

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative A not-for-profit organization
and land trust
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<http://www.wolflakeinitiative.org> Working across state boundaries to
enhance Wolf Lake

January 6, 2010

Underground Railroad
Part of Jan. 16 festival

Contact: Michael Boos, 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120

/For Immediate Release/

A talk on the Underground Railroad has become a tradition for the
Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival scheduled for Saturday, January
16.

Dr. Larry McClellan, who is writing a book based on years of research
about the Underground Railroad in the Chicago area, will be this year's
speaker. The Underground Railroad refers to the many routes followed by
slaves escaping from the South to the North in the decades leading up
to the Civil War.

McClellan is a founding member of the Chicago-Calumet Underground
Railroad Effort (C-CURE), former executive director of the South
Metropolitan Regional Leadership Center at Governor's State University,
and a former mayor of University Park (formerly Park Forest South),
Illinois.

He will speak at 10 a.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 2405
Calumet Avenue, Hammond. He will speak again at 2:30 p.m. at the
Southeast Sportsmen Club, 13139 Avenue M, Chicago. There will be no
charge to attend.

Event planners, the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, will meet
at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 7, to prepare further for the festival. The
group will meet again on January 14. Both meetings will be held at the
Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.
This year's event, the 9th annual, will also feature a discussion by
participants about personal memories of Wolf Lake. That takes place at
11 a.m.

Other speakers invited to participate are Rich Ogrentz, Illiana Yacht
Club on ice boating; Jim DeHorn, Openlands Project, on tree
identification and maintenance; Jerry Carter, Southeast Sportsmen's
Club, on fish stocking; Les Marszalek on Native American artifacts,
Cynthia Ogorek on the history of the Little Calumet River, Rod Sellers
on Wolf Lake history, and John Pastirik on ice safety There will be a
display on water safety by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and
information on amphibians and reptiles of the Calumet Region by the
Field Museum of Natural History.

Pastirik will also supervise Sellerski, an ice safety sport developed locally. The event is a competition between student teams on ice safety maneuvers.

Planners anticipate that the Avenue K channel will be sufficiently frozen to allow Sellerski to be held. The event is named for the two who initiated the sport: local historian and photographer Rod Sellers and George Mularski, then Conservation Chair of the Southeast Sportsmen's Club.

Pastirik also will clear a portion of the Avenue K Channel for pick-up hockey and figure skating.

Further information is available at 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120. AWLI is a not-for-profit bi-state organization that seeks to protect and enhance the Wolf Lake watershed. It also sponsors a wetlands festival over Memorial Day Weekend, an active living fair in October, and co-sponsors an art show now on display at Substation 9 Hammond Art Center.

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Note to Editors: Schedule of activities is listed below.

Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake

Schedule of Events-Jan. 16
Environmental Education Center
2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond

Schedule is subject to change. Train commuters are asked to call 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120 days in advance for morning shuttle service from South Shore Station. Outdoor activities will occur, weather permitting.

9 a.m.: Welcome and introduction to exhibits by Bob Victor, president, AWLI

9:05 a.m.: Announcement of poster contest winners by Bob Victor

9:15 a.m.: The Connection of Nature and Art by Susan Nolan and Jim Milkowski

9:45 a.m.: Visits to exhibits and displays:

--Native American Artifacts by Les Marszalek --Calumet Heritage Partnership by Dr. Mark Bouman --Threats to trees by Jim DeHorn, Openlands Project; --Amphibians and Reptiles of the Calumet Region by Alan Resetar of the Field Museum of Natural History

-- History of the Little Calumet River and the Lincoln Highway by Cynthia Ogorek --Wolf Lake History by Rod Sellers of Southeast Chicago Historical Society --Calumet Ecological Resource Center by Mike Siola -

-Water safety by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 10:00 a.m. Cross-country skiing by John Pastirik (Bring your own skis) 10:00 a.m.:

Underground Railroad by Dr. Larry McClellan 10:30 a.m.: Ice Boating at Wolf Lake and demonstration by Rich Ogrentz, Illiana Yacht Club 11:00

a.m.: Discussing memories of Wolf Lake by AWLI

Noon: Lunch break

Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake

Schedule of Events-Jan. 16
Southeast Sportsmen's Club

13139 Avenue M, Chicago

Schedule is subject to change. Train commuters are asked to call 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120 days in advance for afternoon shuttle service from South Shore Station.

Noon: Ice skating/ice hockey, weather permitting, coordinated by John Pastirik, Calumet Ecological Park Association (bring your own skates)

1 p.m.: Welcome by Bob Victor, president, AWLI

1:05 p.m.: Visit to exhibits and displays:

--Native American Artifacts by Les Marszalek --Calumet Heritage Partnership by Dr. Mark Bouman --Threats to trees by Jim DeHorn, Openlands Project; --Amphibians and Reptiles of the Calumet Region by Alan Resetar of the Field Museum of Natural History --History of the Little Calumet River and the Lincoln Highway by Cynthia Ogorek --Wolf Lake History by Rod Sellers of Southeast Chicago Historical Society --Calumet Ecological Resource Center by Mike Siola --Water safety by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1:15 p.m. Fish stocking by Jerry Carter, Southeast Sportsmen's Club

1:30 p.m. Tree identification tour by Jim DeHorn 2:00 p.m. Cross-

country skiing by John Pastirik (Bring your own skis) 2:00 p.m. The

Connection of Nature and Art by Susan Nolan and Jim Milkowski 2:30

p.m.: Underground Railroad by Dr. Larry McClellan, 3:30 p.m.: Ice

safety class, demonstrations and Sellerski competition, weather

permitting, by John Pastirik, CEPA

4 p.m.: Bonfire, coordinated by Mike and Dennis Brennan of Chicago's East Side and Calumet City, IL., respectively.