

# Indian Creek Newsletter

## October 2017

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org>

Contact us by email at [indiancreeknews@hotmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknews@hotmail.com)

### Indian Creek Tractor



As you know the Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association (ICWHA) has a light duty tractor that is primarily used for mowing our trails and common ground. It is important to understand that the tractor is very old and designed only for light duty work. While the end loader capacity is large for a tractor of this size it is not able to handle 2000 pounds of material. It is meant for small landscaping jobs such as carrying mulch, cut up branches, small pieces of flagstone, etc. It takes a great deal of time, effort and cost to maintain our tractor. Also, it is important to note that most repairs are conducted by the generosity of just a few Indian Creek homeowners at no cost to you. If you need to use the tractor, please be very careful and treat it “kindly.” If you encounter a problem while using the tractor please notify me immediately.

In previous years homeowners have been informed that after using the tractor they should replace the diesel fuel that was consumed. Unfortunately, some homeowners have not replaced the fuel causing the tractor to stop running. It is very time consuming and difficult to restart a diesel tractor when this happens. If you use the tractor it is expected that you will pay for the diesel fuel. I have been purchasing fuel for the tractor and the ICWHA has been reimbursing me for the expense.

Beginning this October all homeowners operating the tractor for personal use will reimburse the ICWHA at a rate of \$5.00 per half hour of usage. Please contact Fred Walk and pay him for the fuel. This payment will then be used to purchase additional diesel fuel.

Please contact me with any questions about the tractor.

Sincerely,

Fred Walk  
Grounds Chairman  
[fwalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:fwalk@frontiernet.net)  
309-830-2188

## **Towanda HCE October News**

The Towanda Unit of Home and Community Education will be meeting Monday, October 9, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Members & guests should bring items to be put in soldier care boxes. The program, "Senior Abuse and Crime Prevention" will be presented by Cherry Trent and Linda Walker. The Fact Find will be: 100 Years of HCE History: Dry Grove, Danvers and White Oak Units. Hostesses for the evening will be Valerie Dotson and Sharon Joplin. Guests are cordially invited to attend this important program.

Towanda HCE will set up displays at the Towanda and Hudson Libraries for "October is HCE Month in McLean County." Towanda HCE members will also be taking treat bags to the elevators in Hudson and Towanda. For more information about Towanda HCE, please call Cindy, 309-663-4797 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650.

Other "October is HCE Month" activities in the county include: Oct. 9, 1-4 p.m., Make a Mix Workshop, McLean County Extension Auditorium, 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington, fees - members \$3, non-members \$5, R.S.V.P./fees by Oct. 3, call Lynda 309-821-1266; Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Community Service Day, making Operation Santa stockings for soldiers or your own project, Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2243 Westgate Dr., Bloomington, 309-826-9559; Oct. 21, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Attic Treasures and Bake Sale, Trinity Lutheran Gym, 801 S. Madison, Bloomington, 309-824-4797; Oct. 24, Super Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., lesson "Gifts From Your Kitchen" presented by Charlotte Talkington, 309-824-2784; Oct. 26, 11 a.m., International Day, Filipino food tasting followed by program, "Coming of Age in the Philippines" by Delilah Finnegan, R.S.V.P. by Oct. 6 to Karen, 309-828-5465.



Banner.ready: Jeanie Wager leads our float banner with her baton in hand. Cindy Kelley and Linda Conder are carrying the banner.

Float ready

Cindy.Linda: carrying the banner

Becky Toohill has an iron showing the many labors of love that HCE members do all the time!



## Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake

Sometimes we take our trees for granted and we don't realize how valuable they are. They have been under a lot of stress the last few years with the extreme cold, one year and extreme heat another, also droughts. Sometimes that adds up to enough that they need some help.

We don't realize how much they do for us, until we loose them. In the winter, they help break the cold winds. They also show there beauty with the snow and frost clinging to the branches.. In the spring, when the new leaves come out, they tell us that winter is on the way out. It is also entertaining watching the squirrels playing in the trees.

When the leaves come out, the work starts for them. They absorb the dust and palutants from the air and give us oxygen. They also help break the sound from the traffic, etc. They give us shade from the hot sun, which reduces the temperature about 10 degrees in the shade. They provide shelter, a home, and some food for the birds. They also block the view of some things we don't like to see.

In the fall, they really show their beauty with the change in color of leaves before they fall. Then the kids get to play in them. Also you can run the lawn mower over them. that will break them up so the earthworms and good insects can eat them and return nutrients for the grass roots.

You thought that the tree was "just standing there".

Things you can do now to help the trees are, check to see if the tree is planted too deep, if so pull some soil back from around the base of the tree, it needs to be able to get oxygen from the top soil. Make sure the organic mulch us not more then 4 inches deep. Remove any plastic lining or weed barrier. It blocks oxygen and water from getting to the roots. Be sure the mulch is at least 4 inches from the trunk. The trunk needs to be able to breathe.

Don't fertilize the tree or the grass around it. The most important help is to give it water. Water slowly so the water can soak in and water near the drip line where the most feeder roots are. If possible saturate the ground to 2 feet depth once a week. Continue until the ground freezes.

Summer is ending and some of the flowers are looking pretty tired. The petals are falling off, but don't cut them off yet. The birds will eat the seeds. The birds and butterflies that migrate are eating a lot to prepare for their long trip to their winter home. They would also like a bath and a drink of water.

We will soon be cleaning off the garden and if you don't already have a compost pile, now is the time to start one. You can purchase a compost container or you can just make a pile in the corner of the yard. You can put greens from the garden, peelings from the kitchen, leaves, etc. Just don't add meat or bones, they will draw animals. I like to leave the asparagus standing so the wildlife can find shelter during the cold winter.

Some of the leaves are starting to fall, just run the lawn mower over them to break them down, so the worms and other insects in the ground can eat them and turn them into good fertilizer for the grass. If the wind blows the leaves up around the base of the shrubs and perennials, leave them there to help insulate the roots from the cold winter.

It is time to put your Amaryllis to bed to rest before it blooms. Place it in the basement on its side so you don't forget and water it. The leaves will turn brown and fall off. It needs about 3 months rest before you start to water and bring it out of dormancy.

Now is a good time to start some herb seeds. Put them in containers that you can bring indoors for the winter to enjoy the use of fresh herbs. Bring them inside when the night temperatures are in the 50's.

Check out the garden centers for some good bargains. Trees are marked down and now is a good time to plant them.

Labor Day is the beginning of the lawn care year. People used to apply fertilizer in the spring, but research has shown it is better to apply, if needed, in the fall. That way the roots can absorb it and help them to grow deeper and also store some for next years healthy lawn. If you apply fertilizer in the fall, and let the grass clipping remain on the lawn all summer, you should only need the fall application. Save some money. It is also time to renovate a poor quality lawn early in the month.

Now is also a good time to seed a new lawn. Spread some organic mulch, work it into the soil. Rake it so the lawn will be smooth and sow some good quality grass seed. This is one time it doesn't hurt to walk across it. That presses the seed close to the soil where it can germinate faster. Water the ground and lightly cover it with clean straw. That will help hold the moisture and help prevent the birds from eating the seed. Keep the soil moist and because the soil is warm, the seed should germinate quickly.

We are seeing the spring flowering bulbs in the stores. It is too early to plant them now. If you find some you are looking for, purchase them now while they are still available. You can place the bulbs in the refrigerator until the soil cools in late October.

Harvest your gourds when the shells become hard or turn brown.'

You can pinch off the tops of the tomato plants, so they can use their energy on ripening the fruit. The blooms that appear now, probably not have time to ripen before frost..

The kids and teachers are back in school, so that means summer is about over. We will have more hot days, but the nights will be cooler. So it is time to think about bringing house plants inside. If you have planted your poinsettia, amaryllis, etc. in the ground and plan on bringing them in later, now is a good time to dig them and put them in a pot to bring in.. You can leave the container outside until cooler weather. That will give the plant time to get over the shock of being transplanted. You will

need to water it often like all other container plants. You can also pot a geranium or impatiens, treat it like a house plant, and next spring take slips and start the plants to put in the garden for next spring.

We have seen a lot of tropical plants mixed in with the annuals this year. When it is time to bring house plants in, night lows in the 50's, you can place the house plant in a container and bring it in to enjoy during the cold weather.

When you bring the hibiscus in place it by a sunny window. Be careful not to over water it in the winter, while it, and most house plants, are in their dormant phase, let the top 1/2 inch of soil dry out between watering. It is normal for hibiscus plants to drop leaves while inside.

The shorter days in fall encourage the Kalanchoe to form lower buds. Because it is actively growing this time of year, you can fertilize once a month, but wait to water until the soil is dry. By spring it can get leggy. Cut it back by a third for a bushier plant.

You can cut the tops of the peonies off now. Destroy the stems to prevent leaving disease in the soil.

Helen J. Leake

## LEGION NEWS

The Towanda American Legion will have a Chili Supper on Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00. Dinner will include all the chili you can eat, hot dog, dessert and drink for \$7.00. All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs will be available.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in Towanda – 50 years in 2018**

Please join your neighbors and community in planning for July 4, 2018 - Towanda's 50<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> of July Annual Celebration – and come to a meeting **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Community Building. Find out about what happens behind the scenes of the parade and how you can/might be able to help. Bring your ideas about things to change and to keep so the new leadership can begin organizing for next year and bring a friend with you. If unable to attend and want information please contact Gail Ann Briggs at 728-2187 or [rgbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgbriggs@frontiernet.net).

October Calendar:

- 6 – NCHS Homecoming
- 9 – Columbus Day – No School in Unit 5
- 18 – 1-hr Late Start in Unit 5
- 31 – Halloween / Trick & Treat

Looking ahead – Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 a.m.

*Gail Ann Briggs*

# Towanda Library

## October 2017 Library News

**Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions:** “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles is the book to be discussed on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. This book is so popular that none of the libraries in RSA can keep it on their shelves. We have multiple copies here. Join the book discussion whenever a title interests you. Newcomers are always welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of even-numbered months. Selections for the next twelve months are on the library website.

**Evergreen Cemetery Walk Program on October 25 @ 5:00:** Candace Summers, lead coordinator of the Cemetery Walk and Director of Education at the McLean County Museum of History, is our presenter. Experience the history and highlights of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk from the comfort of our warm library.

**Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday @ 10:30:** Stories to build character, new friends to build social skills, crafts to train dexterity needed for pre-writing fine motor control, and pre-literacy activities such as fingerplays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Snacks also. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap!

**Bulldog Book Club on October 18 @ 2:30:** Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year youth in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade discuss the Caudill nominated books. Sessions are led by Traci Milan. Registration is now closed and there is a waiting list.

**LEGO Builders Club on October 16 @ 2:30:** Third Monday of each month during the school year youth in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade take on literacy-based LEGO challenges taught by April Fisher. Pre-register today at the library! This group can accept 2 more students.

**Tuesday Tunes on October 24 @ 2:30.** Kindergarten, First, and Second graders sing, dance, play musical instruments, and enjoy other toe-tapping activities taught by Developing Melodies. Pre-register today at library! This group can accept 2 more students.

**Read to Dogs every Tuesday @ 5:30 to 6:30 until November 14:** Register your child for a 15-minute appointment with a certified canine friend. Call to register for any or all of the weeks.

**Scary DVD's:** Halloween DVD's are sorted and waiting for you to check out today.

**Library Board Meeting:** The board next meets at the library on October 17.

**Crochet/Knit/Fibers Group:** Every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. New members are always welcome. Questions are cheerfully answered.

**See all library news at:** [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org) and on the library Facebook page

## **ParkLands Foundation, JWP Audubon, Illinois Wesleyan to Host Dr. David Haskell- “The World is Made from Details: How Close Observation Helps Us Understand and Protect Natural Lands”**

Dr. David Haskell will give a presentation on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hansen Student Center at Illinois Wesleyan University. The Hansen Student Center is located at 300 Beecher Street, and parking is available in an adjacent lot east of the building. Dr. Haskell will talk about his recently published book, *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature’s Great Connectors*. His presentation will describe how trees, and all living organisms, are inextricably linked together through biological networks. By meticulously observing and listening to trees around the world, Dr. Haskell will discuss how such interconnections make life on Earth as we know it possible. This talk is co-sponsored by JWP Audubon and the IL Wesleyan Environmental Studies Program. Dr. Haskell will also be the featured speaker at a fundraising event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the ParkLands Foundation. The event will be held on October 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington, and tickets can be purchased from the ParkLands Foundation. Dr. Haskell will speak about, "The World is Made from Details: How Close Observation Helps Us Understand and Protect Natural Lands." His presentation will be based on his own meticulous observations of the natural world, which he has eloquently chronicled in two highly acclaimed books. In his 2012 book, *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*, Dr. Haskell used a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest as a window onto the entire natural world. He visited it almost daily for one year to trace the path of nature through the seasons, and he provides the reader with an extraordinary and intimate view of life in an old-growth forest. Dr. Haskell is a Professor of Biology and a Guggenheim Fellow at Sewanee: The University of the South. In addition to his own scientific scholarship, he has received numerous teaching awards, including the Carnegie-CASE Professor of the Year for Tennessee in 2009. His 2012 book, *The Forest Unseen*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. It won the 2013 Best Book Award from the National Academies, the National Outdoor Book Award, and the Reed Environmental Writing Award. Both talks are supported financially by the Beach Lewis fund of the Illinois Wesleyan University Biology Department. ParkLands Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 formed in 1967 to preserve, protect and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed. These lands are dedicated primarily for preserving the biological diversity of native plants and wildlife, and secondarily for passive public recreation, environmental educational and scientific research. Loring Merwin, publisher of the Bloomington Pantagraph, established the ParkLands Foundation in 1967 in an effort to protect declining open space in central Illinois. Merwin and others were inspired by natural area preservation successes elsewhere in both central Illinois and nationally; they worked closely with area leaders and local government agencies to initiate efforts for protection of what is now more than 3,200 acres of habitat along the Mackinaw River Valley in McLean and Woodford Counties. Find more information about ParkLands Foundation at [parklandsfoundation.org](http://parklandsfoundation.org).

## PRESS RELEASE:

Tickets Now on Sale for Annual Wine, Beer and Local Foods Fundraiser at Epiphany Farms Benefitting the Ecology Action Center The Ecology Action Center invites area residents to attend “Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew: Sustainable Gourmet 2.0,” the twelfth annual fundraising event on Thursday, October 12, at 5:30 p.m. This year’s event will feature artisanal local hors d’oeuvres prepared by the culinary team at Epiphany Farms, sampling of sustainably produced wine from Uptown Normal’s Stave Wine Bar, and Central-Illinois craft beer from JT Walker’s in Mahomet and Big Thorn Farm, the nation’s only off-grid farmhouse brewery. This popular fundraiser for the EAC also includes a silent auction with fabulous sustainable items from local businesses and organizations. During the event, the Ecology Action Center will announce the 2017 recipients of the annual McLean County Green Awards, recognizing efforts to improve our local environment. Nominations for these awards are being taken until September 14; nominations may be submitted at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org) for a local individual or business who deserves recognition for their environmental efforts. Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew will be held at Epiphany Farms Ballroom at 220 E. Front Street in Bloomington, home to incredible gourmet farm to fork creations. Proceeds of this fundraiser benefit the Ecology Action Center and its important environmental sustainability efforts in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. Tickets are \$40 and are available online at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org). Tickets must be purchased in advance; the ticket sales deadline is October 8 or when tickets are sold out, whichever comes first. This event has sold out the past four years in a row so attendees are encouraged to buy tickets early. For more information, contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169. This event is sponsored by Invenergy, Straight Up Solar, Dr. Matt Fraker & Dr. Sherri Thornton, Epiphany Farms, Stave Wine Bar, JT Walker’s, and Big Thorn Farm. The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.

## CLASSIFIED

### FOR SALE



84" sofa from non-smoking home. Excellent condition. Hunter Green, Burgundy, Tan and Cream plaid with two matching pillows. \$200 or make offer. This is a Smith Brothers sofa made in Berne, IN. Contact Judy Schulthes, 728-2927

### Businesses:

Pampered Chef features Cooking Shows, Catalog Parties, Freezer Meal Workshops, Bridal Showers & Fundraisers!

Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

Annette Hancock

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 309-242-1802

Email - [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)

Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)

Pinterest Recipes - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



### For Hire:

Need help taking care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. "I love animals and have been volunteering at the Humane Society for almost six months. I would love to help take care of your animals".

Do you need a babysitter? Do you need your house cleaned? Or, just an extra set of hands to help out around the house? Anna Kraft is willing to help! She is a sophomore at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

Need help taking care of your pet while you are away or while you are at work? Call Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I have experience and references.

Are you looking for someone to watch your pets when you are gone or walk them while you are at work? If so, call Sami Hartman (30 Candle Ridge Road). I am responsible and LOVE pets. I have experience and references. My number is 728-2093.

Lauren and Myles Smith will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

Justin Schwamberger, 17 years old, is available for helping with lawn care, snow removal, and help around the home. Call 728-2857.