

16th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference

The 16th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference was held on April 2 and 3, at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN. One hundred and forty people interested in Indiana lakes were treated to two



The Potawatomi Inn



The Lake James meeting room was filled with participants and exhibitors.

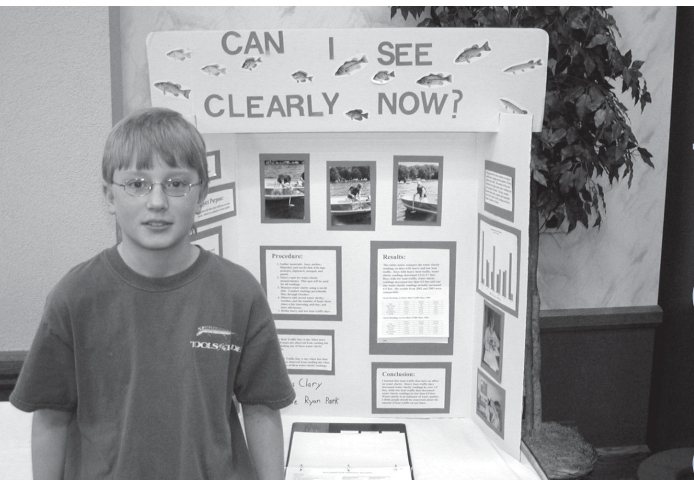
days of stimulating talks, discussions, workshops, and exhibits.

Topics covered included: lake monitoring and assessment techniques, a new fish Index for Biotic Integrity (IBI) for lakes, new funding opportunities for aquatic plant management and sediment removal through the LARE Program, several case studies from Indiana lakes, and an aquatic plant identification and management workshop.

The 3rd Annual Brat Fry fundraiser was held in the best weather ever for this event. George Edwards, the master brat chef, did a wonderful job and even grilled up some venison sausages. The 2nd Annual Ask-It Basket provided an opportunity for

participants to submit written questions to a panel of Indiana lake experts.

Participants were also treated to exhibits of the latest in lake management products and services from 14 exhibitors (additional photos next page).



James Clary is not only the youngest participant in the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program; he also prepared a poster of his Secchi disk transparency results on Lake James in Steuben County for display at the Indiana Lake Management Conference. If James represents the youth of today, the future of our lakes looks bright!



Gourmet salad greens for lunch?? No, these are samples of aquatic plants for participants to identify during the Aquatic Plant Identification and Management Workshop.



Participants got the opportunity to identify a variety of common lake plants.

More Conference Pix

Phosphorus-free Fertilizer and Lake Protection

Minnesota became the first and only state to enact statewide restrictions on phosphorus lawn fertilizers. The phosphorus-free restriction is limited to the Twin Cities metro area and Crow Wing County. Outside of these two areas, lawn fertilizer is restricted to three percent phosphate content, which is readily available. In the fertilizer industry, phosphorus content is measured as phosphate, a form of phosphorus. The phosphate content of lawn fertilizer is given by the middle number in a string of three numbers printed on the bag.

The three numbers represent percent content of plant nutrients nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium, in that order. For example, a fertilizer listed as 32-12-10, contains 32 parts nitrogen, 12 parts phosphorus, and 10 parts potassium. A zero middle number indicates zero percent phosphate content, or phosphorus-free.

Phosphorus is most often the limiting nutrient for lake plants—algae and rooted macrophytes. This means that if you add more phosphorus to a lake, more plants will grow. Therefore, phosphorus washing off the landscape during rain storms can help turn our waters green with algae, and using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers is one step we can take to protect water quality.

The Chapman Lakes Conservation Association (<http://www.chapmanlake.com/>) has put together some frequently asked questions regarding phosphorus fertilizers and lakes.

Why use lawn fertilizer without phosphorus around lakes or streams?
Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. That means it gets into the lake causing

problems. What's more, increased boating traffic keeps phosphorus stirred, preventing natural elimination. Some states now ban use of fertilizer containing phosphorus near lakes, streams, or ponds.

How do I know there's no phosphorus in my fertilizer?

Check the second number on the package formula. For example, 15-0-10 means zero phosphate. These percentages are always listed in this order.

Does my lawn need phosphorus?

No. Most soil provides all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Actually, adding nitrogen promotes a thick, healthy lawn and decreases run-off because it decreases soil erosion—two benefits in one.

What's the best way to use a no-phosphorus fertilizer?

Follow the instructions on the package—but don't be afraid to use somewhat *less* than is recommended. Because instructions are meant for a wide variety of conditions, it's usually not necessary to use the full application rate—try 75% of the application rate instead.

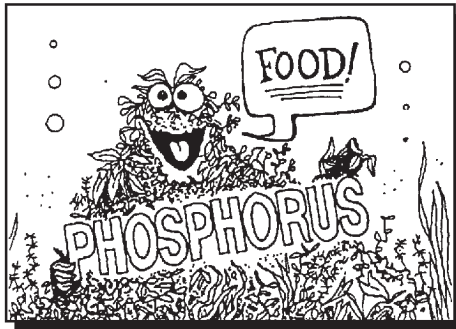
When should I feed my lakeside lawn?

Try using a schedule based upon major holidays: try applying on or around (1) Memorial Day and (2) Labor Day. Two applications per year will satisfy even the pickiest lawn aficionado.

What are some other things I should avoid on my lake lawn?

1. Avoid letting fertilizer wash off the turf.
2. Don't fertilize when the soil is saturated—for example, after a heavy rain.

3. Avoid getting fertilizer on driveways, sidewalks, storm drains.
4. Above all, fertilize carefully. Don't let your fertilizer application get into the lake, stream, or pond.
5. Use a mulching mower to leave the grass clippings on the turf.
6. Cut no more than the top third of the grass.



If I want to use nitrogen, what's recommended?
Apply about one pound per 1,000 square feet of turf area. In shade, use half that amount.

Why use nitrogen?

Turf needs added nitrogen because nitrogen is unstable. What the plant does not quickly use is lost. [Note: The above is presented in general terms. For more specific information, consult your local landscape or soil conservation professional.]

Permits Needed for Lake Construction Projects

TRI-LAKES – Lake residents who want to build seawalls, create underwater beaches, or dredge sections of lakebed along their lakefront property must first check to see whether they need a permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Failure to obtain a permit from the DNR could result in expensive restoration of the site and fines.

"There is a general lack of knowledge among lakefront property owners of what is required by law before starting a construction project," says Jed Pearson, fisheries biologist with the

DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"Lake residents need to know they can't just muck around in the lake, even if they own the land next to it," he says.

As one of four district fisheries biologists in northern Indiana, Pearson evaluates the environmental impacts of lakebed and shoreline alterations at Indiana's natural lakes.

"If a seawall, beach, or dredging project doesn't conform to current rules and regulations or the project will have harmful effects on lake ecology, we can either recommend denial of a permit or place conditions on the permit that limit what a landowner can do."

Pearson says the main reasons for requiring a permit are to give the citizens of Indiana the opportunity to have a say in what's done to the lakes and to help protect them.

"The DNR is entrusted by the public to manage Indiana's natural lakes and we do that through the permit process," he says. "People who fail to get a permit or try to skirt the rules don't have a long-term interest in the lake."

Pearson says some lake residents don't know whom to contact to find out whether they need a permit or don't know how to get one.

"In some cases, landowners claim local officials tell them no permits are required," he says. "Just recently at High Lake, a landowner said a Noble County official told him he didn't need a permit to dig out a boatwell."

"Of course, that's one of the oldest excuses we've heard for not getting a permit," he says. "People need to understand the state has jurisdiction over public lakes and that counties may or may not have other local requirements for various building projects."

According to Pearson, the best thing for a landowner to do is assume a DNR permit is needed for any project that involves the shoreline or bed of a lake and to

contact the appropriate DNR office to find out before starting work.

"They can call the Division of Water at (317) 232-4160 or our office at (260) 691-3181 to find out if a permit is needed and to get a permit application form," says Pearson.

Forms can also be downloaded at the Web site: www.in.gov/dnr/water.

MEETINGS

November 3-5, 2004. NALMS 2004: 24th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society. Victoria Conference Centre – Victoria, British Columbia. Contact: NALMS, PO Box 5443, Madison, WI 53705-0443; Phone: (608) 233-2836; Fax: (608) 233-3186; e-mail: nalms@nalms.org.

December 12-15, 2004. 65th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, The Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/midwest2004/wildlife.htm>.

Chapman Lake Hosts Lake Learning Expo

Several hundred people attended the 2004 Lake Learning Expo scheduled May 15th. The Expo, sponsored by the Chapman Lakes Conservation Association (CLCA), provides an opportunity for lake residents to learn one-on-one from experts in their field, about many lake issues.

Association representatives from several other Kosciusko County lakes staffed exhibit spaces to distribute information about their lakes and organizational activities. The expo expansion to include other lake associations and foundations was a direct response to those who attended last year's event who were seeking specific information on their particular lake.

Table-top exhibitors included divisions from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as private contractors specializing in lake enhancement and watershed improvement.

These exhibitors offered one-on-one opportunities for visitors to get direct information.

Residents from several area lakes, including Chapman, Tippecanoe, Silver Lake, Barbee, Center Lake, and the Witmer Lake Association, were among those who jammed the small clubhouse, particularly during the first two hours of the four-hour event.

The event is scheduled to become an annual springtime activity for the Chapman group. Next year CLCA hopes to add exhibitors and involve associations from other area lakes in a larger facility.

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**

**Address all correspondence to:
William W. Jones, Editor
SPEA 347
1315 E. Tenth Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-1701**

**E-mail: joneswi@indiana.edu
Phone: (812) 855-4556
FAX: (812) 855-7802**



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

Perspectives

Spring unlocks the flowers
to paint the laughing soil.

—Reginald Heber