



INDIANA WILDLIFE CONFERENCE Saturday, January 29, 2022



KEYNOTE Dr. Mamie Parker

Mamie Parker at
Great Falls Park in Virginia
Photo credit: Meghan Machetti

(excerpt from [NWF Blog](#) by [Marina Richie](#); full post [here](#))

Dr. Mamie Parker credits women for her rise through the ranks of male-dominated wildlife agencies—starting with her mother. Growing up as one of 11 children in the segregated south, Parker discovered the outdoors through her mother's love of fishing and gardening. She also inspired Parker's commitment to justice throughout her groundbreaking career as a fisheries biologist.

Parker was the first Black woman regional director in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, overseeing 13 Northeastern states and key conservation successes, including pivotal work to remove dams and restore fish passage for Atlantic salmon. She went on to serve as Head of Fisheries nationally—breaking yet another glass ceiling.

"When I think about how I progressed in my profession, it's all the women who hired me," she said. "Women are there for each other." Parker cited a favorite quote from Mary Church Terrell, a twentieth-century champion of racial and gender equality, "Lifting as we climb."

[Read more.](#)

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Flora, Moths, and Birds: A Tangled Ecological Web by Jim McCormac

There are at least 2,600 species of moths and approximately 150 butterfly species in Indiana. The conspicuous and often showy winged adults are but the short-lived finale of a four stage life cycle: egg, pupa, caterpillar, and adult. It's caterpillars that make much of the natural world go around, and countless billions become food for other organisms, birds included. Without vegetation-eating caterpillars and the native plants that they require, most songbirds would vanish, insect diversity would plummet, and our forests would fall silent. This richly illustrated talk delves into the seemingly magical synergy between flora and caterpillars, and its ecosystem ramifications, especially for birds.

Jim McCormac served at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specialized in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. Jim is a prolific nature photographer and blogger and shares his experience in nature through interpretive storytelling that captivates and inspires. You can learn what he's been up to lately at his blog at jimmccormac.blogspot.com/ or reserve your spot at the conference to catch this featured presentation.



▲ Photo: Jim McCormac

We'll also hear updates from our agency partners at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources featuring the **Division of Fish & Wildlife Director, Amanda Wuestefeld**; and an update on what the Indiana DNR says about Black Bear resurgence in Indiana from **Nongame Biologist Brad Westrich**.

The day will also include a live bird demonstration from our friends at the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center and a delicious catered lunch from The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park.

You asked, we listened! Based on feedback from previous conferences, attendees wanted more time to chat and socialize with each other. We hope you'll hang out after the conference ends and join us for a drink (cash bar featuring a few local Indiana brews) and a laugh! Reserve your spot today by visiting our website at indianawildlife.org/conference.

This event is supported by our generous sponsors:



The 2022 conference will offer an in-person event, as well as a virtual attendance option for those who either cannot attend in person, or prefer the virtual format. Attendance in-person will only be available to those who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Letter from the IWF Board President

Dear members, partners, and friends of Indiana wildlife,

With this last issue of Hoosier Conservation for 2021, I am happy to celebrate another busy year of conservation advocacy, habitat education, and outdoor stewardship achievements. I am proud of the work our staff and board has done to ensure another year of safe, socially-distanced programming even with our staff working remotely. We couldn't do our impactful work without the support of members like you.



Please take a moment to read our newsletter and learn about the exciting [Jan 29, 2022 Indiana Wildlife Conference](#) that we have planned for you. You can read other updates about our conservation projects and how you can take action with our team to protect Indiana's natural resources. Also we have a talented, engaged and active board of directors. Learn more about them on our [website](#), I think you will be impressed.

Lastly I am excited to share with you that our friends at Common Grounds Lab are once again offering to match every donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$15,000 through the end of 2021! Your [year-end donation](#) can help us continue to add statewide wildlife programming opportunities, sustainable trail projects, and ensure representation on fish and wildlife issues both locally and nationally in the year to come.

Thank you for your continued support,

Rick Cockrum
IWF Board President

IWF Annual Member Meeting

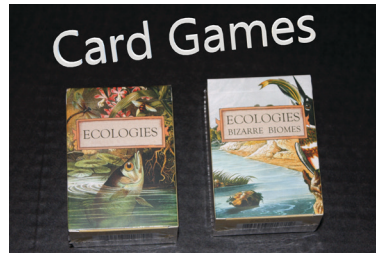
Thursday, December 2nd 2021
6pm - 7pm

MEMBER NOTICE: To maintain clear transparency of our organization, the IWF annually hosts an open board meeting with members to track progress on goals, and to make any amendments to our bylaws. Members are invited to attend this virtual meeting and vote on bylaws changes. Proposed changes to bylaws were approved by the board on 10-27-21 and a redlined copy is [available on our website](#). These bylaws changes in general are related to our board processes shifting largely to virtual communications during COVID 19. The redlined portions reflect in certain and limited cases, usually regarding legislation, that the board may need an expedited vote via electronic means.

To register and receive your meeting link, please send an RSVP email to: wood@indianawildlife.org

Silent Auction Preview

Thanks to our silent auction chairman, Ray Watkins--year after year, our silent auction gets better! We'll be hosting our silent auction online again, so you do not need to be present at the conference to bid or win. There is a broad array of outdoor and nature themed items that can benefit you, and support the work of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. From bee books and fine art, to guided bird tours and fly fishing excursions, we have something for everyone!



Sustainable Trails Updates

\$15,000 Awarded to our Trail Partner at Tryon Farm Institute

IWF and Tryon Farm Institute were awarded \$15,000 by the Huff Animal Protection Trust to restore wood duck habitat! Our trail partners in Michigan City will be busy creating quality wood duck habitat on their 100-acre property dedicated to connecting human and natural communities while promoting habitat diversity. Located near Indiana Dunes National Park, Tryon is a watershed for Lake Michigan. As such, Tryon manages the land to reduce nonpoint source pollutants into the lake. In doing so, quality wildlife habitat is also created. While some wood duck activity has been observed on the property, restoration efforts will be beneficial at creating a better space for the species to thrive year after year. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities in 2022 as we work together to improve the landscape!



▲ Wood duck habitat sign along the trail at Tryon Farm Institute

NEW TRAIL PARTNER - Archaeological Research Institute

The Archaeological Research Institute (ARI), located in Lawrenceburg, is one of IWF's most unique trail partners! Shaped by local residents passionate about the rich archaeological heritage of the greater Cincinnati area, ARI also holds a high appreciation for land stewardship and wildlife habitat. This fall, ARI and IWF certified an interpretive trail at their Guard site. Reserved guests can expect a 1.5-2 hour guided hike on an active archaeological site. Hear more about Native cultures and how they used the land while simultaneously learning about the restored pollinator habitat on the property. Spring 2022 reservations are available starting in March at exploreari.org/site-tours or call 812.290.2966.



▲ IWF and ARI ribbon cutting for their newly certified sustainable trail at the Guard site

Goose Pond Trail Construction Delayed until Spring 2022

Watch for volunteer opportunities to install native plants along the newly constructed ADA trail at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area located in Linton. We are excited to get started on this community asset! Check our events page in the early spring for volunteer opportunities. IWF thanks our trail grant partners for over \$26,000 in total support: Duke Energy Foundation, Indiana Greenways Foundation, and Greene County Community Foundation.

Hibernation - Sleeping Away the Indiana Winter

How can one be so lucky as to take the longest nap of their life for the entire duration of our dreary winter months? While some animals retreat underground, they still remain somewhat active. Some, such as the Eastern Chipmunk, awaken in their den to eat their winter food stash and even emerge from time to time on warmer winter days. While uncommon to most of Indiana, but appearing more often, the American Black Bear can also be active. Pregnant females give birth in the den and nurse their young until early spring emergence. Bears maintain a relatively high body temperature and are able to awaken when disturbed.



▲ Photo: Little Brown Bat - *Myotis lucifugus*

So who actually gets to skip the entire length of winter? Let's learn some pro tips from a couple of our Hoosier wildlife residents, such as the Little Brown Bat and the 13-lined Ground Squirrel. These animals are EXTREME energy conservers! They are able to drastically reduce their metabolic rate--enabling them to survive long periods without food.

Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) - These small bats migrate in the fall to a hibernation roost, usually within a cave or an abandoned mine. Their heart rate can drop from 300 to 10 beats per minute and their body temperature drops to nearly freezing. Known as a social species, these animals hibernate in colonies that can contain thousands of bats. While the Little Brown Bat can be found throughout our state, it is a species of special concern due to declining populations.



▲ Photo: Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
- *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*) - Named for its six gray/tan and seven brown stripes with light spots on its back, this animal starts hibernating in September and does not emerge until April or May. During this time, the squirrel's heart rate drops to as low as five beats per minute, takes only four breaths per minute, and loses up to 50% of its body weight!

Make Your Donation Go Twice as Far!



Now through December 31, 2021 all donations will be matched by Common Grounds Lab.

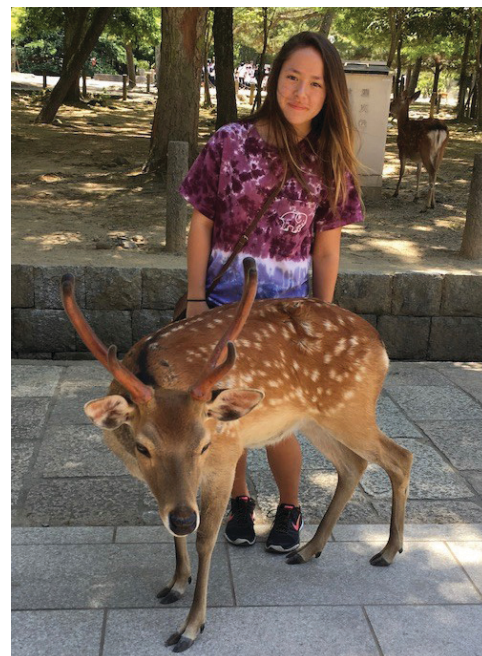
Make your donation at indianawildlife.org/membership/donate/

Holt Scholarship Recipient – Emma Smyth

All my life I have always been known to like the outdoors and animals. My dad would bring my family and I camping and take us hiking when we went to the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. In Indiana, where I grew up for most of my life, I would enjoy going to local parks in the state to look at all the beauty in nature. The outdoors have always been very inviting to me and the animals fascinated me as well. I would love to go to the Indianapolis Zoo as a kid, seeing all the animals would bring me so much happiness. As a child I wanted to be a Veterinarian to help animals. I then realized growing up, animals around the world need a different kind of help.

I am a freshman at The University of Cincinnati and I am double majoring in Environmental science and Biology. I am also in an Environmental Club here at UC. So far in this club, I have helped minimize the effects of an invasive vine growing over native plants and helped pick up trash around Cincinnati's city. I hope when I graduate I can become a Wildlife Conservationist, so that I can help local populations or travel to help other species against human impacts. It would bring me so much joy, knowing I am making a difference and helping species survive and one day hopefully, thrive.

I am extremely grateful for the Indiana Wildlife Federation for aiding me in my future studies and helping me pursue my dreams with their support.



▲ Photo: Emma Smyth

Habitat Programs Updates

For the safety of our staff, we will continue offering in-person workshops based on information from health experts. We will be available for outdoor activities and workshops while requiring masks for indoor activities. If you are unable to meet the requirements for safe indoor gatherings, we also offer our workshops virtually.

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.