

Summer Welcome

Welcome to summer! Time to get out and enjoy the many beaches and trails within our dunes. Summer beckons you to experience its longer days filled with the warmth of the sun. Grab a blanket or towel, pack a lunch and spend a day at the beach. Stay awhile, enjoy the warm breezes and watch one of our spectacular sun downs. Consider staying a few days – the camping is always fun in the dunes.



Angel Gochee-Goins
Newsletter Editor

Friends of Indiana Dunes Board Members

Chairman: Zella Olson
Secretary: Kathy Wilder
Treasurer: Roy Olson

Members: Michael Badowski,
Janet Clark, Dorothy Meyers,
Jim Slamkowski, and Sue
Squire

www.friendsofindianadunes.org

In Partnership With:



Native Plant Sale

The 15th Annual Native Plant Sale was a great success, our net profit was \$8230.00. We had beautiful plants, trees and shrubs, many thanks to Connor Shaw at Possibility Place Nursery. Laura and Terry our contacts at the nursery were a big help in the selection of the plants that were available for the sale.

Laura and Connor were available at the sale to talk to our customers about where and when to plant their selections. We are currently working with them in selecting new plants for next year, this is the time of year they plant the seeds for next years plants. We hope to bring in new ideas and information on native plants.

Thanks to all our Volunteers and Master Gardeners who helped out, it would not have been possible without you. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. The funds raised will be used to support the interpretive and resource management programs of the Indiana Dunes.

Friends Update

By Zella Olson, Chair

On May 19th the superintendent of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore terminated our General and Fundraising Agreements. Reasons given were; "Requirements for accountability, transparency, and responsibility in raising and spending funds for national parks have come under increased scrutiny. The National Park Service is expected to assure that all partnerships meet these standards".

Mr. Dillon ask that we terminate our support of the Indiana Dunes State Park and exclusively be Friends of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Reasons given were; "We respect the Friends interest in supporting both parks, but funds raised for the National Park Service or on behalf of the national lakeshore must be tracked separately from funds raised on behalf of the state park".

In Mr. Dillon's letter he says; "We have repeatedly asked the Friends to develop a system to assure that funds be tracked in a manner consistent with federal regulations, but you have not provided us with an accounting that provides such transparency."

We use Quick Books Not-for-Profit accounting system, maintain three checking accounts, and eighteen separate investments accounts including CD's. We have a bank account and investments accounts for all restricted funds that were raised or donated for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. We have repeatedly said the books were available for audit but they have never audited our books, and we have also given them all information they asked for.

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Our purpose; "This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and literary purposes, including for such purposes, making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To promote all types of charitable, educational, and literacy work in Northwest Indiana ".

We have retained an attorney to respond to Mr. Dillon's erroneous accusations. Mr. Dillon's letter and our response is posted on our Website (www.friendsofindianadunes.org) or contact the Chair, Zella Olson, at phone 219-926-3833 or e-mail zrolson@frontier.com.

Friends Sponsors Shipwreck Event at State Park

By Brad Bumgardner, Park Interpreter, Indiana Dunes State Park

After a scorching week of early summer sun, the weekend of June 11 and 12 brought a cool down and north winds to the shore of Lake Michigan. What better weather to educate the public on the dangers of Lake Michigan and the graveyard that lies below her surface. The Friends and Indiana Dunes State Park commemorated the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the J.D. Marshall on June 11 with a series of shipwreck programming for both kids and adults. The Underwater Archaeology Society of Chicago also assisted by offering shipwreck programs at the park Nature Center, while the Friends assisted in the unveiling of new underwater video photography of the J.D. Marshall. In today's economy and gas prices, providing this was no small feat!

Even though the event is past, folks are welcome to visit the Nature Center to see the new videos created as the park continues to educate folks about this unique cultural resource just off shore of the state park.

Birdathon Another Success in 2011

By Brad Bumgardner, Park Interpreter, Indiana Dunes State Park

What an interesting day for a birdathon. Some of the wettest and chilliest May birding greeted Holly Meyers, Dave Meyers, Matt Kalwasinski, Mandy Kalwasinski, and myself to tour the Lake Michigan lakeshore searching for every bird we could find. We failed to reach our goal of 130 species, but ranked high amongst other teams out that day. The cold, windy weather made it difficult to find singing birds. We recorded many notable birds, while missing some painfully obvious ones that you would have expected us to get, such as most hawks, rails, and even a red-headed woodpecker! Our total for the day was 126 species of birds!

We did however, have a great time listening to warblers, watching shorebirds, and enjoying the rare chance to be outside in nature for over 15 hours in a row! We thank those that pledged and helped the Singing Sand-piper raise over \$1,750.00 for special programming at the Indiana Dunes State Park.



Special thanks to the \$1.00/species club members below:

Adele Deprizio

Frank Fransioli

Stan and Karen Kalwasinski

Don and Peg Mohar

James Ruge

Tim and Anne Walsh

Chesterton Feed & Garden Center



School Trip Grant Applications Due

Teachers, teachers, teachers!!! No, I'm not giving the call of the Ovenbird (very cheesy naturalist joke)! We want to call all teachers to let them know of the new Indiana Dunes State Park Field Trip Education Grants now available for the next school year. You can apply by picking up an application at the Nature Center or at: http://www.arealinks.net/FOID/pdf/2011/FOID_school_grant_2011.pdf.

Funding made possible by the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Application deadline is July 15.

Friends and State Park Combine Forces for an Indiana Dunes Summer!

By Brad Bumgardner, Park Interpreter
Indiana Dunes State Park

Summer is here! The Indiana Dunes State Park is that perfect place to let unspoiled nature and authentic character revive your spirits. Thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes, a multitude of special programs and activities will await for you to come outside and play among the wind, water, earth and sky!

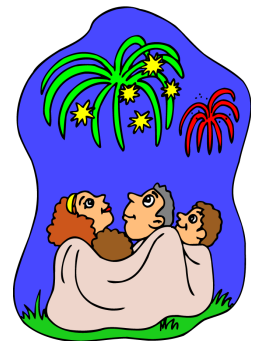
As I enter my tenth year as an Indiana State Park interpreter it serves well to step back and realize the great value that our parks provide, as well as the different Friends groups throughout the state. By far, the largest and most influential in Indiana is the one right here, the Friends of Indiana Dunes. I can't imagine the variety of activities and programming that would not be possible if it were not for the donations and volunteer time provided by the Friends... by you!

Dunes State Park Summer Nature Camps! June 28-30 and August 2-4

The Friends of Indiana Dunes is co-sponsoring a second year of summer camps at the state park this summer. Each three day session is packed with activities for kids 7-14. The August camp also includes an optional overnight camping experience at the state park. Register early by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 before all the slots are filled!

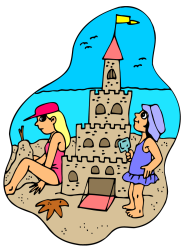
FIREWORKS!!! July 1, approximately 9pm

For the third year in a row, plans are underway for the Tri-town firework show, to be held again just off the swimming beach at Indiana Dunes State Park. Like any beach day, parking will be limited, and traffic will be congested. All park visitors will want to plan early (minimum 2 hours before showtime). For questions or status in case of inclement weather call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 before 5pm or main gate at 219-926-1952 after 5pm.



Dunes Pavilion Sunset History Tour. July 23, 7:30pm

Join park interpreter Brad Bumgardner for an evening tour of this amazing lakefront icon. We'll delve into the changing role this limestone construction has had over the years while we make our way to the top for a special rooftop sunset view! Meet in front of the state park pavilion, rain or shine.



14th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest! July 9, 9am-1pm

It's back for another year! Grab your shovel and pails and carve out that best sand creation for great prizes. Last year over 25 entries graced the state park beach, vying for top honors! Contest activities begin at the beach pavilion (west side) and voting begins at noon. Even if you're not an artist, come by and vote for your favorite in the ever popular "Viewer's Choice" Award! Program is free, after normal weekend gate fees. Prizes provided by the Friends.

3rd Annual Perseid Stargaze. August 13, 8:30pm-Dawn?

This year's stargaze should be timed just right with the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. What better place to view up to 60 shooting stars an hour than at the state park beach. Enjoy some late summer constellation talks, while watching "nature's fireworks"! Some of the best meteor activity occurs after midnight, so bring a blanket and stay out all night! Program is free, after normal weekend gate fees. Program information can be found by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.



This is just a small sampling of the many great activities that will be going on this summer. You can check the Nature Center program schedule for a listing of all the activities, and mark your calendars to join us. Many of our day to day activities at the State Park are sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

