

# Friends of Potato Creek Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

*Fall 2006*

Volume I

## **Message from the President, Brian Krueger**



Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to be contributing to this newsletter for the Friends of Potato Creek State Park. As the President, I would like to share with you a few facts about the Friends Group. The purpose and mission of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park is to develop and support projects and events that help preserve, restore, manage, and interpret the natural and cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities of Potato Creek State Park.

I cannot believe how quickly the last five months have flown by! It seems like yesterday that Tim Cordell, Jim Webb, Corey Rieman and the rest of the steering committee sat and discussed the possibility of a Friends organization. The success of the Friends has been the result of the support, interest and dedication of each and every one of you who has so generously donated your time, effort and financial support, and so I would like to thank each of you - each volunteer, each member, each park staff member, each board member, and each visitor who, because of your love and appreciation of Potato Creek State Park and passion for the Friends Group, has made this organization a success.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to vice-president Ralph Campion and treasurer John Richardson for their leadership and devotion to the cause of

getting the Friends on its feet and providing a strong foundation for the organization; to Kathy Serrat who has served as secretary and has done a multitude of other tasks as well; and to all the members of the Board of Advisors who have given so generously of their time and expertise, and many, many thanks to our three committees: Public Relations, Linda Matzat for our guest speakers, Jan Arick-Shupert, Charlotte Wolfe for coordinating media relations, Mark Daily for writing our newsletter, Tim Cordell for support with the website, our fund raising committee John Richardson, and Bill Arick, and our Special events committee Anna Krueger, Brook Rieman, and Sherri Healy for their support, encouragement and numerous "hands up" over the past couple of months.

As we finish ringing in the new year, it's time to look forward to the upcoming year. I hope to make 2007 a fun and exciting year for the Friends Group and Potato Creek State Park. We have a lot of upcoming events. I'd just like to say thanks to those who have helped in the past and look forward to seeing those and many more getting involved to make this a successful year. See you in February for our sign painting event. Our strength lies in numbers so please, let's bring in members, and get involved.

Let's not forget our membership drive. This membership drive will run for three months, beginning on January 1st, 2007 and ending on March 20, 2007 and we will award prizes, which are as follows: First prize will be a State Park Pass, second prize a "Friends" shirt, and third prize a patch and a mug. Make sure the sponsoring member's

name is included on the membership form to receive credit. The membership has continued to grow in 2006 and is now at 42.

If you have any questions about our Friends Group or would like to get involved please feel free to contact me at 1-219-879-6438 or E-Mail me at [krueger@adsnet.com](mailto:krueger@adsnet.com)

In closing, I would like to thank you for letting me be your first president, and urge you to remain a member and work together to grow the Friends Group.

Please accept my best wishes for 2007

Sincerely ,  
Brian Krueger

## Volunteers Get it Done



*Trash Day Base Camp - Board Members Sheri Healey and Ralph Campion wear their blue FPC Shirts and keep things organized.*

Potato Creek State Park Naturalist Tim Cordell said, “The DNR just does not have the resources to complete this type of project. If it wasn’t for the Friends of Potato Creek State Park volunteers, this project would not have been done”. During this fall clean-up, 28 Friends of Potato Creek State Park members, friends and family turned out for the one day lake shore clean-up event. One hundred bags of shoreline trash were

collected by the group on September 16th, while the water levels were low during the Gizzard Shad treatment.



*100 trash bags filled during Worster Lake Clean Up*

## PLEASE HELP -2007

### Volunteer Projects

To accomplish our mission, we need volunteers for work days and special events. If you can volunteer, please call vice chairman Ralph Campion a few days in advance to make sure we have enough materials and equipment for the volunteer work force. Call 574-910-1337 or e-mail [campin-1@mchsi.com](mailto:campin-1@mchsi.com) .

February 24 – **Park Sign Painting Project**  
9:00 AM at the Potato Creek State Park Service area- This will be an indoor activity.

March 24 - **Mountain Bike Trail**  
construction workday. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Potato Creek State Park Nature Center parking lot.

Mark your calendar for these future work days with details coming in the next newsletter.

April 21 – Invasive Plant Removal Project-pulling garlic mustard in sensitive areas.

April. 28 – Campground and trail clean-up. Trim branches back, pick things up and do a general spring cleaning.

May 5,6 –Camper Safety Inspection & Bicycle Safety Clinic.

June TBA– Potato Creek Festival.

July 21 – Painting of park trail signs.

July 28 – Rain date for July 21.

August 4 – “Tater Traditions” Festival.

September 29 – National Public Lands Day - project TBA.

Oct. 27, 28 – Halloween activities.

## **2007 Membership Contest offers Cool Prizes**

**Membership Contest runs from** January 1 thru March 20, 2007

To win, put your name on the membership application form for the new members you recruit to receive your credit.

**First Prize: 2007 Park Pass**

**Second Prize: Friends T-Shirt**

**Third Prize: Potato Creek mug & patch**

Points for various membership types:  
Individual=1; Family=2; Not-For-Profit=3;  
Corporate=5

## **Monthly Meeting Highlights**

Each month, the Friends of Potato Creek State Park meet in the Nature Center

Auditorium at the park. An educational program relating to the Park is planned for each meeting. Meetings are generally on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM EST, but please double check the schedule or contact a board member in case the date or time changes. Bring a snack to share and enjoy a program and some fellowship with other Friends members.

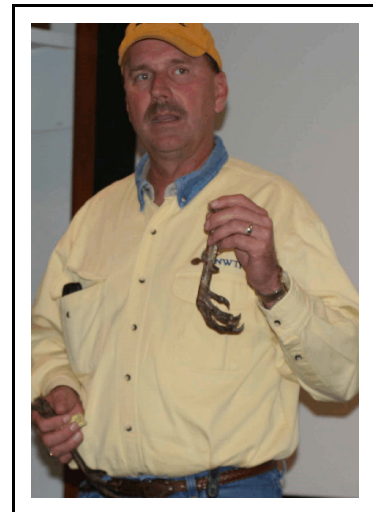
Complete minutes can be viewed online at <http://www.friendsofpotatocreek.org>

At the September 19<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, Fisheries Biologist Bob Robertson brought the audience up to date on the Gizzard Shad reduction project.

The October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting included an informative presentation by Potato Creek State Park Naturalist, Tim Cordell. His slide show covered recent improvements to the park, including playground equipment upgrades, horse trail improvements, mountain bike trail planning, and entry road re-paving.

For the November 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Randy

Showalter, Midwest Regional Wildlife Biologist for the National Wild Turkey Federation, gave a great show and tell presentation about turkeys. We learned how to tell the difference between male and female birds from their coloring as well as their foot print. Here Randy displays a turkey foot while explaining that male turkeys have a longer middle toe.



## Know Your Board Members

Brian Krueger (2 year term), President,  
[krueger@adsnet.com](mailto:krueger@adsnet.com)  
Ralph Campion (1 year term), Vice President,  
[campin-1@mchsi.com](mailto:campin-1@mchsi.com)  
John Richardson (1 year term), Treasurer,  
[jrichardson@jfnew.com](mailto:jrichardson@jfnew.com)  
Kathy Serrat (2 year term), Secretary,  
[kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com](mailto:kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com)  
Sherri Healy (2 year term), Advisor,  
[shealy@crownintl.com](mailto:shealy@crownintl.com)  
Jan Shupert-Arick (2 year term), Advisor,  
[janshupert@yahoo.com](mailto:janshupert@yahoo.com)  
Mark Daily (1 year term), Advisor,  
[mrdaily@hughes.net](mailto:mrdaily@hughes.net)

## Future Meeting

### Presentation Topics

February's speaker will be our District Wildlife Biologist, Linda Byer. She will talk about the various programs offered to Indiana landowners. She will also discuss how this relates to park projects.

March will be covered by the Northern Indiana Mountain Bikers Association. They will bring us up to speed on progress with the mountain bike trail. The March meeting will also be election time for three current Friends of Potato Creek State Park. Call any board member for information or to get on the ballot.

Friends of Potato Creek State Park  
P.O. Box 471  
North Liberty, IN. 46554

## Christmas Party

A small but festive group met December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Friends of Potato Creek State Park Nature Center Auditorium for dinner and social time.

The Krueger's generously donated Italian Beef for the main entrée and Ralph Campion supplied beverages. Other members brought potluck vegetables and desserts.



## MARCH MEETING Time for elections & Membership Renewal

Incumbents up for re-election:

Ralph Campion  
Mark Daily  
John Richardson

Successful candidates will be elected for 2 year terms. Voting by ballot will occur at the March Meeting. Elections are always best when there are choices so feel free to run.

Stamp

Mailing Address