

ECIMN Alumni Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022

Mary Kauffmann-Kennel welcomed everyone with a special acknowledgement to the current IMN class who joined us. She passed around a sympathy card for Nancy Brown and highlighted the following upcoming events:

- Oct. 13, 6:30pm, Alumni Meeting at the Scout Cabin at the Derksen Farm and Wetlands in Nappanee.
- Nov. 10, 6:00pm, potluck, Schrock Pavilion at Shanklin Park, Goshen. IMN Class of 2022 will be recognized, and volunteer hours and awards will be announced.
- 2023 ECIMN alumni meeting dates: Jan. 12, April 13, July 13, Oct. 12, and potluck on Nov. 9

Committee Updates

Carole Mitchell- Outreach

- Past events where she manned a table for IMN: Garden Expo on Feb 26 (represented IMN and SWCD), Arbor Day in Goshen on April 29, and Michiana Master Gardeners' tour on June 25 at Trinity Church in Elkhart. Colin of the Class of 2022 helped on June 25.
- Upcoming events:
 - Bug Night, Aug 5 at Cobus Creek - Krista will be sending email with details
 - Envirofest at Island Park, Saturday, Aug. 20, 3pm-9pm
 - Middlebury Riverfest, Aug. 27, 10am-2pm, Riverbend Park
 - Elkhart County Fair - still a few slots available
 - Green Day at the Fair has enough volunteers but all are welcome to stop by
- Carole always appreciates help to pass out materials and tell people about IMN. She can be reached at bluebirdhill201@hotmail.com.
- Mary Kauffmann-Kennel added that it would be great to have someone fluent in Spanish at these events.

Elma Chapman- Newsletter

- Newsletter deadline is July 24. She welcomes any pictures or stories. Email to her at chapman_ej@yahoo.com.

Melanie Helmuth - Volunteer Opportunities

- Elkhart Environmental Center (Contact: Annie Klehfoth)
 - July 17, 1pm - 4pm, tie dying shirts for Envirofest volunteers
 - Envirofest, Aug 25, 3pm-9pm, volunteers for setup, cleanup, help with various activities. Volunteers get a free tie dyed t-shirt if they sign up early. Free ticket, meal, snack provided to all volunteers.
 - Always looking for help with weeding, invasive removal, Adopt-A-Trail
- City of South Bend looking for volunteers to help with flower beds at Leeper Park
- Wellfield Botanic Garden needs volunteers for mulching and weeding (Contact: Jodie Papandrea)

- Pathways Retreat Center in Goshen, help with invasives, planting. (Contact: Steve Thomas)
- Trees for Goshen, invasive tree removal on Saturday, Sept. 28. (Contact: Melanie Helmuth)
- **Jenna will send an email with detailed contact information for all the above activities.**
- Oct. 1 will be an IMN workday. More details will be coming.

Krista Daniels, Elkhart County Parks - Volunteer Opportunities

- Bug Night, Aug. 5 at Cobus Creek
- Middlebury Riverfest, Aug. 27 at Riverbend Park, 10am-2pm
- **She will send an email with details for these events**

Other Updates

Mary Kauffmann-Kennel - State IMN Celebrations

- Various IMN celebrations are being held around the state for the 20th year of IMN. IMNs should have received an email about them. Contact Elma (chapman_ej@yahoo.com) if you did not.
- All celebrations count for education hours.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson - Event at Notre Dame

- The De Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture at Notre Dame is holding their 22nd conference on creation and theology in November. Information: <https://ethicscenter.nd.edu/programs/fall-conference/2022-and-it-was-very-good/>

Speaker & Activity

Dennis Badke introduced our speaker, John Jay Smith, a local expert on native plants and wildflowers. John gave us a brief history of the wetlands at Waterford Mennonite Church and explained what a fen system is. He and Krista led the group on a thrilling and fascinating hike around the wetlands, identifying wild flowers, plants, and discussing other wildlife that lives there. We returned to the church for snacks and socializing.

24 IMN attendees plus speaker (not including Class of 2022 members)

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Zook