



2023

# Indiana Wildlife CONFERENCE

## *The Wonder of Wetlands*

**SAVE THE DATE: January 28, 2023 - 10am**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Anne Lacy*

*Senior Manager of North American Programs  
International Crane Foundation*

### Other presentations from:

Will Ditzler - President and Founder, RiverBirch Executive Advisors  
Drew YoungDyke - Director of Conservation Partnerships, NWF  
Kalli Dunn - Goose Pond FWA Property Manager, Indiana DNR  
Dan Boritt - Executive Director, IWF

**PLUS** *Buffet lunch at the Garrison at Ft Harrison State Park, silent auction, cash bar after conference...*

*...all while supporting statewide conservation!*

**REGISTER HERE!**

<https://indianawildlife.org/annual-conference/>

## Inside This Issue:

- MEMBER MEETING INVITATION
- LETTER FROM THE ED
- MESSAGE FROM THE IWF BOARD

p2

p3

p4

## About our keynote speaker ...

Anne grew up in Madison, leaving to attend college in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She received a B.A. in Psychology (1991) and returned to get a B.S. in Biology (1994). After working various jobs while taking graduate level Geographic Information Systems courses at the University of South Carolina, Anne was accepted to the graduate program in Biology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. After finishing coursework in Duluth in 2000, Anne accepted an internship at ICF, while also finishing her thesis.

After completion of her M.S., Anne accepted a full-time position at ICF as a research associate in the Field Ecology Department (now the North America Program), working on an ongoing long-term study of sandhill cranes. She added Whooping Crane work in 2009, joining the Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project to study the ecology of the newly reintroduced population in Wisconsin.

## More on our speakers ...



▲ Photo; Will Ditzler

Will is President and founder of RiverBirch Executive Advisors, providing CEOs and leaders executive coaching and strategic planning services. He spent 22 years in the wetland consulting, permitting, and mitigation industry and led the Wetland Task Force for the State of Indiana in 2022 at the request of the Governor's office following new wetland legislation.



▲ Photo; Drew YoungDyke

Drew is Director of Conservation Partnerships with National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes. He is an avid bowhunter, backpacker, trail-runner and kayaker. Drew has written many pieces on the importance of protecting our wild places for both their own sake and our opportunities for personal connections. He will give us an update on the priorities of National Wildlife Federation moving forward.

## Make Your Voice Heard!

**ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7pm** – Your membership in action! IWF defines its policies and objectives each year at the annual meeting and we welcome our members to share their thoughts and ideas about our federation. Our organization relies upon your active participation. If you are interested in virtually attending, please [click here](#) to add the meeting to your calendar.

## *Letter from the Executive Director*

As 2022 winds down I want to thank you for your continued support of wildlife and wild spaces here in Indiana. I'm honored to be the new executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. The situation for wildlife here in the Hoosier state continues to face significant challenges, but with your help IWF will continue to fight for wildlife here at home.



2022 was a year of success for IWF, and we will continue to build on this momentum in years ahead. Our work at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area is winding down, but we are excited to begin work on a new sustainable trail at Glacier's End, a marvelous new property owned by our partner the Central Indiana Land Trust. This Johnson County property will be a gem for the ever-increasing trove of public lands here in Indiana.

With cold temperatures seemingly here to stay we can only dream of the return of monarchs and migratory birds. The recent listing of the migratory monarch butterfly has brought into stark contrast the plight of these magnificent insects. Despite the listing, there is good news for monarchs. Awareness of this insect is at an all-time high. Landowners, both large and small, have in recent years begun to actively plant pollinator-friendly landscapes that are vital to monarchs and pollinators alike. Our monarch tagging programs are introducing a new generation of citizen scientists to this regal insect, and with their help the future is bright for monarchs.

While 2022 is ending an opportunity for positive change is on the horizon. We are hopeful that the US Senate will take up legislation for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). This bill, which has already passed the House of Representatives, if passed will bring transformation funding to wildlife here in Indiana. Now is the time to reach out to our two Senators, Todd Young and Mike Braun. With their support of this bill we can launch a new era of wildlife conservation right here in Indiana.

2022 has also brought significant change to our organization. Emily Wood, Executive Director of IWF for half a decade, has taken a wonderful job as the head of the Door County Land Trust in Wisconsin. We are grateful for her leadership to this organization and know she will do great things in Wisconsin. Jenny Blake, our sustainable trails coordinator, has also taken a new role with Hamilton County Parks. While we will miss them both, Aaron and I are excited for what will come in 2023.

With Love of Wildlife,

Dan Boritt  
Executive Director

## Thank you to our conference sponsors



## A Word From the IWF Board

"Ain't God Good to Indiana"

Penned in 1919 by William Herschell who as a reporter for the Indianapolis News was in search of a topic to write about when he came upon a fisherman in Hancock County. When he inquired about the fisherman's day the response he got was, "I can't complain, after all God's been pretty good to Indiana, ain't he." That answer inspired Herschell to write his poem about the beauty of our great state.



As we enter the holiday season and prepare for the upcoming year, let us all take a minute and consider how true this statement is. From Lake Michigan to the Ohio river and our northern fields and marshes to the rolling hills of southern Indiana, we indeed have a lot to be grateful for. Make no mistake, we still have a lot to do. Our rivers and streams are improving but are a long way from being clean and pristine. Our wetlands have almost disappeared but we are making progress restoring many of them. And, climate change is impacting all of us. But let's not lose hope. Let's recommit to continue the fight to save our wildlife and natural resources for the next generations and those to come.

The Indiana Wildlife Federation is committed to doing just that. We were saddened when our former Executive Director, Emily Wood, left for an exciting new position in Wisconsin, but elated to find a replacement to lead IWF. Dan Boritt comes to us with a great background in science, public policy and advocacy. We look forward to his leadership as our new Executive Director. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the outstanding Board of Directors of IWF. This collection of passionate individuals is the governing body for your Federation. We take that role seriously and strive to meet your expectations. If you have a minute to look at our website you can learn about each of these individual directors. You will be impressed.

Thank you for your continued support of IWF. We look forward to a prosperous new year. And when we think of Herschell's great poem about our state and hear, "Ain't God good to Indiana" we can respond in unison that yes She is.

Rick Cockrum, Chairman

Indiana Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

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