

ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2023 at 6:30pm

Mary Kauffmann-Kennel welcomed everyone.

Melanie Helmuth - Volunteer Opportunities

- Elkhart County Parks is always open to new volunteers for invasive removal and trail maintenance. They also need volunteers for the St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt and Trout Day. Additionally, they're collecting newspapers. Drop them off at the Ox Bow gatehouse or the park administration office.
- South Bend Parks is looking for volunteers to help with native plant and wildflower beds at Howard, Leeper, and Pinhook parks.
- Pathways Retreat can always use help with invasive removal and ecological restoration. They also have two scheduled work days on March 18, 1pm-3pm and April 22, 9am-11am.
- There will be an IMN workday at the Goshen City Tree Nursery on April 15 for pulling weeds and labeling trees. Lunch will be provided. Park at Abshire Park and walk to the nursery. The nursery will also need long term help with weeding over the growing season.

Carole Mitchell, Outreach

- Seed Swap at Goshen College, Saturday, Jan. 21, 10am-2:30pm
- Michiana Master Gardeners Association Expo, Feb. 25, 8am-4pm, Northern Indiana Event Center

ECIMN will have a table at both events.

Upcoming Meetings - Mary Kauffmann-Kennel

- April 13 at Schrock Pavilion, Dr. Bryan Blaschke from Northridge High School, rock ID
- July 13 at Studebaker Park, Dr. Andy Ammons of Goshen College, native pollinator ID
- Oct 12 at Schrock Pavilion, Annie Aguirre of Elkhart Co Parks, waterfowl ID

State Gathering - Elma Chapman

The state IMN gathering will be at Clifty Falls State Park on March 31, April 1 and 2. There are rooms set aside at the park inn, but they are filling up fast.

Trailblazer

The Trailblazer will not be published this year. We will re-evaluate this in a year. In the meantime, please submit anything you'd like published to Jenna.

Field Trip - Saturday, May 20, 8am-5pm, to the Field Museum of Natural History

Bus will leave from Jenna's office. Cost for travel and admission is \$70/adult, \$67/senior. For those with their own membership, cost is \$45 for travel. It's also fine to drive on your own and meet the group there, but let Jenna know. Trip is open to IMNs first and then to spouses if space is available. Bring your own lunch. Bus space is limited to 25. Watch for an email from Jenna to register.

Next IMN class will be May 25-Aug 3. It has not yet been publicized.

Name tags - Lou Anne

She has new order forms for name tags. Cost is \$9.63 plus \$10.40 for shipping. (Shipping is priority mail so it can be tracked.) If more than one person wants a nametag, the cost of shipping can be split. One person would need to write a check for the \$10.40 shipping cost and be reimbursed from the others who are placing orders. Orders can also be placed online at www.esii.biz. Go to ORGANIZATIONS on the menu bar, select Central Indiana Master Naturalists, and enter password cimn.

April Meeting - Mary

We'll have a book exchange. Bring your nature books. Melanie also mentioned that Rieth Interpretive center is getting rid of their nature books, and anyone can stop in between 7am-3pm to pick some up while they last.

Elections will be held. Dennis Badke has resigned. Steve, Susan, Carole, and Elma will stay in their current positions. Lou Anne is moving to chair and Melanie to education. Open spots are for vice-chair and volunteer coordinator.

Steve Shantz gave a brief review of the book *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard and **Jim Carpenter** shared a poem about skunk cabbage.

Lou Anne Hostetler introduced our speaker, Emma Conrad, who is a plant health care technician at Hartwood Tree Care, member of the Goshen City Shade Tree Board, and studying to be an arborist. She gave a fascinating presentation on Winter Tree ID.

Total of 19 in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Zook