

June 4 - 13, 2015

Chain O' Lakes State Park

Nature Center Hours - Weekends 12-4

Stanley Schoolhouse - Weekends 10-4

Thursday, June 4

2:00 pm Scavenger Hunt. Children will be given a list of natural items to look for. Meet at the Nature Center. 45min.

Friday, June 5

10:00 am Wildflower hike on trails 1 and 6. Meet at the Glacial Ridge Shelter and hike with the Naturalist to see the wildflowers. Easy trail, 1 hour.

12:00 Noon. Black Rat Snake is hungry! Come to the Nature Center watch him eat. Did you know that part of the definition of "snake" is that they swallow their food whole?

3 – 4 pm Swirly Snake Craft! Preschool and elementary children come to the Stanley Schoolhouse to make a simple snake windsock to decorate your campsite or take home.

Saturday, June 6

7 – 11 am Family Fishing Derby. Registration begins at 6:30 at Sand Lake Boat rentals. Fishing can be from shore or boat on Sand Lake only. All Indiana DNR Fishing Rules and Regulations apply. A competitor will keep all of the fish he or she catches during the Derby and weigh the total bag. Prizes are for the heaviest bag weights in 3 age groups [Under 9, 9-16, adults]. Largest "Catch of the Day" will be recognized and get their name on a plaque in the Nature Center.

Friday, June 12

10 – 11:30 am Take a hike! Hike trail 9 with the Naturalist around Kreiger Lake, which traverses the Glacial Esker Nature Preserve. This is a rugged hike through a beautiful area. Meet at the Schoolhouse and enjoy!

3 – 4 pm Mammals. The Naturalist will be roving the campground with several different mammal furs to touch and examine. Meet at the Campground General Store at 3 for the start of this walk.

Saturday, June 13

11 am Meet our long-time resident Black Rat Snake. Touch his scaly skin. Learn about the characteristics of a reptile. Nature Center. 30 min

1 pm Ricky Raccoon has a story for you. Children are encouraged to come to the Schoolhouse at 1 pm to hear a story about Ricky and then to make a raccoon mask to take with them.

5 pm Chain O' Lakes Festival Parade. Join Park staff and Smokey Bear at the annual event in Albion, Indiana. Cheer for the Park's float and enjoy an evening street fair around the courthouse square.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

June 18-27, 2015

Chain O' Lakes State Park

Nature Center Hours - Daily 11-5

Stanley Schoolhouse - Weekends 10-4

Friday, June 19

10:00 am We have been invaded! Learn to identify Garlic Mustard, learn its life cycle and go out and help pull some. For all ages, great exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Meet at the Stanley Schoolhouse, 45 min, all ages.

12:00 Noon. Black Rat Snake is hungry! Come to the Nature Center watch him eat. Did you know that part of the definition of "snake" is that they swallow their food whole?

3 – 4 pm Frozen! Come learn how Chain O' Lakes was formed by the glaciers a long time ago. We will leave from the Stanley Schoolhouse and hike trail 8. Walk on one of the nicest Eskers in Northeast Indiana. About an hour, moderate difficulty, all ages.

Saturday, June 20

9 am – noon **Poker Paddle** A fun, friendly game of poker played from your canoe! Paddle to 5 different stations on the lakes, collecting a card at each. The top 3 hands and the worst hand win. Bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one of ours. Registration begins at 8:30 am at Boat Rental.

Friday, June 26

10 – 11 am Wildflower hike around Sand Lake, trail 5. The Naturalist will help you identify some of our park's wildflowers and learn interesting facts about them.

12:00 noon. Black Rat Snake feeding time. Come to the Nature Center watch him eat. Part of the definition of "snake" is that they swallow their food whole?

3 - 4 pm Turtles at the Schoolhouse. The Naturalist will have two aquatic turtles at the schoolhouse for children to see and feel. There will be turtles to color with crayons. Program for children.

Saturday, June 27

11:30 am Check out our milk snake! Learn about its habitats, eating preferences and why it is called a "milk" snake. You will have a chance to feel and pet the snake's scales. Nature Center.

3-4 pm Eat your garden weeds! Instead of spending lots of time weeding pesky garden weeds, pick them and eat them. We will sample several garden weeds, then blend them into a toss salad we can all have.