

## **ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**Lou Anne Hostetler** opened the meeting and explained the ballots.

**Melanie Helmuth** talked about the open volunteer coordinator position on the board. There are 12 organizations she emails requesting volunteer opportunities. She then forwards the information to Jenna. She also plans 1-2 ECIMN work days a year and attends board meetings.

**Lou Anne** oversaw the confirmation vote. Board officers confirmed for the upcoming year are Lou Anne Hostetler, Chairperson; Judy Preheim, Vice Chairperson, Steve Shantz, treasurer, and Susan Zook, secretary. (Additional appointed board members are Elma Chapman, Melanie Helmuth, and Carole Mitchell.) Lou Anne also announced upcoming events and directed people to see the whiteboard which listed dates and details.

### **Volunteer Opportunities - Melanie Helmuth**

- Work day, April 15 at Goshen City Tree Nursery, 9am-12 noon, pulling weeds, labeling trees, and filling holes. Bring gloves, water bottle, hand tools, lawn chair. Pizza from Domino's will be provided for lunch.
- South Bend Parks - Leeper Park has a volunteer group that works there Sundays, noon to 2pm.
- Goshen Dept of Environmental Resilience is looking for volunteers for their May 5 First Friday event, especially from noon-4:30pm and 9-10pm.
- Trees for Goshen needs volunteers on their Planting Day, April 29.
- Pathways Retreat has ongoing opportunities
- From June 2-12, Indiana Children and Nature Network is promoting Nature Play Days

### **Volunteering at Elkhart Co. Parks - Krista Daniels**

- Dogapalooza, May 13 at Ox Bow Park
- Nature Explorer Day Camp for kids 7-9 years old, meets the mornings of June 26-28, needs adult chaperones
- Ongoing bluebird monitor for Bonneyville
- Butterfly monitor at Boot Lake, training provided
- Flower bed maintenance at county parks
- Work days at Elk. County Parks - check their website
- May 5, "Better World Day" at York Elementary, adults needed to help

### **Events - Carole Mitchell**

- Earth Day Celebration at the Elkhart Environmental Center, April 22, 10am-1pm
- Arbor Day celebration at Goshen Courthouse, May 5, 4:30pm -7:30pm
- Michiana Master Gardeners Tour, June 24, 9am-2pm, Pinewood School
- Green Day at the Elk. Co. Fair, July 21, 9am-4pm

**Report on IMN State Gathering - Carole Mitchell**

There were over 100 in attendance, including nine from Elkhart County. It was held at Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, IN. Programs included talks on ticks, the upcoming 2024 eclipse, and a tour of the nature center. They went to Versailles State Park on Sunday for a wildflower hike, a waterfall hike, and also pulled invasives. The 2024 gathering will be in Fort Wayne in September, and the 2025 gathering will be in Brown County.

**Other Upcoming - Jenna Wait**

- This year's IMN class is full. Current IMNs are welcome to join class sessions for education hours, but let Jenna know in advance.
- Spots are open for the bus trip to the Field Museum on May 20.
- She and Krista are hosting eco themed game nights in June, July, and August
- Rain barrels workshops are coming up; contact her for details.

McCormick's Creek State Park is looking for help cleaning up from the recent tornado. Contact them for details.

Our speaker for the evening, Dr. Bryan Blaschke, gave an interesting and informative talk on rocks and minerals. He brought a generous number of samples for us to examine.

Total of 33 in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Zook