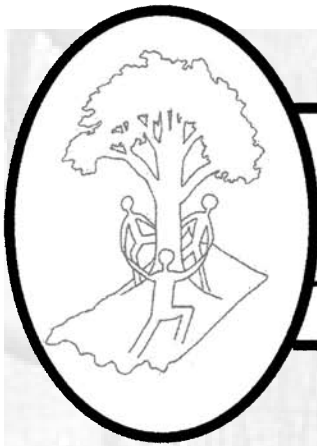


Summer/Fall 2003



# Indiana Forests



The newsletter of the Indiana Forest Alliance

## Litigation Station: Updates on IFA's legal work to protect public lands



The mechanized beast that left these tracks does not tread lightly in our state forests.

### State Forest Lawsuit: Indiana Environmental Policy Act

On July 16th, 2002, the Indiana Forest Alliance and Joshua Martin filed the first lawsuit to invoke the Indiana Environmental Policy Act in a challenge to the decision making process authorizing commercial logging on the state forests. If the lawsuit is successful, it will put a moratorium on commercial logging in the state forests until the state complies with the law and prepares an environmental impact statement fully documenting the effects of its actions and fully analyzing public input and the best science.

At a hearing in front of Judge Kenneth Todd on January 13, 2003, the state's attorney brought up new arguments at the last moment and asked the judge for more time to submit additional information regarding arguments of mootness and timeliness to their "Motion to Dismiss." Judge Todd granted their request, and granted IFA time to respond to these new issues. The Indiana Forest Alliance submitted our response to their 2nd motion to dismiss, and we are awaited the decision of Judge Todd on whether or not to proceed in hearing the case.

On June 4th, 2003, Judge Kenneth Todd of the Monroe Circuit Court issued an order denying the defendants "motion to dismiss," thereby making way for the merits of the case to be heard and ruled upon.

"We are very pleased by this ruling and look forward to arguing our case in a fair court on behalf of the people of Indiana and our state forests," said Joshua Martin, a plaintiff in the lawsuit and a member of the Indiana Forest Alliance.

The Indiana Forest Alliance needs your help to make this lawsuit a success. This case could have historic implication for environmental law in the state of Indiana and we want to do the best job we can. Most of our labor and resources are donated, but our expenses are still adding up. Please consider a dedicated donation to our legal fund when you send in your membership renewal.

*The case is IN Forest Alliance v. B Fischer 53C03 0207 PL 01246*



Joanna presents Hoosier NF Headquarters with a Valentine message (Story Page 4)

# Hoosier National Forest: Bad Ruling on Forest Openings Lawsuit

Heartwood, the Indiana Forest Alliance, Sassafras Audubon Society and Protect Our Woods are co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit opposing the decision to maintain over 3,000 acres of permanent openings in the Hoosier National Forests through mowing and burning. The groups are represented by Tom Buchelle, Director of the Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh.

On April 8, 2003, the United States 7th Circuit court of appeals ruled that: "The U.S. Forest Service complied with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act in reaching a decision to implement a forest openings maintenance project, and did not act arbitrarily and capriciously in deciding that an environmental impact statement was not required."

The Indiana Forest Alliance and other plaintiffs feel that the scientific controversy around artificially maintained openings in the forest requires detailed environmental study. In approving the Forest Opening project, the Forest Service used selective employment of science and ignored the recommendations of local bird experts on the matter whose research indicates the openings are a detriment to the breeding success of migratory songbirds. At press time, plaintiffs were considered pursuing the case with a further appeal.

To read the full text of this opinion, go to:  
<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data2/circs/7th/013316p.pdf>

Joshua Martin ([Joshua@americanlands.org](mailto:Joshua@americanlands.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](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa)

The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) is a non-profit network of groups and volunteers working to provide accurate information to the people of Indiana and to involve them in efforts to protect and restore Indiana's forests, hold corporations and government agencies accountable for their actions, and establish sustainable economic and political models that will ensure the long-term well being of Indiana's forests. We believe there should be no further commercial, industrial exploitation of public lands. We greatly support reducing the demand for wood and wood products and we promote responsible, sustainable, and profitable forest stewardship on private lands.

The Indiana Forest Alliance meets at the Bloomington Environmental Center, located at 116 S. College Ave. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:00 pm.

### Contributors:

David Haberman  
 Shawn Lloyd  
 Joshua Martin  
 Joanna Gras  
 Forest Gras  
 Kara Reagan  
 Robin Larson  
 Susan W. Showalter  
 Donald Winslow

### Newsletter Editor:

Forest Gras

### Photos:

Joshua Martin

### Design & Layout:

Mark Stoops

### Cover Design:

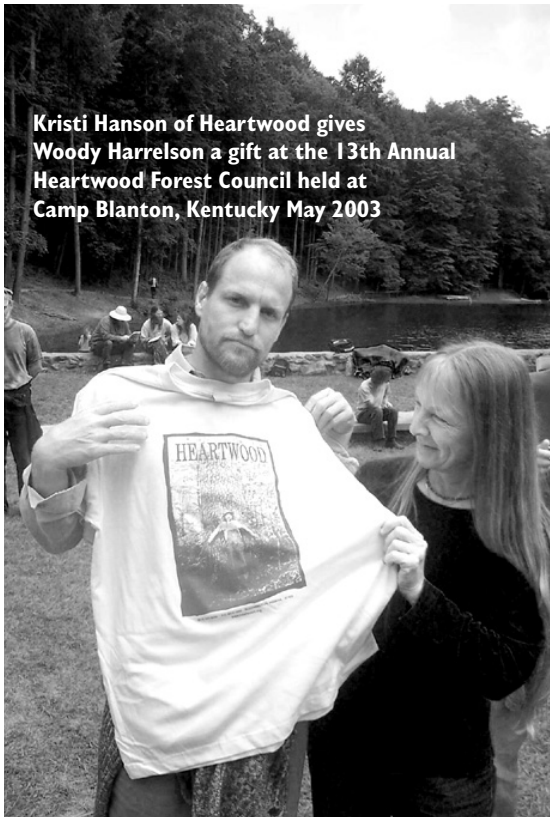
Joshua Martin

### Printing:

Paul Ash

### In This Issue:

IFA Litigation Updates **Cover**  
 Bad Ruling On Forest Openings Suit **2**  
 Treehuggers Prayer **3**  
 A Time For A Change **4**  
 Yellowwood Watershed Planning **4**  
 IFA Resists Bush's  
 "Horizontal Forests" Initiative **5**  
 Hoosier Grants Developer's Access **8**  
 Bird Nesting Season Needs Protection **8**  
 IFA Meets With Baron Hill **9**  
 The Paper Campaign **9**  
 DNR Public Input Farce **10**



Kristi Hanson of Heartwood gives Woody Harrelson a gift at the 13th Annual Heartwood Forest Council held at Camp Blanton, Kentucky May 2003

**IFA is currently looking for** people to participate in the timber sale monitoring process.

This is a chance to go hiking and see some pristine areas before logging occurs and attempt to mitigate some of the impact by working with the INDoF staff; as well as, visiting sites that have been logged to view the results of commercial timber extraction on IN public lands.

IFA has a Timber Sale Monitoring booklet, which will be a great asset to the training, and group hikes. Please come to our office at the Bloomington Eco-Center on 116 1/2 S. College Ave. to pick up a monitoring packet and find out about our next timber sale-monitoring day of training in the woods and on site. **THIS WILL OCCUR DURING NOVEMBER.**

Contact Joanna at 812-337-8898 or [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) for more information.

# A TREEHUGGER'S PRAYER

CHRISTINA WULF, VIRGINIA FOREST WATCH

PEACE.

FEEL IT IN YOUR FEET, YOUR HANDS. LET THEM SINK INTO THE EARTH. FEEL IT IN YOUR BONES, LET THEM BECOME TAP ROOT AND HEARTWOOD. GROW, MOVE, TWIST, ENJOY THE DEEP ETERNITY OF SOIL WITH YOUR WHOLE SOUL.

WITH THE ROOTS, ENTWINE ACROSS ALL DISTANCE - JOINING THIS CONTINENT AND ALL CONTINENTS. TASTE THE FLAVOR OF ROOT & MINERAL, KISS OF WORM, BLISS OF WATER. GATHER ALL OF THIS - ALL THAT KNOWS OF SKY AND SUN, SOIL AND RAIN - INTO ONE FOREST BEING.

SOAK UP, GATHER, HOLD TO YOU - THIS PEACE OF THE TREES... THEN LET THAT WONDER FLOW, A GLOWING RIVER. A LIVING MESSAGE. SEND IT OUT, WITH ALL PEACE AND LOVE, WITH ALL OUR HUGE COMPASSION ON THIS DAY OF DAYS, THAT OVERWHELMS US AND TEARS THE BREAST OF MOTHER EARTH.

LAY IT LIKE A BLANKET UPON THE BURNING CITIES, LAY YOUR SHADE AND PEACE, THIS PEACE OF THE TREES.

AND INTO THE HEARTS OF THE MEN IN SUITS WHO MUST MAKE OUR CHOICES NOW - WITH YOUR SLY ROOTS, LAY THIS MESSAGE, RICH WITH GREEN LEAVES, AND SINGING IN THE SUBTERRANEAN ECHO OF PLANET:

"AS TRULY AS YOU LOVE THE INNOCENT EYES OF EVERY NEWBORN CHILD AND EVERY ONE WHO DIED TODAY, DO I LOVE THE INNOCENT EYES OF EVERY CREATURE WHICH ROAMS THE WHOLE OF EARTH."

## Otterfest, a peaceful gathering.

The IFA, Heartwood, Sycamore Land Trust, and the Internat'l Otter society are in great appreciation for the efforts and donations put forth during June of 2003. Many great artists made possible the event which gave \$1,000 to IFA and \$1,000 to Heartwood. Special thanks goes to the Keneadmore Life Community Church and all the groups who performed. Tarpaper Shack, The Randy's, The Merrie Sloan Band, Jonzo West and the Prophets, Chillbillie's, Betty Dylan, The Cox Brothers, Zion Crossroads, Harsh Reality, The Elly Maze, O.P.M.

For more information check out websites at [www.otterfest.com](http://www.otterfest.com) and for future events go to [www.kneadreggae.com](http://www.kneadreggae.com).

### What you can do:

*PLEASE take a few minutes of your time and call the following people today:*  
**Governor Joe Kernan (317) 232-4567 • DNR Director John Goss (317) 232-4020**  
*Ask them to protect Indiana's state forests and end commercial logging.*

*Or contact the Indiana Forest Alliance at*  
**(812) 332-4878 • [ifa@bloomington.in.us](mailto:ifa@bloomington.in.us) • [www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa)**

# “A Time For Change”

David Haberman, Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University.

Our public lands are being commercially logged at an ever-increasing rate. This includes the state forests of southern Indiana, even in the primary watersheds of such lakes as Bryant Creek Lake and Yellowwood Lake. I first discovered this one day while hiking in Yellowwood State Forest with my family; we were all shocked to witness firsthand the damage that commercial logging does to our public lands.

Since that day I have been surprised to learn how many residents of Indiana assume that our state forests are lands protected from commercial extraction. But far from this being true, the managers of our state forests speak of forest management in terms of crop farming. Forests are “warehouses” for timber, and the trees are “inventory.” I do not mean to cast aspersions on the managers of our state forests; they are generally good people who are simply following the mandate that has been established for them by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry. Within this mandate, our state forests are viewed as tree farms and sources for commercial timber. Many of us, however, believe that it is time for this mandate to change: it is time to stop commercial logging in our state forests!

Public lands comprise only a small percentage of American forests. If managed properly private lands can supply all our needs; we do not need to encourage over-consumption by subsidizing the forest products industries with cheap public timber. Public lands could serve a much higher purpose. Although personally I find them quite beautiful and even a source of spiritual solace, healthy forests are not simply an aesthetic luxury, but are absolutely vital to all biological life on planet Earth. The forests of southern Indiana—a rare treasure of diverse plant and animal life—

have been greatly compromised by years of neglect. Indiana’s DNR deserves much credit for bringing relative health back to much of our forest land. Present conditions, however, call for us to let these compromised forests mature so that they can begin to return to a state resembling “old growth.”



Honorary IFA activist “Emma” inspects an enormous freshly cut stump on Morgan-Monroe State Forest in

Mature forests are home to most species on the planet. Scientists now agree that bio-diversity is necessary for the overall health all any species, and the increasingly rapid loss of bio-diversity now taking place is one of the greatest threats to life on Earth. The picture that is emerging from recent biological research is that life is like a tree with each of the different species representing a leaf. The crucial questions How many leaves can be stripped from the tree before the entire tree dies? With this in mind, many are arguing for our public lands to be turned into preserves for bio-diversity.

Commercial logging is extremely destructive to overall forest health. It not only removes trees before they have lived out their supportive life cycle, but the heavy vehicular traffic resulting from commercial logging also destroys the myriad of creatures that live among



the trees and in the soil beneath the trees. In addition to being reservoirs of bio-diversity, healthy forests are also the source of oxygen, clean water, and fertile soil. Healthy human life is simply not possible without healthy forests.

The preservation of forests should extend beyond public lands, but under the current political system, we have almost no say about what is done to private forests. Under today’s laws a human being who lives on average 75 years can legally cut down a tree that has been living for *Over 2000 years* if this tree stands on what is now designated “private property”. For me this invites serious questioning, but at least in theory we do have some say about how the forests on our public lands are regarded.

Numerous national polls indicate that approximately 70 percent of the American people want commercial logging on our public lands to cease, yet it continues. I recently asked one of the managers of our state forests: If the state conducted a fair poll that showed that the great majority of the people of Indiana wanted commercial logging to stop in our state forests, would it stop? He told me that it would not, for “We are not that kind of democracy.” I do not claim to know exactly what the forest manager meant by these words, but in many ways they reveal the heart of the problem.

The management of our public lands exposes a serious flaw in American democracy today. We are all increasingly aware that the will of the people is being represented less and less. Today representational government more and more means the representation of money and moneyed interests. It is time to change this also.

# The Yellowwood Watershed Planning-

By Forest Gras

For over 2 years representatives with the Division of Forestry have been meeting monthly with members of a local grassroots group called the Friends of Yellowwood. The focus of the work is to create a watershed plan for the Yellowwood lake basin.

Recently this group has formed a sub-committee to advise in the creation of a timber sale review process. This process could serve as a roll model for timber sales through out the Indiana State Forests as well as on private lands.

The primary roll of the DoF should be to promote forest health, soil conservation and to assist private land owners in mitigating impacts from heavy logging and development. Educating private land owners on how many benefits there are to preserving and protecting the woods they are responsible for care taking is a job the state has done poorly. State Forest lands and especially private lands are being hit hard from soil erosion, invasive species, water quality issues, problems with forest fragmentation, and the on coming problems with disease and infestations.

One merit from the creation of a timber sale review process is the potential of public lands to serve as an educational roll model for this. I do not agree that 2/3rds of the state forest lands should be logged and strongly disagree with this process happening inside the Yellowwood Watershed. IFA's position in regards commercial extraction on public lands has been to provide an exception only for educational purposes. Therefore our first site of study is located on a resource management trail intended for public education and has compelled me to take a seat at the table for establishing details of what a timber sale review process should entail.

Currently the DoF is failing miserably at fulfilling their mandate to provide protection for private lands. Many environmentalists and even state foresters say the Best Management Practices (B.M.P.) guidebook is very vague and serves as only a guide. In fact loggers working on the state forests are not even required to take the B.M.P training prior to working on timber sales. Meanwhile we must give credit where credit is due and the creation of the B.M.P. guidelines has helped bring logging practices and the protection of water quality a long the way on state timber sales, but what about on the private lands?

The educational roll of the DoF could be carried out on less than 1,000 acres. Call it what they want, the truthful reason for 2/3rds of the tracts being logged is to make money for the DoF and local industry, meanwhile the true mandate for the DoF is to educate and create more healthy forests, and to promote soil conservation.

Last year when the director of the DoF Burnell Fischer attended a meeting with the water shed planning group he said "I'm not here to discuss that." Meanwhile the DoF bureaucrats were pushing for a timber sale inside the Yellowwood basin. Almost

## PARTNERS OR PAWNS?

20 acres of the Yellowwood Lake have been silted in and now were invited to help advise in the creation of a timber sale review process which the DoF is trying to push foreword as quickly as possible inside the Yellowwood water shed itself.

Some people on the committee are calling for an Environmental Impact statement (E.I.S.) similar to what the National Forest is required to do by law. Science, research, and education is the reason for creating this process here on public lands so I'll be pushing to see the science and not some kind of study that reads like another bad book report.

Some of the time spent during the delays of this publication has brought out many questions and comments which I would like to share with IFA and our readers.

This process is an opportunity for the Division of Forestry to get some real science involved and to learn about forestry practices to a degree not yet achieved. I believe

Education has been of the only arguments for the State of Indiana's timber sale program.

There for I think this is a great chance to push for studies from I.U., The United Plant Savers group, Division of fish and wildlife, etc?

1. How do we get a lake biologist to do a fish study in the creek which defines the sites southern boundary?
2. Lets establish a base line of data for the water quality issue at hand? We should achieve a base line for a study.
3. What does the Rattle Snake expert, Bruce Kingsbury, say about local hibernacula's and what impacts could occur to the snakes here on site (since we know they are in the area).
4. Would preserving this area increase the likely hood that extirpated species could be re-established in the foreseeable future?
5. Has the public been notified via local papers and been given ample time to formally comment on the sale in question? i.e. H-T, B.C Democrat, Reporter Times,...
6. What long-term effects may occur due do disease and insect infestations accumulated along with the impact due to a timber harvest.
7. What impact could occur due to effects of fragmentation within the scope of this particular sites role inside a biological reservoir of bio-diversity.
8. What is the likelihood of the establishment of non-native species and other invasive exotics into the area due to the proposed activity. What kind of problems may arise in the future due to the potential introduction of invasive species on and around this site i.e. adjacent tracts.
9. Will B.M.P training be required of all workers on site?
10. Will heavy machinery be inspected for leaks and potential spills? Will soy based bar oil be required?
11. What is the approximate bio-mass of this site? Will the occurrence of a timber harvest have a substantial effect on the level of bio-mass on the site in question?

# IFA RESISTS "HORIZONTAL" FORESTS INITIATIVE

**The Indiana Forest Alliance is teaming up with the American Lands Alliance and others to organize Indiana citizens in a response to the attacks on our national forests proposed by the Bush Administration.**

Please, don't be fooled by the "Healthy Forests Initiative." If you care about things like clean water, and clean air; if you care about things like endangered species, and backcountry recreation; and if you care about the wise use of your tax dollars, and ensuring opportunity for your children and grandchildren, you will realize the President's national forest policy is a marketing trick and you'll reject this destructive brand of forest management. You'll know that a more accurate label would be the "Horizontal Forests Initiative."

The deception is almost brilliant in its foil. The Administration has wrapped the policy in a shiny package with a pleasant brand name in order to disguise its true agenda. As media outlets fan the flames of fear concerning forest fires with dramatic photos and sensational stories, the public outcry to "do something!" creates a market to exploit. In this climate, opportunistic politicians feed at the public trough.

However, the American people are not fools. We know a government action that rips us off when we see one. And for better or worse, we are also experienced and savvy consumers. We demand truth in advertising. If we look at the pieces that make up this agenda for our forests by President Bush and Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture, there is cause for serious concern. The sweeping changes being proposed are designed to systematically reduce or eliminate the role of science and public participation in the management of our national forests. This new design is intended to facilitate corporate access to public lands and dramatically increase commercial logging. The losers in the equation are the ecosystems of our forests and the average Americans for generations to come that benefit from intact, natural forests. This increase in logging and road building threatens our water quality, our air quality, our opportunities for a natural retreat, and our ability to hold on to endangered species. What's so "healthy" about that?

**For evidence of the Administration's agenda, we should consider several high profile examples:**

## **Forest Planning**

In 1976 the National Forest Management Act was passed with the recognition that landscape level planning and direction were needed to ensure that the cumulative effect of numerous projects across the landscape would not undermine the sustainability of our National Forests. The recognition of this need for planning came out of a growing understanding of ecology and public opposition to clear cut logging on federal lands. Until now every version of the regulations governing the planning process has been based upon the best science of the time and was created with the active participation of independent scientists. The proposed revision of the regulations was created without independent scientists and is in direct defiance of the recommendations of the last Committee of Scientists. The revisions undermine the purpose of the NFMA by largely removing science from the development and monitoring of the management plans and by making the plans voluntary and non-binding. [www.savenationalforests.org](http://www.savenationalforests.org)

## **Roadless Areas**

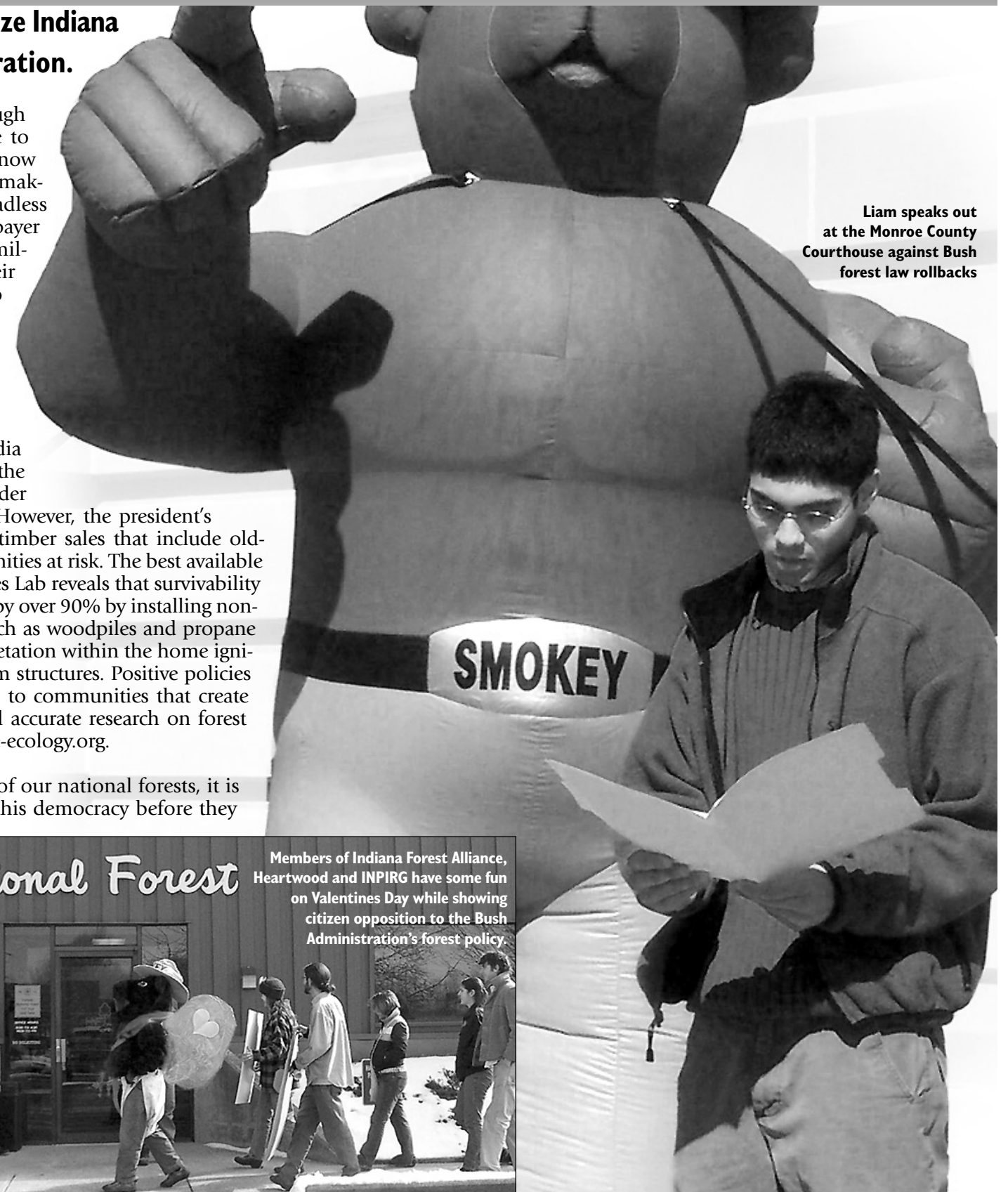
Only one-third of our national forests, about 58.5 million acres, remain wild and roadless. In January of 2001, after 1.5 million public comments in support and years of detailed scientific and economic study, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule was enacted. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has

attempted to undermine this rule, through subtle interim directives to staff, a failure to defend the policy in court challenges, and now by talking of an entirely new executive rulemaking process to dismantle it. This new roadless rulemaking would waste millions of taxpayer dollars and be a slap in the face to the millions of Americans who already gave their input loudly and clearly. It is not hard to predict the process would be a political charade that would shut the public out of roadless areas by prioritizing commercial logging. [www.ourforests.org](http://www.ourforests.org)

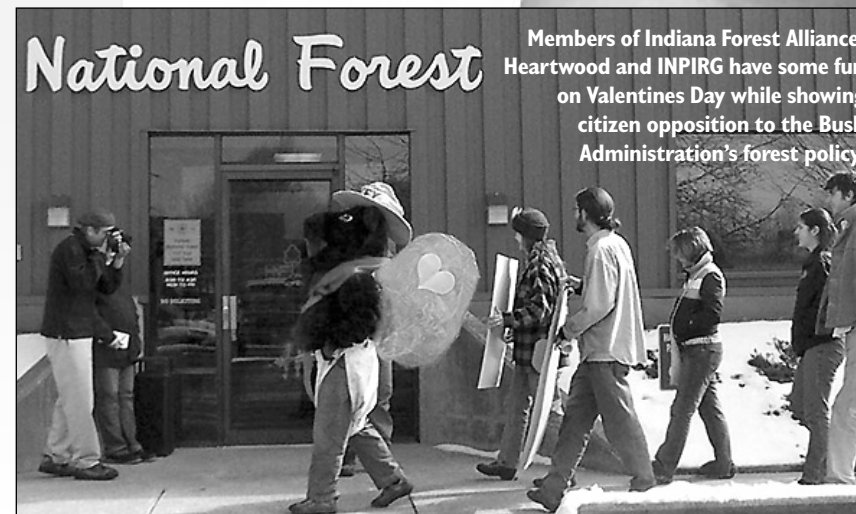
## **Forest Fire Legislation**

Playing off the hysteria created by media coverage of the severe forest fires of 2002, the president's agenda is being promoted under the guise of "hazardous fuels reduction." However, the president's proposals focus resources on commercial timber sales that include old-growth, fire resistant trees, far from communities at risk. The best available science from the Forest Service's Fire Sciences Lab reveals that survivability of homes during wildfires can be increased by over 90% by installing non-flammable roofs, relocating flammables such as woodpiles and propane tanks away from homes, and managing vegetation within the home ignition zone that extends 60 meter radius from structures. Positive policies that employ these solutions include grants to communities that create local jobs and local control. For additional accurate research on forest fire ecology and policy please visit [www.fire-ecology.org](http://www.fire-ecology.org).

In order for us to ensure the protection of our national forests, it is important for us to exercise our rights in this democracy before they are taken away. Call your member of Congress through the Congressional switchboard at 202/224-3121, and ask them to stand by our land and oppose the President's agenda for our national forests. Visit the American Lands Alliance at [www.americanlands.org](http://www.americanlands.org) for detailed information or contact the Indiana Forest Alliance to get involved in protecting your local forest at the grassroots level. And whatever you do, please don't be fooled by the "Horizontal Forests Initiative."



Liam speaks out at the Monroe County Courthouse against Bush forest law rollbacks



Members of Indiana Forest Alliance, Heartwood and INPIRG have some fun on Valentines Day while showing citizen opposition to the Bush Administration's forest policy.

# Hoosier National Forest Service grants developer's access to Lake Monroe

**By David Haberman, Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University**

Members of the Indiana Forest Alliance have been watching with great concern a petition by Mr. Roscoe Breedlove to Mr. Kenneth Day, Supervisor of the Hoosier National Forest, that would allow road access across national forest land and the development of forested property adjacent to Lake Monroe.

Since access to some of this land was waived when Lake Monroe was created, the Forest Supervisor is under no legal requirement to grant access. In conjunction with a nature conservancy group, officers of the national forest attempted to purchase this forested property at twice the market value and add it to the Hoosier.

Mr. Breedlove refused to sell, however, believing that it was in his best interest to develop this land. The Indiana Forest Alliance and others wrote letters to Mr. Day in strong opposition to granting road access across the national forest, which will only further fragment the forest and encourage the development of sensitive forest land that is in the Lake Monroe watershed. Nonetheless, on March 20, 2003 Mr. Day issued a decision granting Mr. Breedlove a road easement across the Hoosier National Forest to his property. The Indiana Forest Alliance regrets this decision.

Mr. Day's decision is contingent on Mr. Breedlove being able to secure permission to cross both private property and land belonging to the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Let's hope that the managers of these lands demonstrate better judgment than the supervisor of the Hoosier National Forest.

## The Old Maple

A little older,  
A littler wiser,  
A little weaker,  
A little bigger in the trunk.

Still reaching,  
Still growing,  
Still loving,  
Still beautiful.

© Susan W. Showalter, April 14, 2003

# Bird Nesting Season Needs Much More Protection on the State Forest

**By Donald Winslow Phd**

For the past two summers Property Manager Jim Allen has scheduled Logging activity to avoid the avian breeding season in Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forest. By eliminating a potentially important source of mortality to eggs and nestlings, this increases the breeding success of forest-nesting birds and insures compliance of Division of Forestry activities with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

## Species showing consistent decline deserve all the help they can get.

The Cerulean Warbler is the focus of a campaign for endangered listing and is relatively abundant within Yellowwood State Forest. This species nests high in the canopy and nests could easily be destroyed by felling trees. Other species nest in understory saplings, in shrubs, and on the ground. All of these nests are susceptible to damage from equipment and falling trees.

Although Jim Allen's policy excludes logging activities from May 1st through July 15th, there is good reason to extend this exclusion through August. Some bird species continue nesting through August and into September. Such species include Neotropical migrants such as the Acadian Flycatcher and the Wood Thrush. Because predation rates are high during peak nesting, these late-season nest attempts may be critically important for productivity of Acadian Flycatchers. Wood Thrush populations have been declining for decades, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists it as a species of conservation concern for the Central Hardwoods Region.

I hope we can avoid conflicts between logging and nesting in all the Indiana State Forests in Indiana. Please contact The DNR Deputy Director John Davis and ask him to institute a policy to schedule all logging activities outside the avian nesting season in all state forests.

John M. Davis can be reached at (317) 232-4025 or [jdavis@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:jdavis@dnr.state.in.us)

Such a move would be an important step in avian conservation and may forestall legal challenges regarding the take of migratory birds.

## Take Action:

**Contact DNR Deputy Director: John M. Davis**

*Tele: 317 232-4025*

*E.mail: [jdavis@dnrstate.in.us](mailto:jdavis@dnrstate.in.us)*

*Write to: Executive office*

*402 W. Washington Street RM W256*

*Indianapolis IN 46204*

# IFA Meets With Baron Hill

This year, the Indiana Forest Alliance worked with its friends to meet several times with our Congressman Baron Hill on issues of national forest protection.

Pictured is a meeting in February of 2003 where local experts from several academic fields advised Baron Hill on the impacts to our national forests of President Bush's roll-backs of forest law. From left are authors and humanities professors Scott Russell Sanders and IFA Co-Coordinator David Haberman, Erich Eschmann, Bill Hayden, Congressman Baron Hill, IFA Co-Coordinator Joshua Martin, IU law professor Rob Fischman, and Bloomington city council member and IU biology professor Dave Rollo.



More recently, on May 30, Congressman Hill met with Joshua Martin, Joanna Gras, Suzanne Mittenenthal, Tim Maloney, Andy Mahler, and Forest Gras to discuss issues specifically relating to the Hoosier National Forest. Issues discussed included the Breedlove Road Access, multi-use trails, illegal off-road vehicle use, German Ridge timber sale, the Forest Plan revision including the Conservationists Alternative and the so-called Healthy Forests Initiative.

While we reserve the right to strongly disagree with some of the Congressman's votes on issues such as the current model of Free Trade, we feel it is important to acknowledge the attentiveness of the Congressman to the issue of public lands management and preservation. His actions in the form of letters to the administration, votes against harmful bills, and co-authoring an unsuccessful amendment to strip awful policy from the "Healthy Forests" bill, have shown a willingness to listen to forest advocates and to defend our forests from the full frontal assault of the Bush Administration. Thank you for your actions in the realm of forest conservation this year Congressman, and we look forward to continuing to bring you information on the need for an end to commercial logging on our national forests.

We would like to send best wishes and good luck to Anne Keller, outgoing Senior Legislative Assistant on environmental issues for Representative Baron Hill.

Over the past several years, Anne has heard from many an IFA member voicing their opinion. Anne, we appreciate your willingness to take the passion of Southern Indiana forest advocates seriously and to work diligently to respond to our concerns, study the facts, and get to the truth. We still hope you'll join us for a hike sometime!

# The Paper Campaign

By Robin Larsen

Americans employ the most powerful means of change every day: their American dollar, without realizing it. Our capitalistic power is our vote for the real leadership of the world, the predominantly corrupt corporate leadership. Our dollar used responsibly and in an organized fashion can bring the destructive tendencies of one multi-billion dollar corporation to an end. This is exactly what the Paper Campaign has facilitated with its first target: Staples. The Paper Campaign is a grass roots network of activists fighting to revolutionize the global paper industry. From participation in public protests to becoming shareholders, and meeting with corporate leaders, many tactics have contributed to the success of this campaign.

For two years activists voiced, very loudly, their concerns with Staples' environmental practices. They demanded immediate phasing out of all products from endangered forests (a term which includes Old Growth, U.S. Public Lands, U.S. Southern Forests and other forest ecosystems from around the

world). They demanded that Staples' drastically increase the amount of recycled paper sold. They demanded consumer and employee education on the benefits of recycling and alternatives. And with lots of hard work, organizing and energy, they got just that. By exposing the truth about the practices of this office supply giant, through brand attack and media exposure, Staples was forced to comply in order to effectively compete in this competitive corporate economy.

Now, Staples' has set the standard for the rest of the paper industry. It's time that we start prioritizing the few forests that we have left on this Earth. Now that Staples has committed to becoming more sustainable.

Please contact the local Office Depot store to let them know that you expect them to meet or beat Staples' policy, and that you won't shop there until they do.

**Bloomington Office Depot (812) 330-1200**  
**For More Information Please Contact:**  
**Robin Larsen, [tala@bloomington.in.us](mailto:tala@bloomington.in.us)**  
**visit: [www.stopofficedepot.net](http://www.stopofficedepot.net), [www.thepaper-campaign.com](http://www.thepaper-campaign.com), or [www.dogwoodalliance.org](http://www.dogwoodalliance.org)**



## Memories of Seasons in Southern Indiana

by Shawn Lloyd

Sitting in a small stream that flows from our pond,  
my sister & I play for hours  
in the cool water and hot summer sun.  
We crumble slate rocks in our hands  
which make perfect skipping stones.

When night falls, I look up at the sky and see  
all the bright stars shining down upon me.

Amazing.

We catch lightning bugs & listen to the bull frogs & crickets  
sing their songs.

At times, the night was so alive I could not sleep.

Yellow butterflies drink from the puddles of water  
at the end of our driveway as we stand  
waiting for the school bus.

Leaves lose their color from the abundant trees  
and in doing so add brilliance to the long drive  
between town & the country.

Winter comes & we slide across  
the ice-covered pond with our boots  
& make huge snowmen that last long after  
most of the snow is gone.

In the spring we pick honey suckle and blackberries  
that grow wild all over our land.

Everyone's in love with sunny spring rains.  
They appear to wash away the winter  
and bring hope & happiness  
to all living things.

Each day and season seemed to last forever  
when I was growing up in southern Indiana.

The small town where I was raised  
with unbelievable freedom  
was the whole world to me.

I know that place so well  
from the years of long bike rides & walks.

No matter where I go,  
Commiskey will always be home to me.  
It was only after I left  
did I realize how beautiful and precious it is.

## The DNR's public input farce

The second annual Division of Forestry (DoF) open house at Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe on March 25th 2003 wasn't much of a public input process. You get to talk informally with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, fill out a comment card, and look at glorified photos of the timber sale program.

Last Year, after the IFA lawsuit was filed against the Director for the DoF, Burnell Fischer, the DNR public relations man Stephen Sellers complained to several local news papers about how they held public meetings with environmentalists and went to great efforts to involve forest activists.

These open houses have no forum, are a far cry from a public meeting, and the public comment sheets appear to get little to no response or consideration.

A large majority of the public who attended was opposed to commercial extraction on public

lands and several surveys taken have showed that a majority of people polled is opposed to logging on the state forests. The Hoosier Times conducted one of these polls and the I.U. center for survey research showed that with over 500 people chosen at random 55.8% were opposed, and 10.2% were undecided.

A true public input process would involve much more than what the state is giving us.

I strongly encourage people to send their comments to DNR Deputy Director John M. Davis. Mr. Davis can be reached at (317) 232-4024, [jdavis@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:jdavis@dnr.state.in.us), or

402 W. Washington Street,  
RM W256  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Thank you for your time and interest in helping make our public lands a better place.

Sincerely, Forest Gras

## Help Support the Indiana Forest Alliance, Buy a Piece of The World's Largest Piece of Handmade Recycled Paper

On April 10th and 11th members of IFA, along with many others from the local community, helped build the world's largest piece of handmade recycled paper. Bloomington residents Sheryl Woodhouse-Keese, Owner and Artist of Twisted Limb Paperworks, and Rhoda Summit, local poet, dreamed up this idea.

The project is an earth day fundraiser for 4 environmental organizations in Bloomington-- the Sycamore Land Trust, the Center for Sustainable Living, Heartwood and the Indiana Forest Alliance. Twisted Limb's paper will be 20 x 30 feet and will be embedded with wildflower seeds. After the giant piece of paper has dried, it will be cut into 2400 6x6 inch squares--so you can have a piece of this historic paper to plant in your back yard.

To support forest protection efforts in Indiana, send \$11 per sheet (\$10 donation plus \$1 postage) to IFA, P.O. Box 1074, Bloomington, In 47402.

### TAKE ACTION:

Contact DNR Deputy  
Director: John M. Davis and  
or DNR Director John Goss,  
Tele: 317 232-4025

Email:  
[jdavis@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:jdavis@dnr.state.in.us) or  
[jgoss@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:jgoss@dnr.state.in.us)

Write to: Executive office  
402 W. Washington Street  
RM W256  
Indianapolis IN 46204

### TELL THEM YOU WANT THE DNR TO:

1. Comply with the Indiana  
Environmental Policy  
Act (I.E.P.A) (conducting  
environmental impact state-  
ments for all timber sales on  
the Indiana State Forests),  
the Indiana Endangered  
Species Act, and the Clean  
Water Act.

2. End the use of chemical  
pesticides and other poisons  
on public lands.

3. Develop management  
plans for each state forest  
and site-specific watershed  
management plans on all  
lakes the DNR manages, and  
to make these plans and  
processes publicly accessible.

# 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**

### **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!

### *IFA Presentations ...*

#### *Coming to a town near you!*

*The Indiana Forest Alliance would like to thank Woody Widlund for his generous recent donation, which will enable us to purchase technology equipment which will allow us to travel around the state giving educational presentations to various schools and organizations. The presentations, given by IFA volunteers, will include material on Indiana's public forests, how they are impacted by commercial extraction, and what you can do to help protect them for future generation. If you would like us to give a presentation to your school, business, or other organization, please call us at (812) 332-4878.*

# Indiana Forest Alliance

PO Box 1074  
Bloomington, IN 47402

[www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~ifa)

Printed on 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper



# Indiana Forests

## Summer/Fall

## 2003

Newsletter of the  
Indiana Forest Alliance