



2024

Indiana Wildlife CONFERENCE

Waterways for Wildlife

February 3, 2024 - 9am at Drury Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jordan Lubetkin

Director of Ohio River Restoration

National Wildlife Federation

Other presentations from:

Jill Hoffman - White River Alliance

Scott Pelath - Kankakee River Commission

Missi Sawatelle - Blue River Commission

Elizabeth Mabee - DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife

Nick Burgmeier - Biologist, Purdue University

PLUS

*Coffee station and buffet lunch,
silent auction, exhibitors, cash bar
and Copi appetizers after conference...*

*...all while supporting statewide
conservation!*

REGISTER HERE!

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

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About our keynote speaker ...

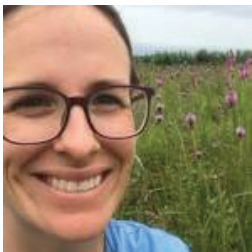
Jordan Lubetkin is the Director of Ohio River Restoration for the National Wildlife Federation (<https://www.nwf.org/ohioriver>) and the Communications Director for the Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition. Jordan is leading a collaborative effort to begin restoration work on the Ohio River. He will present an overview on how the NWF and partners are leading efforts to secure federal funding for protection of the Ohio River.

More on our speakers ...



▲ Photo; Bob Barr

Bob Barr is a research scientist (fluvial geomorphology and hydrology) at the Center for Earth and Environmental Science at IUPUI. His research focuses on understanding the physical processes and form necessary to achieve and maintain healthy stream systems in a changing landscape.



▲ Photo; Elizabeth Mabee

Elizabeth Mabee is the Conservation Partnership Manager at Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Elizabeth will update guests on the progress of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), currently in the planning phase state-wide, to map the path forward for Indiana's non-game species of greatest concern.



▲ Photo; Nick Burgmeier

Nick Burgmeier is a Research Biologist and Extension Wildlife Specialist at Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. Nick will be speaking on the plight of the Eastern Hellbender, a threatened giant salamander native to Indiana. Nick will talk about the efforts at reintroduction and discuss what lies ahead for these incredible animals.

Make Your Voice Heard!

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING: Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 1:15pm – 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. This meeting will take place during our conference and virtual participants will be able to join.

Letter from the Executive Director

As the last fiery leaves of autumn give way to winter's chill, and the year's final chapter unfolds, we at the Indiana Wildlife Federation find ourselves filled with optimism for the future of our beloved wild spaces and the wildlife that call them home. While many species have come and gone, wildlife spectacles continue to thrill Hoosiers statewide. Sandhill Cranes bugle their triumphant flight. As hummingbirds depart for warmer temperatures, juncos fill their void, calling Indiana their snowbird retreat. Beaver fill their wintery lodges, while otters and white-tailed deer continue their dance through snowy landscapes. Insects, so vital to nature's tapestry find their winter refuge under the leaves dropped by trees across the state. And native plant seeds lie dormant, stratifying in the cold, to spring triumphant in the new year.



Sure, challenges abound. Habitat loss, polluted waters, invasive species, and the ever-present specter of climate change loom large. But amidst these challenges opportunities exist, and the resilience of our wildlife persists. Here in Indiana, a mosaic of dedicated individuals, families, and communities are weaving a tapestry of conservation – stitch by stitch.

2023 gave us unparalleled investments in our public lands at the state level. Trails built across Indiana continue to offer access to Hoosiers throughout our state while forging lasting connections with the natural environment. Waterways, that have for too long been relegated to pollution and invasive species have been rehabilitated and utilized by anglers, wildlife, and recreationists alike. Public lands continue to see record levels of use, confirming the need for increased resources and programming statewide.

These are not mere stories; they are proof that the spirit of Hoosier conservation burns bright. And it is this ember of hope, fanned by your unwavering support, that fuels our optimism for the year ahead.

But optimism is not a spectator sport. It demands action. In 2024, let us collectively rise to meet the vast challenges that lie ahead.

- Join us in the field: Roll up your sleeves and participate in a habitat restoration project, lead a youth outreach event, or advocate for sound wildlife policies at the statehouse.
- Spread the word: Share the stories of Hoosier wildlife with your friends, family, and community.
- Invest in our mission: Your financial support is the cornerstone of our work. Consider making a year-end donation or becoming a sustaining member to ensure our collective fight for Indiana's wild treasures continues.

Every action, every voice raised, every hand reaching out to protect our natural heritage adds strength to the tapestry we weave together. Let us make 2024 a year not just of resilience, but of resounding triumph for Indiana's wildlife and the wild spaces they call home.

Together, we will ensure that future generations inherit a landscape teeming with life, a chorus of bird song echoing through our forests, and waterways overflowing with aquatic life that dazzles the imagination. Let us make 2024 the year Hoosier optimism blossoms into Hoosier action, the year we write a new chapter in Indiana's wild story.

With love of wildlife,

Dan Boritt

Agenda for the Day

8:30 Check-in begins, light breakfast items and coffee station

9:00 Program begins
Jordan Lubetkin, NWF
Bob Barr, CEES

10:45 Break, Silent Auction, Exhibitors
Program continues with a Panel including
Jill Hoffman – White River Alliance
Scott Pelath – Kankakee River
Commission
Missi Sawtelle – Blue River
Commission

12:00 IWF's Distinguished Wildlife
Supporter Award presentation

12:15 Buffet lunch

1:15 Dan Boritt, IWF and Annual Members
Meeting

1:45 Elizabeth Mabee, DNR

2:30 Nick Burgmeier, Purdue University

3:15 Break, Silent Auction closes

3:35 John Goss, Copi update

4:00 Live Auction

4:30 Reception, drinks, Copi appetizers

Location

Drury Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Carmel
9625 North Meridian St
Indianapolis, IN 46290

Silent Auction

Every year, we're excited to offer a variety of incredible items and experiences to attendees at our Annual Conference. This year is no different. Here is just a selection of some of the things you'll be able to bid on this year.

Native Grass Seed 4-Pack

200 Pure American Chestnut Seeds

Hand Blown Glass Artwork

Bi-Plane Flight

Guided Fishing Trip

2 Night Cabin Stay

Audubon Membership Basket

1-Year Wolf Park Family Membership

\$150 Certificate to Indiana State Park Inns

Copy of Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife

We will be offering opportunities to bid throughout the conference. The auction will also be available to virtual participants thanks to our host Charity Auctions Today! A link to the silent auction site will be send to all registrants for the conference.

Follow Us   

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.