



Volunteer View

(A newsletter for IDNR State Park and Reservoirs Volunteers who have dedicated 50 + hours and are still active. Thank You!)

Winter 2012

Dedicated Volunteers at Turkey Run

By Barbara Cummings, Interpretive Naturalist at Turkey Run & Shades State Parks

Winter weather doesn't stop the hardy volunteers at Turkey Run State Park. Dan Griggs and Amber Slaughterbeck have logged more than 100 hours this fall and winter searching for and removing invasive non-native honeysuckles, privet and barberry from a previously eradicated 70-acre resource management project area. This dedicated twosome is removing sprouts from seeds, resprouts from previous kills, and plants missed the first time around *before* the plants have a chance to re-establish themselves. Although this is a key step in restoring natural areas that have been invaded, it is one the park currently has no budget for. Kudos to Dan and Amber!

Peggy Foster, Ed Timm, Nancy Swaim, and Greg Oskay (I hope I didn't miss anyone) have spent spring, summer and fall reglazing, sanding, priming and painting the windows on the lower level of the historic Salmon Lusk Home. Receiving DHPA approval and following NPS guidelines, this meticulous job has consumed hundreds of hours of their time. The glazing on all windows was in extremely poor condition, causing rot and mildew problems throughout much of the window structure (see close-up picture at right). Rotten wood has been restored, and the downstairs windows are now good for another 10 years, thanks to the vision of Ed Timm, and the painstaking efforts of these dedicated volunteers.



Historic Salmon Lusk Home



A Letter of Thanks!

By James P. Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist, Brown County State Park

Dear Mark and Peg-

Last night's Brown County State Park Friends meeting was again well-organized and conducted smoothly, as have all other meetings under Mark Lindenlaub's reign as president over the last several years. Mark, we have come to expect a professional approach to these meetings (and all Friends events) as you assumed the leadership role, and you don't disappoint! Since the Friends conception, I believe I can say all events have never been run as well, as punctual or as consistent as when you took over. Thank you, Mark for a great job as Friends president! The group absolutely benefitted under your direction. As you step down, you leave the position in great shape for the next person.

Certainly appropriate is our same feelings of sincere gratitude to Peg Lindenlaub, Friends' Treasurer. Under your management, Peg, detailed monthly financial reports were provided at each meeting, allowing members to see and compare expenditures, donations and budget projections from one year to the next. At a time when spending of any kind is heavily scrutinized, this is reassuring and creates confidence with members. Thank you, Peg for your close attention to detail, and for taking on this difficult job.

I must add I am also most appreciative to you, Peg for your help in organizing and planning several past Friends events; we worked as a team, via email and phone calls to successfully set up and conduct 2 Bioblitzes, several mushroom festivals and mushroom sales contacts, the Trail Guide, Zimmerman print sales, the table-top display and brochures. You also helped with media coverage, contacting guest speakers and website updates. "Let me do that", was a frequent statement and often gave me a sigh of relief when things got hectic! Thank you! On behalf of BCSP staff and the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs central office, please accept our heartfelt thanks to you both for a wonderful job as BCSP Friends officers. You both looked for appropriate grants and have outside interests that helped the Friends. Membership drives, parades, guest appearances, website management and outreach have made this organization well-known in the Brown County community, and allows residents and Hoosier citizens to see how supportive this group has been.



Mark and Peg Lindenlaub

You are to be commended for a wonderful job! Thank you so much! We look forward to your continued involvement.

Meet an Upper Wabash Interpretive Services Volunteer

By Laura Whiteleather, Interpretive Naturalist, Upper Wabash Interpretive Service

If you happen to stop by the Salamonie Interpretive Center on a Thursday morning you just might bump into volunteer, Dennis Shields. He comes in each week to help out the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services in the Center. You may see him doing all sorts of things to help, but he really likes caring for the animals in residency here.

Dennis grew up not far from Salamonie Reservoir in Marion, Indiana. He has always loved the outdoors and spends his spare time hunting and fishing. Sally, his wife of 39 years, even allows him to go to Wyoming each fall to hunt Mule deer. This year Dennis' son joined him on this annual hunting trip and he came back with stories to share. The Shields also have a daughter and five grandchildren.

When Dennis isn't volunteering with us, he is most likely hunting or talking about hunting trips. Although when the weather is right, he may be found flying his model airplane at the Mississinewa Reservoir model air field. He is a member of the Mississinewa Sky Hawks model plane club. He flies an Alpha trainer model.

When asked what he likes best about volunteering at the Interpretive Center, Dennis replied, "There's always something new to do; always a new experience when I come here. I love animals and enjoy helping out."

We are extremely grateful for faithful volunteers such as Dennis. From keeping the animals fed and their tanks clean to setting up tables for an upcoming program he can always be found busy. Dennis is a tremendous help to us in performing the many daily duties of nature center operation.

Our hats off to Dennis Shields and the many other volunteers who enable us to provide a valuable service to the hundreds of visitors that come through our gates and doors each year at Mississinewa Reservoir, Salamonie Reservoir; and also at Ouabache State Park.



Dennis Shields holding the nature center's educational box turtles.

Photo courtesy of Lynnanne Fager.

New Volunteer Program Starting at Monroe Lake

By Jill Vance, Interpretive Naturalist, Monroe Lake

Monroe Lake, located southeast of Bloomington, is rolling out a new volunteer program this winter. It will be coordinated by Monroe Lake's Interpretive Naturalist, Jill Vance. This is the first time that the reservoir has had a full-time Interpretive Naturalist. With the addition of this position, Monroe Lake is now in a transition from seasonal to year-round interpretation. The new volunteer program will play a crucial role in supporting that transition and maximizing its potential. There will also be additional opportunities for volunteers to participate in resource management activities. "There will be a wide variety of ways that people can contribute," noted Vance. "I hope that we can really build a community of volunteers at the reservoir."

Monroe Lake is seeking volunteers in eight different areas, described below. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Jill Vance at 812-837-9546 or jvance@dnr.IN.gov, or complete the online interest form at <http://lakemonroe.yolasite.com>.

Citizen Scientist

Volunteers in the Citizen Science program collect data that helps Monroe Lake track animal populations, monitor habitats, and make resource management decisions. No prior experience is needed; all necessary training is provided. Citizen Scientists can collect data on their own time or participate in scheduled group events.

Activity Center Monitor

Monitors help staff the Activity Center at Paynetown State Recreation Area. They greet visitors, assist the Interpretive Staff, and help keep the activity tables stocked for visitors. Volunteer shifts are available daily from May through October.

Shoreline Cleanup

Monroe Lake fights a constant battle against trash that is left behind by reservoir users and is picked up by the water during flood events. Volunteers can "adopt" a section of the shoreline and monitor it on their own time or participate in group cleanup events.

Interpretive Assistant

If you enjoy talking to people about our natural resources, consider becoming an Interpretive Assistant. After a period of training and observation, Interpretive Assistants rove the campground, beaches, and boat ramps to share information, staff the "Nature on Wheels" mobile exhibit, and lead hikes and activities for visitors.

Hands-on Workdays

Workdays are scheduled throughout the year to bring multiple volunteers together to focus on a single project. Examples of workday projects include removing invasive species, building wildlife boxes, working on landscaping projects, and assisting with trail maintenance.

Event Supporter

During large events and some special workshops, Event Supporters provide logistical assistance. They may help with set-up or tear-down, staff a registration or activity booth, provide support to presenters, greet visitors, and, in general, assist staff to ensure that the event goes smoothly.

Language Liaison

Volunteers who can speak and/or write in other languages can help us ensure that everyone feels welcome at the reservoir. Language Liaisons translate written materials, offer programming in other languages, and create a welcoming environment for non-English speakers at our events. People with Spanish or Arabic language skills are especially needed.

Special Skills

Are you a talented woodworker? Do you like to design bulletin boards? Are you good at painting plants or wildlife? If you have a special skill to offer, please let us know about it. We will try to match your skills to specific projects – or maybe you will inspire us to start something new!

Monroe Lake is on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/monroelake>

Property information and program schedules at <http://www.tinyurl/monroelake>

Follow us on Twitter @MonroeLake

Join our email list to receive program schedules automatically each month!

Send a blank email to monroelake-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

HELP WANTED! Volunteers Needed

Clifty Falls State Park can use resource management volunteers for invasive upland brush removal. Includes hand cutting of invasive bushes and vines and over-the-counter triclopyr herbicide application. Must be available to work half-days (4 hours) minimum per site visit on Wednesdays-Sundays. Call 812-273-0609 or email ddavis@dnr.in.gov to arrange.

Deam Lake State Recreation Area is seeking volunteers year-round for help with day-to-day operations, special events, trail maintenance, and interpretive programs. Volunteer activities can be catered to each individual volunteer's needs, interests, and knowledge base. Interested parties should contact Deam Lake State Recreation Area Naturalist Rocky Brown at (812)246-5421, or via email at rbrown@dnr.in.gov.

Indiana Dunes State Park. Volunteers needed for the Friends of Indiana Dunes Annual Native Plant Sale. As one of the largest Friends sponsored fundraisers in the state, the annual native plant sale at the Dunes State Park Beach Pavilion does nearly \$20,000 worth of plant sales in 5 hours. Assistance is needed to on both the day of the event and the day before with set up. This year's event is Saturday, April 14. For more information or to sign up to help, contact Friends of Indiana Dunes Chair Zella Olson at zrolson@frontier.com or 219-926-3833.

Turkey Run State Park is looking for volunteers to help staff craft tables or our information desk at the nature center during several Spring events: *Spring Wildflower Day* Saturday, April 18th, *Earth Day Fest* (for schools) Friday, April 20 and *Earth Day Fest* (for the public) Saturday, April 21, and *Bird Fest* Saturday, June 16th. All training and materials are provided. Please contact Barbara Cummings at 765.597.2654 or bcummings@dnr.IN.gov.

Shades State Park is looking for volunteers to assist with the 65th anniversary celebration of Shades State Park on Saturday, June 23rd. Although most activities will take place during the afternoon, there will also be late night star gazing. Help is also needed now, during the planning phase. All training and materials are provided. Please contact Barbara Cummings at 765.597.2654 or bcummings@dnr.IN.gov.

Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoirs, Ouabache State Park and J. Edward Roush Fish & Wildlife Area)

Volunteers needed for a variety tasks. *Interpretive Center at Salamonie:* Work as a greeter. Be a landscaper, decorator, animal keeper, design bulletin boards and temporary displays, photography, program materials preparation, gift shop displays. *Trails:* Monitor a trail regularly, hike, pick up litter, report downed trees and missing signs. *Resource Management:* Invasive plant identification and removal; keeping natural and cultural records; hand trimming along trails. *Education and Interpretation:* Assist an Interpreter with school group visits, preschool, youth and adult programs. Develop and present programs or workshops on unique topics. Prepare or collect materials. *Or, connect your unique talents and interests* with property need using carpentry, photography, etc... design your own volunteer project.

Contact: Teresa Rody, Interpretive Naturalist, trody@dnr.in.gov 260-468-2127

The Hoosier Riverwatch, Project WET and Project WILD programs have internships available that focus on short-term special projects related to wildlife and water education or citizen stream monitoring. Though internships are unpaid, we offer flexibility in scheduling and will work to match the project with the intern's interest and skills. For more information, please contact Mary Hayes at projectwild@dnr.in.gov.

Amazing Ice Flowers!

By Rocky Brown, Naturalist, Deam Lake SRA/Clark SF (rbrown@dnr.in.gov)

I thought I would share these photos that I took from Deam Lake. At first glance, they looked to be small plastic bags or large styrofoam peanuts scattered across the forest floor. Upon closer examination, they were ribbons of ice, growing up from the ground.

One looks to be growing off of a dead plant stalk, while several others are free-standing. I was stumped, so I consulted a local meteorologist, and they are called "Frost Flowers," or "Ice Flowers." They occur when the ground is not yet frozen, but a "freezing event" occurs, causing the sap and/or water inside plant stalks or tree branches (living or dead) to expand. This results in small cracks in the sides of the stalks and branches, and as the freezing continues, it continues to push out, creating the "petals."

I was happy to learn this, as I was reduced to explaining it away via alien involvement!



DNR

The mission of Indiana's State Parks and Reservoirs is to manage and interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife and cultural resources using principles of multiple use and preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current and future generations.