

## *Restoring Sustainability for White Oak and Upland Oak Communities: An Assessment and Conservation Plan: Key Takeaways*

*Adapted from the report published by the White Oak Initiative.*

### *White Oak Facts*

American white oak is a foundational tree species, currently occupying more than 104 million acres of public and private forestland across much of the eastern and central United States—including a strong presence in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

- White oak forests support extensive plant and animal biodiversity, providing a critical food source for a variety of wildlife species and serving an important role in maintaining our diverse forest ecosystem.
- Forest sector economic reports from central hardwood region states (where white oak predominates) clearly indicate the importance of oak resources, which generate billions of dollars annually.
- White oaks are the most commercially important timber oak—necessary for industries such as furniture, flooring, cabinetry, and wine and spirits.

### *Current State of America's White Oak Overall Report Findings*

- Due to shifts in land management and ecological changes, an increasing amount of competing tree species have been establishing themselves in the understories of America's white oak forests.
- Competing species, most notably maples and beech, are shading out white oak trees and preventing them from regenerating.
- As a result, older white oak trees are not being replaced by younger white oak trees at a pace that will support long-term sustainability.
- About 75% of all white oak trees across the eastern United States can be classified as "mature," while populations of young white oak trees are limited.
- Challenges such as climate change, invasive insects and diseases, and behavior change are also impacting white oak sustainability.

- Without intervention today, the American white oak population will begin to decline significantly within the next 10 to 15 years, with more extreme declines over the next several decades.

### *Recommended Forest Management Practices*

The following 10 recommended forest management practices will provide sustainability benefits across all oak forests as well as the upland forests they inhabit.

- Crop tree release. This practice is the primary technique used to ensure oaks continue to maintain vigorous growth.
- Midstory/understory removal. This practice is aimed at improving the vigor of advance regeneration.
- Shelterwood establishment cuts. A shelterwood harvest allows forest owners to capitalize on their timber value and provides a semi-shaded light regime favorable to oaks.
- Group openings and gaps cuts. A group opening allows for harvesting of older stands that dominate the region and provides a semi-shaded area around the opening edge that is conducive to oak regeneration.
- Two-aged deferment cuts. This practice is a technique of last resort, sacrificing immediate oak regeneration but maintaining future oak regeneration potential.



Photo credit David Stephens, Bugwood.org

*continued on page 6*

# IFWOA

## OFFICERS

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Save the Date

The annual woodland owner conference will be November 3-4 in Huntingburg (Dubois County). We will have field days on Friday and indoor presentations on Saturday on a variety of topics about enjoying and managing your woodlands. Further information will be available in August. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July 18

@ 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Become a Bat Master Webinar

### August 2

@ 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
Prescribed Grazing for  
Invasives Workshop  
Dubois County

### August 10

@ 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Hendricks County Tree  
Workshop, Danville

### August 15

@ 12:30 pm ET  
Invasive Japanese Stiltgrass  
webinar

### August 15

@ 8:00 - 9:30 am  
Breakfast with a Forester  
Dutch Cafe, Peru

### August 15-24

Clean Sweep Pesticide  
Disposal  
See pg 8 for locations.

### August 18

@ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
2023 Forestry Field Day  
Sunman, Dearborn County

### August 25 - August 27

Hoosier Hardwood  
Festival  
Boone County Fairgrounds

### September 9

Invasive Plant Control  
Training for Landowners  
Dubois County

### September 19

@ 8:00 - 9:30 am  
Breakfast with a Forester  
Round the Clock  
Restaurant, LaPorte

### September 23

Forestry field day, Whitley  
County

### November 3-4

Annual Woodland Owner  
Conference  
Huntingburg Event  
Center, Dubois County

Learn more about these events and how to register at  
[www.ifwoa.org/events](http://www.ifwoa.org/events).





## A MESSAGE FROM THE IFWOA PRESIDENT



Lee Huss, IFWOA president

Just a five-minute drive from my Owen County woodland property is the town of Spencer, the birthplace of William Miller Herschell. Herschell, born on November 17th, 1873, was the first of six children of Scottish immigrant railroad worker John Todd Herschell. William was a long-time reporter for the Indianapolis News where his poems and verses appeared in a weekly feature column. He was recognized for his works and was noted as receiving the title of 'Hoosier folksy poetry' from his friend James Whitcomb Riley.

Herschell's fondness for the Indiana environment was a strong influence on his poetry. Living in Spencer, Herschell often visited the State House Quarry located near present McCormick's Creek State Park where he drank from a spring named "Long Boy" named after one of Herschell's poems. Many of his poems profess a love of Indiana waterways, streams, and rivers, however Herschell's best-known work is a poem, "Ain't God Good to Indiana?" which is inscribed on a bronze plaque in the rotunda of the Statehouse.

*Ain't God good to Indiana?  
Folks, a feller never knows  
Just how close he is to Eden  
Till, sometime, he ups an' goes  
Seekin' fairer, greener pastures  
Then he has right here at home,  
Where there's sunshine in th' clover  
An' there honey in th' comb;  
Where th' ripples on th' river  
Kind o' chuckle as they flow  
Ain't God good to Indiana  
Ain't He, fellers? Ain't He though?*

Herschell stressed the value of nature over industry and material possessions, as a recurring theme in his writing. In "At Monticello Dam" he treasures his familiarity with the Tippecanoe River and recognition that the river "merges manhood with th' daydreams of a boy". Perhaps Herschell is most in touch with his love of the waterways of his childhood in the poem "The Falls of Hoosierhaha" about the "leapin', laughin', waters near Pendleton.

While his poems lacked themes of forests (perhaps due to widespread conversion of forests to farmland), his love of the state, and the relationships between people and nature dominate his writings especially in the "The Hills of Indiana" and "The Road to Canaan." These same topics were also touched upon at the time by good friend and fellow Indianapolis News humorist Kin Hubbard, creator of the cartoon philosopher Abe Martin.

On opening morning of this year's spring wild turkey hunting season, I sat in my hunting blind in the dark listening to two barred owls call back to one another their question "who cooks for you?" I wondered if William Herschell ever walked through my property and if so, what did he see? In the early 1900's the science of forestry was just starting in America and the term forest sustainability was a new lexicon to the public, so chances are there were a lot less trees than now.

Today Owen County is blessed with an equal division of forest and agricultural land. Our quality hardwood forests and woodlands celebrate and drive many thriving forest product industries and multiple recreation opportunities. Visitors can explore the spectacular limestone canyons and scenic waterfalls at McCormick's Creek State Park, Indiana's first state park. The Park, once a heavily timbered high point, contains a refurbished fire tower that now serves only as an historical marker as today tower climbers literally cannot see the forest for trees.

Visitors can also camp, horseback ride and hike Owen Putman State Forest, more than 6000 acres, or visit Indiana's largest waterfall at Cataract State Recreational Area. Finally, the confluence of dozens of forest streams and creeks meet at the west fork of the White River which traverses the county. William Herschell more than likely experienced conditions better than today, since development, erosion, agricultural pesticides and overtaxed sewage systems have taken a heavy toll on the water quality of the river. However, through locally lead efforts, carefully planned development and river restoration projects are improving the land and the waters William Herschell loved.



Cataract Falls

As a thirty-plus year member of IFWOA and five-year board member, I have had the pleasure of meeting many woodland owners who I believe are all poets in their own way, as they strive to better understand and manage the forest and to share its beauty with others. With thoughtful planning and continued sustainable forest management, I am sure we will be able to continue to say "Ain't God Good to Indiana" for many years to come.

Lee Huss

Photo credit IN DNR



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY AREA

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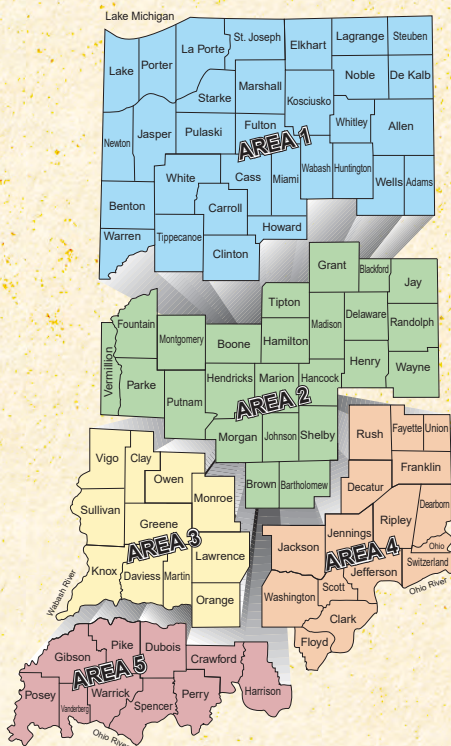
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## IFWOA Seeking New Board Members

Do you have a passion and want to be more engaged with IFWOA and forestry in Indiana? We are always looking for members who would be interested in joining the board. Responsibilities of a board member are to attend quarterly board meetings (in person and/or via zoom), participate in at least one committee meeting on occasion online or via phone, and assist with judging the Deam district nominees in the summer. Board elections are in November for a 3-year term. We are especially in need of board members in the southeast in District 4. But no matter your location, if you might be interested, please give the office a call.

## Foresters Honored with Statewide Award

Three foresters with exemplary careers were recognized with the John F. Datena Distinguished Forester Award at the fall Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association annual conference.

Ken Day and Burney Fischer of Bloomington and Joe Schuerman Jr. of Versailles were recognized for their leadership in forestry and support for Indiana woodland owners. The award was named after former state forester John F. Datena to honor his commitment to Indiana forestry.

Ken Day retired after nearly 40 years working with the USDA Forest Service, with 17 years as the Hoosier National Forest supervisor. He served in various national, regional and state leadership positions, with a focus on using science to improve our forests.

Burney Fischer spent 15 years as a Purdue University forestry professor before being called to serve as the state forester in the Indiana DNR Division of Forestry. He finished his career as the first forester at Indiana University O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Fischer's passion is urban forestry, where helped create and lead the Indiana Urban Forest Council and established urban forestry classes at IU.

After a 17-year career with the IDNR Division of Forestry, Joe Schuerman Jr. pivoted to a private consulting forestry business, providing assistance to private woodland owners in 20 counties. In his career Joe has planted over 1 million tree seedlings. He hosts an annual regional Timber Industry Appreciation dinner and was instrumental in republishing Charles Deam's "Trees of Indiana and "Shrubs of Indiana."



*Datena honorees Burney Fischer, Joe Schuerman Jr, and Ken Day (L to R).*

Summing up the conservation ethic of all of the awardees, IFWOA executive director Liz Jackson stated, "These three honorees have devoted decades of work to the betterment of Indiana forestry, and we can't thank them enough for their commitment. Our woodlands are better off due to their efforts." The awardees were selected by IFWOA in cooperation with the Indiana Hardwoods Lumbermen's Association, Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters, and Indiana Society of American Foresters.

## Forestry for the Birds Pocket Guide

This Pocket Guide, produced by The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, provides bird-focused information about habitat

management for landowners and managers, but particularly those interested in managing their lands for birds. View/Download the Pocket Guide: <https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Forestry-for-the-Bird-Pocket-Guide-April2022.pdf>.



## IFWOA Joins Hoosier Ag Today

IFWOA has recently signed a 6-month partnership with Hoosier Ag Today to advertise on their radio stations across Indiana. We will host the morning news, "Brought to you by Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association," regular ads in the daily enews, and monthly in-depth articles about topics of interest. Listen for us if you are a regular listener, and we are always open to topic ideas we can share. Hoosier Ag Today is a network of farm-oriented radio stations, podcasts, and online news. Find more online at <https://hoosieragtoday.news/>.



# Restoring Sustainability for White Oak

*continued from page 1*

- Site preparation for regeneration. This practice removes trees that are or will compete with oak regeneration.
- Afforestation. This practice involves the establishment of new forests with seedlings or seeds, competition control, and at times control of deer and other wildlife.
- Underplanting/enhancement. This approach uses artificial regeneration to establish oak that is limited or nonexistent in upland hardwood stands.
- Scarification. Scarification is used to help ensure adequate acorn germination and seedling establishment.
- Prescribed fire. This approach can be used as a phase in a shelterwood establishment cut, or after a harvest as a liberation or cleaning tool.

*Restoring Sustainability for White Oak and Upland Oak Communities:*

*An Assessment and Conservation*

*Plan was directed by the White*

*Oak Initiative steering committee,*

*and developed by the American*

*Forest Foundation and the University of*

*Kentucky. Learn more about the White Oak Initiative and their*

*recommendations for action at [www.whiteoakinitiative.org](http://www.whiteoakinitiative.org).*

*The above summary report with key takeaways, plus a full oak*

*assessment and conservation plan and other publications can*

*be found at [https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/assessment-](https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/assessment-conservation-plan)*

*conservation-plan.*



Photo Credit White Oak Initiative

## Interested in White Oak Management?

If you are interested in encouraging white oak regeneration on your property, some helpful hints to get you started:

Read the *Landowners for Oaks Series* from the White Oak Initiative for detail on recommended management practices.

Talk to a forester about your objectives and get their advice:

- Determine if you have a white oak site. While it is adaptable to most anywhere in Indiana it has preferences for slope and aspect and will grow (and regenerate) best under certain sites and conditions.
- Identify the oak management practices that will work best for you, based on your objectives, time, and finances.
- Consider NRCS cost share programs that can provide payments for practices that encourage oak regeneration.

## Landowners for Oaks Series Provides Guidance on Oak Management

The White Oak Initiative – Landowners for Oaks Series is now available! This series, made up of 11 publications, is geared toward landowners engaged in upland oak management with a focus on white oak. All factsheets in the series are available as a PDF for download at <https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/landowners-for-oaks>.

Landowners for Oaks Series includes:

- **Landowners Guide to – Challenges of Upland Oak Regeneration**

While large oak trees are common in upland oak forests, over the last several decades there has been a noticeable decline in the number of young oak seedlings and saplings, indicating a problem with oak forests being able to regenerate themselves.

- **Landowners Guide to – Sustainable Oak Management Practices**

Maintaining healthy oak forests often means ensuring that oaks continue to regenerate seedlings and saplings,

and existing oaks have room to grow. While the different species of oaks generally have the same issues and respond similarly to common oak management practices, these practices can be optimized to meet specific requirements for each species including white oak.

- **Landowners Guide to – Understanding the Importance of White Oak**

Not only is white oak an important timber resource, but it is also one of the most highly valued wildlife trees in the eastern United States. The use of oak-friendly management practices is a key element in ensuring that white oak forests continue to successfully regenerate and thrive.

**Landowners Guide to Identification and Characteristics Series** includes publications on: Black Oak, Chestnut Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Northern Red Oak, Post Oak, Scarlet Oak, Southern Red Oak, and White Oak.

## *Pence Walnut Plantation and Hensler Nursery, Inc.*



One of many of our 27-year-old *Superb* trees

### *"Pence Select"* **Walnut Seedlings**

Sold out for 2023 planting season. Trees will be available next year for the 2024 planting season.

*For More Information Contact:*



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e-mail: [info@henslernurseryindiana.com](mailto:info@henslernurseryindiana.com)

## **Stellar Landowners Honored by IFWOA**

Four Indiana families were recognized with the 2022 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship award by the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association at our annual conference.

David and Mary Ray of Monroe County are state winners of the 2022 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship award. The Ray's manage 310 acres of woodlands in Jackson County. They use the property for multiple objectives but have a great interest in creating wildlife habitat. They are engaged with the Indiana DNR to create grouse

habitat, the National Wild Turkey Federation to promote turkey habitat, and have developed watering ponds, edge feathering, and wildlife food plots to create food and cover for various wildlife. A highlight of their efforts is a 10-acre bee and butterfly habitat planting under the power line easement.

Mark Krumanaker was honored for his stewardship of 108 acres in Huntington County, representing the northern 1/3 of the state. He is actively pursuing oak regeneration on his property, using prescribed fire and mid story tree removal to encourage new oak seedlings. He has planted 35 acres of seedlings on his property and is diligent in keeping up with invasive plants like multiflora rose and Ailanthus (tree-of-heaven).

Bill, Karen and Stephen Beard of Putnam County were finalists from central Indiana. The Beards have implemented sustainable timber management for almost 30 years, with 3 timber harvests and ongoing timber stand improvement. They manage 140 acres of woodlands, working closely with their DNR district forester and consulting forester Jack Nelson. They are past Sycamore Trails RC&D Woodland Owners of the year.

Ray Chattin of Knox County was honored as a finalist from southwestern Indiana. Ray has worked for many decades on his property and has been honored with the Tom Wallace award and Indiana Tree Farm of the year award. He is quite active with statewide invasive species organizations and has worked hard on eradication on his own property. He also has planted 22 acres of tree plantings.

The Deam award honors outstanding Indiana woodland owners who demonstrate good forest stewardship. Charles Deam, Indiana's first state forester, was a pioneer in recognizing the need for protecting woodlands and managing our forests. Nominations for 2023 are now closed and we will be honoring district finalists at our November 2023 annual banquet.



*Terry Ault, Jackson County SWCD (L) and Lee Huss, President of IFWOA (R) present the Deam award to David and Mary Ray of Monroe County.*

## Pesticide Training from Purdue University

Purdue Pesticide Programs (PPP) has a number of publications that may be helpful to landowners who use herbicides or pesticides on their property. Viewing the publications is free, or there is a fee to order a mailed hard copy. See these at <https://ppp.purdue.edu/resources/ppp-publications/>. Here are a few of the dozens of topics available:

- Avoiding Tank Mixing Errors
- Preparing Spray Equipment for Winter Storage and Spring Startup
- Protecting Honey Bees from Area-wide Insecticide Applications
- Pesticide Safety and Calibration Math for the Homeowner
- Is This Pesticide On My Shelf Still Good? Warranties, Expiration Dates, and Strategies to Maximize Product Stability
- More Than Just a Puddle: Understanding the Pond Ecosystem for Better Management
- Creating a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for Landowners

### Online Courses

These courses are designed for commercial applicators who need licensing or continuing education. They are costly, but might be of interest to some landowners. There are also self-study training manuals available for purchase. Learn

more about courses and manuals at <https://ppp.purdue.edu>.

#### Forest Pest

##### Management

- This course is designed to help commercial pesticide applicators prepare for Indiana's Category 2, Forest Pest Management certification test. The course addresses the identification, biology, and control of forest

pest insects, diseases, and weeds. It also includes a section on application equipment and calibration arithmetic. Cost is \$110.

**IN Pesticide Applicator Core course** - This online course is for professionals dedicated to the improvement of pesticide product management standards. Topics covered, such as, applicator certification, pest identification and biology, handling pesticides safely, and pesticides in the environment are applicable to pesticide applicators in all areas of industry. The online course along with the included training manual assists pesticide applicators in preparing for the Indiana Pesticide Applicator Core Certification Exam. Cost is \$110.



USDA Forest Service - Region 8 - Southern, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

## Dispose of Your Unwanted Chemicals Safely

### 2023 Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal

**WHAT:** An OISC Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Program to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.) is being sponsored by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). This disposal service is free of charge up to 250 pounds per participant. Over 250 pounds there will be a \$2.00 per pound charge. This is a great opportunity for you to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost.

**WHO:** All public and private schools, golf courses, nurseries, farmers, ag dealers, public, cities, towns, municipalities and county units of government or others receiving this notice are eligible to participate.

**WHEN:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Local Time

#### WHERE:

**August 15:** Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond

**August 16:** Jackson County Fairgrounds, 476 E. County Rd. 100 S., Brownstown

**August 17:** Elkhart County Solid Waste, 59530 County Rd. 7, Elkhart

**August 22:** Posey County Co-Op (Gibson County), 235 State Rd. 68, Haubstadt

**August 23:** Newton County Highway Department, 3640 S. 275 W, Morocco

**August 24:** Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St, Danville

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Complete a Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Participant Form (located at [https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean\\_sweep.html](https://oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/clean_sweep.html)) to the best of your ability. E-mail [cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu](mailto:cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu) or fax the completed form to Nathan Davis at 765-494-4331 no later than Wed., August 9, 2023. Questions may be directed to Nathan at 765-494-7108.

Then bring your leak free and safe to transport containers to the collection site. DO NOT mix materials. \*\*\*Empty pesticide containers will not be accepted, please follow label directions for proper disposal of empty pesticide containers.

**NOTE:** OISC reserves the right to cancel this Pesticide Clean Sweep Project if there is not adequate demand. Participants submitting the enclosed planning form by August 9, 2023 will be contacted immediately if cancellation is necessary.

## Forestry + Family + Fun!

Join us for a weekend celebration of the Hoosier Hardwood industry featuring...

**20+ Chainsaw Carving Artists**   **Lumberjack Show**  
**Woodworking Arts & Crafts**   **Lumberjack Camp**   **Food**  
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**Weekend  
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for admission  
to all 3 days!**



### August 25-27

Fri 11a-5p | Sat 9a-6p | Sun 9a-4p

Daily Admission = \$10 | Ages 7-12 = \$5  
Ages 6 & under = FREE | Parking = FREE

Boone County Fairgrounds - Lebanon  
Just off I-65 at exit 138, only  
10 minutes northwest of Indianapolis

produced by the

**IHLA** 1898  
Indiana Hardwood  
Lumbermen's Association

Save \$2 off  
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Use Code  
**IFWOA**

Event tickets, feature details, exhibitor info & more at  
**HoosierHardwoodFestival.com**



Featuring the World  
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## Hoosier Hardwood Festival: Stop by the IFWOA Booth

The Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association is excited to welcome everyone to the Hoosier Hardwood Festival, presented by Wood-Mizer! This celebration of Indiana's most renewable resource is scheduled for August 25-27, 2023 at the Boone County Fairgrounds, located just 10 minutes northwest of Indianapolis.

The three-day event will showcase heavy machinery, chainsaws, wood-working equipment and tools. Industry pros, hobbyists and landowners can benefit from education sessions and live demonstrations. Everyone will enjoy the lumberjack shows, woodworkers, artisans, crafters, beer garden, festival food and live entertainment!

There are over a dozen education topics spread across the 3-day event, here are just a few:

- Climate Smart Forestry, Liz Jackson – IFWOA executive director. We will discuss the voluntary carbon market programs available to Indiana woodland owners in the future and how to qualify, plus some things to consider if you are interested in enrolling. We will also discuss some forest management practices and their impact on the carbon cycle.
- Benefits of the Oak-Hickory Ecosystem, Judi Brown – Coordinator for Let the Sun Shine IN

- Deer Impacts on Woodlands, Jarred Brooke – Purdue University Wildlife Extension Specialist
- Digital Forestry, Songlin Fei – Purdue Professor of Remote Sensing
- Forest Diversity for Birds, Marion Mason – Certified Interpretive Guide Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest
- Forest Improvement, Lenny Farlee – Purdue University Extension Forester
- Invasive Species, Dawn Slack – Project Coordinator Indiana Invasives Initiative
- Prescribed Fire in Woodlands, Jarred Brooke – Purdue University Wildlife Extension Specialist
- Safe Chainsaw Operation, Don Carlson – Purdue University Extension Forester
- Woodland Wildlife Creatures, Brian MacGowan – Purdue University Wildlife Extension Specialist

There is also plenty of entertainment for kids of all ages- Lumberjack Camp, Petting Zoo, Rock walls, Inflatables/ bounce houses, Live music & more! Stop by the IFWOA booth in the Witham Pavilion to say hello and get a free door prize. Check out the website at [www.hoosierhardwoodfestival.com](http://www.hoosierhardwoodfestival.com) for a complete schedule and to order your tickets. See the discount code in the ad.

# Foliar Fungal Disease Management

By Dr. Janna Beckerman

While fungi are responsible for many of our foliar disease problems, different fungal pathogens present as problems throughout the country, depending upon the host plant grown and the environmental conditions. This is a brief overview of several common types of fungal leaf diseases occurring in Indiana and throughout North America (and Europe). Recognizing the symptoms and signs is an important first step to diagnose a disease problem, followed by how to manage these diseases by combining cultural and chemical controls.

## Common Fungal Leaf Diseases of Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

**Anthracnose.** Anthracnose diseases probably are the best-known foliar fungal diseases of deciduous trees. They affect many ornamental trees including major shade-tree genera such as sycamore (*Platanus spp.*), oak (*Quercus spp.*), maple (*Acer spp.*), elm (*Ulmus spp.*) and ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) (Fig. 1). Anthracnose actually is a general term describing symptoms such as dead irregular areas that form along and between the main vein of the leaf. The leaves may also become curled and distorted and twigs may die back. The fungus overwinters in infected twigs and the petioles of fallen leaves, and the spores disseminate in the spring by wind and splashing rain. The disease, while unsightly, rarely results in the tree's death. Sycamores and other trees often withstand many years of partial defoliation. However, one anthracnose disease is more serious. Dogwood anthracnose (*Discula destructiva*) is a devastating problem on the Eastern seaboard, but has not been a significant issue here in Indiana.



Figure 1. Anthracnose is a yearly problem on sycamore in the Midwest. Photo by Janna Beckerman.

**Leaf blisters** result in the blistering, curling and puckering of leaf tissue. Oak leaf blister (*Taphrina caerulescens*) is a common blister disease of oaks (Fig. 2), particularly the red oak subgenus, which includes Northern red oak (*Q. rubra*)

and pin oak (*Q. palustris*) among others. The symptoms begin as a slight yellowing of the infected leaf followed by round, raised blisters. These turn brown, and the infected leaves fall prematurely. This fungus overwinters as spores on the buds.



Figure 2. Leaf blister on oak. Photo by Janna Beckerman

**Leaf spot** is a general symptom caused by a multitude of pathogens and infect all deciduous trees and shrubs, and include dead spots with a defined boundary between living and dead tissue. The dead tissue often separates from the surrounding living tissue creating a "shot-hole" appearance on the infected leaves. Common hosts include dogwood, maples, hydrangea, rose, holly, and Indian-hawthorn.

**Tar spot** (*Rhytisma spp.*) is a leaf disease with initial symptoms similar to leaf spot. The disease is most common on red (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*A. saccharinum*) (Fig.3), but it can occur on a wide range of maple species from sugar (*A. saccharum*) and Norway (*A. platanoides*) to bigleaf maple (*A. macrophyllum*). The symptoms begin in the spring as small greenish-yellow spots on the upper leaf surface that, by mid-summer, progress to black tar-like spots about 0.5 inch in size. The disease is not fatal to the tree, but the appearance of the tar spots alarms some tree owners. A major outbreak in New York about 10 years ago left many maples completely defoliated by mid-August.

**Powdery mildew** fungi infect most species of deciduous woody plants. The typical symptoms of this disease are small dusty-white or gray patches that develop by mid-summer. These patches continue to enlarge during the summer, and the entire leaf may eventually appear white. By late summer, tiny brown to black fruiting structures usually develop in these patches. The disease overwinters on the fallen leaves or as mycelium in infected buds. In spring, the fruiting structures release wind- and rain-dispersed spores from the leaves. This fungus grows best in warm, moist conditions. The mycelium, unlike most other foliar diseases, grows on the surface of the leaves rather than within the leaf. Infected leaves may have less photosynthetic capability, but the problem is generally



Figure 3. Tar spot is increasing in incidence and severity in Indiana. Photo by Janna Beckerman.

aesthetic. Although this disease rarely results in sufficient injury to warrant treatments, its high visibility is a frequent cause of concern to tree and shrub owners.

**Rusts** are unusual fungi in that they may require two unrelated hosts to complete their life cycle. Rust fungi produce fruiting bodies on host species "A," (think juniper) which releases spores that only infect host species "B" (rose family, like crabapple, hawthorn or serviceberry). The fungi in "B" produces spores that only infect "A," and the cycle repeats. The fungi do cause some injury in both hosts, but often only one of the two species has any ornamental value. The rust disease that affects an ornamental tree may have an alternate host that is just an incidental plant in the landscape, or even a crop or a weed. Removal of the alternate host also is common recommendation for a rust that affects one of our most popular flowering trees, the crabapple (*Malus spp.*). However, here again, it generally proves to be impractical. Juniper rust (*Gymnosporangium spp.*) is a problem familiar to most people that have a hawthorn, serviceberry or crabapple in their yard. Although many tree owners are aware that the disease must spend part of its life on cedar, to break the cycle you would not only need to remove the redcedars in your yard but also all those within a radius of up to a mile-obviously an impractical task.

**Sooty mold** is a common concern to tree owners but it is not an infectious disease. The black soot that appears on leaves is a fungus that lives on the honeydew secreted by aphid and scale insects. The fungus does not live in the leaf, it lives on it. Any other symptoms such as yellowing or curling leaves are due to the insects that produce the honeydew, not the mold. While heavy levels of sooty mold can block enough light to reduce photosynthesis by up to 70 percent, this primarily is an aesthetic problem

## Cultural Control Measures for Common Foliar Diseases

Foliage must remain wet for a period of several hours or more for spores to germinate, so persistently cool, moist weather is ideal for fungal disease development. While you can do

nothing about the weather, irrigating in the evening and maintaining overly dense plantings can achieve the same environmental conditions that favor disease. Therefore, focus on improving air circulation. Improve water management by irrigating in the morning so plants may dry completely. Pruning can allow for better air circulation, while removing dead, infected twigs that may serve as a source of infection in the spring. However, in most instances, pruning is more cosmetic than disease control.

## Are Chemical Treatments Needed?

Fungal leaf diseases generally do not require chemical treatments because they usually are not life-threatening. Here are some of the questions you should consider before deciding to apply a treatment.

- Have you correctly identified the pathogen?
- Has the tree or shrub lost more than half its foliage more than three times in the last five years?
- Has the tree or shrub recently experienced additional stress from other pests, pathogens or disorders?
- Is the disease life-threatening to the tree?
- Is the host tree so valuable or visible that the loss of some foliage will concern the client?
- Is the client aware that several treatments may be necessary this growing season and that the disease may come back again next year?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, obtain additional information prior to beginning any chemical management options.

## Chemical Treatments for Common Fungus Problems

Fungicides are commonly used to control fungal foliar diseases problems. Successful use of fungicides require maintaining a chemical barrier between the leaf and the fungus, which means repeated applications at fixed intervals-usually 7 to 14 days-beginning with bud break for deciduous trees or budbreak AND the formation of the candle for conifers. You typically need to make three applications, though more may be necessary if cool, moist conditions persist into the summer. Some foliar diseases, like rose blackspot, may require season-long applications of fungicides.

Fungal leaf diseases are a challenge to identify and manage. Avoid the temptation to quickly reach for the sprayer at the first appearance of leaf symptoms. First, identify the agent or agents responsible for the symptoms. Then, if it is a fungal leaf disease, determine the potential damage to the plant's health and appearance. And finally, remember that it's too late to do much right now, but it's just about right to begin planning for spring treatments next year.

*This was originally printed in the Purdue Landscape Report, May 25, 2021, Issue 21-08. Dr. Beckerman is a plant pathologist who specializes in extension work in horticultural crops at Purdue University.*

## IFWOA Advocates for Forest Management on Our Federal Forests

A current forest management project and another potential project on the Hoosier National Forest have been challenged by various opposition groups. Senator Mike Braun held a listening session in Paoli for the Buffalo Springs Restoration Project in Orange and Crawford Counties in the spring. Liz Jackson, executive director of IFWOA, spoke about the need for forest management to create more young forest, creating more varied habitat important to migratory songbirds.

The USDA Forest Service has spent the last 2 years reviewing and assessing the project and receiving comments from the public. It calls for forest management on 5124 acres out of 17,666 total over 15-20 years. The Buffalo Springs project is still under review and expecting a final environmental assessment by the fall of 2023.

A U.S. District Court injunction in March stopped planned controlled burns and timber management in the Hoosier National Forest Houston South Restoration project area in Jackson and Lawrence Counties. The project calls for forest management on about 4375 acres out of 13,533 acres over 15-20 years. The injunction orders the Forest Service to halt all activities related to the project until it can give sufficient evidence of how the project will not adversely affect Lake Monroe.

IFWOA's position on forest management is the same for our federal forests as for state and private forests. Active forest management using science-based practices is important for the health and resiliency of our forests to protect them from insect and disease threats. Forests can be actively managed for multiple uses including recreation and wildlife habitat and other objectives of a landowner. Having a wide diversity of tree ages, stand structure, and species leads to greater diversity of plants and animals and a better landscape for all.

## New Indiana Law Supports Forest Management

A bill was passed in the 2023 Indiana legislature to help make forest management easier for landowners. Previously, landowners were required to get IDEM permitting if they were crossing streams in many small watersheds. Permitting can be very time consuming and expensive. House Enrolled Act 1601 makes forest management activities exempted from permitting other than a few exceptions. IFWOA supported this bill. We thank Representative Beau Baird for identifying this issue and helping find a solution for woodland owners.

The act's language states:

(b) A permit is not required for the following wetland activities:

(8) The activities of a forestry operation if they are:

(A) conducted in compliance with the Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices Field Guide published by the department of natural resources; and

(B) confined to a waterway that has a watershed not greater than ten (10) square miles.

A state permit will be required for these situations:

- watershed is 10 square miles or greater
- permanent negative impacts to isolated wetlands outside of a waterway
- activities conducted fail to comply with the Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices Field Guide

Landowners are ultimately responsible to make sure that all activities on your property use Indiana Best Management Practices. See the new BMP guide here: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/BMP.pdf>.

It is recommended that BMP requirements are included in a written contract, and consider hiring a professional forester to manage the activities. Request they monitor and ensure those BMPs are followed at all times.

## Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation Supports Forestry Education Projects

In 2023 IFEF awarded 6 forestry education small grants, ranging in size from \$400-\$900 for a total of \$3300. Projects awarded were:

- Dearborn County Soil & Water Conservation District: Woodland Field Day
- Shelbyville High School's Ecology lab: Ecology lab Accessibility and Tree Identification Trail
- Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest: Interpretive sign for hardwood restoration demonstration site
- Wesselman Woods: Junior Forest League
- Purdue Extension Putnam County: Building a Forestry Management Toolkit
- Four Rivers Forestry Committee: Sustainable Forest Management Education Project

Projects are evaluated based on the number of people impacted, the regional needs, and the topics and methods used. IFEF's mission is especially focused on educating forest landowners and the public about sustainable forest management and all the benefits forests provide. The new grants cycle will be announced this summer, with a deadline in September for 2024 projects. Learn more at <https://www.ifwoa.org/indiana-forestry-educational-foundation/>.

## IFWOA Board Member Spotlight

My name is Steve Wertz and my wife Carolyn and I live in Tipton County. I grew up in Tipton and graduated from Purdue University and spent my career working as an engineer in the automotive industry. I am retired now and have two grown children and four grand-children. I own 30 acres of woods in Tipton County with 10 acres of recently planted trees and warm season grasses and 20 acres of mature trees.

I have been a member of IFWOA for about 15 years and been on the board for two years now. I was recently selected to become the treasurer. I thoroughly enjoyed the visits to other forests in the state over the years and hearing how folks were solving invasive species, tree sales and other problems affecting forestry owners. That prompted me to join the board, so that I could be more closely involved and learn from other members that are much more deeply skilled than me.

I encourage anyone with a forest to get involved with IFWOA early and learn as much as you can. The people involved are a great source for learning!



Steve Wertz

## The Indiana Forest Product Price Report: History and Outlook

*By Bill Hoover, Professor Emeritus of Forest Economics and Mo Zhou, Associate Professor of Forest Economics and Management, Purdue University Department of Forestry and Natural Resources*

The Indiana forest products price report represents the nation's longest-running and most detailed information on prices paid for delivered hardwood logs. It has been published in some form from as early as 1934. Many other states started similar reports later. Initially, the report was related to stumpage to increase the efficiency of the timber market, a purpose now served by the Indiana consulting forester stumpage price report.

The Indiana forest product price report has been used primarily for the trend analyses needed to evaluate investing capital in the acquisition and long-term management of hardwood timber stands. The Purdue reports from 1934 to 2013 are at <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/timber/>. IDNR has the reports from 2012 to 2020: [https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/forestry-publications-and-presentations/#Indiana\\_Forest\\_Products\\_Price\\_Reports](https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/forestry-publications-and-presentations/#Indiana_Forest_Products_Price_Reports). A digital repository of the historical prices dated back to 1957 along with some tools for understanding and utilizing the information is available at [www.foresteconomics.info](http://www.foresteconomics.info), established and maintained by Dr. Mo Zhou, Associate Professor of Forest Economics and Management of Purdue's Department of Forestry & Natural Resources (FNR).

The author of the price report is unknown from 1934 to 1936. Roy Brundage, Purdue Extension Forester, took over the survey and report in 1938. He published it occasionally during WWII,

then continuously from 1954 to 1970, with the survey assisted by the Indiana Office of USDA Agricultural Statistics Service. It was not published from 1971 to 1975 due to Roy's retirement. Dr. William Hoover, FNR's Emeritus Professor of Forest Economics, published it from 1976 until his retirement in 2013 after which the IDNR Division of Forestry took over. It ceased publication in 2021 due to insufficient responses to the survey.

Given the pivotal role the price report plays in securing the long-term supply of Hoosiers' hardwood resources, Purdue's FNR has stepped in to revive the report. Starting in 2023, Dr. Mo Zhou plans to resume the price survey and publish one report annually. To boost the response rate of the price survey, efforts are currently underway to establish support from the primary lumber and veneer industry. The sampling pool will be increased to cover producers of different sizes across the State. The report is expected to remain in the format of the previous reports for data consistency while adding a component detailing the yearly economic impacts of the hardwood industry within the State. The existing digital repository will be upgraded to include timberland valuation and management tools to help stakeholders make better use of the information in the report. A new report is expected in fall or winter.

*This was originally printed in the HTIRC spring 2023 newsletter. See [www.htirc.org](http://www.htirc.org).*

# Forests In The Farm Bill Coalition: 2023 Farm Bill Summarized Recommendations

The FIFB Coalition includes over 100 forest groups representing all aspects of the forest sector, including forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest industry and natural resource professionals. They work to collaboratively build consensus policy solutions for consideration by Congress. The steering committee is led by the American Forest Foundation, National Association of State Foresters and National Wild Turkey Federation. IFWOA is a member of the coalition and signs on to letters of support for various Farm Bill requests and positions of interest to our members.

The FIFB Coalition has prepared a list of summarized recommendations to Congress. It includes recommendations on forestry, conservation, research, extension, rural development and trade. The Conservation recommendations could potentially provide additional resources to private landowners, here are their Conservation recommendations:

- Remove re-enrollment limitations for forested stands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that have undergone mid-contract management and restore cost-share funding for those activities.
- Support the creation of the Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) while protecting the investments of other longstanding conservation easement programs.
- Improve Post-Disaster Landowner Assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.
- Exempt forest landowners from the requirement to have a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Number.
- Amend 2018 Farm Bill language directing “10% of conservation program funding to be used for practices that protect source water for drinking water” to ensure higher priority on surface water/forests (as opposed to groundwater).
- Increase forest production, drought resilience and climate resilience within key NRCS programs.
- Enhance investments in forest health including both emergency response to new pest introductions and funding for long-term solutions such as resistance breeding. Explore organizational changes to improve prioritization and coordination of invasive species management within USDA.
- Reauthorize and strengthen programs that support increased workforce capacity within Federal Agencies and partnerships serving the natural resources and conservation community.
- Expand NRCS use of financial support to State Forestry agencies, private consulting foresters, and other entities to serve as Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for NRCS programs.
- In addition to existing set-asides, establish a 10% forestry allocation at the national level, including language that directs state offices/technical committees to assess and establish priority forestry practices, in The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

To see more on the FIFB recommendations, see the summary recommendations here <https://tinyurl.com/3sxywdt8> or the full recommendations with justifications here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8u35mz8>. Or follow along the American Forest Foundation policy pages to see federal policy issues as they evolve: <https://www.forestfoundation.org/how-we-do-it/advocacy/>.

## IFWOA Sponsors Upcoming Events

IFWOA was a sponsor of the late June Indiana Invasive Species Conference and hosted a table there. We are also sponsoring an August invasive species webinar on “Managing Invasive Stiltgrass.” Also find our booth at the Hoosier Hardwood Festival August 25-27. These are listed in the events calendar.

## IFWOA's Popular Winter Webinars Available on YouTube

IFWOA's Winter Webinar Series 2023 is complete and all webinars are now posted to our IFWOA YouTube channel. View the videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmJUC4xwLmjZwfzuA4B-HA> or Google “YouTube IFWOA” to be directed to the channel quickly.

Videos in the series included:

- Wild Orchids of Indiana, with Michael Homoya
- Be Tick Aware!, with LeAnne Barta of IN Lyme Connect
- Observing Seasonal Change, with Amanda Wanlass of IN Phenology
- Magnificent Trees of Indiana, with author Carroll Ritter

We averaged 75 viewers live per month, and received very positive feedback on the topics and speakers. The posted videos have from 30-115 views since.

If you know especially dynamic speakers or topics, contact the office and tell us about them. And be on the lookout in fall 2023 for our 2024 webinar announcements!

## New Bill Introduced in US Senate

*US Senators introduce bill to increase the availability of Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to aid in American farmers and ranchers' conservation efforts*

Senators Mike Braun, Michael Bennet and Roger Marshall, all members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, introduced legislation in May to address the shortage of Technical Service Providers (TSPs) who help producers access USDA conservation programs through one-on-one assistance. Rep. Jim Baird (IN-04) and Rep. Abigail Spanberger (VA-07) introduced the companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

**The Increased TSP Access Act** would address the TSP shortage by expanding on the framework first envisioned in the 2018 Farm Bill.

- **Non-Federal Certifying Entities:** The bill directs USDA to establish a process to approve non-Federal certifying entities. The bill ensures that USDA's process will allow agricultural retailers, conservation organizations, cooperatives, professional societies, and service providers to become certifying entities.

- **Streamlined Certification:** The bill directs USDA to establish a streamlined certification process for TSPs who hold appropriate specialty certifications (including certified crop advisors).
- **Parity in Compensation:** The bill ensures that TSPs—who are often paid using conservation program dollars—are paid the fair market rate for their services.

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association supports this legislation. Said Executive Director Liz Jackson, "Access to technical assistance is critical for landowners and leads to greater success when implementing conservation practices. Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association recognizes Senator Braun's leadership to improve the TSP process and make it easier for landowners, providers, and the NRCS." Read the bill text here: <https://www.braun.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/BRAUN%20-%20Increased%20TSP%20Access%20Act.pdf>.

## Creating a Pollinator Friendly Landscape

Follow these simple steps to create a pollinator-friendly landscape around your property:

- **Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall.** Help pollinators find and use them by planting in clumps, rather than single plants. Include plants native to your region. Natives are adapted to your local climate, soil and native pollinators. Do not forget that night-blooming flowers will support moths and bats.
- **Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers.** Often plant breeders have unwittingly left the pollen, nectar, and fragrance out of these blossoms while creating the "perfect" blooms for us.
- **Eliminate pesticides whenever possible.** If you must use a pesticide, use the least-toxic material possible. Read labels carefully before purchasing, as many pesticides are especially dangerous for bees. Use the product properly. Spray at night when bees and other pollinators are not active.
- **Include larval host plants in your landscape.** If you want colorful butterflies, grow plants for their caterpillars. They WILL eat them, so place them where unsightly leaf damage can be tolerated. Accept that some host plants are less than ornamental if not outright weeds. A butterfly guide will help you determine the plants you need to include. Plant a butterfly garden!
- **Create a damp salt lick for butterflies and bees.** Use a dripping hose, drip irrigation line, or place your bird bath on bare soil to create a damp area. Mix a small bit of table salt (sea salt is better!) or wood ashes into the mud.
- **Spare that limb!** By leaving dead trees, or at least an

occasional dead limb, you provide essential nesting sites for native bees. Make sure these are not a safety hazard for people walking below. You can also build a bee condo by drilling holes of



Photo Credit Kevin D. Arvin, Bugwood.org

varying diameter about 3 to 5 inches deep in a piece of scrap lumber mounted to a post or under eaves.

- **You can add to nectar resources by providing a hummingbird feeder.** To make artificial nectar, use four parts water to one part table sugar. Never use artificial sweeteners, honey, or fruit juices. Place something red on the feeder. Clean your feeder with hot soapy water at least twice a week to keep it free of mold.

**For More Information:** *Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants (Eastern United States)* (PDF, 3.5 MB) - developed and published by the USDA Forest Service providing a guide to providing habitats for pollinators in the eastern United States.

*Adapted from USDA Forest Service web article on "Gardening for Pollinators," accessed at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening>.*

## Indiana DNR Monitoring Franklin's Ground Squirrels

The CW channel isn't the only place to observe Earth's mightiest speedsters—Northwest Indiana is home to the very quick Franklin's ground squirrel! This ground squirrel is larger than both eastern chipmunks and thirteen-lined ground squirrels, but smaller than a groundhog. Franklin's ground squirrels can be identified by their thin, furred, non-bushy tail and their affinity for creating burrows in sandy soils.

The Franklin's ground squirrel is a true hibernator! Adults of this species will hibernate in burrows from August through April, when their heart rate will drop from about 200 to less than 25 beats per minute. Hibernating animals continue to be important species of study in the medical field. Research of their genes, proteins, and behaviors can lead to medical advancements!

The Indiana DNR has been monitoring this species' population for some time. Unfortunately, due to the fragmentation of prairie and savanna habitats in Indiana, its population has declined substantially. In the early 1980s, 16 Indiana counties had populations of Franklin's ground squirrels. In 1990, only nine counties had populations, and by the 2010s, it had dropped further.

Areas where the Franklin's ground squirrel still thrives include prairies and rights-of-ways (ROWs) along highways or railways. ROWs are often managed to limit growth of woody vegetation, which results in the grassy, herbaceous cover favored by the Franklin's ground squirrel. Current monitoring efforts in ROWs use capture-recapture to estimate population size, mortality, and survivorship. Indiana DNR mammalogists are also validating acoustic monitoring methods to non-invasively survey areas for this endangered species.



*Franklin Ground Squirrel, photo credit: IN DNR*

Over the past four decades, DNR was able to complete this population monitoring and study what's necessary to address the population decline thanks to the Nongame Wildlife Fund at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/nongame-and-endangered-wildlife/>.

Though the species' population is stable in the central part of its range (the upper Midwest), the Franklin's ground squirrel is a state species of special concern. DNR staff are working to establish recovery projects for this species, and you can help! If you see a Franklin's ground squirrel, please report it at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/report-a-mammal/> so DNR can continue to monitor its distribution. Please submit reports for both healthy and dead ground squirrels to help DNR track their populations.

Staff in the Division of Fish & Wildlife lead statewide programs to benefit Indiana's nearly 160 species of greatest conservation need in the following four species groups: mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, and fish/freshwater mussels. These programs manage and conserve Indiana's nongame and endangered species and their habitats. Above adapted from an IN DNR press release.

## IFWOA to Co-Host Whitley County Forestry Field Day

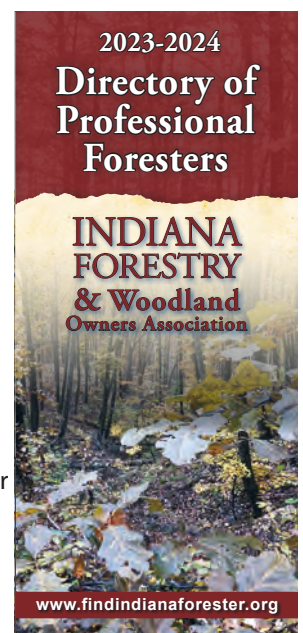
The Purdue University Harrold property will be the site of a field day on September 23rd. The woodland is near Etna in Whitley County. The property has plantation and young forest management demonstrations. The program will focus on:

- plantation management including pruning and thinning (61 acres planted to trees in 1993)
- young forest management (approximately 20 acres of 20-year-old clearcut with several demonstration enrichment tree plantings and associated "success" data)
- Forestry for the Birds presentation

See [www.ifwoa.org/events](http://www.ifwoa.org/events) in August for the agenda and registration information.

## New Directory of Professional Foresters Available

The Directory of Professional Foresters is updated and published every 2 years by IFWOA. The 2023-24 issue is now available online for viewing or downloading at [www.findindianaforester.org](http://www.findindianaforester.org), or by contacting the IFWOA office to order a print copy. Copies were mailed to all district foresters and to all Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Extension offices.



# New Conservation Discovery Web Application to Help Connect Landowners with Conservation Options

(BLOOMINGTON, IN) The Conservation Law Center is excited to announce a new resource is now available for landowners within the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape. This area includes Bartholomew, Brown, Daviess, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Scott, and Sullivan Counties.

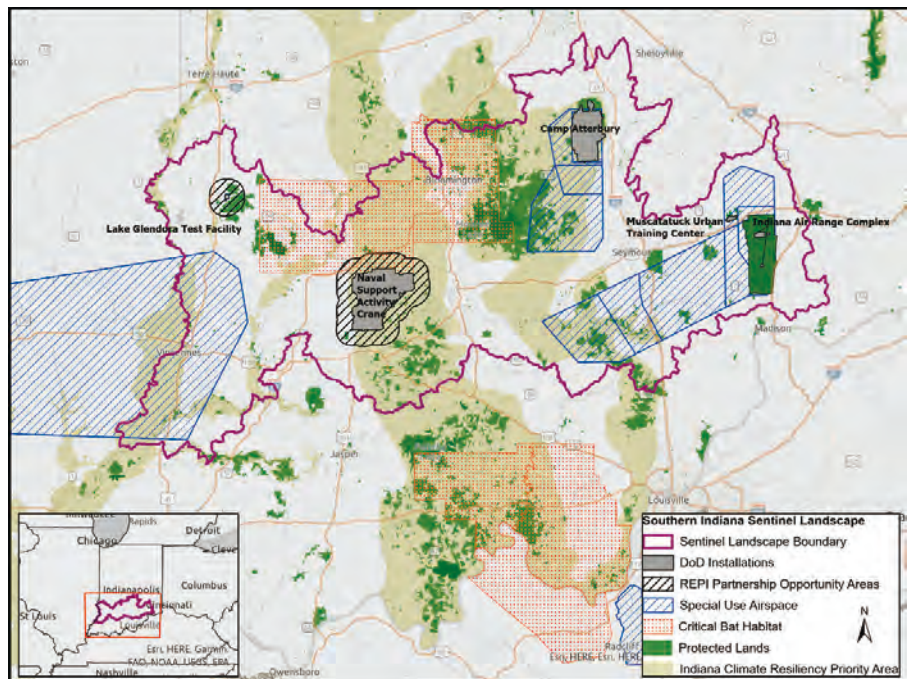
The Conservation Discovery Web Application will increase awareness and access to conservation options to help landowners effectively and sustainably manage their lands.

This interactive web tool is based on publicly available parcel data similar to other GIS websites. People can locate their property by searching for their name, property's address, or by zooming into the parcel and selecting it.

The user can then select from several conservation interests and sub-interests based on their land management goals. These interests include cropland management, erosion control and soil health, forestry, livestock pasture management, permanent land protection, tax incentives, water quality, wildlife habitat, and technical assistance. The web tool will generate a custom property report that includes the conservation options available for the individual parcel as well as relevant contact information for conservation professionals.

"Throughout my career working in Indiana it has been quite clear that people are often unaware of the options for their land when it comes to conservation. Furthermore, they can quickly become overwhelmed when trying to sort through endless online materials. What we have done here is to create a one-stop-shop for landowners to learn more about the conservation programs available to them, as well as who they should talk to," said Michael Spalding, Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Program Coordinator.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that works with private and public landowners to protect training and readiness on southern Indiana's military installations, conserve land for agriculture and sustainable forestry, improve water quality, create and restore wildlife habitat and ecosystems, and support rural economies. In 2022, the federal government designated the 3.5-million-acre Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape (SISL), recognizing the critical importance of southern Indiana's four military installations and the area's rich natural and agricultural heritage. The four critical Department of Defense installations



*Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape Map, photo credit Conservation Law Center*

and ranges that are the cornerstones of the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape are Naval Support Activity Crane, the Lake Glendora Test Facility, Atterbury- Muscatatuck Training Center, and the Indiana Air Range Complex.

The web tool can be accessed through a link on the Conservation Law Center's website at <https://conservationlawcenter.org/sentinel>.

## Do you live along a Highway?

Do you live along a state or US Highway in Indiana? IFWOA would like to install road signs along some of the major highways and looking for members who might be willing to let

us install a sign on your property along the road. We have 4'x4' and 4' x 8' signs ready for installation. If you would be willing to discuss, please contact the office at 765-496-5013 or [ifwoa1@gmail.com](mailto:ifwoa1@gmail.com).

### MANAGED WOODLAND



**WWW.IFWOA.ORG**

*An example of a prototype road sign advertising IFWOA*

# Invasive Species Watch: Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

- **Appearance:** Stiltgrass is a delicate, sprawling, annual grass that is 0.5-3.5 ft. (0.2-1.1 m) in height. The stems can root at the nodes.
- **Foliage:** The leaves are pale-green, alternate, lance-shaped, 1-3 in. (2.5-7.6 cm) long, asymmetrical with a shiny, off-center midrib. Upper and lower leaf surface is slightly pubescent. A silvery line runs down the center of the blade. Stems usually droop.
- **Flowers:** Flowering begins in September, when delicate flower stalks develop in the axils of the leaves or at the top of the stems.
- **Fruit:** Fruit is produced from late September through early October.
- **Ecological Threat:** Most commonly an invader of forested floodplains, it is also found in ditches, forest edges, fields, and trails. It is very shade tolerant and can completely displace native vegetation.

For a video on identifying stiltgrass, check out Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3lbumo0jjl>.

## Management/Monitoring and Potential for Restoration

Manual and mechanical, environmental/cultural, and chemical methods are all useful to varying degrees in controlling *M. vimineum*. Prescribed burns have not been successful in controlling this species so far, but fall burns may have the potential for partial control. If controlled during the early stages of invasion, the potential for successful management is high. The potential for large-scale restoration of wildlands where *M. vimineum* has become established is probably moderate.

The distribution of *M. vimineum* should be monitored annually or biannually where there is a threat to protected species.



Following all control treatments, further control efforts and monitoring is needed for at least seven years due to the viability of seeds in the seedbank or re-invasion from nearby propagule sources.

## Manual and Mechanical Control

Hand pulling of *M. vimineum* is the preferred method of removal as it is highly specific and provides minimal impact (except trampling and soil disturbance) to the surrounding environment. Hand pulling is an effective method of control if it is thorough and timed correctly. It is, however, labor-intensive and time-consuming. Pulling late in the season (September-early November) before seed production reduces the unintentional spread of the current year's seeds. Pulling early in the season (before July), however, allows germination of new plants from the seed bank which will mature during the remaining season and produce seeds. In the northeast, August and late September are good times to pull plants by hand. Yearly weeding is necessary because new plants can appear as a result of seed banking or re-infestation from new seed being dispersed into the area.

Mowing using a weed whacker (or a weed-eater) is an effective control method if carried out in late summer just before seeds are produced. Mowing at any other time is not useful as the plants have the ability to resprout and can produce seed heads in the axils of their lower leaves. Mowing can also be useful in reducing the amount of litter and plant biomass prior to herbicide application, making the herbicide more effective.

## Herbicides

For large infestations of *M. vimineum*, the use of herbicides may be the only viable option for good control. A series of control experiments using herbicides was carried out at the Ames Plantation (University of Tennessee), and the researchers reported that it is relatively easy to kill *M. vimineum*, but that



Photo Credit Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.Org

managing for a desirable plant community is difficult. They found that the herbicide imazameth (tradename Plateau®) was the herbicide of choice for controlling *M. vimineum*. This is because imazameth (applied at a rate of 6 ounces per acre) kills *M. vimineum*, but allows the development of (a.k.a., does not kill) the desirable native sedges, ragweeds, and legumes.

The grass-specific herbicide fluazifop-p (tradename Fusilade®) applied at the rate of 1.2 liters per hectare (1 pint per acre) also controlled *M. vimineum*, but left a less desirable plant community. Glyphosate (tradename RoundUp®) was also tested, but resulted in a complete kill of all plants, which could potentially lead to possible re-invasion by *M. vimineum* or other undesirable species. Barden (1991)<sup>[9]</sup> also found glyphosate useful in killing *M. vimineum*.

Formulations of glyphosate registered for use aquatic systems (Rodeo), has been effective for *M. vimineum* control in wetlands. Woods (1989)<sup>[14]</sup> in Tennessee found that the grass-specific herbicide sethoxydim (tradenames Poast®, Vantage®), applied during late summer at rates of 1 pint per acre, also provided excellent (more than 95%) control of *M. vimineum* and released dicots from competition without injuring them. Pre-emergent herbicides such as diphenamid (tradename Enide®) and benefin (tradename Balan®) have also demonstrated excellent control of *M. vimineum* seedlings under conditions of good herbicide-to-soil contact<sup>[14]</sup>, but do not encourage the germination of native species.

**Reminder:** Always read and follow label directions, it's the law!

Source for description above: Invasive plant Atlas of the United States, <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>. Source for management and control information: Authors Mandy Tu, ed. John Randall, Global Invasive Species Team, The Nature Conservancy ([https://wiki.bugwood.org/Microstegium\\_vimineum](https://wiki.bugwood.org/Microstegium_vimineum))

## IFWOA Sponsoring Stiltgrass Control Webinar

**August 15: 12:30-1:15 pm Eastern  
11:30 am - 12:15 pm Central Time**

Join Midwest Invasive Plant Network for a presentation on identification, impacts, and management of Japanese stiltgrass. There is no cost to attend, but you must register to receive the meeting link. Presentation by Christopher Evans, University of Illinois Extension, sponsored by IFWOA.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2asbbv>.

## Welcome New Members

Thank you to the following new LIFE members who have pledged their lifetime support to IFWOA- we appreciate your commitment!

Andrew Borden, Nancy Chung, Jay DuMontelle, Michelle Librie, Anthony Ray, Lynn Ray, Rod & Linda Ray

Please join us in welcoming these new annual members who have joined since the last newsletter. Thank you for your support!

Scott Ackerman, Spencer

Chuck and Abby Ballentine, Fowler

Jake and Kris Ballentine, Lebanon

Micheal Bane, Greens Fork

Kathleen Burrows, English

Rachel Burton, Russellville

Lawrence Carter, Danville

Lance E. Dudeck, Midwest City, OK

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Questions? Contact the IFWOA office at 765-496-5013 or email to [ifwoa1@gmail.com](mailto:ifwoa1@gmail.com).