



# OAK HERITAGE

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## CONSERVANCY

Protecting Southeast Indiana's Natural Heritage

Spring 2019

## Ready to Create Pollinator Habitat?

If you are ready for more butterflies, bees, and birds in your yard, then it's time to establish a pollinator habitat.

Oak Heritage Conservancy is part of the "Jefferson County Pollinator Action Group." Together, we're promoting pollinators and adding habitat throughout the county.

Later this Spring, we will help establish six demonstration habitats in Madison and Hanover, to create some "buzz" about pollinators and habitat.

But first, we're helping homeowners who are interested in adding habitat for native pollinators.

The plant sale makes it easy for homeowners to offer what pollinators need – a food source throughout the warm months, a place to lay their eggs and grow, water, and shelter. Even a

Attract native pollinators, like this Pearl Crescent, to your home by planting native wildflowers. Photo by Oak Heritage member Brian Lowry. Brian entered this photo in our Nature & Farm photo contest.



small planting, perhaps 10'x10', can provide significant habitat.

Kirsten Carlson, OHC member and biologist, offers these design tips:

1. Arrange the plants in groups of three or five to create a “billboard” effect. This will attract pollinators by smell and sight.
2. Space the plants closer than recommended on the planting guidelines. Closer plantings provide shelter for pollinators and other friendly garden visitors.
3. Add a shallow water source. Pollinators need water, just as we do.
4. Have at least three different types of plants blooming at any given time throughout the season. Pollinators

require a specific flower shape for their pollinating needs – but they also need to have access to food during the pollinator season. Look at the bloom times for your native plant selections so that you can plan to provide pollinators with non-stop food supplies.

The plant sale includes 18 perennial plants native to southeast Indiana, including a range of colors and bloom times. If you aren't sure what to order, we have bundles to choose from.

Plants are \$3 each. They are one-year old “plugs” with substantial root systems. This means that they should bloom this year. Download your brochure at <https://jeffersoncounty.in.gov/470/Plant-Sales> and order your plants by March 15.

Place your order for native plants by March 15. The plants have well developed roots and they should bloom this summer. You could start seeing pollinators, like this rare skipper, in months. Photo by Robert Barber, from this year's photo contest.



# Hard At Work on Our Preserves

Forever. That's our promise at Oak Heritage Conservancy – to care for our nature preserves, for the public good, forever. To honor this commitment, we're embarking on several stewardship projects this year.

## ***Invasive Species Control at Leblene Woods***

Since at least the 1800's, the preserve has been home to a seemingly endless stretch of bluebells each Spring. An invasive vine (winter creeper) is threatening the bluebells' habitat. We're working with volunteers and a contractor to eradicate the vine. This project is possible because of funding from the Community Foundation of Jackson County

and the Geoff and Josie Fox Family Foundation.

## ***Pollinator Planting, Trails, Signs and a Safe Parking Area at Monarch Meadows Nature Preserve***

We protected this land because of its remarkable Monarch habitat. Milkweed and butterfly weed bloom during the Fall migration. Now, we are adding flowers that bloom throughout the growing season, to support other native butterflies, bees, and birds.

We'll plant six acres of pollinator habitat, establish trails, add educational signage, and create a

*(continued on Page 5)*

Our pollinator planting at Hilltop Farm Nature Preserve in 2017 was a true success. It's given us confidence to add more pollinator habitat and be more active stewards on our nature preserves. Photo from Hilltop Farm Nature Preserve.





# Play Outside with the Park Hop

The Park Hop is going on now, and we invite you to join in the fun. Here is everything you need to get hopping!

## *What's a "Park Hop"?*

The Park Hop is a free, community-wide scavenger hunt. It highlights the parks and nature preserves in Jefferson County (including an Oak Heritage Conservancy preserve).

## *How do we participate?*

We've created a "Passport" that lists the 21 parks in the scavenger hunt, and the clues. Download your passport from the Oak Heritage website, and answer the clues as you visit each park. Kids can claim prizes based on how many parks they visit.

## *When is the Park Hop?*

The entire month of March, 2019 – perfect for a Spring Break adventure!

## *Why is Oak Heritage hosting a Park Hop?*

We wanted invite people outside, onto our preserves and other natural areas. We know that kids who spend time outside are happier, healthier, and more curious about nature. The Park Hop is positive way to invite families to get outside and explore the parks in our backyard.

## *Someone said there are prizes...*

Prizes are available for youth (ages 18 & under) that complete all clues at 1, 5, or 10 parks. Prizes include things like magnifying glasses, nature-

Oak Heritage Board member, Eric Dodge, with his sons goofing around at one of our preserves. The Park Hop invites families to explore parks and nature preserves.



themed books, wildlife trading cards, and more! Submitting all clues for more than 10 parks will enter youth for the grand prize drawing – a one year pass to all Indiana state parks.

### ***How do I turn in the clues and claim prizes?***

We're hosting a Park Hop Celebration on April 6, 2019, from 1-2pm at Heritage Park. This is the only opportunity to claim prizes. Bring along each child's passport, with their answers to the clues. Come for the prizes – but also for hands-on nature activities and a marshmallow roast.

### ***This is neat – I want to invite my friends! Can I spread the word?***

Please do! Word of mouth is the best way you can help. You can also share our event on Facebook. We suggest posting something to social media (maybe your family “hopping” in the air at the parks you visit!) add

#ParkHopJeffCo or link to the Oak Heritage website.

### ***Where did this idea come from?***

A group in South Carolina has been hosting Park Hops for several years. Theirs is now year-round. Last year, over 1,100 kids participated. They've shared resources and encouraged us to start our own Park Hop.

### ***Who's behind the Park Hop?***

We have excellent partners, from the Madison Library, to Clifty Falls State Park, to Kings Daughters Hospital, and beyond.

We are grateful for generous support from the Duke Energy Foundation, as well as the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County, and Managed Health Services.



## **Hard at Work..., Continued**

small pull off for visitor parking. This project is generously funded through the Bayer Corporation, the Ohio County Community Foundation, and the Rising Sun Regional Foundation.

### ***Pollinator Planting and Phase Two of Trails at Hilltop Farm Nature Preserve***

We plan to add another 9 acres of pollinator habitat to this favorite preserve. We'll eradicate fescue and replace it with native wildflowers, and add signs and maps of our trails, so

that visitors know where to explore on the preserve. This work will welcome more people and pollinators to Hilltop.

We're waiting to hear back about two grants that could fund this project, and of course our members' support will make this project possible.

If you would like to support these stewardship projects, become an Oak Heritage member today. Simply fill out the form on page 7 or join online.

# Come Explore: Events in Nature

*Details at [www.oakheritageconservancy.org](http://www.oakheritageconservancy.org). All events are free, and everyone is welcome.*

## ***New: Monthly Outings on Our Preserves***

We're launching a new series: every month, we'll invite you to visit one of our preserves. The hikes will be led by volunteers. We'll enjoy a relaxed hike, conversation with fellow nature lovers, and perhaps learn a little along the way. Our first hike is set for April. Check the Oak Heritage website for details.

## ***Now through March 15 - Native Plant Sale***

You can help the pollinators! Our native plant sale makes it easy to create a habitat for pollinators in your yard or garden. Orders are due March 15, so don't delay. More info on page 1.

## ***Now through March 31 - Park Hop Scavenger Hunt***

Download a "Passport" from our website, and start answering clues at parks around Jefferson County (including our preserves). Kids can claim prizes based on how many parks they visit. More info on page 4.

## ***Now through March 31 - Nature & Farm Photo Exhibit***

What's the Indiana that you imagine when you close your eyes? That was the prompt for this year's amateur contest. The winners captured a sky full of stars; a kayaker on a quiet creek; an owl perched in an oak. These are the pieces of Indiana that we all want to see flourish – the things worth protecting.

Visit the Oak Heritage website to see the top 40 photos, or find an upcoming exhibit where you can see the photos in person. Then, vote for a Grand Prize winner. The Grand Prize winner will receive a one-year membership to Oak Heritage Conservancy.

This project is a collaboration with George Rogers Clark Land Trust, and is made possible by the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## ***TBA in May - Learn to Create Habitat for Native Pollinators***

We're helping the Pollinator Action Group create six demonstration habitats in Jefferson County. Come lend a hand, and learn how to create pollinator habitat. The planting days will be in early May. Check the Oak Heritage website for details as Spring approaches.

# Be A Part of Conservation - Join Oak Heritage Conservancy!

*Join a growing community of Oak Heritage members.  
Protect the best of southeast Indiana.  
Become a member today.*

You can now join, renew membership, and donate on our website, [www.oakheritageconservancy.org](http://www.oakheritageconservancy.org), or complete this page and mail it, along with your payment, to Oak Heritage Conservancy, P.O. Box 335, Hanover, IN 47243.

\_\_\_\_ Student - \$10

\_\_\_\_ Cornerstone - \$100-\$499

\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$25

\_\_\_\_ Sponsor - \$500 - \$999

\_\_\_\_ Organization - \$25

\_\_\_\_ Benefactor - \$1000+

\_\_\_\_ Family - \$40

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## OAK HERITAGE CONSERVANCY

Our mission is to preserve, protect and conserve land and water resources that have special natural, agricultural, scenic, or cultural significance. Oak Heritage Conservancy will help landowners personally protect their land so future generations can enjoy the rural landscapes of southeast Indiana.

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*Join us for fun in nature!  
Plant Sale, and more.  
Community-wide Scavenger Hunt.*