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# 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.

## **Progress for Wolf Lake Thwarted:**

The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is asking residents of Hammond's First District to appeal to the Hammond Port Authority and the Hammond City Council for support of a state grant to improve Wolf Lake.

In 2007, AWLI was awarded a grant of \$67,500 from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Lake and River Enhancement Program to develop a bi-state management plan for the Wolf Lake Watershed. A month later, AWLI learned that the City of Hammond and the Hammond Port Authority objected and IDNR withdrew the grant.

"That surprised us," recalls Bob Victor, president of AWLI, "because the Hammond Port Authority has a representative on AWLI's Board of Directors and he had never opposed or even questioned the application."

Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. supports AWLI's efforts to obtain the L.A.R.E. grant.

"However, we have yet to receive support from Councilman Mark Kalwinski," Victor adds. Kalwinski represents Hammond's First District where Wolf Lake is located. He also is a member of the Hammond Port Authority board.

Besides the mayor, supporters of AWLI's efforts include the Hammond Urban Enterprise Association, the Hammond Parks Foundation, the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program,

## *Keeping In The Loop*

by Michael Boos, Executive Director

### **Turf warriors**

There is no place in the environmental movement for turf warriors. Yet, they exist.

An organization, especially a not-for-profit, is asked early on: What's your reason for being? How are you going to accomplish your mission? When?

To fulfill one's mission, to develop and then stick to one's strategic plan, and then to do all the organizational stuff needed to sustain a group takes energy. No one person has the energy. So, members are recruited to help. Directors are recruited to financially sustain the organization through fundraising and develop policies based on the strategic plan for members to implement.

In this issue a reader learns about AWLI's upcoming Active Living Faire and the Autumn Reception & Art Show. The recent Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water festival is mentioned. Not discussed is the Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake to be held

January 17, 2009. These events require that both members and directors fulfill their different responsibilities to achieve success.

Each of the other not-for-profits in the region has its own mission, strategic plan, and ways to implement it. There is a need for one group to work together with other groups to achieve environmental progress in the region. The recent 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Green Summit is a fine example of this. Although beneficial, this effort also drains energy from each organization.

When an organization does all of this well, there is no energy left to squabble over turf or try to mend wounded egos.

### **Dillon welcomed**

The new director of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Constantine (Costa) Dillon was welcomed in July at a reception at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. He gave a splendid talk on the challenges he faces to preserve the dunes.

### **The Advocate**

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

Wolf Lake Conservation Project, Hammond Boys and Girls Club, Perch America, the Crisis Center, and Lansing, IL Chamber of Commerce.

In 2008 AWLI reapplied for a grant from IDNR's L.A.R.E program and for an equal match from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' C-2000 program. In May AWLI asked that the Hammond Port Authority to rescind its objection.

AWLI was advised that the Board had taken it under consideration, but have not learned if the Board took action on the request. However, AWLI was informed in July that the IDNR grant was denied.

AWLI plans to reapply in 2009 and is appealing to First District residents to contact the Councilman Kalwinski on its behalf.

The primary benefit of a bi-state management plan is that it opens the door to additional state and federal funding for improvements as previous studies have done.

The 90-page Diagnostic-Feasibility Study of Wolf Lake of the mid-1990s made it possible for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop the \$6.7 million shoreline restoration project.

The vision document of 2000-01 provided the impetus for the 2002 bio-blitz and the clean-up of the Calumet Container site in 2005-06.

The development of a bi-state plan requires both the diagnostic and the vision. The management plan, in turn, makes it more likely that funding opportunities would be successfully granted.

### ***BP Donates to AWLI:***

The BP Fabric of America Fund has donated \$250 to the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) for working "to improve people's lives."

AWLI conducts three bi-state festivals, free to the public, each year as part of its mission to enhance the Wolf Lake watershed. One of its festivals, the Active Living Faire, is scheduled for Saturday, October 4.

"Wolf Lake needs the support of many to continue to be attractive to residents in this bi-state region and to visiting tourists," explains Robert Victor, president of AWLI. "BP has played a major role in the local community for more than a century.

"Its current and past support for the Wolf Lake watershed has been part of

its contributions to this bi-state area.."

The contribution was based on the recommendation of Joseph P. Kruczek, a BP employee and a longtime champion of Wolf Lake.

This year AWLI also has received grants and donations from the Legacy Foundation, Citizens Savings Foundation, Hammond Parks Foundation, NIPSCO, P & H Iron and Supply, Inc., Hasse Construction Company, Standard Bank & Trust Co., American Trust & Savings Bank, and Green Fields Trading Company.

### ***Active Living Faire Oct. 4:***

Presentations on healthy aging, family fitness and healthy eating will be featured at the 5th Annual Active Living Faire (ALF) scheduled for Saturday, October 4, at Wolf Lake.

The Faire will be held at Shelter 1, William Powers Conservation Area in the morning and during the afternoon at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

Multicultural Wellness Network, MOTTEP and Healthy Southeast Chicago are groups who are assisting AWLI in planning the event.

As with past events, free health screenings, exercises, educational displays and nature walks are being planned. AWLI will announce winners of its poster contest in the afternoon.

For updated Faire information, call AWLI at 312 220-0129 or 219 933-7149.

### ***Deadline set for poster contest:***

A deadline of Friday, Sept. 12 has been set for participants to apply for the poster contest to be held in conjunction with AWLI's 5th annual Active Living Faire (ALF).

Entrants are asked to depict healthy outdoor activities at Wolf Lake. This contest is open to youngsters in grades K to 4; 5 to 8; high school. Members

**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.*

of scouts, art clubs and other youth organizations are encouraged to submit posters.

Judges will select the winners. The first place winner in each category will receive \$25. The second place winners will each receive \$15, and the third place winners will each receive \$10.

Deadline for submitting entries is Monday, September 22. The awards will be presented at 1 p.m. Sat., Oct. 4, during the Faire.

Winning entries will be exhibited at the Wolf Lake Park kiosk and at the Environmental Education Center.

#### **Poster Rules:**

Format: paper 8 ½ " by 11" in size

Must depict healthy outdoor activities held at Wolf Lake, including stewardship activities that protect plants and wildlife at Wolf Lake

Back of entry must show name of entrant, school, grade and teacher's name.

#### **Autumn Reception Oct. 25:**

Should the hours of the art show be extended at this year's Autumn Reception?

This is among questions planners of

the event will be considering.

Last year the art show began at 5:30 p.m. but artists participating suggested that the show could begin earlier and perhaps extend into Sunday.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Autumn Reception & Art Show begins on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. As in past years, the program will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will honor volunteers and donors who participated in AWLI's events this year.

The reception will feature singer/guitarist Ken Czulno. He performed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind and Water Festival in May. There will be a silent auction and several trash-to-treasure tables.

Works displayed last year were by artist Roman and Maria Villareall of South Chicago, Jerry Whitted of Dyer, IN, Marcella Clutter of Hammond, Howard Mallory of Chicago, Lester Lashley of Chicago, Rebecca Moss of Oak Lawn, IL, and Joyce Parrish of Hammond.

#### **Essay deadlines set:**

High school students wishing to compete in AWLI's essay contest at its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Autumn Reception & Art Show must notify AWLI of their participation by Monday, September 29.

Winners will be announced at the event scheduled for Saturday, October 25, at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

AWLI is sponsoring the competition to promote stewardship at the Wolf Lake watershed. AWLI is sponsoring the competition to promote stewardship at the Wolf Lake watershed. Environmental stewardship means taking care of our natural resources to make sure

they remain viable for current and future generations to enjoy.

Stewardship means that citizens actively participate in the responsible management of the air they breathe, the land they live on and near, and the water they drink. Participants are asked to complete the thought, **A good steward of Wolf Lake would...**

Submissions are due Friday, October 10. Each participating school is asked to submit the best three entries in two divisions: upper class and lower class.

A panel of judges will select the winners. The first place winner will receive \$75. Each second place winners will receive \$50, and third place winners each will receive \$25.

The awards will be presented during the event at the Environmental Education Center.

Winning entries will be exhibited at the Wolf Lake Park kiosk.

#### **Calendar:**

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

**July 24:** 4 p.m., ALF/WWW.-COMmittee

**July 31:** 6:30 p.m., AWLI's Board of Directors Meeting,

**August 14:** 4 p.m., ALF/WWW.-COMmittee

**August 22-23:** AWLI's stand at annual Annunciata Festival

**August 27:** 10 a.m., AWLI's Marketing Committee



### *5<sup>th</sup> Annual* **Active Living Faire** *Sat., Oct. 4*

Activities for the entire family  
birding, walk-a-thon,  
bike the lake, crafts,  
health screenings, nutrition,  
exercises, nature walk,  
poster contest winners.  
picnic lunch  
For info, call **219 933-7149**  
or **312 220-0120**

### *Autumn Reception & Art Show*

**Saturday, Oct. 25**  
Environmental  
Education Center  
2405 Calumet Avenue  
Hammond



*Save the Date*

**August 27:** 1 p.m., AWLI's Development Sub-Committee

**August 27:** 2 p.m., AWLI's Governance Committee

**August 28:** 3 p.m., AWLI's Membership Committee

**August 28:** 4 p.m., ALF/WWW.-COMmittee

**August 28:** 6:30 p.m., AWLI's Executive Committee

**September 11:** 4 p.m., ALF/WWW.-COMmittee

**September 12:** 4:30 p.m., deadline

for entering poster contest at Active Living Faire.

**September 16:** 4:30 p.m., deadline for submitting entries to poster contest at Active Living Faire

**September 29:** 4:30 p.m., deadline for entering essay contest at 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Autumn Reception & Art Show

**October 10:** 4:30, deadline for submitting entries to the essay contest at Autumn Reception & Art Show

**Renewed AWLI members:**

Members who recently renewed memberships for 2008 are: Harbor Point Estates and Pat Owens.

If members cannot remember whether they have updated their membership, call the office and we'll gladly check for you.

**New AWLI members:**

AWLI welcomes the following new members: Shelly Butler, Joan Van Haren, and Roy Ortiz.

**Canister international:**

Financial support for AWLI extends beyond US borders.

Canisters were distributed to some 25 business in May to meet the Legacy Foundation's \$2,500 challenge. The canister at Johnel's restaurant produced a French note which, in today's exchange rate, should be greater than listed on the certificate.

AWLI directors also are making phone calls to corporate leaders to help meet the challenge.

**President's Perspective  
by Robert A. Victor**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and organizations that

contributed to the success of the 2008 AWLI Wetlands, Wind & Water festival on May 24 and 25th on both the Illinois and Indiana sides of Wolf Lake. I would also mention that a record 360 students participated in the Wolf Lake poster contest thanks to the cooperation of their teachers and schools.

It was remarkable to see what positive results the AWLI Wetlands, Wind & Water fest instilled in the youth and adults who participated in the free activities. Personally, I was impressed to see the joy on the faces of children that successfully flew kites for the first time. The children along with their parents or guardians were very thankful for the opportunity to fly the free kites supplied by American Veterans Illiana Post 220 and the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman.

They discovered a new activity that they can share for years to come.

A father asked, "what is this organization all about". Mike Boos said it best, "It's about maintaining Wolf Lake for future generations to enjoy and learn about nature." The four- year old daughter took her kite

and launched it high on a beautiful spring day. That was a classic moment that is in

part what AWLI is all about.

In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers was on hand to discuss the Wolf Lake shore restoration project and hand out packets for the kids. The Hammond Port Authority cordially sponsored canoe rides that gave many individuals a new perspective of the lake.

There were many speakers at the Hammond Environmental Center who talked about everything from native plantings for a home garden to what is happening environmentally. Hopefully, we will see you there next year.

**L.A.R.E. GRANT**

(Lake & River Enhancement)  
AWLI has been hoping for the support by various government organizations with the acquisition of the \$67,000 L.A.R.E. Grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The grant would greatly benefit the future of Wolf Lake at no cost to local taxpayers. The InDNR was forced to withdraw the grant money for this year because of objections from certain organizations. Hammond's mayor and many local organizations support it.

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