**Strand Nursery Tour**

**Saturday July 24 from 9:30 to 11:30**

**Strand Nursery/Blue Fox Farms LLC**

**5644 W 650 N, Wawaka, Indiana 46794**

**Open to the public. Rain or Shine. Kid-friendly.**

9:15 Sign-In

9:30 Learn how a bare root native plant wholesaler operates and tour growing fields

10:15 Refreshment break

10:30 Hike Blue Fox Farm

11:30 Return to nursery and perhaps purchase some 1-gallon pots of natives, herbs and non-native ornamental plants.

We will tour the nursery, learning how she stores and ships bare roots, we will tour the beds where she grows the plants and learn how she harvests them. This part is Strand Nursery. Check out their offerings. [www.strandnursery.com](http://www.strandnursery.com)

Enjoy refreshments using some of the dried herbs offered by Blue Fox Farm.

Hike Blue Fox Farm, a non-traditional farm in that it isn’t a traditional income-producing farm of row crops. While a tenant farmer rents about 1/3 of the 109-acres farm and there are some animals but none for income (goats supposedly for weed control, chickens, ducks, and sometimes a few beef cows).  We have many wooded and swampy areas and that is where Blue Fox Farms income is from, the native and healing herbs that grow in these areas.  The 1-mile hike will be hilly so wear good shoes and bug spray! Bring your field guide or plant ID app and let’s find some new species for them! An invasive management report was done this spring, so we can learn how to manage invasives on a large property. <https://bluefoxfarmsllc.com>

Parking is available along a long one-way-at-a-time land, but there should be plenty of parking by the house and barns.

Blue Fox Farms, LLC was named with a combination of 2 fields on the farm (Fox Field and the Blue Grass) in 2019 and was all about healing herbs.  Then the opportunity to purchase Strand Nursery out of Wisconsin/Minnesota border came up and it fit so well.  The farm was originally purchased in 1950 by Donna’s grandfather for Donna’s father who became a dairy farmer (Ayrshires breed) until the 1980's and he retired to become the mail carrier.  The farm house was built in 1911 but we are still working on finding dates for the barns which are older than the house.  The farm is 107 acres.

If you will need to sit, please bring a chair.

**INPS Support**

**Parking guides** – at least 2, maybe more, one at the entry and one around the farmhouse/barn. Parking guides may be needed when it is time to leave also.

**Refreshment table** – A volunteer is needed to help with the refreshment table. Donna’s helper/co-worker Rebecca loves to cook so she is using some of Blue Fox Farm’s dried herbs in a couple bread/dips. She will have gluten free available.  There may also be yogurt with strawberries and mint and at least a couple herbal tea flavors to try.

**Sign-In table**: One or two volunteers to staff as well as arrange to bring sign-in sheets, brochures, books for sale (Wake-Up Woods and Invasive Species), banner, newsletter sign-up. Martha will provide canopies and Donna will provide a table.

**Invite the North Chapter** since this is halfway between South Bend and Fort Wayne. Invite to INLA?

**Promotion:** email newsletter to members and interested parties, Facebook event, media?

**Event photographer**