

Welcome to volume 4 issue 9 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.

Cicada Killer Wasps

The Cicada Killer Wasp attracted our attention during a recent Trail Guide Training, held August 25th. Twenty trail guides attended the training hoping to learn more tips and tricks on just basic survival as a trail guide.

The Cicada Killer Wasp seems to cause a stir mainly due to its large size. I know it caught my interest the first time I noticed them along the man-made beach at Metea County Park. As Camp Director, the first question out of my mind was how aggressive are they? I observed that our summer day campers were not stung by this giant wasp, even when they jammed sticks in the wasp holes. The tunnels or cells are dug out in sandy soils by the female wasp. The female contains the stinger, not the males. I noticed that the University of Kentucky College Extension Entomology Department put out an on-line article claiming that the males became aggressive during mating periods. If they don’t possess a stinger, what could be the worry? The Cicada Killer is a solitary wasp, not a social wasp, like the yellow-jackets, hornets and paper wasps. The females primarily use their stinger to paralyze their prey, the Cicada, not to defend their nest. Once the prey, or cicada is paralyzed the female turns it onto its back, drags it up a tree and uses the tree height to glide it back to the nest or hole in the ground. Without a tree, she drags it to the hole across the ground. She then lays an egg in the cicada’s body and buries it underground. Each cell can hold one to three cicadas. The egg hatches two days later and the cicada become food for the young. –Nat Haley



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

- Sept. 1, Kickoff for Allen County Trailblazers
- Sept. 1, Monarch Count, 10:00am
- Sept. 5, Monday Morning with Michael at Payton County Park, 7:00am
- Sept. 7, Evening Hike with Michael at Payton County Park, 7:00pm
- Sept. 10, Canoeing Basics, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Sept. 15, Monarch County, 10:00am
- Sept. 17, Cedar Creek Canoe Trip, 1-5pm
- Sept. 23, Fourth Friday Night Hike, 8:00pm
- Oct. 1, NEAT Bicycle Tour!, 8:30am registration -> Metea could use volunteers for this event! The race is usually over by 2:00pm. Call 449-3777 to help!

[Fox Island Programs \(call 449-3180\)](#)

- Sept. 10, Stockbridge Audubon Society Birding Fieldtrip, 7:45am
- Sept. 13, Preschool Discovery Hour, 1-2pm
- Sept. 14, Tai Chi, 6:00-7:00pm
- Sept. 23, Scrapbooking, 6:00pm-Midnight
- Sept. 23, Glow in the Dark Night Hike, 8pm

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.

Allen County Park VIP's

Metea County Park

Volunteer by running a refreshment table at once of the tour stops along Metea's NEAT Bicycle Tour, Oct. 1st! Call 449-3777 to volunteer!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Kick-off for Allen County Trailblazers on <u>Sept. 1st</u>	1 Monarch Count, 10am	2	3
4 Labor Day Holiday!!! →	5 Monday Morning with Michael at Payton, 7am	6	7 Evening Hike with Michael at Payton, 7pm	8	9	10 Canoeing Basics, 9:00am-12:00pm
11	12	13	14	15 Monarch Count, 10am	16	17 Cedar Creek Canoe Trip, 1:00-5:00pm
18	19	20	21	22 Friends of Metea Picnic, 6:00pm	23 Fourth Friday Night Hike, 8:00pm	24
25	26 Dekalb Middle School, all day at Metea	27 IPFW stations, 9am-11am	28	29 IPFW stations, 9am-11am	30	NEAT Bicycle Tour on October 1st, 8:30am!

Metea County Park Volunteer Needs

Call 449-3777 for info.

Get hiking and help Metea County Park by developing a leaf collection. Just collect the leaves, take them home a press into an old phone book overnight. Laminate the very next day. Talk to Natalie Haley if you need a laminator. She has a small one at Fox Island—449-3246.

ALLEN COUNTY
TRAILBLAZERS



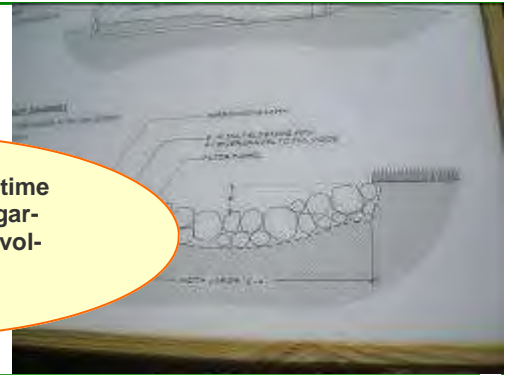
September 1st is the kick-off for Allen County Trailblazers. Earn the medallion illustrated below by hiking 10 of 15 trails listed between Sept. 1 and November 30!

Medallion for Trailblazers



Fox Island County Park

This would be a great time of year to fix our rain garden. Call 449-3246 to volunteer!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Holiday!!!	6	7	8	9	10 Audubon bird 7:45am, Birthday Party & Teacher Open House
11	12	13 Pre-school Discovery Hour, 1-2pm	14 Tai Chi, 6-7pm, Douglas Tallamy, 7:30p - WALB	15 Special needs group, 10:00-Noon	16 EEAI Conference	17
18	19 Canterbury 2nd grade, 8:45-9:45am	20 Ghostbird Video, 6:30-8:30pm	21 Tai Chi, 6-7pm	22 Holy Cross Lutheran, 1:00-2:15pm	23 Glow in the Dark Mt. Hike, 8pm Scrapbooking, 6pm-Midnight	24
25	26 Dekalb Middle School, all day at Metea	27 10a-12 Homeschool History of Fox Island	28 Tai Chi, 6-7pm	29	30 Indiana Master Naturalist Gathering!!!!	



Ryan Voorhees' class from Ivy Tech has made bird houses for Fox Island's new bird house tower. Call 449-3246 if you want to help put it together!



I am looking for a volunteer to build the tracks sand box shown above. Please call me if you would like to donate your time and/or construction materials. Nat - 449-3246.



**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



**Don't forget about
the Friends of Metea
annual picnic sched-
uled for September
22nd at 6:00pm!!!
BYO plates/cups/
cutlery**