

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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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

WNS Partners With WNIN in Community Moments Initiative

Expect to soon see and hear a series of new public service announcements (PSAs) about the WNS that will air through both radio and television. These spots are the products of a recent partnership between WNS and WNIN under a Community Moments Initiative funded by the Alcoa Foundation. Through this partnership, we hope to increase awareness of WNS' mission and amplify our impact throughout the community by utilizing several media technologies. The PSAs will begin airing on WNIN radio at 88.3 FM and on WNIN Channel 9 in early summer.

Photo by Aaron Chenoweth



WNIN Producer/Director Wayne Aldridge films USI summer camp students at Howell Wetlands during a "Habitat by Humanity" program.

Volunteers make a difference at Eagle Slough!



Pictured at left are some of the 40 plus volunteers who assisted in the April 26th cleanup at Eagle Slough.

Volunteers at the cleanup event at Eagle Slough Natural Area on April 26 collected 5.89 TONS of trash and debris.





Mr. Vic Chamness
Wesselman Nature Society President

From your Wesselman Nature Society President, Vic Chamness:

Dear Members,

We had a great turnout and beautiful weather during the ground breaking ceremony for the new Howell Wetlands Education Center in April. Though it was a bit windy, the sunshine was there to help brighten this significant accomplishment. As a representative of the Wesselman Nature Society, it also brightened my day to see the many faces of both supporters and donors who were there in support of this new community resource! Of course, the excitement reached a climax as representatives from the funding organizations lined up to scoop the first few shovels full of earth from the site of the new facility.

Wesselman Nature Society has many other events occurring this summer that you'll read about in this newsletter. We are growing as an organization by adding new members weekly, so please continue to encourage participation in our events and share news about the great opportunities for families and all community members. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are working with the City of Evansville to begin the process for renovating the Nature Center at Wesselman Woods. We have organized a committee that is being chaired by WNS board member Luke Yaeger that has met to start the process on the renovated design phase. Much more information will be forthcoming, so please stay tuned for announcements about that process.

Staff members are working hard to keep up with everything this summer and to prepare for school groups starting in August. However, they are having to do all their usual work with one less person. As many of you know, Alice Rademacher has resigned. We held a farewell party for her following the May Board of Directors meeting. It was hard saying goodbye to such a good friend and partner and we wish her all the best in her new position.

As always, thanks for all of your support and please continue to attend the many events and programs that are offered through the Wesselman Nature Society.

Sincerely,
Vic Chamness, President, Board of Directors, wnspres@yahoo.com

Stay connected with "Nature News"

Does it seem like you always find out about events *after* the fact? Could you use a reminder about upcoming programs? Sign up for WNS's free *Nature News* and we'll send you a monthly email reminder of what's going on at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands, and Canoe Evansville right to your home or office. Simply email us at info@wesselmannaturesociety.org, include *Nature News* in the subject line, and tell us which email address(es) you would like us to use.



Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve extended hours!

Don't forget! You can now enjoy walking the trails or exploring the Nature Center during the evening hours. Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve Nature Center and trails are open Tuesday through Sunday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Though still closed on Mondays, the Preserve will be open for the Labor Day holiday, operating Monday, September 1, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Stop by after work for a summer evening hike!

Did you Know...

Americans use 50 million tons of paper annually-- which means we consume more than 850 million trees!

—US EPA

Old Growth Gazette Newsletter to be available via email.

Being surrounded by thousands of trees here at Wesselman Woods, we are constantly reminded of the importance of reducing and preventing paper waste. Feeling the same way yourself? WNS will soon be offering its members the option to receive their Old Growth Gazette by email rather than receiving the paper copy. This will help us both conserve our natural resources and save postage costs. If this option sounds right for you, please email us at membership@wesselmannaturesociety.org with the subject line *eNewsletter*. Include your name, mailing address and the email address you wish to have your newsletter sent to.

Photo by Tim Griffith



A Prothonotary Warbler serenades at Eagle Slough.

Photo by Susan Haislip



Don Batema and Carol Pettys search for warblers at the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.

Multitudes of Migrating Birds show up for the first Ohio Valley Birding Festival

Photo by Kathy Durnell



Scott Kramer holds a male Pileated Woodpecker before it is banded and released at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve.

Photo by Aaron Chenoweth



Bird banding is a popular year-round conservation program at Wesselman Woods.

The Ohio Valley Birding Festival was a great success with over two hundred people taking part in a wide variety of birding activities throughout the weekend. The birding hikes/trips were very popular, with attendees recording scores of birds from locations across the region - from the many migrating warbler species to black necked stilts. The myriad of Family Day activities hosted by the Evansville Audubon Society and WNS Master Naturalists were enjoyed by all who attended. Lectures, raptor shows, bird banding and various workshops at both Wesselman Woods and Audubon State Park provided a diverse offering for novices and experienced birders alike. Many thanks to all the birding enthusiasts and other talented folk who volunteered their time and expertise for this event. Organizers are already planning next year's Birding Festival to be held the weekend of May 1-3, 2009.

Photo by Susan Haislip



Lauren Preske (holding Graceon) teaches about the world of raptors.

Photo by Susan Haislip



Many families participated in the bird house building workshop presented by Home Depot.

Photo by Susan Haislip



Family Day at Wesselman Woods provided many opportunities for children to learn more about the fascinating world of birds.



This program was possible because of the generous support of the Thomas and Sharon Ruder Foundation, Don and Pat Goodaker, and the National Audubon Society.



Support WNS Programs by Recycling with Us!

Changes at the Recycling Center

If you are a regular recycler at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, you know we've made some changes in the way we collect and sort materials. Last year we obtained a motorized pallet jack, using funds from a grant obtained from IDEM. This allows us to load the materials onto the semis much more efficiently. This past spring, using funds provided by the Wesselman Nature Society, a baler was purchased to compact the cardboard. A grant from Toyota covered the expense of improving the electrical service so the baler could be installed. The use of the baler increases the price we receive for the cardboard, makes it much easier to handle, allowed us to remove the semi trailer from the parking lot, and has eliminated the overflow of cardboard into the parking lot.

The recycling center accepts newspaper, magazines/catalogs, white (copy) paper, mixed paper, cardboard and aluminum cans. Proceeds from the sale of these materials support educational programs at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve and Howell Wetlands. Each year we collect 800 Tons of material. That's over 4,000 pounds every day! And we'd like that number to grow even larger. Here's how you can help:

- Bring us your recyclables—especially the cardboard and aluminum cans!
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to think of us when recycling.
- Please sort what you bring and place it in the correct container (follow the signs!)
- Stay for a few minutes and volunteer at the recycling center.

(We have a few loyal volunteers who come in on a weekly basis. Without their efforts the recycling center would not function. They need your help! Get some exercise and make a difference to the environment. Learn what you can do by stopping in at the Nature Center.)

Eric Reek

Recycling Committee Chair

Board of Directors, Wesselman Nature Society

Photo by Aaron Chenoweth



WWNP Recycling Center volunteers, from left: Margaret Buckwinkel, Don Parr, Paul Ubelhor, Denzil Blaize, and Jim Werner.

Recycle Saturday... Coming to a Location Near You!

Wesselman Nature Society volunteers staff monthly offsite recycling opportunities at rotating sites throughout Vanderburgh County. A complete schedule of the remaining 2008 dates is above. Note that we accept glass containers, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and metal food cans at these events – as well as all of the paper products and aluminum cans that we collect at the Wesselman Woods Recycling Center. Proceeds from the Recycle Saturday events fund educational programming at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve and Howell Wetlands.

2008

RECYCLE SATURDAYS

8:00 am – 12:00 noon

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| July 12 | - 4-H Center |
| August 2 | - Old Wal-Mart West |
| September 6 | - Evansville Day School |
| October 4 | - Old Wal-Mart West |
| November 1 | - 4-H Center |
| December 6 | - Old Wal-Mart West |

ITEMS TO BRING:
(Please be sure items are clean and sorted.)

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Aluminum cans | Metal food cans |
| Cardboard | Catalogs/magazines |
| Newspaper | Mixed paper |
| Glass containers | #1 & #2 plastic bottles |

Volunteer Opportunity!

Wesselman Nature Society has contracted with the Solid Waste Management District to conduct 12 monthly drop-off recycling collections around the city this year. Public participation in these events is growing, as people become more environmentally aware and are interested in doing their part to sustain the earth. As many as 330 cars drop off as much as 25,000 pounds of recyclables during a four hour collection. To handle these materials we enlist 30 or more high school students. We need adults who are interested in volunteering to help manage these collections. This is a chance to make a real difference to your earth, your community and WNS. Please contact Eric Reek to learn how you can help: ericreek@sbcglobal.net

WHY RECYCLE?

Recycling has been going on for thousands of years. As spearheads wore down or broke they could be resharpened and made into arrowheads. Some call this reuse, but manufacturing was involved so technically it was recycling.

Recycling in those days was a low-key activity. It really picked up during the industrial age with the advent of steel making. Steel can be, and has been, re-melted into new steel for quite some time now.

Nowadays though, when we think of recycling we have a tendency to think in terms of curbside collection and drop-off opportunities for a range of different materials. Like bottles, paper, and cans.

Now to the question of why. This usually comes up following someone having to make an effort to recycle. There are a number of answers to the question of why, but I like "because I told you so" the best. Many people are not really keen on that answer, so here are a couple more.

Everything we use comes from the earth and everything we



Volunteer Don Parr operates the electric pallet jack at the Wesselman Woods Recycling Center



Volunteers Denzil Blaize and Jim Werner (from left) load cardboard into the new trailer



Local residents drop off recyclable materials at the Wesselman Woods Recycling Center

Three Recycling Photos by Aaron Chenoweth

What Is Water Recycling?

Recycle: *verb 1.a. To recover useful materials from garbage or waste, b. To extract and reuse.*

While recycling is a term generally applied to aluminum cans, glass bottles, and newspapers, water can be recycled as well. Through the natural water cycle, the earth has recycled and reused water for millions of years. Water recycling, though, generally refers to projects that use technology to speed up these natural processes. Water recycling is reusing treated wastewater for beneficial purposes such as agricultural and landscape irrigation, industrial processes, toilet flushing, and replenishing a ground water basin (referred to as ground water recharge).

Water is sometimes recycled and reused onsite; for example, when an industrial facility recycles water used for cooling processes. A common type of recycled water is water that has been reclaimed from municipal wastewater, or sewage. We can all recycle water with something as simple as collecting rainwater and watering our garden with it. The term water recycling is generally used synonymously with water reclamation and water reuse.

In addition to providing a dependable, locally-controlled water supply, water recycling provides tremendous environmental benefits. By providing an additional source of water, water recycling can help us find ways to decrease the diversion of water from sensitive ecosystems. Other benefits include decreasing wastewater discharges and reducing and preventing pollution. Recycled water can also be used to create or enhance wetlands and riparian habitats.

get rid of goes to the earth. The earth takes on the dual tasks of being both a "source" and a "sink" for human activity. But, the earth has limits. It can only absorb so much of our waste and can only provide so much of the things we need. We are pushing those limits and in some areas have surpassed those limits. That cannot continue. Recycling relieves the pressure.

Another reason to recycle is that by doing so the volume of material sent to landfills is less. Landfills are places, which eventually cause environmental problems. They are not a solution, but rather an expensive expedient to allow things we don't want anymore to be out of sight for a while.

Yet another reason is that recycling creates jobs and causes items that have value to stay in the economic stream.

There are more reasons to recycle, but you get the idea. It is clearly the right thing to do. If someone asks you why you recycle you can simply say, "Because it's the right thing, and I want to."

Jim Daniels

Recycling Coordinator

Vanderburgh County Solid Waste District

Of course, wetlands were our first water recycling systems...the ones nature intended. They store rainwater that runs over the surface of the ground, called surface runoff, and soak it up like sponges. This allows the water to slow its flow and settle in one location for a while. Pollutants are absorbed by the wetland plants, and soil sediment settles to the bottom. The water leaving a wetland is much cleaner than when it went into it.

Unfortunately, the majority of our wetlands have been drained to make way for other land uses like agriculture and urban developments. We have hindered nature's ability to filter our water, and have had to find artificial means of dealing with wastewater. Times are changing... and we are realizing our mistreatment of these wetlands and the value of their eco-services. We are now working to restore many of our original wetland systems. However, we can also construct wetlands in new locations to treat our wastewater. They can function alone like a septic system would, such as in a small subdivision, or complement a larger wastewater treatment system to further purify the water effluent. Whether natural or manmade, wetlands serve us well. It filters water so it can eventually serve us safely again, whether for wildlife in our ecosystem or for us in our kitchen faucet.

As water demands and environmental needs grow, wetlands and water recycling will play greater roles in our overall water supply. By working together to overcome obstacles, water recycling, along with water and wetland conservation, can help us to conserve and sustainably manage our vital water resources.

Lauren Preske

Howell Wetlands Manager

(Article adapted from "Water Recycling and Reuse: The Environmental Benefits" from the USEPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/recycling/index.html>)

























WNS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See page 8 for program descriptions.

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| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| July 1 | 2 👉8:00AM-Noon Volunteer Workcrew 9:00AM--Butterfly Bedazzled Hike @ HW 10:00AM-- Toddler Tales  | 3 | 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY  | 5 | 6 |
| July 8 7:30PM--Master Naturalist Assoc. Meeting @ Evansville Museum | 9 👉8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 10 6:00PM--Canoe  Evansville Volunteer Meeting @ Roca Bar | 11 | 12  👉8:00AM-Noon-- Recycle Saturday @ 4-H Center 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  | 13 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  |
| July 15 7:00PM - 9:00PM Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club Meeting | 16 👉8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 17 | 18 7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ BGFVA  | 19  8:30AM--Wildflower Walk @ HW 9AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ Hovey Lake | 20 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  |
| 👉 Jr. Naturalist Summer Camp--K/1st grade--9AM-Noon, Mon.-Fri. | | | | | |
| July 22 4:30PM - 6:00PM WNS Board Meeting | 23 👉8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 24 | 25 | 26  9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 9:00AM--Butterfly Bedazzled Hike @HW  | 27 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 3:00PM--Build-a- Bat House  |
| 👉 Middle School Mini-Camp--6th/7th/8th grades | | | | | |
| July 29 | 30 👉8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 31 | August 1 | 2  👉8:00AM-Noon-- Recycle Saturday @ Old Walmart West 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  | 3 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  |
| 👉 Jr. Naturalist Summer Camp--2nd-5th grade--9AM-Noon, Mon.-Fri. | | | | | |
| August 5 | 6 👉8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 9:00AM--Butterfly Bedazzled Hike @ HW  10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 7 6:00PM--Canoe  Evansville Volunteer Meeting @ Roca Bar | 8 | 9 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  | 10 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  |
| August 12 6:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  | 13 | 14 6:30PM--Wesselman Woods Bug Hunt | 15 7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ BGFVA  | 16 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ Hovey  | 17 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip  |

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

WNS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See page 8 for program descriptions.

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| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| August 19 7:00PM - 9:00PM Fly Rod Club Meeting | 20 8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 21 | 22 | 23 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 9:00AM--Butterfly Bedazzled Hike @ HW 2:00PM--Build-a-Butterfly Hibernation House | 24 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| August 26 4:30PM - 6:00PM WNS Board Meeting | 27 8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 28 | 29 | 30 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 10:00AM--Wetland Wildflower Hike @ HW | 31 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| September 2 | 3 8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 4 6:00PM--Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting @Roca Bar | 5 | 6 8:00AM-Noon--Recycle Saturday @ Evansville Day School 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 7:00PM--Insect Night-life Hike @ HW | 7 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| September 9 | 10 8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 11 7:00PM--Creatures of the Night Hike @ Wesselman Woods | 12 7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ BGFVA | 13 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 7:00PM--Moonlight Paddle @ Hovey | 14 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| September 16 7:00PM - 10:00PM Audubon Society Meeting 7:00PM--Fly Rod Club Meeting | 17 8:00AM-Noon Volunteer Workcrew 9:00AM--Butterfly Bedazzled Hike @ HW 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 18 | 19 | 20 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip | 21 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| September 23 4:30PM - 6:00PM WNS Board Meeting | 24 8:00AM - 12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 25 | 26 | 27 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip | 28 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |
| September 30 | October 1 8:00AM-12:00PM Volunteer Workcrew 10:00AM - 10:30AM Toddler Tales | 2 6:00PM--Canoe Evansville Volunteer Meeting @Roca Bar | 3 | 4 8:00AM-Noon--Recycle Saturday @ Old Walmart West 9:00AM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip 10:00AM--Raptor Show & Falconry Demo @ HW | 5 2:00PM--Wildlife in the City Canoe Trip |

= **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 WWNP on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except July and August.

September 16—7PM—Program TBA

Bug Hunt (WWNP) - Spiders, ants and other small creatures...Join Brandon of SWAT Pest for an exciting jaunt through the Woods as we search for all sorts of creepy crawlies. \$3 per person. Call to register.

Build-a-Bat House (WWNP) - Nature's own bug-zappers, bats are beneficial to have flying through your backyard! Bats can eat up to 3000 bugs each night! Build a house to attract them to roosting areas in your yard. Bring a hammer. \$15 per house. Call to register.

Build-a-Butterfly Hibernation House (WWNP) - While Monarch Butterflies migrate south during winter, many other butterflies stick around and hibernate. Create an attractive rustic, cedar butterfly house for the Red Admirals and several other butterflies to use while hibernating. Bring a hammer. Call to register, 479-0771, ext 3#. \$15 per house

Butterfly Bedazzled Hike (HW) - Experience the sights and sensations of butterflies that call Howell Wetlands home. The butterflies abound amongst the wetland and prairie plants at Howell Wetlands. Where do butterflies go for the winter? How long do they live? What is the difference between a monarch and a viceroy? Find out more...join us! Led by Debbie Goedde, SW IN Master Gardner and butterfly enthusiast. 1 hr. Free, but donations welcomed.

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.

Creatures of the Night (WWNP) - Join a naturalist for an evening hike through the Woods. We'll search for and discover fascinating things about many of the creatures which are only active during the dark hours of the night. \$4 per person. Bring a flashlight. Call to register.

Insect Nightlife Hike (HW) - Explore the Wetlands trails at night with your guide, who'll help point out along the way, all those insects leading a "wild" night life.

Moonlight Paddles (CE) - Enjoy the essence of a full moon reflecting on the water and the quiet solitude of paddling at night on a beautiful waterway. Trips are held at either Hovey

Lake or Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area. Call for trip registration. \$15 /person.

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

Pigeon Creek Guided Canoe Trips (CE) - Step into a canoe for "Wild Life in the City." This guided canoe trip takes you on a relaxing 5 mile excursion along a wildlife corridor through the heart of Evansville. Call for trip registration. \$15/person.

Raptor Show & Falconry Demonstration (HW) - Come out to Howell Wetlands to see live birds of prey during this raptor and falconry demonstration. Learn insights into the habitat requirements and awesome adaptations these winged predators have for survival. \$3 per person.

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 beverage cans.

Toddler Tales (WWNP) - Fun story time and craft for preschool age children and their parents. Free, but donations are welcomed.

Volunteer Workcrew (WWNP) - 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.

Wetland Wildflower Walk (HW) - Experience the sights and smells of wildflowers at Howell Wetlands on this guided tour. See a magnificent array of wildflowers, prairie grasses, and wildlife in the wetland, woodland and prairie...a quality show you can't find anywhere else in the Evansville area. Ever seen a downy sunflower? A cardinal flower? Indian grass? Now is your chance. ...join us! Led by Kate Lynch, SW IN Master Gardner, SW IN Master Naturalist. 1 hr. Free.

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.

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

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



A Ssssmashing Successsss!

The 2008 Reptile Invasion held on June 14-15 was one of the best and most well attended in many, many years! Well over 200 reptiles and amphibians of all shapes and sizes from around the world were on display. Over 200 families had souvenir pictures taken with a huge Burmese Python, and nearly 1,700 visitors attended the 2-day event!

Exhibitors from throughout the Tri-State, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Kentucky and Tennessee helped to make the Reptile Invasion a success. Special thanks go out to the **Hoosier Herpetological Society**, **Monty's Reptiles**, and the **Kentucky Reptile Zoo** for all of their assistance, cooperation, and program presentations.

The Reptile Invasion is an educational program that appeals to people of all ages! Our purpose is to educate visitors on the basics of why reptiles and amphibians are an important part of any ecosystem, not animals to fear and kill. For many, just seeing them up-close is the beginning of that bridge from "Fear" to "Wow! These are neat and OK to have around, I never realized that before!". That is also the basis of the programs presented throughout the weekend...to create a safe learning environment for visitors to discover more about identification and facts about venomous snakes, native snakes and others, to discuss misconceptions and misunderstandings about reptiles and amphibians that are being circulated and carried down from generation to generation.

We also strive to emphasize that native species do not make great pets and are actually against the law to buy, sell or trade...save this for the species which are bred specifically for pets, so we do not decimate native populations here or abroad.

If you missed the **Reptile Invasion** this year, mark your calendars for next year...the second full weekend in June!

Scott Kramer



*Volunteer,
Diana
Kramer,
holds a
Green
Iguana*

*Shawn
Miller, a
Reptile
Invasion
exhibitor,
displays one
of her
snakes*



Photos taken by Scott Kramer



*Bryan
Zangaro and
his family
braved the
HUGE
python for a
souvenir
photo*

Welcome, Jordan!

Hello, my name is Jordan Holl! I'm currently a sophomore majoring in biology at the University of Southern Indiana. Before working here at WWNP I installed video security equipment and I was a DJ. I'm very excited to be working with so many fun and exciting people; I can't wait for the camps to start. I hope that at the end of the summer I will come away with an even greater love of biology and improved communication skills when dealing with children and my peers.

Photo by Scott Kramer



*Jordan Holl, WWNP's
2008 Summer Camp Intern*

Our Summer Camps get kids out of the house and into nature!

There's still room in the July sessions of Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve's Summer Nature Camps!

Two half-day sessions of **Junior Naturalist Camps (JNC)** will take place soon. The week of **July 14-18** is set aside especially for children entering kindergarten or 1st grade this fall. For older children entering 2nd-5th grades, the week of **July 28-August 1**, will have lots of activities to occupy their time. Each of these camps will run from 9:00am-Noon each day, as we explore nature firsthand through hikes, animal encounters, crafts, games, and other fun stuff!

A special three-day "**Eco-Explorers**" **Middle School Mini-Camp** for kids entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grades, is planned for **July 22-24**. From 9:00am-3:00pm each day, campers will experience the fun and wonder of nature at a level they can understand and enjoy.

So don't miss out on the summer fun! To register your child for one of these camps, please stop by the Nature Center for a Summer Camp brochure, or download one directly from our website at www.WesselmanNatureSociety.org. Remember, camp fee discounts for WNS members!



Howell Wetlands

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



Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Howell Wetlands Education Center took place April 11, 2008

Shovel holders left to right: Mark Miller, Vectren Foundation; Fred Happe, Happe and Sons, Inc.; Jim Nussmeier, WNS Board member; Becki Alcorn, Noon Rotary Club President; Gary Bauer, CFO of Welborn Baptist Foundation; Jim Daniels, President of Sustainable Communities Coalition, Inc.; John Friend, Evansville City Council; Steve Bohleber, Evansville Parks Board President; Mark Weinzapfel, Westside Nut Club past President; Ann Whitty representing the Alcoa Foundation; Tim Henning, Architecture Plus PC.

Construction will begin July 11, 2008.



Thank you
Venturing
Tropo #399!



GREAT STRIDES, GREAT CAUSE, GREAT PLACE

This spring, the Howell Wetlands hosted the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's annual GREAT STRIDES Walk. The walk attracted nearly 100 participants and raised over \$16,000 for the cause—a 329% increase from 2007.

NEWS25's Courtney Gousman was on hand to lead the opening ceremonies which included a cystic fibrosis research update provided by CFF Event Coordinator Jordan Dillon, an overview of Howell Wetlands by Program Manager Lauren Preske, a thank you from Walk Chairperson Nora Walsh, and a heartfelt testimonial from Rod Summers, a parent of 8 year old Logan who has CF. After the walk, everyone enjoyed lunch provided by Annalee Wilson and TLCs Catering.

"We were so happy to be able to hold the walk at Howell Wetlands," said Jordan Dillon. "Walking through the wetlands and seeing the nature located in the heart of our city really makes for an entertaining and unique walk. We look forward to partnering with Howell Wetlands again to make next year's walk even more entertaining and raise even more money to find a cure and control for cystic fibrosis." For more information on GREAT STRIDES please visit www.cff.org/greatstrides.

PICK UP LITTER TO PREVENT A LITTER

Over 30 Venture crew men, advisors, boy scouts, cub scouts and parents participated in a cleanup of the Howell Wetlands this spring, which also served as a fundraiser for the **Vanderburgh County Humane Society**. The well-organized crew knew exactly what they were doing, and collected a LOT of trash and junk from the park. Some of the trash was as old as the era of the pull-tab cans, and filled 28 large trash bags. Their large double axle trailer was full of junk that wouldn't fit in bags. Items included: coolers, wicker furniture, hub caps, privacy fence panels, car dash boards, guttering, bed springs, a type writer, wrought iron porch rails, large steel pipes, a drive shaft, yard signs, metal roofing, chairs, a car bumper..... you name it, they found it. They were dedicated, and sorted through the grubby contents to pick out as many recyclables as possible. They were able to recycle 165 gallons of glass, 13 tires, 16 bags of aluminum cans, and 8 bags of plastic bottles. As if it wasn't a good enough deed just to do this clean-up, they obtained pledges for each bag of trash collected, and they sold all the recyclables.

The money raised from their efforts will go to the humane society to help them purchase a piece of equipment needed for their spay and neuter clinic. This group went a long way to help the environment, in more ways than one.

Wanted: Nature Enthusiasts

There are lots of exciting public programs coming up at Howell Wetlands. We want to see YOU there!

Free public hikes by **Debbie Goedde**, Master Gardener, and butterfly and wildflower enthusiast:

- July 2, 9am—Butterfly Bedazzled Hike
- July 19, 8:30am—Wetland Wildflower Walk
- July 26, 9am—Butterfly Bedazzled Hike
- August 6, 9am—Butterfly Bedazzled Hike
- August 23, 9am—Butterfly Bedazzled Hike
- August 30, 8:30am—Wetland Wildflower Walk
- Sept. 17, 9am—Butterfly Bedazzled Hike

Don't miss out on a unique hike experience with **Brandon Runyon**, Entomologist student with Purdue Univ.!

- July 19, 7-9pm—Insect Nightlife Hike
- Sept. 6, 7-9pm—Insect Nightlife Hike

For a special treat, come and witness the art of falconry with **Joe Katterhenry** and our feathered friends!

Oct. 4, 10am-Noon—Raptor Show and Falconry Demo

The *Fall Flutterby* will not be held this September due to building construction.



Canoe Evansville

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

2008 Season Underway for Canoe Evansville

Rather than spending a fortune on fuel prices for week-end road trips, why not hop in one of our canoes for a guided paddle down Pigeon Creek in a **Wildlife in the City** program (every Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.). Navigate this wildlife corridor, a local oasis largely hidden from the public eye, while our guides interpret the geology, ecology, and the environmental implications of city water trails. We provide all the equipment, transportation, and expertise. You simply come ready to paddle through this surprisingly natural side of Evansville!

Looking for something a bit more peaceful? Canoe Evansville also offers **Moonlight Paddles** twice a month during the weekend closest to the full moon. In contrast to *Wildlife in the City*, the evening paddles are leisurely and possibly romantic outings on calm waters. *Moonlight Paddles* take place in the evening at Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area and Hovey Lake, two local waterways teeming with spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. Upcoming moonlight paddle dates are July 18 & 19; August 15 & 16, and September 12 & 13.

Both trips are only \$15 per person with a 10% discount for WNS members. Transportation is provided from the Wesselman Woods Nature Center and back. Why go anywhere this summer when you can find an inexpensive canoeing adventure right here in your own backyard?!

In addition to public trips on the weekend, Canoe Evansville managers, **Ashley** and **Neal**, have been spending weekdays at the Fraternal Order of Police camp introducing local children from low income families to canoeing, water safety, and water fun. This partnership with the FOP was formed a few years ago. As a result, we offer these children an exciting and educational opportunity that would not be available if this WNS program did not exist. This activity is also a rewarding experience for our canoe guides each year.



Canoe Guides Attend ACA Training



On the weekend of May 3-4, 2008, a select group of Wesselman Nature Society staff members and volunteers attended the American Canoe Association's (ACA) River Canoe Trip Leader Assessment Course. This 16 hour course was conducted in both the classroom and on the water, and consisted of training in risk assessment, communications, trip preparation and planning, environmental hazards, safety equipment, paddling skills and water rescues and much more. The training was consistent with WNS's goal of providing safe and enjoyable paddling experiences for its customers. All of our canoeing programs are led by ACA and American Red Cross trained guides, allowing paddlers of all ages and abilities to enjoy canoeing with Wesselman Nature Society.

Congratulations to **Ashley Benthall**, **Eli Benthall**, **Peter Blanc**, **Neal Bogan**, **Jenny Grafton**, **LD Harry** and **Steve Sims** for successfully completing this challenging training requirement

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

WESSELMAN WOODS

Summer Camps, Bug Hunts, Night Hike, Build-a-Bat House, Build-a-Butterfly House



See page 9

HOWELL WETLANDS

Butterfly Bedazzled Hikes, Wetland Wildflower Walks, Insect Nightlife Hikes, Raptor Show



See page 10.

CANOE EVANSVILLE

Wildlife in the City Canoe Trips & Moonlight Paddles



See page 11.



551 North Boeke Road
Evansville, Indiana 47711



Address Service Requested

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Evansville, IN
Permit No.
1766

WNS Wish List:

- Black oil sunflower seed
- Suet or suet cakes
- Upright freezer
- Small chest freezer—approx. 27" w, 22" d, 34" h.
- Plastic storage bins with lids (approx. 65-75qt. Size)

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



Summer 2008