



▲ Photo: A field of natives

Spring Has Sprung!

Spring is a time for working outdoors at IWF. Early enough in spring, identifying invasive shrubs like honeysuckle is easier because they leaf out and flower so soon. That helped us remove huge numbers of them from the Urban Wilderness Trail. Garlic mustard is also easy to spot now, but it hasn't started seeding so we can pull it safely without spreading it. Spring is also when we shake off our winter drowsiness and get to planting. We plant project sites and, like you, we can't wait to get out and tend our home gardens.

You've no doubt heard this is a pretty special year because of the emergence of the Brood X cicadas, who've been living underground for the last 17 years. It's an incredible experience and something nature nerds won't want to miss.

Finally, our new website has launched and it was so successful, we had to close our spring plant sale early because of all the requests. If you're hoping to do some planting this fall, check out our kits and get your order in early so you don't miss out!

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Holliday Park

It was a perfect day as we pulled garlic mustard with a half dozen volunteers. We filled 25 bags with the invasive plants and cleared the way for the spring ephemerals to grow and spread. Holliday Park, a certified partner, is an incredible urban park with unique opportunities for hiking and educational programming.



▲ Photo: Volunteers pulling garlic mustard at Holliday Park

Greenwood Nature Center

Greenwood Stormwater Operations and Nature Center is a certified property which offers a unique opportunity to learn about how stormwater infrastructure and nature work together to give us clean water. We removed honeysuckle vines from the fences and cleared invasives away from part of the paths.



▲ Photo: The Certified Sustainable Trail at Greenwood Nature Center

Marott Park

Marott Park is a truly special urban park with great hiking and walking opportunities. You'd never know you were right in the heart of Indianapolis while walking through this wooded trail system. Our staff and volunteers helped pull nearly 30 bags of garlic mustard from the property and found numerous native ephemerals just waiting to thrive in the areas opened up by invasive removal.



▲ Photo: Pulling garlic mustard at Marott Park

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear IWF members and friends,

Our staff and board are eager to share some updates from our busy spring. We have been very pleased to see so many of you at [volunteer opportunities](#) to reclaim habitat around a number of our trail sites. As we head into the summer, we are excited for a number of new trail partnerships that will offer more chances to volunteer in Fishers, Linton, and Indianapolis. Keep an eye on the volunteer calendar to reserve your spot on a community conservation project.



I also want to alert college students, or readers who know students that we now offer two, \$1000 [Holt Scholarships](#) and the deadline to apply has been extended for 2 weeks to June 30, 2021. You can now apply right through our website, or read any FAQs about the how to qualify or apply for the scholarship.

Members, keep an eye out for your renewal reminder coming in the mail or you can easily [renew your membership](#) at our beautiful new website today. Check out this issue to see what we've been up to, and see all the great habitat programs and projects that your membership supports.

Yours in conservation,

Emily Wood, Executive Director

Our New Website is Live!

We're proud to announce the launch of our new and improved website. Here are just a few of the new features we hope you will find helpful.

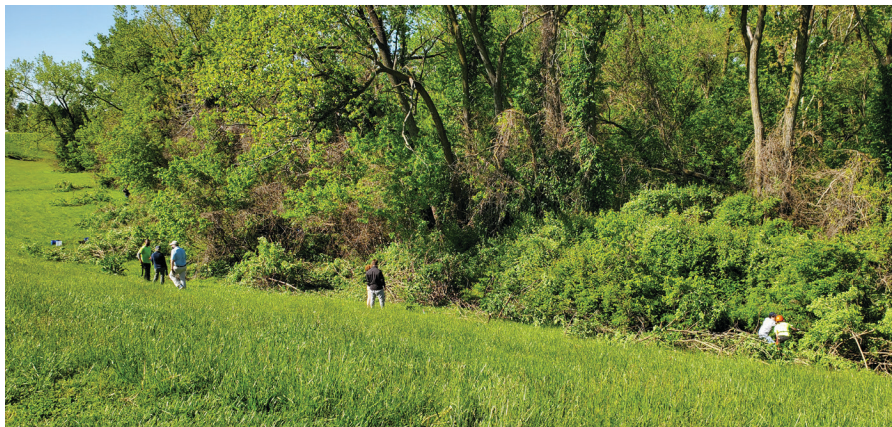
[Native Plant Finder](#) - Our [native plant sale](#) has doubled in size every year for the past few years and now we have a tool to help you learn about the plants we sell and many of the others you will find on your hike.

[Bill Tracker](#) - Advocacy is vital to protecting our outdoors. Stay up to date on important legislation and what position IWF takes.

[Video Library](#) - Check out our expanding library of educational videos and fun wildlife spotlights.

Urban Wilderness Trail

The Urban Wilderness Trail was our first Certified Sustainable Trail. Due to its location on the White River in downtown Indy, the site is constantly flooded with seeds from invasive plants upriver. We spent the morning removing massive bush honeysuckle from the tree line.



▲ Photo: Volunteers working at the Urban Wilderness Trail

Eiteljorg Museum

The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art is one of the most well-known and beloved museum in Indiana. While their indoor collections are renowned, our work was focused on their equally wonderful outdoor spaces. We installed a huge native plant garden around the famous deer sculpture fountain on the front lawn.

While this was a great experience, it was by no means the end of the project. There are plans to incorporate programming on how Native Americans interacted with the plants that were here prior to the import of foreign species. Learning how people utilized native plants for survival and leisure creates all new appreciation for our amazing Indiana plants.



▲ Photo: Plants going in around the pond sculpture on the front lawn

It's Time to Apply for the 2021 Holt Scholarship!

The June 30th deadline for applications is quickly approaching. Please remind any students you know who are at or above a sophomore level and studying a field related to resource conservation or environmental education to submit their applications!

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

Brood X Cicadas

You've probably been hearing for months about the Cicadaclysm we were all going to experience this spring. Hopefully, by now you've realized the perils of this emergence were greatly exaggerated and what is happening is actually a really fascinating natural experience. Although, it can get a little creepy. We'll get to that in a second. First, let's dispel some myths about Brood X (Brood Ten).

The big concern many people have right now is that Brood X is going to emerge and devour all their favorite new plants. Cicadas have no interest in your herbaceous plants. Their goal is to deposit their eggs in the new branches (diameter of a pencil or smaller) of woody trees. This is a natural process that may cause some new limbs to brown and die, a process called flagging. It is not harmful to the long term health of mature trees. Cicadas also seem to dislike coniferous trees, meaning your cedars and pines should be safe. However, if you have brand new trees, you may want to cover them with a netting for the next month or so. Remember these insects have already been feeding on the roots of trees for 17 years and the trees are fine. If the cicadas killed trees with their egg laying, their young would have nothing to eat and the species wouldn't have survived. Above all else, never spray chemicals to kill cicadas or you will poison all of the wildlife that are looking forward to the biggest meal they've had in two decades.



While not everyone is fond of bugs (and, for once, that applies as cicadas are true bugs), there is nothing to fear from cicadas. They may be noisy and fly with a grace that makes bumblebees look like ballerinas, but they have no stingers and won't jab you with their mouth unless you're a tree. While their numbers can be over a million per acre in good habitat, they pose no risk to humans. They come in such great quantities as a survival tactic called predator satiation. No matter how many get eaten, and many will get eaten, there will still be some left to reproduce.

Their incredible numbers will actually be a boon for wildlife. Many animals will feast this spring, including our struggling birds. You, too, can feast on cicadas if you're bold enough. Keep in mind to never eat a cicada you found dead and always look out for signs of the appropriately named *Massospora cicadina*, a fungus with a life cycle built entirely around cicadas.

I told you we were going to talk about the creepy stuff, remember. Well, how about a fungus that eats away the abdomen of cicadas, floods them with psychedelic chemicals, and puts their reproductive process into hyper drive causing them to spread spores to as many other cicadas as possible. While it only affects a small percentage of the population, it is undoubtedly one of the weirdest things you can hope to spot while you're out hunting for that perfect cicada picture.

Far from something scary, these bugs are an important part of our amazing natural world. We should do what we can to protect them and keep the role they play in our ecosystems. However you experience Brood X, this will be your only chance for the next 17 years to see them, so get out there!

Meet Our Interns



Abbie Gressley is one of our social media summer interns! Abbie graduated from Indiana University Bloomington this spring with a BA in photojournalism and plans to use her photography and writing skills to advocate for nature conservation and wildlife. She is excited to join the IWF team and promote the conservation of Indiana's wildlife and wildlife habitats.



Jane Hirschman is also one of our social media interns. She is a sophomore attending Bowdoin College and is studying environmental studies and government and legal studies with an interest in environmental policy. Some of her outdoor favorite activities are hiking, running, and biking. She is excited to join IWF and help promote its mission of conservation of Indiana's wildlife through social media.

Habitat Programs Updates

For the safety of our staff, we will be easing back into in-person workshops based on information from health experts. While outdoor workshops may be possible, we encourage you to consider one of our virtual options as well. We hope 2021 will be a vast improvement over last year and we will be able to get back to normal as soon as possible.

To request a workshop or learn more about them, please visit our new website at indianawildlife.org/education/workshops/



Corporate Sponsorship for Conservation

Does your business share the IWF vision of sustainable wildlife and wildlife habitats for Indiana? If your business would like to show its commitment to conservation and be highlighted for doing so through our communications and website, please contact us by email at info@indianawildlife.org.