

The following poem was written by Mileage officer, John McShea. It was read as welcoming remarks by the Club President at the 1/11/25 Winter Banquet.

We are grateful for the Indianapolis Hiking Club

We are grateful for blue skies.

We are grateful for warm and sunny days.

We are grateful for cloudy days that spare us from the blistering sun.

We are grateful for solar eclipses that show the magnificent beauty of our favorite star.

We are grateful for rocks, roots, fallen trees and muddy paths that make me even more grateful for clear and dry pathways.

We are grateful for Eagle Creek Park with its reservoir and waterfowl.

We are grateful for Southwest way Park along the White River with its Eagle nest, lakes, and waterfowl.

We are grateful for Fort Ben State Park and the Fall Creek greenway.

We are grateful for the trees, the Sycamore trees that hold eagle nests, the Oaks that feed the squirrels, the walnut, hickory, Gum, Locust, Elm, and others that rain their leaves on us in the fall and all the evergreens that keep their color all winter long.

We are grateful for the wildflowers that tell us the Spring has sprung.

We are grateful for the coyotes, foxes, White Tail deer, the waterfowl, minks, weasels, squirrels, chipmunks, beavers, and snakes.

We are grateful for our hike leaders.

We are grateful for our Pathfinders who compile hike schedules.

We are grateful to IHC board members

But mostly We are grateful for the comradery and friendship of fellow hikers who share their wisdom. And we are grateful of the food we share together.