What is peat?
Peat is composed of water-saturated plant remains. Peat often occurs in specific types of wetlands called bogs and fens. There are several types of peat: Sphagnum moss peat, hypnum-moss peat, sedge peat, shrub peat, and humus peat.

Peat represents a stage in the formation of coal. It has a high carbon content (about 60 percent) and if you dry it out it will readily burn. In fact, because of its high carbon content and its resulting combustibility, peat has been an important fuel source in some countries, such as Ireland and Russia. Indiana ranks in the top ten U.S. states in peat production, but Indiana’s peat is sold for soil improvement, not fuel.

In Indiana, peat is concentrated in the northern part of the state, the region that was glaciated during the Wisconsin Stage (about 50,000 to 15,000 years ago). You can see an excellent example of a sphagnum-moss peat bog at Pinhook Bog in Porter County. Pinhook Bog is associated with the National Lakeshore and it is open to visitors.