

ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes October 8, 2020

The meeting was opened by Tammy Shidler.

Carole Mitchell introduced Dennis Badke from Foxwood Raptor and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center who spoke about The Foxes of Foxwood.

Business:

Tammy Shidler opened the meeting for business.

Jenna Wait spoke about the new IMN Class which had 17 graduates this year.

Volunteer and Education Hours

Sent by Jody Heaston:

For those doing the 2020 Advanced IMN, required hours have been reduced this year due to the COVID 19 situation. For 2020 the hours have been reduced to 15 hours of volunteer time and 4 hours of education time which are due by December 22, 2020.

Include your name, address, email address, class host and year of class with a brief description of your volunteer hours and education hours. An Advanced IMN administration fee of \$10 is also due by December 22, 2020. The fee of \$10 along with the description of your hours can be mailed to the address: Ouabache State Park, Jody Heaston, IMN, 4930 E. State Rd 201 Bluffton, IN 46714 or emailed to jheaston@dnr.IN.gov.

- If you do not want a pin but still want on the Advanced list still send in your hours. In this case the \$10 fee is not needed. Please be sure to note that when you turn in your hours.
- Pins and certificates will be sent out in early February.

Please have your volunteer and education hours to Jenna Wait by January 1, 2021.

Elections- There are four positions open: Vice Chair, Education Chair, Volunteer Chair and the Secretary. All board members work together to get the speakers, volunteers and other work done. If interested in the Co-Chair position, Education Chair position, Volunteer Position or the Secretary position, please contact a board member- Tammy Shidler, Mary Kauffmann-Kennel, Steve Shantz, Krista Daniels, Jenna Wait, Carla Gull, Elma Chapman or Lou Anne Hostetler.

Our potluck in November has been cancelled due to COVID.

Beginning in January 2021, when we sign in for attendance we will also sign in if you want to make an announcement so we can make sure all announcements pertain to IMN and nature. Mary Kauffman-Kennel will have this list.

Dates for 2021 meetings at 6:30pm:

Thursday, January 14 Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion
Thursday, April 15 Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion
Thursday, July 8 Bonneyville Park Feedlot Shelter
Thursday, October 14 Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion
Tuesday, November 9 Potluck Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion

Dues for 2020 will carry into 2021 if paid in 2020. Lou Anne Hostetler and Steve Shantz will have this list at the table. Dues are \$10 per year.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2021 at the Shanklin Park Schrock Pavilion at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities:

River Clean up at American Park Saturday, October 10 from 12-3 with EEC. American Park is on East Jackson Blvd. and Goshen Avenue. Enter from Goshen Avenue. This park is behind Elkhart Central High School.

Elkhart County Parks

Nov. 7 - Boot Lake Tree Removal 10:00-12:00

Assist in the removal of invasive trees from the prairie.

Plan to bring: Work gloves

Meet at: The main parking lot

Directions and map: <https://elkhartcountyparks.org/destinations/boot-lake/>

Nov. 14 - Ox Bow Firewood 10:00-12:00

Assist with firewood splitting and stacking for use in our winter warming houses.

Plan to bring: Work gloves

Meet at: The Ox Bow Service Center

Directions and map: <https://elkhartcountyparks.org/destinations/ox-bow/>

Dec. 5 - Boot Lake Tree Removal 10:00-12:00

Assist in the removal of invasive trees from the prairie.

Plan to bring: Work gloves

Meet at: The main parking lot

Directions and map: <https://elkhartcountyparks.org/destinations/boot-lake/>

Face coverings are required. There is no pre-registration, just show up if you are interested and able to help.

Committee Updates:

Elma mentioned that she needs any Trailblazer articles, pictures, etc. by Sunday October 11,2020. Send fox pictures to Jenna Wait and she'll send them to Elma.

Krista mentioned that there are volunteer opportunities through Elkhart County Parks.

She also mentioned that you can get education hours through a virtual weekend from Friday, November 6 at 1pm through Sunday November 8 at 4:30. Go to EEAI.org to register Rachel Larimore and David Sobel are the keynote speakers. On Sunday there are field trips to sign up for also--nearby to Boot Lake Nature Preserve for birding and to Chain of Lakes for a geology hike.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Lou Anne Hostetler, Secretary