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Monday, April 22, 2024 - Happy Earth Day!



Hoosier
Environmental
COUNCIL

All. Together. Now.

Thanks to the generosity of longtime donors Alice and Bob Schloss, **your Earth Month gift will be DOUBLED**, up to a total of \$17,500! Your donation speaks to the promise that good things will happen for our state as we address issues like climate change and sustainability challenges!

Our movement will not be eclipsed!

hecweb.org/donate

Please give by April 30th to double your impact!



Dear HEC Supporter,

Happy Earth Day! As we join in celebrating this special day dedicated to our planet, we're energized by a wave of positive changes and community action. In this e-news we are excited to share some key updates and recent developments, including an essential EPA ruling and new green initiatives. Don't miss our upcoming events and webinar, where your involvement is vital.

Please don't forget that your donation in celebration of Earth Month is being matched by generous longtime donors Alice and Bob Schloss! They're doubling gifts (up to a total of \$17,500), and we're almost halfway to that goal, so [please consider making a gift](#) before the end of this month.

Never given before? This is the PERFECT time to support HEC because [YOUR gift will be TRIPLED](#) thanks a special donor. Give this Earth Day and help us grow all across the Hoosier state!

With Gratitude,

[DOUBLE or TRIPLE Your Donation Today](#)

Sam Carpenter
Executive Director, Hoosier Environmental Council

Take Action This Earth Month

[Expand Deam Wilderness](#)

The Benjamin Harrison National Recreational Area



and Wilderness Establishment Act (S.2990 authored by Senator Mike Braun) will add approximately 15,300 acres to the Charles Deam Wilderness area, **more than doubling its size**, if it becomes law! It would also establish the 29,382 acre Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area on national forest land which buffers the wilderness area. This will help to protect drinking water from the Monroe Reservoir for over 120,000 Hoosiers and add recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking in the newly designated recreation area. If S. 2990 becomes law, **we will have preserved the largest expanse of wild mature growth forest in the history of Indiana!**



Please join Hoosier Environmental Council in [asking Senator Todd Young to co-sponsor this important legislation](#). Congresswoman Erin Houchin of the 9th district of Indiana has introduced a companion bill in the House.

Earth Month Events

A vertical poster with a purple grapevine border. The text reads: "We hope you'll join us for our SIP, SHOP & SUSTAIN with HEC at The Rejoicing Vine on 4 May 2024 (Saturday) 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m." Logos for Rejoicing Vine and Hoosier Environmental Council are at the bottom.

Sip, Shop, & Sustain with HEC at Rejoicing Vine Winery

Sip delicious sparkling wine while you shop and support local, sustainable Indiana businesses. Meet environmentally minded friends including HEC staff and The Rejoicing Vine owners. Celebrate Indiana grassroots communities at our free outdoor event.

Space is limited, so RSVP below to reserve your spot for this event on **Saturday, May 4**, from **5pm-7:30pm!**

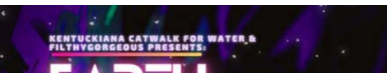
[Register Now](#)

A vertical poster with a green background. The text reads: "Rethink your Lawn: Adding Native Plants to Your Home Landscape ONLINE WEBINAR Wednesday, April 24 7 pm EST Register today!" Logos for Indiana Native Plant Society and Hoosier Environmental Council are at the top. A monarch butterfly is on a pink flower.

Rethink your Lawn: Adding Native Plants to Your Home Landscape

Learn HOW to get started with native plants, including how to replace turf grass with native pollinator-friendly plantings, in residential yards and gardens. Join us next **Wednesday, April 24**, from **7pm-8pm** for this free webinar!

[Register Now](#)





Upland Brewery Proceeds Day

On Monday, April 22nd, a portion of the proceeds from Upland's special Earth Day shirt, as well as 10% of food sales on Earth Day, from their eight [Upland Brewery brewpub locations](#) are being donated to the Hoosier Environmental Council!



Silver in the City Proceeds Day

On Monday, April 22nd, [Silver in the City](#) will be donating 22% of sales to HEC!



Earth Month Hair Jam 2024

Get ready to [celebrate sustainability](#) and style at The Depot at NoCo in Jeffersonville on Sun, Apr 28 at 6:00 PM. Join us for a night of eco-friendly hair demonstrations, music, and community vibes.

Proceeds benefit The Hoosier Environmental Council and Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

April Event Highlights

- April 22, 4pm-7pm - [Earth Day Celebration in Matter Park](#), Matter Park, N River Rd & N Quarry Rd, Marion, IN 46952
- April 24, 7pm-8pm - [HEC Webinar: Rethink your Lawn: Adding Native Plants to Your Home Landscape](#), Zoom
- April 24, 7pm-8pm - [Researching Your District for a Green Schools Campaign](#), Zoom
- April 26, 11am-12pm - [Environmental Justice Workshop - Indy's Thriving Neighbors Series](#), Garfield Park Burrello Family Center, 2345 Pagoda Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46203

For a complete listing of events, check out our [events calendar](#).

Green Infrastructure

The environmental impact of lawns and invasive species: A look inside the movement towards native landscapes

Traditional lawns are an iconic part of suburban landscapes, but what impact do they really have on our environment? Dive into our latest blog post to explore the often-overlooked consequences of conventional lawns and the problematic spread of invasive species. Learn about the burgeoning movement towards native landscaping—a practice that promises not only to enhance biodiversity but also to significantly reduce our ecological footprint.

Ready to see your garden in a new light?

[Read more about the shift to native landscapes and how you can be part of the change.](#)





PFAS “Forever Chemicals” Update

HEC led the charge this past legislative session to defeat a bill that would have prohibited Indiana from regulating a host of dangerous chemicals. One reason for our work is that the Environmental Protection Agency would soon issue its own rule and guidance.

We were correct.

On April 10 the EPA finalized unprecedented new limits to tackle drinking water contamination from six of the notorious “forever chemicals” known as PFAS – PFOA, PFOS, GenX, PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS.

The limits, known as maximum contaminant levels, or MCLs, are the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water. The new MCL requires water treatment plants to lower the amount of these chemicals to much safer levels than currently exist in water systems.

These are just six of the forever chemicals known as PFAS, a large family of toxic fluorinated chemicals that build up in the body and don’t break down in the environment. Even at low levels, they have been linked to cancer, reproductive harm, immune system damage and other serious health problems.

Americans have been drinking contaminated water for decades, but [today’s historic action](#) will start a five-year process to get these toxic chemicals out of our water.



Donate in Time for our Gift Match!

Your gift makes programming like the events and efforts in this email possible. Thank you!

Donate Now



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