

Indiana Native Plant Society 2019 Annual Report

2019 was a banner year for INPS, with many important projects coming to fruition and new initiatives being started. Thanks are due to the incredible volunteers who make this organization thrive and grow. Read on to discover the many ways you could be more involved with the state organization or one of our seven chapters.

-Ellen Jacquart, INPS President



Champions for Biodiversity

- Awarded \$5,500 in Biodiversity Grants to projects focused on protecting, restoring, or researching native plants in Indiana.
- Worked with other environmental groups for the successful passage of the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule, which makes 44 highly invasive plants illegal to sell in Indiana.
- Produced four quarterly issues of the INPS Journal with articles and photographs from 40 different contributors, adding to the collection housed in the prestigeous Harvard Biodiversity Heritage Library.
- Enrolled 1,102 members, more than a 30% increase since 2015, enlarging the pool of advocates for native plants.

Nourishing the Web of Life

- Encouraged the planting of natives through our largest ever Native Plant Sale and Auction, which grossed more than \$14,000.
- Certified 71 native gardens through the Grow Indiana Natives program, for a total of 195. Also certified 35 Invasive-Free plant sellers and 4 Invasive-Free plant designers.
- Educated people about native plants through our INPS Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, which garnered 355 attendees and featured six-time Emmy Award-winning keynote speaker Patrick McMillan.
- Engaged member with native plants in the field through our inaugural INPS Photo Contest and a 3-day coach trip to exceptional natural areas of west central Ohio.

Bringing Youth to Nature

- Produced Wake Up, Woods, a beautifully illustrated book about spring ephemerals, their pollinators and seed dispersers. Already in its third printing, it was selected as Indiana's children's title in the National Book Festival by the Library of Congress.
- Forty-eight children completed the Native Plant Wizard patch program for ages 5 through 16.
- Our second annual Florathon fundraiser generated 8 new INPS members, 49 donors, and \$2,370 for Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund.
- Fourteen Letha's Fund grants totaling \$6,640 enabled 1,025 students to go on field trips to natural areas across the state from Evansville to Elkhart.



This photo of bloodroot by Tim Street was awarded first place in the Plant Portrait category in the 2019 INPS Native Plant Photo Contest.

Chapter Doings

North

- Seven hikes from April through October.
- Four chapter programs from November through March, and presentation to a garden club.
- Table displays at seven different venues throughout theregion.
- Hosted member picnic and end-of-year potluck.
- Held a partnership workday and a plant rescue in the spring, a native plant sale in the fall.



North Chapter awarded two Keith Board Student Scholarships. Photo by Michael Huft.



West Central's RIP Squad volunteers at work. Photo by Patty Jones.

West Central

- Seven chapter members regularly worked with the "RIP Squad" invasives removal team, which put in over 200 hours of volunteer invasive control in Tippecanoe County parks and nature preserves.
- Hosted several talks through the year, with topics from Mosses and Ferns of West Central Indiana to Nectar Sources in Indiana Woodlands.
- Hosted a booth at Riverfest in West Lafayette and gave away over 100 native plants.



Youth Discovery at East Central's Wilderness Park. Photo by Jon Creek.

East Central

- Conducted eight field trips, including Cabin Creek Bog, a special access area not open to the public.
- Visited the Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area in late June.
- Participated in Walk on the Prairie, a prairie restoration in Henry County, with Red Tail Conservancy.
- Hiked Wilderness Park (Blackford County) with Robert Cooper Audubon.

Southwest

- Helped the Vanderburgh CISMA provide information on invasive and native plants at monthly farmer's market in downtown Evansville.
- Sponsored a native garden in Southwest Indiana Master Gardeners' Garden Walk; distributed free starts of milkweed, golden Alexanders and cup plant to attendees.
- Visited greenhouses and plantings at Mesker Park Zoo and Botanical Gardens, which use native and near-native plants to create exotic looks; and a 3-acre native meadow on property that abuts a subdivision..
- Partnered with University of Evansville students studying milkweed species preferences of monarch butterflies.



Southwest Chapter's native plant sale raised more than \$4000. Photo by Davie Sue Wallace.

Chapter Doings



Northeast Chapter removed honeysuckle at Lindenwood Nature Preserve for a positive impact on the forest understory. Photo by Laura Stine.

Northeast

- Hosted eight events and hikes, including our second annual members-only Plant Swap that was fun and educational.
- Staffed seven booths at community events, including at the Grand Opening (about 17,000 visitors) of Fort Wayne's new downtown Promenade Park.
- Held a Natives vs. Invasives Workshop in partnership with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation department. Two NE executive committee members gave talks and led a hike afterward to see both types of plants.
- Hosted the statewide INPS Annual Conference in November and assisted in the planning and leading of six hikes surrounding conference day, with over 100 hike participants.

Central

- Held chapter meetings with five presentations, an open 'Buzz Session' at a brewery, and a panel discussion about native landscaping in HOA communities.
- Held six presentations in partnership with the Nora Branch of the Indianapolis Library System ranged from salves made from medicinal plants, to designing a native landscape for wildlife.
- Led six hikes at various locations, and a butterfly tagging in partnership with the Indiana Wildlife Foundation.
- Facilitated four pop-up garden tours in which six families opened their properties to more than 170 INPS members and guests. A special rare plant visit was The American Columbo viewing.
- Staffed outreach tables at nine events and shared information at two Indiana Master Naturalist classes.
- Put in 280 volunteer hours removing non-native invasive plants (mainly garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle, and multiflora rose) at nine different properties.
- Rescued native plants from demolition sites to donate to the plant sale or transplant in other landscapes.



South Central's winning Florathon team, the Bloomin' Stellarias. Photo by Marc Evans.



Central Chapter's pop-up garden tours showcased member gardens that made good use of native plants in the landscape. Photo by Wendy Ford.

South Central

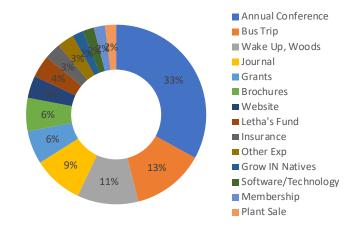
- Hosted five presentations on a variety of botanical topics, including a tour of Indiana University's Deam Herbarium.
- Seven wildflower hikes across south central Indiana including Lilly-Dickey Woods (Brown County) and Flatwoods County Park (Monroe County).
- Hosted a prairie garden tour in Bloomington.
- Volunteers set up table displays at two events in the region.

Income by Category 2019

7% 12% Letha's Fund 13%

- Annual Conference Dues Bus Trip Plant Sale
- Wake Up, Woods
- Donations
- Grow IN Natives
- Other

Expenses by Category 2019



Thanks to all the donors who supported our work in 2019!

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