



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

August, 2014

DA's Annual Independence Weekend Celebrations

Thirteen teams entered the Gourley Cup Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament on July 6th. Sue (Gourley) Pinelli hit the first ball to officially open the tournament. The tournament actually consists of 2 separate tournaments run simultaneously, a championship bracket & a consolation bracket. The consolation bracket is for those who lost in the first round. After 20 matches had been played, the following winners

Championship Bracket

1st – Liz Montgomery & Dave Ramsey
2nd – Zach Stemer & Sam Carreon
3rd – Jim Franczek & Yolanda Stemer
4th – Paul Petro & Bruni Wahlers

Consolation Bracket

1st – Dr. Bill Zato & Marla O'Keefe
2nd – Martha & Betsy Lienenweber
3rd- Danny & Nicole Pinelli
4th- Bryan & Sue Pinelli

This is an enjoyable Dune Acres tradition that is named after Don Gourley. It was well attended & everyone had a good time.

- by Bill & Lois Nixon



Fireworks Donations

FIREWORKS DONATIONS

Each year the Town requests donations for the Fireworks Display. The practice has been that the current year's donations will go to pay the next year's display. This way we know in advance how big of a display we can afford. That it is a tax free donation has made the giving a little easier. Usually we receive \$6-8,000 for the fireworks. This year the fireworks donations so far total \$4,190.00. Thank you to those that made the 46 donations. If you would like a receipt for your donation (although your cancelled check should qualify) please notify me and I will send one to you.

Carolyn Mellen – Town Clerk-Treasurer



Independence Day Celebration – A Big Success!

Saturday, July 5th began as a beautiful day for a 3K walk or a 5K run! More than 60 residents and friends met at the tennis courts at 8:45 am and after a quick route description (that many walkers in the back chatted through!), the runners were off. As a casual walker at a fastish pace, I thoroughly enjoyed walking and chatting with several different groups of fellow athletes. The winner of the 5K was **Erin Heenan** with a remarkable time of 17:59 and **Cara Sullivan** came in 2nd Place with a time of 21:21. We all were awarded with day-glow yellow tank tops to commemorate the race. Many thanks go to **Carol and Tom Cornwell**, who have chaired this event for several years. Also, always ready to lend a hand, **Margo and Bob Hartmann** assisted with the event and, along with the Cornwells, offered lots of healthy snacks for the post-race. Thank you!

Karen and Bruce Riffle were the chairmen of the next event – the annual Parade. With red and blue balloons abound, lots of patriotic painted faces (thank you **Erika Carstens** and **Rachel Carey!**), kazoo players, decorated golf carts and residents gathered at Town Hall. After the inspiring reading of the Declaration of Independence by our own patriot **Mike Swygert** and the singing of the National Anthem, led by flautist **Mike Treister** and the kazoo band, the parade began. This year's Parade Marshall was Mr. Bob Hartmann – patriotically wearing a red, white and blue (and goofy) hat, was whisked away by a white Audi convertible, one of the Stemers' fabulous cars. The annual trek down East Road ended at East Beach parking lot. The Town spirit was terrific! Thank you Karen and Bruce for your hard work in organizing, decorating and creating such a great parade.

Next stop- East Beach Parking Lot. As always, the Hotdog Roast was well attended. **Cathy and Pete Bomberger** took care of all the details for this year's picnic. The crowd was packed under the tent enjoying a cold beverage, chips and a dog. **Clarice Gourley** and **Bev Hubbs** assisted by selling tickets. And after the free ride to the East Beach Parking Lot, Bob Hartmann and Margot (I'm not sure how she got there) worked again dishing out the food, as did Sue and Rob Smith. Thank Heavens for the Bombergers' son Kevin who slaved over the hot grill! It was an enjoyable lunch. Many thanks to Cathy and Pete for chairing the event.

Beach Games were so much fun! I tried to revive my childhood skills but was unsuccessful at the hula-hoop. It is surprising how little effort it takes for pre and teen aged hips! **Paige Pucel** and **Elizabeth Pezzuto** were awesome! Several other games and contests were organized by **Kellie Klein** and **Bob Pucel** for the kids on the beach, as well



Grand Marshal Bob Hartmann and the crowd gathering for the pre-parade festivities

as the annual sand castle contest. This year's Slip'n'Slide was declared the "Best Ever" by many participants. As always, Mark Hull, Rob Carstens and Todd Klein were the driving forces and creators of the annual favorite ride. (Of course, these fellas are just kids with grown-up jobs). Thank you Kellie for chairing the beach activities and thank you all for your time and effort making the day on the beach so much fun!!

When I asked **Lynn Martin** if she and Harry would chair the Cocktail Party at the Clubhouse, she didn't have a broken arm. But she persevered! **Harry Leinenweber** and his sons Justin and John, along with Justin's wife Jenny did the heavy lifting (poured drinks too!) while Lynn with her arm in a sling, and I greeted folks for cocktails and also for the dinner following. If you have never met Lynn, you need to. For a gal with a very impressive resume, she is down to earth and a real hoot!! Harry's no slouch either. Children (and perhaps adults) were entertained by Popo the Balloon Artist during the hour long party. Thank you Martin/Leinenweber family for helping 120 or so folks enjoy a beautiful evening on the flagstone patio sipping drinks.



Mike Swygert reading the Declaration of Independence

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Do You Know Your Ordinances?

Dune Acres is a pretty laid back community however, we do have rules which we all need to follow. These rules, or Ordinances as we know them, can be found on our website www.duneacres.org

These Ordinances dictate how the Town government is run; that dog tags are required annually; that we have an annual deer cull by a limited group of hunters approved by the Town Council; that there are requirements for construction and building permits; that, as a Town, we are dedicated to preserving and controlling our natural environment. Parking and vehicle operation are also regulated.

Recently, the Town Council approved a change in the parking sticker ordinance regarding parking for house parties or meetings. If you are hosting a party or a meeting and expect that it will be necessary for guest vehicle parking on the street by your home, you may now call the Security Office in advance and alert them as to the date, time and length of party/meeting and estimated number of vehicles that may be parking in the street and no paper parking passes will be necessary. All attempts must be made to use up driveway space first and NO BEACH PARKING areas may be used for this purpose. As always with regard to Security issues and parking, the Security Commissioner has the authority to make the final decision should a problem arise. This change is for the convenience of residents hosting groups. If random cars are seen parked on the town roads, Security still has the authority to have the random vehicles towed.

The Town speed limit is also posted in our Ordinances. To remind you – “No person shall operate a vehicle at a speed in excess of Thirty miles per hour on Mineral Springs Road or Twenty miles per hour on all other roads”. Please consider slowing down in Dune Acres. 20 miles an hour sometimes creeps up to 30 – but we need to remember that our roads are our sidewalks and our residents are often walking, running, riding bikes and skateboards. PLEASE SLOW DOWN for everyone’s safety.

- by Carolyn Mellen



Independence Day Celebration

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More than 80 people then stayed for the BBQ dinner at the Clubhouse. Ruge’s Meats supplied the chicken and barbequed pork, salads and side dishes. It was delicious!!! **Shirley and Joel Hull** and **Jenny Carey** helped with the setup and clean up and hosted the dinner. The Studebaker and Leinenweber families counted for about half of the attendees. Dinner at the Clubhouse is a great idea for an easy meal for a large gathering! Thank you Shirley, Joel and Jenny for a lovely dinner.

Last, but not least, the Fireworks were great! Rob Carstens, our resident Beach Commissioner, Pied Piper, lifeguard and beach enthusiast, did all the legwork (again) to obtain a lively fireworks display. As always, thank you to the Porter Volunteer Fire Department that was here – just in case we needed them and thank you Rob for all you do to keep our beach safe. I need to thank **Patti Carstens** too for all the running she did throughout the day helping with the parade and delivering the firemen their dinners.

Dune Acres Annual Independence Day Celebration doesn’t change much year to year - we’ve got a good formula. As you have read, it takes many people to organize the various events. Everything stays entertaining because with each year we get new volunteers and fresh ideas. As the current Social Chairman I am grateful for all the help with this all-day event. As a resident, this celebration is one of the many reasons I love Dune Acres so much. Thank you!

Carolyn Mellen

* Anyone interested in getting involved in the Town, the Social Committee is the most fun!!



Dune Acres Photography Winner at Porter County Fair

Dana Shepard Treister won a 1st Place - Blue Ribbon at the Porter County Fair for her photograph "Masai and My Cell Phone" and a 2nd Place - Red Ribbon for her photograph "Termite Mound". Both were taken during a recent safari trip to Kenya.

Dana photo-documents all her travels and creates a book with photos and text for each trip, but never entered a competition before!



Dune Acres Knitting Winner at Porter County Fair

Dr. Michael Treister won a 4th Place - Yellow Ribbon at the Porter County Fair for his multi-colored hand-knit muffler. Dr. Treister has been an orthopaedic surgeon for over 40 years, and is also an avid knitter! Not only does knitting require the same fine motor skills as orthopaedic surgery, but the repetitive action is relaxing by nature, and a welcome contrast to the stress of practicing medicine. "It's also the perfect activity for a busy professional with only short blocks of leisure time" he adds.



NAME THAT BEAR!

We've all heard of Teddy and Pooh and Paddington. Bear Bryant, Yogi Bear and Smokey. The Coca Cola Bears, Gentle Ben, and Teddy Ruxpin. Then there's Boo-Boo, Grumpy Bear and Fozzie. Books with Little Bear and the Berenstain Bears, and cartoons and movies with Noozles, the Hillbilly Bears, Baloo and the real Gentle Ben. And then there was Dunesbury - the now gone to sawdust bear in the Dune Acres playground.

Well now we have another Bear mascot for Dune Acres that needs a name! If, by chance, you haven't seen him, he stands at the intersection of east Road and Crest Drive. Please send your suggestions via email to Bill Nixon at bilonix711@comcast.net. The top 3 suggestions will be presented for a vote at the August 19th Town Council Meeting. All in attendance will participate in the voting. Sorry, no vote by proxy allowed!

How Does a Turtle Cross the Road?

One day in late June, I was walking back on Mineral Springs Road after trying unsuccessfully to photograph the sandhill cranes near the South Shore tracks when I spotted a car stopped about thirty yards south of the DA security office. A man (not from DA) was standing holding a tiny baby snapping turtle. I asked if he would hold the baby between his fingers. Presto, the photo.

- by Mike Swygert



A Conflict Resolved

Which State has the tallest dunes bordering Lake Michigan? Is it Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, or Michigan? The answer is not as easy as it may seem. Hoosiers likely will roll their eyes and point to hills rising along the Indiana shoreline. Illinois? Forget it, not even in the running. True, Wisconsin can make a claim because it does have “a few small dunes along its shore.” But, one has to look long and hard to find them and when they do, they will be underwhelmed.

Ok, that leaves Indiana and Michigan. Well, most folks in the Wolverine state would claim that there is no issue, that the tallest dunes on Lake Michigan are along the Leelanau Peninsula on the lake’s northeast shoreline. And they would be right except for one thing -- you can’t always believe what you see.

In terms of the sand’s height above the lake, they are, well, correct. But (and this is a very big BUT), most of that height is not sand. Sorry – the Michigan sand dunes sit “upon glacial drift which itself is higher than the lake.” Take that Michatonians. “So what,” they reply, “to reach the top of the tallest Michigan dune, you have to walk many more steps than to reach the summit of Mount Tom in the Indiana Dunes State Park. Huh!” We respond: “Michigans, we are not talking about exercise.”

Let’s get to the real facts. According to renowned geologist George Babcock Cressey, the height of those sandy sprinkled hills way up there in northern Michigan has no relationship to the height of a dune. As he phrases it: “[T]he altitude of a [hill] is not the height of a dune.” Simply, a dune to be a real dune must consist entirely of sand. Ergo, fellow residents of the Indiana dunes, we may conclude that our dunes are indeed the tallest on Lake Michigan. Now we can sleep better tonight.

Source Note: George Babcock Cressey, *The Indiana Sand Dunes and the Shore Lines of the Lake Michigan Basin* (1928) published for the Geographic Society of Chicago by the University of Chicago Press.

Professor Cressey (1886-1963) earned his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Chicago. Besides writing on the geology of the great lakes he spent several years in China and authored what is described as “a pioneering book” titled *China’s Geographic Foundations*.

- by Mike Swygert

The deadline for the next issue of
The Beachcomber is **August 24**.

Dune Acres’ First Residents: William and Flora Richardson

In the late 1880s and early 1900s, access to the Indiana dunes from Chicago and elsewhere was difficult. Neither nearby roads nor other direct transportation routes existed, although a few individuals (including Henry Cowles, a botanist at the University of Chicago) made their way. Still, for most people, the Indiana dunes were virtually inaccessible for recreational and other pursuits. That suddenly changed, however, in 1908 when the South Shore Railroad completed an inter-urban electric line from Chicago to South Bend with stops in the dunes. Interest in visiting the southern shore of Lake Michigan immediately rose. Chicago groups arranged a “Saturday afternoon Walking Trip in the dunes” for Memorial Day, 1908. Former Dune Acres resident and historian James Newman reported that “338 men and women” participated in the dunes walk. Word spread quickly that the dunes region was a natural area bordering Lake Michigan like none other in the Chicago area, one that a train could whisk people to and from easily.

Two years later, in 1910, William and Flora Richardson (two Chicagoans) put up a “hut” in what now is the western part of Dune Acres. Initially, they arrived on the South Shore at the Mineral Springs stop where they got off and headed north toward the lake on a trail, baggage in tow, trudging some two miles across a swamp (Cowles Bog), then up and over dunes to a spot that today is along West Road.



William and Flora Richardson. Photo courtesy of The Westchester Township History Museum – an educational service of the Westchester Public Library.

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Around the Bird Feeder

photos by Mike Swygert



Common Driveway Sealant Poses Health and Environmental Risks

- by Leah Harp

Protecting ourselves, our children, our pets, and the environment from toxic chemicals can sometimes be difficult. Happily, though, there are cases when it is possible to make a simple choice that will have a dramatic impact. That is the case with a driveway sealant called coal tar. The United States government states that living next to a coal tar sealed driveway is estimated to increase lifetime cancer risk by 38 times. The substance also causes serious harm to wildlife including, notably in our area, lake fish.

Scientific studies on the health effects of this substance, and the easy availability of alternatives, have led large national chains like Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Lowe's to remove it from their shelves. Coal tar is now banned in states including Minnesota and Washington, and in municipalities including Austin Texas, Washington DC and, in our area, a group of Chicago suburbs with a million residents. I'd like to ask the Dune Acres Town Council to ban this harmful and easily-replaced substance from our community.

Coal tar is a byproduct of the steel industry. It is a viscous liquid that can be sprayed on pavement to give it an even black coating. It contains chemical compounds called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, that have been shown to be carcinogens, and that leak into the environment from surfaces treated with coal tar. Friction from tires abrades the seal coat into tiny particles that become dust that is blown by wind, washed away by rain, and tracked by shoes and tires to other locations. The dust can be inhaled and inadvertently consumed by people, pets, and wildlife.

Happily, alternatives to coal tar are widely available. The most common and least expensive is petroleum asphalt-based sealcoat. Asphalt sealcoat is very affordable and compares favorably with coal tar in appearance and durability. If you have a coal tar sealed driveway, you can have the sealant shot-blasted off and reseal your driveway. You can also encapsulate the coal tar with asphalt. Meanwhile, removing shoes before entering the home and wiping pets' feet can reduce the amount of coal tar dust tracked into the house.

A few copies of The Beachcomber, printed in black and white, are available every month at the Gate House.



Some may feel that living next to the Nipsco plant renders other environmental health risks negligible. When we were thinking of purchasing our home in this wonderful community, my husband spoke to an environmental lawyer at his firm, Schiff Hardin. She stated that the most harmful waste products from the plant are not released locally, but are shot very high in the sky to drift eastward, generally coming down to earth over a wide area closer to the East Coast. The health and environmental hazards posed by a coal tar driveway increase with proximity.

Therefore, living next to a neighbor with a coal tar sealed driveway is likely to pose a greater health risk than pollution from the plant. And while our community can only effect what happens at the Nipsco plant indirectly, we can make choices that will protect our residents and this beautiful natural area we are so lucky to enjoy. Even if we may be exposed to pollution living by Gary and Chicago, we can take steps to have the safest town we can have.

Resources

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency provides detailed information on selecting safe alternatives to coal tar sealants in this article: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/stormwater-management/great-lakes-coal-tar-sealcoat-pah-reduction-project/choosing-alternatives-to-coal-tar-based-pavement-sealcoats.html#more-on-safer-alternatives-click-on-bar-to-expand>

More details on the health and environmental effects of coal tar can be found in this article from the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3010/pdf/fs2011-3010.pdf> or at the website <http://coaltarfreeamerica.blogspot.com>.

Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Leah Harp	Bill Nixon
Rich Hawksworth	Lois Nixon
Carolyn Mellen	Mike Swygert
Irene Newman	Dana Treister

If you would like to contribute a story, photo, poem, art, something from your children or grandchildren, etc, the deadline for the next issue is August 24!

Who were these two adventurers? William was a graduate of the University of Chicago and had become chief chemist at Swift & Co. in the city. Flora loved nature and natural environments. They had no children. In a few years they abandoned the small hut and built a house, though keeping their Chicago residence. By then their dunes location was more than a retreat from the city's hustle; it was their wildlife sanctuary where they enjoyed living within a natural wilderness (one that Henry David Thoreau surely would have adored).

Over the 26 years William lived in the dunes, he took some 8,000 photographs, primarily flowers and birds. Richardson, according to Professor Newman, was a serious ornithologist, a hobby he had begun when he was eight. William died in 1936 at the relatively young age of 59.

Thirteen years earlier, in 1923, Dune Acres had become a town. This brought about changes impacting the Richardsons. The most important was a loss of isolation. Newman gives a revealing antidote. When West Road was being constructed, Flora and Bill kept ahead of the bulldozer, pulling up the plants that would be lost and planting them on their property. It was a harbinger of what became Flora's lifetime passion – the preservation of the unique flora and fauna.

Following her husband's death in 1936, Flora remained another 24 years in Dune Acres until her death in 1960. During that period she immersed herself in learning more about the dunes ecology and diversity of plants and animals, while maintaining her husband's extensive photographs and their collection of environmental books and papers. Throughout her remaining years, she pursued a dual mission -- preservation and expansion of protected natural lands and the education of people to its wonders.

In 1958 Flora Richardson established the Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., consisting of 3.5 acres of natural habitat and her home (torn down in 2004) plus the photographs, books and papers. She had appointed her close friend and fellow Dune Acres resident Edith Kilbourn to be the initial overseer of the trust, a position Edith held for 25 years. Flora's assets and missions lived far beyond her death and continue to do so.

Today, the Flora Richardson Foundation remains a not-for-profit corporation, governed by a board of trustees. The Foundation's primary mission is to promote environmental education throughout the Indiana dunes and northwest Indiana region, primarily by awarding grants. Current projects include assisting the Dunes National Lakeshore Environmental Learning Center and promoting projects for preserving and restoring natural areas, including those within the northern Indiana watershed. According to Robert "Bob" Hartmann, a



Flora Richardson sitting amidst dune flowers. Photo taken by her husband, William. (undated) Photo courtesy of The Westchester Township History Museum (located in the Brown Mansion, Chesterton), an educational service of the Westchester Public Library.

long-time Dune Acres resident and a member of the trustees of the Richardson Foundation, one of the Foundation's primary goals is to partner with a group known to preserve natural property to establish a wildlife sanctuary somewhere along or near Lake Michigan.

Speaking of Bob Hartmann, a few weeks ago he was recognized by the Flora Richardson Foundation for more than twenty years of leadership that included his service as president and member of the Foundation's executive board. We salute Bob for his volunteer services benefiting the region and the Town of Dune Acres, including those as chairperson of the Dune Acres Historical Commission.

Bob Hartmann, along with others who care deeply about preservation of natural areas, continue to work to fulfill Flora Richardson's wishes -- the protection and expansion of a natural environment sanctuary along the southern shore of Lake Michigan and the education of people, especially children, about the wonders of the Indiana dunes. What a magnificent legacy for an initial resident of Dune Acres, a legacy Flora Richardson enabled by leaving all her real and intellectual property in a perpetual trust.

-by Mike Swygert

Sources:

Preserving Past and Present Dunes:
The Legacy of William and Flora Richardson
Unpublished occasional paper (12 pages) (undated); James Newman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago, (deceased); available at the Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary Archives, Brown Mansion, Chesterton, Indiana, and on the Internet.

Dreams of Duneland
A History of the Indiana Dunes Region
Indiana University Press, 286 pages (2013)
Kenneth J. Schoon, Professor Emeritus of Science Education,
Indiana University, past president of the Indiana Dunes
Learning Center

Richardson Foundation Honors Bob Hartmann
The Chesterton Tribune, July 10, 2014, page 3

Conversations with Bob Hartmann
July 2014, Dune Acres, Indiana

Porter County recycling district certifies first Master Recycler

James Biancotti became the first certified Master Recycler in Porter County. Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County Executive Director Therese Davis presented Biancotti with his certification at the organization's quarterly board meeting Tuesday.

The Ogden Dunes resident completed the last few volunteer hours of his required 30 Payback Hours helping out at the district's household hazardous waste event recently. He fulfilled his attendance at the Master Recycler pilot classes last spring.

The Master Recycler program offered by the district provides a comprehensive overview of the organization, waste flow, recycling processes and household hazardous waste in Northwest Indiana; composting, vermicomposting, and electronics recycling. The classes feature guest speakers and field trips so attendees can learn from industry professionals and witness first-hand what happens to their waste.

"I originally took the class to find out what could be done to increase the amount of recycled material from the town of Ogden Dunes," Biancotti said. "I am a member of the town environmental advisory board. I learned a lot more about recycling than expected; the right and wrong of single stream recycling, how to handle e-waste, why everyone should utilize the household hazardous waste collection days, and the recycling of organic waste."

The course offered in Porter County is the first Master Recycler program offered anywhere in the state of Indiana, which means Biancotti is the very first certified Master Recycler not only in the county, but anywhere in the state.

Master Recycler programs are popular in areas of the Pacific Northwest, but a few are also located in Minnesota, Virginia, Ohio, Arizona and Canada.

Biancotti was one of 17 individuals in Porter County who took the initiative to register for the course and commit to volunteering time to help educate and reduce waste in Porter County.

The next course is scheduled to begin Sept. 11 and will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays for eight weeks. Online registration is available at www.ItMeansTheWorld.org.

- excerpts from the Newsletter of the Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County



Save the Dunes is coordinating a guided hike of the Cowles Bog trail on the evening of August 28th. The excursion will depart from the Dune Acres security cabin around 5:15 and return by 7:00. Dan Mason of the National Park Service and Noel Pavlovic of the U.S. Geologic Service will lead the hike.

Cowles Bog is named for pioneering ecologist Henry Chandler Cowles, who studied plant succession here in the early 20th century. It is also a designated National Natural Landmark and one of the most extraordinary natural areas in the Indiana Dunes. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to visit Cowles Bog along with two of the leading experts on its ecology. Please RSVP to Rich Hawksworth (richhawksworth@mac.com or 787-8505) by August 15th if you would like to join the outing.

The Fine Print: *The Beachcomber* is published on-line shortly after the monthly Town Council meeting. All information, news, creative contributions, articles, reports, corrections, suggestions, Letters to the Editor, art work, comments and otherwise are welcomed and encouraged. *The Beachcomber* is a grass roots publication not officially affiliated with either the Town of Dune Acres or the Dune Acres Civic Improvement Foundation, Inc. (DACIF). All content is believed to be reasonably accurate and reliable but not "guaranteed!"

Editorial Board: Carolyn Mellen, Irene Newman and Mike Swygert.
Email submissions to inewman680@aol.com. Please use "Beachcomber," in the subject line.