



**N**ovember 10th was a fantastic day for your Indiana Wildlife Federation! Our 2018 Annual Conference was packed full of attendees. We got to learn from naturalist and TV personality David Mizejewski about protecting and conserving wildlife. Scott Johnson from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) updated us on the latest bat research in the state. Eagle Creek's Ornithology Center wowed us with some of the incredible birds of prey that call our state home. We also received updates on the goings-on of various Partners for the White River organizations.

While events like our Annual Conference are a lot of fun, they serve an important purpose. IWF is a membership-based organization. Without individuals like you, we don't have a voice in Indiana's conservation efforts. And the more voices we have in our membership, the better we can be heard. IWF doesn't exist separately from its members, IWF *is* its members! By coming together to celebrate success and coordinate our goals moving forward, we strengthen the bonds between us all and reinforce our common passion for protecting wildlife, their habitats, and the environment we all call home.

Please enjoy our photos and join us for future events. But we encourage you to pay special attention to page 3 of this newsletter where we share our annual appeal for membership. It is more important now than ever before to act on behalf of conservation in Indiana. IWF needs you. Wildlife needs you.

### Inside This Issue:

- LETTER FROM THE ED

p3

- PHOTOS

p4

- NEW BOARD MEMBERS

p6

# Annual Conference Breakdown

David Mizejewski, our keynote speaker, informed and entertained as he explained the importance of establishing native plant habitats and making a concerted effort to protect the species that live within.

Scott Johnson, Wildlife Science Program Manager for the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, spoke to the state of non-game conservation in Indiana, including our amazing Indiana bat. He also outlined funding mechanisms for the state and laid out methods for increasing future funding significantly without impacting Indiana taxpayers.

Board member Jim Meiers made some incredible bird houses and a bat house, which were donated as door prizes for several lucky winners.

The Partners for the White River organizational updates showed what incredible work is taking place in the White River watershed! There are upcoming opportunities for volunteering or participating with all our conservation collaborators.

Our silent auction was a huge success, with top bidders taking home everything from a hand made wildlife quilt to a guided birding tour. Congratulations to all the winners and enjoy!



▲ Photo: IWF art courtesy of artist Brian Stovall



▲ Photo: Congratulations to Mickey Penrod, winner of this amazing bat house!

## Thank you to our Fall Conference sponsors!





## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear conservationists,

Our November 10th Indiana Wildlife Conference was a huge success! On behalf of our board and staff I thank all of you that attended, volunteered, and of course—bid at the silent auction.

As you can see from this newsletter—the Indiana Wildlife Federation has been gaining momentum over the last year. Our intensive increase in statewide programming has started to show many promising results by way of new partnerships, habitat initiatives, new members, and volunteer opportunities.

Our organization has focused efforts on reaching and inspiring new audiences to join our conservation movement. Through events and community projects like the ones shown in this newsletter we are not only fulfilling our mission by promoting the conservation of Indiana's wildlife and wildlife habitat, but we are also activating an army of like-minded individuals that share our passion for protecting natural places that support diverse pollinators and wildlife.

IWF is composed of people throughout the state that like to spend as much time as possible in the great outdoors, no matter how they elect to do it. Like you, they know there are serious threats to the continued existence of the outdoors experiences they enjoy—the experiences that include, clean air and water, thriving natural habitats and diverse wildlife. When we join together, our collective voice is raised much higher.

You can help grow our programs, membership and reach in a number of ways. Follow, like and share our social media posts to grow our presence. Write letters to your elected officials when sensitive wildlife legislation pops up to grow our voice. Volunteer at our projects to grow our impact. Perhaps most importantly, share your IWF story with others and invite them to grow our conservation army.

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood

Executive Director



## What Your Membership is Doing

- \* Creating wildlife-friendly landscapes all over Indiana
- \* Linking communities together with nature through thriving, sustainable trails
- \* Leading the statewide monarch butterfly recovery effort
- \* Connecting thousands of Hoosiers to nature and inspiring them to protect wildlife
- \* Guiding state agencies, resource managers, and law makers on common sense conservation
- \* Identifying and working to protect the most vulnerable species in Indiana

# Annual Conference Photos



▲ Photo: Members get access to some great IWF swag



▲ Photo: Board Vice President Steve Mueller (left) and his wife Elizabeth (right) worked with David Mizejewski (center) to certify Zionsville as a wildlife-friendly community in 2009!



▲ Photo: Taking time to chat and place bids



▲ Photo: Our gorgeous new 2019 Wildlife Calendar (you know you want one)



▲ Photo: David has something to teach all of us



▲ Photo: Will showing everyone a juvenile red-tailed hawk



▲ Photo: A face only a mother could love (the turkey vulture, not Will)



▲ Photo: Jenna showing a great horned owl with those piercing eyes!



## Thank you to our Program Partners!

We were able to accomplish some amazing things this year at Indiana Wildlife Federation! We installed thousands of native plants at certified sites, beautified natural spaces, and helped improve some of Indiana's best trails. All of this has been possible because of the generosity and support of our amazing grant partners.



**Huff**  
Animal Protection  
**Trust**



## Leave the leaves



*Be lazy, save wildlife*

It's once again that time of year to rake leaves off your lawn. Here's a tip; don't! In a natural wooded setting, leaf litter provides the vast majority of nutrients trees need to thrive. Leaves also provide shelter for moth pupae, insects that act as important decomposers, and pest-controlling spiders. Yet, each year, more than 8 million tons of leaves end up in our landfills where they fail to properly decompose, releasing methane gas into the atmosphere.



If you insist on keeping a tidy, manicured appearance, consider a few alternatives to bagging and disposing of your leaves. Many trees do poorly in urban or suburban environments because they have evolved to rely upon their leaf litter for nutrients, moisture, soil retention, and temperature regulation. Instead of removing the function of those leaves, use them just like you would a store-bought mulch. Pile them up in a 3-6 inch thick ring around your tree. Spread them over your gardens to support healthy spring growth. Compost them, turning often, to use in spring vegetable gardening. Or mulch some of them with a mower and leave them on your lawn in lieu of expensive fertilizer.

Leaves play an important role in our ecosystems. By recognizing that role and attempting to emulate more of a natural setting, we can provide support for native wildlife and their habitats!

## IWF Board Update

At the November 10th Annual Meeting and Conference, the board president and treasurer position were up for election in accordance with our bylaws (Board President & Treasurer: even-numbered years, Vice President & Secretary: odd-numbered years). Both Stacy Cachules and Jim Wagoner volunteered for another term and were unanimously voted in. We extend a warm welcome to our newest board members Coralie Palmer, Jim Meiers and Rick Cockrum. Thank you to our entire board of directors for another great year. Your Indiana Wildlife Federation Board roster is:

- Stacy Cachules, President
- Steve Mueller, Vice President
- Matt Fechtman, Secretary
- Jim Wagoner, Treasurer
- Ray McCormick, NWF Representative
- Chuck Brinkman
- Rich Graves
- Dr. David Hoffman
- Jim Meiers
- Coralie Palmer
- Eric Rochford
- Brent Taylor
- Steve Van Zant
- Dan Weiss
- Rick Cockrum

Follow Us



## Trails Projects

### Eagle Creek - Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary



Members from IWF and REI worked together and made some major improvements to the Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary at Eagle Creek Park. Volunteers cleaned graffiti from two overlooks, planted natives all around the park, and built an ADA accessible picnic site. This beautiful park continues to make changes to benefit wildlife and trail users, and the site achieved Gold Level Sustainable Trail status.

### Brownsburg Parks



With the help of Duke Energy and their volunteers, thousands of native plugs were planted to create two pollinator gardens at the Outdoor Classroom adjacent to Williams Park. A dozen different species of native plants were installed, which helped their Maple Ridge Trail achieve Gold-Level Certification status!

ADVERTISE HERE!

Does your business share the IWF vision of sustainable wildlife and wildlife habitats for Indiana? If your business would like to show its commitment to conservation and be highlighted for doing so through our communications and website, please contact us by e-mail at [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org) or by phone at 317-875-9453