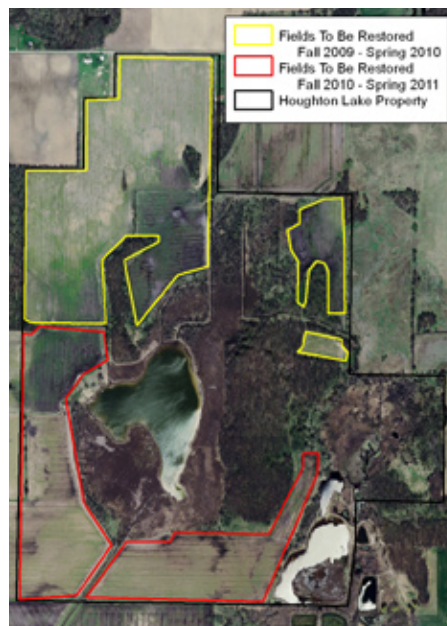
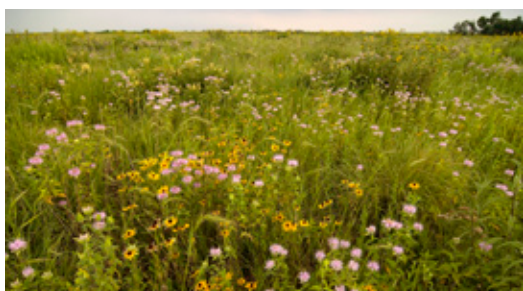


Houghton Lake Wetland Restoration to Begin Fall 2009!

We've been working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service over the last several months to enter the Houghton Lake property into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), which will provide funding for restoring the farm fields to wetland vegetation. We are in the last stages of paperwork to enter the land into WRP and wanted to let you know the preliminary timeline for this restoration and what impacts you will see on the ground.

Over the next several months both NRCS and we will be visiting the property to prepare specific restoration plans. The farm field restoration will happen over two years; the fields in the north half of the property will be restored fall 2009 - spring 2010, and fields in the south half of the property will be restored fall 2010 - spring 2011. There are two parts to the field restoration - the drainage tiles will be broken to restore the hydrology, and the fields will be planted with seeds from a wide variety of native plants. The challenge will be to get both parts of the restoration done when the fields are dry enough to support equipment.

All of the agricultural fields will be in production during the 2009 growing season, but in 2010 only the south fields will be in crops. And by 2011, there should be native vegetation growing all over this land.



we estimate that the lake level may be approximately 6 inches higher than it is now. This rise may start as early as next winter. Please keep this in mind as you use the north access road or traverse around the site - things will be a little wetter than they used to be.



Would you like to help?

During the summers of 2009 and 2010 Stuart Orr will be collecting seed from many species of plants around the lake to use in the farm fields. If you'd like to help collect seed for this project, please give Stuart a call.



Once the restoration begins, there will be contractors and equipment on the site to break the drainage tile and to plant the seeds. This work will likely be happening during at least part of deer hunting season, though the work is weather dependent and we can't predict which weeks or months most of the work will happen. We ask for your patience and understanding.

By the time the field restoration is finished in 2011,



Have you noticed a purple haze around the marl pits in late summer? This is Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a non-native plant that is one of the worst wetland invaders in the Great Lakes region. Many Indiana wetlands have become biological deserts because of this plant. We will not allow this to happen at Houghton Lake.

Two beetles which eat Purple Loosestrife, *Galerucella californiensis* and *G. pusilla*, will be released this summer. In Indiana, these beetles have been used to biologically control Purple Loosestrife since the 1990's and have significantly reduced dense infestations, generally within five years of the initial release. Therefore, this spring TNC and DNR staff will collect beetles from one or more established populations and release them at Houghton Lake.



Galerucella beetle eating purple loosestrife plant. Actual size of beetle approx. 1/4" (beetle photo by David Cappaert)



Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Update

There are five 25-year licenses for hunting, fishing and trapping on the property. There are held by Steven W. Osborn, Don Miller, Gregory A. Burns Sr., Larry G. Burns and Mark Smith. These licenses allow access by ATV or truck along the gated two-track road to the lake. Each of these license holders has a key to the gate. The ATVs may also be used on a path from the south part of the property to the quarry pits, and to retrieve game and place and remove tree stands.

There were five annual deer hunting licenses for October 1, 2008 to January 4, 2009. They were held by Edwin Osborn, Emily Rogers, Gregory Burns Jr., Jacob Rogers, and Jeremy Burns.

These licenses did not allow trapping, and the only vehicle access is the use of ATVs to retrieve game and place and remove tree stands.

Between the 10 deer hunting licenses, 14 does and 6 bucks were harvested from the property. We still see heavy browse on the site and hope that more deer are harvested next year.

We will be accepting requests for deer hunting licenses for the 2009 deer hunting season until August 31, 2009. Please send a post card to Jackie Schubring stating your interest. Seven names will be chosen to receive licenses. Each license will cost \$50.00. One of the factors considered in granting the licenses will be hunters' previous harvest numbers.

There were five annual fishing licenses that expired on December 31, 2008. They were held by Terri Tschann, Greg Burns Jr., Sandy Miller, Rick Capouch, and Jeremy Burns. We will be accepting requests for five new licenses until April 1, 2009. Please send a post card to Jackie Schubring stating your interest. The names will be randomly chosen to receive licenses. Each license will cost \$25.00 and will expire on March 31, 2010.

The local conservation officer has a list of licensed hunters for the property. If you see someone hunting, fishing, or trapping illegally on our land, please call the Indiana Department of Nature Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, District 1 Headquarters at (574) 457-8092.



We hope you are enjoying this beautiful property. We'll plan to send another update next spring.

If you have questions, please contact us:
Ellen Jacquart, Director of Stewardship
(317) 951-8818
Stuart Orr, Land Steward
(574) 780-2059