the mighty dragons of the sky! Watch and find wonder in their magnificent flight! Dragons have been found in Indiana; yet they are much smaller than you can possibly imagine - especially if you watch too many Harry Potter movies!

The dragons to which I refer, are the gauzy winged, bright and dark dragonflies. There are 97 different known species of dragonflies in Indiana.

Dragonflies are considered to have primitive flight skills, yet they are able to outmaneuver magnificent fliers such as the mosquitoes known to flock at Fox Island during the summer. Without dragonflies, Fox Island might quickly adopt a new moniker - “Mosquito Island”! The dragon-fly feed almost exclusively on other flying insects, taking and eating their prey, often mid-flight, chewing and discarding any un-wanted portions while busily scouring for more food. “Dragonflies can hover motionless in the air, fly backwards, ...and reach speeds of nearly 30mph in short bursts” (James Curry - *Dragonflies of Indiana*). 250 million years ago, Indiana’s landscape would have been covered with non-flowering plants such as fern. Flying through these archaic woodlands, man, if they had existed, might’ve been amazed to find dragonflies with wingspans over two feet! This begs the question—“If dragonflies were that big... then how big were the **mosquitoes?**”!!!!!!!



Metea Programs (call 449-3777)

July 15 & 16, Children’s Festival by PNC, IPFW Campus

July 23, Metea FREE Day!, 9a-9p

July 25-29 Cedar Creek Camp

August 4, Butterfly Count Training, 10AM, Free if you plan on counting!

August 1-5 Back-Country Camp

August 8-12 Bullfrogs & Butterflies

Camp (all Camps are Monday-Friday, 9-5; registration forms found at www.allencountyparks.org).

Fox Island Programs (call 449-3180)

7/11-15 Back In Time Camp, 9a-5p

7/18-22 Outdoor Games Camp, 9a-5p

7/19 Preschool Discovery Hour, 1-2pm,
Berry Fairy Hunt!

7/22 Scrapbooking, 6pm-Midnight

Picture by Brandon Liechty



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

Metea County Park

Butterfly Counts are BACK!!!! Training is August 4th, 10AM



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Monday Morning with Michael, 7am	12	13 Metea North Summer Wildflowers, 2pm	13th, Evening Hike, 8p	15 Childrens Festival at IPFW	16 Childrens Festival at IPFW
17	18	19	20	21	22 Payton Park Night. Hike, 9pm	23 METEA FREE DAY!!! 9am-9pm
24	25 Cedar Creek Camp	26 Cedar Creek Camp	27 Cedar Creek Camp	28 Cedar Creek Camp	29 Cedar Creek Camp	30
31						

Metea County Park Volunteer Needs

Call 449-3777 for info.

This year Metea needs a new leaf collection. Talk to Allen County Park Naturalist, Ron Divelbiss.



Metea volunteers needed to develop volunteer gatherings at Metea.



Fox Island County Park

What is this???

(Picture by Jeremy Schaffer)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Back-In-Time Camp	12 Back-In-Time Camp	13 Back-In-Time Camp	14 Back-In-Time Camp	15 Back-In-Time Camp	16
17	18 Outdoor Games Camp	19 OG Camp Pre-K Berry Fairy Hunt, 1- 2pm	20 Outdoor Games Camp	21 Outdoor Games Camp	22 OG Camp Scrapbooking, 6pm-Midnt.	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



← *Dragonfly Eyes
and Mouth*
*Dragonfly emerging
from nymph case* →
(Pictures by Jeremy
Schaffer)





**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



***Monarch Counts
return to
Metea County Park***

***Find out more at
Metea's Free Day,
July 23, 9am-9pm***