

# Volunteer Opportunities 2009

*INPAWS is an all-volunteer organization. We count on you to lend a hand in those areas that interest you. Please check at least one of these categories on the membership form when you join or renew.*

► **Annual Conference** Meet experts in a variety of fields while staging an education/outreach event of benefit to the community. Volunteer opportunities include event coordination and help with publicity, catering, speakers, exhibitors, set-up/clean-up, book sales, and registration. Detailed notes and documents from previous conferences are available to provide guidance.

► **Conservation** Plan work days with land trusts and parks, represent INPAWS in activities organized by the Indiana Conservation Alliance (e.g., Conservation Day at the Statehouse), and educate legislators and members on conservation issues related to INPAWS' mission.

► **Demonstration Gardens** Create temporary or permanent native plant display gardens or organize garden tours showing Hoosier gardeners what native plants look like and how to use them in their landscapes. A great opportunity for avid gardeners and designers.

► **Education/Outreach** Represent INPAWS at public events such as Earth Day, Flower and Patio Show, Conservation Day at the Zoo, and the Spring Garden Clinic. Opportunities include booth setup/takedown and engaging with the public at the INPAWS booth.

► **Grants and Awards** Evaluate small grant proposals yearly in the spring, or investigate large grant requests as received. INPAWS supports or rewards initiatives that promote the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization, and scientific study of Indiana native plants and/or that educate the public about their value, beauty, diversity, and environmental importance.

► **Historian** Maintain and safely store INPAWS records such as Founding Papers, Minutes, Financial Reports, Programs, Yearbooks, Newsletters, and Annual Conference materials. Research past history as needed.

► **Invasive Plant Awareness** Speak to interested groups or bring the INPAWS' invasives display to public events. Develop materials on invasive species, or help distribute these to your local library, nursery, or neighborhood.

► **Membership** Solicit, receive, and track INPAWS memberships and renewals; update the annual Membership Directory; provide labels for mailings; maintain member e-mail list; prepare event reminders for bulk mailing; develop plans to build and enhance the value of INPAWS membership; or simply scan your local area for outreach opportunities.

► **Native Plant Rescue** Save native plants from natural areas under heavy development pressure; overwinter them, then pot and label half the take for our spring Plant Sale/Auction. Regional contacts are needed to scout for rescue opportunities and secure permission to dig. Helpers are needed to care for and transport plants to the sale venue, or to propagate natives using seed collected from members' gardens and the wild.

► **Newsletter** *INPAWS Journal* seeks ideas or expertise that might interest our membership. Writing/editing assistance is provided. Opportunities include roving reporters for trip or event reports; members having a story to tell about their gardens or local initiatives; professional/amateur experts to share their knowledge; and persons with editing, proofreading, photography, or graphic design skills.

► **Annual Plant Sale/Auction** A great opportunity to meet like-minded individuals for a fun, fast-paced day. Volunteers stage a 2-hour sale and 1-hour auction of 100% native-to-Indiana plants. Opportunities for helpers abound, for example: plan the event/location, solicit donations, publicize the event, oversee checkin/checkout, assign volunteer tasks, receive plant deliveries, set up hospitality and education tables, organize plant display, manage auction items, record auction bidding, etc.

► **Programs/Field Trips** Put your planning skills or fresh ideas to use as you collaborate in developing interesting programs and excursions for INPAWS members. The Program Committee meets early in the year to plan talks and outings for March through October timeframe. No member is too new to INPAWS to participate.

► **Publicity** Apply your marketing flair to interest the general public and potential members in what INPAWS has to offer. Help publicize INPAWS events to the membership, coordinate and staff information tables at events around the state, or develop creative ways to share *INPAWS* information with the public.

► **Speakers Bureau** Present a slide show on a topic such as Spring Wildflowers, Summer Wildflowers, Aliens, or Native Trees for the Landscape. Slide shows come with prepared scripts enabling any member to speak to an interested group at the local library or garden club. Volunteers are needed to replicate existing slide shows in Power Point, provide good digital images of native plants, and schedule volunteer speakers for events when invitations arrive.

► **Youth Outreach** Fund youth field trips to natural areas through the Letha Queisser Endowment; help to engage children in nature play and study as a field trip participant; develop programs to bring young people into contact with native plants.

*NOTE: The above activities are coordinated by the statewide INPAWS Board of Directors. For volunteer opportunities at your INPAWS regional chapter, contact the chapter president as listed in the Membership Directory or at [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org).*

