



**Woodlands, Wetlands, Waterways... "Saving a place for wildlife"**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Evansville, Indiana** - Wesselman Nature Society is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. John Scott Foster as its new Executive Director. Dr. Foster comes to the Tri-State area from Watertown, New York where he has served as the executive director of The New York State Zoo since 2006. Prior to taking the New York post, Dr. Foster had local ties to Indiana as the Director of Education at the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Botanical Garden.

"We are more than pleased to bring a director of John's caliber to the Tri-State area to further our mission of conservation and sustainability through research and education," said Gil Himebaugh, WNS Board President. "His passion and enthusiasm for the natural world will take The Wesselman Nature Society's conservation and education efforts to the next level, providing Evansville children and adults with a better appreciation of the wildlife and wild places that can be found in their own community."

Born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, John's education background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a Masters of Science in Zoology, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education from the University of Florida.

"I entered into the conservation and environmental education field motivated by the desire to help people lead a more sustainable lifestyle and develop a deep and positive relationship with nature," said Dr. Foster. "There is no better way to connect people with nature than through the opportunities and experiences provided at a Nature Center. I am in awe of what Wesselman Nature Society has already accomplished and proud to be given the opportunity to lead the organization." Dr. Foster will begin his position November 29, 2010 in time to witness the completion of the Nature Center expansion and renovation which began in April.

**Wesselman Nature Society** (WNS) serves as a catalyst for environmental stewardship, regional sustainability and improved quality of life through conservation, preservation, research and education. WNS utilizes area woodlands, wetlands, and waterways as educational resources, outdoor classrooms, and learning laboratories for educators, students, and the general public throughout Southwest Indiana and beyond. Through these opportunities, visitors and program participants may find a greater understanding and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources both inside and outside the boundaries of protected sites. This 501c (3) not-for-profit organization is responsible for the preservation, management, and daily operations of Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands, and Canoe Evansville. [www.WesselmanNatureSociety.org](http://www.WesselmanNatureSociety.org)

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