



BIG OAKS

Newsletter of Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge & Big Oaks Conservation Society

President's Column

Spring 2009

By Jim Leveille

Each spring the refuge blooms anew. The redbud and dogwood trees display their blossoms as drab winter grays are replaced by vibrant greens. It is an optimistic and busy time for the refuge staff and for members of Big Oaks Conservation Society (BOCS). Both are preparing for the April re-opening of the refuge to public use. Who exactly will be visiting our refuge? At the first National Friends Conference, held in Washington in 2002, one of the most interesting presentations was the changing demographics of those visiting wildlife refuges. Traditionally, refuges were primarily havens for wildlife that also offered opportunities for consumptive uses, mostly hunting and fishing. In recent years, our refuge system and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (BONWR) have expanded other public uses. A good example is the current construction of a hiking trail and wildlife observation platform at Old Timbers Lake. As the U.S. population ages and becomes more urban, a smaller percentage of us are taking advantage of the refuge system. Fewer of us hunt or fish. One of our goals as members of BOCS and supporters of the refuge is to mentor youth and adults who have not been exposed to the refuge and its activities. Two groups that we can reach directly this spring are women through our "Outdoor Woman at Big Oaks" event on June 6 and youth with our "Take A Kid Fishing Day" on June 13th. Both of

these activities are discussed in this newsletter and both are great events to introduce our refuge to newcomers. I highly encourage you to be a mentor, whether it be to a niece, a nephew, a neighborhood kid, or the retirees next door. Chat with them about these events and encourage them to attend. Bring them with you. BOCS folks don't just work on the refuge - we play there as well. Now is always the best time to make new friends. I look forward to seeing you this spring. Don't forget to check out our upcoming events and to sign up for the Old Timbers Lodge Spring Cleanup / Overnight Stay on May 15th & 16th.



As part of its stewardship of OTL, BOCS is actively submitting grant requests for renovation activities. Here, BOCS President Jim Leveille accepts a \$10,000 grant check for Old Timbers Lodge from Ripley County Community Foundation Director, Sally Morris. The money will be used for work on the Lodge's electric and water systems. BOCS grant coordinator, Donna Errett, recently announced an additional "Preserve America" grant award for \$15,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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ATTENTION ALL VISITORSBREAKING NEWS!!

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge will be closed for public use from June 15th to approximately July 15th due to culvert construction on the East Perimeter Road. For more information about date closures, please call the refuge office at 812-273-0783. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Balcony view of OTL
Christmas party on Dec 12, 2008



Ken and Rita Knouf at OTL Christmas party
-the first such event since the Thomson's last
Christmas party in 1940

New Staff Member Joins Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

Perry Williams began serving as a wildlife biologist at Big Oaks NWR on January 19, 2009; his first permanent position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Perry is a Minnesota native and achieved his B.A. degree at St. Olaf College (Biology) in 2006 and M.S. degree at the University of Minnesota (Wildlife Ecology and Management) in 2008. His M.S. Thesis focused on spotted owl habitat use in the Sierra Nevada, CA, where he spent two field seasons. In addition to owls, Perry's background is in home range and habitat selection, GIS (habitat mapping and spatially explicit modeling), experimental design and statistical analysis, radio-telemetry, song sharing of passerines, and waterfowl management. Perry's research interests are in the ecology of game species (birds and mammals), their habitat requirements, population dynamics, and sustainable game management. He is a member of the American Ornithologists Union, the Wildlife Society, and TWS Indiana Chapter. Perry lives in Madison with his wife Hillary and dog Sigurd.



BIG OAKS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Mission Statement: To support the goals of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration at Big Oaks NWR; develop environmental education programs; enhance public awareness; encourage use and appreciation for the natural and cultural assets unique to Big Oaks.

2009 Outdoor Women at Big Oaks

By Diana Swinney

Calling All Women..... Are you tired of your usual Saturday routine – the cleaning, laundry, errands, kids and the same old chores? Perhaps you love the outdoors but never seem to find the time to enjoy it... Well, here is your chance to take a day off and step into the great outdoors, to rekindle outdoor interests or learn new ones.

The **5th annual Outdoor Women at Big Oaks (OWBO) event**, hosted by the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and Big Oaks Conservation Society, is set for **Saturday, June 6, 2009....rain or shine!** The historic Old Timbers Lodge, located on the refuge, is where the activities of the day begin.

Outdoor Women at Big Oaks is an entire day dedicated to providing interactive outdoor educational opportunities and outdoor appreciation for women ages 14 and older. Participants have a wide variety of activities to choose from in order to learn a new skill, polish an old one, or to just enjoy the beautiful outdoor environment of Big Oaks! Topics such as camping, fishing, canoeing, tree identification, archery, shooting clay targets, hiking, and the ever popular Dutch oven cooking are on the list to be offered again this year. New to the offerings will be Biking Big Oaks, Tomahawk Throwing, and Native American Beadwork.

The cost of registration is \$45.00 (if received prior to May 1st), and \$30.00 for any young woman age 14 to 18 attending with a registered adult. Registrations received after May 1st will be \$50.00. Each registration includes three workshops of your choice, a continental breakfast, a sumptuous lunch, drinks and other refreshments, a day pass to Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and a free gift. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase tickets for raffle items or purchase hats, t-shirts, etc.

The OWBO Planning Committee is hard at work to bring yet another enjoyable, educational, fun, safe, and successful day to everyone involved. Committee members have individual tasks they are diligently working to complete. Thankfully, BOCS is blessed with members who are willing to give so freely of their time to make OWBO a reality! The veteran members of the Planning Committee are dedicated

and well-organized and seem to need little guidance in fulfilling their assignments. The entire BONWR staff is a vital resource pledged to support and assist in the planning and delivery of the event. Securing instructors for the different workshops, finding corporate sponsors (big or small), collecting donations for the raffle, t-shirt design, what's for breakfast, who is fixing lunch, posters, media, and porto-o-johns are just a few of the many threads we are weaving together at this time. Obviously, this event would not be possible without the tremendous generosity of volunteers' time, effort, donations, and community contributions. I'm certain we will see many familiar faces on June 6th ready, willing, and able to assist with the activities of the day.

So....let the guys know this is *your* day in the woods. Allow yourself to have a day dedicated to the enjoyment of the natural beauty of Big Oaks, learning a new skill, and meeting new people. Capture your share of the fun! We hope to see you there.

www.bigoaks.org

BOCS to Host Seventh Annual Take A Kid Fishing Day

By Jim Leveille

On June 13, 2009, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge will host its seventh annual Take A Kid Fishing Day at Old Timbers Lake. The annual event encourages families to visit the refuge lake and to fish at no charge. Volunteers assist inexperienced anglers and the refuge provides rods and reels, as well as bait, free of charge. A free lunch is also provided by BOCS, and our sponsors, including RKO Enterprises of Madison, contribute prizes, including fishing tackle for the kids. Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Dan Matiatos, noted that the event has grown steadily in popularity with each year.



Overnight Stay/Spring Cleaning Day at OTL

Last May saw the first (and highly successful) cleaning/maintenance event by BOCS of Old Timbers Lodge. We will be repeating the effort again this year on Saturday, May 16th, and highly encourage all members who are able to attend to do so. We are making enormous strides toward our goals of preserving and maintaining Old Timbers Lodge. This is an important and fun activity open to all members.

Last year, we offered BOCS members the chance to spend Saturday night (after the work day) at the lodge. It seems most people would prefer to go home to their showers instead of camping at the lodge after working. So this year, BOCS members will instead have the opportunity to spend Friday night before the cleanup at the lodge. We will not provide food Friday evening. We will need to know if you are planning on spending Friday night at the lodge, so sign up no later than May 12 with Bill Hughes at (812) 689-5107 or whuges4@yahoo.com if you would like to spend the night. Remember that sleeping cots at the lodge are limited and that the old Army mattresses are all gone. Think of the lodge as a very nice tent with limited furniture. We recommend air mattresses or folding cots. Bring your own water and food for Friday night. BOCS will provide donuts and coffee in the morning and a hearty lunch and dinner on Saturday for our volunteers.

Friday evening gate entry for those who have signed up to sleep over will be at Gate 6 from 5-6 PM, which is located at the refuge fence and 900 S. Michigan Road in Ripley County. The easiest way to get to Gate 6 is to take US 421 until reaching 900 S, turn west for approximately one mile – it ends in the gate. Remember, you must already be a member and have signed up prior to the sleepover - no guests overnight. Those who have not yet watched the refuge safety briefing video and signed for this calendar year will do so at the lodge.

On Saturday, we will be conducting a thorough cleaning, and depending on the weather, a variety of other outside tasks. Gate entry for those arriving on Saturday morning will also be at Gate 6 from 7:15-8:00 AM. Pizza will be brought in for lunch, followed by a BOCS cookout at the end of the day. Especially for our newer members who have not yet had a chance to visit and work on the lodge, this is a great chance to come out, mingle with fellow BOCS members, and to make a real contribution to our lodge stewardship. Remember to sign up for either Friday or Saturday entry. We need to have a good head-count to purchase food. Don't forget your work gloves. We'll see you there.

BONWR Volunteers travel to D.C.

In February, two BOCS members, Bill Hughes and Robert Hudson, traveled to Washington D.C. for the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge System "Friends Unite" Conference. They were accompanied by Refuge Staff member, Beth Black. While at the conference, they attended various training sessions pertaining to friends' group activities and refuge support topics. On the final day of the trip, they visited with representatives of Senators Bayh and Lugar. The highpoint of the trip was the chance to sit down with Congressman Baron Hill and discuss Big Oaks NWR needs. The Congressman was instrumental in the establishment of the refuge and has been very supportive of BOCS. He pledged to work with the group to assist in the further development and progress of BONWR.



(From Left) Bob Hudson, Nita Fuller (Regional Chief of NWR's), Beth Black and Bill Hughes at the 2009 National Friend Conference in Washington D.C.

* BOCS would like to thank the Jefferson *
* County Public Library for allowing the group *
* to conduct meetings and presentations during *
* the winter months. *
* *
* BOCS monthly meetings will be held at the *
* Library the first Monday of each month at *
* 6:30pm. *

A WILDLIFE HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVE

By: Ken Knouf

As Joe and his staff continue to develop the refuge, I thought that members might be interested in taking a look at the past in better understanding what visitors see today. When I started work at JPG in 1982, it was the first year a hunter had taken a wild turkey on the property. That year's harvest was one. It's hard to believe that the impressive population of turkey observed now stems from a reintroduction that took place in 1979 when the INDNR released 9 birds, 6 hens and 3 gobblers, north of K Road. The birds had been released north of K Road because of excellent habitat, and biologists believed that the birds were very sensitive and would require the protection afforded by over 11,000 acres of dense forest. This was the second reintroduction within the state, and by the spring of 1982, DNR biologists believed that there was a huntable population. Within two years they had expanded across the entire installation. I still chuckle today hearing old timers talk about the birds running up and down the firing line while the guns were shooting. By the way that first successful turkey hunter was Glenn Murphy, a JPG employee from Madison, who never hunted turkey again "joking it was too easy." We see today how the turkey population has thrived throughout southern Indiana and turkey hunting has developed into a very popular and challenging activity.

While today visitors commonly observe beavers, did you know that in 1982 there were no beaver on JPG? They had pretty much been trapped out since the early 1800's and their habitat cleared, but relatively suddenly they started making a natural comeback as trapping laws were enforced and open farmland started to grow back into forests. Nowhere was it more apparent than JPG when by 1983, we started seeing evidence of beaver activity throughout the installation. There was no reintroduction. These critters came back because there was excellent habitat and abundant protection. Installation policy called for the beavers to be left alone unless they were flooding a road, and then something had to be done. But I can tell you by firsthand experience that blowing up a dam was not the solution. Those creatures were programmed to build and build they did. Today almost every creek and tributary shows evidence of beavers. It's hard to believe that we almost trapped them into extinction, but thankfully these wonderful creatures have come back strong.



BOCS member, Fred Swinney, president of Die-dimensional Metal Stamping of Madison stands beside new fireplace grates that he constructed for Old Timbers Lodge. The two grates, nearly five feet long and weighing 85 lbs., will replace the units at the Lodge built by the Army over 20 years ago

The Big Oaks Conservation Society recently received a donation from the Indiana Air National Guard in the form of a building. The 12 foot x 20 foot storage building was used at the Jefferson Range as a targeting prop for Air Guard Training.

With help of local contractor Dan Yoder, several members of BOCS moved the building from the Air Guard firing range to a location closer to the Old Timbers Lodge area.

The building has been remounted with new siding and doors by BOCS volunteers, Jack Smitha and Bill Hughes. The building will be used for storage of items used around the Old Timbers Lodge.



Park Ranger's Corner

By Beth Black

Friends Conference Makes History

History- It seems like no matter where you turn in Washington D.C. you'll find history. D.C.'s filled with it! Whether it be the halls of our hotel where Olympians from years past have signed Olympic flags to the multitude of museums and national sites found all over the city. History is everywhere. This year's national Friends conference made its own kind of history. Let me speak in superlatives for a moment. We saw more attendees from more refuges than ever before. Four hundred sixty-nine people from one hundred sixty-nine friends groups made the trip. And in another first, we welcomed a contingent from Russia. Yes, supporters and employees from refuges across state lines descended upon Washington to build friendships and perhaps more importantly to give our nation's congressional representatives updates and requests from their respective refuges.

Big Oaks Conservation Society sent two representatives to Washington D.C., Bill Hughes and Bob Hudson. Apart from having a good time, meeting new people, and learning new information, Bill and Bob were tasked with the job of meeting with our Indiana congressmen.

The theme of the conference was Friends Unite! with the idea that a "strong, unified and informed friends movement will be prepared to take on the challenges of the pressing issues" facing us all. To that end, the conference was set up so that friends and refuge employees could learn new information on a wide variety of subjects. Bob, Bill and I set up a game plan that would allow us

all to attend the sessions we were most interested in and to take full advantage of all the different topics being presented. Personally, the session that I found most useful was the session on working with the media. Other topics I enjoyed were Climate Change-Implications for the NWRS, Citizen Science Programs for Engaging the Public, and NWRS Birding Initiative-Connecting Birders and Refuges. Bill and Bob attended sessions on Nurturing a Productive Friends Partnership, Volunteer Recruitment and Management and others. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge Association did a tremendous job of finding a diverse group of presenters. The conference was well organized and very well attended.

It wasn't all the serious business of refuge operations though. One shouldn't go to Washington D.C. without doing a little sight seeing. Bill, Bob and I managed to work in a trip to the National Mall, where we rode the elevator to the top of the Washington Monument. The view was spectacular. We then made our way around the mall, battling a brisk wind and frigid temperatures to take in the sites at the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. I managed to work in a quick walk over to the National Cathedral as well. Throughout this international city, you see faces from all over the world. It's our nation's capital after all and people come from far and wide to conduct politics, do business, or both. History is made in Washington D.C. every day. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a part of that history and supporters of Big Oaks can be a part of history, too. Write your congressman, visit your refuge and if you get the chance, visit your capital.



Local Scout Troop Continues Refuge Support

Boy Scouts from Troop 607 spent a snow-covered day working on the refuge and at Old Timbers Lodge in February. The scouts worked on two projects during their visit. The first was the construction of a wildlife observation platform at Big Tree Point on Old Timbers Lake. The second was the clearing away of trees and brush at Old Timbers Lodge.

Troop 607 has an impressive record of projects and service at BONWR. Over the last eight years, three of its members completed Eagle Scout service projects for the refuge, the troop has assisted with the annual "Take A Kid Fishing Day" for six years, and the scouts stained the refuge information kiosk located off US 421 and Old Michigan Road. The observation platform project was begun under the direction of Refuge Operations Specialist, Dan Matiatos, of the USFWS. He provided the plans and materials for the project and prepared the site. The Boy Scouts enlisted the expert advice of local carpenters, Mike Swango and Tom Koons. BOCS volunteer, Bill Hughes, acted as refuge liaison to the scouts and also provided a portable generator for the power tools needed. The platform will allow refuge visitors a discrete shelter from which to observe and photograph wildlife on the banks of the lake.

The boys' other project took place on the grounds of Old Timbers Lodge. Just west of the lodge was the site of the "duck pond" - built by Alexander Thomson at the request of his youngest son, Chilton, when Old Timbers itself was nearing completion in 1932. The pond never successfully held water, even after extensive reworking by the Army. In recent years, nature has taken its course and had started to reclaim the once open "front yard" of Old Timbers. The scouts, guided by BOCS member, Jack Smitha, and their Scout Master, Bill Goble, spent a busy day cutting and hauling away a mountain of brush. Their efforts will allow the area to be mowed in the future, returning the grounds to the appearance maintained by the Thomsons in the lodge's first years.



Master Carpenters, Mike Swango and Tom Koons, and Eagle Scouts, Ryan Strimple and Brad Lamping, constructing the new wildlife observation platform at Old Timbers Lake



Scouts from Troop 607 haul away cut brush at OTL using their Klondike Derby sled



Scouts from Troop 607 pile up cleared brush and trees at Old Timbers Lodge

Bobcats on the Refuge!!

This winter, volunteer of the year, Jack Smitha, obtained deer carcasses from the State Highways Department and strategically placed them on the refuge where bobcats have been sighted. He then set up motion sensor cameras angled on the carcasses in hopes of capturing images of the elusive cats, which would be drawn to the area to feed on the deer.

On January 12, Jack positioned three carcasses and cameras on the refuge. After a few days, we inspected the road-killed deer and cameras. The first deer looked relatively untouched, indicating minimal animal feeding activity. The second deer appeared partly eaten while the third carcass was completely gone! The stationed camera revealed pictures of a coyote's eyes shining from the shadows and two confused-looking (live) deer on the site the following morning. Jack first attributed the missing carcass to the wiles of Bud and Chester hunting for the powerball, but we later determined neighborhood dogs to be the likeliest culprits. To prevent further mishaps, Jack tied the remaining deer to nearby trees.



Subsequent camera checks proved more fruitful, exposing happening night-life on the refuge. Several coyotes, deer, a raccoon, and an opossum were documented near the carcasses. Six neighborhood dogs were also observed feeding on the deer and attempting to drag one away. During the day, the cameras recorded numerous crows, a couple of red-tailed hawks, and two golden eagles feeding on the deer. Finally, on January 26, Jack excitedly entered the Big Oaks office wielding one the cameras. "Only bones were left!" he exclaimed, "We must've of gotten some good ones!" Jack was right. Amid more pictures of coyotes, dogs, and crows, were excellent pictures of a bobcat feeding on the carcass, walking around it, and even arching its back at some unseen competitor (likely a coyote). The bobcat debuted on the night on the 22nd and made further appearances on the evening and night of the 25th. Success! Thank-you



Jack for your initiative and diligent work in capturing these awesome photos!

It is unknown how many bobcats inhabit the refuge. Male bobcats are capable of dispersing hundreds of miles, although females require several generations to cover such distances. Hence, repopulation of an area is a relatively slow process. However, Jack's photos and increasingly frequent sightings by hunters, visitors, and refuge staff indicate numbers are on the rise.



Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Update: April 2009

The Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project (CMWP) which is a regional initiative in southeastern Indiana working to improve water quality and the quality of living in a five county area including Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley and Scott counties, is in the final months of its first phase. The main objective of the first phase of the project was to take an inventory of the watershed to gain a clear picture of the overall health of the watershed and to identify problem areas within the watershed. The project is a 2 year nonpoint source Federal 319 grant initiated by Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D along with other partners such as Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, and Ripley County Soil Water Conservation Districts, Friends of Muscatatuck River Society and many other conservation groups.

BONWR is located within this watershed and is of benefit to sustaining and improving water quality in the CMWP. During research for the project, it has been noted that the protected, undisturbed land of the refuge is important because it acts as a filter where excess nutrients from agricultural runoff are utilized by buffers of adequate plant life along the creeks of the refuge. If the refuge was not there these detrimental excess nutrients may be more cumulative and otherwise be passed along through tributaries to the Muscatatuck River.

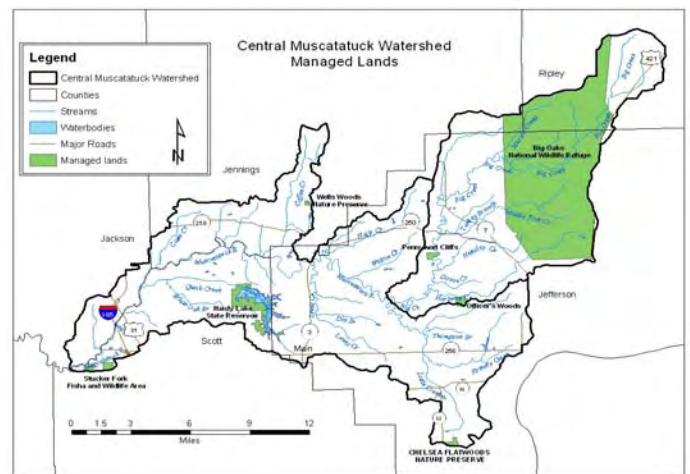
During the past one and one half years, volunteers, committee members and partners have worked in conjunction with the watershed coordinator to gather water quality information from numerous streams within the watershed known to have indications of poor water quality from previous testing. They have developed goals and strategies to remedy or improve the issues noted, worked to educate the public and, most importantly, strived to gain public and landowner interest and support of the project.

The second phase of this project would be to use the secured funds to implement proposed best management practice measures that would resolve or improve water quality issues confirmed during the first phase. This would include providing cost share programs to assist landowners and farmers in improving

land management practices and applying best management practices within the watershed and offer further education programs to enhance understanding of individual's impact on their watershed.

Upcoming Events:

The Hardy Lake Sweep will be on Saturday, April 25, 2009 in conjunction with the Central Muscatatuck River Sweep and the Friends of Muscatatuck River Sweep. This is a large scale regional initiative to clean up our waterways. To participate in the Hardy Lake Sweep all you have to do is be there that day or you may call and pre-register to help clean up designated sites within the watershed. This will be a great event for youth groups and families in the area.



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer water quality monitor or are interested in more information about the CMWP or upcoming events, please contact Deanna Robison, Watershed Coordinator at 812-273-2070 x 3.





October 17, 2008 BOCS officer and hosts met Madison Chamber of Commerce at the “Business After Hours” event at Old Timber Lodge. Over 70 Chamber of Commerce Members attended.



REFUGE ACTIVITIES

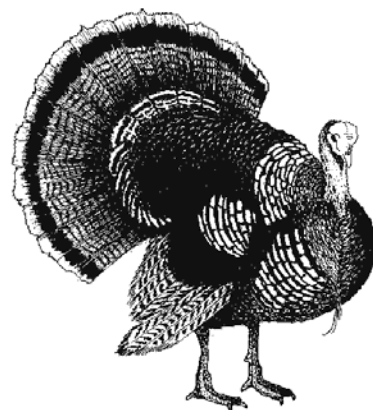
What are some of the activities visitors can do at the refuge? Visitors can hunt white-tailed deer, squirrel, and wild turkey. You may also fish at Old Timbers Lake, however, because of high demand, there is a quota system for boaters. If you enjoy observing wildlife and photography, the refuge offers many scenic areas of hardwood forest, wetland, grassland and shrub land habitat. There is much diversity among the plants, fish, birds and other animals that inhabit the refuge. You may also enjoy the interpretive programs that focus on habitat restoration and management. The refuge enjoys providing educational opportunities for students, educators and organizations.

VISITOR INFORMATION

All visitors must annually view a safety video and sign an acknowledgment of danger form. This will give you access to the areas designated for public use. There is a daily access fee, or users may purchase an annual pass. The day use area covers 4,170 acres. An additional 22,500 acres is open to the public for special hunts and guided tours. The public may access the refuge from mid-April to the end of November every Monday and Friday, and the second and fourth Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to become a Big Oaks Volunteer? Opportunities are plentiful to assist refuge staff in their management of the sprawling 50,000-acre refuge. There are a variety of positions available. Those who enjoy fieldwork and the outdoors are needed to lead wildlife and educational tours at the refuge. Individuals or community-minded groups are also needed for bi-annual litter pick-ups along the refuge roadsides. Both of these tasks permit volunteers the opportunity to access Big Oaks at no cost and to see areas of the refuge not commonly viewed by typical visitors. If indoor tasks are more your cup of tea, then consider the refuge’s need for speakers who can visit schools and civic groups to speak about Big Oaks. Those interested in becoming ambassadors for Big Oaks would receive instruction and training in the history and on-going projects associated with the refuge. For individuals who don’t care to wander Big Oaks vast spaces, or are intimidated at the prospect of speaking to strangers, then the friendly U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff could always use help in their office. This could involve checking in visitors, answering phones, or aiding in the refuge’s safety-briefing program. The opportunity to become involved is open to all.



**Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge
1661 West Jpg Niblo Road
Madison, IN 47250**

Phone: 812-273-0783

Fax: 812-273-0786

E-mail: bigoaks@fws.gov

Website: www.fws.gov/midwest/bigoaks

REFUGE STAFF

Dr. Joe Robb - Refuge Manager

Dan Matiatos - Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Ashley Anderson - Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Perry Williams - Wildlife Biologist

Janet Pike - Administrative Technician

Brian Winters - Prescribed Fire Specialist

David Jones - Lead Range Technician

Casey Mefford - Range Technician

Beth Black - Park Ranger

Lisa Jones - Park Ranger

Laura Lake - Park Ranger

Kim Brinson - Maintenance Worker

Paul Killian - Intern

Lisa Maas - Intern

**BIG OAKS
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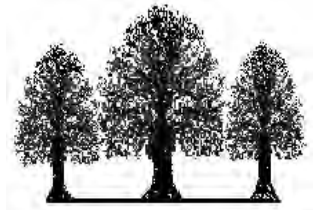
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Lisa Jones**

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Big Oaks Staff**

Contributing Members



**BIG OAKS
Conservation
Society
Membership
Benefits**



10% discount on merchandise



opportunities to participate in special refuge events



contribute to the improvement of the refuge for all visitors



Big Oaks Newsletter

Reminder! BOCS' membership year runs from October 1 through September 30 of the next year. Please pay your dues on time - the Society depends on dues to help fund the Youth Events, etc.

If you would like to join, or rejoin, the **Big Oaks Conservation Society**, to support the refuge, please fill out this membership form and send along with your check to:

**Big Oaks Conservation Society
P.O Box 935
Madison, IN 47250**

☐ Check here if this
is a renewal

Yearly Membership Form (Oct. to Sept. 30) Please select a category.

___ Youth \$5

Name(s) _____

___ Individual \$15

Address _____

___ Family \$25

City _____

___ Supporting \$25

State _____ Zip _____

___ Lifetime (per Individual) \$150

Phone _____

___ Corporate \$500

E-mail _____

**BIG OAKS
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January	River Otters slide in the snow
February	Great Horned Owls nest
March	Prescribed burning
April	Migrating birds, wildflowers, fishing begins 18th youth turkey hunt workshop, 19th youth hunt
May	16th Lodge Cleanup!
June	6th Outdoor Women at Big Oaks, 13th Take a Kid Fishing Day
****JUNE 15th - JULY 15th REFUGE CLOSED****	
July	18th Butterfly survey
August	15th Squirrel season starts
September	Migration begins!
October	Deer archery season, Winterize Lodge
November	Deer shotgun season, Youth Deer Hunt
December	Christmas Bird Count



**Big Oaks
Conservation Society
P.O. Box 935
Madison, IN 47250**

Board Members

Jim Leveille - President
David Bear - Vice President
Jean Herron - Secretary &
 Business Manager
Natalie Gilpin - Treasurer
Dan Herron - Board Member
Bob Hudson - Board Member
Ed Schaefer - Board Member
Joe Robb - Executive Secretary

www.bigoaks.org



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