We also The activity site Challenge Program Schedule during aluminum cans to stimulate creativity and storytelling skills. Open hours; return animals on permanent display. Each property can often be completed during one day. A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed. Our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

Got a question? Ask a Naturalist! The Naturalist’s Office is located inside the Activity Center. You can also pick up maps/brochures/flyers or browse our library of field guides and other books.

Live Animals & Exhibits
Check out our black rat snake, a northern water snake, a midland water snake, and a colony of dermestid beetles. We also rotate in a different set of wall/shelf exhibits each summer and feature a large selection of taxidermy animals on permanent display.

Hoosier Quest: Explore, Discover, Challenge
You can collect a unique pin for each Indiana State Park in Explore (each property can often be completed during a single day/weekend visit). Individuals can also earn special patches through both Discover and Challenge.

Free Fishing Equipment Rental
Renters must be at least 18 years of age with a valid government ID. Check-out up to 4 sets per person during open hours; return between 1 and 5p.m. the next day.

Daily Craft & Coloring Table
We feature a different craft each day; most crafts are suitable for ages 5+. Another table is always stocked with crayons and a selection of coloring pages.

Kids’ Play Area & Small World Play Station
This area has a puppet stage, board and card games, puzzles, large felt board, picture books, and a touch table. The Small World play station features a rotating set of landscapes with miniature animals and habitat elements to stimulate creativity and storytelling skills.

Jigsaw Puzzle Table
Spend a few minutes or a whole afternoon working on our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

Recycling Center
Recycle your aluminum cans with us! Proceeds fund programs, activities, and exhibits. You can also recycle plastic bottles and paper (no food containers).

Paynetown Fossil Dig
Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the back end of the Overflow Parking Area at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found in this activity site can be taken home with you!
Program Schedule for June 2015

Program locations are within Paynetown SRA, unless otherwise noted.

**ROVING NATURALIST**

One of our naturalists typically walks through the Campground area on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as on Sunday mornings.

We may have an interesting item to share, a quick game to play, or an invite to an upcoming program. And don’t be afraid to ask us your questions!

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**Monday, June 1**

Lunch with Nature Series **at 11:00 a.m.**

- Limited to 12 people.
- Recommended for adults.
- Preregistration is required by May 27.

*Location: Paynetown Activity Center*

Join us for our monthly Lunch with Nature Series! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short walk/hike that highlights the topic. **90 minutes**

This month’s topic is: Salt Creek Cemeteries. When Salt Creek was dammed to create Monroe Reservoir, several cemeteries were below the projected water level. What happened to these old burying grounds and how were the graves moved? A Heltonville undertaker documented the entire process. Cathy Meyer, Monroe County Parks and Recreation Naturalist and former interpreter at the lake, will share his slides and describe the relocation. On the walk after the main presentation, we’ll see the former location (and remnants?) of one of the cemeteries that was relocated.

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**Saturday, June 6**

**Youth Fishing Derby from 8a to 10a (Please check in no later than 9:15a!)**

*Program Location: Fishing Pier, located across the road from the Swimming Beach*

Cast a line and catch a fish! Kids, ages 16 and under, are invited to participate in this free fishing derby. Borrow our equipment or bring your own; bait will be provided. A prize drawing will be held at 10a for all participants! **New and beginning anglers are welcome**; instructors will be on hand to teach the basics and offer assistance.

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**Casting Challenge from 12:30 to 2 p.m.**

*Location: FAIRFAX SRA, Beach*

How good are your casting skills? Drop by to try our dry-land casting challenge and see how many fish you can “hook!”

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**Owls: The Perfect Predator at 8:00p**

*Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

Do owls come to mind when you think about nature’s top predators? They should! We’ll take a look at some of the impressive adaptations that they use for hunting in the dark. Children (and adults!) can also make an owl craft at the end of the program. **45 minutes**
Sunday, June 7

Salamander Peek from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*
Drop by to learn about a couple of our native salamanders and what they need to survive – and make a simple salamander craft.

Wednesday, June 10

Toad Homes from 7:30p to 9p
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*
Drop by to paint and decorate a “toad home.” If you place it in your garden at home, it will attract insect-eating American Toads to help provide your plants with a natural form of pest control. You’ll also learn how to recognize Indiana’s native toads and learn what else they need for a happy habitat. *Suggested donation of $2 per person helps us cover supply costs. Thank you!*

Saturday, June 13

Radioactive Popcorn at 8:00p
*Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*
Radioactive dating plays a big role in how geologists understand the history of the Earth. Using microwave popcorn, we’ll make this complicated principle easy to understand – and we’ll finish with a delicious snack of, what else, popcorn! *45 minutes*

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**Growing Up WILD Training Workshop**

*Sunday, June 7 at 9:00 a.m.*

- The cost of this Growing Up WILD Training Workshop is $20 per person. The fee will be collected when you arrive at the workshop - cash or check only.
- The workshop is limited to 14 people.

*Workshop Location: Paynetown SRA*

Growing Up WILD is an engaging curriculum specifically designed for educators that work with ages 2 to 5 (although many activities can also be adapted for early elementary students).

Are you a teacher who is interested in bringing lessons from nature into the classroom? A homeschool parent/instructor looking for fun ways to enhance learning? A daycare provider looking for new ideas to engage children in fun yet educational activities? This workshop is for YOU! We’ll train you in how to use this wildlife-focused conservation education curricula to help children develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of our natural world.

Your workshop fee includes a copy of the Growing Up WILD curriculum guidebook, which contains tons of additional resources to further enhance learning.

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**Back-story in the Back-water: Cultural History Paddling Trip**

*Saturday, June 13 at 8:00a*

- Preregistration required by noon on June 10.
- Cost is $10 per person.
- Limited to 15 people, minimum age of 15.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a single-person kayak from us for an additional $25.
- *Trip Location: Pine Grove SRA*

**PLEASE NOTE:** This program is designed for intermediate/advanced paddlers. Beginning paddlers may participate ONLY IF they are accompanied in a canoe or tandem kayak by an intermediate/advanced paddler. No paddling instruction will be provided.

Explore a portion of Monroe Lake’s backwater with a knowledgeable guide! Our focus will be on the lake’s fascinating cultural history – you’ll learn about some of the families that once lived here, how the land came to be a reservoir, and visit some of the lingering remnants from those pre-reservoir days. *3 to 4 hours*
Sunday, June 14

**Take a Close Look... Really, Really Close! from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

*Location: Activity Center Patio*

Have you heard of macrophotography? We’ll have our own version of a macro camera set up... all you need to do is drop by with something to photograph! How about a blade of grass, tiny rock, or a pine needle? (P.S. If you bring your own smartphone or tablet, we’ll hook it up to our macro setup so that you’ll have a photo of the object to take home with you too!)

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**Nature on the Water Paddling Trip**

**Tuesday, June 16 at 9:00 a.m.**

- Preregistration required by June 12.
- Cost is $10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people, ages 16+.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a single-person kayak from us for an additional $25.

*Trip Location: Crooked Creek SRA*

A naturalist guide will highlight flora and fauna during a leisurely exploration of Monroe Lake backwaters. 2 hours

**PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning paddlers are welcome but must have at least 2 hours of prior paddling experience (or be sharing a canoe with an experienced paddler).

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**Wednesday, June 17**

**Evening Insect Safari at 8:00 p.m.**

*Location: Meet at Playground next to Campground Entrance*

Grab an explorer’s notebook and join us for a safari into the “wilds” around the campground. We’ll seek out the tiny native critters concealed in the brush... record your discoveries and see if you can earn the coveted distinction of “Ento-Explorer!” 45 minutes

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**On Saturday, June 20, you’re invited to...**

**The Faerie Gathering**

**Hunt for Faerie Treasure Rocks!** *The search begins at dawn on Saturday, June 20...*

Fairies have visited Paynetown and left behind treasures for you to find! The treasures are contained within special “rocks” that the faeries have hidden throughout the property. If you find one of these special Faerie Rocks, you can break it open to claim the treasure hidden inside...

- The hunt begins when the Sun rises at dawn this morning... but NEW Faerie Treasure Rocks will continue to appear throughout the day, and you can continue searching for them until sunset on the summer solstice (Sunday).
- All of the Faerie Treasure Rocks have been hidden in public areas. You also won’t find them on individual campsites or inside any buildings. And remember that faeries love the woods... so don’t forget to check along our trails!
- Like other faerie treasures, these rocks will fade away with time. To slow the fade, the fairies have placed their rocks in protected places that offer a small amount of shelter. After you claim the treasure inside, though, leave the fragments exposed so that they can fade away with the elements.
- Faerie Treasure Rocks will look a bit different than normal rocks. Each one is also marked with a colorful rune that is the “signature” of the faerie that hid it.
- Be careful when breaking open one of the treasure rocks. Don’t break the rocks on any man-made surfaces that could be damaged. And break them open carefully... you never know what the faeries have hidden inside them!
- How many Faerie Treasure Rocks are there? Good question! If you spot a faerie, make sure you ask them...
### Faerie Flower Tiaras from 1 to 2 p.m.
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*
Drop by to craft a paper flower tiara! This is a good craft for younger kids (with basic scissor skills) to work on with an adult, but older children and adults will want to make one too. *This craft will take most people 15 to 30 minutes to complete; please arrive no later than 1:45p.*

### Faerie Wands from 3 to 4 p.m.
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*
Drop by to craft a faerie wand made from wood, wire, and beads (you’ll want one to go with that tiara you made earlier)! Ages 8 and up should be able to make this with no adult assistance, but younger children will need a helping pair of hands. *This craft will take most about 15 minutes to complete; please arrive no later than 3:45p.*

Don’t forget to stop by the Activity Center between 1p and 5p to make our daily drop-in craft… today’s craft is, of course, faerie-themed!

### Faerie Garden Workshop at 6:00 p.m.
- Limited to 10 participants.
- Program fee is $10 per participant.
- Preregistration is required by June 16.

Recommended for ages 8 and up. Younger children will need significant adult assistance. There is no fee for an adult who is attending solely to assist a registered child.

*Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

*Please Note: Participants in the Faerie Garden Workshop are welcome to take a short break from working on their garden to go make the Fairy Dust Necklace (takes about 10 minutes).*

### Faerie Dust Necklaces from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*
Cost is $2 per person; cash only. Drop by to create a necklace filled with glowing faerie dust! Your necklace will glow for approx. 5 hours but remain pretty even after the glow fades. *Craft takes about 10 minutes; please arrive no later than 7:15p.*

### Mushrooms, Toadstools, and Faeries at 8:15 p.m.
*Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*
Lots of mythology and stories link faeries to mushrooms… so much so that you might say that the two have a “symbiotic relationship.” What is a symbiotic relationship? And do mushrooms experience real-world symbiosis too? We’ll explore the biology of mushrooms and fungi through the lens of faerie folklore! *30 minutes*

### Campfire Cooking Series: Breakfast
- Preregistration is required by June 15.
- Program fee is $20 per person.
- Limited to 10 people. Restricted to ages 10 and up; children under age 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult.
- **Location: Paynetown SRA, Activity Center**

This workshop will expand your camping skills by introducing a variety of techniques for cooking breakfast over a wood-burning fire. Participants will prepare and cook a variety of dishes and then enjoy a big breakfast together. Everyone takes home a set of recipes. This is a great Father’s Day activity for a father and child to do together! *2 hours*
**Wednesday, June 24**

**Toad Homes from 7:30p to 9p**  
*Location: Activity Center Shelter*

Drop by to paint and decorate a “toad home.” If you place it in your garden at home, it will attract insect-eating American Toads to help provide your plants with a natural form of pest control. You’ll also learn how to recognize Indiana’s native toads and learn what else they need for a happy habitat. *Suggested donation of $2 per person to cover supply costs.*

**Saturday, June 27**

**Solar System Necklaces at 8:15p**  
*Location: Activity Center Amphitheater*

Our Solar System is big, really big! We think about how the planets are revolving around the Sun, but we rarely consider how far away they are from each other (or far the Sun is from other stars). During tonight’s program, you’ll make a unique necklace that will remind you of the vastness of our Solar System. 30 minutes

**Sunday, June 28**

**Turtle Time from 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
*Location: Activity Center Patio*

Drop by to check out shells from a variety of the turtles that live here at Monroe Lake and make a turtle craft.

**Monday, June 29**

**Lunch with Nature Series at 11:00 a.m.**

- Limited to 12 people.
- Recommended for adults.
- Preregistration is required by June 23.

*Location: Paynetown Activity Center*

Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short walk/hike that highlights the topic. **90 minutes**

**Salamander Workshop**

**Thursday, June 25 at 8:30 a.m.**

- Program fee is $10 per person.
- Preregistration is required by June 23.
- Limited to 10 people.
- Recommended for ages 12 and up; children under age 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

*Program Location: Paynetown SRA* (but we will likely carpool to another location for the outside portion)

Indiana is home to 22 salamander species, from the Spotted and Cave to the Slimy and Long-tailed. Scott Klein, who worked with hellbenders and hellbender surveying in Ohio, will introduce participants to the biology and natural history of our native salamanders – with a focus on those found in our local region. During the second portion of the workshop, participants will go outside to search for salamanders in their native habitat near Monroe Lake. **2.5 to 3 hours**

**Bike Back in Time: The Mini Tour**

**Saturday, June 27 at 8:30 a.m.**

- Program fee is $10 per person.
- Limited to 15 people; minimum age of 15.
- Preregistration required by June 23.
- The route is approximately 12 miles over rolling hills. Total trip length (including all stops) is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Participants must bring their own road/hybrid bike, helmet (mandatory!), and water.

*Location: Meet at Army Corps of Engineers Office (1620 E. Monroe Dam Court)*

Discover how limestone shaped the development and identity of the people that settled in the Salt Creek communities during the 1800s and early 1900s during a guided cycling tour near Monroe Lake. *This is a shortened version of our full-length tour, designed to be accessible to beginners.*

**This month’s topic is: Snake Identification.**

We’ll overview the different snake species that live in and around Monroe Lake and discuss how to properly identify them. Our live snake “ambassadors” will assist with the program! We’ll finish with a short hike along the shoreline to look for basking water snakes.