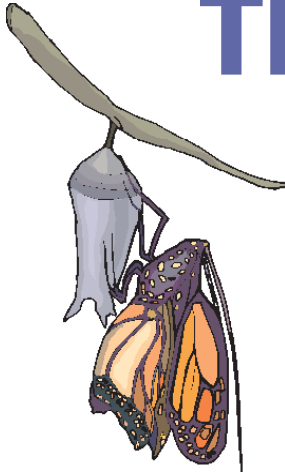


The Chrysalis

Spring 2023

50651 Laurel Rd
South Bend, IN 46637



Chris'-a-lis: the pupa of a butterfly, when it transforms from a caterpillar into a winged insect. Or, the newsletter for members of the Friends of St. Joseph County Parks.

2022 Annual Report

Check out the highlights we celebrated in 2022 in the Parks' State of the County Report here: <https://www.sjcparks.org/DocumentCenter/View/58031/2022-State-of-the-County-Parks-PDF>

Save the date!

Running Wild: Aug. 19

This 5K Trail Run/3K Wacky Nature Scavenger Hunt Walk, Aug. 19 at St. Patrick's County Park benefits projects and programs at the County Parks. Thank you to lead sponsor: The University of Notre Dame. To become a sponsor or volunteer, contact kherrera@sjcparks.org



2023 Foundation Board Members

Joel Bowers, President
Tina Cooper, Vice President
Erin Bonin, Secretary
Danielle Meersman, Treasurer
Jeff Buhr // Tyler Kanczuzewski
Jeff McGowan // Nancy Owsianowski
Pete Owsianowski
Brandon Williamson // John Yarger



New Faces in 2023

Welcome new board members Jeff Buhr, Jeff McGowan and Nancy Owsianowski

The new year has brought three new members to the Foundation Board. Here Jeff McGowan and Nancy Owsianowski share a little about themselves:



I have practiced as a Tax CPA in public accounting for over 30 years, retiring as a Tax Partner at Kruggel Lawton in June 2016, transitioning into teaching full-time. I am now a senior lecturer in Accounting and Tax at Saint Mary's College.

I am married to my high school sweetheart, Jan, who is an Interpretive Naturalist for the County Parks. Together we have three grown children: Paul, Kate, and Jeff. My interests include reading about U.S. History and long vacation car travels. Those travels have primarily taken us out west and to Canada, as well as American history sites, including many stops on the Lewis & Clark Trail and several Civil War/American Revolution battlefields.

When not on the road, my wife and I spend a lot of time hiking and exploring our wonderful park system we have here in St. Joseph County.



I am thrilled to join the St. Joseph County Parks Foundation Board! We are so fortunate to have the many activities, green spaces, and educational events

the County Parks offer. Our family has utilized the Parks in various ways over the years. I'm excited to help offer folks opportunities to provide support and ensure the success of the Parks for future generations.

I became aware of the role of the Foundation first through my husband Pete's involvement, and then more intimately as I facilitated the strategic planning process for the Board during the pandemic. Through that experience, I came to appreciate the efforts of the committed and seemingly tireless Parks staff and wanted to help where I could.

One of my favorite jobs in high school was working at a National Wildlife Refuge near my hometown. That experience helped to solidify my love of the outdoors and nature. I continue to indulge that love by camping any chance I get! My involvement with the Foundation Board has rekindled the excitement of sharing the healing properties of the outdoors and protecting our parks and natural spaces.

Winter Sports activities feature NEW tube covers and skis

Through funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act, the parks purchased new tube covers and cross-country skis for the 2022-2023 winter sports season. Although the weather prevented us from opening much of the season, when we had the snow, the tubes were fast and the skis glided smoothly over the trails!



Welcome members!

Thank you to these recent new and renewed members

(as of 3/7/23):

Susan Antonovitz / Amy Baker
Gary & Nancy Beall / John & Alice Bentley
Martin & Naome Borton / Kylie Carter
Judith Chase / Mary Chmiel / Anne Conley
Harlan Conley / Marilynn Cook
Susan Coyne / Gwendolyn DeHorn
Kay Easton / Kevin Emerson
Alan & Michelle Engel
David & Lynne Fischgrund
Deborah Fleming
Michael & Debra Flowers
Jef & Mary Gates / Helen & Michael Geglio
Ryan Greutman / Carlos & Angie Honesty
Wendy Hurst / Tony & Charlie Hutti
Karen Kemp / TJ & Julia Kanczuzewski
Lyrin Kanczuzewski / Tyler Kanczuzewski
Debra & Charles Kiefer
Craig & Evie Kirkwood / Michael Kruk
Karen & Rick McCoy
Mark & Nancy McDonnell
Jan & Jeff McGowan
Jim McLister & Deborah Marr
Del & Nancy Meyer / Julia Nash
Corey Noland / Eric & Michelle Pearson
Catherine Pellegrino & Christopher Cobb
Linda Rakow / Elizabeth Raven
Paul, Cydni & John Raven / Linda Raven
Becky Reimbold & Bryon Thomas
Marge Riemenschneider
Raissa Starchenko
Ellyn Stecker & Peter Smith
James & Susan Van Fleit
The Want/Chase Family
Gary & Lisa Wetzel / Barbara Wind
Sarah Wisthuff

Park hours and entrance fees

New Park hours begin March 12; 10am-7pm. Park entrance fees will be in effect on weekends and holidays beginning April 1. (\$4/in-county vehicle; \$5/out-of-county vehicle)

Leave a legacy. Consider The St. Joseph County Parks Foundation in your estate plans. Contact us at 574-277-4828

Mission of the Parks Foundation

The St. Joseph County Parks Foundation will support the mission of St. Joseph County Parks through

- raising and receiving funds and contributions in support of St. Joseph County Parks,
- promoting the activities of the Foundation and of the Parks,
- inspiring generations of park enthusiasts.

Celebrate 50 Years of Sugar Camp Days!

Come celebrate with us 50 years of sugaring at Bendix Woods County Park during Sugar Camp Days!

Fun for the whole family, enjoy a pancake breakfast hosted by the New Carlisle Lion's Club; savor maple cotton candy and kettle corn; and stop at the Friends of Bendix Woods & Spicer Lakes' concessions for a maple hot dog! There will also be crafts for kids, music, horse-drawn wagon rides, ice carving, artisan demonstrations and more! Be sure to check out the Maple Baked Goods Sale at the Nature Center. All proceeds raised from the Maple Baked Goods Sale support the Pete Runnels Interpretive Internship Fund.

Take a tour of the sugar bush and visit the Sugar House to watch sap transform into syrup!

\$8/vehicle (574) 654-3155

Add'l fee for pancake breakfast



Sugar Camp Days

March 18 & 19

Bendix Woods County Park 8am-3pm

The Sugar House at Bendix Woods County Park, early 1990s.

For a complete schedule visit sjcparks.org

Sugar Camp Days is supported by



Raising Funds

Interactive Pond Exhibit

Through the 2022 joint End of the Year Fundraising Campaign with the Friends of Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake, the Parks Foundation has assisted with raising funds for a new interactive pond exhibit for the Nature Center at Bendix Woods County Park. Almost \$30,000 of the needed \$100,000 has currently been raised. Thank you to everyone who has so far contributed to this project!

If you would like to be a part of the fundraising efforts for this project, you can mail a check payable to: St. Joseph County Parks Foundation, 50651 Laurel Road, South Bend, IN 46637. In the memo please indicate "Bendix Woods pond exhibit".



Conceptual drawing for a new interactive pond exhibit in the Nature Center at Bendix Woods County Park.

County Parks to launch Master Plan process

St. Joseph County Parks will launch its 2024-2028 Master Plan process March 18-19, during Sugar Camp Days at Bendix Woods County Park. The public is invited to provide suggestions about programs and amenities they would like the County Parks to focus on in the next five years. A table will be set up in the Nature Center during the festival from 10am-2pm. What would you like to see happen in the next five years? Come share your ideas!

To renew your membership or for park program info: www.sjcparks.org

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