



Indiana Monarch Summit



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This September, Indiana Wildlife Federation played host to numerous organizations from across the state as we gathered to discuss the future of the monarch butterfly and Indiana's role in its conservation. The summit kicked off a concerted endeavor to protect monarchs. We discussed areas of importance, strategies for improving or creating habitat, and ways we could all collaborate to multiply our efforts.

The goal of the summit was to make connections and develop relationships between individuals and organizations who can bring resources to the table when creating a monarch conservation plan. The first step in this process is understanding exactly what threats monarch butterflies are facing.

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▲ Mapping projects taking place across Indiana

Indiana Monarch Summit, contd.

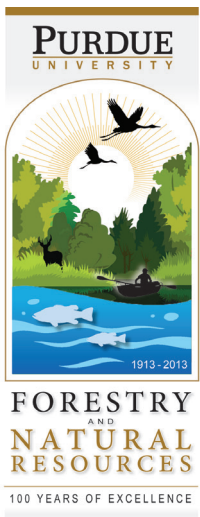
To speak about the state of the monarch, we were privileged to have Dr. Karen Oberhauser, Director of the UW-Madison Arboretum, present on her research into monarch butterflies. She began by explaining monarch biology and how their unique life cycle makes them vulnerable to human activities. She concluded that the only successful way to address the decline of the species is with an “all wings on deck” approach. We must engage everyone - from non-profits to state agencies to the agricultural sector - in order to have a meaningful impact.

Claire Beck, Monarch Technical Coordinator for the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), talked about the history of state and regional monarch conservation planning. She also explained the technical aspects of creating a conservation strategy. Our hope is the plan that will come from the cooperative efforts of those involved in this monarch conservation work will be formalized and adopted as a guide for informing conservation work moving forward.

Everyone left the two day summit feeling excited and hopeful about the future of this effort. We learned a great deal about the work already being done by individuals and groups throughout the state and began making the important connections that will improve that work further. We're thrilled about the potential for this plan to have a real impact in Indiana and we encourage you to stay tuned for more news on this important undertaking.



▲ Dr. Karen Oberhauser presents on the state of monarch conservation science



Thank you to all of the sponsors who donated so generously to make this event happen.

Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings IWF Members!

Fall is the time of year when we reflect on the year's achievements as well as set goals and benchmarks for the coming year. IWF has had a fantastic year, and we are presently setting up 2018 to be another great year. Our 80th to be exact!



The current political climate has provided us with plenty of things to do in the realm of environmental protection and conservation. As we focus our strategies for outreach and education, and expand our work through collaborative partnerships with state, federal, and non-government organizations IWF is prepared to head into our 80th year with great enthusiasm.

One of the things on the horizon that we are most excited about—we're getting a new database! We have outgrown the capacity and function of our current database which has created roadblocks in fully engaging with you, our members. While a new database may not sound like the most thrilling news, it will help us streamline our membership processes, communication methods, and event management logistics. It's kind of a big deal!

Watch for more information on this and many other exciting opportunities coming your way as we head into our 80th year of Hoosier conservation efforts!

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood, Executive Director

Indiana Wildlife Federation goes to Washington DC

With the support of National Wildlife Federation, IWF was able to send two representatives to Washington DC to make your voice heard by our Senators and Representatives. Part of our mission is to fight for clean water and safe natural areas where wildlife can thrive and people can enjoy the great outdoors. Conservation is an issue which transcends political boundaries and we must all stand together to make positive change happen!



▲ (Left to right) Ray McCormick - NWF Rep, Senator Joe Donnelly, Emily Wood - IWF Executive Director



Kids' Corner

- 3 parts suet
- 1 part cornmeal
- 1 part oats
- 1 part sunflower seeds and/or mixed seed
- Large paperclips
- Large, flat baking tray
- Cookie cutters
- Berries or fruits for decoration

Not all birds migrate. In the winter, many of them still rely on the little food they can find. While shrubs like winterberry often provide this food source, they may not be abundant enough in cities and neighborhoods, so we can help out by providing winter suet cakes!

Suet Cakes



- Step 1 - Melt suet or lard in a crock pot until it turns translucent.
 Step 2 - Mix in equal parts cornmeal, oats, and seeds.
 Step 3 - Pour the mixture into a large baking tray and put it in the fridge to cool
 Step 4 - Use cookie cutters to make fun shapes, then decorate them with berries and seeds
 Step 5 - To hang them up, you can insert a large paper clip through the suet cake

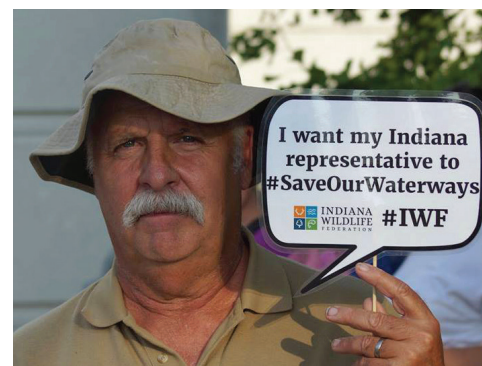
This activity comes from Kids Activities Blog. For more family fun & kids games, check out <http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/>



▲ Getting ready to tag monarchs on a perfect day!



▲ Making suet cakes at Cold Spring Elementary



▲ John helping us with the Save Our Waterways campaign



▲ Gladly accepting our Bundy Duck for the Monarch Tagging Event



▲ Our beautiful persimmon Bundy Duck!



▲ Happy hour conversations at the Monarch Summit



▲ Kids on the chase! Monarchs are faster than you think.



▲ Deb netted the first monarch of the day!

Monarch Tagging

On September 14th, IWF hosted our second annual monarch tagging event. We gathered along the Urban Wilderness Trail in the early evening. As we made our way down to the wood's edge along the river, we noticed a few monarchs fluttering about. Due to the chilly weather, most of the butterflies remained huddled in the trees. After rousing them from their naps, we managed to net and tag quite a few of them. Their information has been recorded and reported back to Monarch Watch. If we're lucky, maybe a tag will be recovered in Mexico some day soon!

The White River Alliance recently granted this event a Bundy Duck Award for Excellent White River Festival Event (pg. 4)! We will definitely be doing this event again next year. In fact, we're hoping to offer more dates, times, and locations for those who would like to attend. We will send out an e-mail to our members when plans are made. You can also keep an eye on our social media and website for more information.



Wildlife Spotlight



North American Beaver (Castor canadensis)

The North American Beaver is the engineer of the wilderness. Their ability to fell trees, build dams, and alter the flow of rivers is responsible for creating some of nature's most beautiful and important habitats.

Like all rodents, the beaver's incisors never stop growing. Their teeth are softer on the inside than the outside, so they are perpetually sharpened as the beaver gnaws on trees. Their unique tails are used as rudders when swimming, as a prop when sitting upright, and to slap the surface of the water to signal danger and frighten predators.

Beavers build incredible homes called lodges. The interior is only accessible through an underwater entrance. The rest of the stick-covered exterior is held together by mud that turns hard as stone in the fall, keeping out even the most determined predators. The dams they create form wetlands that we have learned are absolutely vital to water quality. These wetlands provide the beaver with a place to build their home, but also trap and filter sediment and other pollutants from streams. Once extirpated from many places across the country, these important mammals are recovering in number and once again working hard to shape the nation's waterways and create thriving landscapes across North America.



Welcome Our New Communications Intern!



"Hi! I'm Marissa Kurtock and I am IWF's Communications Intern for the fall of 2017. I am a student at Ball State University majoring in Telecommunications, concentrating in digital video production with minors in French and Creative Writing. I have always been interested in engaging people through media with local wildlife and the natural beauty of Indiana so I am very excited to be working with IWF,

learning and meeting new people. As a citizen of Indiana as well as a hiker, gardener, and photographer, I look forward to interacting with you and being a part of the team!"

Habitat Programs Manager



IWF would like to welcome Aaron Stump into his new position as Habitat Programs Manager. Aaron has been the Habitat Programs Coordinator since January 2016 and is ready to step into this new full-time role. Aaron will be overseeing our Landscaping the Sustainable Campus, Sustainable Trails, and Wildlife Friendly Habitat Programs.



Habitat Programs Updates

Backyard Habitat Workshop

Our habitat workshop has undergone a makeover! We have updated the look and streamlined the content.

We are excited to be presenting this new format to the Hillcrest Garden Club in November.

If you belong to a group that is interested in scheduling a free habitat workshop, please contact Aaron at stump@indianawildlife.org.

Monarch Sanctuary Planting



On November 4th, IWF teamed up with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and other Partners of the White River to put our Nina Mason Pulliam grant dollars to work and enrich the habitat along the White River's Urban Wilderness Trail. We planted over 2,000 native plugs, including milkweed. Kelly and Laura (above) were two of our many amazing volunteers who helped us plant. We couldn't do it without you!

Plan Your Conservation Legacy

Support *Common Sense Conservation* for years to come. You can help ensure thriving wildlife in Indiana for future generations by making a gift through your retirement account, life insurance, trust, or will. Visit or contact us at 317.875.9453 to learn more about planned giving.