Giving Thanks for the Great Outdoors

As November rolls around, it is time to look back and be thankful for all that we have been given. Here at IUOA, we are thankful for our many successful trips and courses this year. We have been teaching students how to climb, raft, backpack, and lead adventures of their own. Fall break was also a hit with trips to Devil’s Lake, Wisconsin and the Little Miami River in Ohio.

However, we still have a lot to look forward to! With courses, adventure trips, and more, we are never done. Thanksgiving Break will be coming up soon, reserve a spot on one of our three great trips! No need to worry, we’ll have you home in time for turkey!

It’s never too early to look ahead. We have our winter break trips ready and even a tentative list of our spring break trips, featured on page 8. Also, it is time to sign up for classes, so look up all of our SPH-W courses now!

In this issue we are also feature water master Ryan Hines, a new outdoor club, more great gear, and a legend of the outdoors! So keep scrolling down, there is a lot to see in this issue.
Once a month we recognize one of our Trip Leaders for their hard work and dedication.

Meet Ryan Hines!
Everyone say hello to Ryan! Ryan is a second year Ph.D. student from Milledgeville, Georgia studying Leisure Behavior. He loves water sports, namely canoeing and kayaking.

Where did you get your interest in the outdoors?
I got my interest in the outdoors at a very early age, according to my parents, and as a baby I was attracted to nature and was very curious about the natural world around me. I used to love to go fishing and took every opportunity I got to tramp around and fish in the local creeks and rivers with my dad. I pretty much demanded to go every time he did, because it was so much fun to be at the river fishing with dad, fishing and when tired of that, chasing crawdads and frogs and watching tadpoles turn into frogs over the course of the summer. I was very curious and felt at home in the woods and at the river. I grew up with many opportunities to go outside and spending time in the woods at our local parks and rivers was part of how my family spent its leisure time.

What is your favorite outdoor moment/trip?
One of my favorite trips is to canoe the Buffalo River in Arkansas. It is the first river to be designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and is a great 120 mile trip full of tall bluffs, mountain views, and clear water. I have paddled the 120 mile Wild and Scenic section of the Buffalo River twice now, and it is a great east meets west kind of place to go; some sections of the river have attributes that give it a western feel like tall bluffs, canyons, and arid hillsides while others are dominated by more of a Southern Appalachian Mountain feel.

Tell us about your next adventure trip.
My next adventure trip will be a 6 day (4 days on water) canoeing trip on the Altamaha River in south Georgia. People should want to sign up if canoeing and camping on a lazy river with huge sandbars and swamps on either side sounds fun. We will be taking side trips into oxbow lakes and old riverbed lakes, where we will have the opportunity to see alligators, turtles, Great Blue Herons, migratory birds, and groves of huge, Spanish moss covered, old growth Swamp Cypress, Tupelo, and Live Oak trees, some of which are over 1000 years old. The trip will start in fresh water and our course will take us into the delta of the river as it becomes tidally influenced on its final journey to the sea. We will pass through three distinct ecological zones as the river transitions from being a freshwater river into a brackish water tidal swamp and finally into a salt marsh ecosystem. The Altamaha River and its tidal delta are a unique and beautiful place full of history, dominated by nature.

What is your dream adventure?
A tough question for which I have several answers. I would love to take a live aboard sail boat and travel around Indonesia in search of surfing, waves, and scuba diving for an indeterminate amount of time. And, in one way, my life is my dream adventure, and I try to live in a way that allows me to stay active and go on cool trips.

Most embarrassing moment?
I once left the Vice Premier of Japan (Basically the Vice President of Japan) behind in a sending tower on a zipline tour I was guiding. He was in no danger, but was left in the staging level of a tower from which one of the zips on the course departs. I saw him sitting in the staging level as I departed from the top level and looked back and down to my horror to see my most important passenger ever being left behind. Luckily, one of my fellow guides was nearby and was able to take him to the top, got him clipped in, and sent him across the cable to where the rest of the group and I (super embarrassed) were waiting. So, I left the VP of Japan behind. How embarrassing.
Take a moment to learn about **Benton MacKaye**, Forester and Founder of the Appalachian Trail

March 6th, 1879, Benton MacKaye was born in Stamford, Connecticut. Burdened by financial concerns and the sprawl of urban life, the MacKaye family moved to a smaller, countryside home in Shirley Center, Massachusetts in 1888. Here, Benton found the nature of the countryside to be both peaceful and intriguing as his appreciation for the outdoors grew.

While living in Washington D.C. for a brief period, Benton spent his free time visiting the Smithsonians. He learned about the natural history of the world and became interested in how he could contribute to its future. While traveling across the nation to perform research in environmental conservation, he created the term "geotechnics", the balance of both human and environmental needs.

Incorporating the geotechnic philosophy, Benton proposed a plan to build a trail for human recreation in the Appalachian Mountains that could also be used to protect the mountains. He described the plan in his article "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning" published in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects in 1921. The publishing of this article led to the adoption of a Committee on Community Planning and the Appalachian Trail Conference. The 2,200 mile trail completed construction in 1937 from Maine to Georgia. Benton was a key leader in the project, and continued to assist in its formation while becoming one of the founding fathers of The Wilderness Society, the first national organization to focus on preserving wilderness. He became the president in 1945 and after his service, he was awarded with the prestigious title as "Honorary President" for life.
Brown County State Park: 1405 S.R. 46 W. Nashville, IN 47448

Brown County is one of the most beautiful state parks in Indiana. With plenty of trails, ranging for horse use, to hiking, to strict mountain biking, the park can be traveled in many different ways. Rolling hills, beautiful vistas, and look out towers highlight the park. The park does require a gate fee, but the range of activities are worth it. Nicknames like “The Little Smokies” are not handed out lightly, as it resembles the beautiful national park. At only thirty minutes away, compared to the six hours to the national park, you can get your hiking in much easier at Brown County State Park.

Check out the following locations this fall to experience the leaves on the trail, from a fire tower, or near the lake!

**Hickory Ridge Fire Tower**, Charles C. Deam Wilderness, Hoosier National Forest, Polk, IN 47401

Fire towers were once lived in by employees of land management agencies to spot and prevent forest fires. Today, many fire towers still stand. One of which is located in Indiana’s only Wilderness areas, the Charles C. Deam Wilderness. Located just off of 446, about half an hour away. The wilderness can be yours to explore. The fire tower offers a spectacular view of the Hoosier National Forest, you can see the trees changing color for miles. If you are lucky, you may even see a family of flying squirrels living in the roof of the tower. Last spotted at sunset by one of our leaders, five squirrels jumped from the tower and glided into the forest. So be sure to check out this area for its trails, tower, and wildlife.

**Yellowwood State Forest**: 772 South Yellowwood Road, Nashville, IN 47448

Yellowwood is a beautiful location located about twenty minutes outside of Bloomington. Home to the unique yellowwood tree, the forest offers rare growth seen this far north. The yellowwood, more common to the south features a bright yellow heartwood with beautiful compound leaves. To couple this specimen, the forest is full of maples, oaks, and even pine trees. This diversity offers a spectacular display of leaves come fall. Yellowwood Lake is located just inside the forest, with a hiking trail surrounding it, a great way to view the forest.
Immerse yourself in Southern Georgia on the Altamaha River Biopreserve, as it makes its final journey to the sea. See old growth cypress, swamp tupelo, and live oak trees as you journey through intimate waterways, not often seen by man! All experience levels welcome.

To Sign up visit IUOA or Call 812.855.2231 Outdoors.indiana.edu
This Thanksgiving, we are hiking the fabled Appalachian Trail. We will be visiting picturesque McAfee’s Knob and Tinkers Cliff just outside of Roanoke, Virginia where you will be able to see miles of beauty while living out of a backpack. Join us and experience simplicity.

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Outdoors.indiana.edu
Join us this Thanksgiving Break as we climb the beautiful sandstone at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch in Arkansas! We will be scaling the cliffs and completing boulder problems across the dude ranch. With areas like The Cliffs of Insanity and Goat Cave, how could you say no?

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Wilderness Explorers

Do you love being outdoors? Want to meet new friends who also enjoy hiking, camping, backpacking, rock climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, and many more activities?

Then the Wilderness Explorers Club is for you!

Come to the first call-out meeting for this brand new club to get some free food, meet awesome people who are also passionate about the outdoors, and learn about opportunities to go on some fun outdoor adventures!

**What?** – Wilderness Explorers Club’s First Call-Out Meeting

**When?** – Tuesday November 11th at 7:30 pm

**Where?** – IU Outdoor Adventures Classroom (room 024) in Eigenmann

Upcoming Trips

Start planning early for all the amazing trips happening this year!

**Winter Break - January 3-10**

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**Spring Break - March 13-22 - Tentative Schedule**

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<td>Mountain Biking</td>
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