

Potato Creek Friends Group Meeting 10/17/06

Attendees:

Corey and Brook Reiman
Tim Cordell
Kathy Serrat
Linda Matzat
Jan Shupert-Arick
Bill Arick
Ralph Champion
Brian and Anna Krueger & Family
Mark Daily
Sherri Healy
John Richardson

Minutes:

Guest speaker:

Tim Cordell-Naturalist gave a slide show presentation of recent improvements to the park, those included:

- Two new pick up trucks-both will have plows.
- Maria Tice has been hired as the Naturalist Aide.
- New playground equipment has been installed.
- Cabins have been refurbished including new appliances, new drapes and new furniture.
- The campfire circle in the cabin area has a new cement top.
- The road has been repaved from the entrance to the Nature Center. The other side of the park is scheduled to be done next year. The milled asphalt was used to recover some gravel areas.
- The shad reduction appears to have been a success. The lake was down at the maximum by 36". The lake is already starting to come back up to its normal level. Rotnone was used in small concentrations to kill the shad. The lake was done in sections. The dead shad were just about all gone from the beach by 11/23.
- Prairie maze update: as of 10/14/06, 1200 maps had been distributed. It has been a big success.
- The horseman's area has also had some improvements. The Park performed some wetland restoration and re-routed some existing horse trails. Special fabric was used in the wet area to maintain the integrity of the trail. Limestone was added on top of the fabric. This was done in 3 different locations. After limestone, 3" of slag was added. The old horse trails were disked to blend in. There was a lot of drainage tile removed to enhance the restoration of the wetlands. Already, there are many areas filling with water.
- There is a deer reduction scheduled for 11/13 and 11/14 and 12/4 and 12/5. The Park will be closed on those days to accommodate the hunters.
- A mountain bike trail will be built in early spring. The trail will be between 5-6 miles long. The trail will be re-flagged early winter/late fall depending on weather. Construction will begin around March, 2007.
- Bass should be restocked sometime this fall.

Other business:

Brian noted that we have many more members than the list indicates due to family membership.

Treasurer's report: we have \$611.47 in the bank, we have spent to date \$514.40. Most was Friend's Group startup costs.

Charlotte is pursuing the tax-exempt status. John has a meeting with the same lawyer next week and will also follow up on progress.

We have obtained the insurance policy, it is a 1M liability policy. The cost is 118.00 per quarter. It has been in effect since 9/21/06. This policy covers everything except hayrides.

Anyone can now purchase "Friends of Potato Creek" shirts and hats directly from the vendor. The information and order forms are on the website. Shirts are \$14.00 and hats are \$10.00.

The newsletter will be published quarterly. Mark will coordinate.

Brian would like a schedule of events very soon.

A bicycle safety program is being developed by Ralph, he is also pursuing a boat safety program.

Some other ideas for future events include:

- Shoreline cleanup
- Easter egg hunt
- Halloween events (next year)
 - Decorating
 - Costume dance
 - Pumpkin carving contest
- Christmas party-it was suggested we do a potluck Christmas party and have no guest speaker-only socialize for the evening.

Sign up sheets were placed in the back of the room for program committees. Anyone interested in helping was encouraged to sign up.

Brian sent a thank you note to all those who helped on the shoreline cleanup last month. Pizza was also donated for the folks who came from Michigan City to help.

The next meetings are not at the usual 3rd Tuesday of the month due to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, they are November 16th (Thursday) and December 12th (Tuesday).

Linda is working on a list of speakers for future meetings, she has a list of speakers that are free and a list of those who charge for the speaking. Linda suggested that we keep the speakers for the evening meetings and keep the events for the weekends.

The November meeting will be titled “Turkey Talk”. A guest speaker will be giving this talk and has had great reviews.

Check out the website at www.friendsopotatocreek.org

The next meeting is 11/16/06 at 7:00 PM in the Nature Center. Bring a snack to share.