

# OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>McDonald Farm CE</i>	3
<i>Board Members</i>	3
<i>Hiking AINA &amp; JSNP</i>	4
<i>About OLC</i>	4
<i>Exciting Time for OCW</i>	5
<i>Map &amp; Membership Form</i>	6

Ouabache Land Conservancy  
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Phone: 765-548-4007

Information about OLC can be  
found on our website at  
[ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://ouabachelandconservancy.org)  
and Facebook



### Mission Statement:

The Ouabache Land Conservancy protects, preserves and restores land in west central Indiana to provide habitat for wildlife, maintain natural scenic beauty, improve water and air quality, while enhancing the quality of life in our communities for future generations.

## 7TH ANNUAL OLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The Ouabache Land Conservancy welcomes **Indiana Division of Nature Preserves Director, John Bacone**, as the guest speaker for our 7th annual meeting on April 7, 2017. John has led the IDNP since 1980 to permanently protect over 50,000 acres of natural areas in 274 dedicated State Nature Preserves. John will look back at the groundbreaking book, *Natural Areas in Indiana and Their Preservation* by Alton Lindsey. After its publication in 1969, this book became the guide for much of the ensuing land protection in Indiana. John will discuss many of these land

preservation efforts and the people who made them possible. Please join us at the Fowler Park Log Barn (south of Terre Haute), for food (catering by FiFi's Lunch Box), fellowship, and John's talk of the history of Indiana land protection and insights into protecting land for future generations in Indiana. Social hour with a silent auction begins at 6 pm, with dinner at 7:00. This event is open to the public (with minimum paid 2017 OLC membership donation of \$25 per couple). Seating is limited; please RSVP to Evan Boyer at [e.boyer13@yahoo.com](mailto:e.boyer13@yahoo.com).

### In a Nutshell:

**Date:** April 7, 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 Social Hour  
& Silent Auction  
7:00 Dinner  
**Location:** Fowler Park Log Barn  
3000 E Oregon Church Rd  
Terre Haute, IN 47802  
**Price:** Members: \$25 per person  
Nonmembers: \$50 includes  
membership (plus \$25 per  
additional guest)  
**RSVP:** [e.boyer13@yahoo.com](mailto:e.boyer13@yahoo.com)

## 2016 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 6th Annual OLC Member Meeting
- TNC Otter Creek Watershed Grant
- Spring Wildflower Hike at Atherton Island Natural Area
- Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant Approval
- OLC Field Day at Froede Woods
- Invasive Species Control Days at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve
- Indiana Master Naturalist Class
- Tour of Forest Park on the Banks of Otter Creek
- Fall Foliage Hike at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve

## PROTECTED PROPERTIES

### Fee Simple:

Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve  
(Vigo Co) - 15 acres

Atherton Island Natural Area  
(Parke Co) - 28 acres

### Conservation Easement:

McDonald Farm  
(Vigo Co) - 371 acres

Haymaker Farm  
(Putnam Co) - 161 acres

Reynolds Property  
(Vigo Co) - 15 acres

Osburn Cliffs  
(Sullivan Co) - 38 acres

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As we look back and celebrate another great year for Ouabache Land Conservancy that is leading to a better quality of life in our little part of the world, it could not be done without all of us working together!

OLC was very active in 2016. First off, we are very excited that we have been approved for an Indiana Department of Environmental Management Section 319 Watershed Improvement Grant and a TNC grant to write a Water Quality Management Plan for the Otter Creek Watershed (for details see pg. 5). To jump-start this effort OLC had its first Field Day for Otter Creek Watershed stakeholders in August. Thanks go to the presenters: Adam Grossman (OLC), Josh Brosmer (IDEM), Courtney Natt (ISU). Brendan Kearns (OLC), Dr. John Whitaker (OLC), Jerimiah Lemmons (IDNR); and to Evan Boyer (OLC) for organizing this event! In addition, thanks to our sponsors: Sycamore Trails RC&D; Vigo, Clay, and Parke County SWCDs; The Nature Conservancy; Alcola Foundation; and Baesler's Market. Thanks to all of you we were able to start getting the word out about this much anticipated project to many new stakeholders in the Otter Creek Watershed. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and our other 319 Grant partnerships (see last year's newsletter for a complete list) to improve Otter Creek's water quality.

Next, OLC was also able to get an additional 123 acres of the McDonald Farm in a Conservation Easement. Thanks to Jim McDonald and Hansford Mann for getting this done (see pg. 3)!

Some of my favorite activities were the Spring Wildflower and Fall Foliage Hikes at our properties (see pg. 4). It was so awesome to see families coming to enjoy the great outdoors. I was thrilled to see children running through the woods and prairie, while learning about the environment; isn't that what OLC is all about!! Please visit the OLC Facebook page to see some great photos of these hikes.

We are also very excited that we have four new Directors. Dr. Susan Berta, ISU Associate Professor, who steps up from the Advisory Board to continue to help us with her mapping skills. Dr. Dennis Tarasi, St. Mary - of - the - Woods College Assistant Professor of Ecology, who has already been very active with projects at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve and more. Lisa Baer, Author and Educator, has jumped in with both feet having been our Secretary for most of 2016. Thomas Baer (Lisa's husband) is a Wabash River enthusiast (check out his Wabashiki Inc. Facebook page), and has been involved in Board meetings and helping with invasive species control projects already. Welcome ALL (see photo on page 3)!! So many people to thank and so little space to do it, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT HELP OLC PRESERVE LAND!!

Lastly please consider making a tax deductible donation to OLC. There are at least 3 ways you can do this now: 1) There is a membership form on page 6 of this newsletter, 2) there is a pre-addressed envelope enclosed in this newsletter (if you are receiving it by snail mail), 3) Donate online via our website at <http://www.ouabachelandconservancy.org> . Also, you can donate to OLC when you shop AmazonSmile.

Thanks for your continued support!

Phil Cox

OLC would like to thank these non-board members for their support in 2016!

- |                     |                     |                         |                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sallie Cox          | John Bacone         | Dorothy Goodwin         | Mike & Amy Fisher     |
| Gus Nyberg          | Jim & Linda Brown   | Bob & Joanne Haymaker   | Pat Goodwin           |
| Tom Zeller          | Jean Testa          | Joy O'Keefe             | Joan Osburn           |
| Greg & Clare Oskay  | Cliff & Dixie Kunze | Anna White              | Sisters of Providence |
| Dan & Cheri Bradley | Jim & Joy Nardi     | Kristine O'Hare         | David & Joan Voltmer  |
| Chris Tierney       | John Kite           | Mark & Sherri Southwick | Leo & Irma Zambenini  |
| Lucas McDonald      | Lee & Pat Casebere  |                         |                       |

Current or New Members!

It's that time of year again: please fill out the renewal form on the back page!

McDonald Farm Conservation Easement



Ouabache Land Conservancy is honored to announce that as of December 14, 2016 a Conservation Easement (CE) consisting of a 122.96 acre parcel of property located in Fayette Township, West Terre Haute, Indiana has been accepted. This Conservation Easement is an addition to the 248 acre property, owned by James McDonald and family, on which OLC currently holds a CE. The property will be given the same consideration that the existing contiguous 248 has in place with woodlands, wetlands, wildlife food plots, and natural habitat all protected. This now is a nice large block of 371 acres of property protected from development. Our great appreciation goes out to the McDonald Family for allowing OLC to hold this CE for future generations!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2017

	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>		<u>Advisory Board</u>
Phil Cox	President	2017	Bill Mitchell	Dave Burns
Hansford Mann	VP of Acquisition & Stewardship	2019	Mary Beth Eberwein	Dan Griggs
Evan Boyer	VP of Programs & Development	2017	Ted Harris	Robert Jean
Lisa Baer	Secretary	2019	Carissa Lovett	Gerald McGlone
George Bakken	Treasurer	2018	Mike Moloney	Karen Moffett
Thomas Baer	Director	2019	Raoul Moore	Fred Nation
Susan Berta	Director	2019	Marshall Parks	Patrick Ralston
Adam Grossman	Director	2017	Keith Ruble	Jane Santucci
Marion Jackson	Director	2019	Peter Scott	Jim Sullivan
Marty Jones	Director	2018	Gerald "Bud" Sharp	Jim Speer
Brendan Kearns	Director	2018	Amber Slaughterbeck	T. J. Hellmann
Larry Owen	Director	2019	Jeff Fisher	
Dennis Tarasi	Director	2019		
John Whitaker Jr.	Director	2017		
				<u>Honorary Advisory Board</u>
				Jim McDonald



Check out our website at [ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://ouabachelandconservancy.org) or visit us on Facebook!

OLC welcomes newly elected Board members attending the December 6th monthly meeting at the Markle House, (l to r) Dennis Tarasi, Susan Berta, Thomas Baer, and Lisa Baer.

Meetings are regularly scheduled the 1st Tuesday of most every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Markle House, 4900 Mill Dam Rd., N. Terre Haute (across from Markle Mill Park).

Photo by Marty Jones

HIKING ATHERTON ISLAND NA & JACKSON-SCHNYDER NP



This Prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*) was found during the Spring Wildflower Hike, led by Dr. Jim Nardi, at Atherton Island Natural Area and the adjoining Nardi property on April 24.

Look closely and notice that this trillium has four leaves and petals, unlike most trilliums that have only three of each.

Isn't nature amazing!!!

Photo by Amber Slaughterbeck

On October 22nd more than 30 adults and kids enjoyed a beautiful afternoon during the annual OLC Fall Foliage Hike at Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve The hike through the woods and prairie was led by Dr. Rob Jean. To find out more about Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve and other State dedicated nature preserves, visit the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves website at [www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/4698.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/4698.htm) .



Photo by Amber Slaughterbeck

ABOUT OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

The Ouabache (pronounced Wabash) Land Conservancy was founded in 2007 as a land trust and was awarded non-profit 501(c)3 status in 2010. There are currently about 1,700 land trusts in the United States, with more than 20 in the state of Indiana. The function of most land trusts is to protect natural lands and farmlands from development. Some land trusts also focus on historic sites. For more information about land trusts visit [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org) . OLC serves west central Indiana, concentrating in Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo Counties.

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Anyone can become a member and supporter of OLC and we welcome all! We invite anyone who has an interest in preserving natural lands for future generations to attend our meetings. Please see membership form on back page or donate online.

We need your help to preserve our natural lands!

OLC's board meetings are open to its general membership and to the public. They are held at 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Markle House, 4900 Mill Dam Road across from Markle Mill Park in N. Terre Haute.

Ouabache Land Conservancy especially needs people whose love for nature would motivate them to serve on our board or on a committee. We can use individuals with naturalist knowledge, financial and real estate skills, website or newsletter experience, connections to other organizations for outreach events, and many other areas, including enthusiasm to help where needed most. Come join us!

## An Exciting Time for the Otter Creek Watershed

by Adam Grossman

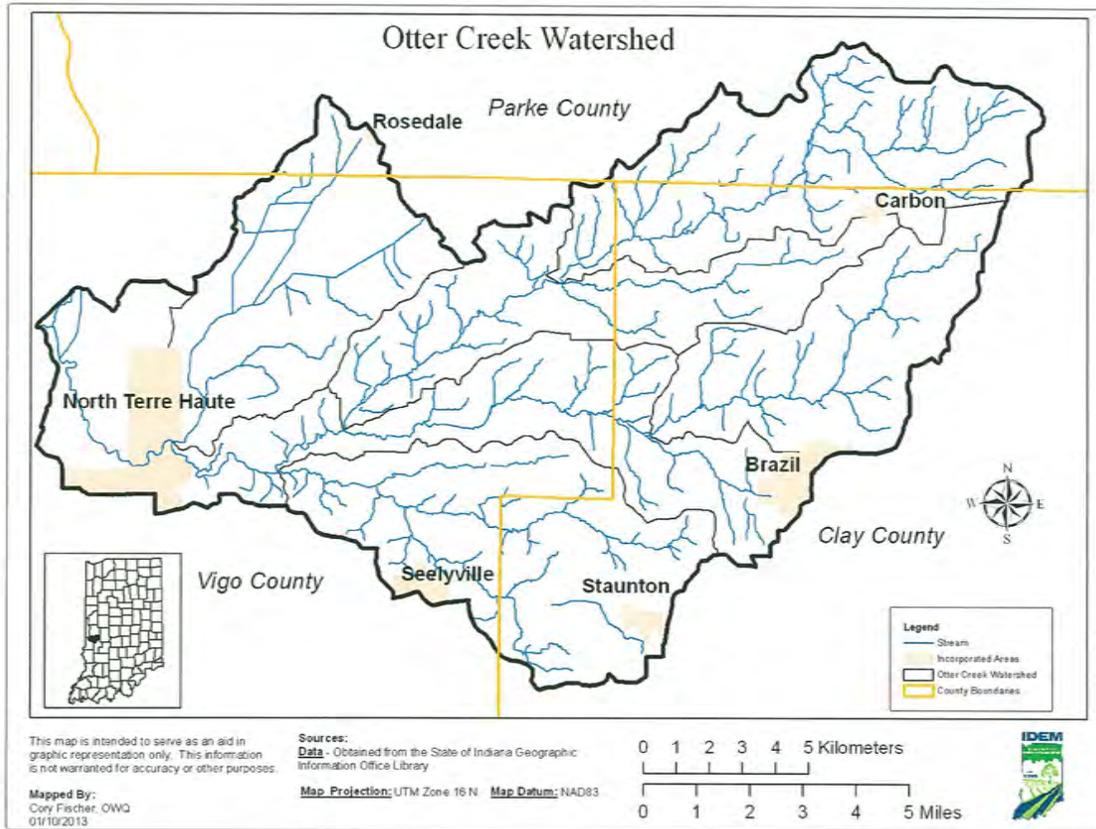
The Ouabache Land Conservancy has dedicated much time and effort toward the improvement of water quality in the area it serves. Within the heart of this area is the Otter Creek Watershed. This watershed drains approximately 124 square miles, and covers parts of Clay, Vigo, and Parke counties (map on pg. 6). Almost the entire watershed stream segments are impaired and on the state's 303(d) list. Testing has already begun in this watershed. In 2009, IDEM performed sampling at many sites through the area to gain a baseline. Indiana State University partnered with us to extend that data gathering for an additional year. This extension was made possible through The Nature Conservancy and the Alcoa Foundation.

In 2015 the OLC started writing for what is called a 319-Watershed Improvement Grant totaling almost \$200,000. This grant is strictly a VOLUNTARY program, with no new regulations put upon anyone. It is a chance given to communities to improve water quality at the local level, with programs that make sense for our landowners that they want and will participate in. The 319 grant is a two phase grant to address water quality concerns in the Otter Creek Watershed. Step one is to write a Water Quality Management Plan. This will require the continued dedication from OLC, plus a contracted position that will be the Watershed Coordinator for the grant. This person, under direction of the OLC Board, will be responsible for writing the plan directed by a steering committee. This steering committee is made up of local landowners, stakeholders, and anyone with the knowledge to help direct our efforts. At times through this cycle, the committee will meet monthly in order to steer the grant in the right direction. After our plan is written approximately 2 years after hire and tailored to fit our community and our needs, we will apply for implementation funds to apply these best management practices. This means that local land owners will receive cost share funds to put into practice what is identified in the written plan. Possible best management practices include: buffer strips, cover crops, alternative watering sources, and many more.

The new Coordinator will hit the ground running, and will be setting an informational meeting with the public, as well as sending out media releases letting everyone know the grant is officially starting in the early part of 2017. It is at that point we need the community to come to these meetings, offer opinions and ideas, and guide this plan.

We will be asking very soon for applications to fill our Watershed Coordinator position, and we will also be asking for your help. This grant will only be successful if we all work together to come up with a great plan that works. We as a community need to show our excitement, and our desire for this grant to succeed. We need people to sign up to be on our steering committee so that we are a diverse committee and all needs are met. We expect to call on you early next year to help us with this grant, and help us improve our waters, not only for us, but our downstream neighbors.





**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017**

Yes! I want to become a member (or renew) of Ouabache Land Conservancy to help with its important conservation work! I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    \$2,500    \$5,000   Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member    Membership Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive newsletters & written communications via email \_\_\_\_\_ or hard copy via US Postal Service \_\_\_\_\_?

*Please make checks payable to "Ouabache Land Conservancy."*

Mail to: Ouabache Land Conservancy  
 c/o George Bakken  
 P.O. Box 10993  
 Terre Haute, IN 47801-0993

