



# HOOSIER CHATTER

INDIANA STATE ASSOCIATION, INC. OF FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVers,  
Founded as National Campers & Hikers Association



June 2024  
Volume 57 Number 5

*"Where strangers become friends, and friends become family!"*

## 2024 Conservation Campout

The Indiana Conservation Campout is in the history books, and Bill Monroe's Music Park and Campground is proof that good things happen when members of Indiana's FCRV put their minds and backs into beautifying our environment! Gardens were cleaned and replanted, buildings were painted and cleaned, and mulch was spread. The weekend was not all work, though... we had a wonderful time doing what we do best... enjoying one another's company!!



Brad's expression said it all as the coordinator provided a long list of projects that needed to be done. Note: we did not rebuild a bridge!!!

Mike and Lori attacked flower beds and spread mulch.



Valerie and Angie cleaned up some of the many garden areas on grounds.

Scottie, Chet and Mike got a chance to rest while waiting for more mulch to be delivered.

Harlan mulched under the old truck display.

Ron, Gaye, Gary, Misty and Macey cleaned and painted what was called a "historic" outhouse! (Who knows how many celebrities may have "patronized" this site!



And is it ever a real campout without eating?? Bill Monroe's treated us to pizza at noon, and we shared a pitch-in in the evening.

For more pictures from this fun weekend: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FKo9LaCTYWrxVxHE9>



## From the State President

Ed Shaneyfelt

Thank you to all the volunteers that went to Bill Monroe's Music Park and Campground for the conservation campout. It looks like a lot of work got done and good times had by all. We can make a difference just a little at a time.

It is not too late to go to Herkimer, New York, for the National Campvention if you still want to go. They have a lot of fun activities planned for the week of June 23 through the 29, 2024.

Next will be the Regional in Celina, Ohio, on July 24 through the 28, 2024. We will be doing a hospitality one day. Angie will let us know what day, time, and what we will be serving when she has the information. I am taking the pontoon over to do boat rides also.

The Sempers are hosting the summer campout August 9-11, 2024, at Jasper County Fairgrounds in Rensselaer, Indiana. They are having a baked potato bar and pitch in on Saturday evening for the meal. We will tour the fire station and training center also during the day.

The Fall Invitational will be September 27-29, 2024, with a Hawaiian theme. We will be providing hospitality on Friday night and supper on Saturday night. There will be games and fun for all and the camp walk will be up the hill for kettle or regular popcorn.

We need to get thinking about next year's schedule. Start considering hosting a campout whether as a club or individual. Any questions? Feel free to ask for help.

On a side note, I am chairing next year's campvention. If there is a task you would like to be involved in or a job you would like to help with let me know.

Don't forget the wonderful men in your life on Father's Day. Make sure to make them feel special and needed!

Until next time  
*Ed Shaneyfelt*



## From the State Director

Angie Shaneyfelt

Here we are just into the camping season and it's already going fast. I hope you all have your registrations in for the 2024 Campvention that will be June 23-29, 2024, at Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, New York. Follow the 2024 Family Campers & Rvers Facebook page for more information.

**Most important info: Do not follow your GPS. Do: Take exit 39 (Herkimer-Mohawk) and let GPS recalculate.** This will take you to NY 5S and bring you right to the fairgrounds.

Also get onto your schedule the Great Lakes Regional that will be July 24-28, 2024. Hosted by Ohio this year, it will be at the Mercer County Fairgrounds in Celina, Ohio. I will let you know more information when I receive from Dave & Linda Hennie. Our Great Lakes Region always has a great time when we get together, so plan on attending.

Got that National info out of the way!

We had a good turnout for the conservation campout at Bill Monroe's in Bean Blossom, Indiana. The lady who was coordinating the work thought we were "moving in forever instead of camping for one weekend" to get her loooong list done! We did get many of the projects checked off her list. (Brad Davis thought he was going to be the one building a bridge.) Brad communicated with his facial expressions what many of us were thinking! Ask him about that if you weren't able to attend! Thanks Indiana members for your hard work and thanks to Misty for organizing this event.

Ed and I attended the Illinois Spring Campout the weekend of May 17-19, 2024, in Springfield, Illinois. It was a very nice campout and we got to know the Illinois members better. A scavenger hunt in Springfield showed us alot of nice city sites including the Lincoln Tomb (it was beautiful).

Hope to see some of you at Campvention, then we will see some of you at the Regional. After that will

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**HOOSIER CHATTER**

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HOOSIER CHATTER online	www.fcrv.org/IN/chatter.php

# Fun in the Sun

August 9-11, 2024  
Jasper County Fairground  
Rensselaer, Indiana  
(2671 W. Clark Street)

## INDIANA SUMMER CAMPOUT HOSTED BY THE SEMPER FAMILY

Cost for the weekend: \$60.00  
(\$25/night +\$10.00 Activity Fee)

Saturday afternoon: Tour of the Rensselaer fire station and training facility.  
Saturday night meal: PITCH IN with a BAKED POTATO BAR!

Contact VAL SEMPER to reserve your site.  
valeriesemper@hotmail.com  
Or text to 219-741-9106

*There is plenty of room for everyone!!!*



## Conservation

Indiana State Association FCRV  
Conservation/Wildlife Director  
Misty Stuckwisch

Our conservation campout was a success! We had 17 individuals working hard at Bill Monroe's Campground. There was a VERY long list of chores that needed done, but after prioritizing duties we grouped up and headed out. There was painting, weeding, planting, mulching, and trash pick up to be done. It was not what we expected, but it was a good weekend over-all.

I want to personally thank everyone for your hard work that weekend. We have some wonderful cooks in our group, and the pitch-in was a great way to wrap up the day. Please let me know if you would like to do something like this again at a different location. I am sure there are plenty of places that could use our handywork!

Till we camp again,  
*Misty Stuckwisch*

*(STATE DIRECTOR, Continued from page 2)*

be the Summer Camp out in August and then the Retiree & Fall campouts the end of September....and that is how fast a camping season goes. Plan accordingly and make good choices!!!!

Until next month's Chatter,

*Angie Shaneyfelt*



While at Bill Monroe's Campground for the Conservation Campground, Angie found this by one of the campers. The campers there had "inherited" it from their parents who were obviously members a long, long time ago!!!



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Camp Family,

May has passed, Mothers were celebrated, Indianapolis had another race. But we have another Camp Family passage: Dennis James. I ask for prayer for Cindy and family. As Chaplain, I will miss support from a "Past Chaplain", (I'm still a little hard on myself as the way I preach.) May Heaven rejoice receiving another saint.

Now with June upon us, Campvention is the next big event. May the Lord's traveling mercies be all as they travel from the United States and Canada to gather, close to where this all started 75 years ago.

Till we share another campfire, God Bless.

*Harlan Nigh*



Joyce Frye honored her father, past member Gene Henry, by accompanying him on Indy Honor Flight #40 to Washington D.C. on 4/13/2024.

Older members will remember Gene as a past editor of the HOOSIER CHATTER and a kite-flying enthusiast!

Congratulations, and thank you, Gene, for your service to our nation and to Indiana's FCRV!!



## GREEN TREE PLASTICS

Indiana FCRV has a partnership with Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, Indiana. This company takes plastic caps and recycles them into other products, with the popular one being benches. The current prices for a 4' bench (with back) is \$187.50 plus 100 pounds of caps. The 6' bench (with back) is \$295.00 plus 200 pounds of caps.

You can visit their website at [www.greentreeplastics.com](http://www.greentreeplastics.com) to see their other items including tables, trash receptacles and landscape timbers.

If you, or an organization that you know, are interested in purchasing any items, please contact me. I have the partnership set up for Indiana FCRV. After calling to order the product (it would be a 3-way call between me, Green Tree and the person ordering/picking up the item) the pickup date would be set. When you take the caps and money for your item(s), you will come home with your new product. So, you get to take care of the process in one trip.

If you have questions on other products pricing, please email me at [angieshaneyfelt@hotmail.com](mailto:angieshaneyfelt@hotmail.com) and I will be happy to give you the current prices.

*Angie Shaneyfelt*

Indiana FCRV State Director

*(from their website)*

**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY:** Green Tree Plastics, LLC, manufactures recycled plastic products using 100% recycled plastics, no hazardous chemicals, non-organic fillers, non-organic color concentrates.

**EXTREMELY DURABLE:** physical properties of our products excel in on-site applications for agricultural, industrial, recreational, residential and marine use.

**UNIQUE:** (Look at Gallery Photos on website)

- Adult Tables, Youth Tables, Toddler Tables
- sand post designed to stay-put in wetlands washed by tides, winds and storms
- Team benches for sports fields that have large advertising frames facing the fans
- Wheel chocks
- Raised garden beds

[and more!]

[www.greentreeplastics.com](http://www.greentreeplastics.com)

# Travel Safety

DASAT Thoughts  
Marilyn Rausch

## WE LIVE IN A UNIQUE PLACE AND TIME WHEN UNPRECEDENTED RISKS ACCOMPANY TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY WHEN GOING OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

Summertime is travel time! And not all travel is in a camper. Whatever way you take your vacation, protecting yourself, your identity and your property should be in your plans! Extra security measures may be indicated if you are leaving the United States for that dream vacation (or work trip).

Part of vacation fun includes sharing your adventures with your family and friends. The wise traveler would limit those communications until after their return home. Nothing says “welcome” to a thief more clearly than knowing that you are going to be away for a specified amount of time.

That said, let someone you trust know your trip itinerary. Check in with that person regularly during your trip, particularly if plans change in any way.

It would be wise not to depend only on your phone’s live GPS service if going to an unfamiliar area. Download an offline version of Google Maps on your phone to use if, for any reason, you lose cell service.

If traveling abroad, The State Department provides a program called STEP. If you register with STEP, you will receive safety updates when in a foreign country. It will also give your information to the US Embassy or Consulate there in case of emergency.

Check with your cell phone service before leaving the country for what is needed to use your phone data out of the country. You may need to get a local sim card or a temporary international plan rider so that you can use it to book an Uber, look at a map for local services, etc.

Crossroads Magazine (publication of AAA Hoosier Motor Club) has some good suggestions for protecting your personal and financial data in their May/June 2024 issue.

### BEFORE YOUR TRIP

- \* Determine what you need for your trip (driver’s license, passport, essential credit/debit cards.) Leave everything else at home in a secure place.
- \* Notify your financial institution if you will be traveling out of the country so they will not automatically decline your credit card.
- \* Put a hold on your mail or have someone pick up your mail while you are gone so it doesn’t accumulate at the mailbox.
- \* Prepay bills that will become due while you are gone to prevent exposing your financial information over public Wi-Fi.

### WHILE TRAVELING

- \* If using public Wi-Fi, avoid sharing personal information which could more easily be intercepted.
- \* Use mobile travel tickets when possible. Paper boarding passes contain a lot of personal information. When no longer needed, shred or tear into pieces rather than just discarding.
- \* Keep all paper documents secure, but photograph passports, credit card information, and driver’s license in case they are lost or stolen.
- \* If possible, avoid remote ATMs. Scammers and/or cameras may be used to acquire your personal information.
- \* Do not let vendors take your credit card out of your sight when running a payment.

### AFTER RETURNING HOME

- \* Change passwords on personal accounts that you might have used while on vacation. (those passwords should be changed periodically anyway!)
- \* Check your bank and credit card accounts for unexpected changes.
- \* If you frequently travel, especially out of state or overseas, it may be worth subscribing to a credit monitoring organization that may pick up on suspicious activity in your accounts in real time.

### PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS:

- \* Research the local area to identify local crime concerns, common scams, safety to walk in the areas you will find yourself.
- \* If you are going to an all-inclusive resort, do not leave the boundaries of that resort without checking on the safety in those surrounding areas.
- \* When walking in unfamiliar areas, carry a handheld sound alarm (one brand is *Birdie*). It can emit a loud sound in a potentially dangerous situation, and is legal everywhere (mace, pepper spray, etc. are illegal in some areas.)
- \* Move with purpose (even if you don’t know where you are going.) Stay alert to the area around you. Try not to call attention to yourself as an “obvious tourist” or to walk with your eyes focused on your cell phone.

Have a wonderful summer and exciting travels. Just use a bit of caution so that the memories you make are good ones!!

# Rest in Peace



## Dennis K. James

Dennis K. James, 71, of Decatur, Indiana, passed away on Monday evening, May 20, 2024, at Markle Health & Rehabilitation in Markle, Indiana.

Dennis was born on January 21, 1953, in Marion, Indiana, to the late Lewis F. James and Phyllis A. (Heideman) James. Dennis was united in marriage to Cindy Gary on April 6, 1974, at the United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Indiana, and they celebrated their 50th anniversary this past April.

Dennis honorably served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dennis retired from telecommunications.

He was a member of the Family Campers & RV'ers since 1996 and a proud member of the NRA. Dennis was National FCRV Chaplain from 2013 to 2019,. He and Cindy were Indiana State Directors from 2009-2013 (and Cindy continued as State director from 2013 to 2020).

Dennis loved NASCAR and took his family on many trips visiting many different tracks. He enjoyed going to car shows and his two favorite cars were the 1967 and 1969 Ford Mustangs.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy James of Decatur, Indiana; son, Jerod (Amy) James of Cookeville, Tennessee; son, Jeremy James of Hicksville, Ohio; son, Jason (Lisa) James of Fort Wayne, Indiana; sister-in-law, Mary James of Fort Wayne, Indiana; sister-in-law, Rita James of Van Buren, Indiana; sister-in-law, Tami James of Decatur, Indiana; ten grandchildren, Kyle, Sean, Zachary, Logan, Luke, Jadon, Seth, Noah, Leah, and Natalie James; and five nieces and nephews, Marc (Naomi) James, David (Nicole) James II, Billy James, Donni (Joe) O'Grady, and Kimberly (Sari Trusilo) James.

In addition to his parents, Dennis was preceded in death by three brothers, David, Dana, and Randall James; and one niece, April Bollinger.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur, Indiana, with Life Celebrant Dave McIntire officiating. Military honors were rendered by the American Legion Post #43. Burial will take place at a later date at the Van Buren Cemetery.

Preferred memorials can be given to

Adams County Council on Aging  
1109 Dayton St., Rm. 1  
Decatur, IN 46733

(or)

PAWS of Adams County.  
P.O. Box 482  
Decatur, IN 46733

Condolences may be sent to Cindy at  
433 S. 1st Street, Apt. #3  
Decatur, IN 46733  
cljames1756@icloud.com

# Recipes worth Sharing

## LOADED POTATO BITES

### INGREDIANTS:

- 20 Oz bag of shredded hash-browns, thawed.
- 1 egg
- 5 slices of bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 1/4 c. Mexican blend cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1/4 tsp salt

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees
2. Pour hash browns into a large bowl. Stir in egg, sour cream, salt, cheese, and bacon.
3. Using a 2-tsp scoop, make balls and place on a silicone mat or parchment paper.
4. Bake for 25 minutes. Serve warm.

## STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 pounds strawberries, stemmed and sliced
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 3 c. all purpose flour
- 1/4 c. granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 c. cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 1/3 c. cold heavy cream
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp heavy cream (for brushing)
- Turbinado sugar for sprinkling on shortcakes.
- Whipped Cream

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix strawberries and sugar. Set aside.
2. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
3. Sift together flour, sugar, and baking powder.
4. Using pastry blender or 2 knives, cut the butter into the dry ingredients until you have pea-sized pieces.
5. In a small bowl, stir together the heavy cream and vanilla extract. Pour over the flour mixture and stir until just combined.
6. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and lightly knead until the dough comes together. Do not overmix.
7. Press the dough into a circle 1 inch thick. Cut into rounds using a biscuit cutter. Place on prepared baking sheet, 2 inches apart. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
8. Brush the chilled biscuit tops with heavy cream and sprinkle tops generously with turbinado sugar.
9. Bake until golden brown (15-20 minutes).

### ASSEMBLY:

Cut biscuits in half horizontally. Spoon strawberries over the bottom layer, add whipped cream, to both the other biscuit half. Add more strawberries and whipped cream. (You can also break the biscuits into a bowl and top them with strawberries and whipped cream.





# Chapter Campouts

We invite any chapters who have planned their upcoming campouts and would like to invite others to join them to list them here in the CHATTER. Likewise, if you are looking to camp with friends (or people who will become friends), check out these listings!

We also welcome any reports and/or photos from your campouts. What a better way to advertise the heart of Indiana's Family Campers and RVers???

Contact the Editor at [hoosierchatter@hotmail.com](mailto:hoosierchatter@hotmail.com).

## Fireflies and Coffee Pots 2024 Camping Schedule

## Happy Glampers 2024 Camping Schedule

May 31-June 2		Turkey Run State Park
June 23-29, 2024	Campvention	Herkimer Co., New York
July 12-14		Starve Hollow
September 13-15		Parke County Campground
October 25-27		Spring Mill St. Park

July 12-14	Muncie RV Journey	Anderson, IN
July 24-28	Mercer County (OH) Fairgrounds	Great Lakes Regional
Aug 9-11	Jasper County Fairgrounds	Summer Campout
Aug 16-18	Mississinewa SRA	Peru, IN
Sept 10-15	Shipshewana North Campground	
Sept 25-26	Amishville Campground	Retiree Rally
Sept 27-29	Amishville Campground	Fall Invitational

For further information contact John or Rose Stock ([all2stock@aol.com](mailto:all2stock@aol.com))

If you have any questions, call Ron Cohee at 765-661-9673.

# YOUR CHAIR AWAITS

Your Chair Awaits #2 - 8-1-23



- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

WWW.FCRV.ORG








# 2024 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CAMPOUT



Experience the *Grand*  
Life with FCRV Family  
and Friends



July 24-28, 2024  
Mercer County Fairgrounds  
1001 W. Market Street – Celina Ohio 45822

Welcome party, Race Across the Great Lakes, bingo, ole' fashion picnic, games, tours  
and much, much more.

**Pre-Registration \$30.00 per night + \$20 activity fee**

Wed. \_\_\_\_ Thur \_\_\_\_ Fri \_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of nights x \$30 + \$20 activity fee = Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration at Gate \$35.00 per night + \$20 activity fee**

Names \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_ Teens \_\_\_\_ Handicap Parking? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Type of unit \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Slides \_\_\_\_\_

Second family in same unit \$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_ Teens \_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **Great Lakes Regional Account**

Send Preregistration to: David and Linda Hennie  
4101 Honeybrook Ave., Dayton OH 45415

Questions?: Contact us at [GLR4FCRV@aol.com](mailto:GLR4FCRV@aol.com)  
Emergency number: Mercer County Fairgrounds 419-586-3239

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Indiana State Events

### *2024 Indiana Summer Campout "Fun in the Sun"*

August 9-11, 2024  
Hosted by the Semper Family  
Jasper County Fairgrounds  
2671 W. Clark Street  
Rensselaer, Indiana  
(For reservations, contact  
Valerie Semper  
valeriesemper@hotmail.com  
Or text  
219-741-9106

### *2024 Indiana Retiree Rally*

September 25-26, 2024  
Amishville Campground  
844 E 900 S  
Geneva, Indiana  
(260) 589-3536

### *2024 Indiana Fall Invitational "Hawaiian Weekend"*

September 27-29, 2024  
Hosted by Indiana Trustees  
Amishville Campground  
844 E 900 S  
Geneva, Indiana  
(260) 589-3536

Make reservations through  
Deena Felver  
cdfelver@metalink.net  
419-203-6627

## International Events



### *64th Annual Campvention 2024 "Celebrating our Future"*

June 23-29, 2024  
Early Bird Days June 21, 22, 2024  
Herkimer County Fairgrounds  
135 Cemetery Road  
Frankfort, NY 13340

## Regional Events

### *Great Lakes Regional Campout*

July 24-28, 2024  
Hosted by Ohio FCRV  
Mercer County Fairgrounds  
Celena, OH

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# YOUR CHAIR AWAITS

Your Chair Awaits P2 - 9-1-23

- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

**WWW.FCRV.ORG**