

*The purpose and mission of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park, Inc., is to develop and support projects and events that help preserve, restore, manage, and interpret the natural and cultural heritage as well as the recreational opportunities of Potato Creek State Park.*

# Friends of Potato Creek State Park Newsletter

*Winter 2008*



## Message from the President:

### **With much Appreciation:**

Having completed my first full year as President of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park., I am overwhelmed by the support I have received from our members and Potato Creek Staff. You all have worked extremely hard to make 2007 a successful year. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your efforts. Special thanks to our guest speakers that contributed their time during our regular meetings. I am excited about the challenges that lay ahead for the New Year and with everyone's help we can make 2008 even better.

I couldn't have fulfilled my role without the hard work and support of our committee's who I would like to acknowledge and thank.

### **Thank you to:**

Program Committee: Linda, Ralph and Tim  
Special Event Committee: Anna, Christy and Marci  
Fundraising Committee: John, Jan and Bill  
Newsletter Editor: Mark

Our goal was to make sure everyone had a great time at the events. I hope we accomplished what we set out to do. We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the new year!

If you have any question about our Friends group or would like to get involved please come to our regular meetings. We try to include educational programs relating to the park. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Potato Creek Nature Center. Bring a snack to share and enjoy a program and some fellowship with other Friend's members. If you have questions contact me at [krueger@adsnet.com](mailto:krueger@adsnet.com) .

Mark your calendar for these future events in 2008. Details are on our web site at [www.friendsofpotatocreek.org](http://www.friendsofpotatocreek.org) .

New events include:

March 22, 2008 Egg Hunt - The bunny will visit & leave treats for kids of all ages.

April 19, 2008 Move Some Earth For Earth Day - Help work on a bank stabilization project to restore a section of Worster Lake's shoreline.

May 3-4, 2008 Welcome Back Weekend - Take part in this weekend of special events.

June 7, 2008 National Trails Day - Trail clean-up project and other special events to celebrate National Trails Day.

June 17, 2008 Stories Around The Campfire- Special campfire program.

June 19, 2008 Get the holiday spirit early and decorate your campsite with your favorite winter theme in the Friends campsite decorating contest. Take part in other activities that you would normally expect in the winter.

August 2, 2008 Tater Traditions- Program will focus on the cultural traditions of the past at Potato Creek including craft activities.

September 22, 2008 Wander through the 1.5 miles of trails cut in the 7 foot tall restored prairie grasses. Try to unravel the mystery of the maze.

September 27, 2008 National Public Lands Day- Join in this nationwide effort to preserve our public lands and help on this park clean up day.

September 27-28, 2008 Prairie Harvest Weekend- A delightful weekend of events centered around the harvest with craft activities.

October 25, 2008 Halloween Happening- The campground will bustle with Halloween events this weekend. There will be a campsite decorating contest, trick or treating, a potluck dinner and more!

### **Conclusions:**

The past and future of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park suggest that we are ready to reach new heights. I would like to thank Friends of Potato Creek State Park members for giving me the opportunity to serve as President during these exciting times in 2007. Let's have a great year in 2008.

### **Closing Statement:**

We need to operate with an eye to the future. Every project is just one piece of the overall park plan. A good way to look at this is to remember that we are here " for now and for the future." We might be working on a specific project now, but we must recognized how it fits into the park's overall mission to protect the natural and scenic resources of the park; with compatible forms of outdoor recreation education. The Friends work to assure this public resource will not only be enjoyed

by people today but will be preserved for the future generations.

Sincerely,

Brian Krueger

President of Friends of Potato Creek State Park

## **Four Board Terms**

### **Expire in March – Time to Nominate**

March is the time specified in the By-Laws for FOPC Elections and reorganization. The original seven (7) Board members were elected for staggered terms. Four Board position terms expire this March, 2008 Those terms are Brian Krueger, current FOPC President; Kathy Serrat, current FOPC Secretary; Jan Shupert-Arick, Board member and; Jim Rahilly, Board member.

Any current adult member of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park, Inc, including the incumbent board members, are eligible to run for an open board seat. Elections are held at the Annual meeting in March and we will be accepting nominations from now until the vote is taken at that meeting. Officers are elected by the full Board, in a board meeting immediately following the annual meeting in March. The board and elected officers serve a two year term.

Nominations will be accepted by mail, email or in person up to the election on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Northern Indiana**

### **Mountain Bike**

### **Association makes new trail**

The Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association (NIMBA) in cooperation with Potato Creek State Park dedicated a 7 mile mountain bike trail on July 28th, 2007. NIMBA donated nearly 2,000 man-hours of volunteer labor (representing \$27,510.00 in labor) to create beginner-level trail. NIMBA also funded all the trail construction, signage and kiosks marking the

trail. Some of the Friends of Potato Creek members are also active NIMBA members and contributed significantly to the trail design and construction. Both groups see the trail as a great park enhancement feature.

During the dedication, Tim Cordell spoke and said "This is an excellent example of a private group such as NIMBA working with the DNR to form a win-win partnership. State Parks and Reservoirs Healthy Parks-Healthy People campaign focuses on our parks being in good condition with adequate facilities to help people stay healthy. "

He also stated "Since mountain biking is one of the fastest-growing outdoor recreation activities in the U.S., the addition of this trail should help meet this goal."



Tim Cordell, James Yarbrough (NIMBA VP), Scott Kelsey (NIMBA President), and Park Manager, Jim Webb. The check represented all the donated labor hours to build the trail at the Park.

This trail is also a multi-use trail. It is a hiking trail in the opposite direction of the mountain bike trail and is signed accordingly, so hikers and bikers can both enjoy this beautiful new trail.

NIMBA invites all Friends of Potato Creek members to join our club. All of our membership dues go to trail building and maintenance. You can visit our website at [www.nimba-bike.org](http://www.nimba-bike.org) to join or make a donation. NIMBA funded nearly \$1500.00 in the construction of this trail at Potato Creek and all the labor was donated. We are a small club with about 40 members, so all donations are appreciated.

Potato Creek becomes the fifth property in the DNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs to have a mountain bike trail, bringing the statewide total to 43 miles.

## Know Your Board Members

Brian Krueger, President, [krueger@adsnet.com](mailto:krueger@adsnet.com)  
Ralph Campion, Vice President, [campin-1@mchsi.com](mailto:campin-1@mchsi.com)  
John Richardson, Treasurer, [jrichardson@jfnew.com](mailto:jrichardson@jfnew.com)  
Kathy Serrat, Secretary, [kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com](mailto:kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com)  
Jim Rahilly Board Member, [jim\\_looking@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_looking@hotmail.com)  
Jan Shupert-Arick, Board Member, [janshupert@yahoo.com](mailto:janshupert@yahoo.com)  
Mark Daily, Board Member, [mrdaily@hughes.net](mailto:mrdaily@hughes.net)

## Newsletter Disclaimer and Opt-Out Notice

This newsletter is published by the Friends of Potato Creek State Park and is not published or managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. If you do not want this news letter, contact Kathy Serrat, Secretary ([kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com](mailto:kathy.serrat@us.bosch.com)) Or write: Friends of Potato Creek State Park, P.O. Box 471, North Liberty, IN. 46554 to be removed from the mailing list.