

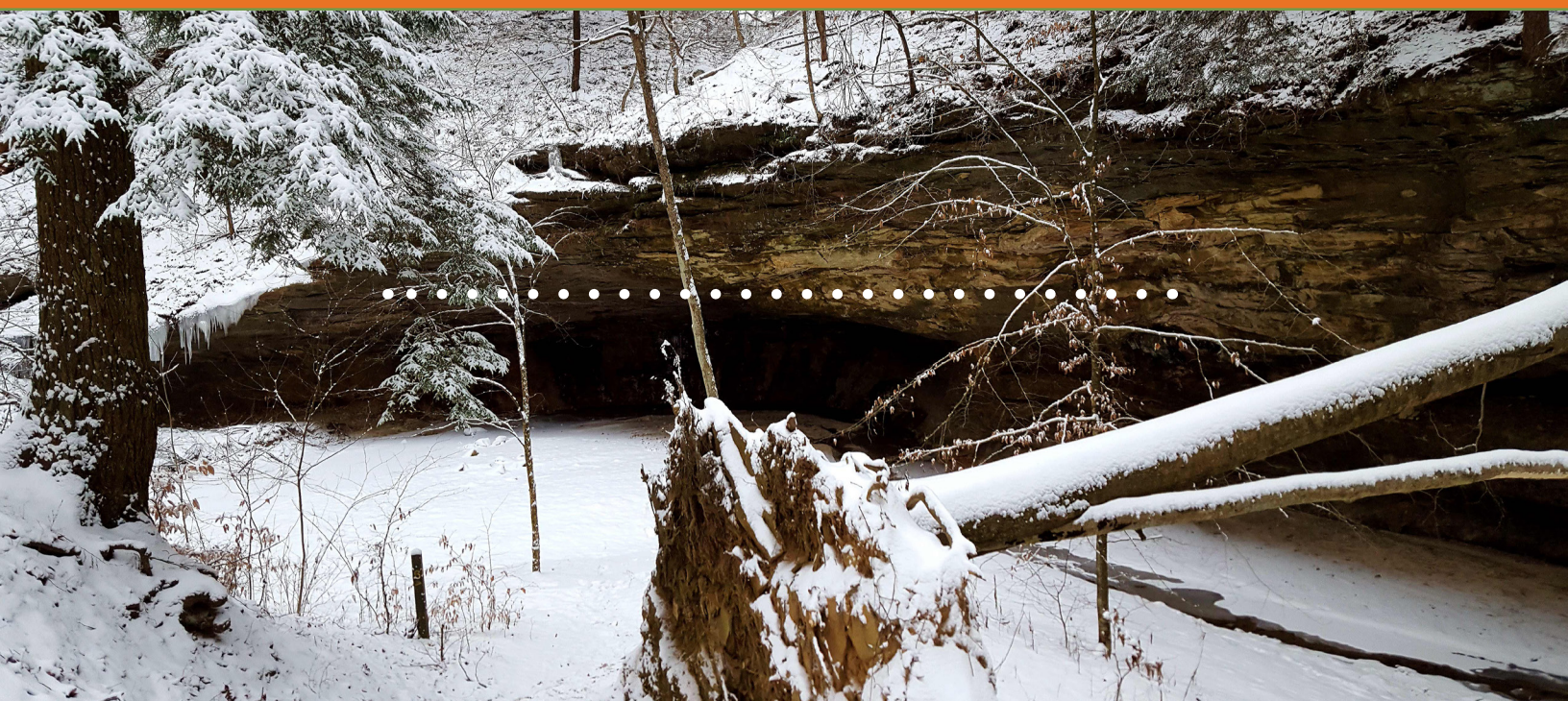


2025

Indiana Wildlife CONFERENCE

Woods for Wildlife

February 1, 2025 - 8am at the Wyndham Indianapolis West



▲ Photo; Turkey Run in winter, by Aaron Stump

PLUS *Light breakfast and buffet lunch, silent auction, exhibitors, cash bar and happy hour after conference...*

...all while supporting statewide conservation!

REGISTER HERE!

<https://indianawildlife.org/annual-conference-2025>

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Meet Our Speakers



Allen Pursell is the Director of Forest Programs for the Sam Shine Foundation. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Purdue University and was with The Nature Conservancy in Indiana for over 25 years, most recently as Director of Forest Conservation. He is a member of the advisory council of the Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center at Purdue University and is a member of the management board of the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, which is a regional partnership for migratory bird conservation.

▲ Photo; Allen Pursell



Dr. Zollner received his BS in natural resources from The University of Michigan and his MS in wildlife at Mississippi State University. From there he attended ISU where his dissertation research focused on the landscape level implications of animal behavior. After completing his PhD, he worked as a research scientist for the landscape ecology unit of the Northcentral research station of the US Forest Service for 6 years. For the past 17+ years he has been a faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University.

▲ Photo; Pat Zollner



Geriann's is the Furbearer and Turkey Program Leader for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and her master's degree from West Virginia University. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, reading fiction, basket weaving, and watching British murder mysteries.

▲ Photo; Geriann Albers



As CILTI President and CEO, Cliff turned his childhood passion for nature his life's work. He previously worked as an ecologist for the Indiana DNR, Division of Nature Preserves and The Nature Conservancy in Olympia, WA, and was president of the Indiana Land Protection Alliance. He currently serves on the boards of the Indiana Conservation Voters and the Natural Areas Association. With his deep educational and professional history in the conservation field, Cliff keeps the land trust's focus on good science and stewardship. When not at work, he enjoys hiking, birding, and working on his golf game (with mixed results).

▲ Photo; Cliff Chapman



Edie's work focuses on policy related to forest stewardship, natural climate solutions, and land use. Prior to joining National Wildlife Federation, she worked at the World Resources Institute researching forest ecosystem services and with the National Park Service. She holds a BS in Biology and earned her master's degree conservation ecology and environmental policy at the University of Michigan, where her thesis focused on forest restoration.

▲ Photo; Edie Juno

Silent Auction Sneak Peek

Every year, our Silent Auction is a highlight of our Conference! This year is no different. We have items available for everyone and every interest. We have a biplane trip for the bold. Guided fishing excursions for anglers. A handmade quilt for the crafty. IMS tickets for the race enthusiasts. Memberships, gift certificates, jewelry, passes, and even an elephant meet and greet for the totally wild!

Visit our [Silent Auction site](#) now to see all of these items and start bidding!



▲ Photo; Full-size handmade song sparrow quilt courtesy of Melissa Stump



▲ Photo; Biplane trip courtesy of Trip Kelleher



▲ Photo; Motor Speedway tickets courtesy of IMS



▲ Photo; Full day of fly fishing courtesy of Jeff Conrad

Thank you to our 2025 Annual Conference sponsors!



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F O R T Y 5





Letter from the Executive Director

As we approach the heart of winter, I wanted to share some important updates on state legislation and how our native wildlife are surviving the harsh winter months.

Legislative Action:

The Indiana Wildlife Federation has been actively engaged in several key legislative issues this year, advocating for policies that protect our state's valuable wildlife resources.



- [Senate Bill 32: Prevention of Chronic Wasting Disease](#). This bill would direct our DNR to breed captive deer for release into our wild environment in hopes of increasing disease resistance to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the wild. While the sentiment is noble the reality is it would not work and would imperil the wild population of white-tailed deer in the state.
- [Senate Bill 121: Restriction of Using Nets or Trapping Minnows](#). This bill seeks to stop the over-harvesting of fish and minnows from the waterways of Indiana. Certain techniques of netting and lack of regulation has led to overharvesting of biomass from streams throughout the state, risking the entire aquatic food-web.
- [House Bill 1557: Prescribed Burning](#). This legislation would make it easier for land managers throughout the state to utilize prescribed burns to manage invasive species and improve wildlife habitat. By creating a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Program and helping to clarify the rules and regulations around the use of fire on the landscape, HB 1557 will allow Hoosiers to better conserve our wild spaces in the state. Fire has shaped Indiana's ecosystems, and numerous native plants and animals depend on periodic burning to thrive. It knocks back invasive plants, encourages the growth of native grasses and forbs, and creates open areas that benefit species like Ruffed grouse, Bobwhite and numerous grassland birds. Additionally fire reduces understory growth, improves sunlight penetration, allowing oak species to regenerate.

For a full list of bills IWF is tracking visit our website and check out our [Bill Tracker](#) and [Legislative Watchlist](#).

Your support in contacting your legislators on these issues is crucial. We need your voice to help ensure that our elected officials understand the importance of strong wildlife conservation policies. YOUR voice matters and we need everyone to speak up for wildlife!

Winter Survival by Hoosier Wildlife:

Indiana's wildlife has evolved remarkable adaptations to survive our challenging winters. With variable temperatures and snow, sleet and rain, wildlife throughout the state have evolved to survive our harsh winter conditions.

- **Hibernation:** Many mammals, such as woodchucks and bats, enter a state of deep sleep where their body temperature and metabolism significantly slow down, conserving energy. Hibernation is defined by a long, unbroken period and is only deployed by mammals.
- **Migration:** Certain species of bird, bat and insect migrate to warmer climates in order to find better conditions. Species like Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Hoary bats, Monarch butterflies and Whooping cranes all migrate. Some, such as the Ruby-throated hummingbird leave in search of food (nectar and insects) and warmer weather will head far south for the entire winter. Others like our Whooping and Sandhill crane will migrate sporadically in search of open water where they forage and find safety from predators.
- **Food Storage:** American red squirrel, Eastern chipmunk and Black-capped chickadee gather and store seeds and nuts throughout the fall to sustain them through the winter months. These animals, with their amazing spatial memory, can remember hundreds of storage caches in order to sustain them through the cold winter.
- **Insulation:** Animals like White-tailed deer, American bison and coyotes grow thicker fur coats to provide extra warmth throughout the winter. Many species of bird will grow thicker down undercoats, and during periods of extreme cold will find shelter and fluff their feathers to increase the insulating value.

How can you help wildlife survive the winter?

- **Provide Food and Water:** Offer food sources for birds, such as seeds and suet. Ensure that any bird feeders are regularly cleaned to prevent the spread of disease. Offer a water source for wildlife to utilize.
- **Protect Wildlife Habitat:** Plant native plants in your yard and keep your pets indoors during winter to minimize disturbances to wildlife. Native plants provide food and shelter throughout the cold season. You can also minimize your “Fall yard cleanup.” Leaves and native plant stems are vital for a variety of native insects to over-winter.

By working together, we can ensure that Indiana’s wildlife thrives for generations to come.

With Love of Wildlife,

Dan Boritt
Executive Director, IWF

Apply for the 2025 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.



Agenda for the Day

8:00 Registration and Exhibitors

9:00 Welcome from IWF Board

9:15 Allen Pursell - *Forestry for the Birds*

10:15 Cliff Chapman - *Warblers, Turtles, and Pigeons*

11:30 Pat Zollner - *Using Statistics & Simulation Models for Insight into the Impact of Habitat on Indiana's Wildlife*

12:30 Lunch

1:15 IWF's Distinguished Wildlife Supporter Awards
George and Christine Plews
Carey Hamilton, Rep District 87
Holt Scholarship Awardee Alexandra Koenig

1:30 Geriann Albers - *Forest Furbearers and Turkey, Too*

2:45 Edie Juno - *Threats & Opportunities for Forests in the 21st Century*

3:45 Dan Boritt, IWF Update
Silent Auction CLOSSES

4:15 Reception

Think Spring: Native Plant Sale 2025!

Our Native Plant Sale is back and bigger than ever in 2025! This year we have TWO options for our plant sale. We are continuing our partnership with Stantec Native Plant Nursery with an expanded collection of ALL NEW plant kits! We also have a smaller, bespoke plant sale through our partnership with NWF and Garden For Wildlife.

Orders for Stantec kits must be placed by April 1st.

For more info on some of the plants, don't forget to check out our [Native Plant Finder!](#)

For our Stantec sale, visit <https://indianawildlife.org/native-plant-sale/>

For our Garden For Wildlife sale, visit <https://fundraising.gardenforwildlife.com/uf0fSv>



▲ Photo; Example of a typical Stantec kit

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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.