



Butler University- A Frontrunner in Campus Sustainability

Butler University is well on its way to completing the Indiana Wildlife Federation's Landscaping the Sustainable Campus program (LSC), joining Purdue University to become the second higher-education institution in the state to receive the certification.

On October 6, the Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) visited the Indianapolis-based university's campus in order to gauge the amount of progress being made on the project. The LSC program certification emphasizes the following five categories: sustainable lawn maintenance and landscaping, pesticide/herbicide use reduction, invasive species eradication, native plant species selection, and water conservation. We saw that Butler has been making huge strides in these areas above and beyond what was required in our program.

LSC is a program designed to manage surface runoff, reduce excessive nutrient pollution, and add quality habitat space for wildlife on university and college property in Indiana. For participating institutions, the IWF will coordinate projects and award certification.

We were impressed both with their established Butler University Prairie and the multiple new rain gardens which featured native plantings. The university and countless volunteers have also committed hours of work in eradicating damaging invasives such as honeysuckle in order to give native plants a chance to grow. Other exciting BU initiatives we saw include the Center for Urban Ecology (CUE) farm, the inventive single-stream recycling program, and their laudable installment of pervious pavement in many of their parking lots.

Butler has also been making important changes outside of the LSCP certification process, too. Butler's campus boasts two buildings which have been awarded Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification, and their renovation of Hinkle Fieldhouse has kept similar sustainable practices in mind. This past September, the University's Sustainability Council implemented the Butler Sustainability and Climate Action plan (BUSCA) as part of their pledge to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. BUSCA seeks to eliminate operational green house gas emissions by 2050 and to become a "zero-waste" campus where everything is recycled or composted by 2030.



Pervious Pavement

This isn't a trick of the light! This photo shows one of Butler's parking lots with standing water on the impervious pavement while the pervious side on the right looks dry. What a difference!



Inching Out Invasives

Cutting out the invasive honeysuckle is a lot of work, but it's worth it in order to restore native forest undergrowth.

Indiana Wildlife Federation

708 E. Michigan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
www.indianawildlife.org
E: info@indianawildlife.org
P: 317-875-9453

Common Sense Conservation since 1938

Read more about Butler's sustainability plans at www.butler.edu/butler-goes-green/, and learn about the IWF's LSC certification and other habitat programs at www.indianawildlife.org/habitat-programs/.



Hoosier Conservation

November 3, 2014



Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience

The kids really enjoyed the opportunity to make their own birdfeeders at this event on September 20, 2014. Special thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited for providing the seed, to North Dearborn Conservation Club for supplying the materials, and to Dave Hoffman for preparing the feeders for assembly by the children.

IWF Volunteer Opportunities

- The year is coming to an end and the days are becoming ever colder. The Indiana Wildlife Federation would like to take this chance to thank all of our active members and volunteers for their time and energy given in making our outreach and events possible. We did lots of cool things this year thanks to your help, most recently building birdfeeders for the Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park, appearing at IUPUI's Campus Sustainability Day, and participating in P.I.E. Day at Cold Spring School in Indianapolis, an Environmental Studies I.P.S. Magnet.
- Be ready to volunteer for upcoming IWF annual events such as Earth Day Indiana by marking your calendars to make a difference.
- Photography – We are always looking for quality photographs of Indiana wildlife and habitat to use for our website, social media, and outreach materials. If you have some amazing pictures of wildlife or the outdoors, we would love to see them and to have the opportunity to share them with the rest of our members
- Keep an eye on our website www.indianawildlife.org/about/volunteer/ for future volunteer opportunities! You may also email us at info@indianawildlife.org or call us at 317-875-9453

Upcoming IWF Events

- **New *What's in Your WILD Backyard* workshop dates announced at Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation** – The dates have been set for a NEW round of workshops for our family educational program next year. One class will start January 29 with following sessions on February 5 and February 12 from 6:30-8:00pm. The other workshop begins March 7 and is continued on March 14 and March 21 from 10:00-11:30am. Check our website for more registration information.
- **75th Annual Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference set for February 8-11, 2015** – Hosted at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indianapolis, the conference draws over 800 biologists from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the Midwestern states. This year's focus will be on "Natural Resource Management in an Increasingly Connected World."
- **Annual Meeting at the IWF headquarters March 21, 2015** – Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting and Conservation Conference. Join fellow conservationists to discuss important issues impacting Indiana wildlife and habitats and to provide feedback on priorities for the coming year. The 2015 Outstanding IWF Conservationists will be honored at the Conservation Awards Luncheon during the conference. To learn more about the conservation awards and how to nominate a deserving individual or organization, visit the IWF website.
Reminder: Any member in good standing may review our current resolutions and bylaws and propose new resolutions or changes to the bylaws. **The bylaws must be proposed to Secretary of the Board before December 16, 2014, and the resolutions must be put forth for vote to the Resolutions Committee before January 21, 2015.**
- **INCA Conservation Day at the Indiana Statehouse on March 24, 2015** – The Indiana Conservation Alliance has moved their annual Conservation Day at the Statehouse from January to March. This day is a good opportunity to voice important conservation topics to your legislators.
- **Check your email/mailbox for other news and information.**

#GIVINGTUESDAY

This holiday season, the IWF is participating in a fundraising effort in order to gain more support for wildlife and habitat conservation. #GivingTuesday was founded in 2012 by New York's 92nd Street Y in partnership with the United Nations Foundation and is now a global day dedicated to giving back. This year, #GivingTuesday is on December 2; celebrate by giving the gift of membership or donating to IWF in the name of a conservationist you know.

Hoosier Conservation

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Kids Corner



Holiday Suet Ornaments

What You Need:

- Access to freezer
- Bird seed
- Bowl
- Cookie cutters
- Cookie sheets
- Large paperclips
- String or twine
- Suet
- Wax paper
- Optional: dried cranberries, pepitas, sunflower seeds

What You Do:

1. Spread out a few sheets of wax paper on cookie sheets.
2. In the bowl, mix suet with bird seed, using your hands or a spoon.
3. Squish the suet into the cookie shapes. If you have cranberries, squish them into the shapes as decoration. Gently lift the cookie cutter off the suet.
4. Bend your paper clip open. Put a paper clip hook in each ornament so you can hang it up. Put the suet men in the freezer until they are solid.
5. Hang your ornaments in a tree outside.

Reprinted with permission from National Wildlife Federation. For more family fun & kids games check out our Kid's Corner page at www.indianawildlife.org/kids-corner/ or www.nwf.org

Fall Favorites Word Search

G Y M B Z Y T L Q F I L X N O
Y N M E D P E A C O R N K E P
M U I N G R K N L G K K F E O
F I I V R C I O Z N K I Y W S
A W G I I C H I P M U N K O S
L H U R G G I T G O H Y E L U
L Q J Q A Z S H N N E L T L M
S G A Z T T A K D U Y L X A E
W O R C P R E N N K H I K H Z
E Y C J V G J Y B A U H F K U
H W E E N M U T U A H C F D T
I B S K T L O W L B K T E A K
J T R F R N E H Y G A E B L V
X G J S O U R A B X R I J S Z
I C T K K X T S F J H U T W G

ACORN	FOG	OPPOSUM
AUTUMN	FOX	OWL
BAT	HALLOWEEN	SQUIRREL
CHILLY	HARVEST	THANKSGIVING
CHIPMUNK	HIKE	TURKEY
CROW	HUNT	WINDY
DEER	LEAF	MIGRATE

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Venison Pumpkin Chili

Looking for new recipes for your fall harvest? Look no further than this hearty autumn feast. Serves 6-8.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground venison
- 2 Tablespoons seasoned salt
- 1 Teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can hot chili beans
- 2 cans chili spiced diced tomatoes
- 1.5 Cups vegetable juice
- 2 Cups water
- 1 large white onion diced
- 1 yellow pepper diced
- 1 orange pepper diced
- 2 Tablespoons fresh cilantro
- 2 Teaspoons chili powder
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- 3 Tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 Tablespoon cumin
- 1/8 Cup hot sauce (optional)

Preparation:

Brown venison over medium heat, seasoning with seasoned salt and cayenne pepper. Put browned venison and all other ingredients into a large slow cooker. Set on high and simmer for 2-4 hours. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve with fresh cilantro, shredded cheddar and sour cream.

Recipe courtesy of Michelle Cain and the IDNR's cookbook, *Cookin' Gone Wild: Recipes for Indiana's Wild Game*, found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/7562.htm>

Invasives: Plant This, Not That

Invasive are a huge threat to native plants and wildlife; they may look beautiful in your garden, but they will crowd out native plants because they have no natural predators in the area. Eventually, they would beat their competition into extinction, leading to dwindling diversity in our ecosystems.



Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is an invasive species that is easy to spot this time of year because of its distinctive crimson leaves and red berries, characteristics which also make it popular in urban landscaping. However, it spreads quickly and will shade over young native plants. The sale and transportation of burning bush is actually banned in a few New England states.

Photo by Sam Bahr, UMD Botanical Garden,
NWF Blog *Wildlife Promise*



There are lots of alternatives that are just as beautiful as the Burning Bush but are native to Indiana. This **Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica* L)** not only changes colors but also has the added benefit of white flowers in the spring. The Midwest Invasive Plant Network also recommends chokeberry, blackhaw, shining sumac, strawberry bush, and eastern wahoo for scarlet foliage.



Urban Habitat Garden Update

Our native plantings, including this Foxglove Beardtongue, are hunkering down for the winter, going to seed so that they can come back next year. The seeds from natives make a good food source for wildlife in winter, and the dried out leaves, stalks, and twigs can provide shelter from the cold.

We're Bat Crazy!

Last week, October 26th-November 1st, conservation groups around the country celebrated National Bat Week. This week marked a focused effort to educate the public on the value of bats and the conservation challenges they face. The IWF loves bats because these insectivores and pollinators are an important part of Indiana wildlife.

The Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat are two native species now endangered because of humans entering caves and disturbing the hibernating bat populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also lists the commercialization of caves, the loss of summer habitat, pesticides and other contaminants, and White Nose Syndrome (WNS) as factors in the decline of the species.

The good news is that you can help rehabilitate these and other bat species by building bat houses in which these flying mammals can live during the summer, giving them shelter and a place to raise their young. Not only does a proper bat house avert bats from living in your house, it will also attract and support a colony of insect-eating machines to help keep your place mosquito and pest free. Now is the best time to build and place your bat house so that when bats return to the area in the spring they will find a new home just waiting for them to move in.

Want to learn more about these amazing creatures? You can check out the websites for the Organization for Bat Conservation and the National Wildlife Federation where you can purchase a pre-made bat house or find plans to build your own. Also, visit our website at www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-mammals-of-indiana/.

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Congratulations to the 2014 IWF Holt Scholarship Recipient!

We are proud to announce Maricela Aviles as the 2014 Holt Scholarship recipient. The Holt Scholarship grants \$1,000 to an Indiana undergraduate student in memory of Charles Holt, a lifelong member and champion of fish and wildlife resources. Maricela is a senior at Purdue University majoring in Wildlife Science within the department of Forestry and Natural Resources. Born in Chicago and raised in Indianapolis, she is a self-proclaimed city girl, stating that she used to have "very little experience working outdoors and didn't really know much about the natural world." Despite this, she was drawn to her current field of study and has shown great aptitude for conservation. She now serves as president of the Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in which she has participated in invasive plant species removal workshops, deer check stations with the DNR, bird banding, and a service-learning trip to Louisiana. This past summer, she had the opportunity to work as a seasonal naturalist at the Ornithology Center in Eagle Creek Park. She has also acted as a Youth Tree Team Leader with the non-profit Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. As of today, she works for the USDA Wildlife Services as a seasonal Wildlife Biological Technician. Her efforts as a young conservationist are truly admirable. While Maricela is uncertain of her next step after graduation in May 2015, she and all of us at the Indiana Wildlife Federation are confident that she will be well-equipped to handle any challenge.

We will be accepting 2015 applicants March through June of next year. 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, taking coursework to major or minor in a field related to resource conservation or environmental education. For application materials and more information, visit www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship/



Fall Internship Recap

This fall, the IWF is benefitting from the volunteer efforts of two new Gary Doxtater Interns, dedicated to the memory of long-time member Gary Doxtater. We are glad to help them expand their knowledge and to support their interest in common sense conservation.

Olivia Day (left) is the IWF's Habitat Programs Intern. As a recent graduate from Ball State University with a degree in Biology, she is able to combine her knowledge on wildlife management and environmental education when working on the Habitat Programs. Her primary responsibility is to work on the Landscaping the Sustainable Campus program. Olivia's work on this program involves coordinating with Indiana campuses and assisting in the development of Sustainable Landscape Plans. She also contributes to the online Kid's Contest and makes updates to the website. In the future, Olivia hopes to have a career in wildlife conservation.

Kathryn Hanssen (right) is the Communications Intern for the IWF. Kathryn is a recent graduate from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio where she majored in English with a minor in Biology. Her opposing interests gave her the desire to make conservation issues more accessible to people. Her tasks at the IWF this fall includes bolstering the organization's image and presence through social media, refreshing membership and donation letters, and writing and editing articles for this edition of *Hoosier Conservation*. Next, Kathryn hopes to enroll in a graduate program for editing and publishing with a focus on technical writing.

For more information about this college-level internship opportunity, go to www.indianawildlife.org/internships/.



Rough Fish or Recreation Sensation?

It is hard to comprehend that Indiana's largest freshwater predators are seen merely as "rough fish." To place channel catfish, and particularly blue and flathead catfish, in the same category as common carp (an exotic invasive species), gizzard shad, and gar seems absurd -- especially when species such as yellow bass, saugeye, and chain pickerel have been given sport fish status in Indiana. The Indiana Catfish Conservation Association would like to see this designation changed and catfish given the protection they require as critical components of our aquatic ecosystems and the respect they deserve as some of Indiana's most sought after species of fish.

The general public may see catfish as bottom-dwelling trash fish that eat stinky cheese, hotdogs, and dead stuff. However, in reality, catfish are the top predators in many of Indiana's waterways. Channels and flatheads can be found in nearly every corner of the state and blue catfish inhabit our larger rivers. Although all three species are opportunistic feeders, they are also voracious predators that can, and will, eat anything they can get in their mouths. These species are necessary components in our rivers to keep populations in balance. Additionally, with the invasion of Asian carp, flathead and blue catfish are practically the only natural line of defense our waterways have and we need these catfish to help preserve what ecological integrity we have left in our riverine ecosystems.

As a recreational resource, catfish are some of the most sought after species by Indiana's licensed anglers. Surveys conducted over the past 30 years by the Indiana DNR's Fisheries Section have consistently documented that catfish

rank among the top five most preferred species to catch in Indiana. In the 2005 licensed angler survey, catfish ranked 4th overall in angler preference as a group. Individually, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish ranked as the 4th, 6th, and 9th species most often fished for by Indiana's anglers, respectively. Those rankings put channel catfish and blue catfish ahead of walleye and flathead catfish in front of our highly touted and managed muskellunge. To go along with their popularity, catfish are the largest fish anglers can catch in our state. The state record blue catfish topped the scales at 104 pounds. The record Indiana flathead is 79 pounds. Channel catfish, the smallest of the three species, boasts a 37-pound record -- only a few pounds shy of the state's musky and striped bass records.

However, no effort has been made to officially list them as sport fish. It is time for blue, channel, and flathead catfish to be granted status worthy of their popularity. We need to stop viewing catfish as nuisance rough fish and recognize them as the recreation sensations that the majority of Indiana's anglers know they are.

Contributed by Matt Burlingame

Environmental Studies Instructor, Manchester University

Legislative Update: Water Resources and Chronic Wasting Disease

This summer, the state legislature deliberated on two important topics that have significant impact on wildlife: water resources and the risk of chronic wasting disease (CWD) related to importing captive deer for shooting pen operations.

Water resources: We expect legislation that will begin to address questions on water quality and quantity and will contribute to water resources sustainability for future generations.

Chronic wasting disease risk and the link to "canned hunting": The Agriculture and Natural Resources Interim Study Committee heard testimony from four CWD experts from other states who have direct experience and scientific expertise dealing with CWD. Despite the facts presented, the vote was 8 to 3 in favor of legislation to legalize shooting pen operations and to continue the importation of captive deer, a known way the disease spreads. IWF strongly opposes the legalization of shooting pen operations and has called for a ban on the importation of captive raised deer.

Watch for IWF email updates during the legislative session.

Updated by Barbara Simpson

Executive Director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation