

THE GREEN AMBASSADOR



February 2024 | Office of Sustainability | green.nd.edu

Term of the Month

February's term of the month is *wetland*. February 2, 2024, was internationally recognized as [World Wetlands Day](#). Wetlands are important ecological systems that are vital to supporting life on Earth, and are the unsung heroes of mitigating climate change: they are capable of storing 50 times more carbon than rain forests! They also control flooding, naturally filter wastewater, and provide food resources for animals and humans alike.

In the early 1700s, wetlands covered [25% of the total area of Indiana](#)—equal to 5.6 million acres! Now, these important natural systems cover just 4% of the state.

[Learn more about wetland ecosystems and their benefits](#)

Electric Vehicles Arrive on Campus



As a part of caring for our common home, Notre Dame is beginning to transition some of our operational fleet to electric vehicles.

[Read about the University's work to add EVs to operational fleet](#)

Sustainability Spotlight: Restoration Ecology

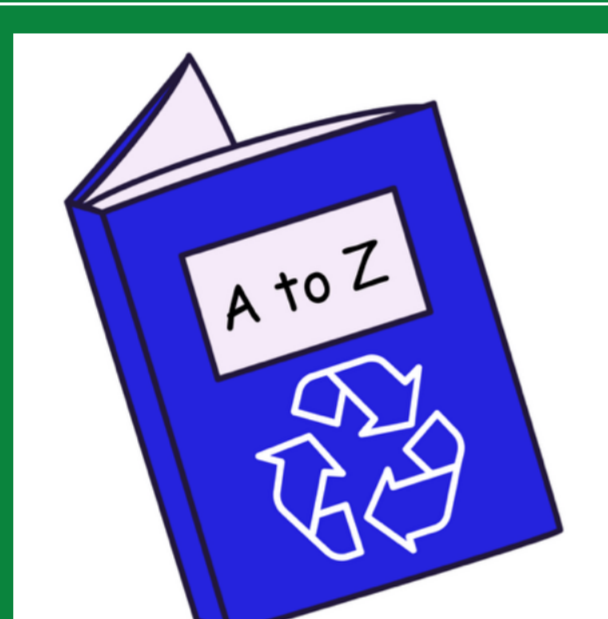


In photo, from left to right: Judith Lanahan, Emme Hemmerich (front), Molly Quan (back), Joe Urbanski, Monika Nokes, Anna Wang, Max Scheel, and Ryan Sensenig.

During the fall semester, Professor of the Practice, Ryan Sensenig, taught BIOS 40573/60573: Restoration Ecology. This course was a mix of undergraduate and graduate students who gained real world experience in ecological recovery and management with the help of Landscape Services and Holy Cross Congregation.

[Learn more about the class project](#)

Sustainability Tip: Use the A to Z Recycling Directory

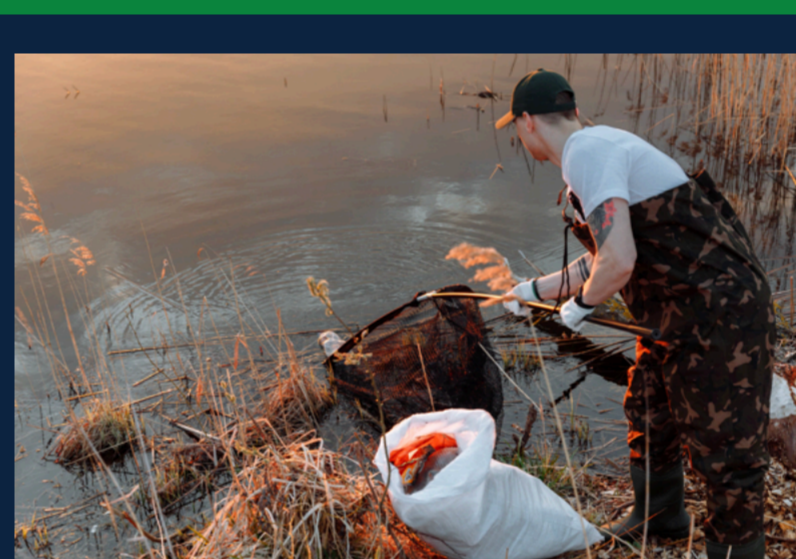


Did you know?

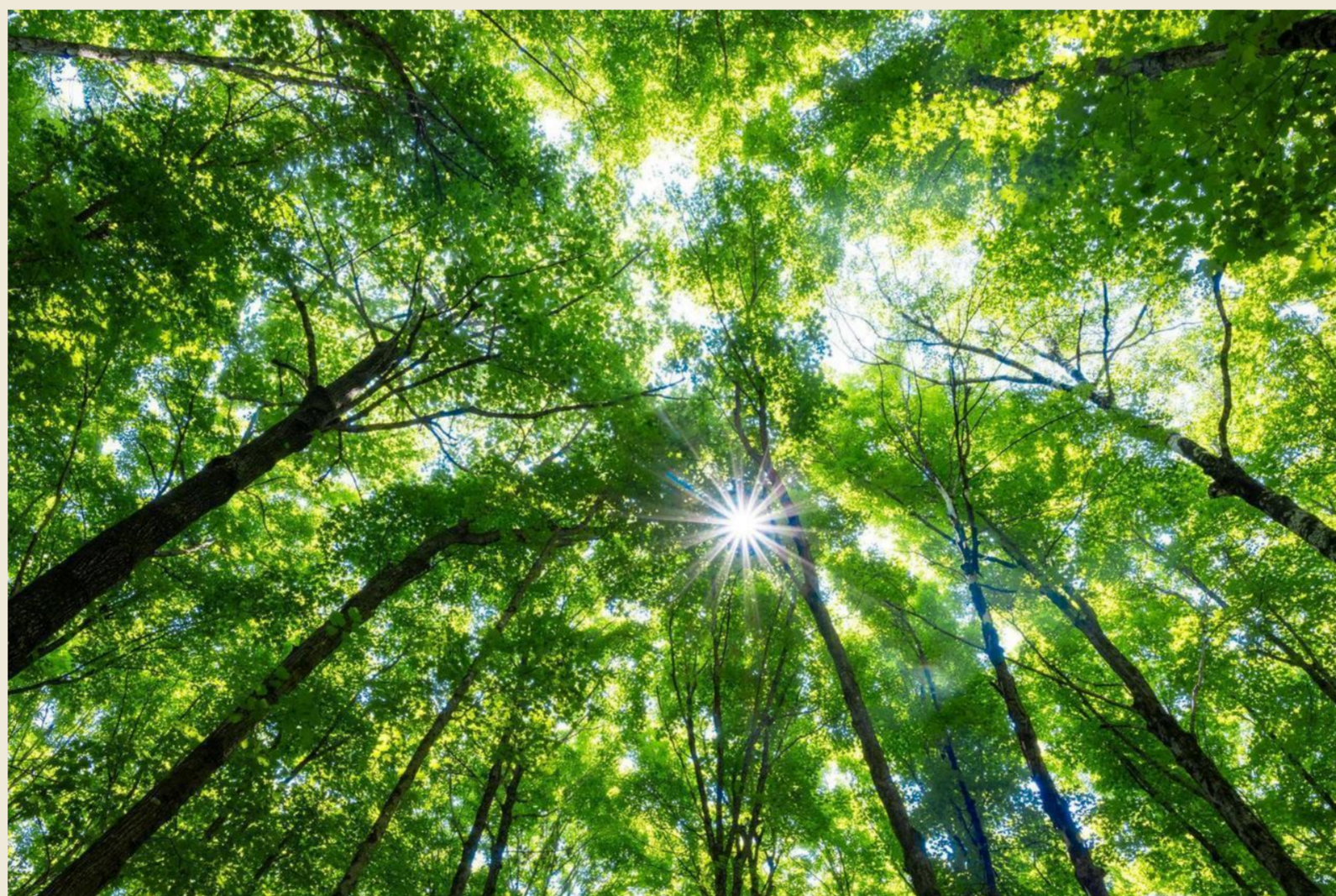
The Sustainability website has a [searchable A to Z Recycling Directory](#) that can be used just like Google Search. Simply type in the item you have a question about, like batteries or plastic cups, and the directory will provide you with disposal options for the item in question. If an item you search for doesn't appear, reach out to our office, and we can add it to the directory for future searches!

Looking Ahead: St. Mary's Lake Clean Up

The [Environmental Change Initiative](#) (ECI) is hosting its annual St. Mary's Lake clean-up next month. This is a fun event that helps keep our campus beautiful, and you have the opportunity to meet new people! You will be amazed at some of the interesting pieces of trash that you find. Last year, some of our unique finds included a bowling ball and a television. Tune in to the [ECL calendar](#) to see when it will be scheduled.



Applications Now Open for the Campus Tree Care Plan Committee



Landscape Services is developing a comprehensive Campus Tree Care Plan (CTCP) for [Tree Campus USA](#), and is seeking students to serve on the planning committee. If you are an interested student, fill out the form linked below.

Applications are due February 23, 2024. If you have any questions about the committee, please [contact the Director of Grounds & Landscape, Beau Barnett directly](#).

Ideal candidates should have a strong interest in arboriculture, environmental science, biology, sustainability or dendrology. The committee is looking for a total of three (3) student representatives to join.

[Apply to serve on the CTCP Committee](#)

External Partnership Sustainability Award Nominations Due February 29



There's less than one month left to submit nominations for the 2024 [External Partnership Sustainability Award](#)! This award honors suppliers and other partners who have made sustainability an integral part of their business practices while partnering with the University of Notre Dame. The award seeks to more fully recognize the holistic nature of sustainability work, keeping in mind its three traditional pillars: **ecological, human, and economic health**. This helps to remind us that sustainability is about human vitality - our ability to thrive together - while also caring for our common home. Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion themes are noted more prominently in award criteria.

[Submit an external partner to be nominated today](#)



Nominate someone to be recognized in our next Sustainability Spotlight!

Do you know about a sustainability event coming up? Add it our Google calendar

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