



Public Nuisance No More

Wherein our intrepid urban homesteader joins forces with SustainIndy to make the city weed ordinance more native plant friendly.

Fiona Becker, Friend of Native Plants

Two years ago, INPAWS published an article about my adventures in gardening with native plants in Indianapolis. To recap, I live just southeast of downtown in the Fountain Square neighborhood and have been avidly gardening there for ten years.

One noticeable thing about my landscaping is the substantial swath of native plants along the sidewalk at the front of the yard. This prairie and rain garden planting attracts a lot of attention—some of it, unfortunately, in the form of complaints to the City about the “weeds” in my yard. The past decade has seen my native plantings cited many times as an “environmental nuisance” in violation of the Indianapolis 12-inch grass and weed height restriction.

After many failed attempts to defend my garden to the Office of Weed Enforcement, I decided to try something different.



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I began to search for a way to improve the bad weed law in Indianapolis.

I contacted many people—City-County Councilors, agency employees, and garden clubs around Indianapolis—and found that many other gardeners had run into the same problems with their native plantings. I also discovered that the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability (SustainIndy) was starting a process to amend the weed law in the City-County Code, their aim being to exclude rain gardens and native plantings from the vegetation height restrictions.

In July 2010, I received yet another citation for tall weeds. This time I got in touch with SustainIndy for assistance

with resolving the violation and to find out how the amendment to the weed law was progressing. In response to my query, a staff member from the Office of Sustainability contacted me to ask if she and another City staffer could meet with me and tour my yard. Since in all of my correspondence with the City I had offered it the opportunity to tour my garden, I was thrilled to invite staff of the Office of Sustainability and the Department of Code Enforcement for a visit.

As we toured my gardens in late July, I found out that SustainIndy had a team working with the Office of Weed



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All are invited to submit articles, news items, and event postings of interest to our membership. Acceptance for publication is at the discretion of the editor. INPAWS welcomes opposing viewpoints.

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INPAWS Mission

To promote the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the value, beauty, diversity, and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.

Membership

INPAWS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization open to the public. For membership information, visit www.inpaws.org.

News and Views

Information to be shared with INPAWS members may be directed to membership@inpaws.org.

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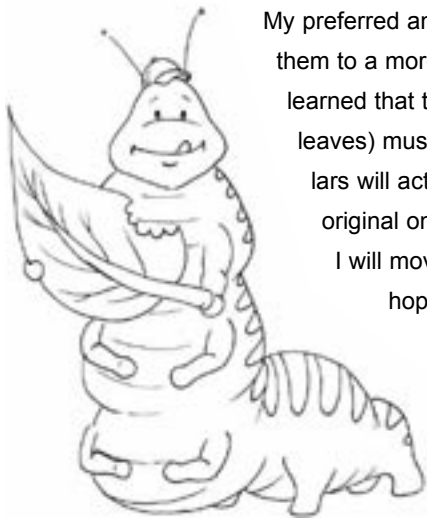
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Tests of Resolve

Sometimes we are tested to see how committed we are to native plant gardening, and helping nature in the process. I've experienced my share of these moments.

Several years ago I had a problem with something cutting off the heads of my purple coneflowers. Every flower seemed to suffer this fate just as it was preparing to bloom. I eventually learned that it was weevils doing the damage, so that they could lay their eggs in the still hanging flower head and have a protected location for their young to develop. I recently saw a posting on INPAWS' Facebook page about others having this same problem and wondering what to do.

I was also chagrined to discover that butterflies seem to prefer to lay their eggs on young, newly purchased plants instead of on mature specimens available elsewhere in my garden. (Actually I don't think they care that the plants were purchased, just that they are young and tender.) I want to allow the caterpillars to develop into moths and butterflies, but how far do I go with this? If left alone, they will strip the new plants.



My preferred answer on the caterpillars is to gently move them to a more established plant of the same species. I've learned that this more established plant (with old tough leaves) must be more than a few feet away or the caterpillars will actually leave the older plant and return to the original one. If I don't have others of the same species, I will move them to another plant that is similar, and hope for the best. In reality, it won't help either my plant or the caterpillars if they strip the plant and run out of food.

On the weevils cutting off the heads of my coneflowers, or more recently rosinweed, my reaction is less gentle. I have gotten very good at spotting the little pests and

putting an end to their flower head cutting days. There are, after all, limits.

But speaking of Facebook, INPAWS' Facebook membership is now up to 427. Not all those signed up are active participants, but I've seen a number of lively discussions on identifying unknown plants, possible plant or seed exchanges, upcoming events, and suggested solutions to native plant gardening problems.

If you surf the Web and have not yet visited INPAWS on Facebook, you really should give it a try. Join the conversation, and discover where it leads you.

—Tom Hohman

Butler University Center for Urban Ecology

The Center for Urban Ecology was founded in 2004 by faculty and staff in the Department of Biological Sciences at Butler University, Indianapolis. Their vision: to be a national leader in the study and practice of urban ecology.

Viewing the city itself as an ecosystem, the Center explores the relationships between urban organisms and their environment. Their projects include setting up rain barrels, an urban farm, working with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to monitor their I-70 native plantings, researching bird strikes on city windows, and studies on urban squirrels and box turtles.

In the liberal arts tradition, Center scholars view urban ecology as inherently interdisciplinary and aspire to create within Butler and in the city of Indianapolis a culture that recognizes the fundamental importance of ecological knowledge for a sustainable society.

The Center for Urban Ecology's mission is to innovatively explore, steward, and enhance urban ecosystems. The Center operates with a foundation in ecological science and facilitates interdisciplinary research and education, place-based projects, and public discourse by engaging Butler students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

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Enforcement, the Health Department, Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City Legal Department to clear up the confusion between native plantings and tall weeds. They planned to propose an amendment to the City-County Code excluding rain gardens and native wildlife plantings from the vegetation height restriction in the fall of 2010.

Under the revised ordinance, property owners would be able to register their gardens in the Rain Garden Registry and/or the Native Wildlife Planting Registry to take advantage of the exclusion. This would be a free program, featuring a simple, straightforward application process.

We discussed ways that SustainIndy could get the word out about the registry programs, and I was enlisted to testify at the upcoming Council committee meeting where the proposal would be considered. The staffers took photos of the gardens as acceptable examples of native landscaping to aid in the future training of Weed Enforcement Inspectors.

Late in September 2010, the proposed change to the weed ordinance was heard and passed by the Public Works Committee. The following week, it also passed a vote by the full City-County Council. I was able to testify in favor of the amendment and was quite pleased to be a part of the process of helping to make the Indianapolis code slightly more native plant friendly.

This spring, SustainIndy opened the Rain Garden and Native Planting Area Program on the indy.gov website. In addition to the registry for Rain Garden and Native Planting Area, there are resources for building your own rain garden.

The application for the garden registry requires basic information about the size and location of the garden, a sketch of the planting plan, photographs of existing gardens, and a table of the plants planned or already planted.

I proudly submitted my application and was soon contacted by an "Urban Conservation Team Member," who set up a site visit to check out my rain gardens and native planting areas. We did a walk-through to check that the information I had provided in my application was correct.

A few days later, I received the approval letter stating that my native planting area

and two rain gardens were officially in the garden registry. I also received a sign to post in my yard, which states "This native planting area provides important environmental benefits and is registered with the City of Indianapolis. It is not to be altered without the property owner's approval."

Now that my gardens are registered with this program, they will be exempt from the 12-inch height restriction for the next five years, after which I will be able to renew my registration in the program. Meanwhile, the sign in the yard will indicate to Code Enforcement Inspectors that my gardens are exempt.

The new garden registry may not be a perfect solution for native plant lovers who live in the city, but it is a definite step in the right direction.

Time after time I have felt frustrated and powerless as I received weed law violation notices and had to argue with city employees about my "weeds." But this year, when I got yet another tall grass and weed violation in the mail—before I had a chance to install my registered garden sign—I was able to dispute the violation successfully in short order with a brief email. It was extremely satisfying.

To register native plantings and rain gardens in Marion County, please visit <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/SustainIndy/WaterLand/GreenInfra/Pages/RainGardenResources.aspx>.



HINT: Renew your INPAWS membership

Meet INPAWS' New Leadership Team

The INPAWS Nominating Committee is proud to announce the following slate of officers for 2012–13. You can greet them and vote them in at the INPAWS Annual Conference.

Art Hopkins and his wife Glory live just outside Columbus, in the south-central part of Indiana. Their three acres are mostly wooded now, with almost all native plants, and there's less than half as much lawn as when they bought it 20 years ago, though still a bit too much. Art has been a member of INPAWS since 1996, has written newsletter articles, and presently serves as INPAWS Vice President. A Registered Landscape Architect with a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University and more than 20 years' experience, Art is drawn to native plants and sustainable design. When not working, he enjoys volunteering with the Boy Scouts, camping, canoeing, and cycling. He and Glory have two almost-grown children, a Valparaiso University junior and a high school senior. Art looks forward to helping INPAWS continue to grow over the next two years as INPAWS President.

Melissa Moran lives in the Nora area on the northside of Indianapolis with her husband Dan and daughters Monica and Helen. She has been most involved with INPAWS as plant sale co-chair, having served in this role in 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2010. She enjoys working with native plants on her home property, with much help from her family,

and admits there is more she would do if only time and resources allowed. Melissa has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, and a Master's degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin; she now works for ARCADIS. She looks forward to continuing her involvement in INPAWS in the new role of Vice President.

Chris Carlson, illustrator of Ruth Ann Ingraham's book, *Swimming with Frogs*, has the distinction of being the first editor of INPAWS Journal. She credits her four-wheel drive vehicle with being instrumental in the founding of INPAWS, as founder Bill Brink used it to plow through a snowstorm to attend an organizing meeting at Ruth Ann and Joe Ingraham's house. Retiring after 11 years of fundraising and fundraising with Butler University's Office of Advancement, Chris has gone back to freelance writing and illustrating and is active with civic organizations and Friends of White River. She gave her lawnmower away four years ago and is doing everything she can to live a green and sustainable existence with the four furry kids that share her home. She admits to being a serious collector of party lights! May they shine brightly on her new role as Recording Secretary.

Fiona Becker has worked for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana since 1998, starting out as a field steward doing prairie and wetland restoration in Northwest Indiana. She has spent the last 10 years working with geographic information systems (GIS),

doing conservation planning, and weeding the native landscaping at the Indianapolis office. Fiona and her husband Doug live in the Fountain Square neighborhood of Indianapolis. Fiona gained some notoriety with the City of Indianapolis over the last few years due to the "tall weeds" that she has planted in the native prairie landscaping in her front yard. She's now a proud member of the SustainIndy Garden Registry. When Fiona isn't tending her garden, she can often be found kayaking, dancing, and traveling. In spare moments, she fields questions from visitors to the INPAWS website as Corresponding Secretary, a role she has kindly assumed early to fill in for Hilary Cox who has retired to Arizona.

Marilyn Frohberg got her start in gardening with her grandmother's radish sandwiches. Her introduction to INPAWS was finding the Invasive Plant List, and then learning of the Native Plant Sale from Ruth Ann Ingraham. A former Chicago suburbanite who once favored more conventional landscaping, she still considers herself a novice native plant gardener. Her 27 years in the banking industry and stints as treasurer and auditor for nonprofit organizations will be put to good use as INPAWS Treasurer as she strives to continue the efficiencies of her predecessor. Her aim: to enable INPAWS to continue providing educational opportunities for school children and interested gardeners.

when you register for AC 2011. You'll always know when your next renewal is due!

Tales of a Vanished Lake

Part I

Occasionally, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore botanist asks a colleague and me to do some research. This year, we're studying how such post-settlement acts as farming, timbering, the railroad, the highway, drainage, fire, and a real estate development have affected an 800-acre section of Great Marsh, a wetland that once stretched all the way from Michigan City to Miller—all this to find out what became of a lost lake and a lost bog once embedded in the marsh.

Imagine us taking a break in the present-day marsh. Our machete-wielding helper has hacked a trail through the surrounding underbrush, and we've passed random clearings perhaps made by would-be marijuana farmers. Otherwise, only scientists come here, either to study exotics or to search for massasauga rattlers. We're seated on folding stools surrounded by rice cut grass (*Leersia oryzoides*) and numerous Michigan holly (*Ilex verticillata*) shrubs, their vermilion fruits almost aglow under the cloudless blue sky.

Now go back in time: Pottawatomes and settlers fish in a teeming, 300-acre lake known, like many others, simply as Fish Lake. To the west, native cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* or *V. oxycoccos* or both) flourish plentifully. In the distance stands the tamarack bog. To the north, see men driving oxen pulling white pine toward a local sawmill.

About 1859, Chauncey Blair, a Michigan City entrepreneur, bought 10,000 acres including the lake and the bog. He drained the marsh. After failing to raise Clydesdales here, Blair decided to raise cranberries commercially. Records show that in 1882, 6,000 bushels of cranberries were marketed at \$3.00 a bushel. Underlings really ran the farm; Blair himself had gone to Chicago where, as a banker, he twice saved the city from financial ruin.

View, some time before 1900 until 1926, convicts from the Michigan City State Prison hoeing cabbages—over 16,300 heads of them—and onions. Some years they tend cattle, and by 1926, when the state legislature tells the Prison to vacate the Farm, they are raising mint and distill-

ing mint oil, perhaps selling it to the newly erected Smith Brother's Cough Drop factory in Michigan City.

In 1927, Fred'k Bartlett, as he styles himself, buys the land, drains it again, plats the dry land around the marsh and every bit of marsh and bog as well. He has 10,000 lots to sell in the projected town of Beverly Shores. He and brother Robert, using high-pressure salesmen, sell all the lots by 1946. The marsh lots most definitely do not stay drained.

These are some of the things we've discovered as, ultimately, the result of an old timer's disrupting a circa 1985 public lecture on the town of Beverly Shores by announcing that his grandmother gave birth in the cranberry packing shed at Fish Lake. What Fish Lake? What cranberries? None of us has ever heard of cranberry farming in the Lakeshore, let alone of Fish Lake. This story gets repeated through the years until our boss puts us to work.

Complicating our research is an article reporting that the old timer himself was born in the cranberry shed in 1910. Were the Prison Farm and the commercial cranberry enterprise in business simulta-

neously? In 1910, the cranberry operation had to have been small because there were only four acres in cranberries in all of Indiana.

Very few cranberries still grow in the Lakeshore's Pinhook Bog in La Porte County. I've seen visitors all but genuflect before the scanty shrubs and their one or two berries. Old records report extensive cranberry marshes in Porter County at settlement and, later, other commercial marshes besides Blair's. Today, no one knows of a single cranberry in Porter County. Probably drainage is the guilty party. Possibly cranberries will be "installed" in Cowles Bog: one of Cowles's students, May Thielgaard Watts, saw them there when she hiked with Cowles before her 1918 graduation from the University of Chicago.

Partly as a result of researching cranberries before and during our study, our friend Eva Hopkins has decided to raise some plants herself. She ordered three- to four-year-old plants in 6-inch pots from Cranberry Creations in Maine (<http://cranberrycreations.com>). She prepared an 8 x 3 foot bed of half sand and half peat



Oxen illustration courtesy www.gutenberg.org, First Lessons in Geography. White pine illustration courtesy of www.chestofbooks.com.

SUMMER STORMS

The Good, the Bad, the Downright Ugly

Gene Bush, Avid Gardener and Nurseryman

Dateline July 2011, DePauw, Indiana. We—my garden and I—experienced a strong summer storm yesterday evening. Winds of up to 70 miles per hour and a couple of inches of driving rain blew through my garden. Walking around the garden, lawn, and around my home, I made some observations and judgments about the results.

Ugly

Seeing dead branches on my lawn, I thought of the photos in the news this morning covering the storm damage. I have a few weak or dead limbs on the lawn, but homes close by have entire trees in the street, or on their roofs, or crushing their cars. Luckily there were no deaths or personal injuries or things could have been much more ugly.

Bad

I am not going to enjoy walking my lawn picking up limbs before the next grass cutting this week. But I see that what lies on the lawn is dead, or very weak growth. Bad that I have to clean up the mess, but perhaps not so bad that nature took care of some pruning chores for me.

There were two large limbs the size of small trees down in the garden paths—one a walnut, the other from a cedar tree. Both lay in paths and not on plants. If I leave the limbs, I am willing to bet the deer will not try to walk through the debris but will have to change their habits when visiting their local snack bar I call my garden. But then, my path would be blocked as well. I clear the path; the deer and I can continue as usual.

Good

I see where perennials heavy with seeds have been blown over. The green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) is heavy with seed this year, and I noticed all are leaning over or already down. They will continue to live, and the seeds will mature, but when the seeds fall they will be away from the parent plant. There will be room to grow, and one day the seedlings will have seeds of their own. Some seeds that I had intended to collect are blown to who knows where for now. Next year I may find out. Perhaps nature has a method to her seemingly random summer huff.

A Mix

I now have some clean-up work to do, but nature has been busy giving a helping hand. She pruned the dead wood so it would not fall on me or another gardener. There is new moisture in the rain barrels and gardens—you can almost hear the perennials sucking it up. Nature assisted me in sowing some seeds now and in the fall, and she lowered the temperatures so I can get back out in the garden once more. It's a mix that seems to favor my side of the equation.

Gene Bush owns Munchkin Nursery, a prime source of ornamental shade plants, including many natives, in southern Indiana. You can follow his blog and sign up for his newsletter, Green Clippin's, at www.munchkinnursery.com.



Vaccinium macrocarpon, a native cranberry. USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 2: 705.

mixed, watering daily. As of mid-August, she is the "proud mother of four big cranberries at \$25.00 plus each. I hope they are more productive next year."

Next time: The Mystifying Vanished Tamarack Bog



Welcome New INPAWS Members

CENTRAL

Frank Bogan
Brook Park Elementary
Cary A. Floyd
Marilyn J. Frohberg
Julie Gottschalk
Cassie Hall
George M. Hillenbrand II
Barbara Laurence
Peggy Lehman
Angela Meister
Dan P. Millar
Barry and Mary Miller
Brian and Michelle
Muckerheide
Matthew Newell
Allen and Linde Paris
Robin-Elizabeth Parsley
Patricia Prather
Lori and Kelly Queisser
Benjamin Ross
Ingrid Bagge Wiebke

NORTHEAST

Marggie Faley
Barbara Nohinek, M.D.

OUT OF STATE

Susie and Bill Tyler

SOUTH CENTRAL

John Lawrence
Mark and Peg Lindenlaub
Kay Mueller and Tom
Gruenenfelder
Ruth Pelouch
Steve Wirth and Stacy Deck

SOUTHWEST

Patty S. and Dennis T. Avery
Paul Bouseman
Harlen Michele Gorman
Adam Hape
Jeffers Nature Preserve
Janice Jones
Sarah Allenbaugh Karges
Georgie Murphy
Paula L. Riggs
Arthur Schroeder
Jan Wilson

WEST CENTRAL

Linda Byer
Chris Currey
Allison Klement
Abigail Lima

GROWING YOUR OWN

My Introduction

My wife is an Indiana native. I'm an exotic pest from Southern California.

We moved to Indiana about four years ago with our two kids. My terms for agreeing to leave California, the only home I had ever known, were that we live near water and that our property have lots of big trees. We ended up in a subdivision near Geist Reservoir, northeast of Indianapolis, surrounded by mature trees and within walking distance of the water.

During our first spring, I began exploring the Reservoir on my paddleboard—something like the long surfboard that surfers use to stay in shape when the surf is flat. For years before I had enjoyed early morning workouts in the Pacific Ocean, silently cutting through glassy water alongside kelp forests, dolphin, fish, and pelican.

I quickly discovered that Geist Reservoir is no Pacific Ocean. The springtime water is murky and sometimes smells like fertilizer. As the weather gets warmer, the water turns green. Bloating carp bobble in the milfoil, and the bottom is squishy with nutrient-rich sediment.

I started to get into gardening. One of my first discoveries as a backyard botanist was poison ivy. By summer, while paddling the Reservoir with open poison ivy sores, I became ill. I learned that the Reservoir was contaminated with a toxic strain of blue-green algae and wondered if the water had made me sick.

So much for my Indiana ocean. At least I still had my wooded lot.

It turns out my wooded lot is mostly green ash trees, and they're all going to die from Emerald Ash Borer infestation unless I spend lots of money on annual pesticide injections.

EAB comes to us from China by way of Michigan-bound container ships, where they stowed away in wood packing material. The insect's territory increases about one-quarter mile per year on its own, but much faster if it is transported by humans in infested firewood.

Jodie Ellis, the exotic insects coordinator at Purdue University, says EAB has no native predators and may eventually kill



Ash tree at creation. Drawing courtesy of Sassafras at NativeRadio.com.

every ash tree in North America. I checked the infestation map. There is a documented infestation about five miles from our home!

I had to find a way to convert lemons to lemonade.

Around this time, I got involved with the Geist Watershed Alliance, a nonprofit group dedicated to improving water resources in the Upper Fall Creek/Geist Watershed. The folks involved taught me how land management impacts the quality of our water and the important role native plants play in the urban landscape.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, an advisory group for the Alliance, offered to assess our property and recommend how we could minimize our land's impact on the watershed and restore native habitat. They invited me to apply for a grant to help fund the initiative, called Backyard Conservation. I was hooked.

For the next several months, I learned everything I could about gardening, native plants, rain gardens, and landscape design. By early spring 2010 we broke ground.

to Native Plants

*Matthew Newell, Self-Described
Amateur Gardener*

My approach to landscaping is similar to a hairstyle called the mullet: business in the front, party in the back.

In the back yard, my wife gave me free reign to install a prairie and plant several small native trees I got from the Department of Natural Resources. We hired a designer for the rain gardens and sought advice from many different sources on species selection and installation. I dug long trenches from my gutter downspouts and redirected them into the rain gardens. I made tons of mistakes and recovered from most of them.

The front yard was a different story. Curb appeal was a priority. We have tight edges and mulched beds, and a pretty green lawn (or mostly lawn). It was important

for us—no doubt for the native plant movement in general—not to appear too unconventional from the street.

We hired a professional designer experienced with native plants (and an INPAWS member) to design our foreground elements. I was demoted to unskilled labor.

Wendy, our designer, plant consultant, project manager, and marriage counselor, assembled a plan that exceeded our expectations. With her oversight, we planted a stunning spread of swamp white oak, serviceberry, bayberry, red twig dogwood, viburnum, oakleaf hydrangea, black gum, and bald cypress. Most everything was native and selected based on location, function, wildlife value, and seasonal interest. The big specimens came in bur-

lap-wrapped, saturated clay soil. My back didn't particularly enjoy the installation, but I was confident the trees would thrive in their new clay home.

The diversification of our ash-dominant forest had begun.

We are proud of our wildlife- and watershed-friendly landscape and hope to share it with INPAWS and the public at next year's garden tour. Indiana is a fascinating place (I tell my California friends it's an acquired taste), and I'm thrilled to be part of an organization that is dedicated to restoring our native heritage and, perhaps serendipitously, also preserving our water resources.

Thank you for having me as a member.



The Newells' wooded lot, chock full of stately ash trees. Photo by the author.

Matt Newell blogs about gardening, watersheds, food, family, and friends at www.urbanrenewell.com. He thanks his landscaping advisors Dan McCord, Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association; George Peregrin, Native Plants Unlimited;

Myrene Brown, Myrene's Gardening Service; Shaena Reinhart, formerly of the Hamilton County SWCD; Steve Mayer, Purdue Master Gardeners; and Wendy Ford, Landscape Fancies.



Youth Outreach Update

The other day, as I walked out of Costco, I encountered a mother with two toddlers attempting to rescue a praying mantis from certain destruction in the parking lot. She asked if I'd help by getting "him" to the safety of a nearby shrub.

I was encouraged to see this mother modeling concern for a creature that could have been ignored by her youngsters or worse, a target of destruction. That insect was important. What a wonderful lesson for the children, and for the other adults nearby. These are the hoped-for happenings when children are attentive to and respectful of their environment, wherever they happen to be.

Renewed Emphasis on Fundraising

Youth Outreach's goal, through Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund, is to address barriers that keep children from having positive, environmentally sensitive experiences with the natural world. So far this year, ten grants have been funded, impacting over 1,700 youth. We are pleased that we have been able to award grants in eight counties: Kosciusko, Hancock, Hamilton, Elkhart, Allen, Vanderburgh, and Marion.

More applications have been received this year than in all previous years of the Fund. Youth Outreach is developing fundraising strategies to support the growth of these very effective educational experiences that schools or youth-serving organizations cannot support on their own.

Some Activities Made Possible by Letha's Fund

Explore Nature (Ft. Wayne): an innovative, research-based project that promotes lifelong environmental literacy for 420 students and their teachers. It encompasses the school year, with field trips led by environmental educators. Plus it develops sites on the school grounds where children can daily appreciate what is happening in their own "backyard." The PTO and a local foundation pooled funding to help support this endeavor.

Glenwood Leadership Academy (Evansville): a six-week program that targets inner-city children through outdoor activities in the Eagle Slough Natural Area, led by an experienced environmental educator. This program begins October 4 and continues for the following six Tuesdays. INPAWS members have been invited to observe any of these after-school programs, which begin at 3:00 p.m. at the school. To participate, contact Greg Meyer at meyer@msslegal.com. You may be inspired!

Youth-Focused Breakout Sessions at AC2011

Youth Outreach will offer breakout sessions at the INPAWS Annual Conference to assist teachers, youth leaders, parents, and grandparents with ways and means to expose children to things they took for granted as a child: mud puddles, worms, caterpillars, wildflowers. Using a "Gallery Walk," attendees may browse displays of successful grants and programs. Then they'll learn how to apply for funds, and how to navigate the new INPAWS website to ease their research.

Please help to continue the support for effective programs that inspire and connect children with their natural world. Make a donation or honor someone special with a contribution to Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund.

—Cheryl Shearer, Chair, Youth Outreach

To Make a Donation

Mail a check to INPAWS, PO Box 30317, Indianapolis, IN 46230-0317, designating it for "Letha's Fund."

Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund was developed in honor of Letha Queisser, Indiana's "wildflower lady" and a dedicated environmental educator, who wisely matched jelly bean treats to the colors of wildflowers children found, igniting in them an interest in the natural world.

Small But Mighty, West Central Chapter Gets A Lot Done

With just over 50 members, and even fewer than that active, the West Central Chapter of INPAWS does a lot for a group its size. The chapter's bi-monthly newsletter is always jam-packed with upcoming activities that people of all ages and experience levels can participate in.

One of the most popular is the RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) Squad, led by veteran weed puller and long-time chapter member Joan Mohr Samuels. Every season Mohr Samuels conducts RIP Squad training, then organizes attacks on various invasive species at the appropriate times. The RIP Squad regularly destroys masses of purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and other invaders. A spinoff, the RIP (Rescue Indiana Plants) Squad, is just getting underway and will organize native plant and seed rescue events.

On the fourth Monday of the month, for nine months out of the year, the chapter meets in West Lafayette with vibrant speakers on native plants. Chapter members also participate in community-sponsored nature workshops such as Wednesdays in the Wild, Purdue Butterfly Encounter, Master Naturalist training, and the Tippecanoe County Children's Garden as well as INPAWS' spring plant sale and fall conference.

WC-INPAWS's annual fundraiser is a large native plant booth at the Tippecanoe Garden Expo every spring. Members donate plants from their own property which are sold to Expo shoppers.



West Central Chapter member and McCutcheon High School teacher Mickey Penrod celebrates her catch at the annual Butterfly Encounter held this year at the tallgrass prairie at Prophetstown State Park.

The chapter also uses this well-attended event to educate people on the benefits of landscaping with natives.

Several native plant nurseries and preserves also are run by chapter members, and these proprietors are an ever-ready source of information, enthusiasm, plant materials, and venues for hosting native plant excursions for chapter members, community groups, and the public.

We welcome visitors and speakers from other INPAWS chapters. To arrange a visit, contact chapter leader Reni Winter at 765-714-4288.

SW-INPAWS to the Rescue!

INPAWS' Southwest Chapter may be the new kid on the block, but their Plant Rescue Team led by Kathy Eicher has already been busy.

On Saturday, April 2, 2011, the Team gathered at the University of Southern Indiana/Burdette Bicycle Path construction site south of Broadway Avenue in Evansville. A second team worked on the project the following week.

The goal was to save some of the woodland wildflowers in the path of destruction, which included a 50-foot wide by at least one-mile long swath of oak-hickory forest. Actions involved moving as many native spring ephemerals as feasible to areas outside the marked limits of the path so they could safely thrive alongside the construction zone.

The most abundant species appearing at that time were Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), too numerous to save all plants. Other species included prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), fragile fern (*Cystopteris protrusa*), white baneberry or "doll's eyes" (*Actaea pachypoda*), blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), puttyroot (*Aplectrum hyemale*), cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), cutleaved toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), and

ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*). Some unidentifiable woodland asters were also moved.

For this first rescue, the Plant Rescue Team felt like they accomplished something worthwhile. Next year will tell! All the plants were flagged and may be checked in the spring for success in transplanting.

Rescue participants at USI were Carolyn Barron, Alex Damman, Pam and Deron Drach, Barbara Dye, Don Fleming, Harlen Gorman, Mike and Kay Haller, Carol Pettys, Jane Magary, Dennis Slow, and Tom Virgin.

On Saturday July 23, 2011, the Team sprang into action again at the residence of Richard and Marilyn Mourdock in Darmstadt, Indiana. Hot and humid as it was, the nine rescuers managed to pot up trays full of at least ten species of woodlanders growing in the Mourdock's garden pathways.

Species rescued included: pale or cream violet, dwarf crested iris, early spiderwort, tall bellflower, Virginia waterleaf, celandine poppy, swamp mallow, yellow passion flower, blue mistflower, a woodland sunflower, and more. The plants were taken home for foster care until a Swap and Share could be organized this fall for the members.

Participating in the Darmstadt rescue were Pam and Deron Drach, Marilyn Mourdock, Davie Sue Wallace, Kathy Eicher, Heath Hamilton, Carol Pettys, Mel Lodato, and Kay Haller.

What's All This Fuss about Corridors?



Corridors are physical connections between disconnected fragments of plant and animal habitat.

A corridor can be as big as a swath of river and forest miles wide that links two national parks, or as small as a tunnel under an interstate highway.

Without such connections, animals cannot travel to food, water, mates, and shelter. Plants cannot disperse their pollen and seeds to maintain healthy, genetically diverse populations.

Matthew Holland et al., quoted at Science Daily.com 10/28/08

To Register

Look for the registration brochure in your mail or download it from www.inpaws.org.

Remember, if you register by October 22, you'll qualify for the discounted fee.

And while you're at it, why not renew your INPAWS membership? The registration form makes it easy to do that too.

"Connectivity & Corridors" is the theme of this year's INPAWS Annual Conference at University of Indianapolis.

Evidence is mounting that the loss and fragmentation of habitat is the largest threat to biodiversity globally.

But scientists are also proving that, when landscape corridors connect isolated patches of habitat, they are lifelines for the native plants that live there. Where corridors exist, pollination by wind and pollinators is enhanced and seed transport by mammals occurs more readily, promoting species survival.

Gardeners and scientists alike can thus use corridors as a powerful tool for conserving biodiversity.

Doug Tallamy tells us that in the US, we have forty million acres of lawn, which does not sustain much of anything. If we converted just half of our lawns to function as corridors, think what good we could do!

Come explore this and related topics with fellow members and the public at UIndy on Saturday, November 12, and enjoy a day of sociability and learning.

What's In Store

Dr. Clinton Jenkins

He's the coauthor of *Applying Nature's Design: Corridors as a Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation*. As Principal Research Scholar in the Department of Biology, North Carolina State University, he's been studying issues, cases, and methods in biodiversity conservation with a focus on the socioeconomic aspects of getting communities to think about corridors. His findings will give you lots to think about.

Jennifer Hopwood

She's the Midwest Pollinator Outreach Coordinator with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Her presentation will bring to light the critical role of native pollinators in the conservation of biodiversity. Plus she'll tell you how you

can lure them to your functioning backyard corridor.

Cliff Chapman

He heads up the Greening the Crossroads initiative for Central Indiana Land Trust. Cliff will talk about how CILTI has enlisted the community in creating a science-based, landscape-scale strategic conservation vision for central Indiana. Learn how this green infrastructure project seeks to create a happy ending for Joe the Boxturtle in his quest for a mate.

Inspiration Workshops

Designed for educators, youth workers, parents, grandparents, and other adults who want to stimulate a curiosity in children about what is right outside their doors. Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund grantees will share plans, materials, resources, and outcomes of their outdoor experiences.

These are just the program highlights. See details at www.inpaws.org.

Forest Wildflower Hike at the University of Southern Indiana

David and Jane Savage, Hikers & Conservation Advocates

Mike Homoya

Our state botanist/plant ecologist and author of *Orchids of Indiana*, Mike will share the highlights of his latest field guide, *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests*, and will sign copies hot off the press.

Kevin Tungesvick

INPAWS' go-to guy for all things relating to growing native plants, Kevin will guide you in selecting plants that will thrive in your site conditions. Learn about native plant communities that can help your backyard function as a corridor.

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REMENSCHNEIDER ASSOCIATES, INC.

As the thunder crashed and the lightning flashed and the water came tumbling down, we thought we had just wasted four hours driving from Nashville to the University of Southern Indiana for the April 9 INPAWS hike.

Our destination was a University woodland property just west of Evansville with rolling hills of sugar maple; white, red and black oak; and wildflowers. We could at least, we thought, see the University campus. But as we neared the meeting place the rain stopped, the clouds cleared away, and the sun came out as we and ten other wildflower enthusiasts were greeted by hike leader and INPAWS member Dr. Edie Hardcastle of the Biology Department. The USI Nature Preserve Committee is looking at this area as a possible nature preserve for teaching and research at the University.

The woodland floor, a treasure of wildflowers, was carpeted with spring beauty along with wild blue phlox, dwarf larkspur, golden seal, toothwort, trillium, solomon seal, spleenwort, putty root, blood root, wild iris, Dutchman's britches, waterleaf, doll's eye, bluebells, Jack-in-the-pulpit, May apple, yellow violets, Virginia bluebells, and the foliage of a native orchid. Christmas fern,

club moss, spice bush, dogwood, and red-bud were also noteworthy.

We found morel mushrooms. Three box turtles were resting very close together, one covered with a light film of soil, having just emerged from hibernation. Unfortunately we also encountered some nasty invasives, namely, autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard.

This area of Vandenburg County, just west of Evansville, has a special microclimate due to its proximity to the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. The productive soil derives from the Mississippi flood plain unspoiled by glacial action.

INPAWS hikes are a great way to see special, natural places in Indiana, with knowledgeable leaders to add information about an area and enhance our appreciation of its beauty. INPAWS hikes also attract interesting people.

Hikers were Tom and Linda Good from Sullivan, Jane and David Savage from Brown County, and, from the Evansville area, Edie Hardcastle, Richard Kuhn and Dona Bergman, Harlen Gorman, Kim Winterheimer, Barbara and Frank Dye, and Davie Sue Wallace.



INPAWS Garden Tour Provides Outreach Benefit

Despite the brutal heat on Saturday, July 9, the turnout for INPAWS' second public garden tour was robust. The four tour sites on the northside of Indianapolis attracted 145 visitors, including grade-schoolers. Among the visitors, 78 were not INPAWS members, a sign that the garden tour is a prime outreach tool to the gardening community.

Visitors were very appreciative of the gardens. The tour was a bit more educational this year, with two garden owners providing detailed handouts. After this third successful run (the first tour was members-only), the garden tour is picking up steam, as evidenced by the fact that garden owners are now asking to be on the tour. INPAWS thanks everyone who visited the gardens, the volunteer garden hosts, and especially the owners who labored to prepare their gardens for public viewing.

One correction: A tall coneflower at the church was mislabeled gray headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*). The dogged botanizers among us have identified it as prairie coneflower or long-headed coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*), which is not native to Indiana. The two are very similar.



Prairie coneflower. Photo by Tom Hohman.

Help on the Way for Would-Be Native Plant Gardeners

A new book soon to roll off the presses is *The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, an Illustrated Guide* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz, from Ohio University's Swallow Press.

In this first book of its kind to focus on the Midwest, the authors suggest how to replace specific nonnative plants with specific native plants of similar appearance and growing requirements. They also indicate the country of origin of nonnative plants, state whether they are invasive or naturalized, and note whether they are butterfly hosts or attract pollinators or nectar feeders.

Watch for a review of this promising book in the next issue of INPAWS Journal.

News from the Membership Committee

INPAWS boasts 501 member families, encompassing more than 600 individuals. A renewal reminder sent in July tried to corral the 107 members in 2010 who had not renewed yet.

Amy Perry, who has taken over the reins from long-time membership chair Mark Outcault, has recruited two new committee members. Rosemary Ervin is tasked with resolving undeliverable emails. Karen LaMere assists with mailings.

Doug Tallamy Now on Video

Thanks to a recording shared with us (with permission!) by the Florida Native Plant Society, we have an opportunity to distribute DVDs of a Doug Tallamy talk similar to the one delivered at the 2008 INPAWS Annual Conference and at Butler University in November 2009.

The DVDs are available for \$3 shipping and handling by request to info@inpaws.org. Please spread the word to your local garden clubs, extension offices, and gardening friends.

Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

An email request from Ginger Murphy with the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs alerted the INPAWS Council to an initiative in conjunction with the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) and other states to develop an Indiana Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

The aim is to create a document that everyone can support, publicize, and use across Indiana to say we believe that every child has the right to explore the outdoors in a variety of ways.

Support will be sought from Governor Daniels to release this list when it is finalized, and any publicity associated with it will include the supporting organizations and agencies.

At the time of the request, the draft list of rights read as follows.

We believe that all Indiana children are entitled to experience these activities in the outdoors, regardless of ability:

1. Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.
2. Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife, and history.
3. Splash and swim in clean streams, lakes, and ponds.
4. Enjoy traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.
5. Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.
6. Camp out under the stars.
7. Climb a tree, for real or pretend.
8. Visit a farm, and plant a seed or a tree and watch it grow.
9. Experience the outdoors using all the senses.
10. Ask lots of questions, find answers, and share nature with a friend.

President Tom Hohman polled the INPAWS Council and got the go-ahead to sign on in support of the initiative.

Best Time to Renew Your INPAWS Membership? NOW!

When you sign up for AC2011, that's the ideal moment to take care of this other little detail so you won't be left wondering whether you renewed or not. There a place on the Annual Conference brochure to indicate that you are joining INPAWS or renewing your membership. Mark it yes and send your membership dues along with the conference fee. You'll only have to take out your checkbook once, and you can relax knowing that your membership is up to date until the next Annual Conference.

If, despite our exhortations, you neglect to renew while registering for AC2011, look for membership renewal information at inpaws.org or email membership@inpaws.org.

Plants in the Wrong Places

Kudos to the Trustee of Clay Township, Hamilton County, Indiana, for taking the initiative to create a video for his constituents to identify weeds and invasive plants in their gardens and neighborhoods.

Trustee Doug Callahan enlisted the help of our own Hilary Cox and Ellen Jacquart to serve as expert hosts as the film crew explored the variety of plants found by turns in home gardens, old cemeteries, and parks.

Watch the entire video or enjoy clips on specific topics at www.plantsinthewrongplaces.com.

Coming Up

Saturday, October 15
INPAWS Hike Morgan-Monroe State Forest, Sweedy Hollow Nature Preserve, Monroe County. Led by John Bacone.

Saturday, November 12
AC2011 INPAWS Annual Conference: Connectivity & Corridors. University of Indianapolis.

Watch for announcements of INPAWS events and field trips in the mail, via email, and at INPAWS.org.



Goldfinches on *Liatris*. Illustration by Chris Carlson.



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THE LAST WORD

An Aptitude for Names

Patricia Happel Cornwell, aka Flowerfeet

I have a confession to make: I have an aptonym fetish. I collect them. I see them everywhere I go. They follow me home and I keep them in a blue envelope in my desk. I don't know what to do with them, but I can't resist them.

An aptonym is a surname that is the same as, or related to, a person's profession.

Long ago, people were actually named for what they did. A Mason was a stone craftsman. A Cooper was a barrel-maker. A Smith was a metal worker. Through the centuries, members of families no longer practiced their ancestors' trades, but kept their names. I know a Mason who is an attorney, a Cooper who is a massage therapist. My cousin is a Banker, but she's not a banker. My husband John's uncle was a Cooper, but he was not a barrel-maker. No, he was an accountant—serendipitously, for a distillery.

Yet it is curious in this day and age, when one's trade no longer determines one's name, that many people's names do reflect their lines of work.

There is Francine Prose, author and writing instructor. Margaret Hamburger is director of the Food and Drug Administration. Bernard Word Anderson is a renowned Biblical scholar. How about Steven Saint, a missionary in South America? Kathleen Plate, glass artist? There are doctors in Southern Indiana named Akin (achin', get it?), Grief, and Payne. Jody Swimmer is a personal trainer who owns a fitness gym in Louisville. Going back in time, Air Force captain Raymond Wool was head of mili-

tary clothing procurement in 1955, and Joseph Bloodgood was an oncology surgeon at Johns Hopkins in the 1890s.

A few years ago, my nephew married a girl whose last name was Cook. She promptly opened a restaurant!

The nature-related aptonyms are the most fun. Phil Bloom is editor of DNR's *Outdoor Indiana*. Richard Fields was once their photography editor. Richie Farmer was head of Kentucky's Department of Agriculture. Bob Lily is a gardening consultant in Washington State. Mary Root was head of the IMA Horticultural Society. *Deerproofing Your Garden* was written by Rhonda Hart. Sherry Crabtree researches blackberries and paw paws at Kentucky State University. (Leafing through an INPAWS directory, I found members named Creek, Hill, Mow, and Park.)

Bud Starling wrote a birding column for the *Indianapolis Star*. David Bird is a columnist for *BirdWatchers Digest*. Jeff Bird developed 1,200 acres in South Dakota as a pheasant-hunting habitat.

Josh Rose is a natural resource specialist in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, and Mark Fisher is science director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's marine laboratory. Keith Mountain is Kentucky's state geographer and chair of the University of Louisville's geosciences department. In Canada, Boris Worm is professor of biology at Dalhousie University.

My all-time favorite aptonym is Richard Firestone, the geologist who theorized that a fiery comet struck the earth 12,900 years ago, causing extinction of the Clovis culture of North America.

Is it possible that the name a person is born with can channel him or her into a career that matches that name? Is it coincidence, fate, the power of suggestion? Are these people even

aware of the affinity of their names and professions?

First names can be predictive, too. Wren Smith is a naturalist at Bernheim Forest in Kentucky. Was it inevitable? Avian artist Julie Zickefoose named her daughter Phoebe for the beloved little bird that annually nests under her deck. What profession is Phoebe (whose father is *BirdWatchers Digest* editor Bill Thompson III) destined to pursue?

What about those of us whose family names have morphed over centuries until they are today meaningless? I suspect some of us attempt to remedy this disparity by our choice of email monikers. Mine is "Flowerfeet," with a nod to a Steinbeck character. After getting a psychology degree, our daughter slipped "Freudian" into her email address.

I have a friend whose screen name is "Birdfeeder" and another, a violinist, who goes by "Fiddler." A priest friend who ministers to Latinos incorporates "Padre" in his screen name. A woman who is a spiritual director makes "Angel" part of hers. Two teens, a brother and sister, go by "Bears Fan" and "Soccer Chick" online.

What name would you choose, if you could choose? How apt would it be?



Graphic courtesy of Ron Jon Surf Shop.