

WNS Mission Statement

The Mission of the Wesselman Nature Society is to preserve the natural resources in the Evansville area, to provide environmental education, and to promote the enjoyment of these treasures.

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WWNP Director - Alice Rademacher
WWNP Program Director - Scott Kramer
WWNP Teaching Naturalist - Lisa Hoffman
WNS Director - Susan Haislip
Howell Wetlands Manager - Lauren Preske
Canoe Evansville Manager - Amy Brown

This is a quarterly publication of the Wesselman Nature Society. Submittals or corrections should be directed to the editor, Lisa Hoffman, at lhoffman@WesselmanNatureSociety.org.



Printed on Recycled Paper

“Tree”mendous Tree Weekend

October 20-21

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Join us for a weekend celebration of trees! Trees are too often overlooked, abused or neglected, but healthy trees are vital to our community. We are fortunate to be surrounded by some very impressive trees. In fact, Vanderburgh County has twenty-six individual trees which have been listed as **State Champions**—five times more champions than any other county in our state! And, you guessed it, several of these champions grow right here in our own special forest—the Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve.

Celebrate our tree status with a weekend full of activities! Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve for walking and bus tour departures to see our state and county champion trees. At the Nature Center, children can enjoy a tree-related craft fair where they can create arts and crafts items like: necklaces, pictures, leaf presses, leaf paintings, tree journals, or even participate in a scavenger hunt! Families can take part in a walking-stick carving class, can learn how to nominate a tree, or can get some great exercise by taking a guided hike through Wesselman Woods to view the champion trees!

Check out the following schedule of events:

Saturday, October 20:

8AM Bus Tour of East side or West side of Evansville (3 hours)
10AM Fall Colors and Champion Trees Hike (1hour or 2 hour hikes)
10AM-1PM Tree Craft Fair (\$5 per participant)
(Activity tables: Painted Tree Leaf Banners, Tree Cookie Necklaces, Make-a-Leaf Press, Leaf Rubbing Collages, Adopt-A-Tree Journals, Leaf Scavenger Hunt Book)
11AM Bus Tour of East side or West side of Evansville (3 hours)
2PM Fall Colors and Champion Trees Hike (1hour or 2 hour hikes)

The **Tri-State Woodcarver’s Association** will be demonstrating their carving techniques and talents on both Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday, Oct 21:

1PM “How to Nominate a Champion Tree” Learn to measure, calculate and nominate a tree. Perhaps your tree may be a future champion!
2PM Carve a Walking Stick (\$5 per participant)
3PM Fall Colors and Champion Trees Hike (1 hour or 2 hour hikes)

Sponsored by: Wesselman Nature Society, Evansville Department of Urban Forestry, Purdue University Extension Office and the Evansville Parks and Recreation Department.

Call 812-479-0771, ext 102 for more information.

Fall Festival Opportunity

Don't forget! While you are down there on Franklin Street partaking of the annual Westside Nutclub Fall Festival goodies, stop by the Wesselman Nature Society booth. This will be our fourth year at the Festival—look for booth #112 on the corner of 11th Avenue. Come get some great food or drink, and support Nature Society programming at the same time.

Our unique menu is honed to perfection by now! We'll serve brat burgers, tree trunks (pretzel rods dipped in white chocolate almond bark), banana boat "canoes," and our specialty—birch beer ice cream floats. If you've never sampled birch beer, you're missing out! It's similar to a gourmet "root" beer, but flavored with real birch tree oil; imported from Pennsylvania just for the Festival. Get it by the bottle, or frothed over with yummy vanilla ice cream.

If any of you have some free time on your hands, we could of course, use a few helping hands inside the booth preparing the food, or outside the booth selling canned sodas. Even a couple hours of your time would be appreciated. Please call 479-0771 today to volunteer!

HAUNTED HAYRIDES!

In Wesselman Park

October 26-27

6:30pm-9:30pm

Admission: \$7 per mortal

Enjoy a spooky, fun hayride for the whole family! Don't miss out on a wonderful fall tradition! Mildly spooky scenes throughout the hayride: headless horseman, haunted cemetery, giant inflatables and more... Each hayride lasts about 25 minutes. (This event is a fundraiser for the Wesselman Nature Society.)



You're Invited to...

the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, **November 13, at 6PM** at the Nature Center. All Society members are welcome to come and mingle with other members and meet those who serve as Board of Directors. Refreshments will be available. Votes will be cast during the meeting to choose next year's Board of Directors. For information about becoming a Society member, please call Susan Haislip at 479-0771, ext. 100, or email us at membership@WesselmanNatureSociety.org.

Get Those Cameras Out!



Do you love to take pictures? You don't need to be a professional! Share your best photos by entering our annual **Photography Contest!** Fun for all ages—an Adult and a Junior Photo Division for ages 14 and younger! (They will be judged separately.)

Prizes will be awarded! All contest entries will be displayed in the Nature Center for all to admire. Tell your friends! Support the arts, and Wesselman Nature Society.

ADULT DIVISION:

Entry Fee—\$10 first entry, \$5 each additional—5X7, or larger, matted with black or white mat board; mat size not to exceed 16X20. B&W and Color prints will be judged together.

Categories (4): Wildlife, Plants, People/ Events, and Seasons

JUNIOR DIVISION:

Entry Fee—\$5 first entry, \$3 each additional—4X6, or larger, matted with black or white mat board; mat size not to exceed 16X20. B&W and Color prints will be judged together.

Categories (4): Animals, Trees and Plants, Landscape/Scenery, and Other (for photos that may not fit into one specific category)

LOCATION:

Photos must be taken at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands or on Pigeon Creek.

ENTRY INFORMATION:

Photographer's name or entry title must not appear on the front side of photo—a completed entry label should be taped to the back of each photo. Payment must accompany each entry. There is no limit to the number of entries.*

Brochures with contest rules and entry forms will be available by going to our web-site at www.WesselmanNatureSociety.org, by calling the Nature Center at (812) 479-0771 ext 105, or by stopping in to pick one up at the Nature Center or at local libraries.

JUDGING:

Contest entries will be judged on: Composition, General Appeal, Technical Merit, and Appropriateness to Category. Judging will be done by qualified persons not affiliated with WNS. First, Second, and Third place will be awarded in each category, as well as a "Best of Show." "Honorable Mentions" will be awarded at judges' discretion. WNS will resolve all first-place ties.

DEADLINE:

Photos must be delivered or postmarked by 4PM on **November 1st, 2007** to: Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N. Boeke Rd, Evansville, IN 47711.

*All contest entries become the property of Wesselman Nature Society and their images may be used in promotions, exhibits, on our website, or reproduced in the Society newsletter or other publications, with proper credit given to the photographer.

Original entries may be returned upon request.

Junior Contest Entry

Name _____

Title _____

Category:

- Animals Plants and Trees
 Landscape and Scenery Other

Adult Contest Entry

Name _____

Title _____

Category:

- People/ Events Wildlife Seasons
 Plants

Use the label forms to the left for photo entries. Form must be securely fastened to the back of each entry.

Indiana Master Naturalist



An Introductory Program
of Nature Discovery and
Service Learning for
Adults

Indiana Master Naturalist Program

January 21 - April 26, 2008

Wesselman Nature Society and the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service are partnering to initiate the Indiana Master Naturalist program in Southwest Indiana. The certified program is designed to provide participants with many hands-on opportunities to learn about our Hoosier natural resources. Additionally, it provides a way for you to share that knowledge, along with your own life experiences, through volunteer service.

What is the Master Naturalist Program? The Master Naturalist Program is one way that natural resource education puts knowledge to work and helps people grow throughout Indiana. The Master Naturalist Program helps nature lovers grow by providing them with intensive training in natural resource principles. Participants, in turn, share their knowledge by providing volunteer leadership and service to their communities.

Certification: Candidates will complete 12 class sessions, plus a final exam. They will be expected to then complete 40 hours of volunteer service to receive an Indiana Master Naturalist Certificate, Pin and Member Newsletter.

Course Sessions will include: Ecological Principles, Geology and Soils, Natural Habitats, Wetland and River-system Ecology, Tree Identification and Hike, Wildflower Identification and Hike, Songbirds and Raptors, Mammals of S.W. Indiana, Tracking Wildlife, Herpetology, Entomology, and Interpretation Techniques.

Program Times and Fee: Sessions will be 3-hours in length and you can attend either Monday evenings (6:00pm-9:00pm) or Tuesday mornings (9:00am-Noon) at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Cost of the course is \$100 per person.

IMN Program Mission: The mission of the Master Naturalist program is to bring together natural resource specialists with adult learners to foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, waters, soils and wildlife and promote volunteer service in local communities.

Benefits: Anyone interested in volunteering as a Docent (Volunteer Educator), Canoe Guide or Trail Guide for Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Canoe Evansville, or Howell Wetlands would benefit greatly from completing the Master Naturalist program. The timing is wonderful! School field-trips and the canoeing season will begin soon after completion of the Master Naturalist program!

Questions? You can contact:

- Larry Caplan, Purdue Extension Educator at (812)-435-5287 or Lcaplan@purdue.edu
- Scott Kramer, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve at (812)-479-0771, ext 102 or skramer@wesselmannaturesociety.org

To learn more about the Indiana Master Naturalist program or to see what other facilities around the state are offering, search the Internet with the key words: Indiana Master Naturalist program.

Birds of Prey.... Raptors....hunters on the horizon..... the magnificent creatures we see soaring the skies....using their incredible talents to survive, thrive,...to balance and beautify the natural world...they awe us, inspire us, awaken us, and emphasize our connection with and impact on all living things. What better comrade to help us persuade others to respect and conserve our natural world?

We've had a tremendous amount of response to our docent raptors....our resident Red-tailed Hawk, Graceon, and our barn owl, Banshee...in our environmental education programs. The requests for their appearance in our programs are increasing, and the popularity of our raptor-themed programs are growing. Graceon has been with us for 6 years, and has become quite the star with a full schedule. Banshee is not as well suited to stardom, and needs time off. With

Birds of Prey... Coming to a Program Near You!



Lauren Preske with our resident Barn Owl "Banshee," at a raptor show

the growth we are experiencing in program requests, we will not be able to depend on Graceon for all appearances. Therefore, the Wesselman Nature Society is in the process of expanding its Raptor Program! Our goal is to house eight bird of prey species, and become the premier educational raptor program in the regional area. **Lauren Preske** will manage the program and supervise the bird's care, management, and program use, and provide training for the staff, docents, and of course, the birds.

The project has been underway for the past three months. Research & Development of the facilities/operations has been done by

Lauren Preske and **Susan Haislip** through library research, consulting local and regional mentors with expertise in raptors, and visiting other raptor facilities in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Special thanks to one of... *(continued on pg.4)*



Joe Katterhenry is seen here, assisting Lauren with care of our hawk

our own local falconers, **Joe Katterhenry**, for his willingness to give of his time and expertise any time we need him. He has been a great advisor for us all along the way, and plans to continue to help with the program. Over the last three years, he has taught Lauren a great deal about training the birds to be on the fist, and has been a wealth of information on their care, equipment, and

management. Joe studied Wildlife Science at Purdue University, and started falconry practices over 30 years ago. Other more recent acquaintances have been great resources for information and successful examples while building the program. **Dawn Davis of Eagle Creek Park** in Indianapolis spent a whole day of her time teaching us about their facility and procedures for training birds and docents. **Liz and Chris Hatton** from Indianapolis rehabilitate over 300 birds a year and have been so giving of their advice and guidance. The birds we have acquired so far have come from Liz and Chris, and also from **Candy Ridlbauer at the Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab Center**. It has been a pleasure working with all of them.

Care for the birds is an every-day job and it will take a team of dedicated and knowledgeable caregivers. Lauren will supervise their care, and staff will assist where needed. However, the majority of the daily care will come from trained and experienced docents. All staff and docents must go through training to care for them, and even more training to handle them and use them in programs. Training lasts 12-16 weeks before they are qualified to conduct programs. The current docent class includes **Lisa Snyder** (who has been with us for the past year), **Ali Rohde, Laurie Liggett, and Charlie Carper**. Another select class of docents will begin late this fall.



Graceon, our Red-tailed Hawk, is seen here, perched next to Docent and Master Naturalist, Lisa Snyder

Care for the birds will also be possible due to the efforts of **Dr. Gregg Gormley, D.V.M. and his daughter Molly**, both of **Highland Veterinary Clinic**. They are generously caring for our birds in-kind, giving checkups, beak and talon trims, vaccinations, and advising on health related concerns. They specialize in rehabilitating birds and nurse 100-300 birds each year. Many of our docent birds have come to be placed with us

through their rehabilitation efforts. Please help me in thanking them for their generosity to our feathered friends and to our organization! (Visit their wish list of supplies they regularly need listed on their Wild Bird Rehab Program webpage at <http://tinyurl.com/34qun8> or go to their website at www.highlandvet.evetsites.net.)



Dr. Gregg Gormley recently vaccinated our birds of prey against the West Nile Virus

Of course, Birds of Prey need prey to eat, and they love to eat! We purchase and get donations of their natural prey species...mice, rats, chicks, quail...from reputable local vendors. They come humanely euthanized and frozen, and we feed them twice a week (The other days of the week we feed them a "Bird of Prey" ground meat mixture that the zoo uses.) We will use over 2,000 rodents per year for a population of 8 birds! Financial contributions to fund their feeding habits are always appreciated! (Contact Susan at 479-0771 x100 if you wish to make a donation.)

In anticipation of new birds arriving, we have already cleaned and renovated our existing bird enclosures and built several new ones. Most of the enclosures will not house the birds in full public view, but they will be out often for programs and daytime outings on the grounds. Completion of all major renovations is expected by month's end. There will be a lot of small details to finish up, and you can help—see our wish list below. Lauren Preske designed the enclosure renovations and new layouts. Many skilled volunteers have offered their expert carpentry skills for the construction. **Dennis Lynch** (Lauren's Dad) has built the new enclosures with great attention to detail in functionality and aesthetic appeal. He has done an outstanding job! **Don Scheu and Doug Luzar** have also offered their fantastic carpentry skills and a good deal of their time to construct perches, travel carriers, signs, and much more for all of the enclosures. (Don Scheu has been with us many years offering his woodworking expertise, and we joke that he is on retainer as the bird's personal carpenter!). Many of our volunteers (and Master Naturalists) had a hand in clearing and organizing the areas around the cages to make way for construction, including **Lisa Snyder, Charlie Carper, Ken Bonhotal, and Don Ralph**.

As you can see, it takes an astronomical amount of planning, coordination and teamwork to build a program of this caliber. This project would not be possible without all of the skilled and dedicated volunteers mentioned above that have assisted us. It also would not have been possible without the generous financial contributions of the **Leo & Mildred Bringwald Family Grant Foundation and Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana**. We have lots of work left to do, and always welcome your kind comments and support.

A big THANK YOU to all past, present, and future contributors!

Watch our website and for the next WNS newsletter, where we will announce all of our new resident birds as well as exciting new programs and projects to look forward to!

WISH LIST for the WNS Raptor Program:

- *Outdoor ceiling fan
- *Small chest freezer—approx. 27" w, 22" d, 34" h.
- *Small countertop to hold a kitchen sink
- *Shop light to hang over work bench
- *Monetary donations to assist with feeding costs

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Woodlands...Wetlands...
Waterways...
Saving a place for wildlife.



University of Evansville Freshman Service Project, Class of 2011

On a hot September day, the University of Evansville incoming

Freshman Class of 2011 began their work...not in the classrooms, laboratories, or halls of the University, but here on the trails of Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve! The University of Evansville has developed a very effective method for exposing the new students to volunteer opportunities and other wonderful resources within our community. They organize a Service Project day where students work together to complete a needed task.

Fifteen University of Evansville students chose Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve as their volunteer location. They worked hard, had a great time, and completed much



needed tasks. Several trails were mulched to make safe, comfortable hiking surfaces for visitors. Trails were trimmed to create unobstructed pathways throughout the preserve's trail system. Hundreds of pounds of cardboard was recycled at the Nature Preserve's Recycling Center, as it was sorted, moved, loaded and stacked inside the transportation trailer.



We appreciate all the hard work and dedication of the incoming Freshman Class of 2011 who volunteered their time and talent at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. We also hope they will tell all their classmates about the wonderful resources that the Nature Preserve has to offer all the Tri-State community!

United Way Day of Caring Workers

Eleven volunteers from area businesses spent Friday, September 14, working on trails in Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Seven north-side Target employees, 2 Whirlpool employees, and 2 Trailer Brothers employees dedicated their day to improving the trails of the nature preserve. At the end of the day, a new 40-foot section of boardwalk had been constructed on a low area of East Trail, and three HUGE loads of mulch had been spread on trails in the back section of the nature preserve: Main Trail, East Trail, and outer Newburgh Trail along the south fence line.

Several of the United Way Day of Caring volunteers also participated in the event last year at the nature preserve and returned to continue their volunteer efforts this year!

It is wonderful to see so many people dedicating so much time to benefit Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve in so many different ways! Thanks also to several members of the Wednesday Workcrew and Recycling Crew for assisting with supervision of the United Way Day of Caring volunteers and the days' projects (including the assembly of about 60 lunches!): Henry Backes, Don Scheu, Jim Werner, Jim Hancock, Lee Ann Bruner, and Margaret Buckwinkel.

If you haven't hiked the Nature Preserve's trails lately, come out and see some of the work that has been done by all the different volunteers and staff!



A new section of boardwalk was installed to make traversing a low, muddy spot easier for hikers

Huge mulch piles were loaded onto the Nature Center truck for transport to trails



Mulch was also hand-delivered by wheelbarrow to less accessible areas of Preserve trails



WNS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



See page 10 for program descriptions.

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 25 4:30PM--WNS Board Meeting	26 🤝8AM-Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	27	28 7PM--Moonlight 🚣 Paddle @Hovey Lake	29 2PM--Raptor Show & Falconry Demonstration @ Howell Wetland (Bring a lawn chair.) 7PM--Insect Nightlife Hike @Howell Wetland	30 2PM--"Wildlife in the City" Canoe Trip on Pigeon Creek 🚣
October 2	3 🤝8AM-Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	4 6PM--Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting @ Roca Bar 🚣	5 8AM-Noon, Oct.6, Tire Recycling Day @ Civic Center 🗑️ Parking Lot → Free ToxAway Day, 10/6-call 424-3345.	6 9AM--"Wildlife in the City" Canoe trip on Pigeon Creek 🚣 1PM--CE Eco-Action Girl Scout Workshop	7 2PM--"Wildlife in the City" Canoe trip on Pigeon Creek 🚣
🤝 FALL FESTIVAL BOOTH--many volunteers needed Mon-Sat!					
October 9	10 🤝8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales 🗑️ 7PM--Howell Wetland Committee Meeting @ WWNP	11	12 9AM-1PM--Clean Out Your Files Day @ WWNP, on 📁 Oct. 12 & 13 1PM, Oct. 13--WWNP Brownie Girl Scout Workshop →	13 🤝8AM-Noon--♻️ Recycle Saturday@ Old Walmart West 9AM--"Birding Special" Canoe Trip on Pigeon Creek 🚣 9AM--CE Small Craft Girl Scout Workshop	14 2PM--"Wildlife in the City" Canoe Trip on Pigeon Creek 🚣
October 16 7PM - 9PM Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club Meeting 7PM - 10PM Audubon Society Meeting	17 🤝8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	18	19 9AM, Oct. 20--🚣 "Color Crazy Fall Paddle" Canoe trip on Pigeon Creek 🗑️ 10AM, Oct. 20--HW Brownie Scout wksp. 2PM, Oct. 21--"Wildlife in the City" canoe trip →	"TREE" MENDOUS TREE WEEKEND (See pg. 1 for details.) 	
October 23 4:30PM--WNS Board Meeting	24 🤝8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	25	26 & 27 HAUNTED HAYRIDES 6:30PM--9:30PM each night	26 & 27 🚣 7PM, Oct. 26-- Moonlight Paddle @ Hovey Lake 7PM, Oct. 27-- Moonlight Paddle @ BGFVA	28 ← 🚣 9AM, Oct. 27-- "Wildlife in the City" canoe trip on Pigeon Creek 2PM, Oct. 28--canoe trip on Pigeon Creek
October 30	31 🤝8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales  Halloween	November 1 🚣 6PM--Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting @ Roca Bar	2	3 8AM-Noon--Recycle Saturday @ 4-H Center ♻️	4 9AM-10:30AM--Fall Bird Banding 2PM--Build-a-Birdfeeder workshop 🛠️
November 6	7 🤝8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	8	9	10 9AM-10:30AM-- WWNP Daisy Girl Scout Workshop	11

🤝 = **Helping Hand Events** If you have the time, please come and lend a hand at these events.

WNS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See page 10 for program descriptions.

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 13 6PM--WNS Annual Members' Meeting & BOD meeting	14 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	15 America Recycles Day! 	16	17 9AM-2PM--"Flying Wild" workshop @ Audubon State Park Must pre-register.	18
November 20 7PM - 9PM Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club Meeting 7PM - 10PM Audubon Society Meeting	21 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	22 & 23 <i>Thanksgiving</i>  Nature Center Closed		24	25
November 27	28 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 10AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales	29	30 6PM-10PM--WWNP Brownie Girl Scout Evening Workshop	December 1  ☞ 8AM-Noon-- Recycle Saturday @ Old Walmart West	2
December 4	5 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew 7PM--Howell  Wetland Committee Meeting @ WWNP	6 6PM--Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting @ Roca Bar 	7	8 9AM--"Meet Your Legislators" @ Central Library's Browning Room 1PM-3PM--WWNP Brownie Scout wksp.	9
December 11	12 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew	13	14	15	16 1PM-3PM--WWNP Junior Girl Scout Workshop
December 18 7PM - 10PM Audubon Society Meeting 7PM - 9PM Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club Meeting	19 ☞ 8AM - Noon Volunteer Workcrew	20	21	22	23
December 25  <i>Christmas</i> Nature Center Closed	26 ☞ 8AM-Noon Volunteer Workcrew	27	28	29	30 Nature Center Closed-Jan. 31

☞ = Helping Hand Events If you have the time, please come and lend a hand at these events.

Program Descriptions

ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

- ▶ Register for all...
 - ...Nature Preserve programs by calling 479-0771 ext. 102.
 - ...Canoe Evansville Programs by calling 479-0771 ext. 105.
 - ...Howell Wetlands programs by calling 499-2952, or 479-0771 ext. 139.
- ▶ Prices are listed with each program.
WNS members get \$1.00 discount on programs when they show their membership card.
- ▶ All programs meet at the nature center unless otherwise noted.
"HW" denotes a program held at Howell Wetlands on Tekoppel Avenue on Evansville's Westside.
"CE" denotes a program held through Canoe Evansville, and meets at various locations.

Audubon Society Meetings - The Evansville Audubon Society holds their regular monthly meetings at WWP on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except July and August.

October 16—7PM—"Owls and Other Raptors" presented by John Castrale, a non-game specialist with the Division of Natural Resources.

November 20—7PM—"Nature Photography with Al Perry" prize-winning photographer, local businessman, and Evansville Audubon Society member.

December 18—7PM--Christmas Sharing--Each person bring a favorite potluck dish, table service and drink. Bring your favorite nature memories for show and tell following dinner.

Build-A-Birdfeeder Workshop - Prepare now for winter! Attracting birds to your backyard can become one of winter's favorite past-times. It is so easy to do with a hand-built, cedar feeder. This feeder is designed for feeding black oil or mixed wild bird seed to appeal to a wide variety of birds. Bring a hammer. \$10 each. Call to register.

Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting (CE)—Monthly meetings of Canoe Evansville volunteers are held on the first Thursdays of the month. Anyone with interests in canoeing and/or restoration of the water quality of Pigeon Creek are encouraged to attend and invited to volunteer.

Canoe Trips on Pigeon Creek (CE) - "Wildlife in the City" - This 3 hour guided trip takes participants along 5 miles of Pigeon Creek. Learn historical facts about Evansville, observe lots of wildlife, and see beauty in the middle of the city. "Bird Watchers Special" - Get those binoculars ready and enjoy the avian oasis of southern Indiana. Audubon and WNS members get \$3 discount on birding trips. "Color Crazy Fall Paddle" - The Fall season is upon us, so bring your old camera and use our leaf guides to understand the beauty of autumn as we paddle down Pigeon Creek. (All creek trips for ages 7 and over.) Call 479-0771 for details. "Moonlight Paddles" - Join us for a guided moonlit paddle at the beautiful Hovey Lake or the unique reclaimed land of Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area.

"Clean Out Your Files" Day—Oct. 12&13—9AM-1PM--The Vanderburgh County Solid Waste District, as part of a paper recycling program, is providing a free shredding service. A mobile shredder will be onsite at the Nature Center parking lot to shred up to 10 pounds of paper free of charge. A fee applies for shredding more than 10 pounds. Cardboard, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, inkjet cartridges, and aluminum cans will also be accepted for recycling. For questions, please call 436-7800.

Electronics Recycling Day —Oct. 20—8AM-Noon--The Vanderburgh County Solid Waste District is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling day in the Civic Center parking lot, Ninth & Walnut streets, downtown. A great chance to clean out your old equipment--computers, monitors, modems, printers, scanners, keyboards, fax machines, stereos, VCRs TVs, etc. are included in the collection. Household electronics ONLY--no businesses, please. Vanderburgh County residents ONLY. For further information, call 436-7800

Fall Bird Banding - Hands-on birding: Come out and help with an ongoing bird banding project, as we catch, identify, tag and release birds from the Nature Preserve. This is a great time for pictures; bring a camera. Free.

"Flying Wild" Educator's Workshop - This hands-on educator's workshop will focus on the importance of bird conservation. Engaging activities and fantastic resources will be provided to help promote environmental learning and stewardship about bird-related categories. Workshop will take place at

Audubon State Park, in Henderson, KY. Cost is \$12. Pre-registration is required. Please call 479-0771, ext. 100, or 270-826-4424 for information.

Girl Scout Workshops - Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Teen Girl Scouts participate in fun activities that help them meet badge requirements. Workshops may be 2-4 hours, depending upon the badge being earned. Workshop programming is offered through Wesselman Woods, Howell Wetlands, and Canoe Evansville. Pre-registrations are required. Please call for details.

Haunted Hayrides - Bring the family out for a spooky hayride through Wesselman Park. The haywagon will take you along park roads to see various "spook stations" along the way. Mildly scary fun for all ages. You won't want to miss the Headless Horseman! Runs Friday and Saturday evening, Oct. 26 & 27. Admission: \$7 per mortal.

Insect Nightlife Hike (HW) - Discover the nightlife of the insect world on an exploratory adventure with an insect specialist from Swat Pest. Bring insect repellent, a flashlight and a collection container. \$3/person

Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club Meeting - The Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club meets at WWP every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm. If you are interested you can drop by one of the meetings.

"Meet Your Legislators" - An opportunity for all to meet and talk face-to-face with our area's state legislators. Meeting will take place in the Brownie Rooms of Central Library. Doors open at 9AM.

Raptor Show & Falconry Demonstration (HW) - Raptors have ruled as top predators for thousands of years. Why? Explore their specific adaptations, habitats, and niches with an up-close-and-personal look at these magnificent creatures. Discover a centuries-old hunting tradition as it is demonstrated by expert falconers. Live and uncensored! Bring a lawn chair. \$3/ person. Proceeds fund WNS Raptor Program.

Recycle Saturday - A recurring event at various locations (usually on the first Saturday of the month) in which you can help out the Preserve by donating your recyclable goods. We accept: corrugated cardboard, poster board, white office paper, newspaper, magazines and catalogs, #1 PETE plastic, #2 HDPE plastic, glass, steel cans, and aluminum cans.

Tire Recycling Day - Oct. 6—8AM-Noon--Vanderburgh County residents may bring up to 4 light-duty truck or passenger auto tires for recycling at no charge. Tires will be collected in the Civic Center parking lot, downtown. Additional tires for recycling will be charged a \$1 fee per tire. Other charges apply for larger tires. For questions, please contact the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.

Toddler Tales - Fun story time and craft for pre-school age children and their parents. Free. (There will be NO Toddler Tales in December.)

"Tree"mendous Tree Weekend - See pg. 1 for details.

Tox-Away Day - An opportunity to responsibly dispose of toxic wastes FREE of charge. This event is sponsored by Allied Waste. All inquiries concerning items accepted for disposal, please call 424-3345.

Volunteer Workcrew - Do you have Wednesday mornings free? Why not come out and volunteer with the Wednesday Morning Workcrew? At noon, once all the work is done, or at least put off until the next week, we have a home cooked meal together in the kitchen.

WNS Board Meetings - Wesselman Nature Society's Board of Directors meets every 4th Tuesday. If you would like to bring any business up to the board, please call in advance and ask to be put on the agenda. WNS members are invited to attend the Annual Members' meeting on Nov.13 at 6PM. Come participate in election of Board members for the coming year.



Howell Wetlands

**Woodlands...Wetlands...
Waterways...
Saving a place for wildlife.**

Fall Flutter-by Fabulous!



The Fall Flutter-by at Howell Wetlands was a great afternoon of joy and celebration for children and adults alike. The Celebration focused on the magnificent diversity of beautiful butterflies in the Howell Wetlands prairie, and as a send off for their impending migration during the newly arrived fall season. Participants enjoyed guided butterfly hikes, and lots of crafts, games, and displays for the entire family. We had over 75 people turn out to participate in the butterfly hikes led by our expert Master [butterfly] Gardeners, **Debbie Goedde** and **Kate Lynch**. We had a steady stream of people coming in for the general activities from 1:00 to 4:00pm. This was the first successful year for the event, as our first attempt at it last year, was completely rained out. We also had an Insect Nightlife Hike scheduled for the evening activities, but that did get rained out. We have rescheduled it for Sept. 29 at 7pm, so mark your calendars to join us. "Congratulations" and "Thanks" to everyone...all of our volunteers, supporters, and participants that made it a successful event!



Several children are seen here, enjoying one of the butterfly crafts at the 2007 "Fall Flutter-by" event at Howell Wetlands.



In this picture, volunteer Mr. Brown, is deep in conversation with an event visitor, showing her a butterfly chrysalis.

Wetlands and Raptors and Insectsoh my!

Join us for upcoming exciting activities at Howell Wetlands!

Raptor Show and Falconry Demonstration

Sept. 29: 2- 4 pm at Howell Wetlands

Entrance to wetlands at 1400 S. Tekoppel Ave., Evansville

Raptors have ruled as top predators for thousands of years. Why? Explore their specific adaptations, habitats, and niches with an up-close-and-personal look at these magnificent creatures. Discover a centuries-old hunting tradition, as it will be demonstrated by expert falconers. Live and uncensored! *Bring a lawn chair.* Cost: \$3/person. (Proceeds benefit HW and WNS Raptor Programs.)

Insect Nightlife Hike

Sept. 29: 7- 9 pm at Howell Wetlands

Entrance to wetlands at 1400 S. Tekoppel Ave., Evansville

Discover the nightlife of the insect world on an exploratory adventure with an insect specialist from....

*Bring insect repellent,
a flashlight and a
collection container.*

Cost: \$3/person. (Proceeds benefit the HW program.)



Grants Granted!

Two grants were recently awarded to the Howell Wetlands Program for its outdoor classroom building project. **Alcoa Foundation** has generously provided \$50,000 for the project. The **Vectren Foundation** has also generously provided \$10,000 for the project. Both grants were awarded after a lengthy grant application process and the grant committees decided it was a very worthwhile project. Other major grantors to the project include the **Westside Nut Club**, **Rotary Clubs of Evansville**, **Sustainable Communities Coalition**, **City of Evansville Endowment Fund**, and the **Vanderburgh County Community Foundation**. The building at Howell Wetlands will provide a sheltered outdoor classroom, restrooms, and storage space for educational and property maintenance supplies. Howell Wetlands currently hosts about 2,000 school children a year for environmental education programming, and that number is expected to grow considerably as the program gains popularity, and facilities become available. The project is out for bid, and construction is expected to begin this fall.

We would like to thank these community-oriented corporations and organizations for their contribution to bettering environmental education opportunities in Southwestern Indiana! **Thank you!**



Canoe Evansville

**Woodlands...Wetlands...
Waterways...
Saving a place for wildlife.**

A Season for Learning.....

This season has blessed us with many great new opportunities. The education that Canoe Evansville has been able to accomplish this year, has surpassed what we had dreamed for the program. Over 400 inner-city kids received the opportunity to try canoeing, but even more importantly, they all participated in our water-quality monitoring "Junior Scientist" program. I have had several highlights this year, but one that really sticks out, was a six-year-old who responded after being told it was time to leave, "I am STILL ANALYZING MY DATA!!!" At least 788 other participants enjoyed environmental education on Pigeon Creek, or other local waterways. With such a large group of people coming from many schools, churches, scout troops, and interested citizens, it shows that this was a great year to learn about the Pigeon Creek wildlife corridor!



1957 oil painting of the shanty boats on Pigeon Creek, donated to Wesselman Nature Society by Nancy Peters

Wild Life in the City.....

We have known all along, that there is a fantastic amount of wildlife that call Pigeon Creek home, but we have found some pretty interesting species lately! Since the water is so very low on the "upper" part of the creek, we have seen more and more mussel beds. We are looking forward to working with U of E students and faculty to investigate the BIG picture of the mussel population along the creek. Among the more than 22 species of mammals along the creek, this year we have spotted Mink, tracks of Bobcat, and heard several local hunters and anglers tell of Otter on the creek. Since all of these species are very elusive, we are very lucky to have these sightings and clues to where they may be living. Another elusive creature that we have spotted on more than one occasion, and with more than one set of eyes, is the Yellow-crowned Night Heron! This state endangered bird was hanging out on the creek with a large flock of Little Green Herons, late this summer. One adult and one juvenile were spotted several times over a two week period, all near the bottom 2 miles of the creek. What a treat!

Projects you can help with.....

With education comes responsibility. That is how Canoe Evansville feels about Pigeon Creek. This beautiful riparian habitat exists in the middle of our great city, and we as citizens, own it, use it, live on it, love it, and some... abuse it. This is due to many factors--ignorance, greed, laziness, or just lack of education on the importance of respect to our waterways. Since our organization is using this green space for education, we are also very responsible for what happens there. We are the ones who need to teach the public why the creek deserves respect, why our city and parks deserve respect. Illegal dumping of ANYTHING, be it chemicals, waste, trash--everything that is not natural-- hurts us all. When something is thrown out the window of a car, Pigeon Creek is likely the eventual resting site for that trash. We must teach that throwing trash "away," does not mean allowing it to pollute our waterways.

To do our share we have organized three teams of volunteers. The first is our "Water Quality Monitoring Team," lead by **Rich Cook** and **Kevin Miles**. This team is using Hoosier Riverwatch guidelines with volunteers (and they need more) to regularly test many areas along the creek. This is a great way to keep an

eye out for any major changes to the chemistry or biology of the creek. This team is looking for volunteers that would be able to check an area of the creek about once per month, for about 1-2 hours, and analyze the area more in depth for about 2-3 hours, 3 times per year. Training will be available to learn the Riverwatch method and to learn proper use of the testing equipment.

The second team is our "Creek Clean-Up Crew," which organizes creek clean-ups to pull out trash in and along the creek. This is a tedious and heavy-lifting job, but is very rewarding after a good, successful day. This team needs volunteers who can lead a group, deal with logistics, and who are not afraid to get dirty.

Our third, is a "Creek Restoration Team," lead by **Shawn Dickerson**. This team looks at banks along the creek where clean-ups have been done, then designs and helps implement restoration projects. The goals are to increase bank stabilization, and to increase plant and tree biodiversity for wildlife along the creek; all to be done in a manner suitable for both nature and land owner.

Please call us if you are interested in any of these three teams. Contact Amy Brown for more information, 479-0771, ext. 105 or abrown@wesselmannaturesociety.org

Cleaning up the creek with Scouts, U of E students, and the United Way.....

Canoe Evansville is on its way to getting Pigeon Creek cleaned up! I have kept everyone updated on our progress this year, and continue to do so here: In August, two **Venture Scout Crews** came to fulfill their conservation project requirements by participating in a creek clean-up. The very next day, 40 **University of Evansville** freshmen worked in the same area, continuing what the Venture Crews started. With the help of these two groups, piles of collected junk amassed, which totaled 1 ton of scrap steel, 800 pounds of PVC, and the hauling out of approximately two dumpsters full of trash. Our appreciation goes out to these hard-working young people.

We have always been thankful to the **United Way**, for sending us volunteers that are so willing to work hard, for a good cause. This year the draught was a huge blessing, and their "people power" cleaned up a ¾ mile stretch of creek between Heidelbach and Diamond Ave.; bringing out over 75 tires, 3 shopping carts, several cars worth of vehicle parts, 2 hot-water heaters, a ceiling fan, a mattress, a utility wagon, 3 bicycles, 1 motorbike, and over a ton of trash. They also helped clear a dangerous log/trash jam. These people work harder, with a smile, than anyone I have ever met. Many of these United Way volunteers donated their equipment to us, too, like shovels, pick-axes, and winches. These items are pure gold for use during our weekly creek clean-ups and we need as many as we can get! Big thanks to employees of **Vectren, Atlas Van Lines, Integra Bank, Bank of Evansville, Ivy Tech**, and the **City of Evansville**, for all of your hard work!!!!

Thanks also, to our great Canoe Evansville volunteers....**April Mallory, Jenni Grafton, Peter Blanc, Don Ralph, and Gil Himebaugh**....it couldn't happen without you all!



Volunteers assist by hauling collected creek debris onto a trailer for transport



Workers are seen in these two pictures collecting junk from creek waters and then hauling it to a collection site by aide of several canoes



Enormous piles of scrap metal and PVC recently collected from Pigeon Creek



Leave a Lasting Legacy...

Wesselman Nature Society relies on the generosity of its members and other donors for the majority of our funding. As you look around our properties you'll see previous gifts at work in the form of improved trail signage, students on field trips by virtue of scholarship, and new programs and offerings. But giving now isn't the only way you can show your commitment to the environment and our properties. When you leave WNS a gift as part of your will, you are ensuring that our mission of natural resource conservation and environmental education continues well into the future. Won't you consider making a charitable bequest for Wesselman Nature Society? For information about leaving a lasting gift for WNS, contact Susan Haislip at (812) 479-0771, ext.100.



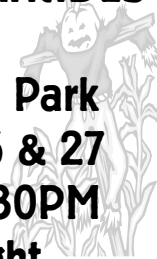
UPCOMING EVENTS

**"TREE" MENDOUS
TREE WEEKEND
at
Wesselman Woods
October 20 & 21**



See page 1

**HAUNTED HAYRIDES
in
Wesselman Park
October 26 & 27
6:30PM-9:30PM
each night**



See page 2

**Do your part to conserve
our natural resources—bring
your recyclables to
Wesselman Woods!**

Our Recycle Center accepts:
newspaper, magazines, junk
mail, white paper, phone books,
cardboard, and aluminum
beverage cans.



551 North Boeke Road
Evansville, Indiana 47711



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Evansville, IN
Permit No.
1766

WNS Wish List:

- Black oil sunflower seed
- Suet or suet cakes
- Cardboard toilet paper tubes
- Upright freezer
- Small chest freezer—approx. 27" w, 22" d, 34" h.
- New plastic storage bins with lids (66 qt.)

Your membership
expires one year
from the date on
your address label...
please renew!



Fall 2007