



Naturally Speaking

Newsletter for the friends of the LaPorte County Parks.
Fall 2010

Administrative Office
Red Mill County Park
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350
(219) 325-8315
Fax (219) 325-8317
E-Mail lcparcs@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

Naturalist Office
Luhr County Park
3178 S. 150 West
LaPorte, IN 46350
(219) 324-5855
E-Mail natureniki@csinet.net
rangerlaura@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

**Luhr Park Maintenance
Facility**
(219) 326-0524

Creek Ridge County Park
7943 W. 400 North
Michigan City, IN 46360

Bluhm County Park
3855 S. 1100 West
Westville, IN 46391

**Foundation Properties:
(undeveloped)**

Kankakee Property
Kankakee Township

Sebert Property
Springfield Township

**George R. Menkes
Nature Preserve**
Galena Township



Red Mill Pond Project Underway



On July 9, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with Rep. Joe Donnelly and LaPorte County representatives, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the beginning of construction at Red Mill Pond.



The project will preserve the State Dedicated Nature Preserve and restore the natural flow of the river. Workers will remove a section of the earthen dam and create a stream channel that will flow from the upstream pond to the existing tributary of the Little Calumet River. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011.



Park Programs

**Luhr Park Nature Center
Open
Tuesday -Thursday
and Saturday- Sunday 1-4 pm
March - October**

LaPorte County Parks Staff

Tim Morgan - Superintendent
Jean Lawson-Office & Finance Manager
"Nature" Niki Schmutte - Chief Naturalist
"Ranger" Laura Moyer - Rec. and Ed. Programmer
Roger Grove - Maintenance Supervisor
Boyd Lomow - Maintenance Foreman
Barb Janeczko - Maintenance Technician

Seasonal Staff / Part-time

Jim Simon - Naturalist Assistant
Brittney Morgan- Nature Center Attendant
Sharon Bonner - Office
Donna Doms- Programs / Maintenance
Jim Janeczko - Maintenance
Richard Walker - Maintenance
Nick Harvey- Maintenance
Jimmie Tanner- Maintenance
Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper
Al Radke - Gate Keeper

Park Board

Kate Ardissono - President
Shelly Kiger - Vice President
Hugh Tonagel
Erin Nichols
Ronald Knickrehm
Jim Holifield
Brian Root



The mission of the LaPorte County Park Foundation Inc. is to provide the LaPorte County Parks Department with public support, to expand and enhance opportunities for park development, programs and preservation, both now and in the future, for all to enjoy.

Foundation Board

Jim Jessup, President
Janet Foglesong, Secretary
Stephanie Oberlie, Treasurer
Doug Buell
Bill Hedge
Cheryl Reinhart
Ed Merrion
Tom Thode
Judy Jacobi




Senior Lifestyles

Luhr Park Nature Center
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Join the 55+ Club, a social club designed specifically for adults ages 55 and older. Come relax, enjoy nature, & have coffee on the Parks with your new friends. FREE

August 25– Nature at its best.

September 2 – Tips on Gardening by Sacha Burns, H&H Flowers

October 7 – Scatology -Learn to ID an animal without seeing them. Animals not only leave tracks but also leave  Take a fun look at what animals leave behind.

December 2 – Hoot'n Good Time – Take part in the mysterious world of those pretty predators, owls!

Call (219) 325-8315 one week in advance to signup.

Halloween Dog Social



October 5th
Creek Ridge County Park 6:00 pm



Dress up your dog and join us at Creek Ridge County Park No leash Bark Park for our Halloween Dog Social! Judging categories will be best homemade costume, scariest, best animal couple, best owner/pet combination and many more. We will also go on a walk around the park and your pet will receive a trick-or-treat.

Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance.
Call (219) 325-8315.

Public Meeting – 5 year Master Plan

Calling all Park Users
Kids, Moms, Dads and Seniors

The LaPorte County Park Department seeks input at a Public Meeting on Tuesday, August 10, at Luhr County Park in the Nature Center at 6:00 p.m. The LaPorte County Park Board is updating its 5-year Master Plan to guide decisions about park development for the next 5-20 years. A key component of the Master Plan is public input. "We will be presenting features of the master plan during this public meeting."

Celebrating 20 years

Jim Jessup, Doug Buell, and Leon Dargis have been involved with the Park Foundation for the last 20 years. They have played a key roll in laying a strong foundation for the parks department to grow and develop into what it is today.



Jim Jessup, on the left, and Doug Buell on the right,



Leon Dargis



Ice Cream Social - Ice Cream Social

The LaPorte County Parks and Park Foundation will host an Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 10, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. to officially celebrate 20 years of the LaPorte County Park Foundation.

The LaPorte County Park staff and Park Foundation invites everyone to come have some ice cream at Luhr County Park Nature Center on us, so don't miss out on being a part of this exciting ice cream social by joining them for this momentous occasion.

Roger Grove has been employed with the Parks Department for 20 years. His insight, creativity, and vision can be seen at all of the parks.



The Novak shelter at Creek Ridge is just one of Rogers many remarkable accomplishments.

Park Programs

Free Hunter Education

August 16, 17, 19
6:00 - 9:30 pm
Red Mill County Park
Pat Smith Hall



This course is co-sponsored by the LaPorte County Parks.

Pre-Registration is required.

You must attend all three nights to graduate.

For information or to register call:
(219) 325-8315 or

Pioneer Days

September 25 & 26

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Creek Ridge County Park

\$2 for Adults

\$1 Child or Seniors

Step into the past, visit with historically clad re-enactors and vendors. Bring the whole family and experience outdoor cooking, crafts, candle dipping, wagon rides, food, and much more.

Volunteers needed see page 5

Stroller, Baby, and You 10-11 am Luhr Park

Fun filled programs with other toddlers and preschoolers.

FREE



Toddlers – Pre-School age
Call at least one week in advance to sign up.

(219) 325-8315

October 4 and 18
November 8 and 22
December 6 and 13

Michigan City Walk for PKD

September 18

Check in 9:00 am Walk 10:00 am

Two mile walk at Creek Ridge County Park

For more information, please contact Walk Coordinator,
Laura Moyer (219) 778-4376 email:
michigancityindianawalk@pkdcure.org

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) affects 600,000 Americans and 12.5 million children and adults, worldwide. There is no treatment or cure, but there is hope. Walk, form a team, help with the committee, volunteer and more! Forming a team is easy and fun! Invite family members, friends, and co-workers to join you for a day of fun. Register online and take advantage of a host of effective and Free online team features like emailing members, tracking team progress and fundraising tools.

www.pkdcure.org/michigancitywalk

Parent and Child Discovery Days

Wednesday nights at Luhr County Park. **6 - 7:15 p.m.** An adult is required to participate in the programs with the child.
For ages 3 - 5. \$5 per program. Pre-registration is required.
See page 5



September 15 - Branching Out
October 6 - Travel to Outer Space
October 20 - Halloween Fun
November 17 - Be an Eager Beaver
December 1 - 1 Bird, 2 Birds, 3 Birds
December 8 - Warm, Fuzzy Snow



Kitchen Chemistry

November 16 at Red Mill
6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Sharp!

For ages 9 - 16

\$8 each child – Max 12



Grab your apron & mix up some fun. We will make some crazy concoctions & silly fun recipes with Chef Cathy Dye. Walk away with some recipes & a tummy filled with yummy food at Red Mill County Park. Aprons are suggested but not required. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance or until full whichever comes first. See page 5.



LaPorte County Park Programs

2010 Fall Registration Forms (Please Print)

More forms available on our web site www.laportecountyparks.org



Name of Person filling out registration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration Information

Make Checks Payable to:
LaPorte County Parks Dept.

Mail this form and payment to:
LaPorte County Parks Dept.
Program Registration
0185 South Holmesville Road
LaPorte, IN 46350

No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. If you are interested in a program, avoid disappointment and sign up right away. Space is limited for most programs, and registration is first-come, first-served. Also, most programs require a minimum number of participants. So, failure to sign up early may mean your program will be cancelled.

Make sure you add up all your totals and send this registration form with pre-payment to the address listed above.

Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

Parent/Child Discovery Days(Ages 3-5) (10 Max)

Name of child: _____
Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend. \$5.00 per program

____ Sept. 15 ____ Oct. 6 ____ Oct. 20
____ Nov. 17 ____ Dec. 1 ____ Dec. 8

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds) Registration is due one week before each program or until full.

Kitchen Chemistry (Ages 9-16) (12 Max) \$8:00 per Child

Name of child: _____
Age: _____

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds) Registration is due one week before each program or until full.

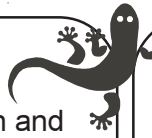
Volunteers Needed at Pioneer Days

The LaPorte County Parks Department will be conducting its annual Pioneer Days program at Creek Ridge County Park on September 25th and 26th. The Festival begins at 10:00 a.m. and goes until 5:00 p.m. each day. The Parks Department is looking for volunteers to help participants with hands-on activities at various stations. Volunteers are needed for a couple of hours or for the duration of the program. The Parks Department is also looking for a club/group to do parking during the program. A donation will be made to the organization. Contact the LaPorte County Parks Department at (219) 324-5855 to volunteer for the program.

Park Posters

Support the LaPorte County Park Foundation and purchase a park poster. They are \$20.00 plus tax.

You can purchase them at the Luhr Park Nature Center Tuesday -Thursday and Saturday - Sunday 1-4 pm. You can also purchase them at the Administrative Office at Red Mill 7am - 12 pm and 12:30 - 5 pm Monday - Thursday. Visit our web page or facebook page to view the poster.



*Teachers Groups Scout Leaders

Free Environmental Education Programs are offered to groups throughout the year. The programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge Park, Luhr Park, Bluhm Park or Red Mill Park. Call the Nature Center at (219) 324-5855 for information or to make reservations.

Mark Your Calendars

Daddy Daughter Dance February 25 and 26
Mom Son Dance March 4

Look for registration and more information on these programs in the December issue of the Naturally Speaking.

www.laportecountyparks.org



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