

OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

Gaining Ground

A community partner protecting land, water, and quality of life through conservation, stewardship, and education.



DEC. 2022, VOLUME 15

13TH ANNUAL OLC CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER - MARCH 16, 2023

Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC) welcomes you and your non-member friends to join us March 16, 2023, 5:30 – 8:30 at The Red Barn, catered by Federal Coffee + Fine Foods. Attendees can enjoy a silent auction and meet other supporters of our land trust. We will offer a more brief, varied program next year, including videos of our properties and a guest speaker. Andrea Huntington, Executive Director of Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA) will speak on "Indiana's Land & You." The cost, including a small donation to OLC, is \$50 per person.

The OLC Annual Celebration allows us to gather and celebrate protecting and preserving land in west-central Indiana. Our other goals are to raise money to hire a part-time person to save more wild places, create a parking area at Atherton Island Natural Area, and provide \$5,000 for signage on the trails at our nature preserves. The Annual Celebration is OLC's biggest fundraiser, and the 2022 Annual Celebration raised \$5,098!

We are currently an all-volunteer organization, and we could not do this work without your support. As a member of OLC, our nature preserves belong to you! It is your land you have helped us protect and preserve forever! When you support OLC, your money stays in the Wabash Valley and contributes to conservation.

Join us to celebrate our land conservation work and learn about our plans for 2023. For information, sponsorship opportunities, and to register, visit bit.ly/2023OLCAC or scan the QR code. See you in March! Contact Denise at dsobieski@ouabachelandconservancy.org with questions.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, NEW 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN, AND ABOUT OLC - PAGE 2

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT - PAGE 3

OLC - A GREAT INVESTMENT AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD - PAGE 4

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD AND TREES OF WHITAKER WOODS - PAGE 5

OLC WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS - PAGE 8

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE AND IDEM 319 GRANT UPDATE - PAGE 9

ATHERTON ISLAND NATURAL AREA UPDATE - PAGE 10

2022 NON BOARD MEMBER SUPPORTERS - PAGE 11

MEMBERSHIP FORM - PAGE 12

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BY THOMAS BAER, PRESIDENT

Hello OLC members, new and old!

Throughout 2022, the OLC has expanded and prospered. As of this writing, we have 160 members – nearly a 70% increase from 2021! Over 800 acres of land are under our protection, and our Otter Creek Watershed project is well on its way to its third round of 319 grants. (More on that later in this newsletter.)

Our growth is only possible with the hard work of the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and other volunteers. I look forward to 2023, and would like to invite everyone to our upcoming events, like our Spring Wildflower hike at Atherton Island Natural Area, as well as the Tall Grass Prairie hike and Fall Foliage hike, both at the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP). In 2022, we also introduced a new event at JSNP: the Halloween night hike, campfire, and evening of storytelling.

Finally, I ask each of our members to make an effort to attend at least one of our board meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Check our website and social media for information on upcoming events and board meetings!

NEW 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

BY MARTY JONES, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

OLC is currently working on its next strategic plan, which will help define our focus for the next three years. The new plan, targeted for release in March 2023, will focus on strengthening OLC's foundations and preparing us for our next growth phase. The working group recently completed its third and final meeting. Thank you to everyone who took time to attend and participate.

Our tremendous board and volunteers have already begun implementing new actions. This new plan will guide OLC's conservation, public access, and outreach work until 2026. At that point, the plan will be reviewed and revised. It is designed to help OLC track progress toward our goals and help members understand OLC's larger strategy and how their actions can impact our success. The plan also focuses on crucial issues and challenges OLC faces and identifies strategies to overcome them. It will help OLC make today's decisions in light of future consequences. If you are not a volunteer, please consider joining us. A strong support team will ensure our strategic planning dreams come true as we continue to grow.

ABOUT OLC

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 1,281 active land trusts in the United States, with 24 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROTECT AND RESTORE LAND IN WEST-CENTRAL INDIANA BY PROVIDING HABITAT FOR NATIVE SPECIES, MAINTAINING NATURAL SCENIC BEAUTY, AND IMPROVING WATER AND AIR QUALITY WHILE OFFERING EDUCATION AND ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

DEI STATEMENT

YOU BELONG WITH OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY. OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY PROTECTING LAND FOR OUR NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA. ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO SAVING NATURE. WE EMBRACE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

PROTECTED PROPERTIES

FEE SIMPLE (COMPLETE OWNERSHIP):

JACKSON - SCHNYDER NATURE PRESERVE (VIGO CO) – 20 ACRES

ATHERTON ISLAND NATURAL AREA (PARKE CO) – 188 ACRES

SANCTUARY OAKS NATURE PRESERVE (SULLIVAN CO) – 14 ACRES

WHITAKER WOODS NATURE PRESERVE (CLAY CO) – 40 ACRES

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:

MCDONALD FARM (VIGO CO) – 371 ACRES

HAYMAKER FARM (PUTNAM CO) – 161 ACRES

REYNOLDS PROPERTY (VIGO CO) – 15 ACRES

OSBURN CLIFFS (SULLIVAN CO) – 38 ACRES

For more information about land trusts, visit 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 of OLC, and we welcome all! We invite anyone who has an interest in preserving natural lands for future generations to attend our meetings. See the membership form on the back page or donate online via our website at ouabachelandconservancy.org/donate.

OLC's board meetings are open to its general membership and to the public. They are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of most months at the Dobbs Park Nature Center, 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, real estate, trail development, grant writing, engineering, website or newsletter experience, connections to other organizations for outreach events, and many other areas, including enthusiasm to help where needed most. Please visit our website (ouabachelandconservancy.org) and Facebook (facebook.com/OuabacheLandConservancy) to keep up with the latest. Come join us!

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2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

BY DENISE MARIE SOBIESKI, TREASURER

I have been treasurer since January 2022, and we have seen an increase in membership and available funds. Thanks to Ron Tyner, the previous OLC treasurer, for getting me acquainted with the OLC books. The increase in membership, memorial donations, annual celebration, and a fundraiser at the Covered Bridge Art Gallery helped our bank account grow in 2022. We are focused on increasing our visibility in the community, leading to more donations and memberships. See the tables below for exact figures from the two OLC accounts. The Otter Creek account is kept around \$14,000. The current balance in the OLC general account is \$81,700.41 with 160 members. At this same time last year, OLC had 95 members and our general account had \$65,780.86 in it. We've experienced significant growth, but OLC has much more work to do.

2022 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

OLC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS

WEED WRANGLES AT JSNP & SONP

SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE AT AINA

VERMILLION TRAILS ALLIANCE VICTORY RACES SPONSOR

EMILY'S WALK EARTH DAY SPEAKER SERIES

EXPERIENCE OTTER CREEK AT MARKLE MILL PARK

FRANK & JOSEPHINE SCIURBA NP DEDICATION

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE HIKE AT JSNP

JOHN O. WHITAKER WOODS NP GRAND OPENING

JACKSON-SCHNYDER DAY AT JSNP

FUNDRAISER AT THE COVERED BRIDGE ART GALLERY

SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY

ANNUAL CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER AT THE RED BARN

OCTOBER BIG DAY BIRDING HIKE AT AINA

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE AT JSNP

HALLOWEEN NIGHT HIKE AT JSNP

ISU INVASIVE SPECIES AND DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECTS AT JSNP

INDIANA MASTER NATURALIST CLASS AT AINA

GOSHEN COLLEGE CLASS AT AINA

TERRE FOODS BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

TERRE HAUTE FARMERS MARKET

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

NEXT LEVEL CONSERVATION TRUST

ILPA ANNUAL MEETING & RECEPTION

2022 Ouabache Land Conservancy General Account Totals

Account total	Operating	Easement Defense	Land Acquisition Fund	Atherton Island Natural Area Fund	Jackson Schnyder Nature Preserve	Members pd.
\$81,700.41	\$22,995.02	\$17,411.84	\$97.21	\$30,455.16	\$10,157.04	160

Our short-term financial goals include \$3,000 more for a parking area at Atherton Island Natural Area, \$5,000 for improved signage on our trails, and salary for a part-time staff member to help OLC reach our goals. (In the works, is a potential land acquisition using funds from the Atherton Island account.)

2023 will be exciting for OLC! Planning is underway to help our funds grow through investment. I recently met with an investment advisor to help OLC with our financial goals. We are also considering trust funds that donate to land conservancies. (Thanks, Tom Zeller!) I look forward to sharing more with you in 2023 about how OLC is investing our funds and growing via potential large donations.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Protecting and preserving natural areas is such a worthy goal!

OLC - A GREAT INVESTMENT

BY DENISE MARIE SOBIESKI, TREASURER

OLC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and we rely on you to help us protect and preserve nature in West-Central Indiana. OLC is a great investment – established in 2007 and protecting 800+ acres of land via nature preserves and conservation easements. Currently run entirely by volunteers, OLC aims to hire our first part-time employee in 2023. Every other land trust able to hire staff has exponential growth. (Sycamore Land Trust in southern Indiana has 7 full-time staff, with 10,763 acres preserved and protected!)

What do you get for your investment? Most importantly, conservation of biodiversity by protecting and preserving habitat. Across our properties, you can explore and enjoy nature at 262 acres of free, public nature preserves – right here close to home! Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve, 20 acres near St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, has trails teeming with wildflowers traversing a restored prairie, stream, and an old woods. John O. Whitaker Woods Nature Preserve in Clay County has a trail through its 40 acres of woods and ephemeral pools. Enjoy 188 acres of pristine woods and unique plants at Atherton Island Natural Area (grand opening in 2023!) near Clinton. Trails run up and down ravines and across woodland stream. Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve, 14 acres in Sullivan County, does not have trails nor parking. OLC needs funds and volunteers to make this happen. Please consider investing in nature with a donation at ouabachelandconservancy.org/donate or by check to OLC, PO Box 10993, Terre Haute, IN, 47801.

GERALD H. MCGLONE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Jeff Fisher (left) was awarded OLC's Gerald H. McGlone Volunteer of the Year Award by Hansford Mann Jr (right). Jeff has been an Advisory Board member since 2016 and has provided financial expertise over many years. Since OLC outgrew the "EZ" tax form in 2018, Jeff has prepared the complicated Form 990 we are now required to complete. Since we came to him in early 2019, Jeff has helped with any financial questions or issues – especially concerning taxes and the IDEM 319 Otter Creek Watershed Implementation Grant. OLC is thankful for Jeff's commitment to protecting natural areas in west-central Indiana!

DR. MARION T. JACKSON CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Thomas Baer (left), OLC President, presented Phil Cox (right) the OLC Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year Award during our annual celebration at The Red Barn at Sycamore Farm on September 15th. Phil has been active with OLC for 15 years in various Board capacities as VP of Development, VP of Programs (current), and Past President while helping with all aspects of OLC's mission to preserve land for future generations. Thank you for your service, Phil!



TREES OF WHITAKER WOODS

BY DR. JOHN O. WHITAKER JR., DIRECTOR

In 1975 I purchased the land preserved by the Ouabache Land Conservancy as the John O. Whitaker Woods Nature Preserve. The 40 acres of woods was studied over 30 years, during three sampling periods - 1976-77, 1993-94 and 2009-2010. The area was divided into 100 X 100 foot plots, and each tree 12 inches diameter breast height (DBH) or over was identified and marked with numbered tags, totaling over 1700 trees of 34 species. Only 33 species are listed, as two species of ash (green and white) were combined.

The most abundant species surveyed was the Tulip Tree followed by Red Hickory, Red Oak, Shagbark Hickory, White Oak, Red Maple, American Sycamore, Sweet Gum, and the Ashes. Six species had only one tree each. The woods included five species of oak along with five species of hickory. Most species increased in number during the three sampling periods, but some decreased. In addition, three species had only one individual included in the study, which disappeared by the last sampling period. The ashes decreased by 15, probably due to the invasive ash borer.

When the property was purchased, numerous small American Beech were present, leading some to believe that these trees were young and the whole woodland would grow into a predominantly beech woods. However, the beech trees were found to be approximately 40 to 70 years of age. The assumption is they help to fill the void when a big tree dies.

2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH 16 – ANNUAL CELEBRATION

MARCH 25 - WINTER TREE ID HIKE AT SANCTUARY OAKS NP (SONP)

APRIL 29 – SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE AT ATHERTON ISLAND NATURAL AREA (AINA)

MAY 6 – EXPERIENCE OTTER CREEK AT MARKLE MILL PARK

MAY 13 – SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE AT JOHN O. WHITAKER WOODS NP (WWNP)

JULY 15 – TALLGRASS PRAIRIE HIKE AT JACKSON-SCHNYDER NP (JSNP)

AUGUST 19 – JACKSON-SCHNYDER DAY AT JSNP

OCTOBER 21 – FALL FOLIAGE HIKE AT WWNP

OCTOBER 28 – FALL FOLIAGE HIKE AT JSNP

OCTOBER 31 – HALLOWEEN NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE AT JSNP

NOVEMBER 4 – PRAIRIE SEED HARVEST AT AINA

TBD – ATHERTON ISLAND NATURAL AREA GRAND OPENING

DETAILS AND MORE EVENTS TO COME ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE!

The largest individuals (DBH) were as follows: Red Oak 45.7, White Oak 41.9, American Beech 40, Pin Oak 39.5, American Sycamore 39.4, Tulip Tree 39.3, Ash 37, Bitternut Hickory 30.5, Red Hickory 29.1, Shagbark Hickory 27.1, Sweet Gum 24.5, Sassafras 24.2, Black Walnut 22.1, Pignut Hickory 22.1, and Black Locust 20.7.

GROWTH OF SOME OF THE MORE ABUNDANT SPECIES

Growth of individuals of the various species was determined using trees in which data for individuals for all three samples was available. Growth was calculated by the difference in DBH between the measurement of the first and last sample. These data were averaged to get the growth for each species. Growth data also varied between habitats, thus each habitat in which a particular species occurred is included in the data below and at ouabachelandconservancy.org/whitaker-woods-tree-research.

TULIP TREE	# Trees	mean	range
Flat woods	60	5.8	02.9-11.5
Open areas	24	9.7	03.9-12.2
Wooded ravine	24	8.6	02.4-24.2
Big ravine	22	7.8	04.9-39.0

RED HICKORY	# Trees	mean	range
Wooded ravine	68	1.7	01.0-16.8
Flat woods	66	1.2	01.1-16.8
Big ravine	39	4.2	01.5-11.3
Open areas	02	4.1	03.8-04.4

RED OAK	# Trees	mean	range
Wooded ravine	70	1.7	00.5-16.5
Big ravine	34	6.1	00.3-12.5
Flat woods	21	6.2	01.8-13.9
Open areas	11	5.1	02.8-10.1

SHAGBARK HICKORY	# Trees	mean	range
Flat woods	58	1.3	00.5-08.5
Woody ravine	38	1.6	00.4-05.8
Big ravine	10	3.5	01.6-05.5
Open areas	03	3.9	02.5-04.8

WHITE OAK	# Trees	mean	range
Woody ravine	81	1.4	00.6-10.4
Flat woods	41	2.2	01.8-07.7
Big ravine	37	2.1	00.3-10.9
Open areas	07	1.4	01.0-02.7

RED MAPLE*

*The growth rates were much greater in red maples fitting in with the idea of fast growth adaptation expressed above. Only four trees were present in all three samples. Growth in these four were 30, 16.5, 12, and 2.1 with a mean of 15.2.

AMERICAN SYCAMORE

Big ravine	68	1.9	01.6-11.9
Woody ravine	14	3.4	13.0-20.6
Flat woods	04	4.0	01.7-06.0
Young woods	02	5.5	14.5-20.7

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SWEET GUM

Flat woods	09	3.6	00.2-07.2
Big ravine	10	4.3	01.3-07.3
Brushy field	02	4.7	04.5-04.8
Woody ravine	02	6.3	05.2-07.3

SASSAFRAS

Woody ravine	13	2.5	00.5-02.8
Flat woods	12	2.3	01.0-04.0
Big ravine	05	3.3	01.9-04.3
Open areas	03	2.9	01.2-05.0

ASH (GREEN AND WHITE)

Big ravine	12	4.7	01.7-09.3
Woody ravine	11	5.2	01.4-05.5
Flat woods	09	4.0	01.9-09.0

BEECH

Woody ravine	19	2.7	00.4-08.9
Big ravine	06	2.6	00.5-05.6
Flat woods	05	4.1	01.5-07.8

PIN OAK

Flat woods	18	5.2	01.0-13.4
Wooded ravine	07	06.8	03.7-07.1
Big ravine	03	04.7	05.9-07.3
Open areas	02	12.7	10.5-14.8

BLACK LOCUST

Wooded ravine	3	3.1	02.3-04.6
Flat woods	2	4.4	04.4-08.0
Open areas	1	3.9	03.9



From left, Neil O'Brien (grandson), John O. Whitaker Jr., and John S. Whitaker (son).



July 23rd was a wonderful day for friends, colleagues, family, and neighbors to celebrate Dr. John O. Whitaker Jr.'s career, legacy, and the grand opening of John O. Whitaker Woods Nature Preserve in Clay County. THANK YOU Dr. Whitaker for your foresight to protect this beautiful woodland and donate it for others to enjoy and learn about Indiana's natural heritage forever!

OLC WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

OLC is excited to welcome new members to the Board of Directors. Alysa Morley (right) "jumped in with both feet," volunteering in 2022 by sending print and digital communications, helping with the annual celebration, putting together this newsletter, being our webmaster, and more. Dr. John Whitaker Jr. (center), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biology at Indiana State University, is an OLC founder and returns to the Board after a brief hiatus. Dr. Michelle Marincel Payne (left), Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Rose-Hulman, returns to start her 2nd term, continuing her work with IDEM 319 Grants to improve water quality of the Otter Creek Watershed.



Also, welcome back Brendan Kearns, Wabash River enthusiast, President of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, and riverSCAPE Board member. Dr. Daniel Bradley has also stepped up from the Advisory Board to be a new OLC Director. The eleventh president of Indiana State University, and an active member of riverSCAPE, we look forward to his continued contributions. Our Advisory Board has also been strengthened with the addition of award-winning plein air artist Curt Stanfield, and former Directors Susan Berta and Adam Grossman. In addition, we are thankful for Thomas Baer and Lisa Baer for starting their third terms in their current roles as President and Secretary respectively. We anticipate another banner year for natural resource conservation in west-central Indiana!

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TERM EXPIRATIONS

Thomas Baer, President (2025)	Hansford Mann Jr., VP of Acquisition (2023)
Claudia Cozadd, VP of Stewardship (2024)	Phil Cox, VP of Programs (2023)
Alysa Morley, VP of Development (2025)	Denise Sobieski, Treasurer (2024)
Lisa Baer, Secretary (2025)	Dr. Jim Nardi, Director (2023)
Ron Tyner, Director (2023)	Brendan Kearns, Director (2025)
David Kluger, Director (2023)	Dr. Daniel Bradley, Director (2025)
Dr. Michelle Marincel Payne, Director (2025)	Dr. John Whitaker Jr., Director (2025)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Marty Jones

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Jim McDonald

ADVISORY BOARD

George Bakken	Mike Fisher	Marshall Parks	Carissa Lovett
Jane Santucci Bryant	Dan Griggs	Patrick Ralston	Britton Luther
Mary Beth Eberwein	Ted Harris	Keith Ruble	Bill Mitchell
Jeff Fisher	T.J. Hellman	Peter Scott	Gerald McGlone
Robert Jean	Fred Nation	Jim Speer	Raoul Moore
Susan Berta	Joe Newport	Jeremy Montgomery	
Adam Grossman	Jean Testa	Curt Stanfield	

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA COZADD, VICE PRESIDENT OF STEWARDSHIP

2022 has been an incredible year for stewardship! We hosted two multiflora rose, barberry and bush honeysuckle weed wrangles (March 2022, and October 2022) at Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve in Shelburn, IN. At Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP) in Terre Haute, IN, we held a week-long garlic mustard pull (April 2022) in collaboration with Vigo Invasives Management, as well as two burning bush, multiflora rose and bush honeysuckle weed wrangles (September 2022 and November 2022).

Behind the scenes stewardship is also ongoing including native plant identification, cut-surface treatment of invasive shrubs, vine removal, foliar spray of vining honeysuckle, and more. The work is truly endless, and OLC is incredibly grateful for regular volunteers. OLC was also able to invest in stewardship tools, lead our first ever luminary-lit night hike and campfire at JSNP, and bring Indiana State University students out for outdoor classroom experiences in drone imagery and dendrochronology at JSNP.



Dendrochronology Field Day at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve (JSNP). From left: Manuel Bernal, Ivanna Lisinge-Esele, Shanta Banstola, Hilary Howard, and Dr. Jim Speer.

In 2023, I'd love to increase our weed wrangles and events and grow our volunteer numbers. We will continue collaborating with Vigo Invasives Management and focusing on gaining more Indiana State University, Rose Hulman, and St. Mary of the Woods volunteers. I can't stress the importance of this work enough, and I am thankful for the opportunity to care for and learn from these beautiful spaces.

IDEM 319 GRANT/OTTER CREEK WATERSHED UPDATE

BY DR. MICHELLE MARINCEL PAYNE, DIRECTOR

OLC is in the final chapter of our current IDEM 319 grant. All funds are allocated and will be spent by Jan. 6, 2024. This grant brought money directly to the Otter Creek Watershed - over \$61,000 is being paid to cost-share participants in the Wabash Valley! We applied for a second implementation grant and will learn if it will be funded soon. The new three-year grant would theoretically start in fall 2023.

As part of our current grant, Indiana State University's Dr. Jim Speer and I created a social indicator survey to learn our stakeholders' perceptions and interests related to water quality. Of 27 initial responses, about 60% had heard of OLC, 34% were aware of our IDEM 319 grant, and generally

they agreed that sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, E. coli, dissolved solids, and toxic materials were moderate problems in the Otter Creek Watershed. Most respondents use cover crops, no-till, and grassed waterway practices, but had not heard of some other practices allowed for cost-share with the grant. 54% agreed that what they do on their land makes a difference, but 42% were neutral. 83% agree that quality of life depends on good water quality!

To continue to inform our community about the importance of improving water quality, I am working with a Rose-Hulman student to create educational outreach postcards. To measure our outreach impact, a second round of the social indicator survey will go out in fall 2023.

One strength of our grant is regional collaboration, and I want to acknowledge and thank our Steering Committee members for their dedication and time. In addition, Dr. Speer and his students sampled soils to measure soil health, and one of my students characterized a lab-scale, engineered wetland for treating stormwater. Findings from these projects will be presented to OLC.

Looking ahead, Experience Otter Creek is on May 6, 2023! This fun-filled day for all ages aims to educate our community about water quality, watersheds, river ecosystems, and more.

ATHERTON ISLAND NATURAL AREA UPDATE

BY DR. JIM NARDI, DIRECTOR

Atherton Island was shaped by ice and meltwater at the southern edge of the last glaciation. Atherton Island Natural Area (AINA) overlooks the Wabash valley with three spring-fed streams flowing from the eastern edge that form a single stream that flows west to the Wabash River. These streams and their tributaries carved ridges and ravines that harbor diverse plants, animals, and microbes.

The first parcel of land was acquired in 2015, and three additional parcels have since been added. We celebrated the dedication of 28 acres of mature oak-hickory forest acquired from the Sciorba family in June 2022 when grandchildren of these early settlers from Sicily joined us to honor their family for protecting these lovely woods. The proposed acquisition of 64 acres added to the existing 188 adjacent acres contains 46

acres of forest and 18 acres of land on which thousands of trees will be planted. This addition on the south edge will provide parking access in the southeast corner of AINA. From mature oak-hickory forests and beech-covered slopes to newly planted forests, the variety of trees and forest ages offers inviting homes to wildlife whose habitats are threatened by fragmentation of our Hoosier forests. The grand opening is coming in 2023!



The Sciorba family joined OLC members for the dedication of the Frank & Josephine Sciorba Nature Preserve at AINA. From left, front row: Ron Tyner (Board of Directors), Marty Jones (Immediate Past President), and Denise Marie Sobieski (Treasurer). Back row: Claudia Cozadd (VP of Stewardship), Barbara Sciorba Stark, Noreen & John Sciorba, Bill Mitchell (Advisory Board), Hansford Mann (VP of Acquisition) and Joy Nardi. The preserve is named after Barbara's and John's grandparents who settled the land in 1912.

2022 NON-BOARD MEMBER SUPPORTERS

Alan Barcus	Jim & Jude Reppell	James Greene
Tom Zeller	Jo-Ann Jones	Scott & Nikki Royer
Jacob Roos	William Cowen	Mary Kay Rothert
Todd Nation	Dorothy Goodwin	Elizabeth Haymaker
Matthew Alig	Rita Donham	Richard Shagley
Ellie Caldwell	Brad & Ann Venable	Pat & Marty Goodwin
Mark Hildebrand	Anna White	Mike & Mary Moloney
Mona & Robert Sternfeld	John Gettinger	Fred & Nancy Nation
Ted Harris & Christine King	Mike Divan	Ian Morley
Melissa Schaumleffel	Joan Osburn	Mark Southwick
Michael Shaw	Rita Donham	Angela Bridgewater
Moira Wedekind	Donna Dick & Roy Hollingsworth	Rebecca Strait
Nancy Rogers	Tom & Joanne Wilson	George & Susan Brittain
Bob & Joanne Haymaker	Howard Junker	Janetta England
Billy & Bob Wichmann	Cindy Rothrock	Carrie Klaus
Paul & Cathy Newport	Greg & Clare Oskay	Carl Huffman
Edward Pease	Linda Brown	Sam Martland & Ruth Fairbanks
Jerry Hargis	Sallie Cox	Judith Stoffel
John Bacone	Network for Good	Chuck Edens
Mark & Cindy Davis	Dan Reitmeyer	Peggy Foster
Kenneth Hauptli	Evan Boyer	Joanne Kissinger
Keith & Susan Ruble	Joan Porter	Lane & Ruth Ralph
Dolph & Susan Ulrich	Becky Klingele	Chad Yost
Hayden France	Cam Clark	Elizabeth Justice & Frank Howland
Jennifer Oldstone-Moore	Lesley Deem	Mike & Joan Lunsford
Richard Bonness	Patty Cottom	Betty Winters
Mark & Leslie Maloney	Eco Landscape LLC	Kennedy Camden
Marilyn & Leo Nelson	Joanne Haymaker	Team Acorn Triathlon Club
Diana Hews & Peter Scott	Kristy & Vaughn Rightley	Joan Mohr Samuels
Michael & Donna Hardesty	Nick Harby	Jean Kristeller
Debbie & James Montgomery	Jeremy & Sharon Montgomery	Phyllis & Samuel Kazdan
Sharon Mattison	St. Mary-of-the-Woods College	Barb & Dan Weber
Michael & Amy Fisher	Justin & Natalie Montgomery	Patrick & Nancy Ralston
Indiana Native Plant Society	Ted Sammons	Marshall Parks
Lee & Pat Casebere	Sally Routh	Ellen M. Jacquart
George & Laura Bakken	Rob & Mary Beth Eberwein	Gloria Ruhe
Susan Berta	Jean Testa	Raoul Moore
Curt Stanfield	Carissa Lovett	Christopher Wrin
Bill Mitchell	Gerald McGlone	Britton Luther

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023

Yes, I want to become a member, or renew my membership with the Ouabache Land Conservancy to help with its important conservation work. I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 \$ other amount _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Phone (_____) _____ Email: _____

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Ouabache Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 10993
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