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Wolf Lake Advocate

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake

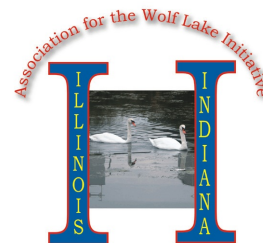
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Mission and Purpose: *The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is a bi-state, not-for-profit organization and land trust. It seeks to improve and enhance Wolf Lake and surrounding natural areas in three ways.*

► *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.

Membership to gather Jan. 17:

AWLI members will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 17, for their annual meeting at AWLI headquarters, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

The business portion begins at 7:30 p.m. following the social hour. Members will gather to elect board members and vote on changes to AWLI's bylaws and guidelines.

There will be door prizes as in past years. New this year, participants will be able to submit bids for items in a silent auction. Such items include an evening at the Raddison Motel in Merrillville, IN, and a popular hand chairs.

Board members up for re-election are James Keating, Zaki L. Zaki, and Bob Victor.

To vote, members must have paid their dues for 2008.

Cook not to seek re-election as president:

Bob Victor, chair of AWLI's nominating committee,

is asking AWLI members to recommend individuals for board director. They are asked to send names to AWLI@sbcglobal.net or to victor.robert@excite.com.

Victor reports that Linda Cook has informed the nominating committee that she does not wish to continue as president next year. Also, she is not seeking re-election as director in 2008.

"I would like to personally thank Linda Cook for her untiring efforts and many

Keeping In The Loop
by Michael Boos, Executive Director

It is not that easy to make large enough waves at Wolf Lake for others in the area to take note.

But AWLI and other groups have done that this year on several recent occasions. On Nov. 1, Barbara Brotman of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote her Outdoor Column on a tour of Wolf Lake.

The November 30 restocking of Wolf Lake of Walleye by Perch America was written about by the *Chicago Sun-Times* Dale Bowman and by Jay Shefsky of *WTTW-TV*, the PBS station in Chicago.

For those groups who work to improve Wolf Lake, it is satisfying to know that others are introduced to the lake and its water-shed.

That makes it easier for us to talk about the virtues the place. It makes it easier to raise money and to receive

grants from private foundations and government agencies. Although it did not seem to help with the grants this year, it should help with next year's efforts. At least, that the hope.

One of the better articles written from earlier in the year was the interview with Jim Taylor and daughter Peyton at the 7th Annual Wetlands, Wind & Water festival over Memorial Day Weekend. The article was accompanied by a photograph of canoeists, which we all hope will encourage other urbanites to discover the joy.

The thought of canoeing is a nice segway into composing resolutions for the new year. You know, canoeing, hiking, birding, fishing, wind surfing, hunting—all fun things to do at Wolf Lake and surrounds.

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.

hours of work that she has dedicated to AWLI,” Victor said.. “I could write volumes to describe her accomplishments and provide an account of her personal time in helping increase the awareness of the organization and its goals.

“Replacing her will be difficult.”

The charge to the nominating committee is to recommend new directors for election and to encourage directors to succeed Linda as president and to fill other officer positions.

The board will elect and install new officers at its January 31 board meeting.

Winter Wonderland on Jan. 19:

Topics ranging from the life of ecologist Henry Chandler Cowles, the Underground Railroad, and industrial heritage will be among those discussed at the 7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival on Saturday, January 19, in Hammond.

Planning for the AWLI event continues at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 3, at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

Speakers featured this year will include Victor Cassidy, author of *Henry Chandler Cowles: Pioneer Ecologist*, Jeannie R. Regan-Dinius and Naomi Davis, who will speak about the Underground Railroad in Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois, and Rod Sellers and others who will speak on industrial history. As in past years, the festival will offer skating, cross-country skiing, and pickup hockey, weather permitting.

Planners anticipate that the Avenue K channel will be sufficiently frozen to allow Sellerski to be held. Warm weather forced cancellation of the ice safety competition the last two years.

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.

John Pastirik has given the program in recent years. He also clears a portion of the Avenue K Channel for pick-up hockey and skating.

Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. at the Southeast Sportsmen’s Club,

13139 Avenue M, Chicago.

Jim DeHorn of Openlands Project will return to talk about tree maintenance, the ash borer, the affects of climate change on trees, and other matters relating to trees. He will join the tour of Forsythe Park.

David Dabertin, Yacht Club and AWLI member, will return to talk about ice boating. Rich Ogrentz, commodore of the Illiana Yacht Club, also has been invited.

New this year will be presentations on fish stocking at Wolf Lake by Bruce Caruso and an introduction to the Calumet Stewardship Initiative by Kevin Murphy and Joann Podkul.

The festival is being planning by AWLI’s **WWW.COM**mittee.

As in the past, businesses will be asked to help sponsor the event. Further information is available at 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120.

Colvin to welcome afternoon session:

State Rep. Marlow Colvin will be making opening remarks for the afternoon session of the winter festival at the Southeast Sportsmen’s Club, 13139 Avenue M, Chicago.

The session begins at 1 p.m.

Festival donor:

Centier Bank of Whiting became the first business to donate to the 7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival.

Deadline nears for poster contest:

St. Francis de Sales of Chicago and Scott Middle School of Hammond are early entries in the poster contest to promote healthy winter activities at Wolf Lake.

The contest will be held in conjunction with the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative’s (AWLI) 7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake

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.

festival on Sat., Jan. 19, 2008.

Participants are to notify AWLI before holiday break. Entries are to be submitted in early January.

The contest is open to all students in Wolf Lake area schools and local youth organizations. Entries will be judged in three to four age categories by a panel of judges.

The first place winner in each category will receive a \$25 cash award. Second and third place winners will receive \$15 and \$10, respectively.

The awards will be presented during at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond

Teachers and youth leaders who plan to participate should do so before schools break for the holiday. All entries must be submitted by Friday, January 4, at the Environmental Education Center.

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

The festival is being planned by AWLI's *WWW.COM*mittee.

Local groups support development of bi-state plan:

A proposed development of a bi-state management plan for the Wolf

Lake watershed has received support from additional local groups.

AWLI reports recently receiving resolutions adopted by the Lansing, IL Chamber of Commerce, Perch America and Crisis Center, Inc. Previously, it received support from Hammond Urban Enterprise Association, Hammond Boys and Girls Club, Wolf Lake Conservation Project, the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program and the Hammond Parks Foundation

The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is seeking backing for the development of the plan in 2008.

"AWLI views the bi-state plan as a valued addition to a progression of studies," explains Linda Cook, president of the organization and land trust. "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 that is nearing completion at Wolf Lake.

"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," she adds. "The development of a bi-state plan requires both studies--the diagnostic and the vision.

"The management plan, in turn, makes it more likely that other funding opportunities would be granted."

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) awarded AWLI \$67,500 to develop the plan, but the city of Hammond objected. IDNR then withdrew the grant.

In a letter to IDNR, Hammond stated a desire to submit a grant application of its own upon completion of other projects.

The resolutions circulated by

AWLI would support the application from any of the Wolf Lake stakeholders that comprise AWLI's board. They are the cities of Hammond and Chicago, Illinois and Indiana DNR, and Lake and Cook counties.

IDNR's Lake and River Enhancement program oversees the granting process.

Cargill donates file cabinet:

AWLI received a four-drawer file cabinet recently from Cargill's Hammond plant.

Cargill responded to an e-mail sent to companies in the area. The second request for a used laptop is still active.

The need for more file space is another indicator of AWLI's growth.

Work days set at Powderhorn:

Monthly work days at Powderhorn Lake and Prairie in the new year are scheduled for Saturdays Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, and April 19.

Restoration and clean up work will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. For more information, contact AWLI director Rebecca Moss at Sandridge Nature Center.

8th Annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water Festival

Sat.-Sun.

May 24-25, 2008

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



7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival

Sat., Jan. 19

skating, birding, nature walk, tree identification, cross country skiing, poster contest winners, Sellerski ice safety competition, and presentations on underground railroad, ice boating, etc.

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

AWLI expands search for volunteers:

A page on United Way of Porter County Web contains information about AWLI's activities at Wolf Lake. Reders are invited volunteer for the events.

Readers also are invited to serve on AWLI's board.

Taltree commits to Active Living Faire:

The first organization has committed to erect a display at the 5th Annual Active Living Faire at Wolf Lake on October 4, 2008.

In response to a save-the-date

mailing, the Taltree Arboretum & Gardens of Valporaiso, IN., became the first to reserve space for an informational booth.

Wolf Lake CAT donor:

ZF Lemforder of Chicago, becomes the latest company to donate to AWLI and join the Wolf Lake Corporate Advisory Team family.

Word was sent by Ryan Mannion, safety/environmental manager of the company.

Renewed AWLI members:

Members who recently renewed memberships are Robert and

Alexandra Victor, Linda and Richard Cook, Alan and Donna Resetar, Eveline Heesaker, and Richard Morrisroe..

Calendar:

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

January 3: 4 p.m., **WWW.COM-**mittee meeting

January 10: 4 p.m., **WWW.COM-**mittee meeting

January 17: 6:30 p.m., Annual Membership Meeting

January 17: 8 p.m., **WWW.COM-**mittee meeting

January 19: 9 a.m., 7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival.

January 31: 6:30 p.m., Board of directors meeting and installation

February 7: 4 p.m., **WWW.COM-**mittee debriefing session for winter festival

February 27: 10 a.m., Marketing/PR Committee meeting

February 27: 4 p.m., **WWW.COM-**mittee meeting

February 28: 1 p.m., Development Committee meeting

Bringing AWLI magic to the public.

Season's greetings! This is a busy time no matter what holiday we may be celebrating.

AWLI's 2nd Annual Autumn Reception and Art Show was a grand success for the guests and members. It was a money-maker again for AWLI. Our organization received more than \$700 in revenues from the evening. For the people who came to enjoy the event, thank you so much. I really had a wonderful time, although the evening sped by quickly.

AWLI board treasurer Ken Czulno and member Richard Cook (also my dear husband) entertained the guests as a singing duo with Ken on guitar. They rivaled any professional pair out there! Nobody left hungry and several guests went home with big smiles as they won the raffle and door prizes. The silent auction contained excellent items from across the Calumet Region. Board member Rebecca Moss donated her outstanding framed nature photographs for sale. The Trash to

President's Perspective by Linda Cook

Treasure Tables were fun to browse. I found a few treasures hidden there

myself.

AWLI's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, two days prior to the Seventh Annual Winter Wonderland Festival at Wolf Lake. The membership committee is working hard to make the meeting a social gathering in addition to the annual election of board directors. The committee is laying plans for a few great activities.

Speaking of the winter festival, the planners are scheduling a variety of presentations throughout the day. Please remember that all AWLI's festivals are free. Our donors and volunteers make that possible. We welcome any of you who have not had the opportunity to help us out.

"Many hands make light work" is a true adage for any group. Help AWLI by attending and enjoying the activities at the winter festival and giving a little time to help us bring AWLI magic to the public.

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