

The Guardian Gazette

Newsletter of the Wildcat Guardians
Dedicated to the Health & Beauty of Wildcat Creek
July-August 2009

President's Press

Greetings from the Wildcat Creek!

My comments will be brief this month as I was vacationing in Wisconsin (they are really working hard to keep their rivers clean in that state) the past couple weeks and I have not caught up with all the Guardian news yet.

I do know that the Celebrate the Wildcat was smoothly run with a big thank you to all those who supported this joint effort with the Foundation to publicize our beloved Wildcat. We had a good support from our Guardians membership and especially appreciated the help of those who are not always able to regularly attend the monthly meetings. Thank you one and all for all things great and small, with a special thank you to the Scharer family for use of their property.

The Guardians also had a presence at the annual Delphi Corporation celebration/picnic on the day before the Celebrate the Wildcat. If you see Mary Rowe, please thank her for putting in back-to-back full days assisting at both of these events.

Filming has commenced on the DVD project! Inquiries are being made and appropriate parties contacted as the Public Access Committee

continues to pursue the targeted locations in Howard County (Continental Steel dam, 440 West bridge, and reservoir spillway).

Membership dues continue to arrive in the mail. Thank you!

Hopefully a date will soon be set and posted to our website for a low water, canoe based cleanup of the Wildcat Creek. I know my section (and others) can use some attention.

The IDNR has approved the permit to remove the Continental Steel dam in Kokomo. The work order is in the City Engineer's office awaiting scheduling.

The biggest item on our current agenda is the upcoming Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous. Plans have already been made and volunteers enlisted. We will use this occasion to honor the memory and passing of Chuck Weiss. Please plan now to attend this family friendly event!

Get involved!

David Inskip

News from the **Wildcat Creek Foundation**

Celebrate the Wildcat 2009

Ken Munro estimates that 250 people attended this year's Celebrate the Wildcat on June 6 at Adams Mill. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful event! About 20 Guardians helped with the canoe rides and although numbers were down a bit we were busy helping about 135 people discover the Wildcat. Special thanks to Ken who did a fantastic job coordinating the canoe ride event! ■

Adams Mill Summer Hours

Looking for a nice place to take out of town guests? Visit Adams Mill and the Oxbow Natural Area near Cutler. Adam's Mill is open for tours on Friday's and weekends from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information visit www.adamsmill.org. ■

News from the **Creek Bank**

Adopt-A-River

By Bob Hoshaw, Vice President

May 2009. A great month for visiting the Wildcat. Wild flowers in bloom; Trees budding; Creek with a good flow and running almost clear; Fish biting; What could be better. I wish I could report that all sections were visited by their section coordinators, by I cannot. Only 4 section visits were recorded, Sections 16, 21, 26, and 33.

These section reports all indicate a little trash here and a little trash there, but with the exception of section 26, the litter problem remains normal. No major clean up issues, just the same old problems with fast food wrappers, cans and bottles, etc.

Section 26, just east of the Dixon Road Bridge, is a mess. It was the location of an old landfill and every high water event results in many large and heavy items washing out and falling into the creek. The bank has been recently scraped bare and there may be a layer of stones placed over the exposed bank. This "fix" may slow down the problem for a little while, but in my mind will not last very long or look pleasing, in fact it may just relocate the erosion problem. There is no easy answer to some of man's past mistakes.

I would like to hear from all of our section coordinators. Just visit your section and take ten minutes to make a report. It's easy. Just go to our website and fill in the blanks and press send. Even I can do it. [Editor's note: You can also mail a report to the Guardian P.O. box, or call Bob with your report.]

“Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth, Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself” Chief Seattle

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Guardians Sweep Canoe/Kayak Races

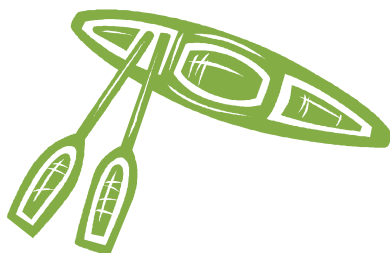
By Neil Laymon

From the Editor: A tandem of Guardian pairs (Neil Laymon and son, and Mary Rowe and son) swept the canoe and kayak events at the Haynes Apperson Sports Festival held June 27 in downtown Kokomo. Congratulations to all! Neil Laymon wrote the following account of the race.

By starting in town at the foot bridge in Foster Park, part of the Haynes Apperson race's goal was to offer some entertainment for a crowd. And a handful of people did show up to watch. We first did a sprint up and around the Washington street bridge and back to the foot bridge. Then after a few minutes rest we raced downstream to the Malfalfa bridge. This included a mandatory portage at the Continental Dam. It's a 3 mile course which is a reasonable length for a recreational class race. The USCA marathon crew tend to like longer events.

Most Wildcat paddlers will recognize this section as having some of the best rapids on the creek. It's an interesting course for a race but it is water dependent. At high levels it could be a problem for novices and at low levels it can be a walk. So it's a risky course. There were Wildcat paddles at the Dam and at the Ledge just above the take out for safety. With more boats in the race and the difficulty of the course, I think safety boats are needed.

Unfortunately the Web site for the sporting events for the festival just listed the event and organizer but for the date and time they had TBD. The paper had a good write up for the race but ran it the day of the event. Both combined for a small turn out. You had to go out of your way to get info for the race. I think with more press earlier they might be able to drum up some more local interest. It would be great fun to have a large turnout. I have raced years ago at the 3 Rivers Festival in Fort Wayne with 50 boats and it was a blast. ▪



24th Annual Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous July 31 - August 1-2

[From email notices provided by Garry Hill (aka Muskrat)]

[Editor's Note: This year's IPR coordinator is Garry Hill. His contact information is as follows:

Email: garryhill@aol.com Phone: (Home) 765-628-3155 (Cell) 765-432-6782

Most of the information about the IPR is included here. You may also watch the Wildcat Guardian web page for IPR information or contact Garry directly.]

The Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous on Wildcat Creek is only four weeks away! 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.

Here is a basic timetable for the IPR, just in case you receive no further information. The dates are July 31-August 1-2, for 2009. Directions to all locations will be provided in a Newsletter about a week before the event.

Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expeditions will host a Trip on Wildcat Creek Friday afternoon; meeting time is 3:00 PM at Wildcat Park. Stretch to paddle will be decided at that time. There will be a BYO campfire cookout following this cruise. Camping will be available at Wildcat Park [near Lafayette] for Friday and Saturday nights by special arrangement with the Tippecanoe County Parks Dept.

Saturday's Creek Trip will begin at Knop Lake Public Fishing Area. This will cover 13.6-miles and end at Wildcat Park. 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 Chili Supper will begin serving at 6 PM (maybe 7). Please make reservations at garryhill@aol.com. The Wildcat Guardians Benefit auction will start after Supper.

Sunday's Creek Trip will meet at Wildcat Park. Shuttle departure is 9:00 AM sharp. Lunch is BYO. The IPR Sunday Trip will be radically different from years past. This Trip is being designed as a "**Chuck Weis Memorial Cruise**". Launch and Takeout locations will be announced to everyone who arrives in time for Shuttle Departure at 9:00 AM Sunday morning. ■

Good Times on the Wildcat!



Important Dates to Remember:



Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous
July 31, August 1, 2
Wildcat Park near Lafayette, Indiana

The Guardian Gazette

2009 Publication Schedule

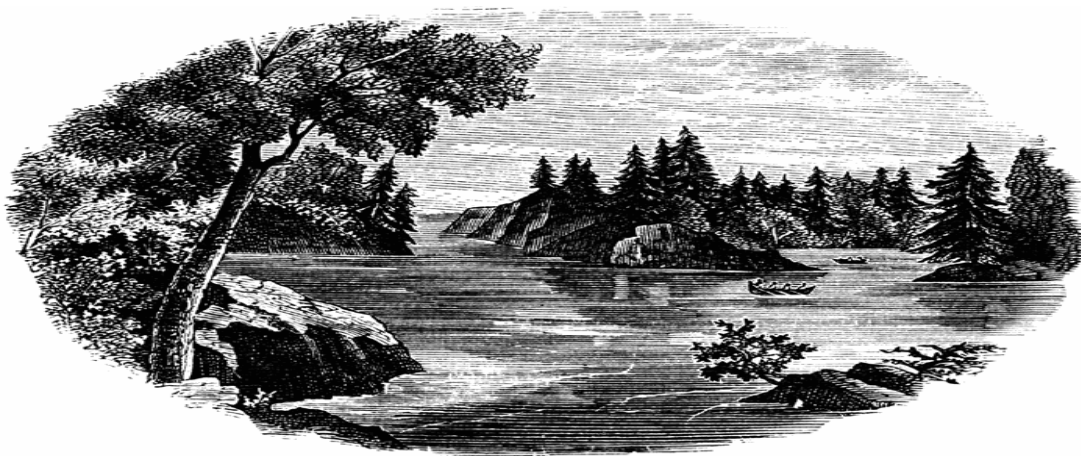
September 1

November 1

The Gazette is available online at
www.wildcatguardians.org,
via email, or hardcopy.

Please submit articles, announcements,
news items, comments, to:
wildcatguardians@yahoo.com

**Deadline for September issue is
August 25 !**



Contact us:

Email: wildcatguardians@yahoo.org

Web site: www.wildcatguardians.org

Next meeting:

July 20 at Treece's II Restaurant in Burlington, Indiana
5:30 pm - dining and social
6:30 pm - meeting begins

In the Flow

Note the common item we often find in the water or on the bank. Here is some useful information for your next conversation with friends and family. Throw some trash trivia their way!

TRASH FACTS: THE LIFE OF LITTER

Apple Core.....2 months	Tin Can.....80-100 years
Cigarette Butt..... 1-5 years	Aluminum Can..200-500 years
Plastic Bag..... 10-20 years	6-pack Ring.....450 years
Disp. Diaper.....10-20 years	Plastic Bottle....1000 years
Leather Boot.....50 years	Glass Bottle... ..1 million years

Source: American Rivers Association

Wildcat Guardians

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