

Wolf Lake Advocate

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake

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Mission and Purpose: *The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is a bi-state, not-for-profit organization and land trust. It seeks to improve and enhance Wolf Lake and surrounding natural areas in three ways.*

► *As custodian of the Wolf Lake Vision as developed by the Bi-State Gatherings on Wolf Lake of 2000-2001, AWLI pursues its primary goal by implementing the vision.*

► *AWLI promotes Wolf Lake by sponsoring annual festivals, conducting tours and sponsoring other activities.*

► *It advocates for improved policies and practices through its Vision Implementation Task Force. AWLI also convenes Community Meetings on Wolf Lake.*

Governed by a Board of Directors, AWLI is served by a 27-member Advisory Group. The Legacy Foundation manages a bi-state endowment fund for Wolf Lake established by AWLI.

Victor to head AWLI in 09:

Bob Victor will head the bi-state Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) in 2009 as president of its 17-member board of directors.

A resident of Highland, Victor is research manager for the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority. He served as interim president of AWLI in 2008 and has served as a director since the organization's incorporation in 2003.

Other officers elected at AWLI's organization meeting on January 22 were Roy Ortiz of Hammond, vice-president; Dinah Ramirez of Chicago, secretary; Ken Czulno of Chicago, treasurer; and Mary Lu Gregor of Whiting, member-at-large.

Ortiz is a long-time advocate for improvements to Wolf Lake and is a member of the Wolf Lake Conservation Project. He is recipient of Hammond's Volunteer Citizen 2007 award.

Ramirez is executive director of Healthy Southeast Chicago and a registered nurse. She served as AWLI's vice-president in 2008.

Czulno was re-elected treasurer in 2009. He is the finance director of the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

Gregor is the executive director of the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. A former teacher and office manager, she serves as executive

Keeping In The Loop

by Michael Boos, Executive Director

Century later

It was 100 years ago that Daniel Burnham and a group of civic leaders announced their plan for the future of Chicago's lakefront and adjacent areas from Kenosha, Wisconsin to Michigan City, Indiana. Today, we see the results of such a bold and innovative plan:

► regional forest preserves,

► North Michigan Avenue,

► lakefront parks and transportation routes that provide easy public access, and

► Wacker Drive.

Two of AWLI's poster contests, which last year drew the most participation as well as largest number of schools participating, are among hundreds of programs included in the five-month celebration.

The wetlands festival contest precedes the opening of the Burnham

Pavilions at Chicago's Millennium Park. A work commissioned for Symphony and Chorus inspired by the *Plan of Chicago* precedes the poster contest at the 6th annual Active Living Faire.

At a February meeting Centennial Plan partners also learned:

► exhibits about the Burnham Plan and its legacies will be included in dozens of libraries, including one in Chesterton.

► a model of Chicago using cutting-edge technology will be displayed in the lobby of the Santa Fe building, where the 1909 plan was designed,

► neighborhood and suburban museums will present exhibits on water, transportation, art and design,

► other partners will sponsor lectures, tours, symposia, school

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The Advocate

The Advocate is the official newsletter of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative. It is distributed quarterly at no cost to AWLI members and friends. Please send comments to the editor, Patrick Owens, at AWLI@sbcglobal.net.

administrator of the Whiting Robertsdale Community Improvement Corporation.

She and Mike Johnson of Chicago were elected as directors at AWLI's annual membership meeting on January 15. At that meeting, members re-elected Dorothy Spencer of Chicago and James Taylor of Munster to second three-year terms.

Serving as ex officio and voting members are John Pope, city of Chicago; Rebecca Moss, Cook County Forest Preserve District; Keith Carey, Hammond Port Authority; Laura Perna, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Bob Robertson, Indiana Department of Natural Resources; George Van Til, Lake County, IN; and Christina Figueroa, Citizens Financial Bank.

Michael Boos, executive director, serves as a non-voting ex officio member. Dave Dabertin is the final member of the 2009 board.

AWLI's board membership equally represents Illinois and Indiana.

The Power of a Few

Never underestimate the power of a few people to change the world.

Introduce friends to Wolf Lake and surrounds through an attractive gift set of personal stationery.



C. D. Swan
12200 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, IN 46327

Dear Dwight Egret:

Purchase of this personalized stationery helps protect the wildlife habitat of Wolf Lake and surrounds. Printed on recycled gray or gray tint off-white stock or solid ivory stock, the stationery, 5.5 inches by 8.5, comes in sets of 10. Each illustration depicts wildlife that is found within the habitat that comprises the Wolf Lake area. Proceeds support the efforts of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative.

Order from AWLI at **219 933-7149** or **312 220-0120**. A set of 10 copies sells for \$15. Two sets are \$25. Five sets are \$50. Make checks payable to AWLI, PO Box 17080, Chicago, IL 60617.

Yours truly,

C. D. Swan

C. D. Swan

The mute swan is among the treasured inhabitants of Wolf Lake and surrounds.

AWLI: a Burnham Plan Centennial partner in 09:

AWLI members recognize the significance of AWLI's poster contests and now so do the organizers of the Burnham Plan Centennial.

The Burnham Plan 100 group last year selected contests for both the 9th annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water festival on May 23-24 and the Active Living Faire on October 2-3 to be part of this year's celebration. The contests are listed under the Wolf Lake Watershed Meets Daniel Burnham heading on the Web site:

In applying for the designation, AWLI wrote that "Burnham's desire of public access to recreation at no cost is accompanied by a responsibility of the public to help maintain public lands for future generations. These contests suggest that we all have a responsibility to make choices that will shape the way we live for generations and to do so in a bi-state way."

As in past years, the purpose of the contests is to begin instilling in the participants a spirit of stewardship for the lake's watershed.



Poster Contest Winners:

Entries from Hammond's Scott Middle School and Chicago's Matthew Gallistel Branch and St. Francis de Sales High School placed first in their respective age groups in the poster contest at the 8th annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival held Sat., Jan. 17.

Franciso Vitela, a senior at St. Francis, Luna Mireles, a sixth-grader from Scott Middle, and Claudia Rodriguez, a fifth grader at Gallistel were awarded first-place prizes with other winners at 9:05 a.m. Saturday at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. They were among a record 417 students who participated.

The festival, free to the public, was sponsored by AWLI.

Others to receive prizes were second-place winners Claudia Cortez, a freshman at St. Francis, Estefany Salcedo, an 8th grader at Scott Middle, and Stephanie Zandy, a second-grader, at Hammond's Franklin Elementary School.

Placing third was Jorge Guevara, a junior at St. Francis, Meghan Gray, a sixth grader at Hammond's St. John Bosco Paola Muñoz, a seventh-grader at Gallistel, and Lizbeth Raygoza, a kindergarten student at Chicago's Henry Clay School. Meghan and Paola tied.

Winners received awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10, respectively. Winning posters will be displayed at the Wolf Lake Park information kiosk.

Ten entrants received honorable mention. They were Shane Burmistra and Blake Talbert from St. Francis,

Cortney Kielbania and Mike McCue of St. John Bosco; Lucya Mendoza, Ivette Angulo, and Roman Herrera of Gallistel; and George Kyriakakis, Alex Geizar, and Jamison Reyna of Clay.

The posters will be on exhibit at the Environmental Education Center and at the informational kiosk at Wolf Lake Park.

Participating teachers were Lorie Sosa of Gallistel School, Cheryl Maka of St. John Bosco, Carol Kaim, June Robles, Carol Mora, Claudia Polovina and Tom Brady of Henry Clay School, John Pimentel of Scott Middle School, Noel Morales of St. Francis de Sales, and Frances Majchrowicz of Franklin Elementary School.

Judges were Jen Lute of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District and Mary Kuzniar of Hammond's Morton High School.

Cargill Inc. was sponsor of the poster contest

AWLI also will conduct poster competitions later this year at its Wetlands, Wind and Water festival on May 23-24; and its Active Living Faire on October 2-3.

Board meets on Mondays:

In 2009, AWLI directors will meet on the last Mondays of the month. (See agenda for March meeting on Page 6.)

Greening of the Arts Reception and Show

Oct. 24-Jan. 2010

Co-sponsored by AWLI and South Shore Arts at the Environmental Education Center 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond and Substation 9, Hammond Arts Center 435 Fayette Street, Hammond.

Save the Date



Reception to celebrate challenge success:

AWLI has met the \$2500 challenge grant of the Legacy Foundation and will celebrate the success at a wine and cheese reception on Thursday, April 16.

AWLI raised almost half of the amount through canisters displayed by some 27 retail stores and outlets. Owners of those outlets will be honored at the reception.

Business donors Land and Lakes Company, Dri-Rite Company, ZF Lemborder, and American Trust & Savings Bank, and individual donors also are invited to the celebration.

The wine and cheese event will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. A representative from the Legacy Foundation will speak and certificates of appreciation will be presented.

The challenge ends April 15.

Green Summit returns May 9:

AWLI and the Active Transportation Alliance (formerly the Chicago-Land Bicycle Federation) will co-sponsor a bike ride through the Wolf Lake watershed on Saturday, May 9, as part of this year's 10th Ward Green Summit.

Although tentative at this stage, plans call for John Pastirik to lead the ride. From South Chicago riders should arrive at Wolf Lake about 10 a.m. They will then view parts of Eggers Grove, Forsythe Park, and areas in between.

AWLI also will erect passive displays at the two major facilities. Last year they were Villa Guadalupe and The Zone community center.

The final meeting of Summit planners is April 2 at Villa Guadalupe.

This will be the second year of the Summit, sponsored by the Claretians and CSI

Dunes BioBlitz May 15-16:

What some 130 scientists did in 2002 for the Wolf Lake watershed will be applied to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore this spring.

In a 24-hour period on May 15 and May 16, scientists will seek to find and identify as many species as possible. For the Wolf Lake watershed, the number was 2,257. The number increased by several hundred in subsequent months as additional species were identified.

The BioBlitz, co-sponsored by National Geographic and the National Park Service, begins at noon on May 15 following opening ceremonies. The inventory of 15 miles of shoreline and 15,000 acres of dunes, oak savannas, marshes, bogs, prairies, rivers, and forests concludes at noon, May 16.

A BioDiversity Festival follows from 1 to 4 p.m.

AWLI plans to have a display at the event.

Classes, clubs, scout troops and other groups who wish to participate should contact the park at 219 395-1859.

9th Annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water Festival

Festival

Sat.-Sun.

May 23-24, 2009



Paddle canoes, compete in fishing derby, fly kites, view wind surfing demo, learn about critters who hang out at Wolf Lake, learn about Wolf Lake history...and much more.

For info, call **219 933-7149/312 220-0120**

Sponsored by AWLI

Keeping In The Loop by Michael Boos, Executive Director

(Continued from Page 1)

and community-based programs, university classes, and adult education.

The objectives of the celebration is to inspire and educate adults and children about both the Burnham Plan legacy and opportunities to make bold new plans for the region's future, advance enduring physical legacies that complete elements of the Burnham Plan, and initiate bold plans for the next century.

AWLI, as a partner in the celebration, should contemplate how we can improve the Wolf Lake watershed to be consistent with the century-old Burnham Plan. That's what we'll be asking high school students to do in the poster contest.

Greening of the Arts Reception and Show starts Oct. 24:

AWLI and South Shore Arts is sending invitations to artists to exhibit their work at the 4th annual Greening of the Arts Reception and Show from October to January, 2010.

The art show will begin Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, and conclude in January at Substation 9, Hammond Arts Center, 435 Fayette Street, Hammond..

Artists will set up their exhibits at the Environmental Education Center from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 23. The Art Show begins at 10 a.m. the next day. Exhibitors will have a chance to discuss their art at 11 a.m. at an artists' forum.

Lunch for exhibitors will be served at noon. The band, Just for Fun, will play from 5:30-6 p.m at a wine and cheese reception. As in past years, AWLI will have a raffle of crafts and

small gifts.

The Art Show closes at 8 p.m. and reopens at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Its Environmental Education Center portion concludes at 4 p.m.

Artists may remove their work then or beginning at 9 a.m. Monday.

Artists will then bring their works to Substation 9.

The Art Show features artists who use recycled products or who focus on nature and the environment.

AWLI credits NPS:

AWLI credited the National Parks Service for its help a decade ago in a statement submitted to the National Parks Foundation at its Town Meeting on March 4 in Chicago's Cultural Center.

The meeting was held to seek guidance and vision for the National Park System as it approaches its second century in 2016. The regional gathering attracted speakers from throughout the Midwest.

AWLI's statement reads as follows:

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative—AWLI as we call it. AWLI is indebted to the technical assistance provided our budding organization a decade ago by the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. When I say budding, I mean a couple of ideas several of us threw together, but with no clear direction of where to go next.

"During our first two years, Rivers and Trails facilitated the development of a vision which continues to guide us today. We now are a sustainable bi-state conservation organization that works to preserve and enhance the Wolf Lake watershed in Southeast Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

"While we would have been successful without Rivers and Trails, their expertise sped the process. It brought us an enhanced mission and a

vision with the confidence to implement it. It brought us a greater understanding of working through partnerships and stakeholder building, and project credibility at such a crucial time for our success.

"It has been some time since we've asked River and Trails for help, but we know where to find them should we ever need more advice."

Wetlands festival shortened:

The 9th annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind and Water festival on May 23-24 is being shortened this year.

Sunday's Sunrise Service on May 24, with the Sunrise Singers and the Color Guard by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, will mark the end of the festival, instead of the start of day two. Plans for Saturday still call for canoeing and kayaking, fishing clinics, kite flying, and wind surfing instruction, according to AWLI's festival planners, the ***WWW.COM***-mittee.

As in the past, the festival will be free to the public.

Festival planners anticipate that groups collaborating this year will include the Hammond Port Authority, Chicago's 10th Ward Aldermanic Office, Hammond's Department of Parks and Recreation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lake County Solid Waste Management District, Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, American Legion Illiana Post 220, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Chicago Public Library's Hegewisch and Vodak/East Side branches, East Side United Methodist Church, and Boy Scouts of America.

To date, funders of the event include the Dri-Rite Company, Unilever, Inc.; and American Trust and Savings Bank

Calendar:

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed are at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

March 30: 5:30 p.m., AWLI's Governance Committee organizational meeting

March 30: 6:30 p.m., AWLI's Board of Directors Meeting

April 2: 3 p.m., AWLI's Membership Committee

April 2: 4 p.m. AWLI's *WWW.COM*mittee

April 6: 10 a.m., AWLI's Marketing Committee

April 6: 10 a.m., AWLI's Development Sub-Committee

April 16: 4 p.m. AWLI's *WWW.COM*mittee

April 27: 5:30 p.m., AWLI's Governance Committee

April 27: 5:30 p.m. AWLI's Audit Sub-Committee

April 27: 6:30 p.m., AWLI's

Executive Committee

May 4: 10 a.m., AWLI's Marketing Committee

May 4: 10 a.m., AWLI's Development Sub-Committee

May 7: 3 p.m., Membership Committee

May 7: 4 p.m., *WWW.COM*mittee

May 21: 4 p.m., *WWW.COM*mittee

May 23-24: Wolf Lake Bi-state Wetlands, Wind & Water festival, William Powers Conservation Area, Chicago and Wolf Lake Park, Hammond

May 26: 5:30 p.m., AWLI's Governance Committee

May 26: 6:30 p.m., AWLI's Board of Directors Meeting

June 1: 10 a.m., AWLI's Marketing Committee

June 1: 10 a.m., AWLI's Development Sub-Committee

June 4: 3 p.m., AWLI's Membership Committee

June 4: 4 p.m., AWLI's *WWW.COM*mittee debriefing

June 29: 5:30 p.m., AWLI's Governance Committee

June 29: 6:30 p.m., AWLI's Executive Committee

I would like to thank our new board members for coming on-board the 2009 AWLI Board.

Roy Ortiz has helped for many years to improve the area through his many efforts, including debris cleaning with the Boy Scouts and planting countless trees that he has helped grow to be place around Wolf Lake and many other spots around the region.

Mary Lou Gregor is executive director of the Whiting/Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she attended Columbia College and is a playwright. Recently she assisted with a Murder Mystery program during the annual chamber dinner.

Mike Johnson is an State Farm insurance with a degree in ecology from the University of Illinois. His expertise will help AWLI stay focused on the future potential of Wolf Lake.

I would like to thank our other Board Members for their service, support and ideas. The officers of 2009 include Dinah Ramirez, secretary and Ken Czulno, treasurer. Through their efforts, these individuals and their families make this organization well known in both

President's Perspective by Robert A. Victor

Illinois and Indiana for their service and deeds.

Reflecting on the past year at

AWLI, I would like to commend Mike Boos for being a fireball of endless energy. The many events that AWLI has hosted has a tremendous impact on the youth and their families.

Some 417 artists from various schools participated in our art contest for the Winter Festival. There is a multiplier effect of their efforts. Example: one student and his immediate family plus teacher and friends that were told about the contest and about AWLI could total almost 10 people. The effect of the contest could indirectly have touched more than 4000 people. Amazing!

Thanks to all the merchants and stores that let AWLI place canisters. Through their efforts more than \$1000 was raised through Dinah Ramirez' idea for fund raising.

A new day is dawning at Wolf Lake, and it is through efforts of individuals and cities. Let me commend the Mayor of Hammond for helping to highlight Wolf Lake as "Chicago's Other Great Lake" and let us all remember that ecology and economy can work together.

Other upcoming events

March 28: Unity dance by Healthy Southeast Chicago

March 30: Open house by Southeast Environmental Task Force

April 2: Final meeting of 10th Ward Green Summit planners by Claretians Associates and CSI

April 18: Earth day events at Sand Ridge Nature center

April 24-25: Cleanup at Wolf Lake by Wolf Lake Conservation Project

May 16: Cleanup at Oxbow Park, Hammond, by Wolf Lake Conservation Project

June 20: Cleanup of Forsyth Park by Wolf Lake Conservation Project

Magazine highlights Calumet:

The current edition of *Chicago Wilderness* is a special issue entitled "Discovering Calumet."

AWLI members, visitors to our Web site and readers of our membership brochure will recognize the photo of Wolf Lake on page 1. The photo is by Rod Sellers, who took it in advance of one of our early wetland festival sunrise services.

The cover photo is of a Cape May warbler at the Hammond Lakefront Park and Bird Sanctuary. The Wolf Lake watershed is well represented "It is an issue to savor," says Bob Victor, AWLI president..

New AWLI members:

AWLI welcomes as new members: Ed and Julia Michniewicz, the Dri-Rite Company, Patty Fisher, Roy Ortiz, Mike Johnson, Terina Cranshaw, Mary Lu Gregor, and Baetis Environmental Service.

Renewed AWLI members:

Members who have renewed memberships in 2009 are: Southeast Sportsmen's Club, Kevin Murphy, Thomas Florek, John Clarke Jr., Dorothy Spencer Suerth, Dennis Nyberg, Eveline Heesaker, Allen Lindrup, John Hobgood, Ray & Ramona Hernandez, Harbour Point Estates, Joane Curry, Michael Boos, Lake County Fish & Game, Joe Kruczek, Windward Sports, Bonnie Wilford, Mary Kuzniar, Mary Erlenborn, Paul and Beverly Matushek, Steve Rudy, Anne Chicvara, American Trust & Savings, and Centier Bank.

New Intern:

Hannah Valencia, a senior at Hammond's Clark High School, is AWLI's newest intern.

She will be helping us through May.

Agenda for Board meeting:

AWLI members are always welcome to attend meetings by our Board of Directors. The agenda for our next meeting follows:

AWLI Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2009

*Environmental Education Center
2405 Calumet Ave., Hammond*

6:30 p.m.: Opening of meeting by Robert Victor and president's comments

6:35 p.m.: Secretary's report for approval

6:40 p.m.: Treasurer's reports for approval

1. Profit & loss for 2009
2. Projected budget for 2009

6 50 p.m.: Executive Director's report

1. Wolf Lake Advocate
2. CSI met Mar. 16
3. Dunes BioBlitz May 15-16
4. LCEP met Jan. 28
5. Green Summit May 9,

planning meeting April 2

6. HS interns
7. National Parks Foundation Town Hall Meeting met Mar. 4
8. *Chicago Wilderness* edition

7:00 p.m. Wolf Lake Vision Implementation Task Force

1. Update on L.A.R.E. program and discussion of special meeting

2. Updates from Indiana DNR on January's Lake Association meeting, Illinois DNR, Hammond Port Authority project for Marquette Plan, Lake County, Cook County, city of Chicago's plans for Burnham Centennial

3. Update on 134th Street development

7:10 p.m. Marketing/PR Committee & Development Subcommittee

1. April 16 reception with donors to Legacy Challenge grant

3. Update on grant applications to ArcelorMittal Foundation, Citizens Savings Foundation, Prince

Charitable Trusts, DCEO state of Illinois, Chicago Wilderness, Illinois DNR C- 2000 program, Legacy Foundation in May

4. Update on Wolf Lake CAT
7:25 p.m. Governance Committee report

- 1, Audit subcommittee report
2. Bylaws & Guidelines subcommittee report

7:35 p.m. Membership Committee

1. New members
2. Volunteers
3. Art show

7:40 p.m. **WWW.COM**mittee

1. Response to festival solicitations

2. Burnham Centennial Poster contest

3. Preparation for Wetland Festival

4. Preparation for Active Living Faire

7:50 p.m. Communications

7:55 p.m. Old and new Business

8 p.m. Adjourn to 6:30 p.m. **Tuesday, May 26**

Volunteers needed:

Evelyn Heesaker, volunteer coordinator, says AWLI still needs help, "Hannah can't do it all."

Subscription

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