



The Guardian Gazette

Newsletter of the Wildcat Guardians
Dedicated to the Health & Beauty of Wildcat Creek
July – August 2010

President's Press

RAIN: rainfall, rainstorm, precipitation, condensation, downpour, drencher, deluge, flood, cloudburst, torrent, shower, thunderstorm, flurry, drizzle, sprinkle, monsoon. All of the above brought to you by Jupiter, Pluvius or Iris the rain gods.

In spite of the above, we had an excellent day for the annual *Celebrate the Wildcat* at Adams Mill. Attendance was down, but we had over forty guests take advantage of our guided canoe rides and enjoy the beauty of the Creek. A heart felt "thank you" is given to all the volunteers that made this event a success. A special thank you to the Scharer Family for use of their property. A special thanks is also given to Charlie Skoog, David Inskeep, Ken Munro and Garry Hill.

While the Celebrate program, was a success, our two attempts at Discover the Wildcat canoe trips were both rained out. (See the above for your choose of the definition of rain). Hint: it was not sprinkle. While the trips were flooded out, the organization and preparations were excellent. Again, a thank you to Charlie Skoog, Hod Peabody and Garry Hill.

THE DVD IS FINISHED AND IS EXCELLENT.
Thanks to the Delphi / Toyota Community Imitative

Award, a great twenty-two minute DVD has been produced showing the beauty and blessings of our Wildcat along with some of its history and ongoing problems and challenges. We intend to distribute copies of this DVD to all schools libraries and communities in the Wildcat Watershed.

The next big thing is the upcoming Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous scheduled for August, 6, 7 and 8. Plans have been made and the request for volunteers issued. If you can help in any way, please contact Garry Hill. If you have any "neat" creek things to donate for the auction, contact Garry. If you cannot volunteer, or come up with a unique donation, just show up on any one of the three days and CELEBRATE AND DISCOVER THE WILDCAT.

MY wife and I are heading to Colorado to do hiking and biking. While there, we plan to visit Hoosier Pass, Kokomo Gulch, Kokomo Creek and ghost town of Kokomo. We have not found a Wildcat Creek or gulch, but we keep looking.

Enjoy your summer!

Bob Hoshaw
President

CSI Kokomo: Barrels Along the Wildcat

The mysterious source of oil globules on Section 26 near downtown Kokomo may have been discovered. On July 2, EPA, IDEM and Superfund Site contractor CH2MHill removed several old, rusty barrels from the bank just downstream from the corner of Park and Markland. The barrels certainly looked suspicious. Time will tell if the barrel removal eliminates the oil leaks. Thanks to Section Coordinator Dave Inskip and City of Kokomo stormwater manager Don Cree for working on this issue. ■



ADVICE From a RIVER

[from a bookmark, produced by Your True Nature, Inc.]

Go with the flow

*Slow down and
Meander*

*Go Around the
Obstacles*

Stay Current

*The Beauty is
In the Journey*



Discover the Wildcat

Discover the Wildcat is our Guardian way of introducing people to the creek in person. Guardians serve as guides for float trips. The primary audience is community leaders and elected officials who are making policy decisions that affect the Wildcat. Two trips planned in Kokomo for May and June were cancelled due to unsafe water levels. The creek was up and flowing too fast. We appreciate the efforts of Charlie Skoog, Hod Peabody, and Garry Hill to organize these trips.

We are getting more requests for Discover trips and are in need of a person to serve as coordinator of this important program. You don't have to own a canoe. You just need to be able to take requests and delegate the trip activities to Guardians who can help. A coordinator for the Discover program would be a big help! If you are interested, please contact a Guardians officer or send email to wildcatguardians@yahoo.com. ■

Hoosier Riverwatch Workshop

By Sarah Brichford

A volunteer stream monitoring workshop will be offered on July 27 and 29 at the Kirkendall Nature Center in Kokomo's Jackson Morrow Park. The workshop is an introductory level training session in which you will discover the meaning of water quality and how it is measured. Through classroom presentations and hands-on stream testing, you will learn techniques for evaluating stream habitat, water chemistry, and biological health. It's fun! After attending this workshop you will be prepared to perform your own stream analysis as a Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer and may submit data to the statewide database (www.HoosierRiverwatch.com). Any interested adult or high school age student is welcome to attend. Participants in previous workshops are also welcome to attend and refresh their knowledge. Educators may receive CRUs for attending. Participants must attend both sessions on Tuesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 29, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm each day. There is no fee for attending but **registration is required**. For more information or to register, please contact Sarah Brichford at (765)456-2217, or email sarah.brichford@co.howard.in.us. ■

News from the **Cleanup Desk**

Due to the lush vegetation at this time of year it is difficult to spot trash troubles from the creek bank. While you are paddling the Wildcat, please remember to file a section report (even if it's not your section) and keep an eye out for locations that need cleaning. If you encounter something that needs a work group to address, please contact the Guardians leadership or email: wildcatguardians@yahoo.org. The next community cleanup event will be the United Way Day of Caring in Kokomo usually held in early September. ■

25th Annual Paddlers Rendezvous

August 6-7-8, 2010

The Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous on Wildcat Creek is less than 6 weeks away. This article should provide all the info you need to make plans and mark your calendar. Make plans to attend the IPR, and enjoy a full weekend of Paddling on Wildcat Creek. The IPR has proven to be one of the overall best Paddling events in Indiana. If you've never attended, rest assured it is worth your time. Come prepared to enjoy one of the nicest small streams in Indiana, to relax with old Paddling buddies, and to make new friends.

Muskrat (aka Garry Hill) will again return to the post of IPR Trip Leader. Volunteers are needed to help with several tasks. If you can volunteer or have questions please contact Garry Hill (email: garryhill@aol.com, H 765-628-3155, C 765-432-6782)

Here is a basic timetable for the IPR. The dates are August 6-7-8 for 2010. Directions to all locations are provided below. **Whenever and where ever you arrive at the IPR, please proceed directly to the Registration Table.**

FRIDAY August 6th:

The first activity of the weekend will be a Trip on Wildcat Creek Friday afternoon; Starting Time is 3:00 PM at Wildcat Park (directions below). Stretch to paddle will be announced at that time, and the Shuttle will begin immediately thereafter; please arrive early.

There will be a **BYO Campfire Cookout** at Wildcat Park following this cruise. The **IPR Paddler's Campsite** will be available at Wildcat Park for both Friday and Saturday nights, thanks to special arrangement with the Tippecanoe County Parks Dept.

SATURDAY August 7th:

Saturday's Creek Trip will begin at Knop Lake Public Fishing Area (directions below). This will cover 13.6-miles and end at Wildcat Park. There will be an alternate Takeout for a 9-mile Trip. Lunch on The Gravelbar is BYO. Shuttle Departure Time is 9:00 AM from Knop Lake. **You should plan to arrive at Knop Lake absolutely no later than 8:30** (8 AM would be better; it really gets crowded with all the people arriving).

Saturday's Traditional **Chili Supper** will begin serving at 6 PM (maybe 7) at the Paddler's Campsite in Wildcat Park (directions below). **Please make reservations at garryhill@aol.com.** Chili Supper Reservations are the only advance notice you are asked to provide. The Wildcat Guardians Annual Benefit Auction will be held immediately after Supper.

SUNDAY August 8th:

Sunday's Creek Trip will meet at Wildcat Park (directions below). Shuttle departure is 9:00 AM sharp. Please arrive early. The Gravelbar Lunch is BYO. This Trip varies from year to year, but usually covers the 9-miles from Wildcat Park to the Wabash River. Launch and Takeout locations will be announced to everyone who arrives at Wildcat Park in time for Shuttle Departure at 9:00 AM Sunday morning.

Need directions to the Rendezvous? Visit the www.wildcatguardians.org

Odds and Ends

Important Dates to Remember:



2010 Meetings
3rd Monday of every month

CALENDAR

July 19: Monthly meeting

August 6, 7 & 8, Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous

August 16: Monthly meeting

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,
via email, or hardcopy.

Contact us:

Email: wildcatguardians@yahoo.org Web site: www.wildcatguardians.org

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

Monthly Meetings at:

Treece's II Restaurant in Burlington, Indiana

5:30 pm - dining and social

6:30 pm - meeting begins

In the Flow

Wildcat Creek: Community Treasure is the title of a new DVD by the Wildcat Guardians. The DVD was made possible by a community initiative grant from Delphi and Toyota and additional financial support from the Wildcat Creek Foundation. Scott Schroeder of West Lafayette, Indiana, produced the DVD. Scott teaches video production at Purdue University and does freelance work.

The main concept for the video was to help viewers “fall in love” with Wildcat Creek. There are many scenes of paddling, fishing and wildlife. The narration also touches on some of the problems affecting the creek and what is being done to help. At 22 minutes long, we hope the DVD is a great tool for high school teachers to introduce topics in biology and environmental science, and, more importantly, get their students to relate classroom learning with local resource issues. A copy of the DVD will be distributed free to every high school and public library in the Wildcat watershed.

The DVD will be available to the public in August. The Guardians request a donation to cover the expense of copying and distributing. Watch the Guardian website for an announcement of availability.

Wildcat Guardians

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