

ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes January 13, 2022

Mary Kauffmann-Kennel opened the meeting. She reminded everyone to sign in and pay dues.

Business:

Elections - Elections are usually held at the April meeting. All current officers and committee chairs are fine with continuing, so no election is planned for this year. See or contact Mary with any concerns, questions, or if interested in serving.

Book Exchange - We will have a book exchange at the April meeting. Books should be about natural resources or other topics covered by IMN. Those who bring books may take the same number of books they brought. After that, anyone may take the remaining books. If there are leftover books at the end, they will be donated to Fables.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Thursday, April 14, 6:30pm - Alumni meeting at Elkhart Conservation Club. Book exchange.
- Saturday, May 14, 9am-12noon - Work day at Elkhart Environmental Center
- Thursday, July 14, 6:30pm - Alumni meeting at Waterford Mennonite Church. John Jay Smith will speak and lead hike on wetland plants.
- Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30pm - Alumni meeting, location TBD
- Thursday, Nov. 10, 6:30pm - Potluck

Volunteer and Education Hours:

Lou Anne highlighted an email from Jody Heaston, IMN State Coordinator, which lists acceptable volunteer activities. The main criteria are that the activity has to benefit Indiana's natural resources or help an Indiana resource organization. For citizen science projects, AIMNs may volunteer no more than 10 hours/year and IMNs may volunteer no more than 8 hours/year. The list is on the Elkhart County SWCD website, and Krista will put it on the ECIMN Facebook page. It's not an exhaustive list, and any questions should be directed to Jody. Direct link: <https://www.elkcoswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Volunteer-Guidelines-1.pdf>.

Committee Updates:

Mary (presenting for Melanie)

- Elkhart Environmental Center needs volunteers to help plan Envirofest, which takes place on Saturday, Aug. 20.
- Pathways Retreat Center needs volunteers to remove invasives.
- The ECIMN group will have a group volunteer day at the Elkhart Environmental Center on Saturday, May 14 from 9am-12noon. We'll be removing invasives and cleaning interpretive signs and will possibly have lunch together.

Krista

- Needs volunteers to render fat down to make suet cakes. Ingredients provided.
- Volunteer to take photos for Valentine Stroll, Feb 14, 5:30-6:30pm at Cobus Creek

Carole

ECIMN will have a table at the events listed below. Contact her if interested in helping.

- Seed Swap, Feb. 19, 10am-2:30pm at Goshen College
- Michiana Master Gardeners' Expo, Feb. 26, 8am-4pm, Northern Indiana Event Center
- Arbor Day Celebration, April 29, 4-8pm, probably at Schrock Pavilion
- Michiana Master Gardeners' Tour, June 25

Elma - Newsletter deadline is Sunday night, Jan. 16

Dennis - Let him know if there is anything special you'd like to be presented at a meeting.

Jenna - Next IMN class will be May 26-July 21, Thursdays from 5:30-8:30pm. It will meet at various locations. She will start advertising it in March. Krista will be the point person while she is on maternity leave.

Krista introduced our speaker, Andy Langdon, who gave a fascinating presentation on winter constellations.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Zook