



Eagle Creek Park Volunteer News

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

Volume 9 Issue 1

Happy New Year!

By Carrie K. Williams, Supervisor of Nature Centers—We hope your year is off to a good start. Although this is often considered "slow time" in Eagle Creek Park - it sure doesn't feel like it! Staff is busily working on summer camp programming, school programming, Funguide classes, updating websites, and keeping our doors open to the cold weather loving public. This snowfall has been welcomed by snow-shoers and cross country skiers - and has provided a beauti-

ful backdrop in the park. Although it is winter, it's not too early to think of honey bees - we will be offering a beekeeping workshop at the EDC in January. Also check out the OC - there are a number of new classes being offered in winter/spring! So if you are feeling cabin-fever, come and check out the nature centers and trails in Eagle Creek Park. We look forward to working with you in 2011 and thank you for your continued support in its many forms!

Second Floor of OC Gets a Redo

By Gerald Skoll, EC Boats—My team is working an over-winter project rehabilitating the second floor of the Ornithology Center. Jointly funded by the Indianapolis Parks and the Eagle Creek Park Foundation, the effort should result in the second floor being transformed into a bright, pleasant workspace. The old carpeting has already been mostly removed, revealing a solid but variously coated oak floor. In late January an outside contractor will strip off the carpet glues and darkened old varnish, sand the floor down to bare wood and seal it with a natural coating that will enhance the beauty of the original red oak floor. The volunteers have begun repair of previous north wall water damage. The walls will then be repainted in some earth tone combination and the fireplace area will receive special attention to preserve the character of the room. Newer office furniture has been donated by the Lilly Corporation.

To provide the ornithologists with a large, dark bird calming area, a nine by thirteen foot space in the northwest corner will be the focal point of a special project. Using a curtain hung on a ceiling track, it will be possible to isolate this area into a very dark enclosure. The tenderness of the ceiling, the steel beams in the attic and unknowns about the old lighting wiring present unusual difficulties. Finally, as the desk and work area overhead lighting is inadequate, certified electricians will be invited to bid on that work. The project is expected to be completed by April.

Volunteer Opportunities Bringing people and nature together!

- Nature Guides
- Run/walk events
- Art shows—Woodcarvers, February 12-13
- Gardening
- Indoor maintenance
- Outdoor maintenance
- Rubbish Busters
- Earth Discovery Center weekend staffing
- Historians
- Bulletin boards
- Team leaders
- Coffee Talks—first Wednesdays
- Project organizers
- Newsletter production
- Special events

Roses from Rosie

By Rosie Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator--The holidays are over and I still feel stuffed. It is time for us to begin to plan for the upcoming hikes and classes. We will need volunteers for our summer camps, we will need volunteers to lead hikes, help with fishing, help monitor kids at the beach and creek stomp with the kids. Activities are usually thirty minutes to two hours--sign up for an event a day or a whole week. Check the webpage eaglecreekdiscovery.org for dates and times. Also the Woodcarvers show is coming February 12 and 13. We will need things for breakfast and snacks for both days. If you are interested, call 327-7148 and let us know what you will provide. It will be greatly appreciated.

Have a Happy New Year!

Summer Camp is coming . . . HELP!!!

By Andrea Hopper, Naturalist--First of all, many thanks again to those who helped out last year with summer camp; now for the bug in your ear. We always need volunteers to assist with daily activities during our summer camps. Each week we will go fishing, hiking, swimming at the beach, and creek stomping. I will have a listing of those activities and their times in the volunteer sign-up binder about a month before camps start, but you can also sign up to help with a week, a day, or even a couple of hours of any camp. Camps run May 31 through July 29. Also, we are currently searching for three fun, active, great with kids, environmental education minded camp counselors. If you know of anyone who may be interested and who lives in Marion County, please ask them to apply on-line at indy.gov under the jobs tab. Thank you to everyone for everything you do. Look for more camp pleas in upcoming newsletters.

Wildlife Rehabilitator Meetings and Training

By Dawn Van Deman, Senior Naturalist--We are very pleased to have the opportunity to host meetings for IWRENS, the Indiana Wildlife Rehabilitators and Educators Network, at the Earth Discovery Center this year. Regulations and permitting for wildlife rehab in the state are going through several changes, and this is a great way for wildlife rehabilitators to keep up with the latest changes and share and update their knowledge and skills. Meetings take place on Saturdays, January 8, March 12, and April 9. If you are interested in finding out more about IWRENS, please contact Dawn Van Deman at 327-1198, dvandema@indy.gov or Shirley Needham at spaceworks@rtcol.com.

Winter Happenings at the Ornithology Center

By Brad Shoger, OC Naturalist--Winter in central Indiana is one of the most difficult seasons for wildlife to survive. Research has shown that birds visiting feeders in the winter have a higher survival rate and are healthier going into the spring breeding season than those that do not have feeder access. You can help out your local birds by providing high energy foods such as shelled peanuts and suet. However, providing food is only the first step. Birds also need good cover to shelter from harsh winter winds and avoid predators when visiting your feeders. If your yard is bare consider starting a brush pile now, you can even use an old Christmas tree, and then plant native shrubs in the spring to give the birds some year-round protection. Keep your eyes open for our winter visitors from the chilly north. It has been a good year for both Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch and Common Redpolls are just starting to make an appearance. Put out thistle, shelled peanuts, and black oil sunflower to attract them all.

2010 was a big year at the OC. We gained a Naturalist, said good bye to a Naturalist, took three new birds into our Raptor program, and those were just staffing changes. In 2011, we are expanding our educational repertoire by offering a few new classes and expanding an old favorite. This January we are presenting a basic ornithology series. The lectures are on Friday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 beginning Jan-

(Ornithology Center--Continued on page 4)

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)



By Colletta Kosiba, Master Naturalist, Master Gardener--One of the favorite trees in my yard is the eastern native scarlet oak. This tree is a relatively fast grower with a strong taproot. The scarlet oak is a popular shade tree, growing 75 feet tall, 45 feet wide with an upright to rounded shape at maturity and brilliant autumn color! Minimum seed-bearing age is 20 years. Two growing seasons are needed for the acorns to mature. Acorns are a choice wildlife food; sometimes one half of the acorns are removed by birds and squirrels while still on the tree! Deer, mice and wild turkey also enjoy the treats!



Enjoy the shade of this great ornamental tree, while you are providing food for the local fauna. What a smart choice!

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)



By Colletta Kosiba, Master Naturalist, Master Gardener--The oakleaf hydrangea is one of the few hydrangeas native to the United States. The oakleaf is one of my favorite shrubs because of the four season interest it gives you. The name is from the beautiful three, five or seven pointed large leaves which turn rich shades of red, bronze and purple in autumn and persist into the winter. Winter stems show their attractive cinnamon-tan-orange bark that shreds and peels



in thin flakes.

The six to twelve inch long pyramidal clusters of bright white flowers change to rosy-pink in late summer and finally into a soft papery rusty-brown in autumn. Flower color does not vary with soil PH.

The oakleaf hydrangea will grow in the sun or shade four to nine feet tall. The deer trim mine to a nice three and a half foot round shape each winter; the next year it grows to six or seven feet tall. It does well in drier soil. The shrub will die if it stands in soggy soil even for a short time.

The small cultivars 'Snow Queen' and 'Pee Wee' are available. Try oakleaf hydrangeas; they thrive with very little attention!



From the Gardeners

By Carol Hooker, ECP Gardeners--The gardeners are anxiously awaiting the spring thaw! In the meantime, they will be meeting after Coffee Talks and participating in the Invasives Task Force meetings. If you are interested in more information, please send an email to ecpgardener@gmail.com.

All Rubbish Busters & Wannabees:

Join Us Friday, January 21, 3 pm at the EDC

By Sandy DeLong, Rubbish Busters--Come celebrate the good work already done and plan for future endeavors. We want to acknowledge the continuous good work of Rubbish Busters in helping "our park" remain clean and inviting to all. We welcome new ideas and will make decisions on what is working well and should remain.

(Ornithology Center--Continued from page 2)

uary 7. Topics will cover Evolution and Folklore, Feathers and Anatomy, Adaptations, and Conservation. We are also offering “Friday Night Hoots,” an evening owl program in the spring, and a bird photography slideshow featuring the work of our very own photography guru, Kevin Carlsen. This year our “Learn Your Birds” program is being expanded to include Saturday mornings for three days per week and we will be birding at many locations throughout the park. For any questions regarding pricing, timing, and to register please contact the OC at 327-BIRD, 327-PARK, or visit the Eagle Creek Park website at www.eaglecreekdiscovery.org.

In addition to the new programming, we are starting a new initiative aimed at combating one of the most serious ecological threats here at Eagle Creek Park, invasive species.

What are invasive species? Why are invasive species a problem? What can I do about it? If any of these questions has ever crossed your mind, the Eagle Creek Park Invasive Species Strike Team is for you. This collaborative Team will be made up of volunteers, park naturalists, and ecologists from IndyParks. On the second saturday of every month, the Team will meet at the Ornithology Center and set out to treat invasive plant species. The Team will focus on treating satellite populations and smaller infestations in an effort to increase the effectiveness and scope of larger treatments performed by Land Stewardship. Team members will gain hands on experience in ecological restoration by manually removing invasive plants, planting native species, and even learning how to map infestations using handheld computers. Volunteers will also learn about the ecological problems caused by invasive species, different methods of control, plant identification, and habitat restoration. This Team will perform a vital role in the ecological health of Eagle Creek Park. Come enjoy the fresh air and camaraderie and help secure the ecological future of our native plants and animals in Eagle Creek Park.

<p>What: Eagle Creek Park Invasive Species Strike Team Who: Anyone 18 or older with an interest in nature When: 2nd Saturday, Monthly, Beginning January 8, 2011 9 AM – NOON Where: Ornithology Center, Eagle Creek Park How Much: Free, Coffee provided in the morning What to Bring: Dress for the weather and outdoor work, work gloves</p> <p>If you have any other questions, please contact: Brad Shoger 317-727-2473 bshoger@indy.gov</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ornithology Series Fridays January 7, 14, 21 & 28 6:30-7:30 pm Ornithology Center</p> <p><i>Covers Evolution and Folklore, Feathers and Anatomy, Adaptations, and Conservation</i></p> <p>Ages 18+, \$10 Refreshments provided Preregister at 327-PARK or 327-BIRD</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Learn Your Ducks</p> <p>Saturday, February 12 , 10-noon, OC <i>The open water of the reservoir attracts many migrating spring waterfowl. Learn who they are, where they have been, and where they are going. Duck identification and habits will be part of this program. \$5/person, ages 10+. Call 327-PARK or 327-BIRD or register at eaglecreekdiscovery.org.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meet A Raptor</p> <p>Wednesdays and Fridays 4 pm at the OC <i>Meet a live bird of prey and find out where raptors live, what they eat, and much more. Free, no registration.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday Night "Hoots"</p> <p>February & March 25, 6:30-8:30 pm, OC <i>See owls up close, dissect an owl pellet, and take a hike into the night to discover the owls of Eagle Creek. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8/person, ages 10+. Call 327-PARK or 327-BIRD or register online.</i></p>

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OC Avian Adventure call 327-BIRD for time and topic						1 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv
2 ⁹ Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	3	4	5 8:30 Coffee 9:30 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor	6 12 Boats	7 4 Meet a Raptor 6:30 Ornith Ser	8 ⁹ Invasive 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
9 ⁹ Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	10	11	12 4 Meet a Raptor	13 12 Boats	14 ⁴ Raptor 4 Beekeeping 6:30 Ornith Ser	15 ⁸ Beekeepg 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
16 ⁹ Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	17 ML King Jr Day--EDC & OC CLOSED	18	19 4 Meet a Raptor	20 12 Boats	21 ³ Rubbish 4 Meet a Raptor 6:30 Ornith Ser	22 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
23 ⁹ Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	24	25	26 4 Meet a Raptor	27 12 Boats	28 4 Meet a Raptor 6:30 Ornith Ser	29 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
30 ⁹ Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	31					

Coffee Talk
Wednesday, January 5
EDC, 8:30 am
John Thieme
"Backyard Guests or Pests"

*Learn about some interesting insects
often found in our own back yards.*

Beekeeping School

Friday, January 14, 4-9 pm
Saturday, January 15, 8 am-4 pm

\$120 registration plus \$317 for bees and beehive materials.

Visit www.indianabeekeepingschool.com to register.

February 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<div data-bbox="175 474 451 596" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>*OC Avian Adventure call 327-BIRD for time and topic</p> </div>		<p>1</p>	<p>2 8:30 Coffee 9:30 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>3 12 Boats</p>	<p>4 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>5 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>6 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>10 12 Boats</p>	<p>11 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>12 9 Woodcarv 9 Invasive Strike 10 Learn Ducks 1:30 Nature Dis</p>
<p>13 9 Birdwalk 9 Woodcarvers 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>17 12 Boats</p>	<p>18 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>19 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>20 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>21 President's Day EDC & OC CLOSED</p>	<p>22 6 App Trail</p>	<p>23 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>24 12 Boats</p>	<p>25 4 Meet a Raptor 6:30 "Hoots"</p>	<p>26 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>27 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>28</p>	<div data-bbox="597 1304 1453 1633" style="text-align: center;"> <p>The 20th Annual WOODCARVER WOODTURNER & WOODBURNER EXHIBITION AND SALE Earth Discovery Center February 12th & 13th 2011 9am - 5pm both days Many beautiful, hand-crafted items will be on display and for sale! Watch as master woodworkers demonstrate their expert skill and craftsmanship! <i>Don't miss this fun and unique art exhibit that brings woodcarvers and wood turners front and center! These talented and enjoyable artists are as interesting as their work. Some will be demonstrating, and pieces range in price starting at just a few bucks. Come check it out or volunteer to help keep participants happily fed. This free exhibit is well worth experiencing!</i></p> </div>				

**Coffee Talk
Wednesday,
February 2
8:30 am
EDC**

March 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>*OC Avian Adventure call 327-BIRD for time and topic</p>		<p>1 8 Learn Birds 6 App Trail</p>	<p>2 8:30 Coffee 9:30 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>3 8 Learn Birds 12 Boats</p>	<p>4 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>5 8 Learn Birds 1 Birds of ECP 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>6 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8 Learn Birds 6 App Trail</p>	<p>9 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>10 8 Learn Birds 12 Boats</p>	<p>11 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>12 8 Lrn Birds 9 Invasive Strike 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>13 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8 Learn Birds 6 App Trail</p>	<p>16 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>17 8 Learn Birds 12 Boats</p>	<p>18 4 Meet a Raptor 8:30 Frogwatch</p>	<p>19 8 Learn Birds 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>20 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 8 Learn Birds 6 App Trail</p>	<p>23 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>24 8 Learn Birds 12 Boats</p>	<p>25 4 Meet a Raptor 6:30 "Hoots"</p>	<p>26 8 Learn Birds 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>
<p>27 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 8 Learn Birds 6 App Trail</p>	<p>30 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>31 8 Learn Birds 12 Boats</p>	<p>Friday Night FROGWATCH March 18, 8:30-10 pm, EDC <i>Learn about frogs and frog calls; visit a pond to search for the frogs themselves! For ages 5+; not recommended for kids that aren't allowed to get dirty. \$5/person, register at 327-PARK or 327-7148 or online at eaglecreekdiscovery.org.</i></p>	

Coffee Talk
Wednesday,
March 2
8:30 am
EDC

Birds of Eagle Creek Park
Saturday, March 5
1-2 pm, OC

Join us for a slide show of the birds of Eagle Creek Park photographed by Naturalist Kevin Carlsen over the last decade. \$5, ages 10+. Call 327-PARK or 327-BIRD or register at eaglecreekdiscovery.org.

Learn Your Birds

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays
March 1- May 31, 8-9:30 am at the OC

To become a birdwatcher, you'll need binoculars, a field guide, and two strong legs. For \$20, registrants will receive a birding card good for any 10 sessions. Ages 10+ Call 327-BIRD or register at eaglecreekdiscovery.org.

Eagle Creek Park

5901 Delong Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Earth Discovery Center Phone: 317-327-7148
Ornithology Center Phone: 317-327-BIRD (2473)
Volunteer Hotline: 317-327-0101
Email: volunteer@ecpvolunteer.org
EDC Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5
OC Hours: Closed Mon; Tues-Sun 9-5;
City holidays: Mar-Oct 1-5, Nov-Feb closed

More. Outdoors... Naturally.

Rosie Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator
Natalie Nicholls, Newsletter Editor



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate and inspire our community to actively participate with our natural environment.

Get Out and Hike! Appalachian Trail Class

Tuesdays, February 22 - March 29, 6-8 pm at the EDC

This six week class offers knowledge and stories for all ages and abilities, and will empower you with information regarding trails, gear, meals, making informed choices, and seasonality. Presented by Andrew Brake, AT thru-hiker/college instructor. \$80 (with a percentage going to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Charity). For more information or to register, please email adbrake@yahoo.com or call 317-938-1199.

Earth Discovery Center Staff

Carrie K. Williams, Supervisor of
Nature Centers

Dawn Van Deman, Senior Naturalist

Kevin Carlsen, Naturalist

Andrea Hopper, Naturalist

Jay Powell, Naturalist

Brad Shoger, Naturalist

Volunteer park passes are available at the EDC desk.

Current Newsletter can be viewed online through
<http://www.eaglecreekpark.org/volunteer>

Deadline for Next Issue:
March 24

Happy Birthday to:

**January 1 - Mikel Thorne,
Rich Wagner**

January 2 - Kenneth Thomas

January 6 - Judy Aikman

January 9 - Sara Segall

**January 10 - Margaret
Mathews**

January 11 - Rudy Mueller

January 12 - Marcia Shelor

January 13 - Phil Johnson

**January 18 - Paul
Brandenburg**

**January 19 - Rosie Johnson,
Tom Nicholls**

**January 24 - Lisa Herber,
Mary Thomas**

January 28 - Ron Everhart

**January 30 - Glenna
Haberzette**

January 31 - Marilyn Knox

**February 6 - Amanda
VanDreumel**

February 10 - Luann Daub

February 11 - Cherr Hicks

February 13 - Steve Wicker

February 16 - Don Gorney

February 21 - John Thieme

February 24 - Gary Pratt

February 25 - Mark Hall

February 28 - Diane Hopper

**March 2 - Colletta Kosiba,
Keith Shields**

March 4 - Eva Zoltai

March 7 - Dorothy Finch

**March 9 - Rob Green,
Nancy Mueller**

March 10 - Jerry Bertram

March 16 - Carrie Ridinger

March 17 - Michael White

March 19 - Jessica Brown

March 20 - Naomi D'Andrea

March 21 - Dale Peiffer

**March 23 - Elizabeth Booth-
Gibson, Anne Cecere**

**March 28 - Jeff Coates,
Babbie Easter**

March 29 - Tina Meeks