

The Volunteer

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Volunteer in Parks Newsletter

June 2014

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Trails and Rails Team Participate in National Train Day at Union Station in Chicago



More than 120,000 people from over 310 cities and towns in all 50 states came out to show that trains are important to their communities. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (INDU) was well represented by the Trails and Rails (T&R) team along with a team from Lincoln Home and other national park sites at the celebration at Chicago's Union Station.

Often before sunrise, INDU's team of NPS volunteers climb on board Amtrak in Chicago to ride along with passengers going to New Buffalo, or Niles Michigan on the Wolverine or Blue Waters trains. As the train chugs along, the T&R team share the natural and cultural history of the area just outside the windows. Last year the INDU team presented 70 programs to over 15,000 passenger participants. Looking toward the future, 641 children completed the Wolverine T & R Junior Ranger Explorer Sheet.

Interested in joining the R&T team? Contact [Jean Pierre Anderson@nps.gov](mailto:Jean_Pierre_Anderson@nps.gov) for your ticket to ride.



Meet the new guy!

Superintendent Paul Labovitz

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has a new Superintendent, Paul Labovitz. "I'm anxious to get started at Indiana Dunes," Labovitz said of this new opportunity. "Building on over a century of conservation work along Indiana's Lake Michigan coast and helping set the course for the next century is very exciting. The opportunity to connect with the many great projects in this part of the Midwest is very appealing."



Paul Labovitz and his wife Sue

Paul sees volunteers as an important part of the work being done in the National Park Service. During his seven year tenure as Superintendent at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS), the park became a leader in demonstrating innovative urban youth engagement through the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures Program. The program provided an introductory outdoor experience to over 50,000 students and is still going strong. While at MISS Paul's team saw exponential growth of the volunteer program and saw the effects of the contributions volunteers made inside and outside the park boundaries. "Volunteers are some of the best friends a park can have" said Labovitz, "We love that volunteers choose to use their free time to help the park be a wonderful place to visit. How amazing is that!"

Prior to working for NPS, Paul was the Forester, Wildlife Biologist and Manager of the Rockwell-Somerset Woodlands, a 10,000 acre private property in southwestern Pennsylvania. Paul and his wife Sue have three grown children all scattered around the Central Time Zone. His passion is spending time in the outdoors and connecting people with the beautiful natural resources that Indiana has to offer.



SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE



Thank You Volunteers Award Banquet

and Dessert Contest (judged by you!)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

August 22, 2014 5:30-7:30pm at Dunes Learning Center (Cowles Lodge)

Please call Lynda Lancaster at (219)395-1682, or e-mail Lynda.Lancaster@nps.gov to reserve your seat. Please make your reservation by August 10, 2014. We have seating for 80.





Looking for a service project for your school, scout or community group?

We are looking for you. Check www.Volunteer.gov, click on the state of Indiana and fill out the **Group Spruce up the Park** application to sign up for volunteer projects at Indiana Dunes National



Lakeshore.

We need groups to help with our Cultural Landscape plans with projects including:

- Removing the vegetation from the fence around the pool at the Dunes Learning Center
- Removing vegetation from the tent pads below the Goodfellow lodge at the Dunes Learning Center
- Finding old apple trees in and around the park



Healthy Park Healthy People Hikes:

Come out and help find ways to engage more people to use the park trails for fun and fitness:

July 9 Calumet Trail 4:00pm

July 25 Bailly/Chellberg Noon.

August 6 Miller Woods 10:00 am

For more details on the hike or more information, and maybe more hikes, contact

[Lynda Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov) or (219)395-1682.



Get the Inside Scoop: Century of Progress Architectural Open House



Saturday October 18, 2014.

Volunteers are needed to be a part of the public tours of five historic homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. These limited tours are available by reservation only. Each tour lasts one hour and includes an inside look at the Cypress Log Cabin, Florida Tropical home, Armco Ferro House, Wieboldt-Rostone home, and House of Tomorrow (exterior only).

The original 1933 "Century of Progress" houses featured innovative building materials, modern home appliances, and new construction techniques for their time. The houses were moved to northwest Indiana in 1935 to promote a new housing community and were included in the national lakeshore boundary in the early 1970's. Today, the historic homes are undergoing rehabilitation with private funds through a partnership with Indiana Landmarks and private citizens.

Program Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Shift options: 5 hour shift (7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

9 hour shift (7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Volunteers needed as: house greeters, parking lot attendants, and visitor center assistants.

Date for VIP training: Wednesday, October 8; 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Site Walk-through: October 17; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Please contact JP Anderson by September 26 at 219-395-1848 or email at jean-pierre_anderson@nps.gov.

