

OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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Ouabache Land Conservancy
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Information about OLC can be found on our website at ouabachelandconservancy.org



Mission Statement:

The Ouabache Land Conservancy protects, preserves and restores land in west central Indiana to provide habitat for wildlife, maintain natural scenic beauty, improve water quality, and secure the means to produce food and fiber for future generations.

FIFTH ANNUAL OLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Natural lands function best and deliver the greatest benefit to citizens and their communities when connected. Unfortunately, our growth and development patterns and practices have increasingly fragmented our landscape, with the result being decreased water quality, a loss of natural diversity and fewer opportunities to connect with nature. To learn more about what we can do to help, Ouabache Land Conservancy is excited to have Cliff Chapman, Executive Director of the Central Indiana Land Trust, tell us

about their Greening the Crossroads program. This outstanding initiative identifies more than 300,000 acres of green infrastructure and seeks to create a continuous network of natural lands in Central Indiana. Please join us on April 10, 2015 at Rick's Smokehouse in Terre Haute, for food, fellowship, and for Cliff's insights into protecting land for future generations in Indiana. Social hour with a silent auction begins at 6 pm, with dinner at 7 pm. This event is open to the public, but seating is limited and RSVP is needed for the dinner count.

In a Nutshell:

Date: April 10, 2015
 Time: 6:00 Social Hour & Silent Auction
 7:00 Dinner
 Location: Rick's Smokehouse
 3102 Wabash Ave
 Terre Haute, IN
 Price: \$20 per person
 RSVP: Brendan Kearns
brendanrkearns@gmail.com
 or 812-236-3048

2014 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 4th Annual OLC Member Meeting
- OLC Board of Directors Retreat at ISU Sycamore Outdoor Center
- Otter Creek Watershed Stakeholders/Landowners meetings
- Indiana Master Naturalist class
- Tour of Forest Park on the Banks of the Otter Creek
- Fall Foliage Hike at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve

PROTECTED PROPERTIES

Fee Simple:

Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (Vigo Co) - 15 acres

Conservation Easement:

- McDonald Farm (Vigo Co) - 248 acres
- Haymaker Farm (Putnam Co) - 161 acres
- Reynolds Property (Vigo Co) - 15 acres
- Osburn Cliffs (Sullivan Co) - 38 acres

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It is hard to believe, but Ouabache Land Conservancy is entering into our 5th year as a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust. We have accomplished so much in such a short time and I am looking forward to much greater accomplishments as we continue to grow.

Of course an organization like ours runs on the spirit of volunteerism, and there are many members that are continuing to make great contributions. We are grateful to Joan Osburn and her late husband Wayne who have protected their majestic property in Sullivan County with a Conservation Easement in 2014. Thanks go to Hansford Mann and Jim McDonald for making this happen! These two are also working on an exciting upland hardwood acquisition in Parke County. Watch our website at www.ouabachelandconservancy for an announcement. Speaking of our website, I thank Karen Moffett who has developed and maintained it since its inception back in 2011. Karen also is our newsletter editor, it is great how she can turn all of our snippets of information into this fine production. Continuing thanks goes out to all of our Board members and other members who are listed on pages 2 and 3. Without you there would be no Ouabache Land Conservancy!

Stepping down from the Board of Directors are Jim Sullivan and Gerald McGlone, however we are glad that they will still be serving us on our Advisory Board as we will continue to seek their advice. Also, thanks to Steve Herbert, who has been with us since the very beginning. He is leaving the area and his contributions will be missed!

We are happy to have added two new Directors for 2015. Adam Grossman is Assistant Director of the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department and brings a wealth of information concerning natural resources and watershed management to us. Also, Evan Boyer, ISU Grounds Maintenance, brings his knowledge of landscaping and invasive species control to the table. In addition, we have strengthened our Advisory Board with new members: Jane Santucci, Amber Slaughterbeck, Dan Griggs and Keith Ruble. No doubt that you know them or at least their names as they all have been working in the natural resources conservation arena for quite some time. Welcome!!

Another exciting initiative that we are planning is to apply for a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant to complete a Otter Creek Watershed Management Plan. You might ask, "Why would a land trust be doing this?" Our mission statement includes improving water quality; and what better way to do this than to have a good management plan for cleaner water and then implement it locally!

To quote early conservationist John Muir, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." Please remember that we need these places in west central Indiana as you renew or join Ouabache Land Conservancy with your generous contribution for 2015. For your convenience a membership form is on the last page of this newsletter and can also be found on our website. Lastly, don't forget to "like" OLC on Facebook and I look forward to seeing you at our 5th Annual Member Meeting on April 10th!

Thanks for your support!

Phil Cox



OLC would like to thank these non-board members for their support!

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| John Bacone | Dan & Cheri Bradley | Sallie Cox | Mike & Amy Fisher |
| Christian Freitag | Pat Goodwin | Bob & Joanne Haymaker | Darren Maher |
| Vicki Meretsky | Todd Nation | Joy O'Keefe | Joan Osburn |
| Greg & Clare Oskay | Craig & Carol Reynolds | Anna White | Tom Zeller |

Current Members!

It's that time of year again: fill out the renewal form on the back page!

OSBURN CONSERVATION EASEMENT



Ouabache Land Conservancy is honored and proud to announce the acceptance of our fourth Conservation Easement May 29 2014. This easement will provide protection of property in Sullivan County Indiana consisting of 37.72 acres owned by Joan Osburn. Joan’s recently deceased husband Wayne played a major role in having the Conservation Easement put in place. The property locally known as “The Cliffs” contains ravines in numerous places with sheer slopes of sandstone covered with ferns. The surrounding woodlands have the typical Indiana Hardwood species of Walnut, Red and White Oak, Poplar, Maple, Ash, Cherry, Sycamore, Beech, Sassafras and Locust. Some White Pines are also present having been planted by the Conservation Corps. Invasive Bush

Honeysuckle has yet to occupy the woodlands in significant numbers and Joan is committed to control this “death” bush as it appears. Photo shows Hansford Mann and Joan traversing “TheCliffs” rugged terrain. Photo by M. Jones.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2015

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Advisory Board</u>	
Phil Cox	President	2017	Susan Berta	Dave Burns
Hansford Mann	VP of Acquisition & Stewardship	2016	Mary Beth Eberwein	Dan Griggs
Open	VP of Programs & Development		Ted Harris	Robert Jean
Bill Mitchell	Secretary	2017	Carissa Lovett	Gerald McGlone
George Bakken	Treasurer	2015	Mike Moloney	Karen Moffett
<u>Directors</u>			Raoul Moore	Fred Nation
Evan Boyer	Director	2017	Marshall Parks	Patrick Ralston
Adam Grossman	Director	2017	Keith Ruble	Jane Santucci
Marion Jackson	Director	2016	Peter Scott	Jim Sullivan
Marty Jones	Director	2015	Gerald “Bud” Sharp	Jim Speer
Brendan Kearns	Director	2015	Amber Slaughterbeck	
Larry Owen	Director	2016		
John Whitaker	Director	2017		
			<u>Honorary Advisory Board</u>	
			Jim McDonald	



Check out our website at
ouabachelandconservancy.org or
 visit us on Facebook!

Christian Freitag, Ex. Director of Sycamore Land Trust, and Tom Zeller (one of SLT’s founders), led a Planning Retreat for OLC at the ISU Sycamore Outdoor Center on March 1. Board members in attendance included, (l to r) John Whitaker, Bill Mitchell, Zeller, Freitag, Larry Owen, Phil Cox, Hansford Mann, George Bakken. Also, in attendance were Marty Jones and Marion Jackson. Photo by Marty Jones.

A GREAT DAY FOR HIKES, OCTOBER 25, 2014



Those enjoying a tour of Forest Park (on the banks of Otter Creek) in northern Vigo County led by Marty Jones on the beautiful fall morning of October 25th were, left to right, Marty, Brendan Kearns, Mia Kearns, Jane Santucci, Laura Bakken, George Bakken, Larry Owen, Mary Moloney, Evan Boyer, Mike Moloney, John Whitaker and Hansford Mann. For a very informative article about Forest Park, please turn to page 5.

Photo by Jane Santucci

Also on the same day, some of the same folks and others enjoyed their afternoon on the annual Fall Foliage Hike at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve led by Drs. Rob Jean (3rd from right) and Marion Jackson (far left). To find out more about Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve and other State dedicated nature preserves, visit the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves website at www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/4698.htm.



Photo by Jane Santucci

ABOUT OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

The Ouabache (pronounced Wabash) Land Conservancy was founded in 2007 as a land trust. There are currently about 1,700 land trusts in the United States, with more than 20 in the state of Indiana. The function of most land trusts is to protect natural lands and farmlands from development. Some land trusts also focus on historic sites. For more information about land trusts visit www.landtrustalliance.org. OLC serves west central Indiana, concentrating in Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo Counties.

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Anyone can become a member and supporter of OLC and we welcome all! We invite anyone who has an interest in preserving natural and agricultural lands for future generations to attend our meetings. Please see membership form on back page.

We need your help to preserve our natural lands!

OLC's board meetings are open to its general membership and to the public. They are held at 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Markle House, 4900 Mill Dam Road across from Markle Mill Park in N. Terre Haute.

Ouabache Land Conservancy especially needs people whose love for nature would motivate them to serve on our board or on a committee. We can use individuals with naturalist knowledge, real estate skills, website or newsletter experience, connections to other organizations for outreach events, and many other areas, including enthusiasm to help where needed most. Come join us!

Forest Park: North Terre Haute, Indiana



Forest Park is a 365 acre scenic landmark, just upstream of the historic Otter Creek Markle Dam in North Terre Haute, Indiana. For many years, entry onto this property has been limited to employees and immediate families of two Terre Haute businesses, Hulman & Company and First Financial Bank. Its rolling, sometimes rugged, terrain and natural beauty inspire those that are fortunate to access the park. Forest Park is a unique area, which was identified by Alton A. Lindsey in the Report of the Indiana Natural Areas Survey, 1969. Lindsey was a pioneering ecologist who was largely responsible for the creation of nature preserves in the state of Indiana. In his book, Lindsey referred to the Forest Park property as Hulman Woods. Lindsey strongly supported the preservation of Hulman Woods as he did

other properties that have since been protected. Lindsey was instrumental in the creation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana's first nature preserve, Pine Hills in nearby Montgomery County, as well as many other properties now protected in our state.

The Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC) recently placed Forest Park high on their list of properties needing permanent protection. By learning of the aesthetic value of Forest Park, we encourage you to join Ouabache Land Conservancy in working to protect this, and similar exceptional properties, at risk to potential development and destruction.

Forest Park had been an area of study for forestry students for many years, due to the variety of forestry trees here. Forestry and other natural research project results of the park and Otter Creek are available from some of Indiana's most respected scientist and naturalist. This is fortunate as our ancestors destroyed most of our local natural areas before anyone had a chance to study them or try to understand them. Forest Park and our remaining natural areas serve important roles in the study of ecology, botany, zoology, geology, and soil science. They also provide useful educational and cultural information in the study of science, local history, conservation and nature studies such as bird watching, insect study and wildflower and tree identification. And, of course, they preserve examples of some of Indiana's rarest resources.

As one would expect of such a large natural area, wildlife habitat is abundant in Forest Park and nearby areas. Evidence of this can be found in published articles and interviews with those leading the research. On October 7, 2005, a three-hour bio-blitz of the aquatic and terrestrial habitats was conducted on Forest Park and Otter Creek. A bio-blitz is an assessment of the living species living in a particular area. The bio-blitz consisted of a team of 35 scientist and naturalist teams, which surveyed different taxonomic groups. In the brief three hour period, the teams recorded a total of 370 species: 205 plant species, 43 fungus, 9 insect, 8 bivalve, 2 crayfish, 52 fish, 6 amphibian, 34 bird, and 11 mammal species. The Indiana Academy of Sciences final bio-blitz results indicate that the total of 370 species recorded was surprising and impressive. Complete results of this bio-blitz may be viewed online.

Dr. John O. Whitaker, Jr., a resident of Otter Creek Township, recently completed 50 years of aquatic research of Otter Creek. Dr. Whitaker is Emeritus Professor, Department of Ecology and Organismal Biology, Indiana State University. Portions of Whitaker's research discoveries in Otter Creek and Forest Park as well as other parts of the state can be found in two books he has either authored or co-authored; Habitats and Ecological Communities of Indiana, Mammals of Indiana, and Bats of Indiana. In his study of Otter Creek, Dr. Whitaker found that much of the fish habitat variation in Vigo County is represented here in Otter Creek. Dr. Whitaker says "Markle's Dam is by far the most important area for fish diversity in Vigo County, and one of the most important areas in Indiana." Over his 50 years of Otter Creek sampling at Mill Dam, Dr. Whitaker has collected and analyzed an amazing total of 78 fish species. Upstream areas from Markle Dam, especially large areas such as the Forest Park property, are extremely important to maintaining water quality of the stream. Unfortunately the fish population at Markle Dam is threatened with E-coli contamination. **For the rest of the article, with photos and references, please visit our website at www.ouabachelandconservancy.org and look in the Local Conservation Issues section.**

Ouabache Land Conservancy
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PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Yes! I want to become a member of Ouabache Land Conservancy to help with its important conservation work!
I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other amount: _____

New Member Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home phone (_____) _____ Work phone (_____) _____

Cell phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Would you prefer to receive newsletters & written communications via email _____ or hard copy via US Postal Service _____

Please make checks payable to "Ouabache Land Conservancy".

Mail to: Ouabache Land Conservancy
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