



*Photo; The incomparable Dr. Parker
presenting to our members*

For our 2022 Annual Wildlife Conference, we had to make a last minute switch to a digital platform instead of meeting in person like we had originally planned. Naturally, we were concerned this medium might dilute the impact of our presenters and their topics, but that was certainly not the case. Dr. Parker and Jim McCormac had us captivated with their stories and passion.

Thanks to them, our generous sponsors, and every single one of our awesome members this year's conference was a huge success. Our silent auction once again broke records for us, raising more money than ever before. These funds help us continue creating and providing educational conservation presentations, developing new trails, and advocating for our lawmakers to pass wildlife-friendly legislation.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our conference and silent auction. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.

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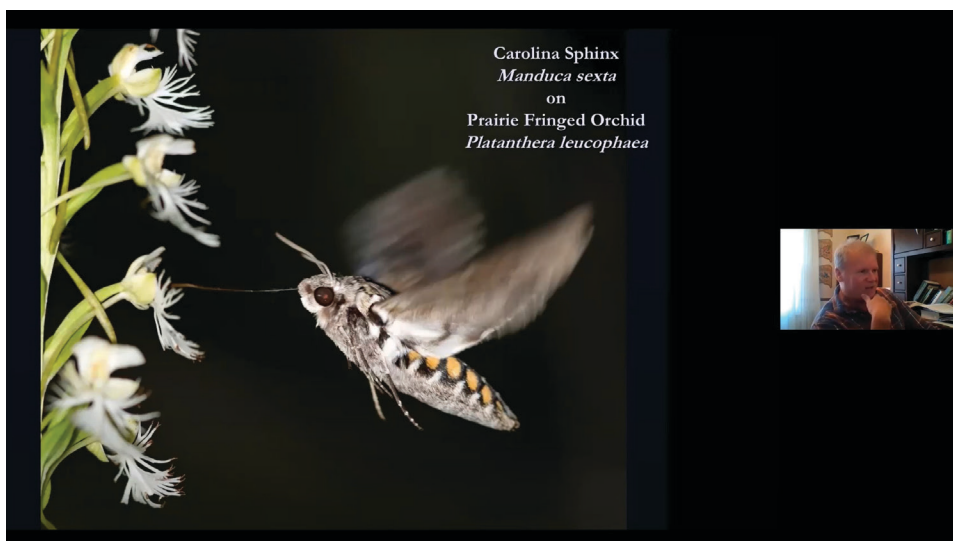
Conference Speaker Breakdown

Thank you to our behind-the-scenes crew for helping us pull off yet another great conference! With a small staff, we are reliant upon so many great volunteers and board members to put together a conference worthy of our membership. This year, our exceptional speakers proved all the hard work that goes into putting on an Annual Conference is worth it. We were all far apart, but talking about conservation brings us all together in spirit.



▲ Dr Mamie Parker

We were extremely lucky to have had Dr. Mamie Parker speak at our virtual conference this year! Dr. Parker was nothing shy of a conservation inspiration as she spoke about her childhood and the motivation behind her many career accomplishments in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and now National Wildlife Federation. Her personal connection to the natural world and her unique story of success in her effort to protect it reminded us that we all have a part to play in conservation. We hope you also felt some of the motivation to act and join IWF in our wildlife conservation field work!



▲ Jim McCormac presenting one of his (many) incredible photographs and sharing his immense knowledge with our audience

We were blown away by the informative lecture on Flora, Moths, and Birds given by Jim McCormac, former botanist from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. McCormac's close-up photos of moth larvae reminded us how strange yet beautiful some of our wildlife truly are. The oft overlooked world of moths is one of the most important components of our ecosystems and Jim's presentation was like exploring an alien world. It was a great reminder that we may only see a fraction of our wildlife, but they're all in need of conservation.

Thank you to our Conference sponsors!



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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear IWF Members, Partners, and Friends,

I would like to extend a big “thank you” to all of our wonderful speakers, sponsors, organizers, and attendees! We spent the last Saturday in January at our virtual conference hearing fascinating and uplifting messages from Dr. Mamie Parker and Jim McCormac. I am excited to share some highlights from the event as well as look ahead to an exciting 2022.

Our board and policy team are keeping tabs on the state and national legislative priorities that need your attention or advocacy help. Please stay tuned for upcoming social media posts and legislative action email alerts to know when and where we need your help in reaching our states elected officials.

I hope you will stay in touch with our winter work, and keep an eye out for an exciting spring habitat workshop or volunteer opportunity near you.

Yours in conservation,

Emily A Wood
Executive Director



2021 IWF Volunteer of the Year - Ray Watkins

The Indiana Wildlife Federation extends a big thank you to our silent auction chairman, Ray Watkins. Ray has been a dedicated member, donor, and volunteer to the Indiana Wildlife Federation since 2016, and has been the main organizer for the annual silent auction since 2018.

Thanks to Ray's initiative and leadership, the event has grown from a small in-person auction to an online bidding extravaganza that has netted the IWF over **\$15,000 in donations** to support our statewide conservation efforts. He has successfully built lasting relationships with donors, board members, artists, and numerous businesses to provide bidding opportunities for a broad range of outdoor enthusiasts.

When Ray isn't working on other fundraising projects for IWF like the [Kroger Community Rewards Program](#) and [TerraCycle Printer Cartridge Recycling](#), he can be found helping out with his son Michael's Scout troop or volunteering with the Indianapolis Zoo. We are truly grateful for Ray sharing his time and talents with our organization and for all the many ways he supports conservation and Indiana wildlife.



▲ Photo; Ray working the auction at IWF's 2018 Conference

Upcoming Certified Trails Events

Ready to get outside and enjoy nature or help us improve our outdoor spaces? Check out our events page at indianawildlife.org/events or follow us on social media for our upcoming spring opportunities:

Spring Bird Count-Teter Retreat and Organic Farm - Sat April 9, 8:30-11:30 am

Invasive Species Removal-Scott Starling Nature Trail and many other locations

Native Plant Installation-Tryon Farm - TBA



▲ Photo: Tryon trail in the winter



SPRING BIRD COUNT



Saturday, April 9th
8:30-11:30 am



Teter Retreat and Organic Farm
10980 E 221st St
Noblesville, IN 46062



Don't forget to bring binoculars
and wear appropriate clothing
for the outdoors

Email blake@indianawildlife.org to register



Apply for the 2022 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.

Winterberry

The Native That Lives Up to It's Name

Did you use Holly leaves and berries to decorate your home last Christmas? Next time, you may use the Winterberry! This native plant is a member of the Order *Aquifoliales* and of the Family *Aquifoliaceae*. The shrub or small tree can reach up to 25 feet. Although the winterberry is toxic to humans and animals, some parts of the plant have medicinal benefits. The root bark can be used for treating fever and the leaves can be brewed for making caffeine-free tea. Besides these medicinal purposes, you will also help feed birds if you plant a winterberry in your yard. Twenty bird species enjoy the red berries, including the Eastern Bluebird, the Northern Mockingbird and the Cedar Waxwing. Winterberries grow better in acidic conditions and require moist or wet soil. That is why they prefer woodlands, swamps and marshes. Moreover, while they need sun or part shade and bloom from April to August, they give fruits throughout the winter. Whether it be for your ornaments, for a fence between your neighbors or for helping maintain wildlife, the winterberry will satisfy your needs!



Think Spring: Native Plant Sale 2022!

Our Native Plant Sale is back for 2022! We've undergone some fairly major changes and updates are still being made, but we're officially open for orders. We have streamlined our previous, somewhat confusing kit list so you can find exactly what you need for your garden.

Thanks to 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 indianawildlife.org/take-action/native-plant-sale



▲ Photo; Example of a typical kit

Mathilde Sbinne

IWF Communications Intern

Meet Mathilde Sbinne, our new digital communication intern! Mathilde is from France and recently completed the last semester of her Masters in European studies at IUPUI. Throughout her studies, she learned about environmental protection and sustainability and developed a strong interest for natural and cultural heritage preservation. Traveling, photography and hiking are some of her favorite activities. She wants to make the most of her time in Indiana, discover its native species and plants, and contribute to raising awareness about the importance of protecting nature. She is excited to join the IWF team and use social media to promote Indiana's wildlife and habitats conservation.



▲ Photo; Mathilde, looking fly in our monarch shirt (pun always intended)

Follow Us   

Habitat Programs Updates

Schedule a Workshop

IWF is now booking presentations for 2022. We currently offer three different workshops. These presentations are available virtually anywhere over Zoom, but as our travel schedule gets busier, in person workshops may be limited. Book early if you have an event on calendar.

For more information or to request a workshop, visit indianawildlife.org/education/workshops or send an email to stump@indianawildlife.org



▲ Photo; Certified Wildlife Habitat Workshop at Eagle Creek

ADVERTISE HERE!

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 e-mail at info@indianawildlife.org.