



What's in Your WILD Backyard?

Calling all ages! The Indiana Wildlife Federation has partnered with Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation to hold the three session workshop, *What's in Your WILD Backyard?* The workshop will connect adults and children to nature while teaching them how to create a wildlife-friendly backyard. It will be held at the Wilfong Pavilion in Founders Park on September 14, 21, and 28 from 2:30-4:00 pm. Pre-registration is required through Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation, and the fee is \$45 which includes a free Indiana Wildlife Federation membership.

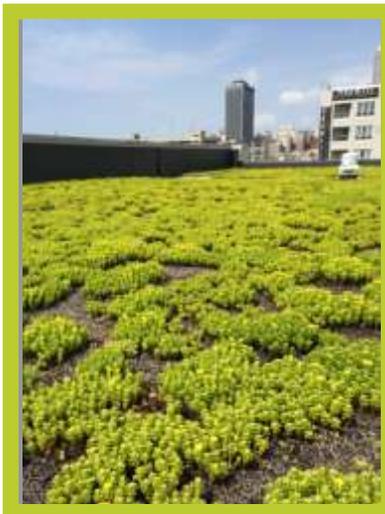
The program will help guide participants in creating beautiful, sustainable, and healthy habitats. Adults and children will learn how to bring birds, butterflies, and other beneficial wildlife into their backyard while also engaging in hands-on activities. These fun and educational activities will include: a nature scavenger hunt, building bug and birdhouses, and animal charades.

The workshop will provide adults with easily accessible tools to use with their children or for themselves. These will include recommended books, at-home activities, and takeaway messages from the program. Adults will also receive a packet at the beginning of the workshop that will include detailed explanations of what each session will entail.

Each session will be split into 3-5 different lessons where participants will learn about nature topics ranging from basic wildlife needs to native and invasive species of Indiana. Adults and children will be in separate learning groups for the first hour of each session. For the last thirty minutes, adults and children will come together to participate in the activities mentioned above.



The Purple Coneflowers in our Urban Habitat Garden have grown tremendously since we planted them in May!



The green roof at The Nature Conservancy in Indianapolis

Indiana Wildlife Federation

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Common Sense Conservation since 1938



Our interns, Allison and Brittany, took a tour of The Nature Conservancy in Indianapolis in July!

Hoosier Conservation

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Eagle Marsh Tour

IWF staff & members took a walking tour of Eagle Marsh, in Ft. Wayne, on July 11th. The tour was led by Little River Wetlands Project. We lucked out with the weather – we were able to explore without getting too muddy! Our tour guide, Betsy Yankowiak, took us through the marsh while educating us on the plans to expand the existing berm that runs through it. In 2010 scientists became aware that Asian carp, a problematic alien fish that had invaded the Wabash River, could reach the Great Lakes during a major flood event at Eagle Marsh because the preserve is on a continental divide. Federal and state agencies have become concerned that a number of invasive species might cross either way between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds in the case of a flood. The new berm should help to prevent this from happening. The tour was an educational experience. Thank you Little River Wetlands Project for having us!



IWF Volunteer Opportunities

Outreach & Events:

- Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Harrison State Park on September 20, 2014 – IWF needs several volunteers to help families & children build 100 bird feeders at this event. We also need volunteers to help talk about our habitat programs, as well as engage with the public. Additionally, we are always looking for donations of bird feeder materials, which include: wood, screens, nails, hanger chain, and hardware.

Education:

- IWF often gets requests to do presentations for groups. These can range from wildlife presentations to Cub Scout groups or universities. If you love to talk to and educate people, this may be the volunteer opportunity for you!

Office Based Programs & Communication:

- Newsletter – IWF's quarterly newsletter Hoosier Conservation is published each February, May, August, and November. We are looking for a volunteer who has skills in writing, researching stories, editing and formatting, and interacting with others to keep our members up-to-date with the latest IWF activities and conservation issues.
- Mailings and Other Administrative Tasks – Our office often has mailings or other admin tasks that a volunteer could assist with.
- Website/Social Media – If you are social media/web savvy, familiar with IWF issues and have ideas for communicating in these areas, we'd love your help!
- Photography – We are always looking for quality photographs of wildlife and habitat to use for our website, marketing, social media, and outreach materials.

Contact:

info@indianawildlife.org
317-875-9453 or 800-347-3445

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Kids' Corner



Building an Outdoor Fort

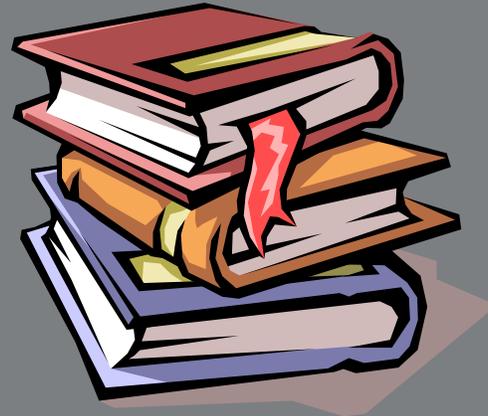
What You Need:

- Old Blankets, tarps or large fabric that can get dirty
- Clothespins (optional)
- Works gloves (optional)
- Plastic sheet (optional)
- Long sticks
- String or rope

What to Do:

- **The best forts are the ones totally kid-constructed.** You can encourage fort building by putting aside blankets, tarps and string for them to use.
- **Ideas for outdoor forts include:** Make a tepee with long sticks tied together with twine. Drape blankets on low tree limbs and use as a covering for a fort. Use bushes as fortifications for your fort. Sometimes there's a kid-sized space inside of a bush. Recycle a large box, cut out windows, and call it a home!
- **If you are someone who likes a pattern to follow, here is a suggested fort design:** Find three long sticks and tie them at one end to form a tripod. Look for a spot where four trees form a square. Place the tripod in the middle. Tie a rope about three feet from the ground around the four tree so it forms a square.
- **Drape the blanket or the tarp over the tripod.** Then bring the corners out to the place where the string connects to the trees. Clothespin the blanket to the string.
- **Rake the ground to remove pointy sticks.** This will make your fort more comfortable. Put a plastic sheet down to avoid getting a damp bottom.
- **Load up your fort with fun stuff.** Add more blankets, toys, etc.

Reprinted with permission from National Wildlife Federation. For more family fun & kids games check out www.nwf.com!



Recommended Reading

Running out of books for your child to read this summer? Here are some books that we recommend:

- The Lorax (Dr. Seuss)
- Are You A Lady Bug? (Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries)
- Flight of the Honey Bee (Raymond Huber)
- Diary of a Worm (Doreen Cronin)
- In My Backyard (Margriet Ruurs)
- Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees For Kids (Gail Gibbons)

For more recommended books & other fun activities, check out the [Kids' Corner](#) tab on our website!



Photo: DNR

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Purdue Tour

IWF's Program & Intern Coordinator, Erin, and our two interns, Allison and Brittany, took a tour of Purdue University on July 17th. Purdue was the first campus to certify through our *Landscaping the Sustainable Campus* program a little over a year ago, and the work that has been done is amazing! Michael Gulich, the Director of University Sustainability, was with us for the entire tour. We learned about their stormwater management, green roof, horticulture garden, & more. Thanks for having us, Purdue! Be on the lookout for the announcement of certification at Butler University through our *Landscaping the Sustainable Campus* program!



Slender Mountain Mint

Urban Habitat Update

In May, we planted 400 native plants in the flower beds outside of our new office location. The natives are enjoying the amount of rain we've had this summer! We can't wait to see what they look like next year. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more pictures!



Upcoming Field Trips/Event Dates

Events

- Water Resource Meeting – August 7th
- Wildlife & Habitat Conference – September 12th
- Hoosier Outdoor Experience – September 20th
- Member Appreciation Day – October 9th
- Annual Meeting – March 21st



Don Reber, President of St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers

Annual Meeting Conservation Awards

We held our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on June 21st! We recognized three outstanding conservationists:

- Legislator of the Year: State Representative Lloyd Arnold, Leavenworth, Indiana
- Conservation Club: St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers
- Educator of the Year: Kristin Compton, 2nd grade teacher at Cold Spring Elementary, Environmental Magnet School in Indianapolis Public Schools

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Intern Recap

Our summer internships are coming to an end and we wanted to give a recap of what each intern has accomplished!

Brittany, the *Communications* Intern, is a senior at Indiana University majoring in Journalism. She managed our social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. She also managed the web content for our website, updating it as needed. She created a Kids' Corner tab on our website, which includes activities, printables, and recommended books. She researched and wrote our July and August newsletters. She also helped with the set up of our annual meeting in June!

As the *Habitat Program* Intern with IWF, Allison will be finishing her Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainability in September and exploring career opportunities in Indiana this fall. Allison refreshed the guidelines for the Landscaping the Sustainable Campus program, updated the campus contacts list, and developed an educational program for Carmel-Clay Parks & Recreation (CCP&R). She researched best management practices, innovative technologies, and technical resources. The CCP&R program was designed to educate residents on creating wildlife habitats in their backyards, and the curriculum included short lectures and educational activities for both adults and children.

Deadline for Holt Scholarship Applications is August 15th!

Holt scholarship applications are being accepted until August 15th. The IWF Endowment awards a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Charles Holt, a lifelong member and champion of fish and wildlife resources. Applicants must be Indiana residents accepted for study or already enrolled for the Fall 2014 semester as a full-time undergraduate student in an accredited college or university at or above a sophomore level. Applicants should be taking coursework to major or minor in a field related to resource conservation or environmental education.

Applicants must complete an application, which can be found on our website at:
www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship



Fall Interns Needed!

We are still searching for two part-time interns for the Fall semester. The two internships are the Habitat Program intern and the Communications intern. The Habitat Program intern will work closely with the *Landscaping the Sustainable Campus* program, as well as the *What's in Your WILD Backyard?* Program. The Communications intern will manage social media accounts, compose emails to donors/members, research and write newsletters, etc.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in applying go to www.indianawildlife.org/internships for more details!

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Monarchs in Peril

Hi. I am Suzie Ronk, co-founder of Save the Monarchs club in Greene County, Indiana. I am an eleven year old going into sixth grade and I hope to inspire you to save the amazing Monarch butterfly any way you can.

Monarchs' numbers have gone down from 60 million last year in their wintering grounds in Mexico. This past winter three million arrived in Mexico according to the New York Times. This year, at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, Monarch's numbers have been reduced to just five eggs and three caterpillars on common milkweed, as reported by an Audubon Society butterfly survey completed recently. One reason for their decline is the place in the mountains of Mexico where they migrate to for overwintering has been illegally logged. So much in fact, there is a lot less room for them even if they hadn't declined before they reached Mexico. But something else is happening nearer home: habitat loss. Milkweed is the only thing monarch caterpillars eat, and there is not enough left. Because of intensive farming, mowing, and spraying, milkweed is not as abundant as it used to be.

There are many ways you can help. Planting milkweed is an obvious answer, as it is their only food source as caterpillars. You can grow milkweed in even a very small flower bed as it is easy to care for. Don't mow or spray roadside ditches, as they may have milkweed or other nectar producing plants, and therefore, monarchs. Collect seed pods off of milkweed plants and send them to Monarch Watch. Ask your neighbors and road commissions to not mow or spray areas that may contain plants monarchs need. You can donate to Monarch Watch or to us at the Save the Monarchs club. (To donate to Save the Monarchs, go to www.friendsofgoosepong.org.) And last, but certainly not least, make a Monarch Waystation! Monarch Waystations are gardens that have milkweed and the things monarchs need for survival. You register on www.monarchwatch.org and scientists may use research from your backyard to better understand monarchs.

My friend Emma and I (the co-founders) originally made bracelets, cupcakes, and printed coloring sheets, and sold them at Marsh Madness, an annual birding event in March put on by Friends of the Goose Pond, to raise money for a butterfly garden at the new Goose Pond visitors center. We raised \$300+ there, and, quite frankly, were amazed we had even raised that much. During the event, Heather from Newsbarb, a local online newspaper, approached us and interviewed us for part of an article she was writing about Marsh Madness. You can view the article on www.newsbarb.com. A few weeks after that, we met with Linton Civitan, who donated and gave us their support.

We have been at a loss for fundraising ideas until very recently, when we found out that the Greene County Community Foundation had a youth initiative, where kids and teens under 18 can apply for a grant of up to \$2,000. We applied for all \$2,000, hoping to build monarch gardens not only at Goose Pond, but at the Greene County Hospital and the Linton-Stockton School. We would really like this conservation message to reach as many people as possible. We talked to one of the Linton-Stockton first grade teachers, who was very interested in our project. She said she would like it if we talk to her class about monarchs, and that she would talk to the other first grade teachers about talking to their classes also. We plan to use whatever funds we raise through Save the Monarchs to plant Monarch butterfly gardens that include educational material that spread the word about the troubles the monarchs are having. We have talked with the master gardener club, local agriculture teachers, and a landscape architecture technician to help developed ideas for or butterfly garden.

I hope I've inspired you to help these beautiful butterflies and to help all endangered animals. "Monarch butterfly populations are declining due to loss of habitat. To assure a future for monarchs, conservation and restoration of milk weeks needs become a national priority," said Chip Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch.

Until next time,
Suzie Ronk

