

2023 Annual Woodland Owner Conference
November 3-4 Jasper/Huntingburg

Friday, November 3rd

(All times listed are Eastern time, although the afternoon tour locations are located in the central time zone.)

- 10 – 11:00am **Optional morning field tour, Werner Sawmill.** Meet at Shiloh Church, 1971 W SR 56, Jasper to carpool to sawmill, 3545 N 550 W, Jasper.
- 11:15 – 12:15 Lunch at Shiloh Church (bring a sack lunch, drinks/dessert provided)
- 1:00 – 3:30 **Afternoon Niehaus property tour.** Meet at 27000 Cougar Road, Bristow. (Noon CT)
- 2:00 – 3:30 Alternate tour of St. Meinrad Archabbey caskets workshop, monastery and church, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. (1 PM CT)
- 3:30 – 3:50 Travel to Comfort Inn Jasper after tour
- 4:00pm Registration desk opens in hotel lobby
- 4:00 – 6:30 Dinner on your own. New landowners/1st time guests meet in the lobby at 4:45 for optional “get acquainted” dinner with board members.
- 5:00 – 6:30 Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation board meeting (guests welcome)
- 6:30 – 7:00 **Dessert Reception,** Thyen-Clark Cultural Center Black Box theatre, 100 3rd St, Jasper
- 7:00 – 8:00 **Indiana Caves and Karst: Carla Winner, IN Karst Conservancy**

Saturday, November 4th

All events at the Huntingburg Event Center, 110 E. 14th Street

- 7:30 – 8:30am IFWOA Board of Directors meeting (guests welcome)
- 9:00 Registration desk and Silent Auction open
- 9:00 – 9:45 Optional morning program: District networking discussion. Meet board members and other members of your region for a meet up and informal discussion.
- 10:00 – 4:15 Kids program. Bring your children to the small conference room for supervised activities.
- 10:00 **Opening/Welcome**
- 10:10 – 10:55 **Keynote: Achieving your Goals While Creating a Healthy Forest: The National Forest Model,** Jeremiah Heise, Hoosier National Forest
- 10:55 – 11:05 Rotation
- 11:05 – 11:40 Concurrent Sessions
- **Trails planning, construction and maintenance,** Caryn Atkinson, IN DNR
 - **Managing invasives with goats,** Ron Rathfon, Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources
 - **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP),** Dan Shaver, NRCS
- 11:40 – 11:50 Rotation
- 11:50 – 12:20 **Roundtable discussions (final topics TBD):** Navigating NRCS cost share programs, how to select a consulting forester, having a timber sale, maple syruping, growing trees from seed, invasive species Q&A, deer impacts on your property, passing property to the next generation
- 12:20 – 1:35 Lunch
- 1:35 – 2:00 **Indiana Division of Forestry update,** John Seifert, IN Division of Forestry
- 2:00 – 2:10 Rotation
- 2:10 – 2:45 Concurrent Sessions
- **Prescribed fire on private lands,** Nathan Kachnavage, consulting forester
 - **Timber industry and markets,** Dennis Voyles, Orion Hardwoods
 - **Creating and maintaining pollinator and wildlife habitat plots,** Olivia Fry, Pheasants Forever
- 2:45 – 2:55 Rotation/break
- 2:55 – 3:25 **IFWOA and IFEF business meeting and policy update**
- 3:20 Silent auction closes
- 3:25 – 4:00 **Keynote: The Last "Old-Growth" Animal in Indiana,** Allen Pursell, Sam Shine Foundation
- 4:00 – 4:15 Closing
- 4:45 – 5:15 Social time with cash bar, live auction items displayed
- 5:15 – 7:45 PM **IFWOA Awards Banquet and IFEF Live Auction**

Indiana Woodland Owner Conference 2023 Meeting Highlights

Friday November 3rd Program Summary

Werner Sawmill tour (9:45-11:30 AM)

Join the optional morning tour as we tour the multi-generation family-owned Werner Sawmill, established in 1984. The Werner brothers were 2021 Indiana Logger of the Year. Meet at 9:45 at the Shiloh Church (1971 West State Road 56, Jasper) to carpool to the mill. After the tour we will return to the church for a group lunch, bring a sack lunch or purchase in town. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Niehaus property tour (1-3:30 PM ET/12-2:30 PM CT)

The afternoon forestry field tour will be at the Dave & Carol Niehaus property (27000 Cougar Road, Bristow). The Niehaus' were the 2019 state winner of the Charles Deam Forest Stewardship Award. Their 182-acre Perry County farm has been in the family for 114 years, purchased by Dave Niehaus' grandparents in 1909. Dave and Carol are very hands-on and have attended Ron Rathfon's Purdue Forestry Short Course several times, each time bringing their children and grandchildren to learn as well.

Timber harvests were completed in 1979 and 2003. After a tornado, a salvage harvest was conducted in 2004. In 2007, they planted 2 acres in warm season grass near the house and barn. From 2005 to present, they spent a great deal of time removing grape vines and invasive plants from the property. From 2010 through 2012 they completed timber stand improvement in the big woods. Between 1995 and 2013, the Niehaus' planted 37,000 tree seedlings, 7,800 of them by hand. For the last few years have been working on increased pruning and crop tree release in the plantation.

Topics to include tree plantation management, oak regeneration, timber stand improvement, invasive species, and prescribed fire.

Friday's tours coordinated with the generous support of Indiana Tree Farm Committee.

Alternate afternoon program: Tour of Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church and casket making shop (2:00-3:30 PM ET/1-2:30 PM CT)

Join the staff of Saint Meinrad Archabbey to see their beautiful monastery, church and Abbey Caskets workshop. This tour is concurrent with the property tour.

Friday evening optional activities

After the tours, enjoy dinner on your own. Attendees new to the meeting, to woodland ownership, or to IFWOA are invited to have dinner with board members to get acquainted before the meeting. Meet in the lobby to travel to dinner.

After dinner, meet up for a Dessert Reception at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center Black Box theatre (100 3rd St, Jasper). After dessert we will have a program presented by Indiana Karst Conservancy about Indiana's wonderful cave systems.

Saturday November 4th Program Summary

Pre-program optional activities

For those who have spent the night or live in the area we will have early optional activities before the 10 AM program start:

District discussions (9-9:45 AM). Join board members and other "neighbors" from your district for networking and small group discussions where you can share your ideas and concerns about woodland management and ownership.

Kid's program (10 AM – 4:15 PM) – Drop off your kids or grandkids (ages 5 & up) at the small conference room for some fun supervised activities. Lunch break is with parents.

Silent auction: The silent auction tables will be open Saturday, closing approximately at the end of the afternoon business meeting. Please consider contributing an item to the auction.

Saturday November 4th Program Summary, con't.

Opening Keynote: Achieving your Goals While Creating a Healthy Forest: The National Forest Model: *Jeremiah Heise, Hoosier National Forest.* Can you have a healthier, more resilient forest and still meet your other goals - whether they are for wildlife habitat, recreation, or sustainable timber harvest? We will use the Hoosier National Forest as a model for managing for ecosystem health and what other benefits are being seen as a result.

Trails planning, construction and maintenance: *Caryn Atkinson, IN DNR.* Have you had trouble keeping your trails open or controlling erosion? Caryn will share tips to help you create and maintain your trails.

Managing invasives with goats: *Ron Rathfon, Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources.* Ron will share his experiences using goats to manage invasive multiflora rose.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): *Dan Shaver, Natural Resources Conservation Service.* Dan will explain more about CSP, which can provide funding to help you meet your conservation goals.

Roundtable discussions- Meet in small breakout sessions to discuss a variety of topics: Navigating NRCS cost share programs, how to select a consulting forester, having a timber sale, maple syruping, growing trees from seed, invasive species Q&A, deer impacts on your property, passing property to the next generation (final topics TBD).

Indiana Division of Forestry update: *Jack Seifert, IN Division of Forestry.* Our state forester will discuss ongoing division activities including the private lands program.

Prescribed fire on private lands: *Nathan Kachnavage, consulting forester.* Prescribed fire has benefits for wildlife and biodiversity and can help you meet your objectives. Learn more about how to use this tool on your property.

Timber industry and markets: *Dennis Voyles, Orion Hardwoods.* A discussion on the current state of timber markets in south central Indiana and how a local mill purchases and markets their products.

Creating and maintaining pollinator and wildlife habitat plots: *Olivia Fry, Pheasants Forever.* Learn how to install and maintain plots on your property to improve it for wildlife.

Final keynote: The Last "Old-Growth" Animal in Indiana: *Allen Pursell, Sam Shine Foundation.* Is it possible that an animal specially adapted to old-growth forest is still out there? This presentation will make the case that indeed such an animal still exists in Indiana. But how could it have survived all these years? We'll start with what the forest was like prior to settlement. Native Americans, fire, passenger pigeons, bison, and more, are all part of this story.

Evening awards banquet and live auction to benefit IFEF – Stay for the optional evening awards banquet to as we recognize the Charles Deam Forest Stewardship Award finalists and John F. Datena Distinguished foresters. After the ceremony participate in the entertaining live auction with proceeds benefiting the Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation.

For more information about the agenda and registration, go to www.ifwoa.org.

Sponsored by the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association, Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation and Indiana Tree Farm Committee with support from Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters