

# OUABACHE NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

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## 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 quality, and secure the means to produce food and fiber for future generations.

**Ouabache Land Conservancy**  
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Information about OLC can be found on the Sycamore Trails RC&D website at [www.sycamoretrails.org](http://www.sycamoretrails.org)

## HISTORY OF OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

In 2006, a committee of the Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA), an informal association of our state's land trusts, began a review of land trust service areas. ILPA's committee discovered that many counties in Indiana were not covered. Actions were undertaken to remedy this situation, including expansions in the service areas of several established land trusts. The greater Terre Haute region was in part served by a land trust committee of the Greencastle-based Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council. However, Sycamore Trails hoped to eventually pass its operations to a stand-alone land trust. Beginning with a meeting at Hansford Mann's house in July, 2007, representatives of both groups worked to attract people to the benefits of forming a new organization.

A new Indiana land trust was essentially born in Terre Haute on September 4, 2007 in a meeting at the Market Bella Rosa delicatessen. Marion T. Jackson, Professor Emeritus of Indiana State University suggested using the French spelling of the Native American name for Wabash, or Ouabache. The trust is called the "Ouabache Land Conservancy." Present at the first meeting were:

CILTI (Indianapolis)- Reta Rutledge  
 City of Terre Haute- Wabash River Land Acquisition- Stephanie Gambill

Indiana State University- Diana Hews, Marion Jackson, Peter Scott, Dale Sparks, John Whitaker

NICHES Land Trust, Lafayette- Ted Harris

Red-tail Conservancy- Barry Banks

Rose Hulman- Mike Maloney

Sycamore Land Trust- Christian Freitag

Sycamore Trails RC&D- David Burns, Brian Gilmartin, Hansford Mann, Susan Meadows (USDA), Raoul Moore, and Bud Sharp

Terre Haute Attorneys- James O. McDonald, Gerald H. McGlone

US Fish and Wildlife Service- Forest Clark

Vigo County Residents- Jim Owen, David Ridenour, Josh Zuerner

This led in October, 2007, to the first official board meeting of Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC). Until OLC's tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status can be confirmed, it will operate under the non-profit umbrella of Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Ouabache Land Conservancy will serve the following nine-county region in west central Indiana: Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo.

# OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY PROPERTIES

OLC currently has nine prospective properties that may be protected in the coming months or years. We are interested in reviewing additional prospects at any time. Once we receive our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS, we will accept our first protected property as a legacy from Sycamore Trails RC&D. It is a conservation easement on the beautiful, 250-acre farm of James O. McDonald, located near New Goshen in Vigo County. This farm contains outstanding woods, fields and wetlands and is the home to a vast array of wildlife. Several board members participated in the annual monitoring of its conservation easement on April 13, 2008.



Portions of the McDonald property, pictured above and below.  
Photos courtesy of Sycamore Trails RC&D



OLC anticipates closing on its second property before year-end. This will be a full (“fee”) ownership, resulting from an outright donation. These twenty acres of mature woods are located a short distance west of St. Mary of the Woods College in Vigo County. We’ll have much more to report when the deal is completed!

*“We are interested in reviewing additional prospects (for protection) at any time.”*

## MOSSY POINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

OLC will be negotiating another legacy from Sycamore Trails RC&D. This is a management agreement on Mossy Point Nature Preserve, a 191-acre property on Sugar Creek in Parke County that is owned by the Indianapolis-based Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. Mossy Point is a high-quality, ridge and ravine forest,

containing hemlocks, oaks and hickories. It is part of the Sugar Creek habitat that provides homes to wood thrushes and several species of warblers. STRC&D was a partner with CILTI during Mossy Point’s acquisition.



Overlook onto Sugar Creek  
Photo courtesy Sycamore Trails RC&D

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its inception, OLC's operations were run by a sixteen member board that meets monthly in Terre Haute on the Indiana State University campus. Board members are from Vigo and several other counties. In alphabetical order, the interim, first-year board consisted of Charles Amlaner, Dave Burns, Phil Cox, Ted Harris, Tim Hayes, Marion Jackson, Hansford Mann, James McDonald, Gerald McGlone, Mark Minster, Mike Moloney, Raoul Moore, Bud Sharp, Dale Sparks, Tammy Tintjer, and John Whitaker. Raoul Moore served as first President, Mariah Walton, a senior student at Rose Hulman served as the first Secretary, Mark Minster and Tammy Tintjer as Vice Presidents, and Dave Burns as Treasurer.

The new board and officers were elected on October 14, 2008.

OLC's board meetings are open to its general membership and to the public. They are currently held at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month in Room 205 of Indiana State University's Science Building. Come visit us!

The new (2009) board and officers elected on October 14, 2008, are:

**Board members** (10 elected):

Elected for one year (members of other trusts)

- Dave Burns
- Ted Harris
- Raoul Moore
- Bud Sharp

Elected for two years

- Hansford Mann
- Gerald McGlone
- Marion Jackson

Elected for three years

- Dale Sparks
- Phil Cox
- John Whitaker

**Officers:**

- President: Dale Sparks
- Vice President for Programs: Ted Harris
- Vice President for Development: Phil Cox
- Secretary: needed
- Treasurer: Dave Burns



Do you love  
Indiana's  
forests,  
streams,  
and rural  
countryside?

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## ABOUT OUABACHE LAND CONSERVANCY

The Ouabache (pronounced Wabash) Land Conservancy was founded in 2007 as a land trust. There are currently over 1,700 land trusts in the United States (26 in Indiana). The function of most land trusts is to protect natural lands and farmlands from development. Some land trusts also focus on historic sites.

OLC serves west central Indiana, including Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo Counties.

### WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Anyone can become a general member or supporter of OLC and we welcome all! We need more members and invite all persons to our meetings that have an interest in preserving natural and agricultural lands for future generations.

We currently meet at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday night of each month in Room 205 of the Science Building on the Indiana State University campus in 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 naturalist knowledge, real estate skills, website or newsletter experience, connections to other organizations for outreach events, and many other things, including the enthusiasm to help where needed most.



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## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009

**Yes!** I want to become a member 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Sycamore Trails RC&D with "Ouabache Land Conservancy" on the memo line.*

Mail to: Ouabache Land Conservancy  
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