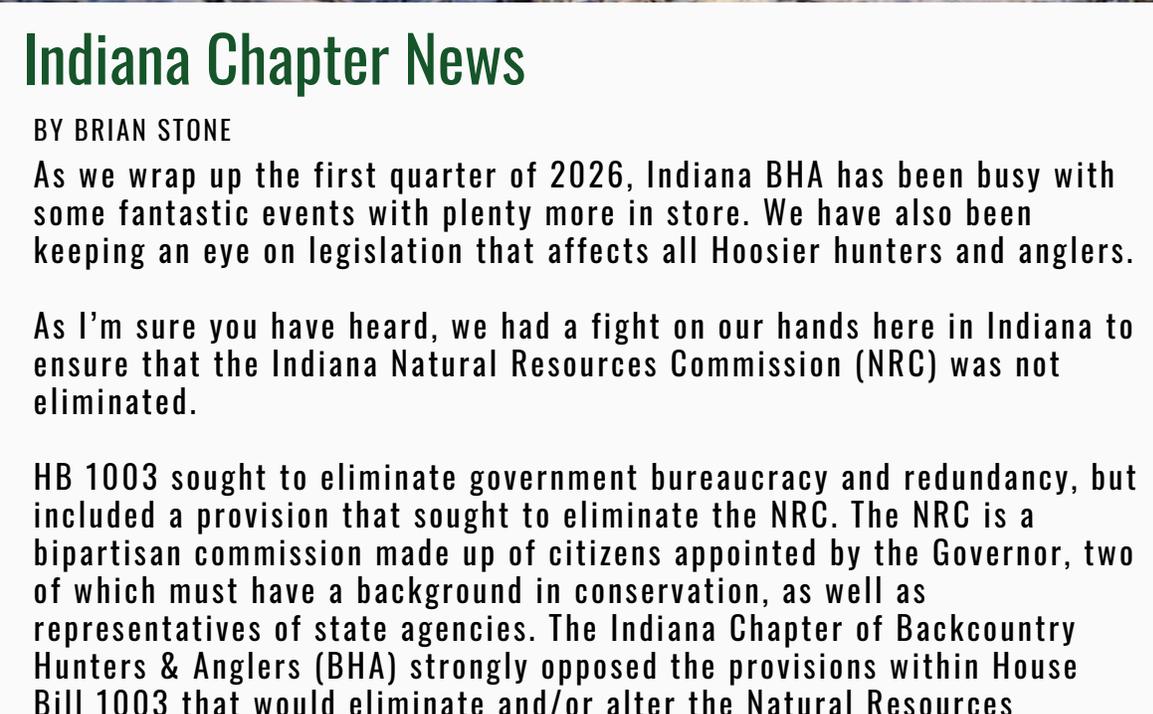


March 2026

# BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS

The Indiana Chapter Newsletter



## Indiana Chapter News

BY BRIAN STONE

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2026, Indiana BHA has been busy with some fantastic events with plenty more in store. We have also been keeping an eye on legislation that affects all Hoosier hunters and anglers.

As I'm sure you have heard, we had a fight on our hands here in Indiana to ensure that the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) was not eliminated.

HB 1003 sought to eliminate government bureaucracy and redundancy, but included a provision that sought to eliminate the NRC. The NRC is a bipartisan commission made up of citizens appointed by the Governor, two of which must have a background in conservation, as well as representatives of state agencies. The Indiana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) strongly opposed the provisions within House Bill 1003 that would eliminate and/or alter the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) independent authority and move power toward executive agencies and the General Assembly.

Indiana BHA Board of Directors Chair, Brian Stone, met with IN DNR Director Alan Morrison alongside representatives from Indiana Wildlife Federation and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to share perspectives on why the NRC is essential to the management of our shared natural resources.

At the end of February, the provisions that would have eliminated the NRC were stripped in the Senate thanks to you raising your voices and sharing your concerns with your state legislators. As of early March, HB 1003 had been passed in the House and the Senate and the NRC was preserved. As of the time of this writing, it awaits Governor Braun's signature.

To learn more about the NRC and IN BHA's position, see our blog post: <https://www.backcountryhunters.org/news/details/hb-1003-seeks-to-limit-public-feedback-in-natural-resource-management>

## Upcoming Events

**MARCH 15TH**  
**ATTERBURY**  
**FWA**

**April 22nd**  
**Turkey Season!!!**

**MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**WABASHKI FWA**

**Instagram**  
**@indianabha**

**Facebook Group**  
**Indiana Chapter of Backcountry**  
**Hunters & Anglers**

**Indiana Chapter Website**  
<https://www.backcountryhunters.org/Get-Involved/Chapters/indiana>

# STEWARDSHIP

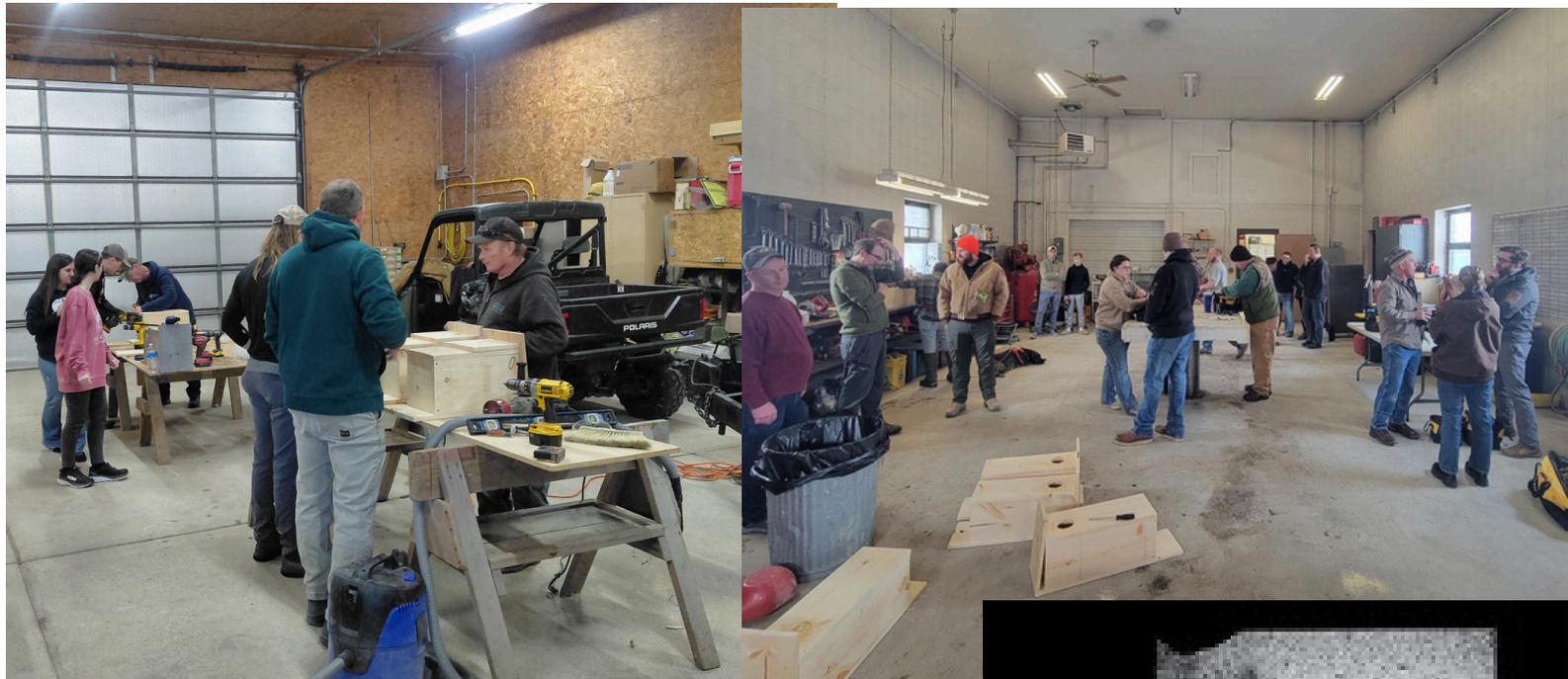
In addition to advocating on your behalf in defense of the public's voice in the management of our shared natural resources, we have had some well-attended, successful events since we rang in the New Year.

## Mississinewa Wood Duck and Bluebird Box Build

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 13 volunteers met at Mississinewa Lake and built 21 wood duck boxes and cut 20 blue birds house "kits" to size for easy future assembly. We used a \$2,000 grant from Bendix Corporation to purchase the supplies, and we supplied the volunteers. IN BHA also provided funding to the property to purchase fuel to maintain their pollinator and quail habitat that we helped to fund in 2024. This funding came from a Beacon Credit Union Grant. Long-time BOD member Ben Stout led the event.

## JE Roush Lake FWA

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, around 17 volunteers descended on JE Roush Lake FWA to build a dozen wood duck boxes. We used the remaining funds from the Bendix Corporation grant to purchase supplies, and we rallied volunteers to show up and give back to their public lands. Ben also led this event.



# POLICY

In addition to our work on HB 1003, IN BHA sent representatives from our BOD to the annual Sportsman's Luncheon at the Indiana State Capitol. At this event, Board Chair, Brian Stone, and Events Team Chair, Lucas Orgass, met with state lawmakers and other hook and bullet conservation orgs to talk public lands, natural resources, and conservation.

# EXPOS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

## ARCHERY TRADE ASSOCIATION SHOW

We kicked off 2026 tabling at the Archery Trade Association Show in Indianapolis. Several of our Chapter Leaders were able to talk with representatives of top brands and conservation organizations, and we were able to talk with the public during ATA's first ever Super Show. We hosted a Pint Night sponsored by Bear Archery after the show at Slippery Noodle Inn.

## DEER, TURKEY, AND WATERFOWL EXPO

At the end of February, we tabled the annual Deer, Turkey, and Waterfowl Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Several Chapter Leaders were able to talk with attendees about BHA's mission and share some of our past successes with policy, stewardship, and social events.

During the Expo, we hosted a Social in collaboration with Indiana DNR at Half Liter BBQ in Broad Ripple. Two of our state biologists, Joe Caudell, DNR Deer Biologist, and Geriann Albers, Wild Turkey, Furbearer, and Upland Bird Biologist held a Q&A with our 20 guests. This was an engaging event that inspired some great discussion. Vice Chair Will Judson took the lead on this event.



# FUTURE EVENTS

In 2026, we have some great events in the works! Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox and visit our social media pages for details:

- Grassroots Workday at Atterbury FWA March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Grassroots Workday at Wabashiki FWA (date TBD)
- Trivia Night in Bloomington (location and date TBD)
- Pint Night in Muncie
- Learn to Fly Fish (with IN DNR), Fort Harrison Park, Indianapolis, September 16<sup>th</sup>
- Learn to Fly Fish Pint Night, September 16<sup>th</sup> (location TBD)

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Indiana was featured on BHA Podcast and Blast, episode 216, which dropped last October. BHA Chapter Coordinator, Jameson Hibbs (who currently lives in Kentucky but grew up in Indiana), IN BHA member Michael Spalding, and IN BHA Board Chair, Brian Stone, talked with Hal about the controversy surrounding forest management in Indiana. If you haven't, give it a listen!



# DO YOUR PART FOR PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS, & WILDLIFE



Backcountry Hunters & Anglers seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of wild public lands, waters, and wildlife.

## JOIN

When you become an Individual Member of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, you're not just joining an organization—you're joining a community dedicated to preserving North America's outdoor heritage.

JOIN



## VOLUNTEER

**IN BHA needs a social media manager!**

Whether you can dedicate 2 hours a year or 2 hours a week to BHA, we need your skills.

Add your name to our volunteer list by sending your contact information including address, phone and email to

**[Indiana@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:Indiana@backcountryhunters.org)**

Apply for a chapter leader position with the Indiana BHA chapter. Keep an eye on chapter communications for vacant positions and upcoming elections.

## SPONSOR

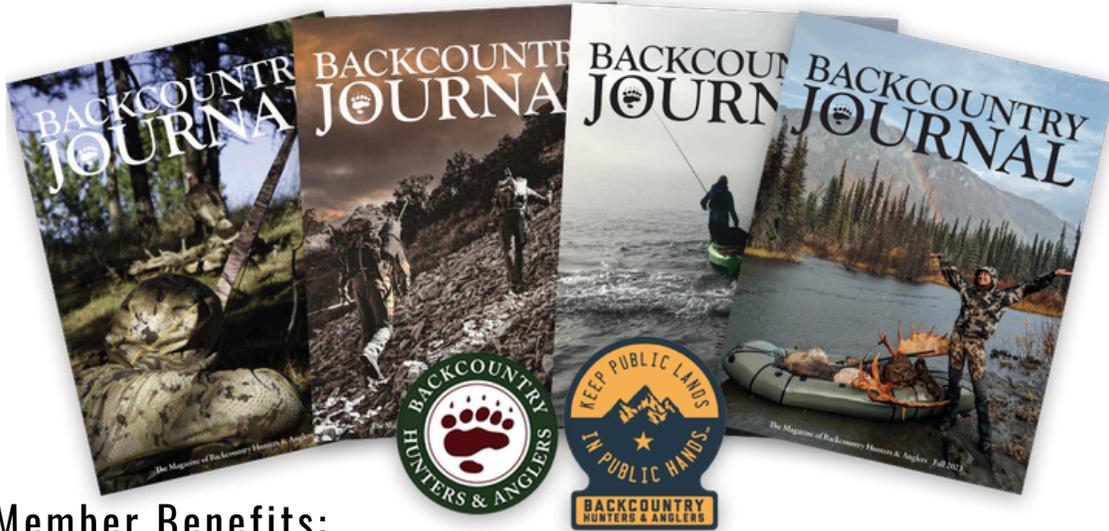
Gift-in-kind and monetary donations from in-state business partners are critical to our efforts. All donations over \$500 are eligible for our Chapter Corporate Sponsor Program with benefits like having your business name listed in the Backcountry Journal, features on chapter social media channels and more.

## CONNECT

Join us at one of our upcoming events! Pint Nights and Meet-ups are happening in your area. Be on the lookout!

# JOIN TODAY

When you become an Individual Member of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, you're not just joining an organization—you're joining a community dedicated to preserving North America's outdoor heritage. For just \$35 annually, you'll receive exclusive benefits and make a real difference.



## Exclusive Member Benefits:

- **Backcountry Journal Subscription:** Our magazine is packed with inspiring stories on conservation, hunting, fishing, and fair chase ethics.
- **BHA Decals:** Show your BHA pride with our distinctive decals.
- **Event Invitations:** Get access to local chapter events where you can connect with fellow outdoor enthusiasts and experience the boots-on-the-ground impact of BHA's work.
- **Monthly eNewsletter:** Stay updated with the Backcountry Beat, featuring the latest news on BHA's efforts to fight for your outdoor passions.
- **Feel Good:** Experience the satisfaction of actively contributing to the protection of the backcountry and the traditions you cherish.
- **Special Discounts:** Enjoy exclusive savings from our corporate partners like First Lite, Vortex, Weston, onX, Waltons, XOP, Grayl, Work Sharp, and more!

## Additional Membership Options

- Family Membership
- Military Membership
- Student Membership
- Three Year Membership
- Lifetime Membership

[Click To Join Today.](#)

# VOLUNTEER WITH BHA

## OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE



### *Habitat Projects*

Join other volunteers in partnering with state biologists on projects to help clean up or improve the habitat of public lands or waters.



### *Events*

Join other volunteers & board members in hosting BHA events like habitat projects, social gatherings, fund raisers, hunt & fish camps, and more.



### *Chapter Sponsor*

Become a chapter sponsor and support the Indiana chapter financially. As a non-profit your support is critical. Talk to a board member about the benefits of becoming a chapter sponsor.



### *Leadership*

The state chapter offers various leadership opportunities, from event coordinators to board of directors, officers, and more.



**SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST TODAY**

**[Click Here](#)**