



Unearthed Speakers Bureau

indiana  humanities

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Beyond Land Acknowledgements: Reframing Narratives and Creating Actual Inclusivity in Outdoor Education

How do I include or teach about indigenous culture and people in environmental education?



Presenter: **Autumn Brunelle, Naturalist at Monroe County Parks and Recreation**

Contact: autumnmbrunelle@gmail.com | 812.349.2805

Format: **45-minute interactive presentation with Q&A (1 hour total)**

Tags: **Indigenous, Education, Programming**

“Long ago, Native Americans used this land for hunting and gathering.” This seemingly harmless sentence can be found in almost every park, environmental class, and outdoor program. Contrary to this common teaching, Native Americans are very much present and involved with the natural world in more ways than “hunting and gathering.” In this talk, we will address Native American representation in the outdoors, learn how to re-frame the narratives surrounding Native peoples, and discuss why “Land Acknowledgments” may fail Indigenous audiences.

Autumn Brunelle is Anishinaabe, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and grew up on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Cass Lake, Minnesota. Autumn graduated in 2015 from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Native American Studies with a desire for integrating indigenous knowledge into environmental education and outreach. She has continued to develop this passion through her diverse work experiences with international and local non-profits, the National Park Service, local governments, and in creating community-based environmental programming. She currently works as a full-time Naturalist for the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department.

White Supremacy and Environmental Racism

How does racism affect relationships to the environment?

Presenter: **Benjamin Clark, Graduate Research Assistant, IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute**

Contact: bejclark@iu.edu | 317.694.5111

Format: **30-minute presentation and 30 minutes of breakout groups and discussion.**

Tags: **White supremacy, environmental racism/justice, settler colonialism, state power, environmental policy representations of nature, encounters with the natural world**



In this talk Benjamin will begin with a brief history of white supremacy and its origins on the North American continent, beginning from the period of colonization and enslavement. Benjamin then demonstrates how these legacies shape many of the social issues facing our country today, including relationships to the environment. Looking at how the power of the state shapes and enforces environmental policy, Benjamin helps audiences see how, due to systemic racism, Black and Brown communities have been disproportionately negatively impacted by pollution, climate change and natural disasters. After this presentation, Benjamin will open up space for participants to discuss environmental racism and its effects on their lives and communities

Benjamin Clark has been working as a public historian for more than a decade. He holds a master's degree in public history and is pursuing a PhD in American Studies, both at IUPUI. He is currently a graduate research assistant at the IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute where he is working on a project called the Anthropocene Household.

Rachel Carson and the Wonder of Nature

Why is the wonder of nature especially important in the time of COVID-19?

Presenter: Frederick "Fritz" Rowe Davis, Professor and Head / R. Mark Lubbers Chair in History of Science

Contact: frdavis@purdue.edu

Format: 45-minute presentation with Q+A

Tags: nature, wonder, Rachel Carson



Wonder, that feeling of surprise and curiosity in response to the natural world, was a subject of study for environmentalist and writer Rachel Carson. Carson was one of the greatest nature writers of the Twentieth Century. *Silent Spring*, Carson's best-known book, alerted Americans to the risks of chemical insecticides. In all of her writings, Rachel Carson inspired and fostered emotions in her readers. Her books about the sea introduced readers to remarkable animals found just beneath the waters of seascapes. Carson also explored the significance of wonder. Wonder enabled people to connect with nature and the environment. Even in *Silent Spring*, Carson managed to inspire wonder with the natural world. Carson drew on the scientific literature and incorporated references to poetry and prose to animate the topic of pesticides and the risks they posed to wildlife and humans. Her writing motivated political action and the environmental movement in America. This talk invites participants to learn more about Carson's legacy, her ideas about wonder, and the role wonder plays in our own interactions with the natural world.

Frederick "Fritz" Davis is Professor and Head of the Department of History at Purdue University. He also holds the R. Mark Lubbers Chair in the History of Science. He studied at Harvard, the University of Florida, and Yale (Ph.D.) His research connects the history of environmental science, environmental health, and environmental history. He recently published *"Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of Toxicology"* (Yale). He also wrote *"The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles: Archie Carr and the Origins of Conservation Biology"* (Oxford). He relishes the opportunity to share the inspirational story of Rachel Carson and the wonder of nature.

Living on Indigenous Landscapes: Potawatomi and Settler Histories in Northern Indiana

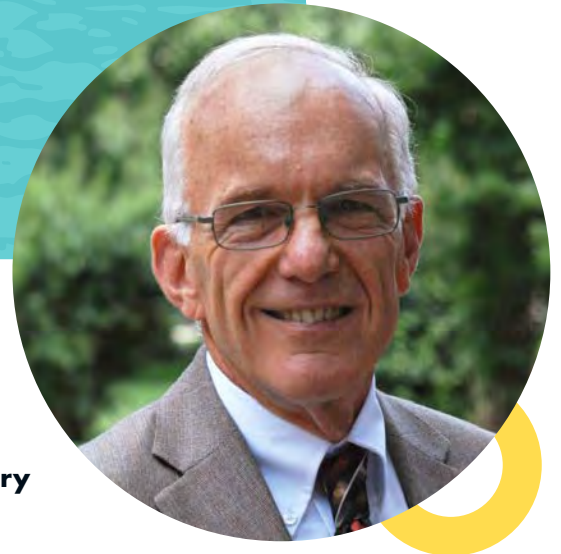
Who were the Indigenous peoples who lived on the land where we live today and how can we respond to the injustices that caused them to lose this land?

Presenter: Dr. Luke Gascho, Executive Director, Emeritus - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

Contact: lukeag@goshen.edu | 574.238.0466

Format: 45-minute presentation with Q&A, can be flexible

Tags: Indigenous people, ecological landscapes, settler history



The history of land in North America is most commonly viewed only through the eyes of people who colonized the continent. Learning more about the culture and actions of Indigenous people toward the land aids in restorative actions toward the land and people. During this talk, insights will be shared regarding the framework that gave governments moral and legal justifications to invade Indigenous lands and dominate and force removal of Indigenous peoples. Topics will also include what the continent was like before 1492, insights into the interactions between Indigenous peoples and settlers in Elkhart County, IN, and current actions that can lead to right relationships between people and the land.

Dr. Luke Gascho served as executive director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, IN for twenty-two years until his retirement in 2019. During his tenure, he led the implementation of field-based undergraduate and graduate programs in sustainability and environmental education. Luke's graduate degrees are in educational leadership and administration.

Luke has provided leadership for the establishment of several creation care and social justice organizations. He is involved locally and nationally with organizations addressing injustices toward Indigenous people. Luke regularly speaks on topics of creation care, leadership, ecological food systems and repairing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Indiana: The Everglades of the North

How does learning about the landscape of Indiana's past, along with the attitudes, beliefs, and actions that modified that landscape, help us understand current issues impacting the environment?

**Presenter: Nancy Germano, Instructor of History,
Butler University**

Contact: nangermano@yahoo.com | 317.989.4218

Format: 45-minute presentation with Q&A

Tags: swamps, conservation, floods



Explore the history of Indiana's swamps and wetlands with both literary and archival examples of lake and swamp drainage, ditch digging, and limestone excavation. Known for her appreciation of nature, conservationist and author Gene Stratton Porter also supported capitalistic ideas, including draining and developing the Limberlost swampland near her home in Adams County, IN. The quest for profitable land use led to human manipulation of the landscape in all Indiana counties. This talk challenges participants' understanding of Indiana's landscape, while asking us to consider not only current issues (e.g., wetland conservation, economic progress, and flooding) but also how we make future decisions about our local environments.

Nancy M. Germano is Instructor of History at Butler University, teaching courses in U.S. and world history, environmental history, women's studies, and cultural geography. She earned her doctorate from Indiana University, with a research focus on flooding and environmental history in the Midwest. She also earned a master's degree in public history from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Her book, *Indiana and the Great Flood of 1913*, was published by The History Press in 2021. In her free time, Dr. Germano enjoys hiking Indiana's state parks and hunting for seasonal mushrooms.

Gas and Oil, Dirt and Ghosts: Landscape and Histories of Extraction in Indiana

No landscape is ever just insensate rocks and silent dirt. How do social histories of race, migration, and labor become embedded in the very ground we work on? How is the environment as much a social place as it is a geologic one?

Presenter: Ava Tomasula y Garcia, PhD candidate, Anthropology, Columbia University

Contact: atomasulaygarcia@gmail.com

Format: 45-minute presentation with Q&A

Tags: extraction, industrialization, deindustrialization, environmental history, toxicity, migration



This talk travels through points of time in Indiana’s environmental history to illustrate how narratives about landscape are never just about landscape. We visit the gas boom of the 1880s; the Calumet region’s steel industry up through the 1980s; “deindustrialization” and toxic vulture industries; and fossil fuel “reindustrialization” today. We trace geological upheavals that remake landscape and social reality, from the 1830s genocide of Native Americans that cleared land, to the Great Migration of Black Americans, to Central American immigration for work in “sacrifice zones” in Indiana today. Logics of resource extraction show ideas about what is “natural,” what belongs where, and to whom.

Ava Tomasula y Garcia grew up in northern Indiana, where much of her family has been for four generations. She spent the last two years as an immigration and labor organizer at Centro de Trabajadores Unidos, a worker’s center in the industrial region spanning Southeast Chicago and spilling over into the Calumet region of Indiana. She previously worked at an environmental human rights organization in Mexico City, and, this year, returned to school in the Anthropology PhD program at Columbia University in NYC, where she learns about illness related to industrial toxicity. She also writes nonfiction and fiction.

Sustainable Local Food Systems: An Insider's Perspective

What does community have to do with eating sustainably?



Presenter: Krista Bailey, Director at the Center for a Sustainable Future, Indiana University South Bend

Contact: kob@iu.edu

Format: 30-45 min presentation with Q&A

Tags: Food systems, sustainability

Indiana is an agricultural state, but we import 90% of what we eat even though we can grow everything we need. This talk combines the ingredients of images, stories, and taste that make a sustainable food system. Food puns a-plenty are part of an experiential story and lesson about social, environmental, and economic seeds needed to grow a sustainable food system.

Krista Bailey is the Director of the Center for a Sustainable Future at Indiana University South Bend, and develops and teaches courses in Sustainable Food Systems and Leadership Strategies in the Sustainability Studies program. Bailey has co-hosted local PBS shows “Outdoor Elements” and “Experience Michiana,” serves as co-chair of the city’s Green Ribbon Commission, and serves on the Bike South Bend committee and county Food Access Council. Bailey also teaches fitness classes, is in the South Bend Masters Rowing Club, coordinates a community garden, bicycles, kayaks, explores and does projects with their partner, and spends time with their two children.

Foraging for Connection with Place, Self and Other

How can the practice of foraging for food be a pathway into deeper relationship, reciprocity, and intimacy with the places we inhabit?

Presenter: Joel Pontius, Associate Professor of Sustainability and Environmental Education, Goshen College

Contact: jbpontius@goshen.edu

Format: 30-minute presentation & 30-minute discussion or foraging walk depending on location and season

Tags: foraging, environmental identity



In modern times, we have all but forgotten that in our everyday landscapes, we are surrounded by healthy, biodiverse foods in the forms of wild, seasonally edible plants, seeds, mushrooms, and animals. In the wider context of the local foods movement, some communities are rediscovering and relearning how to forage. How do seasonal practices of foraging contribute to connection with place, self, and other? This interactive talk features a mix of storytelling, poetry, discussion, and a guided foraging walk (location and season permitting) to create space for participants to consider their own relationships with land and water in Indiana through their diets.

Joel Pontius is an Associate Professor of Sustainability and Environmental Education at Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center where he directs the Sustainability Leadership Semester. A former guide in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and current father of two daughters, Joel uses his passions as a forager, tracker, educator, writer, and storyteller to create connections between people and places, especially through experiences around wild and feral foods.

Making Our Food Choices Matter: Historical Lessons

How can we make environmentally and socially conscious food choices? Should we feel pressure to do so?

Presenter: **Joshua Specht, Assistant Professor of History, University of Notre Dame**

Contact: **Jspecht@nd.edu**

Format: **45-minute presentation with Q&A, format flexible**

Tags: **food, consumer, Anthropocene, environment**



In a talk as friendly to meat-eaters as vegetarians, Joshua explores how our food choices connect to the environmental impact of our food. Participants will discuss the history of industrial food as well as research on food and identity. Joshua will demonstrate how our choices are never independent of our social and cultural contexts, and how this poses challenges in a world in which food production is having profound ecological consequences. Joshua ends the talk with specific ideas for reorienting relationships to food, not by pushing one agenda or diet, but in a way that makes all people more thoughtful about what food choices work for them.

Joshua Specht is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. He is an environmental and business historian of the United States. His first book, *Red Meat Republic: A Hoof-to-Table History of How Beef Changed America*, explores how Americans rich and poor came to expect affordable high-quality fresh beef. Before coming to Indiana, he spent three years at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2014.

Places or Spaces? Relationships Matter

“How would our relationship with people and the environment change if we removed all the boundary lines for cities, towns, and counties?”



Presenter: Philip Anderson, ReThink Consulting and IUPUI

Contact: rethinkphil@gmail.com | 317.294.2775

Format: 35-minute presentation with 25-minute facilitation discussions

Tags: Places, natural spaces, valuing landscapes, people and places

So much of our understanding of home is caught up in lines—city limits, county line roads, numbered regions, and state and national boundaries. How would our relationship with the environment change if we removed all the geo-political boundary lines for cities, towns, and counties? How might we organize ourselves differently? How would we define our place? Would we establish new identities based on our natural systems, our environment? In this talk, Phillip invites exploration into what makes a place more than a space, particularly in relation to the natural world.

Phillip Anderson is a Teacher, Teller, Traveler, and Connector. As the Chief ReThinker at ReThink! Consulting, he specializes in four areas: Cultural Heritage Tourism, Servant Leadership, Strategic Planning/Facilitation, and Community Development. Phil has an extensive background in non-profit leadership serving agriculture, community development, and youth. For 40+ years, he’s wandered the highways and backroads of Indiana, successfully visiting every city, town, and village in Indiana, all 2,230 of them. It’s a story he calls Life Off The Highway. Living in Carmel, while co-owning a family farm near Frankfort, he’ll want to know where you’re from and talk about it.

Stewardship and Devotion

We hear the phrase “connecting with nature” constantly, where we are the ones responsible for developing this connection. However, how does nature connect with us? Let us look at new epistemologies through environmental humanities.



Presenter: **Zach Garcia, Associate Executive Director, Wesselman Woods**

Contact: **J.zach.garcia@gmail.com | 219.902.9210**

Format: **30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion**

Tags: **spirituality, stewardship, forestry**

Thomas Berry, a prominent philosophical scholar of the twentieth century, said we need a 'new story' to understand our place in the universe. The importance of spirit, story, and science in our current environmental and ecological condition is more important than ever. With religious sensibilities and scientific knowledge, we have the ability to develop a new conscience for ourselves and our communities. Devoted stewardship is a major element of how we must recondition ourselves to find our place in our local ecosystems. In this talk, Zach draws upon numerous religion and ecology scholars to explore how living religions have the potential to refocus our attention and reveal how we can face environmental and ecological challenges.

Zach Garcia is the Associate Executive Director at Wesselman Woods. Zach is a native Hoosier, a Region Rat, to be exact. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Human Geography, French Language and Literature, and Japanese Language and Literature. and the Yale School of the Environment where he focused on agroforestry systems and environmental humanities. Zach joined Wesselman Woods in the summer of 2019. He manages the day-to-day operations of Wesselman Woods. Zach is attempting to promote research-based projects, local learning, and relational ways of understanding the environment. Apart from work, Zach enjoys hiking, watching horror films, and looking at funny RPDR memes.

The World Will Break Your Heart

What can it mean to love the world in this age of rapid ecological change?

Presenter: **Matt Shockey, Professor,**
Indiana University South Bend, Department of Philosophy
Contact: shockey2@iusb.edu | 574.520.5545
Format: **35-40 minutes of presentation with 20-25-minute Q&A**
Tags:



What is love of the world – *amor mundi* – and how does it play out in the current ecological-political moment, in which change and decay make any such love heartbreaking? Drawing on political theorist Hannah Arendt to unpack what we should understand “world” to mean, Matt leads participants to contemplate St. Augustine’s view that love of the world is inherently tragic or “disordered.” But Matt argues that, in fact, there is nothing more worthy to love, and that if we fail to love the world, we will, as Wendell Berry says, merely value it instead, and thereby hasten its demise and our own.

Matt Shockey received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 2004. He is Director of the Sustainability Studies program at IU South Bend. His research has focused on the work of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger, on whom he has just published a book. He also works and teaches on various sustainability and environmental topics, which are increasingly his passion. Outside of work he is interested in all things related to food and drink, from production to consumption.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness as Core Sustainability Values

Is there a set of shared American values we can identify, recognition of which will help us to make progress on the sustainability issues we all face?

Presenter: **Matt Shockey, Professor,**
Indiana University South Bend, Department of Philosophy
Contact: shockey2@iusb.edu | 574.520.5545
Format: **35-40 minutes of presentation with 20-25-minute Q&A**
Tags:



Many sustainability activists promote not only more environmentally friendly policies but also social justice values that are in the U.S. mostly identified with the political left. But effective action on the sustainability issues that we all face cannot wait on the resolution of our current culture wars. Without downplaying the challenges involved, Matt argues that one important step lies in identifying and publicly promoting as sustainability values certain values that already define a moral common ground for most Americans: the Declaration of Independence's triad of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This triad both captures values that resonate across the political spectrum and provides a succinct account of those basic human needs that sustainability initiatives aim to meet.

Matt Shockey received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 2004. He is Director of the Sustainability Studies program at IU South Bend. His research has focused on the work of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger, on whom he has just published a book. He also works and teaches on various sustainability and environmental topics, which are increasingly his passion. Outside of work he is interested in all things related to food and drink, from production to consumption.

Wonder & Discernment: Using Ancient Decision Making in the Age of Anthropocene

How might ways of thinking traditionally connected to faith and philosophy help us think about our own responses to climate change?

Presenter: Jillian Snyder, Lecturer in Humanities and English, Valparaiso University

Contact: jilli.marie@gmail.com | 570.634.5455

Format: 30-minute presentation & 30-minute discussion

Tags: Religion, Philosophy, Emotions



How can two ancient states of mind help us care for our environment? This presentation creatively explores how wonder and discernment have influenced decision-making for millennia. Using ancient philosophy and contemporary poetry, we'll examine wonder, an emotion that results in astonishment or awe. But we'll also investigate why thinkers from Aristotle to Pope Francis continually balance wonder with discernment, an ancient virtue associated with good judgement. We'll conclude by asking how we can combine these states of mind to make informed, meaningful choices about the environment.

Jillian Snyder is a 2019-2021 Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow at Valparaiso University. She earned a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on emotions and faith in early modern England. She also writes on Shakespeare's reception in American religious communities.

A Roadkill Emu Comes Back from the Dead to Speak

Our shared doom, climate change real and so surreal, feels mythic—its floods, fires, wildlife going extinct, horrific winds—but is hopelessness inevitable?



Presenter: **Marianne Boruch**
Professor of English, Purdue University
Contact: mboruch@purdue.edu
Format: **40 min talk with 20-minute Q&A**

This talk grew from the astonishing experience poet Marianne Boruch had as she observed the wildlife of Australia as a Fulbright Research Scholar in 2019. Then, as she says, came the raging fires, the dire threat to so many creatures—koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, and emus already endangered from climate change at that very bottom of the world. Because Indiana is Australia and Australia is Indiana—meaning any part of the world shares the impending doom of any other part—together we have only a narrowing window-of-hope to save the planet, and ourselves. Marianne will read from her newly published book of poems, *BESTIARY DARK*, offer commentary, and invite discussion about poetry, our beloved and imperiled wildlife, and the deepening alarm of climate change here and around the world.

Marianne Boruch (MFA, University of Massachusetts) has taught writing workshops and craft courses in poetry for 32 years at Purdue University where she established the MFA Program in Creative Writing before going rogue and emeritus in 2018. She's given readings widely in the US and beyond. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry* and elsewhere. In addition to eleven collections of poems, she's written prose that includes three books of essays about poetry, and a memoir about hitchhiking in the early 70s (Indiana University Press, 2011). Among her honors are fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment of the Arts, The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Writers Award (national division), and artist residencies at the American Academy in Rome and at two national parks, Denali and Isle Royale.

"Nothing alive but us and the plant": Eco-Horror and Scott Smith's *The Ruins*

What happens when we begin to take seriously the idea that the environment and plant life rarely act in expected and predictable ways?

Presenter: **James Colby, Assistant Professor of English, Indiana University Kokomo**

Contact: jcoby@iu.edu | 256.572.2368

Format: **30-40 minute talk, followed by discussion**

Tags: **Anthropocene, horror, postcolonialism**



Plants and vegetal life have long been positioned as antagonistic to humans in popular literature and film. We find examples of this in *Macbeth*, *The Happening*, *Swamp Thing*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and countless others. But why is it that we find plant life to be a useful contrast to human "progress"? Using Scott Smith's horror novel *The Ruins* as an example, Jim's lecture addresses the ways in which authors have constructed confrontations between humankind and the environment as a means of grappling with climate change, the Anthropocene (a new geological epoch dominated by humans), and legacies of colonialism. All are welcome; prior familiarity with Scott Smith's work is suggested, but not required.

A native of Guntersville, AL, Jim Coby moved to Indiana in the spring of 2020 to begin teaching at Indiana University Kokomo. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and his research primarily revolves around literature of the American South, environmental literature, comics and graphic novels, and American realism. His scholarship and reviews have been published in numerous popular and academic forums, and he is currently coediting a collection of essays entitled *BOOM! SPLAT!: Comics and Violence!* for the University Press of Mississippi. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, running, baking, and exploring the state.

Writing Environmental Poems in the Symbiocene

How can creative writing help us to develop new modes of perception and connection, find new creative collaborators, and imagine new possibilities for our environment?

Presenter: **Katy Didden, Assistant Professor, Ball State University**
Contact: **kedidden@bsu.edu**
Format: **60 to 120-minute interactive workshop;**
Can be adapted for different age groups.
Tags: **poetry, symbiocene, collaboration**



What does it mean to be a poet in the age of human-accelerated climate change? In a recent essay, philosopher Glenn Albrecht suggests a new name for the next period of earth history: the Symbiocene: “The word “symbiosis” implies living together for mutual benefit [...] symbiosis affirms the inter-connectedness of life and all living things.” Inspired by these ideas, how can creative writing help us to develop modes of perception and connection, find creative collaborators, and imagine new possibilities for our environment?

In this interactive workshop, we will start by practicing a series of writing strategies for observing and describing the environment. Then, by reading and discussing the work of contemporary writers, we will learn techniques for incorporating research, writing with maps, and working with collaborators. Throughout the workshop, we will discuss how adapting models of scientific inquiry can lead to innovative literary forms. Participants will come away from the workshop with several poem drafts and techniques for creating a sustained writing practice.

Katy Didden is the author of *The Glacier’s Wake* (Pleiades Press, 2013) and the forthcoming book *Ore Choir: The Lava on Iceland* (Tupelo Press, 2022). She is one of the co-creators of the *Almanac for the Beyond* (Tropic Editions, 2019), and is an Assistant Professor at Ball State University where she teaches Poetry Writing and Creative Writing and the Environment. For more information and writing examples, visit her website: www.katydidden.com.

Birdwatcher or Journalist?: Audubon Magazine and the Connections between Environmentalism and Journalism

How did the National Audubon Society revamp its magazine, Audubon, to adopt the practices of journalism to draw attention to, and legitimacy for, its campaign to protect birds and habitats in the 1960s, and what does that tell us about journalism and the environment today?



Presenter: Suzannah Evans Comfort, Assistant professor, Indiana University

Contact: comfort@indiana.edu | 812.219.7097

Format: 30-40 min presentation plus Q&A

Tags: environmentalism, journalism, birdwatching

We think of the ideal journalist as a neutral observer of our social world, but this idea has been threatened by the growth of partisan news organizations in recent years. Yet advocacy journalism has existed on the margins for generations. In this talk, I'll reveal how the National Audubon Society redeveloped its magazine into a national, award-winning outlet for environmental journalism in the 1960s. Along the way, it challenged conventional rules about journalism and objectivity - and furthered the bird conservation cause. This history lends perspective to current debates about how journalism should function in our society.

Suzannah Evans Comfort, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Media School at Indiana University. Her research considers how environmental activists use journalism and other media formats to advance their cause. In addition, she also examines how journalists have covered climate change and how audiences respond to messages about climate change. Prior to joining Indiana University, Comfort worked in ocean conservation and was the co-author of *The Perfect Protein: The Fish Lover's Guide to Saving the Oceans and Feeding the World*.

The Medieval Art of Living Well in a Changing Climate

What can the premodern past teach us about inhabiting an ecologically precarious planet?

Presenter: Shannon Gayk, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University, Bloomington

Contact: sgayk@indiana.edu

Format: 45-minute presentation with Q&A

Tags: apocalypse, ethics of care, medieval art and spirituality



It may come as a surprise that medieval thinkers, writers, and artists reflected on climate change. This talk explores a few of the ways that medieval Europeans thought about living in an ecologically precarious world and suggests how their insights might help us navigate living in our own changing environment. It begins by discussing how medieval Christianity shaped ideas about the relationship between human beings and nature. It then turns to how medieval thinkers interpreted environmental disasters - floods, earthquakes, storms. And it concludes by reflecting on the surprising ways that medieval thinking about nature might help us approach the challenges of our ecologically precarious times with compassion and care.

Shannon Gayk is associate professor of English at Indiana University and author of many articles and books on medieval religious art and literature. She is currently completing a book called *Apocalyptic Ecologies: Medieval Literature and the Environmental Imagination*. She also holds appointments in the Integrated Program in the Environment and the Department of Religion.

Falling Blossoms: Exploring Environment Through Haiku

How can we use the humanities to reconnect with our place in nature and the environment?

Presenter: **Adam Henze, Ph.D., Research Associate, Indiana University**

Contact: adhenze@indiana.edu | 812.499.6863

Format: **1 hour (20-minute presentation, 20-minute interactive workshop, 20-minute discussion)**

Tags: **poetry, haiku, writing**



This hour-long presentation is a hybrid lecture, poetry performance, and writing workshop appropriate for all ages. Participants will consider environment and space through the study of haiku. Dr. Adam Henze will begin the session by performing haiku by traditional Japanese poets, contemporary American writers, and notable Hoosiers. In between flurries of little poems, Dr. Henze will share theories and strategies for using writing to consider our relationship to mother earth. Participants will then write their own haiku in an interactive workshop, and if they are brave--the session will end with a fun and exciting competitive activity called the haiku deathmatch!

Dr. Adam Henze is a researcher, educator, and spoken word artist, and has shared his work in over 30 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Ireland, and the United Arab Emirates. Adam received a PhD in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education from Indiana University. He is the founding director of Power of a Sentence, a prison literacy program in Indiana. Adam currently serves as Director of Programming for Southern Fried Poetry, Inc., which hosts the longest-running annual poetry slam in the world. Adam was named the Official Poet of the 100th Running of the Indianapolis 500.

How We Imagine Climate Change and Why It Matters

How do the ways we imagine climate change—in terms of our cultural identities and values, the kinds of stories we engage, and the images we view—influence how we understand and respond to the issue?

Presenter: **Scott Hess, Professor of English and Environmental Sustainability, Earlham College**

Contact: hesssc@earlham.edu | 765.983.1504

Format: **45-minute interactive presentation followed by 15-minute Q&A discussion period**

Tags: **climate change, public discourse, climate fiction, climate film, climate art, environmental imagination**



We already have the technological and economic solutions we need to address climate change; what we lack is the cultural unity, will, and imagination. This talk will engage with how we imagine (and represent) climate change and why it matters, including various forms of public discourse as well as literature, film, and the visual arts. It will explore how people with different cultural identities—including different political affiliations, educational backgrounds, races, and socioeconomic situations—tend to respond to climate change differently; how those differences have polarized us; and what we can do to envision and address the problem more effectively together.

Scott Hess is Professor of English and Environmental Sustainability at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He has published extensively in the Environmental Humanities and is a long-time member of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). He regularly teaches interdisciplinary environmental courses at Earlham on topics such as “American Literature and Ecology” (a survey of American environmental writing in relation to various ecology movements), “Imagining Climate Change,” “Climate Change Fiction,” “Nature and American Culture,” and “Race, Ethnicity, and Nature in American Literature,” among others.

Get Back (To Where You Once Belonged): Back-to-Nature in American Life

What can the history of “back” to nature movements tell us about the changing ways that Americans have encountered nature?

Presenter: **Andrew Case, Grant Writer and Independent Scholar**

Contact: acase1965@gmail.com

Format: **40 min talk with 20-minute Q&A**

Tags: **environmental history, social movements, environmentalism, representations of nature, encounters with the natural world**



If humans are a part of the natural world, what does it mean to go “back to nature”? From 19th century utopians, to Depression-era homesteaders, to 60’s counterculturalists, to contemporary advocates of green lifestyles—Americans have long shared a faith that a return to nature might provide an answer to the challenges of their times. This talk describes the history of “back-to-the-land” movements in the U.S. to encourage audiences to examine what it has meant to go “back” to nature, while also exploring the people and places that have been shaped by – and excluded from – visions of a return to nature.

Andrew N. Case, Ph.D. is an independent scholar of history and environmental studies whose work has explored the history of environmentalism, consumer culture, and changing ideas about ecology, science, health, and the environment. His book, *The Organic Profit: Rodale and the Making of Marketplace Environmentalism* (Washington, 2018), is an environmental and cultural history of the company that helped make “organic” into a household word in postwar America. He has held teaching appointments at UW-Madison, Michigan State, and Washington College. He currently lives and works in West Lafayette, IN.

The Fall of the Wild? Taming Nature in American Painting

What is American about American landscape paintings?

Presenter: **Elizabeth Kuebler-Wolf, Associate Professor,
University of Saint Francis**

Contact: ekueberwolf@sf.edu | 260.433.1829

Format: **45-minute presentation with Q & A**

Tags: **art, landscape, development**



The meaning of America itself is embedded in the long tradition of landscape painting in our country, ideas that have been contested within our nation from the very beginning of the colonies. Our ideas of landscape have shaped human settlement and disruption; our idea of what is valuable in nature dictates decisions about preservation and exploitation of various lands. The act of taming the landscape is at the center of the American experiment, and the metaphorical meanings of American landscape are nowhere more evident than in art. In this talk, Beth will explore representations of American landscapes to demonstrate what they reveal about American ideals and values.

Beth is associate professor of art history at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, where she teaches classes in modern and contemporary art. Her research focuses on the history of American art and visual culture with a special interest in antebellum culture. Her most recent publication is “Gilbert Hunt, the City Blacksmith: slavery, freedom, and fame in antebellum Richmond, Virginia,” as a chapter in *The Many Faces of Slavery: New Perspectives on Slave Ownership and Experiences in the Americas* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2020)

Indiana Wilderness

How can we find more wilderness in Indiana and in our everyday lives?

Presenter: **Kevin McKelvey, Professor,**
University of Indianapolis
Contact: mckelveyk@uindy.edu | 317.788.2018
Format: **45-minute workshop**
Tags: **wilderness**



What is wilderness? How do we think about it and experience it in the 21st century? During this talk, attendees will use storytelling, maps, and imagination to engage with wilderness ideas, the history of wilderness in Indiana, and the future of wild areas. The talk will focus on wilderness philosophies from pre-settlement to today and offer an in-depth look at the creation of the Deam Wilderness near Bloomington, Indiana, in 1982. Discussion and workshop prompts will generate new perspectives on wilderness and new ways to experience, preserve, or create it in the future.

Kevin McKelvey is a place-based poet, writer, designer, and social practice artist. He teaches at University of Indianapolis and directs the MA in Social Practice Art program. His book, *Dream Wilderness Poems*, is a poetic trail guide for the Deam Wilderness Area and was nominated for the Indiana Author's Award. He is currently at work on a prose book about Midwestern wilderness, a novel, and a book of essays. Other poems are collected in *Indiana Nocturnes*, a collaboration with another native Hoosier, Curtis L. Crisler. McKelvey's social practice and placemaking work continues to explore the intersections of art, writing, ecology, gardening, food, and farming.

Upstream, Downstream: Sharing the Watershed

“How do my actions positively or negatively affect the ways other people interact with the watershed?”



Presenter: **Philip Anderson, ReThink Consulting and IUPUI**

Contact: rethinkphil@gmail.com | **317.294.2775**

Format: **35-minute presentation with 25-minute facilitation discussions**

Tags: **watersheds, agriculture, recreation, connections**

A watershed is a stage on which people and nature gather to play multiple roles. Within any watershed there is farming, recreation, housing, industry, wildlife and natural spaces. We ask a lot of our watersheds. We expect them to provide drinking water and remove wastewater, support industry, store groundwater, and drain farm fields, paved streets and parking lots. Do we consider how, in our daily living, we contribute to the health or destruction of these living systems? In this talk, Phillip encourages attendees to consider this question in their own life and locality: “How do my actions affect the ways other people interact with the watershed?” Phillip will introduce new ways of thinking that “flow,” just like our river systems.

Phillip Anderson is a Teacher, Teller, Traveler, and Connector. As the Chief ReThinker at ReThink! Consulting, he specializes in four areas: Cultural Heritage Tourism, Servant Leadership, Strategic Planning/Facilitation, and Community Development. Phil has an extensive background in non-profit leadership serving agriculture, community development, and youth. For 40+ years, he’s wandered the highways and backroads of Indiana, successfully visiting every city, town, and village in Indiana, all 2,230 of them. It’s a story he calls Life Off The Highway. Living in Carmel, while co-owning a family farm near Frankfort, he’ll want to know where you’re from and talk about it.

Awash in Water: Understanding Indiana's Water Systems

How can the humanities help preserve our water system?



Presenter: Krista Bailey, Director at the Center for a Sustainable Future, Indiana University South Bend

Contact: kob@iu.edu

Format: 30-45 min with Q&A or 45 min interactive workshop

Tags: Water, systems, sustainability

From rain and snow to streams, rivers, lakes, and ground water, Indiana is awash in water. It makes up most of the human body, and is a precious natural resource. To sustainably use, preserve, and enjoy it requires a systems approach that includes health, culture, ecosystems, and economies. Water departments bring it to us and clean it up when we are done with it – which is a lot – but is it enough? Poetry, science, health, and urban planning approaches combine to provide a deep dive into what it will take to value and preserve our water system.

Krista Bailey is the Director of the Center for a Sustainable Future at Indiana University South Bend, and develops and teaches courses in Sustainable Food Systems and Leadership Strategies in the Sustainability Studies program. Bailey has co-hosted local PBS shows “Outdoor Elements” and “Experience Michiana,” serves as co-chair of the city’s Green Ribbon Commission, and serves on the Bike South Bend committee and county Food Access Council. Bailey also teaches fitness classes, is in the South Bend Masters Rowing Club, coordinates a community garden, bicycles, kayaks, explores and does projects with their partner, and spends time with their two children.

Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers

How do humans impact rivers and streams in Indiana?

Presenter: **Cassie Hauswald, Freshwater Ecologist,
The Nature Conservancy**

Contact: chauswald@tnc.org | 812.972.3444

Format: **30-minute presentation, 30-minute discussion**

Tags: **water, rivers, mussels**



The past, present and future of Indiana's water can be told through our 75-plus species of freshwater mussels, which places Indiana in the top ten of U.S. states for mussel diversity. From Native American use to Indiana's thriving pearl button industry to the cultured pearl trade, Indiana's freshwater mussels and bountiful rivers have sustained life and livelihoods. As filter feeders, freshwater mussels can only survive in clean rivers, and inversely, their filter feeding also cleans water. The history of people and mussels has left a mark on the health of our rivers; learn about positive choices for water that can keep the story of mussels in Indiana alive and well.

Cassie Hauswald has worked on conservation issues for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana for over twenty years. As a freshwater ecologist, focusing on aquatic habitats leads Cassie to think about the intersection of rural land use and water quality impacts to Indiana's rivers and streams. Cassie is particularly concerned about freshwater mussel populations and their response to improved water quality.

The Theory and Practice of Rivers

How can our local waterways help us think more creatively and expansively about our relationships to the natural world (and to each other)?

Presenter: **Ryan Schnurr, Writer and Editor, Purdue University**

Contact: ryanschnu@gmail.com

Format: **30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion/workshop**

Tags: **water, rivers, stories, community, environment, history**



“The Theory and Practice of Rivers” is a talk and workshop exploring the relationship between stream and story in Indiana and beyond. The talk is rooted in Ryan’s book on Fort Wayne’s Maumee River and makes the argument that rivers and streams are a repository of—and participant in—community memory. This talk is followed by a workshop session in which attendees will start creating their own “river stories.” Attendees will leave with a new set of lenses and tools for thinking about their relationships to the natural world, using water (and encounters with bodies of water) as an entry point.

Ryan Schnurr is a writer, editor, and teacher from northeast Indiana. His first book, *In the Watershed*, traces the history, culture, and environment of the largest watershed in the Great Lakes region through the lens of a weeklong trip from the headwaters of the Maumee River, in Fort Wayne, to its mouth in Toledo, Ohio. He currently edits Belt Magazine (BeltMag.com) and is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Purdue University. His website is ryanschnurr.com.

Communal Places and Neglected Spaces: Exploring Indiana's Roadside Springs

How does our collective memory of a place affect the public stewardship of a local water source?

Presenter: **Kay Westhues, Artist and Folklorist, Indiana University South Bend**
Contact: kwesthues@gmail.com | 574.220.2156
Format: **45-minute presentation with Q&A**
Tags: **water access, Indiana history, public commons**



Roadside springs are sites where geography, history, and public health intersect. Before municipal water systems were available, these public commons resources provided travelers and those in need with free access to water. Some springs have been flowing over a century and have played a central role in western colonization. Kay's talk will examine several historic springs in Indiana, by sharing oral histories, photographs, and archival research. She explores why some springs still function as communal spaces for water gathering, while others have fallen out of our collective memory. In the process, she addresses issues of water access and environmental justice.

Kay Westhues is a folklorist and artist who is interested in examining the ways in which rural tradition and history are interpreted and transformed in the present day. Her research interests include environmentalism and water rights, the public commons, oral history, and the cultural significance of place.

Kay is a graduate of Western Kentucky University's Folk Studies M.A. program, and has a B.A. in the Individualized Major Program (Photography and Ethnocentrism) at Indiana University, Bloomington. She teaches at the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts at Indiana University, South Bend, and the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.