

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

A not-for-profit organization and land trust

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake

October 13, 2014

Greening of the Arts

Reception Oct. 24

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Immediate Release

Two Hammond residents will receive special recognition Friday evening, October 24, at the 9th annual Greening of the Arts Reception at Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ), 2400 New York Avenue, Whiting.

The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative will honor Joseph Kruczek and David Dabertin for their lifelong efforts to protect and enhance the Wolf Lake watershed.

The wine and cheese reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with live entertainment. The program begins at 6 p.m. and the acknowledgment of donors and volunteers in 2014 begins at 6:15 p.m.

Kruczek, a retired oil process operator at BP, spent the past summer cleaning up of hundreds of wooden and metal stakes, wire, and netting mesh left from Wolf Lake's shoreline restoration in 2005-2007. His nephew joined him in the cleaning up the debris.

Kruczek's volunteer effort this summer is but the latest contribution to protecting and enhancing the Wolf Lake watershed. As a BP employee in 2008 and 2009, he obtained grants for AWLI from BP Fabric of America.

His ties to Wolf Lake were developed early. He recalls skating and playing ice hockey and tag through the numerous cattail/muskrat houses in the marsh during Christmas vacation, teal hunting in early September in the early 1970s before high school classes at George Rogers Clark, great duck hunting adventures off the islands, and numerous other memorable hunts in duck blinds that dotted the north and south ends of Wolf Lake.

Kruczek is a longtime member of AWLI.

Like Kruczek, Dabertin's connections to the watershed began early when his family led the fight to protect George Lake. Today, if he is not at his Hammond law office, Dabertin likely can be found at Wolf Lake where he swims, kayaks, and sails.

He has given talks about sailing his iceboat at past Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festivals sponsored by AWLI. Once he offered to take participants on a ride at temperature readings of plus 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Early last year he challenged in court the issuance of a permit by the state of Indiana that allows Wolf Lake Terminals to discharge petroleum wastewater into Wolf Lake. The court case continues.

Author of *Walk-Able, Ride-Able Whiting & Robertsdale*, he recently spoke at a forum on local history and environment sponsored by AWLI and CCSJ.

A past director, Debertin is a member of AWLI's honorary board of directors.

Honored also will be corporate donors. In 2014 they are Beemsterboer Slag Corp. of Chicago, Solvay USA, Inc. of Hammond, Vidimos Inc. of East Chicago, and Holcim, Inc. of Chicago.

At 7 p.m., artist Marsha Browne will give a talk on the *Nexus of Art and Nature*. The reception will conclude with a raffle of a hand chair of recycled No. 2 plastic, donated by Lake County Solid Waste Management District, and a silent auction of art pieces.

AWLI's art show begins at noon Friday. An artists' forum is scheduled for 1 p.m. and a workshop on recycled art will be held at 2 p.m. before the reception begins.

At the show, 16 artists who use recycled products or who focus on nature and the environment will exhibit their works. The show includes paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs.

AWLI is a bi-state, not-for-profit organization and land trust dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Wolf Lake watershed.

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