



BIG OAKS

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

Spring 2006

Refuge Manager's Report

By Joe Robb

We have had a busy schedule during the past several months at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. Recently, we had a surprise visit from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett. The Acting Secretary was in Madison on April 11 to designate the Madison National Historic District as a National Historic Landmark. She spent about 2 hours on the refuge and visited with the refuge's prescribed fire crew, which was preparing to initiate a large prescribed fire. Scarlett had been very involved with the implementation of the National Fire Plan across the nation. She was also interested in all aspects of the refuge; she questioned me on what species were found at Big Oaks, our management of habitats, our public use program, and the Army's former mission on Jefferson Proving Ground. She was excited to hear a newly arrived Henslow's sparrow, since she was an avid birder. We talked about the unique problems that munition contamination presents to infrastructure maintenance, habitat management, and safety for the visiting public. After the tour, I presented 2 framed prints donated from the Big Oaks Conservation Society to the Acting Secretary. One was the new photograph taken by W. P. Branham of the Edward's Ford Bridge that was recently commis-

ioned by the Society. The other was a framed Indiana Refuge Centennial Poster by renown artist, Bill Zimmerman. Scarlett was delighted by the donations and exclaimed that she knew exactly the location to place each print in the Interior Building in Washington.

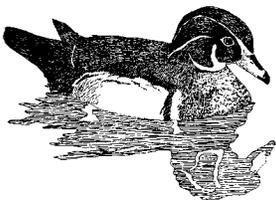
The refuge did have a successful prescribed fire season with over 9500 acres treated. The fire crew has been busy and just recently returned from Wisconsin and Ohio where they were on a prescribed fire detail. Find out about their trip in the article found within this newsletter.

Last September, we also treated 180 acres of grassland and shrubland with herbicide to test whether it complemented fire as a tool to keep these habitats productive for the unique flora and fauna found in these areas. We will sample these areas for several years to determine the treatment's effectiveness. Several rare species (meadow beauty, Henslow's sparrow and northern crawfish frog) are found only in the open grassland areas on the refuge. I observed a golden eagle in one of these grasslands in the second week of April, an exciting late sighting for the refuge.

With a near record breaking turkey season completed and upcoming events approaching, we are anxiously awaiting the summer. The Outdoor Women at Big Oaks (June 3) and Take a Kid Fishing Day (June 17) were so successful last year, I think they will grow in popularity this year. I encourage you to participate, or if you are interested, to contact the refuge office or our website (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/bigoaks/>) for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE

Volunteer of the Year
Invasive Species Project
Bird Counts
Fire Season Report
Species Spotlight: Bobcat
Youth Deer Hunt
BOCS Award
Project ARCH
Friends Conference



REFUGE VOLUNTEER DINNER

Big Oaks NWR hosted the annual Volunteer Dinner in Madison at The Pines Restaurant on Feb. 17, about 65 volunteers attended. BONWR hosts this dinner in appreciation for the many hours of service given by refuge volunteers during the previous year.

SUMMER BUTTERFLY COUNT



The refuge will host its 8th annual North American Butterfly (NAB) survey July 15th. NAB is designed to monitor distribution and abundance of butterflies. Observers are confined to a 7.5 mile radius circle centered on the refuge; similar protocol is used for the Christmas Bird Count. All butterflies seen are identified, counted, and reported to the North American Butterfly Association. Anyone interested in participating in this year's count should contact Jason Lewis, refuge biologist, for start time and details. You do not have to know your butterflies to participate, just be willing to learn, endure hot July weather, and enjoy being outdoors.

Invasive Species Project

Invasive species continue to be a major threat to wildlife diversity and habitat management. For the last three years the refuge has waged a silent war against invasive plants that threaten native flora and fauna. These unwanted invaders alter habitat and reduce available resources for competing plants and animals. Partnering with the Big Oaks Conservation Society (BOCS), the refuge works to combat unwanted invaders to improve habitat for native species. In 2006, refuge staff and volunteers will focus on garlic mustard, privet, autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, and Japanese stilt grass. Indiana University has developed three research sites investigating control techniques and site restoration following control of Japanese stilt grass, one of the most dangerous invasive plants found on the refuge. BOCS volunteers will provide approximately 350 hours of service by pulling, spraying, and weed-eating various invasive species under a cooperative agreement. Volunteers are needed to assist refuge staff in this campaign. Please call the office if you would like to assist or need technical assistance on your own property.



Joe Robb presented Acting Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, one of the BOCS' Limited Edition prints of the Edward's Ford Bridge.



Acting Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, with the Big Oaks Fire Crew



Golden eagle photographed with an automatic field camera at Big Oaks NWR



BIG OAKS NOTES

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By Jason Lewis

For the Birds...

Well, it is that time of year again...spring. Spring brings the sights and sounds of numerous migratory songbirds as they travel north to their summer breeding grounds. Many species end their travels at Big Oaks and take refuge in the diverse habitats found throughout the property. For the refuge biologist, this time of year means gearing up for the beginning of the field season which means conducting bird surveys, banding ducks, and completing other monitoring projects.

The refuge will conduct whip-poor-will, Henslow's sparrow, and Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) starting in early June. The whip-poor-will survey uses a nocturnal bird monitor protocol at 107 stops/points. Volunteers are used to help complete the whip-poor-will survey. Henslow's sparrow populations are estimated using road-side transect surveys. These surveys are completed twice a year, in June and July, by refuge staff. The BBS is designed to monitor bird populations over four driving routes containing 107 stops. All birds seen or heard during a five minute point count are recorded.

Refuge interns and staff will be banding wood ducks this summer. Wood ducks will be banded in July and August using floating swim in traps. Swim-in traps have proved to be the most safe and successful way to catch wood ducks, but require considerable effort by refuge staff and volunteers. Each duck caught will be banded, sexed, and aged before releasing. The wood duck band project is a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. In 2005 a total of 29 ducks were captured and banded. Traps were placed around the refuge within beaver ponds and at Old Timbers Lake. This year an effort will be made to extend banding operations to Muscatatuck NWR.

Christmas Bird Count

The December 17, 2005 National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) proved to be the best count since the refuge began a CBC in 2001. With 76 species and over 4000 individual birds counted, refuge staff and volunteers did not have to look hard to find a new species and tally individuals. The 10 species of waterfowl was a record number. In a normal year the count barely managed 3 species. However, with the combination



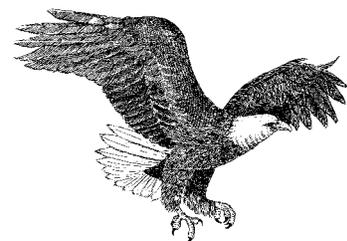
of a cold front that moved ducks south the night before and open water on Old Timbers Lake, the northern pintail, ruddy duck, gadwall, American black duck, northern shoveler, and other ducks found the refuge a useful resting spot on their migration south, adding to the count's waterfowl diversity.



Golden and bald eagles were observed in record numbers as well. An unprecedented 3 golden eagles and 5 bald eagles were counted as were 10 species of



hawks and owls. Late in the afternoon a barred owl was found hunting near J-road and east perimeter road, giving the group good photo opportunities and adding to the excitement of the day. Separate flocks of fox sparrows and cedar waxwings were observed as darkness lurked overhead providing 2 more species to the count and wrapping up a wonderful day of bird-watching. Other highlights for the count include vesper sparrow (1), savannah sparrow (2), hermit thrush (2), American pipit (1), and a count week northern saw-whet owl. Thanks to all the volunteers who braved the cold. I hope you will be able to join us again December 2006.



Big Oaks Spring Prescribed Fire Season Comes to an End

By Brian Winters

Despite a very wet spring, Big Oaks accomplished nearly all of the acres planned for the 2006 prescribed fire season. Eighteen units were burned for a total of 9,987 acres. Big Oaks uses prescribed fire to control woody encroachment, encourage warm season grasses and forbs, and reduce build up of woody fuels that lead to intense wildfires. The prescribed burning on the refuge needs to be accomplished by April 15th due to potential Indiana bat maternity roosting impacts. The Indiana bat roosts under the bark of dead or dying trees or live trees with loose bark. Prescribed fires create many of the potential roosting trees on the refuge. The burning this year was accomplished with the help of the refuge staff, seasonal firefighters and firefighters from the local community. Big Oaks also conducted 3 burns on private properties as part of habitat restoration activities administered under the Partner's for Fish and Wildlife Program.

After the spring prescribed fire season ended on the refuge, the Big Oaks fire crew hit the road to assist the rest of the region with their prescribed fire needs. Big Oaks prescribed fire season ends before the northern states season begins, which allows our crew to assist other refuges and Wetland Management Districts. This year the crew participated in 14 prescribed fires in Wisconsin and Ohio. Most of the burning was conducted at St. Croix Wetland Management District in Wisconsin and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ohio. The crew traveled with 6 firefighters, a fire engine, 2 ATV's, a 6-wheeler, a crew cab pick-up truck and a maintenance trailer. We stayed in hotels, bunk houses or tents. This year the crew also was dispatched to 2 wildfires while traveling between refuges. Both wildfires were in central Wisconsin.



Prescribed Fire on Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge



Working in the Smoke

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Volunteer of the Year was presented to Evan Mickel, Matt Kraushar, and Lisa Jones. Each received a natural history book as a token of the refuge's appreciation for their hard work. Evan worked diligently through the deer season and participated in the saw-whet owl banding project. He also spearheaded the trail camera project that detected bobcats, golden eagles and other rare wildlife at the refuge. Matt did a variety of tasks, but his focus was on the wood duck banding project during the summer of 2005. Lisa did a monumental effort pulling garlic mustard, an invasive weed spreading into the refuge. We thank these volunteers and all of the refuge volunteers who help us accomplish tasks that would be impossible without their help.



Joe Robb and Lisa Jones, one of the Refuge's Volunteers of the Year

Species Spotlight

By Lisa Jones

BOBCAT

The bobcat, listed as a state-endangered species of Indiana since 1970, is one of the rarest animals sighted at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and is the focus of this issue's species spotlight.

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) apparently was named from its short bobbed tail. It is the smallest member of the lynx group, weighing from 15 to 30 pounds with a body length of 2 to 4 feet. The males are usually larger than females and their size varies with location. The bobcat's thick fur is a reddish-brown, and the color is known to fluctuate to a brownish-gray during the winter and among individuals. It also has small dark spots on its stomach and back and broken black lines on its legs, face, and tail. It has a tuft of facial fur on its face around the cheek area and a slight tuft of hair on the ear's tips which helps it to hear sensitive vibrations. The bobcat has long legs and runs in excess of 15mph, and can leap over 12 feet, which helps it catch its prey.

Bobcats have a spotty distribution from coast to coast, but can be found from Southern Canada into Mexico. The larger population is in the far west, from Idaho, Utah, and Nevada to the Pacific Coast, and from Washington to Baja California. The Midwest has the smallest population of bobcats. Populations are stable in many northern states and are reviving in other states (including Indiana) where habitat degradation and intensive trapping formerly decimated the species.

The bobcat is a solitary animal, and spends its days primarily in thicket country or broken forests consisting of hardwoods, coniferous, or mixed stands. They can also be found in areas with swamps, farmlands, brushy arid lands, caves, or rocky crevices. They are most active 3 hours before sunset to midnight and 1 hour before sunrise to 3 hours after.

As a carnivore, the bobcat hunts one of two ways moving or sitting still. They will stalk or ambush their prey depending on what the prey is; this is done to minimize energy usage. These cats hunt by sight and sound, not smell, and are sprinters that must abandon a chase if it last too long. The bobcat's amazing power is shown when it brings down a deer

that can weigh more than quadruple its own size. It uses the same hunting pathways repeatedly to prey mostly on the snowshoe hare (in the northern U.S.) and cottontails (in the eastern U.S.), but also on mice, squirrels, woodchucks, opossums, moles, shrews, raccoons, foxes, domestic cats, birds, reptiles, porcupines, skunks, and deer in the winter.

Females become sexually mature by their first birthday, but males do not reach maturity until about a year after the females. Mating season begins in February or March. Following a pregnancy of 60-70 days, 2-4 cubs are born blind, helpless, yet fully furred, weighing under 1 lb. They are born in hollow logs, rock shelters (caves), under the roots of a fallen tree, or in thickets. They will nurse for about 2 months and then are weaned onto meat. At around 3-5 months the cubs will join their mother on hunts, learning tactics for hunting and making the fatal bite. During these hunts, which are usually at night, the cubs follow the mother's white-tipped tail. From 7-12 months the cubs will mature enough to become independent and will travel alone.

In December of 2005 photos confirmed that bobcats do reside at Big Oaks NWR. We had placed several motion sensor cameras throughout refuge. We attracted the bobcats to the camera site with deer carcasses, bobcat urine, and catnip.

Bobcat studies are currently being conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The population in Indiana appears to have increased sharply in recent years. There have been 75 confirmed reports of bobcats from 29 counties since 1970. Fifty-seven of those reports have been in the last seven years. Most are in the southwest and southcentral portions of the state and fewer reports scattered throughout the rest of the state.



Bobcat at a field camera site baited with deer carcass

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.

“FRIEND OF THE YEAR” **LORI HOFFMAN**



BOCS Vice-president Jim Gilley and Lori Hoffman with Friend of the Year Award

Lori Hoffman received BOCS “Friend of the Year” award for her many hours of service on BOCS-sponsored projects that benefited the refuge. Lori has been involved in just about every BOCS event during the past year, from pulling garlic mustard, acquiring donations, cooking, helping with event meals, and working on the BOCS web-site.

BOCS to Host Fourth Annual **Take a Kid Fishing Day**

By Jim Leveille

On June 17, 2006 Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge will host its fourth 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. Refuge Operations Specialist, Dan Matiatos, noted that the event has grown steadily in popularity with each year. “Last year was so much fun and the kids and adults had a great time, and this year we are expecting more of the same” stated Matiatos.

NEW PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

By George Terlinden

The new year is now well underway! Our society again has many exciting events planned. The Youth Turkey Hunt was held April 22 and 23; The Outdoor Women at Big Oaks is scheduled for June 3; and Take A Kid Fishing Day will be on June 17. The hunters return to the refuge in the fall. This is the ideal time to sell food, hats, maps, compasses, etc. providing a good source of revenue for our society. Along with these events, we will also be completing the Outdoor Classroom/Shelter House. It is located at Old Timbers Lake. All in all, this proves to be another exciting year for BOCS. I am honored to be the new President and look forward to being of service to all of you. In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who volunteer their valuable time to make our events successful. I also give a special “Thank You” to Rick Collier for his leadership as President of BOCS during its first three years.

Painting the Hallway

BOCS member, Ken Knouf, painted the hallway between the Refuge and Army offices. BOCS provided the paint for this project. This will present a better first impression of the building and provide a fresh, new surface to hang signage, pictures, etc.



Take a Kid Fishing Day is a free event open to all and is scheduled for June 17 from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

BOCS Assists with Youth Deer and Turkey Hunts By Ed Schaefer

The Youth Deer Hunt Workshop was held last fall on November 4. BOCS fed 148 youth who had registered for the hunt, and also fed all other adults and workers who participated in the event. The Youth Turkey workshop was held on April 22 with about 150 youth and adults in attendance. Conservation Officers, Bill Beville and Steve Reinholt, gave great talks on hunting and gun safety during the deer and turkey workshops, respectively.

BOCS would like to thank the refuge staff, the Indiana Deer Hunters Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Joe Bacon and Carl Drake, for their participation in the each respective workshop and hunt. All youth received an array of hunting equipment. Twenty-one deer were harvested on the deer hunt, which took place on November 5. Twelve turkeys were harvested from the 67 youth during the youth turkey hunt. The hunts and workshops will be repeated in the Fall of 2006 and Spring of 2007.



Happy participants in the Youth Deer and Turkey Hunts. These programs supported by BOCS and Big Oaks NWR provide high quality experiences for novice hunters.

BOCS would like to thank the Jefferson County Public Library for allowing the group to meet during the winter months of January, February and March.

OUTDOOR WOMEN at BIG OAKS

Outdoor Women at Big Oaks, an event sponsored by Big Oaks Conservation Society, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, and the Indiana Air National Guard, will be held on the refuge Saturday, June 3. For more information contact the refuge at 812-273-0783.

Last year's event won an award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for having the "Best Overall Women in the Outdoors Event" in Indiana.



Karen Terlinden, Jeanne Dugle, Jan Kleopfer with "Overall Best Women in the Outdoors Event" Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for the Outdoor Women at Big Oaks program



PROJECT ARCH

ARTS
RECREATION
CONSERVATION
HISTORY

Project ARCH

By Jim Gilley
ARCH, Chairman

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to George Terlinden and each of the volunteers who have offered their time to set on this committee and for their support of project ARCH. Additionally I would like to extend a word of appreciation to Dorothy and Bob Kimble for their in-kind donation of their son's oil painting of the Benham Bridge located on the refuge property to BOCS. This oil painting will remain as a special addition to the project and serves as a building block for the Fund Raiser.

As always, I feel it is critical for the group to recognize efforts that are being made to establish our Society and, equally important, the refuge we support. This project has a goal initially to raise \$10,000 for BOCS. Our committee will seek collaboration with several groups outside of our immediate influence and will attract attention to our refuge by these efforts.

As the committee moves forward with Project ARCH, all BOCS members are encouraged to stay current on project events through our web site. I can't express the appreciation that I have for our Society's Volunteer of the Year, Lori Hoffman, and her efforts in maintaining our web presence. Please check for our group's progress in exploring these Historic treasures that rest in the heart of our refuge spanning our streams and rivers.

First Stage Project ARCH

As part of Project ARCH, nationally known photographer, Paul Branham, was retained by BOCS to create the society's first photographic rendering of one of the Big Oaks NWR's historic bridges. The 3-arch bridge spans Otter Creek in the northwest corner of the refuge. On February 26, Mr. Branham was escorted by Refuge Operations Specialist, Dan Matiatos, and BOCS volunteer, Jim Leveille, to the bridge site. A clear, crisp day with low water levels aided the shoot, allowing shots from the middle of the creek. Mr. Branham, outfitted in waders with tripod in hand, chose to photograph the bridge in winter when vegetation was minimal. He will be working with BOCS to develop photographs of the refuge for presentations, fund raising and public awareness.



Paul Branham photographing Edward's Ford Bridge



Dorothy & Bob Kimball presented this oil painting of the stone-arch Benville Bridge to the Big Oaks Conservation Society. The painting was done by their son, Jerry Kimball.

Eagle Scout Project at Big Oaks

BOCS member and Eagle Scout candidate, Joey Leveille recently completed a conservation service project on the refuge. Joey worked with Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Jason Lewis, to create winter habitat for bats on the refuge. The project consisted of the construction and placement of 12 bat boxes. The boxes are large, each weighing 24 pounds and measuring 40"x17"x4". With multiple chambers inside, the boxes will provide winter roosting spots for a variety of local species. The boxes were hung on abandoned telephone poles, 15 feet above ground. Fellow BOCS member Bill Hughes assisted Joey and other Boy Scouts from Versailles Troop 607 in the transportation and mounting of the boxes.



Bill Hughes, Ryan Strimple, Kenny Leveille, Joey Leveille on ladder mounting bat box.

Region 3 Friends Group Conference

The Region 3 Friends Group Conference, hosted by Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of the Minnesota Valley, was held at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on January 21-23. Deanna Robison represented BOCS and Travis Robison represented Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge at the event. Over 100 friends group members, refuge staff members and regional office employees from Region 3 participated in the 3-day event. The conference allowed members of regional refuge friends groups to network, share newsletters, display photo boards and other friends group promotional ideas.

Seminars covered a variety of refuge/friends group topics including the process and benefits of working with your Congressman, an introduction to the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and how friends group alliances can benefit groups and refuges. Classes were also offered covering topics such as membership development, fundraising, board member selection and dynamics, the importance of press and building community support for your refuge, and other group development sessions. Perhaps the most important knowledge gained from the event was the realization that BOCS is progressing so well in its development as an organization. By applying some of the information learned at the event, we will hopefully be able to increase membership to better support Big Oaks NWR.

Key speakers included Dave Zentner, former President of the Izaak Walton League, who was the keynote speaker and presented an insightful speech regarding the challenges of environmental improvement and advancement. Additionally, Region 3's Director, Nita Fuller, discussed the ever-increasing importance of Friends Groups and the significance they will have in the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Overall, attending the event was exceptionally informative and inspiring. BOCS has a long way to go, but we are certainly well on our way.

Be sure to check out our website:
www.bigoaks.org for information about BOCS,
and pictures of previous events.

JPG Heritage Partnership Holds Strategic Planning Workshop

By Ken Knouf

On a cold snowy February 18th Saturday morning, 18 intrepid Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership (JPGHP) committee members met at the Big Oaks Restaurant to plot out where the group goes from here. Revenue from the annual history seminars and silent auctions, sales of the Old Timbers and the St. Magdalene books, and a few timely grants for the web page and oral histories have allowed us to make a major financial turn-around. With the debt removed and having accomplished most of our early organizational goals, it was time to establish new goals.

Of interest to BOCS, the members decided that we should endorse BOCS's proposal of assuming management responsibility for Old Timbers Lodge. To this end the JPGHP is drafting a resolution in support of the proposal and offering both volunteer staffing assistance and financial backing for interpretive exhibit development. Further the group discussed a partnering effort with BOCS and the Big Oaks staff developing outdoor interpretive signs and historical tour information.

There is no question that the aims of the two groups are compatible, and in the long-term chances are that the JPGHP will be absorbed into BOCS. But in the foreseeable future, we exist as a ready partner, eager to assist in having refuge visitors understand the cultural history of JPG and Big Oaks. It's a fascinating story that will require all of our talents.

REFUGE ACTIVITIES

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.

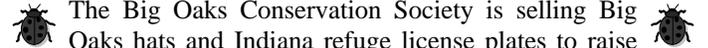
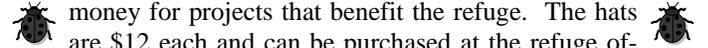
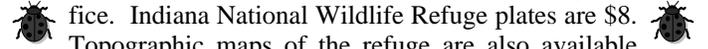
VISITOR INFORMATION

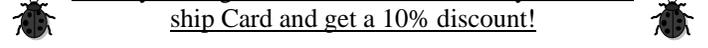
All visitors must annually view a safety video and sign an acknowledgment of danger form. This will give you access to the areas designated for public use. There is a daily access fee, or users may purchase an annual pass. The day use area covers 4,170 acres. An additional 22,500 acres is open to the 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.


BOCS ITEMS FOR SALE

The Big Oaks Conservation Society is selling Big Oaks hats and Indiana refuge license plates to raise money for projects that benefit the refuge. The hats are \$12 each and can be purchased at the refuge office. Indiana National Wildlife Refuge plates are \$8. Topographic maps of the refuge are also available for \$12.

Show your Big Oaks Conservation Society Membership Card and get a 10% discount!






Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge
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Madison, IN 47250
 Phone: 812-273-0783
 Fax: 812-273-0786
 E-mail: bigoaks@fws.com
 Website: www.fws.gov/midwest/bigoaks

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 visitors

Big Oaks Newsletter

REFUGE STAFF

Joe Robb - Refuge Manager
Dan Matiatos- Refuge Operations Specialist
Jason Lewis - Wildlife Biologist
Janet Pike - Administrative Technician
Brian Winters - Prescribed Fire Specialist
David Jones - Fire Program Technician
Travis Robison - Park Ranger LE
Laura Lake - Park Ranger
Lisa Jones - Park Ranger
Beth Black - Park Ranger
Kim Brinson - Maintenance Worker
Dale Sides - Seasonal Firefighter
Joe Parr - Seasonal Firefighter
Deanna Robison - Seasonal Firefighter
Steve Gundersen - Seasonal Firefighter

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

___ Individual \$15

___ Family \$25

___ Supporting \$25

___ Lifetime (per Individual) \$150

___ Corporate \$500

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

June	Breeding bird surveys Outdoor Women at Big Oaks Take a Kid Fishing Day
July	Butterfly Survey
August	Squirrel season starts
September	Migration begins!
October	Deer archery season
November	Deer shotgun season, Youth Deer Hunt, last chance to fish
December	Christmas Bird Count
<u>2007</u>	
January	River otters slide in the snow
February	Great horned owls nest
March	Big Oaks is smokin' - prescribed burning
April	Migrating birds, wildflowers, turkey hunt, fishing begins
May	Sign up for a refuge tour!



**Big Oaks
Conservation Society
P.O. Box 935
Madison, IN 4725**

Board Members

George Terlinden, President
Jim Gilley, Vice President
Lori Hoffman, Secretary and
Business Manager
Dan Herron, Treasurer
Dave Bear, Board Member
Jim Leveille, Board Member
Ed Schaefer, Board Member
Joe Robb, Executive Secretary

www.bigoaks.org



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