

River Currents

BANKS OF THE WABASH

April 2012

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Banks of the Wabash, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, improving and promoting the significant historical and natural resources of the Wabash River Corridor.

Banks of the Wabash, Inc. works to improve the quality of life for residents and enhance the experience for guests from outside the corridor. Banks of the Wabash focuses on the nineteen counties in Indiana that touch on the Wabash—Indiana's premier river.

Mini-Grant Awards + Info on applying for this year

Banks of the Wabash's Board of directors (see Don Jewell's photo to right) recently selected three recipients for the 2011-12 Mini-Grants

The Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District received \$250 for their eighth Grade River Rafting trip. An Eagle Scout Project by Eric Theller was given \$285 to help with his construction of three educational and informative boot brush stations in the Tippecanoe Battlefield Park under the auspices of Historic Battle Ground Development Corporation. These stations are placed at heads of trails to encourage people to scrape their shoes to remove invasive plant seeds before taking the trail.

The final \$465 went to the Friends of Sugar Creek to help with expenses for a 5-site creek cleanup. Much of the funds went to cover disposal fees for the non-recyclable collected trash. In addition BOW loaned them some of BOW's DeTrash equipment (trash grabbers, vests, and so forth).

An application form for the 2012-13 grants is on page 4. Pass it on to groups/people that need some funding.



Join us January 11

at 10 a.m. at the Depot in Riehle Plaza, in downtown Lafayette. The Corridor Commission will announce their prestigious Citizen of the Year award. Free lunch provided.

Illinois Wabash River Strategic Plan 2012

Illinois strategic planning is underway for the Wabash River. **Rae Schnapp, BOW's President**, who attended their first meeting, reports the group is interested in creating a Coordinating Council.

Much of the emphasis at that meeting was on creating economic development in southern Illinois, in an "environmentally friendly manner".

BOW Planning a Strategic Plan Retreat

The Banks of the Wabash Board is working on setting up a retreat at their March meeting at Turkey Run State Park. The retreat will focus on revitalizing BOW's mission and goals, the Riverkeeper position, and changes in BOW'S bylaws. The meeting will overlap the Wabash River Corridor Commission's two day retreat. That gives both groups a chance to talk and coordinate plans in order to provide the greatest help to the Wabash. Stop by!

*Banks of the
Wabash
Board of Directors*

Rae Schnapp,
President
Jack Fenoglio
V-president
Cec Schneider
Treasurer
Bernie Dahl
Secretary
Ken Einselen
John Gettinger
Dan Goen
Ron James
Louise Jewell
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Newsletter

Bank Stabilization Demonstration

Julie Fischer, who received one of the BOW mini-grants in the 2010-2011 grant round, concluded her project with a demonstration project along the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County.

The technique involves punching deep (5 feet or so) narrow holes in the bank and inserting long wil-



low branches. The hole is sealed and the branches eventually leaf out and produce roots to stabilize the soil. The depth of planting ensures the willow shoots aren't washed out before they become firmly rooted in place.



Julie explaining the technique



Willow shoots in bank

Newport Reuse Update

The U.S. Army has formally transferred ownership of most of the 7,155 acres of the Newport Chemical Depot to the Reuse Authority, opening the way for development and establishment of a nature preserve in the new Vermillion Rise Mega Park. Jack Fenoglio, President of the Reuse Authority and BOW Vice-President, said: "We're pleased to see the culmination of months of collaboration between many groups in Indiana and Washington, D.C. The transfer of the property can mean new opportunities in terms of both jobs and economic growth for the county and the region."

The depot, established in 1941, once employed 10,000 people. Jack explained that after analyzing all inputs, the planning team structured a preferred use plan based on two fundamental principles – the continuation and conservation of agricultural and natural resources at the site and the economic development and creation of jobs for the region.

With the completion of the transfer process, the depot now becomes Vermillion Rise Mega Park. "This name signifies the high expectations we have

for this site to raise the economic fortunes of our community as well as the emphasis on the balance between natural areas, parklands and built up areas planned for the site. We will continue to consult with our community partners as we move forward with plans for this area. Our neighbors are an important part of helping us make choices that will establish a facility that not only provides jobs but is environmentally friendly as well," Jack stated.

The property also includes three Ranney wells located near the Wabash River, capable of supplying a tremendous supply of water to the Mega Park. Access to the Wabash River, near its junction with Sugar Creek, could be included in the long range plans of the Reuse Authority.

River Trail Change

Wabash River Trail signs are getting a facelift to reflect BOW's new website. BOW ordered and received the decals which will be pasted over the old website address so people get sent to the right place to print local river maps. If you have a sign near you and can put up the new decal contact Rae Schnapp at raeschnapp@gmail.com

Wabash County "Clean Out the Banks"

—submitted by Rae Schnapp, Riverkeeper

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Saturday, July 30, 2011, volunteers from the Wabash River Defenders organized a "Clean Out the Banks" river cleanup from one end of Wabash County to the other. Banks of the Wabash provided equipment and advice. Wabash Riverkeeper Rae Schnapp coordinated the equipment delivery and participated in the cleanup. It was an incredible event with more than 300 people participating.

Beauchamp, of the Wabash River Defenders, said people, ages 10-70, from Wabash and Lagro pulled together to form 20 teams to cover the 19.2 mile-span of the river. Each team was responsible for one mile. He said **the effort has been tremendous.** "I am just dumbstruck by the enthusiasm! To get 350 people out here on a first-time-ever project, it's just unbelievable to me."



GRAND TOTAL of material pulled from the Wabash River – 40,629 Pounds (20.31 Tons)

- 58% of the material was recycled, 42% landfill disposed.
- Trash – 42%
- Tires - 40%
- Steel – 15%
- Other – 3%
- Average removed: 116.08 pounds per person (350) working on the project.
- Average: 10,157.25 pounds per hour for the 4 hour collection.

- 1 lb. Propane tanks
- Weight – 726 lbs.
- Recycled via Wabash County SWMD (No Charge/No Revenue)

Trash

- 8.54 tons (17,080 lbs)
- Gate Rate = \$55/ton
- Cost of disposal \$469.70 (Donated by Wabash Valley Refuse Removal)

Large Propane Tank

- Estimated Weight – 200 lbs.
- Recycled via Reynolds Oil – No Cost/No Revenue

Tires

- 437 Passenger Car
- 61 Truck
- 7 "Supers"
- 7 Tractor
- Total Tire Count - 512
- Total Estimated Weight – 16,303 lbs
- Cost of Recycling - \$1,038 (Donated by Wabash County Solid Waste Management District)

Ambitious! —How about trying a Banks clean-up in your county?

Steel Scrap

- Total Weight - 6,000 lbs
- Recycled via Secondary Metals
- Recycling Revenue - \$632

Other

- Auto Batteries
- Electronics
- Chemicals (paint, aerosols)

Renew Now

It's time to renew for 2012-13. You can use the form on the back page of this newsletter which will save Banks the cost of a postage stamp. If you have already renewed

Thank You!

The support & encouragement of every member, corporation or individual, continues to be greatly appreciated!

**Banks of the
Wabash's 2012
Meeting Dates**

*Please join us. Meetings
start at 10 a.m.*

Jan 11 Depot at Riehle
Plaza in Lafayette,
Tippecanoe Co

March 13 Retreat at
Turkey Run SP,
Parke Co.

April 18 Annual Meeting
Celery Bog or??

June 20 Williamsport
Library, Warren Co

Sept 19 Merom Institute,
Sullivan Co

MINI GRANTS 2012-13

Banks of the Wabash's Mini-Grants 2012-13 application round is now open. These mini-grants are offered to groups for projects in counties along the Wabash River Corridor that preserve, protect, enhance, and/or provide education about the Wabash River and/or its watershed.

Maximum award is \$500, minimum \$100.

Total funds available are \$1,000.

Eligible recipients are school groups/classes, and environmental or civic non-profit organizations. Projects affecting the most people or projects providing the greatest benefit to the Wabash River will be given preference.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed by **July 15, 2011** to be considered. **Projects will be voted on and announced at BOW's September meeting.** Applicants will be informed shortly afterwards about any decisions.

Projects should be completed by March 30, 2012 (note: a longer time period may be needed. If so, include that information with the grant request. It won't count against you.)

A grant report of 1-5 pages is due at completion of the project. The report should explain the purpose of the project and how it was executed, including photos if possible. **The report will be presented at the Banks of the Wabash's annual meeting in April 2012, either in person or as a document.** If the project isn't completed, a status report is requested.

The grant application should include the following (please try not to exceed 3 pages)

- Project Name and amount requested.
- Name of group requesting grant & their non-profit status if applicable.
- Name, address, phone and email of contact person.
- A short description of the project and its goals.
- Budget of estimated project costs (and income if any is expected).
- How the project meets the mission of preserving protecting, or providing education about the Wabash River and/or its watershed, and what benefits will accrue to the Wabash River or Indiana residents.
- How the success of the project will be evaluated (if applicable).

**Send the application to: Banks of the Wabash,
PO Box 1253, Lafayette, IN 47902
or email the application (or questions) to
Susan Ulrich sueandtedulrich@msn.com
and Bernie Dahl bdahl@purdue.edu**

Best wishes to all of you
for a
**Happy & healthy
New Year**

—along with a better, healthier
Wabash River.

Working together we
can keep good news about the
Wabash and
its tributaries flowing.

Update on The Nature Conservancy's work on the Wabash

The Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been working on several river systems in Indiana for a number of years: the St Joseph and Blue for example. Now, after a several year study along the Wabash, they are beginning to tackle the state's major river, the Wabash. The following is from their Fall 2011 *Nature Matters*.

"From its source in Ohio, the Wabash River watershed encompasses 33,195 square miles in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It is the longest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi River with more than 411 river miles. Directly and through its tributaries, the Wabash River drains roughly 75% of the State of Indiana, including 73 Indiana counties and many southeastern Illinois counties. More than 700,000 Hoosiers live within 15 miles of its banks.

Unfortunately the Wabash River is not the clear, healthy river it once was, but one of the top three contributors of nutrients to the Ohio River, then to the Mississippi River, and on to the Gulf of Mexico. It is there that these excess nutrients cause a 'dead zone' in which insufficient oxygen exists in the water to support normal marine plant and animal life.



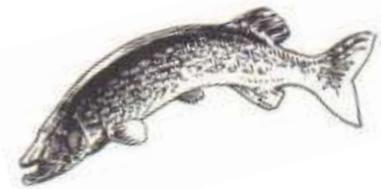
The Nature Conservancy's mission for the Wabash River is to protect the rich diversity of life that depends upon the river for existence. And by improving water quality, we also will enhance the quality of life for the Hoosiers dependent on the Wabash River for water, food, and

recreation. In the past five years we have helped restore and permanently conserve more than 6,000 acres of the floodplain along the Wabash River.

The Nature Conservancy's work on the Wabash River has stimulated a tremendous amount of additional investment in protecting the river. And that investment continues with a \$100,000 donation from the Alcoa Foundation and a \$50,000 gift from Duke Energy. The Vectron Corporation also contributed \$150,000 for the Wabash River. The donations will primarily be used to permanently protect and restore additional acreage along the Wabash."

BOW Seeks River Reward Nominations

The Banks Board is looking for suggestions of groups and individuals to honor with a BOW River Reward plaque. If you have someone or something you would like to nominate, please contact the editor (see p. 4) or BOW's president, Rae Schnapp (raeschnapp@gmail.com). The four award categories for projects/actions along the Wabash and its floodplain are Conservation, Education, Recreation, and Restoration.



Protected River Corridor Grows

NICHES Land Trust has been working on building a corridor of protected land along the north bank of the Wabash from Granville Bridge in Tippecanoe County to Little Pine Creek in Warren County. Their five properties in this area have grown to six with the addition of a 10-acre purchase in late 2011 and will become seven when a 60+ acre purchase is completed in early 2012. Additional river frontage is already owned by the Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department. This leaves only four parcels along the river outstanding, one of which is currently willed to NICHES.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Banks of the Wabash Inc.
PO Box 1253
Lafayette IN 47902-1253
www.banksofthewabash.net

BOW Membership & Renewal Form 2012-13

Memberships in Banks of the Wabash **run to BOW's April's Annual Meeting**. Memberships given in one year are good through the April meeting of the following year. BOW's Membership categories are below. If you wish your membership credited to one of the three chapters that have formed, please check the appropriate box. *Thank you* for supporting the Wabash!

Membership Categories:

- | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$ 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Town | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Discoverer | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Non-profit | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Scout | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary | \$500 |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$500 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Email _____

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

Please list me as a member of the following chapter.

- Wabash & Erie Towpath
 Sullivan County