

# OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>Sanctuary Oaks NP</i>	3
<i>Board Members</i>	3
<i>AINA &amp; JSNP Activities</i>	4
<i>About OLC</i>	4
<i>OC Watershed Coordinator</i>	5
<i>IDNP &amp; Membership Form</i>	6

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Information about OLC can be found on our website at [ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://ouabachelandconservancy.org) and Facebook



### 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 and air quality, while enhancing the quality of life in our communities for future generations.

## 8TH ANNUAL OLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The Ouabache Land Conservancy welcomes **Indiana Division of Nature Preserves State Botanist/Plant Ecologist Michael Homoya**, as the guest speaker for our 8th annual meeting on April 6, 2018. Homoya is the author of *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests* and *Orchids of Indiana*. Prior to statehood Indiana was a land of forests, wetlands, barrens, canebrakes, and prairies. Herds of bison traveled ancient paths, passenger pigeons darkened the skies, and wolves, bears and panthers roamed the land. The veracity of first person accounts varies,

but Homoya's research will "paint" a picture of "original" Indiana during his talk. Please join us at the Tredegar Technical Center for food (catering by FiFi's Lunch Box), fellowship, and Homoya's presentation, "Connecting Our Past, Preserving For Our Future." Social hour with a silent auction begins at 6 pm, with dinner at 7:00. This event is open to the public (with minimum paid 2018 OLC membership donation of \$25 or \$15 for new members per couple). Seating is limited; please RSVP to Evan Boyer at [e.boyer13@yahoo.com](mailto:e.boyer13@yahoo.com).

### In a Nutshell:

**Date:** April 6, 2018  
**Time:** 6:00 Social Hour  
& Silent Auction  
7:00 Dinner  
**Location:** Tredegar Tech Center  
3400 Ft. Harrison Rd  
Terre Haute, IN 47804  
**Price:** Members: \$25 per person  
New members: \$40 includes membership (plus \$25 per additional guest)  
**RSVP:** [e.boyer13@yahoo.com](mailto:e.boyer13@yahoo.com)

## 2017 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 7th Annual OLC Member Meeting
- Wildflower Hike at Atherton Island NA
- Offer Creek Watershed Section 319 Grant & Kickoff Meeting
- WVCF Mini-Grant for JSNP Trail
- SMWC Sustainability Summit
- Invasive Species Control Days at JSNP
- Atherton Island NA Addition
- Indiana Master Naturalist Class
- ISU Volunteer Fair
- Sanctuary Oaks NP Acquisition
- Fall Foliage & Prairie Hikes at JSNP
- Seelyville Water Works Open House

## PROTECTED PROPERTIES

- Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (Vigo Co) - 15 acres
- Atherton Island Natural Area (Parke Co) - 108 acres
- Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve (Sullivan Co) - 14 acres
- Conservation Easement:**  
McDonald Farm (Vigo Co) - 371 acres
- Haymaker Farm (Putnam Co) - 161 acres
- Reynolds Property (Vigo Co) - 15 acres
- Osburn Cliffs (Sullivan Co) - 38 acres

**A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Looking back on 2017 Ouabache Land Conservancy was blessed to have another prosperous year protecting natural resources in west central Indiana. Of course, this success could not have been accomplished without all of us working together!

During this busy year, OLC hosted several wonderful hikes and successful volunteer cleanup/invasive species removal/trail maintenance/boundary marking days organized by Dennis Tarasi and Evan Boyer. Assistance from local college students and community members was very much appreciated! Thanks to Dennis, OLC was also able to secure a grant from the Wabash Valley Community Foundation to support our efforts in developing the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP) trail system and increasing public access to the property. The Marion Trail is now open to anyone interested in exploring the beautiful woodlands of JSNP.

In August, we learned that funding from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Section 319 Grant was available; and OLC hired a Watershed Coordinator to facilitate the completion of the grant terms, which includes a Water Quality Management Plan for the Otter Creek Watershed by August 2019. A kickoff meeting for this effort was held December 13th (Thanks Adam Grossman, Sara Peel, and Josh Brosmer!) and a steering committee is currently being formed (see pg. 5 for details). OLC was also able to receive two additional properties to protect (Thanks Hansford Mann!)! Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve (14 ac.) in Sullivan county was transferred from Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. in November. Then in late December, OLC received 80 acres of magnificent upland woods and tallgrass prairie from Dr. Jim and Joy Nardi that is contiguous with Atherton Island Natural Area (AINA). Thanks to the Nardi's generosity, this nearly quadrupled AINA to 108 acres! Although this area is not presently open to the public, hikes and volunteer workdays will be scheduled.

We are very excited to have three new officers starting in 2018. Dr. Dennis Tarasi, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College Assistant Professor of Ecology will take over the reigns as President. In addition, retired educator Ron Tyner and Dr. Emily Bruner, Vigo County SWCD Director, will step in as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. These folks have already shown their enthusiasm for OLC and are ready to do even more! Thanks to George Bakken for being past Treasurer for many years; and to Lisa Baer for being past Secretary as she starts a new adventure in South Dakota. Also, thanks for many years of Board service to Dr. Marion Jackson, who will now be available on the Advisory Board.

Lastly, I hope everyone has visited OLC's beautiful new website designed by Marty Jones and online with the assistance of T.J. Hellmann and Karen Moffett. If not, please check it out soon! OLC news and upcoming events will be published there (as well as on Facebook); and donations can be made there too.

Thanks For your continued support!

Phil Cox

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**OLC would like to thank these non-board members for their support in 2017!**

- |                     |                     |                       |                         |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Nick Harby          | Ken Hauptli         | Ron & Pam Helms       | John Mast               |
| Tony Brentlinger    | Mark Davis          | Todd Nation           | Brian & Michelle Payne  |
| Sallie Cox          | John Bacone         | Dorothy Goodwin       | Mike & Amy Fisher       |
| Maxine Spendal      | Brad & Ann Venable  | Bob & Joanne Haymaker | Pat Goodwin             |
| Ted & Susan Ulrich  | Jean Testa          | Anna White            | Joan Rewa & Ben Kite    |
| Greg & Clare Oskay  | Cliff & Dixie Kunze | Kristine O'Hare       | David & Joan Voltmer    |
| Dan & Cheri Bradley | Jim & Joy Nardi     | Ron & Aleta Tyner     | George & Susan Brattain |
| Chris Tierney       | John Kite           | Joan Mohr-Samuels     | Joan Osburn             |
| Lucas McDonald      | Lee & Pat Casebere  |                       |                         |

**Current or New Members!**

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

**Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve**



Ouabache Land Conservancy is honored to announce that as of November 16, 2017 we are now the owners and stewards of Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve in Sullivan County (west of Shelburn at SE corner of 200 West and 650 North). This property was transferred to OLC from Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI) who acquired it as a gift from Bernard L. Dix. Sanctuary Oaks is a 14-acre oasis filled with old oak, maple, tulip poplar, sweet gum, beech, and other tree species. During the spring the forest floor is widely covered with spring beauty, trillium, and trout lily. Our great appreciation goes out to the Dix family and CILTI for allowing OLC to be caretaker of this special property for future generations! Be sure to join us for a bird watching hike on May 5, 2018. Please stay tuned to our website & Facebook page for more details.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2018**

	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Advisory Board</u>
Dennis Tarasi	President	2019	Bill Mitchell
Hansford Mann	VP of Acquisition	2019	Mary Beth Eberwein
Evan Boyer	VP of Programs	2020	Ted Harris
Adam Grossman	VP of Development	2020	Carissa Lovett
Phil Cox	VP of Stewardship/Imd. Past Pres.	2018	Mike Moloney
Ron Tyner	Treasurer	2020	Raoul Moore
Emily Bruner	Secretary	2020	Marshall Parks
Thomas Baer	Director	2019	Keith Ruble
George Bakken	Director	2018	Peter Scott
Marty Jones	Director	2018	Gerald "Bud" Sharp
Brendan Kearns	Director	2018	Amber Slaughterbeck
Larry Owen	Director	2019	Jeff Fisher
Susan Berta	Director	2019	Marion Jackson
John Whitaker Jr.	Director	2018	<b>Honorary Advisory Board:</b> Jim McDonald



Check out our website at  
[ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://ouabachelandconservancy.org) or  
 visit us on Facebook!

Marion Jackson (left) was named the inaugural Ouabache Land Conservancy Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year during the 2017 OLC Annual Meeting at the Fowler Park Log Barn. Presenting the award was OLC President Phillip Cox. OLC Board meetings are regularly scheduled the 1st Tuesday of most every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Markle House, 4900 Mill Dam Rd., N. Terre Haute (across from Markle Mill Park).  
 Photo by Marty Jones

ATHERTON ISLAND NA & JACKSON - SCHNYDER NP



The Tri-County Indiana Master Naturalist class learned about tallgrass prairie and woodland flowers from Dr. Jim Nardi at Atherton Island Natural Area (AINA) last August. In addition, during the spring wildflower hike Dr. Nardi found the unusual American Columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*) had finally bolted and was in bloom after many years of being in its rosette stage. OLC is so excited and thankful that Jim & Joy Nardi have donated their property to expand AINA to 108 acres. Be sure to join us for a wildflower hike on April 14, 2018. Please stay tuned to our website & Facebook page for more details.

Dr. Dennis Tarasi led several volunteer invasive species removal, cleanup, and hiking activities at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP). Volunteers included ISU, SMWC, and RHIT (Lamda Chi Alpha in photo) students, as well as several engaged community and OLC Board members. Special thanks go to Board members Evan Boyer, Susan Berta, Thomas Baer, Larry Owen, Marty Jones, and Phil Cox for their assistance! Lastly, thanks to the Wabash Valley Community Foundation for a \$1,000 trail development grant to increase public access to JSNP. Please mark your calendars for July 14 & October 20 hikes through the woods & prairie.



ABOUT OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

The Ouabache (pronounced Wabash) Land Conservancy was founded in 2007 as a land trust and was awarded non-profit 501(c)3 status in 2010. There are currently about 1,300 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](http://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 lands for future generations to attend our meetings. Please see membership form on back page or donate online via our website at [www.ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://www.ouabachelandconservancy.org).

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, financial and 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!

## Meet the Otter Creek Watershed Coordinator

by Sara Peel

I would like to take the time to introduce myself as the new Watershed Coordinator for the Otter Creek Watershed. I'm originally from northeast Indiana where I grew up climbing through remnant old growth forests and frolicking in the numerous glacial lakes which dot the landscape. While I always thought I would be a chemist, a summer stint with The Nature Conservancy opened the possibility of working with individuals to protect the land, conserve forested land and restore water quality to Indiana's lakes and streams.

Over the last ten years, I've focused my conservation efforts on the Middle Wabash River in the Greater Lafayette area working within the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River, Deer Creek-Sugar Creek, and Big Pine Creek watersheds. Through these efforts, I coordinated a broad-reaching, community-wide stormwater management and agricultural implementation program. This program engaged more than 1500 individuals to implement a variety of stormwater infiltration, field-scale agricultural improvement and landscape scale restoration projects resulting in nearly \$9.5 million in on-the-ground conservation practice implementation. These projects diverted more than 25 million gallons of stormwater annually and prevented nearly 70 dump truck loads of sediment from entering the Wabash River annually. Additionally, I work with watershed practitioners throughout the state coordinating the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy and the Indiana Conservation Partnership's Pathway to Water Quality.

Over the next two years, I'll be coordinating on-the-ground efforts to identify YOUR concerns about Otter Creek; collect current and historic water quality data; host educational events, including a tour of Terre Haute's Indiana American Water treatment plant and workshops focused on septic system health and maintenance and forest community protection and improvement; and create a snapshot of water quality. All of these data will be collected into a document focused on identify water quality issues and pairing these with specific, voluntarily-implementable water quality improvement practices. The plan will lay out a step-wise implementation plan focused on protecting and improving the quality of Otter Creek and preserving the drainage's landscape and uses. YOU can help in many different ways. Please see our website for how you can help with future water sampling, windshield survey, clean up events and more. Also, become a Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer monitor and we'll host the training and provide the equipment.

You can also send us data or photographs about how Otter Creek and its tributaries looked in the past or share information about the Otter Creek Project with your friends, neighbors and local groups. We'd be happy to talk with you and your group about the project.

Share your thoughts on Otter Creek via email or phone at [ottercreekwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:ottercreekwatershed@gmail.com) or 765-337-9100. Learn more about the Otter Creek Project at <https://ouabachelandconservancy.org/otter-creek/>.



# Indiana's Nature Preserve System Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by John Bacone

The Indiana Legislature passed the Nature Preserves Act in 1967, creating the Division of Nature Preserves. The Division is charged with working with partners to set aside and preserve areas of unusual natural significance for the benefit of present and future generations, to benefit from the scientific, aesthetic, cultural and spiritual values they possess. Since the Division was established, staff has worked with partners throughout Indiana, to catalogue Indiana's flora, fauna, and natural areas, striving to set up a system of nature preserves that includes examples of all the natural areas and rare species habitat that occur in Indiana. At least one example of almost every type of the 61 natural communities found in Indiana at the time of settlement is included in Indiana's nature preserve system. 90% of the 416 plants considered endangered, threatened, or rare have viable populations in Indiana nature preserves. Nature Preserves are the most widely and evenly distributed system of state significant public properties in Indiana. There are nature preserves in 70 of Indiana's 92 counties. There are now 282 dedicated nature preserves, protecting more than 53,000 acres. A dedicated nature preserve has the highest level of protection of any land in Indiana, as it is intended to remain in its natural ecological condition in perpetuity. These nature preserves are owned by 46 different entities, including DNR Divisions of Nature Preserves, Forestry, State Parks, and Fish and Wildlife, Land Trusts, City and County Park Departments, and colleges and universities.

The Division of Nature Preserves (DNP) has had a significant conservation partnership with the Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC) for many years. Together, OLC and DNP have partnered on the protection and management of the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve, and look forward to partnering on protecting other sites, utilizing funding from the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust. This new program recently replaced the Indiana Heritage Trust, and utilizes funds from the Environmental License Plate, which features the bald eagle.

During 2018, and in the years to come, I hope you will visit as many of Indiana's nature preserves as possible, and enjoy these remnants of the "original Indiana" that have been protected for your enjoyment. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Ouabache Land Conservancy, protecting more special places as dedicated Indiana nature preserves.

## PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Yes! I want to become a member (or renew) 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  
P.O. Box 10993  
Terre Haute, IN 47801-0093

