



Volunteer View

(A newsletter for IDNR State Park and Reservoirs Volunteers who have dedicated 50 + hours and are still active. Thank You!)

Fall 2014

Civilian Conservation Corp honored with CCC statue at Ouabache State Park.

By Jody Heaston, Volunteer Coordinator and Ginger Murphy, Deputy Director for Stewardship of Indiana State Parks

On a cool but sunny day in October, Ouabache State Park became the second site in Indiana to dedicate a CCC statue. The first statue was placed at Versailles State Park in 2010. This Ouabache statue is due to the hard working fundraising efforts of the Friends of Ouabache State Park group.

The vision for the statue came from CCC veteran, Wayne Lydy, 91, who resides in nearby Bluffton. The Friends group raised money through 5Ks, silent auctions, art show, Wonderland of Light and lots of public relations efforts. The park supported the project with funding as well.



Above: Members of Friends of Ouabache were on hand for the delivery of the statue including Wayne Lydy, just right of the statue.

Left: Russell Ainslie, son of VP of Friends group, wears Wayne Lydy's original CCC uniform during the dedication. Russell is 17 years old the same age Wayne was when he wore the uniform.



The Civilian Conservation Corps at Ouabache State Park
The men of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1592 lived and worked at the Wells County State Forest and Game Preserve from the time it was established in 1935 until 1940. Their goal while living at CCC Camp S-93 was to build a state-of-the-art game farm focused on raising quail. At one time the facility was called the "Greatest Wildlife Laboratory in the United States." Along with Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers, they built bird pens, hatcheries, a fire tower and a number of
Continued on page 2....

CCC continued...

recreational structures including the CCC Lodge. They dug Kunkel Lake during that time as well. As conservation methods changed and the “game farm” approach became less popular, the site was transferred to the Division of State Parks in 1962. It was originally called Ouabache State Recreation Area since the site’s previous role and development meant it did not meet the “pristine” nature of many of Indiana’s earliest state parks. In 1983, the name was changed to Ouabache State Park. A popular American bison exhibit remains as a tribute to the park’s early history.



Above: Beautiful photo by Rocky Myrtle of fire tower at Ouabache State Park. It was built in 1937 by the CCC.



Left: Scott Crossley, former property manager at Ouabache State Park now property manager at Brookville Lake, pictured far left was instrumental in supporting the Friends groups efforts in getting the statue while he worked at the property. Also pictured, Myra Myrtle, President of Ouabache Friends and Rocky Myrtle, Treasurer of Ouabache Friends.

The CCC Worker Statue program was developed by CCC Legacy Chapter 129 of Grayling, MI in 1995. Program coordinator Rev. William Fraser had the dream to have a statue in every state. The first was installed at North Higgins State Park, Roscommon, MI in 1995. These CCC Worker Statues now dot the American landscape in tribute to the men of the CCC. There are presently statues in 38 states.

The statue at Ouabache State Park is the 62nd CCC Worker statue nationwide and the second in Indiana For more information about the CCC Worker Statue

and the CCC Legacy organization, visit www.ccclegacy.org

Thanks to CCC Legacy and Glory-June Greiff’s book *People, Parks and Perceptions: A History and Appreciation of Indiana State Parks* for historical information in the article

Our living CCC Vets are special to us, and the legacy of buildings, tree plantings and infrastructure they left us in just a few short years stand as a testament to those who are no longer with us. This statue will celebrate that legacy.

If you want to know more about the CCC:

Michael Carney recorded interviews with several vets at one of our annual reunions a couple years ago.

You can see those interviews on the DNR YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co57IEML3dE> (long version) and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWXU2jYDhpo> (short version).

Ben Clark developed a brochure on African Americans in the CCC, featuring the 517th Company. It is online at http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-CCC517_brochure.pdf.

Look what volunteers are doing!

This fall Tippecanoe River State Park had one of their laborers and his father donate time to rebuild a 1967 Slide in Unit Fire Rig. (pictured right) Great Job and Thanks!

Submitted by Jason Hickman, Property Manager at Patoka Lake, former Assistant at Tippecanoe River State Park



6th grade students from Columbus Signature Academy, Fodrea campus did plant eradication with naturalist, Katie Kogler this fall. They were very proud of their pile of Japanese Honeysuckle that was removed from the Discovery Trail at Brown County State Park (pictured left)

Submitted by
James P. Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist,
Brown County State Park

Versailles Friends members have been busy hanging new bulletin boards for the park. Bruce Fiscus, the one in flannel, is building all new bulletin boards for us... which we desperately needed!

Thank You!

Submitted by
Brad Walker
Assistant Property Manager
Versailles State Park



Just taking a moment to brag about one of my staff...

Jill Vance, Monroe Lake Interpretive Naturalist

Ellie Mason has been working as an *unpaid* intern for me since May. She did a lot of "basic" programs during the summer; but after a few months of experience and developing a comfort level with our property, I gave her my blessing to work on more specialized programs that she was particularly passionate about.

So in mid-August, she started developing a series of recreation-based programs to immerse people in the cultural history of the reservoir through canoe/kayak tours and, most recently, cycling tours. The cycling tour is a 37-mile route that loops people around the eastern half of the lake for a 6-hour tour. She spent at least 30 hours just doing the research and prep work required to build this history-intensive cycling tour — and again, she is UNPAID (and also works a full-time job!). *(For those of you that like to track financials, Ellie's tours this fall have also brought in about \$400 in program fee revenue...)*

The email below is just one of the compliments that I've received from a participant about Ellie's programs this fall (this comment refers to her one of her cycling tours).

It's rare to find a volunteer with both the skills and passion to put together programs like these on a regular basis — and then to also have the commitment to carry them out. Ellie is already thinking about more recreation-style tours for 2015 - including a special all-day cycling tour for Welcome Back Weekend that will tie together our geologic history with the early economic development of the lake area.

*Jill,
I was on the tour yesterday led by Ellie Mason and wish to report to you that it was wonderful. Ellie did a masterful job of getting us to see how the making of the reservoir affected the people of the area as well as the land. She was very organized and had wonderful photos and maps to share that brought the history to life. What a wonderful event for you to offer us!!*

Many thanks. Deb Wehman

Big Thanks!

Big thanks to everyone who helped out with the Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Harrison State Park on September 20-21. It was a huge success with thousands of people experiencing the outdoors through a variety of activities.

**Mark your calendar for next year:
Hoosier Outdoor Experience
September 19-20, 2015**

Some 2015 dates to keep in mind. Plan an event or look for an event to help with in your area.

April 12-18 National Volunteer Week
www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week

April 21 Earth Day <http://www.earthday.org/>

June 6 National Trails Day
<http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

September 26 National Public Lands Day
www.publiclandsday.org/

Oct 28, 2014

Recently a few of my family members were invited to join the Friends of Versailles State Park to tour the Stegemoller homestead that is now part of the park and lake.

My great grandparents purchased the farm of about 20 acres around 1886 and raised their 10 children there. I was too young to remember visiting there as the park took over the land when the lake was built. Having the ability to visit the homestead with the Friends group was amazing! I had only seen the farm in pictures. To be able to actually see where my great grand parents, grandfather & great aunts & uncles lived & worked was an experience I will never forget. Thanks to Bill and the Friends group for organizing

and inviting us to join them. Our area is fortunate to have such a beautiful park. I am joining the Friends group and look forward to many more destination hikes.

Barbara Eades

The Versailles Friends group held a special hike that took them to the old Stegemoller Farm. Bill Dallman, one of the friends members, was able to locate some surviving members of this family. He invited them along for the hike to see their relatives homestead. A thank you letter from the Eades family about the hike was received soon after. (Pictured left)

Submitted by
Brad Walker
Assistant Property Manager
Versailles State Park

Pokagon's September 27, National Public Lands Day Event: Bike Trail Hiking and Bluebird Box Planting.

Submitted by Fred Wooley, Interpretive Naturalist, Pokagon State Park

It was a perfect first Saturday of Autumn at the Pokagon State Park Trine State Recreation Area! Beautiful weather! A group of 21 met in the Welcome Center for some introductory comments on the NPLD and today's Trine event, by Pokagon Interpreter Fred Wooley. A group of 17 then hiked the bike trail and placed five bluebird boxes along the way (pictured right). Many took turns in what turned out to be easy work! Along the way, we enjoyed great, early fall color, found fall's first woolly bear caterpillar and a couple of Brown snakes, and stopped at the gatehouse to enjoy the native plants that are now in their first and second year of maturing and blooming! We are now ready for 2015 Eastern Bluebirds!



Update on Brown County State Park Herbarium

David Mow (pictured right) has been working on the Brown County State Park herbarium again this year. Living in Owen County he has found several plants that were new to him since he spent 25+ years learning plants in Corydon/Ramona limestone region and BCSP is in the Knobstone region. With the soils being so different, there is a completely different group of plants. In Brown County, chestnut oak is a major component of the woods but is almost nonexistent in Owen County. The same with blueberries and their kin. Until working on this project, he used common names for plants and has learned the scientific names, also with some groups of plants he could ID them to genus and that was



good enough. With this project, he has to ID down to species, as an example he could say "that is a fleabane", now he has to split them into 3 species. So far he has collected 328 plants that includes, six violets, four wood sorrels, four thistles, three saint-john's-wort, five tick-trefoil, and eight orchids' including four ladies tresses. Thanks for all your work!

Submitted by James P. Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist, Brown County State Park

The Indiana Youth Ambassadors have been busy this year visiting many of the DNR properties. Youth Ambassador, Lance Gideon did a great year end review of all his visits. See it at

<http://www.americasstateparks.org/article/5288/Year-2-as-an-Ambassador>

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is an abridged version of a report DNR furbearer biologist Shawn Rossler wrote for the 2015 DNR Hunting & Trapping Regulations booklet.. It is being redistributed to media as a public service.)

Coyotes adjust to landscape, including urban areas

Personal experiences shape our attitudes toward most wildlife. This is especially true for coyotes. Thoughts range from worthless varmint that should be removed completely to a beautiful creature deserving of protection.

One thing for sure – Indiana is coyote country. Coyotes are a native species once limited to the prairie regions of western Indiana. Reports of coyotes in Indiana began to increase in the 1970s. They have adjusted to the landscape changes and now are common in all Indiana counties, including many urban areas. For some Hoosiers, this is old news. For others, the sight of a coyote is new and little is known about how to live with this species. The DNR has a full list of tips to minimize conflicts with coyotes on web page <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5688.htm>



Photo by Indiana DNR

If coyotes can find water and shelter, they will find something to eat. Their natural diet includes berries, birds, vegetation, rabbits, deer fawns, and animal remains, but they mostly eat small mammals such as mice, moles, and voles. Reducing the local rodent populations is a benefit to landowners that is often forgotten when talking about coyotes.

Studies have found that coyotes in urban areas have the same general needs as coyotes in rural areas. Human-supplied food items such as household garbage and garden vegetables, as well as domestic animals and pet food, have become part of their diet.

When there is plenty of food, coyote populations expand quickly. Coyotes breed in January and February, and pups are born in a den during March or April. A litter can be as few as one pup or exceed 10, with the average around five.

Small, undisturbed green spaces are all that coyotes need for a den site. A typical den is made underground with a pie-pan-sized entrance that opens into a larger area.

Coyotes usually form breeding pairs and raise their pups together. Lone coyotes do occur, especially in the fall when younger animals leave to establish their own territory. Breeding pairs will establish a territory and defend this area from other coyotes. Occasionally, yearling coyotes will remain with the breeding pair and new pups.

When this occurs, it's called a "group" rather than a "pack."

Coyote discussions often revolve around conflicts. In rural areas conflicts include loss of livestock and pets or reaction to a trail camera capturing a coyote hauling off a deer fawn. Urban conflicts are focused on attacks on pets, concerns for safety, and fear of the unknown.

In rural areas across the United States, removal efforts have used toxicants, trapping, shooting, and other techniques to control coyotes, protect livestock, and increase populations of other wildlife. These efforts usually have a high cost and short-term results. In addition, coyotes reproduce quickly, are located throughout the United States
Coyotes continued on page 8...



DNR

The mission of Indiana's State Parks and Reservoirs is to manage and interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife and cultural resources using principles of multiple use and preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current and future generations.

Coyotes continued...

States, and are highly adaptable, which makes curbing their numbers a challenge.

Coyote populations can be lowered in small areas with focused efforts, but they can bounce back quickly once these efforts are reduced or stopped. In areas where coyote numbers have been lowered, coyotes will breed at younger ages and have larger litters.

Bounty systems were used in Indiana from the late 1800s through the 1970s. These programs had a long history, so wildlife managers were able to evaluate them and identify problems. Bounty systems usually covered large areas and didn't focus on areas of conflict. Fraud was common, with parts of predators needed to claim rewards being transported from different states or counties. In addition, the bounty system called for constant removal, requiring large cash investments with limited or short-term results.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife manages trapping and hunting seasons for coyotes (Oct. 15 through March 15, 2015). The seasons are not meant to remove every animal, but they do provide a good, low-cost way to manage coyotes while giving hunters and trappers opportunities to pursue coyotes.

Coyotes also can be taken outside of these seasons on private land. Landowners may remove a coyote at any time on land they own, or they can provide written permission for others to take coyotes on that land at any time without a permit. This gives landowners the ability to control what happens on their property, even outside of established hunting and trapping seasons.