



The Volunteer

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Volunteer in Parks Newsletter

December 2010



Join the February Stewardship Assault on Invasive Plants! Feb. 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Indiana Coastal Cooperative Weed Management Area team is working with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to put together an army to battle against



invasive plants. Yes, February is a great time to get the jump on a wide variety of uninvited plants trying to take over the park! Members of The Nature Conservancy, Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinz, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and NIPSCO Environmental



Action Team are combining talent and time to tackle restoration along the Calumet Trail. The team will be working on national lakeshore parkland, and NIPSCO land to help reduce the ways invasive plants infiltrate the park. We are looking for 50 people who want to come for a winter assault mission. Tools and safety glasses will be provided, but come dressed to fight the elements and the weeds! Fearless John Kwilosz will lead the team in to battle. If you can join the assault contact him at John_R_Kwilosz@nps.gov.



Thank you 2010 Volunteers!

In fiscal year 2010, **1470** volunteers contributed **21,612.50** hours to the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Thank you all for your time and talents!

We would like to say thank you to all our volunteers with our 2011 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore calendar. For your calendar, please e-mail your address to Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov, or call (219)392-1682 and leave your name and address.

INDU BROWN BAG LUNCH SEMINARS sponsored by Great Lakes Research and Education Center at the Park Training Room on Mineral Springs Road. For more information contact Joy_Marburger@nps.gov or call her at (219)395-1544 (Your bag does not have to be brown, but you do need to bring your own lunch.)

January 12 12:00-1:00 pm
Noel Pavlovic
Fire Effects on Oriental Bittersweet

February 23 12:30-1:30 pm
Pete Avis
How the Oak Forest Ecosystem Next Door Responds to Simulated Air Pollution



International Coastal Clean-up 2010-INDU Edition



Connie greets volunteers at Porter Access

Every mile of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was cleaned up this fall during the International Coastal Clean-up. Northwest Indiana groups, large and small signed up through the Alliance for the Great Lakes to clean up and document the trash collected in this annual event.



Northwest Indiana Parrott Head Club at Kemil Access



Girl Scout 3033 at hard a work at Lake View Overlook

Brave volunteers did not let stormy clouds, brisk wind or rain; stop them from participating in the world wide event. Thank you to everyone.

Save Saturday
September 17, 2011 to
come out again next
year!



Abe packs up at the end of the day at Portage Lakefront



If you have time to volunteer at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore we have projects! Check volunteer.gov/gov for current volunteer opportunities.

Got questions about the volunteer program at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore? Suggestions for the newsletter? Contact [Lynda Lancaster@nps.gov](mailto:Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov) or call her at (219)395-1682





Volunteering and the IRS

By Lynda Lancaster Volunteer Program Manager

This past year the Internal Revenue Service conducted an audit of the National Park Service's Volunteer-In-Parks program. The IRS determined that volunteer reimbursements could be taxable income and must be reported in order to be in compliance with IRS policy. Some long standing VIP reimbursements are considered taxable and it is now clear that some reimbursements must be reported on your W2 or IRS Form 1099-MISC.

There is some difference for volunteers who are traveling as part of their volunteer duties, and if you are asked to be in travel status to volunteer for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore we will provide that information to you. For the majority of our volunteers the following are taxable:

- Mileage reimbursements at a rate above \$.14 per mile
 - If you receive more than 14 cents a mile as reimbursement for travel, the park will generate a 1099-MISC and you must report the reimbursement above the \$.14/mile as income on your annual tax return.
- Reimbursement for a pre-determined flat rate
 - In the past, volunteers would receive a flat per day reimbursement. Again, you would need to fill out a W2 and the park will have to generate a 1099-MISC so that this can be reported as income.
- Reimbursement without receipts
 - Any reimbursement you receive for items without a receipt must be reported on your W-2 or 1099-MISC as income on your annual tax return. For example, if you requested to be reimbursed for a tool used in a program and you do not have a receipt for that tool, the reimbursement would be considered income and would have to be reported to the IRS.
- Reimbursements for meals when food is readily available.
 - It has been determined that if you start off at your house before you come to do your volunteer duties, then food is considered readily available. You can bring food from home.
- Non-monetary awards or gifts of value above acceptable amounts.
 - It has been determined that a non-monetary award valued at no more than \$50 is an acceptable amount. For example, a \$25 book given to a volunteer as an award for outstanding service would not have to be reported as income on your taxes.

This is the policy as we understand it now. That may change. Stay tuned.

National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands 2011 Photo Contest: *Share the Experience*

Your photo could be on the Federal Recreation Lands Pass! Send your fabulous shots of your favorite local national park by December 31, 2010 and then GET OUT THE VOTE for 100 semi finalist. Voting ends 1/31/2011.

Go to sharetheexperience.org for details and a list of prizes.



Maple Sugar Time Education Programs 2011



sites must have a fire keeper.

We need someone cooking on the wood-burning stove in the kitchen each day and an additional one to two people showing students through the remaining rooms of the house and offering a taste of maple syrup.

If you would like to sign up to volunteer for these days, please call Jean-Pierre Anderson at 395-1848.

Maple Sugar Time is a popular program with schools and we have already scheduled several schools for March.



Introducing JP Anderson

By: Jean-Pierre Anderson

Hi folks. My name is Jean-Pierre Anderson and I will be taking on the role of the volunteer coordinator for the interpretive division. Many of you know me as J.P., I have worked at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for over 20 years and served as the park's volunteer coordinator as a collateral duty for about 10 years. As the interpretive division volunteer coordinator, I will be responsible for training all of the volunteer supervisors and act as a liaison between these supervisors and the park's volunteer program manager Lynda Lancaster. The volunteer supervisors within the division are rangers:

JP Anderson- I am the direct volunteer supervisor during our larger events, such as Maple Sugar Time and Duneland Heritage Days

Christy Gerlach- Christy is responsible for the volunteers who assist with the environmental education program and any special workshops associated with the program.

Kipton Walton- Kipton is responsible for volunteers who assist with the park's outreach program and Douglas Center operations, such as the front desk and animal room assistants.

Ted Winterfeld- Ted is responsible for the volunteers in the park's stewardship program.

Cliff Goins- Cliff is responsible for our campground hosts.

Jeff Manuszak- Jeff is responsible for volunteers who assist with audio/visual/web related projects and leads the "Artist-Residence" program.

Ryan Koepke- Ryan is responsible for our Visitor Center volunteers including the Save the Tunes group.



Please be sure to correctly identify your direct supervisor and contact them directly with questions regarding work assignments and any other issues, such as volunteer training or questions about procedures. Please note that each ranger is assigned special public programs on a regular basis and directly supervises the volunteers who assist with these programs. I look forward to working with you again and meeting all of our new volunteers within the interpretive branch.



2011 Maple Sugar Time - Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

SPECIAL NOTE: Everyone needs to attend one of the following, please select one.

- _____ **Saturday, February 19 at 9:00 – noon** -MST workday, setting-up the sugar bush and shack
please meet at Bailly/Chellberg parking lot
- _____ **Wednesday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m.** –Training/Review - Meet at the Indiana Dunes Training Room
- _____ **Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.** –Training/Review - Meet at the Indiana Dunes Training Room
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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please send my schedule via (Circle one) E-mail Paper Mail Phone

Best time(s) I can be reached if we have questions _____

I have volunteered for Maple Sugar Time _____ (years).

Note: It is often wet/muddy/slushy and on uneven surfaces. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Volunteering for Maple Sugar Time Weekends

I can work: March 5th _____ March 6th _____ March 12th _____ March 13th _____

Number as many choices below as you like with 1 being your first choice:

___ **Greeting the Public** – greet arriving visitors; give information, information booth (9:30 a.m. – 4:00pm)

___ **Tour Greeter/Organizer** - greet a.m. tour visitors and organize tour times (9:30 a.m. – noon)

___ **Visitor Center** - assist with Bailly/Chellberg visitor center operations (10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

___ **Pre-metal/Native American site** - maintain fire & boil sap using log & rocks method (9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

___ **Pioneer (kettle) site** - maintain fire & boil sap using kettle method (9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

___ **Drilling Posts Site** - demonstrate tapping process: brace, bit, spiles, and buckets. Assist visitors.

___ ***Sugar Shack-Evaporator Operator** - maintain fire & boil sap in sugar shack; *special training required

___ **Tour/Trail Conclusion** - syrup tasting: fill cups and distribute to visitors

___ **Interpret House** - importance of the different rooms and uses during late winter

___ **Interpret Kitchen Life** – wood stove, water, use of maple syrup & sugar

___ **Logistics** – gather sap, move wood, etc (Public Weekends) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please see other side for more MST volunteer opportunities ----->



VOLUNTEERING AT MST IS FUN AND LOTS OF HELP IS NEEDED!

Note: It is often wet/muddy/slushy and on uneven surfaces. Please wear appropriate footwear.

___ **Distribute flyers** - pick-up MST flyers at VC and distribute to area businesses

___ **Collecting sap** - February 21 through March 13 (circle) Su. M. Tu. W. Th. F. Sa. I will call the MST Volunteer Hotline (219-395-1848) or Please call me ___ hours/days before I am needed.

___ I can help wash buckets and tubs after MST.

**Volunteering For Maple Sugar Time School Programs
Monday, March 7 – Friday, March 11, 2011**

I am able to work (circle dates):

	MARCH				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
	07	08	09	10	11

School programs run from 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
The time you are needed depends on activities assigned.
We will try to schedule your preferred activities.

Number as many choices as below as you like with 1 being your first choice:

- ___ greeting school buses upon arrival
- ___ Native American site (Tending the fire)
- ___ Pioneer site (kettles, tending the fires)
- ___ working at the sugar shack
- ___ greeting children/providing house tour/filling maple syrup cups
- ___ cooking on wood burning stove inside house
- ___ assistant cook (great learning experience)
- ___ Logistics (moving firewood, etc.)

**Please sign-up by February 9, 2011
You Can Sign Up by Email, Paper Mail, or Phone**

Email (jean-pierre_anderson@nps.gov) - Phone Your Response to Voice Mail (219-395-1848) or Paper mail to:

J.P. Anderson
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 North Mineral Springs Road
Porter, IN 46304-1299

Have questions???

For **weekend days**: please call J.P Anderson at 219-395-1848;

For **weekday school programs**: please call Christy Gerlach at 219-395-1885



Thank You For Keeping Your Historic Sites Alive

