

THE PLANT PRESS

Staying Current with the North Chapter of the
Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society



Indiana Native Plant
& Wildflower Society

Changes to INPAWS

Steve Sass, President

The Greek philosopher Hiraclitus once wrote that “change is the only constant in life,” and author Robert Gallagher penned “change is inevitable-except from a vending machine.” Such is also the case with the North Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society. At the August INPAWS state council meeting, a new Muncie-based chapter “East Central” was born, and the founding of this new chapter then sparked a debate about the realignment of counties in the central and northern part of the state.

Taking into account the suggestions by members of the state council along with feedback from our easterly located North Chapter members, the North Chapter leadership submitted a formal opinion to the state council, and at the November state council meeting, new INPAWS chapter boundaries were drawn. In the realignment, North ceded the counties of Allen, Adams, Huntington, Wabash and Wells to the fledgling East Central Chapter. The departure of these counties from North is bittersweet. On one hand, we’ve lost a handful of dedicated members including Cindy Loos, who in 2013, assisted Field Trip Chair John Smith with planning a number of our chapter’s field trips. On the other hand, trying to devote attention to all regions of a chapter that included 18 counties proved to be a daunting task, and one that we didn’t always do very adequately. As a result of having a smaller territory, I believe that we will be better equipped to serve the needs of our members and our local communities.

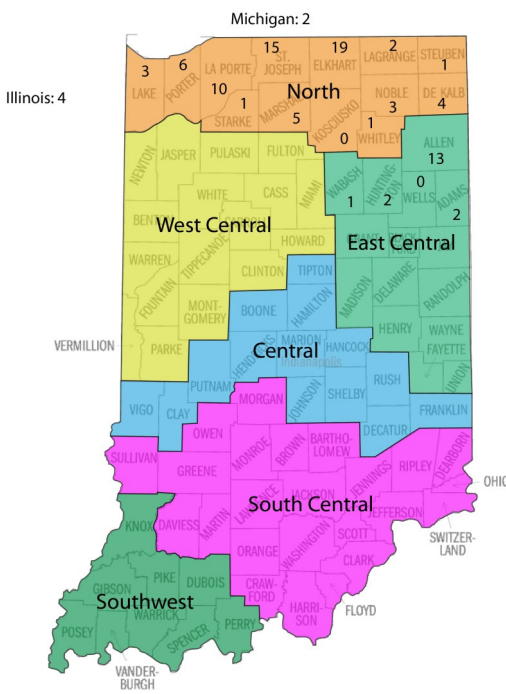
However, the loss of counties to our chapter brings with it the loss of people, and virtually overnight, North has lost nearly twenty-percent of our chapter’s membership. This means that we must be even more diligent in promoting our message and our cause. The map to the left denotes the new INPAWS chapter

alignments along with the number of members in each respective county. The map clearly illustrates that we’re doing a good job in certain counties, and a less-than-acceptable job in others.

I believe that at some point in the future, a Fort Wayne based chapter will further divide the northeastern part of the state, but this is likely to be years away, and until then, the North Chapter leadership will continue to plan meetings and field trips for all areas of the chapter.

North Chapter members can do their part by continuing to stay involved with chapter activities. Vice President Cookie Ferguson is always on the lookout for speakers and venues for our winter meetings, Field Trip Chair John Smith is happy to receive recommendations for field trip locations, and Education/Outreach Chair Lindsay Grossmann is always open to suggestions for community outreach events and speaking engagements.

To quote contemporary author and speaker John C. Maxwell “Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.”



INPAWS Chapter Map as of 11/2013

January 2014

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Calendar of Events

- January 25 Chapter Meeting - Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center (see page 2)
- January 28 [Conservation Day at the Indiana Statehouse](#)



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Newsletter of the Indiana
Native Plant and
Wildflower Society's
North Chapter

Publication - The Plant Press is free document that is published once a month in electronic (PDF) format and distributed via e-mail to members of the INPAWS North Chapter. INPAWS does not provide print copies of The Plant Press, but members are allowed to print hard copies. Certain issues may contain copyrighted material that has been reproduced with permission.

Submissions by members to this newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Submissions are due by the 25th of the month prior to the date of the newsletter.

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In Appreciation of Tacy Fletcher

Steve Sass, President



On behalf of the executive committee of the INPAWS North Chapter, I would like to personally thank Tacy Fletcher for serving fifteen months as our Publicity Chairperson and newsletter editor. Producing a monthly newsletter probably consumes more time than any other board position. Not only does the editor have to regularly deal with deadlines and time sensitive material, he/she also has to solicit authors and interact with contributors in a diplomatic matter - neither of which is an easy task particularly when you're a full-time student and you're doing it without the benefit of a paycheck.

I can honestly say that no one has been a more exuberant ambassador for INPAWS North Chapter than Tacy Fletcher. In addition to serving as Plant Press editor, during her tenure as Publicity Chair, Tacy has taped two 30-minute podcast interviews, represented the North Chapter at the State Council meeting in Indianapolis (on the return trip, her car broke down), spoken on behalf of INPAWS North at LaPorte County Green Drinks, arranged several speakers and venues, led two field trips, lobbied to create new "school" and "not-for-profit" membership categories, and has been the most vocal and unabridged supporter that the North Chapter has had to date.

As you probably read in the December 2013 edition of The Plant Press, that edition was her last issue as editor and as Publicity Chair. If you happen to see Tacy at a meeting or out on a trail somewhere, please take the time to let her know that you appreciate her unfettered contribution to the North Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society.

North Chapter January Meeting and Program "Cooking Wild" with Dave Hamilla

Cookie Ferguson, Vice President

The next meeting of the INPAWS North Chapter will be held on the third Sunday in January, Jan. 19, 2014. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at 1:00 p.m. CST (2:00 p.m. EST). There is a gate fee of \$5 unless you have an annual pass. Plan to carpool to save gas and fees. Following a short business meeting, our speaker will be Dave Hamilla who is a professional geologist/botanist with 25 years experience. His program will be entitled "Cooking Wild." We will learn to identify some of our local edibles and even some of our invasive weeds that are nutritious and delicious. Dave was also formerly the head chef of a bistro-style restaurant. He will share some recipes and local edibles so that you may begin to enjoy these too.



The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center will be the Setting for the January North Chapter Meeting and Program (Steve Sass photo)

What: Wild edibles talk: "Cooking Wild"

Where: Indiana Dunes State Park 1600 North 25 East, Chesterton, IN 46304

When: Sunday January 19th 2014 at 1 p.m. Central (2 p.m. Eastern) Time

Who: INPAWS North Chapter and guests. The public has also been cordially invited to attend this program, and it is being advertised in the Indiana Dunes State Park's events calendar.

“These Are the People in the Neighborhood” - Brad Bumgardner

(Steve Sass Photos)



Brad Cares for an Injured Red-Tail Hawk (2013 Photo)

Occupation: Interpretive Naturalist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Dunes State Park (2007-Present), Pokagon State Park (2001-2007)

Resides: Chesterton, IN **Hometown:** Angola, IN

Other professional affiliations: Indiana Audubon Society (current President), Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association (Chair), National Association for Interpretation (Region 4 Grants and Awards Committee)

What are your proudest professional accomplishments? Since coming here, the park has seen a steady increase in visitor numbers due to the expansion of various interpretation programs. In 2006, the interpreters here put on 447 programs with 7,200 participants, and the overall nature center visitor attendance was 43,000. In 2012, we presented 814 programs, which were attended by 37,000 people, and the overall nature center visitor attendance was over 72,000 people.

Another achievement was the complete overhaul of the exhibits that was done here at the Dunes State Park Nature Center in 2010. I oversaw all facets of the project including the design, installation and construction of the exhibits.

What are your biggest goals? I'd like to increase birding tourism and make it a center point for the park. Beginning in March, we will launch an eight-part course entitled "Birding the Dunes", which we haven't yet promoted, but we already have several people registered for. I also want to expand our spring and fall migratory bird surveys, and continue to forge new partnerships with other environmental organizations.

Do you have a favorite memory of your job here? There are actually two that took place just this past summer. One day, I was driving down the beach in an ATV, and I came across this giant snapping turtle that was so large that it almost resembled a giant sea turtle. It was a rough, windy day, and I figured that the waves had just knocked him onto the beach, but the next day, I got a call from the lifeguards that there's still a giant turtle on the beach. With the help of some of the park's laborers, I decided to try to move the turtle to a safe spot away from the beach-goers.

We wound up driving three ATVs down to the beach, and the turtle was actually about three-feet long by two-feet wide; one of the biggest snapping turtles that I've ever seen. The guys didn't want any part of picking him up, so I put on gloves, picked him up and threw him into the basket. They split off, and I went down into the wetlands, but when I went to unload the turtle, I realized that he had put his claws through the metal, mesh cargo



The October Saw-whet Owl Banding Programs in collaboration with Project OwlNet, have Grown Into Some of the Most Popular Attractions at the Indiana Dunes State Park (2009 photo)

basket of the ATV, and when I went to move him, the whole ATV was shaking back and forth. He was stuck in the basket and wouldn't leave, so I had to call for help again. One of the guys had to get under the ATV and basically pry every one of the turtle's individual claws from the basket.

As they were doing that, I was sliding a wooden plank under the turtle, and pulling on him as his legs were stretching out. Finally, as the last claw came loose, I started falling back with him. At that moment the turtle lunged at the face of the worker who was under the ATV, and just as it was about to bite the guy in the face, I caught my balance, grabbed the turtle and threw it like a discus off into the swamp. What started as a call to move a snapping turtle that should have taken fifteen minutes wound up taking over two hours.

The other incident that took place this summer is when we received a call that a small owl was sitting on the boardwalk along Trail 2. I quickly grabbed an ATV and a garbage bag and took off. The maintenance crew had the big ATV, so I took whatever was there, which happened to be the lifeguard's ATV that had no basket and had a life preserver in the front. When I got down there, I walked right past the owl at first, turned around and was suddenly shocked. What was described as a "small owl" was actually a female Great-Horned Owl. This was no little owl! I began wondering how I was going to do this. I didn't have my glove, and I didn't really have anything to put her in. So, I lunged at her, and she started to run from me through the spicebush. She wasn't flying, so I assumed that she was probably suffering from West Nile Virus. Eventually, I was able to tackle her, and as I'm trying to hold her down, she's trying to bite me, and her talons are swirling around trying to get at me. I was expecting to get her into the bag and put her into the basket, but when I got back to the ATV, I remembered that the lifeguard's ATV doesn't have a basket. I pinned her back to the ground, holding her back down, I put the garbage bag around her, and I lifted her up when suddenly through the bag came her talons. I quickly started up the ATV and drove back to the nature center one-handed with the other hand holding the bag in the air and away from my body.



Brad Instructs a Young Enthusiast on the Proper Method of Applying a Band to a Black-capped Chickadee (2009 Photo)

I called Amber (fellow interpreter Amber Ross) at the Nature Center, and I said "get the banding glove, I'm coming in hot!" Eventually we managed to get the owl out of the bag and into a box. We took some pictures of her before taking her over to Doc. Reed (local rehabber Lawrence Reed DVM of the Westchester Animal Clinic). As this was going on, I heard Amber mutter under her breath "I have the best job in the world."

These are examples of how when we come to work, no day is ever the same, and we never know what we're going to be asked to do.

Do you have a favorite natural area in Indiana? I have two: The Indiana Dunes area because of the spectacular birding, and also Turkey Run State Park, which is a place to just stop and awe at the scenery of the canyons and trees.

What are the biggest challenges with regards to habitat management at IDSP? The biggest challenge is mitigating the damage that's done



Brad Present at His Yearly Interpretive Program "Fire on the Prairie!", Which Introduces Visitors to the Significance of Natural Resources Management and Tools Used by Park Staff to Preserve the Park's Ecosystems. (2011 Photo)

by visitor impact to the natural areas. We have visitors who are hiking off-trail, littering, walking everywhere and trampling down a habitat that's highly fragile and easy to destroy and disregarding and even knocking down the fences that are there to protect the natural areas.

The other challenge is controlling the invasive plant species that are coming in from all around us. Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a nightmare in this park.

Do you have a favorite plant or flower? Probably Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), which is a plant of high-quality natural areas that is found growing right along the trail not far from the nature center.

Brad Bumgardner will be hosting the INPAWS North Chapter's January meeting at the Dunes State Park Nature Center.

Green in Winter: Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)

by Keith Board with photos courtesy of the author

Winter hiking and exploring for plants is always enjoyable. Natural areas are beautiful in all seasons and all weathers, and winter is no exception. It is exhilarating to get out and explore nature on a crisp day, and there is always something to see or discover that makes the journey worthwhile. Of course the physical and psychological benefits for the hiker are well known and too numerous to mention here. So immerse yourself in the beauty of a natural area this winter, and find your spirit renewed!

Many plants stay green through the winter and for plant lovers, finding something green in wintertime is always good. One of the premier plants of the dunes region of Indiana is the rare Trailing Arbutus, *Epigaea repens*. It's a small shrub and its thick, leathery leaves stay green all winter. It grows on the surface of the ground (*Epigaea* = "upon Gaia, upon Earth;" *repens* = "creeping along the ground"). Its low stature and the likelihood of snow cover help it survive January howlers and sub-zero nights.

By spring, the green leaves are sometimes in bad shape. If there was a lack of snow cover the previous winter, the leaves will have

dried out brown spots or can be completely brown and dried. This does NOT mean that the shrub has died. In April and May, small clusters of white flowers (or pink and white) emerge and fill the air with a spicy-sweet fragrance that is nothing short of wonderful, and it can be detected from a distance. The flowers are especially attractive to small, black bees.

Trailing Arbutus normally grows on slopes in our region, but a large colony exists in an acid sandy flatwoods between Michigan City, Indiana and New Buffalo, Michigan. On the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, it grows in profusion on flat ground and among boulders near Lake Superior.



Let's all take a hike this winter, or better yet, many hikes, and let's take children and teenagers with us when we go. Let's search for plants that stay green all winter and do the detective work to figure out the identity of each. A good resource for help is "Get Your Botany On!" <http://getyourbotanyon.blogspot.com/> . When you get there, look for a link on the left side of the page that says "Green in Winter."

Keith Board is a teacher, botanist, photographer, cabinetmaker, woodcarver, and INPAWS North Chapter member from Bremen, Indiana. botanistkboard@gmail.com

Your Daily Dose of Botany

Monoecious vs. Dioecious

by Scott Namestnik with photos courtesy of the author

If you've spent time using keys to identify plants, it is very likely that you've run into road blocks in the form of the words "monoecious" and "dioecious." What do these terms mean?



Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), with perfect flowers



Staminate flowers of Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)



American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) has both male flowers (yellowish catkins) and female flowers (with reddish stigmas, in top left of photograph) on the same plant

Most plants have flowers that contain both male parts (stamens) and female parts (pistils). Think of the flowers of a Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), for example. When each flower has functional male and female parts, as is the case in Yellow Trout Lily, the flower is said to be *perfect*. An *imperfect* flower, then, is one that has either functional male parts (*staminate* flowers), or functional female parts (*pistillate* or *carpellate* flowers), but not both. When a plant has imperfect flowers, they can be arranged in one of two ways. If all of the flowers on a plant are either staminate or pistillate, the plant is said to be *dioecious*, and the plant is then considered either a reproductively male individual or a reproductively female individual. Willows (*Salix* spp.) are dioecious, because you will only find staminate or pistillate flowers on an individual plant. On the other hand, if a plant has imperfect flowers, but both staminate and pistillate flowers are found on the same plant, the plant is said to be *monoecious*. An example of a genus of monoecious plants is hazelnut (*Corylus* spp.). One way to remember the difference between monoecious and dioecious plants is to look at the translations of the words "monoecious" and "dioecious."

"Monoecious" is translated as "single house," meaning that male and female flowers are found on a single individual. This contrasts with the translation of "dioecious," which is "double house." This means that male flowers are on one plant and female flowers are on another plant.



Pistillate flowers (and fruit) of Sage Willow (*Salix candida*)

Scott Namestnik is a professional botanist for Cardno JFNew and the Treasurer of the INPAWS North Chapter. Scott blogs at handlensandbinoculars.blogspot.com, and he can be reached at scott.namestnik@cardno.com

Wanted Dead

Non-Native Invasive Species

by Linda Byer

The Northern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management group is looking for places to destroy non-native invasive species in the northern part of the state. Invasive plants are those that have an unusual ability to compete with other plants for necessary resources like water, nutrients and sunlight.

- Invasive plants can harm our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes, and rivers.
- Invasive plants can degrade the recreational areas where we hunt, fish and enjoy nature.
- Invasive plants are extremely expensive to control, in terms of both human and financial resources.

WHO ARE WE?

The Northern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management group was formerly The NW Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area. The group was originally comprised of the Arrowhead Country and Northwest Territories RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development Councils) that comprised 14 counties in the NW part of the state, those county Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Nature Conservancy, state and local foresters, invasive exotic contractors and private landowners, all with the goal of taking more aggressive action on controlling non-native invasive species.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

- Teach landowners, students, professionals and others how to identify invasive plants
- Equip private landowners, public land managers and environmental contractors with techniques for eradication of invasives
- Inform nurseries of invasives they may be selling
- Foster early detection and rapid response to new infestations of invasive species
- Inform public of cost share programs available to landowners

We do much of this by holding hands-on workshops that teach people how to identify and the best means of control for the different types of invasive species. We wish to now expand into all of northern Indiana and would like to hold some workshops in the NE. If you have a potential site and would like to learn more about controlling non-native invasive species, contact James Potthoff at (219) 843-4827 or jpotthoff@dnr.in.gov or Linda Byer (574) 896-3572 or lbyer@dnr.in.gov



Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) Consumes the Understory at this Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Location (Steve Sass Photo)



Severe Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) Infestation at Luhr County Park in LaPorte, IN (Steve Sass Photo)

Linda Byer is a wildlife biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources who operates from the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area in North Judson, IN. Linda is also a charter member of the INPAWS North Chapter. She can be reached at LByer@dnr.IN.gov



Indiana Native Plant
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Meet the North Chapter's Newest Board Member: Heidi Gray to Become Publicity Chair and Newsletter Editor



Heidi and Wolfgang (Heidi Gray Photo)

Heidi Gray is currently the Manager/Director of the Potawatomi Conservatories. Prior to her current position, Heidi worked at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve as Naturalist, Preserve Manager, Exhibition Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Ecologist. She fell in love with the variety of habitats on Fernwood's grounds and helping to preserve them. Naming any one plant as a favorite is difficult. All spring wildflowers, the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) and bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) are favorites. Heidi also serves on the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society Board of Directors. She previously served on the Michigan Invasive Plant Committee Board of Directors. Heidi and her husband, Doug, live in Mishawaka with their Alaskan malamute, Wolfgang. They (Doug and Heidi) love to go camping, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. Wolfgang may be invited to go camping next year if he promises not to howl too much.

Beginning with the February edition, Heidi will be taking over the production of The Plant Press. INPAWS North Chapter always encourages and welcomes submissions from our members. If you would like to contribute material to The Plant Press, please contact Heidi directly at heidigray@sbcglobal.net.

Planning 2014 INPAWS North Field Trips

John Smith, Field Trip Chair

Do you have any suggestions for INPAWS North field trips for 2014? If you do, please send them to John J. Smith at johnjaysmith39@gmail.com by January 15, 2014. There will be one or two field trips each month, from April through September. The field trips will be on Saturdays and Sundays to well preserved woodlands, wetlands and prairies spread across the North Chapter's entire geographic area.

Conservation Quote of the Month



(Image Public Domain)

"As we peer into society's future, we – you and I, and our government – must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

Farewell address to the nation. January 17, 1961

Notes from the Membership Chair

Sue Stuckman, Membership Chair

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to renew your INPAWS membership for 2014. Renewing your membership will ensure that you will receive notices of all the hikes and events being planned by INPAWS all over Indiana as well as the quarterly INPAWS Journals and The Plant Press.

Some very interesting events are being planned for the 2014 North chapter meetings and hikes. Don't miss these programs and guided tours of natural areas. You may now renew online at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/INPAWSmembership>.

An Individual or Family Membership is \$25.

A Student Membership is \$10.

New for 2014 are two additional membership levels, which are defined by INPAWS state membership chairperson Wendy Ford as follows:

School/Youth Group Membership \$35

"It is intended for the adult leaders of schools, scout groups, and youth clubs who want to engage children in nurturing native plants. INPAWS communications (monthly updates, INPAWS Journal, hike notices) are addressed to a group leader (e.g., principal, environmental team leader, scout leader), who shares them with other group members (e.g., teachers, assistant scout leader, parents). The leader can sign up group members for the annual conference at the student rate; there is no limit on how many can be signed up, but it should be done in a single online transaction with the student/youth group ticket. We encourage parents of school-age children to purchase this membership as a gift to their school or club."

Organization/Agency Membership \$45

"This membership category is intended for government agencies and nonprofit organizations that have an interest in nurturing native plants and saving Indiana's wild places. Membership entitles the group to receive up to three sets of INPAWS communications (monthly updates, INPAWS Journal, hike notices) addressed to specific individuals who will share them with other organization/agency professionals. Up to three members of the group can sign up for the annual conference at the member rate in a single online transaction using the organization/agency ticket."

An INPAWS membership makes a terrific gift for friends and family members who are interested in plants and ecology. Thank you to all members for making our new chapter grow and thrive.

INPAWS Needs YOU!

Steve Sass, President

Here are some of the ways in which you can help the INPAWS North chapter to grow and prosper:

- **Join INPAWS** - An INPAWS membership is a real bargain, and a portion of your membership dollars go to support our local chapter. Memberships can now be done quickly and easily online at INPAWS.org.
- **Spread the word** - Our field trips, meetings and programs are open to everyone, and we're a pretty friendly group, so by all means, feel free to bring along a friend, a neighbor or a family member.
- **Become involved** - We never have a shortage of work that needs to be done whether it be helping to plan a field trip, representing INPAWS at a community event, assisting with a stewardship workday, sharing your expertise by writing an article for The Plant Press or many other things. Tell us what your forte or area of interest is, and we'll find a match for you.
- **Mentor a young person** - If you can only do one thing on this list, then please do this: take a child outdoors and teach them about nature. Whether it be teaching them about plants, birds, snakes, insects or simply taking a walk through the woods, please take the time to nurture a young person's interest in the outdoors. They truly are the future of the planet, and we need them as much or more than they need us.