

# The Olive Branch

Week of September 13, 2013



## Saving Indiana's Forests

Introduced as an ornamental and for soil erosion control, non-native bush honeysuckle is a beautiful plant. However, looks can be deceiving. Originally from Eurasia, bush honeysuckle has spread over the Midwest and is quickly becoming a huge problem. In Indiana, the plant is particularly prominent in the northern and central parts of the state. Bush honeysuckle is an extremely aggressive plant that grows and spreads quickly, and it is currently threatening the health of local forests. Because the plant sprouts green leaves very early in the spring, it quickly grows and prevents local vegetation from receiving sunlight. As a result, many forests in Indiana and across the Midwest are losing ground cover.

One particular example can be seen in the Donald E. Miller Wildlife Area, located along the White River in Muncie, Indiana. A mere sixteen plants were introduced to this 16.5 acre area in the 70's. Today, the forest features old growth trees and a large understory of bush honeysuckle. Because few new native plants are able to grow, the once diverse undergrowth has largely given way to this plant. Similarly, other forests throughout the state are encountering similar issues. Without regular maintenance, future forests may consist almost entirely of this plant, causing extreme damage to the natural diversity of Indiana forests.

### Inside this issue:

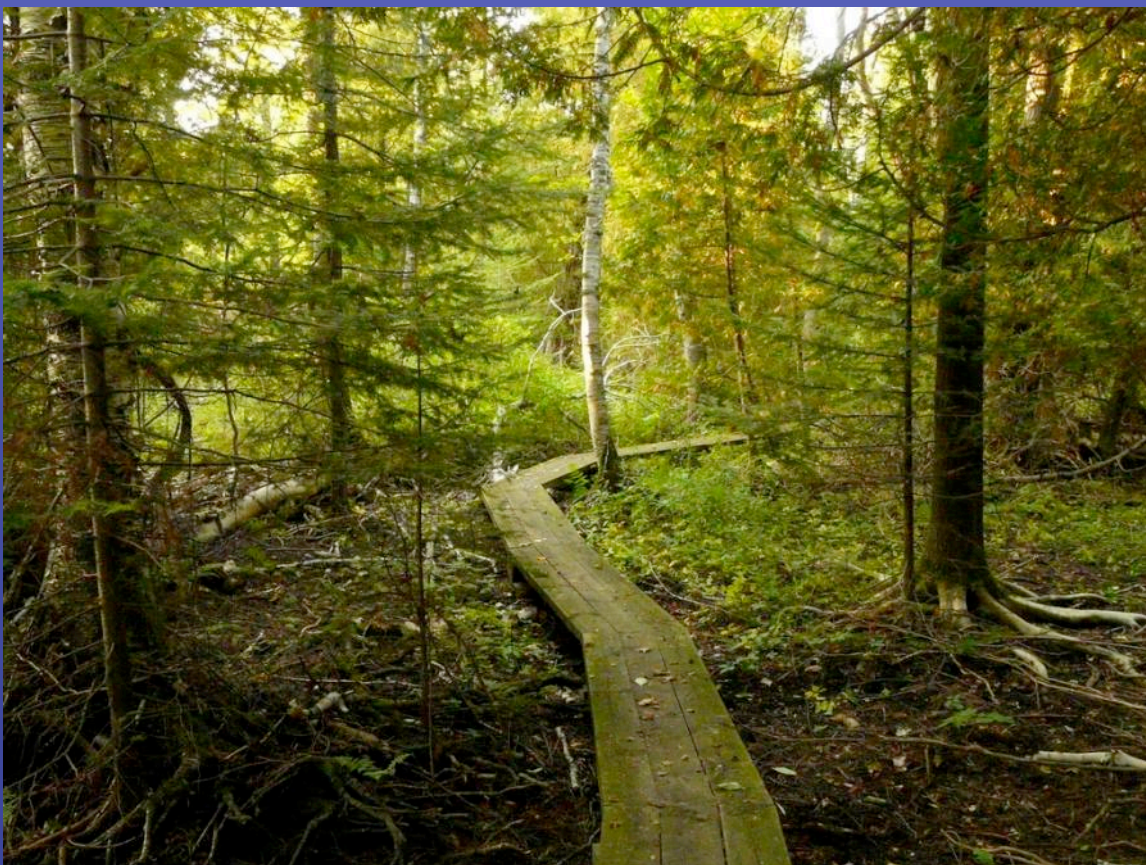
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## Forests continued...

It is unlikely that those who introduced the original non-native bush honeysuckle to the United States knew what they were doing or the harmful impact their actions would cause to future generations of wildlife. However, there is a lesson to be learned from their actions. There is a beauty in local ecology that human beings should learn to appreciate and protect for the good of the environment and for future generations. Recognizing this beauty is a first step; acting to preserve it is another. RTLC has taken this step, but they will be able to completely solve the problem as long as the plant persists in areas of land over which they lack control. It is up to individuals to spread awareness and promote the health of native plant life in their areas. Working together, we may eventually achieve this goal. For more information, see <http://www.fortheland.org/>.

-Ashli Gofrey



# Spotlight:

## Bayard Rustin



“We need in every bay and community a group of angelic troublemakers.”

- Bayard Rustin

Every schoolchild is taught about Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Booker T. Washington. However, one very important African-American name all too often falls under the radar when we discuss civil rights, and that is the name of Bayard Rustin.

Rustin accomplished many things throughout his life: he organized the historic March on Washington, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary this past August. He organized the first Freedom Rides which were designed to challenge the Supreme Court’s ruling limiting interstate travel of African-Americans, and he formed a committee to support resistance to Apartheid in South Africa. It is a little-known fact that prior to Rustin’s counsel, Martin Luther King, Jr. did not know of Gandhi’s teachings of nonviolence and protected his family and home with armed guards. Furthermore, although Rosa Parks’ refusal to sacrifice her seat on a public bus to a white person was heroic and an iconic act, Bayard Rustin was actually arrested for this very same act years earlier.

All of this information begs the question, why isn’t Bayard Rustin a household name? Why has his legacy been suppressed in history books and many of his civil rights protests been credited to other individuals? The answer is that Rustin was one of the first public figures to unapologetically acknowledge that he was a homosexual. This admission earned the ire not only of opponents of racial integration but also of those in his own political camp. After he was caught committing sexual acts in Pasadena, California, in a parked car with two other men, Rustin was unceremoniously ejected from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, at which he served as secretary. He also remained unidentified and behind the scenes of many organizations and political demonstrations so that his involvement wouldn’t jeopardize their causes.

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# Spotlight Continued...

.Sometimes he did so willingly, while at other times he was forced out by other people concerned about his reputation. When he and Martin Luther King came together to organize the Southern Christian Leadership conference, one of the members of the Board, U.S. Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., forced Rustin off the committee by threatening to discuss his arrest in California before Congress.

Similarly, some organizers of the March on Washington wished to suppress the extent of Bayard Rustin's involvement in the event. This was particularly egregious because not only did Rustin schedule all of the speakers for the March, but he also trained off-duty police officers to be marshals, organized transportation, publicized the event, and was in charge of all the logistics. At the time, NAACP chairman Roy Wilkins attempted to silence the fact that Rustin was behind the March, to no avail. The Time Magazine cover credited activist A. Philip Randolph and Rustin with the leadership of the March on Washington.

Fifty years later, it is interesting to reflect upon the life of Mr. Bayard Rustin. From one perspective, it is easy to understand why civil rights leaders did not want to jeopardize their successes by acknowledging Rustin's homosexuality. Black Americans had enough trouble in society without addressing gay rights, and they likely believed that the movement needed to be concerned with the biggest issue at hand, which was racial equality. However, from another viewpoint, the suppression of Bayard Rustin's considerable contributions to the advancement of African Americans is outrageous. It seems a bit contradictory to fight for some civil rights while denying others. This could have been a perfect opportunity to make the statement that any civil rights issue must be addressed, and all people must be treated equally. This is a very interesting case that we as fighters for human rights must keep in mind. We must check ourselves to ensure that we are truly fighting for equality and not leaving people behind because they may make others uncomfortable.

—Katie Munn



# On Homeland Security

*On Homeland Security* is an upcoming art show, scheduled for the month of February at The Cup (The Village of Muncie), that will focus on the instability and fear accompanying the still expanding War on Terror. The show strives to highlight the many faces that insecurity takes at home and abroad. Possible themes include: surveillance, extrajudicial detention centers, drones, and suspension of civil rights here and around the world.

Local artists, writers, and performers of any media who are interested in participating in this exhibition or the associated video and website are welcome to submit pieces by **October 15th, 2013**.

For more information or to make a submission, contact Mary Ogle ([ogle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:ogle.mary@gmail.com)).



# On Campus Events

Join us for a Free Webinar on September 18

We live in a multicultural society where communities are becoming more and more religiously diverse. In such an environment, communication and understanding is needed to build trust, cooperation and mutual respect among believers and nonbelievers alike. This webinar will discuss strategies for engaging students in respectful dialog concerning their beliefs and personal contemplative practice. Emphasis will be placed on teachings and values that religious and secular humanist traditions share in common. Presented by Dr. George Wolfe, Coordinator of Outreach Programs for the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Ball State University

Title: Peace-building in a Pluralistic Interfaith World: Strategies for Dialog and Promoting Inter-religious Understanding

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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## International Conversation Hour (ICH)

This program is designed to help international students practice English, learn studying skills and classroom culture, and make American friends. We recruit both domestic and international students from the BSU campus. Through interactive discussion, they can normalize their experiences and decrease their isolation, worries, and stress as well as get support from American students. They will also learn different kinds of study skills to help them succeed at Ball State University. We hope through students' participation, domestic students will learn about different cultures without studying abroad and international students will increase their sense of belonging to BSU and adjust to their transition from their countries to BSU better.

Time: Every Tuesday, 6-7:30 pm

First three meeting Location: 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10 will meet at the Studebake East, Multipurpose Room

Please feel free to bring your friends to join us. If you have any questions, please email Pei-Yi Lin, at [plin@bsu.edu](mailto:plin@bsu.edu).

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## Living Lightly Fair

Living Lightly Fair is a resource fair for sustainable lifestyles - on **Saturday, September 21**, from **9 am - 5 pm**, at Minnetrista, a short walk from Ball State's campus.

The fair provides a full day of speakers, music, art, kids' activities, and a green marketplace of vendors and exhibitors, all aimed at offering ideas and inspiration for living more sustainably. **Admission is FREE**.

A free **shuttle bus**, sponsored by Freshman Connections, will run between campus and Minnetrista from **9 am to 5 pm**. Pick-up and drop-off will occur every half-hour at the Williams circle drive (behind the College of Architecture and Planning).

# On-Campus Events

## continued

A free **shuttle bus**, sponsored by Freshman Connections, will run between campus and Minnetrista from **9 am to 5 pm**. Pick-up and drop-off will occur every half-hour at the Williams circle drive (behind the College of Architecture and Planning).

Dozens of **VOLUNTEERS are needed** throughout the day (and the day before) in two-hour shifts! If you're interested, please give us your name, email address, phone number, and all hours you're available on these dates:

- Friday, Sept. 20, from 2-4 pm
- Saturday, Sept. 21, from 7 am - 5 pm

Just **send your information to Susan Eichhorn at [eciswd.susan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eciswd.susan@sbcglobal.net) or [sceichhorn@bsu.edu](mailto:sceichhorn@bsu.edu)**. You can also call 765-640-2535 with your information. Let Susan know if you need printed proof of volunteer hours for a class or club.

Full details about the fair and the day's schedule are available at [www.livinglightlyfair.org](http://www.livinglightlyfair.org), but here's a sneak peek of the highlights:

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### White River Clean-Up

Would you like to make a difference right here in Muncie and make new friends at the same time? (And get a free lunch and t-shirt while you are at it?)

Join us for the White River Clean-up on Saturday September 14th from 8am-noon.

We will have a bus available to bring participants to and from the clean-up starting point. The bus will meet on the circle drive just behind Noyer and Whiting building at 7:30am. The bus will bring participants back around 12:30pm. Lunch will be provided. We will begin at Westside Park, about 5 minutes from campus.

Participants are asked to wear closed toe shoes and pants.

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### Fall Career Fair

This event will be held on September 18 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Worthen Arena. For more information, contact Steve Fulton at (765) 285-1080. Alumni are invited to participate in the annual Fall Career Fair. Job-seeking alumni are welcome to participate. Some employers will offer interviews the next day.

# Off-Campus Events

## Peace & Unity Festival Indianapolis

Saturday, September 21, 2013

11:00 AM-3:00 PM at 222 East Market Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**PURPOSE:** This is a grassroots effort to organize a peaceful global march for peace & unity on the International Day of Peace - Saturday, September 21, 2013. This occurs concurrently with the Observation of the International Day of Peace, a day that the United Nations calls on all combatants around the world to lay down their arms and to give peace a real chance; a day to reflect and consider how best to break the vicious cycle of violence that conflict creates.

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## Open Streets Indy

Sun., Sept. 29, 12-5 p.m.

Environment, Current Events

As part of the White River Festival, Indianapolis will have its very first Open Streets Indy. Although the initiative has been around for several years, beginning in Bogotá, Colombia, and known as "ciclovías," the idea is the same. Open Streets will temporarily close the street to all automobiles so that people may use the street instead for walking, cycling, dancing, playing and socializing. While Open Streets events are obviously great for social activity, they are also celebrated for being environmentally friendly, economically sound and for serving public health as a whole. Free.

<http://www.openstreetsindy.org/>

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# Grants and Fellowships

## **United States Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition**

This Grant Program supports peacebuilding projects such as educational or research institutions and civil society organizations that are managed by nonprofit organizations. Every year, the USIP awards 20-25 grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$120,000. USIP may provide grant support to nonprofit organizations and individuals—both U.S. and foreign—including the following: institutions of post-secondary, community, and secondary education; public and private education, training or research institutions, and libraries. The next deadline for the annual grant competition is October 1, 2013.

Visit <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition> for more info.

## **The Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship Program (USIP)**

These are awarded to scholars, practitioners, policy analysts, policy makers, and others to spend 9-10 months in residence at the USIP during which time they will reflect and write on international peace and security challenges. Citizens of any country are able to apply. The program beginning in October 2014 is now open. Visit <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/jennings-randolph-senior-fellowship-program> to learn more.

## **Rotary Peace Fellowships**

The Rotary Foundation provides these fellowships to fund master's degree or professional development certificate study at one of the six Rotary Peace Centers. Recipients of this fellowship promote peace, cooperation, and successful conflict resolution on both the national and international levels. Visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships> to learn more.

# Peace Organizations

## Social Justice League

The Social Justice league strives to better the world through awareness, local involvement, and fundraising for worthy causes. We aim to bring greater awareness of social justice issues to Ball-State and the community. Join us to explore both domestic and international issues and to confront and combat injustices.

Our club meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. We can be reached at either [sjl@bsu.edu](mailto:sjl@bsu.edu) or [bsu.social.justice@gmail.com](mailto:bsu.social.justice@gmail.com).

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## Timmy Global Health

Timmy Global Health is a nonprofit organization based out of Indianapolis that seeks to eliminate healthcare disparities worldwide. At Ball State, our chapter works through the academic year to raise awareness, money, and medical supplies for our annual trip to Ecuador during spring break.

Contact Info: [bsutimmy@gmail.com](mailto:bsutimmy@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSUTimmy>

Meetings: Tuesday @ 7pm. Education Resource Room 1 in the Bracken Library Basement

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## Delivering Educational Support to Kenya

Delivering Educational Support to Kenya (DESK) is a student-led organization designed to assist students in Kenya. In Kenya, all students are required to have a school uniform to attend school. Unfortunately, some families are not in a position to buy school uniforms or school supplies for their children. To help these families, DESK organizes various fund raising activities to raise money to buy school uniforms and supplies. Some of these activities have been bake sales, calendar sales, and boxed lunch sales.

Contact email: [desk@bsu.edu](mailto:desk@bsu.edu)

Fall 2013 Meeting Dates & Times:

September 23, 6-7pm in TC 542

October 28, 6-7pm in TC 542

November 25, 6-7pm in TC 542

# Peace Organizations

## Continued

### Ball State TOMS

Our club is directly affiliated with the TOMS company. Our main goal and focus as a club is to raise awareness about the company and what they do. We do this through sponsoring and holding several events throughout the school year. We meet every Wednesday night at 9 PM in Bracken, room 401.

Contact info: TOMSCLUB@bsu.edu

Taylor Cardini, President

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### Students for Responsible Consumerism

Students for Responsible Consumerism aims to educate consumers about their relationship with products and the corporations that make them. Our mission is to make students aware of the socioeconomic and environmental influence of their purchases. We foster consumer activity that promotes ethical products that avoid exploiting labor or the environment.

Our club meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the Student Center, Room 308. We can be reached at the following emails: [src@bsu.edu](mailto:src@bsu.edu) or [responsible.consumerism.bsu@gmail.com](mailto:responsible.consumerism.bsu@gmail.com). This is our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/responsibleconsumerism>, and we also have a tumblr page: <http://responsibleconsumerism.tumblr.com/>.

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### Ball State Circle K

Circle K International (CKI) is the premier collegiate community service, leadership development, and friendship organization in the world. CKI blends community service and leadership training with the opportunity to make friends. Our motto is: "Live to Serve, Love to Serve!" Our club offers weekly service opportunities and larger service events for those who wish to become involved.

Our club meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 in WB 136.

Club email: [ballstatecki@gmail.com](mailto:ballstatecki@gmail.com)

Club Website: <http://ballstatecki.weebly.com/>



310 North McKinley Avenue  
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Phone: (765)285-1622

Email: [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu)

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

To get all the latest updates on activities and news from the Peace Center, follow us on Twitter @bsu4peace or “Like” our Facebook page!



If you or your organization would like to submit content or information about an event to be included in our newsletter, please email Tacianna Oliver at [tpoliver@bsu.edu](mailto:tpoliver@bsu.edu) or Katie Munn at [ksmunn@bsu.edu](mailto:ksmunn@bsu.edu).