

# Woodlawn Nature Council, Inc

Reconnecting People With Nature, Natural History, & The Environment

## Newsletter – Summer 2022



It's "Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer" ~ Hans Carste, composer 1963  
Recorded by Nat King Cole <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1Xnl-cXYu8>

We Hoosiers do like to talk about the weather. It is certainly a complex element of nature that exists over 100% of the planet 100% of the time.

The official Dog Days of Summer are July 3 – August 11 in the Northern Hemisphere. We do live in a region that is known for unpredictable and highly changeable weather. However we are definitely experiencing the hot and humid weather that "Dog Days" traditionally refers to.



In ancient times it was believed that the combined heat of the dawn-rising of super-bright Sirius, the Dog Star, and our Sun was the cause of summer's sweltering temps. In Ancient Greek language Sirius stems from the word meaning "scorching". That seems to describe the conditions pretty well.

More recent old-time lore tells of omens and practical advice regarding the season of Sirius.

Old-timers believed that rainfall on the Dog Days was a bad omen, as foretold in this verse:  
Dog Days bright and clear  
Indicate a happy year;  
But when accompanied by rain,  
For better times, our hopes are vain



"Dog Days are approaching; you must, therefore, make both hay and haste while the Sun shines, for when old Sirius takes command of the weather, he is such an unsteady, crazy dog, there is no dependence upon him."  
–The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1817

Enjoy the season! Reference: <https://www.almanac.com/content/what-are-dog-days-summer>

## WNC Community Connections

Going on Location - WNC staff members Carl Rust and Vicci Moore have been providing nature programming for the Elkhart Education Foundation's Summerscape Day Camp this year. The program involves taking an activity based lesson about trees to North Side School one morning weekly. We are engaging with youth in grade levels ranging from K – 9. Thank you Carl for pursuing this opportunity to share our mission.

WNC will be participating in the Elkhart Environmental Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Envirofest - You can check us out at Island Park on Saturday August 20 from 3 pm – 9 pm where we will have info about Woodlawn and a few activities for kids of all ages. More info about the event can be found at <https://elkhartenvirofest.com/>

What do you think? – We are making plans for fall and need your input. Please take a few minutes to complete our online [survey](#) to help us serve our community.

# What's been happening at Woodlawn Nature Center?

See the Summer Camp photo gallery in the banner of our Summer Camp webpage at

<https://woodlawnnature.org/Summer-Camp/>

**Earth, Wind, Fire, & Water**

**June 27 - July 1**

## **Summer Camp 2022 Wrap-up**

Nature Hikes, Free Play, Arts & Crafts, Games, Presentations, Drumming, Dancing, Music, & More were included in the 2022 Summer Nature Camp experience. Daily activities were provided to focus on each of the 4 basic life essential elements in nature. Each day had some structured activities and lots of self-directed nature play. The last day of camp we celebrated a week long Nature Connection.

Our Volunteer Camp staff included Supervisors/Educators Carl Rust (Indiana Master Naturalist, WNC Board President, Author of Get Out of the Way and Let Kids Learn) and Vicci Moore (Advanced Indiana Master Naturalist, WNC Secretary/Treasurer). Also thanks to Jenna Wait for serving as volunteer camp assistant.

We would like to thank our guest educators:

- Jenna Waite of [Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District](#) for bringing fun activities about water cycles and quality for our Water focus day
- Lindsey Caterina of [Elkhart County Purdue Extension Wellness Program](#) for engaging the campers in an interactive nutritional program during our Earth focus day
- Dennis and Andrea Badke of [Foxwood Raptor and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center](#) for sharing information about local wildlife and bringing a few wild furry friends to meet for our Nature Connection Celebration day

Wind focus day included discussing wind energy, catching the wind with parachute games, soap bubbles floating in the air, and paper airplanes.

During Earth focus day, Campers checked out what makes up the ground we walk on. They made soil density kits in jars to explore different properties of the types of soil they dug up. They also discussed that the ground provides food and planted seed for herbs and salad greens in containers to take home and grow.

The benefits and hazards of fire and Campfire safety were discussed along with a demonstration on building a campfire was part of Fire focus day. It was then put to practical use at our Nature Connection Celebration. Campers helped build the fire to cook lunch. After lunch they toasted marshmallows and made s'mores for desert.

Nature play included water dancing in the wiggle sprinkler, catching some rays, swinging and spinning, sticks & strings, creating stories and enactments, activity pages, exploring the woods, prehistoric digs in the cave, and other outdoor and indoor nature fun. Thanks to all our campers and their families for choosing to participate in a week of nature connections. We enjoyed the natural energies of the campers and look forward to next year.

## **Nature History Museum and Educational Center Summer Hours – Saturdays 1 – 5 pm**

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