



# BIG OAKS

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

## President's Column

Summer / Fall 2008

By Jim Leveille

I would like to thank all of our members who contributed their time to our successful summer activities. The Lodge Makeover Weekend, Outdoor Women at Big Oaks, and Take A Kid Fishing Day are all big public events that highlight our refuge and the work we do to support Dr. Robb and his skeleton staff. These events are especially important, because they bring first time visitors to Big Oaks, where they can witness first-hand the natural beauty of Big Oaks and the superb job done by the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel.

Now that summer has turned to fall, our refuge staff is once again girding itself for their busiest annual task, deer season, when every weekend will see them assisting hundreds of hunters, many of them also first-time visitors to Big Oaks. BOCS members will be there, manning the gates, providing free dinners for our annual youth hunters, and serving lunch to hungry sportsmen. BOCS will raise a good portion of its annual revenue through the sale of food and merchandise to these visitors. Ed and Judy Schafer have, for several years, been a key component in the success of these sales, and all of us owe them and those others who assist them our thanks. BOCS is fortunate in having numerous, enthusiastic volunteers, but we still need cash to purchase the food and supplies we use in our refuge support activities. As we tackle more difficult maintenance and upgrade tasks at OTL, the need for funds will only increase.

So, when a member of our sales group contacts you about covering open time for our deer hunts, please

### IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming OTL Fall Work Party / Social  
JPG Exhibit Completed at the Jefferson Co. Historical Society  
Park Ranger's Corner  
Fourth Annual Outdoor Women at Big Oaks  
BOCS Hosts Sixth Annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day  
The Ulster Project  
Big Oaks Fire Staff Report  
May 17<sup>th</sup> Old Timbers Lodge Makeover

help out. It's important to BOCS and the work we do on our refuge.

In October, we have two activities to look forward to. The first is an OTL Work Party/Social on Sat, Oct 11. The second is the Oct 17 BOCS Board of Director's hosted After-Hours Mixer for the Madison Chamber of Commerce. The first of these is a good example of what we do, and the second is a good example of our community outreach efforts.

By the time we sit at our Thanksgiving tables, the refuge will, like many of its inhabitants, appear to have slipped into hibernation. Public use will stop until spring, but the staff will catch up on long overdue administrative tasks and, hopefully, sleep. Our members will also still be on task, helping ready Big Oaks for spring, working on the Lodge, and advancing the needs and opportunities at our refuge.

### New Staff Member Joins Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge

Ashley Anderson is a new Wildlife Refuge Specialist at Big Oaks NWR. She completed a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology at Oklahoma State University and recently completed an M.S. in Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Her graduate research focused on habitat use, local movements, and stopover duration of migratory songbirds during spring stopover in northern Ohio. She recently married and her husband, Hunter, is a research scientist with the U.S. EPA in Cincinnati. Ashley grew up in Oklahoma and enjoys the outdoors, wildlife research, working in the yard, music, and spending time with family and friends. She is excited to be working at Big Oaks and looks forward to meeting folks.



## Upcoming OTL Fall Work Party / Social

BOCS is planning another Old Timbers Lodge (OTL) work day for Saturday, Oct 11. This will be very similar to our successful Lodge Makeover in May. The entry protocol will be different. BOCS members and volunteers who would like to help with the project **will only be allowed to enter at Gate 6**. This is an Archery Hunt weekend, so Gate 1 will **not** be open for OTL workers. To get to Gate 6: take US 421 N from Madison, turn left (west) onto 900 South for one mile, dead-ending at Gate 6, which is in Ripley County and will be open to BOCS/JPG/OTL volunteers **only** from **7:45am-8:30am**. It is very important that our volunteers do not attempt to enter through Gate 1, as there will be a crush of deer hunters entering that gate, & the gate attendant will not let you through. There will be less heavy cleaning to do this time around. We would like to spend some time re-siding the storage shed donated by the IN Air National Guard and winterizing the Lodge itself. There are always windows to be re-glazed and plenty of jobs that do not require great strength or climbing tall ladders. This is meant to be an enjoyable, social day. We will once again provide lunch and dinner. Come on out and enjoy the fall colors with your fellow BOCS members. We will have plenty of drinks and refreshments. Bring your work gloves, and, if you have any questions, please contact Jim Leveille at (812)689-7278.

## Annual Membership Dues are Due!

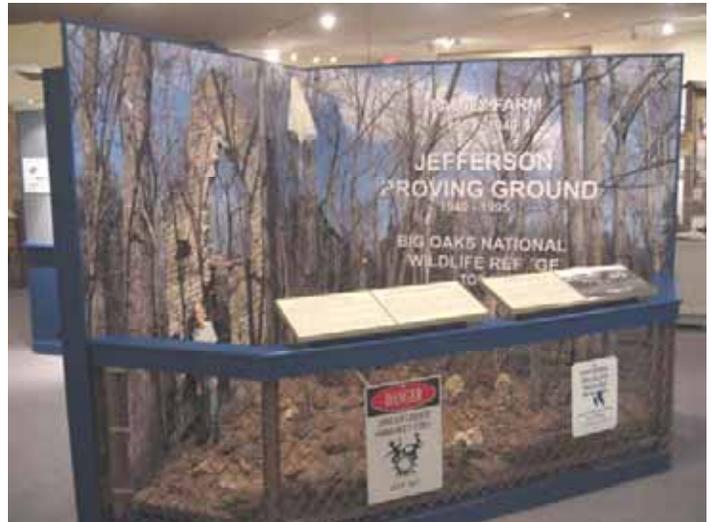
Please pay at the upcoming October meeting or send a check to the BOCS mailing address. Now is a great time to ask a friend to join with you. Have you considered giving a membership for Christmas? You Should!

This year we are challenging all current members to bring in at least one new individual or family membership. The form in the back of this newsletter may be copied, so that you can give it to a friend who might be interested in joining BOCS. Renew today and then encourage a friend or family member to join our growing family of volunteers!

## JPG Exhibit Completed at the Jefferson County Historical Society

The JPG Heritage Partnership recently completed a new permanent exhibit at the Heritage Center of the Jefferson County Historical Society, on West First St, one block west of the Lanier Mansion. The exhibit features a large scale diorama providing visitors with a better understanding of what's behind the "ugly chain link fence" as well as historic photographs from the pre-military years through establishment of Big Oaks. The exhibit was funded by the JPGHP and masterminded by Mike Moore and Ron Grimes, the archivist and volunteer museum director for the Society.

BOCS members viewing the exhibit will come away with a better sense of the emotional turmoil that people experienced when JPG was created as well as the connections and history of the former testing facility turned into national wildlife refuge. Admission cost is \$4.00 and the Heritage Center is open Mondays through Saturdays. Everyone is encouraged to come down and explore what may be one of the finest regional history museums in the state.



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* BOCS would like to thank the Jefferson \*  
\* County Public Library for allowing the \*  
\* group to conduct meetings there. \*  
\* BOCS monthly meetings will be held at \*  
\* the Library the first Monday of each month \*  
\* at 6:30pm. For the months of November \*  
\* '08 through and including March 2009. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Park Ranger's Corner

## By Beth Black

Many of us can look back at our childhood with fond memories of being introduced to an outdoor activity by a parent or perhaps another adult. For me, it was fishing with my dad. The fishing fun usually started a day or two before the fishing trip. If we had a day of rainfall, then that evening, after the sun went down we'd be outside in the yard, flashlights in hand. We were after night crawlers. My dad appreciated my quick reflexes combined with a gentle touch. In order to catch night crawlers, you must grab fast, but pull gently in order to keep the crawler from breaking in two. I still remember the sensation of stepping on night crawlers in my bare feet! Then early the next morning, we'd be off. We would arrive at the lake just after sunrise. The boat was docked and waiting for us, and soon we'd have our lines in the water. As a kid, I would watch my dad put the night crawlers on the hook and work to remove the hooks from the fish. It was fascinating to me. He would let me sip black coffee from the thermos and munch on bologna sandwiches that mom had packed for us. We'd make our way around the lake trying different spots and patiently waiting to see if it was a good spot. Dad taught me a lot about fishing over the years and these are some of my fondest childhood memories.

These adult mentors in our lives sought to spend time with us as youngsters and use the time spent to teach a new skill. These skills tend to stay with us our entire lives and have helped us develop a fondness for the natural world. Fast forward to today's world where computers, video games and T.V. all work to keep us inside and away from the natural world. Richard Louv author of *Last Child in the Woods*, states that time spent outdoors is vital to the physical, psychological, and spiritual health of children. Louv goes on to point out that children who grow up with an affinity for nature are also those who seek to protect it.

Across the nation a new movement is afoot. This movement is designed to inspire kids to get outside.

Whether it's splashing through rain puddles and making mud pies or watching the clouds float by or fishing with your parents, this movement is catching on. These initiatives have catchy names like "Leave No Child Inside" and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Connecting People with Nature." In fact, here at Big Oaks we have several opportunities to get you and your kids out of doors. At the end of October we'll once again be offering a one day youth deer hunt. The youth deer hunt takes place on November 1, but on October 31 the refuge will host a workshop for young hunters. The workshop includes food and door prizes among other activities. To apply for the youth deer hunt, simply send a post card postmarked by October 1 with your child's name and address to: Big Oaks NWR 1661 W JPG Niblo Rd. Madison, IN 47250. A total of 150 youth (age 17 and under) will be chosen through a random drawing. In addition, the refuge has been given three "Let's Go Outside" backpacks. The backpacks are designed to help kids explore the refuge. Inside the backpacks you'll find activity cards and activities to help get you started. Kids will be allowed to check the backpacks out at the refuge office. Ask about them the next time you visit Big Oaks. But wait, there's more! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also produced a public service announcement titled "Get Some Nature Into Your Kids." Be sure to watch for the PSA on local TV stations. Still looking for more? In addition to our youth deer hunt, backpacks, and public service announcement, there's another opportunity to enjoy the refuge. You can take advantage of a free day on the refuge in celebration of National Public Lands Day on Saturday September 27. (Another great opportunity to get some nature into your kids.....for free!)

So whether you're fishing with a child or grandchild at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge or catching lightning bugs or night crawlers in your own backyard, I encourage you to take advantage of all that the natural world has to offer. Everyone including the earth will benefit from it.

## Fourth Annual Outdoor Women at Big Oaks

By Deanna Robison

The fourth annual Outdoor Women at Big Oaks (OWBO) took place at the historic Old Timbers Lodge on Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 participants attended this year. Attendees traveled from as far away as Michigan and many have been coming to the event each year since it first took place in 2005.

Early morning storm clouds loomed above, but ultimately provided protection against the hot summer sun and saved their rain for areas of Indiana not enjoying the event. Big Oaks Conservation Society (BOCS) plans a well-organized and fun-filled event, but the one detail that cannot be controlled is the weather. Fortunately, for four years in a row event participants enjoyed beautiful days.

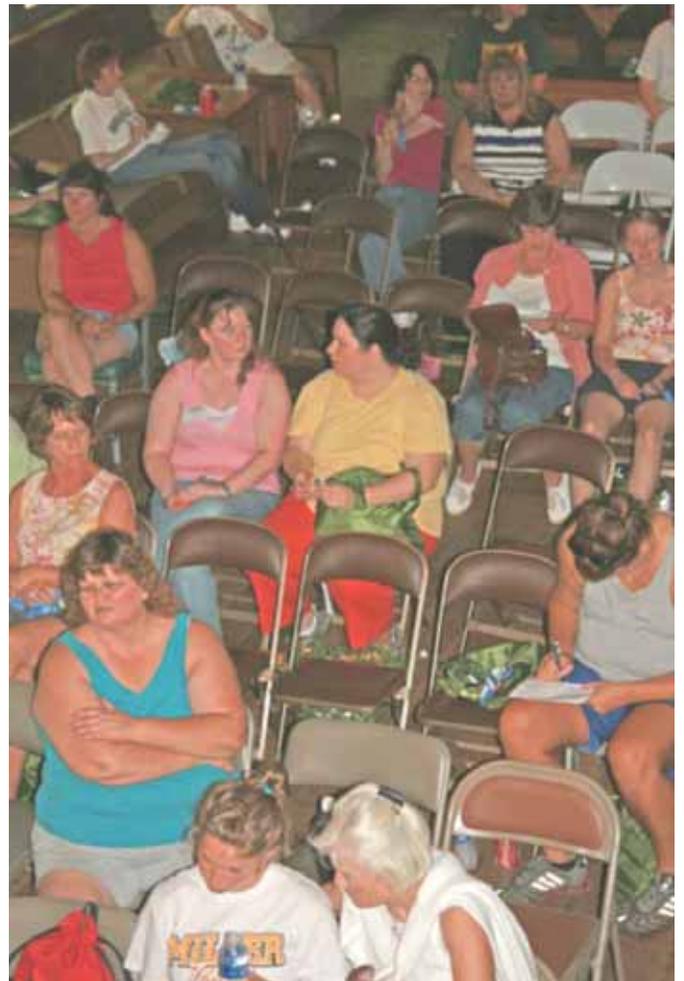
BOCS and Big Oaks NWR hosted the event with support from Indiana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers and the Indiana Air National Guard. OWBO helps accomplish BOCS's mission to support the goals of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration at Big Oaks NWR, develop environmental awareness, and to encourage use and appreciation for the unique natural and cultural assets on the refuge.

Outdoor Women at Big Oaks is a one-day program designed for women ages 14 and older in order to provide an opportunity to learn outdoor skills, increase awareness about the environment, and to participate in outdoor activities. Some of this year's classes included Fly Fishing, Discovery Nature Walk, Canoeing, Backyards for Wildlife Habitat, GPS Geocaching, Wildflowers and Edibles, Nordic Trekking, Deer Hunting, Bird ID, Turkey Calling, Life in a Creek, and other informative classes.

One of the most popular classes offered each year is Outdoor Dutch Oven Cooking taught by Indiana Conservation Officers Steve Reinholt and Steve Delph. This year, as usual, they did an excellent job and everyone enjoyed the wonderful food prepared during the class. Volunteer instructors make this event possible and they received many outstanding comments from class participants.

A large amount of thanks and appreciation for a job well done is due to the OWBO Planning Committee, the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge staff and interns, class instructors, and all contributing community members and sponsors. This event would not be possible without the great generosity of volunteers' time, effort, and donations.

Planning for next year's event begins in November-December 2008. We look forward to an outstanding 5<sup>th</sup> year in 2009, when we will emphasize education about the small things we can all do to positively impact and help our natural environment. We hope to see you there!



The Big Oaks Conservation Society would like to thank the many sponsor's that made this event possible!



## **BOCS Hosts Sixth Annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day**

By Jim Leveille

On June 21, 2008, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge hosted its sixth annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day at Old Timbers Lake. The 167-acre lake provided plenty of action for the youth and their families on a perfect weather day.

The refuge event was co-sponsored by the Big Oaks Conservation Society (BOCS), which prepared free meals and organized the event, and by RKO Enterprises of Madison, whose generous donation helped defray the costs of food and prizes for the kids. Madison's Wal-Mart provided bait for the event. Volunteers from Versailles Boy Scout Troop 607 helped with set up, bait distribution and clean up. Every participant received a free fishing supply kit. The day ended with a casting contest and a random drawing for door prizes. This year's prizes included numerous fishing poles, tackle boxes, and other various fishing equipment.

For the past six years, Take A Kid Fishing Day has proven to be a very popular way to introduce kids to fishing and families to Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. The annual event encourages families to visit the refuge lake and provides an opportunity to fish at no charge. Volunteers assist inexperienced anglers, and the refuge provides rods and reels, as well as bait, free of charge. Refuge manager, Dr. Joseph Robb, was quite pleased with the increase in numbers and sizes of fish caught this year by the young anglers.



Sian Versweyveld and her dad, Dan,  
proudly displaying her catch!



Sixteen kids, eight each from Ireland and US and their adult leaders visited JPG on 17 July. The visit was to learn about the refuge and to do a work project for the Big Oak Conservation Society (BOCS). The day began about 8:30am at the refuge office with the standard briefing by Refuge Manager Joe Robb, followed with a presentation by Zack Walker, naturalist from Hardy Lake SP about snakes and raptures. The kids were thrilled to handle the snakes and asked many questions. They departed the office and arrived at Old Timbers Lodge in time for lunch. After lunch, Bill Hughes instructed the kids on a work project for BOCS. This entailed staining 3 picnic tables and the large guard rails on the back side of the lodge. This took about 1 hour and 5 gallons of stain.

Arrangements were made with Col. Swinney of the Air National Guard for the kids to watch some F16's make their passes on the range targets. On the way to the range we took them up to the lake and let them enjoy the water. We took them up in the control tower and Col. Swinney gave them a briefing about the range and the object of pilots training on the range. There were four planes scheduled for the range that afternoon. After they made their required passes, they made some additional passes for the kids. The kids were very interested and asked many questions.

We arrived back on the main front about 4:00pm. The kids were very thankful and enjoyed their visit very much.

Jim Leveille, BOCS wants to thank Joe Robb for hosting the outing and the Ulster kids for their work at the lodge. Also, we wish to thank Col. Swinney for his briefing and Ms. Reuss, Ulster project



# Big Oaks Fire Staff Assist Northern California in Wildland Fire Suppression Efforts

By David Jones



This year Northern California was hit with a horrific wildland fire season. To date Northern California has burned 900,216 acres, where in 2007, the whole state of California only burned 1,087,110 acres. With these fires came a rash of firefighter fatalities caused by vehicle rollovers, burnovers, tree felling accidents, and helicopter crashes.

The fire staff at Big Oaks was geared up and ready to go when the fires started to rage in the hills and mountains of Northern California. Within a few weeks time the National Preparedness Level jumped from a Level 2 to a Level 5. With this increase, state interagency dispatch centers pulled together all available resources to provide support to the wildland fire teams. Indiana quickly put together a 20 person crew (IICC#1) and sent it to Northern California. Of the first to leave Big Oaks was fire seasonal Casey Mefford and Intern Paul Killian. They were called to the East Basin Complex, where they spent two weeks cutting fire line, felling snags, and holding fireline.

Within two weeks of IICC#1 leaving IICC#2 was ready and awaiting assignment. On that crew was newly fire trained Jimmy Leveille, former Big Oaks intern and now Muscatatuck intern Andrew Houze, and myself David Jones Fire Program Tech. here at Big Oaks NWR. Within a day of being posted on the national availability list IICC#2 was called to preposition in Redding, California. Within two hours of arriving in Redding, we were to report to the Canyon Complex in Quincy, CA which was about a four hour bus ride southeast of Redding. Once there we were to rest the night and report to Scotch fire. For the first few days on the fire, our assignment was to improve control lines by cutting slash and removing hazard trees. I was one of three sawyers on the crew which meant I was to maintain chainsaws and cut what ever needed to be removed. Jimmy and Andrew worked as swampers on the crew, where they assisted the sawyers in carrying gas and removing brush and trees. The first few days of the fire were a little rough on everyone because of the altitude change from Indiana to the hills of California. Plus, everyone had at least a 20 lbs line gear backpack with fire shelters and gear inside. The sawyers also had to carry a 16lbs chainsaw with them at all times. Once the crew improved the control line we would

burnout the remaining fuels between the control line and the main fire. During the burnouts the fire intensity was moderate, with small tree torching and fire burning up the sides of pine trees. During the burnouts we would spread the crew out along the line and watch for spot fires across the line. When we located spot fires we would group up and quickly cut our way into the spot fire and contain them with fire engine support.

As the fire crews established better and better control lines the crew spent days monitoring section of line and moping up all areas adjacent to the line. During mop-up we would put out every hot ember within 100 ft of the line. This is a very tedious and dirty job. Normally during this time it is very hard to keep crew morale high, but with the people on this crew we were able to make jokes and have a good time. Throughout the rest of our detail we continued to perform these tasks over and over on different sections of the fire. During the last few days of the detail most of the crew was ready to go home because over half of us ended up getting colds from camp. We were running on cold medicine and lots of coffee.

So now that we are back home safe and recuperated, some of us are waiting for the next call west while others prepare for possible fall burning at Big Oaks and next years fire needs.



Picture of Squad 1 with our bus driver Piston Peggy. From Big Oaks NWR Dave Jones lower left, Jimmy Leveille lower right.



# May 17<sup>th</sup> Old Timbers Lodge Makeover



Members of the Big Oaks Conservation Society (BOCS) spent Saturday, May 17, working at the Old Timbers Lodge "Makeover" event. Forty-two volunteers spent the day removing old furniture, polishing interior wood, re-glazing windows and deep cleaning the nationally registered historic site.



Planning for the project started in January, shortly after BOCS president Jim Leveille signed a first-of-its-kind agreement with Indiana Adjutant General, Martin Umbarger, for the group to assume stewardship of Old Timbers. The group hopes to preserve the lodge for future generations and use it to support activities of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge.



The work was supervised by Dave Bear, vice president of BOCS and the Building Trades Instructor at Madison Consolidated High School. Preparation for the day included three days of power washing of the lodge's 14-inch thick limestone walls by BOCS member Bill Hughes. In addition to the group's members, US Fish and Wildlife Service members Dan Matiatos and Dave Jones cleared away the vegetation that had blocked the lodge's renowned view of Graham Creek below. Lt. Colonel Matt Sweeney, Commander of the 181st Fighter Group Det 2, Indiana Air National Guard Bombing Range (located inside the refuge), attended along with his family. They were joined by Paul Cloud, the Base Environmental Coordinator for Jefferson Proving Ground, who traveled in for the event from Aberdeen, Maryland's Edgewood Arsenal.



By the end of the day, the group had filled a 30 cubic yard dumpster with discarded mattresses and old furniture, cleared away view-blocking brush, and most impressively, scrubbed and cleaned the lodge's interior of nearly 10,000 square feet.



Lodge Greatroom after cleanup





Bob Dixon cleaning out under the eaves



Joey Leveille cleaning out under the Eaves



Back Porch cleared brush overgrowth



Bob Hudson & Dianna Sweeney Cleaning



Filled Thirty-yard Dumpster After Cleanup



Jimmy Leveille cleaning the oak beams for which the lodge is named





## Edward's Ford Bridge

There are only 125 of the limited edition prints. Each print will cost \$80 unframed and will be shipped in the tube directly to the purchaser. There is also the option of purchasing a framed print for \$225. (Prices are subject to change.)

BOCS is also providing an opportunity to receive a print shipped in the tube for anyone establishing a \$200 life membership in Big Oaks Conservation Society. Normally, a membership costs \$150, so this will allow a person to save on the cost of the print.

To purchase a limited edition print of the bridge photograph, print out the order form from our website and mail it to BOCS. Remember, BOCS members get a 10% discount on purchases they make of all BOCS items.

## 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 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.

**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 - Refuge Operations Specialist  
Ashley Anderson - Wildlife Refuge Specialist  
Janet Pike - Administrative Technician  
Brian Winters - Prescribed Fire Specialist  
David Jones - Lead Range Technician  
Casey Mefford - Range Technician  
Lisa Jones - Park Ranger  
Laura Lake - Park Ranger  
Kim Brinson - Maintenance Worker  
Paul Killian - Intern

**BIG OAKS**  
*Conservation Society*  
**Newsletter**

Summer / Fall 2008  
 Volume 6 Issue 2

Published by

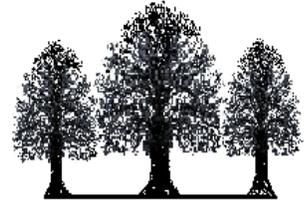
**BIG OAKS**  
*Conservation Society*

*in support of*

**Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge**

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Lisa Jones

**Special Thanks to:**  
 Joe Robb and  
 Big Oaks Staff



**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 the **Big Oaks Conservation Society** or renew your membership 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Youth \$5	Name(s) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	City _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$25	State/Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (per Individual) \$150	Phone _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500	E-mail _____

**BIG OAKS  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>January</b>	<b>River Otters slide in the snow</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Great Horned Owls nest</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Prescribed burning</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Migrating birds, wildflowers, turkey hunt, fishing begins</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Lodge Make-over!</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Outdoor Women at Big Oaks, Take a Kid Fishing Day</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Butterfly survey</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Squirrel season starts</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Migration begins!</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Deer archery season, Winterize Lodge</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Deer shotgun season, Youth Deer Hunt, last chance to fish</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b>



**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  
**Deanna Robison** - Treasurer  
**Dan Herron** - Board Member  
**Bob Hudson** - Board Member  
**Ed Schaefer** - Board Member  
**Joe Robb** - Executive Secretary

**[www.bigoaks.org](http://www.bigoaks.org)**



*Printed on Recycled Paper with a Minimum of 30% Post Consumer Waste*

