

OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Atherton Island NA	3
Otter Creek Watershed	3
Healthy Rivers Initiative	6
Conservationist of the Year	7
Jackson-Schnyder NP	7
Save the Date	8
New Directors	9

Ouabache Land Conservancy.
P.O. Box 10993
Terre Haute, IN 47801-0993
Phone 765-548-4007
ouabachelandconservancy@gmail.com

Information about OLC can be found on our website at 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.

9th Annual Membership Meeting



The Ouabache Land Conservancy welcomes Matt Williams as the guest speaker for our 9th annual meeting on April 5, 2019. As Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana, Matt will update us on TNC's Wabash River Initiative, take us on a virtual tour of some of TNC's best properties around the state, and show us a photography slide show of some of the bird species that can be seen at these sites. Matt will also tell us a bit about his new book, *Endangered and Disappearing Birds of the Midwest*.

Please join us at the Rod & Gun Steakhouse (2525 E Lambert Ave, Rosedale, 47874) for food, fellowship, and Matt's presentation. Social hour with a silent auction begins at 6:00 pm, with dinner at 7:00. This event is open to the public with minimum paid 2019 OLC membership of \$25, or \$15 for new members per couple. Dinner will be paid for separately by attendees. Seating is limited. Look for future updates to RSVP on the OLC website and Facebook page. Photo by Emryn Williams

A Word From President Phil Cox

Ouabache Land Conservancy was again very blessed in 2018. We were able to continue with many wonderful activities and programs to further our mission of protecting, preserving, and restoring 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. Thanks to all who continue to help.

Progress continued on the Otter Creek Watershed Management Plan, including Hoosier Riverwatch Training. Thanks to the Steering Committee and all that have



2018 Completed Programs & Activities

- 8th Annual OLC Membership Meeting
- Otter Creek Watershed Sec. 319 Grant Project
- Volunteer Work Days at OLC Properties
- Atherton Island NA Addition
- Fall Foliage & Prairie Hikes at JSNP
- Spring Wildflower Hike at AINA
- Spring Songbird Hike at SONP
- Otter Creek Township Cleanup
- Otter Creek Kayaking Trip & Survey
- Hoosier Riverwatch Program Training

Protected Properties

Fee Simple (complete ownership):

- Jackson- Schnyder Nature Preserve (Vigo Co) – 15 acres
- Atherton Island Natural Area (Parke Co) – 188 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

participated in this Section 319 Grant, a project funded by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and The Nature Conservancy. We look forward to completing the plan in 2019 and potentially securing additional funding to assist with the betterment of Otter Creek water quality.

The year's biggest highlight was the acquisition of an additional 80.46 acres for Atherton Island Natural Area in December. This increases the total area protected at Atherton Island NA to 188 acres. The new area is about 50/50 woodlands and tillable; so this is a big opportunity for future restoration! A BIG THANKS to Dr. Jim and Joy Nardi for their continued generosity and their conservation ethic to preserve Atherton Island! Also, another BIG THANKS to Hansford Mann for getting this deal done so expeditiously. Please check the OLC website and Facebook page for future hikes and work days at the beautiful Atherton Island Natural Area! Please read the rest of the newsletter for highlights of many of OLC's activities in 2018.

We already miss 2018 President-elect, Dr. Dennis Tarasi, who has contributed so much to OLC's successes. Best of luck to Dennis and his family as they continue their new adventure in Iowa. Also, we thank Dr. Emily Bruner for being Secretary and wish her family the best while she protects farmland in her new job. Dr. John Whitaker, one of the founding fathers of OLC, will also step down from the Board this year. THANKS, John, for everything you have done for OLC and the conservation community! We are also very excited to have new Board members Amber Slaughterbeck, Regional Specialist, Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management, and Lisa Baer, a former OLC Secretary, on board in 2019. We are also thrilled to have Dr. Jim Nardi officially join the OLC Advisory Board, and we look forward to continuing to work with him toward preservation and restoring Atherton Island Nature Area. Last but not least, THANKS to Marty Jones, for stepping up and being the editor for the OLC Annual Newsletter.

To quote the great conservationist, Aldo Leopold, "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, 'What good is it?' If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

Thanks for everyone pulling together to save pieces of land and for the betterment of life in west-central Indiana.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2019 (and Term Expiration)

Phil Cox	President 2019
Hansford Mann	VP of Acquisition 2019
Evan Boyer	VP of Programs 2020
Adam Grossman	VP of Development 2020
Amber Slaughterbeck	VP of Stewardship 2021
Ron Tyner	Treasurer 2020
Lisa Baer	Secretary 2021
Thomas Baer	Director 2019
George Bakken	Director 2019
Marty Jones	Director 2021
Brendan Kearns	Director 2021
Larry Owen	Director 2019
Susan Berta	Director 2019

Advisory Board

Emily Bruner
Dave Burns
Mary Beth Eberwein
Jeff Fisher
Dan Griggs
Ted Harris
T.J. Hellmann
Marion Jackson
Robert Jean
Carissa Lovett
Bill Mitchell
Mike Moloney
Gerald McGlone
Karen Moffett
Raoul Moore
James Nardi
Fred Nation
Marshall Parks
Patrick Ralston
Keith Ruble
Jane Santucci
Peter Scott
Gerald "Bud" Sharp
Jim Speer
Jim Sullivan
Dennis Tarasi
John Whitaker

Honorary Advisory Board

Jim McDonald

Atherton Island Natural Area

Ouabache Land Conservancy is excited and honored to announce that as of December 7, 2018 we have added 80.46 acres to Atherton Island Natural Area. With the addition of 80 acres in 2017, this now brings the total acreage of Atherton Island NA under OLC stewardship to 188.36 acres. OLC would not be stewards of Atherton Island NA if not for the generosity of Dr. James & Joy Nardi! We look forward to protecting and improving this property over the next several years. A spring wildflower hike



led by Dr. Nardi is scheduled for April 13th. Stay tuned to the OLC Facebook page and website for more details about this; and future hikes and work days.

Photo by Phil Cox

Otter Creek Watershed Project – Where we are; What we know; and Where we are heading! by Sara Peel

Over the last year, we've collected 3,455 water samples from twelve sites across the Otter Creek Drainage. These nutrient, sediment, pathogen, field data and flow samples provide a detailed picture of the dynamic system that is Otter Creek. Each site possesses unique levels under each condition and by teasing out these data, we can start to identify differences in water quality across the watershed.

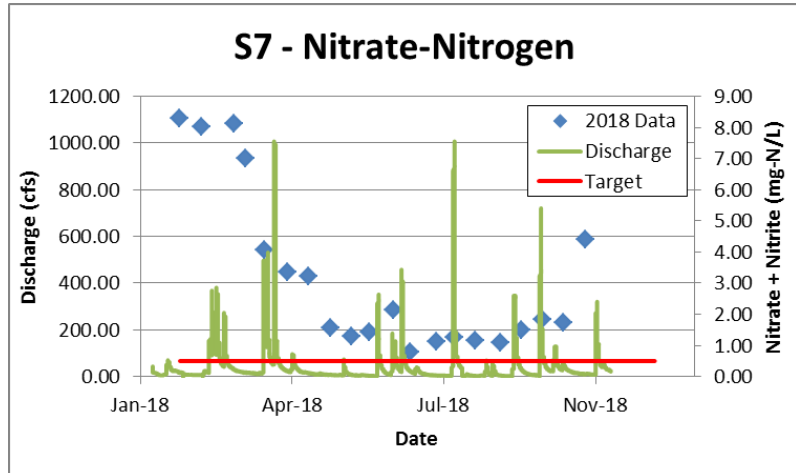
Generally, nitrate-nitrogen, the dissolved form of nitrogen, measured above the target concentration set by the Otter Creek Project steering committee throughout the entire year. Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations measured highest during the spring, falling throughout the summer and rising again in the fall. Data collected from Sulphur Creek illustrate the seasonal changes in nitrate-nitrogen concentrations.

OLC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE NON-BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

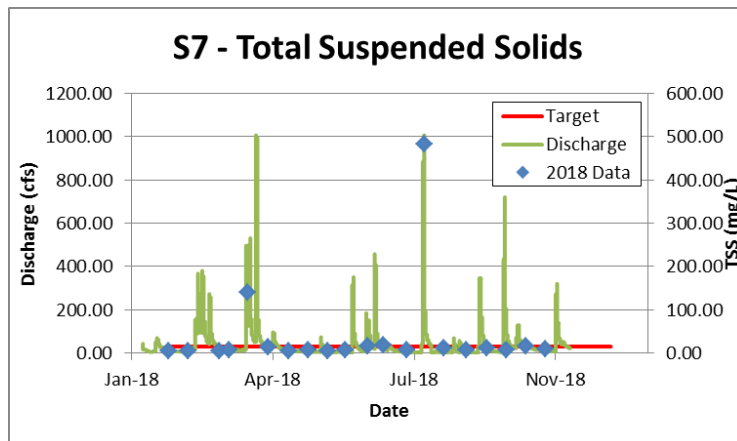
George & Susan Brattain
Emily Brana
Taylor Burris
Lee & Pat Casebere
Sallie Cox
Tom Emery
Mike & Amy Fisher
Pat Goodwin
Bob & Joanne Haymaker
Mike & Barb Homoya
J.R. & Mary Ann Isaacs
Steve & June Keibler
John Kelley
Mike & Joanie Lunsford
Jim & Joy Nardi
Joy O'Keefe
Joan Osburn
Steve & Carolyn Phillips
Brad & Ann Venable
David & Joan Voltmer
Anna White

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

OLC Board meetings are regularly scheduled the 1st Tuesday of most every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Baer Home, 10 Ft. Harrison Parkway, Terre Haute 47804.



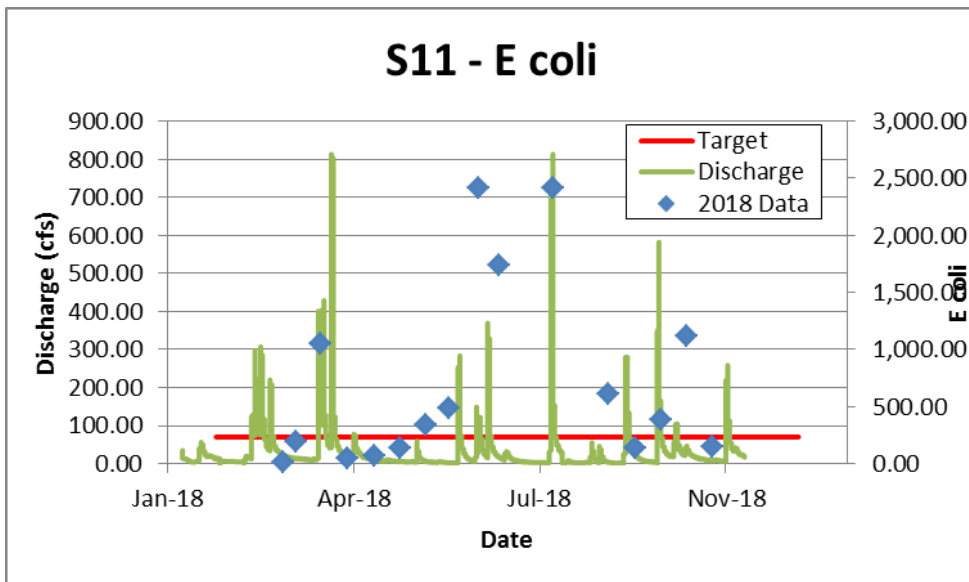
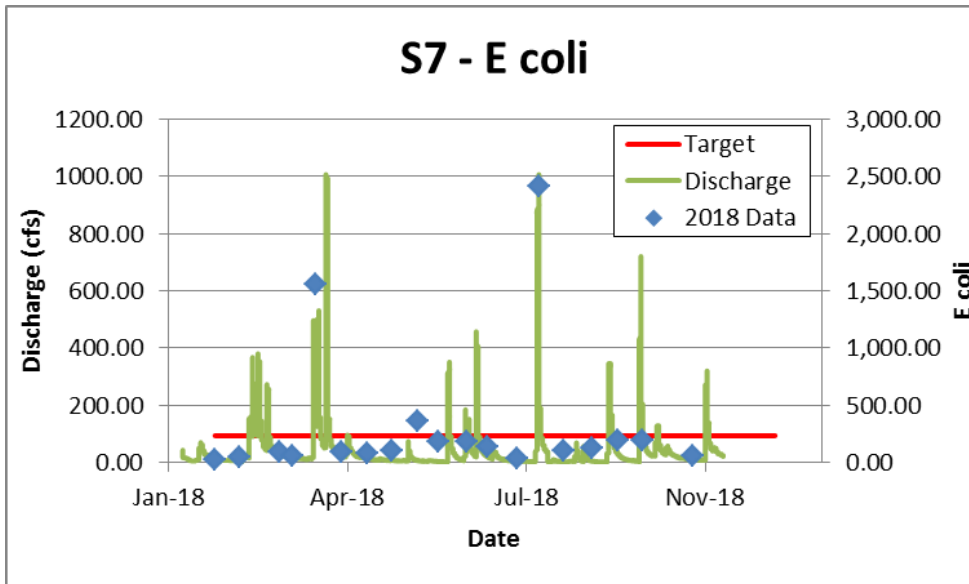
Conversely, total suspended solids, a measure of the volume of sediment in the monitored streams, changes with changing flow conditions. Generally, total suspended solids concentrations measure low during base flow conditions and increase with increased instream flows. When it rains, stormwater collects sediment and nutrients as it runs across the land carrying these into adjacent streams. You can see that when samples were collected that coincide with high flow events, the peak total suspended solids



concentrations coincide with the peak discharge, or highest instream flow conditions.

Pathogen levels are measured using E. coli – an organism that lives in the stomach of warm-blooded animals. As pathogens are living creatures, they do not adhere to the same patterns as sediment, which moves when water moves, or nutrients, which are present during different climatic and seasonal conditions. E. coli levels in Sulphur Creek follow storm events – low concentrations of E. coli are present under low flow conditions, while higher levels of E. coli occur within the stream when stream flows are highest. Conversely,

E. coli concentrations measured in Gundy Ditch do not follow any flow patterns. E. coli concentrations are elevated under both low flow and high flow conditions. This suggests that there may be sources of E. coli present in the Gundy Ditch Drainage under both low flow and high flow conditions.



What do these data mean and how will we use them? Over the next few months, the Otter Creek Project steering committee will be reviewing collected water quality data to identify areas of concern; develop potential cost share project options; identify the necessary nutrient, sediment, and pathogen reductions needed at each site to meet water quality targets; and develop a step-wise plan to work toward meeting these goals.

Healthy Rivers INitiative - Summary by Brendan Kearns

My daughter started kindergarten this year. Her teacher, Ms. McDonald, shares her love for the outdoors and nature with her students. The first day of school, she assigned me the task of bringing a few caterpillars to school for her students. I wanted to be a stellar student, so I took my daughter to a Wabashiki FWA property with hopes of finding caterpillars that will turn into butterflies in front of Mia's classmates.

There is great comfort in knowing that there are public grounds for me and my family to enjoy. A familiarity with the properties helped me find the perfect location for Mia and me to explore, teaching her about the importance of milkweed, pollinators and habitat.

As the Conservation Program Specialist for the The Healthy Rivers INitiative, and as a user of the properties, I believe there is a Quality of Life component that can impact our future in many ways. My daughter has been by my side on many adventures along the Wabash River and Sugar Creek. I am sure that she will value our natural resources and public grounds as much as I do.

The Healthy Rivers Initiative, led by the IDNR, is the largest conservation initiative to be undertaken in Indiana. The initiative includes a partnership of resource agencies and organizations who are working with willing landowners to permanently protect 43,000 acres located in the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek in west-central Indiana and another 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands in southeast Indiana. HRI partners include the IDNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NRCS, and The Nature Conservancy of Indiana. These projects involve the protection, restoration and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats and the species that use them, including migratory birds and waterfowl and threatened and endangered species. This initiative will also be beneficial to the public and surrounding communities by providing flood protection, increasing public access to recreational opportunities, and leaving a legacy for future generations by providing a major conservation destination for tourists.

To date, the two major mechanisms for permanently protecting priority lands have been IDNR land acquisition (with partner match contributions) from willing landowners and NRCS Wetland Reserve Easements (previously Wetland Reserve Program). Landowners uninterested in permanent protection are also provided technical assistance in enrolling in temporary conservation programs. These temporary agreements with landowners have often developed into permanent protection opportunities. Opportunities to purchase land and enroll landowners fluctuate slightly year to year based on factors such as flooding, crop prices, and availability of partner match dollars. However, over the past eight years landowner interest in HRI has been fairly consistent, and the Healthy Rivers INitiative's strategy for permanently protecting land has been remarkably successful. Since June 2010, HRI has 37,005 acres of land under permanent protection, more than half of the overall goal of 70,000 protected acres. In the Wabash and Sugar Creek project areas this includes 11,936 acres purchased by IDNR and 3,743 non-IDNR acres enrolled in NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE/WRP), both of which complement the existing 12,723 acres of state-owned and protected land in the project area. In the Muscatatuck River Project Area, 4,405 acres were acquired by IDNR and 1,709 non-IDNR acres were enrolled in WRE, complementing 2,489 acres of existing state-owned or otherwise protected land. To date, a total of 13,663 new acres are now open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and birdwatching in the Sugar Creek, Wabash River and Muscatatuck (Austin Bottoms) Conservation Areas.

For more HRI information, maps, and updates see: www.in.gov/dnr/6498.htm

2017 Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year



Dr. James & Joyce Nardi were named Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year Award recipients at the Ouabache Land Conservancy Annual Meeting on April 6, 2018. The award was based on their outstanding contributions for the conservation and future protection of Atherton Island Natural Area near Lyford in Parke County.

Photo by Marty Jones

Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve



October 20, 2018 was a busy day! In the morning, the pictured Rose-Hulman students completed trail maintenance at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve for their service project. Thanks to these students and OLC Board members Evan Boyer, Sue Berta, and Ron Tyner for organizing this! Then that afternoon Dr. Robert Jean led the annual Fall Foliage Hike to celebrate the nine year anniversary of the Preserve being dedicated as a State Nature Preserve. The 10th annual Fall Foliage Hike is scheduled for October 19, 2019. For a list of State Nature Preserves see: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/4698.htm>.

Photo by Ron Tyner

Save the Date: Spring Songbird Hike

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and finishing around noon

Meeting Place: J.I. Case Wetlands parking lot, East Old Maple Avenue just west of Hunt Road

Guide: Marty Jones

Registration: Email Marty at indth33@yahoo.com

This is an excellent opportunity to improve your bird identification skills or simply enjoy the great outdoors. The last weekend of April is typically a prime time to hear and see many birds as we near peak migration. From our meeting point at the J.I. Case parking lot, we will take a leisurely hike southeast to the Heritage Trail. A spotting scope and some binoculars will be available. Bring your own binoculars if



you have them and dress accordingly. Along the way, we will explore the Reynolds Easement located a few hundred yards east of the wetlands and Hawthorne Park. The Reynolds property is a 15 acre OLC Conservation Easement and the home of Craig and Carole Reynolds. Carole reports that they recently eradicated the invasive Bush Honeysuckle from the property. The total distance of the hike will be approximately two miles. Please email Marty at indth33@yahoo.com to register or if you have questions.

Summer Tanager photo by Marty Jones

Save the Date: Invasive Garlic Mustard Pull

Date: Saturday April 20, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Meeting Place: Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve

Guide: Amber Slaughterbeck

Contact Information: Email Amber at amber@sicim.info



A garlic mustard pull led by Amber Slaughterbeck is scheduled for April 20, 2019 at the OLC Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve. Check the OLC website and Facebook page for more details. Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve is located in Sullivan County, west of Shelburn at SE corner of 200 West and 650 North. Please email Amber at amber@sicim.info if you have any questions.

May 5, 2018 Sanctuary Oaks songbird hike photo by Marty Jones.

OLC Welcomes New Directors



The Ouabache Land Conservancy welcomes new Directors, Lisa Baer (left) and Amber Slaughterbeck, to the OLC Board. Amber is a Regional Specialist for Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and will lead our stewardship efforts at our properties as VP of Stewardship. Lisa and her talents return as the Board Secretary after a hiatus to South Dakota. We look forward to benefitting from all of their talents that they bring to the Ouabache Land Conservancy!

Photo by Marty Jones

Please Join or Renew Your Membership for 2019

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: _____

NewMember MembershipRenewal

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."

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