



The Wild Grapevine

Vol. 21 No. 1 January 2025

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](mailto:metea@allencountyparks.org) for free e-mailed copies.

Allen County Parks website:  
[www.allencountyparks.org](http://www.allencountyparks.org)

Fox Island Alliance website:  
[www.foxislandalliance.org](http://www.foxislandalliance.org)

Friends of Metea  
[Facebook page](#)

***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 Hometown between Gump and Hathaway Roads

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

**Deer Run Wilderness Area** – Program access by permission only

**Allen County Hanauer Reserve** – Easterday Road rental facility



[www.nistem.org](http://www.nistem.org)

**Allen County Parks is a partner in the NISTEM network**



[www.allencountytrailblazers.org](http://www.allencountytrailblazers.org)

**Allen County Parks is a partner in Allen County Trailblazers**

**WE WANT SNOW! Cross country ski rental will be available at Metea if we get 4” of snow. We also have a sled hill at Metea!**

## **Is Fox Island worth becoming a “Natural Landmark”?** by Natalie Haley, Park and Education Manager – Fox Island

While park staff have been busy prepping several of the interior spaces of our nature center this month, more historical treasures were revealed. I found an “Evaluation of Fox Island Allen County, Indiana for eligibility for Registered Natural Landmark”, prepared by Dr. Marion T. Jackson, Professor of Life Sciences at Indiana State University, May, 1973. You may remember Dr. Jackson as the editor for the book: “The Natural Heritage of Indiana”. This book was the first survey of the natural beauty and environmental problems of the state of Indiana. The book is illustrated with photographs by the some of the state’s best nature photographers. It contains essays by 38 of Indiana’s notable scholars and environmental protectors.

Upon recommendation by the Director of the Northwest Region of the National Park Service, Dr. Jackson spent most of the day on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972, photographing and completing an on-site inspection of the Fox Island area. “In addition, Chapter 83 of Natural Areas of Indiana and Their Preservation was reviewed. Study reports and species lists compiled by Mr. Robert Weber, botany teacher at Fort Wayne South Side High School and his students; Dr. John Klotz and his students at Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46825; and by J. Edward Parrot, University of Dallas, were valuable aids in preparing this report.”

At this time, the tract known as Fox Island was 200 acres owned by the Allen County Park Board. Proposed acquisitions hoped to increase the area to just over one square mile. We have achieved 605 acres as of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Dr. Jackson states that “the old growth black oak-dominated forest on the dunal ridge has apparently never been cut. Some parts of the stand (particularly in the East section) have smaller trees and abundant aspen in the canopy.” He suggests that “such areas were likely opened by windthrow or fire several years ago. Most of the marshland appears

unmodified from the original situation, although some lowering of the water table may have resulted from the Graham-McCulloch Drainage Ditch.” He goes on to describe the borrow pit (Bowman Lake) was dug when I-69 was built. “A pine plantation of a few acres is located near the entry lane in the south sector. Most of the trees are scotch pine ranging in height from 15-25 feet”. This indicates a Christmas tree planting. Much of the western section and some of the southern and eastern portions are in old field and early woodland seral stages. Grazing and an active dairy farm was in the area. The land being used for crop land is listed as “doubtful due to the droughty sandy or poorly-drained lowland soils.”

Dr. Jackson mentions a few “dangers to the integrity of the area”: “For several years abandoned automobiles have been left at several locations within the Fox Island area by irresponsible people.” The “bullet-ridden nature of these derelict cars attests to the frequency of visits by hunters and target shooters.” Unfortunately, it gets worse. He states that the “greatest destruction is presently being wrought by trail motorcycles and other all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s). Three teen-aged cyclists were churning the Plainfield sandy soil into a miniature dust bowl the day I (Dr. Jackson) was there. They showed complete disregard for foot traffic and attempted to crowd me away from the trail. Entire plant communities and soil profiles were being ground up by the tires and in at least one location a cycle jump had been created by excavating into the hillside.” “Mosquitoes presented a serious annoyance in the heavy woods, even when mid-day in mid-summer.”

On a positive note Jackson stated: “The outstanding ecological and education value of Fox Island lies in its great habitat diversity. The entire moisture spectrum from open water to sand dunes is represented, with complete hydrospheres (open water) and xeroseres (dry sand dunes) available within close proximity. Nowhere in Indiana except at Lake Michigan Dunes is such a range of habitat conditions represented within such a small area.”

The black oak (*Quercus velutina*)–dominated forest on the Plainfield sandy soil presented a near-maximum forest development for such a xeric (dry sandy) site. The largest tree at the site was 43.2” dbh (diameter at breast height) near the entrance lane. This was most likely his description of our beloved old black oak that was felled by the Derecho storm of 2022. Species noted were prickly ash, wild sarsaparilla, alum root, Indian cucumber-root, glaucous spiderwort and cinnamon fern. The wetlands included open water and extensive marsh with both small and large duckweeds floating on the water on June 30, 1972. The marsh was dominated by cattail, swamp dock, bulrush, and water-plantain. The open meadows including old-field grasses and forbs including huge colonies of brown-eyed Susans and Venus’ looking glass. A survey of spring flora by members of Bob Weber’s biology class listed the common forest and meadow species plus unusual species such as skunk cabbage, wild columbine, marsh marigold, and trailing arbutus.

A bird list provided by Edward Parrot listed 83 species, including 3 raptors and 12 species of warblers. We now have 218 bird species listed on eBird. Dr. Jackson states the “environmental educational potential of the tract is enormous since it is the only large natural area within the hour’s drive of the ¼ million residents of the area.”

Due to the features described here, Dr. Jackson placed it “in good stead for inclusion in the National Landmark program.”

Presently, the Fox Island Nature Preserve will have amendments made to the Master Plan of the Fox Island Nature Preserve. The public hearing for these amendments was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00AM in Fox Island’s Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building. These amendments allow for:

- 1.) The removal of coarse woody debris with equipment on tracks, such as a feller-buncher or track loader, to allow access by managers, and for the removal of heavy fuel in areas where native grasses will be planted as fuel for prescribed burns.
- 2.) Aggressive management of invasive and weeding plant species, both native and non-native, will be removed in areas where their heavy presence within those areas will compete with the desired forest ecosystem, such as a black oak savannah or an Oak-Hickory climax forest.
- 3.) In some areas prescribed burning will remove unwanted natives. Aggressive invasive species management will be utilized by using both physical and chemical methods such as pulling, cutting/mowing, digging, trapping and pesticides in areas where they become undesirable to achieve the desired forest ecosystem.
- 4.) Hunting and trapping under the laws of the State of Indiana may be permitted within the Nature Preserve with the written approval of the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves, in order to control problems of overpopulation of specific animal species. It is understood that this Nature Preserve is intended foremost as a refuge for wildlife and plant communities, and that **such action may only be taken when specific animal populations threaten to degrade the natural integrity of the Nature Preserve by substantially decreasing other plant and animal populations.**

### Upcoming Programs for Winter

*Program fees are usually \$3.00 per person cash or check only unless otherwise stated. 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.*

<b>Adopt a Forest</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>At your convenience (during park hours)</b>	<b>10:00AM-2:00PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join us in restoring Fox Island by removing invasive shrubs from our restoration sites at Fox Island year-round. I will meet with you individually and assign you a location to remove invasive plants on any day that the herbicide isn't freezing this winter. Bring your lunch! Warm clothes, long sleeves, long pants, hat, eye and hand protection recommended.	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. N/A Max. N/A	To register: Call Natalie: 449-3246, 449-3180  We have limited equipment for cut/stump treatments, but we will share what we have. Herbicide is provided.

<b>Preschool Story Time &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 7, Tuesday</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
F is for Freeze. What things in nature freeze? Come find out and take a short hike to find things that are frozen. Come dressed for the weather.	Cost: \$2/child Pre-register by: 1/2 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 7, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 5, Max. 20	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Nature Storytime at the Aboite Library</b>		<b>Waynedale Library</b>
<b>January 8, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>	
H is for Hibernation. Join Eva Webb from Fox Island County Park for fun hands-on learning through stories & activities about Hibernation. This special nature story time will be at the Aboite Branch Library.	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Nature Story Time</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>January 8, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	
<b>Owls</b> Join Jennifer from the Grabill Branch Library and Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park as we learn about the great outdoors! Each session will focus on a nature theme with stories, activities and hands-on learning. We'll meet in the Nature Center then do a little outdoor exploring if weather permits.	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 1/05	To register or for more information: <a href="https://acpl.libnet.info/events">https://acpl.libnet.info/events</a>  or Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Winter Hike Series</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26</b>	<b>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
Come and join naturalist Sydney on a guided hike. Come and make friends, build community, and get outside. All ages are welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome too.	Free with park entry fee	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Mid-Day Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 10, Friday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Come to the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building to partake in a community drum circle. Bring a drum if you have one. There are limited drums and percussion instruments available to borrow.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Scrap/Craft Night with the Ladies of Fox Island</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 11, May 23, July 25, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7 &amp; Dec. 5, 2025, Fridays</b>	<b>5:00PM-11:00PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
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. Many bring a snack to share. The pizza and snacks are 100% optional.	Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. 22	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:foxisland@allencountyparks.org">foxisland@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3246, 449-3180 Natalie Haley

<b>Cross-Country Ski Workshop</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>January 11, Saturday</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	
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: \$10.00 includes one-hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$3.00 if bringing your own equipment. Pre-register by: 1/08 Min: 5, Max: 15	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:metea@allencountyparks.org">metea@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Winter Mammal Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>January 11, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
What do animals do in the harsh cold winter? Come and learn how our wildlife prepares and survives the cold on this easy mile hike for the whole family. 1-mile hike	Free with admission	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Full Wolf Moon Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>January 12, Sunday</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	
We don't hear wolves around here anymore, but we now have coyotes. We'll stalk through the night woods learning about our local predators and how they get through winter.	Cost: \$3.00 Pre-register by: 1/10 Min. 5 Max. 45	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Full Wolf Moon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 13, Monday</b>	<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join us for an interactive hike on this Full Wolf Moon evening.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by 1/10 Min. 5 , Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Full Wolf Moon Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 13, Monday</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Bring a drum if you have one. There will be a limited of drums available to borrow. Join in this community building experience!	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by 1/10 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 14, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 3, Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Nature Story Time and Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 15, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
H is for Hibernation! Join the environmental educator to learn more about this through story, songs, and a hike.	Cost: \$2/child Pre-register by: 1/10 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Monthly Birding Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 18, Saturday</b>	<b>9:05 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join fellow birders for a birding hike. All levels of experience are welcome.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 1/15 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Women's Monthly Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 18, Saturday</b>	<b>11 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with other women who enjoy the outdoors. Meet at the Nature Center.	Free with admission, \$3 Preregister by 1/15 Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Hike on the Dune Trail</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 18, Saturday</b>	<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with the environmental educator on the Dune Trail. Please RSVP by 12/16 via email to <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> or FB message the Fox Island County Park Facebook page. Include your phone number.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 1/15 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Include phone number.

<b>Winter Art Series: Feathered Friend Feeders</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>January 18, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center Basement</b>
On the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from Jan to April join us to make art or do a craft. Come and learn about bird feeding and learn how to make your own suet birdfeeder out of a pinecone. Welcome to all ages.	Cost: \$3 Pre-register by: 1/13 Min. 5 Max:25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Forest Succession and Restoration Lecture</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 18, 2025, Saturday</b>	<b>2:00PM-4:00PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
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: 1/14 Min. 5, Max. N/A	To register: Call Natalie: 449-3246, 449-3180

<b>Monthly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 21, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 5, Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Volunteer Day at the Island</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 22, February 26, Wednesdays</b>	<b>10:00AM-2:00PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Various volunteer projects for the Island include wiping down the nature center, redoing exhibits, weeding gardens, painting/staining, mulching and planting natives. Show up and bring your lunch. We love to work, but also love to socialize! Please pre-register so we know what we can get done as a group.	FREE with admission Pre-register by: (5 days before program) Min. 5 Max. N/A	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:foxisland@allencountyparks.org">foxisland@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3246, 449-3180 Natalie Haley

<b>Coffee and Cardinals</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>January 25, Saturday</b>	<b>10-11 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Come and enjoy our bird watching area with our naturalist and learn about some of the birds here in Indiana while sipping on a warm cup of coffee, or hot chocolate.	Cost: \$3 Pre-register by: 1/20 Min. 5 Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>January 28, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 5, Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Cross-Country Ski Workshop</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>February 1, Saturday</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	
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: \$10.00 includes one-hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$3.00 if bringing your own equipment. Pre-register by: 1/30 Min: 5, Max: 15	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:metea@allencountyparks.org">metea@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Evergreen Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>February 1, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
Discover the secrets behind the survival of evergreen trees in the harsh winter. Join us for a 1.5-mile hike as we learn about pine, spruce, and other evergreen trees. Great for families and school age children.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Groundhog Day</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>February 2, Sunday</b>	<b>4 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
As the weather continues cold, we all wonder when spring warmth will be arriving. One of our native animals has a reputation for being able to tell when – the groundhog. We are going to encourage him with a little celebration held in his honor. Learn about hibernation, the history of woodchuck weathermen, sing some Groundhog Day songs, and go looking for our own Metea Park Marvin. Will he see his shadow? Or will he just hibernate through his special day? Meet in the nature center basement classroom.	Cost: \$3.00 Pre-register by: 1/30 Min. 5 Max. 20	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Preschool Story Time &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 4, Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join environmental educator for a nature themed story time, G s for Groundhog, including songs, story, movement and a hike.	Cost: \$2/child Register by: 2/2 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 4, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb



<b>Nature Story Time</b>		<b>Grabill Library</b>
<b>February 5, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	
<b>Groundhogs and Groundhog Day</b> Special guest Bob Dispenza, from Metea County Park, will be here to offer hands-on learning as we share stories and activities all about our big, beautiful world. This special nature story time at the Grabill Branch happens on the first Wednesday of the month. We also meet at Metea County Park on the second Wednesday of the month for a more in-depth look at the natural world; so be sure to register for "Family Storytime at Metea County Park" as well!	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 2/02	To register or for more information: <a href="https://acpl.libnet.info/events">https://acpl.libnet.info/events</a>  or Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Nature Storytime &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Waynedale Library Branch</b>
<b>February 10, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	
Join environmental educator for a nature themed story time, F is for Frozen, including songs, story, movement and a hike.	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 11, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join in the Weekly January Hike Series every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3 p.m.	Free with admission, \$3 Min. 5, Max	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Full Hunger Moon Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>February 11, Tuesday</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	
Even though it's the shortest month, February seems to last a long time. For native wildlife trying to survive, it could last a lifetime. We'll look at the strategies the survivors use to get to spring.	Cost: \$3.00 Pre-register by: 2/09 Min. 5 Max. 45	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Nature Story Time</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>February 12, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	
<b>Groundhogs and Groundhog Day</b> Join a librarian from the Grabill Branch Library and Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park as we learn about the great outdoors! Each session will focus on a nature theme with stories, activities and hands-on learning. We'll meet in the Nature Center then do a little outdoor exploring if weather permits.	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 2/10	To register or for more information: <a href="https://acpl.libnet.info/events">https://acpl.libnet.info/events</a>  or Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Full Moon Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 12, Wednesday</b>	<b>6 PM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Join in a community drum circle in the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building. Call or FB Message Fox Island County Park to reserve your spot.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 2/5 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Full Snow Moon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 12, Wednesday</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join us for an interactive hike on this Full Snow Moon evening.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 2/5 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Monthly Mid-Day Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 14, Friday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Come to the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building to partake in a community drum circle. Bring a drum if you have one. Limited drums and percussion instruments are available to borrow.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: - Min. 5 Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Winter Art Series: Winter Nature Journal</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>February 15, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center Basement</b>
On the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from Jan to April join us to make art or do a craft. Join us in making our own winter nature journal. We will be drawing the beauty of nature in winter in a journal you get to take home and continue on your own. Join us for short hike and journaling as we enjoy the beauty of nature.	Cost: \$6 Pre-register by: 2/10 Min. 5 Max.25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Hike on the Dune Trail</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 15, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with the environmental educator on the Dune Trail. Please RSVP by 2/10 via email to <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> or FB message the Fox Island County Park Facebook page. Include your phone number.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 2/13 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a>

<b>Monthly Birding Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 15, Monday</b>	<b>9:05 AM</b>	<b>VDWOB</b>
Join fellow birders for a birding hike. All levels of experience are welcome.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 2/13 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Women's Monthly Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 15, Saturday</b>	<b>11 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with other women who enjoy the outdoors. Meet at the Nature Center. This is hike comes with park entry fee (\$3).	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by 2/13 Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Preschool Story Time &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 17, Monday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join environmental educator, Eva, for nature themed story time, F is for Frozen. There will be songs, story and a hike. This is part 2 of the story time partnership with the Waynedale public library that takes place at Fox Island County Park.	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: 2/12 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 18, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission, \$3 Pre-register by: -- Min. 5, Max. 20	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Winter Tree ID Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>February 22th, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
All trees look the same in winter... well not quite. Come and learn how trees survive in the winter and how to identify them in the winter. 1-mile hike.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock



<b>Monthly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>February 25, Saturday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission Pre-register by: 2/23 Min. 5, Max. 20	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Metea History Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>March 1, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
Come and learn about the history behind Metea County Park and the history of Chief Metea on this easy 1-mile hike	Free with admission	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Preschool Story Time &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 4, Tuesday</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join environmental educator, Eva, for nature themed story time, A is for Alive. There will be songs, story, and a hike. Call or FB Message to register by 2/28.	Cost: \$2/child Pre-register by 3/2 Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 4, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Women's Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>March 8, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
Women take a break and come out to Metea County Park as we go on a mindfulness hike through the forest. Enjoy and experience nature with your senses. Dogs are welcome on this 1.5-mile hike	Free with admission Pre-register by 3/6	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 11, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Preschool Nature Story Time</b>		<b>Aboite Library Branch</b>
<b>March 12, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>	
Join environmental educator, Eva, for nature themed story time, T is for Thaw. There will be songs, story and movement.	FREE	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Nature Story Time</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>March 12, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	
<b>Animal Tracks</b> Join a librarian from the Grabill Branch Library and Bob Dispenza from Metea County Park as we learn about the great outdoors! Each session will focus on a nature theme with stories, activities and hands-on learning. We'll meet in the Nature Center then do a little outdoor exploring if weather permits.	Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 3/10	To register or for more information: <a href="https://acpl.libnet.info/events">https://acpl.libnet.info/events</a>  or Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Full Sap Moon Hike and Lunar Eclipse</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>March 13, Thursday</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	
With warmer weather, the ground begins to thaw and the sap rises in the maple trees. Sugaring season is here! Weather permitting, we will visit a maple syrup operation and see what else – besides sap - is coming up in the woods. We will also prepare to see the lunar eclipse later in the night.	Cost: \$3.00 Pre-register by: 3/10 Min. 5 Max. 45	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Mid-Day Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 14, Friday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Bld</b>
Come to the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building for a community drum circle. Bring your drum or borrow from our limited collection of drums & percussion.	Free w/ entry (\$3)  Min. 5; Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Full Worm Moon Drum Circle</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 14, Friday</b>	<b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Bld</b>
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.	Free with admission Pre-register by: 3/13 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Full Worm Moon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 14, Friday</b>	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join us for an interactive hike on this Full Worm Moon evening.	Free with admission Pre-register by: 3/13 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Monthly Birding Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 15, Saturday</b>	<b>9:05 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join fellow birders for a birding hike. All levels of experience are welcome.	Free with admission Pre-register by: 3/12 Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Women's Monthly Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 15, Saturday</b>	<b>11 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with other women who enjoy the outdoors. Meet at the Nature Center. This hike comes with park entry fee (\$3).	Free with admission Pre-register by 3/12 Minimum: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Hike on the Dune Trail</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 15, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Hike with the environmental educator on the Dune Trail. Please RSVP by 3/10 via email to <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> or FB message the Fox Island County Park Facebook page. Include your phone number.	Free with admission Pre-register by: 3/12 Min. 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a>

<b>Winter Art Series: Nature Prints</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>March 15, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center Basement</b>
On the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from Jan to April join us to make art or do a craft. Create your own work of art using nature such as leaves, acorns, and pinecones. Great for families needing a fun indoor winter activity.	Cost: \$3 Pre-register by: 3/10 Min. 5 Max. 25	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 18, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Preschool Story Time &amp; Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 19, Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Join environmental educator, Eva, for nature themed story time, T is for Thaw. There will be songs, story, movement, and a hike. Come dressed for the weather. Call or FB message to register by 3/17.	Cost: \$2/child Pre-register by 3/17 Min: 5	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Spring Equinox Hike</b>		<b>Metea County Park Nature Center</b>
<b>March 21, Friday</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	
We'll be a little late, but Spring has arrived! Let's go look emerging life and listen for frogs calling.	Cost: \$3 Pre-register by: 3/19 Min.5 Max. 35	To register: Email: <a href="mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org">bdispenza@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

<b>Weekly Afternoon Hike</b>		<b>Fox Island County Park</b>
<b>March 25, Tuesday</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Nature Center</b>
Meet at the Fox Island County Park Nature Center. This hike led by the environmental educator is free with park entrance fee. All ages welcome. Dogs on leash are welcome. Come on out!	Free with admission Min. 5, Max. 30	To register or for more information: Email: <a href="mailto:ewebb@allencountyparks.org">ewebb@allencountyparks.org</a> Eva Webb

<b>Frogs and Toads: Voices of Spring</b>		<b>Metea County Park</b>
<b>March 29, Saturday</b>	<b>1 PM – 2 PM</b>	<b>Meet at Nature Center</b>
Come join us on a hike as we talk about amphibians as they emerge in early spring. We will discuss their calls and where they might live in our park. Great for families. 1-mile hike.	Free with admission	For more information: Email: <a href="mailto:sschrock@allencountyparks.org">sschrock@allencountyparks.org</a> Call: 449-3778 Sydney Schrock