



The Guardian Gazette

Newsletter of the Wildcat Guardians
Dedicated to the Health & Beauty of Wildcat Creek
April 2019

President's Report

Rick Parsons – President Wildcat Guardians

Greetings Fellow Guardians and Friends,

Spring is here with warmer temperatures, spring wildflowers, budding trees, and new opportunities to make a difference. The Guardians had another successful year in 2018 with many accomplishments to protect the Wildcat Creek and our valuable watershed. Many new events involving education, cleanups, and recreation are planned for the coming year. I would again challenge everyone to get involved in at least a few events this year.

Recently our leadership met to discuss long term goals for the Guardians. One of our primary concerns is the aging of our leadership and the need for new and younger members who can step up and be part of the leadership. We are all concerned that as many of us get older and are no longer able to take part in the organization, younger people will take over and carry the Guardians into the future. This is not a unique situation for our organization. Many civic and religious organizations are facing the same problem.

I would challenge everyone involved with the Guardians to not only get involved this year but step up and take on a bigger role in supporting a truly important and great part of our community. The Wildcat Guardians is a vital conservation organization with many talented members and volunteers. We need a greater effort in the future to make the Guardians a stable and thriving advocate for our beloved Wildcat Creek. Step up today and make a difference.

Rick

News from the Creek:

Very Important Opportunities to Volunteer:

Earth Day Program:

The Guardians will be involved with the Howard County Solid Waste District Earth Day program on Tuesday April 16th at the Kokomo Events Center. This event allows 3rd graders in Howard County to learn about many things and our volunteers are able to teach students about water and the importance of the Wildcat Creek. This important event is headed up by Bob Hoshaw and we need help. The event runs from approximately 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. If you are able to help, please contact Bob Hoshaw below and join us in this important event.

Bob Hoshaw (contact information) bbhoshaw@comcast.net

Spring Trash Cleanup:

Once again the Guardians are doing a spring cleanup on Saturday April 27th and we need volunteers to do this important activity. This will be a bank cleanup and volunteers should meet at Foster Park in the parking lot next to the senior citizens building. The cleanup will start at 9:00 A.M. and volunteers should show up around 8:00 A.M. to discuss where volunteers will be assigned. We provide gloves, trash grabbers, trash bags / buckets etc. but volunteers should dress appropriately with work clothes and shoes. The cleanup normally concludes around noon with free pizza for volunteers. If you have questions or know of locations that need to be cleaned up please contact Mike Laughner below.

Mike Laughner (contact information) - mdlaughner2@aol.com
W.G. Chairman

From Niches:

On May 4th, NICHES will be hosting afloat down the scenic Big Pine Creek. Boats will be put in across the water from our towering sandstone Honey Branch Bluff property. On the float we will have a chance to pull off the creek, tour, and dedicate one of our newest properties, Swanson's Bluff. The 23-acre donation from the Coolman Family straddles the creek and its inclined slopes provide habitat for a variety of riparian and upland tree species to flourish. After the float there will be a May Day celebration, pole raising, and dance at Warren Piece.

Join us on May 11th at 3 P.M. for another float and property dedication. We will be embarking on the Wildcat Creek from our newest access site in Kokomo, IN, the Water Works Dam Portage. Hope to see you on the water soon! [Email sam@nicheslandtrust.org](mailto:sam@nicheslandtrust.org) for details and to reserve a boat.

Why Save Water?

Clean, fresh water is a limited resource. With all the severe droughts happening in the world, the limited supply of fresh water is becoming one of our most precious resources. Every person on earth needs water to survive. Without it, many of us would get sick and even result in death.

While almost 70% of the Earth is made up of water, many parts of the world suffer from clean water shortage. Conserving water is important because it keeps water pure and clean while protecting the environment.

Conserving water means using our water supply wisely and be responsible. As every individual depends on water for livelihood, we must learn how to keep our limited supply of water pure and away from pollution. Keeping our water supply safe and pure will protect the water for the generations to come.

Many believe that our water supply infinite. However, our supply is quite the opposite. It is important that we must not pollute your water as many do not realize just how important and scarce water is. Only 2% of the Earth's fresh supply of water is locked in ice caps and glaciers, while 97,5% of the earth's water is saltwater.

Conserving water involves refraining from water pollution. This requires the use of strategies that includes reducing wastage, prevent damaging water quality, and improve water management. The population must save the water he has today and provide a sufficient supply for the next coming years.

Here are the reasons why saving water is important:

The uses are endless

We use water every day of our lives. It is required in almost everything we do. We need water for drinking, bathing, cooking, washing, and other countless activities. Bottom line: we need water for activities and habits we use regularly. If we want to continue to keep our bodies healthy, clean, and everything else – we must conserve water.

Water grows food

Fruits and vegetables, as well as other produce, require water to grow. But if the area is suffering from a drought, how will the food grow? This can make sustainable living a difficult challenge as sectors that suffer from drought will become useless as plants of any kind will not be able to grow. Without water, the population will starve to death.

It protects our ecosystem and wildlife

Humans are not the only species on Earth that requires water for survival. In fact, every species on this planet needs water to live and survive. Without water, the aquatic life will stand no chance of survival. It is highly important that we save water that is essential to our sustainability.

Less water usage means more savings

By saving water, this allows us to save more water, especially on our water bill. By practicing basic water conservation tips, you can save more than hundreds and thousands of water every year. Use less water, and you will be charged less money from the water company.

Water supply is already limited

Currently, fresh water is already limited as it is. Out of the 70% of the water that is available, only 0.03% is made up of fresh water. Every day, the population beings to increase, making the already limited amount of water much less. In order to save our future of water preservation, we must learn to conserve what limited resources we have.

Conserving water also saves energy

Pumping water from the central facility requires high amounts of energy to run the equipment. Studies show, that in California, almost 7% of the energy that is consumed goes towards transferring water. Bottom line, saving water will also lead to saving energy and reduce your carbon footprint.

We can start saving water by making smart choices at home. We should use appliances that are most water and energy efficient. Using simple water conservation tips can help reduce the usage of water by more than half. Committing to just a bit of effort can make all the difference. You will even benefit from saving water by the reduced water bills in just the first month of saving water. Protect our planet and conserve water.

Photos Wildcat Creek:



[Finished Portage Trail at Low Head Dam \(Waterworks Dam\)](#)



Links for Learning

Surf the Web for Issues of Interest

United States Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www2.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-water>

Indiana State Dept. of Health – Fish Consumption Advisory
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/23650.htm>

Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management - Blue Green algae information
<http://www.in.gov/idem/algae/>

Flow Can You See the River?
(White River arts project in cooperation with the Indianapolis Museum of Art)
http://flowcanyouseetheriver.org/?page_id=2



Reminders

2018 WILDCAT GUARDIANS EVENTS

April:

April 15th – Guardians Monthly Meeting Martino's 5:30 / 6:30 P.M.
April 16th - Earth Day Program Kokomo Events Center – Volunteers Needed!
April 27th - Spring Trash Cleanup – Volunteers Needed!

May:

May 18th - Moonlight Paddle
May 20th - Guardians Monthly Meeting Marino's 5:30 / 6:30 P.M.

June:

June 8th - Celebrate the Wildcat (Adam's Mill) Free Canoe Rides
June 17th – Guardians Monthly Meeting Martino's 5:30 / 6:30 P.M.
June 22nd – Summer Creek Cleanup

July:

July 6th - Haynes Apperson Paddle Through Kokomo
July 15th – Guardians Monthly Meeting Martino's 5:30 / 6:30 P.M.

August:

August 2,3,4 – Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous
August 19th – Guardians Monthly Meeting Martino's 5:30 / 6:30 P.M.

**Wildcat Guardians Meeting at Martino's Restaurant Every Third Monday of the Month
5:30 P.M.- Meal 6:30 P.M.- Business Meeting**

Membership: It is that time of the year again. Please take the time to renew your membership! You can go to the Wildcat Guardians **website** <http://www.wildcatguardians.org> and print the membership form. Just mail this along with your dues to the **Wildcat Guardians, Post Office 6421, Kokomo, In 46904-6421**

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