



# Nature, News & Notes

Wabash Valley Audubon Society

## Reminder

Please do not forget  
Chapter Only  
Membership Dues

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Nature, News & Notes

October/November 2013

## An Interview with Carissa Lovett, President of the Wabash Valley Audubon Society

*I know you work at Dobbs Park. What exactly is your title, and what education and experience led to your current position?*

I'm the Naturalist at the park, and I've been in that job for sixteen years. My prior job was at the Native American Museum at Dobbs, and before that I worked for a year at Turkey Run Nature Center. I have a B. S. in Life Science from Indiana State, where I worked on bat research with Dr. Whitaker.

*When did you decide you wanted to do this kind of work?*

Well, the fact that my first word was "Suzy," the name of the neighbors' dog, was probably a good clue that I'd end up working with animals! I grew up in a rural area, and mom didn't let us come in except to eat lunch, so I was used to being in the outdoors.

*(Continued on page 3)*



2013-2014 WVAS President Carissa Lovett teaching kids how to fish at National Night Out Festivities on behalf of the Terre Haute Parks Department.

Photo by Joe Dickson



White-Breasted Nuthatch

© Marty Jones

## Recently Completed Events

September 7 (10:00am – 12:00pm)  
“Birding with Wabash Valley Audubon Society” at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

September 14 (9:00 – 1:00pm) Clay County Nature Day at the Clay County Fairgrounds

September 18 (6:00pm) Picnic at the Tupelo Shelter in Hawthorne Park

September 21 (10:00am – 4:00pm) 7th Annual Indiana Bat Festival at the Indiana State University Science Building

September 28 (9:00am – 2:00pm) Invasive Species Removal at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

## WVAS Fall Member Meetings

Mr. Michael Litwin will be talking about the Wabash River at our October 16 meeting. The title of his presentation is "Freshwater Fish and the Wabash." Included in his presentation is information on streams and rivers, the fish that inhabit the Wabash River, and the invasive Asian carp as well. Mr. Litwin is a recently retired fishery biologist of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Bloomington, IN.

Also, Hardy Lake State Recreation Area's Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center will be presenting their program on November 20. The Raptor Center takes in injured and orphaned birds of prey for the purpose of rehabilitation and release back to the wild. The center has about ten permanently injured birds that they use for educational programs, which they will share with us next month.



Asian Carp

Photo by Marty Jones

*(Carissa Lovett, Continued from page 1)*

*Obviously, you like bats....*

They're the coolest creature on earth; unusual and misunderstood. I guess I love the things that other people don't.

*But they're mammals. I've got to find out what your favorite bird is.*

That's hard. I like so many... It's not Hummingbirds. Hummingbirds are mean. Well, maybe it's wrong to say mean. They have spunk. I'm going to say the White-Breasted Nuthatch. They're just so darn cute!

*Your job involves working with people as well as flora and fauna. What's the biggest problem humans at the park pose?*

Littering is a continuing annoyance, but the biggest headache is people leaving fishing line. It's not just a little – it could be 50 feet. This is dangerous. We had a duck that lost its foot last year because it got caught in fishing line.

*You do lots of educational programs. What are some of your favorites?*

Of course, I like the bat program. And taking kids out on the trails is fun.

*Do you have a favorite age group to work with?*

Not really. I like a group of any age that asks insightful questions. Second and third grade groups are generally good. They're young enough that everything is still cool, but old enough to interact.

*Can you think of any examples of how kids today are clueless about nature?*

I'm always surprised when kids don't know what a squirrel is. They have some idea – a cartoon idea – of chipmunks, but sometimes they think chipmunks are baby squirrels.



Eastern Red Bat

Photo by Marty Jones



Black Widow Spider

Photo by Joe Dickson

## Upcoming Events

October 12 (10:30am) "Sensational Spiders" with WVAS member Joe Dickson at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center. Registration is required. \$1.00 craft fee. 812-877-1095

October 16 (7:00 – 9:00pm) "Freshwater Fish and the Wabash" with Michael Litwin at the Vigo County Public Library.

October 19 (10:00am – 12:00pm) "Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve Fall Foliage Hike" with Dr. Marion Jackson. (see page 7)

October 19 (10:00am – 12:00pm) "Birding with Wabash Valley Audubon Society" at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

October 26 (9:00am – 12:00pm) Invasive Species Removal at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

November 7 (7:00 – 8:30pm) WVAS Board Meeting at Grand Traverse Pie Company.

November 16 (10:00am – 12:00pm) "Birding with Wabash Valley Audubon Society" at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

November 20 (7:00 – 9:00pm) "Raptor Rehabilitation" with the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center of the Hardy Lake State Recreation Area at the Vigo County Public Library.

November 23 (9:00am – 12:00pm) Invasive Species Removal at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St. 812-877-1095

December 5 (7:00 – 8:30pm) WVAS Board Meeting at Grand Traverse Pie Company

December 18 (7:00 – 9:00pm) WVAS Member Photo Night at Vigo County Public Library.

December 21<sup>st</sup> (10:00am – 12:00pm) "Birding with Wabash Valley Audubon Society" at Dobbs Memorial Grove Nature Center – 5170 E. Poplar St.



Wilson's Warbler

Photo by Marty Jones

## WVAS Officers for 2013-2014

### President & Programs:

Carissa Lovett

carissa.lovett@terrehaute.in.gov

### Vice-President & Field Trips:

Nicholas Brown

### Secretary:

Ellen Lunsford

mabel819@aol.com

### Treasurer:

Phil Milliren

philiren@msn.com

### Conservation:

Nicholas Brown

### Education:

Carissa Lovett

carissa.lovett@terrehaute.in.gov

### Newsletter Editor:

Shelley Arvin

shelley.arvin@indstate.edu

### Membership:

Lucinda Berry

### Board members:

Shelley Arvin

Lucinda Berry

Nicholas Brown

Phil Cox

Phil Milliren

Helen Vermillion

### Christmas Bird Count Compiler:

Peter Scott,

peter.scott@indstate.edu

### Webmaster:

Marty Jones

indth33@yahoo.com



Go to the WVAS Web site

*All Wabash Valley Audubon Society events are open to the public. If you have a topic you would like to present, please contact WVAS.*



Nelson's Sparrow

Photo by Marty Jones



Cerulean Warbler

Photo by Marty Jones

## WVAS Budget 2013-2014

### Expenses

Printing	\$250.00
Postage	\$150.00
Banquet	\$600.00
Web site	\$225.00
Speakers	\$450.00
Postal Box	\$70.00
Promotional Materials	\$150.00
Conference	\$35.00
Donation	\$400.00
NNN Printing	\$250.00
Misc. Projects	\$200.00
Supplies	\$50.00
<u>Brochures</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$3,015.00

### Income

National Audubon	\$1,000.00
Chapter Memberships	\$330.00
Donation	\$70.00
Banquet	\$900.00
Interest	\$23.00
<u>Raffle</u>	<u>\$175.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,493.00

### Assets September 9, 2013

Checking	\$4,647.91
Memorial Fund	\$456.82
Cash	\$60.00
<u>CD</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Total Assets	\$2,493.00

## Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve Fall Foliage Hike - October 19

The Ouabache Land Conservancy (a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust) invites everyone to a fall foliage hike of the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 19th. This hike is to celebrate the four-year anniversary of its dedication as a state nature preserve. Meet at the Preserve at 10:00 AM and hike until approximately 12:00 noon. Dr. Marion Jackson, the Preserve's namesake and author of *101 Trees of Indiana*, will lead hikers through the tallgrass prairie and approximately 25 species of trees found on the 15-acre Preserve.

To get to the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve from Terre Haute

- ◇ take Hwy 150 to St. Mary's Ave.
- ◇ continue west past St. Mary-of-the-Woods College
- ◇ turn left on Bloomtown Road
- ◇ go under the railroad
- ◇ turn right on Concannon Ave
- ◇ The roadside entrance to the Preserve is just past the bridge (on the right).

The land trust's mission is to protect natural lands and farmlands from development in perpetuity. Ouabache Land Conservancy serves the west central Indiana counties of Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo. For more information about the Ouabache Land Conservancy go to [www.ouabachelandconservancy.org](http://www.ouabachelandconservancy.org)

The Wabash Valley Audubon Association would like to welcome the following members who joined or in the case of one member, transferred to the Valley area, during our summer hiatus. We hope to be able to greet you at our October meeting.

Karin Stanley	Sherry Stockon	Thomas Trefry
Scherelda Blystone	Janice Phillips	Sam Black
Dorothy Farmer	Sonja Frantz	David Walbring
Arlene Luchsinger	Betty Gabriel	Bennie Brumett
Jim & Linda Denton	Rosalee Peterson	Kenneth Stub
Ann Mangus	Barbara Downey	Ethel Morgan
Robert Puckett	Chiz Henrichs	Frank Hart
Lila Thomas	Harley Andrews	

Code No. C3ZH05OZ

JOIN AUDUBON Wabash Valley Audubon Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

National Member.....\$20

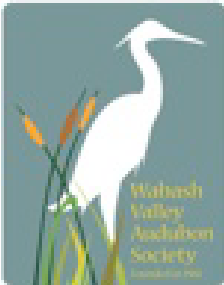
Includes Audubon Magazine, Nature News & Notes, National & Chapter Membership.  
 —Make Check Payable to: National Audubon Society  
 Mail to: National Audubon Society Box 422249 Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2249

Chapter Only Member.....\$15

Includes Chapter Membership and online access to Nature News & Notes.  
 —Make Check Payable to: Wabash Valley Audubon Society  
 Mail to: Wabash Valley Audubon Society P.O. Box 2338 Terre Haute, IN 47802-2338

OR:

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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 P.O. Box 2338  
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