

Friends of Potato Creek State Park Meeting Minutes
6/16/09 Location: PCSP Nature Center 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Speaker:

Robin Melaski from Health Education at the St Joe Health Department was our speaker.

Lyme disease: In Indiana, there have been 38 cases in 5 years. The dog tick is most common. It is caused by bacteria from deer ticks in the Northeast and upper Midwest. The bacteria remains active in temperatures over 45 degrees F. The growth pattern is egg-larvae-nymph-adult. They prefer overgrown areas with dense underbrush and also plant stems and blades of grass. They do not jump or fly, they can attach anywhere, preferable body creases. The symptoms are an expanding rash 1-2 weeks after the bite followed by chills, fever and fatigue. It is easily treated with antibiotics.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: This disease is transmitted by the bite of the American Dog Tick or the Rocky Mountain wood tick. Most cases originate in the East and Southeast, it originated in the Rocky Mountains. In the past 5 years, there have been 5 cases in Indiana. Ticks acquire infections from small rodents, symptoms appear 5-10 days later, those include fever, nausea, muscle pain and headaches. Later symptom is a rash. Again, this is treated with antibiotics.

Tick disease prevention: Wear light colored clothing, long sleeves and pants. Use Deet products. Don't sit directly on the ground or on stone walls, do a tick check each time you are exposed.

Tick removal: Using tweezers, grasp the tick by head or body parts and pull firmly. Put it in a jar of alcohol to kill it. Clean wound and monitor the site of the bite.

Business Meeting:

Upcoming events are Tater Traditions on August 1st.

Assets = 6317.26

Donations = 82.00

Special events = 248.00

There will be a Hoosier River Watch program coming soon,

We awarded the bats in the raffle, one went to Chuck Golubski and the other to Gene Matzat.

Brooke Artley will be here for the meeting in July to talk about Astronomy.

Please check out our website at www.friendsopotatocreek.org to stay up to date with events.