

# Hoosier Conservation

August 7, 2015

Volume 54 No. 3



## Autumn Activities

*IWF Board Members describe their fall favorites in Indiana*

### Fall Conference Preview

All the information you need and want to know for the fall 2015 conference

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A new program by the Indiana Wildlife Federation looks to certify an Indy urban wilderness trail as a wildlife habitat

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**Dave Hoffman:** Autumn—it's that special time of year when we Hoosiers concoct excuses to experience outdoor Indiana. October is my favorite month when a bluebird sky warms my face in a deer stand while shorter days fade into cool, sleepy nights. Long morning inspections of the local phenology are conducted while nature's brilliant foliage competes for the attention of my camera. Lazy afternoons in my fishing boat are flooded with memories of past state park picnics and dreams of future canoe adventures. Overhead, migrating waterfowl hasten southward, and autumn soon follows.

**Steve Cecil:** While small game hunting used to be my favorite fall pastime, I now find nothing more enjoyable than a simple walk through the woods on a crisp autumn day. The crunch of the leaves, the dusty aroma of the vegetation as it sets its seed for the insurance of survival next spring, takes me back to my teenage years where I spent every opportunity with my dad hunting the fields and woodlots of Iowa. Now, if I sit silently with my back against a large oak, I can watch the fox squirrels race through the leaves, see the birds foraging for nourishment to assist them as they head south, or observe a white tailed buck sniff the air for the scent of his next conquest. There is nothing more relaxing.



"Lazy afternoons in my fishing boat are flooded with memories of past state park picnics, and dreams of future canoe adventures."

are generally clearer and lower, so a short person like me can wade more easily. The crowds are gone, and if you don't mind fishing with the leaves falling on the river, it's a perfect setting. It's kind of corny, but now that I have grandkids, I have also rediscovered the fun of sitting around a fire and roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. I did this a lot with my son when he was growing up. Now, I get to start all over teaching my grandkids how to get that marshmallow just right and how to not burn yourself as you maneuver it to the graham cracker for s'mores.

**Stacy Cachules:** Fall Foliage Hike and Apple Orchard—A hike at the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow, a 109 acre nature preserve in the Lamb Lake area of Johnson County.

just a quick drive from Indianapolis. This property has a 2 mile loop trail that shows off a beautiful fall foliage display that makes me feel like I'm in Brown County. I like to end my trip with a stop by neighboring Apple Works Orchard for their delicious apple bread and cider.

**Jim Wagoner:** Fall is my favorite Indiana season. It's the time for changing in the leaves, farmers harvesting their crops and the beginning of hunting season. I enjoy hiking with my family in the state parks during this time of year. But, I really get excited about hunting season. For me and my 3 boys, it is about strategizing and scouting with the hope to harvest a whitetail deer. More importantly, it is about discovering and telling each other stories about all the Indiana wildlife we see when we spend countless hours in woods.

**Barb Simpson:** Since I've started fishing more, I like to fish in the fall because the rivers in Indiana

## Indiana Wildlife Federation

708 E. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
[www.indianawildlife.org](http://www.indianawildlife.org)  
E: [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org)  
P: 317-875-9453

Common Sense Conservation since 1938

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## *Continued from Page 1—Autumn Activities*

**Steve Mueller:** One of our favorite things to do in the fall is observe the bird migration. Beginning in early October, the hummingbirds, which have “fattened” up all summer, leave for Central America and are replaced by the overwintering juncos that inhabit our brush piles. Later on, many species of warblers feed in our habitat gardens and use our pond garden and waterfall for drinking and bathing on their travels. One of the highlights is the arrival of the cedar waxwings. It is a great pleasure to see and hear the many flocks of Sandhill cranes passing over on the way to their overwintering grounds. The migrating bird stopovers make the work of establishing and caring for our habitat extremely worthwhile.

**Chuck Brinkman:** My favorite fall activity is a ‘yak trip down one of our many wonderful Indiana streams. I am searching for close-up views of my favorite gamefish tempted by feathering friends that I tie. These smallies take me through some of the wildest sections of our state with little or no evidence of civilization. This makes viewing wildlife such as mink, owls, kingfisher, etc. fairly frequent. And during this viewing, without looking at my feathered friend, I get my most gamefish activity. Kind of like not looking at boiling water to get it to boil quicker.

## Upcoming Field Trips

**September 25—Eagle Marsh**—Due to the record-setting rainfall in the month of June, we rescheduled our Eagle Marsh trip for this new date. This trip to Eagle Marsh, near Fort Wayne, will examine the progress being made on the construction of the berm meant to prevent Asian Carp from moving into the Great Lakes Basin. Start time is 10 am.



Left: The Little River Wetlands Project acquired Eagle Marsh in 2005 and has been working to restore and preserve it ever since.

**October 2—HEE tour at Morgan Monroe**—This is a great opportunity to hear more about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment at Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Learn about ongoing projects such as small mammal trappings, bird surveys, and vegetation inventories. Start time is 10 am.

RSVP by email to [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org)  
By phone: 317-875-9453(WILD)

## Volunteers Needed!!

- **September 19—Hoosier Outdoor Experience** at Fort Harrison State Park. We need many volunteers to help us build bird feeders with kids, families, and individuals as well as organize supplies and materials, and talk with the public about IWF programs.

*If you are able to help with this events the IWF greatly appreciates your time. To volunteer please email [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org) or call 317-875-9453(WILD)*

## Calendar Updates

- **State Fair—August 7-23**—There are many wildlife activities at this year’s state fair. Stop by the Wild Game Cookout August 8, the FishIN Pond, or the DNR building to learn about wildlife conservation.
- **August 24**—Public hearing for the catfish rule amendments at the Spring Mill Inn; 5:30 PM
- **September 11—Fall Conservation Conference**—Our 2015 fall conference will be hosted in downtown Indianapolis. For more information, see page 3
- **October 5—Get on Board**—IWF will have a booth at the “Get on Board” event hosted at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. This event seeks to pair local professionals with non-profit boards.

## Doxtater Internships

We are sad to be parting with our summer interns, Scott and Lucas. However, we are excited to add two new interns this fall! If you have not yet applied and would like to join our team visit [www.indianawildlife.org/internships/](http://www.indianawildlife.org/internships/)

“We are privileged to have spent our summer as Doxtater Interns for IWF. From everyday tasks like creatively communicating current issues relating to wildlife or forming exciting new programs, to distinctive activities like working in the habitat garden, this has been an educational and enjoyable experience. We have learned valuable skills and knowledge that we will carry with us into our professional careers and personal lives. The IWF staff and board has been friendly and helpful, and we know that this organization will see continued success. We hope that the interns who come into our positions will do their part to further the conservation efforts being made by this federation.”

Sincerely,  
Scott & Lucas

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## Kids' Corner

### Plan your backyard stakeout!

#### Things you will need

1. **Binoculars or telescope**—If you don't have these you can easily make them. →
2. **A base camp**—This can be a porch, a tree, or if you have a tent make it an all-night stakeout!
3. **Code names**—Name your base camp and your stakeout partners something epic. →
4. **Snacks**—Every good stakeout needs good food. You can't watch for wildlife on an empty stomach. Try these great stakeout snacks. →
5. **A notebook**—If you see something, write it down.



"Eagle, come to the Crow's Nest."



#### What to watch for

1. **Sky**—Make sure that you keep two eyes on the sky. Watch for birds, bats, butterflies, and flying squirrels.
2. **Trees and brush**—If you have trees, brush, bushes or other places where wildlife could be hiding out, then keep your eyes on these. You may see rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, opossums or other interesting creatures. Track what they look like and what they are doing.
3. **Dirt, mud and grass**—Check for tracks from large birds and mammals in the mud and dirt, or look for butterflies, beetles and other insects.

## 2015 Indiana Wildlife Federation Fall Conservation Conference

**WHO?** A few of our featured speakers are:

*Megan Dillon:* Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

*Bill Fielding:* Roadside Services Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Transportation

*Sam Hyre:* Legislative Director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

*Tom Hohman:* President of the Indiana Parks Alliance

*Stephanie Krull:* Landscape and Grounds Manager at Indiana State University

**WHAT?** Topics covered will include:

- Achieving a gold certified sustainable campus
- Urban-Suburban wildlife interface
- Soil health In your backyard
- Legislative update, including canned hunting and other wildlife and habitat issues
- Updates on the proposed reservoir at Mounds State Park
- Roadside vegetation management

**WHERE?** The Sol Center- IWF Office Building  
708 E. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

**WHEN?** September 11, 2015 from 9 AM to 3 PM

**HOW MUCH?** \$10 (Registration includes a delicious lunch from Nameless Catering.)

Register today! [CLICK HERE](#)

#### WHY?

*To spread information on current issues, give input on how those issues will be handled, and build a consensus of priorities and actions for IWF.*



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## Urban Wilderness Trail Hike

On June 24 IWF staff met Greg Harger at NIFS gym near the IUPUI campus for a tour of the Urban Wilderness trail. This trail is an “undevelopment” project headed by Harger that is focusing on a stretch of the White River in downtown Indianapolis. Harger and his helpers have been working on creating a trail in the middle of this urban area that will allow people to commune with nature and view wildlife. While on the hike, many different tracks, several different birds, pollinators, insects, intriguing plant life, and a turtle laying eggs were all seen. IWF is working with Harger to certify this trail through an exciting new initiative—the Sustainable Wilderness Trail program.



Left: IWF staff and interns examine animal tracks and the swiftly flowing Fall Creek on a section of the Urban Wilderness trail

## Get IndyVolved

On June 18 at the Central Library, 100 community organizations were offered the opportunity to connect with the 1,000+ 20-/30-somethings who attended the tenth annual “Get IndyVolved” event. IWF staffed a table laden with promotional materials, information packets, and intriguing items that lured many curious attendees to our booth. The event allowed for 2 ½ hours of promoting the organization to a very receptive younger generation. Forty people signed up for our newsletter, and we passed out numerous volunteer and informational flyers.

Right: Local nonprofits set up interactive booths for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Get IndyVolved event, hosted in the Central Library



## White River Urban Wildlife Walk

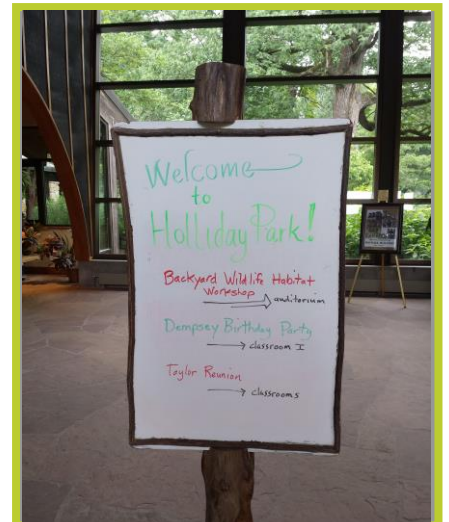
Did you know there is an Urban Wilderness Trail right in the heart of downtown Indy? Join the Indiana Wildlife Federation on a FREE tour of the diverse habitats below IUPUI and the VA and Eskenazi hospitals. Explore the river banks, marshes, woodlands, and meadows that are home to all types of wildlife. Follow the tracks of water-loving egrets, spot a Red-tailed hawk or Bald Eagle surveying their domain, or catch a glimpse of red foxes frolicking in the meadow. Wear sturdy athletic shoes, long pants, and bring your camera or binoculars for the best wildlife sightings.

**When:** Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> - 12-1pm and Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5:30-6:30pm

**Where:** Paid parking is available at White River State Park. Meet on the back deck of the National Institute for Fitness and Sport (250 University Blvd, closest to the White River Trail.)

## Holliday Park Workshop

On June 27, IWF hosted a Backyard Habitat Workshop at Holliday Park. This workshop is a unique educational opportunity for individuals and families who are interested in protecting the natural beauty and local wildlife of Indiana. Program participants learned about native plants and animals, explored the links between their backyards and larger ecosystems, and developed skills to create a wildlife-friendly backyard.



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## Plant This, Not That



John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

### Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

Originating from Europe, Queen Anne's Lace adapted very well to North America's habitats and thrives in most ecosystems. It spreads aggressively through disturbed soils and grows faster than most native plants which allows it to crowd out competitors for sun, soil, and water resources. While not listed as invasive in Indiana, there are 14 states which do consider it invasive, including Michigan and Kentucky.



By Mason Brock, via Wikimedia Commons

### Hairy Angelica (*Angelica venenosa*)

Native to the Eastern half of the United States, Hairy Angelica is a well-fitting alternative to Queen Anne's Lace. As another member of the carrot family, *Angelica venenosa* can match up to Queen Anne's Lace growing habitats and thrive. The stem is covered in fine white hairs, which is why the name "hairy Angelica" was chosen.

### Other alternatives to Queen Anne's Lace include:

**Wild Quinine** (*Parthenium integrifolium*)

**White Milkweed** (*Asclepias variegata*)

## 2015-2016 Holt Scholar

### Spencer Wesche

"I am a native of Indiana, born and raised in Kokomo. I credit my family for helping to develop my passion for wildlife and conservation by exposing me to wild areas in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Indiana. I grew up exploring, fishing, and hiking with my brothers, so I am excited for a future career in which my love for the outdoors can be utilized. Based on my interests in plant communities, wildlife and Northwoods' ecology, I have chosen to pursue a biology degree with a focus on conservation and ecology. The combination of my interests and major has led me to primarily pursue field-based research opportunities on and off the Franklin College campus. Within the next five years, I hope to complete my degree at Franklin College and begin graduate work focusing on wildlife biology."

Congratulations Spencer!



## IWF Adds Board Member

### Brent Taylor



**Job title:** Partner in the Business Litigation Group at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.

**Education:** B.A. in economics from Butler University, J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Conservation Experience:** Brent has handled various cases involving environmental issues such as

such as wetlands, lake and air pollution, and PCB contamination. In 2015, he and his colleagues filed pro bono amicus appellate briefs opposing canned whitetail deer hunting on behalf of IWF and others (for which IWF awarded Faegre BD the 2015 President's Award).

**Background:** Since his years in the Boy Scouts and hunting and fishing as a youth outside New Castle, Brent has had a strong interest in wildlife, conservation, and preserving the environment. He enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, especially bicycling, fly fishing, camping, backpacking, birdwatching, and gardening. Brent's favorite adventures have been with his family on their 18 trips over three decades to fish for walleye, northern pike and smallmouth bass in northwestern Ontario.



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## Mounds Field Trip



Left: Mounds State Park interpretive naturalist Aaron Douglass explains to attendees of the field trip the unique qualities of the fen as a habitat

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, IWF staff and members enjoyed a tour around the botanical and zoological wonders of the 288-acre fen habitat within Mounds State Park. Despite some light rain, everyone was impressed by the wild beauty and unique features of the area which was dedicated as a state nature preserve in 1980 thanks to its pristine ecological conditions. Fens are a particular type of high-nutrient wetlands produced by slightly alkaline ground water seeps that contain many minerals. These minerals, in turn, create a specialized habitat, making it the ideal home for rare plant and animal species. Mounds State Park interpretive naturalist, Aaron Douglass, gave us an introduction to some of those species: the gray petaltail dragonfly, the skunk cabbage, and the starnose mole. A whiff of the skunk cabbage plant confirmed that it certainly deserves its moniker, and a preserved specimen of the dragonfly amazed us with its evident Jurassic origins. As an underground resident who only ventures out during the night, the mole did not make an appearance; however, Aaron did share some incredible photos of this special creature.

The tour was a great experience for everyone, and it reinforced IWF's resolution opposing the proposed Mounds Reservoir which would inundate this precious natural resource. We greatly appreciate Aaron sharing his knowledge of the fen and park and look forward to making a trip to Mounds State Park again soon.

Right: A gray petaltail dragonfly that was found by two hikers lying perfectly preserved in the path near the fen at Mounds state park



## Recent Court Rulings Threaten Wildlife

**Canned hunting is now legal in Indiana.** The Indiana State Court of Appeals [ruling](#) that The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has no authority to protect and manage wildlife that are legally owned ([Indiana Code 14-22-1](#)) eviscerates wildlife protection and management practices that have been universally employed in the United States for over 150 years (IWF [Amicus Curiae](#) Supreme Court Brief). The State Supreme Court did not accept DNR's petition for transfer and the Appeals Court decision stands.

IWF believes the Appeals Court made an erroneous decision and that the DNR does in fact have authority over all wildlife, including privately owned wild animals – but the court disagreed. The Appeals Court decision destroyed DNR's authority to ensure ethical treatment of Indiana's privately-owned wild animals, to protect the public's well-being and safety, and to preserve Indiana's wildlife resources for future generations.

The Appeals Court ruling goes well beyond canned hunting. Any privately owned wild animal - tigers, bears, venomous snakes, alligators, to name a few, are now without state oversight. Individuals no longer need state licenses or permits that address public safety and animal welfare. Local and county governments are beginning to pass ordinances to protect the public and wildlife now that the State does not have authority over privately owned wildlife.

The state legislature will decide whether to address the wildlife issues created by the court rulings. IWF encourages the legislators to restore decades long wildlife protect and management practices by passing legislation to clearly authorize DNR to protect and manage all wildlife, whether publically or privately owned. Please [contact](#) your legislator and support wildlife.

**Proposed Amendment to Catfish [Rule](#) supports spawning stocks and limits commercialization of larger catfish.** Of particular concern to IWF and other conservation organizations is the growing abuse of taking large catfish from Indiana rivers and selling them to pay lakes. The [Public Hearing](#) is August 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Spring Mill Park Inn, Mitchell. IWF supports the proposed rule changes. Please plan to attend the public hearing and express your views, [comment on-line](#).