



Letter from the President: Membership

Happy 2016 to all IWF members, affiliates and friends!

We are off to a very busy start in the New Year. Erin and the staff have an exciting line up of educational programs, outreach opportunities, and field trips for the year ahead. The first quarter is flying by with legislative work, preparations for our native plant sale, and announcements of the Holt Scholarship and Kids Contest just around the corner.

I'd like to highlight two very important items in this newsletter. **The IWF Annual Meeting, Spring Conference, and Awards Banquet will be held on March 19th at the IWF office.** While many of the details are yet to be finalized, it is always a fun and informative Saturday including a catered lunch, silent auction, and selection of lunchtime speakers. Most importantly, it is an opportunity for you, our members, to actively participate in the business and governance of IWF.

IWF is structured as a "member driven" organization as opposed to a "board driven" one. This means that members have the power to vote on important policy and governance issues. IWF members vote on organizational structure, elect officers, and are called to act on "Resolutions" which support our mission and direct our programs. The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to really get involved in the direction IWF takes for 2016. Each individual member has one vote; affiliates and clubs have votes appropriate to the size of their organizations. **Please make this year's Annual Meeting a priority and plan to attend!** It is a great way to get involved and meet fellow members from around the state.

The second item I would like to highlight is that we are making some changes to our membership renewal process. **Please be sure to read the article on page 2 that outlines these changes.** While preparing the IWF strategic plan, the board made the decision to move from rolling membership renewals to annual renewals. This means that all IWF memberships will renew at the end of May. These changes are meant to streamline the renewal process, lessen the administrative load, and hopefully, clear up confusion about receiving an end of year appeal and a membership renewal at the same time.

See you March 19th!

Steve Cecil
Board President

Inside This Issue:

• MEMBERSHIP NEWS

p2

• ANNUAL MEETING
INVITATION

p4

• LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

p6



▲ Native landscaping at Goshen College



▲ Board member, Chuck Brinkman, and Jim Wagoner's (also Board Member) sons at Cabela's in Noblesville

Important Changes to IWF Membership!

IWF WILL BE CHANGING FROM A ROLLING RENEWAL PROCESS
TO AN ANNUAL RENEWAL PROCESS ON **JUNE 1ST, 2016.**

- Member levels will remain the same. A basic individual/family membership will still be \$30. Affiliate membership is \$100 and includes 5 complimentary individual memberships.
- You will receive a paper and an email renewal notice at the beginning of May reminding you that your membership will be expiring on June 1st, 2016.
- If you do not renew your membership, you will also receive an email reminder 7 days and 1 day prior to your expiration. You will not receive additional paper reminders.
- Any membership renewed in 2016 will be extended until June 1st, 2017.
- A non-member may join at any time throughout the year. All memberships will expire on June 1st. If you join or renew between March 1st and June 1st, your membership will be extended to the following year.



Calendar Updates

Feb. 25-28 - Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Expo

Mar. 7-13 - Kids' Contest Launch/ Wildlife Week

Mar. 19 - Annual Meeting and Conservation Awards Banquet

Apr. 8-9 INCA Conservation Conference

Apr. 16 - Indiana Free Fishing Day

Apr. 23 - Earth Day Indiana Festival

Apr. 28 - Field Trip to Bean Blossom

June 11-19 - ICANN Nature Play Days

June 16 - Indianapolis Zoo Backyard Family BBQ (Zoo members only)

Volunteer Opportunities

We have many chances for you to get involved with IWF this spring!

- 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!
- Come build bird feeders with us at **Earth Day Indiana on April 23rd!** We need 8-10 volunteers to organize materials & help kids assemble the feeders.
- Love plants? Volunteer to chat with folks about IWF and gardening with natives as we help out at the **Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Native Plant Giveaway on May 21st.**
- 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/. To volunteer, call us at 317.875.9453 or email us at info@indianawildlife.org.



Not all animals hibernate or migrate during the winter. Some still roam the wild, leaving their mark with tracks. Identifying a specific animal by their tracks can be a difficult task. Listed below are the descriptions of 3 animal tracks that are commonly found during the winter.

- **Rabbit** tracks regularly appear throughout the winter. The repetitive tracks are typically found in groups of four and develop a long, narrow rectangle. Rabbits have short circular toes and fur on their feet. They attempt to stay warm by growing a thick coat of fur and staying active.
- **Squirrels** are known for their broad and rectangular tracks. In some instances, their slim, lengthy toes are noticeable. Squirrels put on layers of fat in winter and spend time in their den to stay warm. They use their bushy tail as a blanket and it helps block out the cold.
- **Deer** have distinct, heart-shaped tracks. Though most deer tracks are evident and clear, occasionally deer step on their own tracks. This can create distorted and uneven marks. Deer survive the winter by growing a thick coat and accumulating body fat during late summer and fall.



Plant THIS, Not THAT



Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

The common privet is a deciduous shrub that was formerly the most planted privet in the northern US. The northern Europe native has become less popular due to self-seeding and invasiveness. Though the flowers look inviting, many consider the aroma to be overbearing and unpleasant. It is considered invasive by 5 states including Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.

◀ Photo: Nava Tabak, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Bugwood.org

Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

Native to Eastern and Central North America, the blackhaw viburnum is a viable alternative to the common privet. It is easily grown in dry or well-drained soil. This colorful shrub shifts from dark green leaves to vibrant shades of red and purple in the fall. Blue-black berry-like drupes stay ripe until winter and are great for birds and other wildlife.



▲ Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden

You're Invited!

Join us for our **Annual Meeting, Spring Conservation Conference, & 56th Annual Awards Banquet** at the IWF offices in downtown Indianapolis on **March 19th**. The business meeting will begin at 9am; all are welcome to attend, although only current members may vote on changes to the by-laws. The conference will commence at 11:15am with a welcome from our Executive Board President, Steve Cecil. We will be hearing from a number of speakers about current natural resource issues in Indiana followed by a delicious catered lunch, a ceremony recognizing individuals for their contributions to conservation, and a silent auction. *Registration is now open, and we are accepting nominations for the Awards Banquet. See the [Conservation Awards page](#) on our website for more details.*

Please **visit our website** to preview the proposed by-law changes for 2016.

► Silent auction



▼ Business meeting



Upcoming Field Trips

This year we are looking forward to visiting new locations as part of our member field trips. We hope you'll join us at one of the following dates:

- Apr. 28 - Bean Blossom Nature Preserve
- Oct. 8 - Eagle Marsh Continental Divide Trail Opening Ceremony

Think Spring: Native Plant Sale 2016

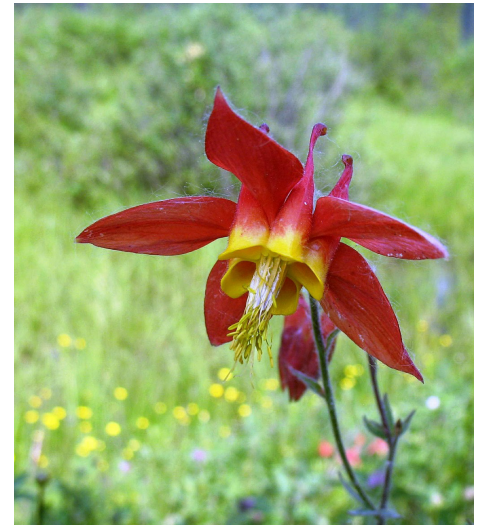
With spring quickly approaching, it's time to start considering the look your yard will take this year. IWF offers a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and trees that will make your yard stand out from the rest.

IWF is continuing its partnership with Cardno Native Plant Nursery and providing a combination of different plant kits, bare-root trees, and seed packets. Plant kits include 50 garden-ready plants and will be delivered right to your door beginning in early June. Each purchase supports IWF and Indiana's native wildlife!

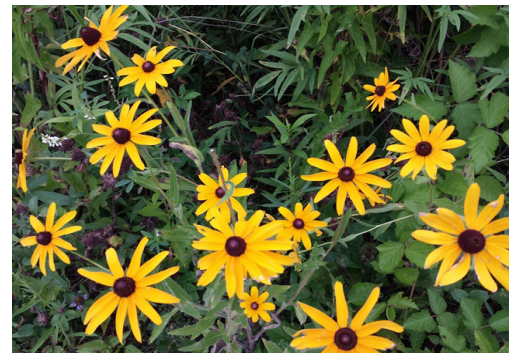
Visit www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/native-plant-sale for more information.



▲ Blue flag iris



▲ Wild columbine



▲ Black-eyed Susan

Habitat Program Updates

KIDS' CONTEST

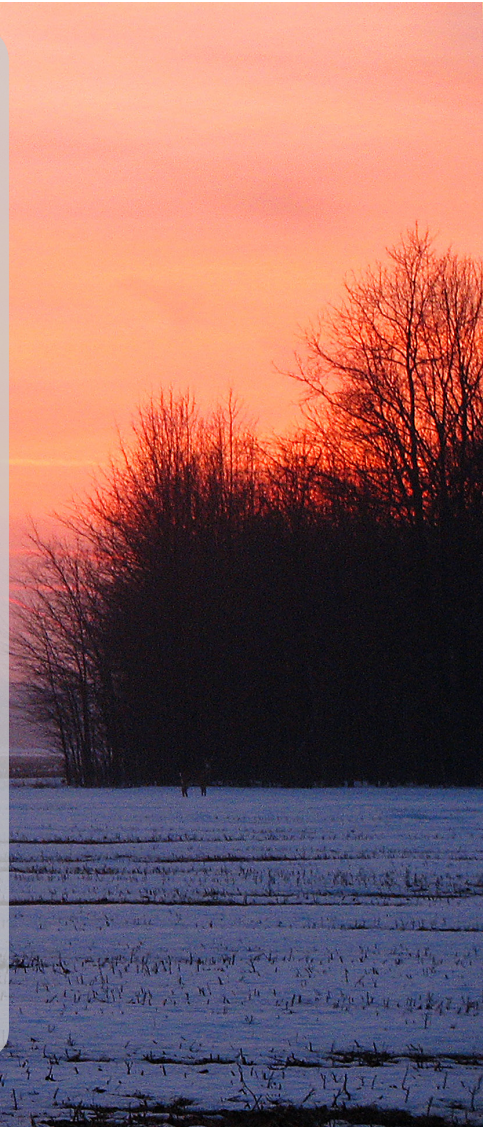
The 2016 Kid's Contest will open during this year's Wildlife Week (March 7-13). The quiz can be taken on any type of device. The content aligns with state academic standards and features challenging questions for grades 1-8. Each student will have the chance to win outstanding prizes and test their knowledge about the great outdoors. The quiz will remain open until Earth Day (April 22), and the winners will be announced shortly afterwards.

BACKYARD HABITAT WORKSHOP

We have received many requests for workshops this spring and are excited to be able to present at the following locations:

- Keep Indianapolis Beautiful offices - Indianapolis
- Westminster Village - West Lafayette
- Hamilton East Public Library - Fishers branch

If you are interested in having us present in your community, contact us at 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!



Intern Spotlight

CODY DUBICH

Cody is the Spring Communications Intern for IWF and a senior at Ball State University majoring in public relations. His primary responsibilities will be writing and editing newsletters and reports, helping plan events throughout the spring and updating IWF's social media platforms and website. Cody looks forward to making a difference in the community and spreading awareness about the benefits of the conservation and sustainability of Indiana's wildlife.

Apply for the 2016 Holt Scholarship!

The IWF Endowment awards a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Charles Holt, a lifelong member and champion of fish and wildlife resources. Applicants must be at or above a sophomore level studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education. Applications are accepted until June 15.

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

Legislative Updates

The major bills impacting wildlife and habitat this session address canned hunting of large mammals, authority to manage wild animals whether publicly or privately owned, and legislation to manage forests unrelated to science-based management strategies. Summaries of key bills are below. Visit <http://www.indianawildlife.org/news-events/bill-watch/> to see the full bill listing for 2016.

SB 7: Hunting wildlife. Makes canned hunting of mammals illegal. Sen. Pete Miller. **SUPPORT.** This bill was not heard. A disappointment because it was the bill to make canned hunting illegal.

SB 109: Regulation of privately owned cervidae. Legalizes canned hunting of deer, elk, sheep and goats. Sen. Mark Messmer. **OPPOSE**

The bill to legalize this practice most Hoosiers oppose passed the Senate 29-19 and is expected to pass the House. The bill allows an unlimited number of canned hunting operations of 100+ acres. In addition to captive raised deer and elk, the bill adds sheep and goats to animals that may be shot. The regulation of canned hunting operations was moved from DNR to the Board of Animal Health that regulates livestock operations. Amendments to ban imports of captive cervids and a limit on the number of operations to reduce the risk of importing disease will be important to protect the wild deer herd if the bill cannot be stopped.

IWF ENCOURAGES ALL WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ISSUE TO CONTACT THEIR LEGISLATORS AND ASK THEM TO MAKE CANNED HUNTING ILLEGAL.

SB195: Ownership of wild animals. Restores state authority to manage all wild animals, whether public or private. Sen. Mike Crider. **SUPPORT**

This bill corrects a ruling by the State Court of Appeals that said the State, the Dept. of Natural Resources, has no authority over any privately owned wild animal. The Appeals Court decision upset 150 years of wildlife management practice across the United States. One point of concern is the exemption of captive cervids. Passed Senate 50-0.

SB 365: Designation of old forest areas in state forests. Not science-based management of public forests. Senators E. Bassler, J. Ford, M. Stoops. **OPPOSE** Not heard in committee to date.

HB 1155: Designation of old forest areas in state forests. Not science-based management of public forests. Rep. Mike Braun. **OPPOSE** Not heard in committee to date.

HB 1231: Hunting and property management. Rep. Lloyd Arnold. **OPPOSE** Passed House Natural Resources Committee 11-0

IWF opposes that part of this bill that legalizes high powered rifles to be used for hunting. This issue was discussed at length through public input on line and in public hearings held by the Natural Resources Commission. Based on the public input, high powered rifles were not approved. This bill circumvents the public input process managed by the NRC.

Staff News

There have been some recent staffing changes at IWF. Allison Tischler has moved into a part-time role as our Communications Manager as she pursues a Masters degree in Land Resources and Environmental Science. We are very excited to welcome **Aaron Stump** in a part-time role as our Habitat Programs Coordinator.



Born and raised in Indiana, Aaron received a degree in computer graphics from Purdue and moved to Oregon. While there, his love of nature was rekindled and, after 4 years, he and his wife decided to move back home so he could pursue a degree in Environmental Science from IU. Aaron has worked with field geologists and as an intern for the Indiana government, but his real passion is working for non-profit organizations. He loves to spend his free time hiking, snowboarding, camping, and gardening.

Welcome, Aaron!

Thank You to Our Donors!

2015 was a great year thanks to our generous donors. We were able to attend more outreach events and speak with over 1100 people. Our ability to educate new parts of the statewide community on the value of habitat and wildlife was only possible with your support. For the first time, we will be recognizing your contributions in an annual report, scheduled to be published later this spring. Please be sure to check our website and follow us on social media to know when the report arrives!

