



THE BEACHCOMBER

DUNE ACRES, INDIANA

WWW.DUNEACRES.ORG

November, 2017

Fall Party on Veterans Day Salutes Those Who Served

Veteran's Day was celebrated at the Clubhouse with the throwback theme of DUNE ACRES PRESENTS THE USO & BIG BAND SHOW. Trying not to get too Fourth of Julyish, we decorated with stars and lights. The music was from the era of the big band days with Maestro Rob Carstens playing DJ. Lot's of mingling occurred during the first couple of hours and then the dancing began.

Bill and Linda Kollada have practiced their swing dancing and they were great and fun to watch in their 1940's outfits! There were a couple of uniformed officers on the dance floor as well as many civilians.

Of course, many thanks need to be offered for the success of the party. Jenny Carey was crucial in helping with the planning and decorating. Many thanks to Michele McClead and Rick Demkovich for being in charge of the bar purchases, set up and clean up. Food was donated by many – Robin Tennant, Bobbi Taylor, Bette Norris, Lynda and Howard Silverman, Jane Dickey, Joan Rearick, the Lapinskis, Michele McClead and Paul Woidke. Paul, a newcomer to town, jumped right in to help with set up and clean up and got to know our neighbors during the evening. Mike and Darla Lapinski helped all day as well – and Mike bartended most of the night with pal Richard Dacy. Thanks to everyone for their participation.

A special shout out of thanks to Alex Stemer for allowing us to display his framed USA flag on the mantle and to the Donnelly's for lending us our welcoming sign of Uncle Sam.



It is through the spirit of volunteerism that we grow as a close - knit neighborhood. I appreciate all the help we received and encourage everyone to jump in and help during the Social event to which they are assigned. Any questions about volunteering, feel free to call me!

by Carolyn Mellen



photos by Jenny Carey



Mark Hull & Bobbi Taylor



Carolyn & Lou Mellen



Sand Creek neighbors Linda & Vic Szurgot

more photos on page 3

Fall Party

story on page 1



Mike Lapinski, Carolyn Mellen & Rich Dacy

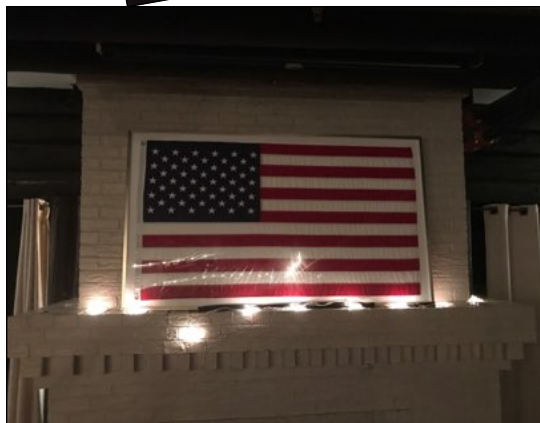
photos by Jenny Carey



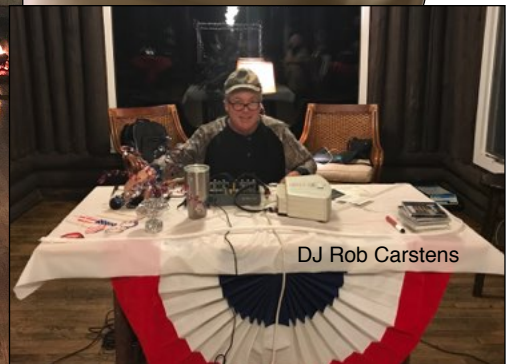
Bette Norris & Rob Carstens



Bob & Margo Hartmann



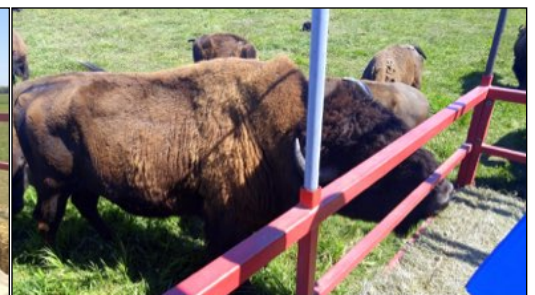
Lynda & Howard Silverman



DJ Rob Carstens

Broken Wagon Bison

Over 70 bison on 160 acres in Hobart, IN, the ranch provides locally grown bison meat, leather & hides.



submitted by Dana Treister

A Boo Time Was Had by All on the Halloween Bus

Riffle's, Masloroff's and Stock's ride the Boo Bus Halloween Night in Dune Acres or something similar? And maybe a thanks to the Commish for the Boo Bus trailer again this year

submitted by Sara Masloroff



Cowles Bog Talk and Walk

The Clubhouse was full on Saturday morning, October 21st for Dan Mason's presentation on the Cowles Bog restoration project. Mason, a botanist from the National Park Service, included a geological history of the area, explained the importance of wetlands to our environment, and described the process of the restoration. Following the presentation, he led a group through the closed section of the trail to see the new sedges growing and the progress on getting rid of the invasives in the bog. The low water level was explained and now it is at normal levels due to significant rain and water table improvement.



Susan Chermel, Ivan Chermel, Dan Mason (NPS Botanist), and Robin Tennant

photo by Lynn Remington

Presentation by Dan Mason in the Clubhouse

photos by Irene Newman



DA Annual Golf Outing

Sixteen golfers teed it up on an absolutely beautiful Fall Saturday at Pottawattomie Country Club in the Annual Dune Acres Golf Outing.

The foursome of Mike Lapinski, Rob Carstens, Bill Tutlewski, and secret weapon, Tammy Donnelly, took first place honors thanks to Tammy's long, winning putt on the 18th hole.

The honor of longest putt belongs to Rob Carstens, and Tammy also won closest to the pin on a very tough par 3.

A special shout out to Tom and Lou Roberts for sponsoring us at Pottawattomie, and for generously providing on the course beverages of which I am guessing a few were had.

Golfers, spouses, and friends then retreated to The Spa Restaurant for drinks and dinner. Thank you to Mike and Darlene Lapinski for all they did in arranging the dinner and all it's related details. They did a great job.

Hoping to see more golfers next year.

story and photos by Bob Lauer



from left: Mary Dacy, Lou Roberts, Kathy Lauer, Darlene Lapinski, Margaret McKenna



Tammy Donnelly



Lynn Martin, Harry Leinenweber, Rich Dacy, Mike and Darlene Lapinski

Ice Rink Warming Hut Renovation

A big thank you is extended to Parks Commissioner Kellie Klein for overseeing the renovation of the town's ice rink 'warming hut.' Utilizing Mark Taylor's (town maintenance) carpentry and painting skills, Klein designed the space to optimize every inch available, and to make it more functional and welcoming for our town skaters.

The warming hut is located in the town hall, with entrance on the building's north side, alongside the rink. Residents may request an access key from security at any time. The hut has restroom facilities along with dozens of extra skates in all sizes for use by residents and their invited guests.

by Jan Bapst



Mark Taylor

An Indiana Dunes *National Park*?

by Mike Swygert

On March 7, 2017, Indiana Senator Jon Donnelly and Congressman Pete Visclosky introduced a bill in both the Senate and House of Representatives that would change the name of the “Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore” to the “Indiana Dunes National Park.” It was supported unanimously by the Indiana Congressional delegation. At a news conference, Indiana Congresswoman Jackie Walorski said it would give Indiana its “first National Park,” the 60th in the Nation. She emphasized that the name change would draw more visitors to the Indiana dunes. Moreover, Donnelly and Visclosky said the name change would “give the area the recognition it deserves”. Save-the-Dunes executive director, Natalie Johnson suggested that “the Indiana Dunes clearly deserve top recognition as a National Park because of its unparalleled biodiversity and natural heritage.”

Several months passed before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources unanimously approved the Donnelly and Visclosky bill to change the name of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to the Indiana Dunes National Park. If the bill gets through the Senate and is signed by the President, the renamed park would not necessarily receive greater funding nor would its current boundaries be expanded. The name change would, however, give the park a higher prestige status, likely attracting more visitors.

One thing is certain -- an Indiana Dunes National Park would be the first in Indiana and one of only a few in the Midwest. The five states closest to Indiana have three designated national parks: Michigan (Isle Royal National Park), Kentucky (Mammoth Cave National Park), and Ohio (Cuyahoga Valley National Park). Besides Indiana, neither Illinois nor Wisconsin has a national park. Today, 21 of the 50 states have a total of 59 designated national parks. The largest number is in California (nine), followed by Alaska (seven).

According to a National Geographic report, California's Yosemite was the impetus of America's nascent nation park movement. ***“Naturalist John Muir brought the grandeur of such lands to those who had never seen them. [Muir's] prolific and widely published writings stressed how such wild places were necessary for the soul, and his advocacy later became the driving force behind the creation of several national parks.”*** President Abraham Lincoln and Congress during the Civil War “put Yosemite under the protection of California.” Later, in 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant “made Yellowstone America's – and the world's – first truly National Park.” But it



was President Theodore Roosevelt who had the greatest influence on the development of the country's national parks. During the first decade of the 20th century when he was in office, Roosevelt created five new national parks and established over 100 million acres of national forest. It wasn't easy, as powerful commercial interests opposed the government's taking of private lands for public uses.

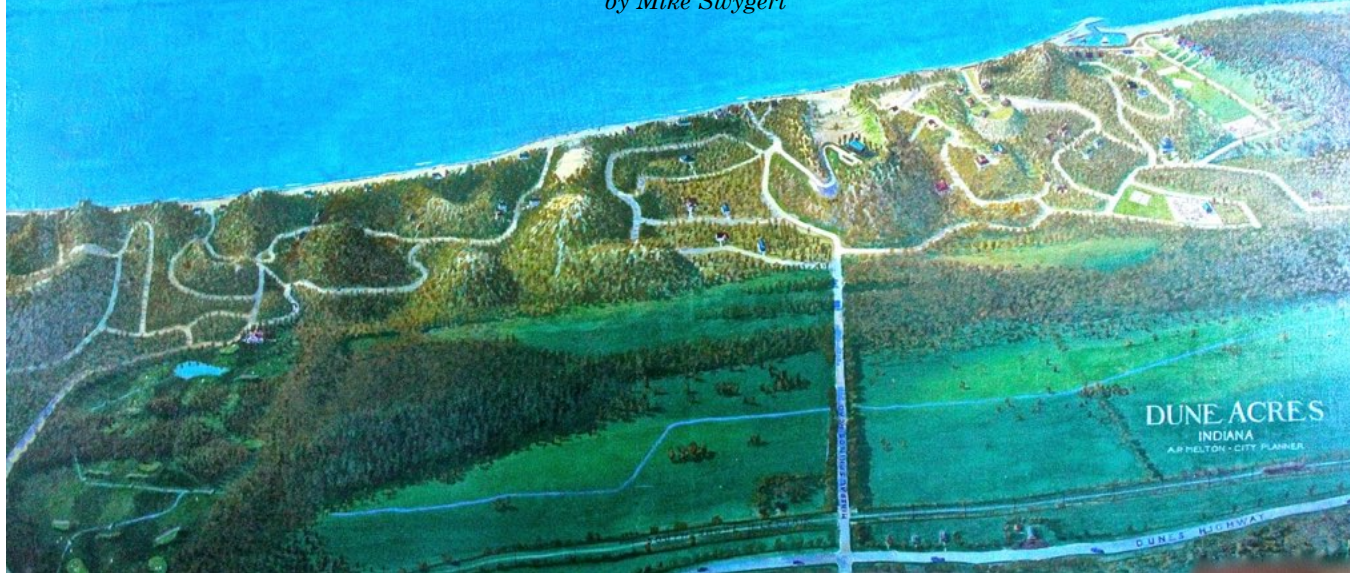
In 1915, a millionaire industrialist named Stephen Mather crusaded to establish a National Park Service in Washington, D.C., with the mission to “protect the parks, unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Within a year, Congress created the National Park Service and the President appointed Mather as its director. One of Director Mather's initial goals was to establish a national park in the Midwest in an area that he had seen and believed was truly unique in the nation -- a 30-mile stretch of pristine sand dunes along the Indiana Lake Michigan shoreline. He suggested naming it the “Sand Dunes National Park”, consisting of thousands of acres of dunes, forests, and wetlands, all to be preserved and open to the public.

On October 30, 1916, Mather conducted a public hearing in Chicago seeking public input on the dunes national park proposal. The people who spoke at the hearings or delivered written comments supported the national park proposal by a large margin. But it was not to be. The populist and environmentalist momentum for establishing a Sand Dunes National Park on the edge of Lake Michigan hit a dead end in 1917 due to Congressional funding limitations, especially because of America being drawn into World War One. Had the proposal succeeded and the park become a reality, today, a century later, there would be no steel mills, power plants, Port of Indiana, and towns of Ogden Dunes, Dune Acres, Porter Beach and Beverly Shores between Gary and Michigan City.

continued on page 7

Dune Acres Historical Tidbits

by Mike Swygert



First in a new series of fascinating facts and fun from our town's history

FACT: In 1922, William A. Wirt secured a 99 year lease "with the privilege of purchasing at any time at \$600 an acre, two and one-half miles of Lake Michigan Beach, about 12 miles east of Broadway [in Gary] on the Dunes Highway." *Gary Post Tribune, December 9, 1922.*

FACT: In May 1923, five Gary businessmen formed Dune Acres, Inc., a real estate development on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. Six months later, DA, Inc. obtained a municipal charter from the State of Indiana, thereby establishing the Town of Dune Acres. Its population consisted of 16 people in five homes. The purpose of DA, Inc. was to develop an upscale community along the shores of Lake Michigan **"akin to those on Chicago's North Shore"** (emphasis added). *Source: Margaret Doyle, James Newman.*

FACT: Harry Hall, one of the town's founders, wrote that, in 1923, "William A. Wirt, Superintendent of Schools; A. P. Melton, Civil Engineer who laid out Gary's streets; Clarence R. Kuss, Vice President of the National Bank of America; Judge C. V. Ridgely, and myself incorporated a lake front subdivision. We originally purchased 607 acres, laid out a golf course, a harbor and park space. We had great hope for this project, however, soon after we were pretty well established, the great depression came, which resulted in our having to relinquish about 400 acres." *Attachment to letter from Dune Acres resident David R. Rearick to historian Margaret Doyle. David Rearick, a long-term Dune Acres, is the great grandson of Harry Hall Rearick. It was Harry Hall's wife who named the town "Dune Acres."*

FUN: Marshall Fields cancels proposed name change of a Dune Acres road. Town resident Gertrude Conklin remembered that at a town meeting in the late 1950's, a person living on Crest Drive proposed the name be changed to "Hillcrest Drive." Not so fast, "Hillcrest Drive, Dune Acres" was too long to fit on a Marshall Field's charge plate. Now, that's NOT acceptable. The road remained "Crest Drive" (and "hill" continues to describe Crest Drive's terrain).

FUN: *DA Town Board Minutes, July 5, 1924.* Gilbert Bragton was the first Town Marshal, hired in 1924 with a salary of \$120 a year. In today's dollars, that comes to \$1,673. Meanwhile, the town's first clerk -- Edith B. Melton -- was paid a salary of \$300 a year. Is it possible that Dune Acres discriminated against men when it came to pay?

FUN: In 1925, Porter County Assessor B.H. Kinne calculated the total value of Dune Acres land and buildings to be \$97,240 dollars, about the cost of installing in Dune Acres today a Presby Advanced-Enviro septic system (if a current resident's calculations are correct).

FUN: *DA Town Minutes, Feb. 7, 1931.* Dune Acres in 1931 established a School Board with the intention of building a schoolhouse on town property. Some residents may still be waiting for this to happen though probably not.

Fall Clean-Up

We had a rip roaring, harmony-filled few hours at our Fall Clean Up ! Yes, we had some rain, but a jolly time was had by all. We planted 300 plus plants around the sandy soil near Town Hall. Bearberry, not to be confused with Barberry, is a lovely native ground cover with edible berries that some animals might eat. Having a tent and a fire in an outdoor fireplace contributed to the fun. Jenny Carey lent us her white tent, which kept us "Singing in the Rain"... Really it was that Fun!!

Some hearty souls planted and moved downed branches. Eradication of invasive Bittersweet was limited, however, since the rain interferes with effective treatment.

Our team consisted of Paul Woidke, Lynn Boeke, Rich and Kaden Hawksworth, Cathy and Peter Bomberger, Joel and Shirley Hull, Rachel Carey, Adam Little, Todd Klein (who made his famous biscuits and gravy), Kellie, Cole and Lucas Klein, Savanna Whalley, Heidi Studebaker, Bob Laurer, Paul Wilkins, Debbie Franczek, Gerry Berger, Tammy and Tom Donnelly, Pat McGinn, Mark Hull, Michael Yetnikoff, Sara and Chris Masloroff with their daughters Ava and Ellie.

The Beach also had a clean up, with Rob Carstens leading that crew, including Patty and Erika Carstens. We were also lucky to have Nathaniel Pilla from Save the Dunes who was very informative and interesting to have as a resource (he also brought his adorable sons).

I must thank Vicki Konopacki for her delicious cheese cake bars and delectable loaf cake. She also shared homemade popcorn balls that melted in your mouth. Ruth Dyerly brought some of the best brownies ever eaten in town.

Thank you to the people whose monetary donations helped us make this year's clean-up a success - Leah Harp, Bette Norris, Fredrick Reindel, Kenneth Warren, Bob and Margo Hartmann, Jane Heenan, Jim and Juanita Elder, Isak and Nancy Gerson, and Bill and Sherry Quinn.

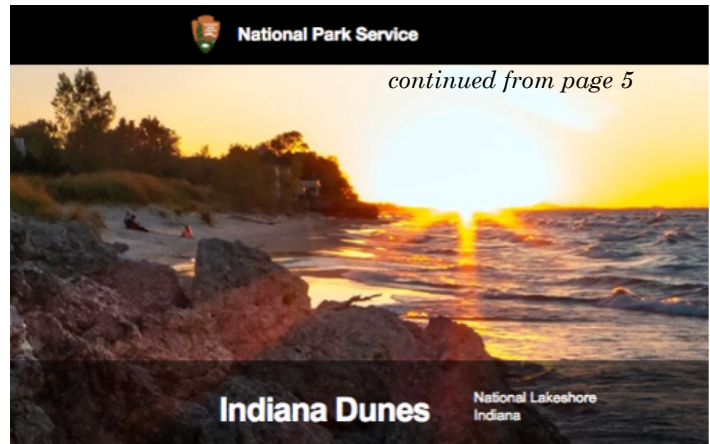
by Robin Tennant

Thanks to the following people who made this issue happen:

Jan Bapst	Carolyn Mellen
Jenny Carey	Irene Newman
Leah Harp	Lynn Remington
Bob Lauer	Mike Swygert
Kathy Lauer	Robin Tennant
Sara Masloroff	Dana Treister

We welcome all submissions - news, stories, photos, ideas for articles, information about upcoming events, etc.

**The Beachcomber is going on winter break.
Next edition will be out in the spring.**



Indiana Dunes NP

Today, there's a second opportunity for a Dunes NATIONAL PARK. Would changing the name of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore that was authorized by Congress on October 14, 1966 be a big deal? Yes and no. Yes, the State of Indiana, regional and local governments and businesses, and especially many among the millions of people residing in the greater Chicago metropolitan area would be pleased. But, what about our small town of Dune Acres - how will it be affected? Well, that depends. In time, a National Park surely will draw more visitors to the area, increasing numbers of those will seek any road that appears to be an access to the dunes' beaches, a continuing concern for the town. Indeed, being more or less surrounded on three sides by a "National Park" vis-à-vis a National Lakeshore could make access into the town and parking situations more problematic. But this writer, at least, sees a positive benefit renaming the Lakeshore a Park. It would be cool to tell people: "We live within a National Park."



Praying Mantis photo submitted by Leah Harp

Just in Time for Thanksgiving

by Mike Swygert



In the last few years, Dune Acres residents have seen more rafters of wild turkeys than previously. These stately avians stroll through our woodsy yards; dance and mate in Cowles Bog; and love foraging in the forests for nuts from oak and hickory trees, and seeds, berries and fruits from a variety of dune flora.

First, some nomenclature and distinctions: mature male wild-turkeys are called "toms" or "gobblers," while juvenile males are "jades". Mature females are "hens" and their babies are called "poults". Mature males are identifiable by red heads, beards and spreadable tails, making them more attractive to females. Hens have dull grey or bluish heads; a lighter, sometimes yellowish or faded orange colored neck; and, but only rarely, a small beard. Hens, being choosy, are stand-offish when it comes to mating, preferring, I suspect with tongue in cheek, a Tom, Dick or Harry having a sense of humor, stamina, strength, intelligence and ruggedness.

Wild turkeys can fly for only short periods at very low altitudes, meaning that migrating for any long distance is difficult. Those living in the northern half of the country struggle to survive the long, harsh winters. To do so, they must find and ingest sufficient food. Next, they must find a winter location, one that will afford them

protection against the cold, snow and predators. Hens will seek a place with leaves and brush to burrow under. Males tend to battle the winter flocked together, spending some of the time on the lower branches of large trees.

Having mated in spring and thriving during the summer, the wild turkeys welcome fall for the relative variety and abundance of food sources: nuts, seeds, berries, moss, grasses, buds, and fern spores. All these delicacies are available in Dune Acres and the adjacent Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Besides winter, other dangers lurk - predators. Turkeys fly up to tree branches where they build nests in which hens lay their eggs. But eggs and newly born poults are prize takings for predators. In Dune Acres, raccoons stalk the full-grown turkeys, especially at night. Opossums also find turkeys a splendid meal, as does an occasional wolf.



The wild turkeys are surviving in large numbers in the Indiana Dunes. A decades ago wild turkeys were far fewer throughout the country, primarily due to overhunting. But today, these resplendent creatures have made a comeback, much to the happiness of many of us who reside in the lovely town of Dune Acres.

The Fine Print: *The Beachcomber* is published on-line monthly during the summer and periodically during the winter. 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: Irene Newman, Jan Bapst and Mike Swygert.

Email submissions to inewman680@aol.com. Please use "Beachcomber," in the subject line.