Centennial Celebration

We are celebrating the “birthday” of Indiana’s first two state parks—Turkey Run and McCormick’s Creek—and the end of our year-long centennial celebration. Many of our parks are hosting an event to celebrate as well. Please join us for a fantastic send-off.

For more information on these programs and other programs happening on Dec. 16 and 17, visit the DNR Calendar.

Dec. 16

Brown County State Park, 2 p.m.—Meet park naturalist Patrick Haulter for “These Hills Have Trees” at the Brown County Nature Center. This 45-minute program will offer an interesting look into the history of Brown County State Park.

Falls of the Ohio State Park, 2 p.m.—Join interpretive naturalist/park paleontologist Alan Goldstein as he takes you to some of the best fossils in the park. Hike into Indiana’s “pre-prehistory” as you explore trilobites, corals and many types of shelled creatures. The extent of the excursion will depend on the river level. After the hike, come in to the new Interpretive Center and discover our new exhibit gallery.

Lieber SRA (Cagles Mill Lake), 1 p.m.—Visit the nature center for “The History and Legend of Cagles Mill Lake” as we celebrate the centennial of Indiana State Parks.

Lincoln State Park, 4 p.m.—Meet at the nature center and join the interpretive naturalist to walk around the lake and talk about the colorful history behind the land that is now Lincoln State Park. We will discuss Indiana’s 200th birthday and the state park system’s 100th birthday.
Monroe Lake, 2 p.m.—Did you know there was once a cemetery in Paynetown? Join an interpretive naturalist to check out the remnants of the gravesites and learn what happened to the people that were buried there. This program will meet at the Activity Center Shelter (by the beach) in Paynetown SRA.

Mounds State Park, 1 p.m.—Join the Mounds State Park naturalist at the nature center to learn about the lesser known history of the land, the people who have lived here for thousands of years, and the under story of how Mounds became a state park. The program will last 45 minutes and hot beverages will be offered.

Patoka Lake, 2 p.m.—Join staff from Patoka Lake for their last centennial/bicentennial program called “Hiking the Narries.” This history hike will include stories from Fred Dillard’s “Memories” and John Ash’s book, “Patoka Tales.” Meet at the nature center for the easy to moderate ½-mile hike.

Raccoon Lake, 2 p.m.—Join the naturalist in front of Payne Shelter for this one-hour moderate hike to the 146-year-old Payne Cemetery and the rocky overlooks of the Chippekowkay Vista. Payne Shelter is at the end of Berry Drive. Go south on the main road past the campground, and Berry Drive is the last left before the main boat ramp.

Salamonie Lake, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.—Stop in the Salamonie Interpretive Center to watch slide shows about Salamonie history and learn about the Civilian Conservation Corps impact on the property, reintroduction of wild turkeys and river otters, and the years of the “big drought and the big flood.” Bring your own images and stories to share as Salamonie prepares for its 50th year of operation in 2017.

Turkey Run State Park, noon—Dec. 16 was the day Turkey Run was inducted as the second Indiana State Park. Come listen to the incredible story about how Indiana citizens, led by Col. Richard Lieber, rallied and saved the park. Join us on this special anniversary at noon in the nature center.
Dec. 17

Brookville Lake, noon-3 p.m.— Celebrate 100 Years with Indiana State Parks and Brookville Lake Corps of Engineers. Join us for an afternoon of discovery as we share the story and purpose of Brookville Lake. Meet at the Army Corps of Engineers Office to see displays before attending a history of the lake program presented by Ranger Stephanie Ison and interpretive naturalist Kristie Ridgway. Presentation begins at 1 p.m. Following the presentation, a short/easy guided hike to Overlook Shelter will offer a beautiful view of the lake and dam.

Hardy Lake, 1 p.m.— An interpretive naturalist will lead a 1.5-mile hike on the history of Hardy Lake. Meet at the trailhead parking lot for this informative hike including fun facts on Indiana’s largest state-owned dam.

Indiana Dunes State Park, 10 a.m.— Come hiking with us as we celebrate Indiana’s bicentennial and our Indiana’s State Park’s centennial with panoramic views from atop the high dunes and down into some amazing interdunal coves. Meet at the nature center for this hour or so hike.

McCormick’s Creek State Park, 2 p.m.—Hike with us to Wolf Cave. The hike will depart from the Wolf Cave parking lot. During our hike we will cover the geologic history of the park as well as the cultural significance of the site.

Monroe Lake, 1:30 p.m.—Residents of the Salt Creek valley shaped the history of the area that would become Monroe Lake and the Hoosier National Forest. Explore the stories of some of these people and their settlements as we visit old cemeteries that still dot the land. Join us for this Cemetery History Program as we tour the Chandler Cemetery. Pre-registration for this program is required (DNR Calendar).

O’Bannon Woods State Park, 1 p.m.—Explore and learn about early Indiana settlement while seeing the unique 1850 Haypress and Pioneer Farmstead at the Hickory Hollow Nature Center. Hear about the makings of this state park and the 100 years of the Indiana’s State Park system. The tour starts at 1 p.m. and will last about an hour.
Pokagon State Park, 2 p.m.—Join the naturalist on an easy stroll back in time to the days when the Civilian Conservation Corps helped build Pokagon. On this 1-mile walk, visitors will explore the ground where C.C.C. Co. 556 lived and also some of the structures they built. Meet the naturalist in the nature center auditorium.

Potato Creek State Park, 2 p.m.—Meet an interpretive naturalist at the Porter-Rea Cemetery for a 1.5-hour, moderate hike to celebrate the 100th birthday of Indiana State Parks. We’ll explore Potato Creek’s origins, including a cemetery and a springhouse, plus ample evidence of the farms that Potato Creek State Park used to be. Everyone is invited to the nature center afterwards to warm up with birthday cake and hot drinks.

Prophetstown State Park, Morning—Join Prophetstown State Park to celebrate Indiana’s centennial. More information can be found on the DNR Calendar.

Whitewater Memorial State Park, 10 a.m.—Celebrate 100 Years of Indiana State Parks at Indiana’s only memorial state park. Meet at the Red Springs Trail Parking Lot near the spillway for a 40-minute hike along our easy loop as we explore the history of this beautiful natural area.

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