March-April 2015

Potawatomi Inn Activities!

Too cold to go outside?… Check out our Inn craft room! There are many items from which to choose, from a simple bracelet to a holiday decoration. Stop by the Activities Room or check our schedule at the main desk. Join us!

Whether it’s business or pleasure, the Potawatomi Inn has what you need...

All Programs are on Eastern Time! Daylight Savings Time begins March 8! Catch this and all of your favorite State Park Interpretive Schedules at www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Saturday March 7

10:30am  **Woodland Window Roving.** Come to the Nature Center anytime during the day from 10am to 5pm to enjoy exhibits. From 10:30am to 11:30am, the park interpreter will be on hand at the Woodland Window to discuss winter birds, bird feeders, and optics to view.  MH

11:30am  **Camo Coverage!** Hunters wear it, nature photographers wear it… but animals wore it first – camouflage! Come to the Nature Center Auditorium where we will view some amazing photos on the big screen of cryptic coloration in the animal world.  MH

Sunday March 8  (Daylight Savings Time Begins today!!!)

8:30am  **March Mudness.** What will we find this morning, the mud of most Marches or still frozen earth?... Find out during our regular Sunday morning jaunt, meeting out on the Inn Sun Deck, or inside the hallway by fish aquarium if the weather is rough! Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Hot coffee available in Inn front lobby.  MH

Saturday March 14

2:00pm  **Winter Birding from the Warmth of the Auditorium!** Gather in our Nature Center Auditorium for a short program using projected images, study skins, recorded calls and other items of interest to learn the birds of our area. Good for beginners or seasoned birding enthusiasts!  MH

8:00pm  **Birds of Twilight.** Come to Nature Center Auditorium where we will discuss the nighttime birds of Pokagon and then we will carpool to an area in the park (to be determined) where we may encounter some “peenting” woodcocks or hooting owls.  RS
**Sunday March 15**

8:30am  **Beware the Ides of a March Marsh.** Get up, grab a cup of coffee, and join us for our traditional Sunday morning walk through the wetland, this one falling on the Ides of March. Meet on the Inn Sun Deck. MH

**Saturday March 21**

10:30am  **A Skunk Cabbage Search!** Join us at the Inn Main Entrance, from where we’ll take off on an hour and half jaunt into the Potawatomi Nature Preserve for a general nature discovery hike, with the emerging, maybe blooming, skunk cabbage as our quarry! RS

2:00 pm  **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West.** Come to the Nature Center Auditorium for our small screen version of this very popular IMAX Theater movie! Learn a little bit of your American history right here! Showtime is approximately 50 minutes- and it’s FREE!

**Sunday March 22**

8:30am  **A Spring Marsh Awakening.** See March 8 “March Mudness” for program details. RS

**Saturday March 28**

10:30am  **Early Bloomers.** Gather at the Nature Center front deck for a nice easy does it walk. We’ll be looking for the early spring wildflowers after this long winter of cold and snow on this short 45 minute walk. Join us! RS

2:00 pm  **A Bluebird Break!** Gather first in the Nature Center Auditorium for a short talk about the eastern bluebird and some ways we can attract them to our backyards and neighborhoods. We’ll then head out for a short walk to see if we can see any as they are beginning to check out nest sites! RS

**Sunday March 29**

8:30am  **Redwing Romp.** Male Redwing Blackbirds should be calling up a storm in our County Road wetland. Let’s enjoy these and other birds on our traditional Sunday morning walk. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet on the Inn Sun Deck. FW

**Saturday April 4**

11:30am  **In Search of Sandhills!** It’s the time of year when these magnificent, long-legged and loud birds of wetlands return to our marshes and lake shores. We’ll see if they have arrived on this one-hour-plus walk along the edge of Gentian Lake at the Trine State Recreation Area. Meet at the Trine State Recreation Area Welcome Center. MH

2:00 pm  **Easter Egg Hunt!** Great family fun provided by Pokagon and the Potawatomi Inn staffs out on the Inn Front Lawn!

3:00 pm  **Using Native Plants in your home Yardscapes!** It’s Spring finally and we turn our thoughts to home gardening. Come to the Nature Center Auditorium for an indoor presentation on how you can capture our rich natural, native heritage around your home. MH

**Sunday April 5**

8:30am  **Easter Sunday Morning Stroll.** Join us on the Inn Sun Deck for an Easter Sunday Morning appreciation of birds and other wonders of nature. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. FW

**Saturday April 11**

10:30am  **Big Bird Nest Search.** Not that big bird! There are birds of prey that should be setting up housekeeping in our woods. On this 1 ½ hour walk, beginning at the Spring Shelter, we’ll cover a couple of park trails. Parking is available above the shelter. MH

2:00 pm  **Vernal Pond Patrol.** A nice walk down into the Nature Preserve and over much of Trail 6. We’ll search the temporary spring ponds along the way for songs of frogs, salamanders, and other forms of life. We’ll be out for about 1-½ hours. Meet at the Inn Main Entrance. Trails may be spongy. Come with proper footwear! MH
Sunday April 12

8:30am  **Early Morning Birding.**  It’s our early Sunday morning walk! See details on March 8.  MH

2:00pm  **Volunteer Day Event – Woodland Window Sunday Clean Up**  April 6 to 12 is National Volunteer Week.  If you’d like to pitch in and help at Pokagon and our Nature Center, stop by this afternoon as we give our bird feeding area outside our popular Woodland Window a spruce-up.  We’ll rake up old seed husk, re-scatter fallen leaves, clean the big window, clean feeders and if time allows pulling any invasive garlic mustard creeping into window view.  Wear old clothes, roll up your sleeves and join us to give a hand!  MH

Saturday April 18

10:30am  **Wildflower Wander.**  See Early Bloomers program of March 28 for program details.  RS

2:00pm  **Wetland Wander.**  Join us at the Inn Main Entrance for a short 45 minute or so walk taking us down into the Potawatomi Nature Preserve and the beautiful fen wetlands of this area.  RS

Sunday April 19

8:30am  **Early Spring Bird Search.**  See March 8 “March Mudness” for program details.  RS

Saturday April 25

9:30am  **Bluebird Hills Hiking!**  Put on your walking shoes for this one!  We’ll meet at the Spring Shelter, and hike towards Hell’s Point, then branch off on to Trail 7 and circle around in our Bluebird Hills area.  It’s a good walk, so a water bottle or canteen may come in handy.  Total distance is about 3 miles.  Parking available above the shelter if you are driving from the Inn.  RS

8:30pm  **Woodcock Watch!**  It’s that crazy little woodland/shorebird that does that crazy little courtship dance and flight!  Come to the Nature Center from where we will carpool to some location in the park where we know male woodcock are active.  MH

Sunday April 26

8:30am  **The Early Bird Gets the Worm!**  It’s our early Sunday morning walk! See details on March 8 “March Mudness.”

Nature Center School Season Hours:

Weekends: 10am to 5pm
Tuesday to Friday: 1pm to 5pm
Monday: sorry, closed