



Friends of the  
Sangamon Valley

# The Knuppel Wildlife Sanctuary

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Verdell Knuppel unveils the sanctuary sign at the dedication event, May 2005.



Volunteers plant floodplain hardwood trees, May 2005.

June 2008

**Name:** Knuppel Wildlife Sanctuary. Named for State Representative Jack Knuppel who was an advocate for conservation initiatives throughout the 1970s and a close friend of Old Salem Chautauqua.

**Location:** Menard County, near Petersburg. The wildlife sanctuary is a small triangle of land adjacent to railroad tracks and river just north of Old Salem Chautauqua.

**Directions:** The preserve is located adjacent to Old Salem Chautauqua.

**Access:** Restricted. No public access. Currently, access is only through the private property of landowners in Old Salem Chautauqua.

**Acres:** 9

**When Acquired:** October 2004

**How Acquired:** Knuppel family donation to commemorate their husband and father. Wife, Verdell Knuppel and son, Jack Knuppel, live in Petersburg. Daughters, Cinthia Flock and Holly Vanderplatts, live out of state.

**Natural Communities:**

- Restored old field
- Perennial stream
- Floodplain forest

**Notable Features:** The property bears some significance in the history of chautauquas in central Illinois. Historic significance. The sanctuary was once owned by Old Salem Chautauqua. The Izaak Walton League formed a partnership with Old Salem Chautauqua and built a pond in 1926, including a fish hatchery along the north end of the property.

**Notable Species:** Bur oak

**Current Threats:** Trespassers, deer browsing damage to tree planting

**Accomplishments:** Floodplain tolerant hardwood trees have been planted to serve as a food source for local wildlife. Bush honeysuckle has been removed.

**Management Plans:** Continued management of exotic species is needed. The hardwood trees will continue to be monitored. Eventually, nuts may be harvested for other restoration projects.

**Funding Needed:** Funding is needed to pay \$50 in property taxes and for annual stewardship costs of about \$300 - 500.

**Government Programs:** The sanctuary has been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP allows landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost share incentive payments for certain conservation practices. The CREP program targets specific geographic areas and includes annual monitoring. In Illinois, only those counties with lands that are in the Illinois River watershed are eligible.

The property will earn an annual payment for 15 years. After that, it will be enrolled in a permanent easement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The money will be used for stewardship throughout the preserve and to pay property taxes.

**Other information:** The donor family retains hunting rights to the property.



The Friends of the Sangamon Valley is a charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage by acquiring, restoring and protecting ecologically significant lands in the Sangamon River Watershed.

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