



Indiana Trails

▲ Photo: A trail through Indiana woodland

Not a single individual or organization in Indiana has gone unaffected by the tragic pandemic that has swept across the world this year. At IWF, our office has been closed for months, our programs have been cancelled, and our staff have been self quarantined. As people with an inexorable connection to nature and an unrelenting urge to find ourselves among the flowers and trees, especially in the spring, we continue to push forward with our efforts to help build and improve trails accessible to all members of the public.

During times of incredible mental health strain, it isn't just suggested but necessary that we find opportunities to unwind in nature. We live in such times. With social distancing so vital to protecting ourselves and our vulnerable community members, taking a walk on a trail is a responsible way to relax, get some exercise, and reduce some of the stress so many of us are struggling with.

We hope you will enjoy reading about a few of our trails projects and we look forward to sharing more of them as we're able to get back to work.

continued on page 2 >>

Inside This Issue:

- INDIANA TRAILS p1
- LETTER FROM THE ED p3
- MAYAPPLE POLLINATION p5

Central Indiana Land Trust

White Owl

A short hike located behind Flemming's Steak House in Indianapolis will lead you to beautiful views of the White River! Don't let the trailhead's urban environment mislead you. This prime White River access will not disappoint! Expect to see shorebirds, mink, bees, butterflies, and other semi-aquatic species along this river corridor habitat.

Visit conservingindiana.org/preserves/white-owl for directions.



▲ Photo: Certification at White Owl

Oliver's Woods

Another prime White River vista situated near the hustle and bustle of Keystone Ave in Indianapolis, this property boasts a one-mile stretch of river frontage, a prairie-savanna restoration, and 16 acres of woods. Native plants such as wild ginger, waterleaf, and Virginia Bluebells flourish here. Be on the lookout for this property to open to the public soon!

Visit conservingindiana.org/preserves/olivers-woods for more information about the unique features of this property.



▲ Photo: Oliver's Woods overlooking the White River

Tryon Farm Institute

This restored land preserve is located in Michigan City. The trail will lead you by a dune, wetland, and a prairie. Coyotes, deer, wood ducks, and an abundance of native plants thrive here. The historic dairy barn constructed in 1892 is also not to be missed! Visit tfstitute.org for more information and their upcoming events!



▲ Photo: The famous Barn at Tryon Farms

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear IWF members and friends,

Over the course of any life lived, we all experience and adapt to change. Today, we all live in an extraordinarily changed world from the one we knew just months ago. I would like to take the opportunity to direct my message in this issue of Hoosier Conservation, to our young friends and members that make up the graduating class of 2020:

The future before you is vast and also very uncertain. It is almost definitely not the milestone you had planned when you marked your graduation day on the calendar. Your graduation should have been (and hopefully, still was) a celebration of your perseverance, accomplishments, and the monumental achievement that you have just completed. You likely feel that you have merely graduated to a new set of challenges, but I encourage you to look also at the opportunities.

COVID-19 brought with it a host of ongoing concerns for public health, wellbeing, the economy and related job-market. No doubt your career is at the forefront of your mind right now, but don't let that be mistaken for your future.

The world has faced, and will continue to face global challenges. You, the graduating class of 2020, have already been at the front, leading and inspiring the world with your passionate calls for change. Your generation is leading the global charge on climate change, progressive renewable energy, environmental justice, and creating a more equitable and sustainable future for us all.

The need for more of this is NOW. Now, more than ever we must rise up to continue this good fight. On behalf of the staff and board at the Indiana Wildlife Federation, we wish you all the best as you take this next step in your life. We hope to see many of you volunteering again at our habitat projects, writing compelling letters to our elected officials, and building the very next generation of Hoosier conservationists.

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood, Executive Director



Have You Renewed Your Membership Yet?

IWF's outreach, education, and advocacy would not be possible without the support of our dedicated members. By renewing your membership, you'll help promote common sense conservation in Indiana for years to come and strengthen our unified voice on critical wildlife and habitat issues.

It's easy to renew today, simply visit www.indianawildlife.org and click the RENEW button!

Indianapolis Art Center

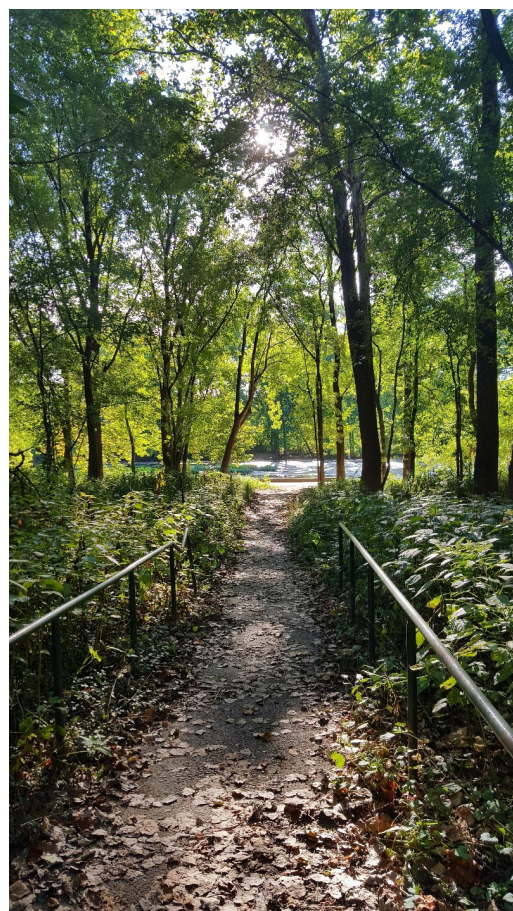
Situated along the White River in Broad Ripple, the Indianapolis Art Center offers a balanced blend of wildlife viewing opportunities and interactive sculptures in their ArtsPark. This 9.5-acre trail system is accessed right off the well-traveled Monon trail. Look for new educational signage (to be installed this summer), as you venture through the native pollinator plants and recently added dye garden. Do not miss out on an opportunity to spot Great Blue Heron at the many river vistas along the back side of the park. Visit indplsartcenter.org/artspark for more information and upcoming events!



▲ Photo: The IAC ArtsPark

Holliday Park

Located at 62nd St and Meridian St in Indianapolis, the Blickman Educational Trail provides the only ADA trail access at Holliday Park. The native plant restoration at the trailhead will act as a first line of defense from invasive plant species making their way to the White River. Be sure to lookout for the new educational signage (to be installed this summer) informing visitors of how they can identify and manage invasive plant species, such as purple wintercreeper. Visit hollidaypark.org for more information and a trail map!



▲ Photo: Holliday Park trail to the White River

There's Still Time to Apply for the 2020 Holt Scholarship!

The June 15th deadline for applications is quickly approaching. Please remind any students you know who are at or above a sophomore level and studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education to submit their applications!

Visit www.indianawildlife.org/Holt-Scholarship to apply.

Box Turtle Poop Aids in the Success of the Mayapple Flower

Mayapples have a pretty interesting pollination story since they don't self-pollinate, nor do they really attract pollinators. Did you know their germination success rates depend largely on box turtles?!

One of the first spring flowers to emerge, the easily recognizable Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) is hard to miss. In early to mid-April, when it first emerges, the wildflower's distinctive foliage resembles an umbrella! Soon after, you should see the flowers begin to open—but you must look underneath the leaves. These waxy flowers play a critical role as the fruit replaces the petals in the early summer.



Since mayapples will not self-pollinate, they must cross with a genetically different plant to set seeds. Most people think pollinators will save the day here; however, the flowers do not produce nectar. Therefore, pollinators are not the answer. The solution is found in their fruit to help spread their seed!



The fruit is the plant's way of ensuring the seeds are put to use for its self-preservation. The small oval-shaped fruit are highly utilized by forest-dwelling wildlife. Specifically, box turtles are thought to be the main transporter of mayapple seeds. How so do you ask? Well, it's as simple as this: box turtles eat the fruit and the seeds get dispersed through their poop. In addition, the mayapple plant is the perfect height for these forest turtles, strengthening their symbiosis!

***Mayapple:** All the parts of the plant, except the fruit, contain podophyllotoxin which is highly toxic if consumed, but was used by Native Americans for a variety of medicinal purposes.

***Wildlife Status:** Protected. Box turtles MAY NOT be collected from the wild.

This is the time of year when we're all craving the outdoors. Combined with the shutdown of so many of the activities we're used to in the early summer, we're in such a hurry to get outside that we sometimes forget to be responsible stewards of the lands we love.

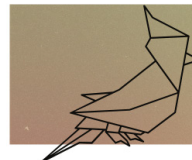
DNR wants to remind us to take care of our shared spaces while enjoying them and be mindful of the health and safety of others.

For more information about public lands in Indiana and recreational opportunities, please visit on.IN.gov/dfwproperties.



**PLAN AHEAD
BEFORE VISITING**

**BAG AND CARRY OUT
YOUR TRASH**



**SAFELY ENJOY THE
OUTDOORS**

Gardening with Natives

We offer a unique opportunity to purchase native plants through our annual plant sale at indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/native-plant-sale. Every year, we sell thousands of native plants, yet the native plant experience can be daunting for gardeners unused to “wild” plants. We’re working on developing new resources to help people pick out the right plants, landscape them in ways pleasing to both gardeners and the plants, and manage expectations for what a native garden really is. In the meantime, here are a few tips for anyone thinking about starting their own native landscape.

- Messy is beautiful - Native plants behave in our gardens like they do in the wild. They will compete, move around the space, and form their own community.
- Maintain clean borders - If you’re worried about your garden looking like “weeds”, try to keep the edges tidy. Even planting a small native grass along the edge demonstrates the intentionality of the garden.
- Aim for year-round color - Without flowers, native plants can often look unruly. Since most people are used to seeing flowers in gardens, it might help to plan your garden with plants that bloom throughout the year. For instance, blue false indigo (below) in the spring, penstemon in the early summer, milkweed in the late summer, and aster in the fall. There will always be a beautiful flower in your garden.
- Install signage - Signage is not only a way to show you’re doing something great for wildlife, but it can be a conversation starter with someone viewing your garden who isn’t used to native plants.



▲ Photo: Native garden signage



▲ Photo: A residential downspout raingarden

Habitat Programs Updates

Schedule a Workshop

To safeguard the health of our staff and their families as well as the groups of wonderful people to whom we regularly present our programs, IWF will not be offering in-person programs for the remainder of this year.

During this hiatus, we hope you will consider one of our programs for your 2021 gatherings. We deliver a Certified Wildlife Habitat Workshop about the importance of native plant gardening for wildlife and we have a new Indiana’s Wild Climate Workshop about the impact of the climate crisis on our wildlife.

To request a workshop or learn more about them, please email us at info@indianawildlife.org

Corporate Sponsorship for Conservation

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 email at info@indianawildlife.org or by phone at 317-875-9453