

## Q&A with Kirsten Sprecher

***What is your role with The Nature Conservancy and how did you get started?***

I am the Preserve Monitor for Mosquito Creek nature preserve in Laconia, IN. I visit the preserve about once per month to monitor and help maintain the trail and report any issues to TNC staff. I found out about this opportunity when a friend forwarded an Indiana TNC volunteer newsletter to me. Thanks Heather!

***Can you share a little bit about your background and your relationship to Southern Indiana?***

I am married and a mother of three wonderful teens. I have been working in education for almost 20 years and recently completed the Indiana Master Naturalist program. I have lived in southern Indiana most of my life and love to explore all the natural areas our region has to offer.

***What drew you to volunteering with TNC specifically?***

I have been a financial supporter of TNC for many years and am excited to contribute in a more hands-on way. I appreciate the important work TNC does to preserve, protect and maintain our natural spaces in Indiana and around the US.

***When you are out at Mosquito Creek, what's something memorable you've seen out there?***

Mosquito Creek is a beautiful area! It is so quiet and peaceful. I love that it has such a large variety of trees, wildflowers, fungus, wildlife, etc. My favorite experience there so far is when a great horned owl swooped down and flew right past me. Amazing!

***Do you have any advice for those who are thinking about starting to volunteer?***

I encourage any fellow nature lover to volunteer with TNC. They offer many different types of opportunities throughout the state. It is a flexible way to support a great organization that's working hard to preserve our natural areas.

***When you aren't volunteering, what do you like to do for fun?***

When I'm not volunteering I love hiking with friends, gardening, reading and traveling.

Volunteer Spotlight