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- Volunteer Info

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The Knob

News from
Clark State Forest
&
Deam Lake
State Recreation Area

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Cabins at Deam Lake Continue to be Huge Success



2013 and 2014 saw some upgrades to the Rent-A-Camp cabins at Deam Lake State Recreation Area, and coupled with gradual word-of-mouth, have resulted in jaw-dropping success. During the peak season, it is common for the cabins to be reserved several weeks in advance, and they are typically snatched up as soon as reservations are made available for holiday weekends. Upgrades included larger rear egress windows, curtains, and most importantly, air conditioning. Crews are currently in the process of applying a polyurethane seal to the floors and walls for aesthetic purposes. To make reservations, please visit www.reserveamerica.com or call 1-866-622-6746.

Timber Management Updates

Clark SF is very busy with our timber management program. We have 3 sales that the loggers are actively harvesting and are closing in on the end of their contracts. One sale is located on Wilson Switch Road east of Deam Lake. The second sale is off of Shaw Lake. The third sale is located off Broom Hill Road. These sales have been worked on for some time now and they should be finishing up within the year. We have 3 sales that the loggers have just started on this year. One of those sales is located off Flatwood Road. The second is located off Firelane Road which is a site behind Pekin Saddle Club. The third sale is located north of Country Lake Retreat Camp.

We also have more sales that are sold but the loggers have not moved in on them yet. One is off Frankie loop trail. The second is located off county line road north of HWY 160. There is one sale that we are finishing up marking and hope to sell in may. This sale is located off the firelane that runs past mountain grove cemetery.

All tracts that have loggers in them will be closed to the public. All the recreation trails

including horsetails will be closed. **It is dangerous to be in these areas when they are being actively harvested therefore contact the front office, 812-294-4306, for more information, especially before you decide where to go hunting.**

There are a couple areas that we have on our radar for future timber management. There are a few areas in particular that need thinning out. The areas in Clark County that are of interest are off of smith road, Jackson road, and a one located off the main road of CSF. These forecasted sites of harvest are tentative and subject to change.

All of the management guides for each tract are posed on the DNR website. These guides are posted so you can fully understand why certain management is being taken place in these areas. These guides are posted online before any management activities take place. **For a detailed map of the timber sale locations, please see the back page of this newsletter.** As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Clark State Forest office.



Ramblings From The Manager



Forest Management is a vital part of maintaining a healthy forest.

“We urge you to stop by and enjoy the properties, both Deam and Clark, and the facilities we provide”

Greetings from Clark State Forest and Deam Lake State Recreation Area! A lot has happened on the properties over the last year, but I'll hit the highlights.

After many months, timber salvage operations and rehabilitation on both the Knobstone trail and the horse trail in the Mountain Grove tornado area have been reopened. Some minor re-routing was done to separate the trails where they used to run together. The Knobstone Trail trailhead is in the same place but the horse trail that used to run with this portion of the KT has been moved about a quarter mile to the north. We feel this move will better serve our public by providing for better/easier maintenance and reducing conflicts among users. Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who made this possible!

As a side note, over four million board feet of timber were salvaged in this area that would otherwise have been lost.

In addition, we have two other active select harvests currently underway, and continue inventory activity on this multiple use property.

Of course we have also been busy on the facilities and infrastructure on the property. The New Franke shelter house which was in a bad state of disrepair has been rehabilitated and is open to the public. Two buildings in the main com-

pound received new gutters and a general property cleanup (ongoing) has been initiated on both the recreation areas and infrastructure. We are in the midst of construction of a new large building that will house a woodshop and repair facilities and will also serve as much-needed storage for our rolling stock. Those of you who travel by or visit our fire tower will notice that it too has been rehabilitated. And we have begun the first phase of installation of a full service comfort station at our horse campground. This will not only service the horse campground but also our future campground that will include camp sites for tents and RV's as well as several rental cabins.

The guard rail on the Fire Tower road as well as the culvert over Sheep Branch are currently being repaired. I hope you all will forgive us any inconvenience this activity might cause.

Like everyone else around here the bad winter weather has hit us hard and we are still in the midst of cleaning up all the debris left behind. Bear with us as we get caught up!

During the year the properties hosted many special events including several organized horse rides as well as other events at Deam that I will let Jana Gold, my able assistant manager at Deam Lake describe.

We are also undergoing a fairly major turnover in staff on the prop-

erties. Allen Jones, Herb Mauck and Terry Appel are retiring after many years of outstanding and loyal service. Forester Brad Steward has left to pursue a career in the forest products industry, and Naturalist Rocky Brown was appointed the Assistant Manager of Clifty Falls State Park. We wish all of them well in their new endeavors.

And finally something new: over the years our shelter houses have been available on a first-come first-serve basis. There have been many requests as of late for reservations so we have decided to make the Old Franke, New Franke, and Firetower shelter houses as well as the Purdue Museum building available for reservation. Please contact us at 812-294-4306 for reservations and fee schedules.

We urge you to stop by and enjoy the properties, both Deam and Clark, and the facilities we provide. Feel free to call us for information or with any questions at 812-294-4306 for Clark State Forest and at 812-246-5421 for Deam Lake State Recreation Area. Remember, passes, horse tags and boat permits are available at the property offices.

Come and enjoy **your** Indiana State Forest properties!

Pat Cleary
Property Manager

Clark State Forest & Deam Lake State Recreation Area



Division of Forestry staff take a break from touring the tornado damage to pose for a group photo

The Assistant's Corner

“2013 was a very busy year for all of us, but also a year that brought many accomplishments”

State Police Dive Team Members assisted in clearing ice off of Deam Lake for the Polar Plunge (below)

2013 was a very busy year for all of us, but also a year that brought many accomplishments. Rental cabins available in our campground were outfitted with heater/ air conditioners . This addition was well embraced and appreciated by our patrons. These rental cabins are very popular and stay booked for most of the recreation season.

Property personnel worked hard collecting old un-useable items /and scrap metal from the property and disposing of it. We did our first ever on line auction and we believe it was a great success. The disposal of these items enabled us to earn extra revenue and gave us a good jump start on a much needed spring cleaning. This revenue allowed us to purchase such things as materials needed to upgrade the restrooms at the Forest Education Center, Repair animal mounts there, and make other small purchases that benefit the overall property operation.

Our skilled staff re-habilitated the existing wood barn last year, threw in a little redesign, and it turned out great. New building allows us much more firewood storage for wood that is later sold as needed to our customers.

Deam hosted several special events last season, most were related to the horse riding community. A SPECIAL THANKS ! to them , as we continue to maintain an excellent partnership with this user group. They are extremely helpful to the property doing many hours of volunteer trail, and barn clean up. Horse riders helped remove downed trees on trails, also assisted during Holiday weekends to disseminate hand outs , maps ,and offer good advice to other riders that may have been new to Deam.

Rocky Brown our full time Naturalist spearheaded many community based volunteer projects throughout the year. Some of those include Eagle Scout projects, Lake Sweeps, trail clean up, and landscaping improvements.

Many times we the staff refer to ourselves as the “ DEAM TEAM” because teamwork is the back bone of maintaining a successful recreation property. However in these lean fiscal times, ongoing help and participation from all segments of our community are critical. Volunteer groups working in conjunction with staff makes a huge difference in continuing to provide a safe, clean, environment for everyone to have some good old fashioned fun !!

I hope you and your family will continue to patronize Deam Lake State Recreation Area. If you are new to our community, give us a try !

We wish everyone a happy , safe recreation season.

Jana Gold
Property Mgr. 3
Deam Lake State Recreation Area



Another Successful Polar Plunge at Deam Despite Massive Ice Cover

For the sixth consecutive year, Deam Lake State Recreation Area played host to an annual Polar Plunge event organized by Special Olympics Indiana, Area 2. Participants raised money for the organization by braving the freezing temperatures of Deam Lake in February. This year's prolonged sub-zero cold snap presented a rather daunting challenge for crews trying to prepare for the event, as a nearly foot-thick blanket of ice had formed on the surface of the lake. Deam Lake and Clark State Forest employees were able to punch a large hole in the ice using a variety of heavy equipment and a whole lot of creativity and ingenuity. With the help of staff, volunteers, the State Police Dive Team, Indiana Conservation Officers, and a myriad of other help, the event went off without a hitch. After the event, an “After Splash Bash” was held at Borden High School, during which a silent auction, a live auction, and a series of raffle drawings pushed the donation numbers even higher. Naturalist Rocky Brown was on hand with Smokey Bear to provide entertainment for the guests, along with a handful of other mascots, clowns, and magicians. While it didn't break the previous year's record, the event still raised over \$75,000 for Special Olympics Indiana. The Polar Plunge has become a welcome mainstay event at Deam Lake, and it seems to continually get better annually despite the inherent challenges of having hundreds of brave, generous souls jumping into a frozen lake.



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Clark State Forest is located in Henryville, Indiana and is home to approximately 25,000 acres of forest. Established in 1903, it is Indiana's oldest state forest. Clark State Forest also has a campground, horse campground, and several hiking, biking, and horse-riding opportunities.

Deam Lake State Recreation Area, located near Borden, Indiana is located on a 194-acre lake, and boasts such amenities as a seasonally-open beach, a horse campground, family campground, Forest Education Center, horse trails, hiking trails, and boat rental.



We Need Your Support!

Are you interested in helping out your local state property, or looking to learn more about a career with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources? Do you just want to get outside and enjoy Mother Nature? Then you should consider volunteering at Clark State Forest and Deam Lake State Recreation Area!

There are multiple volunteer opportunities at both properties, with a little something for everyone. Despite your age, ability, or knowledge base, we have something for you.

Throughout the year, Deam Lake State Recreation Area will host a Volunteer Day, during which volunteers will go through orientation, meet other volunteers, work with our Naturalist to put them into a position that best meets their interests, skills, and needs. Food and refreshments will be

served at each event after a brief service period or presentation. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office at (812)246-5421 during regular operating hours, 8:00am-3:00pm, seven days a week.

Volunteer Opportunities include the following:

- Forest Education Center Clerk
- Trail Maintenance
- Grounds/Landscaping
- Beach Attendant
- Lake Cleanup
- Smokey Bear
- Interpretive Programs
- Office Clerk
- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Haunted Trail Actors
- Haunted Trail Guides
- Program Development



Volunteers were responsible for the landscaping facelift at the Forest Education Center

Timber Sale Locations

