



Indiana's First Sustainable Trail

The Urban Wilderness Trail (UWT) arose out of a conflict between the 2004 USA World Cross Country Trials and a storm water project along White River. Forced to relocate to a new location in Martin Park, Greg Harger and the Indiana Invaders inadvertently discovered an opportunity for urban conservation and community improvement in Indianapolis. Coach Harger took the initiative and brought together numerous individuals and agencies to undertake a project that would restore one of the most vital habitats in Indianapolis and create recreational opportunities for the entire city.

While still a work in progress, the trail is currently open to the public and has been used as a site for various outdoor projects. It has played host to races, pollinator counts, and beautification events. IWF has used the trail for a scavenger hike during Nature Play Days, monarch tagging during the White River Festival, and a tree planting event where we planted 100 native swamp white oak trees donated by the National Wildlife Federation.

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Calendar Updates

- Aug 19 - Zionsville Creekfest & Annual Eagle Creek Cleanup
- Sept 14 - White River Festival Monarch Tagging Event
- Oct 28 - INPAWS Conference

Indiana's First Sustainable Trail, contd.

Visitors in the spring will see the signs of early wildlife activity as everything from beavers to bald eagles and great blue herons to red foxes begin their yearly routines. In the summer, Indiana wildflowers open their blooms to countless pollinators and the trail truly comes alive. In fall, the monarch migration makes use of the habitat along the trail and hundreds of butterflies can be seen in the maple and sycamore trees along the river. Even in winter, animal tracks can be found in the snow and birds easily spotted among the bare branches.

Recently, the Urban Wilderness Trail became an IWF Certified Sustainable Trail, the first of its kind in Indiana. The trail has adopted new mowing standards to protect emerging wildlife habitat along the river, ensuring protection for important visitors like the monarch butterfly and migratory birds. Erosion control actions have been taken along parts of the trail that previously washed out in a heavy rain. Invasive removal and trash cleanup activities have helped beautify the trail and protect native plants and animals. Citizen science projects, like pollinator counts, have begun taking place along the trail. We at IWF are proud to have such an incredible trail as the flagship representative for our new program!

This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. Over the next three years, IWF will be certifying more trails, backyards, and campuses across Indiana in an effort to promote a broader sustainable culture. Our certified trails program seeks to provide the public with greater opportunity to access their communities in healthy and wildlife-friendly ways. Indiana's growing network of trails has the potential to provide wildlife with safe corridors when finding mates, looking for food sources, or migrating through our state.

Our focus will also be on the overall quality of water in Indiana. By promoting sustainable trails with a biodiverse selection of native plants, we can spur the development of scenic paths which also filter runoff and reduce erosion of sediment into waterways. With cleaner water, we hope to encourage more access to these waterways along the trails and see more Hoosiers fishing, swimming, and boating along our rivers and streams. To read more about our trails program, [click here](#) or visit our website at www.indianawildlife.org.

Below: Greg Harger receives the Certified Sustainable Trail sign for the UWT.



One of the Swamp White Oak Trees planted by volunteers after one month of growth.



Butterfly weed flourishes on the Urban Wilderness Trail.



Habitat Intern Evan Fall and ED Emily Wood enjoy a day on the UWT checking up on the trees IWF planted in June!

Letter from the New Executive Director

Dear conservationists,

I am truly honored to join you as a member and have the opportunity to advance the Indiana Wildlife Federation's mission to promote the conservation, sound management, and sustainable use of Indiana's wildlife and wildlife habitat through education, advocacy, and action.

As you have probably noticed from the rest of the newsletter, we have a lot to be excited about! With the generous grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, IWF is enabled to continue building on past efforts to engage and educate Hoosiers on wildlife issues, preserve and enhance Indiana habitat, and now provide a solid framework to encourage sustainable and ecologically sound practices for trail building and university campus landscaping.

Former executive director Erin Baird Wade has done an impeccable job of setting the organization up for success. IWF is poised and ready to expand the reach of our work conserving the natural landscape of Indiana and protecting the wildlife that inhabits it. As we look to the future, there is a broad spectrum of issues and environmental pressures put upon the wildlife of our state and I truly look forward to standing up alongside our partners and dedicated members to protect and preserve all that we hold dear.

Yours in conservation,

Emily A. Wood, Executive Director



New Board President–Stacy Cachules

I started on the board of IWF in the spring of 2015 but have followed the work of IWF and NWF for many years. For my day job I serve as Associate Director at the Central Indiana Land Trust, a nonprofit land trust that works to protect the best of Central Indiana. I have a strong passion for wildlife and the protection of habitat. I also have many years of nonprofit management experience.

I am lucky to be taking on this role at a very exciting time. IWF is embarking on an exciting program to restore and certify important habitat that will work to benefit wildlife and habitat along trails in key waterways (see pages 1-2). We have in place a professional and talented staff and board that is so passionate about the work and success of IWF. But most importantly we have the most dedicated members and volunteers that make our work possible. I look forward to working with you to continue to make Indiana Wildlife Federation a strong voice for sustainable wildlife and wildlife habitats in Indiana.



Kids' Corner



Recycle and Help Hummingbirds!

Cut out the flat bottom of each bowl, then cut out a large flower shape (make sure its bigger than the bottle cap)! Drill a hole in each bottle cap that is wide enough for a straw to fit through.

Punch a hole in the center of each red plastic flower and put each one onto the end of a straw. Insert the straw into the cap of a bottle and seal with glue. Make sure the bend of the straw is just outside the cap opening so the straw bends at an angle as it comes out of the bottle. Glue the flower in place so it is at the end of the straw's bend to attract the hummingbirds. (Make sure you don't glue the cap shut!)

Allow to dry overnight. Once set, wrap the wire around the neck of a bottle, then pull it up to create a hanger for the bottle. If you have multiple, use the rubber band to go around the top and hold the bottles together.

For nectar:

Boil Water. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar until it's dissolved. Refrigerate overnight. No need to add dye!

Add the nectar to each bottle and trim both ends of your straws so that they allow water to flow just inside the straw.

Hang your hummingbird buffet outside near a window so you can watch the hummingbirds feast!

- What you will need:
- 3 plastic bottles, labels removed
- 3 drinking straws with a bend
- 3 disposable plastic red bowls
- Drill
- Hole punch
- 12 gauge craft wire
- Glue
- Scissors
- Rubber band (optional)
- 4 cups water
- 1 cup Cane Sugar

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

#SaveOurWaterways

Both the National Wildlife Federation and Indiana Wildlife Federation have a deep rooted concern about what the proposed cuts to the federal budget will mean for wildlife and water conservation in Indiana and across the United States. This concern has sparked a desire to reach a broader audience by working together and make a greater impact than NWF or IWF could make on its own.

In order to do this, we are encouraging Hoosier conservationists to call their representatives and ask them to fight for these programs. Join us in the fight to #SaveOurWaterways by calling or posting the hashtag on social media! Check out the #SaveOurWaterways page on our website to see what's at stake!

(202) 225-3121

[Switchboard US House of Representatives]
Call your Representative and say:

Hello, my name is _____ and I am an Indiana resident from _____ County. I am calling to voice my concern about the lack of funding in the budget proposal for issues of water and habitat conservation in the U.S. I support the continued funding of these sorts of programs. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

While you're posting
#SaveOurWaterways,
Follow us on Social Media!





Volunteers built over 120 bird feeders with guests at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience.



Volunteers planted 100 trees along the Urban Wilderness Trail at White River.



Executive Director Emily Wood recognizes former board president Steve Cecil for his dedication to IWF.



Volunteers served about 800 venison sloppy joes to Indiana State Fair guests!



Our incredible volunteers for this year's Taste of the Wild cookout hosted by the DNR at the Indiana State Fair.



People in the Environment (PIE) Day at Cold Spring School in May! We took a nature walk and made "nature faces"!



Bird feeder building at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience was a hit!



Former IWF Executive Director Erin Wade's last day at the office!



Wildlife Spotlight

Indiana's Barn Owl



The barn owl gets its name from their preferred nesting location; barns, which provide suitable habitats for prey and for safety. This Indiana native has a heart-shaped face, typically stands around 16 inches tall, and is found in southern parts of Indiana. The barn owl is a fascinating creature, it swallows its prey whole, to later cough up pellets full of indigestible parts, and has eyes that are fixed in their sockets, so it must rotate its head in order to look around. Their unique features and specialized needs, however, make their survival as a species more challenging.

Barn owls are currently a state endangered species. The numbers are devastatingly small, with only 10 nests reported statewide in 2015. Though many obstacles have contributed to the decline in the species population, perhaps the most detrimental is the conversion of many agricultural, rural lands to urban and suburban hubs. In addition, the loss of grassland habitats, nesting sites, and the use of pesticides have had a negative impact on the species. In an attempt to reverse these detrimental outcomes, the DNR has built and placed over 300 suitable nesting site boxes all around the state over the last 30 years. If you believe you own a piece of property that could be a potential habitat or nesting site for the Indiana barn owl, consider adding a nesting site box to your farm or grassland!



IWF Advocacy Update



NWF Annual Meeting Outcomes

Ray McCormick, IWF Board Member and our NWF Representative, and Stacy Cachules, IWF Board President, attended the NWF Annual Meeting June 8-10 in Stevenson, Washington. The resolution that IWF proposed, Promoting and Advocating for Soil Health Management Systems, was adopted. The NWF State Affiliates also voted to adopt a We Commit statement that unifies our support of the new NWF Strategic Plan.



Supporting Public Lands

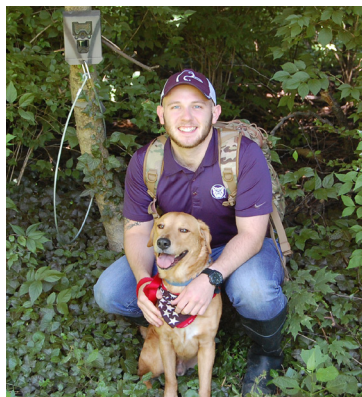
In partnership with several NWF State Affiliates, IWF drafted a letter encouraging state and federal legislators to support public lands. Affiliate organizations contacted their legislators on June 7th in a 'Keep public lands in public hands' campaign. Our letter was sent to 150 state legislators and 11 federal legislators. We hope to continue this conversation about the value and importance of public lands in Indiana and across the nation.



Additional Advocacy Efforts

IWF has continued to engage with partners to advocate for wildlife conservation and sound management of our natural resources at both the state and federal levels:

- Currently working on the #SaveOurWaterways Campaign (See Page 4)
- Signed on to a letter to Secretary Zinke encouraging the release of Pittman Robertson grant funds to State Wildlife Agencies
- Submitted a letter of support with comments for the Hoosier National Forest – Tell City Project
- Signed on to a letter in opposition to the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act that increases the threat of invasives in the Great Lakes
- Signed on to a letter in opposition of EPA Regulation Reform that would weaken the Clean Water Act
- Signed on to a comment letter from NWF and Great Lake Affiliates noting our top priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill



Holt Scholarship Recipient 2017

Jacob Reeves- Butler University

Since I was just a little squirt fishing in my Granddad's lake just outside of Indianapolis, I knew that I wanted to help the animals when I grew up. As an Indiana-born kid, my family instilled me with the values of stewardship and conservationism that have led me to pursue my path as a biology major at Butler, and to (hopefully) attend a graduate program that focuses on wildlife conservation. To this day, I help my Granddad whenever I can to manage a family property that serves as a refuge for much wildlife in the area. At Butler, I am the Inaugural Fred Hendricks Fellowship recipient, and with these funds I am using motion-triggered wildlife cameras to analyze

how animals use Butler's campus. Additionally, I am an intern at the Butler University Center for Urban Ecology, where I help Butler faculty on a project called the Indianapolis Wildlife Watch, which also uses motion-triggered wildlife cameras, but collects data all around the greater Indianapolis area. With this experience, I hope to be able to create more informed urban development, particularly on campus, that keeps the well-being of wildlife at heart. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone at IWF, not only for their support in me, but for the wonderful work they do for the wildlife of Indiana.

Fall Internship

IWF is accepting applications for the following fall internship positions:
Habitat Programs • Communications • Development & Fundraising
Visit www.indianawildlife.org/internships to apply!



INDIANA
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

CONSERVATION.
EDUCATION.
ADVOCACY.