



# The Volunteer

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Volunteer in Parks Newsletter

April 2012

## Two Great Groups of Park Volunteers

There are all kinds of folks who volunteer at our national park. Not all come alone. Meet two groups that help the park with a variety of projects.



### Meet Mikey Gray and Members of Camp-Mom.

For the past 17 years they travel from Indianapolis to spend a week at the park volunteering. This tireless group has put their mission of promoting good stewardship toward the environment into action at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Over the years they worked with Ranger Keenan Comer to improve the Dunewood Campground amphitheatre, replace the Mather Loop site markings, mulch the



walk-in sites, and plant plants throughout the park.

Thanks Camp-Mom. You can find out more about this volunteer group at <http://www.camp-mom.org/Home.html>.

### Meet the NWIndiana Parrothead Club.



Three to four times a year you can find this “phlock of Parrotheads from Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties” hard at work on the beach at the Kemil access point of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. They are citizen scientists following a protocol set by the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach and contributing to a world wide database of information on water bodies.

You can join them at the Kemil access as they clean-up and test the water on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m. Contact Terri Dale at [tkdale@comcast.net](mailto:tkdale@comcast.net), to fly with the “phlock”. The work they do at the park is one of the many projects this busy group contributes to northwest Indiana.



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

We are looking for you. Check [Volunteer.gov/gov](http://Volunteer.gov/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.



# SAVE THE DATE:

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### Volunteer Appreciation Picnic Bailly/Chellberg Picnic Area

July 21, 2012

Noon-3:00p.m.

*Hope to see you there!*



## National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Chicago this year!



This year the national conference is in our neighborhood. The National Park Service and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will host a booth during the convention.

**We need your help staffing the booth.**

You will represent the NPS-VIP program to all the potential volunteers who stop by!

We will need two to three volunteers each day from June 18-20. Interested? Contact [Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov) by Friday June 1, 2012.

More about the conference:

A program of Points of Light, this annual event provides attendees with an opportunity to learn, connect and be inspired through a wide range of exciting and informative plenary sessions, workshops, special events, service projects, exhibits, specialized corporate tracks and more.

As the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, corporate and government sectors, all are invited to join us in Chicago. If you or your organization deals with volunteers in any capacity, this is an event you do not want to miss!

# Time to Paint the Barn

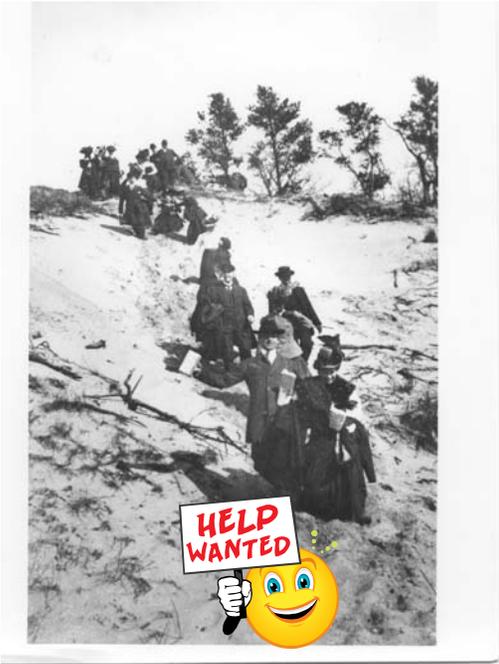
It is time to paint the barn at the Chellberg homestead. Ranger Anthony Sutphen will be looking for volunteers willing to break out the paint brushes and scrapers to get the barn ready and put on a fresh coat of paint.

Park staff will be working on scaffolding for the higher bits, but there is room for volunteers to help in places.

Of course it is weather dependent, but they hope to get started the week of May 14. It should take a couple of weeks. Contact [Anthony\\_Sutphen@nps.gov](mailto:Anthony_Sutphen@nps.gov) to brush up on your painting skills.



# Volunteers Needed for Summer Solstice Series



Rangers Kim Swift and Ted Winterfeld are recruiting volunteers, both new and experienced, to assist with a new series of programs in June focusing on celebrating the summer solstice.

Programs will be held throughout the month and at different locations. All of the programs will benefit from volunteer assistance in a variety of ways—

- helping with logistics,
- interpreting history at the historic homes,
- greeting and orienting visitors,
- working with children's activities just to name a few.

Some of the activities planned so far include Archeology Demonstrations at Bailly Homestead; open houses at Bailly Homestead; full moon hike and planting demonstration on June 3; and Solstice Celebrations on June 20 and 23. For more information and details, contact Ted Winterfeld at 219-395-1661 or by email at [ted\\_winterfeld@nps.gov](mailto:ted_winterfeld@nps.gov)



## Can You Dig It?

The Midwest Archeology team is partnering with Notre Dame and Indiana University this year to do an excavation around the Bailly Homestead. They are looking for a few good diggers. They are looking for help on any of the days below:

Tuesday	June 11	June 19	June 26
Wednesday	June 12	June 20	June 27
Thursday	June 13	June 21	June 28
Friday	June 14	June 22	June 29

You will be asked to do a variety of activities associated with archaeological investigations at the Bailly Homestead site, including assisting with excavations, screening or flotation processing soils, recording data (notes, maps, forms, logs), assisting with geophysical surveys, explaining field activities to site visitors, and/or backfilling. Archaeology field work is an outdoor activity that requires physical labor.

If you are interested contact Professor Mark R. Schurr, Professor of Anthropology College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame at [Mark.R.Schurr.1@nd.edu](mailto:Mark.R.Schurr.1@nd.edu).





## ***Interagency Volunteer Pass: Just One of the Ways We Want to Say Thank You.***



For many years there has been a program in place to thank volunteers with an Interagency Volunteer Pass. This is the program for 2012.

### **What is the Interagency Volunteer Pass?**

Congress authorized the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to issue an annual pass for entrance or standard amenity fees to volunteers in exchange for the performance of significant volunteer services.

The Volunteer Pass is one of many ways to recognize a volunteer's contributions. Individuals who already possess an Interagency Access or Senior Pass do not need an Interagency Volunteer Pass.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is honored to have some very hard working volunteers! As of this year, those hard working volunteers will receive an Interagency Volunteer Pass at 250 hours volunteered.

Volunteers may only be recognized with one pass every 12 months. Once the 250 hour requirement is reached and a pass is issued, the volunteer's pass-credit hours reset to zero. If a volunteer gives more than 250 hours in any 12 month period, the pass-credit hours do not roll over into the next 12 month period. (There are many other instances when a volunteer's hours WILL roll over, but not for the Volunteer Pass). We still appreciate ALL the hours you contribute!

**An example:** Brooke Trout reached her 250th hour in October 2011. In October 2011 she was recognized with a pass that expired October 31, 2012 and her pass hours reset to zero. During the following 12 months, from November 2011 to October 2012, Brooke volunteered 575 hours, reaching the 250 hour mark in May 2012. However, because Brooke still had a valid pass from the previous year, she could not be recognized with another pass until November 2012 (after her first pass had expired). In November 2012, when she was recognized with her second pass, her Volunteer Pass hours reset to zero. Circumstances in Brooke's life changed after November 2012, and she was only able to volunteer 150 hours during the following 12 months, from November 2012 to November 2013. Therefore, Brooke found she would have to volunteer an additional 100 hours to reach a total of 250 hours worked since issuance of her previous pass.

A "Volunteer Pass" is an annual pass awarded to those individuals who volunteer 250 hours at one or more recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies as a way to say "thank you!"

Volunteer hours may be accrued on lands managed by the following:

- a. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) <http://www.blm.gov>
- b. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) <http://www.usbr.gov>
- c. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) <http://www.fws.gov>
- d. USDA Forest Service (USDA FS) <http://www.fs.fed.us>
- e. National Park Service (NPS) <http://www.nps.gov>

To find places (other than Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) to volunteer go to: <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/>

**Be sure to use your time sheets and get your hours to your supervisor to track. Additionally, volunteers may log their hours into a central database found at: <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/VT/>.**

**If you have questions, please contact Lynda at [Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov), and thanks for all you do!**

