



2021

# Indiana Wildlife VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE: January 30th, 2021**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Collin O'Mara*

*President & CEO*

**National Wildlife Federation**

### Other presentations from:

Amanda Wuestefeld, Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, Director

Rick Cockrum, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Board President

Emily Wood, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Executive Director

**PLUS** *Amazing silent auction, free  
giveaways, conservation awards...*

*...all while supporting statewide  
conservation!*

**REGISTER HERE!**

[www.indianawildlife.org/2021conference](http://www.indianawildlife.org/2021conference)

### Inside This Issue:

- LETTER FROM THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT
- HOLT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER!
- CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE TRAILS UPDATE

p3

p5

p6

## About our keynote speaker ...

Collin O'Mara serves as President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, America's largest wildlife conservation organization with [52 state and territorial affiliates](#) and nearly six million hunters, anglers, birders, gardeners, hikers, paddlers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Under O'Mara's leadership, the National Wildlife Federation is focused on recovering America's wildlife ranging from bison and bighorn sheep to pollinators like monarch butterflies and native bees, improving management of and access to public lands, restoring America's water bodies, advancing environmental education (including publishing [Ranger Rick® magazines](#)), and connecting every American child with the great outdoors.

## Sneak peek at the silent auction ...



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## Make Your Voice Heard!

**ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING: Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 11am** – 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, there are no proposed changes to our by-laws, but you are invited to hear organizational updates. If you are interested in virtually attending, please [register here](#) to receive a private Zoom link.

## *Letter from the Board President*



Greetings!

I am the new president of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Our former president, Stacy Cachules, needed to reduce her role at IWF, so she stepped down as president, but don't fret, she has agreed to stay on as treasurer.

I hope this finds you and your family in good health. These past several months have been difficult, but many of us have found comfort, solace and even adventure by getting outdoors.

As we move into colder weather, getting out becomes more of a challenge. However, with the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, doing so may be even more important. The Norwegians have a word for embracing the cold. It is "friluftsliv" (free-loofts-liv) and means open-air living. We need to affirm that concept and winterize our decks, gardens, outdoor spaces and our minds.

One of the many things I love about the Indiana Wildlife Federation is the diverse interest of our members. We truly are a federation. But what we have in common is our love of nature and our commitment for sustainable natural resources we can enjoy and pass on to our children.

Your Board of Directors of IWF have had to adapt like everyone else by meeting virtually and conducting business online. However, we have not let that get in the way of growing. Over the past few months we have added several new members to the board. I invite you to visit our website at [www.indianawildlife.org](http://www.indianawildlife.org) and read their bios. I think you will be impressed.

IWF has grown under Stacy's leadership and we will continue to do so. The board has adopted short-term policies to get us through the pandemic to be followed by a long-term strategic plan when it is safe to convene again. In the meantime, we continue to advocate for hunters, anglers, hikers, bikers, paddlers and all of the other wildlife lovers.

Soon after the holidays, on January 30 to be specific, we will conduct our annual conference. To no one's surprise, this will be a virtual conference. The conference will feature speakers on wildlife topics, a silent auction of fun and valuable items, and keynote speaker Colin O'Mara, CEO of National Wildlife Federation. We hope you can participate.

Stay safe, get outside, enjoy our planet.

See you out there,

Rick Cockrum



## IWF featured in NWF Film on Asian Carp – by Drew YoungDyke



The National Wildlife Federation released a short documentary in October on the threats and impacts of Asian carp which prominently featured the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Indiana anglers, and Indiana waters. The film, titled *Against the Current*, featured conservationists, anglers, scientists, tribal representatives, and business owners to highlight the impacts of Asian carp on waters they've invaded in the South and Midwest and the threat they pose to the Great Lakes and its connected inland waters.

Emily Wood, executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, was featured in the film at the Eagle Marsh Berm in Fort Wayne. She explained the impact that invasive Asian carp are having throughout Indiana's fisheries, as well as the importance of the Eagle Marsh Berm to preventing the transfer of Asian carp from the Wabash River into the St. Mary's River. Eagle Marsh was identified in the Great Lakes-Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) as the second most-likely place for Asian carp to transfer into the Great Lakes watershed, and the berm was completed in 2016. The berm is located on the Little Rivers Wetlands Project's Eagle Marsh Nature Preserve, a beautiful restoration and an affiliate of the Indiana Wildlife Federation.

"This film clearly lays out how we as NWF affiliates work together to roll out large-scale conservation initiatives with local partners—and it is a great reminder that we are not alone in the work that we do," said Wood. Along with the Indiana Wildlife Federation, the film also featured Indiana outdoor writer Don Cranfill of Driftwood Outdoors and fishing guide Dave Hosler of Pile Cast Fly Fishing. They took film producer Jordan Browne and I out on the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers to show us the Asian carp problem in person.

"We were fishing for smallies and I smacked a paddle on the water," said Hosler, "and three silver carp came up just like rockets and I caught one right to the chest and my feet – because you're in a canoe and not expecting it – just went up and I landed straight on my back. I found out that big silver carp to the chest really hurts." We saw numerous silver carp jump out of the water both disturbed by the motor on Hosler's drift boat and even by the paddle strokes of Cranfill in his canoe. One even jumped in the boat with me and I had to jump out of the way, otherwise it would have taken out my legs. The experience really hit home for me in that, like many, I fish on my time off to relax and it's impossible to relax and fish when you're anticipating that 30 to 60-pound silver carp could fly at you from any direction at any moment.

"This is typical of most rivers in Indiana right now," said Cranfill. "The White River is bad with these Asian carp. They've affected the fishing in southern Indiana tremendously. These things have devastated the rivers and creeks and they've really affected the fishing."

The full film is available on the National Wildlife Federation's YouTube channel, on the National Wildlife Federation Outdoors Vimeo channel, and on the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center's Facebook page.

Thank you to Emily Wood, the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Don Cranfill, and Dave Hosler for providing your insight into making *Against the Current*.

Asian carp are a national problem requiring a national solution, starting with the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project in Illinois awaiting congressional approval to provide a stronger defense for keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

## DNR Grey Fox Study



▲ Photo: Grey fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

You can help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) study the decline of the grey fox in Indiana. While the grey fox population is showing signs of decline, the reason is not well understood. By using citizen reports of grey fox sightings, we can assist researchers in their efforts to pinpoint causes for this reduction in numbers.

You can report observations at [www.wildlifeecology.org/grayfox\\_indiana.html](http://www.wildlifeecology.org/grayfox_indiana.html)



## Our 2020 Holt Scholarship Winner – Phoebe Soldi –

As a child, there was one place where you could find me about 90% of the time: outside. Whether it was playing on the tire swing in my backyard, working with my mom in the garden, or even playing with worms in the dirt, outside was my favorite place to be. This is still true today, as I am often found kayaking on the Eel River or hiking anywhere that I can find. Using these natural areas for recreation and for their intrinsic beauty, I have become a student of nature.

As a freshman in college, I took a class called Wildlife in America, and in this class, I was told something that has resonated with me more than any other quote I have ever heard. My professor was discussing who had ownership of wilderness areas and told my class "nature belongs to those who use it." But to me, it has never felt like nature has belonged to anyone. I like to think that nature owns itself, independent from humans entirely. It can maintain a perfect balance without human interaction and thrives when left untouched.

But we coexist with the natural world, living symbiotically with one another, where the interaction between the two affects both parties involved. The problem with this is that too often, humans take more than they are willing to give, making it more of a parasitic relationship rather than the preferred mutualistic relationship. But with the growing awareness and the rise in advocacy for these topics, a positive change is well within reach.

At Purdue University, I am majoring in Wildlife and Aquatic Sciences, where I hope to one day promote the mutualistic relationship between the natural world and humans. I am a member of the Purdue Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Marine Biology Club to increase my exposure in field work and gain additional knowledge on what I am most passionate about. Additionally, I am one of the ambassadors for the Forestry and Natural Resources Department, where I help educate prospective students on what we do and the importance of our work.

I am extremely grateful to the Indiana Wildlife Federation for their support in my passions and my dreams. I hope that one day I will be working alongside many of the great wildlife biologists and ecologists of our time to help make my mark on the world.



## Certified Sustainable Trail Update - Tryon Farm Institute -



▲ Photo: Certified Summer 2020-Sean Tomlins, TFI Board President

IWF partnered with Tryon Farm Institute Inc. (TFI) of Michigan City this spring to certify their recreation trail. Restored native prairies, wetlands, woodlands, and dunes are some of the highlights along the way. We also helped them create beautiful new educational signage about, among other things, Indiana prairies and how they are managed. For more information, visit [www.tfinstitute.org](http://www.tfinstitute.org).

If you or your organization have a public-accessible trail you think would benefit from partnership, we'd love to hear from you! Our Certified Sustainable Trail program is all about improving Indiana's trail and connecting more people to our great Hoosier outdoors.

To read more about the program, visit [www.indianawildlife.org/habitat-programs/sustainable-trails/](http://www.indianawildlife.org/habitat-programs/sustainable-trails/)



▲ Photo: Educational signage on Indiana prairies



▲ Photo: Educational signage on fire management

### Habitat Programs Updates

#### Schedule a Workshop

Thank you to Indiana Native Plant Society and Marion Co Master Gardeners who both invited us to present virtual programs recently.

We are still offering workshops via Zoom for any groups that might be interested.

To request a workshop or learn more about them, please email us at [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org)

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**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