

# 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)

## JACKSON/SCHNYDER NATURE PRESERVE THE SECOND OLC PROPERTY

The Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC), through Sycamore Trails RC&D Council, has closed on its second property, the Jackson/Schnyder Nature Preserve! This beautiful property was donated to the Conservancy by Marion T. Jackson. It is a short distance west of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and consists of 20 acres, mostly mature woods. During the 1930's, Mr. Julius Schnyder, who had immigrated from Switzerland as a small boy prior to World War I, purchased the tract, which is along Little Sugar Creek in Vigo County. As an adult, Mr. Schnyder worked much of the year in the coal mine owned by St. Mary-of-the-Woods. During summers, Mr. Schnyder worked the four-acre field near the east edge of the property with a large draft horse and horse-drawn tools. They raised various berries, garden vegetables, and other truck crops, and sold their surplus to the college and area residents.

In 1969, the Schnyders sold the property to Marion Jackson, an ecology professor at Indiana State University and, after retirement, at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. He

used the area for research and for teaching field ecology, plant taxonomy, and environmental conservation to numerous students from ISU (36 years) and St. Mary's (4 years).

The forested section is rolling with two deep ravines which harbor intermittent streams. The canopy is about 60 to 90 feet high, and no cut stumps are present, because Marion honored the wishes of the Schnyders that he cut no trees. About 25 species of trees are present, with hickory, oak, ash, and tulip being the most common. Also included is the uncommon Kentucky coffee tree. Spring wildflowers are especially showy, including celandine poppy, nodding trillium, and larkspur.

The primary purpose of the site is for research and teaching at any and all levels, and for field trips for organizations and individuals. Since this is a protected area, timber harvest and hunting are excluded. The former cultivated area will be planted to warm season grasses to provide habitat diversity within the tract.



*Marion Jackson  
 next to one of the  
 beautiful trees in  
 the Jackson/  
 Schnyder Nature  
 Preserve*

# OTHER 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 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



*“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— 2009

## Board Meetings:

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

## Board members (11 elected):

Elected for one year

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

Bill Mitchell

## Officers:

President: Dale Sparks

Vice-President for Programs: Hansford Mann

Vice-President for Development: Phil Cox

Secretary: Bill Mitchell

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 and supporter of OLC and we welcome all! We need more members and invite anyone to attend our meetings who has an interest in preserving natural and agricultural lands for future generations.

We currently meet at 6:30 pm on the first 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 individuals with 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.



Sycamore Trails RC&D Council, Inc.  
1007 Mill Pond Lane, Suite B  
Greencastle, IN 46135-1887

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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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