Summer /Fall 2017 Volume 13, No. 3



The Wild Grapevine

Inside this issue:

Chronological listing of	2
programs	_

Special Events 3

Pre-School Programs 4

Monarch Programs 5

Multi date and Training Programs

Nature Hikes & 6–9 Programs

Bio-Box & Park Info 10

ON THE WEB Allen County Parks www.allencountyparks.org

Fox Island Alliance www.foxislandalliance.org

Friends of Metea www.friendsofmetea.org

Allen County Parks is proud to be a partner in the Nistem network

www.nistem.org





Streams of Life

How Streams Provide Many Different Environments

By Ron Divelbiss, Allen County Parks Naturalist

Less than one percent of the world's water is fresh river water. Yet in this tiny portion of the biosphere lives a great variety of animals and plants. It is estimated that 640,000 microscopic animals, weighing in total some 45 pounds, drift past the Andrew Britton overlook here at Metea County Park every 24 hours. The flowing water continuously replenishes oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nutrients, providing river plants and animals of all sizes with the basics of life. Along their lengths, streams present wildlife with many opportunities and challenges.

Flowing downstream, along with the detritus, are tiny worms, snails, and insect larvae carried along by the current. But as the stream widens and deepens, the current slows sufficiently for plants to take root. On their leaves grow algae, which are eaten by snails and other invertebrates. Plants provide not only food but also shelter for river animals. They add to the ecological niches available and to the complexity of the ecosystem. Along the riverbanks, vegetation provides another niche, inhabited by birds such as redwing black birds, and mammals such as carnivorous raccoons and river otters.

Detritus-eating and herbivorous invertebrates are hunted by fish and carnivorous insect larvae, and these hunters themselves fall prey to predators: larger fish, turtles, and birds. Down on the mud - or in it - are worms, snails, crayfish, and rare freshwater mussels feeding on organic material, and in turn providing food for bottom-feeding fish.

In early spring the waters are often very muddy with the sediment they carry. It becomes more and more difficult for animals to find their way through the water. Streams are vital for wildlife and for people. Natural streams have an amazing ability to clean themselves if given the chance. The animals that live in Cedar Creek show that the water is very clean and home to a wide variety of living things. We must treat these ecosystems with respect so they retain their value and their fascination for us.

Allen County TrailBlazer Program starts July 1st this year. See page 9 for more information



We've got all kinds of monarch butterfly programs
Check them out on page 5

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir

Page 2 The Wild Grapevine Volume 13, No. 3

Your Allen County Parks! Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, southwest Fort Wayne 449-3180

Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, at State Route 1, Leo-Cedarville 449-3777

Payton County Park, 13928 Dunton Rd. just east of Huntertown between Gump and Hathaway Roads

Cook's Landing County Park, corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Roads

Deer Run Wilderness Area - Spencerville IN-PROGRAMMED USE ONLY 610-9909



Plan Your Own Hike!

Plan your own hike! Allen County Parks offers custom hikes also.

Contact any of our naturalists for more information. At only \$2.00 per person with a \$20.00 minimum it's a great bargain.



Upcoming Programs for Summer & Fall

Program fees are usually \$2.00 per person unless otherwise stated, and are used to provide operating funds (which are not supported by tax revenue) for Allen County Parks. Most programs require pre-registration to allow resource and staff allocation planning. There may be requirements for a minimum number registered to offer the program. You will be notified at least 1 day before the program if it has been cancelled due to minimum registrations not being met.

FOR CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF ALL PROGRAMS SEE BELOW. The page number the program can be found on, follows the date and program name.

Programs Chronologically - Date, Name, Location, and page number (HS = Home School Program)

July

- 8 Lightning Beetle Festival Metea 3
- 11 Monarch Butterfly Workshop Metea 5
- 18 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection Metea 5
- 25 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection Metea 5
- 25 Preschool Discovery Hour Fossil Hunt Fox Island 4

August

- 1 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection Metea 5
- 4 Caving Adventure Pre-class Metea 7
- 6 Lost Ladybug Project Fox Island 6
- 8 Prairie Ecology Metea 6
- 12 Caving Adventure Metea 7
- 13 Leopold Workshop Gene Stratton Porter Rome City 4
- 19 Prairie Hike Metea 7
- 19 Introductory Program for Eclipse Trip—Metea 3
- 21 Trip to Totality -Solar Eclipse Travel Program- Metea 3
- 22 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico Metea 5
- 25 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 26 Scrapbooking/Craft Day ADDITION Fox Island 6
- 27 Stockbridge Audobon Meeting Fox Island 7
- 27 Birding Hike Fox Island 7
- 27 AC Trailblazer Guided Hike Payton 7
- 29 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico Metea 5

September

- 3 Raising and Tagging Monarch Butterflies Fox Island 5
- 5 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico Metea 5
- 10 Early Morning Hike Fox Island 8
- 12 Fox Kit Club Adventures Natures Dyes Fox Island 4
- 12 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico Metea 5
- 16 Little Wabash River Bike Hike Fox Island 3

September-continued

- 16 Edible Wild Plant Hike Fox Island 8
- 19 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico Metea 5
- 19 Preschool Discovery Hour Flutterbies Fox Island 4
- 20 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 22 Equinox Evening Event Metea 8
- 22 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 23 Autumn Awakens Hike Metea 8
- 24 BEES Fox Island 9
- 27 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 29 Glow in the Dark Hike Fox Island 9

October

- 1 AC Trailblazer Guided Hike Metea North 9
- 4 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 8 The Big Sit Bird Count Fox Island 3
- 10 Fox Kit Club Adventures Forest Breathiing Fox Island 4
- 11 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 18 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 20 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 25 Tai Chi Fox Island 6

November

- 1 Tai Chi Fox Island 6
- 8 Tai Chi Fox Island 6

Special Events

Lightning Beetle Fest Metea County Park Nature Center July 8, Saturday 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Learn all about our favorite natural night light! We will have an evening of programs and hikes to "enlighten" you. Park and Education Manager Bob Dispenza will share about whylightning beetles live here, how to attract and identify them, and then go out in the park to see them in action. We might even try to catch a few to observe closely.

Cost: \$3.00

Pre-register by: N/A Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Trip to Totality - Solar Eclipse Travel Program

August 19, Saturday - Introductory Program 10:00 AM Metea County Park

August 21, Monday - Bus trip to southern Illinois All Day - Leave from Fox Island County Park

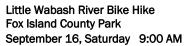


Includes bus travel, viewers, use of our filtered astronomical equipment, & education both during the trip & at a pre-trip program on August 19. We will be leaving early in the morning from Fox Island County Park on August 21, travel throughout the morning, set up at Giant City State Park in southern Illinois (depending on cloud cover), observe for a few hours, and head back to Fort Wayne. Our destination will have the longest totality of this entire eclipse – 2 minutes, 41.6 seconds. We need at least 30 people signed up & paid before July 20 to make a go of this. Bus capacity is limited to 40 for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Cost: \$100.00

Pre-register by: 7/20 Min. 30 Max. 40

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Bring your own road-ready bicycle, water and snacks for a leisurely 13 mile tour of the Little Wabash River valley. We'll see old Wabash Erie Canal features, the Vermilyea House and break at Little River Wetlands' Arrowhead Prairie. Helmets Required. Dress for weather.

Cost: \$2.00 Free to park pass holders. Pre-register by: 9/11 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman





The BIG SIT Bird Count Fox Island County Park October 8, Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

We will conduct our bird count on the brand new back deck of Fox Island's Nature Center. No fees for the program. Park entry is still \$2.00 and paid for at the gate (free if you have an annual park pass). Snacks and drinks are provided by the Stockbridge Audubon Society. We do have some binoculars that we are willing to share with you. Please do not feel as if you need to be an expert birder to attend. www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/about.php

Cost: \$2.00 / Free to Park Pass Holders Pre-register by: 10/3 Min. 5 Max. 45

To register or for more information: Email:nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Page 4 The Wild Grapevine Volume 13, No. 3

Pre-School Discovery Hours — Fox Island

Preschool Discovery Hour Fox Island County Park

July 25, Tuesday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Fossil Hunt

We will explore fossils indoors, and then go outdoors to the fossil pile to hunt for them. Found fossils can be kept and carried home.

August 8, Tuesday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Worm Farmers

Create a window on worm life. We'll build see-through worm habitats to take home, hunt for worms to live in them and end with a snack. Bring a clean, clear two-liter and 16 Oz bottle for each worm farmer.

September 19, Tuesday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Flutterbies

Explore the lives of butterflies, enjoy a story, & search for them in our butterfly garden. Have a snack to finish up.

Cost: \$ 3.00/child\$ 2.00/adult Pre-register by: 7/20 (July), 8/3 (Aug) & 9/14 (Sept) Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman





Fox Kit Club Adventures

Fox Kit Club Adventures

Fox Island County Park

September 12, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Nature's Dyes

Did you know that a great source for natural dyes can be found right in your own back yard! Roots, nuts and flowers are just a few common natural ways to get many colors.

October 10, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Forest Breathing

Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center to learn about how the forest actually breathes.

This program has been developed for pre-school children and their families or teachers. Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center Fees include a snack and drink for the children. Pre-school teachers of paid attending students are free. Fees include free gate entrance for the day!

Cost: \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per parent

Pre-register by: 9/7, and 10/5 respectively Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Special Teacher Opportunity!

Leopold Education Project Teacher Workshop

Gene-Stratton Porter - Rome City

August 13, Sunday 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Teachers that are interested in fostering a land ethic in their youth are encouraged to register for this workshop! "That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics." - Aldo Leopold. This workshop is being held off-site at the Gene-Stratton Porter site in Rome City. Contact Tiffany Conrad at ICONTAGE to register for the workshop.

Cost: \$35.00

Pre-register by 7/30 Min. 10 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email: Tconrad@indianamuseum.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Monarch Programs and Collections



Monarch Butterfly Workshop

Metea County Park Nature Center

July 11, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Come to the park and learn all there is to know about Monarch butterflies. Then apply that knowledge in the prairie. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 95)

Cost: Free to all that plan to help collect caterpillars during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 6/25 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

Monarch Life Cycle and Collection

Metea County Park Nature Center

July 18, & 25, August 1, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to collect caterpillars to be reared by park staff. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 95)

Cost: Free to all that plan to help collect caterpillars during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 7/12, 7/21 and 7/25 respectively Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss





Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 19, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Learn how to handle the monarchs, tag them, and send them on their way. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 75)

Cost: free to all that plan to help tag butterflies during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 5 days prior to each date Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

Raising and Tagging Monarch Butterflies

Fox Island County Park

September 3, Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn about raising and tagging Monarch Butterflies during the fall migration. Take home a butterfly incubator.

Cost:Free w/annual Pass or \$2.00 park admission

Pre-register by 8/10 Min: N/A Max. 20

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston



What the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly. Richard Bach

Page 6 The Wild Grapevine Volume 13, No. 3

Misc. Multi Date Programs

Scrapbooking/Craft Nights

Fox Island County Park

August 25, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

August 26, Saturday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM SPECIAL EDITION

September 22, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

October 20, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

Summer vacation pictures are beckoning! Join us in scrapbooking memories to last a lifetime. We provide refreshments. Pizza may be ordered for an additional \$5.00. Bring an optional snack to share (not required). Crafters may spend their time sewing, crafting or socializing for the same fees. Paid preregistration is required five days in advance.

Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by: 8/15, 8/16, 9/12 and 10/17 respectively Min. 5 Max. 22

To register or for more information: Email:nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley





Fox Island County Park

September 20 - November 8, Wednesdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Instructor Sandy Gebhard will teach Dr. Paul Lam's 73 Sun form in this eight week Tai Chi class. These gentle, non-strenuous forms can be practiced by all. Be prepared to have fun as you join this light hearted group. Note: Registration accepted through 3rd week if attendance minimum of ten is reached

Cost: \$50.00 for eight weeks. \$8.00 drop-in fee.

Pre-register by: 9/15 Min: 10 Max: 25

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Nature Hikes and Programs

"Lost Ladybug Project"

Fox Island County Park

August 6, Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn how to identify and find these important little members of the insect community as part of the "LOST LADYBUG PROJECT". The LLP is a citizen science program where all members of the family can participate and send results to the LLP.

Cost: Free w/annual pass or \$2.00 park admission

Pre-register by:7/28 Min 5 Max: 30

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston





Metea County Park Nature Center

August 8, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The creek and pond are wet habitats, the marsh is an in between habitat and the forest and prairie are both fairly dry habitats. The students will study the prairie ecosystem & then apply this knowledge in the prairie. We will study the plants and animals that live in the prairie. Identifying some of the wild flower blooming there. Also, how the prairie is maintained. Dress for the weather and the mosquitoes. We will spend most of the time on the trail.

Cost: \$3.00/student, \$2.00/adult Pre-register by: 8/2 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



Nature Hikes and Programs—cont.

Caving Adventure

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 4, Friday 7:30 PM (Pre Class)

August 12, Saturday, All Day

Go underground with Allen County Parks. Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to a new cave in southern Indiana. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Mandatory pre-caving class is Friday, August 4. Class fee covers maps and caving instruction. Learn about geology, cave life, needed equipment & cave formation. This activity is somewhat strenuous, but suitable for beginners in good physical condition. We will have a bit of a backcountry hike to the cave entrance.

Cost: \$25.00

Pre-register by: 8/1 Min. 5 Max. 20

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza





Prairie Hike

Metea County Park

August 19, Saturday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Discover the colors of the prairie revealed during this Saturday afternoon hike. Meet the naturalist in the **lower parking lot shelter down by the front gate** as there is a wedding up at the nature center that day.

Cost: \$2.00 per person

Pre-register by: 8/14 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Stockbridge Audubon Meeting and Special Guest

Fox Island County Park

August 27, Sunday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The public is invited to a Stockbridge Audubon meeting with their speaker, Angie Quinn. The topic is "Birding at Fox Island."

Cost: \$2.00 park entry, Free with annual pass

Pre-register by: 8/22 Min. 5 Max. 60

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Birding Hike

Fox Island County Park

August 27, Sunday 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Discover the late summer birds found at Fox Island County Park. This hike follows our local birding club meeting of the Stockbridge Audubon Society. The hike will be led by birders of the Society.

Cost: \$2.00 per person

Pre-register by: 8/14 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Allen County Trailblazer Guided Hike

Payton County Park

August 27, Sunday 7:00 PM

Learn more about Payton County Park, share hiking experiences, and get Trailblazer credit on this guided hike. We'll stroll around and satisfy our curiosity together. Be prepared for mosquitoes and maybe some mud.

Cost: FREE

Pre-register by:8/23 Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Page 8 The Wild Grapevine Volume 13, No. 3

Nature Hikes and Programs—cont



Early Morning Hike

Fox Island County Park

September 10, Sunday 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Ever wonder what goes on before the gates open at Fox Island? Early morning is a wonderful time to discover new sights and sounds in the park. Bring your cameras, Meet at the Vera Dulin Observation Bldg. Hike will be about 2 miles dress appropriately for the elements..

Cost: free w/annual pass or \$2.00 park admission.

Pre-register by 9/01 Min:5 Max: 30

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston

Edible Wild Plant Hike

Fox Island County Park

September, 16 Saturday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Discover some of the many wild edible plants that live in parks and public places while learning why they should not be collected there. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray for this one to two-mile walk.

Cost: \$ 2.00 / person

Pre-register by: 9/11 Min. 5 Max. 20

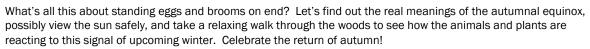
To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Equinox Evening Event

Metea County Park Nature Center

September 22, Friday 7:30 PM



Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 9/18 Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Autumn Awakens Hike

Metea County Park

September 23, Saturday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Discover the fall colors revealed during this first Saturday following the Autumn Equinox. **Meet the naturalist in the lower parking lot shelter down by the front gate** .

Cost: \$2.00 per person

Pre-register by: 9/18 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



We are on the web at: allencountyparks.org



Nature Hikes and Programs—cont

BEES

Fox Island County Park

September 24, Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn about our most important insect and how to identify those that are social or solitary. Find Fox island's own queen honey bee in the Dulin Building cased colony and take a walk to see the park's bees being a bee.

Cost: Free with annual pass or regular park admission of \$2.00 Under 7 free

Pre-register by 9/15 Min: 5 Max: 30

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston



Glow-in-the-Dark Hike

Fox Island County Park

September 29, Friday 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Join us to search the night for glowworms and bioluminescent mushrooms. If you like, bring a luminescent toy, or object, but no flashlights or glow sticks to preserve night vision.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 9/24 Min:5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Metea County Park North on Hursh Rd

Sunday, October 1 5:00 PM

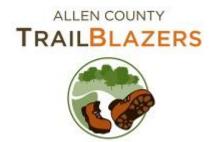
Learn more about North Metea, share hiking experiences, and get Trailblazer credit on this guided hike. We'll stroll around and satisfy our curiosity together. Be prepared for mosquitoes and maybe some mud.

Cost: FREE

Pre-register by: 9/27 Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza





Allen County Trailblazers now goes from July 1 to December 31. More time to get your hikes in!

Find out more at www.allencountytrailblazers.org

The popular program has been expanded and is still FREE, thanks to PHP for another generous sponsorship this year. Check out the website for guided hikes and other special events.

Hike 10 of the 15 suggested trails and earn a medallion for your walking stick. This years medallion features a Monarch.

Discovery Biobox on TREES!!!



Don't have the time for a field trip and not sure when in the next two weeks you would have time for a naturalist to visit your class. Check out this idea, borrow our Tree Bio Box and when time allows in a 2 week period do your program! ITS FREE!!! This box includes books and curriculum binder of activities with all the supplies in one box. All you need is one tree! Call 449-3180 to check the entire box out for 2 weeks FREE! This box is available for check out at Fox Island County Park ONLY! Complete with over 30 books, posters, tree cookies, leaf identification kit, magnifying glasses and much more. A special thanks to one of our supporting organizations, the Fox Island Alliance for this awesome teaching tool!!

Park Hours

Memorial Day—Labor Day 9:00 AM—9:00pm

Nature Centers at Fox Island and Metea County Parks are open 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon—Fri

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat. & Sun

Rental Facilities

Allen County Parks can provide an excellent alternative for your next special event, party, conference, retreat, meeting, wedding, reception or memorial service.

For more information check our website or contact rentals@allencountyparks.org

Our Mission: "To establish and manage a permanent park system incorporating conservation, education, outdoor values and nature preservation, and to provide recreational opportunities for the people of Allen County within this structure"

Allen County does not discriminate because of disability in the admission to. or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Human Resources Director has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided therein, and Allen County's ADA policy is available from the ADA Coordinator. Suggestions on how the County can better meet the needs of persons with disabilities may be submitted to the ADA Coordinator at:

Human Resources Department 200 E. Berry Street, Suite 380, Fort Wayne, In. 46802 or by phone at (260)449-7217.