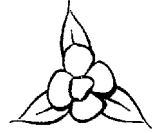




Spring 2002

Indiana Forests



The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance

OPEN HOUSES, MIXED MESSAGES

by Jen Weiss, Acting Director, Heartwood

For the first time ever, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has invited the public to attend open houses at state forest offices. Scheduled periodically between February and May of this year, the open houses are an opportunity for people to learn more about DNR programs, meet and talk with DNR staff, and offer comments on forest management policies and programs. I sincerely hope these events represent a real commitment by the DNR to respect citizen input and consider making fundamental changes in the agency. However, the cynic in me insists these gatherings are nothing but a public relations move, designed to give the appearance of answering the demand (largely put forth by IFA members) for more citizen input to state forest management.

Indeed, the open house attended on Tuesday, March 26 in the Yellowwood State Forest office was quite a show. The DNR went all out with over a dozen display boards, multiple handouts, plenty of uniformed and more casually dressed staff, cookies, lemonade, iced tea, coffee, and even coloring books for the kids. If I wasn't involved with IFA, I'm sure I would've left with a positive impression of the DNR Division of Forestry. Programs like tree nurseries, Forest Legacy, Heritage Trust, and the Tecumseh Trail project all have their merits. A friend of mine who is a forester has told me that Indiana has far better state forest policies than those of surrounding states, and that the DNR's logging training program and Best Management Practices (BMPs) standards have resulted in a large improvement in the overall quality of logging on both public and private land. But the open house was not a feel good experience for me. I went with a few specific questions, hoping to engage in actual dialogue. Since I'm familiar with the issues, I had specific questions in mind regarding better enforcement of BMPs, extending the bird nesting protection to all the forests, and some budget information that IFA requested months ago.

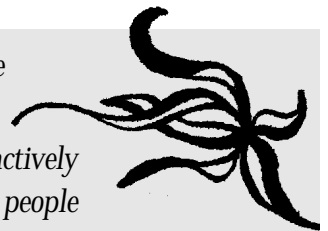
In speaking with Jim Allen, Property Manager for Yellowwood/Morgan Monroe, I learned that the DNR would not be instituting a program wide suspension of logging during migratory bird nest-

ing season; individual property managers would be making this decision. He said that he actually couldn't find any scientific evidence to support his decision, and that he made it on. This was depressing news to me if there isn't research out there to support this, there should be. When I asked Burney Fischer, the Director of the Division of Forestry, about better BMP enforcement, he actually said that the BMPs are voluntary. When I asked about obtaining specific budget information (to determine the true cost of the state forest timber sale program), he directed me to a pie chart on the wall and instructed me to multiply various figures out for myself.

On the other hand, when I asked John Davis (Deputy Director for the DNR) about BMPs, he said they have 100% compliance. When I informed him that this simply isn't true, he seemed genuinely surprised. When I asked him about the budget, he offered to answer any questions I had directly. However, he has yet to answer my e-mail or phone call. Is it any wonder that forest protection activists are more than a little frustrated with this situation? At the very least, we need a state agency with whom concerned citizens can have a relationship based on trust. In the past three years or so, as the State Forest Protection Campaign has gained momentum, IFA members have endured a variety of deceptive practices on the part of the DNR, from lack of cooperation and general misinformation to illegal maneuvers and flat-out lies.

The open houses are a nice gesture, but overall, the DNR is anything but when it comes to answering the real questions; in actual practice they often act like they have something to hide. Maybe the fact that they're not following the Indiana Environmental Policy Act and the Indiana Endangered Species Act is tugging a bit at their collective conscience. Or maybe they just don't think the concerns of forest protection advocates should affect business as usual on the state forests. In either case, citizens would do well to take all DNR information with a grain of salt, and be prepared to closely monitor their activities.

IFA meets every Wednesday at 6pm at the
Bloomington Eco-Center, 116 1/2 S. College Ave.
in Bloomington. Now is an exciting time to be actively
involved in the forest protection movement, and people
with all levels of skills and experience are welcome at our meetings. If
you can't make it to our regular meeting time, but would still like to vol-
unteer, please let us know! There are plenty of ways to get involved, from
entering new members into our database, to writing letters, to organizing
projects or campaigns.



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Save the date! Memorial Day Weekend!

Return of the Buffalo

12th Annual Heartwood Forest Council

May 24-27, 2002

Memorial Day Weekend In Beautiful Southern Indiana at Camp Rivervale, on the East Fork of the White River.

Heartwood, a regional network of forest protection organizations, is hosting a National Forest Council May 24-27 in southern Indiana. This will be an empowering weekend of workshops and strategy sessions about forests, reclaiming democracy, community organizing, and more.

This year, we are inviting forest activists from across the country and seeking a common cause with friends from other movements and networks. Our hope is to further integrate and coordinate diverse efforts, recognize threats and opportunities for justice and renewal shared by all citizens and activists, and to provide partici-

pants with tools and priority actions they can take back to organize in their local communities.

In this spirit of unity, we welcome a variety of keynote speakers and special guests, including president of IEER, Dr. Arjun Makhijani; Lakota elder, Ken Cane; Ancient Forest Campaign Coordinator for Greenpeace, Mike Roselle and many more.

There has never been a more compelling need for real defenders of our homeland to share the knowledge and experiences gained from throughout the nation, and to combine our forest protection efforts with the larger movement for peace, justice, and ecological wisdom.

A full brochure can be found online at www.heartwood.org For more information, call Heartwood at (812) 337-8898 or IFA at (812) 332-4878; or e-mail info@heartwood.org

Indiana Forests

is brought to you by the

Indiana Forest Alliance

PO Box 1074
Bloomington, In 47402
(812) 332 4878

www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa

The Indiana Forest Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the forests of the Hoosier state and promoting sustainable communities for its residents. Offices are located in the Bloomington Environmental Center at 116 1/2 S. College Ave. We meet every Wednesday night at 6 p.m.

Newsletter Editor:

Kara Reagan
kreagan@indiana.edu

Contributors:

Steve Gil
Joshua Martin
Forest Gras
Jen Weis
Kara Reagan
Jaymee Jacoby

Cover Design:

Kristy Edmonds

Illustrations:

Jaymee Jacoby



Boise Cascade protest at the Statehouse in Indianapolis

Boise's recent movement to respond to the old-growth issue, an announcement which was notable though greatly symbolic.

"And its great to see Notre Dame responding to its students. In contrast to the state's decision, students at

Notre Dame University in South Bend were recently successful in their pursuit of a change in office supply contracts at their University. Notre Dame has recently announced that it will no longer purchase products from Boise, responding to concerns brought forth to them by students with Notre Dame Student Environmental Action."

In similar success, last year on May 5, Indiana University passed an innovative policy for its purchasing department which prohibits the purchase of wood and paper products from old-growth forests. Corporations that are known to be involved in old-growth forest destruction, such as Boise, are precluded from winning a vending contract with IU.

In March, 2002, Boise Cascade announced its first-ever old-growth forest policy declaring it will no longer log centuries-old trees in some undisturbed forests on public lands. While this is a significant indication of the impact the forest protection movement is having on Boise, the corporation limited its old-growth definition to trees that are more than 200 years old and within inventoried roadless areas 5,000 acres or greater. *This means that Boise will still be logging ancient old-growth trees from public lands - in addition to continuing to log national forests in general.* The demands of the campaign to stop Boise are:

- *Extend its old growth ban to its international distribution operations*
- *Eliminate logging on US Public Lands*
- *End genetic engineering of trees*
- *Adopt responsible logging practices monitored by the Forest Stewardship Council, including implementing a chain of custody linking forest and paper products to sustainable logging on the ground.*

Boise Cascade

To truly be an effective forest protection movement, we must look at holistic approaches to our quest for radical change. We must not only use defensive tactics to protect wild forests from becoming the supply, but we must also act strategically to reduce humanity's voracious demand for products sourced from wild forests, especially those for which smart alternatives already exist. One way to do that is through personal consumption choices and spending your dollars consciously. Another is by getting organized in order to speak truth to the greed and power of the largest multinational corporations responsible for the demise of what is wild and sacred.

Boise is the dinosaur of the logging industry. Its logging operations, mills, and international product distribution have fueled the destruction of much of the little old growth left on the planet. Boise has come under increasingly intense public criticism for failing to join more than 400 companies, including Home Depot, Lowe's, and Kinko's in a pledge to stop the destructive practice of selling products made from endangered, old growth forests. Boise actively logs old growth forests throughout the U.S., distributes wood products from endangered old growth forests throughout Canada, Central and South America, and Southeast Asia and has been linked to human rights abuses in Guerrero, Mexico. Boise still holds the permits for their Cascada Project, the world's largest chip mill in the heart of Chile's endangered temperate rainforest. Chile's Southern Coastal Highway, being punched through the Valdivian Coastal Rainforest, provides Boise another opportunity to move forward with their project.

Several recent events in Indiana have catalyzed the campaign to protect endangered forests through the demand side of the economic equation. After a large campaign to educate and influence the decision makers on a state of Indiana office products contract, which found tremendous public support, the state decided this spring that conscience was not affordable and quietly renewed its contract with Boise. "We were disappointed to learn of this decision by the state," said Bridget Lee, a volunteer with Indiana University's Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Indiana Forest Alliance. "However, we did put a lot of pressure on Boise to change their practices or risk losing customers. We educated a lot of people and I think our effort here contributed greatly to

Take action! Write to:

**George Harad, Chief Executive Officer, Boise Cascade Corp.
1111 W. Jefferson St. Boise, ID 83728**

Or go to http://www.ran.org/ran_campaigns/old_growth/boise_action.html to easily send an email message.

For more facts on Boise please see the following sites:
www.ran.org
(Rainforest Action Network)

http://www.forestadvocate.org/pdf/boise_fact_sheet.pdf
(National Forest Protection Alliance)

www.americanlands.org/imperiled_forests.htm
(American Lands fact sheet on Boise and Chile)

www.americanlands.org/boise_myths_&_facts.htm
(American Lands fact sheet on Boise myths and facts)

IFA in the Region

by Steve Gil

After several months of working with IFA in Bloomington I moved back home to Northwest Indiana in June. It was a really hard decision after meeting many wonderful people and finally finding something I have been wanting to do for so long. Trading rolling hills and beautiful lands for the hustle and bustle of Chicago suburbs is not something I wanted, but getting the IFA message to a new part of the state was. I knew from the start it was going to be tough, but it was also somewhat exciting to teach people as I had learned so much. Since we have used up nearly all of our land on industry and sprawl, I hope we can help protect areas we also use for recreation.

As of now, we have formed the Indiana University Northwest Environmental Action Committee, and ending commercial logging on state forests will be a major part of our campaigns. We also have two people on the newly formed Indiana Wilderness Team. On March 22, a few Northwest Indiana citizens met with Representative Pete Visclosky to support protection of National Forests. We have also circulated and gathered signatures for a sign-on letter to Representative Visclosky to urge him to support legislation to protect Roadless Areas. And from April 20 to 27 we hosted an "Environmental Awareness Week" featuring speakers, community activities, and plenty of information. I am hopeful that IFA will continue to grow here as it has in Bloomington, and that we can be a powerful voice to the people in Northwest Indiana.

If you live in the northern part of the state and would like to become involved with the forest protection movement, e-mail Steve at sgil13@yahoo.com.

Baron Hill Joins IFA in Seeking Withdrawal of Damaging Forest Service Directive

A new directive proposed by the US Forest Service would greatly expand the agency's ability to issue "Categorical Exclusions" (CE) for their projects, thereby exempting them from the standard environmental analysis and public input procedures that the National Environmental Policy Act would otherwise require. Currently, the regulations do not allow a CE in the presence of "extraordinary circumstances" which include features such as designated wilderness, steep slopes or highly erodible soils, research natural areas, and native American cultural sites. The proposed directive allows for the use of a CE even in the presence of any of the "extraordinary circumstances," through an internal decision with no public input or right of appeal. History has demonstrated that the FS is abusive with CE's, resulting in successful lawsuits by groups such as Heartwood. Recognizing the potential for

abuse and the hidden agenda behind the directive, Representative Mark Udall of Colorado authored a letter to the US Forest Service asking for its withdrawal. At the request and urging of American Lands, IFA and Heartwood, local Representative Baron Hill signed onto the letter along with 53 other members of Congress. Representative Hill's support and the success of the letter in turn led to a meeting between public lands advocates and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, who oversees the regulations associated with NEPA. We are looking forward to progress being made to ensure public participation in these critical Forest Service decisions, and thank Representative Hill for his responsiveness and attention to this issues.

To see a copy of the Udall letter visit:

http://www.americanlands.org/udall_sign_on_letter.htm

IFA and Northwest Environmental Action committee meet with Representative Visclosky



Meetings with Representatives

by Joshua Martin

Members of IFA and Heartwood have been meeting with members of the US Congress from Indiana in order to educate them and convey grassroots support for forest protection policies of national and local significance. Forest advocates spoke to Representative Baron Hill, Representative Peter Visclosky, and a representative from Senator Evan Bayh's office in March and April on issues such as the national forest roadless policy, forest management on the Hoosier NF, and off-road vehicle abuse of public land.

IFA, Heartwood, and local politicians meet with Congressman Baron Hill



Forest Openings Update

In Chicago on February 12, a panel of judges in Federal Appellate Court heard oral arguments in the appeal of a lawsuit filed by Heartwood, the Indiana Forest Alliance, and others. The suit was filed as a response to the U.S. Forest Service's decision to maintain approximately 3,000 acres of "forest openings" by mowing and controlled burns, which was upheld in court last year. In the appeal, Heartwood and IFA argue that the Forest Service should have prepared an Environmental Impact Statement due to the scientific controversy over the impacts of the project.

Dr. Donald Whitehead, Dr. Jean Graber, Donald Winslow, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service all disputed the Forest Service's claims about the effects of the project. These scientists indicated the openings would not help the species the Forest Service claims will benefit. Furthermore, they indicate that the project will have adverse effects on forest interior species. Instead of considering all data, the Forest Service chose to rely on the scientific studies of scientists employed by the agency, which some have argued are less qualified than the authors of the studies not considered.

Hoosier Hikers Lawsuit

Last year, the Indiana Forest Alliance signed onto a lawsuit, brought forth by the Hoosier Hikers Council and executive director, Suzanne Mittenthal. The suit was in response to a U.S. Forest Service decision to build 1.5 miles of new horse trails and to relocate 1.7 miles of a trail in the Deam Wilderness in the Hoosier National Forest. The plan, which could damage ecologically sensitive areas, was upheld by District Judge Richard L. Young. The Hoosier Hikers Council and others, however, still maintain concern over the appropriateness of maintaining and expanding damaging horse trails in a wilderness area. Suzanne Mittenthal and her organization, who, as volunteers, actually build trails, advocate for trails to be used by "hikers only", arguing that multi-use trails are often too muddy and damaged for use by hikers.

IFA action is needed to protect national forest roadless areas!

Amongst the most egregious of the environmental rollbacks of the Bush Administration has been the failure to implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The policy, developed after over 600 public meetings, almost 2 million public comments, and detailed scientific and economic analysis, would protect 58.5 million acres of wild public forest from road-building and most logging.

In Indiana, the Roadless Rule would protect 8,000 acres of the Hoosier National Forest near the Ohio River. This inventoried roadless area, known as Mogan Ridge, is important interior forest habitat and a recreational refuge for nearby urban centers. Roadless areas around the country face imminent threats of degradation from planned timber sales with 33 in Alaska's Tongass National Forest alone. Therefore, members of Congress have stepped forward with plans to introduce legislation which would make the protections of the Roadless Rule law.

IFA members can make a difference for wild forests both here and on the frontier by calling their United States Representative at 202-224-3121. Ask them to please protect our forest heritage by becoming co-sponsors of bipartisan Inslee/Boehlert roadless area legislation.

For more information please visit www.americanlands.org or www.ourforests.org



Staples Announces They Will stock Tree-Free Paper

In response to mounting protests against one of the country's largest office supply retailers, Staples has just announced that they will begin carrying one type of tree free paper. The paper, made by Living Tree Paper and called Vanguard Recycled Plus, is made of 90% post-consumer material and 10% hemp/flax. Though this is a positive first step, it's important to realize that Staples has still made no real commitment to decrease its reliance on virgin paper products. Staples could stand to pay a bit more attention to our forests, as they still have no official policy relating to the environment, nor do they have even one staff position devoted to environmental issues. As consumers, we play a vital role in molding the future of the forest products and paper industry, and we now have the opportunity to show Staples that we value our native forests, public lands, and old-growth by purchasing only their line of tree-free paper.

The following is a message from Living Tree Paper:

Living Tree Paper Company launches Vanguard Recycled Plus for Earth Day in all of 1,000 Staples superstores. Vanguard Recycled Plus is made from 90% post-consumer waste (recycled office paper) and 10% Hemp/Flax. The paper is processed chlorine-free and acid free.

Please show your support of this bold step by Staples by purchasing Vanguard Recycled Plus at your local Staples store. This is a step in the right direction for consumers to have environmentally preferable paper readily available. The paper is guaranteed for use in ink-jet printers and laser printers. The Clear-Cut environmental paper alternative is in your hands. Consumers play a pivotal role in reshaping the future of the pulp and paper industry.

STATE FOREST PUBLIC

Last winter, the Indiana University Center for Survey Research polled over 500 people, chosen at random from across the state, for their "Indiana Poll".

One of the questions they asked was, "In your opinion, should the Indiana Department of Natural Resources continue to allow commercial logging by private companies on Indiana's publicly owned state forests?". The results showed that a majority, 55.8% of respondents said "no", that the DNR should not continue this policy, under any circumstances. Another 10.2% said that their opinion "depends" on various circumstances. With such a high percentage of a random cross-section of Hoosiers in support of ending commercial logging on state forests all together, it's no wonder there is still no meaningful public input process into the DNR Division of Forestry's management decisions, including timber sales.

In December, after the Yellowwood Tree-Huggers were successful in preventing the cutting of a timber sale which included Prometheus, the tree that hosted an eight month long tree-sit, a representative from Governor O'Bannon's office asked IFA representatives to provide her with the reasons why we work toward ending commercial logging in state forests. We provided her with a four-page memo, complete with over 200 pages of supporting documentation ranging from correspondence with the DNR to scientific studies and reports. Then, in February, Joshua Martin, Andy Mahler, and I met with Beth Compton (of the Governor's office), John Davis, Carrie Doehrman, and John Goss (all of the DNR) in Indianapolis.

The meeting seemed to be very productive, and we came away with the feeling that the Division of Forestry was genuinely concerned with our viewpoints. Representatives from the DNR said that they had already been working hard on revising some of their policies and practices to make them more accessible. They showed us a flow chart, which they explained was their "Resource Management Process". It details all the steps that go into the sale of trees from a particular tract in a state forest. Though they had added several steps in 2000 and 2001, we noticed that one key step still seemed to be missing from their process, namely public input, in any form. There is no comment period, no requirement for the DNR to respond to concerns voiced by the general public or neighboring land owners, not even a meaningful vehicle for written public comment.

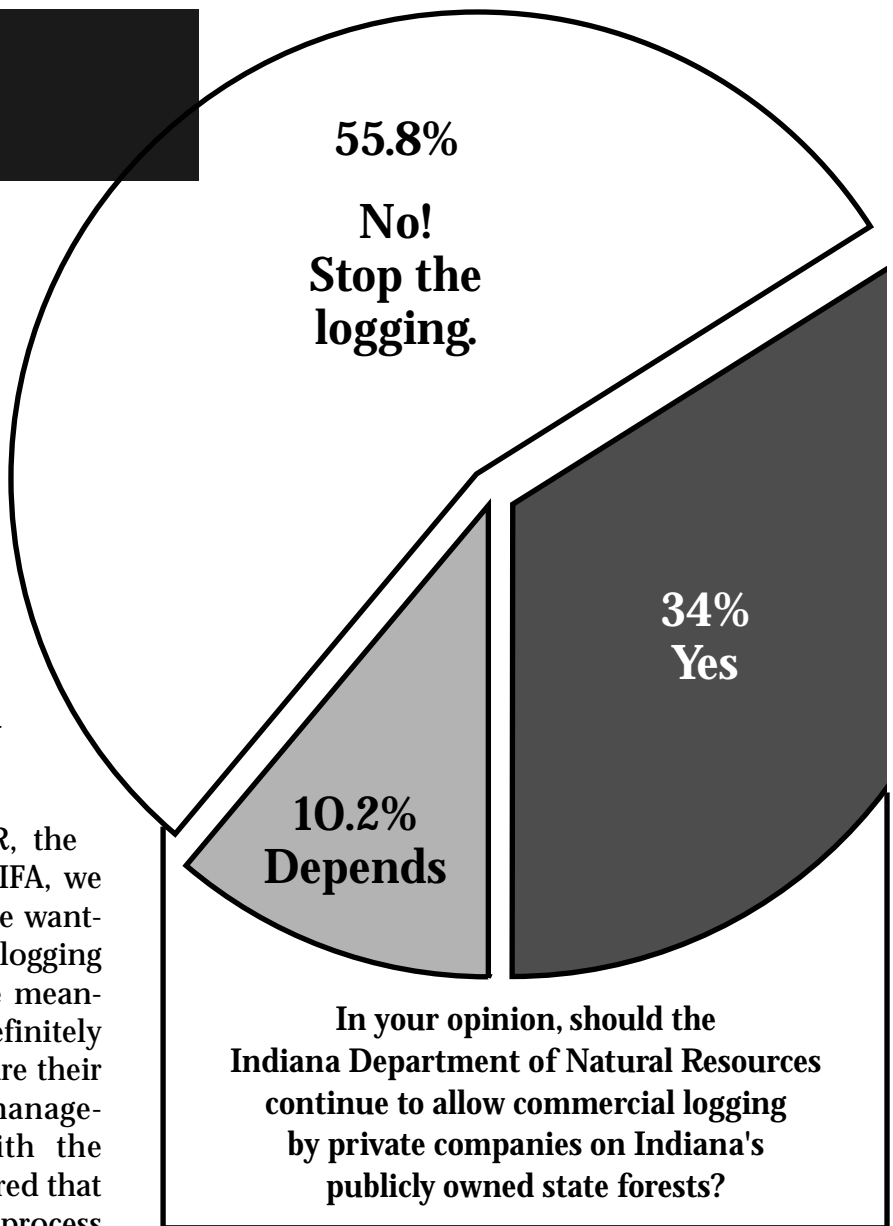


Trees soon to be killed at this timber sale in .
Jackson Washington State Forest

INPUT

he "Resource Management Process" had her problems as well. For instance, a timber sale is "released" before a post-harvest MP review is completed. This means that the company's bond is returned before someone goes out to the site and does a thorough inspection to ensure that Best Management Practices have been followed. The consequence, as I was told by a forester at a recent state forest open house, is often that the marking forester is responsible for fixing any problems on the site, including those that the logging operation may have caused.

At the February meeting between the DNR, the governor's office, and representatives from IFA, we made it clear that we wanted an end to the logging program, but in the meantime, the public definitely needed a way to share their opinions about management decisions with the DNR. We were assured that the DNR was in the process of designing what they hoped would be an effective public input process. We were even invited to give our suggestions and help them come up with such a process. We were told that they would send

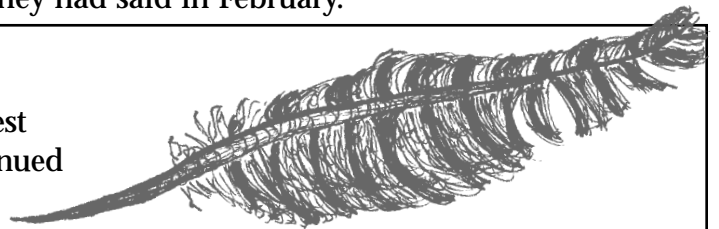


us a draft in a few weeks, which we would be welcome to comment on before the policy was implemented. Almost three months have passed since that meeting, and we have still seen no draft of a public input process. Instead, we have even been told that the DNR isn't sure that they will share it with us before it becomes official policy, contrary to what they had said in February.

Canvass Numbers

This year, the Indiana State Forest Protection Campaign has continued to canvass in an effort to educate and activate citizens

on state forest issues. Since January, the canvass has recruited 596 new members, generated 134 letters to the DNR and relevant politicians, and 7 new activists.



A WELCOME INVASIVE

by Todd McDonald

Invasive, not naturally occurring species ring alarm bells in environmentalists' heads. We think of Gypsy Moths decimating our forests, of Purple Loosestrife clogging Yellowwood Lake, or of Zebra Mussels destroying our great lakes and rivers. Yet the apple tree is a resplendent exception to the multitudinous invasive swarms.

Originating in Asia Minor, apple seeds were originally brought to the New World in 1629 and disseminated quickly among colonists and native tribes. Trees planted by the pilgrims were still producing fruit in 1900! One of the most insidious propagators of this "welcome" invasive was local folk hero John "Appleseed" Chapman (1774 - 1845). He is almost single-handedly responsible for introducing hundreds of thousands of these useful non-native trees ahead of settlers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Johnny imbibed a remarkable passion for the cultivation of apple trees from seed, and pursued it with so much zeal that he was regarded by arriving settlers with superstitious admiration! Apples were grown mostly for cider in frontier times, hard cider being the preferred buzz in the 1700s. His seeds were almost exclusively procured from the cider presses of settled areas. Much like today's envioneers regard genetically engineered foods, Johnny refused seeds from orchards that grafted trees. Johnny insisted his trees be cultivated from seeds rather than grafting. "Not the way I feel 'bout grafting's against God's master plan!" exclaimed Appleseed. Although trees from seed never resemble their parent trees and do not produce readily edible apples they do provide trees for children to climb. Also people made apple pies, apple butter, and cider from their fruit.

Johnny himself definitely enjoyed cider from time to time. In fact he visited taverns for food, drink, and lodging on his various journeys. Appleseed never slept in a bed, disdaining creature comforts. He preferred to lie on the floor of a tavern or private house - always lay in the barroom of a hotel when stopping there. This is my kind of folk hero!

Johnny A. was a tree loving, hiking, traveling pacifist. He was a spiritual man, a follower of the New Church founded by Emanuel Swedenborg. He was always ready to discourse on his new tidings fresh from Heaven. He would not eat a bite of meat, feeling that all of God's creatures have a right to natural lifespans. He never carried a gun. He would discourse peacefully with all the creatures of the forest, even a bear! He was like good Saint Francis, the little brother of the birds, and the little brother of the beasts

At the bloody battle of Tippecanoe Johnny was in the midst of the battle, yet not killing men! Johnny would never kill a single living thing, not even a mosquito! He was dragging the wounded to safety behind the lines. As he traveled the wild frontiers, flagrantly introducing non-native trees, this vegetarian pacifist was known to sing:

*"With my pack on my back wherever I go,
I've seeds in my sack which I everywhere sow:
Then the Lord comes along with his sunshine and rain,
And makes every appleseed blossom again!"*

Denying himself the simple comforts in this life, he aspired to enjoy a greater fullness of celestial bliss in the hereafter. We should all aspire to be so eulogized on our memorial:

Johnny Appleseed

PATRON SAINT OF AMERICAN ORCHARDS
AND SOLDIER OF PEACE
HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD

Bird nesting season in the Indiana State Forests

by Forest Gras

Migratory songbirds are protected by an international treaty that the United States, Mexico and Canada have all ratified. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was created by the federal government to provide protection for migrating songbirds. Two years ago, in the spring of 2000, the Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe Property Manager, Jim Allen, answered requests from IFA members to provide protection for the nesting season and implemented logging delays during the peak of nesting season, May 1st until July 10th. This policy should be enforced in all state forests but the director for the Division of Forestry, Burney Fischer, has declined to enact unilateral protection on

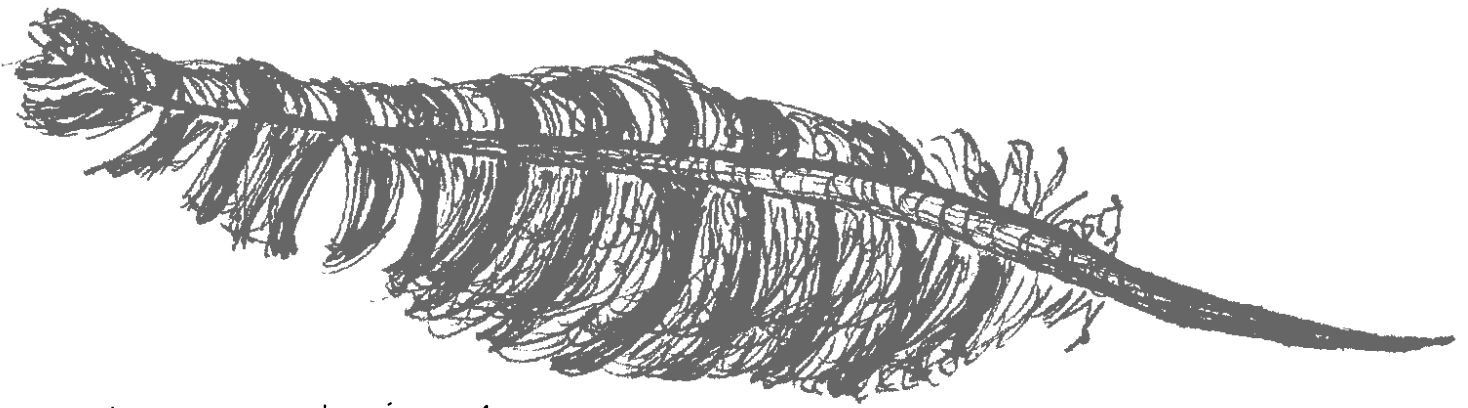
all the Indiana State Forests and said that the Division of Forestry is letting that decision be handled on the property manager level. He refuses to acknowledge the federal mandate for migratory bird protection.

Division of Fish and Wildlife has failed to step up and tell their fellows in The Division of Forestry to honor the MBTA and issue delays for the season. Therefore, the Indiana Forest Alliance is encouraging people to call the Deputy Director of the DNR, Mr. John Davis (317) 232-4020, and all state forest property managers and ask them to please honor delays in timber harvests for the migratory song bird nesting season.

Monitoring for bird nests is a great way to identify the threat that logging has on wildlife. Nest trees have been located

on several timber sales in or near to trees that had been marked to be cut. These nests, once identified, are a legitimate reason for delaying the harvest of and/or unmarking trees in that area. IFA member and doctoral student, Donald Winslow is currently leading bird hikes on our state forests to monitor bird nests. These hikes are open to the public; call IFA for more information (812) 332-4878. Additional monitors are needed to check sites in all the Indiana State Forests as well. If you know any one who likes to go birding and/or wants to see more wildlife protection on our public lands please ask them to get involved with IFA and start going to timber sales early in the morning to locate nests in or around marked trees.

We are all creatures of the Earth, whatever we do to the Earth we do to ourselves.



ECO-ART

by Jaymee Jacoby

Although making art inspired by and in harmony with mother earth is not a new concept, it's one that warrants being revisited. As an artist, it makes perfect sense to me to find inspiration in the patterns, colors, and perfection of the untouched natural world. Many find beauty in the lines of a leaf, the intricacy of a spider's web, the shining green moss at the foot of a tree, or the texture of a piece of bark. While natural wonders can easily move a person to create, what isn't always considered is the impact that art making can potentially have on the natural world and our health.

Unfortunately, many art supplies and processes are highly toxic and wasteful, making it difficult to create in the carefree air of earthly inspiration. Furthermore, most art is created to be archival, and will probably outlast its maker. While this may be appropriate for your chef-d'oeuvre, the hundred or so attempts leading to it may end up hanging around in the landfill for hundreds of years, leaching toxins into the ground water. Although it may seem nearly impossible to make sustainable art, don't give away your potter's wheel or paint brushes yet! There are ways to create in the image of mother earth while still being kind to her. When planning a piece, simply think carefully about alternatives to possibly toxic and wasteful supplies and methods. Here are some ideas to ponder in the midst of your terrestrial inspiration:

** Reduce the amount of waste you create by using recycled materials: make sculpture from scrap metal or wood; paint over old paintings on used canvasses.*

** When buying paint, fixatives, etc., look for water based alternatives.*

** Instead of glazing a piece of ceramic art, consider a less toxic process of coloration such as pit firing- add natural materials such as sea salt, banana peels, or seaweed for varying effects.*

** When using paper, buy tree-free or recycled; most handmade paper (available at art supply stores) is made with tree alternatives, such as hemp, abaca, or cotton linters.*

** Try making your own paper from plant or recycled paper pulp.*

** Use natural materials such as leaves or branches to create a piece (don't take parts from a living tree or plant - use what is already down).*

** For coloring textiles, paper, etc., use natural dyes like marigold, pokeweed, and turmeric.*

** Make art that is free of toxins and can biodegrade naturally back into the earth; take a digital photo to record it.*

** If you must create an archival piece, make models leading up to the finished piece with recycled and or recyclable materials.*

** Visit the library- there is a wealth of information on recycled art, alternatives to toxins, ceramic pit firing, recycled and plant-based handmade paper, natural dying, etc.*

Now that you know how to artistically tread lightly, get out to the forest! Get inspired, create a sustainable masterpiece, and return to the forest with the knowledge that you've done nothing to damage the natural beauty, and everything to celebrate it.



Shaw Lake in Yellowwood State Forest

Wild Earth, Wild Mind, Wild Heart

The Experience of
Deep Ecology with John Seed

June 8-9 Cincinnati OH - \$90

June 15-16 Lazy Black Bear farm and lodge, Paoli IN
Residential \$135 (includes meals and camping.). For
other accommodation options and prices, contact
Andy Mahler: (812).723-2430 or andy@blueriver.net

For 20 years, John Seed has been facilitating experiential deep ecology processes around the world to help end the illusion of alienation from the living Earth that most of us feel, and to connect us with new sources of joy, commitment and inspiration that follow from alignment of person and planet. Many people INTELLECTUALLY realize that we are inseparable from Nature and that the sense of separation that we feel is illusory. These processes enable us to deepen the EXPERIENCE of our connection with Nature, hearts and our bodies.

Through personal sharing, meditation and ritual, we will explore the depths of our concern and love for our planet in this time of crisis. Rediscovering our "deep ecology" - our interconnectedness with all beings - we find empowerment as agents of healing change. We share practices for letting go of the culturally-conditioned, competitive, isolated self and come home to our interexistence with all forms of life. One of these is the Council of All Beings where we step aside from our solely human identification and invite other life forms to speak through us. Another is the Timeline of Light where we recapitulate our 15 billion year journey from the flaring forth of the Universe to the present moment.

Workshop proceeds go to rainforest conservation projects in Kenya and Ecuador, the facilitator takes no remuneration, partial work-exchange available.

John Seed is founder and director of the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia. Since 1979 he has been involved in the direct actions which have resulted in the protection of the Australian rainforests.

RAINFOREST ROADSHOW WITH JOHN SEED

Since 1983, Australian rainforest activist John Seed has been conducting roadshows around the world. The show includes Seed's slideshow of rainforest conservation and restoration of degraded landscapes in Ecuador, New Guinea and India plus his moving and heartfelt raps, songs and poems on deep ecology and the epic of evolution. For more information and John's schedule, see www.rainforestinfo.org.au

Announcing: Eastern Forest Defense Direct Action Camp!

May 28th thru June 3rd 2002
**In Southern Indiana in the middle of
the great Eastern hardwood forest.**

The great forests of the eastern half of Turtle Island can and will recover if given a chance. However, an impressive array of greedheads stand in the way of eastern forest recovery. In fact, these entities are actively destroying the struggling remnants of the great eastern forests. The US Forest Service, the pulp and paper industry, developers, strip miners, genetic manipulators and other greedy industrialists are daily engaged in wanton acts of destruction against our beautiful and biologically diverse Eastern Forests. We have to mobilize to defend our forest homes! These forests are our collective life support systems. Their defense is self defense! All activists, forest dwellers, concerned citizens, and others ready and willing to act on behalf of our forests are invited to attend. We want to focus on evolving non-violent direct action tactics. We are looking for folks from the Northwoods (Great Lakes and New England), Central Appalachia, Southern Appalachia (Katuah!), the Great Coastal Swamps, the Piedmont, the Pine Barrens, the Allegheny Plateau, the Ozarks and the Midwest to join us in southern Indiana as we share skills, techniques and ideas for defending our forests. We would like to share the latest skills in tree-sitting, road blockades, etc... and come up with new ideas unique to our ecosystems for forest defense. Put together affinity groups, forest action groups, etc... and come on down. The forests need you!

Note to our friends out West: The eastern forests need y'all as well. You can support this Action Camp by donating money, action gear or time as a volunteer trainer or skill facilitator. We desperately need: money, food donations, action and camping gear donations, volunteers, action trainers, skill shares, camp participants, musicians, etc...

Brought to you by The National Forest Protection Alliance, Katuah Earth First!, the Dogwood Alliance, Heartwood, Buckeye Forest Council, Indiana Forest Alliance and a bunch of other really awesome eastern forest huggers. For more info please call (812)332-4878 or e-mail ifa@bloomington.in.us

Help! Support the Indiana Forest Alliance

The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance is mailed to over 700 people throughout Indiana who are concerned about their public forests. It is also distributed at a variety of public events.

Thanks to your financial support, this newsletter almost funds itself. If you would like to stay informed about forest issues in Indiana, consider contributing a small amount (even \$1-\$5 will help!) for printing and mailing. If you do not want to continue receiving this newsletter, please email, call or send us a postcard to let us know. If you DO want to continue receiving Indiana Forests, but can't afford to contribute financially, please use it to stay informed and active about the important issues within our state and communities.

IFA has been doing many amazing things this year to protect and return the wild forests of Indiana. We have been doing a tremendous amount with many hours of volunteer work. We need your support to continue this effort and ensure that nature has a defense against our society's destructive tendencies. Please send in your support and renew your membership or start today! Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support and please contact us with any concerns or issues you wish to be addressed.

Yes!

I want to help with the efforts of the Indiana Forest Alliance.

At this time, I am able to subscribe at the membership level of:

\$10 \$50 \$100 Other

I want to know about volunteering

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to: **Indiana Forest Alliance**

ROADSHOW ANNOUNCEMENT • Monday, May 13 7pm

Join us for a national roadshow focused on the impact that international trade agreements—like those governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)—are having on forests and global biodiversity. These trade institutions are rapidly advancing from their basic origins of regulating tariffs and quotas to setting broad guidelines for human health, worker safety, and environmental protection. Sadly, under the influence of multinational corporations, these new international standards constitute ceilings for social and environmental concerns, where safeguards must be minimized, not enhanced. The preservation of the planet's remaining forests is one critical area where these trade deals pose a serious threat. An exploration of these issues will be accompanied by powerful and compassionate folk music, and an opportunity for community sharing about related issues.

The program features:

- Jason Tockman, International Trade Director for American Lands Alliance
- Folk musician/activist Danny Dolinger from Eugene, Oregon
- Forum for the sharing of local issues and fair trade campaigns

When: Monday, May 13 7pm **Where:** Monroe County Library, 303 E. Kirkwood
For more information, call Jen at 812-337-8898 or Joshua at 812-333-5456 The event is free of charge. All are welcome.

The Indiana Forest Alliance would like to thank Mr. Philip Krohn for his generous recent donation

IFA also thanks Patagonia for their support, which helped fund this newsletter and other educational projects.

IFA is still selling t-shirts!

Long sleeved shirts are \$13 and short sleeved shirts are \$10, plus \$3 per shirt for shipping. Call IFA to order!

Stop Logging Yellowwood! and Stop Logging State Forests! Bumperstickers Available

Show your support and spread the word about calling your legislators. Call IFA or stop by the office to pick up yours today!

Indiana Forest Alliance

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