



FESTIVAL OF THE SUN: SOL FEST 2012

BY JEFF ORMISTON

May 5th and 6th saw Fox Island come alive with the sound of music, the sounds of laughing children, and the sight of our park being enjoyed by hundreds of visitors participating in Sol Fest. There were snakes, food, drink, raptors, clam shrimp, kayaks, Ron Divelbiss's chili for the volunteers and much more. The Fox Island Alliance was again part of the festivities with our "Pond Life" exhibit on both days and a display of birds and mammals in the Bird Observation Building on Sunday. Alliance members who helped with our exhibits were Pam George, Kate Ferguson, Bill Seidel, Ed and Cynthia Powers and me. Nick Adams, a Boy Scout working towards the rank of Eagle Scout, also helped on Sunday as the head snake handler. The biggest contributors to the pond critters on display were the kids who were dipping for them from Bowman Lake. Water Scorpions, Green Sunfish, Painted Turtles, a Snapping Turtle, one Fowler's Toad, and various other aquatic invertebrates were all available for the adoration of the visitors through the persistent efforts of numerous soaking wet kids. While every attempt is made to not harm the specimens on display, one hungry dragonfly nymph consumed my right-handed snail and ended that learning opportunity. Many thanks to the Fox Island Park and Metea Park staff for their help with the Alliance displays.

ADVANCED TRAINING FOR MASTER NATURALISTS

There's good news for Indiana Master Naturalists wishing to continue their knowledge of nature and related topics. Continuing education classes will be offered in the coming months to Indiana Master Naturalists wishing to qualify for Advanced Master Naturalist certification or any Indiana Master Naturalist desiring to learn more about our natural world. The first class was held May 10th in the Nature Center/ACRES offices at the Dustin Nature Preserve on Chapman Road. "Weather Basics" was the topic of this class taught by Fox Island Alliance board member Bill Seidel and attended by 15 seekers of enlightenment. Bill, a serious amateur meteorologist for several years, explained the many components of what makes up our daily weather and how to avoid the life-threatening situations produced by weather. One class planned for this summer will be a tour of Heartland Restoration Services/Earth Source, Inc. led by Ben Hess, Nursery Manager and Alliance board member. The tour will include the seed collection operation and the native plant nursery. Other classes will be a class on nature photography, pond life/macro invertebrates and butterflies. Times, dates and locations will be emailed when they are finalized. Suggestions for future classes are welcome: pamgeorgeph@comcast.net or jeffo1947@yahoo.com.

Have you renewed your Fox Island Alliance Membership?????

THAT GREAT BIRD, OUR STATE BIRD NORTHERN CARDINAL By Jeff Ormiston

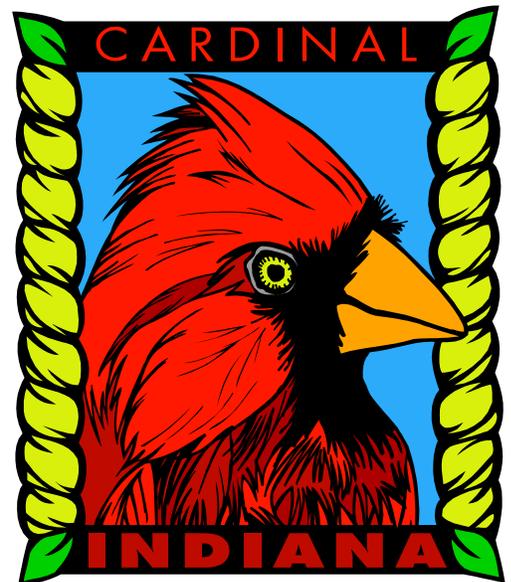
“ Sec. 1 The bird commonly known as the Red Bird or Cardinal (*Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis*) is hereby adopted and designated as the official state bird of the State of Indiana.”

With these words and the stroke of a pen, on March 2, 1933, the Indiana General Assembly gave the residents of Indiana their official state bird, the Northern Cardinal. It has long been accepted that the Cardinal was named by the early Protestant settlers of North America, but there is strong evidence that the name was given to this red bird by the explorers from the Roman Catholic countries of Europe in honor of the church's Cardinals, whose title originated in the 9th century. The states of Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia have also selected this fascinating feathered vertebrate as their state bird.

*You can tell a young
cardinal by its gray
beak.*

Cardinals are yearlong residents of Indiana and are best known for the striking red plumage of the male and the bright, clear song of both the male and female. The Cardinal is one of a few song birds in the United States in which both the male and female sing. Cardinals are native to North America, Guatemala, and Belize and are now found in Honduras and the Cayman Islands. The Redbird has been known to live up to 15 years in the wild and has an estimated global population of 100,000,000. Males and females pair up during the spring mating season and usually stay together through the winter only to go their own ways prior to the following spring mating season. As part of the pair-bonding process it is common to see the male feed the female in the early spring. Cardinals have 2-3 broods per year, beginning in March, in nests built by

the females with minor help from the males. Nests are usually 4' to 5' off of the ground built in thick vines or shrubs and contain 3-4 eggs. As I write this there is a nest with 3 newly hatched chicks in a tall rose bush next to my house. How the female and male fly in and out of that bush without getting slashed by the thorns is a mystery to me. The male Cardinal feeds the female while she incubates the eggs and the female often sings to let the male know when it's time for a snack. As soon as the first brood fledges the male takes up the feeding duties while the female begins a new nest for the next batch of youngsters. It's comical to see the youngsters follow the male from branch to branch, fluttering their wings, trying to get their share of the insects carried by "dad". The male will eventually lead the juveniles to feeders and feed them showing, by example, where to find a meal. On one occasion, I saw a male Cardinal, dutifully feeding a Cowbird fledgling that his mate had obviously successfully hatched and raised as one of her own. Not seeing any of his nest mates around, I can only assume the Cowbird was the lone survivor of that brood.



I applaud the 1933 Indiana General Assembly for making the Northern Cardinal the state bird of my home state and in so doing recognizing the natural qualities of that great bird, our state bird.

{Ed. Note: Modern taxonomists have changed the cardinal's scientific name to *Cardinalis cardinalis*.}

Interesting Speaker at Alliance Annual Meeting

By Barb Bauer

The Fox Island Alliance annual meeting was held on April 29 at the Nature Center at Fox Island County Park. After a brief business meeting in which reports about Indiana Master Naturalists, the library, membership and volunteers were heard, we listened to Jeff Baxter, Superintendent of Allen County Parks, give an update about Fox Island. Then, the highlight of the evening, a presentation by Michael Homoya about his current book, Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests, A Field Guide. It was most informative as well as very entertaining. Mr. Homoya has been the botanist/plant ecologist for the Division of Nature Preserves, Indiana Department of Natural Resources since 1982. As printed in the Foreword by Marion T. Jackson, Mike's most exciting find has been the discovery in 2001 of Short's goldenrod which was considered to be globally extinct. His record is only the third known location for this species in the world.

This book can be found at Fox Island's library, having been donated by Jeff Ormiston. It can also be found in the Nature Center's store. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for land protection and stewardship

Following Mr. Homoya's talk attendees had a wonderful meal provided by the Palmer House in Berne.



Regional Science Fair Awards

By Jeff Ormiston

The Fox Island Alliance again presented special awards in the Environmental Sciences Category at the 2012 IPFW Regional Science and Engineering Fair March 17th. The Board of directors voted to increase the amount of the award for 2012 and include an optional "Runner-up" award to be given if the Alliance judges felt there was a deserving project. Those students who received awards given by the Fox Island Alliance were:

Senior Div.	First Place	Fawaz Hasnain	Homestead H.S.	"Capsaicin: More Than A Spice"
Junior Div.	First Place	Davis Lamm	Canterbury	"Algae: The Next Power Plant"
Junior Div.	Runner-up	Mary Rumsey	Woodside	"One Fish, Two Fish, My Fish, Your Fish"
Elem. Div.	First Place	Nick Bayes	St. Charles	"Oil From Water: Which Sorbent Removes Oil from Water Most Effectively"
Elem. Div.	Runner-up	Luke Finch	Aboite	"Light It Up!"

The Fox Island Alliance judges were Jennifer Walker, Kate Ferguson, Pam George, and Jeff Ormiston



Kit Kapers: Fox Tale for Kids

By Pam George



The Flutter of the Butterflies

With summer plants around the Fox Island Nature Center and in the prairie in full bloom, in the blink of an eye you'll catch an occasional flicker of brilliant oranges, yellows, blues, greens, whites and even patches of black as the numerous butterflies at Fox Island take advantage of these fantastic sources of nectar. Sometimes called "flowers of the air", these amazing creatures are quite fascinating to watch.

Every movement of a butterfly serves a special purpose:

Basking: Since butterflies are cold-blooded, they need to bask in the sun to warm up their muscles. Their bodies have to reach 86 degrees before they can take flight.

Flight: Flying allows these insects to locate food, mates, and plants for laying eggs. They can hover and fly forward, or even backward.

Roosting: Butterflies are only active during the day. They seem to disappear at night, but really they are roosting among the leaves of trees, bushes and plants.

Feeding: Butterflies spend much of their time searching for flower nectar. After landing on a flower, they uncurl their proboscis and probe the blossom for this sweet, high-energy liquid. Some butterflies also drink juice from fruits, or even sip tree sap.

Puddling: Sometimes you'll see butterflies clustered around a mud puddle sticking their proboscises into the mud. Scientists think they perform this behavior to pick up much needed salts that have leached into the mud from underlying rocks.

Courtship: Wing colors and patterns are very important when male butterflies are trying to locate mates. Once a potential mate is found, circling, spinning, spiraling, and fluttering flight patterns can be observed.



Butterfly Facts:

There are about 24,000 species of butterflies

Antarctica is the only continent where no butterflies are found.
Many butterflies can taste with their feet.

Both sides of a butterfly's wings are covered in tiny colored scales. The patterns are the same on both wings. These scales are only four colors: red, yellow, black, or white. The blues & greens are a result of light rays bending.

Most butterflies can fly from 5-12 mph, but Skippers can reach 37 mph.



Butterflies on this page (top to bottom):

Monarch; Mourning Cloak; Spicebush Swallowtail; Comma; Tiger Swallowtail; Sulfur; Cabbage White

Other common butterflies found @ Fox Island Park: Painted Lady, Question Mark, Red Admiral; White Admiral; Skipper; Viceroy; Bronze Copper; Orange Sulfur; Pipe Vine Swallowtail; Black Swallowtail (& others)

SO..... Grab your butterfly net & identification book and spend a lazy summer day gazing at fluttering butterflies!

Have you renewed your Fox Island Alliance Membership?

IPFW Jack Sunderman Memorial

Due to Dr. Jack Sunderman's long and distinguished association with Fox Island and the Fox Island Alliance we are including this information on the proposed IPFW memorial. The Fox Island Geogarden will also be renamed in honor of Jack along with an appropriate engraving in stone. Please watch your mailboxes for more information on the IPFW memorial.

Jack Sunderman was the founding member of the Geosciences Department at IPFW and an involved member of organizations throughout our community. Jack was a member of the first Fox Island Alliance Board in 1975, served several terms as President, helped lead the planning, fund raising, and building of the Nature Center, and developed geogardens at Fox Island, Science Central and IPFW. Jack died on Aug. 23, 2011.

To honor his many accomplishments, the IPFW Geosciences Department has commissioned a local sculptor, Cary Shafer, to create a monument in his honor to be installed at the entrance of the Jack A. Sunderman GeoGarden near Kettler Hall on the IPFW campus. The dedication of the monument is scheduled for September, 2013 as part of the kick-off celebration for IPFW's 50th anniversary.

Anyone wishing to donate to this project can send a check to the attention of Anne Argast, Department of Geosciences, Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Checks should be written to IPFW with a note on the memo line

indicating the funds are for the Jack Sunderman Memorial. All donors will be remembered by having their name inscribed on a plaque to be mounted on the sculpture. Be sure to provide the exact name you wish to have inscribed on the plaque.

Many thanks.

Anne Argast, on behalf of the Jack A. Sunderman Memorial Committee



Have you renewed your Fox Island Alliance membership !

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT FOX ISLAND

To register for programs or for more information contact one of the following:

For Ron Zartman call 449-3186 or rzartman@allencountyparks.org

For Natalie Haley call 449-3246 or nhaley@allencountyparks.org

Most activities and programs have a \$2.00 charge and require pre-registration

Phenological Trail Trekkers: July 5, August 2, Sept. 6, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.

Phenology is the study of the timing of natural events, such as the first monarch caterpillar or the first fall colors. You never know what to expect! Wear old hiking shoes and meet at the nature center for this free monthly program.



Scrapbooking “Crop ‘Til You Drop!” July 27, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Fridays 6 p.m. to Midnight.

Join Creative Memories Consultant, Sherina Hewson to make memories to last a lifetime. PAID PREREGISTRATION 5 DAYS AHEAD IS NOW REQUIRED. But if you bring a new scrapbooking friend, it's \$5 off. COST \$10 PER CLASS, minimum 6, maximum 22. Pizza can be ordered for \$5 extra and most bring a snack to share. Call Natalie .

Fox Kit Club Adventures: “Lake Games and the Red, White and Blue Colors of Nature”

August 14, Sept. 11 Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. –10:30 a.m. Meet a naturalist at Bowman Lake for crafts and games on Aug. 14, On Sept. 11, use your senses to find the red, white and blue colors of nature. Cost \$3 per child, \$2 per parent. **Pre-register by 5 days prior.** Minimum 5, Max. 25; homeschool parents are not free.

Preschool Discovery Hour: Butterflies

August 21, Tuesday, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Enjoy the lives of butterflies, enjoy a story, and search for them in our butterfly garden and have a snack. Cost \$3/child and \$2 /adult. Preregister by Aug. 16. Minimum 5, Max 20.



Milkweed Magic , 10-11 a.m. and Milkweed Community Watch: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. August 25, Saturday

First, join Master Naturalist Ronnie Greenberg for an indoor presentation to learn the many local milkweeds. Then hike out to a Milkweed Community to search for the many spiders, butterflies and insects that call milkweeds home. This mildly toxic plant provides tasty treats for many small creatures.

Cost \$2 for either or both. Preregister by 8/20; minimum 5, maximum 30 for the indoors part, 20 for the hike.

Have you renewed your Fox Island Alliance membership ?

Snorkel Bowman Lake, August 25 Saturday, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bring your own snorkel, mask and fins to explore Bowman Lake with naturalist Ron Zartman. Participants should be confident swimmers with snorkeling experience.

Cost \$2, Preregister by 8/20; Minimum 5, Max. 30.



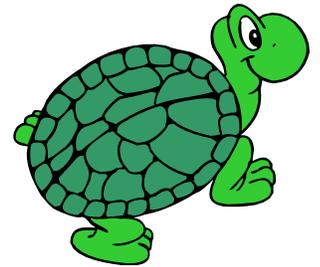
Stockbridge Audubon Society Birding Field Trip

September 1, Saturday 7:30 a.m. till 12. Join local birders as they search for resident birds and fall migrants. Meet at the Bird Observation Building Parking Lot. Cost: \$2 entry fee. No need to preregister, just dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

Preschool Discovery Hour: Turtle Tracks

September 11, Tuesday 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Youngsters will meet our exhibit turtles, search for wild turtles at the wetland and have a snack. Cost \$3 per child, \$2 per adult. Preregister by 9/6; Minimum 5, Maximum 20.



Stockbridge Audubon Society Birding Field Trip

September 22, Saturday 8 a.m. till about noon.

Join local birders as they search for resident birds and fall migrants. Meet at the Bird Observation Building parking lot. Cost: \$2 entry fee. No need to preregister, just dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

Glow-in-the-Dark Hike

September 28, Friday 8 p.m. till 9:30 p.m. Join us to search for glowworms and bioluminescent mushrooms. If you like, bring a luminescent toy or object, **but no flashlights or glow sticks to preserve our night vision.** Cost \$2; pre-register by 9/23.

Requested Programs—Open All Year! 24-7

If you are interested in having a naturalist guide your family, friends, home school group, church group, club, etc.....contact a naturalist today. Call 449-3246 for Fox Island or 449-3778 for Metea. We require a minimum of 5 participants and a minimum of \$20 per group session. Topics include (but are not limited to): spring wildflowers, prairie plants, insects, pond life, geologic history (fossils, glacier, dune sands), seasonal hike, fall color, trees, wetlands, natural history of the park, nature center tour, honeybees, butterflies, birthday parties, night hikes, canoeing 101, fishing 101, etc. Crafts or snacks may be added for an additional fee.

Ask Natalie about the next Indiana Junior Naturalist Class!





Fox Island Alliance

Ed Powers
12206 W. Yoder Road
Roanoke, IN 46783

We're on the Web!
www.foxislandalliance.org

**Did you remember to renew your
Fox Island Alliance membership ?**

Officers:

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

Board of Directors:

Barbara Bauer, David Boyer II, Jennifer Manning, Phil Herrick,
Ben Hess, Dr. Solomon Isiorho, Jeff Keplar, Bill Seidel,
Iona Mensch, Ed Powers, Jennifer Walker, and Craig Williams

Directors Emeritus:

Vera Dulin, John McCory, and Bob Weber

Fox Tale Editor:

Cynthia Powers

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.

ITS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO!! Use the application to the right and check the "Renewal" area!!

Fox Island Alliance Membership Application __New __Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

__ Check if you would like to receive your Fox Tale by email

— Check if you do not want your name published

Please Circle One:

Students \$5 - Senior \$5 - 2 Seniors \$10 - Indiv. \$15 - Family \$20

Sustaining \$30 - Patron \$50

Additional gift \$__ 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 your gift to FIA?

Check with your Human Resources/Personnel Department.

FIA is a 501 © (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