



## Growing Up WILD

Creating a conservation mindset is not a simple task. It demands a long-term investment in our natural infrastructure, our local communities, and especially, in our children. Education is a core pillar of IWF's mission and with that in mind we are featuring several projects around the state that are making a connection to nature possible for Hoosier youth.

### Children of Indiana Nature Park -Laura Sertic, The Nature Conservancy

Kids need nature! Studies show that kids who spend time outside are more creative, healthier, more confident and better problem solvers. We want to help connect every K-12 student in Indiana by giving the gift of nature. The Indiana Department of Nature Resources, Indiana Department of Education, Cope Environmental Center, and The Nature Conservancy have partnered together to create the first-ever Children of Indiana Nature Park. Each student has the opportunity to claim their personal Nature IN-Deed, with unique geographic coordinates to their very own spot in the Children of Indiana Nature Park. Children can visit their land in person by visiting the park or virtually on the website. If visiting the Park is not possible, the Bicentennial Nature Center Network offers more than 20 nature center locations around Indiana for kids to connect with nature. Visit our website at <http://www.ilovemyland.org>, like us on Facebook (Children of Indiana Nature Park) or email us at [childrenofindiananaturepark@tnc.org](mailto:childrenofindiananaturepark@tnc.org) to learn more about how you can participate in the Children of Indiana Nature Park.

### Indiana Children & Nature Network - Nature Play Days

June brought warmer temperatures and plenty of opportunities for kids to explore nature, especially during the ICANN Nature Play Days celebration from June 11-19. IWF joined in the kick-off event at Monument Circle in Indianapolis and then hosted a play day activity, the Sundown Scavenger Hunt, on June 13 near the White River. Other organizations and groups >>

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▲ Photo: Plans for a new nature playscape at the Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve in Evansville



▲ Photo: Exploring the wild world of skulls and pelts at the Conner Prairie Curiosity Fair

## Growing Up WILD, contd.

around the state held their own fun activities including outdoor fort building at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, nature art at the Pop-Up Adventure event at Woodlawn Nature Center in Elkhart, and reptile introductions at Whitewater Memorial State Park in Liberty.

### Conner Prairie Curiosity Fair & Treetop Outpost Opening

There was no shortage of curious kids and parents at the Curiosity Fair at Conner Prairie Interactive History Park on June 11 & 12. IWF hosted fun wildlife learning activities like a food chain stacking game, bird beak matching, and our very popular animal-habitat bean bag toss. Alexandra Syndram, Miss Indiana Earth United States, joined us in support of her chosen cause, wildlife conservation, and graciously posed for photos with awestruck fairgoers. We spoke with more than 70 families and shared tips on attracting and interacting with local wildlife.

Beyond the fair, the park is incorporating nature education into its offerings with the July opening of its newest exhibit, the Treetop Outpost. More than just a treehouse, the outpost provides hands-on opportunities to make art and music, climb and play, and discover nature from a new perspective.

### Environmental Education Association of Indiana Annual Conference

Aaron Stump, our Habitat Programs Coordinator, and Steve Van Zant, a board member, represented IWF at the EEAI conference in mid-June. Highlights of the event included the dedication of the Children of Indiana Nature Park, presentation of land "deeds" to excited Hoosier youth, and a tour of the Cope Environmental Center's new building project, which will meet the rigorous criteria of the Living Building Challenge, a certification program emphasizing sustainability in construction.

## Calendar Updates

Aug 6 - Taste of the Wild Cookout

Aug 27 - Zionsville Creek Fest

Sept 11 - Little River Wetlands Project Monarch Festival

Sept 13 - White River Festival Monarch Tagging

Sept 17 - Muscatatuck 50th Anniversary Celebration

Sept 26 - Get on Board

Sept 30 - INCA Conservation Congress

Oct 1 - Turn Festival

Oct 8 - Trail Opening Ceremony at Eagle Marsh

Nov 4 - ICANN Meeting

Nov 5 - INPAWS Conference

Mar 18 - IWF Annual Meeting

## Volunteer Opportunities

Not sure how you can help Indiana's wildlife? Check out these great volunteer opportunities with IWF and find one that fits you!

- Join our Speakers' Bureau. We need volunteers to give presentations on backyard habitats throughout the year. No prior knowledge needed, just a passion for wildlife!
- Serve up venison sloppy joes & lemonade with us at the **2016 Taste of the Wild Cookout** at the State Fair on **August 6th**. Bring a friend and enjoy the fair afterwards!
- Photography – We are always looking for quality photographs of wildlife and habitat to use for our website, marketing, social media, and outreach materials.

To find out about all our opportunities visit: [www.indianawildlife.org/about/volunteer/](http://www.indianawildlife.org/about/volunteer/). To volunteer, call us at 317.875.9453 or email us at [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org).





# Seed Bombs!

## Things you will need:

- Soil (rich loam is best)
- Water
- Dixie cup
- Clay
- Native flower seeds
- Mixing bowl (will get dirty)
- Plate or cookie sheet

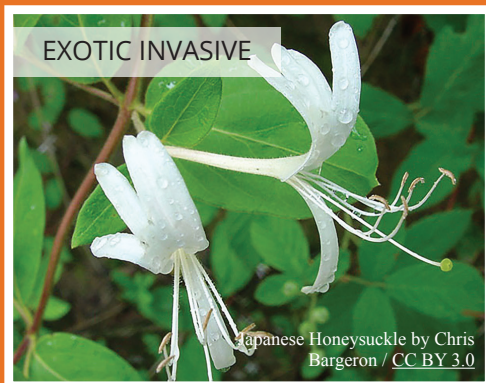


- 1) Place a chunk of clay in the mixing bowl
- 2) Add one (Dixie) cupful of water to the clay and mix with your hands
- 3) Add several handfuls of soil and continue mixing until mixture is dark gray, thick, and easily manipulated
- 4) Add several handfuls of flower seeds to the bowl and continue mixing so that seeds are spread throughout
- 5) Separate the mixture into meatball-sized balls and place on a flat surface to dry for 24-48 hours.
- 6) Throw the seed bombs into your yard and wait for rain, or plant in a pot and water. Watch for your flowers to grow!

**Tip:** IWF offers a native wildflower seed mix for purchase on [our website](#). You can also find native seeds at retailers like [Urban Farmer](#), [Seedland](#), and [Prairie Nursery](#).



## Plant THIS, Not THAT



### Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

Japanese honeysuckle is native to East Asia and was introduced to the U.S. in 1806 as an ornamental plant. However, it outcompetes native vegetation for light and resources. A quick-growing vine, *L. japonica* smothers other plants, and its seeds are easily dispersed by birds. Due to its high ecological impact and potential for expansion, this plant can dramatically reduce local biodiversity.

### Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)

An excellent alternative to Japanese honeysuckle, this native vine decorated in small white flowers also goes by the names Devil's Darning Needles and Old Man's Beard. It blooms from June until late August and can grow freely in a garden or be trained to grow on a trellis. It is known to attract butterflies and hummingbirds but can be a very aggressive grower so take care to select an appropriate location in your garden.



# Indiana Conservation Alliance Conservation Congress

**WHEN:** Friday, September 30, 2016 from 9:30am - 4:30pm

**WHERE:** Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park

"Building a Conservation Ethic" is the theme of the first Conservation Congress to be hosted this year by the Indiana Conservation Alliance. The event will open with a welcome from Cameron Clark, Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Bill McCoy, Refuge Manager at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. Following introductions, there will be a preview of next steps for the state wildlife action plan (SWAP), updates on local conservation projects from Sycamore Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy, and small group discussions on funding, outreach, and other topics.

Be sure to register soon to secure your ticket (\$25, lunch and refreshments provided) and give your input on the establishment of the "conservation ethic" in Indiana! Visit [www.inconservation.org](http://www.inconservation.org) to register.

## Upcoming Field Trips

Our next field trip will be a visit to Fort Wayne in the fall to see the

- **Oct. 8 - Eagle Marsh Continental Divide Trail Opening Ceremony**



Photo: Anamarie Johnson poses with one of IWF's "4 Needs of Wildlife" signs while receiving her Gold Award as part of the Central Indiana Girl Scouts' 2016 Girls of Distinction celebration. Anamarie's merit project introduced native perennials to the Second Presbyterian Church's community garden.



Photo: Presentation of the Nature IN-Deed by Indiana first lady, Karen Pence.



Photo: Dr. John Foster (Executive Director of Wesselman Nature Society), Davie Sue Wallace (Vice President of Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society), and Mayor Lloyd Winnecke (city of Evansville) at the signing of the Evansville Mayor's Monarch Pledge



Photo: Students at Cold Spring Environmental Magnet School's PIE Day enjoying the seed ball activity



# Habitat Program Updates

## KIDS' CONTEST

Thanks to the devoted efforts of our summer Habitat Programs intern, Lauren Ooley, the Kids' Contest is already being updated with different questions and new photography. Beginning in March 2017, Indiana grade school students will be challenged with engaging topics like genetic variation, environmental adaptation, and ecological relationships among wildlife.

## BACKYARD HABITAT WORKSHOP

We have two workshops scheduled in Muncie and West Lafayette and are taking additional workshop requests around the state.

If you are interested in having us present in your community, for your neighborhood association, at your school or church, or for another group, contact us at [info@indianawildlife.org](mailto:info@indianawildlife.org) or **317-875-9453**. Or if you would like to help out by volunteering as a speaker, please let us know as well!

## MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE

IWF has been partnering with the National Wildlife Federation to encourage mayors throughout Indiana to take the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and join cities across the U.S. in creating habitat for the declining monarch butterfly. With pledges from Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke and Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett in July, there are now seven Indiana cities participating. Your city can be part of this conservation initiative too. Contact us and we will help you get your mayor on board!



▲ Photo: Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett with IWF Executive Director Erin Baird at the official pledge signing

## NWF Annual Meeting

On June 16th-18th, Ray McCormick, IWF Board Member, and Erin Baird, IWF Executive Director, attended the National Wildlife Federation's 80th Annual Meeting in Estes Park, CO. The weekend kicked off with a press conference and rally advocating for protection of our nation's public lands and stressing the importance of 'keeping public lands in public hands.'

Ray and Erin represented IWF in several caucus discussions including Privatization of Wildlife (IWF is co-chair), Water, Sporting, and Climate and Energy. They also served on resolutions committees, and attended breakout discussions on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Fundraising and Outreach, and Advocacy Tools.

As our NWF Delegate, Ray voted on important resolutions, board leadership positions, and adoption of a new "We Envision" statement. For a full recap of the outcomes of the event, visit: [NWF 80th Annual Meeting](#).



▲ Photo: Erin Baird and board member, Ray McCormick, at the 2016 NWF Annual Meeting in Estes Park, Colorado

## Legislative Updates

### Waukesha, WI Great Lakes Diversion Application

Following significant modifications and added conditions, the application submitted to the Great Lakes Compact from the city of Waukesha, WI to divert water from the Great Lakes was approved on June 21st. Because this was the first application submitted to the Compact, it was important to conduct a thorough application review process. IWF was pleased to see the process work and an acceptable application result.

### Board of Animal Health Management of Shooting Preserves

The IWF Board met with staff from Indiana BOAH to discuss the management plan being developed to handle the licensing and regulation of captive shooting facilities in the state. Details can be seen on their website at: [http://www.in.gov/boah/files/State\\_Statute\\_and\\_Proposed\\_Rule\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.in.gov/boah/files/State_Statute_and_Proposed_Rule_Summary.pdf)

### Recovering America's Wildlife Act – HR 5650

New federal legislation has been introduced based on recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Panel. The bipartisan HR 5650 calls for \$1.3 million in existing revenue funds to be dedicated to wildlife conservation. We encourage you to contact your members of congress and ask them to support this bill: <https://online.nwf.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=2283>

### General Assembly Interim Study Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

IWF will be attending the meeting of the legislative summer study committee on August 24th at 10a.m.

## 2016 HOLT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



### Crystal Nichols

I always joke that I became a biologist because I did not want to stop playing outside, but on some level this is what helped me to decide to study aquatic biology and fisheries at Ball State University. It is my belief that as stewards of this earth we must preserve the magnificent planet we have been blessed with for our lifetimes--and many lifetimes to come. With this in mind, I serve as the president of the American Fisheries Society where I strive to empower and motivate members to form meaningful relationships, and to help them identify and use their unique strengths to increase the community's mindfulness and love of their environment. I will graduate in the spring of 2017, after which I plan to serve as an environmental development volunteer for the United States Peace Corps in order to spread conservation awareness to other countries and groups of people. I am so thankful for not only the financial support of the fellow conservationists of IWF, but also the support I feel through the kind words and acknowledgement they have shared with me.

## Fall Internships

IWF is accepting applications for the following fall internship positions

- Habitat Programs
- Communications
- Development & Fundraising

Visit [www.indianawildlife.org/internships](http://www.indianawildlife.org/internships) to apply!

