



The Wild Grapevine

Vol. 20 No. 4 October 2024

The Wild Grapevine will provide you with nature-related articles and upcoming event information four times per year. All annual pass holders will receive this newsletter free as part of their benefits. Send your email address to metea@allencountyparks.org for free e-mailed copies.

Allen County Parks website:
www.allencountyparks.org

Fox Island Alliance website:
www.foxislandalliance.org

Your Allen County Parks

Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, southwest Fort Wayne (260) 449-3180

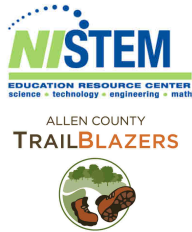
Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, at State Route 1, Leo-Cedarville (260) 449-3777

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 – access by permission only

Allen County Hanauer Reserve – Easterday Road rental facility



www.nistem.org

Allen County Parks is a partner in the NISTEM network

www.allencountytrailblazers.org

Allen County Parks is a partner in Allen County Trailblazers

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) of Deer

Hemorrhagic Disease is a general illness term for two related viruses: Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease virus (EHD) and bluetongue virus (BT). Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) primarily affects white-tailed deer and is causing a significant mortality event in northern Indiana. Sheep, cows, and goats are also susceptible. It is important to note that humans and dogs are **not** affected by this disease. According to Joe Caudell, head of the IDNR deer program, hunters that kill an infected deer and eat the meat are still not affected.

Clinical signs of HD begin 7 days after infection. You may see the deer exhibiting zero fear of humans and hovering near water resources. Fever causes deer to seek out water, so dead deer may be found near or in water. Deer infected with EHD may display unusual behaviors such as lethargy, excessive salivation or disorientation. The deer will die within 8-36 hours.

HD is transmitted to an animal host by midges, or tiny “no-see-ums” or sand gnats that are smaller than mosquitoes and other flies. A female *Culcoides* midge picks up the virus from the blood of an infected host (our host in the County Parks are deer). The midge then transmits the virus biting another host. The HD outbreaks occur in late summer and early fall when midges are active. The midges are often transported to new areas by wind. These midges and the viruses are killed within two weeks of the onset of frost ending the transmission cycle.

You can report deer found on your property at:

[DNR: Fish & Wildlife: Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease \(EHD\) \(in.gov\)](#)

An Indiana DNR biologist will review your report and contact you directly if more information or assistance is needed. Biologists use these reports to monitor the health of Indiana’s deer population. You can monitor suspect EHD cases and detections at on.IN.gov/EHD, where data is updated daily. If biologists are interested in sampling your deer, they will reach out for more information. For more information on [wildlife diseases](#) or resources on sick or dead animals, visit Cornell University’s website: <https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/disease/hemorrhagic-disease-deer>.

Upcoming Programs for Autumn

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.

Preschool Story Time & Hike		Fox Island County Park
October 1, Tuesday	10 AM	Nature Center
D is for Decompose. What things in nature decompose and who helps this to happen? Come find out and take a short hike to find things that are decomposing. Come dressed for the weather.	Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 9/28 Min. 5 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Nature Story Time		Grabill Branch Library
October 2, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
<p>Nuts and Seeds Meet Jennifer at Grabill Library with guest Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. This special nature storytime at Grabill Branch Library happens on the first Wednesday of the month.</p> <p><i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	Register at the Allen County Public Library site	Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Leaf Paint Prints		Metea County Park
October 5, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center Basement
Come learn about what kind of trees we have at the park and make a piece of art using outdoor leaves as we get ready for the fall season. Great for families looking for a fun fall activity.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 10/2 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Nature Story Time		Metea County Park Nature Center
October 9, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
Nuts and See17 Special guest Jennifer from Grabill Library will be here to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. Then we will go outside to explore the story subjects in real life. This special nature storytime at Metea County Park happens on the second Wednesday of the month. <i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	Register at the Allen County Public Library site	Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Owl Prowl		Metea County Park
October 11, Friday	8 PM – 9 PM	Nature Center
Come and learn about these mysterious predators of the night as we go on an easy hike listening for these amazing predators. This is a hike with no lights or only red lights to deter less owls. Great for families.	Free with admission Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Scrapbook/Craft nights with the ladies of Fox Island County Park		Fox Island County Park
October 11, November 1, and December 6, Fridays	5:00PM-11:00PM	Nature Center
This program is developed for adult women who need an evening to socialize with other women while crafting or scrapbooking. We do provide some refreshments and often order pizza from Pizza Hunt and share cost for that meal together.	Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. 22	To register: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Pokeweed Program - learn some uses for Pokeweed		Fox Island County Park
October 12, Saturday	2PM	Nature Center
What is Pokeweed good for? Come and bring a friend to learn some of its uses and make something out of Pokeweed to take home.	Cost: \$5 Pre-register by: 10/7 Min. 5 Max. 20	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Big Sit Bird Count		Fox Island County Park
October 13, 2025, Sunday	Noon-4:00PM	Nature Center
Sit with Three Rivers Birding and participate in	Cost: FREE with	To register:

the largest tail-gating party for birders! A bird count with the “FIBS” (Fox Island Bird Sitters) on the back deck of the nature center will occur. Snacks and drinks provided by Three Rivers Birding. We do have some binoculars we are willing to share with you!	Park Admission. Bird seed donations will be accepted! Pre-register by: 10/8	Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley
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Nature Storytime at the Waynedale Library		Waynedale Library
October 14, Monday	10:30 AM	
P is for Pumpkins. Join Eva Webb from Fox Island County Park for fun hands-on learning through stories & activities about Pumpkins. This special nature story time will be at the Waynedale Branch Library.	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Full Moon Drum Circle		Fox Island County Park
October 17, Thursday	7 PM	VDWOB
Come to the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building to partake in a community drum circle. Bring a drum if you have one. But if you don't have one, come anyway, as there are drums and percussion instruments available to borrow. If the weather is good, we'll be outside.	Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 10/12 Min. 5 Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Full Moon Hike		Metea County Park Nature Center
October 17, Thursday	7:30 PM	
Hike by the light of the Hunter's Moon. Learn about the moon and our nocturnal animals, especially the ones that are hunted in Indiana and how they are managed.	Cost \$2 Pre-register by: 10/26 Min. 5 Max. 40	To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Full Hunter's Moon Hike		Fox Island County Park
October 17, Thursday	8:15 PM	Nature Center
Join us for a hike on this Full Hunter's Moon evening. We'll be using our senses and make observations along the way.	Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 10/12 Min. 3 Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Preschool Color Hike		Metea County Park
October 19, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center
Come and enjoy the fall colors with your little ones as we take a closer look at the colors of the forest. Come and enjoy this easy hike for the whole family.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Nature Story Time & Hike		Fox Island County Park
October 21st, Monday	10:30 AM	Nature Center
Learn about the outdoors with Eva Webb with hands-on songs, stories and a hike. Come dressed for the weather.	Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 10/17 Min. 3 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Fall Birding 101		Fox Island County Park
October 26, Saturday	9:15 AM	Nature Center
Grab your binoculars if you have them and join Indiana Master Naturalists, Jeremy Grogg and Cole Buffenbarger to learn what birds can be spotted during the Autumn season.	Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 10/21 Min. 3 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Meet Smokey Bear		Fox Island County Park
October 26, Saturday	11 AM	Nature Center
Join us for an interactive program with Smokey Bear to learn about Fire Safety. Smokey Bear will be handing out goody bags!	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 10/21 Min. 5 Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Autumn Wildlife Hike		Metea County Park
October 26, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center
As the weather gets colder our wildlife is preparing for the cold winter months. Come and learn how our wildlife prepares and survives the cold on this easy mile hike for the whole family.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Wolf Trees		Fox Island County Park
October 31, Thursday	4:00PM	Nature Center
Why do we leave up dead “wolf” trees? Who would do that? Join Park Manager, Natalie, and find out why as we hike into the woods to investigate some of the wolf trees left standing at Fox Island.	Cost: \$2.00 Pre-register by: 10/26 Min. 5 Max. 25	To register Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Star Stories		Metea County Park
November 1, Friday	8 PM- 9 PM	Beach
Come and join Sydney as we look up at the stars and hear the stories of the constellations. Join us as we hear the stories of Andromeda, Cassiopeia, Pisces and other November constellations. Join us at the beach for stories and stars and a whole lot of fun.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Gratitude Nature Journal		Metea County Park
November 2, Saturday	1 PM – 2:30 PM	Pond Pavilion
In the spirit of thanksgiving join us in making our own gratitude nature journal. We will be drawing aspects of nature we are grateful for in a journal you get to take home and continue on your own. Local artist Tara Schrock will be joining us to teach drawing techniques and guide in our gratitude drawings. Join us for short hike as we appreciate what nature has given us.	Cost: \$5 Pre-register by: 10/28 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Forest Preschool		Fox Island County Park
November 6 and December 11, Wednesdays	10:00AM	Nature Center

<p>This program is developed for children and their families or teachers. Meet a naturalist at Fox Island's Nature Center. Preschool teachers are free. November 6 program topic is deer. December 11 we will learn about winter birding.</p>	<p>Cost: \$3.00 per person Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. 20 children</p>	<p>To register Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley</p>
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Preschool Story Time		Fox Island County Park
November 5, Tuesday	10 AM	Nature Center
<p>H is for Harvest. What things get harvested? What do you do with the things you harvest? Join Eva Webb the environmental educator to learn more and take a short hike. Come dressed for the weather.</p>	<p>Cost: \$2/person Pre-register by: 11/1 Min. 5 Max. --</p>	<p>To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb</p>

Nature Story Time		Grabill Branch Library
November 6, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
<p>Animals Getting Ready for Winter Meet Jennifer at Grabill Library with guest Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. This special nature storytime at Grabill Branch Library happens on the first Wednesday of the month. <i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	<p>Register at the Allen County Public Library site</p>	<p>Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza</p>

Hunter Safety Course		Fox Island County Park
November 8 and 9	5:00PM-9:00PM Fri. & 8:30AM-3:30PM Sat.	Nature Center
<p>Join avid hunter and visiting naturalist, Scott Beam, and learn how to hunt with safety in mind. The link to register is: https://register-ed.com/events/view/219020</p>	<p>Cost: Pre-register by: 11/4</p>	<p>To register or for more information: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Natalie Haley</p>

Fall Nature Reflection w/ Short Walk		Fox Island County Park
November 9, Saturday	10:30 AM	Nature Center
Join environmental educator, Eva Webb, on an Autumn reflective experience. At 5 locations near each other you will have the opportunity to ponder a seasonal reflection accompanied by a beautiful background flute and hand drum. Call or FB message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 11/5 Min. 5 Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Thanksgiving Food Drive Hike		Metea County Park
November 9, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center
Join us as we kick off the Thanksgiving season in the thanksgiving spirit. Come and bring a donation to Grabill Food Bank and enter your name in a raffle for a Family Park pass. Along with the donation enjoy a 1-mile hike about different food sources within the forest as we appreciate the bounty of nature and provide a bounty for other people.	Cost: Donation to Grabill Food Bank or 1 nonperishable food item	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Invasive Plants		Fox Island County Park
November 12, 13, 14, 2025, Tuesday-Thursday	8:00AM	Nature Center
Join Park Manager, Natalie and hear about the intense Invasive Plant management that has resulted from the storm damage of 2022. Attendees may stay and help volunteer from 10:00AM-2:00PM for Fox Island's Honeysuckle Daze, our invasive cut stump volunteer days. Bring lunch if you intend to help with the H Daze. Long sleeves, long pants, hat, eye and hand protection needed. We have limited equipment for cutting stumps, but will share what we have.	Cost: \$2.00 Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. N/A	To register or for more information: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Honeysuckle DAZE		Fox Island County Park
November 12, 13, and 14, Tuesday-Thursday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Nature Center
Join us in restoring Fox Island by removing invasive shrubs from our restoration sites at Fox Island. Please pre-register. We also have a short course at 8:00am each of these days to explain, in detail, the invasive plant management at Fox Island. Bring your lunch! Long sleeves, long pants, hat, eye and hand protection needed. We have limited equipment for cut/stump treatments, but we will share what we have.	Cost: FREE with park admission Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. N/A Max. N/A	To register: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Nature Storytime		Aboite Library Branch
November 13, Wednesday	10 AM & 11:15 AM	
T is for Thankful for Nature. Join in an interactive story time, songs and movement	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org

about being thankful for nature.		Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb
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Nature Story Time		Metea County Park Nature Center
November 13, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
<p>Animals Getting Ready for Winter Special guest Jennifer from Grabill Library will be here to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. Then we will go outside to explore the story subjects in real life. This special nature storytime at Metea County Park happens on the second Wednesday of the month.</p> <p><i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	Register at the Allen County Public Library site	Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email: bdispenza@allcountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Full Moon Hike		Metea County Park Nature Center
November 15, Friday	7:30 PM	
Hike by the light of the Beaver Moon. Learn about the moon, the role of beavers in our ecosystem, and how they are returning to our waterways.	Cost \$2 Pre-register by: 11/23 Min. 5 Max. 40	To register or for more information: Email: metea@allcountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Folklore: Stories of the Past		Metea County Park Nature Center
November 16, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	
Come and join us for some local folklore from professional storyteller Theresa Osborne. Originally from Harlan Kentucky, Theresa has a master's in Folklore from Western Kentucky University and served 18 years as an adjunct professor of Folk studies at Western Kentucky University. We hope that you will join us for this unique experience hearing the stories of our past from a talented storyteller.	Cost: Freewill Donation	For more information: Email: sschrock@allcountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Full Moon Drum Circle		Fox Island County Park
November 17, Sunday	4:30 PM	Nature Center
Come to the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building (VDWOB) to join a community drum circle. If the weather is good we will meet in the Dune Shelter that is nearby. Bring your drum, but if you don't have one, there will be some to borrow. Call or FB Message FICP to sign up	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 11/12 Min. 5 Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Full Moon Hike		Fox Island County Park
November 17, Sunday	6:45 PM	VDWOB
Join environmental educator, Eva Webb to hike on the evening of the Full Moon. Call Fox Island County Park or FB Message to reserve your spot! We will meet at the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation building.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 11/12 Min. 5 Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Nature Themed Storytime & Hike		Fox Island County Park
November 20, Wednesday	10:30 AM	Nature Center
Join environmental educator, Eva Webb to learn more about some things in nature that we can be thankful for. There will also be a short hike so come dressed for the weather. Call or FB Message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 11/15 Min. 5 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Talking Turkey		Metea County Park
November 23, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center Basement
In the spirit of Thanksgiving come and learn about Indiana's wild turkey. Along with learning about this gobbling bird we will also be doing a small turkey craft to decorate your house for Thanksgiving. Great for families and for kids of any age.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 11/20 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Autumn Scavenger Hunt		Metea County Park
November 30, Saturday	11 AM – 3 PM	Nature Center
Bring your kids to complete this autumn scavenger hunt. Collect your scavenger hunt at the Nature Center and then go out on the trails searching. Upon completion bring back to the nature center before 3pm for a special prize for your little ones.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Preschool Storytime & Hike		Fox Island County Park
December 3, Tuesday	10 AM	Nature Center
C is for Cold. Join environmental educator, Eva Webb for an interactive learning experience through songs, story and hike about when it's cold outside. There will also be a short hike so come dressed for the weather. Call or FB Message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Cost: Pre-register by: 11/29 Min. 5 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb


Nature Story Time		Grabill Branch Library
December 4, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
<p>Winter Wonderland Meet Jennifer at Grabill Library with guest Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. This special nature storytime at Grabill Branch Library happens on the first Wednesday of the month.</p> <p><i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	Register at the Allen County Public Library site	<p>Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza</p>

Nature Ornament Decoration		Metea County Park
December 7, Saturday	1 PM – 2 PM	Nature Center Basement
Come and learn how we can give back to nature this Christmas season as you paint your own wooden Christmas ornament for your tree.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 12/4 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Nature Themed Storytime		Waynedale Library Branch
December 9, Monday	10:30 AM	
D is for Dormant. Join Eva Webb from Fox Island County Park in learning about what animals do in the winter.	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Nature Story Time		Metea County Park Nature Center
December 11, Wednesday	10:30 AM	
<p>Winter Wonderland Special guest Jennifer from Grabill Library will be here to share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. Then we will go outside to explore the story subjects in real life. This special nature storytime at Metea County Park happens on the second Wednesday of the month.</p> <p><i>Register for all programs online at the ACPL Events Page, on the ACPL mobile app, or by calling the branch. In an effort to be courteous to our presenters, audience members, and waitlisted registrants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Register all attendees</i> • <i>Please arrive prior to the program's start time; registering for a program will not hold your seat after the program's designated start time</i> • <i>If you are unable to attend, please cancel your registration online or by calling the branch</i> 	<p>Register at the Allen County Public Library site</p>	<p>Register here: https://acpl.libnet.info/events For more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza</p>

Winter Poetry Hike		Metea County Park
December 14, Saturday	10 AM – 11 AM	Nature Center
<p>Come and enjoy a hike in the peaceful winter woods as we hike and listen to how nature inspires poetry. Feel free to bring your own poems inspired by nature to share with us during this 1-mile hike.</p>	<p>Free with admission</p>	<p>For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock</p>

Nature's Christmas at Metea		Metea County Park
December 14, Saturday	2:00PM-5:00PM	Nature Center
<p>Make handmade Christmas ornaments for gifts and join our annual tradition of celebrating the holidays with homemade cookies, horse-drawn hay rides, and a photo with Father Christmas - all nestled by the fire with a warm cocoa.</p> 	<p>Cost \$5.00, ages 6 and under free</p>	<p>To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza</p>

Full Moon Drum Circle		Fox Island County Park
December 15, Sunday	4:30 PM	VDWOB
Join environmental educator, Eva Webb for a community drum circle in the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building. Call or FB Message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 12/10 Min. 5 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Full "Cold" Moon Hike		Fox Island County Park
December 15, Sunday	6:45 PM	Meet at the Nature Center
Why is this full moon called the Cold Moon? (I know, that a real brain bender.) Come find out some interesting facts. We will meet at the Nature Center to do an interactive hike on a trail together under the Cold Moon. Pre-register by: 12/13	Cost: Free Pre-register by: 12/10 Min. Max.	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Nature Themed Storytime & Hike		Fox Island County Park
December 16, Monday	10:30 AM	Nature Center
Join environmental educator, Eva Webb to learn more about some animals that are dormant in the winter. There will also be a short hike so come dressed for the weather. Call or FB Message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Cost: \$2 Pre-register by: 12/11 Min. 5 Max. --	To register or for more information: Email: ewebb@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184 Eva Webb

Winter Solstice		Fox Island County Park
December 20, Friday	5:00PM	Nature Center
Learn about the Winter Solstice in an evening around the fire at Fox Island. The winter solstice is actually the next day, December 21 st at 4:19 AM but we will discuss the darkest day of the year on the eve of this solstice! Program fee includes a s'more!	Cost: \$3.00 Pre-register by: 12/15	To register or for more information: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Holiday Story Walk		Metea County Park
December 21- January 5	All Day	Trails
Even though our naturalists are taking a break for the Christmas season nature never stops being enjoyed. Come to the nature center and pick up a map for a holiday story planted along one of our trails at the park. Hike our trails and enjoy this holiday tale of the Christmas season.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: sschrock@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

Winter Solstice Hike		Metea County Park Nature Center
December 21, Saturday	7:30 PM	
The actual astronomical winter solstice takes place at 10:27 PM tonight. We will walk out into the winter woods on the longest night of the year.	Cost \$2 Pre-register by: 12/18 Min. 5 Max. 40	To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Christmas Bird Count		Fox Island County Park
December 28, Saturday	8:00AM-?	Nature Center
Join Three Rivers Birding in their annual southwest Allen County Christmas bird count! Pre-register by Christmas Eve by contacting Cynthia Powers at zzedpowers@aol.com ! You will be assigned an area of southwest Allen County to drive your car and look for birds. This is an adventure for you and/or your car companions. You must have at least one decent birder in your car! LOL. Chili will be served at Fox Island for lunch thanks to Three Rivers Birding and the generous time and efforts of Lori and Brett Fisher! We will compile our bird sightings at lunch.	Cost: FREE with Park Admission Pre-register by: 12/23	To register contact Cynthia Powers at zzedpowers@aol.com . or for more information: Call: 449-3180

First Day Hike		Metea County Park Nature Center
January 1, 2025, Wednesday	2 PM	
The first day hike challenge is upon us. First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage people to get outdoors. On New Year's Day, hundreds of free, guided hikes will be organized in all 50 states. Join us in this initiative by signing up to hike with a Naturalist. Let's get our hearts pumping in 2024 and enjoy the beauty found in your own Allen County Parks.	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 12/29 Min. 5 Max. 35	To register or for more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Scrap/Craft Night with the Ladies of Fox Island		Fox Island County Park
January 10, February 7, Fridays	5:00PM-11:00PM	Nature Center
This program is developed for adult women who need an evening to socialize with other women while crafting or scrapbooking. We do provide some refreshments and often order pizza from Pizza Hunt and share cost for that meal together.	Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. 22	To register or for more information: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Cross Country Ski Clinic		Metea County Park Nature Center
January 11, Saturday	10:00 AM - Noon	
Learn: how equipment works, waxing vs. no-wax, purchasing, ski prep and maintenance, how to dress and receive basic instruction and practice on technique (weather permitting). Leave phone number and shoe size when registering in order to reserve equipment.	Cost: \$8.00 includes one hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$3.00 if bringing your own equipment. Pre-register by: 1/10 Min: 5 Max: 15	To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Forest Succession and Restoration Lecture		Fox Island County Park
January 18, 2025, Saturday	2:00PM	Nature Center
Dr. Jordan Marshall, Purdue Fort Wayne's Professor of Plant Biology, PFW's graduate program director and associate chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, will be giving a lecture followed by a hike on forest succession and restoration.	Cost: FREE with Park Admission. Freewill donations for restoration work will be accepted. Pre-register by: 1/13 Min. 5 Max. N/A	To register: Email: foxisland@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley