

AWARDS REPORT

By Clara Walters

It is that time of year again when chapters are encouraged to submit nominations for both the Tobin Award and the state awards. I have the packets ready for state awards with me and would appreciate delegates from chapters carrying them back to the chapter since the new National directories are not out yet. Please see me if you are willing to carry them back to your chapter.

Let me speak a little about the Tobin Awards. This is a no brainer. If you have someone who deserves to be recognized, take the time to fill out the form. It can be downloaded from the IWLA National website, www.iwla.org. As long as the nominee has paid their dues they are eligible to receive the award. For those of you who do not know the history of the award, it was created by Judge John Tobin of Iowa who felt it was important to recognize volunteers who showed a lot of dedication to their chapter whether it was administrative or not, someone who may not qualify for a state or national environmental award to tell them "thank you." You only have to send the nomination in to National. It is guaranteed.

Last year was really disappointing. We only had a few nominations for state awards and even less for the Tobins. I am issuing a challenge to every chapter to submit a nomination for a state award. There are timelines involved and late submissions will not be considered. The deadline for state awards is March 31, 2015. I will begin accepting award nominations immediately. They can be submitted via snail mail or electronically. The address is on the nomination form. If you have a question as to which category to use, just indicate that you would like the awards committee to decide upon the award.

If you submitted an award nomination last year, and your member did not win the award, you can send in another nomination. There is no limit on the number of times an individual can be nominated. I look forward to receiving a record number of nominations from each chapter.

AIR QUALITY REPORT

By Charlotte Read

On Wednesday, November 26, 2014, the EPA unveiled new rules to reduce emission levels for smog-causing ozone, which is linked to asthma and other health problems. The proposed rules would lower the threshold for ozone from 75 parts per billion [ppb] to between 65 ppb to 70 ppb. EPA announced it would take

comments on an ozone level as low as 60 ppb. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review air quality standards every 5 years. Ozone levels were set at 75 ppb in 2008, during the Bush Administration.

The EPA Administrator, fending off comments raised by the usual critics, said states will have until 2020 to 2037 to meet the new standards depending on how severe is their particular area's ozone problem.

IDEM's Office of Air Quality is full of information relating to air quality where you live. The EPA has provided a scale called the Air Quality Index for rating air quality. You can get daily information on the Air Quality Index reports that rate air quality in many Indiana regions by checking the Air Now section. The index itself is based on our ambient air quality standards, which are: ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, nitrogen oxide, and PM 10 and PM 2.5 [particulates]. The reports provide a rating for that particular day and particular Indiana region based on whether the air quality conditions are: good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, or hazardous.

As part of its role in protecting air quality, IDEM develops redesignation petitions for areas that now meet the ambient air quality standards, and maintenance plans for these areas for EPA review and consideration so that the counties affected may be redesignated attainment. For specific information by county, including the pollutants involved, check out the Designations and Maintenance Plans section on the IDEM web site's Office of Air Quality section.

CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

Earth Policy Institute Release

Stabilizing the earth's climate depends on cutting carbon emissions fast. Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂)—the principal climate-altering greenhouse gas—come largely from burning coal, oil, and natural gas. Coal, mainly used for electricity generation, accounts for 44 percent of global fossil-fuel-related CO₂ emissions. Oil, used primarily for transportation, accounts for 36 percent of CO₂ emissions. Natural gas, used for electricity and heating, accounts for the remaining 20 percent of CO₂ emissions.

Worldwide, fossil fuel subsidies topped \$620 billion in 2011, while renewable energy received just \$88 billion in subsidies.

Since the Industrial Revolution, the planet has warmed by roughly one degree.

2013 marked the 37th consecutive year of above-average temperatures. Fully 4 billion people alive today have never experienced a year that was cooler than last century's average.

If we continue with business as usual, burning ever more oil, coal, and natural gas, the global average temperature is projected to rise some 11 degrees Fahrenheit (6 degrees Celsius) by the end of this century.

In addition to more widespread drought and more numerous wildfires, climate change brings more extreme heat waves.

In the last decade, daily record high temperatures outnumbered record lows in the United States two to one, and that ratio is increasing.

Crop ecologists have a rule of thumb that each 1 degree Celsius rise in temperature above the norm during the growing season lowers wheat, rice, and corn yields by 10 percent. Field tests show that this may be conservative.

This century, as waters warm and ice continues to melt, seas are projected to rise some 2 meters (6 feet), inundating coastal cities worldwide, such as New York, London, and Cairo, and agricultural hotspots, like rice-growing river deltas.

The Earth Policy Institute's Plan B shows the steps needed to cut global carbon emissions 80 percent. Cutting carbon emissions involves shifting from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, dramatically ramping up efficiency, and protecting and restoring forests and other natural systems.

[Data and additional resources available at www.earth-policy.org . Research Contact: Janet Larsen (202) 496-9290 ext. 14 | jlarsen@earth-policy.org . Earth Policy Institute, 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20036. Visit the web site at www.earthpolicy.org]

BIOFUELS, CLEAN?

[from Spring 2013 Earthwise, a publication of the Union of Concerned Scientists]

Biofuels can provide a clean, low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels if they are produced from the right resources at an appropriate scale. Using foodstuffs such as corn, sugar, or vegetable oil for fuel is problematic because it accelerates the expansion of agriculture into tropical areas, driving deforestation that releases a huge amount of heat-trapping carbon into the atmosphere—reducing or even

eliminating the fuels' climate benefit. Furthermore, food crops are resource intensive, and using them for fuel can contribute to rising food prices.

Non-food energy crops can avoid these problems. For example, perennial grasses such as switchgrass and miscanthus require less fertilizer and pesticide than food crops, and store more carbon in the soil. Agricultural wastes such as corn stalks can also be used for fuel production without expanding agriculture, as can the non-recyclable organic components of ordinary garbage. Commercial-scale production of these "cellulosic" biofuels (named for the sugars found in plant cell walls), will accelerate this year as a Florida company recently opened a facility capable of producing 8 million gallons per year, and other facilities are being built across the country.

Policies that increase support for cellulosic biofuels and provide incentives for investment will help maximize the potential of these fuels as a large-scale clean energy source. Visit www.ucsusa.org/biomassresources for more information.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

By Jim Daniels

I recently saw a piece at Treehugger.org about recycling. It is one they repeat every year about mid November to coincide with America Recycles Day. It got me to thinking about my days as Recycling Coordinator for Vanderburgh County. I spent 20 years in that post. My job was to promote recycling—and I did—but not as the best way to discard material.

Recycling, no matter how efficient, is still attempting to do something with an item you no longer want—waste. A better approach is not to generate the waste in the first place. Much better.

Now you might wonder how that scenario of not generating waste would work when you buy a bottle of water at a convenience store. Is not the best thing to do recycling? Once you have the bottle, yes, but far better is not buying that bottled water in the first place. A very expensive way to quench ones thirst. Better is to fill a recycled steel bottle at home before you leave. It can be refilled thousands of times at drinking fountains everywhere. You will save a lot of money and generate a lot less waste.

Single use water bottles should be avoided. Single use anything should be avoided as much as possible.

Consider starting to think in terms of making your life less complicated. The fewer things—stuff— you have to deal with the simpler your life will be. You won't depend so much on massive consumption and save money and the environment at the same time. Think about how much stuff you actually need.

This concept of “grow the economy or die” is a false one. Just the opposite is true. Growth creates unemployment and higher taxes and subtracts from personal and societal well being. This “growth as religion” mantra is literally destroying the very things needed for life.

How do we transform our society into one that supports and nurtures not just ourselves, but the other life on this small blue dot, now and into the future. It is a tough question. As environmentalists, we have a tendency to pound on the bad effects of our actions and desiring change, but too often we neglect to outline what such a society would look like. There is more than one possibility.

Some elements are relatively easy to envision. And they have two phases. One is during the transition and one is the resulting steady state. I should define what I mean by steady state. It is a society that matches its resource requirements with the ability of nature to provide those resources.

First we must recognize that things will change. No matter what. That is a given. As oil reserves are depleted long distance travel will become increasingly more costly, and eventually disappear. Air travel will be the first to go. There will be a resurgence in rail travel, but the trend will be to increase interactions at a more regional and then more local level. This will mean less and less food products being shipped great distances so exotic foods will disappear from the dinner plate and replaced by locally grown food.

The throwaway society will end. The age of getting cheap, poorly made products that wear out or break quickly will be replaced by more durable items, and habits will change. People will accumulate less goods and a shift in perspective will occur toward activity that does not require huge material investments. People will interact with people more as more interest in non consumptive pursuits evolves. We will pay closer attention to the value of the things we use so they last much longer and can be used for something else at the end of their first life. Product design will shift from planned obsolescence to a repair mode, using far fewer resources but vastly increase the need for skilled labor. Labor will be more important.

Yes, there will be stress during the transition, but ultimately a simpler world will be more rewarding for everybody. And for a much longer period of time.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

By Jim Daniels

Each Indiana legislator can be found by visiting the Indiana General Assembly website. I suggest you bookmark the site.

Once there look for the menu item 'Find Your Legislator' on the left side of the screen. Click on that and enter your address in the form and click submit. The list of your state Senator, State Representative, Federal Representative, and your two Federal Senators will pop up. The state legislators will list their District numbers.

The formula to email your Indiana state legislators is a simple one. First enter an 'r' or and 's' to indicate either a Representative or Senator. Then enter the District number. Then the @ symbol and IN.gov. That is all there is to it. The persons name is not needed for the email. It is recommended that you create a category in your email contacts list for your legislators.

While you are at the General Assembly website you can get a list of bills and the text on each one as well as the sponsor, the committee assignment, and its status. Just click on the menu icon 'bills' on the left of the screen. You will also be able to sign up to receive email updates on up to ten bills.

The federal elected officials are a bit more difficult. Their direct emails are not listed, but their web sites are. That is how they want you to contact them. You need to go to their website and enter your contact information and use the comment form provided. To get all of the Members of Congress you can go to the US Congress web site and go through essentially the same process as the state.

Efforts are continuing to make electronic contact easier without the huge cost of leasing the software.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article titled Meet Your Legislators. These events are another way to meet with your area state legislators face to face, without traveling to Indianapolis. They are public events held during the session. Check with your media outlets for the dates. Or ask your legislator when the events are. If none exist in your area the article describes how you can start one.

CORRECTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* The Water Quality Report in the Fall 2014 issue of the Hoosier Waltonian noted there were 223 League Chapters in Indiana. There are actually only 23.

* Double check your email address for Secretary Stan Jarosz. The correct one is sjelectric65@gmail.com.

* At the June 2015 Indiana Convention both the Division and the Division Endowment bylaws will have amendments to vote on. Delegates vote on the Division bylaws and all members of the Indiana Division can vote on the Endowment bylaws. The exact language to be considered for both will be published in the Spring 2015 issue of the Hoosier Waltonian in accordance with the notification requirements in the current bylaws.

* The March 2015 Division Board of Directors host Chapter has not been determined as of this writing. Notice of the meeting will be sent to Directors and Chapter Presidents 30 days before the meeting.

The Indiana Division I.W.L.A. Endowment needs your help.

We need to vote on a By-Law amendment, and in order to do this we need 50 Izaak Walton League members present. Every member in good standing of the Indiana Division is also a member of the Endowment.

.. Present By-Law Reads ..

ARTICLE I,

Section 4 Reads: Fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting to the members.

.. Proposed Change ..

Remove the number fifty (50), and replace it with ten (10).

You may also cast an absentee vote on email. Email votes are eligible until June 1, 2015. When you cast your ballot, place in the subject line 'Endowment Vote' and cast a 'yes or no' vote.

Email address: sjelectric65@gmail.com

FISH AND WILDLIFE & PUBLIC LANDS REPORT

By Chuck Bauer

Public land acquisition was good in 2014 in Indiana. The Patoka River NWR added numerous parcels and is currently over 8,500 acres. The IDNR Healthy Rivers initiative has added many parcels to Muscatatuck and the Wabash river areas. The prospects for the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge are improving. Money for land acquisition is still a problem. Land prices have escalated steeply in the last few years. The Patoka NWR is spending down its \$1,000,000 NAWCA grant. One possible avenue is that the USFWS Region has agreed to allow duck stamp funds to be used in Indiana. Previously the Region would allocate all duck stamp monies they received to states North of Indiana. The Friends of the Patoka have successfully lobbied regional management to allow us to receive Duck Stamp money. This coupled with the fact Duck Stamp fees will increase from \$15.00 to \$25.00 soon is promising.

We do have a major threat to our Nation's public lands. The recent election will almost insure resurgence in the attempts to sell our public lands to private individuals and states. This is not a new threat. Many conservative western states legislators have been pushing this for years. They see it as economic development and revenue without raising taxes. What's new is that the conservative surge in the Senate and House put them in charge. The Chairman of one of the Natural Resources committees has stated the Federal Government should buy no more land because they are not managing the current lands economically. This coupled with the budget threats to cease funding the LWCF and NAWCA are a concern for IKE's.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is about 20% under full staffing level. This despite the fact that staffing levels have been drastically reduced in the past decade. The Director of the Fish and Wildlife division sent out a warning to users that the staffing level will affect service in many areas. Many of the senior people have retired because of a reduction in future pensions. Others have left for higher paying jobs. The Indiana deer biologist, Chad Stewart, just accepted a similar job in Michigan. Part of the problem is that the hurdles to hire new employees delay hiring.

There are three major rules going to the Natural Resources Commission on Dec. 11. The first is on catfish. Indiana is one of the few states that allows commercial fishermen to catch giant catfish for sale. They sell these fish to pay lakes, primarily in Ohio. Ohio does not allow them to do this in their state. The new rule allows

only one Channel cat over 25 inches and one Blue or Flathead over 35 inches. We definitely should support this.

The second rule allows a limited trapping season on River Otter. The fur biologists have determined that it will not threaten the resource. River Otters have done well and can be harvested in many counties. There will be a limit of 600. I have taken the position that it is the responsibility of the DNR scientists to determine limits and game rules. I recommend supporting this change but there is some dissension so we will discuss further.

The third rule allows all rifles to be allowed for hunting white tailed deer. This has been pushed by the gun lobby, the NRA, and some sportsmen. Other states that have recently done this have had no additional deaths. I think this is questionable, particularly in the flat portion of the state. There are some farmers who now allow hunting who say they will cease hunting access. We need further discussion.

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES FOR 2015

SENATE COMMITTEES OF INTEREST

Agriculture

Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg (Chair) Sen. Frank Mrvan (RMM) (D-Hammond)

Sen. Susan Glick (R-Logansport) (RM) Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago)

Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield)

Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper)

Sen. Chip Perfect (R-Lawrenceburg)

Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford)

Sen. James Tomes (R-Wadesville)

Appropriations

Sen. Luke Kenley (Chair) (R-Noblesville) Sen. Karen Tallian (RMM)(D-Portage)

Sen. Ryan Mishler (RM) (R-Bremen) Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary)

Sen. Philip Boots (R-Crawfordsville) Sen. Mark Stoops (D-Bloomington)

Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valpariso) Sen. Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis)

Sen. Douglas Eckerty (R-Muncie)

Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Wheatfield)

Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis)

Sen. Brent Waltz (R-Indianapolis)

Sen. Carlin Yoder (R-Middlebury)

Environmental Affairs

Sen. Ed Charbonneau (Chr) (R-Valparaiso) Sen. Mark Stoops (RMM) (D-Bloomington)

Sen. Douglas Eckerty (RM) (R-Muncie) Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend)

Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington) Sen. Karen Tallian (D-Portage)

Sen. Philip Boots (R-Crawfordsville)

Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell)

Sen. Scott Schneider (R-Indianapolis)

Natural Resources

Sen. Susan Glick (Chair) (R-LaGrange) Sen. Frank Mrvan (RMM) (D-Hammond)

Sen. Jean Leising (RM) (R-Oldenburg) Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago)

Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield)

Sen. Mark Messmer (R- Jasper)

Sen. Chip Perfect (R-Lawrenceburg)

Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford)

Sen. James Tomes (R-Wadesville)

Tax and Fiscal Policy

Sen. Brandt Hershman (Chr)(R-Wheatfield) Sen. John Broden (RMM) (D-South Bend)

Sen. Travis Holdman (RM) (R-Markle) Sen. Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis)

Sen. James Buck (R-Kokomo) Sen. Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond)

Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso) Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago)

Sen. Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville)

Sen. Pete Miller (R-Danville)

Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Bremen)

Sen. James Smith (R-Charlestown)

Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus)

Utilities

Sen. James Merritt (Chair) (R-Indianapolis) Sen. Jean Breaux (RMM) (D-Indianapolis)

Sen. James Buck (RM) (R-Kokomo) Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend)

Sen. Michael Delph (R-Indianapolis) Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago)

Sen. Randall Head (R-Logansport)

Sen. Erin Houchin (R- Salem)

Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg)

Sen. James Tomes (R-Wadesville)

HOUSE COMMITTEES OF INTEREST

Agriculture and Rural Development

Rep. Don Lehe (R-Brookston) (Chair)
Yorktown)

Rep. Melanie Wright (RMM) (D-

Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Terre Haute) (V.Chr.)
Lafayette)

Rep. Sheila A. Klinker (D-

Rep. Lloyd Arnold (R-Leavenworth)

Rep. Justin W. Moed (D-Indianapolis)

Rep. Jim Baird (R-Greencastle)
Bend)

Rep. David L. Niezgodski (D-South

Rep. Greg Beumer (R-Modoc)

Rep. Bill Friend (R-Macy)

Rep. Doug Gutwein (R-Francesville)

Rep. Dick Hamm (R-Richmond)

Rep. Christopher Judy (R-Fort Wayne)

Environmental Affairs

Rep. David Wolkins (R-Warsaw) (Chair)
(D-Muncie)

Rep. Sue E. Errington (RMM)

Rep. Greg Beumer (R-Modoc) (V.Chair)
Bend)

Rep. B. Patrick Bauer (D-South

Rep. Mike Aylesworth (R-Hebron)
Bend)

Rep. Ryan M. Dvorak (D-South

Rep. Sean Eberhart (R-Shelbyville)
Bloomington)

Rep. Matt Pierce (D-

Rep. Bill Friend (R-Macy)

Rep. Don Lehe (R-Brookston)

Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Rep. Heath VanNatter (R-Kokomo)

Rep. District 24

Natural Resources

Rep. Sean Eberhart (R-Shelbyville) (Chair)
Terre Haute)

Rep. Clyde Kersey (RMM) (D-

Rep. Lloyd Arnold (R- Leavenworth) (V.Chr.)
Bend)

Rep. Ryan M. Dvorak (D-South

Rep. Mike Aylesworth (R-Hebron
Muncie)
Rep. Bob Heaton (R-Terre Haute
Portage)
Rep. Christopher Judy (R-Fort Wayne)
Rep. Mike Karickhoff (R-Kokomo)
Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Terre Haute)
Rep. Matt Ubelhor (R-Bloomfield)
Rep. David Wolkins (R-Warsaw)

Rep. Sue E. Errington (D-
Rep. Chuck Moseley (D-

Roads and Transportation

Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso) (Chair)
(D-Indianapolis)
Rep. Mike Speedy (R-Indianapolis) (V.Chr.)
Rep. Mike Braun (R-Jasper)
Indianapolis)
Rep. Randy Frye (R-Greensburg)
Jeffersonville)
Rep. Bob Morris (R-Fort Wayne)
Rep. Curt Nisly (R-Goshen)
Rep. Tom Saunders (R-Lewisville)
Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn)
Rep. Holli Sullivan (R-Evansville)

Rep. Daniel P. Forestal (RMM)
Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary)
Rep. Cherrish S. Pryor (D-
Rep. Steven R. Stemler (D-

Utilities and Energy

Rep. Eric Koch (R-Bedford) (Chair)
Indianapolis)
Rep. Heath VanNatter (R-Kokomo) (V.Chr.)
Indianapolis)
Rep. Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis)
Bloomington)
Rep. Dale DeVon (R-Granger)
Indianapolis)
Rep. David Frizzell (R-Indianapolis)
Rep. Randy Frye (R-Greensburg)
Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Terre Haute)
Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)
Rep. Mike Speedy (R-Indianapolis)

Rep. Christina E. Hale (RMM) (D-
Rep. Daniel P. Forestal (D-
Rep. Matt Pierce (D-
Rep. Cherrish S. Pryor (D-

Ways and Means

Rep. Tim Brown (R-Crawfordsville) (Chair)

Rep. Bob Cherry (R-Greenfield) (Vice Chair)

Rep. Mike Karickhoff (R-Kokomo); Chair, Budget Subcommittee

Rep. Randy Truitt (R-West Lafayette); Chair, Higher Education Subcommittee

Rep. Jim Baird (R-Greencastle); Chair, Health and Medicaid Subcommittee

Rep. Dan Leonard (R-Huntington); Chair, Local Government Finance Subcommittee

Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton); Chair, K-12 Subcommittee

Rep. Mike Braun (R-Jasper)
Indianapolis)

Rep. Gregory W. Porter (RMM) (D-

Rep. Steve Davisson (R-Salem)
Indianapolis)

Rep. Edward O. DeLaney (D-

Rep. Todd Huston (R-Fishers)

Rep. Terry A. Goodin (D-Austin)

Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville)

Rep. Sheila A. Klinker (D-Lafayette)

Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica)
Bend)

Rep. David L. Niezgodski (D-South

Rep. David Ober (R-Albion)
Indianapolis)

Rep. Cherrish S. Pryor (D-

Rep. Hal Slager (R-Schererville)
Evansville)

Rep. Gail C. Riecken (D-

Rep. Holli Sullivan (R-Evansville)
Bloomfield)

Rep. Matt Ubelhor (R-

Rep. Steven R. Stemler (D-Jeffersonville)

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Jim Daniels

The 2015 session of the Indiana General Assembly is scheduled to begin in early January. An orientation day was held in November to start the process of populating committees. The 2015 session is a long one as it is where the biannual budget is debated. The budget will be the major focus.

We will need to stay vigilant to keep up with issues of concern to us. Things can happen pretty fast. One tool to help with this is the General Assembly web site. You will want to bookmark it. The actions of the Assembly are posted there along with a wide range of information.

Another way to take action will be through the second Division web site,

www.earthpage.org . While very new with not much content so far, you will be able to link to the General Assembly site and the US Congress site.

I am hoping the Indiana Division Resource Committee Chairs will meet with their respective committees and review pending legislation and make recommendations to me as to what to include on the site. This site is a groundbreaking effort for the Division and will only be effective if it can stay fresh and current.

As we go to press the Indiana General Assembly has not convened, but it will have by the time you read this. There are a couple of issues that are likely to be before the Assembly and League action will be needed. Remember to check on the legislature frequently.

CANNED SHOOTING: This has been brought up before and narrowly defeated. It is taking deer raised in a pen and transporting them to a larger pen where they are shot. The League opposes this along with hunting and outdoor groups all over the state. It is linked with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and clearly does not meet the League position requiring “Fair Chase.” There will likely be a bill to legalize the practice. Contact your legislator to oppose legalizing ‘canned shooting.’

ENERGY: Solar rooftop photo voltaic (PV) installations have increased dramatically across the country, including Indiana. Electric utilities see a loss of revenue and oppose solar electricity, or any electricity generated by a potential customer. Ninety-five percent of the electricity generated in the state is by burning coal, the dirtiest possible fuel.

Clean renewable energy from the sun and wind is the future. It creates more jobs and is much healthier for both people and the planet. The fight will be about justice and clean air for people or high profit for big corporations.

Bills likely to be introduced include a roll back of ‘net metering’ which is a mechanism where a homeowner who installs solar panels cause their meter to run backward, and at times, produce more electricity through their solar panels than they use. This results in the utility being required to credit their account. The utilities want to reduce this credit, and possibly even eliminate ‘net metering’ altogether. Another thing that might come up is the utilities wanting to raise their base delivery charges. The idea is so they can get more revenue from people just for being hooked up to their lines. This has been dubbed a “solar tax.” Contact your legislators to oppose any weakening of the net metering structure and to

oppose any increase in a utility base delivery line charge.

KANKAKEE RIVER REPORT

By Jim Sweeney

A couple Ikes and Friends of the Kankakee met two weeks ago with Mark Reiter, Director of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Mitch Marcus, Wildlife Chief of the DNR. The night before, the FOK board met with John Rogner of USFWS for an update too.

The DNR, FWS, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Department of Agriculture, Notre Dame and others are working on a new “Kankakee River Conservation Initiative” instead of a National Wildlife Refuge proposal.

Mr. Reiter kept referring to the Indiana Healthy Rivers Initiative and we had to remind him that the program came with no funding. They are using a lot of Farm Bill program money, mainly Wetland Reserve for that as well as Sport Fish and Game Restoration funds. The land is being acquired and easements bought but there is little or no budget for restoration work.

He did say that the state will be getting so much funding from the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration program (Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson funds) that they don't have enough projects to allocate all the funding available.

We talked a lot about needing buy-in from the agricultural community and Mark and Mitch have already talked to several big farmers upstream on the river. There are a lot of fish and wildlife benefits to be had with conservation programs and BMP's on the ditches and tributaries too.

We also talked a lot about Bob Barr of IUPUI and his recommendations for the river and the KRBC in Indiana and some of the good ideas Tony Hendricks has, the LaPorte County Surveyor.

Mark has already had a couple conversations with the Governor's liaison to the DNR about the new “Kankakee River Conservation Initiative” and he genuinely feels that he can get the support of the Governor if the proposal is “developed right.”

They will be taking a one page proposal to the liaison by the end of the year. We also talked about a meeting with likely 'initiative' proponents in the next few months.

Notre Dame is undertaking a study titled "Assessment of Waterfowl Habitat Restoration as an Adaptive Mechanism for Water Sustainability in the Grand Kankakee River Watershed". The first edition of this unique tool will be tested first on the Grand Kankakee River watershed of Northwest Indiana and East Central Illinois. The tool is designed to provide land managers with science-based, regional relevant, climate change landscape planning information. Once refined, the tool can be expanded to other watersheds. [The Abstract is at the end of this report.]

The project is building a scenario planning decision support tool for land managers that combines hydrologic models with ecosystem service valuation for waterfowl habitat, hunter value, recreational user value, and agriculture in the Kankakee River watershed. This project is a first step in designing and implementing green infrastructure that not only enhances biodiversity, but sustainably benefits agriculture and urban development into the future under climate change. She aims for the Kankakee watershed to emerge as a model landscape for ways to meld agriculture, restoration, and urbanization with climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Kankakee River Basin Commission just voted to give \$50,000 to Notre Dame for the study of sand and silt in the river, a huge problem. Kudos to them.

The Northwest Indiana Paddling Association has asked for the Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League of America's to support their application to the National Park Service seeking National Water Trail (NWT) designation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail. The application seeks National Water Trail designation for the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois, which would be the first such designation in our states. [ed note: a motion passed to support designation of the Kankakee River as a National Water Trail. A resolution will be prepared for the June Convention]

The project to restore and reconnect an original meander, Bancroft Bayou, of the Kankakee River in LaPorte County, has been on ice but may be warming up again soon. The owner is interested as are the Indiana DNR, the LaPorte County Surveyor, and others.

Notre Dame Study Presentation Abstract: The Future of Northwest Indiana: A Future Scenario Planning Tool based on our Natural Heritage. By Tammy Patterson.

The future landscape of Northwest Indiana, like that of many other places, is largely unknown. The region is faced with a multitude of pressures from a growing population, urban development, new highways, political preferences, and the consequences of climate change. Decisions made today shape the future landscape of the region. If only the future could be seen with a time machine, what choices were made and what were the results? Would those choices be different? Planning the future landscape can help decrease the negative impacts of urbanization like flooding, support production on prime agricultural land, provide ecosystem services like clean water, fresh air, and outdoor activities for residents, and mitigate the consequences of climate change. A team of researchers from the University of Notre Dame and the U.S. Geological Survey have accepted this challenge and built a landscape planning tool to test alternative future landscape scenarios. The tool is based on a common landscape currency. A surface water and groundwater model are jointed to ecosystem services outputs such as surface water retention, groundwater recharge, waterfowl populations, recreational value, and agricultural production. The tool refers to the 1800's landscape of the region as a baseline for comparison and as an indicator of the region's potential ecosystem services. The tool will be used to understand the effects of altering landscape characteristics like urban development patterns and placement of natural area restorations under climate change projections. The first edition of this unique tool will be tested first on the Grand Kankakee River watershed of Northwest Indiana and East Central Illinois. The tool is designed to provide land managers with science-based, regional relevant, climate change landscape planning information. Once refined, the tool can be expanded to other watersheds.

The project funding is provided by a grant from the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Supplemental funding provided by the USGS Great Lakes Science Center.

PLASTIC BAGS FACT SHEET

Earth Policy Institute Release

Worldwide, a trillion single-use plastic bags are used each year, nearly 2 million each minute.

The amount of energy required to make 12 plastic shopping bags could drive a car for a mile.

City, state, and national governments around the world are trying to limit plastic bag litter and waste with bans and fees. The oldest existing plastic bag tax is in Denmark, passed in 1993. Danes use very few light-weight single-use plastic bags: about 4 per person each year.

At least 16 African countries have announced bans on certain types of plastic bags, to varying levels of effectiveness. Before a ban on thin bags—which tear readily and get caught by the wind—went into effect in 2003, plastic bags were christened South Africa’s “national flower” because of their prevalence in bushes and trees. Thicker bags are taxed.

Many European countries tax plastic bags or ban free distribution. The EU Parliament is discussing measures that could require member states to cut plastic bag use by 80 percent by 2019. A memo on the proposal noted that “plastic bags have been found in stomachs of several endangered marine species,” including various turtles and porpoises, and 94 percent of North Sea birds.

The provinces of Ontario and Quebec have each halved their plastic bag use through a variety of measures, including store incentives for using reusable bags and retailer-imposed fees.

Livestock choking on plastic bags—from camels in the United Arab Emirates to sheep in Mauritania and cattle in India and Texas—have led communities to consider regulation.

Currently 100 billion plastic bags pass through the hands of U.S. consumers every year—almost one bag per person each day. Laid end-to-end, they could circle the equator 1,330 times.

Over 150 U.S. cities and counties ban or require fees for plastic bags. California passed the first statewide ban in 2014, though Hawaii had a de facto ban through county ordinances. Over 49 million Americans live in communities that have passed plastic bag bans or fees.

U.S. cities with bag bans include San Francisco (as of 2007), Portland (2011), Seattle (2012), Austin (2013), Los Angeles (2014), Dallas (to begin in 2015), and Chicago (2015).

The plastics industry has spent millions of dollars to challenge plastic bag ordinances.

Washington, D.C., was the first U.S. city to require food and alcohol retailers to charge customers 5¢ for each plastic or paper bag. Proceeds are shared between stores and environmental clean-ups.

A time line tracing the history of the plastic bag and examples of plastic bag ordinances from the United States and around the world are at www.earth-policy.org.

[Data and additional resources available at www.earth-policy.org . Research Contact: Janet Larsen (202) 496-9290 ext. 14. jlarsen@earth-policy.org . Earth Policy Institute, 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20036.]

MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

By Jim Daniels

With the Indiana General Assembly convening in early January I thought it a good time to provide information about ways to contact your elected state legislators. Elsewhere this issue are articles on mail contact, but this article will focus on one-on-one and public meetings, and those can happen at the same time.

Meet Your Legislators, or Third House, events are a good way to hear from your area legislators on what has been happening at the Statehouse, but an excellent way to interact with them to ask support for your position on issues.

If one already exists in your area you should be able to find out about it through your local media, or checking local events calendars. Another way is to contact your legislator and ask them. After all, they would be invited. Attend and participate. They each will have their way of operating, but there usually is a way to ask something in a public manner, and also an opportunity to meet with a legislator for a few minutes semi privately.

If there is not an event in your region, you can build a team and start one. There are several things to consider and details to work out which may seem daunting, but it is not difficult, especially if you have sponsors to help with the volunteer work. I will use the Evansville operation as a guide, but don't hesitate to explore

your ideas. If something does not work well, try something else.

* Sponsors. Seek out about ten sponsoring organizations with a varied member base. Environmental groups, labor unions, neighborhood groups, the library, social groups. You want two things from sponsors. One is volunteer help and the other is money to cover some very minor costs. Each sponsor should provide something. The other thing a sponsor group can do is send out notices to its members to boost attendance at the events.

* Tasks. A list of things to do:

- > Staff a sign in desk to get emails from attendees.
- > Write and send a press release for each event.
- > Video tape each event and get to local PBS station and library.
- > Get and serve refreshments-coffee, donuts.
- > Control sound system.
- > Paying for security if needed.
- > Setting up the room. Raised dias for legislators and moderator and theater seating for audience.
- > Booking the room.
- > Reminder emails to legislators. Limit to six.
- > Make name place cards for legislators.
- > Make and post District maps.
- > Moderate event and keep time.
- > Generate, maintain and send email reminders to the public that provide addresses.

* Event Structure.

- > Send out a press release one week before each event.
- > Send out email blast to those attendees and sponsor lists.
- > Well before the session starts book the room. Strive for an easy to remember schedule like every third Saturday, or the third Saturday of each month. Determine as best as possible any potential conflicts. Suggest a Saturday morning. You could consider scheduling one event before the session starts to anticipate issues ahead and to ask that a particular issue be addressed.

* The Room. Try to book the main library. Have seating for 150 or so with a kitchen facility. Allow sponsors to take turns setting up their group display. Have space for signing in and for legislators to lay out their handouts. Have a microphone for each legislator, one for the moderator, and one for the audience speaker. Have a donation basket. This could provide funds to cover the

refreshments, which should be very simple.

* The Event. Open doors to the public 30 minutes before start time. At start moderator gets people settled in and goes over the format. Start with each legislator getting two minutes to speak. Then two minutes for speakers from the audience selected by hand raising to bring up new topics. Two minutes for each legislator to respond. Go back and forth for 1.5 to 2 hours. At the end, ask for donations to cover refreshments again, announce the next event, and how to contact the legislator via email or phone at the Statehouse. Some events have a sign up card for speakers to jot down their name and issue and the moderator uses those cards to get speakers. Consider having a stopwatch to keep everyone within their time limits.

* General. Someone needs to keep the money to pay for refreshments, security, the district map copying, etc. This will be pretty minor. Pick only legislators that represent at least a part of the county where the event is held. More than six legislators will be pretty crowded, and it might be tough to gather everything needed, like enough microphones. It won't take long to get used to what all is needed. Make sure someone is at all events without too many assigned tasks so you have someone to take care of unexpected chores. And, it is okay to forget something. Take notes on what worked and what did not. Have some fun with it. Awkwardness is easily overcome with a little humor. Humor can also diffuse a tense situation. Some speakers will have an excess of passion.

Oh, and make friends with security.

THE SINGLE ISSUE-POPULATION

By Jim Daniels

The environmental and conservation community talks all the time about the importance of a range of issues, from man-made global warming, to endangered species, to clean air, to clean water, to open space, to—well, a lot more. These are all important problems that need to be addressed, but they would not be problems at all if not for the fact there are simply too many people. This is not complicated. The facts are incontrovertible, though many people are in denial. A fact is still a fact, regardless of who or how many people deny it.

First, understand that humans are part of the natural system. They will proliferate if food and shelter are available, and predators, and other negative

factors to population growth are reduced. And that has happened. Man is his only predator and has used and developed skills to manipulate the environment to best suit his growth needs. For a while. This is just like all creatures do. It can backfire though. If a bear eats all the food in a particular area that area will not support the continued growth of bears. They either move or die off to a number that allows the food source to recover.

Humans have figured out a way to transport food and other needs great distances so they don't have to move. But they have perfected that too. But how much does this food transporting affect the humans in the area the food is leaving?

Everything is fine as long as food is shipped away from somewhere where there is a surplus. What happens when that surplus is exhausted? Or the local number of people increases and they need to keep the food? We are seeing some of that now with countries that need to import food (grain) but the population is increasing in the exporting country so the price goes up. Or, the exporting country reduces its exports to feed its own people. Either way somebody gets less food and pays more. Poor societies are left to starve in both importing and exporting countries. Ed note: The Earth Policy Institute has done extensive research on this and has exhaustive documentation on food shortages. Visit their web site at www.earth-policy.org .]

Another development has been that some countries, like China, for example, used to be an exporter of food, but now import. A strategy has been to purchase thousands of acres of farmland in third world countries to produce foodstocks to be shipped out. This further exacerbates the food shortages as countries lose the arable land they need to grow enough food to support their own population. These strategies eventually can cause severe crises that can easily erupt in violence.

As this writer, and others, have said many times before, there is not a single environmental problem that would be made worse if there were fewer people. In fact, virtually every environmental problem would be less of a problem, or not a problem at all, if there were fewer people.

This is obvious to any rational being. Why then are there hardly any voices pitching for ending population growth, and even reducing the population? There must be an awful lot of irrational people out there. Well, Virginia, yes there are.

There are a few voices for control. One is the United Nations Population Panel, which has done extensive work documenting the problems of over population and carrying capacity. And, the cartoon character, Pogo, who said, We have met the

enemy and he is us.”

I cannot write a piece on population without mention of the late Dr. Albert Bartlett of the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has written some incredible, irrefutable articles about population, and the mathematics of population growth. His main theme is that man’s greatest shortfall in understanding population growth is a lack of understanding of the exponential function. The exponential function is the mathematical formula to determine the doubling time of anything that has a positive growth factor. The arithmetic cannot be denied.

Some of Dr. Bartlett’s work can be found at www.populationpress.org, or just Google his name. Some of his work has been published in the Hoosier Waltonian, and there will be more posted on the Division web site, www.earthpage.org.

Unlimited growth, or any positive biological growth, of anything in a finite system is simply not possible indefinitely. That is not open for debate. It is fact. The Earth is a biological system and humans are a physical entity. It is not complicated.

Okay, there are several ways for the human population to be reduced. Most have been tried on a limited scale. A partial list includes famine, war, disease, murder. There are others. Can you think of any that you would feel comfortable lobbying for? How about birth control, equal education, or education at all for women and girls? These have proven effective in population control. Again, it comes down to the kind of practices and policies you can support. So, make your list. But remember, nature is making a list too, so don’t take too long.

SOLAR POWER

What are you waiting for?

By John Rogers

Massachusetts resident Dennis Villanueva lives far from the Sunbelt region. That has not stopped him from being an active participant in a solar revolution now under way across the United States.

When he and his family purchased a solar photovoltaic (PV) system in October of 2013, they joined the ranks of a rapidly growing number of solar home owners—people taking charge of their energy destinies and taking advantage of vastly improved economies and smart policies. Paired with recent energy efficiency

improvements, the Villanuevas' new 6.25-kilowatt PV system supplies essentially all of the home's electricity needs. Tax credits, rebates, and other incentives are reducing the time it takes for the system to pay for itself to less than 5.5 years.

When asked what motivated Villanueva and his family to switch to solar energy, he simply said, "It is good business!" As the new Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) report 'Solar Power on the Rise' documents, his assessment is increasingly accurate even in many northern states like Massachusetts that receive less intense sunlight than those in the South. Massachusetts ranks sixth in the nation in total installed solar capacity.

Nationwide, the pattern is unmistakable: installed capacity for rooftop solar tripled from 2010 to 2013 and continues to grow at an astounding rate of more than 50% every year. Solar PV systems now adorn some 400,000 homes—13 times more than just eight years ago. Last year, solar energy accounted for almost 30 percent of newly installed electricity capacity in the United States, and in 2014, a PV system is projected to be installed in this country every 24 minutes.

This remarkable rate of adoption ensures that solar power will meet an ever larger share of our overall electricity needs in the years ahead. And there is plenty of room for continued growth as even in the most solar-friendly states, it accounts for 2 percent of total electricity generation.

At the core of rooftop solar installations, PV panels are relatively simple: photons of light striking certain materials in the panels cause electrons to be released. When the panels are connected to a circuit, these electrons provide electricity. Solar panels involve no moving parts, no fuel other than the sun, and no other inputs or by-products. Unlike fossil fuels, solar panels generate electricity without air pollution, global warming pollution, or solid waste.

The plummeting costs of solar power, along with innovative financing approaches, are a big part of its recent success, dramatically improving access to the technology. From 2010 to 2013, the price of a typical household system dropped by almost 30 percent: from \$32,000 to \$23,000, even before tax credits and other incentives. In some states, these incentives could bring the final cost below \$10,000. Leasing or power-purchase arrangements, which can give home owners the benefits of solar power with low or no up-front costs, are also popular: two-thirds of new residential systems are third-party owned.

Along with these increasingly attractive economics and its environmental

benefits, solar power creates jobs: the U.S. solar industry employed more than 140,000 people in 2013—a 53 percent increase over 2010. The industry comprises more than 6,000 companies spread over all 50 states.

Another important benefit of rooftop solar power is that it can provide electricity to the grid when and where that power is most valuable. For example, in many places, electricity demand generally peaks in the afternoon on hot, sunny days when air conditioning use is high—coinciding with hours of strong solar output.

But what may be most surprising is just how plentiful a resource solar energy is: the sunlight available for PV generation varies by less than 30 percent across much of the country. In Portland, ME, for example, a PV system can generate 85 percent of what the same system would generate in Los Angeles, 95 percent of what it would in Miami, and 6 percent more than it would in Houston.

While rooftop solar installations are the most visible part of this story, large-scale solar installations—both large-scale PV and concentrating solar power (CSP, which uses the sun’s heat to make steam that drives electricity-generating turbines)—have their own amazing stories to tell. The cost of electricity from new large-scale PV projects was 50 percent lower in 2013 than 2010, the installed costs were 60 percent lower than rooftop solar’s, and the growth rate of these projects has been even more impressive than rooftop solar’s. CSP, meanwhile, is set to have its best year ever: 2014 has already seen the startup of the world’s largest solar facility (in California) and more is on the way. Large-scale solar can add some environmental challenges but efforts are ongoing to manage them, helping to increase the technologies’ overall benefits.

Keeping the solar revolution advancing on all fronts will require attention to a range of issues and policies. The federal tax credit, for example, will need to be renewed to help continue driving investments in solar technology. Further investments in scale, technology improvements, and energy storage will help, as will strong renewable electricity standards, state plans that give solar power a key role in meeting the federal government’s new power plant carbon standards, and assistance for utilities and regulators in developing business models that accommodate increasing amounts of rooftop solar.

In light of findings by UCS and others that rooftop solar may become cheaper than utility-supplied electricity in more than half of all U.S. states in the very near future, it seems clear that solar power will play a major role in our energy mix. By 2020, rooftop solar is likely to be serving not hundreds of thousands, but millions

of homes.

[Reprinted from the Fall 2014 issue of 'Catalyst', a publication of the Union of Concerned Scientists. John Rogers is a senior analyst in the UCS Climate and Energy Program. Read more on the UCSD blog, 'The Equation', at <http://blog.ucsusa.org> .]

VICE PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

By Clara Walters

As VP I visited two chapters, Evansville and Huntington. Evansville was filling in for the vacant Southern VP and Huntington was the result of concerns by Jim Sweeney. Also visited Terre Haute chapter to confirm that they were holding the December meeting.

Evansville is doing fine. They are busy with their current projects. Their chapter is on solid footing financially and they are increasing their membership monthly. Expectations are that they will equal or exceed last year's membership numbers. It is always a pleasure to visit this chapter.

When I went to Huntington, I met Robert Goings, the president. He seems intent on focusing the chapter on the mission of the IWLA. When Jean Ross, the conservation chair presented her report, the members seem genuinely interested. They covered the projects they have going. They rent out their clubhouse on a regular basis thus generating additional income for the chapter. They work with the Girl Scouts. This is a small chapter but they are active.

The Terre Haute Chapter is doing just fine. They are raising money to create a playground. They have raised over \$1400 so far. They are involved in Big Brothers/Big Sisters as well as collecting tabs for Riley Hospital. They built birdhouses in Clay County, which was a success. This year exceeded last year's participation.

I have been responding to the Action Alerts that I have received. I would encourage all members to respond to Action Alerts that are within the IWLA guidelines. Too many times it is easy to ignore Action Alerts because of time constraints, but if they were not important you wouldn't be receiving them. If we are to have an impact on legislation, we cannot afford to be apathetic.

On a personal note, I totaled my car one evening so I have pretty much given up driving after dark. It will make some of my traveling difficult, but not impossible. I will just have to limit my traveling until they figure out why I don't remember the accident.

I talked with Greg Sharp of the Miami Chapter. They are still working with the scouts and that made it possible for them to obtain two grants totaling \$3000. They have to put a new roof on their building and are using the grant money to install park style grills for the scouts to use. They have been renting out their clubhouse but feel that it is not worth it. One rental put down a dance floor that club members had to remove. They always make me feel welcome and I have been able to help them on some issues.

If any chapter has an issue or question, please feel free to contact me and if I can't answer it, I can go to my resource list and get an answer for you.

WEB SITE LAUNCHED!

By Jim Daniels

The second Indiana Division web site, www.earthpage.org, is now live.

Content on the site is still very sparse. The plan, of course, is to regularly build content and improve site navigation. This can be a challenge. It is hoped that members will come forward in their area of expertise and supply content. And, arrangements are ongoing for outside contributors.

The focus will be strictly environmental. The idea is to provide facts, data, opinion, and science on the air, soil, waters, woods, and wildlife. The site will also be exploring the social and political implications of environmental decisions and how the League mission overall can help achieve a steady state. A society where human activity does not subtract from the ability of the Earth to provide a high quality of life for the many species that call it home.

The site will include an action mechanism to contact decision makers at the state and federal levels. To begin with this will only be for Indiana, but if circumstances allow it can be expanded to include decision makers at the federal level.

Once you put your legislators email addresses in your contact list [see Contacting Your Legislator elsewhere this issue], you are ready to go. As issues arise there will be a sample letter on the website. All you need to do is copy and paste it into

an email you send using your Contact bookmarks. There will be an ongoing effort to make the electronic action simpler. Part of that effort will require the web administrator–me–to maintain a list serve. This will be a voluntary sign up as I do not want to spend time on addresses that do not want to participate.

