



2020

# Indiana Wildlife CONFERENCE

January 18, 2020 at Fort Harrison State Park



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Naomi Edelson  
Senior Director, Wildlife  
Partnerships

### OTHER PRESENTATIONS INCLUDE:

**Brad Feaster**, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife  
State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator  
**Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan**

**Dr. Landon Jones**, Purdue University  
Post Doctorate Research Associate  
**Indiana Bobcat Population**

**Dr. Barny Dunning**, Purdue University  
Professor of Wildlife Ecology  
**Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife**

**Adam Phelps**, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Wildlife Biologist  
**Return of Trumpeter Swans to Indiana**

## Inside This Issue:

- **LETTER FROM THE ED**
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- **A NEW SUSTAINABLE TRAIL**

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**R**egistration is now open for the 2020 Indiana Wildlife Conference! Last year's conference was such a fantastic success that we've had to move to a bigger venue this year. Fortunately, that means we get to spend the day at the incredible Fort Harrison State Park!

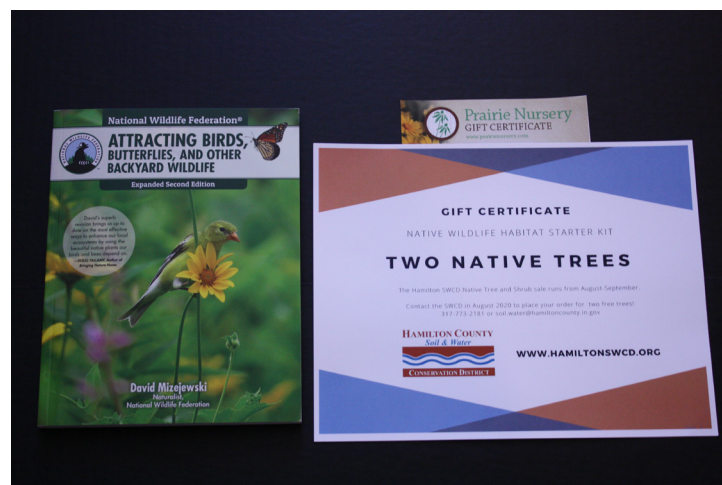
We will have a lineup of fun and educational speakers to talk about the state of conservation in Indiana. You can participate in our silent auction to snag some great wildlife merchandise and Dylan Allison, Interpretive Naturalist at the park, will kick everything off by talking about the location and wrap the day up by taking us on an optional winter hike!

[CLICK HERE](http://www.indianawildlife.org/2020conference) to register or go to [www.indianawildlife.org/2020conference](http://www.indianawildlife.org/2020conference)

## About our keynote speaker ...

Naomi is Senior Director for Wildlife Partnerships at National Wildlife Federation. She is a passionate, inspirational leader in the wildlife conservation community. She is an innovator creating new teams, tools and expert guidance. Her leadership involves convening a diversity of interests and building movements for everything from birds to butterflies. She is leading NWF's campaign to secure greater funding to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered and overall partnerships with state wildlife agencies. This includes legislative, communications, grassroots and coalition building elements of the campaign. Naomi has developed a toolkit for wildlife leaders on "Strengthening State Wildlife Agencies" which includes securing state-level funding for wildlife with numerous tips, tools, and case studies available. She also works with NWF's Gardening for Wildlife program ([www.nwf.org/garden](http://www.nwf.org/garden)) to restore wildlife habitat where people live, work, play, learn and worship including creation of the Native Plant Finder and Sacred Grounds a program for faith communities.

## Our silent auction is back! Here's a sample.



▲ Photo: Get your Certified Wildlife Habitat started right with trees from Hamilton Co SWCD and a signed copy of David Mizejewski's new book!



▲ Photo: Do you love bats? Of course you do! BCI has all the swag you need to let everyone know.

Thank you to our 2020 Conference sponsors!



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear IWF members and Friends,

Our federation had a fantastic summer and we are working hard to keep the momentum moving forward as we head into winter. In this issue you can catch up on the work of our Habitat Programs team who have been vigorously creating partnerships, hosting wildlife workshops and creating outdoor projects for volunteers to get involved in habitat restoration all across the state.



Additionally, this past month, IWF team members traveled to Washington DC to meet with several of Indiana's US House Representatives to discuss the latest legislative priorities relating to Asian Carp prevention and funding for our state's most threatened and endangered species ([HR3742 Recovering America's Wildlife Act \[RAWA\]](#)). We participated in this DC Fly-in in conjunction with our regional affiliate partners in Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as conservation partners from Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited.

There are a lot of opportunities to get connected and more engaged with our work coming this winter too. Please consider attending the [December 7th 2019 Annual Member's Meeting](#) where we will be voting on some board proposed amendments to our bylaws; and don't forget to register for the upcoming January 18th, [2020 Indiana Wildlife Conference](#)! Keep reading for more details, it's all in this great issue of Hoosier Conservation!

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood

Executive Director



▲ Left to right; Marc Smith - NWF Director of Conservation Partnerships, Aaron Stump - IWF Habitat Programs Manager, Emily Wood - IWF Executive Director

IWF is fortunate to have a national affiliate that makes it possible for us to bring important legislation to the attention of our Indiana lawmakers. On October 17, we flew out to DC to speak with the offices of US House Rep. Walorski, Rep. Banks, Rep. Brooks, and Rep. Baird about the importance of RAWA to our state conservation efforts.

We know our members want to see wildlife thrive here in Indiana and IWF takes our responsibility as your voice in the legislative process very seriously. We're proud to carry your message to our lawmakers!





Photo: IWF and ROW spoke with visitors at the Newfields Harvest Festival about protecting our water and wildlife



Photo: Our trail cleanup day at Holliday Park with the Indian Bar Association was a huge success



Photo: St Mary-of-the-Woods students helping plant 50 trees on their campus

Photo: We visited with staff at the amazing Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area about partnering to improve wildlife education for Hoosiers



Photo: Whitewater Valley Land Trust giving us a tour of one of their amazing properties

## Make Your Voice Heard!

**ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING: Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10am** - Your membership in action! IWF defines its policies and objectives each year at the annual meeting and we welcome our members to share their thoughts and ideas about our federation. This year we will be proposing IWF By-law changes which require a member vote at the annual meeting. This meeting is free to attend, but registration allows us to plan for meeting materials and refreshments. [Please RSVP to attend here.](#) Meeting Materials: [View/Download Proposed Bylaws Amendments here.](#)

## Monarch Taggings!

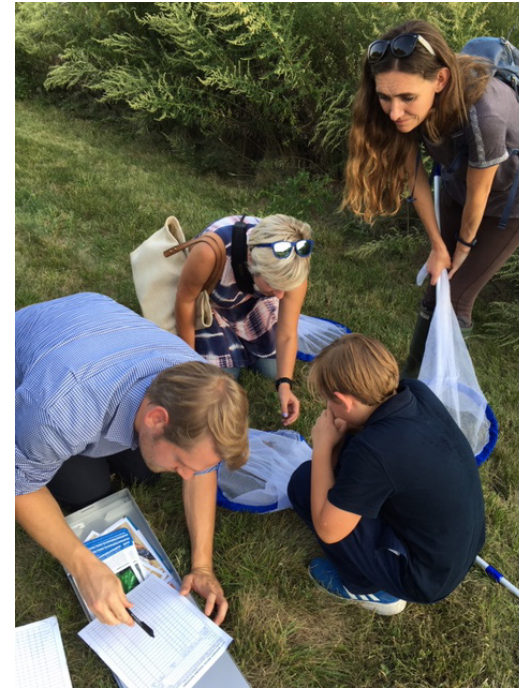


Photo: Coralie Palmer (top right), biologist and IWF board member, helps our monarch teams collect data

This was a record-breaking year for IWF monarch taggings!

Not only did we have more participants than ever before, we also tagged more monarchs than ever before. A LOT more!

This year, we partnered with Oak Heritage Conservancy, Indiana Native Plant Society, and our first ever Certified Sustainable Trail, the Urban Wilderness Trail. Once we counted the number of tags we'd be reporting to Monarch Watch, we were shocked. We tagged a total of 75 monarchs this year!

The data has all been submitted, so if you participated in this event be sure to keep an eye out for an email from IWF in case one of our monarchs makes it all the way back to Mexico.

If you couldn't join us this year, we hope you'll be able to participate in September 2020!

## Our 2019 Holt Scholarship Winner - Maiya Rizzo -



Growing up in Fort Wayne was always an adventure. I loved to bike on the river greenway and canoe along the Maumee River. We were just a short trip to Chain O' Lakes State Park, where my family would annually camp. As a child, I was always fascinated with nature and animals. This love was nurtured while I volunteered at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. It was a summer camp at Hanover College that sparked my interest in environmental science.

I am now a sophomore double majoring in environmental studies/sustainability and hydrogeology at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, which has one of the oldest environmental studies programs. There I am a member of Students for Sustainable Earth, Campus Beet, Biology Club, Climate Change Club, and the swim club. Outside of school I volunteer at the Stewards of Kleinstuck, Southwest Michigan SPCA, and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. This past summer, I returned home and spent my time volunteering at Eagle Marsh Nature Preserve helping with turtle mortality and bat research. In my spare time I enjoy reading, cooking, and my new found love - hammocking.

After I graduate, I am hoping to help protect and improve surface and ground water, which will benefit the environment and people. I am grateful to the Indiana Wildlife Federation for its generosity and belief in me. I look forward to my next adventure where I will be the one helping ensure that people can explore our waterways, have access to clean water, and enjoy Indiana's and our country's wildlife and natural wonders.



## Our Newest Certified Sustainable Trail - Teter Retreat -

IWF is thrilled to partner with Teter Retreat and Organic Farm, as well as the Duke Energy Foundation on a trail that provides access to the White River. The Duke Energy Foundation awarded a \$15,000 grant that will help bring resources and coordinate efforts to reclaim the native habitat, as well as help make the area more accessible.

The working farm grows organic produce that it sells for the Noblesville Farmer's Market and a community supported agriculture (CSA) share. The farm's produce also helps to battle food insecurity by supporting local food banks and pantries, as well as feeding programs.

The retreat is comprised of a lodge, four cabins, and nearby hiking trails that offers children's environmental science camps and event space rentals.

Teter's Certified Sustainable trail will be located in a parcel of land that has been in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for nearly 25 years. The trail will meander through a diverse mix of trees, wildflowers, and grasses that provides critical wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, amphibians, and insects. The trail also provides access to the White River where people can observe wildlife in a riparian habitat zone. The 120-acre property at Teter borders nearby Strawtown Koteewi Park with the White River flowing between the two. Although the two properties are not affiliated, adding a certified sustainable trail to the other side of the river will help to connect Indiana's fragmented wildlife habitat.

Much like other land in Indiana, the property is under threat of aggressive invasive plant species, such as Callery Pear, Asian Bush Honeysuckle, and Tree-of-Heaven. IWF will be organizing invasive species removal projects on the trail this spring. Check our website and social media for volunteer opportunities and a chance to actively support Indiana's wildlife.



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## 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