

Helen later sold the resort to a Fort Wayne church. She maintained a log home on 80 acres on the south side of Little Gentian Lake. That property now belongs to ACRES Land Trust and is called Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

On the north side of the lake, the church operated Camp Calvary and added facilities. The camp later became Oakhill Resort and Conference Center, and more infrastructure was added.

Oakhill was acquired in 2007, through the generosity of Ralph and Sheri Trine of nearby Angola, and deeded to the State. Indiana's Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Heritage Trust, ACRES Land Trust, 101 Lakes Trust and other local organizations and individuals contributed time and resources.

#### ICE AGE LEGACY TO NATURAL GEM

The area's glacial history created its mix of rolling hills, lakes, wetlands, and special plant and animal communities found nowhere else in Indiana. The term "kettle" describes lakes gouged by enormous blocks of ice that melted and left large pools in their paths.

Gentian Lake is the first of the Seven Sisters Lakes chain, a pristine example of a lake system rimmed by wetlands and featuring a unique fen marsh environment.

The Seven Sisters were identified in the 1969 book, Natural Areas of Indiana and their Preservation. The book says the chain "merits the position at the very top of the priority ratings for potential nature preserves in Indiana; the imminent loss of the tract to this use will be a major blow to nature preservation in the Midwest."

Indiana's chapter of TNC identified the property as "a portfolio project," and elevated it to the organization's highest priority for protection and preservation.

Finally, during the first decade of the 2000s, the dream of many scientists and naturalists came true, and the land was protected.

#### LIVING LIGHTLY

The environmental impact of the classic, tiny "up north" resort of the 1950s and 60s was light. People sought a quiet connection with nature along the lake and the trails through woods and wetlands. At a time when a mechanized country was moving full-throttle, vacationers found simple fun, peace and possibly a spiritual connection to the natural world.

That old-fashioned feeling is maintained today. The cabins have been refurbished and now have small kitchenettes. The dining hall lodge named for the Swensons, serves as a meeting place for rent. The lake remains quiet and free from gas motors.

The hills beyond offer hiking, biking, picnicking, sledding, family gatherings, and quiet nature study.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

WELCOME CENTER—Main property office and point of check in for cabins, shelters, Swenson Lodge, and fishing registration. Guest lounge, TV, WiFi, and vending machines.

**BIKE TRAIL**—A one-half mile accessible bike trail connects the main gatehouse at the Feather Valley Road with Wild Turkey Shelter and Welcome Center.

**BOAT RENTAL**—Paddleboats, fishing boats with electric motors, and kayaks available for rent. No private boats. Special season and daily times are allowed for the various types of boating. Complete rules available at the Welcome Center or Pokagon State Park Office.

**FISHING**—Must check in at Welcome Center. Bass, bluegill, perch, and the state-rare cisco. Fishing allowed only from rental craft or fishing pier. Ice fishing allowed when conditions permit. State license required, available at Welcome Center or IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov. Special bag limits in place. Minnows, leeches, and certain aquatic-based insects

prohibited. Fishing rules specific to lake available at Welcome Center.

surfaced path from Welcome Center. Fishing guidelines at the Welcome Center. **FAMILY CABINS**—Single and duplex units available. Six feature a back available. Six feature a bedroom with two twin bunkbeds and a sleeper sofa. Six have sleeper sofa, no bedroom. All have kitchenette. Basic cooking utensils provided. Renter provides individual place settings, bed and bath linens. Cabins not rented to persons under 21. Dogs prohibited. Reservations through Central Reservation System. SWENSON LODGE RENTAL—Restored original dining lodge, fully restored with kitchen, dining area, lounge, and meeting room for 26. Reservable only through the Park Office. CAMPING AND INN LODGING—Available only at nearby Pokagon State Park. ICE SKATING, CROSS COUNTRY SKIING-漱 Allowed when snow and ice conditions are

#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower,bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Pets are prohibited in family cabins or their immediate vicinity.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is prohibited at Trine. Camping is allowed at nearby Pokagon State Park.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Cabin guests shall put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Fishing permitted only from fishing pier or rented watercraft. Shoreline fishing is prohibited. Anglers must register at Welcome Center, where a complete list of fishing regulations is available.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants, or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the Welcome Center.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- The park is closed from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m., except for cabin guests with a receipt or key.

### **GENTIAN LAKE RULES**

This 23-acre lake provides seldom-matched fishing, boating, and plant and animal viewing. Average depth, 15 feet; maximum depth, 50 feet. Carefully designed guidelines aim to preserve the fishery. To protect the surrounding fen and the life within it, shoreline fishing is limited to the fully accessible pier near the Welcome Center. Swimming is not allowed in Gentian Lake.

#### Please let wild animals remain wild.

Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

### **CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM**



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free. Online: camp.IN.gov Call: 1-866-6campIN (1-866-622-6746)

#### POTAWATOMI INN OPEN ALL YEAR



Rooms, cabins and conference facilities available. Dining room open to the public. Information toll-free: 1-877-768-2928 Reservations: 1-877-lodges1 (1-877-563-4371) Online: IndianaInns.com

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Pokagon State Park 450 Lane 100, Lake James Angola, Indiana 46703 Call: 260-833-2012 Online: on.IN.gov/pokagonsp

#### SPECIAL NOTE

#### **DESCRIPTIONS OF TRAILS**

TRAIL & DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
Rolling Oaks Trail	2.5 miles	Moderate

Runs from parking area north of the Wild Turkey Shelter and loops through woodlands, along wetlands and over open meadows, all within or within sight of tall oaks. Multi-use trail offers hikers an intimate connection to nature. Tight turns offer a mountain biking challenge.

#### Gentian Lake Trail .25 miles Moderate Runs from lodge to lakeshore, through the fen along old roadbad, anding at road going through moreh

old roadbed, ending at road going through marsh from cabins to Welcome Center. Eventually will include more lakeshore.

Bike Trail .5 miles Easy Accessible bike trail connects the main gatehouse at the Feather Valley Road with Wild Turkey Shelter and Welcome Center.

#### PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

#### THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe property rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

#### **DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY**

- **Pokagon State Park-**bike trail, hiking trail, wildlife viewing, interpretive services, interpretive center, playground, historic features, fishing, ice fishing, saddle barn, shelter house, swimming (beach), water skiing, boat rental, inn, campstore, camping
- Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area-wildlife viewing, fishing, ice fishing, hunting, trapping, shooting range, archery range, dog training area, boat launch
- Olin Lake Nature Preserve-hiking trail, parking lot, plant identification

Pick up an Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

# For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov



adequate. Ski rental available at Pokagon State Park. **HIKING**—Year-round. Easy-to-moderate trails.

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#### INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE

Available through Pokagon State Park. Program schedules available at interpretiveservices.IN.gov or 260-833-2012.

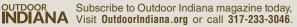
**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grills, and toilet facilities.

WILD TURKEY SHELTER—Accommodates groups to 160. May be reserved through Central Reservation System. Basketball and shuffleboard, equipment rented at the Welcome Center. Receipts from admission and service charges are used to defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.

Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!



See everything Indiana State Parks has to offer at stateparks.IN.gov.



The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



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on.IN.gov/stateparks

Steeped in natural and cultural history, Trine provides nearly 200 acres of rolling, wooded hills, open meadows, unique wetlands and a kettle lake. The natural features provide the perfect setting for a restored lakeside resort from yesteryear,

restored lakeside resort from yesteryear, plus a new meeting and conference facility, a casual boating and fishing center, picnic areas, and trails for hiking and biking.

#### **BRIEF HISTORY**

Much of this land was Wing Haven Resort from 1948 to the early 1970s. Helen and Ben Swenson bought the property after many years of serving as innkeepers at Pokagon State Park's Potawatomi Inn. Helen was a naturalist and artist who loved birds. She named each of 12 cabin and duplex units for birds and decorated each according to the particular bird's colors. The Swensons' attention to simplicity and love of nature was further reflected with trails and even a small "nature cabin."