

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Community Newsletter

Spring Edition 2021

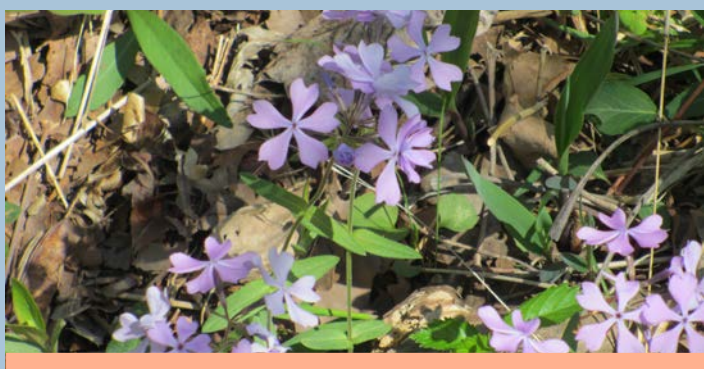
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Historical Park
Kentucky



Spring Edition

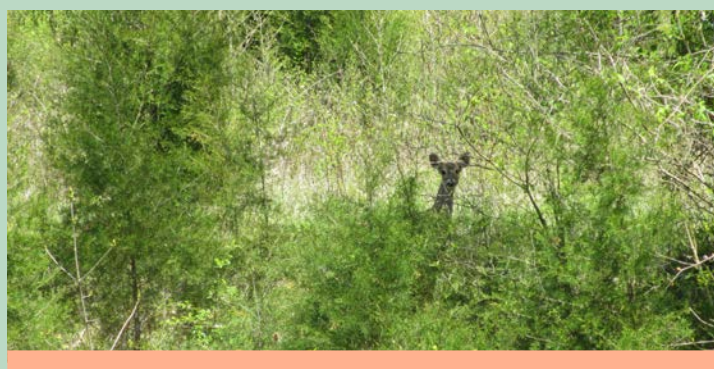
SUNSHINE AND SPROUTS



Flowers blooming alongside the grass..

Spring is finally here! Temperatures are rising and the sun is staying out longer. After a challenging winter and previous year, we all have seemed to be waiting for brighter days. Moderate weather in the spring is the perfect time to enjoy yourself by visiting public lands without challenging heat or cold. Spring is also the perfect opportunity to witness vegetation blooming and wildlife coming out of winter hibernations. Seize the day and nicer weather by getting back outside!

SAFETY THIS SPRING



A white-tailed deer in the brush.

It's always good to be aware of your surroundings, site conditions, potential hazards, site rules and regulations when visiting public lands. Do some research before your visit online or call the site beforehand. Check the weather forecast for your trip and pack accordingly. Locate the site and familiarize yourself with things such as directions and business hours. When you get to the site orient yourself, be aware of your surroundings, and look for any potential hazards such as cliffs or dangerous wildlife.

At the Park

UPDATES FROM IN AND AROUND THE PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Spending time outdoors in a National Park is magical. Whether you are exploring caves at Mammoth Cave NP or the wooded historic landscapes at Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace, wonder abounds! Spring calls to us to explore. Nature walking has been found to reduce stress, improve blood pressure, boost mental health, and decrease cancer risk. If young people connect to the outdoors, they are more likely to develop a lifestyle of environmental stewardship and physical activity that reduce obesity. Please see our article on the new TRACK trail program that support Kids getting Outside! Hope to see you out on the trail soon!



Park superintendent
Catherine Bragaw.

GETTING VIRTUAL



Facebook and Instagram logos.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the park service has reformatted traditional in-person programs to a virtual format. Parks have embraced creative and innovative thinking to redefine how the environmental, historical, and cultural stories presented to visitors. This transformation has led to greater utilization of virtual delivery of programs and information via the [park's website](#), our [Facebook page](#), our [Instagram account](#), and our newly launched [NPS app](#).

LINC THE SQUIRREL



Park mascot Linc the grey squirrel.

Rangers here at ABLI spotted a giant grey squirrel, this winter, visiting the park. The grey squirrel is the Kentucky state animal. Our giant grey squirrel has become the park's mascot and the TRACKtrail program mascot!. Rangers held a squirrel naming championship where visitors submitted suggestions for names for our friendly squirrel and voted. We had so many great suggestions and some of the honorable mentions were: Emancipation "Em", Tuffs, Liberty, Honest, Rail Splitter, and Copper with runner-up Hodge. We are happy to share the official winner and name of our squirrel is Linc!



ABLI CHIEF SAYS "BUONGIORNO!" TO ITALIAN TOURISM DIRECTORS

On the morning of Tuesday, March 7, 2021 I heard the welcoming greeting of "Buongiorno!" by folks in Italy at the other end of my computer screen. I participated in a webinar series by the NPS Office of Tourism with Italian tourism directors to encourage them to visit our national parks. During the call over 175 directors were able to join and I got to brag about our park. I was part of the "Mid West and Great Lakes" group so I not only featured our park, but also Mammoth Cave, the Lincoln Boyhood Home in Indiana, the Gateway Arch and Hot Springs during the call. Hopefully we will see these visitors in the future once they can travel safely and then we can all greet them with a welcoming "Buongiorno!"



Chief of Interpretation
Stacy Humphreys.

THE SPRING IS SINKING?!



Historic sinking spring sign.

Don't let the name fool you! The sinking spring is not actually sinking, it is a geologic formation called a Karst Window. The spring is an opening appearing as a depression, similar to sinkhole, above a subterranean stream or groundwater. This feature of the farm has long been highlighted as shown by the historic signage in the photo to the left. The sinking spring has undergone updates such as new signage and accessibility changes over the years, looking much different than the natural overgrown spring the Lincoln's would have known.

FEELING SLUGGISH?

It's difficult to overcome the 'slump' of winter and get back in the swing of things. Adjusting to weather and daylight changes can seem like the days drag by slower than usual, but could you imagine feeling that way all the time? Slugs can't seem to catch a break. Most slugs found in Kentucky are not native and are of European origin, like the one to the left, the great gray slug or the leopard slug. Despite their speed, they can be considered serious pests for farmers. The Lincoln's would not have experienced the same slugs we see today back in the 1800s because most species aren't native to the region.



Great gray slug.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parks & Pages

Join us in reading books on the untold stories of the Civil War and come out to the park at 3pm for discussion with rangers and other visitors. We will have these meetings once a month and no reservations or fees are necessary. Check the park's [website](#) or [Facebook](#) for the full schedule for the year or contact us.

April 16, 2021

Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia by Kathryn Meier

May 21, 2021

Pukoko: A Hawaiian in the American Civil War by Wayne Moniz

June 18, 2021

The Wound Dresser by Walt Whitman

July 16, 2021

Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis by Karsonya Wise Whitehead (pg. 277)

National Park Week

April 17th- 26th

Join us online and at the park to celebrate National Park Week! There are various activities planned such as [Jr. Ranger Day](#) and Park Rx day!

Shakespeare in the Park

May 27th (Rain Date: June 3rd)

Join us at the birthplace for the outdoor production of Romeo and Juliet by Kentucky Shakespeare based in Louisville, KY.

Juneteenth Lighting Event

June 19th

Stop by the birthplace the night of June 19th to observe the memorial building lit for the recognition of Juneteenth.

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter or park please reach out to us at abli_superintendent@nps.gov.



STAY UPDATED AND CONNECTED
WITH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Community Pulse

MEET THE DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION

The national parks operate under subdivisions of staff such as administration, maintenance, and interpretation. This newsletter we will meet the division of interpretation. This division handles the visitor services of parks and includes the smiling rangers that you see around each park. They also manage park social media and webpages to educate visitors that may not make it to the park in person.



Park staff in front of
Memorial Building.

LET'S CHAT WITH EASTERN NATIONAL



Eastern National Manager
Elizabeth Springer.

Eastern National is a nonprofit cooperating association of the NPS. Eastern National's first store ever was actually here at the birthplace! They currently manage our bookstore at the birthplace and support visitor center operations. Proceeds from sales are donated to support important projects in the parks like exhibits, programming, signage, and others. The association has recently been focusing heavily on recovery from the impact the covid-19 pandemic had on sales and operations.

MIND THE TICKS

Warmer weathers means short sleeves, short pants, sandals... and ticks? Ticks will search for hosts, that means you, anytime the temperature is above freezing. Ticks carry diseases like lyme's and rocky mountain spotted fever, so it is important to reduce the risk of tick bites and infection. Reduce the risk by checking your clothes and body thoroughly after being outside and using EPA approved insect repellent. Disease transmission typically occurs after 24 hours so make sure to remove ticks as soon as possible. The best defense against ticks are prevention and early detection!



A drawing of
the American
Deer Tick.