



## You're Never Too Old to Go Pond Dipping!

The Fox Island Alliance Annual Meeting this year was a relaxed affair: on May 18, we had a picnic out by Bowman Lake. There was plenty to eat, and the entertainment was typical of Fox Island! Here, some “kids” enjoyed that perennial favorite, pond dipping!

Jeff Ormiston, Rhonda and Rick Reichenbach, Liz Hincks, and Brett Fisher  
(Rick caught the record catfish.)

Photo by Sue Peters



## Special Honor for Our Own Vera Dulin

Be on the lookout for big changes happening to the Bird Observation building at Fox Island. It will undergo a major facelift courtesy of Fox Island Alliance and the Allen County Parks. We will also have a special dedication after the work is completed, renaming it the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building.

As many of you know and for those who don't, Vera was instrumental in the development of Fox Island County Park and Nature Preserve and the Fox Island Alliance. The Bird Observation building was the original nature center and this is where Vera had an office until the current one was built. She served on the Alliance Board and as Fox Island Historian until 2012. As a Trail Guide Chair for over 20 years, she helped thousands of children discover the wonders of nature.

We lost a very dear friend on April 3, 2014 and feel this is a very deserving tribute to an exceptional woman, who lived a long and useful life. She will be missed!

# From our Science Fair winners

## Short article about my Science Fair Project

By David Anderson

Greetings! My name is David Anderson and I am a third grader at Syracuse Elementary School in Syracuse, Indiana. I enjoy playing basketball, golfing, water skiing, gardening, and constructing things with wood and Legos. Mostly, I enjoy working with my family on our family farm. We grow 2,100 acres of corn and soybeans. I've always been interested in watching things grow, especially at the farm. This led me to wonder what would happen if plants grew under different colors of light. I came up with my Science Fair idea from this thought. My hypothesis was that a plant grown under yellow light would grow the fastest because it is used to growing outside under yellow light because the sun is yellow.

My dad and I built a growth chamber box divided into sections. Each section had one color of light that came in from the top. The colored lights I used were red, yellow, white, orange, purple, green and black (no light at all). We designed the box in such a way the colors stayed separate from one another. I filled eight jars with soil and corn seeds. Once the seeds emerged, I placed a jar in each colored section of the growth chamber. The plants were watered

Every day I opened the growth chamber and measured the height of each corn plant and recorded its general appearance on a chart in my science journal. In the end, I was surprised the plant that grew under the red light was the tallest and healthiest. The plants that grew under the yellow and white colored light did the next best, orange was third, black and green lights did by far the worst for both height and general appearance. I talked to an agronomist once I collected my data and he taught me about "photosynthetic available radiation" or PAR. Because of PAR, I learned that plants do not use green light but reflect it, they use lots of red and blue light and that white light has all the colors in it.



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In the end, my hypothesis was wrong. Plants can grow under yellow light, but it is not the best.

Come to find out, plants use mostly red and blue light and reflect almost all green colored light. The reflected green light is what our eyes see and that is why plants appear green in color to us. Red and blue light are the colors most absorbed by chlorophyll for photosynthesis. Further, the sun does not produce yellow light, but rather white light. White light has all colors of the spectrum in it including red and blue which makes plants grow well under it. This is why I named my project "A Plants Goes on Red but Stops on Green!"

## 2014 SCIENCE FAIR

By Paige Cox

It was a great 2014 Science Fair! My Science Fair adventure began at Ossian Elementary. As a 5th grader, this was my last year of Science Fair at Ossian Elementary School. When not working hard at school, I play judo, play basketball, play piano and participate in 4H.

I selected my topic and worked very hard on my project. I selected a project that would be personal to my family. My project was about soil erosion. I chose this project because soil erosion is a big problem and I want to help find solutions. This project is personal to me since I live on a farm. My family cares of the land in ways that others do not.

To begin my project, I filled three 2-liter bottles with top soil. Then I planted in bottle one enough plants to cover the soil. In bottle two, I covered the soil with mulch which included bark, sticks and leaves. The soil in bottle three was left bare. I poured three cups of water on to each bottle. I had placed collection bottles at the opening of each 2-liter bottle. I observed the water that came out of each bottle. After three trials, I concluded that the soil that had plants lost the least amount of water. Also, the soil with plants had the least amount of soil run-off with the water. The soil without any plant or mulch material had the most water lost and soil run-off.

My family puts this in the practice on our farm. In the low-lying areas of our fields, we have planted grass waterways to prevent soil erosion. This allows the natural waterways to continue in the area and helps to prevent soil erosion.

Thank you for your participation in Regional Science Fair. I appreciate the opportunity that you offered.

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR WAS HELD MARCH 22 AT IPFW. BRETT AND LORI FISHER WERE THE ALLIANCE JUDGES. WINNERS RECEIVED \$50 AND A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOX ISLAND ALLIANCE.

# PARASITOIDS

by Kenlyn Peters, Cornell University

Parasite. The word makes many shudder in disgust. An organism that utilizes a host without giving anything in return and is often detrimental to the host organism. The usual suspects that might pop into your head are worms. Roundworms, flatworms, tapeworms, you name it! Or maybe arthropods: ticks, lice, fleas, mites or bedbugs! Most people find these critters disgusting and disturbing, but not me! I find them fascinating, particularly insects that parasitize other insects, most notably, parasitoid wasps.

Wasps are in the order Hymenoptera, along with bees and ants. The two main families of wasps that parasitize other insects are Braconidae and Ichneumonidae. Both groups mainly parasitize larvae and pupae of insects in the order Lepidoptera, which includes butterflies and moths. They also parasitize larvae and pupae of the order Coleoptera, which includes beetles, members of the order Diptera, flies, and other members of the order Hymenoptera. Parasitoids lay their eggs in the eggs, larvae, or pupae of other species.

A favored host is the caterpillar. Female wasps have an organ called an ovipositor which they use to inject their eggs into the caterpillar, or "oviposit." Inside the host, the egg hatches and the larvae feed on the host until the host either dies or the larvae are ready to pupate. The larvae either spin a cocoon within the host, or emerge and spin a cocoon outside of the host.



A fascinating aspect of parasitoid wasps is that they carry their own family of insect viruses, the polydnviruses (PDV). The two genera, bracoviruses (BV) and ichnoviruses (IV), are carried by the two families of wasps. The virus is injected with the eggs and weakens the host's immune system so that the eggs are not attacked.

Parasitoids are also used in biological control to keep invasive insects or species that cause harm to agriculture in check. Parasites can be a good thing!

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Andrew Wallace and Eric Lemert, owners of Audio Video Lifestyles in Ft. Wayne came to the rescue! They made a stop by the Nature Center to check out the Media Center that was purchased back in 2005. It had not been used to its full potential because of a few "technical" glitches in the system. They quickly diagnosed the problem and even fixed it for us for free. We owe these guys a huge thank you! In the mean time, the Alliance has made arrangements to move the media center wall connections so the cabinet will be permanently ready for use and no longer stored in the Alliance office.

**It's a privilege to live in Indiana!**



## *Kit Kapers: Fox Tale for Kids*

*By Pam George*

### ***Puzzling Facts About Fox Island Park***

Summer vacation!!! “No more pencils; no more books; no more teachers’ dirty looks.”

How about exploring at Fox Island Park? And, of course, a short quiz to get you started.

**Which of these would you not see at FIP?**

- a. Yellow-bellied sapsucker
- b. Black-capped chickadee
- c. Yellow-fined tuna
- d. Red-bellied sunbather



**Fox Island is not home to which of the following blossoms?**

- a. Canada Goldenrod
- b. Flowering Dogwood
- c. Orange Blossom
- d. Large-flowered trillium

**Which tree could you never climb at FIP?**

- a. American Beech
- b. Giant Sequoia
- c. Sycamore
- d. Sweet Gum



**A tasty snack you wouldn't be able to try at Fox Island Park?**

- a. Wild Strawberries
- b. Wild Grapes dangling from a vine
- c. Black & Red Raspberries
- d. Grapefruit fresh from the tree

Answers: Yellow-fined tuna; Giant Sequoia; Orange Blossom; Grapefruit

# Allen County Trailblazers

## Back For 4th Year!

Cooperating agencies have assembled a list of about 15 trails at various sites, each about 1 mile in length. Hikers who complete 10 of the listed trails will receive an award (see below). Forms can be downloaded online or picked up at agency offices after completing a short sign-up form so the number of participants can be tracked. The Trailblazers form will have space for the date hiked, along with participant contact information. Cooperating agency logos and contact information are included. The back of the form will have directions to the parks areas where the trails are located. These trails will change on a rotating basis over several years. The form is turned in to obtain the reward below.

Program reward is a brass medallion that can be mounted on a hiking stick. A sticker to attach to the walking stick has the logos of all participating agencies and be included. Sticks will be available at cost for \$3. Increased funding from sponsors will allow more people to participate, and possibly add more to the award. Awards may be picked up at Metea or Fox Island County Park Nature Centers, the New Haven Parks office and the Fort Wayne Parks office. This program will run from September 1 to November 30, with last awards given out by January 30, 2013.

Facebook page is Allen County Trailblazers. “Like” this and find additional information here.

The website is [www.allencountytrailblazers.org](http://www.allencountytrailblazers.org) where you can go to register, donate to help out and get the latest news. You can also call 449-8619 or email [metea@allencountyparks.org](mailto:metea@allencountyparks.org) to learn more.

### Late News Flash: They're Here!

Last summer, Alliance board members Sue Peters and Jeff Ormiston decided to spruce up the Butterfly Garden in front of the Fox Island Nature Center and make it a certified "Monarch Waystation". Weeding was done, plants were rearranged and 15 Common Milkweed plants were transplanted from Sue's field to the garden. Through constant monitoring throughout the summer all of the transplants survived and the garden was Certified! This spring, Canterbury students helped with more weeding and mulching, and two weeks ago



Sue and Marty Peters transplanted more milkweed into the garden. On Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, our hopes were realized when the first Monarch Butterfly caterpillar was spotted munching on one of the newly transplanted milkweed plants. The caterpillar was moved to one of the original plants, and when last seen was a 4th instar consuming vast quantities of milkweed leaves. Monarch caterpillars were in short supply last summer and we are hoping Fox Island can help in the restoration of adult Monarch numbers now and in years to come.

Photo taken June 19 by Jeff Ormiston



## SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT FOX ISLAND

To register for programs or for more information contact one of the following:

For Ron Zartman call 449-3186 or [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org)

For Natalie Haley call 449-3246 or [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org)

**Most activities and programs have a \$2.00 charge and require pre-registration.**

**COMING UP VERY SOON, for preschoolers: \$3 per child, \$2 per adult.**

**July 22, Tuesday, 1-2 p.m. WETLAND WILDLIFE. Call Ron to pre-register and get details.**

**August 26, Tuesday 1-2 p.m. WORM FARMERS. Call Ron to pre-register and get details. Bring a clean, 2-liter bottle and a 16-oz. bottle for each worm farmer.**

**September 23, Tuesday 1-2 p.m. FLUTTERBIES. Call Ron to pre-register and get details.**

### **STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS:**

**Saturdays, Sept. 6 at 7:45 and Oct. 4 at 8 a.m.: Check [www.stockbridgeaudubon.org](http://www.stockbridgeaudubon.org) for details; all are welcome. Bring binoculars. and bug spray; meet at the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building. Finished by noon. Park admission is the only cost; no need to pre-register, just show up!**

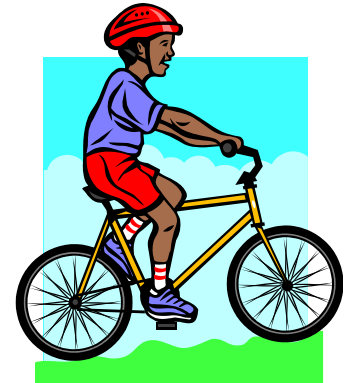
**MORE FOX KIT CLUB ADVENTURES for preschoolers: \$3 per child, \$2 per adult.**

**Sept. 9, Tuesday 10-11 a.m. "A SENSORY WALK" Call Natalie for details and to pre-register by 9/4; cost \$3 per child, \$2 per parent.**

**FOR ALL AGES: Sept 13, Saturday 9 a.m.**

**LITTLE WABASH RIVER BIKE HIKE: Bring your own road-ready bicycle, water and snacks for a leisurely 13-mile tour of the Little River valley. We'll see old Wabash & Erie canal features, the Vermilyea House, and break at Little River Wetlands' Arrowhead Prairie. Helmets required, and dress for the weather.**

**Cost: free with park admission, or use your pass. Pre-register by 9/8; minimum 5, max 25. Call Ron for details.**



**GLOW IN THE DARK HIKE. Join us to search for glowworms and bioluminescent mushrooms. Bring a luminescent toy if you like, but no flashlights or glow sticks, to preserve our night vision. Call Ron to pre-register by 9/29.**

## SCRAPBOOKING “Crop Till You Drop” 6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT!

**THIS POPULAR ACTIVITY CONTINUES:** August 8 and Sept. 19, Fridays. CONTACT NATALIE FOR DETAILS and to pre-register, Cost: \$10 per class; some people order pizza at extra cost, or work on sewing/crafting projects.



**TAI CHI** with Sandy Gebhard continues on Wednesdays, 6 p.m to 7 p.m.

Sept. 24-Nov. 12. \$50 for 8 weeks or \$8 drop-in fee. Gentle, non-strenuous Sun form that can be practiced by all. Be prepared to have fun as you join this light-hearted group. Call Ron to pre-register by Sept. 19. Minimum 10, max. 25.



**Edible Wild Plant Hike:** September 13, Saturday 2-3:30 p.m. Cost \$2 , call Ron to pre-register by 9/8.

Discover some of the many edible wild plants that live in parks and public places, and learn why they should not be collected there. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray for this two mile hike.

**Home School Family Day:** Thursday s 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for younger children, and from 2-4 p.m. for 4th –7th grade. Topic on September 18 will be “A Sensory Walk” into nature.

October 9, same times, “Fall Changes, and a Hayride!

Contact our environmental educator, Natalie Haley, at 449-3246. Cost \$2-\$5 depending on materials provided. Pre-register by 3/29 and 5/3 respectively; we require a minimum of 10 paid registrants to hold a class for your group.



**Indiana Master Naturalist Continuing Education Series:**

**A GREEN PASTURE, August 17, Sunday 1-3 at Fox Island. How nature paints and dyes the landscape.** For park trail guides and IMN alumni; no fee but preregister so we have enough materials.

**A BIG SIT with Aldo Leopold; October 12, Sunday 1:30-4:30. Hear Leopold’s October essay “Too Early” while counting birds off the back deck of the Nature Center. Stockbridge Audubon Society will be on hand, and this one is open to the public. Bring binoculars!**



**Fox Island Alliance**  
**Ed Powers**  
**12206 W. Yoder Road**  
**Roanoke, IN 46783**

Officers:

Jeff Ormiston, President  
 Liz Hincks, Vice President  
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Fox Tale Editor:

Cynthia Powers

The **Fox Island Alliance** is a volunteer not-for-profit organization. Its purposes are to help preserve the natural features of Fox Island County Park, to assist its orderly development as a nature preserve, to raise funds to facilitate its development, to promote Fox Island's use as an educational center, and to coordinate volunteer efforts.

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE ON MARCH 31. CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO BE SURE.

**Use the application to the right and check the "Renewal" area!!**

**Fox Island Alliance Membership Application** \_\_New\_\_ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ Check if you would like to receive your Fox Tale by email

— Check if you do not want your name published

Please Circle One:

Students \$5 - Senior \$5 - 2 Seniors \$10 - Indiv. \$15 - Family \$20

Sustaining \$30 - Patron \$50

Additional gift \$\_\_ Education \$\_\_ Exhibits \$\_\_ Scholarship

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Total Dues and Gifts \$ \_\_

If this membership is a gift, enter donor's name:

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Check if you are interested in volunteering. You will be contacted.

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