



Volunteering is a rewarding and exciting venture

by Dawn Narjes

My volunteering began when my daughter, Samantha (Narjes) Erdelac, would come home from her new job at Shirley Heinze Land Trust (SHLT) telling me what she did that day. Loving the outdoors and gardening, I thought it would be interesting to do what my daughter does at work. Eventually, I decided to contact SHLT's volunteer coordinator, Jim Erdelac, during the summer of 2008. I explained to him that I would like to go to the workdays, but I always had something going on during the weekends. I decided to offer my help by doing individual projects, such as photo-monitoring and collecting seed at SHLT's nature preserves during my spare time, which was usually after work and when I could on the weekends.

As I got more involved, I asked Jim for more projects. I eventually got to experience what it was like to be a stewardship manager, like my daughter, by backpack spraying invasive species on SHLT's nature preserves. When I was able to go to SHLT's volunteer workdays, I was able to learn even more about habitat restoration by running a power mower to make firebreaks for prescribed burns; and using a brush cutter and chainsaw to clear trees and shrubs on the preserves.

When my daughter became the stewardship manager at Save the Dunes, where she also would hold volunteer workdays, I started to go to her workdays. I now had more opportunities to further learn about habitat restoration by going to both SHLT's and Save the Dunes' volunteer workdays.

Volunteering is a rewarding and exciting venture. I have expanded my knowledge and skills by learning about native and invasive species, prescribed burns, invasive species removal, and using power equipment. I was so in awe of native plants that I started a native garden (I now have two of them and plan on another two this year). I was even honored to be named "Volunteer of the Year" for SHLT for the past three years (2008, 2009, and 2010).

The rewards that I receive are seeing the nature preserves that I worked on

returning to their natural state. When I started backpack spraying cattails on one of SHLT's preserves in 2009, I got excited when I returned to do a follow-up spray on the cattails in 2010 and I saw native forbs and grasses come back. I can't wait to see how the other nature preserves will look this year after my hard work backpack spraying targeted invasive species last year for SHLT.

I have seen deer, countless birds, snakes, and heard frogs while working on all of the different and amazing nature preserves in Northwest Indiana. It is a benefit to be able to see these nature preserves, and it is very serene when I work on these preserves after work and to enjoy the quietness of nature. It helps me relax after a hard day at work. I enjoy volunteering greatly and I'm always excited to be able to do something that I love.



Volunteers constructing a boardwalk at Shirley Heinze Ambler Property. Photo credit: Jim Erdelac.



Volunteers help to clean up 100th Street." Photo credit: Kevin Murphy



"The rewards that I receive are seeing the nature preserves that I worked on returning to their natural state." Self portrait - Dawn Narjes.

Volunteering with Friends of the Forest Preserves

Partner Profile by Alice Brandon

The ecological restoration of Calumet forest preserve sites is a high priority for Friends of the Forest Preserves (FOTFP). FOTFP is a local non-for-profit whose mission is to work to preserve, protect and restore the Forest Preserves of Cook County for the benefit of people and nature.

One way we do this is by supporting volunteer efforts to restore Calumet sites. Now more than ever, limited budgets make it important to engage volunteers to help care for the preserves. FOTFP works closely with other CSI groups to support stewardship volunteers at Kickapoo Prairie, Dan Ryan Woods and Powderhorn Prairie.

Since 2006, FOTFP has hosted monthly stewardship workdays at Powderhorn Prairie; one of the highest quality dune and swale sites left in the Chicago city limits. Over 300 species of plants and animals call this site home including a pair of Ospreys who nest there every summer.

Volunteer work in the winter is usually done in partnership with high school students from George Washington High School. Work activities concentrate on brush cutting and burning when the weather is cool and a fire is welcome. The group often brings s'more fixings or brats to share and cook over the brush pile fire.

Spring and summer workdays are spent walking the site where the group looks for new invaders or problems. Last year, staff from the Field Museum were the first to find Spotted Knapweed at the site. This plant is highly invasive and is spreading in the Chicago region in sandy sites such as Powderhorn. Summer volunteers quickly got to work and were able to hand-pull the entire infestation, but the group has to remain vigilant to ensure it doesn't return.

The summer is also a time to enjoy the site's diversity in wildflowers and appreciate all the hard work already done. FOTFP will have a special workday for new volunteers on Saturday, July 21 to learn more about the site and what you can do to help.



A George Washington High School student hard at work carrying brush to the fire during a workday at Powderhorn Prairie. Photo credit: Alice Brandon.



Volunteers enjoy a spring walk through Golden Alexanders flowers at Powderhorn Prairie. Photo credit: Alice Brandon.



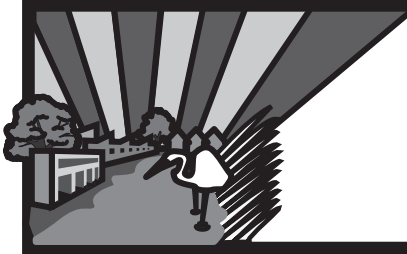
Volunteer pulls garlic mustard during a spring workday at Powderhorn Prairie. Photo credit: Larry Unruh.



A baby Painted Turtle at Indian Ridge Marsh" Photo credit: Jerry Attere.

CHECK OUT THE CSI WEBSITE FOR MORE PICTURES, VIDEOS AND EVENTS:
www.calumetstewardshipinitiative.com

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CALUMET STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Special Volunteer Insert

2011 • MAY • JUNE • JULY • AUG

Volunteer opportunities for those who would like to make a difference

In this special edition, we are highlighting opportunities designed with new volunteers in mind. This summer we encourage you to grab a friend, explore the Calumet region, and volunteer.

May 14 & June 11 • 10:00am – 1:00pm

New Volunteer Workday

**Eggers Grove Forest Preserve
East 112th Street and Ave. E, Chicago, IL**

Help us clear invasive brush from the site's savanna and woodland, and we'll enjoy a walking tour of the site. Tools and gloves provided. Meet near the caretaker's house at Eggers Grove (East 112th Street and Ave. E. For more information and to RSVP contact John Pastirik at (773) 991-0613. (Calumet Ecological Park Association & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

June 4 • 9:00am – 12:00pm

New Volunteer Workday

Beaubien Woods, Chicago, IL

Come learn about the work we do and try your hand at clearing invasive species from this preserve. Tools, gloves and snacks provided. Afterwards, we hope you'll stay to enjoy the Beaubien Woods Environmental Day Celebrations from 12-4 pm. Meet at the preserve's only picnic shelter adjacent to Flatfoot Lake (take the Bishop Ford [I-94] to the Beaubien Woods Exit #69 just south of 130th St. If coming from the south, exit at 130th street and loop back onto the expressway so that you can get off at the Beaubien Woods Exit). For more information and to RSVP, contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org. (The Field Museum & the Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

June 25 • 10:00am – 1:00pm

New Volunteer Workday

Kickapoo Prairie, Chicago, IL

We hope new volunteers will join us to learn about this beautiful site. We will take a tour of the site and discuss what volunteers can do to help restore the site. Some time will also be spent removing invasive species. Park in the Thornton Township Municipal Building (Halsted and 144th St.) and meet at the entrance to the prairie site that is directly west and across the street from the parking lot in Riverdale. For more information contact Eileen Klees at (773) 238-4221 or eklees@gmail.com. (Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

July 9 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

New Volunteer Workday & Stewardship Vegetation Monitoring & Assessing the Success of a Recent Savanna Restoration Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve, Liverpool Road, Hobart, IN

Greiner Preserve is a beautiful mosaic of planted black soil prairie, maple dominant woodlands, remnant oak savanna, stepped graminoid fen, and sand prairie. A tremendous amount of restoration has occurred at this site encompassing all types of

habitat found here. Please join us as we monitor herbaceous and woody vegetation to assess the impacts of recent restoration work. For more information contact Jim Erdelac at volunteer@heinzertrust.org. (Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

July 16 • 9:00am – 12:00pm

New Volunteer Workday

Powderhorn Prairie, 13800 South Brainard Ave., Chicago, IL

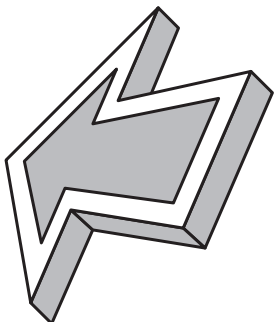
We hope new volunteers will join us to learn about this beautiful site. We will take a nature walk at the site to look at prairie flowers and discuss how volunteer efforts have helped restore the site. Some time will also be spent removing invasive species. Cold refreshments will be served. For more information contact Alice Brandon at alice@fotfp.org or (312) 356-9990. (Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)



Dan Ryan Woods stewardship volunteers help make the site more beautiful and healthy. Photo credit: Laura Milkert.



Benjamin Cox of Friends of the Forest Preserve lends a helping hand at Powderhorn Prairie. Photo: Laura Milkert



*Tear out on
perforation for
future reference.*

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

May 2, 9, 16, 23 · 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Garlic Mustard Mondays

Eggers Grove Forest Preserve

East 112th Street and Ave. E, Chicago, IL

Meet John Pastirik near the caretaker's house. Volunteer for one hour after work on Mondays in May to pull garlic mustard, an invasive species. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, bring gloves. Call John at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association)

May 7 & August 6 · 9:00am – 12:00pm

Beaubien Woods Stewardship Workday

Beaubien Woods, Chicago, IL

We invite you to join us as we work to promote a diversity of plants and animals in the woods and prairie. Tools, gloves and snacks provided. Meet at the preserve's only picnic shelter adjacent to Flatfoot Lake (take the Bishop Ford [I-94] to the Beaubien Woods Exit #69 just south of 130th St. If coming from the south, exit at 130th street and loop back onto the expressway so that you can get off at the Beaubien Woods Exit). For more information and to RSVP, contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org.

(The Field Museum & the Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13 · 9:00am – 12:00pm

Dan Ryan Woods Stewardship Workday

Dan Ryan Woods

Help us remove invasive species, collect seeds, and clean up this preserve so native flora and fauna can thrive. Tools and gloves provided. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of 87th St. two blocks east of S. Western Ave. For information contact Benjamin Cox at (773) 398-1178 or benjamin@fotfp.org.

(Friends of Dan Ryan Woods, Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May 14 & July 9 · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Tree Nursery Work

Behind the Environmental Education

Center

2406 S. Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN

Volunteers will clean, mulch, and weed the tree nursery. Tools are provided. Dress for the work and weather and bring work gloves. Use the center's parking lot. For more information, contact Roy Ortiz at (219) 659-1062.

(Wolf Lake Conservation Project of the Hammond Parks Foundation)

May 21 · 9:00am – 12:00pm

Powderhorn Prairie Stewardship Workday

Powderhorn Prairie

Help us clear invasive brush and pull invasive weeds at this beautiful site. Tools and gloves provided. Meet in the Powderhorn Lake parking lot on the east side of Brainard Avenue, just south of Burnham Avenue in south east Chicago. For more information contact Alice Brandon at alice@fotfp.org or (312) 356-9990. Note: There will not be a workday at Powderhorn in June, July or August.

(Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May 21 & July 23 · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Ox Bow Park Conservation Project

Ox Bow Park - Meet in the parking lot on the frontage road just south of 80/94 off Kennedy Avenue in Hammond, IN

Volunteers will work on trails and/or plants in the park. Tools will be provided. Please dress for the weather and for ground work and bring work gloves. For more information call Roy Ortiz at (219) 659-1062.

(Wolf Lake Conservation Project of Hammond Parks Foundation)

May 28 · 10:00am – 1:00pm

Kickapoo Prairie Stewardship Workday

Kickapoo Prairie

Help us clear invasive brush from this beautiful prairie. Tools and gloves provided. Park in the Thornton Township Municipal Building (Halsted and 144th St.) and meet at the entrance to the prairie site that is directly west and across the street from the parking lot in Riverdale. For more information contact Eileen Klees at (773) 238-4221 or eklees@gmail.com. Note: There will not be workdays at Kickapoo Prairie in June, July or August.

(Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May & June Dates TBD · 10:00am

– 2:00pm

Village of Riverdale Tree Commission

– Tree Planting

157 W. 144th St., Riverdale, IL

The Tree Commission will plant trees throughout the village. Please join us for outdoor tree planting and "Help Keep a Good Thing Growing." We provide gloves and shovels. RSVP to (708) 841-2200 for specific locations.

(Village of Riverdale Tree Commission)

June 4, August 6, & August 20 · 9:00am

– 1:00pm

Conservation work on the 129th Street

property

Meet on 129th Street west of the Dover

Chemical property

Conservation and restoration work by volunteers. Dress for the weather and ground work and bring work gloves. For more information, contact Roy Ortiz at (219) 659-1062.

(Wolf Lake Conservation Project of Hammond Parks Foundation)

June 8 · Powderhorn Prairie · 5:30pm

– 7:30pm

July 9 at Eggers Woods · 10:00am

– 12:00pm

August 6 · Beaubien Woods · 12:00pm

– 2:00pm

September 7 · Eggers Woods · 5:30pm

– 7:30pm

Calumet Plant Identification Class with Instructor Margo Milde

Are you looking to develop your plant identification skills, from grasses to shrubs? This four-part class is designed to allow participants the opportunity to learn through hands-on experience and to observe a variety of plants as they change throughout the summer season. For more detailed

information and to register, please contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org.

(The Field Museum & the Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

June 18 · 9:00am • 11:00am

Whistler Woods Stewardship Workday

Whistler Woods, Halsted and Forest View Ave. (approx. 134th Street) Riverdale, IL

Lend a hand to help rescue the ancient oaks of Whistler Woods. In partnership with the Blue Island Bicycle Club, we will be pulling invasive garlic mustard and picking up trash along the Major Taylor Bicycle Trail, which runs through the northern portion of the woodland. Tools and gloves provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Directions: from Halsted, turn east on Forest View Avenue, turn left at the sign for Whistler Woods, follow the road north and then east to the circle at the end of the road. For more information contact Rebecca Blazer at (773) 972-8080 or rebecca_blazer@hotmail.com. Please RSVP so we will know how many tools to bring.

(Blue Island Bicycle Club, CIMBY [Calumet Is My Back Yard], Friends of the Parks, & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

June 27 – 30 & July 11 – 14 · 9:30am

– 12:00pm

Summer Eye Opener Camp

Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL

7-8 year olds: June 27 – 30 · 9:30-12:00 (\$15.00/wk, space is limited, and registration is required by 4 pm June 22nd)

9-10 year olds: July 11 – 14 · 9:30-12:00 (\$15.00/wk, space is limited and, registration is required by 4pm July 6th)

Children spend four fun-filled mornings with staff naturalists exploring the wonders of nature through hikes, activities, experiments, games, and more. For more information, call (708) 868-0606.

(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

August 20 · 9:00am – 12:00pm

Whistler Woods Stewardship Workday

Whistler Woods, Halsted and Forest View

Ave. (approx. 134th Street) Riverdale, IL

Lend a hand to help rescue the ancient oaks of Whistler Woods. In partnership with the Blue Island Bicycle Club, we will be removing invasive brush and picking up trash along the Major Taylor Bicycle Trail, which runs through the northern portion of the woodland. Tools and gloves provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Directions: from Halsted, turn east on Forest View Avenue, turn left at the sign for Whistler Woods, follow the road north and then east to the circle at the end of the road. For more information contact Rebecca Blazer at (773) 972-8080 or rebecca_blazer@hotmail.com. Please RSVP so we will know how many tools to bring.

(Blue Island Bicycle Club, CIMBY [Calumet Is My Back Yard], Friends of the Parks, & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

MAY - AUGUST PROGRAMS

MAY

May is Invasive Species Awareness Month. We invite you to learn about how invasive species are affecting our landscape, and to participate in the Garlic Mustard Challenge to see which of our Calumet Stewardship sites can pull the most garlic mustard this May.

May – All Month Long
10th Ward Green Summit Month
Family Fun, Gardening Workshops, Bike, Streetcar, and Walking Tours, Healthy Eating Demonstrations, Festivals, Healthy Block Clubs, Bicycle Maintenance, Community Gardens, Free Health Screenings, Teacher CDPUs, Volunteerism...

These are just a few of many green initiatives that are happening in the 10th Ward in May 2011. So what are you waiting for? Contact us for the May schedule and be part of the Green Summit. For more information, contact Graciela Robledo at gracer@claretianassociates.org. Please check the CSI and Claretian Associates websites for more details on all the events in May.
(CSI Partners & other local community organizations)

May 5 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Chicago Southland Green Drinks
Maple Tree Inn, 13301 S. Olde Western, Blue Island, IL

Join other volunteers, community members and environmental professionals for this evening of socializing, networking and education. For more information, contact chasle@fieldmuseum.org.
(CSI Partners)

May 7 • 9:00am – 2:00pm
Annual Native Plant Sale
Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond, IN

Available: 100 native species of flowers and grasses including prairie, wetland, shade, and woodland. For a complete list visit www.gw-wildones.org or www.lakecountyparks.com. For more information, call (219) 844-3188 or (219) 865-2679.
(Gibson Woods Wild Ones)

May 7 • 9:00am – 12:00pm
Major Taylor Trail/Whistler Woods Stewardship Workday – Invasives Removal
Major Taylor Trail, Chicago, IL & Whistler Woods, Riverdale, IL

We invite you to join us along with Boys Scouts from across Chicago for a clean up along the Major Taylor Trail and in Whistler Woods. We will be removing litter and invasive garlic mustard. A highlight of the day will be a nature walk with Diane Banta from the National Park Service. Volunteers must register in advance to participate. For more information and to RSVP, contact Mary Eileen Sullivan at (312) 857-2757 x 13 or sullivanme@fotp.org.
(Friends of the Parks, Major Taylor Trail Advisory Council & the Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May 7 • 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Tree Care Along the Burnham Greenway
107th Street and Ave. D, Chicago, IL
Volunteer to prune and mulch trees and general

clean up of Bean's Park and the Burnham Greenway. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, bring gloves and dress for the weather. Call John at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.
(Calumet Ecological Park Association & Trees "R" Beautiful)

May 14 • 8:00am
International Migratory Bird Day "Go Wild, Go Birding"
Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL

Join a staff naturalist on a bird hike and don't forget your binoculars, we have a few pairs to share if you don't have your own. Also, at 1:30pm there will be a presentation about Bird Migration in the classroom.
(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

May 14 • 9:00am – 5:00pm
"Greenway All Day" – 4th Annual 10th Ward Green Summit

Burnham Greenway Special
104th and Indianapolis Blvd to 125th at Powers Conservation Area/Wolf Lake

Open to anyone who wants to walk a short or long distance along this magnificent and free community asset. Family and friends invited. In case of rain, event will change to May 28. No registration required - just show up. For more information, contact Graciela Robledo at gracer@claretianassociates.org.
(CSI partners & other local community organizations)

May 14 • 9:00am – 12:00pm
Whistler Woods/Cal-Sag Channel Clean-up
Approximately 480 E. Forest View Ave., Riverdale, IL

Join us to celebrate the 19th Annual Chicago River Day for a clean-up of Whistler Woods Forest Preserves and the banks of the Cal-Sag Channel. Be a part of over 4,000 people from northern Lake County to southern Cook County for a day of service and environmental learning. Activities will include river-edge nature trail repair, invasive plants removal and garbage removal. A cook-out will then ensue with bike riders fresh from a ride along the Major Taylor Trail. Tools and gloves provided. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. RSVP required. To register to volunteer, sign up at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1461883533?ref=ebtn>.
(Southeast Environmental Task Force, Chicago Department of Environment & Friends of the Chicago River)

May 14 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Little Calumet Wetlands Public Access Work
Little Calumet Wetlands, Chesterton, IN

A recent acquisition, this property is 43 acres of floodplain forest on the Little Calumet River. The staff has recently installed a 32-foot whole timber bridge made from local Black Locust trees. On this day, we will improve public access for this site by putting the finishing touches on the new bridge and maintaining the ½ mile hiking trail along the river. For more information, call (219) 879-4725.
(Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

May 14 • 9:00am – 5:00pm
Geology Road Trip - Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Chesterton, IN

Open to Educators

Join local author, Dr. Ken Schoon, and parks staff as we traverse the region looking for signs of ancient shorelines and glacial remnants. Learn about the intersection of geology and human history during this presentation and tour. \$60 fee includes materials and lunch. Registration required by May 6. Earn one graduate credit hour. Register by emailing ljonas@duneslearningcenter.org.
(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore & Dunes Learning Center)

May 14 • 10:00am – 1:00pm
Eggers Woods Stewardship Workday
Eggers Woods, Chicago, IL

Help us clear invasive brush from the site's savanna and woodland. Tools and gloves provided. Meet near the caretaker's house at Eggers Grove (East 112th Street and Ave. E). For more information and to RSVP contact John Pastirik at (773) 991-0613.
(Calumet Ecological Park Association & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

Note: There will not be a workday at Eggers in August. In July, volunteers are encouraged to sign up for the Calumet Plant ID workshop.

May 14 • 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Tree Identification and Care Demonstration
On the Burnham Greenway
107th St. & Avenue D, Chicago, IL

Everyone is invited to enjoy a leisurely walk on the Burnham Greenway. John Pastirik will identify the trees and how to care for them. A hot dog barbecue will follow the walk. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring a lawn chair. Call Judy at (773) 646-4773 to RSVP.
(Southeast Environmental Task Force & Calumet Ecological Park Association)

May 21 • Time TBD
Ribbon-cutting for the new bike path and garden
100th Street between Avenue G and Ewing Ave., Chicago, IL

Join us for a ribbon-cutting for the new bike path which will link the Lakefront Bike Trail to the Burnham Greenway. For more information, contact 10th Ward Alderman's Office at (773) 721-1999.
(CSI partners, C3 & 10th Ward Alderman's Office)

May 21 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Garlic Mustard/Dame's Rocket Pull
Stockwell Woods – Stop 16 in Long Beach, IN

Save the Dunes needs volunteers to help hand-pull garlic mustard and dame's rocket at the foredune / black oak savanna site. Please RSVP with Samantha Erdelac at sam@savedunes.org.
(Save The Dunes)

May 21 • 9:00am – 12:00pm
Planting an Heirloom Garden
Indian Dunes National Lakeshore
Bailly/Chellberg unit on Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN

Join us at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to help plant a heirloom garden and watch it grow. Come dressed for the weather - gloves, seed, plants and lots of dirt will be provided. For more information, call (219) 395-8677.
(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

MAY - AUGUST PROGRAMS

May 21 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Soundwalk in the Dunes

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake Street, Gary, IN

After a brief orientation, gain some practical experience in the national lakeshore using focused listening guided by members of the American and Midwest Societies of Acoustic Ecology. Learn how to enhance your soundscape experience in an outdoor environment. For more information, call (219) 395-1821.

(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

May 21 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Green Summit Program

Native and Perennial Plants for Your Yard and Garden

13300 S. Baltimore Street, Chicago, IL

Presentation will show what is native to our region and what lasts only one season, and there will be advice on proper planting. Please RSVP at (773) 646-0436.

(Southeast Environmental Task Force)

May 21 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Calumet Outdoors Series

Marquette Park Pavilion Parking Lot, 1

North Grand Boulevard Gary, IN

Join Joel Baldin, ASLA, the lead landscape architect on the Marquette Park Project to learn about and discuss the restoration of this southern Lake Michigan gem. Meet at the Marquette Park Pavilion parking lot.

(Hitchcock Design Group & CSI Partners)

May 28 • 9:00am – 3:00pm

May 29 • 6:00am – 12:00pm

11th annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind and Water Festival

The event showcases Wolf Lake and surrounding natural areas as a resource for recreation, education, and family fun, and helps foster bi-state cooperation. Events include fishing clinic, kite flying, face painting, canoeing, birding, hiking/nature walk, wind surfing instructions, bike tour of the Wolf Lake watershed, student presentations, picnic lunch, a sunrise service, and campfire.

Morning events at Wm. Powers Conservation Area Shelter 2, 126th Street and the Lake, Chicago.

Afternoon events at Wolf Lake Park, Hammond, IN. For more information, call (312) 220-0120 or (219) 933-7149 or visit www.wolflakeinitiative.org. (Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative & Partners)

May 29 winners announced

Wetlands, Wind and Water Festival at Wolf Lake Poster Contest

Open to students at Wolf Lake area schools, scout groups and members of other youth organizations. Register by Friday, April 29. Awards presented 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 28. Entrants are asked to depict summer activities at Wolf Lake. Older entrants will be asked to include the concept of stewardship that is required to preserve and enhance the watershed. Entries will be judged in three to four age categories by a panel of judges. The first place winner in each category will receive \$25. The second and third place winners will receive \$15 and \$10, respectively. Winners also will receive free family memberships in AWLI for one year. Entries due by Friday, May 6, 2011. The awards and gift certificates will be presented during the festival

at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. Winning entries will be exhibited at the Wolf Lake Park kiosk and at the Calumet Environmental Center classroom. (Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative in collaboration with 10th Ward Green Summit)

JUNE

June 4 • 10:00am

Dragonflies with Gareth Blakesley of Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Garden Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, 6201 Parrish Ave., Hammond, IN

Life cycle and habitat of the North American Dragonfly will be presented with power point presentation. Question and answer session follows. For more information, call (219) 844-3188. (Gibson Woods Wild Ones)

June 4 • 11:00am – 4:00pm

Beaubien Woods Celebration and Environmental Day

Beaubien Woods, Chicago, IL

This community day at Beaubien Woods will be filled with fun nature activities, guided walks of the preserve, and the chance to fish. Barbeque and refreshments will be provided. Meet at the preserve's only picnic shelter adjacent to Flatfoot Lake (take the Bishop Ford [I-94] to the Beaubien Woods Exit #69 just south of 130th St. If coming from the south, exit at 130th street and loop back onto the expressway so that you can get off at the Beaubien Woods Exit). For more information and to RSVP, please contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org. (The Field Museum)

June 4 • 1:00pm

National Trails Day-Dedication of Lake Michigan Water Trail

Open to paddlers, canoers and folks who like to watch large groups of paddlers. Paddle will start at Marquette Park in Gary, Indiana, or from Shirley Heinz property on the Little Calumet River, paddle to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk unit. 2:30pm Dedication Ceremony at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. Be a part of a larger whole. The Lake Michigan Water Trail will eventually encompass all of Lake Michigan, the Indiana and Chicago portion is just the first portion to be dedicated. NWIPA will lead a flotilla from Marquette Park and from the Little Calumet River. Paddle from Chicago if you like. NIPSCO will unveil a new Lake Michigan Water Trail South Shore poster. Come out for some fun in the sun and celebration. Personal floatation devices required. For more information, contact Dan Plath at (219) 871-9559 or dplath@nwipa.org. (Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Shirley Heinze & Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association)

June 11 • 9:00am – 12:00pm

Hegewisch Marsh Stewardship 13250 S. Torrence Ave, Chicago, IL

Join us for a hike and some vernal pool planting at Hegewisch Marsh. Spot birds, learn about regional history, and hear about the 130-acre ecological restoration effort. Dress for the weather. Clothing and shoes will get wet and muddy. Call Jerry Attere at (312) 744-9136 to RSVP.

(Chicago Department of Environment)

June 11 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Restoration of the Great Marsh Great Marsh, Beverly Shores, IN

Shirley Heinze owns and manages over 60 acres of this very large interdunal wetland. Over the past two years, we have been working diligently to remove hybrid cattail, which is threatening the diversity of high quality wetland habitat. Join us as we install native species to enhance diversity and compliment the invasive species work that has occurred on this site. For more information, contact Jim Erdelac at volunteer@heinzetrust.org. (Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

June 18 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Calumet Outdoors Series

Beaubien Woods, Chicago, IL

Join Doug Stotz, Ornithologist with The Field Museum, to learn more about birds in 15 minutes than you have in 15 years....or to just enjoy a nice hike. Take the Bishop Ford (I-94) south to the "Beaubien Woods" exit (#69), just south of the 130th Street exit. Follow the signs to meet at the picnic pavilion on Flatfoot Lake. Dress appropriately and bring your own water. For more information, contact Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5137 or ericneagu@gmail.com. (The Field Museum)

June 18 • 9:00am – 12:00pm

Tree Planting in Forsythe Park, Hammond, IN

Meet in the parking lot near the park pavilion. Volunteers will plant willow trees in the park. Wear work clothes and dress for the weather and bring work gloves. For more information, call Roy Ortiz at (219) 659-1062.

(Wolf Lake Conservation Project of Hammond Parks Foundation)

June 18 • 9:00am – 12:00pm

Mt Baldy Native Plant Party

Mt Baldy unit of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - help the sands of Mt. Baldy stay where they belong. You will help remove invasive plants, pick up trash, and fix trails. Come dressed for the weather, gloves will be provided. For more information, call (219) 395-8677. (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

June 18 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Native planting at Stockwell Woods

Stockwell Woods – Stop 16 in Long Beach, IN

Save the Dunes needs volunteers to help re-establish grasses within a black oak savanna by planting native plugs that were grown in their solar greenhouse. Please RSVP with Samantha Erdelac at sam@savedunes.org.

(Save The Dunes)

June 18 • 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic and Meeting

Beaubien Woods, Chicago, IL

Come for the bird watching in the morning, stay for the picnic and volunteer gathering along the shores of Flatfoot Lake. Stewardship volunteers are invited to celebrate our accomplishments throughout Calumet this year, discuss ideas and challenges, and connect with other volunteers. Meet at the preserve's only picnic shelter adjacent to Flatfoot Lake (take the Bishop Ford [I-94] to the Beaubien Woods Exit #69 just south of 130th St. If coming from the south, exit at 130th street and loop back onto the expressway so that you can get off at the Beaubien Woods Exit). For more information or to

MAY - AUGUST PROGRAMS

RSVP, contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org.
(The Field Museum, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County & Friends of the Forest Preserves)

June 25 • 12:00pm – 8:00pm

25th Anniversary Celebration

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake Street, Gary, IN

Join the National Park Service, Chicago Wilderness and many partners to celebrate 25 years of education and resource protection at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. A variety of "Leave No Child Inside" activities will be featured in this free event featuring music, hiking, kayaking, and family-focused nature fun. For more information, call the Douglas Center at (219) 395-1821.

(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Gary Parks & Recreation, Chicago Wilderness & Lakeshore Visitors Bureau)

June 27 – 30 • 9:30am – 12:00pm

Summer Eye Opener Camp

Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL

7-8 year olds are invited to spend four fun-filled mornings exploring the wonders of nature through hikes, activities, experiments, games, and more. \$15.00/wk space is limited and registration is required by 4:00pm June 22nd. For more information, call (708) 868-0606.

(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

June 28 • 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Hegewisch Marsh Night Hike

13250 S. Torrence Ave., Chicago, IL

Join us for a summer night hike at Hegewisch Marsh. Experience the night world in a woodland and wetland within the city, learn about nocturnal animals and their adaptations, how to use your senses, and enjoy the special challenges and experiences afforded by a night outing. Jim Louderman of The Field Museum will set up blacklights to attract insects. Wear robust shoes, long pants, dress for the weather, and bring a water bottle. It will be a small group so RSVP required. Call Jerry Attere at (312) 744-9136 or jerry.attere@cityofchicago.org to RSVP.

(Chicago Department of Environment & The Field Museum)

JULY

July 7 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Chicago Southland Green Drinks

Location TBD

Join other volunteers, community members and environmental professionals for this evening of socializing, networking and education. For more information, contact chasle@fieldmuseum.org. (CSI Partners)

July 16 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Calumet Outdoors Series

Eggers Grove Forest Preserve, 112th and Avenue E., Chicago, IL

Join Becky Schillo, Conservation Ecologist with The Field Museum, for a midsummer hike through a nearby forest preserve. Learn about trees, flowers, and grasses and discover exactly who this "Eggers" person was. Meet at the parking lot near caretaker's cottage. Dress appropriately and bring your own

water. For more information, contact Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5137 or ericneagu@gmail.com. (The Field Museum)

July 16 • 10:00am – 1:00pm

East Branch of the Little Calumet/Burns Waterway Paddle

Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk, Portage, IN
Canoes and kayaks available on a limited basis.

Personal floatation devices required. Meet at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk. For more information, contact Dan Plath at (219) 871-9559 or dplath@nwipa.org.

(Northwest Indian Paddling Association & National Park Service)

July 16 • 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Twilight Tree Care Along the Burnham Greenway

107th Street and Ave. D, Chicago, IL

Volunteer to water the trees and perennials and general clean up along the Burnham Greenway. Call John at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association & Trees "R" Beautiful)

July 18 – July 22 • 9:00am – 5:00pm each day

Nurturing Young Scientists: Critical Thinking Along the Lakeshore

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake Street, Gary, IN

Open to Educators

Accompanied by a different researcher each day, participants will explore the lakeshore and engage in activities designed to help their students enhance critical thinking and research skills used in the scientific process. Educators can attend one or all five days. Each day will focus on a different theme, such as the Great Lakes, climate change, local ecosystems, and more. \$60/day fee includes materials and lunch. Registration required by July 8. Register by emailing ljones@duneslearningcenter.org. (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

July 18 – July 22 • 9:30am – 12:00pm

Outdoor Adventure Camp

Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland, IL

Open to 11-12 year olds

The 11 and 12 year olds will accompany staff naturalists on five mornings of physically and mentally challenging activities that encourage teamwork through lessons about outdoor survival skills. \$15.00/wk space is limited and registration is required by 4:00pm July 13th. For more information, call (708) 868-0606.

(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

July 23 • 12:30pm

Awards Announced - Sculpture/3-D Artwork Competition

6th Annual Greening of the Arts Studio Tour Open to middle school and high school students who must use recycled materials in their art work. Register by Friday, July 1. Entries due Friday, July 15 at 4:30pm. Awards presented July 23 at 12:30pm Saturday. Winner will receive a \$50 prize. The event also honors volunteers who donated time to conduct AWLI's festivals and fair, and those who financially supported past events in 2010-2011. The event will feature music by guitarist Ken

Czulno. For more information, call (312) 220-0120 or (219) 933-7149. Reception & Art Show at Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN
(The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative)

July 23 • 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Pinhook Bog Hike

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Pinhook Bog Unit

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - Take a self-guided tour into Indiana's only quaking bog. Rangers stationed along the trail will help keep you away from being devoured by insect eating plants. For more information, call (219) 395-1882.
(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

AUGUST

August 13 • 8:30am – 5:00pm

Thismia Hunt – Celebrating 20 years of Conservation in Calumet William W. Powers (Wolf Lake) Illinois State Recreation Area

12949 Ave. O, Chicago, IL

Volunteers, professional and amateur botanists, and community members will come together to search for *Thismia americana*, a rare and elusive plant known only from the Calumet region. The plant was discovered and described by University of Chicago graduate student, Norma Pfeiffer, in 1914. The small saprophytic plant, whose closest living relatives are from Tasmania and New Zealand, has not been seen since 1916. Participants will be divided into teams to survey a regional natural area (various sites in Illinois & Indiana) for the plant and document the floristic diversity of the site. Following the survey, there will be a debriefing session, cook-out, and live music. This event is a great way to see some of the top natural areas in Calumet. Registration required, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/thismiahunt> to register and for more information.

(CSI Partners, The Nature Conservancy & Openlands)

August 20 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Calumet Outdoors Series - Mt. Baldy Nature Hike to Central Beach, Mt. Baldy Parking Lot - Hwy 12 just west of downtown Michigan City, IN

Join Susan Mihalo, Naturalist and past president of Save the Dunes, for a lakefront hike. Beat the beachgoers and learn about the moving dune. You might see lizards too. Meet at the Mt. Baldy parking lot. For more information, contact Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5137 or ericneagu@gmail.com. (Save the Dunes)

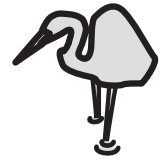
Volunteer Grant Bowman inspects Milkweed, a native flower
Photo credit: Laura Milkert.





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Get Outside for Family Fun this Summer

By Joann Podkul, CSI Chair

When soaring prices cut too deeply into family budgets and limit options for fun, take heart. Enclosed is the CSI Newsletter calendar covering events from May through August, 2011.

Between the time when the last of the spring wildflowers fade and the first fall leaves turn, member organizations continue to provide rich outdoor experiences for families. Spend the entire month of May in green open space and community gardens, on hikes or bikes, or in canoes or kayaks. Catch up on the growing green initiatives on Chicago's Southeast Side at events sponsored by the "4th Annual 10th Ward Green Summit," now reaching into neighboring Chicago wards and Northwest Indiana. Kick-off the summer season at Wolf Lake with the Memorial Day Weekend sponsored by AWLI.

Spend Saturday, June 25th, at the

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's 25th anniversary with the 2nd Annual Leave No Child Inside events. Join the search for the rare "Thysania Americana" on Saturday, August 13th, at the William Powers

Conservation Area/Wolf Lake.

These are merely a few of the offerings provided year-round by CSI partners and volunteers. CSI beckons you...come on out and explore.



Olive Harvey College Students after gathering garlic mustard at Beaubien Woods. Photo credit: Laura Milkert