

Underground Railroad
Part of Winter Festival

Contact Michael Boos at 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120

How slaves fled the South to reach northern states and Canada in the decades before the Civil War will be discussed at the 11th annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival, **Saturday, Jan. 14**, at two locations near the lake.

Morning sessions will be held at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. Afternoon sessions will take place at the Southeast Sportsmen's Club, 13139 Avenue M, Chicago.

The bi-state event, sponsored by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI), is held each year during the weekend of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Jeannie Regan-Dinius, special projects coordinator for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, is scheduled to speak at 11 a.m. Regan-Dinius works with volunteers researching the Underground Railroad in the state and educates others about the effort.

Her work in Indianapolis brings Regan-Dinius in contact with historians in other states. Regan-Dinius also conducts primary research on the Underground Railroad in Indiana.

Her undergraduate years were spent at Ball State University where she earned a degree in public history. Regan-Dinius earned a Master's degree in urban planning and information management/library science from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and has completed additional graduate course work in public administration.

Also giving presentations this year are Jim DeHorn on Trees of the Wolf Lake Watershed, Walter Marcisz on Birds of the Watershed, and John Pastirik on Ice Safety.

Activities planned for the day include cross-country skiing and skating (bring skates) and Sellerski, a competition in ice safety conducted by John Pastirik. The activities will depend on weather conditions.

Winners in AWLI's poster contest will be honored at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the festival. Families of participating students are invited to attend the ceremony.

Festival exhibits at this year's event include Native American artifacts by Les Marszalek, amphibians and reptiles of the Calumet Region by Alan Resetar of the Field Museum of Natural History, photo exhibit by Rod Sellers, art and nature by Jim Milkowski of Wolf Lake Creations, Wolf Lake monitors, a volunteer booth for Wolf Lake watershed restorations, local authors and their works, development of a bi-state management guide for the watershed by AWLI, and the United Way of NWI.

Festival planners will meet again at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 12 at the Environmental Education Center.

AWLI is a bi-state not-for-profit organization and land trust dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Wolf Lake watershed.

#