

## **ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2024 at 6:30pm**

**Judy Preheim** welcomed everyone and announced the following:

- Sign up at the table for the ECIMN work day at Dykstra Park on April 20.
- See the white board on the counter for upcoming meetings and activities.
- Be sure to sign in and pay yearly membership dues. At \$10/year, dues are a great deal. You get to come to four meetings a year, hear great speakers and have wonderful snacks, and members also have voting rights. The dues pay for our speakers and for booths at community events.
- Please fill out the election ballots. Although all candidates are unopposed, we still need completed ballots.

### **Upcoming Events**

Carole Mitchell talked about upcoming events where ECIMN will have a booth or table:

- Earth Day at the Elkhart Environmental Center, April 20, 10am-1pm. We'll hand out brochures and educational materials.
- Arbor Day on the Goshen courthouse lawn, Friday, May 3, 5-9pm.
- Michiana Master Gardeners' Tour, Clinton Christian School, June 29, 9am-3pm.

Working at these events counts toward volunteer hours. Contact Carole at [bluebirdhill201@hotmail.com](mailto:bluebirdhill201@hotmail.com) if you're interested.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Lois Oyer stated that she had gathered volunteer requests from six different organizations, with many options available. She directed people to the list next to the sign-in table. Some opportunities are during the week and some are on Saturdays. Some require physical activity and some don't. She highlighted Elkhart City Parks, which is looking for seniors to read to children in their day camps this summer. Books are provided.

### **ECIMN Work Day - Saturday, April 20, 9am-12 noon at Dykstra Park in Goshen**

Melanie Helmuth said tasks include planting saplings in pots, pulling weeds, and labeling plants in the nursery. Park along the fence. Bring gloves and a water bottle. Lunch will be provided.

### **Upcoming IMN Class**

Jenna mentioned the class will take place May 30 to August 8 on Thursday evenings, 5:30-8:30pm. All info is on the website. Class is filling up.

### **IMN State Gathering**

Elma announced the gathering will take place Sept. 27-29 in the Fort Wayne area. Nothing is concrete yet, but lots of great activities are being planned. Watch for more info and details via email. Chuck said it will fill up fast and encouraged people to register as soon as possible. He also mentioned that the gathering will count as eight education hours.

**Melanie Helmuth** introduced our speaker, Jan McGowan, park interpreter at St. Joseph County Parks, who presented “The Buzzzzz on Pollinator Habitats” and provided information on what pollinators need and where to get native plants for them.

**Judy Preheim** thanked our speaker, reminded everyone of the next meeting in July, and said we’re always looking for ideas for speakers/topics. Suggestions could be written down at the sign-in table and put in the designated basket.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Jul 11, 6:30pm** - Abshire Cabin, Luke Gascho and Acadia Imhoff on food/forest public orchard

**Oct 10, 6:30pm** - Schrock Pavilion, Ryan Sensenig on prairie burns

Total of 27 attendees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Zook