

Indian Creek Newsletter

February 2024

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com



TOWANDA LIONS CLUB

"We Serve"

The Towanda Lions Club is offering two \$750 scholarships for current high school seniors who live within the 61776 Towanda zip code area and/or live within the Towanda township.

1. The Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship for any college field of study
2. The Towanda Lions Memorial Scholarship for training/education in a trades field

Further details and applications for each of these scholarships are available on the Towanda, Illinois Lions website:

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/towandail

On the Home page, click on **Scholarships** listed in the upper-left of the screen.

Thank you!

Scholarship Committee co-chairmen:

Curt Ronnekamp – phone: 309-533-9027

Randy Pearson – phone: 815-579-9729

Indian Creek Tractor Repairs

Some major repairs were made to our 1983 Ford tractor and loader this past December. The entire electrical wiring harness was replaced requiring much time, thought and effort. A big thanks to Keith Whittum for spearheading this undertaking. A hydraulic cylinder was repaired and replaced along with a number of worn-out hydraulic hoses with the work being done by Jim Kellenberger and Fred Walk. Jim also repaired a fuel leak and replaced the old lights with new LED lights. Thanks also to Jim and Ann Kellenberger for storing the tractor in their shed over the winter months.

Our tractor is well taken care of and in good running order. Outsourcing these repairs would have been extremely costly. Thanks again to the aforementioned individuals and other Indian Creek residents for their time and effort in maintaining our tractor.

Fred Walk
Interim Grounds Chair



Fall 2023 Indian Creek Bird Count

On December 16, 2023 the local National Audubon Society chapter conducted a bird count of our common grounds. Below are the results of their count. Click on each of the species to read and learn more about the birds. You can also visit our website and click on birds to hear their sounds. Take a walk along the beautiful trails in our woods and see how many birds you can find.

- [Great Horned Owl](#) Number observed: 2
- [Red-bellied Woodpecker](#) Number observed: 2
- [Downy Woodpecker](#) Number observed: 3
- [Black-capped Chickadee](#) Number observed: 4
- [White-breasted Nuthatch](#) Number observed: 4
- [Brown Creeper](#) Number observed: 2
- [House Sparrow](#) Number observed: 2
- [House Finch](#) Number observed: 1
- [Dark-eyed Junco](#) Number observed: 6
- [Northern Cardinal](#) Number observed: 6

Angelo Capperella, who directed the count for the Society, said the following: "This is a rather short list as the rain that day made birding difficult. The Brown Creeper and Great Horned Owl were very good species to get. Thanks Fred and credit to all of you at Indian Creek for maintaining such a great natural area."

Fred Walk

Interim Grounds Chair

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H will meet again on February 26, 2024. The meeting will take place at 6:30 in the Towanda Community Building. The program will be about the Environment and Natural Resources. The talks and Demonstrations will be given by Ash Miller, Belle Teufel, Shelby Thomas, and Grace Ford. Refreshments will be brought by Liz Buhlig.

For more information contact Scott Clement at (309) 275-5910 or Jeanie Wagner at (309) 728-2852

Towanda HCE

Ten members of the Towanda Home and Community Education group met on a snowy January 8th and seven of them showcased some of their special and/or new snowmen for show & tell at this meeting.

We will next meet Monday, February 12, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Cindy Kelley will be presenting a program on "Companion Gardening". We will receive a minor lesson about the People and Demographics of the Republic of Egypt. Egypt is our country of international studies for this 23-24 year. Our community Outreach project item for Home Sweet Home Mission is toothpaste.

The McLean County HCE group will hold a Membership/Friendship Tea at Christ Lutheran Church, 311 Hershey Rd, Normal on Saturday, February 10, 1-3 p.m. You may bring your own tea cup & saucer. For entertainment there will be a program "Gamma Phi Circus Throughout the Ages" presented by Rainie Themer Bosquet. All tickets are \$8 and may be purchased by calling 309-830-6232. There is a limit of 80 attendees and you must RSVP as soon as possible. The public is invited to attend with a purchased ticket.

The McLean County HCE will also hold a bake sale at the Towanda Scouting Pancake & Sausage Breakfast the morning of February 10, at the Towanda Grade School. The bake sale will run 8-11 a.m. Our bake sale proceeds help provide funds for scholarships and other community service projects that benefit McLean County residents.



Towanda HCE Snowman Meeting L-R: Jeanie Wager, Pat Pulokas, Barb Wager, Cindy Kelley, Clara Lehan, Sandy Whalen, Kathleen Emery.

Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule - 2024

The six water hydrants located in Indian Creek subdivision will be flushed on the dates listed below. Water hydrants are flushed in order to reduce the build-up of sediments in our water system. This is an important process for improving water quality. Our water operator will flush one hydrant at a time and allow it to run for 10-15 minutes (the next in line hydrant is opened concurrently for a brief period to keep water flowing through the system). Water pressure in our system's lines is maintained by the 35,000 gallons of water in our tower, however, pressure in home lines will be reduced during flushing much like when multiple faucets are opened in your homes. Flushing the hydrants will also stir up sediments so please follow the procedures listed below:

- Do not run water during the flushing time period.
- Following flushing, run water through faucets until clear. We recommend this be done by-passing any treatment/filtering system in your home because of the increased sediment stirred up during the flushing process.

Please mark your calendars with the dates listed below. Flushing will be done between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. weather permitting. **Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.**

Monday, February 26	Monday, August 26
Monday, March 25	Monday, September 30
Monday, April 29	Monday, October 28
Monday, May 27	Monday, November 25
Monday, June 24	Monday, December 30
Monday, July 29	

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

Invasive Shrub – Burning Bush

Some years ago, it was a shocking realization to learn that one of my favorite ornamental shrubs, burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is invasive. It took a while for this news to sink in and after seeing it invade woodlands across southern Illinois, I finally came to terms with the bad news.

Burning bush is part of sad story that includes many other non-native, soft-fruited shrubs such as barberry (*Berberis spp.*), privet (*Ligustrum spp.*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*). These plants have rapidly moved from landscape settings to natural areas on the wings of birds which eat and redistribute fruits across habitats. Once established, they threaten native plant diversity by invading and crowding out spring ephemeral wildflowers, native shrubs and native tree seedlings.

Many of these invasives were introduced as ornamental landscape plants for their natural beauty, such as burning bush's spectacular fall color. Others, like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive, were introduced as a wildlife food source to provide berries for foraging bird species and other species. No one expected the negative consequences we experience first-hand today.

Fall migrating birds especially use berries as a food source during their long journey. As they consume these vital calories, it presents the potential to spread seed far and wide, which is good for native species and part their reproductive strategy. If non-natives are consumed and spread, it compounds the problem with further impacts to native plant communities.

Fruit from invasive species has been shown to have lower nutritional value for birds in some research. Other studies have shown that birds prefer berries from native species over those from nonnatives suggesting that our native birds may not alter feeding patterns even if non-native berries are widely available.

We know that climate change is already altering the timing of bird migration, pushing it later in the season as our climate warms. As would be expected, plant phenology has also shifted later in the season, with research showing later fruit ripening. As all of these factors combine to change the natural sequences at play, it's important to understand the direct impact on bird populations.

The proliferation of invasive shrubs in natural ecosystems raises a question on the extent to which these non-natives support migrating birds. Do they provide a significant food source for birds? In the face of climate change, can invasives supply our native birds with a food source that might replace the crowded-out native species? With invasives predicted to increase as climate change intensifies, the pressure on native plant communities will increase as well.

A 2020 research effort conducted in New England attempted looked for answers to these and other questions about the interactions between birds and invasive shrub species. Researchers speculated that the changing timing of both bird migration and fruit ripening may have the potential to enhance invasive shrub species dispersal if birds feed on the more abundant non-native fruits. They measured fruit availability and bird feeding preferences to see if birds were consuming more non-natives.

Invasive shrubs in New England have been shown to mature an average of 26 days later than native shrubs and persist longer into winter than native fruit crops. However, the 2020 study confirmed that birds prefer native species over invasives and despite measuring higher amounts of invasive shrub

berries present, birds were still focused on native fruits.

The most abundant fruits measured were from invasives, including multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), autumn olive, privet, burning bush and barberry. Interestingly, two trees, black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), were the most consumed fruits in the study, although the number of fruits availability during migration was much less than fruits from invasives. Across the fall season, as invasives became more widely available later in the year, birds continued to eat more native species.

Given the bird's preference for natives, even when present in much lower numbers, this research suggests that the fruits of invasives will not sufficiently replace native fruits as a food source for migrating birds. This result drives home the point that we must limit the spread of these non-native invasives to ensure our native plant communities can thrive and continue to provide this vital food resource.

I'm shocked to see that burning bush is readily available at garden centers across the Midwest. As gardeners, we need to help spread the word about the dangers this seemingly harmful ornamental can pose. If you already have a burning bush, consider removing it. There are lots of great native alternatives and the birds will thank you as they stop by for a snack on their fall journey.

Ryan Pankau is a horticulture educator with UI Extension, serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion counties. This column also appears on his "Garden Scoop" blog at go.illinois.edu/gardenscoop. If you have questions about burning bush or other invasive species, Ryan can be reached at rcpankau@illinois.edu or 217-333-7672. This article has been reprinted with permission.



The red berries of burning bush are eaten by birds and spread from the landscape to natural areas where this non-native, invasive shrub can take over and crowd out native plants.

Photo Credit: Ryan Pankau, Illinois Extension

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG



WELL DONE!

Well, time for another reminder to please pick up after your pet. Several residents have noticed an increased amount of - whatever term you use - feces, fecal matter, excrement, poop, etc. – left lying around beside the roads. This “stuff” should be picked up after your pet and disposed of properly.

Here is a [poop article](#) that gives four good reasons why you should clean up after your pet.

Thank you for your cooperation,

A Nane Mouse

FEB
2024

BOOKS MAKE
A GREAT
VALENTINE'S
GIFT! PICK
SOME UP FOR
FREE IN OUR
VESTIBULE!

BE MY
VALENTINE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	HOURS:
SENIOR COFFEE HOUR FROM 10 TO 11 AM! JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND TREATS.	2/6- ADULT CRAFT @ 5:30 2/13- LEGO CLUB @ 2:30 2/20- BOOK CLUB @ 5:30 2/27- KNITTING CLUB @ 5:30	STORY/ACTIVITY TIMES AT 10:30 AM!	STORY/ACTIVITY TIMES AT 10:30 AM!	2/3- STORYTIME @ 10:30 AM 2/17- STORYTIME @ 10:30 AM	MONDAY: 10-4 TUESDAY: 1-7 WEDNESDAY: 10-4 THURSDAY: 1-7 FRIDAY: 10-4 SATURDAY: 10-2

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Towanda Scouting Organization

2024 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

Friday, February 9th, 2-5:30 pm @ Towanda Community Building
-OR- Saturday, February 10th, 8:00 am – 1:00pm @ Grade School

To order call Mike/Linda Potts 309-728-2384 or Virginia Lowery 309-825-6341

Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is January 28, 2024

WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE	Package Size	# Packages	Package Price	Total
BULK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
LINK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
BACK RIBS (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
COUNTRY STYLE BACON	1 pound		\$ 8.00	\$
ITALIAN SAUSAGE				
ITALIAN BULK (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
ITALIAN LINK (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
OTHER				
BONELESS TENDERIZED PORK CHOPS (\$6.00/lb)	2 pounds		\$12.00	\$
			TOTAL	\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____ Pick Up: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat
☐ Unsure

PHONE: _____ ☐ Paid ☐ Not Paid

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

Businesses:



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Towanda, IL 61776



For Hire:

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She has completed a babysitting course along with being CPR certified. Please call or text her mom - Dallas Lueschen- at 309-826-1868.

Aubrey Thomas is available for childcare and pet care. She has taken the Safe Sitter course and is experienced with taking care of several animals. Aubrey is a Junior at NCHS. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

Bailee Harmon is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other household chores such as water plants/flowers and cleaning. Please contact Bailee at (309) 530-8279 or her mom, Hallie Harmon at (309)530-5360.

Jaeden Proesel, 16, lives in subdivision, willing to do odd jobs such as dog walking, pet sitting, lawn care, etc. Please reach out! Would love to work this summer! 309-310-7470