

OUABACHE NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

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Ouabache Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 10993
Terre Haute, IN 47801-0993
Phone: 765-548-4007

Information about OLC can be found on their 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.

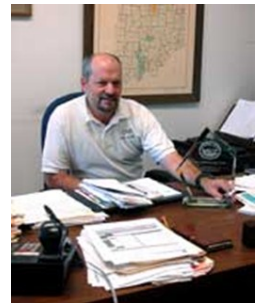
THIRD ANNUAL OLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In a Nutshell:

Date: January 25, 2013
Time: 6:00 Social Hour
and Silent Auction
7:00 Dinner
Location: Kleptz Restaurant
9711 W US Hwy 40
Price: \$25 per person
RSVP: Phil Cox
(765)548-4007 or
philwcox@gmail.com

The Ouabache Land Conservancy will have our 3rd annual meeting and banquet on Friday January 25th at Kleptz Restaurant, 9711 W US Hwy 40, Seelyville (8 miles east of downtown Terre Haute). The featured speaker for the evening is John Bacone, Director, Indiana Division of Nature Preserves (IDNP). When John became director in 1979, there were 51 dedicated nature preserves in Indiana protecting 9,637 acres of land. Today, there are over 200 dedicated nature preserves protecting more than 40,000 acres throughout the state. John will be discussing the Healthy Rivers Initiative, the history of Indiana's Nature Preserve System and the relationship

between the IDNP & local land trusts. There will be a social hour (with cash bar) and silent auction (donations accepted at banquet) beginning at 6:00 with dinner at 7:00. Contact Phil Cox for reservations at (765)548-4007 or philwcox@gmail.com by January 18. Checks (made payable to Ouabache Land Conservancy for \$25 per person for 2013 members, \$50 minimum for non-members (includes a membership), and \$25 per guest with member) can be mailed to Phil Cox, P.O. Box 237, Clinton, IN 47842 or payment can be made at the door (with a reservation). Please note that members are encouraged to give more than the minimum. Members are encouraged to renew their membership for 2013 and join us for this special night. Please come and help celebrate Ouabache Land Conservancy's 2012 accomplishments and our vision for 2013!



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



The Ouabache Land Conservancy and Sycamore Trails RC&D hosted an Invasive Species Management Workshop at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve on Saturday March 31st. Students learned about the different species of invasive plants in Indiana; and mechanical and chemical control methods. After the

classroom learning, they put their new found knowledge to work controlling invasive plants at the nature preserve. Target invasive species included bush honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose and common privet. Participants included (l-r): Marion Jackson, Amber Slaughterbeck, Loren Kerr, Judy Stoffel, Evan Boyer, Jay Morgan, Raoul Moore (instructor), Karen Staub (instructor), Hansford Mann, Bev Pestel (instructor), Phil Cox, Peggy Foster, Dave Burns, and Larry Long.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Another year has come and gone and the Ouabache Land Conservancy celebrated its official second birthday November 2nd. I would like to take this time to look back and reflect about the great progress OLC has made. This has been a team effort with great contributions by many people.

As many of you know, I have decided to pass the leadership on to our younger talent and have requested that I be placed on the Advisory Board. I have been updating the contact information sheet for our 2013 Officers, Directors and Advisory Board members. This has led to a certain amount of reminiscing about the past conservation efforts and the people involved.

Bud Sharp, Raoul Moore and Steve Herbert, Advisory Board Members, were on the Land Trust Committee of Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council along with Hansford Mann, our VP of Acquisitions and Stewardship, when I joined the RC&D Council back in 2001. These four have had the greatest influence on me and deserve the greatest credit for forming and supporting OLC. They served on the founding Ouabache Board of Directors.

Ted Harris, a founding Director and now Advisory Board Member, deserves an equal amount of credit for bringing his experience as former Director of the Central Indiana Land Trust and Niches Land Trust. He also brought the expertise and support of the Indiana Land Protection Alliance to suggest we move the organization to Vigo County and rename it to avoid the confusion with the Sycamore Land Trust in Bloomington.

Mike Moloney, a Rose-Hulman Professor, Advisory Board Member, has been a friend and has served with me as an Officer and Director of the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks for over ten years. Look at the rest of the list of people on our Advisory Board. Everyone is known in the community for his/her conservation efforts.

The move to Vigo County was an immediate success in that it brought the great talent and expertise of Indiana State University faculty into the organization. Marion Jackson and John Whitaker were founding Directors and continue to serve. We soon added George Bakken and Bill Mitchell as our Treasurer and Secretary. We now have added Jim Speer, Executive Director of ISU's Institute for Community Sustainability, to the 2013 Board of Directors.

Other Terre Haute talent includes Jerry McGlone, founding Director and attorney for our 501(c)(3) application; Marty Jones, Director, known for his activities with the Wabash Valley Audubon Society and wildlife photography; Jim Sullivan, businessman, wildlife photographer and Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area advocate; and our newly elected VP for Outreach and Programs, Brendan Kearns, business man and conservationist.

Last, but certainly not least, I wish to recognize Phil Cox, our 2013 President. I first met Phil when the RC&D was participating in public hearings over the Newport Chemical Depot decommissioning. The Land Trust Committee was interested in preserving as much acreage as we might be able to get for wildlife habitat. Phil was very interested in preserving the acres of tallgrass prairie that he had helped the Army to restore. We could not preserve the prairie, but Phil was recruited into Ouabache LC where he has been a tireless worker as VP of Programs and Outreach. He has also been active in the Wabash Valley Audubon Society and the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks. He now has agreed to take the President's responsibilities. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, Phil.

You may have noticed another title and new name on the Officer, Directors and Advisors list, Honorary Advisory Board Member, Jim McDonald, a Terre Haute attorney. Of all the people I have named and recognized for their contribution to the formation of Ouabache Land Conservancy, he is certainly the very first person to take the first step that led to OLC. Jim wanted to put a Conservation Easement on his farm in Vigo County so that it will forever be managed as wildlife habitat. I was told he could not find a land trust that would hold a CE on a farm. He finally found an RC&D in northeastern Indiana that would hold it. At some time in the late 1990s, The Sycamore Trails RC&D was asked if they would hold the CE as the farm was in their service area. The CE was transferred and the Land Trust Committee was formed for this purpose, and you know the rest. Jim has been a great resource for Hansford in our early experiences with writing other CEs but does not want to be a Director as he does not want to "waste time" in meetings!

With a great team like this, Ouabache Land Conservancy will continue to grow and serve a greater role for land conservation in west central Indiana. Now, go get your checkbook and give what you can for your 2013 membership dues in the Ouabache Land Conservancy!

I will continue to support OLC as time and energy will allow. It has been a great, very rewarding experience.

Thanks you all for your help and support,

Dave Burns

REYNOLDS CONSERVATION EASEMENT



Ouabache Land Conservancy is honored to announce the acceptance of its second conservation easement since receiving 501(c)(3) non-profit status in 2010. This easement is on 15 acres of bottomland hardwood forest along a tributary to Lost Creek in eastern Vigo County and is owned by Craig and Carole Reynolds. It's very good habitat for many birds and other animals that visit and live in the nearby Hawthorn Park & J.I. Case Wetland Wildlife Refuge. The Reynoldses were able to purchase and therefore save this property, and the wildlife that inhabit it, from developers in 1998. OLC's Hansford Mann worked diligently with the Reynoldses, appraisers and lawyers to make this conservation easement happen. A big THANK YOU goes out to Craig and Carole for protecting their beautiful property for future generations of nature lovers and wildlife in west central Indiana.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2013

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Advisory Board</u>
Phil Cox	President	2014	Susan Berta
Hansford Mann	VP of Acquisitions	2013	Dave Burns
Brendan Kerns	VP of Programs	2015	Mary Beth Eberwein
Bill Mitchell	Secretary	2014	Ted Harris
George Bakken	Treasurer	2015	Steve Herbert
<u>Directors</u>			Mike Maloney
Marion Jackson	Director	2013	Karen Moffett
Marty Jones	Director	2015	Raoul Moore
Gerald McGlone	Director	2013	Fred Nation
Jim Speer	Director	2015	Marshall Parks
Jim Sullivan	Director	2015	Patrick Ralston
John Whitaker	Director	2014	Peter Scott
Board elections were held December 4, 2012			<u>Honorary Advisory Board</u>
			Jim McDonald

2012 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 2nd Annual OLC Meeting at Gerhardt's Bierstube
- Invasive Species Management Workshop at St Mary-of-the-Woods College and Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP)
- Spring Wildflowers Hike at JSNP
- Tallgrass Prairie Hike at JSNP
- Bat Night Out at Dobbs Memorial Park
- Indiana State University Bat Festival
- Fall Foliage Hike at JSNP



ABOUT OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

The Ouabache (pronounced Wabash) Land Conservancy was founded in 2007 as a land trust. There are currently over 1,700 land trusts in the United States, 26 of which are 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.

OLC serves west central Indiana, including Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, 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 .

OLC's board meetings are open to its general membership and to the public. They are held at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at 4900 Mill Dam Road across from Markle Mill Park in North Terre Haute. Come join us!

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.

**We need your
help to preserve
our natural lands!**

Otter Creek Valley Important to Indiana's Healthy River Initiative



Did you know that 57 species of fish have been documented in Otter Creek; and that Otter Creek originates in Clay County (near the town of Carbon) and flows approximately 24 miles west through Vigo County to its confluence with the Wabash River north of Terre Haute? To draw attention to the scenic beauty and biodiversity of the creek, Ouabache Land Conservancy recently installed signs identifying Otter Creek at seven (7) bridges in Vigo County at: U.S. 41, E. Hasselburger Av., N. Clinton St., Rosedale Rd., Robertson Rd., Meneeley St., and N. Miami Gardens St. As many do not realize what waterway they are crossing as they are busily traveling about, these signs are intended to promote awareness of Otter Creek; and also promote OLC and its mission of land preservation.

Furthermore, identifying Otter Creek will help many realize that it is a very important piece of the local conservation matrix and Indiana's Healthy Rivers Initiative, as the Otter Creek Valley joins the more than 43,000-acre Healthy Rivers Initiative project area for the Wabash River and Sugar Creek corridor that stretches from Montgomery County to Sullivan County. The Healthy Rivers Initiative involves the protection, restoration and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats and the species that use them, particularly threatened, endangered, migratory birds and waterfowl.

Therefore, in order to build on the Healthy Rivers Initiative, the OLC is promoting protecting the Otter Creek Valley. OLC can assist landowners to protect their property from development by placing conservation easements on their property and still use their property in non-destructive ways for themselves and future owners. Fee simple donation is also a possibility to protect property as a nature preserve in perpetuity. Currently, there are several areas that provide some level of protection to the approximately 80,000 acre Otter Creek watershed, including: Forest Park, Markle Mill Park, Sycamore Trails RC&D Woods, and Indiana State University property. Please contact the OLC if you would like assistance protecting your Otter Creek Valley undeveloped property (or any other undeveloped property in the nine county service area) for the enjoyment of future generations.



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

Sallie Cox
 Amy Fisher
 Dan Griggs
 Vicky Meretsky

Todd Nation
 Larry Owen
 Tammy Phipps

Sarah Schneider
 Amber Slaughterbeck
 Debbie Stevens

Current Members!

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

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

Ouabache Land Conservancy
c/o George Bakken
P.O. Box 10993
Terre Haute, IN 47801-0993

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 224

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

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
c/o George Bakken
P.O. Box 10993
Terre Haute, IN 47801-0993

