

SIERRA *Indiana* CLUB

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The Battle for Indiana's State Forests

by Dave Simcox

It's the last day of January 2018. Five forest activists are standing on the third floor of the Indiana Statehouse including leaders from the Sierra Club, Hoosier Environmental Council and Indiana Forest Alliance and me, Dave Simcox, a member of all these groups. It has been a long day speaking with lawmakers about introducing an amendment to a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) omnibus bill in the House. This bill would simply require the DNR Division of Forestry to set aside 10% of the 158,000 acres of our state forests from logging.

Simple? Not really. The story of how we got to this point might serve as an inspiration and an insight into how hard it is to fight for a popular cause in Indiana.

Let's dial back to June of last year when leaders of these three statewide groups met and developed a plan to build upon the success in the prior legislative session. That spring our groups were given a chance to testify before the Senate Natural Resources Committee in support of Senator Eric Bassler's bill requiring a 10% set-aside from logging in the



Photograph by Cathy Greene

This used to be the Tecumseh Trail east of Carmel Ridge Road Yellowwood State Forest. This section of trail, like many others, has now been re-routed.

state forests. The DNR and their companion Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association were not happy that this bill, challenging how the DNR manages our state forests, was given a hearing. SB 275 was not brought to a vote but for us, this hearing was a victory. In prior years, similar bills in the House never advanced this far.

Based upon the success and lessons learned from the Crown Hill Cemetery effort earlier that year to protect the old growth forest, we decided to organize five citizen-driven autonomous grassroots groups centered on popular areas of the state forests. These groups, comprising locals who valued these forests

and had a passion to see them protected, would be able to generate the energy needed to sustain the cause.

It turns out that this was a fortuitous decision because two months later, DNR announced plans to log in the Low Gap Backcountry of Yellowwood State Forest (YSF). Having already formed the leadership and initial recruitment, these grassroots groups sprang into action. Working with the three statewide groups and a narrow 30-day window, more than 400 comments were sent to the DNR opposing this timber

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sale. The DNR responded by saying they are the experts, and that their science is unassailable.

Many of you know of and enjoy the two major long-distance footpaths in southern Indiana, the Tecumseh (42mi) and the Knobstone (58mi). These were primarily built by volunteers and maintained by them. We used to think how great these trails were - they took us to the backwoods and deepest parts of our state forests. Unfortunately, the DNR does not value, nor have the foresight to see, the great tourism

Our efforts to introduce legislators to these constituents helped offset the information the DNR offered them.

Three of the grassroots leaders met with a top DNR official in mid-September. He was very accommodating and easy to talk with. Unfortunately, he would not consider opposing views. The DNR was clearly circling the wagons.

We knew that Governor Holcomb was key to bringing some common sense to this policy question of state



Photograph by Cathy Green

This clear cut logging site is on hillsides along the Knobstone Trail in the Jackson-Washington State Forest near State Road 56.

benefit from maintaining and promoting these trails. Getting to the timber on the ridges took precedence over protecting these wonderful paths widely popular with day hikers, backpackers and campers.

As a result of logging, both trails have been rerouted, clear cut and badly abused. You can follow the abuse to the Tecumseh [here](#). The DNR was quoted as saying that they have many miles of trails, suggesting that these two footpaths are nothing special. Their actions underscore that disregard.

We recognized early in the process that our state lawmakers needed to meet constituents affected by the rampant logging in the state forests. Many activists—people who chose years ago to live near these forests for their natural beauty, isolation and hiking opportunities—have been devastated by the logging in these woods (logging trucks non-stop on their small roads, destruction of their hiking paths, etc.).

forest logging. Prior to Mitch Daniels, governors from both sides of the aisle have set aside as much as 40% of the state forests via administrative action. Six grassroots members met for almost two hours with one of the Governor's top aides. She had experience with the state forest management issue and was engaged in the points we made: 1) a need for a balanced forest management policy; 2) the value of IFA's EcoBlitz; 3) the economic impact of sedimentation of Lake Lemon from logging and erosion in that watershed; and 4) the destruction of the Tecumseh Trail. We left a reading package and asked that the Governor get back to us. We never received a response from either of them.

In the late fall, as we moved toward the early November Backcountry timber sale, the combined groups decided to pursue an all-out effort to

bring awareness to the issue. The Save Yellowwood campaign was born out of these efforts. The yellow yard signs became hugely popular. An encampment was built on private property near the YSF Backcountry tracts. This became a popular place to congregate and organize hikes.

The timber sale was held on November 9th at the YSF office. With a huge crowd of protesters expected, we took extra caution not to prevent timber bidders from reaching the office and the sale. The unofficial count of 225 sign-carrying protesters were vocal about DNR selling this tract and the Division of Forestry's management. It was especially painful to see these trees sold for such low prices. This gathering was an order of magnitude larger than any seen at prior timber sales.

Senator Bassler along with Senators Koch and Ford authored SB 275, a bill to set aside 30% of the state forests from logging. Seven other Republicans and two Democrats also signed on to the bill. January 16th was set as State Forest Lobby Day where scores of citizens met with their State House lawmakers and expressed concern about DNR practices and support for SB 275. Despite this tremendous support and the lobbying efforts by the staffs of the statewide groups, a hearing was not called by the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Dr. Leslie Bishop of Brown County, an emeritus professor of biology, spearheaded an effort to bring the voices of academics in Indiana to bear on this issue. She delivered a letter from 240 scientists to Governor Holcomb's office. They expressed concern about the impact of logging on the forest ecosystem and asked that additional research should be incorporated into DNR policy. The DNR and Purdue foresters again said they were the experts and that the views of these 240 scientists need not be considered.

As the legislative process progressed, DNR launched a PR blitz to counter the widespread opposition to their forest management practices. I am sure we will never learn how many taxpayer dollars DNR spent to hire a PR firm and produce videos and a big new webpage. Instead of having serious discussions with citizens, they spent taxpayer money to ramp up their message about DNR having all the answers. In the meantime, we attended Third House meetings with lawmakers and pressed for legislation.

So this brings us back to the beginning of this story. Yes, an amendment was offered in the House by Representative Pierce to set aside 10% of the State forests. Several Republican Representatives spoke in support of this legislation.

“Based upon the success and lessons learned from the Crown Hill Cemetery effort earlier that year to protect the old growth forest, we decided to organize five citizen-driven autonomous grassroots groups centered on popular areas of the state forests.”

The author of the DNR omnibus bill, Representative Eberhart, stood prior to the vote and told the floor that Governor Holcomb does not want this amendment passed. Despite this last-minute effort, the vote was closer than expected as 35 House members voted in favor of the amendment, including 13 Republicans. It was a monumental accomplishment, having a vote with bipartisan support addressing how the Division of Forestry should be run.

The biggest disappointment in this whole process was how Governor Holcomb handled the issue. He never personally responded to citizen concerns. He received over 5,000 calls and letters in opposition to the Backcountry timber sale versus 24 expressing support for his DNR. Six Republican lawmakers met with him about the sale. Without the Governor engaging with both sides on this issue, we with many lawmakers will seek a legislative solution.

So the DNR is moving forward with their selective science and logging policy. They will certainly take extra effort to showcase their logging work in YSF Backcountry area. But they won't showcase the destruction at Carmel Ridge, Dubious Ridge, Yellowwood Lake, Scarce O'Fat, Miller Ridge, Jackson Washington State Forest, Oakley...the

list goes on.

Forest advocates are not going away. We seek a balanced forest management policy that recognizes differing points of view and citizen concerns and interests. Currently our state leaders are gambling that the DNR is right. It does not have to be that way. Nor should it be, for an issue with such long-term consequences.

Dave Simcox is a Hoosier Chapter member who lives in Bloomington. He is an avid hiker and forest lover.

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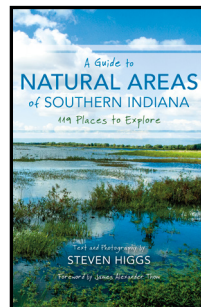
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Letter from the Chapter Director: Bobcat season dies

By Bowden Quinn

Time to celebrate! With all the bad news we've had to endure so far this year, it's great to have a big win. Facing massive public opposition to its attempt to establish a hunting/trapping season for bobcats, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources withdrew the proposal at the May 15 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. It also scuttled its plan to require nuisance animal control workers to kill any coyotes, opossums, or raccoons that they remove from a property at the request of the owner. Make that two big wins!

The commission held two public hearings on D.N.R.'s package of amendments to its wildlife management rules, one at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell on March 14 and the other at Mounds State Park in Anderson on March 22. According to hearing officer Sandra Jensen's report on the hearings, at least 93 people attended the Mitchell meeting and at least 110 members of the public were at the Anderson meeting.

I attended both hearings. A large contingent of trappers and hunters were at the Mitchell meeting and the public comments were about evenly split between those for and those against the bobcat season. In Anderson, however, the audience was overwhelmingly opposed to killing bobcats. (No one at either meeting spoke in favor of the requirement to kill captured nuisance animals.) In Anderson, several commenters expressed their extreme disappointment that D.N.R. would propose these rules when the public perception is that the department is meant to act to protect Indiana wildlife, not to promote killing it.

Two major objections expressed by many commenters are that the department offered no firm data on how large the bobcat population is in Indiana (the state listed the bobcat as endangered as recently as 2005) and admitted that it had received few complaints about bobcats. Ms. Jensen emphasized these points in recommending that the commission not adopt the two rules.

“Kudos go to Erin Huang, Indiana state director of the Humane Society of the United States, who spearheaded the opposition to the bobcat hunting season.”

She was critical of the department's handling of the rules, saying its “response with respect to the public comment on these rule proposals is minimal and does not fully address the concerns expressed by the public.”

Kudos go to Erin Huang, Indiana state director of the Humane Society of the United States, who spearheaded the opposition to the bobcat hunting season. Other groups that turned out members and supporters to oppose the rule included Hoosier Envi-



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ronmental Council, the Indiana Forest Alliance, and the Indiana Wildlife Federation, along with the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter.

Let's hope we can strengthen and broaden this coalition to score more victories in the months ahead. The Indiana Conservation Alliance, a diverse set of groups interested in increasing the amount of money the state spends on land and water protection, is mounting a campaign to identify new sources of income for habitat acquisition and management since funds raised for the state's conservation fund by our environmental license plate have dwindled with the proliferation of other specialty plates.

In an even more challenging attempt to improve public support for conservation, Mike Chaveas, superintendent of the Hoosier National Forest, has initiated an effort at broad-based collaboration on forest management. Representatives from a wide range of interest groups attended a meeting he convened in April, including loggers, hunters, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts as well as conservationists and environmentalists. He will hold a second meeting June 14 to try to identify an issue or issues that we might all have a useful dialog about. Now that would really be something to celebrate!

Hoosier Chapter art show

You're invited!

By Rebecca Dien-Johns

We are proud to present the 2018 Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter art show [Environmental Justice in Indiana](#).

We invited artists to submit work reflecting on the issues of environmental justice in our state. We asked them, *What challenges do we face here? What victories have we seen in our communities? Whose voices do we need to amplify? What questions would you like to answer - or pose - with your work?*

More than 20 artists participated and we had a great opening evening on May 10, where people were treated to food from local cooperative Pogue's Run Grocer, and music from Indianapolis-based musicians Mark and Jeremy Radway.

The aim of the show is to promote dialogue about environmental justice in Indiana. As part of this effort, we spoke with the artists in more detail about their hopes and concerns and featured some of the interviews on our website (sierraclub.org/indiana/interviews-artists).

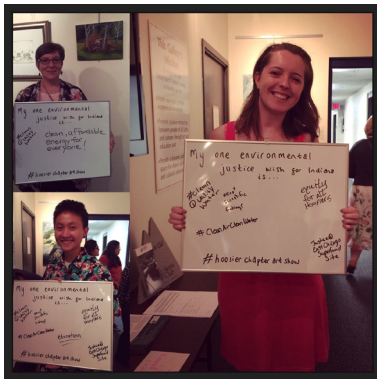
We're also inviting children and young people to submit their work to an online gallery, and plan on hosting an art workshop for kids this summer on an environmental theme. Visit sierraclub.org/indiana/childrensgallery to get involved.

The exhibition at the Indiana Interchurch Center (1100 W 42nd St, Indianapolis) is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, until June 29, 2018. Environmental Justice in Indiana is fun, thought-provoking and insightful. Expect the unexpected! We hope to see you there.

Rebecca is the Hoosier Chapter's administrative assistant.



Photo by Marilyn Bauchat
Mark Warpenburg discusses his piece, *Beez*, with fellow artist Lifan Fan.



Above left: Hoosiers sharing their environmental justice wishes for Indiana. Photos by Monica Cannaley.

Above: Artists Ann Johnson AKA FB Fogg and Lylanne Mussellman with Lylanne's work. Photo thanks to Lylanne Mussellman

Bottom left: Father and son saxophone duo Mark and Jeremy Radway treated the crowd to jazz (and great t-shirts). Photo by Rebecca Dien-Johns.



Photo by Marilyn Bauchat
Artist Christina M. Clark with her creation *Delectable*- a dress made from empty cat treat packets!

Coal to Diesel Refinery Planned for Spencer County

By Richard Hill

A plant that would convert coal to diesel fuel and other by-products is being proposed for Dale, Indiana, in Spencer County, about 50 miles east-north-east of Evansville.

Many local residents are concerned about potential pollution that would be added to the already heavily polluted area. For the year 2016, the sparsely populated county ranked number 23 in the nation for toxic releases.

Spencer County is also home to the Rockport super polluter coal-fired power plant.

Critics also question the apparent economic sense of



A coal-to-liquid (CTL) plant in northwest China (Ningxia Hui). Photo taken on 12/26/2016.

the project. The conversion process is expected to be extremely expensive and should not be able to compete with forecasted oil prices.

This leads us to suspect the likelihood of the company, Riverview Energy, seeking various subsidies for needed infrastructure and other capital expenses.

Nearby residents have formed an informed and energetic No Coal to Diesel group. For more information on this project, visit their marvelous website [here](#).

Richard is chair of the Hoosier Chapter executive committee.

How Energy Efficiency Affects the Environment

By Monica Cannaley

There are many benefits to saving energy - individual utility cost savings, cleaner air through reduced carbon emissions, increased jobs in the building, mechanical, insulation, and air-sealing industries. Energy efficiency also lessens the need for pipelines, coal mines and transmission lines which all affect the environment.

By reducing our energy usage, we minimize environmental damage from oil spills due to underground pipeline breaks and shipping transport accidents. According to a 2007 study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 26,000 gallons of oil from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill was still present in the sand along the Alaska shoreline. Oil from spills can damage plants and animals, making whole areas unsuitable as wildlife habitat.

By reducing our energy usage, we reduce deforestation, erosion and groundwater contamination caused by strip mining. Coal dust, which contains toxic chemicals, has been shown to cause health effects not just to those who work in the mines, but to surrounding landowners.

“When you consume less power, you reduce the amount of electricity that power plants have to make, conserve the earth’s natural resources, and protect ecosystems from destruction.”

By reducing our energy usage, we reduce our need for the construction of transmission lines and substations. These structures often affect forests and wetlands by requiring more road access, the use of herbicides to control vegetation, and the emission of chemicals used in the manufacture of electrical equipment.

There is a direct connection between your energy use and the environment. When you consume less power, you reduce the amount of electricity that power plants have to make, conserve the earth’s natural resources, and protect ecosystems from destruction.

Do your part and POWER OFF when heat, air conditioning or appliances are not needed, and consider energy efficient alternatives when it comes to transportation.

Monica Cannaley is the Energy Efficiency Organizer for the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter. If your club or organization would like a presentation on ways you can save energy, or an update on the current building energy code, contact Monica at monica.cannaley@sierraclub.org or 317-702-4704.

IPL Customers and Community Leaders Speak Out Against Rate Increase Request

By Wendy Bredhold

Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign staff and volunteers delivered 1,800 comments to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) on May 16, the culmination of months of organizing in opposition to Indianapolis Power & Light's latest proposed rate increase which was filed in December.

Among other increases, IPL is requesting that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) approve a 59 percent hike in its fixed charge, from \$17.00 to \$27.00, which would make IPL's the highest fixed charge in the state.

Sierra Club is opposed to fixed charge increases because they discourage energy efficiency and distributed generation (like rooftop solar) and disproportionately burden low- and fixed-income customers. No matter how little energy you use, the utility is guaranteed you will pay the same amount on your electric bill.

At two public hearings the IURC held in April and May in response to IPL's request, every person who testified spoke in opposition to the rate increase. Of the over 60 people who testified, many called for IPL to phase out its Petersburg Super Polluter coal plant in Southwest Indiana and transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy.

IPL's request is also opposed by eight members of the Indianapolis

City-County Council, including Council President Vop Osili, who say the increase will be too burdensome on the city's poor. The Council members, who also included Jared Evans, Zach Adamson, Frank Mascari, Monroe Gray, Maggie Lewis, Joe Simpson and William "Duke" Oliver, held a press conference on May 7 to announce their opposition.

Earlier in April, Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light organized a dozen faith leaders to stage a protest in front of IPL's headquarters, describing the rate increase request

as "immoral," and delivered a letter asking the OUCC to oppose the request. The letter said that IPL should take immediate action against poverty and pollution, create programs and policies that set affordable rates for low-income customers, and begin to phase out Petersburg and move Indianapolis towards 100% renewable energy.

For more information, contact Matthew Skuya-Boss, Lead Organizer Sierra Club Beyond Coal at 515-314-0213 or matt.skuya.boss@sierraclub.org.

Wendy Bredhold is a campaign representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign in Indiana. She is based in Evansville.

"Of the over 60 people who testified, many called for IPL to phase out its Petersburg Super Polluter coal plant in Southwest Indiana and transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy."

Attempt to Take Over Adoption of the Residential Energy Code Fails

By Monica Cannaley

SB 435, a bill that would have reduced our ability to address energy efficiency in the residential building code, fortunately never made it out of committee. The bill, backed by the Indiana Builders Association, would have:

- required the code to meet affordability requirements in addition to the minimum standards for safety and public welfare. Updated codes often result in a slight increase to the cost of construction, but energy efficiency measures have a short payback time and reduce the operating costs of a building for its lifetime.

- restricted a local building official's ability to enforce standards that exceed the minimum requirements of the code. As more and more homeowners choose to build above-code through increased levels of insulation, air sealing and installation of high performance HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) equipment, building officials would be tied to inspecting a new home for only the minimum requirements. Thorough building inspections are one of the ways we insure a safe, well-built home.

- allowed the code review committee to use as guidance, but not necessarily require the adoption of, a nationally known model code. Model codes are developed by industry professionals from

throughout the country, and are currently used or adopted in 49 states, including Indiana. By allowing the code review committee the option of NOT using a model building code, we might have ended up with a "home grown" code which excluded energy efficiency requirements all together.

- required the appointment of a code review committee heavily stacked by builder representatives.

Building energy codes present one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing energy consumption in new construction. Reducing energy use also reduces carbon emissions from electric generating power plants. The built environment accounts for roughly 40% of energy use in the US and as a result, the building sector is a major contributor to carbon emissions and global climate change. Since new buildings will be around for decades, improving building performance with energy efficient standards in the residential building code will help mitigate emissions for years to come.

Monica Cannaley is the Energy Efficiency Organizer for the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter. If your club or organization would like a presentation on ways you can save energy, or an update on the current building energy code, contact Monica at monica.cannaley@sierraclub.org or 317-702-4704.

"Building energy codes present one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing energy consumption in new construction."

Sierra Club Defends Communities Against Mining, Deforestation

By Brian Hasler

By any measure the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly was a difficult one for environmental interests. Republican super-majorities in the House and Senate represent a serious challenge to our agenda of forest protection, alternative sources of energy and clean and safe waters. Despite this often hostile legislative environment, the Sierra Club scored a clear victory when it came to protecting local zoning authority over extraction of natural resources.

In the Senate, efforts by the Sierra Club and our allies, the Indiana Forest Alliance and the Hoosier Environmental Council, were focused on passage of legislation by Senator Eric Bassler (SB 275) to set aside thirty percent (30%) of state forests from the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) plan for logging. In response to the annual sequestration of budget funds, the DNR has resorted to logging Indiana's forests as a means of meeting budget shortfalls. With the support of the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association, the DNR has argued that this effort is in the best interest of forests, when in reality under the past three Republican Governors we have seen a dramatic reduction in old growth trees in our state forests.

Despite considerable effort, and an unprecedented number of Senate Republican co-authors on the bill, the Chairwoman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Senator Susan Glick (R-LaGrange) refused to hear the bill for the second year in a row. However, when it came to an attack on local zoning with regard to the extraction of natural resources, the Sierra Club found a friend in Senator Glick. A bill introduced by Representative Jeff Ellington (R-Bloomington) would have overruled the responsibility of local zoning boards with regard to the removal of coal, minerals and forests on private property.

The measure (HB 1289) passed the House of Representatives with the active involvement of coal interests in Warrick County and a mineral extraction company in Tippecanoe County, both of which employed a number of well-connected lobbyists to exert pressure on legislators. Due to the efforts of the Sierra Club and our allies, and despite the strong support of House leadership, Chairwoman Glick refused to hear the bill and fought to keep the language out of a conference committee report. We owe a debt of thanks to those members of the Senate who stood up for local control in the protection of natural resources, including Senators Eric Bassler, Vaneta Becker, Susan Glick and Mark Messmer.

Solar energy and wind generation again became the subject of multiple bills, however none of the bills advanced to passage. HB 1069, authored by Representative David Ober (R-St. Albion), Chairman of the House Utilities Committee, would have extended the

time period for which schools could finance the installation of solar power under grandfathering granted by SB 309 in the 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly. The Sierra Club, HEC and others advocated for a repeal of SB 309, and the extension of additional relief for homeowners, not-for-profits and small businesses. Unfortunately, the House and Senate Committees had no appetite for revisiting SB 309 and even the school measure failed.

Wind generation came under attack through several bills designed to produce greater setbacks for residents and usurping of the state on guidelines for wind turbine installation. The House Utilities Committee Chairman consolidated the bills into one, heard testimony, and decided against giving the measure a vote, thus securing local control of wind turbine

siting at this time.

Clean drinking water advocates enjoyed success in the passage of legislation creating a Water Infrastructure Task Force. The Task Force, made up of members of the House and Senate, representatives of the Governor's office and administrative agencies, engineers and representatives of ratepayers, among others, will be tasked with: 1) studying issues concerning drinking water, wastewater management and storm water management, 2) creating a decision-making tool for the legislature to prioritize water infrastructure projects, and 3) developing a long term plan for addressing drinking water, wastewater and storm water management in Indiana.

Several other issues of concern to the Sierra Club included redistricting reform, bias crimes, autonomous vehicles and a new designated ambassador for the state. Despite the need for real redistricting reform, bills to address redistricting standards and an independent commission to draw legislative lines were not successful. Bias crime legislation made progress but again failed to pass, leaving Indiana behind other states that have addressed crimes based upon race, religion, sex, and gender orientation with enhanced penalties. Autonomous vehicles legislation designed to place Indiana in the forefront of

this evolving industry advanced up to the final hours of the General Assembly only to fail in the final minutes. On a positive note, the Says Firefly was proclaimed the State Insect after a two-decade effort by school children across the state.

In the end, the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly failed to pass several priority bills as time ran out, including school safety measures, a takeover of schools in Gary and Muncie, adjustment of Indiana law to conform to changes in Federal tax law, several tax matters, and the annual technical corrections bill. No issues of concern to the Sierra Club are expected to arise as leadership in the House and Senate work to move these matters on an expedited basis in one day's time.

“Despite considerable effort, and an unprecedented number of Senate Republican co-authors on the bill, the Chairwoman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Senator Susan Glick (R-LaGrange) refused to hear the bill for the second year in a row.”

“Wind generation came under attack through several bills designed to produce greater setbacks for residents and usurping of the state on guidelines for wind turbine installation.”

Finally, as we look forward to the 2019 session, we can expect some dramatic changes to take place. First, Senator David Long, the Senate Pro-Tem, announced his retirement in November of this year. This set off a leadership challenge in the Senate that will be resolved on May 15th, only to be revisited after the Fall election. The introduction of new leaders will have a ripple effect through all of the leadership posts and chairmanships thus reshuffling the landscape in the Senate. While some Senate changes can be expected in the election, major changes in the makeup of the House of Representatives is assured with the number of retirements. After many years of little change in leadership and in turnover, the past several elections and the upcoming one will reshape the legislative environment.

The Sierra Club remains a vital voice at the Indiana General Assembly. I would encourage every Sierra Club member to get to know your legislators, let them know your thoughts about our issues, and to take advantage of public meetings in your area to reinforce our commitment to alternative energy, protection of our Indiana state forests, clean water and protection of the environment.

Brian Hasler is an Associate with Capitol Assets, LLC, a former four-term member of the Indiana House of Representatives, and represents the Indiana Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Beyond Coal Campaign at the Indiana General Assembly.

Meet Linze Southwick

By Linze Southwick

Growing up between two state parks (Mississinewa and Salamonie River), I learned as a small child to appreciate Mother Earth and what she provides. My Native American uncle used to walk among the fields with me collecting arrowheads. As we walked, he would talk to me about the importance of taking care of each other, including the Earth. I remember as a small child looking at the forests and open fields wondering how life used to be, and the simplicity we once had.

As I've grown, my appreciation for Mother Earth and the simplicity of life has grown stronger. I chose to live my life in the light, and work for social and environmental issues. I do not have cable, Wi-Fi, or Internet. I've chosen to live my life in solitude as much as this world allows. All the work in my life reflects my personal values and morals. For instance, I have been active among the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and, on behalf of myself and the Sierra Club, lobbied with a spiritual leader from Standing Rock in Washington D.C. and traveled to Standing Rock camps.

My work as a legislative outreach coordinator for the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter included educating Sierra Club members and their legislators about environmental and redistricting issues within their districts, reaching out to Sierra Club members about concerns and issues in their district and giving them a voice in the Indiana General Assembly, and providing educational assistance to Sierra Club members on how to approach their legislators and have their voices grow stronger.

My volunteer work includes collaborating with Stand With Congo, an inclusive social movement hub uniting activists, civil society leaders, techies, private sector innovators, and other global citizens with the Congo peace movement. Launched as a mining transparency campaign, Stand With Con-



SIERRA CLUB



Photo by Rebecca Dien-Johns

go has grown into a global platform for human rights in Congo supported by a thriving diverse international community.

As a mother of a six-year-old child, my goals are to teach her the interconnectedness of our Earth to the human race. I hope to teach my daughter how to heal through, and with, Mother Earth.

Linze Southwick is a member of the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter Executive Committee, and was our Legislative Outreach Coordinator for the legislative season this year.

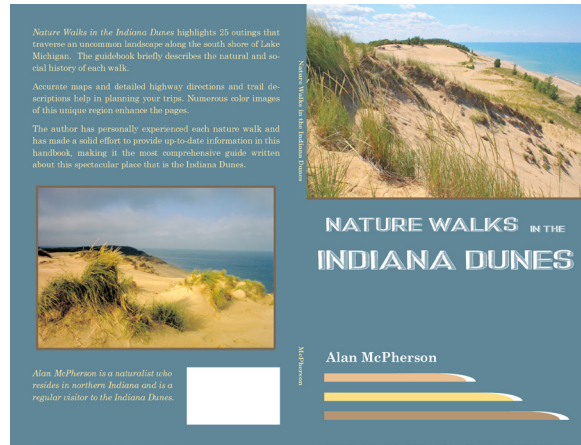
Getting Outdoors

By Alan McPherson

Alan McPherson is no stranger to walking the public lands in Indiana. His past Indiana Nature Walks guides include the Hoosier Chapter publications, Nature Walks in Southern Indiana (1991), and Nature Walks in Northern Indiana (1996). In 2002, J. L. Waters published the 2nd expanded edition of Nature Walks in Southern Indiana.

More recently he has set about compiling walking guides by natural regions in Indiana rather than political units such as counties or state: Nature Walks in the Indiana Dunes (2015), Nature Walks on the Indiana Prairie (2016), Nature Walks in Indiana's Northern Lake Plains (May, 2018), and Nature Walks along the Wabash Valley (May, 2018).

"Ecologists have organized Indiana into twelve geographic natural regions and it is more rewarding to be outside in nature with this approach in mind," says McPherson. "You capture the essence of a place, it's persona. Although these natural regions overlap, the Lake Plains of northeastern Indiana, for example, has distinctive landforms, flora and fauna that the Tipton Till Plain does not have. The Dunes natural region offers a sharp contrast to the other natural regions and so does the Prairie natural region. The Wabash River Valley flows through the Central Till Plain in the upper reaches and south of Terre Haute, the Big Rivers Region. Do not view the Indiana outdoors as one mono cultural vastness, but look closer and explore Indiana's nature as diverse, homogenous, well-defined natural regions."



Best Walks by Natural Region

Indiana Dunes: Mt Baldy, Central Ave. Beach, Lake View Beach, Kemil Beach, Indiana Dunes State Park, Porter Beach, Cowles Bog, West Beach and Miller Woods.

Indiana Prairie: Taltree Arboretum, Hoosier Prairie, Ober Savanna, Round Lake, Tippecanoe River State Park, Stoutsburg Savanna, Kankakee Sands, Fisher Oak Savanna, Prophetstown State Park, Black Rock Nature Preserves and Smith Pioneer Cemetery.

N. Indiana Lake Plains: Pokagon State Park, Trine SRA, Wing Haven, Ropchan Memorial, Pigeon River FWA, Pine Knob, Olin Lake, G. S. Porter SHS, Chain O'Lakes State Park, Merry Lea, Crooked Lake, Pipe-

wort Pond, Boot Lake, Pisgah Marsh, Spicer Lake, Lake Maxinkuckee, Potawatomi Wildlife Park and Judy Burton-Lake Manitou.

Wabash Valley: Geneva area, ACRES along the Wabash, Hanging Rock, Paradise Spring, Logansport area, Delphi Historic Trails, Prophetstown State Park, Wabash Heritage Trail, Ft. Ouiatenon to Independence, Shaw-

nee Bottoms to Pecan Basin, Vincennes area, New Harmony area and Between the Rivers.

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

The nature walk guidebooks may be purchased from Amazon, J. L. Waters or from the author by writing to: Alan McPherson, POB 38, Kewanna, IN 46939. Alan is a Sierra Club member and author of several guides to hiking in Indiana. Each guidebook is \$20.95 plus \$2.00 s&h.

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