

River Currents

BANKS OF THE WABASH

August 2013

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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.

"Wabash River Should be Appreciated and Protected"

That's from a quote from Indiana's Attorney General, Greg Zoller, who toured the Wabash July 15-18 of this year. The main focus of his four-day trip was to see the environmental challenge the river faces from two species of Asian Carp (see recipes on page 3). Zoeller got a first hand look at the problem when two Asian Carp actually hurled themselves into his boat.

Why is Zoeller so interested in the problem of Asian carp in the Wabash? Here is what he said: "The Wabash is Indiana's iconic river and inspiration for our state song, yet in recent years two species of invasive Asian carp have infested portions of it. These voracious non-native fish consume nutrients in the water, disrupting the food chain and threatening the native fish enjoyed by Hoosier anglers and sportsmen.

At the sound of outboard motors, groups of Asian carp will jump out of the water and can injure boaters. The invasion of Asian carp into U.S. waterways and the risk they pose to the Great Lakes sport fishing industry has provoked consternation and litigation among our neighboring states; and as Indiana's attorney general, I want to make sure the Wabash will be protected from further spread of this aquatic nuisance".

The four day trip covered the river from Wabash to New Harmony. Along the way Zoeller met with local politicians, citizens and interest groups including members of BOW. For part of the trip Zoeller was



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Year of the River, Terre Haute

The Wabash River makes up the Western Boundary of Terre Haute. Until the last few years, the river was mostly ignored by Terre Haute's citizens. However interest in the river has increased dramatically leading Terre Haute to declare 2013 as "The year of the River".

Local groups and business signed on and thought about ways to draw positive attention to the Wabash. There were programs, art displays, concerts, field trips and excursions all focused on the Wabash.

They also produced a CD with songs about the Wabash—some written for the CD others well-known oldies such as "On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away" and "The Wabash Cannonball". One Johnny Cash song was written after Johnny stopped and talked to a fisherman at Davis Ferry Park in Lafayette. It's title is "If It Wasn't for the Wabash River". Go to <http://www.wabashvalleyartspaces.com/thewabash.html> to find out more. CD's are \$10 each.

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*Banks of the
Wabash
Board of Directors*

- Bernie Dahl
President
- Rae Schanpp
V-president
- Bob Shepherd
Treasurer
- Susan Ulrich
Secretary
- Ken Einselen
- Jack Fenoglio
- John Gettinger
- Dan Goen
- Nick Harby
- Tom Knapke
- Cec Schneider

Annual Meeting Report

You should have been there! The annual meeting in Delphi in April was a good one. Captain John Galloway gave a very interesting program on his experiences along the Wabash River and the food was excellent!



BOW President Bernie Dahl presented the River Reward Plaques (picture to right) and the three

2912 mini-grant winners brought information about their projects and gave short presentations to the audience. A good time was had by all.



BOW Mini-grant Winners for 2013:
Clockwise from Top:
Katie Akers, *Fifth Grade Excursion*
Mary Kramer, *Terre Haute Year of the River*;
Carrie Green *Sullivan County 5th Grade River Rafting*.

Did you know...
Indiana has the highest amount of toxic pollution discarded into its water bodies of all fifty states in the Union.

Support the Riverkeeper
You can now make a donation to Banks of the Wabash specifically to help fund the Riverkeeper. Look for the donation line on BOW's membership form.

Year of the River, continued:

One of the most lasting tributes coming out of the Year of the River is the Watermark Landing installed at Fairbanks Park in May. The Landing is a walkway access leading to the Wabash River.

Many local businesses helped sponsor the project including Garmong Construction which really stepped up by doing the surveying as well as laying the foundation and constructing the sidewalk. Other donors included American Tile which provided the stepping

stone tiles, Kelly Metals which gave a 3' x 4' metal educational sign and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission and Terre Haute Saving Bank that provided financial assistance.

But the main interest of the walkway are the unique tiles that were designed and made by local artists. The tiles feature everything from nature (e.g. snapping turtle, Great Blue Heron), to recreation (kayak, riverboat) to history (Fort Harrison, Paul Dresser).

BOW Board Member recognized as Volunteer of the Year

Information from the *Sullivan Daily Times*

John (Jack) Gettinger, Sr. was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Sullivan County Community Foundation. The award was announced at their fourth annual award dinner on March 28th. John was nominated for his work with the *Stair Steps to Success* program that mentors youths to help them develop a desire to make valued contributions to their community and encourages them to seek post-secondary education. As part of the award, *Stair Steps to Success* was awarded \$2,500.

John serves in many other groups including his many years of service on the Banks of the Wabash Board and on the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Rick Gross, the president of *Stair Steps* described John as a "priceless gift to Sullivan County and the state of Indiana....[with] a desire to make the world a better place by uplifting people." Congratulations John. You deserve it.



John Gettinger, center seated. Bernie Dahl standing at right, John Galloway, in background.
Picture taken at annual meeting by Susan Ulrich.

Asian Carp Recipes for Wabash Fishermen

Duane Chapman, USGS Fish Biologist

Here are some recipes for using the exotic Asian Carp that is spreading in the Wabash. If you have a great recipe for this fish please send it in, the more that get caught and eaten, the better.

Fried Asian Carp—

Ingredients:

Fry-cut silver carp strips (most pieces will contain 2-4 large bones, while some pieces will be boneless).

Dry cornmeal-based seasoning (pre-mixed, or make your own from yellow cornmeal, salt, black pepper, and the seasonings you like)

Vegetable or peanut oil

Roll strips in dry coating and deep-fry until golden brown. Serve while still steaming hot. To minimize problems with the bones, eat in the following manner: break the strip in two pieces, a bit off-center. The bones will now protrude from the break. Usually all of the bones will remain in the longer piece. Pull the bones out and place them on a plate or napkin reserved for that purpose, and eat the fish - which is now boneless. Easier, by far, than eating chicken wings!

Flying Carp Wings

Prepare and eat as previous recipe, except instead of the cornmeal mix, use unadulterated

cornstarch. Fry until cornstarch coating is crispy. After frying and while the fish is still hot, shake strips in your favorite hot-wing sauce. Messy, but it will knock your socks off! Not for dieters!

Fajitas Carpitas

Ingredients:

2 pounds deboned Asian carp meat pieces

½ bottle liquid fajita marinade (or use dry mix)

10 soft tortillas, fajita size

Fajita toppings as desired, such as salsa, pico de gallo, cheese, sour cream, guacamole, shredded lettuce, etc.

Marinate deboned carp pieces in the refrigerator in the marinade for at least an hour. Grill over a hot fire. Using a fish basket, or a piece of expanded aluminum mesh helps keep the fish pieces from breaking up and falling through the grill if you are careful, this is not necessary because the carp meat is quite firm. Place in a covered dish after removing from the grill to keep the fish hot until delivered to the table. Diners can construct their own tortillas with their desired toppings.

Deadline to apply September 13 so don't delay. Apply today.

MINI GRANTS 2012-13

Banks of the Wabash's Mini-Grants 2012-13 application round is open. Mini-grants are offered to groups and individuals 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 or individuals supported by the same. Projects affecting the most people or providing the greatest benefit to the Wabash River will be given preference.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed by **September 13, 2013** 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, 2013 (note: if a longer time period is needed 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 2014, 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 this is 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, along with what projected benefits will accrue for Wabash River or Indiana residents.
- How the success of the project will be evaluated (if this is applicable).



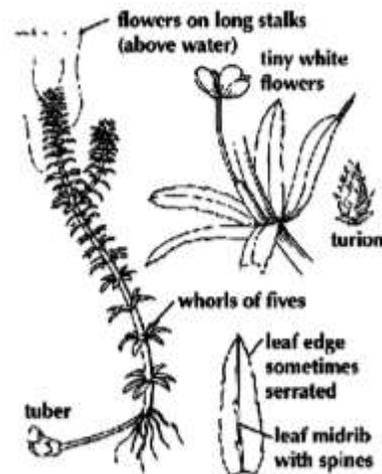
**Send your application to: Banks of the Wabash,
PO Box 1253, Lafayette, IN 47902
or email the application (or questions) to
Bernie Dahl bdahl@purdue.edu
& Susan Ulrich sueandtedulrich@msn.com**

Hydrilla: the hunt is on

Help keep this aquatic invasive out of Indiana's waterways and the Wabash River

Hydrilla sounds like a imaginary monster from a science fiction movie, but it is a real monster—at least in our waterways. Boaters, anglers, swimmers, and others who enjoy Indiana's lakes and rivers need to keep their eyes peeled for this aquatic "super weed."

Considered the world's worst aquatic weed, Hydrilla can grow an inch per day and form dense mats of vegetation at the water surface. Within the past few years, Hydrilla has been discovered in Wisconsin and Indiana. Desirable native aquatic plants, sport fishing, native wildlife, waterfront property values, and recreational uses might all be seriously impacted.



"Early detection of Hydrilla can save millions of dollars in control costs," noted Cathy McGlynn, coordinator for the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership. "once a waterway becomes infested with Hydrilla, it's nearly impossible to control. Our hope is to identify the plant at a very early stage when the population is still small enough to eradicate and manage".

Hydrilla can be confused with look-alike plants such as Brazilian elodea and American elodea. Volunteers who suspect they have found Hydrilla in Indiana are asked to send some digital photographs to Eric Fisher at the IDNR for verification. His address is 402 W Washington Street, Room W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Or you can email them using the IDNR online reporting form for Aquatic Invasive species in Indiana. See <http://www.in.gov/dnr/6385.htm>. The following website contains photos and descriptions of hydrilla and its similar species: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua008.html>

Some Key ID features for Hydrilla

- Submersed water plant with long stems (up to 25 feet) which branch profusely at the surface and forms a dense mat.
- Leaves are small (3/4 inch) and pointed with distinctly saw-toothed margins.
- 4 to 8 leaves are arranged in a whorl radiating from a single point on the stem . (Elodeas have 3 or 4 leaves).
- The midrib of each leaf is often reddish with one or more sharp teeth.
- Hydrilla produces tiny white flowers on long stalks.
- ¼ inch long turions are vegetative buds produced in the axils of the leaves (Elodeas do not have turions).
- Potato-like tubers are attached to the roots in the mud , (Elodeas do not have potato-like tubers).
- Plant reproduces from seed, turions, tubers, or small fragments of the vegetation that may be transported on boats and trailers.

[Zoeller tour Continued from page 1](#)

accompanied by John Goss, director of the federal government's Asian carp control efforts. John is a native Hoosier and former director of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources. In addition to assessing the problem of invasive species in the waterway during the trip, river protection issues were raised and discussed.

After observing by boat most of a 334-mile stretch of the Wabash, Zoeller stated: "I came away with a new appreciation for maintaining the river's ecosystem, water quality and heritage, a deeper admiration for those volunteers whose stewardship helps keep the river free of litter and pollution, and a determination to do what I can to help our state control Asian carp. We in Indiana truly are blessed that such a scenic natural waterway flows through our state, and I encourage all Hoosiers to visit the Wabash by boat, canoe or from the riverbank so they can appreciate why we must protect and preserve it."

Banks of the Wabash's 2013 Meeting Dates

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

September 18
Beef House,
Covington

November 20 Honeywell
Center, Wabash,
Wabash Co.

Water Levels Delay Lafayette DeTrash Event

DeTrash the Wabash in Lafayette and West Lafayette was flooded out twice! Both the original date and the rescheduled date coincided with high water and flooding—just two of the many Wabash floods this wet spring and summer. The event sponsors are hoping for better luck in October as they have now re-scheduled DeTrash Lafayette for October 26 to coincide with a Purdue Volunteer week. Those of you downstream may have noticed some of the trash that would normally have been removed upstream earlier.

DeTrash events along streams went better. Here is a picture showing volunteers who helped removed trash from Sugar Creek.



Delphi Canal Center & Museum Celebrates 10 years

Delphi's Wabash and Erie Canal Association's July 6 & 7th annual

Canal Days celebrated more than our nation's 237th birthday, it also marked the 10th year anniversary for

the Canal Center's Museum and its fascinating displays. Len Mysliwicz, who planned the Canal

Interpretive Center's Museum, is back in Delphi and will be busy helping the Canal Association redo many

of the interactive exhibits to enhance the dozen galleries of the award winning museum with new and

even more exciting exhibits.

During the 10 years of its existence the Canal Center has been home to countless community events, family reunions, weddings, and more

(including two Banks of the Wabash Annual Meetings). The Center hopes to have the new exhibits complete by next spring, but there is no

need to wait. Come out to tour this unique interpretive museum and see a slideshow of the

Center's history, from concept to completion. The Wabash & Erie Canal was important in Indiana's

History. Its construction still has impacts on the Wabash River and its tributaries today.

There's lots more to see and do, from riding on the replica canal boat, *The Delphi*, on a

reconstructed segment of the Wabash and Erie Canal, to touring all the additional historic

buildings and exhibits in the Canal Park Village. There's always something new being added or

worked on. Local craft people and docents who volunteer there most weekends flesh out history and add to the experience.



Canal boat with Canal Center in background.



The Fouts House in Village: an 1850s home with a garden behind the fence

River Town Events & Festivals

August 24 Beers Across the Wabash. Lafayette-West Lafayette. On the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge across the Wabash. Second annual event. Twenty-five or more Indiana Brewers. Noon to 4 p.m.

August 30-Sept 2 Little Italy Festival. Clinton. Come celebrate all things Italian at this festival. Events include a parade, music and scrumptious food, along with fireworks.

September 13-14 Blues at the Crossroads. Downtown Terre Haute, Wabash Ave & 7th Street. Enjoy the music, food and the company of other blues lovers. Each day ends with an all-band jam. 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday. Bring a chair.

September 19-22 Potawatomi Festival. Attica. Held along the Wabash River in downtown Attica. Petting Zoo, music, antique cars, a baby contest, huge parade and more. See www.potawatomifestival.com/potawatomifestival2013.htm.

September 21-22 Johnny Appleseed Festival. Fort Wayne. Celebrating the life and times of Johnny Appleseed. Apples and much, much more. See www.johnnyappleseedfest.com.

October 5-6 Feast of the Hunters Moon. Admission charge. Fort Ouiatenon, Tippecanoe County. Huge historical reenactment event with encampments, food, history, music, Indian dances and more. See www.tcha.mus.in.us/feast.htm.

October 6-7 Pioneer Days. **At Terre Haute's Fowler Park. A step back in time that showcases old-fashioned crafters and local artists.**

October 11-20 Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Parke County, multiple venues. **Indiana's Largest Festival featuring 31 of Indiana's covered bridges. Food, shopping, antiques, entertainment. Go to www.coveredbridges.com.**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

BOW Membership & Renewal Form 2013-14

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 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 |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverkeeper | _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Cell phone _____

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

List me as a member of :

- Wabash & Erie Towpath
 Sullivan Chapter

Membership & Inquiries should be sent to Banks of the Wabash, Inc. PO Box 1253, Lafayette IN 47902-1253