



Office of Water Management
Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

W	C
A	O
T	L
E	U
R	M
	N

Spring
2000
Vol. 12, No. 2

12th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference a Success

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow could keep friends of Indiana's lakes from attending the 12th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference in Syracuse on April 7 and 8. Cold rain and a late-season snowfall didn't deter the 140 conference attendees from congregating at the Oakwood Inn on Lake Wawasee to hear the latest information for Indiana lakes. A diverse two-day conference program updated attendees on the progress of the Indiana Lakes Management Work Group, various controls of exotic, invasive plants, the latest in mapping techniques as well as funding opportunities, fishery management, best management practices for shorelines and watersheds, and success stories from lake associations.

At a special luncheon on Friday, the Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) honored the members of Indiana Lakes Management Work Group with a certificate of appreciation for their hard work the past two years insuring a positive future for Indiana lakes. The conference is sponsored by the ILMS and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The 2001 conference will be held on April 6 and 7 at the French Lick Resort in French Lick, IN. Mark your calendars now to attend.

(Submitted by: Tina Hissong, Conference Coordinator)



A late-season snow dusted the Oakwood Inn conference site.



The exhibit area was full of new and informative lake products and services.



Laura Bieberich of IDEM describes how to apply for a Section 319 grant.



An attentive audience listens to a speaker.

Indiana's New Volunteer Water Monitoring Video



Students in the A.C.E. program at Tzouanakis Intermediate School study macroinvertebrate samples collected from Walnut Creek in Putnam Co., Indiana as part of the Hoosier RiverWatch Program.

In 1999, the Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) partnered with several other organizations and agencies to produce a top-notch volunteer water monitoring video for the state. The video was the brainchild of CRAWDAD, a

statewide alliance of organizations and agency programs interested in such volunteer monitoring efforts.

ILMS's sponsorship as a non-profit organization assisted CRAWDAD in securing a nonpoint source grant for this project from the Indiana Department

Arnie and Velda Dose take Secchi disk readings on Big Otter Lake in Steuben Co., Indiana as part of the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.



of Environmental Management (IDEM), via EPA's Section 319 funding program. Much of the work associated with producing the video was provided by Lyn Hartman of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Debbie Fairhurst of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Forty-four percent of the costs associated with producing the video were also donated by

Baxter Communications of Indianapolis, the company hired to bring CRAWDAD's vision to celluloid reality.

The resulting video is a professionally produced, nine-minute-long segment highlighting Indiana's volunteer water monitoring programs. It is intended to educate viewers about volunteer programs currently active within the state, what the monitoring efforts consist of, and who to contact for more information.

The videos can be checked out for use by groups or individuals from the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices and main library branches of each of Indiana's 92 counties. A handful are being offered for sale by ILMS. It is hoped that the videos will generate an increased awareness of the state's water resources, and an interest in practicing good stewardship in the protection and restoration of Indiana's rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Gov. O'Bannon Designates Lakes Appreciation Week

In recognition of the need to preserve and enhance the 1,000-plus natural and man-made lakes in Indiana, Governor Frank O'Bannon signed a proclamation declaring the week of July 1-8, 2000 as Indiana Lakes Appreciation Week. Local lake associations are encouraged to organize specific programs to call attention to the value of their lake that week.

Lakes Appreciation Week is a North American event sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) to draw attention to our most underappreciated natural resources—lakes. The celebration typically coincides with Independence Day (July 4) in the U.S. and with Canada Day (July 1) in Canada. Both of these

holidays provide people with the opportunity to get out and enjoy lakes.

Lakes Appreciation Week also overlaps with the Great American Secchi Dip-



In. The Dip-In is sponsored by NALMS and the US Environmental Protection Agency and organizes citizen volunteers in existing volunteer lake monitoring programs to measure water transparency with a simple device called a Secchi disk. Collected data are compiled and analyzed at Kent State University. Regional lake transparency trends are reported in a color map. For more information about Lakes Appreciation Week or the Secchi Dip-In, see the NALMS web site at <<http://www.nalms.org/>>.

17 Public Access Lakes to Receive Aquatic Plant Control Cost-share Grants

Seventeen Indiana lakes with public access will receive cost-share grants to control exotic invasive aquatic plants, according to the Department of Natural Resources. "Lake associations and citizen groups have devised good plans to improve fisheries habitats and recreational access by controlling nuisance plant species," said Larry Macklin, DNR director. Macklin said the grants — totaling \$92,816 — come from Indiana's Lake and River Enhancement Fund, administered by the DNR's Division of Soil Conservation. The program to enhance Indiana lakes and rivers is funded by a \$5 fee paid when boat owners register their boats and pay excise fees with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

The state soil conservation board approved the budget for these grants March 14. The grants provide 25 percent cost share, with the lake associations paying 75 percent.

The grants will improve fisheries habitat and recreational access in 9,632 surface acres by controlling non-native nuisance plants, especially Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*).

Grant requests ranged from \$361 to treat small amounts of Eurasian watermilfoil at Lawrence Lake to \$19,125 to treat nearly 300 acres of the same invasive plant at Hamilton Lake.

Exotic aquatic plants, such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, have taken over plant beds in several public access lakes. Eurasian watermilfoil is not native to North America. It thrives in colder waters and sprouts earlier in the spring than most native plants. Milfoil grows rapidly to the surface, shading out native species, competes for nutrients in the water, and quickly crowds out beneficial lake plants that provide food and habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Several of the proposed projects consist of innovative strategies for control of exotic plants in an effort to restore native plant diversity. At Lake Tippecanoe, two ten-acre test plots will compare traditional herbicides with a new vacuum technique for mechanical plant removal. The Nyona Lake project will test a copper-based product for selective control of Eurasian watermilfoil and nuisance levels of eel grass (*Vallisneria*). The treatment at Webster Lake immediately follows an innovative 1999 whole-lake treatment, while the treatment at Crooked Lake (Steuben County) is a new whole-lake treatment. The availability of cost-share funding will allow the other lakes to more aggressively pursue exotic plant control and enhancement of native plant diversity.

The following lakes will receive funding:

Lake	County	Total cost	Amount requested
Atwood	LaGrange	\$ 6,250	\$1,563
Bass	Starke	50,000	12,500
Big Long	LaGrange	8,750	2,188
Bruce	Fulton	11,700	2,925
Crooked	Steuben	40,000	10,000
Fish	Laporte	35,000	8,750
Hamilton	Steuben	76,500	19,125
Jimmerson	Steuben	8,550	2,138
Lawrence	Marshall	1,444	361
Lemon	Monroe	10,500	2,625
Myers	Marshall	4,100	1,025
Nyona	Fulton	25,000	6,250
Sylvan	Noble	32,050	8,013
Tippecanoe	Kosciusko	16,750	4,188
Wall	LaGrange	3,245	811
Webster	Kosciusko	26,500	6,625
Winona	Kosciusko	14,925	3,731
Total:		\$371,264	\$92,816

More information: Steve Polston, 317-232-3265 or Gwen White, 317-233-5468.

Federal Clean Lakes Program Reauthorization Passes U.S. House

In an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 420 to 5, HR 2328 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 2. This bill reauthorizes the federal Clean Lakes Program, Section 314 of the Clean Water Act, which is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Representatives speaking in favor were: Bud Shuster of PA, James Oberstar of MN, Sherwood Boehlert of NY, Robert Borski of NY, John Sweeney of NY—the bill's author, Rodney Frelinghuysen of

NJ, and Corrine Brown of FL. Both the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee and subcommittee had unanimously supported the bill. Indiana Representative John Hostettler was one of only five members to vote against this bill.

Eight Indiana lakes (Waube, Lake of the Woods, Cedar, Lemon, Monroe, Versailles, Wolf, and George) received funds in past years under the Section 314 Program for comprehensive Phase I Diagnostic Feasibility Studies. Skinner Lake received Phase II funds for implementation. Funding for the program was cut in 1994 before the eight lakes could receive Phase II implementation grants. However, local entities have been implementing portions of the completed diagnostic feasibility studies in the interim.

The US EPA has tried to keep the Clean Lakes Program running through use of Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program funds but this has not kept up with all the needs of the Nation's lakes.

While this bill does not give the Clean Lakes Program any program money, it does express strong support for this program to both the EPA and the Appropriations Committee, both of which could decide to provide money. The next issue will be asking the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to include funding for the Clean Lakes Program in this year's budget.

(Submitted by Lisa Conley, NALMS)

Fish Die-offs Common in Spring

In the wake of the massive White River fish kill, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources wants to remind lake residents and pond owners who find small numbers of dead fish along their shorelines this spring that they need not worry in most cases.

Minor fish die-offs commonly occur each year during early spring and late summer. "Fish are more susceptible to stress during spring," said Bill James, fisheries chief for the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Poor conditions in summer and fall can magnify the effects of food scarcity in winter. As the weather warms in spring, bacteria and other pathogens may infect fish. On top of this, fish are physically



gearing up for the coming spawning season. All these factors produce stress that some individual fish simply cannot overcome."

Stressful environmental conditions usually take their toll on weak or unhealthy fish. Die-offs seldom seriously impact fish populations and rarely affect fishing success. Most minor die-offs occur naturally and pond owners can do little to correct them.

Conditions that cause fish die-offs may persist for several days. Frequently, dead fish will accumulate on wind-blown areas creating the appearance of a major die-off.

Anglers who observe fish kills commonly express concern about the safety of eating other fish they catch from affected waters. Fish that appear robust and healthy are generally safe to eat as long as anglers clean and cook them properly. (Compiled from DNR News Release)

Don't Try This!

In looking over the annual Darwin Awards for 1999, we came across this account of a runner-up award winner (or loser to be precise) to pass along to Indiana anglers. The Darwin Awards are (by definition) granted posthumously upon those individuals (or remains thereof), who through single-minded self-sacrifice have done the most to remove undesirable elements from the human gene pool.

A fisherman in Kiev electrocuted himself while fishing in the River Tereblya. The 43-year-old man connected cables to the main power supply of his home, and trailed the end into the river. The electric shock killed the fish, which floated belly-up to the top of the water. The man waded in to collect his catch, neglecting to remove the live wire, and tragically suffered the same fate as the fish. In an ironic twist, the man was fishing for a mourning meal to commemorate the first anniversary of his mother-in-law's death.

Romancing the Frogs

Spring has sprung, and sounds of froggy passion abound. In fact, in southern Indiana, they began abounding in late February this year, although a few hardy individuals can call as early as late January if we get a warm spell. The calls of happy hoppers are particularly welcome these days.

Around the planet, amphibian populations — frogs, toads, newts, salamanders — are declining or just downright disappearing. Nearly frantic research has produced not one, but a small host of culprits. Pesticides, increased ultraviolet radiation, disease,

parasites, and combinations of these are all taking their toll, and specific causes for particular problems are mostly still unclear.

But in Indiana, many of our species seem to be doing well. Certainly, our spring nights still resound. The sound everyone seems to know is the call of the spring peeper. These little critters —no more than 1.5 inches

long—are related to treefrogs, and they have little suction cups on the ends of their toes to help them climb around in the vegetation. A single call sounds like a piercingly clear bird whistle that rises towards the end: “pee-
eep.” But when many of them get to calling all

together, the sound is very like jingling sleigh bells. One variation of the call has a trill running through it, so don't be confused if the peep trills!

Another early little frog, also a treefrog relative, is the western chorus frog. About the same size as the peeper, and with the same suction-cup toes, their call has been compared to the sound of someone running a fingernail across the teeth of a metal comb. The call isn't very musical, and it doesn't rise in pitch at the end, so even though it sounds trilly, you can separate it from the peepers. Often you can hear the two species calling together.

The last real early bird among our frogs is the wood frog. These denizens of permanent water in the woods are true frogs—related to bullfrogs and leopard frogs, not treefrogs. Their call is rather hysterically funny—it sounds like a really evil duck quacking, perhaps while being strangled. A friend coined the name “Duck Vader.” At the end of this column, I've given some web sites that have recordings —you really need to hear this one.

Wood frogs are difficult for those of us trying to monitor frog populations. Their breeding season tends to be really short—the first warm rains bring them out, and they all get together to breed over a period of two weeks or so. As a result, if you aren't out at the right time, you can easily miss them, and it's hard to visit many sites during the active period. Your wood frogs and the wood frogs in the next town over probably won't be perfectly synchronized, but they'll probably be pretty close.

If you like frogs, there are only about 14 species in the whole state, and you can learn to help monitor them. If you're interested in helping with frog monitoring, you can contact Katherine Quimbach at the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife (kquimbach@dnr.state.in.us, (317) 232-4080). For web sites with pictures and calls, try:



<<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/narcam/idguide/specieid.htm>> and <<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/tnfrogs.htm>>

For more information on amphibian monitoring, visit <<http://www.im.nbs.gov/amphibs.html>> and for more information on problems that amphibian populations are experiencing, visit <http://www.open.ac.uk/OU/Academic/Biology/J_Baker/JBtxt.htm>

Merry frogs and toads!

(Submitted by Vicky Meretsky, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University)

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invaders

Prevention of the spread of invasive exotic species is much more cost-effective than treatment. Taking precautions to remove all aquatic plants, zebra

mussels and other biological hitchhikers from boats, trailers and bait

buckets or live wells before use in another waterbody reduces the problem of spreading noxious species.



WATER COLUMN

Published quarterly by the Indiana Clean Lakes Program as a medium for open exchange of information regarding lake and watershed management in Indiana

William W. Jones, Editor
Cynthia Mahigian Moorhead, Production Manager

Address all correspondence to:
SPEA 347

1315 E. Tenth Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-1701

Phone: (812) 855-4556 • FAX: (812) 855-7802

Meetings

May 14-17, 2000. *Natural Resource Management in a Competitive Market.* Westin Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Sonya Douglas, Edison Electric Institute, Phone: (202) 508-5648, E-mail: <SDouglas@eei.org>, Web Page: <www.eei.org>.

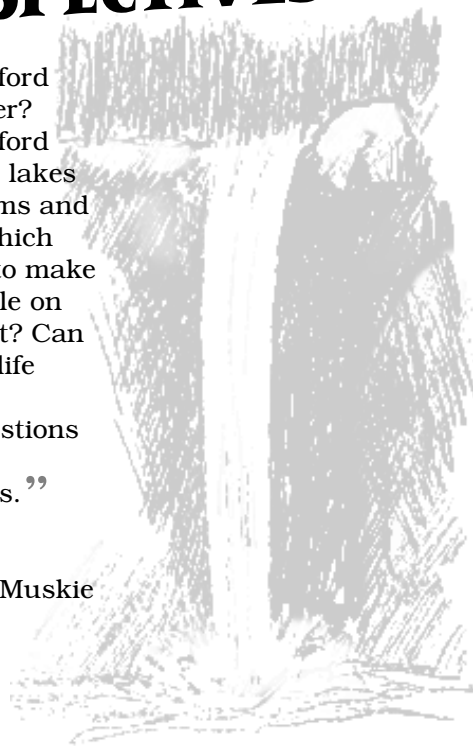
June 26, 2000. *Project WILD Advanced Workshop—Ice Age Wildlife.* Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Warren Gartner, phone: (317) 549-0348; e-mail: <indianaprojectwild@ameritech.net>.

November 8-10, 2000. *NALMS 2000: 20th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society.* Miami, Florida. Contact: Terry Thiessen, NALMS Conference Coordinator, PO Box 5443, Madison, WI 53705-5443. Phone: (608) 233-2836, Fax: (608) 233-3186, E-mail: <thiessen@nalms.org>.

PERSPECTIVES

“Can we afford clean water? Can we afford rivers and lakes and streams and oceans, which continue to make life possible on this planet? Can we afford life itself? ... These questions answer themselves.”

—Senator
Edmund Muskie
(1972)



WATER COLUMN

School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Room 347
1315 E. Tenth Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-1701

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bloomington, IN
Permit No. 2

To receive free quarterly issues of
WATER COLUMN,
send your name and address to the
address above.