

Fall Meeting Program at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary October 3, 4, and 5, 2008

Friday, October 4th

6:30 pm Board Meeting in Markle Barn

7:00 pm Registration Opens at Brooks Hall

Please stop by the registration table to sign in or to register for the weekend. If you have not pre-registered for meals, there will be a \$5 late charge added to your meal total.

Grand Opening Celebration of Brooks Hall Museum and Nature Center!

Find out about the plans at: www.indianaaudubon.org

**8:00 pm The American Naturalists Tradition: The Storyteller's Journey
Through Literature and Science – Brooks Hall**

Walking a path first blazed by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, Brian "Fox" Ellis travels in the tradition of these American Naturalists. The Transcendentalists were the first truly American movement in literature that broke from European traditions. Fox follows in these footsteps. He promises to tune our ears to the quiet whispers of wildflowers, to teach us the songs of wind and wave, and to share the stories of the land.

From "A Storyteller's Tour of the Louvre" in Paris, to a campfire in the mountains of North Carolina, from the Historic Sandwich Illinois Opera House, to an International Conference on Wetlands Conservation in Washington D.C., Brian "Fox" Ellis has been regaling audiences for more than 25 years. Since 1980 Fox has been touring the world as a performer and educator. He is a dynamic teller who, in a warmly entertaining manner, captures what is most life-affirming and beautiful in the human experience.

Saturday, October 4th

6:45 am - 8 am Breakfast – Markle Barn

A hardy breakfast will be served by the Rushville Kiwanis Club. Be sure to order your tickets in advance. Cost: \$6.00

7:30 am Field trip to Brookville Lake (Back by noon) – Markle Barn

Brookville Lake lies in the heart of the Whitewater River Valley. This area has long been acknowledged as one of the most picturesque and historically significant in the state of Indiana. Please join Peter Scott and Carl Wilms (who monitors local listservs) to visit current hotspots for migrant and resident species. Meet at Markle Barn for coffee, breakfast (\$6 per person), and carpooling organization by 7:00 am. The trip will leave promptly at 7:30 am.

Carpooling will be necessary for this trip. Please consider driving with other IAS members and be sure to "tip" the driver to help cover gasoline costs.

For those folks who would like to stay at Mary Gray on Saturday morning:

9 am Let's Do Some Archeology! – Meet at the old location of the Yellow Brick House

What did the people who lived in the yellow brick house have for dinner? What did they wear? What tools did they use?

We may find some answers during the fall meeting. With Allen King as the leader, we will open several pits, using good techniques, to see what we can find at this home site from the 1800's. We will use trowels and then screen the dirt. Proper records will be kept with 4 people working in each pit. If there is a demand, we will have one pit reserved for young people.

You should wear old clothes. Bring a pair of gloves that you don't care about. Knee pads are useful but not required. If you have a small mason's trowel, please bring it marked with some identification.

If the dig yields some good artifacts, we could make this an ongoing project. This program will be offered several times though out the weekend. Since space is limited, please sign-up for your "dig" time when you register.

Allen King is a long term member of IAS and has traveled the world touring and photographing our natural world. He recently returned from an archeological dig in Northwestern Minnesota.

10 am Nature Sketching

No experience required, just a love of nature for this easy and relaxing program. Paper and pencils will be provided or you may bring your own supplies. Different drawing techniques and tips will be given, with special attention given to the drawing of birds. Weather permitting we will work outdoors part of the time.

Rebecca Fallat, owner of the Blue Heron Gallery located in nearby Liberty, IN will be the instructor. Rebecca teaches painting, sketching and sculpture. Her art career has mingled with her natural resources career for the last 30 years giving her unique perspectives and knowledge on sketching nature.

Noon Lunch

Lunch will be provided by Lora, Terri, and Amy again this year. The menu includes soup, sandwiches, dessert, and drink. Cost: \$6.00 adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

1 pm IAS Membership Meeting

Everyone is invited to participate. The meeting will be held in Brooks Hall.

2 pm Non-flowering Plant Walk (2 hours)

You won't want to miss the non-flowering plant walk! Join Jack Berninger for a walk in the woods to find many of the ferns located at Mary Gray. The ferns are second only to flowering plants in species numbers. Jack will talk about the reproductive spores located on many of the ferns that are not seeds, but are part of the unusual reproductive cycle of ferns. We'll view unusual organisms with both animal and fungal characteristics. If time permits we will utilize microscopes to investigate some of the Green Algae found in the

Sanctuary ponds. The ancestors of these algae are the evolutionary parents of the flowering plants that we see every day.

Jack has a Masters degree from Xavier University and is a retired biology teacher. He and his wife Elaine raised their family on a farm near Dillsboro. Currently, Jack and Elaine are involved in several population research projects and conduct hikes in Fakahatchee Swamp and Big Cypress parks in Florida.

2 pm Let's Do Some Archeology!

See description above. Be sure to sign up!

2 pm Turtles at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

Young and old alike will not want to miss Gary Breitenbach's discussion regarding his ongoing turtle population study at the Sanctuary. Gary has been trapping, marking and recording Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Turtle population for over 25 years. Meet at the pond in front of Markle Barn for this hands-on presentation! Recent captures have consistently recorded a snapping turtle that rivals the Indiana state record at 48 pounds.

5 pm Dinner

Please purchase your tickets in advance. \$7 Adults - \$3 for children 12 and under. A small number of tickets will be available for purchase at the registration table for an additional \$5 fee.

7:30 pm Awards and Photography Contest

Share your photographic efforts of the year and help us make this the best photo contest so far! Submission details will be located on the www.indianaaudubon.org website. Be sure to submit early!

8 pm On the Road to Calakmul

Alan Bruner and Peter Scott will delight us with their photographs and adventures in birding from Cancun to the ruins of Calakmul in the far southern end of Yucatan.

Peter Scott is a professor of biology at Indiana State University whose specialties are ornithology and plant pollination ecology. He has studied Indiana birds since 1995, and published papers on the use of reclaimed coal strip mines by grassland birds. As a graduate student in the 1980's, Dr. Scott spent parts of three years in Yucatan, Mexico, studying the breeding biology of Turquoise-browed Motmots and Cave Swallows.

Alan Bruner grew up in west-central Indiana birding extensively along the Sugar Creek corridor and Wabash River including Shades and Turkey Run St. Parks. He earned a B.S. in Life Science at Indiana St. Univ. He worked as a nickel plater and environmental analyst at Metal Forming Industries in Russellville, IN. He currently resides in Marshall, Indiana, with wife Jacki. Alan is a former President of Indiana Audubon Society, Wabash Valley Audubon Society, chair of Indiana Bird Records Committee, and sub-regional editor for *American Birds*, maintains the Indiana Bird Report Archives and has published numerous articles in *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* for which he is the editor.

Sunday, October 5

7 am Breakfast

Breakfast will be served by the Kiwanis Club until 8 am. Cost is \$6 per person.

7:45 am Bird Walk

Meet in front of Brooks Hall to join the morning bird walk. All skill levels welcome!

9 am Worship Service: The Biblical Call to Environmental Stewardship

Please join Alan Bruner and Tom Goldsmith for the Sunday morning worship service in Brooks Hall.

10 am Let's Do Some Archeology!

See description above. Be sure to sign up!

More sessions will be announced soon. Please check the IAS website for an updated agenda at www.indianaudubon.org.

11 am Birds & (Honey) Bees Retrospective

Alex Zomchek will share the 150 million year journey of the co-evolution of flowering plants and honeybees with a focus on the last 9-10 thousand year symbiotic relationship with modern man. Highlights will include the relatively new dependence humans have with honey bees as we depend on them for crop pollination and the dependence honeybees have on humans as they now need humans to fight predators, pests, and diseases. Africanized ("killer") bees, varroa mites, and CCD (Colony Collapse Disease) will also be topic of interest. He will outline modern beekeeping practices including the new honeybee "cowboys". Alex will also highlight the economics of pollination on the world food market, how this impacts food prices and supply, and what individuals can do to support the honey bee industry at the local level.

Alex Zomchek is a small business owner in Oxford, Ohio. He is a beekeeper who enjoys educating groups about the role of honeybees and their importance in our environment. In addition to these two roles, Alex is involved at the Environmental Research Center (ERC) at Miami University, is married, and is raising his two daughters.

Noon Lunch

Lunch will be provided by Lora, Terri, and Amy again this year. Cost: \$6.00 adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

We are looking forward to a delightful weekend and hope to see you there! Be sure to take a stroll through Brooks Hall's new museum area! We hope to celebrate the Grand Opening on Friday night!