



# The Guardian Gazette

Newsletter of the Wildcat Guardians  
Dedicated to the Health & Beauty of Wildcat Creek  
January - February 2009

## President's Press

As of January 1, 2010, a new slate of officers has assumed command of the Wildcat Guardians. I happened to be elected President. It was unanimous (unopposed). The other officers elected were: Mary Rowe, Vice President; Mike Bach, Treasurer; and Hod Peabody, Secretary. David Inskip assume the role of Past President.

In addition, Charlie Skoog agreed to work with Mary Rowe on our Adopt-A-River program; Linda Bach will continue as Membership Coordinator; Garry Hill will coordinate our support of the Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous; Sarah Brichford will edit and publish the Gazette and continue water quality monitoring; and Ken Munro would like some help in our Celebrate the Wildcat efforts this summer.

My first official act a President is to ask each and every one who reads this report to go to our web sight ([www.wildcatguardians.org](http://www.wildcatguardians.org)) print the membership form, fill it out, write a check for the proper amount (or more), and mail it in to our Post Office Box. The complete mailing address is on the membership form.

My second official act is to encourage each and every person interested in Wildcat Creek Watershed

to come to our January Meeting and get evolved by sharing an idea and/or offering to help on some activity. Our next meeting is January 18, 2010, Treece's II Restaurant, Burlington at 6:30 PM. Come an hour early; enjoy some good food and talk.

I am looking forward to this year. Our DVD will be completed and released. With any luck, at least one new Public Access sight will be established. The creek will be cleaned up again and a few log jams removed. In addition, the public will be made aware of our efforts and the unique beauty and opportunities offered by the Wildcat.

While I have only been an active member of the Guardians for a few years, I am constantly amazed at the quality of our members and all the volunteer hours they spend working on and for the Wildcat. They do care, and is privilege to be a part of this organization.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Bob Hoshaw*

## Adopt-A-River

New Year Reminder for Section Coordinators...

Your responsibilities are ...

1. Monitor your adopted section and submit a report at least three (3) times per year.  
Submit the report via Wildcat Guardians website online form, telephone call, or U.S. mail.
2. Perform at least one (1) work activity on your adopted section per year.  
Example work activities include picking up small trash during your visit, a large cleanup using extra labor to accomplish big tasks, logjam removal, or other conservation type effort.

If you need help to on your section, please contact a Guardian officer or come to a monthly meeting.  
You will get the help you need.

## Continuing Saga of Section 26

*By Dave Inskeep, Section 26 Coordinator*

[**Editor's Note:** Section Coordinator Dave Inskeep has been communicating diligently with IDEM and EPA officials about chemical contamination of the Wildcat as it passes along the Continental Steel Superfund site in Kokomo. The following excerpt from Dave's emails show the current status of this investigation which began after he reported what appeared to be oily globules floating on the creek's surface.]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010

To: Inskeep, David

.....We continue to address the globules in the Wildcat Creek. I am not sure where the accumulated scum is gathering; if you can provide its location, I will work with Dave Daugherty with IDEM to identify and address the issue.

.....To answer your questions:

- 1) The USEPA, Emergency Response / Removal Branch has not taken any Analytical Samples on the site, since my initial case visit in October 2009.
- 2) The boom was being monitored daily, with overwatch by multiple parties, including USEPA remediation contractors and IDEM. We have not determined the source of its disappearance, but are currently in discussion, as to how we will proceed to address the missing boom. Currently, we are not seeing the globules; however, this does not mean we will dismiss the case: we will continue to address it. Please alert us, if you do see the globules reappear, along with a detailed description including: the date, time, location, approximate volume, weather, river conditions, and anything else that you may feel is important.
- 3.1) A sampling plan has been developed, and we plan on implementing it in early Feb 2010. The goal of the plan is to determine the constituents, source, and extent of contamination. We expect that the actual sampling event will take multiple days, then we expect a 2 week turn around on the Analytical results.
- 3.2) Following the sampling, we will assess the situation based on the results of the sampling, and will make a decision on how to best solve the problem.
- 4) I don't want to speculate on the source on the contaminant before we have a chance to complete our investigation. If we are unable to make the necessary determinations, we will alter our sampling plans

accordingly, and continue to investigate.

5) Please feel free to share the website [www.epaosc.org/kokomoOilGlobules](http://www.epaosc.org/kokomoOilGlobules) for updates.

Mike Beslow  
On-Scene Coordinator  
US EPA, Region 5

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Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2010 8:25 PM  
To: Mike Beslow

The familiar oil globule seepage is continuing as of Saturday, January 9, at around noon. It can easily be seen from the bank in two locations. One is at the confluence with Kokomo Creek – stand on the lower bank between the Wildcat and Kokomo Creeks and look carefully into the eddy sweeping upstream and back into the Wildcat channel. The globules are pushed quite close against the bank at your feet. If you cross to the opposite side of the creek (where the boom now is) and walk downstream just around the bend and past the gage station (50 yards?) there is a rip rap bank. An eddy containing globules is moving upstream against the rip rap bank. Conditions were not ideal for estimating the volume – sun, snow, ice, and currents made for lots of reflections on the surface and the water was moving fairly quickly. It was around nine degrees Fahrenheit and winds were calm. Ice lined both banks in many places. The river level had been dropping.

Currently nature has installed its own absorbent boom in this region of the creek in the form of waterfowl. Dozens of waterfowl were occupying the protected area (high banks, out of the prevailing winds, and warmer waters) below the W weir and extending past the confluence during mid-day while many, many dozens (I think a couple hundred) have been at the site on all three evenings that I have passed by in the last nine days. If you look in the eddies for globules I am sure you will also notice tiny down feathers floating in the same water.

Oh, and believe it or not in this weather, there was a juvenile turtle (maybe a map turtle or slider) actively prowling the shallows along the rip rap bank I described above.

Keep up the good work,  
Dave Inskeep

[**Editor's Note:** Many thanks to Dave for continuing to monitor this situation and provide assistance to the agency contacts. Progress is being made which will hopefully result in a cleaner creek!]

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## **South Fork Project Gets Underway**

*Need Your Ideas for Improving the Watershed*

Protecting the South Fork of Wildcat Creek will be the goal of a watershed project coordinated by the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District. **You are invited to share your concerns about the South Fork watershed at a public meeting to be held on Thursday, January 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Clinton County Cooperative Extension Office (111 S. Jackson St., Frankfort, Indiana). Questions? Contact Cindy Muffet, Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District, (765) 659-1223 ext. 3 ■

*The Indiana Conservation Alliance invites you to...*  
**Conservation Day at the Indiana Statehouse**  
Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Register now: The event is free! Registration is required and can be completed **online** at [www.nature.org/indiana](http://www.nature.org/indiana). Details about the day's agenda and more about the Indiana Conservation Alliance's priorities are on-line under "events".

Conservation Day is an incredible opportunity to show state legislators that Hoosiers care about protecting our precious natural resources and preserving our environment. Not only is there a chance to engage legislators in matters that mean the most to us, but we'll also have the chance to meet fellow conservationists throughout the state. The more people that attend Conservation Day, the bigger the impact. Carpool with co-workers, friends and family or take a brisk walk to the statehouse, and help make a difference!

This year the Alliance is advocating for renewable electricity and clean water provisions, including: a state renewable electricity standard, reauthorization of the Lakes Management Work Group and a resolution to assign the topic of banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizers to summer legislative committees. ■

## **Farewell to Continental Steel Dam !**

A dreary day in December was the backdrop for the demolition of a concrete dam spanning the Wildcat near downtown Kokomo. Guardians and paddling advocates had lobbied for the dam removal for some time. At last, City of Kokomo Stormwater Manager Don Cree was able to secure the required permits and initiate the contract. When the demolition began it quickly became apparent the dam was not a solid concrete mass but a pile of debris covered by concrete. The debris held some contaminants. It will be sent to a landfill that accepts hazardous waste. A new riffle-run is forming at this former dam site. The left bank logjam has also been removed. ■

## *News from the* **Cleanup Desk**

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**!!!! Save the Date !!!!**  
**Spring Cleanup on March 20, 2010**

Details to follow at monthly meetings or Guardian website: [www.wildcatguardians.org](http://www.wildcatguardians.org). ■

## ***Odds and Ends***

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Important Dates to Remember:



2010 Meetings  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month  
NEXT  
January 18

### **The Guardian Gazette**

#### 2010 Publication Schedule

January  
March  
May  
July  
September  
November

The Gazette is available online at  
[www.wildcatguardians.org](http://www.wildcatguardians.org),  
via email, or hardcopy.

### **Contact us:**

Email: [wildcatguardians@yahoo.org](mailto:wildcatguardians@yahoo.org)

Web site: [www.wildcatguardians.org](http://www.wildcatguardians.org)

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 6421, Kokomo, IN 46904-6421

### **Meetings at:**

Treece's II Restaurant in Burlington, Indiana

5:30 pm - dining and social

6:30 pm - meeting begins

# ***In the Flow***

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## **IDNR Eagles in Flight Weekend 2010 February 5, 6 & 7 at Turkey Run State Park**

Enjoy the third annual celebration of eagles in Indiana. Three days of informative talks and trips.

*Eagle Roost and Nest Road Trips / Live Bald Eagle and Other Birds of Prey  
Owls of Indiana / Bird Banding Demonstration / Birding Hotspots*

Fee program: Adults \$20 Youth 4-12 \$15



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### **Wildcat Guardians**

P.O. Box 6421

Kokomo, IN 46904-6421