

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD" ~ JULY - AUGUST 2026 ~ Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

REGISTRATION is required by noon on Monday prior to program: 765-567-2993 or mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips: 1-3pm or as Noted (listed times are EDT)

JUL 1st 1-3pm A Bird in the Hand: Using Mist Nets to Capture Birds ----- outdoor pgm—WNC

Join **Dr. Mickey Weeks & Sally Weeks (Purdue University, Retired)** as they share the scientific process of mist-netting: capturing and banding birds to study. Birds will be caught at this presentation and participants will be allowed to ID and hold birds, if desired. *Participant limit: 20*

JUL 8th 1-3pm The Art of Falconry ----- outdoor pgm—BEEC

Tom Hagovsky and Caitlin Felker (local falconers) will share the art and practice of the sport of falconry. Regulations and licenses required, equipment and birds used, and hunting with birds of prey will be discussed. We'll also get to meet and have photos taken with Jake and Turkey Supreme (Red-tailed Hawks); the birds trained by these falconers to hunt small game. *No limit on participants, but registration is required.*

JUL 15th 10am-noon Exploring Fisher Oak Savanna ----- Note early start time ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/FOS

Join **NICHES Stewardship Manager Zach Neff** for a hike through the state dedicated Fisher Oak Savanna Nature Preserve in Jasper County to explore the remnant oak woodland and high-quality restored prairie habitats. Rare plants (including orange-fringed orchids!) and animals may be seen on this moderately difficult hike on mostly level terrain. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and be prepared for hot conditions, mosquitoes, and ticks. *Participant limit: 25*

JUL 22nd 1-3pm Dragonfly ID Hike ----- BINOCULARS helpful ----- outdoor pgm—PWA

Join **Loyce Fandrei (retired H.S. Biology Teacher and dragonfly aficionado)** on a walk at Purdue Wildlife Area wetlands to look for dragonflies and learn their names! Loyce has been working to expand the records of dragonfly species occurring in various Indiana counties, and she enjoys photographing them. Maybe we can help her find one she hasn't seen before! **NOTE:** *Loyce's dragonfly guides may be available*, and if so they will be \$15 (cash or check). *Participant limit: 25*

JUL 29th 1-3pm Butterflies of Tippecanoe County ----- BINOCULARS helpful ----- outdoor pgm—CBNA

Retired Purdue Entomologist Jon Neal will give a brief outdoor presentation on identification techniques related to local butterflies and then head out into the planted prairies and savannas of Celery Bog Nature Area in search of these jewels of summer! *Participant limit: 30*

AUG 5th 10am-noon Bison, Birds & Butterflies at Kankakee Sands ----- Note early start time ----- outdoor pgm—KS

Enjoy a guided hike through the largest Nature Conservancy project in Indiana, at Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve in Newton County! **TNC staff** will share the story of this restoration and its progress as we view the prairie in bloom and see evidence of the wildlife that now find habitat on this 8,000 acre property. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. *Participant Limit: 20* **NOTE:** start time is 10am EDT; local time is 9am CDT

AUG 12th 1-3pm An Introduction to the Spiders of Indiana ----- outdoor pgm—CBNA

Dr. Marc Milne (Biology Professor, University of Indianapolis) will share an introduction to the spiders of Indiana and then take us on the trails, showing how to collect and ID some of the most common species of spiders found in central Indiana. *Participant limit: 25.*

AUG 19th 10-noon OR 1-3pm The Sweet Life: Summer at Springboro Tree Farms - two time choices; choose one --indoor/outdoor—SBTF

Our yearly late winter trips to Springboro Tree Farms have focused on the popular seasonal maple syrup making process, but there are more sweet things happening on this property all year 'round! We'll learn about and see how bees produce honey on the farm, check-out the forestry practices that are enhancing habitats for declining songbirds, and discover what needs to happen in the summer to prepare for maple syrup season in the winter. **Rich Hines, along with friends and family**, will be our hosts for a fresh look at these diverse components of a hard-working forest! *Participant limit: 20 per time period (pick one session)*

AUG 26th 1-3pm Nature Ramble at Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary ----- outdoors pgm—EC Pk

Tom Swinford (Sycamore Land Trust Preservation Director) and Brittany Swinford (Senior Park Manager, Eagle Creek Park) will lead this hike to explore the geology, fen wetlands, reservoir and other features of this Indianapolis Park. Moderate hiking. *Participant Limit: 20*

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTE: limited number of participants so RSVP is REQUIRED by noon on Monday prior to program!

BEEC (Brier Environmental Education Center): Meet 1pm at BEEC in Battle Ground: turn into lane by sign on south side of Prophets Rock Rd, close to its intersection with N. 9th St. in Battle Ground.

CBNA (Celery Bog Nature Area): Meet 1pm at the Celery Bog Amphitheater, 1620 Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick, WL.

EC Pk (Eagle Creek Park): Meet 1pm at the Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary, in Eagle Creek Park, 8245 Wilson Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

KS (Kankakee Sands Office): Meet 10am at the Kankakee Sands office, 3294 N US 41, Morocco. **NOTE:** 10am is EDT; local time is 9am CDT.

NICHES/FOS (Fisher Oak Savanna): Meet 10am in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org – Properties – Jasper Co.)

PWA (Purdue Wildlife Area): Meet 1pm at 8000 IN-26, West Lafayette. Take 26 west across the Purdue Campus; 1/4 mile past 750W, turn right (north) into gravel drive where big white pines start (small black & white sign); park at end of lane.

SBTF (Springboro Tree Farms in Brookston): Meet at the Tippecanoe River public access parking lot, just east of the intersection of Springboro Rd. and SR 18 (located on north side of SR 18), to form carpools to drive to the nearby farm.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): Meet 1pm by WNC at Tippecanoe Battlefield off N. 9th St. in Battle Ground.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

Mary Cutler 765-567-2993, mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov ~ Joan Mohr Samuels 765-532-3245, mohrsamuels@comcast.net

SPONSORED BY:

**Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe Co. Park & Rec. Dept. — NICHES Land Trust — Sycamore Audubon Society
Kyle Gebhart, Parks Naturalist, West Lafayette Parks & Rec. Dept. — West Central Chapter of Indiana Native Plant Society**