



Making Space for Monarchs

With studies showing further population losses and increasing interest in monarch butterfly conservation, IWF has been ramping up efforts to educate the public and help support monarchs in Indiana. Thanks to the generous support of the Boone County Master Gardeners, Gardening Friends, and Village Garden Club of Zionsville, IWF was able to hand out over 300 milkweed plants to families at the Z'GreenFest in Zionsville in April. Those plants will provide a place for the butterflies to safely lay their eggs and will sustain future monarch generations in their caterpillar form. Perhaps, more importantly, the milkweed will be the foundation of new habitat and will begin the process of linking corridors for many pollinator species, not just monarchs.

IWF has also partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to encourage city mayors to support monarchs in their communities by signing on to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This pledge offers a chance for mayors to publicly commit to monarch conservation through measurable actions like converting abandoned lots to butterfly habitat, launching public communication campaigns, partnering with schools and neighborhood groups, and planting demonstration gardens. IWF and NWF sent a joint letter of encouragement to 120 mayors in Indiana. So far, six mayors have pledged their support: Fort Wayne, Westfield, West Lafayette, South Bend, Gary, and Zionsville. Several others have indicated their interest in the pledge, and we are encouraging them to sign the pledge this year.

We are working with Cabela's of Noblesville to host a monarch rearing demonstration in mid-July. This free event will give kids >

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▲ Zionsville mayor, Tim Haak, signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge

and families a primer on raising monarchs from caterpillars into full-grown butterflies. We will also talk about the value of pollinators and the importance of providing habitat with native plants.

Last but certainly not least, IWF will be sponsoring a monarch tagging demonstration during the White River Festival in September. Aaron, our Habitat Programs Coordinator, will be showing the best way to tag a butterfly and how to differentiate between males and females. This will be a fun, educational opportunity, especially for kids! We will have more details on this event and RSVP information in July.



Calendar Updates

May 26 - PIE Day at Cold Spring School

June 16 - 19 - NWF Annual Meeting

June 11 - 12 - Conner Prairie Curiosity Fair

Aug 6 - Taste of the Wild Cookout

June 13 - Nature Play Days - Sundown Scavenger Hunt

Sept 9 - IWF Fall Conference

Sept 30 - INCA Conservation Congress

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring may be nearly over, but we still have lots of great opportunities for volunteering!

- 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!
- Help represent IWF at the **Conner Prairie Curiosity Fair** on **June 11th & 12th!** We'll have fun activities for curious kids and lots of opportunities to chat with families about wildlife & conservation.
- Be an IWF-ambassador at the **Indianapolis Zoo's Backyard Family BBQ** event on **June 16th!** We need helpers to show families how they can create wildlife-friendly havens in their backyards.
- 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/. To volunteer, call us at 317.875.9453 or email us at info@indianawildlife.org.



Take A Bug Hike!

Things you will need:

- Insect field guide
- Small glass jars
- Magnifying glass
- Pencil or crayon
- Sketchbook
- Camera (optional)



1. **Create a bug hunting kit** - Gather useful tools like a magnifying glass, jars, pencil, and a sketchbook.
2. **Find & list the bugs you see** - Don't forget to look under leaves! Some examples include:
 - a. Predatory insects like lacewings, ladybugs, praying mantises, ground beetles, and spiders
 - b. Common bugs like flies, ants, crickets, centipedes, caterpillars, and wasps
 - c. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and moths
3. **Take note of interesting features** - Write down colors, patterns, shapes, sizes, and other things that stand out. See if you can count how many of each type of bug you find and where you find them. Are they on leaves, under rocks, in water?
4. **Use your notes to help you with identification** - If you don't have an insect field guide at home, you can take photos of the bugs and then use an online source like the [Purdue Extension website](#) to identify the species.

Plant THIS, Not THAT



Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Also known as the Bradford Pear, this tree species is native to China and Vietnam. The Callery Pear was thought to be sterile, but crosspollination and seed dispersion by birds have caused a significant population rise in the eastern U.S. The trees can grow in a variety of soil conditions and crowd out many native plants, often forming single-species stands with little to no biodiversity. The five-petal white flowers that bloom in early spring give off an unpleasant aroma often compared to dead fish and chlorine.

Common Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Native to the eastern half of North America, the common serviceberry can grow up to 25 feet high. Its fragrant white flowers bloom in early spring, and the leaves turn an eye-catching red & gold in the fall. The tree grows best when planted in full sun and adapts well in many different soil conditions. It produces an edible fruit called the juneberry that is very popular with birds and can also be used in baked goods and preserves.



Spring Outreach Events

This spring IWF participated in 6 outreach events, reaching over 800 people! In April alone, we attended the Going Green Fest, Boone County Gardenfest, Earth Day Indiana, Earth Day Fort Wayne, and Z' Greenfest. Our dedicated volunteers made each of these events hugely successful and enabled us to distribute 371 seed packets and build 125 bird feeders. Thank you volunteers for all that you do!

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: IWF at the ORSANO-WOAC meeting in March



▲ Photo: Recognizing Barbara-Sha Cox at the 2016 IWF Awards Banquet



▲ Photo: Helping kids build recycled bird feeders at People in the Environment Day at Cold Spring School in February



▲ Photo: Fantastic volunteers from the University of Michigan alumni group helping out at Earth Day Indiana



▲ Photo: Board member, Steve Van Zant, introducing young Hoosiers to Indiana's wildlife



▲ Photo: Participating in the Community Planting Day at Barth Bridge in the Bates-Hendricks neighborhood

Habitat Program Updates

KIDS' CONTEST

The 2016 Kids' Contest was once again a success with over 230 students from 15 schools & homeschools participating. Twelve lucky students won exciting prizes that they can use throughout the year to explore the Indiana outdoors! Next year, we anticipate adding more questions and interactive features for new & returning quiz-takers.

BACKYARD HABITAT WORKSHOP

We have several presentations in the works in the Central Indiana area 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 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



Kathryn Tolley

Kathryn is the Development and Fundraising intern for IWF. She is a Master's student at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, pursuing her degree in Philanthropic Studies at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. She has always been passionate about the environment, and looks forward to supporting the IWF's work by assisting with fundraising and development initiatives.



Lauren Ooley

Lauren, the Habitat Programs Intern for IWF, is a junior at Butler University, where she is studying Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies. She has been passionate about wildlife and the environment from a young age. This summer, in addition to working at IWF, she will volunteer at the Indianapolis Zoo and at a pit bull rescue shelter. After graduation, she hopes to achieve her lifelong goal of obtaining a career in wildlife conservation.

Legislative Updates

Following the disappointing results of the 2016 legislative session that legalized captive shooting facilities in the state and bypassed the Natural Resources Commission's rules process to legalize high-powered rifles for deer hunting, IWF is beginning to formulate a legislative plan for moving forward.

We are beginning to gather information about how the shooting facilities will be managed by the Board of Animal Health. We will continue to oppose canned hunting in the state and educate legislators and the public about the unethical nature and the dangers that these facilities pose to our wild deer herd. We will also continue to look for opportunities to prohibit interstate transport of captive deer.

We have been engaging in some new caucus work with other National Wildlife Federation (NWF) state affiliates – we are participating in the Sporting, Water, Education/Youth Engagement and Privatization of Wildlife caucuses. We are co-chairing the Privatization of Wildlife Caucus. We hope to learn from our counterparts in other states that have had similar challenges and/or successes. We also plan to work together on issues at the federal level.

Ray McCormick, IWF Board Member (and our NWF Representative) and Erin Baird, IWF Executive Director, will be attending the NWF Annual Meeting June 16-19. Ray and Erin will be involved in the NWF Resolutions Process, attend the aforementioned caucus meetings, engage with conservation leaders from across the country and participate in all business portions of the meeting as well as breakout sessions.

This summer we are following the results of HB1353 – the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust bill that was signed into law. The bill urged the legislative council to assign an interim study committee to get an accounting of Department of Natural Resources properties and identify long-term funding sources for the conservation trust. The Legislative Council meets on May 25th. We will know if a study committee has been assigned after that meeting.

Thank you for your support and involvement during the 2016 legislative session and please stay tuned for updates as we continue to gather information and track session outcomes. The 2017 legislative session will be here before we know it!

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Nick Heinzelman

Nick is currently the Land Manager for both US Aggregates and the Heritage Land Company. Nick grew up hunting and fishing in Indiana and holds a Bachelor of Science from Ball State University. He previously worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for 15 years as the Director of the Division of Land Acquisition. He managed DNR's real estate activities and several other programs including the Indiana Heritage Trust, the Bicentennial Nature Trust, the Indiana State Land Office, and the Natural Resource Damages program. During his tenure, Nick and his team facilitated the protection of over 70,000 acres of land for conservation and public use. Nick spends his free time with family and teaching his kids about resource conservation, hunting, and fishing.

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.

