



# The Guardian Gazette

Newsletter of the Wildcat Guardians  
Dedicated to the Health & Beauty of Wildcat Creek  
March - April 2010

## President's Press

January and February - cold and wet!

February is a very interesting month. During the month we celebrated: National Freedom Day, Groundhog Day, National Wear Red Day, The Boy Scouts Birthday, Valentine's Day, The Chinese New Year, Presidents Day, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Purim and Candlemas. And let's not forget Black History Month, American Hearth Month, National Dental Month, Chocolate Lovers Month, and National Bird Feeding Month. With so much to do during February, it's a good thing it was almost too wet and cold to enjoy the Wildcat Creek.

All kidding aside, it was good time to plan some of our spring and summer activities. See the calendar of important dates included in this issue. All these activities involve members and friends of the Guardians. In order for these events and meetings to be successful, we need the time and talent of many people. I am asking everyone who receives this newsletter to consider attending one or more of these functions and bring a friend. The Wildcat Creek needs caring and concerned friends. A small amount of your time can make a big difference for the Wildcat.

In the last newsletter my first official act as President was to ask each and everyone who reads this newsletter to complete the enclosed membership form and send the form with a check for the proper amount (or more), and mail it to our Post Office Box. We are a volunteer organization.

Your membership dues go directly for expenses that include website fees, cleanup supplies, events like Earth Day, printed copies of the newsletter, and more.

I would also like to encourage each and every person interested in the Wildcat Creek to come to our March meeting and get involved by sharing an idea and/or offering to help on some activity. Our next meeting is March 15, 2010, Treece's II Restaurant, Burlington at 6:30 PM. Come an hour early; enjoy some good food and talk.

Welcome to Jeff Matthews as Section Coordinator for South Fork sections 5 & 6!

February 2 was the mid-point of winter. I will close with a little February weather lore.

*When the cat lies in the sun in February, she will creep behind the stove in March.*

*If it thunders in February, It will frost in April.*

*If February gives much snow, a fine summer it doth foreshow.*

**ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE, MARCH AND SUMMER LOOK GREAT. CAN'T WAIT!**

HAPPY CANDLEMAS !

*Bob Hoshaw*

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

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### **Earth Day in March**

*By Charlie Skoog*

Since the early 70's Earth Day events have been held around the world. In the United States April 22 is now recognized on many calendars as Earth Day. The Guardians first Earth Day inspired creek cleanup was held on April 27, 2002, with volunteers meeting at Camp Tycony on the west side of Kokomo and fanning out by boat and foot to de-trash the creek and floodplain areas between Malfalfa Road and 440W (Yeoman Bridge). The results were astonishing so the tradition continued and this year's cleanup will be our ninth annual Earth Day inspired spring cleanup. By 2004 the west side of Kokomo was looking better so we moved our workforce to the east side and focused on Reservoir Park, the spillway, and downstream to US31. That year we discovered a massive tire dump in an old creek channel, upstream river left from Delco Park. This would be the biggest Guardian project yet and the cleanup and removal of almost 3,000 tires from Sleepy Tread Hollow attracted state wide and even national attention. A project of this magnitude required getting started pre-spring before vegetation growth overtook and obscured all that needed to be removed and that is how Earth Day in March came into being.

**This year's cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. Volunteers will meet at Foster Park in downtown Kokomo, register at 8:30 a.m., and plan to work until at least Noon.** We will be working creek side and floodplain areas and may work some out of boats if the weather permits. As in the past we will need experienced Guardians to direct the volunteers which will include the Environmental Guardians of Northwestern High School and the Senior High Youth Group of Shiloh Methodist Church. We will also need trucks and trailers to haul what's collected to the semiannual *Guardians at Work* trash pile on the NW Corner of Park and Markland in Kokomo. All participants must sign a waiver and volunteers under 18 must have parental consent. David Inskeep and myself will be scouting the creek in coming weeks and plan a trash hunting expedition paddle on Saturday, March 13 at noon. If you can volunteer or know of an area that needs the attention of our Earth Day on March 20th volunteers please contact me at (765) 457-2607 or email [runckrr@aol.com](mailto:runckrr@aol.com). An extreme weather rainout date is scheduled for Saturday, April 10. To see some results of our past efforts visit the photo gallery at [www.wildcatguardians.org](http://www.wildcatguardians.org). ■

## *News from the* **Creek Bank**

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### **US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project**

*By Bob Hoshaw*

On February 23, I attended meeting #9 of the US31 Kokomo Corridor Project Community Advisory Committee. They think that they are about 2 years ahead of schedule. In late August they will be letting a contract for the bridge over the Wildcat Creek. This bridge will extend over Sycamore Road and the adjacent Rail Road Track. Because the highway is a limited access highway, NO PUBLIC ACCESS SITE (to the Creek) WILL BE INCLUDED.

INDOT is still negotiating with Rail America to determine how the Nickel Plate Trail will connect into the Kokomo Trail System. The final alternative will be determined by May. The contract for the north end of the US31 corridor will be let in July of 2012. ■

## **Adopt-A-River**

### **The Little Red and White Boat Story**

*By Bob Hoshaw*

*[Editor's note: Here is the story of how an observant Guardian named Neil and a determined Guardian named Bob made the Wildcat a little cleaner for all of us. Thanks guys!]*

It started simply enough when one of our section coordinators, Neil Layman, reported a boat on the bank near Waterworks Park in Kokomo. This was mentioned during our regular monthly meeting in January and at our February meeting I volunteered to "look into it".

Tuesday, February 23. Went to Waterworks Park, parked on the boat ramp and walked the shoreline east to the water works dam. No boat. Returned to the ramp looked west and saw a red and white run-about about 50 feet east of the ramp. (Note to self: It always pays to look left AND right.) The little red and white boat turned out to be a 14 foot Rinker Built run-about. License number IN 782 XC, serial number 1-2166, rated for a 50HP motor. Several life jackets were visible and the boat was full of ice. I decided to check ownership by using the license number. (Note to self: This was a mistake.)

Drove to the Kokomo Police Department and asked if they would check out the license number. They said they did not know how and I should contact the DNR. Returned home and tried to find a phone number for the license branch of the DNR. Does not exist. All licensing is done by the BMV. BMV does nothing by phone. Drove to the BMV. (Note to self: Never, Never, Never go to the BMV the last week of the month.) All seats in waiting room were full. Went home.

Wednesday, February 24. Returned to Waterworks Park and stopped at the Old School Motorcycle Shop on East Carter to see if they knew anything about the boat. The shop is now Silvertone Auto Detailing owned and run by a character named Ulysses. Ulysses thought that the Kokomo Fire Department had rescued two young boys from that area of the Wildcat in August or September of 2009. He didn't own the boat but suggested that maybe the Fire Department had a record of the owner.

Off to the Kokomo Fire Department. Asked at the front desk if they could help me find the owner of the boat. Sure!! Would be glad to help. Forty-five minutes later, after scrolling through their dispatches for the months of August and September, they found a reference to a water rescue regarding 2 boys in the Waterworks Park area. However, since they were juveniles, they could give me no information. (Note to Self: Think before you ask.)

At that point the Fire Chief appeared and stated that he knew something about the little red and white boat. He is a fisherman and has fished the creek for years. The little red and white boat has been in the area for at least 10 years and a few years ago it was tied to a tree behind the Grotto on US 31. He then called dispatch and had them check out the license number. The number was not active and had not been renewed in the past ten years. It has not been reported lost or stolen.

Thursday, February 25. Went to the Grotto. It's not their boat. It's ours for the taking.

Good news! Ulysses has a tow truck with 80 foot cable. He will help us pull the boat out with a two day notice. The Kokomo Parks and Recreation Department will help with the removal and dispose of the boat with a two day notice. We will schedule boat removal for a day when the ice has melted and the weather is a bit warmer. ■

## **I Support Trails!**

*By Charlie Skoog*

Most of you know my love for trails and greenways extends far beyond our Wildcat Creek River trail. As a board member of the statewide Greenways Foundation I am asking you to support our efforts to promote the growth, enhancement and use of Indiana greenways. If you visit [www.greenwaysfoundation.org](http://www.greenwaysfoundation.org) you will see the beautiful I SUPPORT TRAILS! license plate we hope the Indiana BMV will approve for 2011 vehicle registrations. For that to happen we need the signatures of at least 500 folks like you, pledging to buy the plate for \$40. Of that amount \$25 for each plate will go to the Foundation helping fund our projects and advocacy. **We need these signatures by March 22.** Please make a decision today to take action! You can download, sign and mail your own petition or contact me in person, [runckrr@aol.com](mailto:runckrr@aol.com) or (765) 457-2607 for assistance.

The Greenways Foundation has provided a great deal of support to local transportation planners as well as the Nickel Plate Trail (NPT). We are working diligently to connect the NPT's current southern terminus in Cassville to downtown Kokomo where it will link with the Wildcat Walk of Excellence and the newly established Riverfront Entertainment District in Kokomo. Recent progress includes an INDOT commitment to build a grade separated crossing of the trail when the new US31 Corridor is constructed.

Going north from Cassville the NPT linear park and greenway crosses five beautiful river systems, Little Deer Creek, Deer Creek, Pipe Creek and the Wabash and Eel rivers. An intersecting system of greenway corridors is what quality of life is all about and this is why the work of the Greenways Foundation is so important. As Friends of the Nickel Plate Trail volunteers were building and paving a 312 foot trestle bridge over the Eel River in Denver last summer we saw many canoeists paddling under this signature bridge which is going to attract visitors from far and wide. River trails and rails to trails is where it's at! For more information visit [www.nickelplatetrail.org](http://www.nickelplatetrail.org) and [www.eelrivertrail.com](http://www.eelrivertrail.com). See ya on the river and trails! ■

## **Please Renew Your Membership & Get Involved**

**Complete the attached form and mail with dues to:**

Wildcat Guardians  
P.O. Box 6421  
Kokomo, IN 46904-6421

**Join us at a monthly meeting – third Monday of every month.**

Treece's II Restaurant, Burlington, Indiana  
5:30 pm - social & eat  
6:30 pm - meeting  
■

# Wildcat Guardians

Dedicated to improving the health and beauty of Wildcat Creek  
Membership Form

Please Print

<input type="checkbox"/>	New membership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

( )  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
(same household)

Please check your areas of interest:

- Adopt-A-River - (Section Coordinators adopt a section of the creek to monitor on a regular basis)
- Discover Wildcat Creek (Guardians escort people on canoe trips to experience the Wildcat firsthand)
- Water Quality Monitoring (Guardians conduct water quality testing at specific sites along the creek and tributaries)
- Club Officer (President, Secretary, Treasurer (elect positions))
- Newsletter (Articles, Interviews, printing, mailing, etc.)
- Events (Earth Day, Paddler's Rendezvous, National Clean-Up Week etc.)
- Special Projects (The Guardians are always working on several new projects)
- Guardian Workforce (Assist with Guardians activities - i.e. Clean-ups, events, projects when needed)
- Donation (Your time is limited, but you support the Guardians and our efforts to protect Wildcat Creek)

**Release (Please read and sign below)**

I sign this waiver in consideration of my membership in the Wildcat Guardians and/or the privilege of voluntary participation in any Wildcat Guardian activity or event that I may choose to attend.

I hereby waive, for myself and anyone claiming through me, my right to sue the Wildcat Guardians, its officers, its members, trip leaders, any of my fellow boaters, waders, or workers for injuries to my person or my equipment which may occur in participation for, during, or following any Wildcat Guardian activity or event that I may attend. This waiver applies to any negligent act of omission, and to any intentional act intending to promote my safety or well-being. My waiver has no expiration date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please sign here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Annual Dues** (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)  
(Dues are Tax-Deductible)

Individual \$15.00

Family \$25.00

Make Checks payable to: Wildcat Guardians

P.O. Box 6421  
Kokomo, IN  
46904-6421

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Amount enclosed)

WCG-10

# Odds and Ends

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Important Dates to Remember:



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

## CALENDAR

- March 15:** monthly meeting at Treece's in Burlington  
**March 20,** Spring Cleanup. 8:30 am Foster Park, Kokomo.  
**April 19,** Monthly meeting at Treece's  
**April 21,** Earth Day booth at Kokomo Event Center.  
**May 17,** Monthly meeting  
**May 22,** Discover the Wildcat trip.  
**June 5,** Celebrate the Wildcat at Adams Mill.  
**June 19,** Second Discover the Wildcat trip.  
**August 6, 7 & 8,** Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous

## 2010 Guardian Officers

President: Bob Hoshaw  
Vice President: Mary Rowe  
Past President: Dave Inskeep  
Secretary: Hod Peabody  
Treasurer: Mike Bach

wildcatguardians@yahoo.com

## 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

## **IDNR Wildlife Diversity Report – A Must Read**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife recently released the 2009 Wildlife Diversity Report. This is a must read for anyone interested in the natural resources of our state. The report is a summary of activities funded by the state Nongame Fund and federal State Wildlife Grant funds. It includes information about mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and aquatic species (fish, mussels). There is good information in this report including study results that show the bobcat, although rarely seen, is doing well in the Hoosier state, and the banded pygmy sunfish is a recent discovery in southwestern counties. Read the report online or download from: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3347.htm>

The Nongame Fund receives NO State tax dollars. Be sure to check the donation box on your state tax return and give a little to this very worthwhile use of money.



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### **Wildcat Guardians**

P.O. Box 6421

Kokomo, IN 46904-6421