

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2011



The Fox Tale

*A Quarterly Nature Newsletter Published by the
Fox Island Alliance*

VERA DULIN and FOX ISLAND ALLIANCE 1976 TO 2011

The Board of directors of the Fox Island Alliance, Inc. is very pleased to honor Vera Dulin with an Emeritus Membership on the Fox Island Alliance Board of Directors.



VERA DULIN, your contributions over the years have been amazing. You were on the FIA Board from 1976 to now. Your daughter Carol was with the Junior League in 1973 when it initiated the Fox Island Activity. In 1974 they developed the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Fox Island Alliance. With her were Mr. Dan Moses, Mrs. Don Goldner, Mr. James Barrett III, Mr. Thomas Dustin, and Mr. Robert Weber. A total of 19 people were on the initial Board of Directors. Included besides those mentioned were Dr. Jack Sunderman, Mrs. Gathings Stewart, Mrs. Graham Richard, Mr. Tom Silva, and Mr. Dan Moses. Joan Goldner was the president in 1974-1975. Dan Moses took that office in 1975-1976 and Tom Silva was president in 1976-1978. In the fall of 1974 Bob Weber and the group put together a Teachers workshop at Fox Island to introduce educators to the park. It was very successful.



Pat Bolman, the first full time Naturalist came on board. When you joined in 1976, you helped immediately planning Trail Guide trainings and providing food. You also made sure the teachers had the information they needed before they arrived. You sent cards to each teacher who requested a trip. No money was charged. You made sure that each volunteer trail guide had all the equipment they needed and spent many hours calling and being there for all. You, with a small child, were featured in three video tapes made by an expert from FWCS to show Fox Island in spring, fall, and winter. These were placed in the schools and at Fox Island.



FIA Board members become good friends and many stay on because they enjoy the park and each other. In 2009 you were honored with the Fox Island Alliance Service Award – 32 years and counting! What is the best part of Fox Island, the marsh, the frog pond, the wildflowers, etc.? Each is special.

One of your most important jobs was to keep the scrapbooks up to date. You have done a magnificent job. Many newer board members have learned about the history by looking at those books. Along the way you also took on the job of Remembrance chair sending cards when needed. You did so many things that I am sure I am leaving something out. Now we have Ron and Natalie and Jeff Baxter as well as the present board. I think you have left the park in very good hands.



As an Emeritus Member you will have free membership and may attend Alliance Board Meetings as a non voting member. We thank you for your service and wish you well.

Sincerely,
Executive Committee
Kate Ferguson, Jeff Ormiston, David Boyer, Pam George



Involving Local Citizens in Wildlife

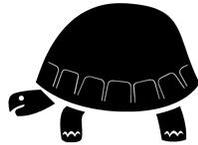
Wildlife conservation is not just a concern of the naturalists at our parks and nature centers. It's becoming a part of the everyday lives of many local citizens with a passionate interest in the well-being of our environment.

Citizen Science species counts are incredibly important for logging data on animal migration and population number patterns. Bird migrations are often documented on IN-Bird list-serves. Avid birders will "flock" to local rare bird sightings and post them as religiously as facebook users. The local Stockbridge Audubon Society has devout members that post their bird sightings and help ornithologists develop bird migration patterns or flag bird migration problems. For example, if a rare whooping crane is shot, all those on the list-serve know. If a bald eagle has started to nest on the St. Joe River, the local birders are aware of it pretty quickly for the birders on IN-Bird.

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is conducting a FrogWatch.USA citizen science activity that will tell scientists where local frog species are breeding. They can also log when the frogs start calling, thereby establishing breeding patterns. Fox Island has trapped local salamanders in order to find out which species exist on-site. We have a base-line of data that establishes our salamander species. We may conduct studies with five year breaks in between to document their population status. The local zoo veterinarian, Dr. Joe Smith, has expressed interest in finding out whether the local amphibians have the lethal chytrid fungus that is threatening amphibian populations nation-wide. Fox Island is also home to the rare frog, the Northern Leopard Frog. If you go "froggin'" at Fox Island, it is hard to believe they are a rarity in other parts of the country (listed as a species of "special concern" on

the Indiana Department of Natural Resource website) -->when I have to constantly remind visitors to stay behind me on the trail in order to avoid stepping on them during the spring field-trip season.

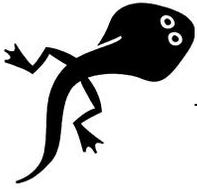
Natalie Haley - Environmental Educator
Allen County Parks



Membership Survey

We want to hear from you! We've recently developed a membership survey to gather information about member likes and needs. Please take the time to answer this short survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/foxisland>. It will take about 5-minutes to complete the survey. Thank you for the time and your continued interest and support of Fox Island County Park and the Fox Island Alliance.





FIA Pond Life at Sol Fest

By Jeff Ormiston

Once again, at the 2011 Fox Island Sol Fest, the Fox Island Alliance set up tables and provided a hands-on experience for Fest attendees both young and old. The tables had numerous types of pond life and were set up by the lake near pavilion #1. The exhibit, manned by Liz Hincks and Jeff Ormiston, also provided dip nets and buckets for all youngsters who wanted to capture their own "critters" from the lake to add to the collection in our four aquariums. Several contributors returned to the table several times to check on their pond life. Some of the wildlife on display included clam shrimp, mosquito larvae, leopard frogs, bullfrog tadpoles, green frog tadpoles, a fresh water mussel, damselfly and dragonfly nymphs and numerous other fresh water invertebrates. A very big hit were the seven baby painted turtles found by kids at various points near the lake. The turtles were trying to navigate through the crowds on their way to the lake and were rescued with a short stop-over in the FIA turtle tank. We also set up one of the two field microscopes, purchased by the Alliance for use with school groups, to better display the small aquatic life difficult to see with the naked eye. Guests were impressed by the fact that everything at our tables was from the park. With a focus on continuous improvement, next year we would like to man the bird building and set up a park mammal exhibit giving Fest goers another hands-on opportunity.

FIA Regional Science Fair Winners

The Fox Island Alliance again gave awards to three area students with entries in the Environmental Sciences category at the Regional Science Fair held March 19th at IPFW. Criteria that were used in selecting the award recipients: 1) Research in environmental or ecological area; 2) Clear research statement, adequate control of variable, good sample size, logical analysis; and 3) Good communication appropriate to age group. FIA judges were Kate Ferguson, Pam George, Jennifer Walker, Jeff Ormiston. Winners were:



Senior Division

Jay Parekh

Homestead High School

"The Effects of Herbs on Stress Management in Fish"

Junior Division

Davis Lamm

Canterbury School

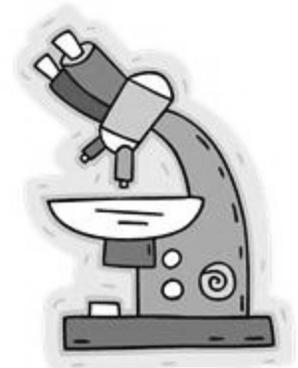
"What is that Scum Doing in My Pool"

Elementary Division

Willow Pierce

Haverhill Elementary

"Nature's Filters"



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARK?

To register or for more information; or
e-mail: nhaley@allencountyparks.org call 449-3246 Natalie or
rzartman@allencountyparks.org call 449-3186 Ron

Registration forms available at www.allencountyparks.org

Summer Day Camp at Fox Island

Preregister 2 weeks early for each camp

For campers interested in canoeing, fishing, swimming, nature art, slime games, etc.

July 11-15 Back in Time Camp

Minimum - 10

July 18-22 Outdoor Games Camp

\$100 per session.- 9am-5pm - Natalie



Summer Day Camps at Metea -

Preregister 2 weeks early for each camp

For campers interested in tubing down Cedar Creek, fishing, swimming, back-packing, and old-fashioned summer fun.

\$100 per session 9am-5pm - Natalie

July 25-29- Cedar Creek Camp

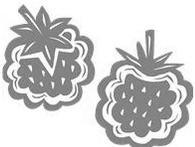
Minimum - 10

August 1-5 – Back-Country Camp

August 8-12 – Bullfrogs and Butterflies Camp

Scrap-Booking Summer Sessions “Crop ‘Till you drop!” Fridays July 22, August 26th.

Cost \$10 per session. Pre register 5 days early. - **Natalie**



Preschool Discovery Hour Tuesdays - \$3 per child & \$2 per adult - **Ron**

Berry Fairy Hunt July 19, 1 mile hike-search for berry fairies and Raspberries

Butterfly Hunt – August 9 - story, search and a snack.



Trail Guide Training – Tips and Tricks – August 25th 1-4pm – Free
Focus on Fall tree programs. Preregister by 8-19. - **Natalie**

Little Wabash River Bike Hike

August 27, Saturday 9AM cost \$2 Register by 8-22
Bring your own road-ready bicycle, water and snacks for a 13
mile tour of Little Wabash River valley, Erie Canal features,
Vermilyea House, and Little River Wetlands. Helmets Required.
- **Ron**



Stockbridge Audubon Society Birding Fieldtrip – 7:45am - Ron
September 10. \$2 park entry
Help search for fall migrants and resident birds.

Tai Chi

Sept. 14 – Nov. 2- Wednesdays Cost = \$50 for 8 weeks – 6-7pm
Nancy Gebhard – Instructor, will teach the Sun Seventy-three
Form. Gentle, non-strenuous and can be practiced by all. - **Ron**



Glow in the Dark Hike –

September 23, Friday \$2. Pre register by 9-18
Join us to search for glowworms and bioluminescent mushrooms. - **Ron**



Kit Kapers: Fox Island Park for Kids What's All the Buzz About?

by Pam George

The bee hive in the Bird Observation Building survived the long, cold winter and is all a-buzz!!



Look closely inside the hive and see if you can spot:

Queen Bee: the largest bee in the hive with a huge abdomen full of eggs.

Drone Bees: shorter than the Queen, but with bulkier heads & thoraxes. All are males.

Worker Bees: smallest of the bees measuring only about ½ inch long; also the most numerous. All are female.

Collecting the Goodies

The female worker bees supply the bee colony with **nectar and pollen**. **Nectar** is a sweet liquid produced by blooming flowers to attract insects. **Pollen** is a high protein dust on the stamen of flowers that combines with the eggs inside the pistil to create seeds.



The **worker bee** has the perfect body for transporting both nectar and pollen back to the hive. As she hovers over a flower, she sticks out her long, tube-like **proboscis** and sucks up the nectar from the tip of the flower pistil. The nectar is then stored in a crop called a "honey stomach" for transporting. While she hovers, friction from her fluttering wings statically attracts pollen to her body hairs. Her hind legs have special hairs called "pollen baskets" for storing the pollen.

Honey In The Making

Now it's time to make the honey! While flying back to the hive, the worker bee adds certain chemicals to the collected nectar in her stomach which breaks it down into easily digested sugars. At the hive, she "spits out" the pre-digested nectar into the mouths of the **hive worker bees** (also female) who suck and blow on the nectar and roll it on their tongues to evaporate the water. Then they place the thickening nectar into the honeycomb cells and continue to fan the cells with their wings until the liquid thickens into delicious honey. The last step is to seal each cell with wax.

Will Any Flower Do?

In the spring, honey bees are attracted to the sweetest flowers first. As the seasons change, they move on to newer, but less sweet, blossoms. In this way, they always have a ready supply of nectar from spring through fall.

How Do Bees Find these "Ever-So-Sweet" Flowers: The Dance of the Bees

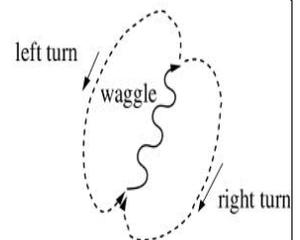
When a **scout worker bee** (young female) successfully finds a patch of richly sweet flowers, she returns to the hive and excitedly "talks" to the older worker bees. Her scent tells them what kind of flowers she's found, and her dance tells them where the flowers are located.

* If the flowers are close by (less than 100 yards) the worker bee dances in circles on the honeycomb. This tells the others to search around the hive.

** If the flowers are farther away, she dances a figure 8 pattern ...the waggle dance.

*** If the bee dance is very rapid, the flowers are just over 100 yards away. If the dance is slower, the flowers are located farther away, demonstrating the bee's exhaustion from the long journey.

The other worker bees now fly to the flowers in a straight line, called a **beeline**!



Fox Island Alliance Annual Meeting – May 15, 2011 Volunteer Report



The Fox Island Alliance Board, all nineteen members, have worked very hard this past year. From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, they have participated in five regular meetings and one annual meeting. They have written articles for the Fox Tale; they have led numerous hikes in the spring and fall; they have worked on educational projects; they have attended Allen County Park Board meetings; they have prepared minutes and treasurer's reports; they have worked on scrapbooks and history; they have produced the Fox Tale; they have worked on gardens judged at the Regional Science Fair and have even rebuilt the marsh observation tower. They have also done countless other activities that I haven't mentioned. All in all the board has contributed 1327 hours to the Alliance and the park. With 8,760 hours in one year we have contributed 15% of that year to Fox Island County Park. This is an increase in hours over last year of 197. Congratulations! Thanks for keeping up the good work. Every little bit makes a difference.

By Barbara Bauer, Volunteer Chair

We always need more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact Naturalist, Natalie Haley at 449-3246 or Barbara at 459-1742.

NATURE

O nature! I do not aspire
To be the highest in thy choir, -
To be a meteor in thy sky,
Or comet that may range on high;
Only a zephyr that may blow
Among the reeds by the river low;
Where to run my airy race.

In some withdrawn, unpublic mead
Let me sign upon a reed,

Or in the woods, with leafy din,
Whisper the still evening in:
Some still work give me to do, -
Only-be it near to you!

For I'd rather be thy child
And pupil, in the forest wild,
Than be the king of men elsewhere,
And most sovereign slave of care;
To have one moment of thy dawn,
Than share the city's year forlorn.

- Henry David Thoreau



FOX ISLAND ALLIANCE

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Roanoke, IN 46783

SUMMER 2011



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Visit us online: www.foxislandalliance.org

Fox Island Alliance Membership Application New Renewal

Officers:

Jeff Ormiston, President
Kate Ferguson- Vice President
Pam George, Treasurer
Liz Hincks, Secretary

Board of Directors:

Barbara Bauer, David Boyer II, Ed Ehler,
Linda Forest, Phil Herrick, Ben Hess, Dr. Solomon
Isiorho, Jeff Keplar, Gonzalee Martin, Iona Mensch,
Ed Powers, Jennifer Walker, and Craig Williams

Directors Emeritus:

Vera Dulin, John McCory, Dr. Jack Sunderman, and
Bob Weber

Fox Tale Editor: Jennifer Manning

The **Fox Island Alliance** is a volunteer not-for-profit organization. Its purposes are to help preserve the natural features of Fox Island County Park, to assist its orderly development as a nature preserve, to raise funds to facilitate its development, to promote Fox Island's use as an educational center, and to coordinate volunteer efforts.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check if you would like to receive your Fox Tale by e-mail.

Check if you do not want your name published.

Please circle one:

Student \$5 - Senior \$5 - 2 Seniors \$10 - Indiv \$15 - Family \$20 - Sustaining \$30 - Patron \$50

Additional gifts: \$ ___ Education \$ ___ Exhibits \$ ___ Scholarship \$ ___ Preservation

Total dues and gifts: \$ _____

If this membership is a gift, enter donor's name: _____

Check if you are interested in volunteering. You will be contacted.

Will your employer match you gift to FIA?

Check with your Human Resources/Personnel Department.
FIA is a 501 (c) (3) organization; extra gifts are tax deductible.
Make your check payable to **FIA, Inc**, and mail with this form to:

Ed Powers, Membership, 12206 W. Yoder Rd, Roanoke, IN 46783