

Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area Bioblitz

18th and 19th June 2016

Hello Everyone,

This year the Indiana Academy of Science through the Biodiversity and Natural Areas Committee is returning to Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area to help sponsor a two day **[Saturday through Sunday, June 18th and 19th]** bioblitz in Greene County, near the city of Linton, Indiana. The primary aim of the bioblitz is to continue to gather baseline information concerning the flora and fauna at the site.

Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, an extensive wetland restoration in southwestern Indiana, is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Indiana largest wetland restoration, Goose Pond FWA was constructed under the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program, United States Department of Agriculture, and is the 7th largest wetland restoration in the United States [see Brief History]. The diverse habitats include ~4000 acres of shallow open water, 400 acres of bottomland tree plantings, 1380 acres of tall and shortgrass prairie plantings, and small mixed deciduous woodland. A map of the site is attached.

The first bioblitz was held on July 16-18, 2010. Fourteen taxonomic teams reported 896 species [20 amphibians and reptiles, 37 bees, 73 beetles, 122 birds, 48 butterflies, nine damselflies, 21 dragonflies, 29 species of fish, four freshwater mussels, five fungi and allies, 27 mammals, 74 moths, four snail-killing flies, 379 vascular plants], 16 families of aquatic macroinvertebrates, and 18 genera of plankton. The 2016 bioblitz will be held a month earlier and should turn up many new additions.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to participate in the bioblitz. You have been contacted because you have participated in similar events in the past or are a member of the Academy. This year I will organize the bioblitz participants with the assistance of our local coordinators Barb Simpson.

Details of the event are currently being worked out but it will be similar to past bioblitz events.

If you plan to attend the event, please send me [Don] the following information:

- 1. Name**
- 2. Names of other people in your group, if appropriate**
- 3. Email address[es]**
- 4. Taxonomic group of your expertise**

Please consider joining the bioblitz team for an enjoyable 24+ hour event!

Contact:

Bioblitz Participant Coordinator:

Don Ruch, PhD

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Sincerely,

Don

A BRIEF HISTORY/BACKGROUND OF THE AREA: Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area is dedicated to providing quality hunting, wildlife viewing and trapping opportunities while maintaining 8,064 acres of prairie and marsh habitat.

Prior to the property being acquired by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the previous landowner entered into a permanent easement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This permanent easement was part of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and consisted of 7,200 acres. NRCS then assumed responsibility for the wetland restoration.

In October 2005, with the help of The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Indiana Department of Transportation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and many other organizations, IDNR purchased the 8,064-acre property including the 7,200 acres under permanent WRP easement, creating Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area.

Locally known as the Goose Pond and Bee Hunter Marsh, this 8,064-acre State Fish and Wildlife Area is located along SR 59 just south of Linton. Since 2005, it has grown to become one of the largest and most successful wetland restoration projects in the United States. This huge expanse of wetlands includes over 30 miles of earthen dikes, 1,400 acres of prairie, and nearly 4,000 acres of shallow water. Today, the area is becoming a significant destination for Midwestern birders and hunters; and home to many migrating bird species, attested by the impressive Sandhill Crane fly-in each spring, as well as many endangered species such as the Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Short-Eared Owl, Wilson's Phalarope, King Rail, Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow, Whooping Crane, and American and Least Bitterns.



