



# The Singing Sands

Fall 2009 - Vol. 30 No. 2

## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

## Mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The mission of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is to preserve for the educational, inspirational, and recreational use of the public certain portions of the Indiana Dunes and other areas of scenic, scientific, and historic interest and recreational value in the state of Indiana.

## Contact Information

### ADDRESS

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd.  
Porter, IN 46304

### PHONE

219-926-7561 visitor information

### E-MAIL

indu\_communications@nps.gov

### WEBSITE

www.nps.gov/indu

### TWITTER

http://twitter.com/indianadunesnl

1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)  
emergencies, criminal activities, or  
suspicious activity

## Working with the National Park Service

by Costa Dillon, Superintendent



Unlike the national parks that are in remote areas, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is situated among an urban/suburban area. In fact, the national lakeshore has properties in fifteen cities and towns and in three counties.

Because this national park is in and among the homes and businesses of so many people, it follows that a lot of people have personal interests in the management of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. As with any government agency, the workings of the National Park Service can seem confusing or obscure from the outside. We want to break down some of this mystery and help the public better understand their "neighborhood national park."

A first point of information is the park website at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu). There is a lot of information on this website, and we post more all the time. Recent additions are information on the park's land acquisition history and in the planning for the new Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, including the Chellberg Farm operations. This information can be found under the Management heading. We welcome suggestions and requests for additional information you wish to see posted.

Another website of interest is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. This is the Planning, Environment and Public Comment site (PEPC). This site provides access to current plans, environmental impact analyses, and

related documents on public review. Users of the site can submit comments for documents available for public review. Just search for Indiana Dunes to see plans you can comment on.

Starting this past July we are also hosting a series of public workshops related to the park's operations. These are designed to help members of the public better understand the laws, regulations, and policies that guide units of the National Park System. We started with sessions on planning. Upcoming are presentations on the NPS budget system, donations and fundraising, volunteerism, and special park uses (like wedding permits). See the park website or watch

*We want to break down some of this mystery and help the public better understand their "neighborhood national park."*

local newspapers for the dates of these sessions. All are at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center. One other method of learning more about Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is to simply invite us to your meeting. We would be happy to have someone address your organization or governmental body. Just give us a call; we're free.

National parks should be a place of wonder and mystery, but the National Park Service should not be!

## National Lakeshore Park Public Meetings

**Want to know more about what is going on in your national park? Want a chance to ask questions about the resources of the park, plans for the future, or recreational opportunities? You are invited to attend one of several park public meetings starting this fall. The first meeting will be at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, 7:00-8:30 pm, September 22, 2009. For more information and future meetings please see the park website at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu).**

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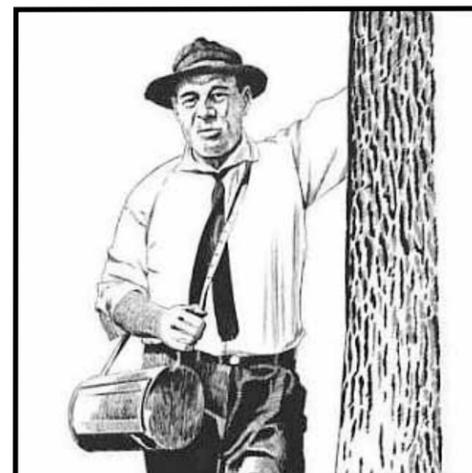
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## Cowles Bog Wetland Restoration Project

If you have ever enjoyed hiking the national lakeshore's Cowles Bog, now is your chance to help park staff rehabilitate this heavily impacted habitat.

The Cowles Bog of today is quite different from the botanically rich wetlands that existed in 1965 when it was classified as a National Natural Landmark. Dr. Henry Cowles, a professor at the University of Chicago a hundred years ago, studied this very ground with his students recording its incredible biological diversity. Naturalists and visitors started noticing a dramatic shift in the dominant plants of this wetland some 20 years ago. Why was such a diverse ecosystem changing so rapidly, and more importantly, should the park try to stop the change or let it continue? In 1966, when Congress set aside land in northwest

(continued on page 5)



Henry Cowles at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

# Park Information

## Protect Your Park



*Walk only on designated trails* to prevent damage to park resources and minimize erosion.

*Dispose of your litter* and recycle items in marked containers.

*Leave all natural and cultural items* as you find them to preserve the present and past. Collecting items such as shells, fossils, rocks, and wildflowers is prohibited.

*Respect all wildlife* from a safe distance. Never feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals is dangerous, harms their health, and alters their natural behaviors.

*Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.* For example, don't bring firewood to the park. Exotic insect pests that live in firewood can kill native trees. Burn all firewood; take no firewood home.

## Park Hours

Unless otherwise posted, the public areas of the park are open from sunrise to sunset. Most parking areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until dusk. Lake View parking area remains open until 11:00 p.m.

## Visitor Center



Located on SR 49, between U.S. Hwy. 20 and Interstate 94 near Chesterton, Indiana, it is open daily 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. An introductory park movie is available upon request.

## Top Visitor Questions

### 1 Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. There are access points located north of the intersection of County Line Road and Highway 12 (Mt. Baldy), north end of Central Avenue, Lake Front Drive at Lake View, intersection of West Lake Front Avenue and Dunbar Avenue, north end of East State Park Road, north end of Waverly Road (Porter), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (from Hwy. 12 take Hwy. 249 south and follow park signs), and north on North County Line Road (West Beach). West Beach has 600 parking spaces; other parking lots have limited parking. Please reference map located on page 8.

### 2 Where may I climb a dune?

Mount Baldy is the only dune where climbing is allowed in the national lakeshore. You may scale the dune from the lakeside (north side) to the summit. Climbing is prohibited on the side adjacent to the parking lot because it accelerates the movement of the dune. Please follow the trail from the parking lot, which leads around the side of the dune to a juncture that offers a choice between the summit or beach trails.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile West Beach Succession Trail. Please stay on designated trails to protect sensitive dune species.

### 3 Do you close the beach when high waves are present or e-coli levels are high?

No. The national lakeshore does not close its beach regardless of water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach. Lifeguards are not present at other locations of the beach.

Call 219-926-7561 followed by prompt #2 for information regarding e-coli levels.

### 4 How do I find out about beach regulations?

Just look for this sign on the beach.

**Regulations**

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hours — 7:00 am to Dusk

- No Pets on Beach
- No Glass
- No Fires
- No Alcoholic Beverages
- No Lifeguard on Duty

### 5 Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open April 1 through October 31 and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway. Its 79 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available; however, the campground has a dump station. Please self-register by depositing the exact camping fee of \$15.00 per night. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. **Alcohol is strictly prohibited.**

### 6 May I take my pet with me for a stroll or hike?

Yes. The national lakeshore has over 40 miles of hiking trails. Pets restrained by a leash are permitted on beaches east of the Kemil access point and on most park trails. However, pets are not permitted on the beach west of the state park. The Ly-co-ki-we trail (intersection

of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14.

Please hike with others and stay on designated trails for your protection and that of park resources. Trail maps are available at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, which is located near the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 20 and Indiana Hwy. 49 in Porter, IN.

### 7 May I launch my boat and fish?

The park does not have a boat launch. Personal motorized watercraft (Jet Skis and WaveRunners) are prohibited. However, you may launch your kayak (or other non-motorized watercraft) at locations other than at West Beach. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

### 8 How do I reserve an environmental education program?

Teachers and youth group leaders should call Christy Gerlach at 219-938-8221 to arrange for a free ranger-led program. These programs are conducted at the park's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education located in Gary/Miller, Indiana, and focus on the park's resource issues.

### 9 Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! Stop by the park's visitor center and ask a ranger to help you select the junior ranger program that best fits your visit. A Beachcombers program is popular with families spending just a few hours on the beach. A more comprehensive program is a favorite among those camping in the park. Other junior ranger programs are offered during special events. All programs are free. Children completing the junior ranger program earn a Junior Ranger patch. Program materials are available at the visitor center and are downloadable at [www.nps.gov/indu/forkids](http://www.nps.gov/indu/forkids). If you encounter a roving ranger on the beach, ask him or her about the program. Rangers often carry junior ranger booklets and patches with them for your convenience.



### 10 What is Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, and how do I get there?

This site is part of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and has a riverwalk, a fishing pier, parking lots, and an environmentally-friendly pavilion. The City of Portage operates and maintains this site through a partnership with the National Park Service. Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk can be accessed by following Hwy. 249 north from Hwy. 20 and follow the park signs.

### 11 How can I volunteer at the national lakeshore?

Start by contacting Lynda Lancaster, the Volunteers-In-Park program manager at [lynda\\_lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:lynda_lancaster@nps.gov) or 219-395-1682. We are looking for volunteers to help maintain trails, clean foredunes, and do some landscaping around buildings. We also have volunteer openings at the visitor center in Porter and at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Gary/Miller.



# Ranger-Guided Programs

DATE & TIME	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<b>Daily</b>			
(Ongoing) 8:30 a.m.— 4:15 p.m.	<i>Child of the Northwest Wind</i>	Watch this 11-minute park orientation video to learn about the places to see and activities to do at the national lakeshore (on request).	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
8:30 a.m. — 4:15 p.m.	<i>Become a Junior Ranger</i>	Earn a free Junior Ranger patch and certificate after completing the free Junior Ranger activity booklet when exploring the diverse resources of the Indiana Dunes. When completed, stop back at the center to take the Junior Ranger pledge and receive your patch.	Park-wide; pick up a booklet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
<b>Fridays</b>			
September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21 only. 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.	<i>Music Heritage Series</i>	Local musicians help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes and unusual musical instruments like the hurdy gurdy, dulcimers, and bagpipes.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
<b>Saturdays</b>			
Sept. 5 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.	<i>Picnic at Miller Woods</i>	Bring your own picnic and join a ranger for lunch and a hike through Miller Woods.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Sept. 5 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	<i>Discovering Your Neighborhood Park (Campground Program)</i>	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the huge diversity of resources at the national lakeshore.	Dunewood Campground Amphitheater
September 26, October 3, October 17, and May 15 only; 12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. Must arrive by 2:00 p.m.	<i>Explore Pinhook Bog (Open House)</i>	Follow the trail from the parking lot on your self-guided hike into Indiana's only "true" quaking bog. Rangers stationed along the trail will point out unique features including carnivorous plants while you walk on water.	Meet at Pinhook Bog Parking Lot on Wozniak Road
October 31, November 21, December 12, January 16, February 20, March 20, and May 8 only; 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.	<i>Paul H. Douglas Center Open House</i>	Join a park ranger to explore Miller Woods, enjoy a guest speaker or do family activities with the kids. Each month will be a different program.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
October 24 only 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	<i>Fall Fanfare</i>	Meet a ranger at the visitor center and carpool to the best trail for fall colors.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
October 31, November 14, January 30, February 20 April 10, and May 22 only. 9:00 a.m. — noon	<i>Stewardship Days</i>	Join a ranger and lend a hand to improve "Your Neighborhood National Park" during this unique opportunity to make a difference. More details available at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/events.htm">www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/events.htm</a>	Meet at the visitor center and carpool to the varying sites
November 7, December 5, February 6, and April 3 only 1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.	<i>Threatened Lake Michigan</i>	Join a ranger and discover some of the greatest threats facing Lake Michigan. The spiny water flea, round goby, and zebra mussel are just a few of the invasive species investigated.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
January 9, January 23, February 13, and February 27 only 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	<i>Snowshoe Walk</i>	Meet a ranger at the visitor center and carpool to the trail where you will explore the winter terrain on snowshoes. A limited number of snowshoes are available. If there is not enough snow, a hike will be offered.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
April 17, May 1, and May 22 only 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	<i>Spring Blooms Hike</i>	Meet a ranger at the visitor center and carpool to the week's best trail where you will explore the forest for wildflowers and other signs of spring.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
<b>Sundays</b>			
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<i>Kids' Fun at the Visitor Center</i>	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for an afternoon of kid's activities and stories.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
<b>Special Events</b>			
Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.	<i>Duneland Harvest Festival</i>	Have fun at this free 31st annual festival that showcases traditional farming activities, crafts, games, music, and food at the historic Chellberg Farm.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday, September 26 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<i>Untold Stories of Indiana Dunes</i>	Enjoy a preview of the Ken Burns upcoming PBS documentary on the National Parks. Also, previewing is the "Untold Stories of Indiana Dunes" video that was developed by the year's national lakeshore's ParKids.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Saturday, October 10 & Sunday, October 11 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. by reservation only; (last tour departs at 3 p.m.)	<i>Historic Architecture Tour – Century of Progress Homes</i>	Interior tours of these unique, historic 1933 homes are offered by reservation <b>only</b> . The tour is free, however there is a \$15.00 transportation fee. Make online reservations <b>only</b> at <a href="http://www.historiclandmarks.org/tours/pages/calendar/details.aspx?EventID=148">http://www.historiclandmarks.org/tours/pages/calendar/details.aspx?EventID=148</a> For more information contact Jennifer Gregar from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana at (574) 232-4534.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Sunday, November 22 1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	<i>What's Thanksgiving without the Turkey?</i>	Kids of all ages will enjoy this program, puppet show, and activities designed to help you learn about the wild turkeys living in the dunes.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Sunday, January 31 1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	<i>Groundhog Day Celebration</i>	A puppet groundhog will answer "when is spring coming" while presenting many fun facts and myths about groundhogs.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Maple Sugar Time March 6, 7, 13, & 14 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	<i>Maple Sugar Time</i>	Enjoy a taste of spring and learn about maple sugaring from the American Indian methods to the way the Chellbergs made syrup in their sugar shack during the 1930's to sell.	Chellberg Farm
Saturday, April 24 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.	<i>National Park Week – Green Gary</i>	In celebration of National Park Week and Earth Day, join in the family fun while learning about the natural resources of the national lakeshore and the City of Gary. Kids can earn a special Junior Ranger button, too.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education

# Enjoying Nature's Labors of Change

by Rick Gianni



Now that summer swimsuits have gone into hibernation, don't think the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is tucking itself in for a long winter's nap. Just the opposite is taking place! Autumn is nature's busy season at the dunes. Now is the time to watch the marvels as the dunes and forests begin to transform into its most colorful and entertaining time of the year. It is time to enjoy the scenes as leaves change color and witness nature's autumn labor as it prepares for winter.

The best way to begin the autumn experience at the national lakeshore is to pick up a map at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The map will guide those not familiar with the area. And for those who know the national park, the map is a good reminder not to forget favorite views and locations. There are also trail guides available for those who plan on getting an even closer view of autumn at the Indiana Dunes. Except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, the park access areas open daily at 7 a.m. The Visitor Center opens slightly later at 8:30 a.m.

For those who visited the trails throughout the Indiana Dunes earlier this year, there are new things to see because all those summer plants and animals now have matured. The tender green leaves and fresh blades of grass will have a whole new appearance for the true nature lover. This change in the plant life is one of nature's autumn labors.

The Indiana Dunes Dunewood Campground is open until October 31. Now is the best time to camp since the nights are cool and crisp. The trails are quiet enough to hear the autumn leaves plunk against the tent as they cover the ground. Night owls and frogs create a symphony only nature can produce, while crickets will rhythmically sing autumn campers to sleep in their toasty sleeping bags. For those who are of tender feet, the sand on the beach is not as hot as it was in July and August. This makes for the best romantic walks before a night of camping.

Another one of nature's autumn labors is the migration of waterfowl. The national lakeshore is a favorite stop for migrating ducks and geese as they make their way south for the oncoming winter. Restored wetlands become an oasis for these birds. For some ducks and geese, the wetland has become so comfortable they make it their southern destination. Ruddy ducks and Canada geese can be seen at the national lakeshore's wetlands.

Fish like salmon and steelhead labor to make their way up the Burn's Waterway Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk to lay eggs. Here is an opportune moment to put an Indiana state fishing license to use. One fishing site highly recommended by fishermen at the national lakeshore is the fishing bridge on Howe Road.

While leisurely summer afternoons were once enjoyed, nature's autumn labor of the harvest now begins. The 34th annual Duneland Harvest Festival will take place on September 19 and 20. The free festival will take place at Chellberg Farm located on Mineral Springs Road in Porter, Indiana. Once again it is easy to witness nature's autumn labor. A laborious demonstration of making apple butter and apple cider provides an educational opportunity for the young or a trip down memory lane for the not so young.

The location of the festival, Chellberg Farm, is a relic of the historic past of Indiana's history. The Chellberg family farmed at this location for generations, and creates a wonderful atmosphere for the harvest festival. Demonstrations at the festival relive traditional labors of Indiana farmers. During the summer months, everyone on the farm worked outside,

either in the barnyard, field or garden. If the work could be done inside, it became an autumn chore as the days grew shorter and the nights grew cooler. Duneland Harvest Festival demonstrations include sheep herding and sheep shearing and then spinning the wool from the sheep. Other hands-on activities include brick and soap making. Watch or even get a dancing lesson from the local Goodtime Cloggers.

Since the plants along the lakefront have now matured, so have the plants that were sewn during spring planting at the Chellberg Farm. The Duneland Harvest Festival provides an opportunity to experience the harvest labors Indiana farmers knew so well. Old fashioned harvest farm machinery will be in action to demonstrate to visitors how crops were processed during the autumn season long ago.

Farmers were not the only population living in this scenic area of Indiana. On October 10 and 11, tours of the historic World's Fair homes will be offered to park visitors.

Some of these structures were showcased at the 1933 World's Fair that was held in Chicago.

After the close of the fair, the homes were shipped across the lake on barges to their current location. Visitors need to preregister for the tour by consulting the national lakeshore website at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for more information and a link to the Historic Landmarks website.

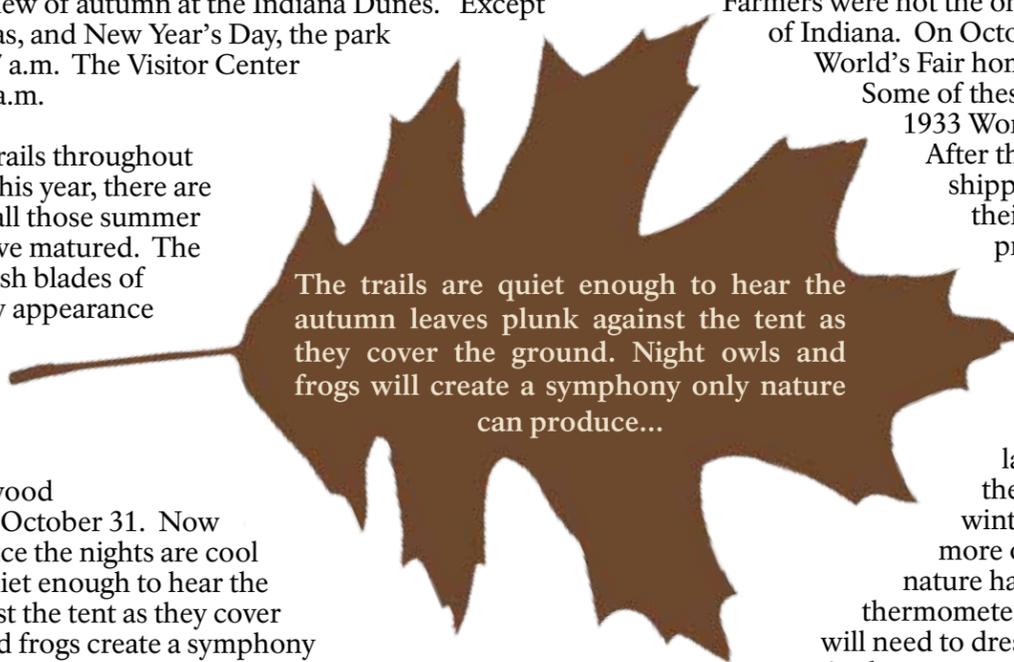
Finally, with all of nature's autumn labors and the harvest chores complete, the dunes have now prepared for the winter. This change in season only creates more opportunities at the dunes. Again, nature has continued to labor away. With winter thermometers dipping into the low degrees, visitors will need to dress warm, but can still witness nature's arctic changes.

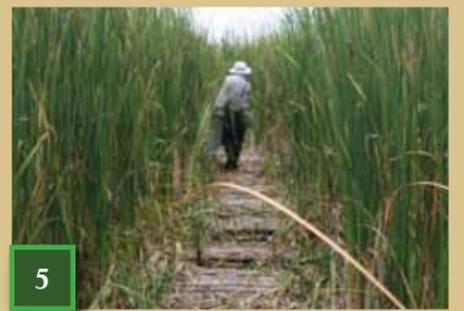
Autumn colors have given way to the white snows and the clear ice that forms from the sprays of the lake. Now is the time to give the snowshoes a workout; a winter labor! Six miles of trails have been designated for cross country skiing on the Ly-co-ki-we trail. Cross country skiing and snowshoe hiking provide park visitors a close look at winter wildlife and a quiet peek at the dormant plant life waiting for the spring to return. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity for the true nature lover.

However, the winter does create concerns that visitors need to understand. Park rangers advise caution whenever near the lake. This caution is important during the winter visits at the park. Avoid walking on the changeable, unstable ice at all times. Visitors need to inform family members of their planned winter visits and provide a time frame of when they plan on returning from the dunes. It is advisable to view the winter beach safety video at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) prior to your winter visit.

As the winter months come to a close, nature has continued to labor onward. Sugar Maple trees provided a sweet treat for Indiana farmers like the Chellberg family. Nights below freezing with days above freezing bring on the sugar season. Visitors can see how sap was drawn from the Maple tree to be used as an ingredient for many traditional foods in the diets and lifestyles of American Indians, settlers, and farmers like the Chellbergs. Maple Sugar Time will be held on the first two "full" weekends in March. This year that means March 6 and 7 and again on March 13 and 14. Maple Sugar Time will be held at the Chellberg Farm grounds and will run from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

Finally, as the months of March and April continue, visitors can start the cycle of nature's labors all over again. All that needs to be remembered is that the best place to witness these labors is at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Hope to see everyone there.





1 - Plants grow in the national lakeshore's greenhouse from native seeds. 2 - Scientists prepare greenhouse grown grasses for re-planting in its habitat. 3 - Chemicals are sometimes used to thwart the aggressive, hybrid cattails spread. 4 - Temporary trails are forged into wetlands for treating invasive species and for replanting the natives. 5 - Scientist paves the way for the way it was.

## Cowles Bog Wetland Restoration Project (continued from page 1)

Indiana as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, it mandated that we preserve and protect these lands. So, in a manner of speaking, the decision had already been made to restore this landmark.

Individuals visiting the 8,000 year old Cowles Bog today see not a bog, but, more correctly, a fen. It is unknown if it ever was a "true" bog or whether that was the term people used for wetlands of all types long ago. This fen is a much more alkaline environment than a "true" acidic bog, like the park's Pinhook Bog. While some typical bog plants are found here, Cowles Bog is increasingly being choked with cattails.

Using aerial photographs and historic records, the national lakeshore's resource management staff developed a series of maps showing a dramatic shift from the biologically diverse sedge meadow to a near monoculture of hybrid cattails. To discover why this change has been occurring, the national lakeshore sought and obtained grant monies needed to cover research costs.

The research project provided several very detailed maps showing changes in seasonal water levels, water chemistry, plant density

and diversity, and composition of both soil and seed banks. These research results supported the theory that the recent invasion of the hybrid cattail was not as much a natural part of succession, but more the result of human induced changes to the area. These changes included the development of modern transportation systems and drainage ditches.

Last year, the park received a 3-year grant allowing the labor-intensive process of restoring the Cowles Bog wetland to begin. While this grant is an important start, the total restoration will take between 10 and 15 years of continuous effort. Any break in the restoration work will lead to additional years of work in the future.

Your help is needed in this important work. Join a ranger on September 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to help with a National Public Lands Day project to remove invasive plants at Cowles Bog. Meet at the Cowles Bog parking lot, located west of Mineral Springs Road and north of U.S. Highway 12 near the South Shore railroad tracks. Work gloves and supplies will be provided. More details will be posted on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's website at [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu).



**Before Treatment**  
An abundance of hybridized cattails domineer over a former sedge meadow habitat. Scientists work to restore the native grasses and sedges.

**After Treatment**  
The diversity of native grasses and sedges reappear once the forceful cattails are curtailed and the hydrology is restored.

# Park Safety Tips

**Poison Ivy** – Leaves of three, let it be! While not all plants with a compound leaf of three are poison ivy, abide by this scouting pledge until you are sure of the identification. All parts of poison ivy and poison sumac give an itchy rash to most people who touch it. The fall berries produced by these plants feed 60 different species of birds in the national lakeshore.



Poison Ivy



Poison Ivy (leaves of three)



Poison Sumac

**Insects** - Be aware of your surroundings, especially if you are allergic. A paper wasp nest may be overhead, underground or visiting your beverage while you are at the beach. If you find yourself close to a nest, remain calm and quietly move away from the area. Stinging and biting insects usually attack when they are defending their nest. If you are attacked, run away! Pull your shirt over your head and keep running until you are in a safe area (such as a vehicle or building) or the insects stop chasing you. If you seek medical treatment, it is helpful to bring an insect with you for identification.

**Shelf Ice** - Though beautiful to view, is neither solid nor stable and should never be ventured upon. The Lakeview access area is a safe place to observe the spectacular ice formations. Shelf ice formation begins with a frozen beach. Next, a small ridge or ice foot forms over the water's edge. Ice floating in Lake Michigan gets blown against the shoreline pushing against the ice foot and creating piles of ice. Piles can freeze together looking like a sculpture extending several hundred feet into the lake even to the horizon. Shelf ice can contain unfrozen sections and is full of air pockets and cracks. A top layer of snow can seem deceptively solid. Remember NEVER WALK ON SHELF ICE.

Remember sledding is not permitted anywhere in the national lakeshore. To stay safe, avoid having exposed skin and dress in removable layers. Signs of hypothermia include intense shivering and confusion with most cases occurring in temperatures from 30 – 50 degrees.

**DANGER**

**¡PELIGRO!**

Keep off the ice.  
Death can occur.

No pise el hielo.  
Puede ocasionar  
su muerte.



In case of an emergency or to report a crime, call  
the national lakeshore emergency line at:

**1-800-PARKTIP (727-5847)**

## Volunteers Needed



If you have a love for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, perhaps it is time to take that love to a new level? Many volunteer opportunities exist for a rewarding venture in assisting park rangers in almost any field. Working outdoors or indoors, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore needs your help and expertise. Volunteer activities include greeting visitors at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, leading tours for school groups, restoring natural habitats, helping at festivals and more. Any amount of time you can give on a regular basis does make a difference. For more information on the volunteer program, first consult [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov) or [serve.gov](http://serve.gov) to learn about the specific help needed. You can also contact the national lakeshore's Volunteer Coordinator Lynda Lancaster at 219-395-1682 or [Lynda\\_Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov).

## Education Programs

Who do we serve? Any organized group such as schools (K-12), scouts, university classes, preschools, and organizations.

What do we provide? Park rangers and docents conduct a variety of free, curriculum-based programs ranging from one to three hours. Organized groups can choose from activities such as service learning projects, hiking on marked trails, and learning about local history at the Chellberg Farm or Bailly Homestead. Hands-on programs allow students to explore and learn in their national park.

How do you reserve a ranger-led program? Call (219) 938-8221 or 1-800-959-9174. Programs are offered year round.

Where can you go for more information? Check [www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers](http://www.nps.gov/indu/forteachers). This national lakeshore website has interactive games for students and activities to download for teachers along with a complete list of the programs offered.



# Park Partners

## Kampinos National Park



This Polish National Park mimics the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in habitats, plants and soils. Both are botanically rich in plant diversity and animal life and share preservation ideals along with resource management methods and techniques. Kampinos has been a park partner since 1988. You can access more information about Kampinos National Park on the national lakeshore web site at [www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/sisterparks.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/sisterparks.htm).

Both are located near the major urban centers of Warsaw and Chicago and face similar threats of air and water pollution, hydrology issues, and habitat fragmentation along with high visitation. Kampinos hopes to mimic the environmental education camp like the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center residential camp. Each park shares its technical and resource management methods with the other.



## Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana



*Our mission is to lead and assist individuals, organizations and communities in preserving and revitalizing endangered landmarks through education, advocacy, and financial support to enrich contemporary life and leave a legacy of landmarks.*

The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI), a not-for-profit preservation organization, placed the national lakeshore's Century of Progress houses on the "Ten Most Endangered Sites in Indiana" list in 1993. The national lakeshore and HLFI entered into an agreement in 1996 to protect and maintain the houses through a residential leasing program. The leasing program, that has grown to include two Lustron houses and two sites within the proposed Swedish Heritage District, is the primary catalyst for the long-term preservation of these resources.

HLFI has always respected and upheld the mission of the national lakeshore and National Park Service. Their staff works closely with the national lakeshore's cultural resource staff on planning, coordinating, and overseeing the rehabilitation of the park's cultural resources that are in the residential leasing program. For more information contact:

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana  
340 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
1-800-450-4534  
[www.historiclandmarks.org](http://www.historiclandmarks.org)

### Other Partners

Chesterton Art Center  
Field Station Cooperative  
Friends of Indiana Dunes  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources-  
Nature Preserves and Coastal Program  
Dunes Learning Center  
Porter County Convention, Recreation, and Visitor  
Commission  
Purdue University Field Station  
Save the Dunes Conservation Fund  
Shirley Heinze Land Trust  
U.S.G.S. Lake Michigan Ecological Research Station  
Indiana Nature Conservancy

## Indiana Dunes State Park

# DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

*Our mission is to manage and interpret Indiana Dunes State Park's wildlife and natural and cultural resources, provide for compatible recreational opportunities, and sustain the integrity of these resources for future generations.*

Established in 1925, Indiana Dunes State Park is one of 24 Indiana state parks administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Division of State Parks and Reservoirs. The state park contains some of the most diverse flora and fauna of the Midwest. It is also renowned throughout the Midwest for its birding.

The state park offers:

- a new park entrance,
  - a year-round campground,
  - swimming beach with lifeguards,
  - nature center,
  - more than 16 miles of hiking/skiing trails, and
  - picnic shelters and areas.
- During the summer, a beach pavilion provides:
- a shelter,
  - snack bar,
  - gift shop, and
  - restrooms with outside showers.

The nature center has a library, bird observation room, children's activity corner, information desk, and exhibits about natural and cultural history. Private, public, and school programs are held year-round. Camping reservations can be made by calling 1-866-622-6746. There is a park entrance fee. For more information, contact:

### Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 North 25 East    Chesterton IN 46304  
219-926-1952    [www.IN.gov/dnr](http://www.IN.gov/dnr)

### INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

Park Hours: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Entrance Fees

Daily: \$10.00 with out-of-state plates  
\$4.00 with IN plates, Mon.-Thurs.  
\$5.00 with IN plates, Fri.-Sun., holidays  
\$2.00 per day for walk-ins and bicyclists  
Annual entrance permits are available.  
\$36.00 resident, \$46.00 non-resident

## Support the Park with Your Purchases



*Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to America's national parks.*

Eastern National promotes understanding and support of the National Park Service by providing visitors with the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the importance of preserving and protecting America's national parks for future generations.

Eastern National, a non profit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications such as this edition of *The Singing Sands*.

## Eastern National Bookstore



A variety of educational items are available for purchase at Eastern National bookstore. The online store is at [www.easternnational.org](http://www.easternnational.org) or [www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com).

### 1 West Beach

There is much to do at West Beach, even when the weather is too cold for swimming. Grill a meal at the picnic shelter, walk a marked trail traversing the dunes and forest, learn how plant and animal communities are replacing one another through time, or watch migrating waterfowl at Long Lake in autumn and spring.

### 2 Portage Lakefront

October 2008 marked the opening of the national lakeshore's newest location, Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. The new facility has parking for 125 cars, an accessible fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, access to the beach, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion that will contain a food service area.

### 3 Cowles Bog Trail

The national lakeshore's most rugged hike takes you on a five-mile journey through wetlands and over both wooded and moving dunes to an isolated beach.

Explore an 1820s fur trading outpost and a 1900-era Swedish farmstead. Enjoy the Duneland Harvest Festival during the third full weekend of September and Maple Sugar Time in March. Follow the trail that starts here and winds through a wide diversity of landscapes, including the Mnoke Prairie, the Little Calumet River, and a mature beech/maple woodland.

### 4 Bailly/Chellberg

Depending on the season, hike, ski, or ride the four-mile trail through wooded dunes and wetlands. Bring your own skis or horse.

### 5 Ly-co-ki-we Trail

Dunewood is just over one-mile south of Lake Michigan and features 79 wooded campsites. Enjoy camping with the convenience of modern restrooms and showers. Fees are charged, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The campgrounds are open the months of April through October.

### 7 Dunewood Campground

Hike the trail to the top of the national lakeshore's largest moving dune. Mount Baldy, at 126 feet tall, provides stunning views of Lake Michigan and its shoreline.

### 8 Mount Baldy

### 9 Pinhook Bog

A mat of sphagnum moss keeps everything from trees to insect-eating plants floating above an ancient, and now-hidden, lake. This extremely rare and fragile habitat can only be entered during a ranger-led tour.



### Water Safety

Lake Michigan waters can be hazardous. Rip currents occur frequently during periods of high wind and waves. During the winter, shelf ice forms along the lakeshore and is never safe to walk on. Check with local authorities about conditions and potential hazards.

Note: There are no lifeguards at any national lakeshore beaches during the fall, winter and spring.