



INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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First Biodiversity Survey of Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area (July 16-17): 8000 Acres of Restored Wetlands, Prairies, and Bottomland Tree Plantings

by Barbara Simpson, Friends of Goose Pond; Daryl R. Karns, Hanover College;
and Donald Ruch, Ball State University

The Indiana Academy of Science (IAS), the Rivers Institute at Hanover College, and the Friends of Goose Pond are partnering to conduct the first biodiversity survey of Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area (Goose Pond FWA), an 8000 acre wetland restoration located near Linton in southwestern Indiana. This is a first step in assessing an important Indiana wetland. The bird surveys that have been conducted by Lee Sterrenburg have identified Goose Pond as an avian hotspot in the state, but there is very little known about other taxa. We are looking for taxonomic expertise to participate in the survey. This survey is not being planned like a BioBlitz, in which there is a public education component; the goal of the Goose Pond Survey is to obtain baseline biodiversity information for this important site and lay the groundwork for future studies.

Background: The restoration of Goose Pond FWA was done under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). One of the largest WRP wetland restorations, it covers 7138 acres in two sections, Goose Pond (5945 acres) and Beehunter Marsh (1193 acres) that are both part of Goose Pond FWA, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Diverse habitats make up Goose Pond FWA including 4000 acres of shallow open water, 400 acres of bottomland tree plantings, and 1380 acres of tall and short grass prairies.

Goose Pond was once a shallow glacial basin and part of the historic Blackwater Marsh. Beehunter Marsh was also marshland. Clearing the land, tile drainage, and ditching for agriculture began in the late 1890's and continued until 1999 when the property was enrolled in the WRP. In 2000 the last crops were harvested and restoration began. Over 30 miles of tile excavation, more than 35 miles of levees, and



A Roseate Spoonbill at Goose Pond; this species is typically found on the Gulf Coast, but somehow found its way to Indiana. Photo by Jim Sullivan.



Sunset at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife. Goose Pond is an 8,000 acre wetland restoration project. Photo by Barb Simpson.

42 water control structures were required. The Beehunter Marsh restoration was completed in 2004. The Goose Pond restoration was completed in 2009.

Call for Scientists to Participate: The biodiversity survey will take place July 16-17, 2010, a Friday and Saturday, at Goose Pond FWA. Team leaders will be identified and recruit and coordinate teams of scientists. Taxonomic teams will inventory as much of the biota as possible during this time period. We are recruiting teams for the following taxa: algae, arachnids, bryophytes, fungi, terrestrial and aquatic insects (particularly dragonflies, damselflies, and butterflies), aquatic macroinvertebrates, mollusks, vascular plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, non-volant mammals, and bats. Expertise in taxonomic groups not listed here welcome.

If you are interested in helping with this important survey, as a team leader or team member, please contact **Don Ruch** (druch@bsu.edu), Ball State, or **Daryl Karns**, Hanover College (see below), or contact the team leader directly if you are interested in a specific team. Team leaders must have a current scientific purposes permit that would cover activities for their taxonomic group for Greene County (for vertebrates and mussels). Rules for collecting have been established in coordination with the IDNR. We have identified some of the team leaders: **Lee Sterrenburg** (sterren@indiana.edu), IU, will lead the bird team, **Daryl R. Karns** (karns@hanover.edu), Hanover



The first documented (or even reported) Gadwall nest in Indiana. Nest found by Matt Bredweg of the DNR. Photo by Lee Sterrenburg.

College, the amphibian and reptile team, **Rob Jean** (beeman_4602@yahoo.com), ISU, the bee team.

Food both days and lodging July 16th will be provided at no cost, thanks to generous grants from the IAS and the Rivers Institute. There will be a dinner July 17th at the conclusion of the survey where scientists will make preliminary presentations of their findings. We hope you will choose to spend this weekend on an incredible property and share your expertise.

To learn more about Goose Pond FWA please visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3094.htm>.

Amanda Piegza, New IAS Librarian

As of October 2009, **Amanda Piegza** is the new Indiana Academy of Science librarian. She is also the head of the Catalog Division at the Indiana State Library. She received her Masters in Library Science from IUPUI, and her past experience includes working at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri as well as the Ruth Lilly Medical Library in Indianapolis. If you are interested in reaching her, or simply want to know more about the Academy's John Shepard Wright Memorial Library's collection of journals, books, and archives housed at the Indiana State Library, you may email her at apiegza@library.in.gov or call at **317-232-3686**.

Indiana Academy of Science: Past and Present

Presented by **Ron Sharp**, Reference & Government Services Librarian

Thursday, May 13, 6:00 - 7:00pm

Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis

The Indiana Academy of Science's library has a long and interesting life at the Indiana State Library. You will learn its history and some of the sources available in the collection.

-- **Amanda Piegza**
IAS Librarian

PUBLICATIONS NOTICE

As warm weather field season approaches, please inform your associates about the publications offered by the Academy. We are proud to have published and offer some of the best natural history resource books in the entire country. Please take advantage of the discount offered members to purchase a copy of several for yourself, a friend, or consider making a contribution to a local school, library or conservation organization. Within the next few months it will be possible to order and pay for publications online.

-- *Bill McKnight*
Publications Committee Chair

Call for Nominations for Fellowship in the Indiana Academy of Science

The Academy's bylaws (I,1,11) define a Fellow as "A member with recognized standing as a scientist who has contributed to the objectives of the Academy, been recognized by two-thirds of the Committee on Awards, and been approved by a majority of the members voting at any Spring or Annual meeting. The title is awarded as an honor and is independent of the class of membership." Special consideration should be given to: length of membership in the Academy (minimum of 3 years); the nature of service to the Academy and to the advancement of science in Indiana; service to education in science; and achievements in scientific research. Nature of service to the Academy means attending IAS meetings, presenting papers at meetings, publishing in the Proceedings, serving as an officer, as a committee chair, as a committee member, playing a role in organizing Academy functions, etc.

Nominations should be sent at least 6 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Academy to the Chair of the IAS Committee on Awards. The current Chair is **Clare Chatot**, Department of Biology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306 (e-mail: cchatot@bsu.edu) Nominations should include the nomination form (available on the IAS web site) signed by two Academy Fellows as well as a cover letter describing the qualifications of the nominee for fellow status. A brief CV should be included if possible.

A Letter of Thanks to the Academy

Dear Indiana Academy of Science:

I am writing to tell you some exciting news: **Frieda [Fein]** was chosen as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search. She will be one of 40 students who will spend a week in Washington DC in March.

I particularly wanted to let you know because we believe that the support you and the Indiana Academy of Science competitions provide to science students here in Indiana, and to Frieda in particular, has helped Frieda to prepare her application for this competition and her practice in presenting her project to you in November and in San Diego in February will be very helpful to her when she presents her work in Washington DC. We believe the Indiana Academy of Science has played an important role in preparing Frieda to represent Indiana on the national stage of the Intel Science Talent Search. We are very grateful to you and to the Academy for all the hard work that we know goes into providing these opportunities to students like Frieda. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
-- *Toni Fein*
South Bend, IN

Update on the IAS Membership List

In an earlier newsletter we announced that the IAS membership list would be available on our Indiana Academy of Science website in the near future. Prior to activating access to the membership list we determined that there were some important structural changes that needed to be implemented to assure the high level of security we wanted for that list. We have taken steps to institute greater security and greater flexibility for future applications. When we go live with the new, high level security website, members will be able to use credit cards to pay membership dues, buy books and register for meetings. Meanwhile, as you submit your 2010 membership fee and information as in the past, please be sure to include your email address.

-- K. Michael Foos
IAS Web Manager

**Deadline for submission of material for the June issue of the IAS Newsletter is
May 26, 2010**

Send copy to Donald G. Ruch at druch@bsu.edu

For IAS information, go to: www.indianaacademyofscience.org