

**Seven Ponds Nature Center**  
**Fall Colors of Turkey Run State Park**  
**Natural History Field Tour**  
**October 21-25, 2019**

Come walk along rugged stream beds in the sandstone gorges of Indiana's Turkey Run State Park. Hues of gold, red and green from the trees will be reflected in the exposed rock with its lichen, mosses and ferns. We will take pleasure in seeing, on foot and from a canoe, the stunning palette of colors of Turkey Run's virgin forests. From the covered bridges to Purdue University's Arboretum and sculptures, to the history of pioneer settlers, and to the song of wolves, this trip will not disappoint.



### **Trip Itinerary**

#### **Monday, October 21- Greetings and Lieber Cabin Hike**

Trip participants should travel to Indiana on their own, arriving at 2 p.m. We will start our trip with a meet and greet in the Turkey Run Inn, located in the state park. After we'll check out the nature center and start a mile hike around the trails closest to the Inn. This hike will be our first glimpse at some of the marvelous landscape we'll enjoy while in Turkey Run. American witchhazel will remind us to look for all the late flowers, like goldenrods and asters. While the red Jack-in-the-pulpit berries show us how striking the fruits of this season are. These trails will also take us past some historic sites including Lieber Memorial, Log Church and Lieber Cabin. The Log Church was originally constructed in 1871. It was moved to the park in 1923.



The Lieber Cabin and Memorial are named after Colonel Lieber, who is known as the father of the Indiana State Park system. After the hike, we will check into the Inn at 4 p.m. and meet for dinner in the Inn's restaurant, The Narrows, at 6 p.m.

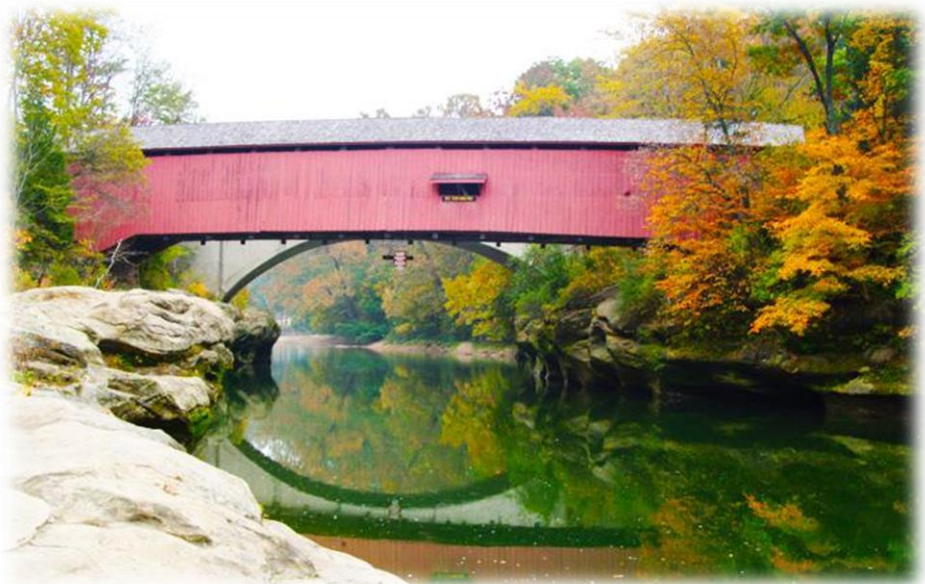
### **Tuesday, October 22- Exploring Turkey Run**

Today will be a day of discovering Turkey Run's dramatic geology! It will start with breakfast at the Narrows, and then we'll meet in the lobby at 9 a.m. We'll cross Sugar Creek via a suspension bridge and hike the Rocky Hollow Falls Canyon Nature Preserve. The trails will allow us to see amazing glacial formations. This hike includes the Ladders trail, where we will use a set of ladders to change elevation. While enjoying our hike through canyons, we'll see the spectacular colors of the sugar maple, beech, tulip

poplar forest. Along with the yellows and golds of the leaves, we'll spot the bright pink of the fruit from the Hearts-a-Bustin' with Love bushes. According to the U.S. Park Service, Turkey Run "contains forested areas of virgin beech-maple stands, steep sandstone gorges that harbor virgin boreal relict populations of eastern hemlock and Canada yew, and some of the largest black walnut in the Midwest." We will find a nice scenic spot to eat lunch along the trail, which won't be hard, around noon. Beneath the trees the canyon walls are bedecked with lichens, mosses and ferns, including walking fern! The day will end with a dinner in the Inn's restaurant at 6 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 23- Canoeing Sugar Creek**

Let's see for ourselves why the Piankeshaw Indians called Sugar Creek "Pun-go-se-co-ne" or "Water of Many Sugar Trees" as we canoe through Turkey Run. The day will start with breakfast at the Narrows and then we will meet up in the lobby of the Inn at 9 a.m. From there we will walk to Sugar Valley Canoe Trips, which is right outside the park. This canoe trip down Sugar Creek will take us under three covered bridges and the park's suspension bridge. Narrows and Cox Ford covered bridges are two we'll see. The Narrows Bridge was built in 1882, and is on the National





Register of Historic Places list. Cox Ford Bridge was built in 1913 to replace the steel bridge that was lost during a flood earlier in the year. We will make lots of stops to look at the plants along the creek, like jimsonweed, carpenter's square, the fruits of northern spicebush and more, and to look for rocks, fossils, crinoids and Indian Beads in the many sandbars. Around noon we'll stop for lunch somewhere beneath the towering Sycamores. The creek is fairly wide but not that deep, only about 5-8 feet, making this a nice, gentle float down stream. Once done canoeing we will eat dinner at the Narrows back in the park.



#### **Thursday, October 24- Purdue Arboretum and Wolf Park**

After breakfast, we'll meet in the lobby at 9 a.m. to start our carpool adventure to Wolf Park! We will stop in Lafayette to tour the autumn highlights and sculptures around Purdue University. We'll grab lunch at Teays River Brewing and Public House. After lunch we are off to Tippecanoe Battlefield. The Battle of Tippecanoe was between the United States and Tecumseh's Confederacy. This confederation was comprised of Native Americans in the Great Lakes region, and centered on the teachings of Tenskwatawa, uniting against the Americans. In Tippecanoe Battlefield Park there are hiking trails and a nature center to check out. After that it's a hop, skip and jump to Wolf Park! We'll arrive around 5:30 p.m. and eat our boxed dinners. The park staff will give our group a private tour of the facilities at 6 p.m. and hopefully the wolves will treat us with their night time howls. Wolf Park also has other wild dogs that can be found in this part of the United States, red fox, grey fox and coyotes that we'll be able to see. We will return to the Inn around 9 p.m.



#### **Friday, October 25- Lusk Home**

We'll enjoy one last breakfast in The Narrows before taking our last hike together to the historic Lusk Home. Built by the first European settlers to the area, the Lusk Home and mill are traces of the pioneers' heritage of Turkey Run. This 2 mile trail will also take us by an old coal mine as it follows Sugar Creek upstream to the Narrows Covered Bridge from there we will head to Lusk Home. When the home

was built a pond was dug. This pond has no fish, so it's a great habitat for amphibians and has a diverse plant life around it. Around the pond we'll look for closed bottle gentian, October lady's tresses, grass of Parnassus and more. The hike will start at 9 a.m. in the Inn's lobby and finish around noon. After our hike we will say our farewells and head home, but we'll have new memories to take back with us!



## **Trip Leaders**

This Seven Ponds' field tour will be led by Naturalist Cathy Wesley and Chief-Naturalist Carrie Spencer. Carrie and Cathy are naturalists who enjoy sharing their knowledge and love of all aspects of the natural world. Cathy earned her B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Michigan University, and is a full-time naturalist at Seven Ponds. She has been on previous field tours offered by Seven Ponds. Carrie has a B.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife from Michigan State University,

is chief-naturalist at Seven Ponds, and has led many of natural history tours for the nature center.

## **Accommodations**

We will be staying at the historic Turkey Run Inn. The address is 8102 East Park Road, Marshall, IN 47859 and phone number is 765-597-2211. This inn was built in 1919 and has a long history. The rooms will have either two double beds or two queen size beds. There is a heated indoor pool, game room and outdoor play ground.

## **Transportation**

Participants will travel to Indiana on their own. If anyone is looking to carpool to and from Turkey Run, please let us know and we can put you in contact with other participants. Once we are in Turkey Run, we will carpool during activities and anyone driving will be reimbursed for mileage during the tour. We will have radios in each vehicle in order to communicate directions and natural history information as we travel around the area.

## **Meals**

The meals included in this trip are dinner Monday night through breakfast Friday morning. Breakfast and dinner will be the buffet at the Narrows restaurant, located inside the Inn. Breakfast is served starting at 7 a.m. at the restaurant; you can go for breakfast at any time between then and when we are scheduled to meet. You will just need to tell the hostess that you are with the Seven Ponds group. Most lunches





will be a box lunch that includes a sandwich, chips, vegetable or fruit, cookie and drink. You will have a choice between ham, turkey or vegetarian. Dinner will be together at the Narrows most nights of the trip after that day's activities. We will shoot to eat around 6 p.m. every night. The day we go to Wolf Park we will eat lunch in Lafayette and have a boxed dinner at Wolf Park.

## Equipment

One suitcase per person should suffice, plus one day bag for carrying your lunch, field guides, rain gear, and other items on hikes. Either boots or tennis shoes are fine for hiking, depending upon your preference, as long as they are sturdy, well broken-in, and without a smooth sole. You may want to bring a second pair of shoes because the trails through the canyons tend to be wet. Bring clothes which can be put on and taken off in layers. Additional equipment to consider includes binoculars, camera, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottle, notebook, field guides for wildflower, tree and bird and a hand lens.



## Preparing for the Trip

Please keep in mind that most of the trails we will hike use ravine streambeds as trail surfaces. These surfaces can be uneven and slick. One trail has ladders that must be climbed, and another has 140 steps. A recommended book to get you excited for this trip is *A Places Called Turkey Run* by Daniel P. Shephardson. This book has amazing photos of the park and gives you some background information about the geology, flora and fauna.



## Trip Fee

The price of this trip is \$910 for members and \$940 for non-members based on double occupancy of the rooms. If you would like single occupancy the price is \$1150 for member and \$1180 for non-members. This price include park fees, room, meals as stated above, canoe rental, admission to Wolf Park, naturalist services, and pre and post trip information. A deposit of \$200 is due when you register, and full balance due by October 1, 2019.

## **Cancellation Policy**

In the event of cancellation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule: If cancellation occurs by August 1, a full refund including deposit will be made. If cancellation occurs between August 1 and October 1, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the trip fee will be refunded. If cancellation occurs after October 1, we will only be able to provide a refund for the portion of the trip fee which is recoverable by Seven Ponds.



## **Additional Information**

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Cathy Wesley or Carrie Spencer at Seven Ponds (810-796-3200 or [cwesley@sevenponds.org](mailto:cwesley@sevenponds.org) or [cspencer@sevenponds.org](mailto:cspencer@sevenponds.org) ).