

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

A not-for-profit organization and land trust

Working across state boundaries to enhance the Wolf Lake watershed

February 3, 2017

AWLI volunteers remove
Discarded tires from Wolf Lake

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Immediate Release

Joe Kruczek and nephew Joe Wright are engaged in a new project as part of years devoted to the clean up and other improvement to Wolf Lake.

For the past several months, the two have been extracting tires from the waters around Strawberry Island and the southeast shoreline. They find tires of all sizes and some that may have been in the water for 30 years.

Kruczek and Wright, both members of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI), believe that they should complete the project in April. By then they would have removed more than 50 tires and perhaps a figure approaching 100 by then..

Both men, residents of Hammond, are avid fishermen and are will acquainted with the lake.

Inspiration for the clean-ups dates back to January 2014 at the Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival. A discussion ensued about the need to clean up hundreds of wooden and metal stakes, wire, and netting mesh left from the shoreline restoration in 2005-2007.

The concern was that this material was a threat to wildlife on the Indiana side of Wolf Lake.

That summer, the two picked up discarded material and returned to Wolf Lake in 2015 to continue the work west of the Toll Road and each of the state line. They were assisted by staff at



Joe Kruczek along the bike trail shows tires recently extracted from the southeastern shoreline of Wolf Lake

Photo by Joe Wright

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William Powers State Fish & Wildlife Area in Chicago.

Kruczek, a retired oil process operator at BP, took on another project in the winter of 2015-2016. He assisted researchers as a volunteer in a multi-year study of mudpuppies along the Wolf Lake shoreline in Chicago.

Populations of the aquatic salamander throughout the Great Lakes are in a decline.

So after the tire cleanup, what is there next project? They are both concerned about the tree damage beavers are doing along the shoreline and on several of the islands.

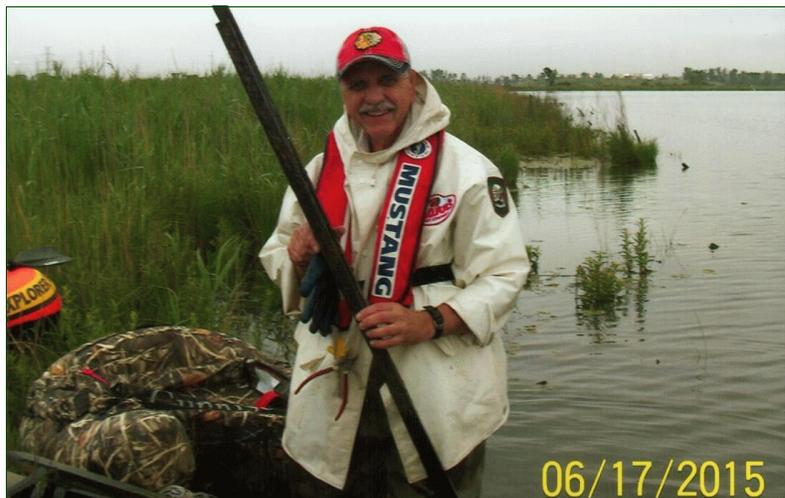
AWLI is a bi-state, not-for-profit land trust organization and land trust seeking to protect and enhance the Wolf Lake watershed.

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Joe Wright displays more tires.

Photo by Joe Kruczek



Joe Kruczek cleans up Wolf Lake during summer of 2015.

Photo by Joe Wright