



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 5

Fall in Eagle Creek Park

By Carrie K. Williams, Supervisor of Nature Centers— I may not be a huge fan of winter, but I think fall is an absolutely stunning time in the park. If you are looking for some fun activities to assist with, we are eager for help with leading school hikes (September-October), the Home School Jamboree (November), or the

Celebration of Nature Art Show (December). There are also opportunities for friendly faces at the welcome desks at both the OC and the EDC. We appreciate your time and effort, but even if these opportunities aren’t up your alley, I hope you take the chance to enjoy a hike or a drive this beautiful time of year.

Welcome to Our New Naturalist

By Jay Powell, Naturalist—Jake Brinkman recently joined the team at the Earth Discovery Center after being with the Outreach section of Indy Parks Environmental Education division since December, 2009. He’ll be based at the Earth Discovery Center, but will also help out at the Ornithology Center one or two days a week. Jake’s background is in Environmental Management and he has done work in land restoration, environmental consulting, and sustainable agriculture. He loves to hike and spend time outdoors, sharpening his Naturalist skills. We’re delighted to have him on staff and he’ll be busy over the next few months getting to know all of our wonderful volunteers – stop by and say hello if you get the chance! His contact information is Jacob.brinkman@indy.gov, 317-327-1189.



Jake feeding frogs

Volunteer Opportunities Bringing people and nature together!

- Nature Guides
- Run/walk events
- Art shows—Celebration of Nature, December 3-11
- 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—Holiday Pitch-in, December 10

Hayrides

It’s hayride season! Hayrides are available for large groups on afternoons and evenings on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through mid-November. A hayride, shelter rental and campfire are included in a package - what a great way to enjoy this time of year with friends and family! For more information please call 327-7110, press 5.

Roses from Rosie . . .

By Rosie Johnson, Retiring Volunteer Coordinator—With a sad and heavy heart I am writing my last article for the Newsletter. I feel it is time for me to try something else.

I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. If you want to keep in touch you will find me at rjohnson634@yahoo.com. Phone 317-243-0086.

Keep up the good work.

--Rosie

. . . and Roses to Rosie

Thank you, Rosie, for your years of volunteer service to the park. Rosie has been Eagle Creek Park Volunteer Coordinator since August, 2006, and was a volunteer here for several years before that. She has retired effective October 1. She did not want us to make a big hoopla over her departure, but I am sure we all want her to know how much we appreciate her service and how much we will miss her.

Enjoy your retirement, Rosie!

--the Editor

Ornithology Center News

By Anne Cecere, Naturalist—

Migration

Many of the birds have headed south to their winter homes, but others from the north are making their annual visits to Eagle Creek Park as migration continues. The mudflats north and west of the bird sanctuary have been filled with activity. Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Plovers, and Sandpipers have been seen in large numbers. Some highlights for birdwatchers have included American Avocets, Black-bellied Plovers, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls, Hudsonian Godwits and a huge flock of Lesser Yellowlegs. More than 19 species of warblers have been seen in the park, including several near the waterfall in the bird feeder area of the OC. One, the Golden-winged Warbler, is a candidate for the Federal Endangered Species list.

Coming Attractions

White-throated Sparrows, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, and other winter visitors are beginning to make an appearance at the feeders. Many species of ducks will start to arrive in the bird sanctuary in November and December. Come check out the three new spotting scopes that were recently installed to view the ducks up close.

What's New

Osprey towers in the bird sanctuary, spotting scopes overlooking the water, and now a backyard habitat. Actually, the Backyard Habitat is in our front yard, but it is intended to show



Osprey tower

(Ornithology Center--Continued on page 3)

Volunteer Nature Guide Trainings

By Dawn Van Deman, Senior Naturalist—We have a couple of groups this fall with more specialized topics for their Fall Hikes, so I'm offering a few review/training sessions for anyone interested in helping out with those hikes, or just interested in learning more about the topic – anyone is welcome!

Wednesday October 12, 2pm-3pm Pioneers and Plants Hike

Before there was a grocery store right down the road, early settlers of Indiana had to rely on the local plants as sources of food, medicine, and shelter. We'll learn to identify some fall vegetation and ways that plants helped pioneers (and even help people today, imagine that!) survive. On Friday, October 14, Kingsway Christian Academy 2nd graders will be doing a Pioneers and Plants hike as part of their field trip to the EDC.

Friday October 28, 2pm-3pm Tree ID Hike

This will be a review of late fall tree identification for a group of Kindergarten students from IPS #88 coming on Tuesday, November 1. Due to the young age of the students, we'll be keeping things basic and fun rather than delving into hard core dendrology.

If you are interested in helping on either of the hikes but can't make the reviews, please contact dawn.vandeman@indy.gov.

Images and History...

By Jay Powell, Naturalist—I just finished putting the racks away from the 2011 Images of Nature photography show, and I think it was another wonderful show with a great turnout from artists, volunteers, and park guests. The ladies in the kitchen wowed the folks at the reception yet again and the overall response was wonderful! A special thanks to those who donated food, goods and time to this special event, and I hope to see even more together again for the Celebration of Nature show in December.

As some of you might know, last winter I began gathering together pictures and articles about the history of Eagle Creek Park, specifically what it used to be and how it became what we have and love today. Some items and articles were already assembled and some I began compiling from a variety of sources. My goal is to eventually develop a public display of some sort at the EDC and to have a coffee talk type presentation that can accompany it, maybe a small brochure as well. If anyone has any stories, articles, or other interesting pieces of memorabilia specific to the Eagle Creek/Trader's Point/Mount Pleasant area I'd love to check it out and see if I could fit it into this project. I do have a scanner that can scan photos, slides, and other older documents if you don't want to part with originals.



Images of Nature Reception

Thanks for all your help everyone, and please take some time and enjoy the fall changes here in our beautiful park!

(Ornithology Center--Continued from page 2)

visitors what they can do to attract wildlife to their own back yards. Trees and other plants have been put in and a winding, handicap accessible trail is under construction. When complete, the area will include Hard Mast, Sedge Meadow, Fruit, Coniferous, Vine, and Fence Row habitats with educational signage for visitors.

Note to Rubbish Busters - Present and Future

By *Sandy DeLong, Rubbish Busters* –Thank you Rubbish Busters! We are attempting to verify how many people are presently working at this task and who would be interested in the future.

It is evident that those currently working are diligent with the task, and it definitely adds to the enjoyment of the park to get it trash-free.

Below is a revised Responsibility and Operational Issues statement which will hopefully allow for easier accountability of all that is being done and identify areas requiring additional attention. The mission has not changed.

RUBBISH BUSTERS–HIKING FOR CLEAN TRAILS

ENJOY YOUR WALKS AND HELP KEEP THE TRAILS OF EAGLE CREEK CLEAN AND IN GOOD SHAPE

MISSION: To become an integral component to making Eagle Creek Park the premier city owned park in the United States by ensuring that the trails are free of litter and that they are maintained in a safe and natural environmental state so that both the casual and committed hiker can enjoy the beauty of the park.

RESPONSIBILITY: To walk trails and/or shorelines of your choice, observing for and collecting litter, observing for overflowing trash cans, obstacles blocking the trails, and excessive trash in an area needing group attention, and to report these discrepancies to the Earth Discovery Center.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Reporting Forms: Are in the Rubbish Busters Notebook at the EDC sign-in desk or can be reported by calling 237-7148.

Sighting skills: You will soon develop a “keen eye” for noticing litter; it will become a “second sense.” Most of the litter is found 3 to 10 feet off of the trail and is heavier near the beginning of the trail heads, at the feeder trails leading from the picnic areas and at fishing sites. Don’t be surprised that soon, as you are driving on routine trips with your spouse or friends, you will spot litter along the roadside and shout “Stop, I have to pick up that soda can on the edge of the road.”

Collection bags: For your convenience, if you carry small, used plastic bags and gloves in your car, you can then deposit filled bags in any park trash cans available.

Questions or problems: Questions regarding the program can be addressed to Sandy DeLong at sandelong@att.net.

Let the Holidays Begin!

By *Andrea Hopper, Naturalist*–We are having our annual Volunteer Pitch-In on Saturday, December 10th from 12-3. This year in lieu of the White Santa we will be doing a holiday cookie contest! If you would like to enter the contest you will need to bring two dozen cookies cut into fourths and a recipe that we can copy for everyone. Everyone will be allowed to vote for their two favorites, then we will tally up the votes and declare a winner! We would love for you to join us – please let Andrea Hopper know if you will be able to make it, what dish you will be bringing, and whether or not you will be bringing a cookie for the contest: ahopper@indy.gov or 327-1197.

October 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

*OC Avian Adventure
call 327-BIRD for time
and topic

The Big Sit

8-5 Sunday, October 9

An annual, international birding event--call OC for details

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 9 Ribbon

cutting
4 Meet a Raptor

8

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

9 8 Big Sit

9 Birdwalk
1:30 Nature Dis

10

11

12 9 Garden

2 Training
4 Meet a Raptor

13 12 Boats

14

4 Meet a Raptor

15

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

16 9 Birdwalk

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

17

18

19

9 Gardeners
4 Meet a Raptor

20 12 Boats

21

4 Meet a Raptor

22

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

23 9 Birdwalk

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

24

25

26

9 Gardeners
4 Meet a Raptor

27 12 Boats

28 2 Training

4 Meet a Raptor

29

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

30 9 Birdwalk

1:30 Nature Dis
OC Avian Adv*

31

Coffee Talk

Wednesday October 5

EDC, 8:30 am

Leave No Trace Workshop

Brandon Cole, Program Director for Camptown
and a Leave No Trace Master Educator

A fun, interactive session on learning how to view, utilize, and reduce our impacts through seven ethical principles. The workshop is designed to help promote awareness of the Leave No Trace principles.

Eagle Creek Trail

Ribbon Cutting

Friday, October 7

9 am

71st Street Gate

New trail into the Park along 71st

November 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <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 10 Home School Jamboree 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 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>10 12 Boats</p>	<p>11 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>12 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</p>	<p>16 9 Gardeners 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</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor</p>	<p>24 HOLIDAY CLOSED</p>	<p>25 HOLIDAY CLOSED</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>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor</p>			

Coffee Talk
Wednesday, November 2, 8:30 am, EDC
 "What Happens to Your Trash?"
 Jenny Woolson-Helrigel
 Environmental Education Coordinator for the
 Indiana Department of Environmental Management



December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 12 Boats	2 4 Meet a Raptor	3 Art Show 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
4 Art Show 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	5 Art Show	6 Art Show	7 Art Show 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor	8 Art Show 12 Boats	9 Art Show 4 Meet a Raptor	10 Art Show 12 Holiday Party 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
11 Art Show 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	12	13	14 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor	15 12 Boats	16 4 Meet a Raptor	17 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
18 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	19	20	21 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor	22 12 Boats	23 4 Meet a Raptor	24 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*
25 9 Birdwalk 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*	26 HOLIDAY CLOSED	27	28 NEWSLTR DEADLINE 9 Gardeners 4 Meet a Raptor	29 12 Boats	30 4 Meet a Raptor	31 1:30 Nature Dis OC Avian Adv*

*OC Avian Adventure
call 327-BIRD for time
and topic

**Celebration of
Nature Art Show
December 3-11
EDC
9-5 M-Sat, 1-5 Sun
Nature artwork from a
variety of media**



**Volunteer Holiday Pitch-in
& Cookie Contest
Saturday, December 10, 12-3 pm, EDC
See "Let the Holidays Begin" on Page 4 for details**

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.

Natalie Nicholls, Newsletter Editor



MISSION STATEMENT

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

Happy Birthday to:

Earth Discovery Center Staff

Carrie K. Williams, Senior Manager
Dawn Van Deman, Senior Naturalist
Jake Brinkman, Naturalist
Kevin Carlsen, Naturalist
Anne Cecere, Naturalist
Andrea Hopper, Naturalist
Jay Powell, Naturalist
Brad Shoger, Naturalist

Volunteer park passes are available at the EDC desk.

Newsletters can be viewed online through

<https://sites.google.com/a/eaglecreekdiscovery.org/www/home/volunteers/newsletter>

Deadline for Next Issue:

December 28

October 1--Janet Eigenbrod
October 2--Jeremy Baker
October 3--Ronald Giveans
October 5--Jeannie Walker, Lee Wenzlick, Sean Nicodemus
October 6--Glenn Weesies
October 9--Janet Boeldt
October 10--Isiah Kimes
October 16--David Ogden
October 18--Gwen O'Connor
October 22--Beverly Rothenberger
October 24--Kristen Russell
October 26--Chrise Miller
October 27--Mike Miller
October 28--Pat Pope, Kyle McInnes
November 3--Allan Moore
November 9--Will Bennett, Daris Blickman
November 12--Kristi Fetzer, Tom Chamberlin
November 15--Joe Holmes
November 18--Joe Higi
November 19--Leonard Alexander
November 23--Terry Brown,
Joe Moore
November 27--Doug Sherow
November 29--Abdulrasaq Ajao, Sharon Patterson
December 2--Cindy Grondall, Vickie Lampkin
December 3--Robert Baker, Natalie Nicholls
December 10--Joyce Berner, Julie Soupley, Christine Franklin
December 11--Melissa Detamore
December 12--Dan Sacks, Sherry Witherbee, Lisa Herber, Frank Harshey
December 13--Pat Saunders
December 15--Gloria Geiger
December 20--Alex Wilhite
December 22--Cecil Witherbee
December 24--Katrina Lemus
December 25--Suzanne Blakeman, Don Rothenberger
December 27--Alvin Piefer, Don Piefer
December 30--Jim Carpenter, Rich Gargus
December 31--Jack Fortney, Ann Padgett