



# Naturally Speaking

Newsletter for the friends of the LaPorte County Parks.

Winter 2017-2018

**Administrative Office**  
Red Mill County Park  
Open: 7am-12pm-12:30pm-5pm  
Monday - Thursday  
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
219-325-8315  
Fax 219-325-8317  
E-Mail [lcparcs@csinet.net](mailto:lcparcs@csinet.net)  
[rangerjeremy@csinet.net](mailto:rangerjeremy@csinet.net)  
[www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

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

**(undeveloped)**  
**Kankakee Property**  
Kankakee Township

**Foundation Properties:**  
**(undeveloped)**  
**Sebert Property**  
Springfield Township

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

## New Faces at the Parks Department

**Char Kalk** joined the staff and is the Office / Finance Manager. She was born and raised in Michigan City. She has 2 grown children; Gretchen and Kevin. She celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> year with the County in November. Eleven years were with the Child Support Division of the Prosecutors Office. Nine years as bookkeeper with the Clerk's office in Michigan City. She looks forward to working at the LaPorte County Parks Department for many years to come.



**Char Kalk**

**Bob Goethals** joined the staff as the Maintenance and Construction Supervisor. Bob has been a carpenter in the LaPorte area since 1986 and most recently owned Goethals Custom Builders LLC which was founded in 2001. Outside of work, he is active in several organizations including 4-H and the Draft Horse Association. Bob and his wife of nearly 25 years, Shelly, are proud parents of two college students: Grant, who is in his junior year at Western Michigan University; and Cameille, who is a freshman at University of Notre Dame.



**Bob Goethals**

## LaPorte County Parks Staff

Jeremy Sobecki- Superintendent  
Char Kalk- Office & Finance Manager  
Niki Schmutte- Chief Naturalist  
Laura Moyer - Rec. and Ed. Programmer  
Bob Goethals- Maintenance Supervisor  
Boyd Lomow - Maintenance Technician  
Barb Janeczko - Maintenance Technician

## Seasonal Staff / Part-time

Joanne Janisch - Naturalist Assistant  
Sharon Bonner - Office  
Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper

## Park Board

Brian Root- President  
Ronald Knickrehm- Vice President  
Mary Foell  
Erin Lozano  
Jon Nebelung  
Jim Holifield  
Kate Ardissono

## Foundation Board

Jim Jessup, President  
Stephanie Oberlie, Treasurer  
Sandy Menne  
Bill Hedge  
Steve King  
Liz Kaminski  
Ed Merrion  
Tom Thode  
Amy Riehle

## County Commissioners

Richard Mrozinski  
Michael Gonder  
Vidya Kora

## County Council Members

Jeff Santana  
John Sullivan  
Randall Novak  
Mark Yagelski  
Terry Garner  
Cary Kirkham  
Mike Mollenhauer

## Luhr Park Nature Center Hours

**Open**  
**March - October**  
**Tuesday - Thursday**  
**and**  
**Saturday - Sunday**  
**1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

# A Year in Review



Jean Lawson retired from the Parks Department after 11 years of dedicated service. She is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren, sleeping in, and staying home when it snows!

A stream restoration and rehabilitation project took place at Creek Ridge County Park. The project was made possible thanks to a grant the department acquired. The project improved fish habitat, public access, and the overall water quality of this section of Trail Creek.



The Park Staff installed a brick path at Luhr County Park. You can purchase bricks to help support the County Parks. Each brick can have up to three lines on them but not to exceed 16 letters a line. Bricks can be purchased and placed at either Luhr County Park or Red Mill County Park.

Cornhole Games were installed at all the Parks. They replaced the horseshoe pits and are next to each shelter. You just need to bring your own bags to enjoy this game.





# Programs -- Programs -- Programs

## Snowflake Break



December 28  
1 - 3 pm Luhr Park **Ages 5-10**  
**FREE** min 5/max 24

Brrrr! It's cold outside! School's out so take a "snowflake Break" with us as we turn the Park into a winter wonderland. Come out to the Nature Center at Luhr and make crafts, play games and have a snack. The County Park and Solid Waste is partnering for this Fun filled winter break program assured to be loads of exciting adventures. Come dressed for the winter as some activities are outside. **Parents are not required to participate or stay during the program.**

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

## Tea Party

February 3 10 – 11:15 am  
**Luhr Park Nature Center**  
Ages 4 and up children must be accompanied by an adult  
\$15 per couple, \$5 for each additional child

Bring your favorite cup and come enjoy tea or lemonade with the animals inside the Nature Center. There will be a storyteller, continental breakfast, arts & crafts and much more. **Pre-registration and payment is required on or before January 25. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first.**

See page 5 for registration form. Max 24

## Attention Homeschool Participants

### February 20, Flying High

Participants will learn about birds, their calls and more.  
Luhr Park, 10-11 am  
For ages 6 - 13  
Min 5 / Max 20 Children  
Pre-register by January 31.

### April 10, Fishing Fun

Participants will learn how to fish and go fishing. Poles and bait provided.  
Luhr Park, 10-11 am  
For ages 6 - 13  
Min 5 / Max 30 Children  
Pre-register by April 4.



Sign up fast to avoid disappointment!  
**Call 219-325-8315 to Register.** Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Breakfast with the Birds

January 27 Free!  
Luhr County Park  
Nature Center  
9:30 - 11 am



Come enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds grab a bite at the bird feeders. No pre-registration required. This program is open to all ages but, children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Daddy/Daughter Dance "Princess Style"

Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm ( New Earlier Time )

### Red Mill County Park

Pat Smith Hall

\$15.00 per couple, \$5.00 for each additional daughter.

Get all dressed up and come out to Red Mill County Park to enjoy an evening of dancing. Pictures will be taken of all couples to take home. Refreshments will be served. Fill out the form and mail it in with payment. Hurry this will fill up fast! **Pre-registration and payment is required on or before February 22. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. Max 90 participants each night.** See page 5 for registration information.



# Programs -- Programs -- Programs

## Spa Day at the Park

Saturday, March 10  
 Red Mill Park – Pat Smith Hall  
 10 am – 12 noon  
 FREE - First 50 will receive a goodie bag.



Calming the mind and pampering the body are what is in store for those who come. "Spa Day in the Park" will have sample services and/or products to share and sell. A variety of booths will greet you with services such as aromatherapy, make-up experts, chair massages, natural beauty care products, and jewelry to name a few. The first 50 will receive a goodie bag full of lots of great stuff. The only thing missing is you! No pre-registration is required.

## Family Fishing Night

April 12  
 6-7:30 pm  
 Luhr County Park  
 All ages welcome  
 Min 10 / Max 40



Come out to the Pond at Luhr Park for an evening of fishing. A limited number of poles and bait will be provided. No fishing licenses are required during the family fishing program. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

## Parent and Child Discovery Days

6-7:15 pm Luhr Park  
**Ages 3-8**  
 \$5.00 A Child / Per Program  
 An adult is required to participate.



January 24- Home Sweet Home  
 February 7- Turtle Talk  
 February 21- Hello Down There  
 March 7- Hard Working Animals  
 March 21- Did You Call Me?  
 April 11- When It Rains It Pours  
 April 25- Fantastic Fish

**Pre-registration and payment is required one week before each program. See page 5**

## Nature's Tiny Tots

Come explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers in our Nature Center. Designed for parents and grandparents to bring out the munchkins for some FUN. Enjoy music, dance with your kids, giggle, storytelling, take a hike (weather permitting) and just have plain ole fun.

**FREE**  
 10 – 11 am at Luhr County Park  
 Toddlers – Pre-School age  
 Call at least one week in advance to sign up & assure a spot 219-325-8315

January 22, 29  
 February 12, 26  
 March 12, 19  
 April 2, 16, 30



## Senior Lifestyles

Join our senior circle 50+ Club, a delightful social club committed to help improve your quality of life. Plus you'll keep up with the health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing your active lifestyle. Come relax, enjoy nature, and have coffee or tea on the Parks with your new circle of friends.

FREE Luhr Park Nature Center  
 9 – 10 am monthly on  
 Wednesdays  
 Call 219-325-8315 at least one week in advance to sign-up & assure a spot. Max 30

**March 7 - Hearing loss and Dizziness:** What you need to know, Chris Maddox, FNP

**April 4 - The Art of Aging:** treatment options, Stacy Bernhardt, Licensed Esthetician

**May 2 - Recycling, Composting, Soil Health:** Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District

## 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 324-5855 for information or to make reservations.



**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

# LaPorte County Park Programs

## Winter Registration Form

**Mail this form with payment or pay in person at Red Mill County Park.**

**219-325-8315 [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)**



Name of Person filling out registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent / Child Discovery Days at Luhr (Ages 3-8)

Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.

**\$5 A Child / Per Program**

\_\_\_ January 24    \_\_\_ February 7    \_\_\_ February 21

\_\_\_ March 7    \_\_\_ March 21    \_\_\_ April 11

\_\_\_ April 25

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

### Daddy/Daughter Dance at Red Mill

Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm ( New Earlier Time )

**\$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Registration due February 22 or when the program is filled whichever comes first.**

Name of Adult Male: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Daughter: \_\_\_\_\_

Daughter's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional Daughter's: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the box for the dance you want to attend. Note the different times.

Want to attend Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

OR

Want to attend Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

### Tea Party (ages 4 and up) at Luhr February 3

**\$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional Child**  
Registration due January 25 or when the program is filled whichever comes first.

Name of Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and age of additional Children:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

**Visit our website for more  
park information:**

**[www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)**

Regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility; or who desires further information regarding Title VI or subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Pub. L. 101-336, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities should write to:

LaPorte County Parks  
Attn: Superintendent  
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.  
LaPorte, IN 46350

National Park Service  
Attn.: Director Equal  
Opportunity Program  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

## Receive this newsletter by email

To receive this newsletter by email send us a message at [natureniki@csinet.net](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net). Please include Naturally Speaking in your subject. In the message please include your full name and email address you would like to receive the newsletter at.

**All the Parks are  
Open 7am to  
sunset daily.**



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