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The Natural Heritage of Indiana

A documentary series for Indiana Public Broadcasting



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Welcome



Welcome to the first edition of *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* newsletter! This is a companion update to a documentary series being produced by WFYI-TV. Production has been underway since early 2006 on the programs that will bring new audiences to a landmark book edited by Indiana State University professor Marion Jackson a decade ago. These High Definition productions will let Hoosiers experience the natural wonders of Indiana in new and powerful ways.

The first installment of the documentary series will be broadcast on WFYI in November. The final installments are set for broadcast in May, 2008. This newsletter will keep you posted on the progress of the production, as well as introduce you to the many rich partnerships that are developing for this series.

ABOUT THE SERIES:



Marion Jackson described his vision for the book *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* as "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage—its natural and human history, its landscape and its life—what it once was, what it is now, and what it promises to be." He emphasizes the importance of understanding the past to prepare "us better to mold Indiana's future." He issued this challenge: "if you feel moved to help protect what remains of Indiana's natural heritage, our objective will have been fulfilled."

The series shares that mission. Documentary filmmaker Samuel Orr is creating a series of programs that combine breathtaking videography with scientific accuracy. The programs are designed for statewide broadcast, and will also be distributed to schools across Indiana.

The three episodes of the series will cover the following content:

- **The Indiana That Was:** From ancient seas and coral reefs, to Ice-Age glaciation, the first program will explore the massive changes in Indiana's landscape, as well as the flora and fauna that developed over these periods. The program will also explain how the landscape was further changed by human habitation, and begin to examine present-day conditions. Primary funding comes from The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

- **Indiana's Ecological Diversity:** This program will feature dazzling video of the plants and animals that are native to Indiana. Viewers will traverse the state, experiencing the striking variety of life that exists here, and will see the hidden wonders that are rarely witnessed by casual observers. Primary funding for this episode comes from the Efroymsen Fund – A CICF Fund, the Indiana Academy of Science and Indiana State University.

- **A Changing Landscape:** This third program will focus on the alteration of the natural landscape of Indiana by humans, the consequences to native systems and organisms, and the coming of conservation and ecological study and stewardship. The human elements will accordingly play a more prominent role in this episode. Much has been altered, but there are stories of hope, as well. Primary funding comes from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

NEWS UPDATES:



- A preview screening of highlights from the first episode of *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* will be held October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Christel DeHaan Performing Arts Center at the University of Indianapolis! The Indiana Academy of Science is offering VIP's a chance to see select cuts of the first documentary as part of its annual conference at UIndy and discuss the production with producer Samuel Orr and the editor of the book, Marion Jackson.
- The book *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* will soon be back in print! Thanks to a generous grant from the Laura Hare Charitable Trust, Indiana University Press is able to produce a long-awaited new printing of the book. It will be available this fall. Click here for [DETAILS](#)
- The Indiana Historical Bureau Book Shop is offering a 20% discount on the reissue of Marion Jackson's *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* (retail price \$49.95 cloth). Pre-orders are recommended to reserve copies. Professor Jackson will be available at a book signing December 8, 2007 at the Book Shop in the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. Also of special note is Rita Kohn and James W. Brown, editors, *Long Journey Home: Oral Histories of Contemporary Delaware Indians* (Indiana University Press, 2007, retail price \$34.95 cloth). All books in the shop will be available for 20% off in the month of December, including many related to the natural heritage of Indiana. [DETAILS](#)

CLOSE-UP



The lead producer and videographer for the project is Sam Orr, a National Science Foundation award winning filmmaker and published ecologist. Sam is working with a team of Emmy Award winning videographers and producers, utilizing state of the art digital widescreen video technology. WFYI's cameras will travel above ground, underwater and underground to bring to light the natural wonders that exist in Indiana. In addition, the documentary will showcase efforts to preserve habitats and demonstrate best practices for sustainable development.

WFYI is the lead partner for production of *The Natural Heritage of Indiana*. WFYI public broadcasting is a center of discovery for all ages. Through unique programs, services and emerging technologies, WFYI is a leading community resource, empowering people to discover their world, broaden their horizons and become active participants in shaping the future. In 2007, WFYI received 21 Emmy nominations, and 10 awards for its productions, and has produced a dozen shows for national distribution in recent years.



A key Outreach partner in this series is the [Indiana Historical Bureau](#). The Bureau, a state agency, will develop and maintain an exciting *Natural Heritage of Indiana* web site, which will present educational and outreach activities surrounding the series.

SERIES PARTNERS:



In addition to WFYI and the Indiana Historical Bureau, a number of significant partners will add depth and reach to the documentary series. They include:

- [Indiana Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Indiana Department of Education](#)
- [Indiana State Library](#)
- [Indiana State Museum](#)
- [Indiana Academy of Science](#)
- [Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#)
- [Indiana Humanities Council](#)
- [Indiana Supreme Court](#)
- [Indiana Wildlife Federation](#)

- The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
- Indiana Geological Survey

ABOUT OUR FUNDERS

Major Funding for *The Natural Heritage of Indiana* comes from:

NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST
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Indiana Academy of Science



INPAWS - Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society