



## Bumper crop of monarch butterflies this year

*By Jeff Ormiston*

By the time this newsletter goes to press Fox Island will have raised nearly 700 monarch butterflies and tagged and released a little over 600 monarchs. We learned a lot, were featured on Eric Olson's "21 Country" on ABC21 television and took our Monarch Show on the road to talk with interested young minds who will be the future stewards of the North American monarch population. We are very fortunate at Fox Island to have a staff and volunteers who see the value of a continued effort to make sure monarchs in Allen County are well cared for. Special thanks also to Cheryl Bell, president of the Garden Club of Marion, for her support of our monarch program.

As we saw a major increase in the number of monarch eggs and caterpillars we also saw a large increase in fatalities in all stages of monarch development. Normal fatalities in non-collected monarch eggs and caterpillars are around 30 percent due to natural predators, diseases and parasites. In previous years fatalities of Fox Island-collected eggs and caterpillars were less than 10 percent. In 2018 we are approaching twice that number, and the story is the same for all those who collect and raise these beauties of the skies. It would make sense that fatalities of monarchs left to their own devices in the wild would see only a 50 to 60 percent survival rate. This year for the first time I saw dead caterpillars hanging from milkweed, the obvious victims of tachinid fly infestation. It's a hard lesson that the conditions that produced a large increase of monarch also increased the population of the predators, diseases and parasites that rely on the monarch to further their agendas



A few weeks ago, while pondering the monarch migration, it dawned on me that their plight in our part of the globe depends on the cooperative efforts of individuals in three countries who are bonded by an insect. These individuals are ordinary people with a very extraordinary mission. They depend on each other to do what is necessary to ensure that the monarchs are sheltered during the winter, fed in the summertime and provided the necessary habitat along the way to mate, lay eggs and continue their lifecycle. Monarchs are border ignorant but habitat sensitive. Our friends in Mexico rely on the monarch people of the United States and Canada to provide safe passage for the monarchs to migrate north and return to their wintering slopes in the Sierra Madre. In return Mexicans provide a safe wintering habitat until the monarchs return north. It's done without debates, treaties or even meetings. We do this with a shared concern and sense of responsibility. Our governments could learn from this "Monarch Coalition."

# One person's shed is another's butterfly nursery

*By Jeff Ormiston*

Thanks to a generous donation by Bob and Donna Streeter, Fox Island now has a new seed shed just outside the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building. The new shed sits on a concrete slab and is about twice the size of the old shed, providing ample room for seed and equipment storage. The shed, seen below left, has a low-maintenance exterior and complements the observation building well.

Many thanks to the Streeters!



At the suggestion of parks superintendent Jeff Baxter, the old seed shed was moved to a grassy area east of the Nature Center and will be used as a space for raising butterflies during the summer months and storage during the colder months. The butterfly shed will allow monarch butterflies and other Lepidoptera to be raised outside of the Nature Center freeing up much needed space inside. Butterfly shaped cut-outs will provide the necessary ventilation and observation ports for inquisitive visitors.



Another recent improvement at Fox Island is the addition of landscaping around the gazebo east of the Nature Center.

Travis Brown built the gazebo as part of his Eagle Scout project and returned recently to finish landscaping around the structure with native plants, birdhouses and benches for weary visitors. Travis also stained the gazebo to enhance and preserve the wood.

Well done, Travis!

*Photos courtesy of Jeff Ormiston*

# FOX ISLAND COUNTY PARK – FOURTH-QUARTER PROGRAMS

## Preschool Discovery Hour – Colorful Fall Leaves

**1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16**

Your child will craft an autumn leaf bookmark, go outside to hunt for colorful leaves to press and take home, and then have a snack.

Cost: \$3/child \$2/adult

Preregister by: 10/11 Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



## MID-week Hike

**1-2p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18**

Take a short hike and enjoy the park at this time of the year.

Cost: \$2 entry fee

Preregister by 10/16 Max.: 25

To register or for more information: Email: [jormiston@allencountyparks.org](mailto:jormiston@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3184 Jeff Ormiston



## Scrapbooking/Craft Night

**6 p.m.-midnight Fridays Oct. 19, Nov. 9, Dec. 14**

Join our ladies of Fox Island for a relaxing, child-free evening of scrapbooking or crafting. Everyone brings her own supplies! We provide refreshments. You may bring a snack to share (optional). We also order pizza (optional) from Pizza Hut for no more than \$5 per person. See Dec. 15 for Special Edition date

Cost: \$10 per person/class

Preregister by 10/14, 11/4 and 12/9, respectively Min. 5 Max. 22

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley

## Hunter's Moon Night Hike

**7-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20**

Explore Fox Island by the light of a waxing hunter's moon. No flashlights will be needed under this rising gibbous moon.

Cost: \$2

Preregister by 10/15 Min: 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

## The Fox Island Biome

**1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21**

Learn about Fox Island as an important habitat for many plants and animals while hiking through the park. See how it all fits together. Hike will be 1½ miles.

Cost: \$2 program fee

Preregister by 10/12 Min 5 Max: 30

To register or for more information: Email: [jormiston@allencountyparks.org](mailto:jormiston@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3184 Jeff Ormiston

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## More programs

### Growing Milkweed/Monarch Recap

**1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28**

Learn how to grow milkweed and discuss the triumphs and challenges of raising monarchs in 2018. Get your monarch questions answered in preparation for monarchs 2019. Take home milkweed seeds to plant on your own.

Cost: \$2 program fee

Preregister by 10/19 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: [jormiston@allencountyparks.org](mailto:jormiston@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3184 Jeff Ormiston



### Honeysuckle Daze

**10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1 Rain date: Friday, Nov. 2**

Help save Fox Island from invasion! FREE annual park pass to those who work a full six-hour day of removing invasive, non-native plants. Invasive plants compete with our native wildflowers and tree saplings. Bring leather gloves, boots, long sleeves/pants and eye-protective glasses to drag out these unwanted invaders. Feel free to bring your own equipment, such as loppers, chainsaws, spin-trimmers (outfitted with saw blades). Use

of your equipment is at your own risk. Allen County Parks is not responsible for any damage to personal equipment.

Cost: N/A

Preregister by 10/19 Min. None Max. None

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

### Fox Kit Club Adventures – “Tree Bias”

**10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6**

If you could live in a forest by becoming a tree, what tree would you choose? Preschool teachers of attendees are free.

Cost: \$3/child, \$2/adult

Preregister by 11/1 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

### Mid-week Hike

**1-2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15**

Take a short mid-week hike and enjoy the park at this time of the year.

Cost: \$2 park entry fee

Preregister by 11/13 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: [jormiston@allencountyparks.org](mailto:jormiston@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3184 Jeff Ormiston



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## ***Kit Kapers: Fox Island Park for Kids***

*by Pam George*

### ***Missing mosquitoes?***



Looking forward to hiking the trails at Fox Island this fall? Just think.... no mosquitoes, right?

Well, think again! Since mosquitoes are cold-blooded, they either die off or hibernate in winter, but only when temperatures fall consistently below 50°F. So, in early fall, they can still thrive in cool, crisp weather. However, the brisk temperatures mean mosquitoes are more active during the daytime, instead of in the cooler evenings.

Mosquitoes spend the fall setting the groundwork for the following spring. Some species (*yes, there are over 176 different species of mosquitoes in the United States*) lay winter-hardy eggs that can survive the cold and then hatch when the temperatures rise and spring rains begin. The females of other species mate, fatten up, and go into hibernation in protected places, such as under a log, a condition called diapause. When the weather warms up in the spring, the female emerges and lays eggs.

However, the first frost is typically the time when all mosquitoes stop biting!! Yeah!!!!

### **Other Facts You've Always Wanted To Know!**



Only the female mosquito bites! She needs the blood to feed her developing eggs.



The mosquito bite itself does not itch. The saliva the female spits into the wound to keep the blood from clotting causes an allergic reaction!



Mosquitoes prefer animal blood to human blood.



Fox Island Park has over 20 species of mosquitoes.



Mosquitoes are an important food source for other creatures we value: songbirds; fish; dragonflies; bats.



Mosquitoes are a type of fly because they only have one pair of wings.



The antennae of male mosquitoes have more long, slender fibers than the female antennae.



The female sends out her mating notes by flapping her wings hundreds of times a second. The male picks up on the sound from many miles away!



## More programs

### Night Hike

**6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16**

Darkness falls early now that daylight savings time has ended. Explore Fox Island in the dark and still have time for other Saturday night activities or an early bed time.

Cost: \$2

Preregister by 11/11 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### Lay of the Land

**2-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17**

Leafless trees allow for long views on this two-mile hike to look at Fox Island's past and present. Ron Zartman will point out geologic landforms within and beyond the park as well as historic features and changes he has observed over the past three decades.

Cost: Free w/ annual pass, or \$2.00 park admission

Preregister by: 11/12 Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### Turkey Trot 5K Trail Run

**10 a.m. start Saturday, Nov. 17**

The Fort Wayne Track Club sponsors this annual pre-Thanksgiving 5K trail run. The route begins and ends at the Fox Island Nature Center and winds through woods, field and water.

Registration 8-9:45 a.m. Online registration/info at: [runrace.net](http://runrace.net)

For more information go to: [runrace.net](http://runrace.net)

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

### Preschool Discovery Hour –Animal Home Hike

**1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27**

We will meet indoors to explore where animals live in fall. Then we will hike out to search for animal homes, and finish up with hot cocoa and a snack.

Cost: \$3/child \$2/adult

Preregister by: 11/22 Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### A Time For All Seasons

**10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 1**

Discuss why we have seasons and how they affect the wildlife of Fox Island. Learn why the winter solstice was so important to our ancient ancestors. If weather permits, a short hike will show the park in transition.

Cost: \$2 park entrance fee

Preregister by 11/17 Max. 25 Min. 5

To register or for more information: Email: [jormiston@allencountyparks.org](mailto:jormiston@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3184 Jeff Ormiston

### Fox Kit Club Adventures – “Christmas Nature Crafts”

**10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4**

Jingle bells and nature's bounty combine to make this preschool class a memory made for Christmas! We provide all of the crafting materials. No fees for preschool teachers...ever.

Cost: \$3/child, \$2/adult

Preregister by: 11/29 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



### **Preschool Discovery Hour – Birds for Beginners**

**1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11**

Young birders will visit our feeding area, help put seed out, and then watch to see who comes to eat it. We'll enjoy a little snack ourselves and take home a craft that is "for the birds".

Cost: \$3/child \$2/adult

Preregister by: 12/6 Min:5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### **Scrapbooking/Crafting Class ADDITION**

**10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**

Christmas tags and homemade crafts are beckoning! Join us for an evening of scrapbooking or crafting at Fox Island. Everyone brings his or her own supplies. We provide refreshments and you may bring an optional snack to share. We may also order a meal in for dinner if we don't have enough options available. If you also signed up for the Dec. 14 evening class you may leave your supplies locked up tight in the nature center.

Cost: \$10 per person

Preregister by: 12/10 Min. 5 Max. 22

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

### **Cross Country Ski Clinic**

**10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 15**

Learn: how equipment works, waxing vs. no-wax, purchasing, ski prep and maintenance, how to dress and receive basic instruction and practice on technique (weather permitting). Leave phone number and shoe size when registering in order to reserve equipment.

Cost: \$8 includes one-hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$3 if bringing your own equipment.

Preregister by: 12/10 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### **"Cold Moon" Night Hike**

**5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**

Darkness falls early as we approach the equinox. Dress warm to explore Fox Island under a half "cold moon."

Cost: \$2

Preregister by 12/10 Min: 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman@allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

### **Southwest Allen County Christmas Bird Count**

**8 a.m.-the birds fly home Saturday, Dec. 29**

Meet at Fox Island's Nature Center at 8 a.m. for a light breakfast sponsored by the Fox Island Alliance and to receive your birding assignments. A chili lunch (sponsored by Stockbridge Audubon Society and provided by Lori and Brett Fisher) will be served. Register by **Dec. 26** with Cynthia Powers, [zzedpowers@aol.com](mailto:zzedpowers@aol.com) or 638-4291 to receive your birding location assignment.

Cost: FREE

Preregister by: 12/26 Min. 5 Max. N/A

To register or for more information: Email: [nhaley@allencountyparks.org](mailto:nhaley@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



## **Fox Island Alliance**

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

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### **Officers:**

Kate Sanders, President  
Brett Fisher, Vice President  
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### **Fox Tale Editor:**

Lisa Esquivel Long

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

### **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

Check if you are interested in volunteering

### **Membership Category (Please Circle One)**

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

Sustaining \$30 - Patron \$50

### **Additional gift (Please Indicate Amount)**

Education  Exhibits  Conservation  General

**Total Dues and Gifts \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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