



## A First for Indiana—Invasive Species Legislation!

*Tired of grumbling about invasive species and feeling like you can't do anything about this gigantic problem? Well, now there IS something you can do. Invasive species legislation will be up for a vote in the 2009 legislative session—we need your help to make sure it passes!*

*Ellen Jacquart, INPAWS Invasives Chair*

In 2007, Representative Clyde Kersey and Senator Sue Landske introduced resolutions recommending that the Natural Resources Study Committee “establish a task force to study the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species in Indiana and provide findings and recommendations on strategies for prevention, early detection, control and management of invasive species to minimize these impacts.”

The Legislative Council took these resolutions under advisement and assigned the topic to the Natural Resources Study Committee which in turn created the task force and directed it to report back this past summer.

The 11-person task force represented the wide variety of interests and expertise necessary to address the issue of invasive species. The task force met several times from November 2007 to June 2008 and reached out to many other organizations, agencies, and businesses with vested interests in invasive species, seeking input on the problem of invasive species in Indiana and help with formulating solutions. The findings and recommendations of the task force are



### The Bad Guys

- Purple loosestrife
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Asian bush honeysuckle
- Reed canarygrass
- Autumn olive
- Phragmites
- Oriental bittersweet
- Crown vetch
- Garlic mustard
- Glossy and common buckthorns

now available. Their report, entitled “At the Crossroads—Invasive Species in Indiana,” can be downloaded at <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana/news/news2618.html>.

The findings and recommendations were presented to the Natural Resources Study Committee at Indiana Dunes State Park on August 26. The Study Committee chair asked the co-chairs of the task force to work with the Legislative Services Agency to draft specific statute language needed

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**Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellatus*). By Sarah Swann, courtesy of Hidden Springs Nursery, Tennessee.**



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INPAWS JOURNAL is published quarterly for members of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society. Material may be reprinted with the permission of the editor.

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.

Please submit text and photos via e-mail to [wwford@comcast.net](mailto:wwford@comcast.net) or via land mail to INPAWS JOURNAL, 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis IN 46278.

Submission deadlines for specific issues are as follows:

*Spring*  
February 23 for April 1 mailing

*Summer*  
May 23 for July 1 mailing

*Autumn*  
August 23 for October 1 mailing

*Winter*  
November 23 for January 1 mailing

## 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](http://www.inpaws.org).

## News and Views

Information to be shared with INPAWS members may be directed to [membership@inpaws.org](mailto:membership@inpaws.org).

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# The Cat's Meow

Have you seen the greeting card that shows a fluffy six-week-old tabby kitten looking in a mirror and a mature lion with big golden eyes and a full mane looking back? Inside, the caption reads *What matters most is how you see yourself.*

This is how I felt about INPAWS at our recent annual conference when someone said to me, "This was absolutely great. I wish we had an INPAWS in our state!"

I had been fixated on chairs and microphones and speaker introductions, so this person's comment was a gentle 2x4 between the eyes. It made me stop and realize this *was* a wonderful day. I looked around the room. The noise level was high. People were laughing and chatting, making new acquaintances and catching up with old friends.

We were finishing up a day of inspiring speakers, innovative ideas, and productive contacts. *This* is INPAWS. Yes, the planning and management of a conference can make the best of us feel like a tender kitten at times, but INPAWS is a mature, productive, lively, fast-growing association, rich with creativity and enthusiasm. We provide a platform for hundreds of people to come together, united in their love of and commitment to the native flora of our state.

Thank you to those who have let us know how you'd like to offer your time and talents to our efforts. We'll be contacting you soon. And please, if you haven't already, just drop us an e-mail or call and let us know how you'd like to join the fun. We have so many terrific projects, there is room for everyone.

—Nancy Hill



Blueberries by Chris Carlson in R.A. Inghram, *Swimming with Frogs*.

## 2008 Awards

INPAWS' Small Grants and Awards Committee reviewed proposals submitted by February 1, 2008, and made the following two awards:

### Demonstration Rain Gardens

*\$500 to Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to purchase native plants for two demonstration rain gardens at public locations in Hendricks County.*

The traditional approach to handling stormwater has been to move water away from a site as quickly as possible through the use of pipes and ditches. A new approach is to increase infiltration at the site through the use of rain gardens. Rain gardens constructed with native plants can also improve water quality, create or improve wildlife habitat, and beautify the landscape.

The Hendricks County SWCD plans to install two rain gardens—one in an urban setting, the other rural—created with 15 species of native sedges and herbs. One rain garden will be constructed adjacent to buildings at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex in Danville. A second rain garden will be created at McCloud Nature Park near North Salem. The overall aim is to educate the public about stormwater runoff and water quality; how and why to install rain gardens; and the use of native plants in rain gardens. The INPAWS grant will help the Hendricks County SWCD purchase 800 native plant plugs.

### Educational Materials on Woodland Plants

*\$400 to Southern Indiana Botanical Society to purchase educational materials for a native woodland wildflower garden in Floyds Knobs.*

The Southern Indiana Botanical Society (SIBS) recently planted a garden of native woodland herbs and shrubs in a 410-acre wildlife sanctuary on the grounds of the Mount Saint Francis Monastery. The garden is located along one of the publicly accessible hiking paths and was developed to provide an example of how native plants can be used in home gardens and landscapes.

With the INPAWS grant, SIBS plans to produce printed literature about the woodland garden plants and a weatherproof box to house the literature. The literature will present information about each of the 21 species planted in the garden. It will also encourage the use of the native woodland plants in home landscapes as alternatives to commonly planted non-native perennials and shrubs.

**The deadline for 2009 grant award submissions is February 1. For detailed guidelines, visit [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).**

## Invasives Legislation

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to implement the recommendations. After reviewing the preliminary draft at the October 20 meeting at Fort Harrison State Park, the Study Committee approved two draft statutes that will be introduced in the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Although the introduced bills will not be available for a month, you may view the preliminary drafts at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/nrsc.html>. Happily, these statutes include all of the task force recommendations—except for, unhappily, the hoped-for funding.

### What the Draft Legislation Would Do

Preliminary draft 3471 establishes an 11-member Invasive Species Council (see proposed list of members) for Indiana which has several duties, including:

- Recommending project priorities, funding, and rules and laws to the appropriate entities;
- Recommending a lead state agency to develop invasive species inventories and data management systems for each taxon;
- Communicating with agencies and organizations outside Indiana to enhance consistency and effectiveness in invasive species work;
- Coordinating education and outreach for invasive species;
- Convening or supporting an invasive species meeting at least once every two years;
- Assisting government agencies in reviewing their invasive species policies and procedures and addressing any deficiencies or inconsistencies;
- Assisting state agencies in reviewing agencies' performance measures for accountability on their invasive species actions;
- Receiving reports from any governmental agency regarding actions taken on recommendations of the council; and
- Applying for and providing grants for invasive species education or management.

Creating this Invasive Species Council was the task force's top recommendation, because of the need for better communication and coordination between those working on this issue. Though there are

### Invasive Species Task Force

Phil Marshall, State Entomologist (co-chair)

Ellen Jacquart, Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (co-chair)

Doug Keller, DNR-DFW Aquatic Invasive Coordinator

Bob Waltz, State Chemist

Jack Seifert, State Forester

Sandy Norman, Board of Animal Health

Keith Ruble, Vigo County Parks

John Miller, Oak Heritage Conservancy

Steve Yaninek, Purdue University Entomology

David Lodge, Notre Dame Center for Aquatic Conservation

Rick Haggard, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association

### Proposed Invasive Species Council Members

Dean of Purdue University School of Agriculture or designee

Director of Indiana State Department of Agriculture or designee

Commissioner of Indiana Department of Transportation or designee

State Veterinarian or designee

Department of Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Department of Natural Resources – Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology's Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator

One individual representing research on invasive species

Two individuals representing industries affected by invasive species

Two individuals representing conservation organizations



only 11 members on the council, they would have authority to create advisory committees to better include organizations and issues not represented on the council.

Preliminary draft 3496 modifies two existing invasive species statutes. Specifically, the draft:

- Clarifies the scope of authority held by the DNR – Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (DEPP) over pests and pathogens; and
- Clarifies the quarantine authority held by DEPP.

Because funding is not part of either bill, staff with The Nature Conservancy are in

conversations with legislators about the possibility of creating a program that would provide matching dollars for landowners, public and private, willing to work together to manage invasive plants cooperatively across property boundaries. While all of us on the task force are extremely pleased with the outcome thus far, this funding would be a giant step forward in stemming the tide of invasive species that are only becoming more and more devastating as global trade increases. We must be sensitive to the economic problems the state and the legislature are facing this session. At the same time, we must not lose ground in this fight.

### How You Can Help

We will need calls and letters to legislators in support of the draft statutes that go forward after the session opens January 7. Because things may happen quickly and changes may be made in the statute language, I am asking for anyone interested to please send me their e-mail address and we'll let you know how to help. Send your e-mail address to [ejacquart@tnc.org](mailto:ejacquart@tnc.org).

**Start the new year out right.  
Help us take on the threat of  
invasive species!**



## New INPAWS Members

### CENTRAL

Laura Banks  
Deb Bell  
Janet Creamer  
Becka Davidson  
Linda Freund  
Les & Holly Geddes  
Annette Graham  
Judith Houser  
Ken Humphrey  
Janet Loshelder  
Sheri Molnar  
Greg Monzel  
Kara Pearce  
John Perkins  
Dan Popiela  
Michelle Priddy  
Brandon Rust  
Linda Schoppel  
Amanda Smith  
Kelly Spiegel  
Mark Zelonis

### EAST CENTRAL

Julia Mast  
Judith Nastally  
Andrea Rae Williams  
Kathy McDonald & Ned  
Keller (Ohio)

### SOUTH CENTRAL

Christine Carver  
Barbara Charon  
Ralph & Barbara Cooley  
Bill & Sue Linder  
Joe L. Phillips  
Pam Robertson-Bolton  
Deanna Taylor  
Laura W. Young

### WEST CENTRAL

Joe Eberts  
Gregory Shaner

*To join INPAWS or renew your membership, visit [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).*

INPAWS AND ITS CONSERVATION PARTNERS INVITE YOU TO...

# The 5th Annual CONSERVATION DAY at the Indiana Statehouse

Tuesday, January 27, 2009  
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

*Sponsored by Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA),  
a statewide network of over 30 nonprofit organizations  
providing a unified voice for the protection and wise use  
of natural resources to enhance our quality of life.*

Indiana's 2009 State Legislative Session is just around the corner. This will be a budget-making session and INCA needs your help to focus our legislators' attention on conservation!

The Alliance has chosen three top priorities for this year:

- \$4 million for land protection through the Indiana Heritage Trust
- \$2 million for soil and water conservation programs
- Passage of a Renewable Electricity Standard which increases our use of wind, solar, and other types of renewable energy

Conservation Day is a ready opportunity to show our elected officials that Hoosiers care about protecting our precious natural resources and preserving our environment. It's your chance to engage legislators in the matters that mean most to us, but it's more. You'll also meet and network with like-minded people in conservation organizations throughout the state.

The more people who come to Conservation Day, the bigger the impact. Carpool with co-workers, friends, and family or take a brisk walk to the statehouse, and help make a difference!

Thanks to sponsor donations, registration for Conservation Day is FREE. You may register the day of the event, but please preregister by January 16 at [www.nature.org/indiana](http://www.nature.org/indiana) or 317-951-8818 to enable INCA to plan food for the number of attendees.

#### **Morning Information Session**

Indiana Government Center South (Room B)

8:30–9:00 a.m.: Registration

9:00–11:00 a.m.: 2009 Conservation Priorities

- Introduction by INCA
- Background and discussion of specific priorities

#### **Reception for Indiana Legislators**

North Atrium, Indiana Statehouse

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.: INCA Partner Displays and Lunch

- Presentations and award for Conservation Legislator of the Year
- Light refreshments for registrants, legislators, and their staff

Location: 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Park at White River/State Museum State Park or Circle Center Mall.

# Red Mulberry

(*Morus rubra* L.)—The Sweetest Native Tree Fruit in Indiana

If you have never eaten a luscious, juicy, tree-ripened red mulberry plucked directly from the twig, you have missed one of Indiana's special forest treats.

After all, some three dozen wild bird species that throng to wild mulberry trees to harvest the succulent berries could not be wrong! Besides, fox and gray squirrels, chipmunks, white-footed mice, skunks, opossums, and raccoons also seek out mulberry trees in June for tasty tidbits. Wildlife is seldom in error about what is good, and also what is good for them.

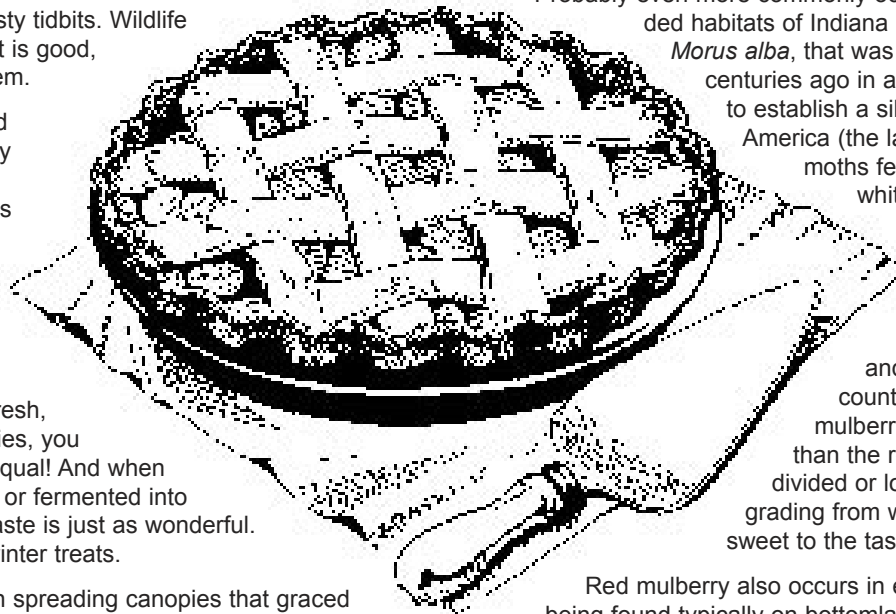
Decades ago, my friends and siblings and I often spent lazy summer hours perched precariously on the arching limbs of ancient mulberry trees, nibbling the sweet ripening berries, meanwhile purpling our faces, lips, and tongues with the sticky mulberry juice. As great as mulberries are when eaten fresh, if baked into hot, steaming pies, you have a dessert that has no equal! And when made into sweet jam or jelly, or fermented into robust wines, the mulberry taste is just as wonderful. They also freeze nicely for winter treats.

Large forest-grown trees with spreading canopies that graced the original Indiana forest are a rarity today. Such trees produced literally gallons of fruit in good years. Years past, I once counted six fox squirrels busily harvesting mulberries at the same time in such a tree that must have been 30 inches in diameter and 60 or more feet tall. Now red mulberry much more commonly occurs as a small- to medium-sized tree in fence rows, along woods borders, or in successional old fields, where it has been planted by the birds or mammals that deposited its seeds there. It also occurs commonly in towns and cities where mowing is absent.

For many years, a huge mulberry grew at the west wall of Stalker Hall on Indiana State University's campus. It was a magnificent specimen, 26-28 inches dbh or larger, with perhaps 20 or more feet of clear bole. I admired this impressive tree every time I walked across campus, and enjoyed the hordes of birds who feasted on its fruity bounty in summer.

Then one morning 20 or so years ago as I walked to my office, I was aghast. The veteran mulberry had been felled by the campus grounds staff, and dismembered into short blocks for hauling to the landfill! I was literally sick to my stomach at the loss of the magnificent tree. Had I known in advance, at least we could have salvaged the 500 or so board feet of lovely lumber the trunk

would have provided. But then, once a year the great tree's dropped mulberries purpled the sidewalk, so apparently someone decreed the monarch had to go. I was so upset that I wrote a scathing missive to those responsible, calling for Stalker Hall to be re-named Starker Hall, since the missing tree left such a gaping void.



Probably even more commonly occurring in the unintended habitats of Indiana is the white mulberry, *Morus alba*, that was introduced from Asia centuries ago in an ill-fated attempt to establish a silk industry in North America (the larvae of silkworm moths feed on the leaves of white mulberry). Although the silk industry was a failure here, the white mulberry escaped from cultivation early on and now occurs in every county in Indiana. White mulberry typically is shrubbier than the red, has leaves more divided or lobed, and has fruit grading from white to pink, equally sweet to the taste.

Red mulberry also occurs in every Indiana county, being found typically on bottomland sites, along moist slopes, and in mesic woods. It is much less common in oak-hickory stands, or on other dry upland sites.

Mulberry trees are quite easily identified in summer by the heart-shaped, mitten-shaped, or doubly lobed leaves with toothed margins and leaf stems of moderate (1½ to 2½ inch) length. The dark brown bark occurs in long scaly plates, sometimes tinged with red. The flowers are unisexual on separate trees, with only the female trees obviously bearing fruit. (One of our irascible neighbor Lewie Laswell's favorite expressions, when I was a youngster, was describing something of little value as "worthless as a 'boar' mulberry"!)

Several flowers fuse during development, hence a multiple flower, which, of course, develops into the multiple fruit that ripens into a mulberry. When you eat a mulberry, you are actually eating several tiny fruits simultaneously. Mulberry is in the same family as the Osage-orange, whose multiple fruit is the bright green softball-sized "hedge-apple."

Other distinctive identifying characteristics of the mulberry are milky sap, which oozes forth when you break a twig, and its bright yellow roots when freshly exposed from the surrounding soil. The wood is about the same density as white oak (45 pounds/cu. ft.),

is yellow when newly sawn, then turning a warm brown as it seasons. The close-grained wood is tough but easily worked. If available in usable sizes, it should be used more often in wood working as its firm, even grain takes a nice finish. It is amazingly durable in contact with the soil or the weather, hence once was a favorite among farmers for fence posts and was popular for building small boats. Another early use was by coopers for making wooden kegs and small barrels for food storage. I read one account that it was favored by pioneer farmers for making moldboards for their breaking plows, before cast iron or chilled steel plows came into use.

**E**arly Native Americans wetted the bark of mulberry to separate the long fibers, then twisted or braided these into ropes of considerable strength. Donald Culross Peattie, that most-knowlegeable naturalist, gave accounts of the women of the Choctaw Tribe of the southern U.S. fashioning cloaks or gowns of sections of mulberry bark sewn together with mulberry fibers. And a most interesting use of the tree was that, about 560 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King, apparently chose to be buried in a mulberry coffin, presumably because of its durability in the soil. (The black mulberry is native of Persia and other Mid-East countries.)



Red mulberry *Morus rubra*. USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 1: 631.

## INPAWS Supports Indiana Documentary Series

*INPAWS is a funder of "The Natural Heritage of Indiana," a documentary produced locally by WFYI, the Indianapolis Public Television station.*

\$5000 raised primarily from our plant sales was granted by the board to the project in 2006 in support of our mission of educating the public. We received credit as a funder, with our logo featured at the beginning of the programs, along with a voice-over of our mission statement, and several additional promotional spots highlighting our organization.

The series is the brainchild of producer/videographer Sam Orr, who came to Indiana to pursue a master's degree in botany/ecology with Keith Clay at University of Indianapolis. It was inspired by the coffee table style book by the same name, edited by long-time INPAWS member and frequent Journal contributor Marion Jackson. Indiana University Press has recently reissued the book. It is full of wonderful photographs with chapters contributed by many biologists and geologists across the state.

The television series has four episodes, all shot in state-of-the-art high definition. The first, "The Indiana That Was," covers ancient geologic history up to about 250 years ago. The second two cover "Life in the Water" and "Life on Land" at the present time. The fourth episode looks at conservation efforts that will help shape the future of Indiana. There are many striking images of plants, including some stunning time-lapse photography, especially in the "Life on Land" segment.

The first episode, the only one yet televised when nominations were announced, won regional Emmys in the categories of Best Science Program or Special and for videography. The series has been shown on PBS affiliate chapters throughout the state.

INPAWS members Rebecca Dolan and Mike Homoya served on an advisory committee along with Marion Jackson and had the opportunity to suggest material for filming and editorial changes to the scripts. INPAWS members were invited to two advance screenings of episodes and offered the opportunity to suggest improvements.

The series will repeat periodically on television and will have a life beyond its broadcasts. WFYI has partnered with the Indiana Historical Bureau to develop a website ([naturalheritageofindiana.org](http://naturalheritageofindiana.org)) with extra content and outreach materials. INPAWS is acknowledged as a funder and there are links to our website on the home page. The Bureau received a grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Trust to provide DVDs of the series to K-12 schools throughout the state. Some of the extra materials on the website link specifically to state educational standards and provide lesson plans to help teachers make the most of the series. A teacher workshop and interdisciplinary statewide conference on Indiana natural history focusing on changes in place over time are planned for the spring of 2009.

**If you are interested in these conferences or other potential spin-off projects from the series, you can sign up for an e-newsletter through the website. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for rebroadcasts of the series in your area.**



COMING THIS FALL . . .

# Hoosier Outdoor Expo

Tom Hohman, Chair, Hoosier Outdoor Expo Committee

The disconnect between today's children and nature has received a lot of attention lately. Many INPAWS members have read Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*, and noticed the awareness that the book has drawn to this issue. A dilemma has been, once we accept the facts behind so-called nature deficit disorder, what can we do to remedy it?

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) hopes it has found a partial answer. The first annual Hoosier Outdoor Expo will be held September 25-27, 2009, at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. Modeled on similar expos in other states, the three-day event is expected to draw more than 10,000 attendees, with a focus on attracting families and minorities with little outdoor experience. The purpose is to introduce them to natural resource related activities, and present real opportunities to learn and become involved with them.

## A Collaboration

The size and scope of the Hoosier Outdoor Expo are initially overwhelming. The only way IDNR can manage an event of this size is with the help of volunteer organizations from all over the state—organizations like INPAWS. The plan is for a very interactive event, with booths from a wide range of organizations. Activities will range from traditional ones like camping and fishing to more modern ones like mountain biking.

At the first organizational meeting that INPAWS attended, we were seated between representatives of a hunting dog organization and an off-road vehicle group. That may seem like an odd grouping, but we actually have much in common, starting with a love of the outdoors. The ability to bring together groups of such divergent backgrounds will be one of the strengths of this event.

## Focus on Kids and Families

The event will run Friday through Sunday. Friday will be a kids-only day, with third-grade schoolchildren specifically targeted. IDNR naturalists from all over the state will converge on Fort Harrison to offer programs aimed at that age group. Invitations have been sent to schools to arrange for field trips, and 1,000 third-graders are expected to take part.

Saturday and Sunday will be open to the general public. This is where organizations like ours will have booths offering hands-on activities. Although preparation for the INPAWS booth is still in the early stages, we are planning displays emphasizing the inter-relationship between native plants and butterflies. We hope to have samples of native plants that are hosts to butterflies, and larvae of the butterflies. We also plan demonstrations of monarch butterfly tagging, highlighting the story of the annual migration to Mexico. INPAWS is developing partnerships with other organizations that might emphasize similar topics at the Expo.

## Volunteer Opportunities

All of this will require INPAWS volunteers to help organize the event and staff the booth. Also, if there is enough interest, we would like to offer our members as assistants to the IDNR natu-

ralists during the special events on Friday. As anyone who has been on a naturalist-led hike with kids can attest, it's sometimes difficult for kids in the back to maintain the type of interaction with the hike leader in the front that you would like. That's where INPAWS volunteers could make a big contribution. If INPAWS could provide one assistant for each naturalist, it would be a great help and would make the event more meaningful to the kids.

We will share more information on the Outdoor Expo as we get closer to the date. If you like the concept of this event, I invite you to contact me now to help organize the contribution of INPAWS. It will be an opportunity to be part of a unique first-time event. Also, we really would like an idea how many members might be willing to help the IDNR naturalists on the Friday kids day. We need to determine if there will be enough interest among members for us to offer that help; this is to express an initial interest only, not a final commitment. If you have an interest, please let me know at [hohmantr@aol.com](mailto:hohmantr@aol.com) or 317-831-1715.

*By day, Tom Hohman works for IDNR. Nights and weekends, he is the tireless leader of INPAWS' Central Chapter, writes for INPAWS Journal, encourages the formation of new chapters, and is a veteran Plant Sale chair. We wonder when Tom finds time to sleep!*



This youngster participated in a garlic pull at Skiles Test Park, Indianapolis, transportation courtesy of the Letha Queisser Memorial Fund, newly renamed Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund. Photo by Ruth Ann Ingraham.



TAKE A [MINI]-HIKE!

## Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve

*Cheryl Shearer, Veteran Hiker*

When I was an Indianapolis city dweller, I often heard about Ritchey Woods. It was “up north,” in Hamilton County, where Brownies and Cub Scouts trekked and where The Children’s Museum conducted classes. I was told it was difficult to access because there was no signage. I never had a need to visit until I became a suburbanite, taking up residence less than a mile from the site. Now, rarely a month goes by when I am not an awed visitor to the 127 acres of prairie, restored wetlands, and native woodlands—all of this within walking distance of Sam’s Club!

Five trails meander through the preserve, totalling about 2 miles. They pass through deep woods (second-growth forest dating from the 1940s) and over boardwalks that traverse wetlands that are being restored. Creek Ridge Trail takes you alongside Cheeney Creek, where early last spring skunk cabbages blossomed. Later in spring, you will be treated to an abundance of wildflowers: hepatica, bloodroot, spring beauties, dutchman’s breeches, trout lilies, may apples, and fire pink. The floral treat continues in the prairie throughout the summer.

The Beech Hollow trail loop produced an abundance of puffballs in early fall. A hike on October 22 took visitors past 20 giant puffballs growing in a circle. This vital component to the ecosystem starts as a fragrant white ball, then becomes dull and eventually bursts to distribute its spores before it dries up, having served its role of enriching the nutrient base for the forest flora.

A small stream, Hare Creek, is returning to its earlier existence thanks to the removal of drainage tiles. Sycamore and cottonwood are once again growing in the area. Last year a prairie burn was conducted to eliminate invasive species (“bamboo” was rampant), enrich the soil, and speed prairie plant germination. Volunteers have attacked garlic mustard since 2005, with noticeable results.

The site has changed hands several times; willed by Dr. James O. Ritchey to The Nature Conservancy, ownership passed successively to The Children’s Museum and to the Town of Fishers,



which intends to maintain and manage the natural habitat and eventually develop a nature center. Because 42 acres are an Indiana State Designated Nature Preserve and the remaining 85 acres are under a conservation easement governed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, there is assurance of no further development.

Chief Naturalist Danesa Stolz says Ritchey Woods is home to a wide variety of animals: deer, gray and red fox, muskrat, mink, beaver, bats, and 150 species of birds along with salamanders, frogs, snakes, and toads. A Henslow sparrow was recently spotted.

*Directions:* Located one-half mile south of 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Ritchey Woods is accessed through the Town of Fishers’ Multi-Use Trail System’s Hague Road connector. A gravel path leads to a large parking lot with composting toilets and bike racks and a nearby shelter.

*We welcome new member Cheryl Shearer to INPAWS. Recently retired from a career in social service, Cheryl has hiked on the Appalachian Trail and to the bottom of the Grand Canyon—twice!*

**Giant puffball (*Langermannia gigantea*). Photo by Kathy Pellman.**

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## Recent Donations to Letha’s Youth Outdoors Fund

William & Lynn Boatmen

Kristen Q. Cohee

Jack & Nancy Douglas

Tom Hohman

David R. & Carolyn R. Queisser

Pat Sieloff

L. Louise Tetrick

Jane & Bob Tharp

Trailing Arbutus Garden Club

A new brochure, “Get Into Nature” is available to promote Letha’s Youth Outdoors Fund with schools, church youth groups, and scouting organizations. Please help us get the word out. Contact Youth Outreach Committee Chair Donovan Miller for copies of the brochure, or download it from [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).

# A Botanical Eden

Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area *Jim McCormac, Ohio Division of Wildlife*

Avid birder/botanist Jim McCormac writes an engaging nature blog replete with his full-color photos. This article about "one of the coolest botanical forays that I've had in many moons" is abbreviated from his posting of September 7, 2008, the day after INPAWS' hike to Tefft Savanna in the same area. For the full story, visit <http://jimccormac.blogspot.com> —Ed.

My most recent safari was to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area in northwestern Indiana. For all you non-Hoosiers, it's Pull-ask-eye! Not Pull-ask-ee! Practioners of the local dialect are firm on this point. At least we got the Jass-per right. This place is legendary for the masses of migrant sandhill cranes that collect late each fall, creating a spectacle that is one of the midwest's must-see avian events. I finally made the pilgrimage last year and, like the others, was dumbstruck by the sight and sounds of thousands of cranes. But I was also intrigued by the scrappy shards of dead botanical matter that were evidence of an outstanding prairie ecosystem.

Wanting to come back during the growing season and see the sights, I contacted Indiana botanist extraordinaire Mike Homoya and made arrangements for this visit. To accompany us, he assembled some of the very best field botanists and ecologists in the Great Lakes region. Their involvement made for a heck of a trip, and I saw many "life" plants, some of them the rarest of the rare in the lower Great Lakes.

Jasper-Pulaski is an incredible place of global significance. Within its 8,000 acres are outstanding examples of dry sand prairie, and prairie wetlands filled with regionally mega-rare coastal plain

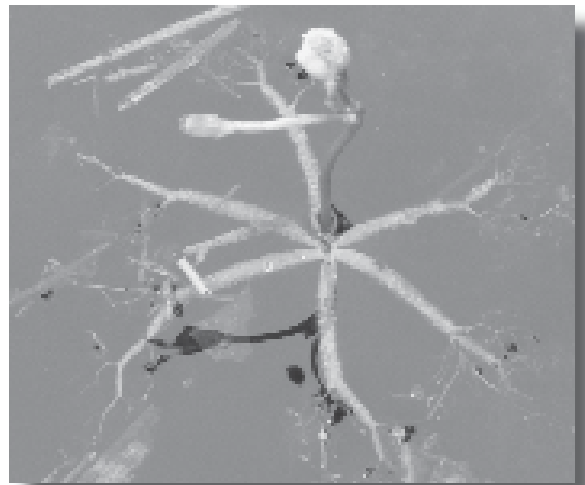
disjunct plants. Like so many of our greatest protected natural resources, J-P was purchased with money from hunters and anglers, a fact that should be recognized by users of these sites no matter what their interest in visiting. The time has long since come when we need to draw more people that are interested in the environment into helping to pay for its protection. But that's a subject for some other time...

Good thing I had the hip waders along, because I spent a good chunk of Friday over my knees in water in J-P's wetlands, discovering one rare plant after another.

I knew it was a good omen when one of the first plants I spotted as our trip began was a smartweed. Sure, you may not get overly excited about a smartweed, but I sure did with this one. It is Carey's smartweed, *Persicaria careyi*, and this is NOT the similar, weedy dock-leaved smartweed, *Persicaria lapathifolia*, that one sees everywhere. This plant hasn't been seen in Ohio since Edwin Moseley collected a specimen in 1920 in Erie County. It was a lifer for me, and for the much-traveled Daniel Boone.



Back row (L-R): Tom Post, Mike Homoya, Daniel Boone, Roger Hedge, Janet Creamer. Front row: Jim McCormac, Lee Casebere, Ben Eddy. Photo by John Ervin.



Floating bladderwort, *Utricularia radiata* (above): This aquatic oddity was high on our target list, and we found a number. Bladderworts are the largest group of carnivorous plants with about 250 species worldwide, and all of them are interesting. This one is fascinating. It is free-floating, with roots that are inflated like pontoons. Thus, it is quite bouyant. The tiny bladders are borne on rootlets at the tip of the primary root branches, and it is within these little sacs where death occurs. Small organisms are attracted to the bladders by chemicals secreted by the plant, and touch guard hairs that operate the bladder. The sensitive hairs trigger the bladder door, just like a mouse trap, and it opens inward with such force that the prey is sucked in. The door snaps shut and the bladderwort has a meal.

Floating bladderwort is one of the very rare disjuncts that Jasper-Pulaski is noted for. It is primarily coastal plain in distribution, with rare and local isolated populations in northwest Indiana and only two counties in southwest Michigan. If you don't come here, you are in for a long drive to see this species along the coast.



A true showy jewel of the J-P wetlands is meadow-beauty, *Rhexia virginica*. It is quite common here although quite the rarity in Ohio. The calyces, sans the other flower parts, look just like tiny water pitchers (lower left of the photo). The family Melastomataceae, to which this species belongs, becomes far more prolific in tropical regions.

Another exciting mega-rarity was creeping St. Johnswort, *Hypericum adpressum*. This is another that doesn't occur in Ohio and has a sparse midwestern distribution.

"Not just any old wetland" was my thought when I encountered one dominated by two plants also extremely rare south of the Great Lakes. A big sedge with brown spikes was horned beaksedge, *Rhynchospora macrostachya*, another of the coastal plain refugees. It is not often seen in the midwest, but quite common in J-P wetlands. Accompanying it was a grassy-looking sedge, often forming floating mats—another great rarity, Robbins's spikerush, *Eleocharis robbinsii*.



These two species may be rare, but they are far more than mere curiosities. While traipsing through these wetlands, I noticed a number of animals using the beaksedge for shelter. The most interesting was a small jumping spider that constructed web nests within the bristly spikelets. I have no idea what species it is. One tenet of ecology is that rare plants often beget rare animals: find the former, and you've a good chance of discovering the latter.

My thanks to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife for partnering with the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves and the Indiana chapter of The Nature Conservancy to ensure that Jasper-Pulaski's incredible diversity remains intact.

## Species Spotted on Tefft Savanna Hike

We thank Richard Scott for sharing these notes from the INPAWS hike on September 6, 2008, led by Mike Homoya and Tom Post.

### Low Dune in Barren Oak Savanna starting s. of CR1000N about 0.2 miles e. of CRN400E

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed
<i>Aureolaria pedicularia</i>	Fernleaf yellow false foxglove
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge pea
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Prairie coreopsis
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall coreopsis
<i>Desmodium sessilifolium</i>	Sessileleaf ticktrefoil
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Barnyardgrass
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge
<i>Euthamia gymnospermoides</i>	Grass-leaved goldenrod
<i>Froelichia floridana</i>	Cotton-weed
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland sunflower
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Western sunflower
<i>Ionactis linariifolius</i>	Stiff aster
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Roundhead lespedeza
<i>Lespedeza hirta</i>	Hairy lespedeza
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough blazing-star
<i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i>	Seedbox
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted beebalm
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Narrowleaf plantain
<i>Polygala sanguinea</i>	Blood milkwort
<i>Polygonum pennsylvanicum</i>	Pennsylvania smartweed
<i>Polygonum punctatum</i>	Dotted smartweed
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Brakenfern
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina rose
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Winged sumac
<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Tooth-cup
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Old-field goldenrod
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough goldenrod
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy goldenrod
<i>Symphytotrichum oolentangiense</i>	Skyblue aster
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Virginia tephrosia
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Dry-land blueberry

### Marsh Area along CR1000N about 0.15 miles e. of CRN400E

<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Watershield
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Blue-joint grass
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	Threeway sedge
<i>Eleocharis robbinsii</i>	Robbins' spikerush
<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	Creeping St. Johnswort
<i>Lycopus amplexans</i>	Clasping water horehound
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Water smartweed
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak
<i>Rhexia virginica</i>	Meadow-beauty
<i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i>	Tall beak rush
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	Grassy arrowhead
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush



## Nine Hundred Miles from Home, Part 2

Please not to eat sea rocket (*Cakile edulenta*): variety *lacustris* is watch listed. Instead, enjoy some of Indiana's carnivorous coastal plain disjuncts (CPs).

Some of these frequent Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore pannes, critically imperiled alkaline foredune ponds. Though most pannes are inaccessible, between early June and mid-October you may view a carpet or two of stiff-stemmed, orchid-like, butter yellow horned bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*), state threatened, in the fenced-off pannes down-slope from the road to the Lake at West Beach. Occasionally, the Shirley Heinze Land Trust has permission to take a few hikers to view horned bladderwort close-up.



Horned bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*). USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 3: 232.

We always look for the naked seeds of low nut rush (*Scleria verticillata*), not a CP, and one-third inch toad bugs, insects that look like and hop like toads. They're the associates of hair bladderwort (*U. subulata*), state threatened. We have to hunker down: hair bladderwort may grow no taller than the capital N of the title of this article. Zig-zag stems support white wisps of partially exposed petals of cleistogamous (self-pollinating) flowers. Ken Klick, their contemporary discoverer, thought the plants were a peculiar kind of moss. On the coast, find fully opened, yellow chasmogamous (insect-pollinated) flowers. Both horned and hair bladderworts trap insects with subterranean bladders. Hair bladderwort has been found in sphagnum with round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), watch list. Lucky (or patient) observers may see a leaf actually entrapping a fly.

The Lakeshore's Pinhook Bog (guided tours only: 219-926-7561) features both round-leaved and narrow-leaved sundew (*D. intermedia*), state rare, forming easily seen reddish patches of less than dime-sized leaves fringed with sparkling globes of insect-enticing sugar dew. In the eye of the bog, you'll see what looks like common bladderwort (*U. vulgaris*), not a CP.

The guide probably won't fish out any plants, but they're really bog bladderwort (*U. geminiscapa*), state endangered. This floating, rootless carnivore catches its prey in tiny bladders hidden amongst dissected leaves. Bog bladderwort boasts both insect-pollinated, aerial yellow flowers and cleistogamous submersed white, unopened blossoms. Because of the aerial flowers' resemblance to common bladderwort, this plant awaited its Indiana discovery until 1988. Visiting botanist A.A. Reznicek from the University of Michigan had the fresh eye to see what dozens of Chicago Region botanists overlooked.

To be continued...

### Some Books

Schnell, D.E. *Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada*. Second edition. Timber Press, 2002. (Helpful identifications and cultivation advice.)

Swink, F.S. and G.S. Wilhelm. *Plants of the Chicago Region*. Fourth edition. Indiana Academy of Science, 1994.

Yatskievych, K. *Field Guide to Indiana Wildflowers*. Indiana University Press, 2000.

## Looking for a Home?

A home in INPAWS, that is? We browbeat you regularly about volunteering your time to sustain this organization, but maybe you're not sure where you fit in. Here's an idea to bridge the gap.

E-mail or send us a few notes about yourself, what you like to do, what interests you about native plants, what you're good at, how you like to spend your time—anything to help us get to know you better. We'll find a place for you on an INPAWS committee where you can learn the ropes and enjoy the company of others with your interests.

Volunteering with INPAWS is fun and you'll meet neat people. Let us help you find a home with us. E-mail us at [membership@inpaws.org](mailto:membership@inpaws.org) or write to PO Box 30317, Indianapolis, IN 46230-0317.



# Surfing for Plant IDs

Rebecca Dolan, PhD, Friesner Herbarium, Butler University



Websites with good photos can often be helpful with plant identification, especially to confirm a suspected identification or quickly eliminate a way-off incorrect one. An important caveat is that many things on the Internet are misidentified. Always double-check with other references. Here are a few recommend sites. The links all begin with “http://” but not all require the “www.”

## plants.usda.gov

The USDA Plants website has lots of good information and is very easy to use. You can search on common or scientific names. Pages for each plant have distribution maps for the U.S. and Canada (so you can quickly see if a plant is known to grow in Indiana) and usually several photos and line drawings. Other useful information includes whether the species is native or not, synonyms (other names under which the plant has been known), plant family, life form (tree, shrub, etc.), duration (annual, perennial, etc.), and whether the plant is listed as rare or endangered or, conversely, is considered invasive anywhere in its range. For some plants, photographs of the seeds are provided. The site is fairly frequently updated. A shortcoming is that many of the common names listed are unusual and certainly not in common use in Indiana.

## www.tropicos.org

Tropicos is maintained by the Missouri Botanical Garden and is arguably *the* on-line source authority for currently accepted scientific names. Formal plant names are constantly in flux as botanists rethink the range of variation that can be considered to constitute a single species, and as historical treatments are reconsidered and reapplied. Work on the on-going *Flora of North America* multi-volume series has led to a lot of recent changes. The Tropicos site can be searched by common and scientific name, cites literature for taxonomic treatments, lists synonyms, and has images of living plants—and sometimes herbarium sheets—for each taxon. Spoiler alert: many name changes have come through in the last few years, including changes in genus for most species formerly classified as Asters in Indiana. Some of your favorite, familiar scientific names may be history.

## www.missouriplants.com

The Missouri Plants site is especially excellent because of its photographs. Many Indiana plants grow in Missouri also. This site has a brief key you can click on based on flower color and leaf

arrangement. You can scan through images to find the plant you are looking for. The individual plant pages have descriptions and details illustrated by beautiful close-up photos of plant parts like leaves and stems, often showing the range of variation that can be found within an individual species.

## www.ct-botanical-society.org/index.html

The Connecticut Botanical Society website has good photographs and also information about plants. You can search by flower color.

## www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/alpha.asp

The Kemper Garden Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden has pictures, plant information, and sources for many natives that are in the horticultural trade. You can search by scientific or common name. Through their PlantFinder Search you can also search by preferred habitat, growth form, use (water plant, attracts butterflies, dried flowers, etc.), and other characteristics, like good fall color.

## www.google.com

If you go to the Google site, you can select to search through images instead of through the web, which is mostly text-based material. Searching in Google images on a plant name usually yields many photographs and drawings. These can of course be posted by anyone, so there are often errors. It helps to search on the scientific name, but even then you can't be sure of the id, although looking through a page or two of images will give you the sense of “majority rules” on what is likely the correct plant. Click on the image to go to the original website to judge for yourself how authoritative a source it seems.

Kay Yatskievych offers the tip that she scans the Google images for those on sites that end in “.edu” and are therefore affiliated with academic institutions. They tend to be more reliable, but there are no guarantees.

Mary Welch-Keesey, Purdue University Consumer Horticulture Specialist working out of White River Gardens, finds [www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/frame.htm](http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/frame.htm) and [www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/) to be helpful for the identification of woody plants.

Graphic courtesy of [www.hotpeachpages.net](http://www.hotpeachpages.net).

## Coming Up

Saturday, January 17 **Central Chapter Icebreaker**

Thursday-Friday, January 22-23 **Great Lakes Urban Habitat Restoration Symposium, Chicago**

Tuesday, January 27 **Conservation Day at the Indiana Statehouse**

Saturday, April 25 **INPAWS Hike in Allee Woods** (Parke County), led by Dr. Amanda Ingram, Wabash College

*Watch for announcements of INPAWS events and field trips in the mail, via e-mail, and at [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).*

## Central Chapter News

*Tom Hohman, President*

INPAWS Central Chapter members are invited to the first annual "Icebreaker" get-together on Saturday, January 17, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Shake off the winter blahs and enjoy refreshments and conversation with other INPAWS members. Look for details on the postcard reminder that you will receive in early January.

New Central Chapter officers Tom Hohman, president, George Peregrin, vice president, and Mark Outcalt, secretary/treasurer, have nearly completed plans for 2009 field trips and presentations. A presentation on green roofs is planned in March, plus field trips to Clegg Botanical Garden on May 2 and a Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association native habitat project in June. A native plant garden tour is planned for July. More information on these later events will be in future issues of INPAWS Journal and in postcard reminders.

We also plan at least two invasive control events. We are talking with Central Indiana Land Trust about an invasives control day at the Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve on the northwest side of Indianapolis, and are hoping to schedule another one at a local park. The Glick Nature Preserve is small, only 9 acres, but it represents a rare oasis of nature in an urban setting and is being overrun by invasives, especially bush honeysuckle.

A number of good ideas for future hikes and presentations were received in response to an e-mail request from the officers. Many of those are still being considered for next year, but new ideas are always needed. Please contact any of the officers with your ideas.

## Still Basking in the Glow

The 15th Annual INPAWS Conference "Growing Native Plants for Wildlife" was a success on many levels: largest number of attendees, largest number of out-of-state attendees (big Ohio contingent), largest number of non-member attendees, extremely high attendee evaluations for nearly all aspects of the conference, nationally known speakers stressing each individual's importance in restoring our environment, and a great venue with delicious food!

Thank you to all those who attended for your patience and goodwill in the face of slight overcrowding (and heat!) due to the record attendance.

The extraordinary volunteers who pulled this event together were:

Dan and Sophia Anderson: Planning, Education, Non-Profit Displays  
 Janet Creamer: Book Sale  
 Lynn Dennis: Book Sale  
 Wendy Ford: Publicity, Presentation Design, Brochures, Program  
 Gillian Harris: Speaker Gift Artwork  
 Karen Hartlep: Conference Coordinator  
 Kathleen Hartman: Treasurer  
 Nancy Hill: Speaker Hospitality, Speaker Dinner Host, Logistics, Planning  
 Tom Hohman: Floater Extraordinaire  
 Fritz Nerding: Audio/Visual Technician

Dee Ann Peine: Registration, Attendee Packets  
 Rich Peine: Attendee Packets  
 Chris Plews: Sponsors  
 Mark Outcalt: Registration Chair, Attendee Packets, Logistics, Mailings  
 Betsy Wills: Book Sale  
 George Wilson: Registration  
 Betsy Wilson: Registration, Hike Leader  
 Reni Winter: Speaker Hospitality, Planning, Publicity

Thank you to those who made the day truly worthwhile—the thought-provoking, talented, and engaging speakers: Hilary Cox, Mike Homoya, Jim McCormac, Doug Tallamy, Reni Winter, Steve Yaninek, Wendell Zetterberg, Jr., and Dean Zimmerman.

Thank you also to our generous sponsors whose support made this event possible.

Blazing Star Sponsor: Plews Shadley Racher & Braun, LLP

Coneflower Sponsors: Flora-Quest; Mark M. Holeman, Inc., Landscape Architects & Contractors; Native Plants Unlimited

Trillium Sponsors: Indiana Living Green, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop, Winterhaven Wildflowers & Native Plant Preserve

## Symposium: Great Lakes Urban Habitat Restoration

The Chicago Park District, in cooperation with several agencies involved in Great Lakes restoration, has announced a major symposium aimed specifically at habitat restoration in the urban nearshore and riverine areas, which are heavily stressed by increasing populations, heavy industry, commercial navigation, and pollution.

Scientists, planners, policymakers, and other experts will gather to: review methods for urban habitat restoration and share techniques and technologies; exchange progress on similar efforts; network with other professionals involved in restoration; discuss ways to make restoration projects more cost effective; and develop methods to communicate the benefits of urban nearshore restoration to the public, decision-makers, and the scientific community.

The day-and-a-half symposium will be held January 22-23 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. The registration fee is \$100 (scholarships available). Register online at <http://www.glf.org/urbanrestore/overview.html> or by contacting Martha Borie-Wood at 312-939-0838 x227 or [mboriewood@greatlakes.org](mailto:mboriewood@greatlakes.org).

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## Neighborhood Hosts Rain Barrel Project

Thirty neighbors from the central Indianapolis' Mapleton-Fall Creek area gathered at Broadway United Methodist Church last November to learn how to make rain barrels. Topics included backyard conservation, wildlife enhancement, and the basics of rain barrel construction. Funded by an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) grant to Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Alliance, this demonstration project provided each attendee with all the materials to make their own free rain barrel.

The Lower Fall Creek Watershed Project seeks to improve water quality in the primarily urban and rapidly developing suburban landscape of the watershed. One way to keep stormwater runoff clean and avoid its becoming polluted as it runs across the landscape is to collect it as it comes off a roof.

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of household water use during the summer. Rain barrels provide an ample supply of free "soft water" to water gardens and flower pots and also to wash cars and windows. Collecting water from 20 homes in a barrel per rain event conserves 1,000 gallons of water which would otherwise

## BOOK REVIEW

### Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens

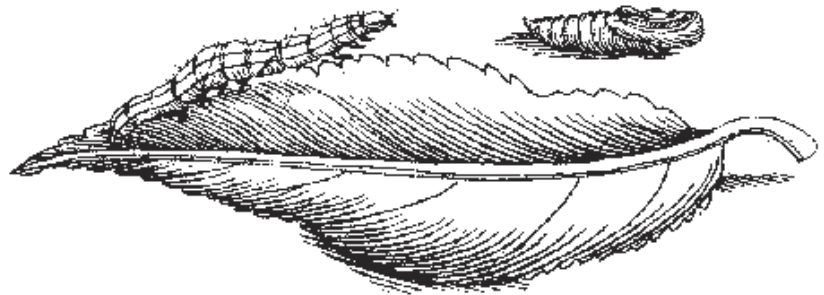
I'll admit it: for a long time I tended to dismiss the arguments of gardeners who advocate wider use of native plants. I dislike being preached at, and a lot of what I read and heard from the native plant enthusiasts struck me as distinctly preachy. My gardens had always included a few natives, but mainly because I found them pleasing from an ornamental perspective. I didn't give much thought to the wider role they might play in the local ecosystem. My garden was full of bees and butterflies and birds, so I figured everything was just fine.

Then one day a couple of years ago, I got a book proposal that shattered my complacency. It was from a professor of entomology named Doug Tallamy. In it, he explained how healthy wildlife populations are directly dependent on native plants. When those natives are overrun by invasive exotics, or edged out of gardens by non-native ornamentals, wildlife populations decline. Insects, it turns out, have very particular tastes — they won't eat just anything; they're absolutely dependent on native plants. Fewer native plants mean fewer insects, and fewer insects mean fewer birds. You can wind up with a silent spring without spraying a drop of DDT.

When Doug's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, was published, it immediately struck a chord with readers. A full-page story about the book and its message appeared in the New York Times, and the book shot up to number 30 on Amazon.com — a first for a Timber Press book. The reason isn't hard to figure out: *Bringing Nature Home* shows gardeners how they can foster biodiversity, simply by choosing to plant more natives. It's a simple but powerful message.

I urge you to read Doug's eloquent, persuasive account. This book is important. I promise that it will make you look at your garden — and think about your role as a gardener — in a new and more meaningful way.

*Tom Fischer, Editor-in-Chief at Timber Press, former Editor of Horticulture magazine*



run into storm sewers. Less stormwater runoff means cities need not build and maintain larger storm drain management systems, and homeowners may save on utility costs. Imagine what effect 200,000 or more homes with rain barrels could have on stormwater runoff and water consumption!

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## South Central News

Officers Gillian Harris, Cathy Meyer, Mary Damm, and Donna Ormiston have served in their positions for two years or longer and are ready to groom their successors. Please contact Gillian for details.

# On a Mission

Wendy Ford, Editor

*I thought Doug Tallamy's talk at the INPAWS Annual Conference alone was worth the price of admission.*

Ruth Ann Ingraham spoke for all of us when she described the talk and this conference as a pinnacle event for INPAWS, but I had my own personal peak experience related to my passion for gardening. It was hearing Doug's message of hope: We gardeners can DO SOMETHING about this!

I see the world through new eyes since that talk and the two subsequent days I spent reading Doug's book, *Bringing Nature Home* (see review on page 15). Now each time I drive into my suburban neighborhood, I see an overlay of arrows pointing to the burning bush, forsythia, lilac, yew with the captions Asian, European, European, Asian. Even in my own yard, with my interest in native plants, I see similar captions over my beloved paperbark maple, flame maple, cotoneaster, kerria, japanese lilac, fountain grass. Oh, I have a nice witchhazel, but it's a cross between two Chinese and Japanese species, and a comely dogwood, but it's from Ukraine.

This wouldn't bother me except for one realization: Every exotic I plant takes up space that could be occupied by something native that would sustain insect larvae to feed baby birds, frogs, and other creatures. This is where my sophisticated horticultural tastes have led—I'm starving the native wildlife!

Everybody needs to hear Doug Tallamy's message, that's the conclusion I have reached. So now I'm on a mission. A copy of his book is going to my state senator (says he majored in ecology) and to all the wholesale and retail nurseries with whom I do business as a garden designer. Each will be inscribed with the wish that they share the book with every gardener they know.

I'm mulling over how to persuade my neighbors to encourage insects to move into their landscapes rather than blasting them at first sight with a can of Raid—perhaps a carefully staged series of

articles in the neighborhood association newsletter? And how will I convince my 5-year-old granddaughter to appreciate our insect friends, she who has told me flatly that she wants nothing to do with any yucky insect stuff?

This new year, more than any in recent memory, finds me filled with hope. Wish me luck with my mission of change, and let me know how it goes with your legislator, nursery, neighbor, or grandchild.



## Got Something to Say?

Why not say it in INPAWS Journal? This publication reaches 481 member households, 105 affiliated organizations (e.g., other native plant societies, Indiana land trusts, libraries, cooperative extension offices), and occasionally 100 Indiana legislators (through additional printing funded by The Nature Conservancy).

We welcome articles on native plants, restoration projects, conservation issues, outreach efforts, botanizing expeditions, gardening with natives—anything likely to interest Journal readers. Article development assistance and editing provided. Please contact the editor with your ideas at [wwford@comcast.net](mailto:wwford@comcast.net) or 317-334-1932.



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