



Pollinators in Peril

For the first time, a wild American bumblebee has been placed on the federal endangered species list. What can we do to protect our pollinators?



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Pollinators are vital to our modern food supply, ecosystem health, and the majority of plant life around the world. The most well-known pollinators include birds, bees, and butterflies; however bats, moths, ants, flies, wasps, beetles, and other animals also act as pollinators. Bees are often referred to as the most important pollinators on earth. Unfortunately, many bee and insect pollinators are under threat. This year, for the first time since the creation of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, a bumblebee has been added to the list; the rusty patched bumblebee, an Indiana native. At the Indiana Wildlife Federation we're committed to protecting all wildlife, including pollinators. Here are some of the IWF projects and initiatives focusing on pollinator health and habitat and tips for how you can get involved:

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge (www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge) has been extended through 2017. In 2016 the cities of Gary, Westfield, South Bend, West Lafayette, Zionsville, Evansville, Indianapolis, Kendallville, Marion, Southport, Lafayette, and Shelbyville all committed to actions that would help monarch and pollinator habitat. Encourage your city or municipality to join the pledge in 2017!

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▲ Photo: Bee on Butterflyweed

Pollinators in Peril, contd.

Our spring native plant sale (<http://www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/native-plant-sale/>) in partnership with Cardno Native Plant Nursery provides the opportunity to plant native pollinator-friendly plants in your backyard. Check out the Xerces pollinator kit or bird and butterfly kit!

A bill has been introduced in the 2017 Legislative Session by Senator Vaneta Becker that would adopt butterflyweed (*photo on pg. 1*), a native species of milkweed, as the official state wildflower. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures. Contact the committee chair David Long to voice your support for this bill. Senator.Long@iga.in.gov or 800-382-9467

Join us in citizen science efforts like monarch tagging and YardMap (<http://app.yardmap.org/map#!/groups#/groups/C10094/detail?joinGroup>) to contribute to conservation efforts.

And as always, keep up to date with our events and important policy notifications on our website.

Calendar Updates

Feb 23-26 - Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Expo

March 13-17 - Wildlife Week / Kids' Contest Begins on Monday

March 18 - IWF Annual Meeting

April 22 - Earth Day Indiana Fest

May 19 - PIE Day at Cold Spring Elementary

Mid May - IWF Native Plant Sale orders begin shipping

June 8-10 - NWF Annual Meeting

June 10-11 - Hoosier Outdoor Experience

June 10-18 - Nature Play Days

June 15 - Holt Scholarship Application Deadline

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out these great volunteer opportunities with IWF and find one that fits you!

- April 22 - Earth Day Indiana Festival at Military Park, Indianapolis.** Come join IWF as we help kids and families build bird feeders. We need volunteers to organize supplies and materials and supervise kids as they build the feeders.
6-8 volunteers are needed for each time slot: 10:30am-1pm and 12:45pm-3:30pm. If you'd like to help us out during both times, that would be terrific too!
Not handy with a hammer? We also need helpers to engage the public and talk about IWF at our outreach table from 11a-4p.
- May 19 - People in the Environment Day at Cold Spring School 8:30a-3p**
IWF needs volunteers to assist with our spring PIE day activity. In the past we've made seed bombs, suet cakes, milk jug birdfeeders, and taught kids about Indiana wildlife and habitat.
- June 10 - Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Harrison State Park 9:30a-3p**
Join us on Saturday at this year's Hoosier Outdoor Experience where we'll help kids and families build bird feeders. Volunteers are needed to organize materials and supervise kids as they put the feeders together. We'll have 2 volunteer shifts to choose from: 9:30am-12:30pm and 12:00-3pm. Just let us know which you prefer when you RSVP.
- 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.



Frosty Ornaments

Things you will need:

- Small baking molds or muffin pans
- Ribbon
- Water
- Evergreen leaves, twigs, seeds, fruit, nuts, or other objects found in nature

1. Collect your favorite colorful objects out in nature. Or get sunflower seeds, corn kernels, and berries from your kitchen.
2. Arrange the objects in a baking mold or in a muffin pan in any way you like!
3. Slowly pour water over into the decorated molds about 2/3 full.
4. Tie a piece of ribbon in a loop and put one end into the water in the mold.
5. Place the molds in a freezer overnight.
6. When they have frozen, take them out of the molds and hang them outside.

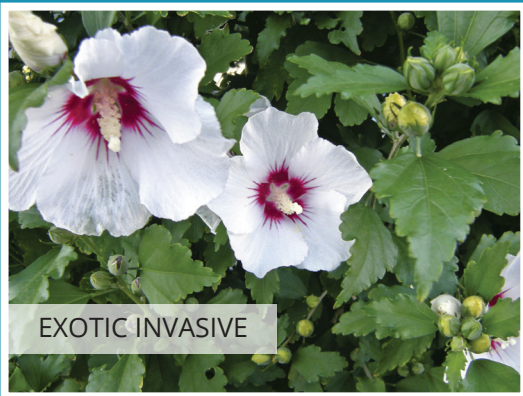
While the temperatures are still below freezing, you will have a colorful ornament. When it starts to warm up, you will have a tasty treat for wildlife if you used seeds or fruit!



Reprinted with permission from the National Wildlife Federation. For more family fun & kids games, check out www.nwf.org/Kids!



Plant THIS, Not THAT



EXOTIC INVASIVE

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Rose of Sharon is native to East Asia, but is a commonly cultivated garden flower in the US. This deciduous shrub is prized for its size and big showy flowers, but can quickly take over if not constantly maintained. Able to rapidly self-seed, sprouts will begin showing up everywhere nearby. If left for more than a season, they develop deep tap roots and become nearly impossible to remove by hand.

Oak Leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangeo quercifolia*)

Oak Leaf Hydrangea is a native deciduous shrub similar in condition requirements to Rose of Sharon. The shrub forms cone-shaped panicles along which numerous flowers bloom. The distinctive leaves turn a stunning purple and red in autumn. The exfoliating bark of this shrub also provides drama and interest even in winter.



US NATIVE

Annual Meeting

The IWF Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday March, 18th at the IWF office in downtown Indianapolis (708 E. Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN 46202). The meeting will include the election of Board officers and the introduction of new Board Members, discussion and voting on a proposed catfish resolution (http://www.indianawildlife.org/resolutions/2010s/#2017_01), reports on 2016 membership and financials, and an overview of our 2016 accomplishments. We will also be discussing 2017 priorities.

This year's business meeting will run from 9:30a until 11a. Following the business meeting we will host a presentation of the IWF Backyard Habitat Workshop. The workshop introduces how to create a wildlife friendly backyard, explores the links between your backyard and larger ecosystems, and teaches about native plants and animals. The workshop will conclude by 12p and will allow time for questions.

The business meeting and habitat workshop are a free event and light refreshments will be provided.

Apply for the 2017 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 and studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education. Applications are accepted until June 15.

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

Think Spring:

Native Plant Sale

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about landscaping and planting. IWF offers a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and trees to spruce up your yard or create new habitats.



▲ Photo: Swamp Milkweed

We are continuing our partnership with Cardno Native Plant Nursery to provide a selection of native plant kits, bare root shrubs and trees, and seed packets. Each plant kit contains 50 native plants that will be delivered to your door. Every purchase supports IWF and Indiana's wildlife.

For more information visit <http://www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/native-plant-sale/>



▲ Photo: Black-eyed Susan

Intern Spotlight



Michael Egge is our Spring Habitat Programs Intern. Born and raised in Indiana, Michael fell in love with the outdoors as a cross country runner and avid hiker. Taking these passions to Indiana University, he studied Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology, where he became an instructor for various adventure courses and programs. Having traveled across the U.S. on leading and teaching others, he decided to switch concentration areas toward conservation and non-profit work in order to protect the areas he fell in love with. Come fall, Michael hopes to be enrolled in a Master's Program in Geography in order to expand his knowledge and potential.

WELCOME NEW BOARD



Dan Weiss

Dan is Director of Environmental Affairs for the Indiana operations of a Fortune 200 corporation covering air, water and land policy and regulatory affairs. He also serves on various organizations' environmental committees including the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Energy Association. Previous Board experiences include the Central Indiana Technical and Environmental Societies (CITES), the international Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) and a community credit union. Dan has written papers and served as a panelist at technical meetings covering environmental issues. Dan has a B.S. in Meteorology from Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison and an MBA from Butler University.

Rich Graves has been employed at John Wiley & Sons, Inc. for 20+ years and is a Supervising Producer in Digital Content Management. He is a member of the Association of Test Publishers and ASCD. He serves on the Board for Westminster Village North in Lawrence and a Board Committee for Indiana Parkinson Foundation. He and his wife are active in their parish and serve as a marriage prep sponsor couple. He received a BS from Wabash College and MBA from the University of Indianapolis. His grandparents and father were all raised on farms and he was raised to enjoy 'digging in the dirt' and being outdoors. He and his wife reside near Eagle Creek and enjoy taking walks in the park and driving through the park on the way home from stressful work days. They adopt rescue dogs, primarily Dachshund/Chihuahua mixes. Rich has two daughters attending college. In his spare time, you'll find him enjoying his backyard where he utilizes many native plants to attract birds, pollinators, and any other critter that comes along for a visit including fox, coyote, and fly-overs by Blue Herons and Eagles.



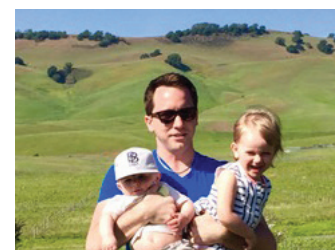
Rich Graves



Matt Fechtman

Matt is an attorney with Ingram Micro where he has worked for over 10 years. Matt has a B.S. in Biology from the University of Virginia and a J.D. from the University of Illinois. Originally from Southern California, Matt has lived in the Midwest since 2000. Matt is an avid outdoorsman, spending any available free time camping, hiking, skiing, surfing (geography permitting), and trail running. Matt is a committed conservationist and tireless environmental advocate.

Eric Rochford is an attorney at Cohen & Malad, LLP in Indianapolis. He focuses his practice primarily on representing landowners in eminent domain and condemnation matters. Prior to joining Cohen & Malad, LLP, Eric represented almost exclusively condemning agencies. During his practice, Eric has dealt with numerous conservation-related matters including certified forest programs, certified bird habitat areas, agricultural reserve programs, and matters related to protected species, which furthered his interest in conversation and habitat protection. He obtained his B.S. from Indiana University and his law degree from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Born, raised, and educated in Indiana, Eric has a passion for conserving Indiana's resources and promoting sustainable growth. Eric enjoys spending his free time with his two children and doing just about anything outdoors; preferably golfing or fishing.



Eric Rochford

2017 Legislative Updates

Summaries of major bills impacting wildlife and habitat this session are below. Please visit <http://www.indianawildlife.org/news-events/bill-watch/> to see the full IWF bill listing.

SB256 Benjamin Harrison conservation trust - Sen. Tallian - SUPPORT - Passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources 1-30-2017 unanimously. This bill provides a framework for future conservation funding and incorporates the former Indiana Heritage Trust.

SB420 Old forests - Sen. Bassler - OPPOSE - This bill does not support sustainable forest management that is necessary to provide diverse wildlife habitat and healthy mixed age forests. One of the challenges in strategic management of Indiana's forests is rebalancing age distribution. Overall, Indiana forests are getting older and more even aged than desired. "Old forests" are plentiful in Indiana - there is no managed timber harvest in the Hoosier National Forest, the State Parks and Reservoirs, and State Fish and Wildlife Areas. The small portion of public forest that is under the State Division of Forestry should not be prohibited from science-based sustainable management under their responsibility.

SB470 State wildflower - Sen. Becker - SUPPORT - This bill makes butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, the state wild flower.

HB1001 Biennial budget - Rep. Brown - WATCH - Support increased funding for conservation.

HB1026 Roadside vegetation - Rep. Bacon and Arnold - OPPOSE - This bill calls for a fixed mowing schedule for roadside vegetation. IWF is concerned about mowing unnecessarily, spreading invasive plants such as Canada thistle and destroying pollinator and bird habitat.

HB1202 Ownership of the banks of the Ohio River - Rep. L. Arnold - OPPOSE - This bill moves the public access along the Ohio River from the high water mark to the low water mark. This would eliminate much public access to the Ohio River and sets dangerous precedent for other inland waterbodies.

HB1494 Regulation of confined feeding operations - Rep. Wolkins - OPPOSE - This bill would remove the important prior approval requirement for construction of large Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's). Lax permitting requirements threaten Indiana's streams and rivers, and could seriously degrade the aquatic habitats fish and other wildlife require, as well as the significant public recreation and potable water source impacts.

Habitat Program Updates

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE WILDERNESS TRAIL



This spring the Urban Wilderness Trail will become the first certified trail in our new program, providing a sustainably managed public trail along the White River and Fall Creek in the heart of Indianapolis.

KIDS' CONTEST

The 2017 Kids' Contest (<http://www.indianawildlife.org/kids-contest/>) will open during this year's Wildlife Week (March 13-17). The contest aligns with state academic standards and features challenging questions for grades 1-8. Each student will have the chance to win prizes and test their knowledge about the great outdoors. The quiz will remain open until Earth Day (April 22).

LANDSCAPING THE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS INDIANATECH

is making some big changes on their campus with sustainability in mind. They are the newest campus pursuing a certification with IWF.

Thank You to Our Donors!

2016 was a great year for IWF programs! 228 backyard habitats were certified in Indiana and we sold over 2400 native plants. We built 125 bird feeders with youth and we presented 7 habitat workshops. We held our first monarch butterfly migration tagging event and 12 Indiana cities signed on to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. We engaged three college level interns and awarded a \$1000 scholarship to an Indiana student majoring in natural resources. Through workshops, booth events, programs, and social media efforts, we reached over 12,000 Hoosiers on matters affecting Indiana's wildlife, habitat and natural resources.

None of these education and outreach efforts would be possible without donors like you!