



Photo: Releasing a monarch on the Urban Wilderness Trail

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Monarchs are on the move! It's official. Earlier this month, monarchs began migrating south from Winnipeg, Canada (50° N). Here in Indiana (~40° N) we are on track for a fairly typical migratory season in terms of when to expect the butterflies. Unless we experience extreme September temperatures (90+ °F) we should be seeing our monarch populations passing through with peak numbers occurring mid-month. Unfortunately, it does look like this will be a down year in terms of overall numbers. Those of you who joined us last year know we struggled to find monarchs and struggled even more to actually net and tag them. Finally, it also looks like there is a growing season drought forming to the south, which may impact monarch numbers reaching Mexico.

In order to help contribute to the data that gives us these analyses, we offer several opportunities to everyone of all ages to join us in one of our tagging events. We will have more opportunities this year than ever before. Whether you want to tag or just join us to observe how the operation works, we hope to see you out there! More info on these events is on page 2.

Monarch Tagging

Our award winning Monarch Tagging is back again in 2023! This will be our sixth year tagging monarch butterflies as part of the Monarch Watch citizen science effort. If you have never participated before, this is a unique opportunity to get hands-on with the conservation of these incredible insects.

These migratory butterflies pass through Indiana on their way to Mexico in mid-September. They can travel upwards of 100 miles a day at an altitude of thousands of feet. In the evening, they make their way down to rest and eat.

For more details, please visit our [events calendar](#).

Holliday Park - From 6:00pm - 7:30pm on September 2 (confirm?)

Urban Wilderness Trail - 6:00pm - 7:30pm, September 9

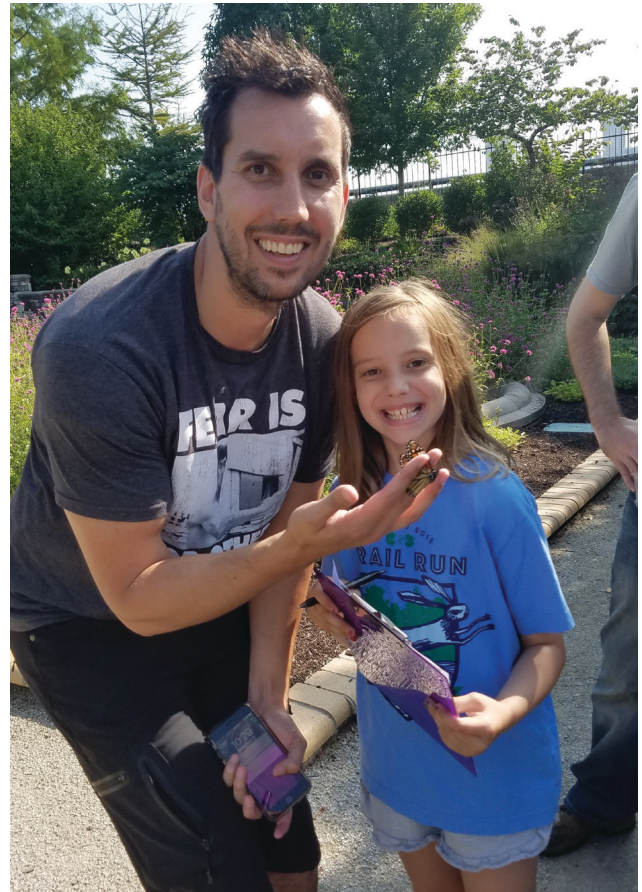
Newfields Fairbanks Art and Nature Park - 6:00pm - 7:30pm, September 16

Urban Wilderness Trail - 6:00pm - 7:30pm, September 23

Newfields Fairbanks Art and Nature Park - 6:00pm - 7:30pm,



▲ Tagging and releasing monarch butterflies on the Urban Wilderness Trail



Letter from the ED

As summer comes to a close in Indiana, kids return to school, and we allow our minds to wonder about what the future holds for them. A few fireflies still persist, showing off their stunning display to each other, and the lucky people who get an opportunity to witness their magic. Generations of Hoosiers have delighted in this simple marvel of nature, showing children these tiny glowing insects each summer as dusk descends on our state.



▲ Photo; IWF Executive Director Dan Boritt

Fireflies are a simple example of what is at risk in this moment, as our climate changes and we continue to impact our environment. Herbicides and pesticides, placed on our lawns poison these awe-inspiring insects, while light pollution confuses their signals. The coming years will be determinative for wildlife and habitat throughout our state. A changing climate with increasingly intense bouts of rain is already impacting our environment. Indiana wetlands continue to disappear, and our waterways receive increasing levels of fertilizer leading to a cascade of environmental impacts that decrease oxygen and negatively impact aquatic wildlife. [Warming temperatures and increased rainfall will also impact agriculture](#), a key driver of Indiana's economy, and one many Hoosier farmers are ill-prepared to face.

The political environment of this moment is one that presents many challenges for wildlife, but also that offers opportunities. Federally, Congress is in preliminary negotiations to renew the Farm Bill, the single largest driver of conservation dollars in the US. Two Hoosier legislators, Senator Mike Braun and Congressman Jim Baird, respectively sit on their chamber's agricultural committees. Senator Braun has already introduced several beneficial marker bills, including the "Trillion Trees Natural Carbon Storage Act" which IWF was pleased to endorse. [You can read the text of a previously introduced bill here](#). The Farm Bill presents other opportunities as well, and we urge you to reach out to your federal officials and urge them to preserve ALL conservation funding in the upcoming Farm Bill. As we all learned as kids, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and this couldn't be truer in the realm of agricultural sustainability.

Another piece of Federal funding working its way through Congress is the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). This bill has been a priority of IWF and other Indiana conservation organizations for years, and this year we are cautiously optimistic we can nudge it across the finish line. RAWA would fundamentally change the way we manage species of concern in our state. It is estimated that the bill, when passed, will increase funding of Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) from under \$1 million annually to nearly \$15 million. Indiana's SWAP, which is currently being discussed in listening sessions throughout the state by the DNR, would be a historic investment in how Indiana manages our nearly 150 species of concern, from Whooping Cranes to northern riffleshell (a mussel species) to Lake Sturgeon. Again, we urge you to contact your federal legislators and implore them to support RAWA!

In less optimistic news, the recent United States Supreme Court ruling in Sackett vs. EPA further imperils Indiana's embattled wetlands. This ruling greatly weakened the Waters of the United States Act (WOTUS) by removing federal protections from most wetlands and allowing states to determine how they can be developed. While some states have sprung into action, reestablishing protections for their wetlands, we fear that Indiana's legislature will allow increased development on these sensitive biomes. Wetlands are important for a variety of reasons, as critical habitat for numerous sport fish species to pollution buffers for our waterways, all while storing water during extreme rainfall and preventing destructive flooding. Any further reduction in protection will only serve to continue the degradation of our already dismal water quality in our state. On the positive side, legislation coming out of the 2023 legislative session has allowed for the creation of additional watershed development commissions that have had such success in the Kankakee River basin. This bill, championed by Sen. Glick and Rep. Aylesworth was a major win for Indiana's waters, and one we hope to build on in coming years.

Lastly, with the end of summer comes hunting seasons throughout the state. If you've not already purchased a hunting license for your wild game of choice, we encourage you to do so. Squirrel season began on August 15th, with additional seasons coming up quickly. Hunting and Fishing licenses are the underpinning of DNR's earned revenue, and without the work of conservation minded sportsmen throughout our state we would be in a much bleaker place for wildlife. To learn more about hunting and fishing regulations, as well as how to buy your permit, check out the Indiana DNR's website ([DNR: Fish & Wildlife: Indiana Fish & Wildlife Online License System](#)).

In the coming months look for increased communications from IWF, as well as a survey that will help us shape the future of our organization. The Indiana Wildlife Federation is the voice for wildlife in Indiana, but we cannot speak alone. If you're not currently a member, please sign up and donate. Help us continue to advocate for wildlife and wild spaces here at home in Indiana.

With Love of Wildlife,

Dan Boritt
Executive Director, IWF

Visit our website for native plants, videos, and more!

At indianawildlife.org, we strive to bring you resources for a wide range of conservation issues in Indiana.

Our [Native Plant Sale](#) is available all year, with spring and fall shipping windows. Our [Native Plant Finder](#) will be getting a big update this month including more plants and more pictures.

We have a [Bill Tracker](#) to help you follow important conservation legislation you may have missed.

The [Newsroom](#) is a searchable resource containing articles, legislative updates, and every issue of our Hoosier Conservation Newsletter.

Conservation TOP SHOT

Thursday, August 24th 2023
Indiana Gun Club, Fishers

A sporting clay
fundraiser benefitting:



Since 1938, The Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) has played an important role in conserving Indiana's natural resources on behalf of hunters, anglers, gardeners, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts. By educating Hoosiers, consistently advocating on behalf of wildlife with legislators, and actively working with state agencies, the IWF promotes the conservation, sound management, and sustainable use of Indiana's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Come out in support of our common cause, Indiana's natural resources, and enjoy an afternoon of sporting clays at the Indiana Gun Club on August 24th, 2023.

Register at indianawildlife.org/top-shot/

Native Plant Sale 2023 - Closing Soon!

Our 2023 Fall Native Plant Sale will be closing on August 28th! Not able to make the cutoff for the Fall sale? No problem! You can order your Spring 2024 kits any time.

Thanks to our partnership with Stantec 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.



▲ Photo: Pollinator Kit

For more information visit indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/native-plant-sale

2024 IWF Annual Conference

The 2024 IWF Annual Conference is fast approaching! It will be held Saturday, February 3, 2024. Our location is TBD, so stay tuned for details! The theme this year is Waterways for Indiana Wildlife.



Jordan Lubetkin

National Wildlife Federation
Director of Ohio River
Restoration



Bob Barr

IU Faculty
Center for Earth and
Environmental Science



Jill Hoffman

Executive Director
White River Alliance

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Habitat Programs Updates

Do you belong to or manage a group looking for educational workshops? IWF offers several presentations from our Wildlife Habitat Workshop, which covers the basics of creating habitat at home to our Indiana's Wild Climate Workshop where we discuss the impact of the climate crisis on Indiana and our wildlife. If you would like more information or want to schedule a workshop, please visit our [Workshops Page](#) or contact Aaron Stump at stump@indianawildlife.org.



▲ Photo; presenting to Teter Retreat and Organic Farm



▲ Photo; Wildlife Friendly Habitat Workshop at Elkhart Environmental Center

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.