

Fall Welcome

Welcome to autumn in the dunes. Mother Nature has many exciting changes to share with you on your visit. The leaves are undergoing their usual beautiful change of hue while the night air is getting cooler and the sunny days are getting shorter. It is a great time to grab a light wrap and head for one of the many tree lined trails within our Indiana Dunes.

Autumn is also the time for festivals check the insert for complete details of the upcoming special events at the Indiana Dunes State Park and the National Lakeshore.

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National Lakeshore to host Architecture Tour

by Angel Gochee-Goins

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, in partnership with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, will host "Architecture Tour" on Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7. Included in the tour will be two of the five 1933 Century of Progress World's Fair homes – the Florida Tropical House and the Cypress Log Cabin. The Weiboldt-Rostone House, the House of Tomorrow and the Armco-Ferro House are not included in the tour as they are still undergoing major restoration. Two Lustron homes and the Gust Lindstrom site will also be included in the tour.

The 1933 Century of Progress World's Fair opened along the Chicago lakefront in May of 1933. Within the Home and Industrial Arts Group were model homes that featured modern materials, building methods and innovative home appliances and included four of the homes. Unlike the other houses, the Cypress Log Cabin was built as an exhibition building and was the only building to actually serve as a home during the fair. After the close of the fair in 1934, Robert Bartlett, a northwest Indiana real estate developer, purchased the houses and moved them to Beverly Shores. Most were barged across Lake Michigan between December 1934 and June 1935 except the Cypress Log Cabin which arrived by truck on December 27, 1934.

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Florida Tropical House, front elevation, from "A Century of Progress Homes and Furnishings as exhibited at the World's Fair, Chicago, 1934" Dorothy Raley, Editor, M.A. Ring Company Publishers, Chicago.

Greetings From New State Park Interpretive Naturalist

by Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Dunes State Park Naturalist

Greetings Dunes Echo readers! Some of you I have had the pleasure to meet, others I haven't. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Brad Bumgardner and I come into the Indiana Dunes State Park as the new head Interpretive Naturalist. This summer Mike Mycroft, the well loved naturalist here, transferred to Indianapolis as the State's Resource Specialist.

I have been associated with the Indiana State Parks for many years, camping as a youth in many of the State's great parks, and eventually holding a naturalist position at Pokagon State Park for the last six years. The move to this ecologically rich area has been exciting! I bring with me my girlfriend and her children, as well as a varied natural resources background. On your next visit to the Nature Center in the State Park, you will see my two main passions... environmental interpretation and ornithology. By all means, come by and share your bird sightings! During the next year, I hope to offer a varied program schedule. New special events, combined with new state of the art exhibits are on my to do list. Even if you can not get out to visit us in the park, be sure to check out all of the happenings here at www.interpretiveservices.in.gov.

Few experiences in life are better than being in the right Place at the right time with the right experience to take on an important, interesting new job. An area like the Indiana Dunes has been a dream, going back to my early days running up Devil's slide. I hope you will take the time to visit the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center and introduce yourself. Better yet, jump on the staircase in the West Lot and join me for some early morning fall migration from atop the old green tower site!



New State Park Interpretive Naturalist, Brad Bumgardner, stands beside the new shipwreck interpretive sign located by the Beach Pavilion.

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The Lustron company was founded in 1946 and developed an all steel house to help alleviate the post-WWII housing crisis and produced about 2500 homes before declaring bankruptcy in 1950. Aimed at the middle-class market, the basic five room Lustron house had a 32'x36' open plan. One of the Lustron homes included in the "Architecture Tour" is a deluxe three-bedroom house.

The Gust Lindstrom site is the current location of the Field Station Cooperative, a preschool offering nature-focused classes. The original residence started as a two-room log cabin with a loft circa 1870. As the Lindstrom family prospered, a larger residence was built encircling the log cabin. Family members believe this enlargement occurred between 1900 and 1910 by Arthur Wahl and that the barn was constructed around WWI.

The "Architecture Tour" is open only by reservation. For reservations, call the national lakeshore at 219-926-7561, extension 261 on September 18, 19 or 20 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. only. The number of available reservations is limited to 300 visitors each day of the tour.

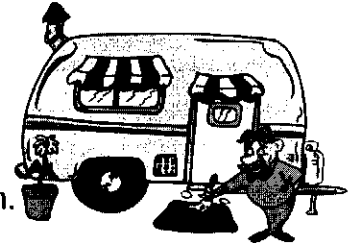
Special thanks to Judy Collins, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Historical Architect, for providing the detailed background information on these special homes.

Camping After Labor Day

by Kathy Wilder and Angel Gochee-Goins

Historically, camping for the most part began as a way of life. The NW Indiana campsite was a dwelling for people like the American Indians and the early settlers. Sometimes it was just a place to bed down for the night for voyageurs, fur traders, hunters, militia and eventually travelers. It was not somewhere you went for a week or a weekend to get away from life.

The camp site is still used today as an overnight accommodation for many travelers. However, everyone has their own idea of what camping is all about. For example, roughing it for some means a large RV with all the bells and whistles and for others a tent and a few simple supplies will do. Campsites will be as diverse as the individual campers inhabiting them.



If you have never been camping before, start out slow. Take a weekend, pack the car with some supplies and find a campground close to home such as the Indiana Dunes State Park or National Lakeshore. That way if something goes wrong or for whatever reason you do not like it, home will be just down the road. But we are sure you will love it, like we do.

What makes a successful camping trip? Well, we feel if you did not kill each other, starve, freeze, get washed away by rain, eaten by wild animals and you left feeling good about the trip, consider it a success.

For the adventurous campers like us, off-season camping (between Labor Day and Memorial Day) can be an exciting time to enjoy the great outdoors. The crowds are less and the campgrounds are still open and functioning. Most of the pesky bugs are not around, so sitting outdoors in the evening is pleasant. It is chilly enough to make a warming campfire pleasant and Smores tastier. However, it may require additional equipment and planning.



The Dunewood Campground at the National Lakeshore has 53 conventional drive-in sites and 25 walk-in sites. It is open from April 1 to October 31 and is located off Route 12 in Beverly Shores. There are no electrical hookups but the comfort stations contain restrooms with flush toilets and showers. All sites rent for \$15.00 per night and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, reservations are not accepted.

The Indiana Dunes State Park Campground is open year round and includes two heated comfort stations containing flush toilets and showers. There are 140 sites with 50 amp. service, two play areas and a picnic shelter. The campground is connected to the beach and the Nature Center via a well developed trail system. Sites rent for \$17.00 – \$28.00 per night. Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling 1-866-622-6746 or at www.CAMP.IN.gov

Both the National Lakeshore and State Park allow pets in the campground but they must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive days at both campgrounds. So get packed and start enjoying the Indiana Dunes this Fall and Winter. Let us know when the Smores are ready to eat!!!



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Our mission is to enhance and foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Indiana Dunes through financial and volunteer support of the state and national parks.

Join the Friends

Friends of Indiana Dunes are just that, individuals who care about the Indiana Dunes. The State Park and the National Lakeshore are priceless natural resources in the midst of the heartland's largest metropolitan area. The Friends sponsor various events during the year to benefit these parks.



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Friends of Indiana Dunes

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