**Frog Interpretive Exhibit at Salamonie Lake by Teresa Rody NAI Life Member**

The Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services group is pleased to announce completion of phase two of the landscaping renewal and interpretive exhibit surrounding the entrance to the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center. An interpretive project grant from the National Association for Interpretation Great Lakes Region Four supported the success. The exhibit features a circulating wetland that draws frog watchers of all ages to look and linger before entering this Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) building.

Previous landscaping was removed and the new design includes a focus on natural wetland, prairie, and forest habitats. The demolition, installation of a water feature, and planting of several hundred small native plant “plugs” were installed by Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 433 through Carson Rody’s Eagle Scout project. Native plants - purchased from an Indiana company and donated by Prophetstown State Park’s greenhouses - were planted by IDNR staff; Friends members Conrad Harstine, Debbie Vincent, Sondra Bowman; and Scout families. Botanist Mariah Mobley used the soil, space and sunlight needs of each plant to design the landscape plan. Travis Dowling worked on phase two including sign installation with Troop 433 as part of his Eagle Scout project as well.

“We are pleased to have new plantings that feature beautiful native plants. It gives us a launching platform to discuss native versus exotic or invasive landscaping with our visitors,” said Interpretive Naturalist, Teresa Rody. “The pollinator interpretive panel helps us encourage monarch butterfly and honeybee lovers to expand their care toward other insects as well. We really appreciate the support of NAI Region 4 and the Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services that brought us to this success.”

Future additions are planned. Visit the Salamonie Interpretive Center at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, Indiana 46702 to see this impressive partnership project.



