

A photograph of two hikers walking away from the camera on a forest trail. The hiker on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a purple backpack. The hiker on the right is wearing a blue jacket and a black backpack. The ground is covered in fallen yellow and brown leaves. The forest consists of many thin, light-colored trees with sparse foliage.

Outdoors

Southside 2022

HIT THE TRAIL

Central Indiana has several sites to take a walk in the woods

PROPERTY PROFILE

Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife area

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Take a hike!

Meet the people who help build Central Indiana's hiking trails

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EXPLORE DEER CREEK FWA

Hunt, fish, trap or hunt mushrooms.

TRAVEL

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VISIT RAPID CITY, S.D.

Enjoy the great outdoors on a trip out west.

AT THE PARKS

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FUN, SPOOKY EVENTS

Pet a snake, take a night hike, enjoy a fall festival.

Southside Outdoors

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Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area



DEER CREEK | PHOTO COURTESY OF DNR

DESCRIPTION

Possession of the land that comprises Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) began in 2010 with a transfer of 1,962 acres from the Putnamville Correctional Facility to the DNR, Division of Fish & Wildlife. After 2010, several more parcels were added, bringing the current total to 2,175 acres. The property consists of rolling interspersed agriculture and mature oak-hickory woods, a 4-acre pond and Deer Creek, with a low-head dam, iron bridge and a concrete creek crossing.

ACTIVITIES

All visitors must obtain a one-day access permit before entering the field, regardless of their activity.

Fishing

Deer Creek FWA provides fishing on a 4-acre pond located on the north portion of the property and in Deer Creek, which runs through the southern portion. All fishing requires daily self-service check-in and possession of a daily permit card obtained at check-in stations. Shoreline fishing is allowed. Primary species include catfish, crappie, bluegill, redear, and largemouth bass

Only electric trolling motors are allowed. There are no boat ramps.

Hunting

All hunting requires daily self-service check-in and possession of a daily permit card obtained at check-in stations. Deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, quail, dove, woodcock, furbearer, and

waterfowl are available. Quail and rabbit hunting is available Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday only.

Turkey hunting

Spring season: During the first five days of spring season there are two pre-season draws. Apply through DNR's Reserved Hunt site. Reserved hunters must check in at the office between 5-5:30 a.m. No-show drawings for spring turkey hunting are held at the office at 5:30 a.m. After the first five days hunting is permitted by daily self-service check-in through the end of the season.

Fall season: Hunting is permitted by daily self-service check-in.

Dove season hunting hours are from 8 a.m. until noon the first three days. After the first three days, hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset. Non-toxic shot only.

Deer hunting is by draw only in November. Apply through DNR's Reserved Hunt site.

Bonus antlerless tags are not permitted during deer season and there is no deer hunting during the special antlerless season.

Trapping

Trapping is permitted by draw, held the first Saturday in October at 10 a.m. at the Deer Creek FWA property office. Contact the office for details.

For more trapping opportunities on properties managed by Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area, visit the webpages of Chinook FWA,

Wabashiki FWA, Wabash River Conservation Area, and Sugar Creek Conservation Area.

Wildlife watching

Non-hunting activities including wildlife watching, walking, mushroom hunting, gathering nuts, etc. require daily self-service check-in.

Access

Fishing access and hunting areas for people with disabilities are available. The shooting range is ADA compliant.

Shooting range

The Deer Creek Shooting Range is located on property at 8004 S. State Road 243, Cloverdale. The range includes a 10-yard pistol range, a 25-yard range, a 50-yard range, a 100-yard range, and a separate shotgun range. Indoor restrooms are available.

Range admission is \$7/hour per lane for first person; \$5/hour for each additional shooter (up to three).

Visit Fish & Wildlife Area Shooting Ranges for seasonal hours and announcements or contact the range at 765-276-3032.

Location/contact

Deer Creek FWA is west of Putnamville (Putnam County) off of U.S. 40

Address: 2001 W. County Road 600 Greencastle, IN 46135

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m

Website: DeerCreekFWA@dnr.IN.gov on.IN.gov/deercreekfwa



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Top tips for fuel safety

STORY BY STATEPOINT | PHOTO BY ADOBESTOCK

Whether you're camping, boating or doing yard work, these are all activities that need fuel. Advocates are reminding everyone to stay safe while pumping and using fuel during the warm weather months.

"Gas prices are high and you may be cutting back, but you'll still be using gas, diesel and kerosene, and accidents can still happen," said Dan Marshall, vice president of marketing and business development for Scepter, the leader in fuel containers. "It's important to follow basic fuel safety practices, at the pump, at home, and on weekend adventures."

To help people stay safe around fuel, Scepter offers some basic tips:

- Never use gas to start grills or a bonfire, kill pests, or as a cleaning agent.
- Never smoke near a fuel container or place it near an open flame, even if it's empty. Gas fumes are invisible and are still potentially dangerous. One spark can cause gasoline vapors to ignite.
- Keep children and pets away from fuel pumps, fuel containers and running equipment.
- Use the right container: red for gasoline, blue for kerosene, yellow for diesel.
- Do not remove or alter the Flame Mitigation Device (FMD) inside the opening of the fuel container in any way.
- Inspect fuel containers for leaks and cracks before each fill-up. If there are any signs of aging, carefully dispose of the container

and purchase a new one with essential safety features. For example, the rugged Scepter SmartControl fuel containers for gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuels feature controllable flow, child safety features, and are designed to substantially exceed ASTM and CPSC minimum standards. Additionally, all Scepter portable fuel containers in the United States already include FMDs certified to the ASTM F3326 standard.

- Place fuel containers on the ground during filling to avoid sparks from static electricity and spills inside the vehicle.
 - Only fill containers to the "fill line" to allow for expansion with changing temperatures.
 - Before pouring from a fuel can that has expanded in the heat, point the can away and vent by activating the release button while upright. Modern containers are designed to remain sealed to protect the environment from emissions and keep fuel fresh longer.
 - Wipe up any spills immediately.
 - When filling up equipment, do it outside to avoid breathing in fumes.
 - Never fill an engine that is running or still hot from recent use.
 - Store fuel containers in a dry, well-ventilated place, outside the living space of your home and away from furnaces, water heaters, direct sunlight, and other sources of heat.
- For additional fuel safety tips and information, visit scepter.com/safety.



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A long walk in the woods might cure what ails ya

BY AMY MAY

According to the American Psychological Association, exposure to nature has been linked to a host of benefits, including improved attention, lower stress, better mood, reduced risk of psychiatric disorders and even upticks in empathy and cooperation. It invokes a sense of awe and wonder, which reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

Getting outside, whether it be hiking in the woods, kayaking on a river, going to the beach or even visiting a city park, just makes us happier and invokes a sense of awe and wonder, which reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

Scientists have just begun to study the benefits.

“Scientists are charting a course for policymakers and the public to better tap into the healing powers of Mother Nature,” the APA said in its article, “Nurtured by nature.”

After 2020-21, many of us find ourselves in dire need of “healing powers.”

For me, I found those powers in the woods of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Besides the worry about COVID’s effects on myself and loved ones, as well as the frustration with the measures in place to attempt to prevent it, the last two years have been sorrow-filled for me. I lost my grandmother, step-grandmother, father-in-law, a longtime family friend and finally, my stepfather in September 2021 — a man who had been in my life since I was 17.

My mother and I, stunned and heartbroken at his sudden death from heart failure at the age of 67, took to the woods.

Morgan-Monroe is not far from her house in rural Morgan County, so it was the logical place to take our hikes. We packed snacks and plenty of water, drove to the forest and grabbed a trail map from the forest office. Our first choice was the 1-mile Tree Identification Trail followed by the 3-mile Rock Shelter Trail.

In the early fall, Morgan-Monroe is still green and alive with insect and bird life, box turtles and even a small snake that I barely missed stepping on one day. Before it got cold, we hiked every trail available, including the Three Lakes Trail and the Low Gap Trail — both of which are around 10 miles — and are the shorter trails. We talked about the loss of her husband at first, and later transitioned into talking about



A turtle found near a trail in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

everything.

My mother and I, while always close, have not had much time to see each other one-on-one in the last several years due to distance and just being busy with our own things. Now, hiking is something we share and have bonded over and it’s just for us — no other relatives, friends or spouses.

In the state forest, the trails are all named after the features. The Rock Shelter Trail, for example, is a steep downhill climb to a creek bed. Once there, a cave-like structure can be seen. The large rock upheaval has limestone walls that have flaked off over the years, resembling an abstract painting or a mountain vista. On the way back, we stopped and checked out a small, spring-fed pond in the middle of the woods.

That trail shares real estate with the Low Gap Trail, which also winds through the woods east of Main Forest Road, and is named after the Low Gap Nature Preserve. Low Gap is part of the 42-mile Tecumseh Trail, so we always joke about needing to be careful we don’t accidentally end up on that route.

There are campsites along the trail. My mom and I, also long-time visitors of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, always stop and marvel at the sites, which have plenty of flat places for tents and abundant firewood — both scarce commodities in BWCA. A campsite is a nice place to stop for a rest and water break.

My favorite trail is the 9.8-mile Three Lakes Trail, the only trail west of the main road. We park at Cherry Lake and then eat

lunch at Bryant Creek Lake — an idyllic spot with a nice picnic area.

After our first trip, we were a little mystified: “Where was the third lake?” We later learned that when the trail was originally blazed, it dipped south to go by Bean Blossom Lake. Then after the Bean Blossom dam failed in 1993, the lake drained. The next time we visit, we plan to explore the area a little more and see if we can find where it was.

We would like to see more medium-length trails in the forest — perhaps some in the 5- to 6-mile range. But you can cut hiking the Three Lakes Trail in half if you park a car at each of the lakes. You can also combine shorter trails to make more of a day of it. Once, we walked the 2.7-mile Mason Ridge Trail twice, forward and backward, and took a side trip to see Draper Cabin, a primitive home in the woods that can be rented overnight.

The trails in the forest are well-marked, but be sure to get a map. There are several areas to park along Main Forest Road and for the longer trails to the east, you have to walk a gravel road to get to the start of the trail. Once in the woods, look for the white diamonds painted on the trees to keep to the path. Wooden signs are also placed at trail intersections.

Although we have experienced some anxiety about getting lost, we have always found our way. We emerge sore and tired, but also happy and refreshed.

Does it cure what ails us? I don’t know. I do know that it gave us a chance to be together in a difficult time, do something fun and challenging, experience awe, wonder and be surprised by beauty — everything from a perfect, intricate spider web we spotted because the sun hit it just right as we were walking by to a break in the trees that revealed a golden vista of rolling hills.

The last two years have been filled with loss, frustration, cabin-fever, politics and anxiety, but there is also great beauty in the world. We should never forget that.



Amy May, a Greenwood resident, is the special publications editor at the Daily Journal. She can be reached at amay@dailyjournal.net.

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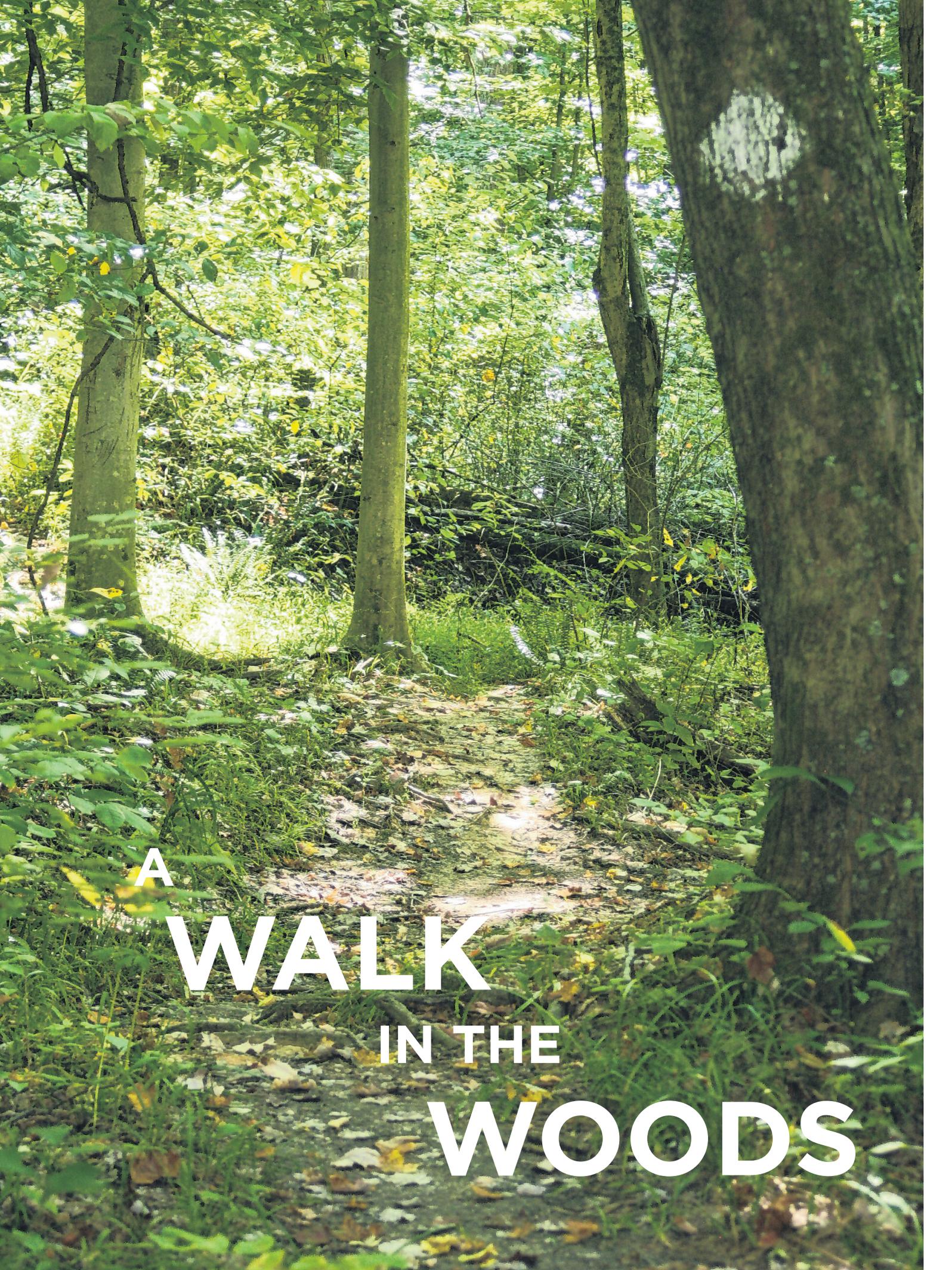


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**A
WALK
IN THE
WOODS**

Central Indiana has abundant places to hike

STORY BY CHERYL FISCUS JENKINS | PHOTOS BY AMY MAY



Marvileen Crowder walks 40 miles a week on trails and paved ground leading others on a fitness journey.

Her pace has slowed slightly from the 60 miles she was trekking. Every step, though, brings her well past personal goals she set after joining the Indianapolis Hiking Club two decades ago.

Crowder, known as Glee to her friends, leads regular walks for hikers at Greenwood Park Mall and Westside Park on the south side. Her 53,000 accumulated miles makes the Indianapolis resident the club's all-time mileage leader – a stand out among its 500 members. Not even a heart murmur can stop her from pounding the pavement on her quest for wellness.

She is 82.

“I just like to walk,” Crowder said. “I’ve walked my whole life.”

Central Indiana is loaded with people sharing a common bond of being outdoors and hiking for health. From the southern Kentucky border in Charlestown, to the northern Michigan border of Indiana Dunes National Park, people of all ages and fitness levels can find basic one to three-mile trails, along with more adventurous 40-mile outings.

Locally, Fort Harrison State Park and Eagle Creek Park are among locations that offer hiking opportunities for northsiders, while Brown County State Park, Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Yellowwood State Forest cater to folks on the south side. Some people, like Stevie Addison, drive just to experience the outdoors in a different part of the state.

Addison of Indianapolis is president of the Hoosier Hikers Council, an organization started in 1995 to help build and maintain trail systems throughout the state. An avid hiker, she joined the group in 1999 because of its mission, and despite living north, she travels south to Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe for hiking and trail restoration.

Her love of the hobby began thanks to a friend's goal of hiking the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, stretching more than 2,000 miles. Addison has hiked about 200 miles of the infamous challenge in week-long increments and has conquered many local trails.

About 20 years ago, she and a handful of female friends hiked the local Tecumseh Trail, a 42-mile excursion then newly built by the Hoosier Hikers Council. The ladies turned it into a multi-day adventure combining hiking with camping and enduring unpredictable weather, including downpours.

“Every creek crossing was gushing water,” Addison said. “The first day we were soaking wet. Then, after that, the weather broke, and it was beautiful the rest of the way.”

Addison limits her excursions now after a battle with breast cancer, but she cherishes the administrative work she does for the council. The 73-year-old still has favorite hikes, many of them in Brown County.

She shares tips with fellow hikers about packing lightly, wearing boots and using hiking poles for stability and support. On her longer outings, she would pack a sleeping pad, long sleeve and short sleeve shirts, zip off hiking pants, rain and fleece jackets, socks and a clean shirt for going into town.

Addison recommends starting with shorter one to three-mile hikes and likes offerings at Morgan-Monroe Forest with its lakes and many activities. She also enjoys

Continued on Page 14

The Mason Ridge Trail in Morgan-Monroe State Forest just south of Martinsville. The white diamond painted on the tree is a trail marker.



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Cherry Lake in Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Fishing is allowed in the forest's lakes with a license. The lake is one stop on the Three Lakes Trail.

paved trails for less ticks and insects.

Marla Zinkan, publicity director for the Indianapolis Hiking Club, also encourages beginners to start with shorter hikes and to build on mileage as fitness levels increase. She prefers a more athletic comfortable shoe and always takes water, snacks and identification.

The hiking club started in 1957 and celebrated its 65th anniversary in January with a hike. Members participate year-round, sometimes twice per day, in all but extreme weather conditions. Anyone 18 or older can join.

The club holds a handful of outings daily, which are posted on the website, and offers a variety of urban, trail, cemetery and themed excursions – such as hiking for ice cream and a 10-mile at 10 a.m. Saturday morning adventure.

“It’s a good mix,” Zinkan said. “Some people would rather be on a wooded trail, and others would rather be on a flat surface. There is really something for everyone.”

Zinkan of Indianapolis has been a hiking club member for two years and has always liked to walk for fitness. A friend had been involved with the group and encouraged her to join after her retirement as a teacher.

“I got hooked,” she said. “The people are so nice – very inviting and very friendly. There are lots of interesting people to talk to.”

She hikes several mornings a week and just reached 800 miles. She loves the Christmas Eve outing downtown where walkers gather for the holiday and stop for hot chocolate.

The club travels to various locations, such as Brown County and Tennessee’s Smoky Mountains. Zinkan would like to hike at McCormick’s Creek State Park in Spencer.

The hiking council has about 270 members and 100 volun-

teers. It is currently building its newest trail at Green’s Bluff Nature Preserve near Bloomington. The path will feature streams, waterfalls and rock formations.

Addison said area groups contact the council about creating trails, then members assess the terrain and plan the length and path. The organization holds monthly Saturday work days, and a trail project can take a couple of years to complete.

“You just have to go out and walk the woods and find how it will sustain best,” she said. “There is a lot of planning and a lot of work that goes into deciding where a trail goes.”

The group holds two fundraiser trail races annually – Run with the Foxes in the spring and the upcoming Knobstone Mini on Oct. 8. It also collaborates with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to manage an Adopt-a-Trail program, where volunteers care for sections of a trail by walking it quarterly, pruning brush and removing debris.

Bonnie and Phil Wilcoxson of Edinburgh have been involved with the council since 1996 and have adopted trails in the past. The couple began hiking in the mid-1990s for something to do in retirement. These days, the two do more trail work than hiking, but they enjoy being part of a group that cares for the environment. Bonnie serves as council secretary, receiving reports from trail adopters about trees needing attention, while Phil does manual labor of sawing fallen logs.

Hikers all over share many commonalities, including their love of colorful scenery and wildlife. The social aspect of increasing steps keeps them committed to a fit and fun life outdoors.

“Everything is an accomplishment,” Zinkan said. “You get to talking to people and forget how hard you are working.”

Information on trails and hiking schedules: hoosierhiker-council.org and indyhike.org.

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POWER UP

Get more out of your outdoor moments

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRANDPOINT

People are enjoying the outdoors in record numbers — whether they're adventure-seeking outdoor enthusiasts, casual hikers or families looking for more time to discover the outside world. Enjoying Mother Nature has countless benefits for people of all ages, like encouraging healthy habits while having fun, but it's important you're prepared for your adventure.

Duracell has teamed up with outdoor adventurer Bear Grylls to share some tips on how to make the most of your time outdoors with your family and friends. From dedicated planning to establishing necessities for your trip, like sunscreen and powerful batteries, you will be ready to explore the great outdoors.

BE YOUR OWN EXPERT

Have a plan for your time outdoors, and don't be afraid to be your own expert. You don't always need a survival guide or wilderness warrior to get the most out of your adventure, but remember the importance of being flexible, especially if adventuring with small children. Summer and fall is the perfect time to plan a trip with your friends and family and have fun the way you want to.

As long as your trek is planned out and you have the appropriate gear, devices, and power sources packed, then you will be set up for the adventure of a lifetime! And remember, gear like headlamps, radios, walkie talkies and flashlights are just as important as your sleeping bag and water. Without a power source these won't work, so make sure you pack reliable and powerful batteries which will help you find your way or communicate when out on your adventure!

PACK SMART

Packing can be a challenge for outdoor family activities. You want to have everything necessary to be comfortable, but you don't want to lug around any more than you need. To direct your packing,



focus on the activities you're doing and the predicted weather. Some necessities include sunscreen, bug spray, water bottles, batteries and food. Having a small kit with bandages, wipes and ointment is good for any bumps or scrapes. If rain is in the forecast or conditions are damp, pack a disposable poncho for each person. Always wear proper shoes for whatever activity you're doing and add an extra pair of socks to ensure dry feet.

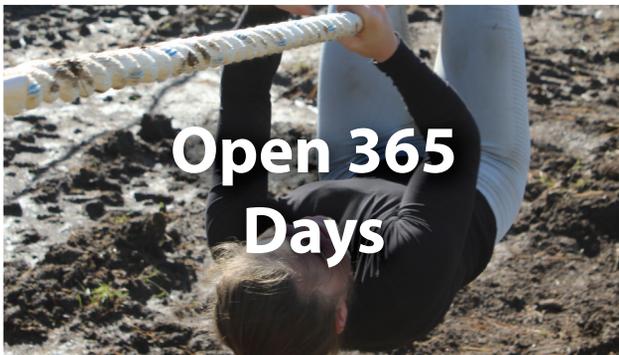
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redients, which are Engineered for More and can deliver more life in some devices or more power in others*, making them THE battery to power all of your outdoor adventures this summer.

Spending time outdoors is a fantastic way to bond with your family and friends. These simple planning tips can help ensure people of all ages and outdoor abilities enjoy their time in Mother Nature and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Visit [Duracell.com/PowerBoost](https://www.duracell.com/PowerBoost) to learn more about how to get the most out of your outdoor adventures, and for information on, and how to get involved with, the brand's mission with Make-A-Wish this summer to help power outdoor wishes for children with critical illnesses.



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5 ways to avoid pesky bug bites and itch

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRANDPOINT

Who doesn't love a family camping trip? We all look forward to that time outdoors when you can hike, swim, roast marshmallows and sleep under the stars. However, one of the biggest challenges for campers is dealing with bug bites and rashes. It's hard to enjoy ghost stories under the stars when you're focused on a pesky itch.

Check out these five tips that will help you avoid or relieve bug bites and itches commonly experienced in the great outdoors.

1. Strategically choose your campsite area

While a waterfront campsite sounds idyllic, mosquitoes tend to lay their eggs near the edges of lakes and ponds.

Instead, choose a dry, clear area, so you have a less buggy campsite to return to after a day of hiking. Also, keep your campsite clean and as bug-free as possible by properly disposing of any trash, storing food in containers with a secure lid and washing dishes as soon as you're done eating.

2. Research local plants and avoid rash-causing ones

You may be aware that poison ivy can cause skin rashes, but do you know how to identify it? Find out in advance what plants are at or near your campsite and learn how to recognize them so you can stay far away. Other common plants that can cause rashes and skin irritations include poison oak, poison sumac and stinging nettle.

Also, while hiking or exploring clearings near your site, stay on a designated trail near the center to avoid accidentally brushing up against rash-causing plants.

3. Use bug deterrents

Before you head out on your next adventure, remember to stop at your local drugstore to pick up effective bug and insect repellent sprays or creams. If you plan to hike or swim during your camping trip, make sure you pick a waterproof bug repellent or remember to

reapply. For your campsite, light some citronella candles or invest in a battery-powered bug repelling diffuser to discourage bugs from visiting your area.

4. Pack ointments to soothe bites and rashes

No matter how careful you are, you're likely to get a few bug bites or brush up against a rash-causing plant during your getaway. Make sure your first-aid kit has a topical ointment you can apply to a bite or rash to soothe the area and relieve the inevitable itch.

Aquaphor Itch Relief Ointment, for example, combines the maximum strength of 1% hydrocortisone (anti-itch ointment) with other soothing ingredients to immediately relieve itch and provide up to 12 hours of itch relief to help heal the skin.

Look for a hypoallergenic, fragrance and paraben-free ointment to relieve itching associated with rashes and skin irritations, including those caused by bug bites and poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Having this on hand is ideal so you can spend less time worrying about your itch and more time focusing on enjoying your getaway.

5. Dress for success

The less skin you expose, the less likely you'll be to expose it to irritating brush or pesky insects. One of the advantages of late-season camping and hiking is the need for long sleeve shirts and pants that help serve as extra skin protection.

It's also a good idea to spray your clothing, tent, backpack and other camping gear with bug spray to further discourage mosquitoes and other bugs from crashing your camping party.

Going away for a camping weekend doesn't mean you have to come back with itchy, irritated skin. Using these five tips, you can enjoy your camping trip to the max and worry less about possible bites and rashes.

FROM THE DNR

EHD confirmed in Franklin County deer

The presence of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which is not known to infect humans, has been confirmed in Franklin County white-tailed deer, after the Indiana DNR sent samples of dead deer found in the county to Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study labs.

EHD is a viral disease that affects white-tailed deer. It is common in the United States and has been present in many states for decades, including Indiana. Indiana deer die from EHD every year.

EHD is transmitted to deer from infected midge flies, commonly called no-see-ums or biting gnats. After becoming infected, deer often develop a fever and die within 36 hours. Infected deer often seek bodies of water to relieve their fever and then die nearby. Some deer recover. There is no evidence EHD has negative effects on deer that do not become infected.

Cases of EHD typically peak in the late summer and early fall but decline quickly after the first frost.

Signs of EHD in deer can include: deer walking in circles, general weakness,

loss of fear of humans, swollen or blue-tinged tongue, swollen eyelids, swollen neck or head and respiratory distress

To report a suspected case, go to on.IN.gov/sickwildlife. Due to the high volume of reports, a DNR biologist will only contact individuals who submit a report if more information is needed.

For more information, including maps of suspected EHD cases, see on.IN.gov/ehd.

Be aware of possible highly pathogenic avian influenza surge

Indiana, along with many other states, was affected by an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza earlier this year.

Avian influenza declined through the summer months; however, some states have had a recent increase in wild bird deaths associated with the disease. DNR advises hunters to be aware of a potential resurgence of avian influenza as the waterfowl hunting seasons progress.

Indiana DNR partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to test hunter-harvested waterfowl for highly pathogenic avian influenza during early teal season at multiple DNR Fish

& Wildlife areas, including Goose Pond, LaSalle and Jasper-Pulaski.

If you see birds displaying these signs, or if you find multiple dead birds in a single area, report the case to Indiana DNR at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Hunters can several precautions to slow the spread of avian influenza:

Do not harvest birds that appear obviously sick or found dead

Process birds outdoors or in a well-ventilated area

Wear gloves and wash hands before and after handling carcasses

Disinfect all equipment used on dead birds (e.g., knives, surfaces)

Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and touching your eyes during processing

Double-bag feathers and all bird remains before disposal. Place bird remains in the inner bag and tie it closed. Dispose of gloves in the outer bag before tying it closed.

Prevent contact between all parts of wild birds and domestic birds

Cook meat thoroughly

Read more at on.IN.gov/avian-flu.

Wild Game Processing

Archer's Meats is an Indiana DNR State Deer checking station.

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5 reasons to visit Rapid City this fall

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRANDPOINT

Just because summer is coming to a close doesn't mean that your travel plans have to end. Autumn is a beautiful season that has much to offer would-be travelers. If you're planning a vacation this fall, consider heading to Rapid City, South Dakota.

Known as the "Gateway to the Black Hills," Rapid City is close to so many historic places and stellar views of natural and man-made landmarks that are enhanced by the color and weather of autumn.

Check out these five reasons why you and your family should visit Rapid City this fall.

1. Events

If you visit Rapid City in the fall, you'll have plenty of events you can attend. Take the family to the Pumpkin Festival at downtown's Main Street Square and kick off the season by taking a hayride, playing in an inflatable bounce house or simply enjoying the BH Parent Harvest Market.

For the artists in your family, check out the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival or the Wild West Songwriters Festival. Want to get spooky this fall? Head over to the Adams House for some Paranormal Investigations. At night, stop by the Mount Rushmore Evening Lighting Ceremony or the Legends in Light Laser Show at Crazy Horse Monument.

2. Scenic routes

Enjoy the quietness of autumn in and near Rapid City. Whether you like to take long drives or a leisurely day hike, you'll have so many scenic routes to choose from.

Pack the family into the minivan and drive through the Needles Highway and Badlands Loop Road. Or pack a lunch and hike through Badlands National Park, Custer State Park or Spearfish Canyon. No matter where you choose to go, you'll be greeted by the changing of the seasons and surrounded by colorful fall foliage.

3. Downtown

Downtown Rapid City has so much to explore. With 26 restaurants, 34 shops and more than 150 events, you won't have a hard time finding something everyone in the family will enjoy. Head to the heart of downtown to Main Street Square and attend a live concert or family-friendly festivals.

Afterward, head to Art Alley to take in unique murals. Be sure to check out the life-sized bronze statues of past American presidents throughout downtown.



Family farm opens to public with corn maze

Kelsay Farms will host its annual seven-acre corn maze. Opening night is Sept. 30 and the farm will remain open to the public every weekend until Oct. 30. The hours of operation are 6-9 p.m. on Fridays, noon-9 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-6 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$12 and free for children one and under.



While at the farm, visitors can enjoy a hayride, climb on the straw bale mountain, interact with farm animals, swim through the corn crib play area, ride the Moo Choo Express and navigate the corn maze during the day or with flashlights at night. Delicious snacks including milkshakes, grilled cheese and hotdogs will be available for purchase along with pumpkins for carving.

Trick-or-Treating through the corn maze will also take place from 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 29. Anyone dressed in a costume will receive \$1 off admission.

Located just south of Indianapolis where rural farm scenes and suburban sprawl meet Kelsay Farms is a sixth-generation dairy and crop farm. The farm was originally land granted by President Martin Van Buren in 1837 and consists of over 2200 acres of corn, soybeans and hay. For information, visit www.kelsayfarms.com.

4. National treasure

One of the most attractive aspects of Rapid City is that it's centrally located near some of the country's national treasures. Make Rapid City your vacation home base and take in the historic parks and monuments of the Midwest.

Just 12 minutes away, you can visit the Black Hills National Forest and explore canyons, grasslands, streams and deep blue lakes. Or take a quick 30-minute drive and take in the astonishing beauty of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. There's no end to the educational and inspiring places you can visit in this area.

5. Tribal history

The Black Hills are home to a rich history of seven Native American Tribes, and you can learn and appreciate their sacred stories, lifeways, arts and traditions right here in Rapid City. Head over in October and witness the Black Hills Powwow, a three-day cultural event that displays the talents of hundreds of Native American dancers, singers and artisans.

Take a short day trip to visit the Crazy Horse Memorial, the world's largest mountain carving in progress, honoring one of the most recognized and revered figures of the Lakota Indian Tribe.

If you need a day of indoor activities, head to The Journey Museum and Learning Center and check out the interactive displays featuring geology, paleontology, archaeology, Native American culture and more.

To learn more about Rapid City and surrounding activities and attractions, check out VisitRapidCity.com.

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Fun fall events on tap at Indiana state parks

Sept. 30: Spooktacular, Mounds SRA (Brookville Lake)
Sept. 30: Autumn Camping Weekend 1, Mississinewa Lake
Oct. 1: Autumn Harvest Days, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 1: Autumn Camping Weekend 1, Mississinewa Lake
Oct. 1: Harvest Craft Fair, Harmonie State Park
Oct. 1: Fall Flashlight Scavenger Hunt, Summit Lake State Park
Oct. 1: Campsite Decorating Contest, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 2: Autumn Harvest Days, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 7: Spooktacular, Quakertown SRA (Brookville Lake)
Oct. 7: Spooktacular, Whitewater Memorial State Park
Oct. 7: Autumn Getaway Weekends, Patoka Lake
Oct. 7: Autumn Camping Weekend 2, Mississinewa Lake
Oct. 8: 1800's Music Weekend, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 8: Autumn Camping Weekend 2, Mississinewa Lake
Oct. 8: Autumn Getaway Weekends, Patoka Lake
Oct. 8: Pioneer Day, Mounds State Park
Oct. 8: Fall Fun Fest, Lincoln State Park
Oct. 8: Full Moon Hike, Indiana Dunes State Park
Oct. 8: October Full Moon Hike, Charlestown State Park
Oct. 9: 1800's Music Weekend, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 14: Fall Fest, Prophetstown State Park
Oct. 14: Spooktacular, Mounds SRA (Brookville Lake)
Oct. 14: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 14: Fall Festival, Shakamak State Park
Oct. 14: NWI Storytelling Festival and Ghost Stories!, Indiana Dunes State Park
1Oct. 14: Autumn Getaway Weekends, Patoka Lake

Oct. 14: Salamonie Fall Fest, Salamonie Lake
Oct. 15: Fall Fest, Prophetstown State Park
Oct. 15: Goblin's Weekend, Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)
Oct. 15: Scarecrow Weekend, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 15: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 15: Autumn Getaway Weekends, Patoka Lake
Oct. 15: Fall Festival, Shakamak State Park
Oct. 15: Halloween Spectacular, Deam Lake SRA
Oct. 15: Goblin's Weekend, Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)
Oct. 15: Salamonie Fall Fest, Salamonie Lake
1Oct. 15: Friends Fall Frolic, Lincoln State Park
Oct. 16: Fall Fest, Prophetstown State Park
Oct. 16: Scarecrow Weekend, Spring Mill State Park
Oct. 16-20: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 21: Spooktacular, Quakertown SRA (Brookville Lake)
1Oct. 21: Spooktacular, Whitewater Memorial State Park
1Oct. 21: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 21: Hoots and Howls Weekend, Mounds State Park
Oct. 22: Campsite Decorating Contest, Ouabache State Park
Oct. 22: Halloween Spooktacular I, Versailles State Park
Oct. 22: Shades of Death, Shades State Park
Oct. 22: Breakfast with the Birds, Hardy Lake
1Oct. 22: Fall Family Fun Days, Hardy Lake
Oct. 22: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 22: Fall Festival, Ouabache



Brown County State Park, Nature Center, 1405 State Road 46 W, Nashville, will host a snake feeding Sept. 30, 4-4:30 p.m. Come to the nature center to observe one of our native Indiana snakes eat a meal. Learn more about these amazing and misunderstood animals. You will have the opportunity to touch a snake in person.

State Park
Oct. 22: Halloween Weekend, Brown County State Park
Oct. 22: Haunted Harmonie, Harmonie State Park
Oct. 22: Hoots and Howls Weekend, Mounds State Park
Oct. 22: Spooktacular 5K and Trick-or-Treating, Summit Lake State Park
Oct. 23: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake)
Oct. 27: All Hallows Eve Weekend, Chain O'Lakes State Park
Oct. 28: All Hallows Eve Weekend, Chain O'Lakes State Park
Oct. 28: Halloween Camping Weekend, Turkey Run State Park
Oct. 28: Fall-o-Ween Kick-off, McCormick's Creek State Park
Oct. 28: Clifty Falls of Fear Weekend, Clifty Falls State Park
Oct. 28: Halloween Camping Weekend, Turkey Run State Park
Oct. 29: All Hallows Eve Weekend, Chain O'Lakes State Park
Oct. 29: Halloween Camping Weekend, Turkey Run State Park
Oct. 29: Halloween Camping Weekend, Turkey Run State Park
Oct. 29: Halloween Campsite Walking Tour, Tippecanoe River State Park
Oct. 29: Halloween Happenings, Pokagon State Park
Oct. 29: Halloween Spooktacular II, Versailles State Park
Oct. 29: Trick-or-treating with the Farm Animals, Prophetstown State Park
Oct. 29: Breakfast with the Birds, Hardy Lake
Oct. 29: "Howl"oween in the Dunes, Indiana Dunes State Park
Oct. 29: Clifty Falls of Fear Weekend, Clifty Falls State Park
Oct. 29: Fall-o-Ween, McCormick's Creek State Park
Oct. 29: Campsite Decorating Contest Judging, Paynetown SRA (Monroe Lake)
Oct. 29: Trick-or-Treating, Paynetown SRA (Monroe Lake)
Oct. 30: Clifty Falls of Fear Weekend, Clifty Falls State Park
Nov. 5: Full Moon Hike, Indiana Dunes State Park
Nov. 11: Hunter Rendezvous, Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake)
Dec. 2: Holiday in the Village, Spring Mill State Park
Dec. 3: Holiday in the Village, Spring Mill State Park
Dec. 3: Christmas at the Bronnenbergs, Mounds State Park
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Morning Walk, Pokagon State Park

For more information on events, visit <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/programs/special-events/>

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