



Office of Water Management  
Indiana Department of  
Environmental Management

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## Indiana Lake Management Conference Report

One-hundred-thirty enthusiastic participants attended the recent Sixth Indiana Lake Management Conference in LaPorte. This conference is sponsored annually by IDEM. The conference program included results of research on several Indiana lakes and watersheds,

updates on state and federal lake programs, an aquatic plant management workshop, the

*(continued p. 2 . . .)*



Participants could receive a print-out of the most current data for their lake, from IDEM's lake data base.



The Exhibit Hall was a great place to make contacts during breaks.



Sam St. Clair, Kosciusko Soil and Water Conservation District, addresses an attentive audience.

(CONFERENCE...  
continued from page 1)

annual meeting of the Indiana Lakes Management Society, and a large exhibit area. Twenty exhibitors from five states exhibited products, services, and lake educational materials. Scheduled breaks, a Friday evening social event, and Saturday's luncheon provided plenty of opportunities for participants to visit with each other and with the exhibitors and presenters. Most participants who filled out the post-conference evaluation thought that this was the best lake conference yet. Participants could also suggest topics for future discussion and these suggestions will be used in planning for next year's conference.



Earl and Lee Riggs pose a question to Jim Ray of DNR's Lake and River Enhancement Program.

## Lake Assessment Activities for 1994

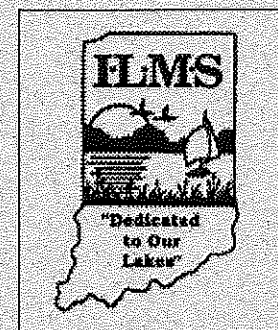
A team of students and faculty from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) will conduct lake water quality assessments on approximately 80 lakes this summer as part of IDEM's Indiana Clean Lakes Program. Public lakes in Dekalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Noble, and Whitley counties will be sampled this summer. This program is part of a continuing IDEM effort to regularly monitor water quality and trophic status of Indiana lakes. The data are used in determining lake water quality trends and are included in IDEM's biannual 305(b) report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## ILMS Elects Officers for 1994

The Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) elected its 1994 officers at its annual meeting held in conjunction with the Sixth Indiana Lake Management Conference. Officers for this year are:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| President—       | Joe Richardson, Rochester  |
| President-Elect— | Susan Fernandes, Bloomington   |
| Past President—  | Roy Mann, Bloomington  |
| Secretary—       | Robert Myers, Syracuse   |
| Treasurer—       | George Bruce, Columbia City  |
| Directors—       | Earl Riggs, Bloomington<br>Joseph Granson, Kokomo<br>Robert Busch, Syracuse<br>Jeffrey Pape, Crown Point |

ILMS is very active this year after receiving a \$53,000 grant from the U.S. EPA and the North American Lakes Management Society. The grant will be used to strengthen the organization and to provide lake educational opportunities. Membership in ILMS is open to anyone interested in lakes and the dues are just \$10 per year. For more information, contact ILMS at 909 West Maumee, Angola, IN 46703.

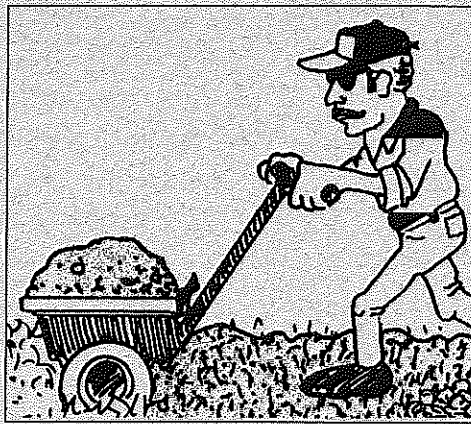


## Don't FEED Your Lake!

You're getting ready to fertilize your lawn. Like any responsible consumer, you read the package label for directions on how much to apply. Because you'd rather be fishing or golfing instead of fertilizing, you might say to yourself, "I'll just put on a little extra so it will last longer and then the grass will be greener too." Anyway, at the recommended setting, hardly any fertilizer seems to be coming out of your spreader so opening it up more will be better, won't it? ABSOLUTELY NOT!!

Using more fertilizer than your lawn needs costs you money and can pollute nearby lakes and streams. Excess fertilizer is dissolved by rainwater and instead of being adsorbed by the soil and used by plants, it is carried away by water running off your lawn. Fertilizer in the water causes water plants (especially algae) to grow just as it causes your grass to grow. Excessive aquatic plant growth

causes problems with aesthetics, odors and lake uses, and when these plants decay in the fall, oxygen is consumed, thereby decreasing oxygen supplies for



fish. So your lawn fertilizer can have far-reaching impacts on the interconnected "aquatic cycle."

So, what can you do? Here are some helpful lawn maintenance tips for lakeshore or streambank property owners.

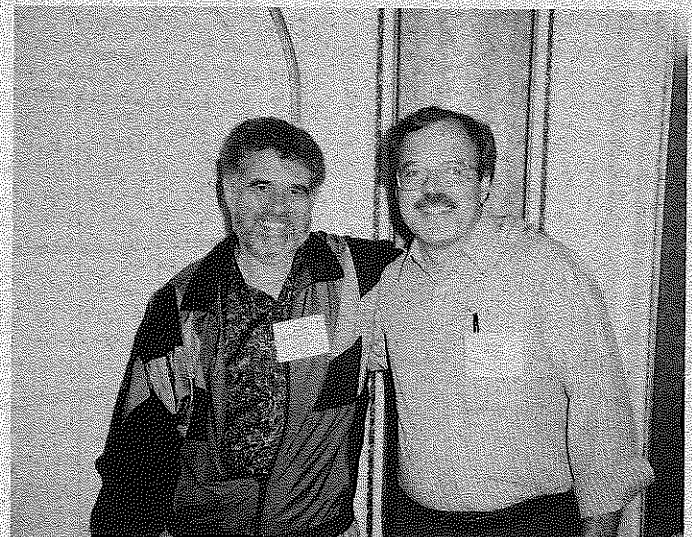
1. Get a soil test to determine your lawn's or garden's fertilizer needs. Your local garden supply or agriculture co-op store can provide information.
2. Select fertilizer which contains very little or no phosphorus (the **second** number on the bag—e.g., 26-10-4). Most lawns do not require additional phosphorus and it is the phosphorus which stimulates algae growth in water.
3. Do not apply fertilizers or herbicides within 20 feet of the lake or stream bank. This "buffer strip" will trap fertilizer in runoff and prevent it from reaching the lake. The "buffer strip" will green up due to the fertilizer runoff.
4. Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Cut grass releases fertilizer back to the lawn and can provide 25-50% of the nitrogen needed by your lawn.
5. Do not dispose of grass cuttings or leaves in the lake. These can fertilize the water and contribute to lower oxygen levels as they decay.
6. Talk to your neighbors about their lawn fertilizing habits. Each person or lakeshore property can make a difference. With more

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property owners observing these fertilizer cautions, more pollutants will stay out of your lake and your lawns will be as green and lovely as ever.

## EPA Clean Lakes Program Head to Retire

Frank Lapensee, who has guided the U.S. EPA Clean Lakes Program as its Chief for ten years will leave the agency to take a position with the World Health Organization in Switzerland. Over the years, Frank has provided strong leadership for the Clean Lakes Program and has fought to keep the program funded. Major themes of Frank's administration have been encouraging local involvement in lake and watershed management, and forging partnerships among groups to more effectively solve lake problems. Frank will be sorely missed by everyone involved in lake management. A new director has not yet been named.



*Frank Lapensee (l) greets NALMS President Bruce Wilson at a recent state lake management conference in Chicago.*

## Clean Water Act Reauthorization

The Clean Water Act is up for re-authorization this year, however; a heavy docket of other legislation may not allow Congress to act on re-authorization this session. The Clean Lakes Program (Section 314 of the Clean Water Act) was

*(continued on next page . . .)*

left out of the initial bill but Senator Mitchell of Maine added it in an amendment.

This year as in the past, the Clean Lakes Program funding was cut from EPA's proposed budget. Concerned citizens and professionals across the nation have launched a FAX, telephone, and letter-writing campaign to encourage their legislators to support a \$10 million appropriation for Clean Lakes funding. In Indiana, the federal Clean Lakes Program provides technical and financial support for: diagnostic feasibility studies (most recently on Lake Monroe, Versailles Lake, Lake George, and Wolf Lake), the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, the Indiana Lake Management Conference, this *Water Column* newsletter, and lake water quality assessment work.

## Meetings

**July 11-15, 1994. Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society**, in conjunction with the **Annual Meeting of the Texas APMS**, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: William Rushing (202/272-1841) or Randall Stocker (619/339-9263).

**July 12-15, 1994. Sustaining the Ecological Integrity of Large Floodplain Rivers: Application of Ecological Knowledge to River Management**, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Contact: Kenneth S. Lubinski (608/783-7550).

**October 16-20, 1994. Water Environment Federation 67th Annual Symposium, "Surface Water Quality Ecology."** Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Maureen Novotne (703/684-2400)

**October 31-November 5, 1994. 14th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, "Managing Water Resources in the 21st Century: Finding Workable Solutions."** Orlando, Florida. Contact: NALMS (904/462-2554).

**November 6-11, 1994. American Water Resources Association 30th Annual Conference: National Symposium on Water Quality**, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Ivan Johnson, (301/493-8600).

## Questions from Readers

**Q:** *Is there a better way to measure turbidity than with a Secchi disk?*

**A:** Turbidity in water is caused by suspended silt, algae, and other small particles. The turbidimeter is the standard instrument used to accurately measure turbidity. With this instrument, turbidity is determined by the amount of light reflected at a 90° angle by particles present in the sample. The reflected light is measured by a light-detector.

The Secchi disk transparency is another measure of turbidity in water. While it is less precise than using a turbidimeter, it is easier and cheaper to use, and is the most widely used water measuring device. Light penetrates through the water, strikes the Secchi disk, and is reflected back to the surface to an observer's eye (the detector in this case). Particles in the water, water color, and the brightness of sunlight all affect the measurement of Secchi disk transparency. Turbidity measured by a turbidimeter does not correspond well with that measured with a Secchi disk. However, standardizing the use of the Secchi disk, for example by making measurements only during certain times on bright days, helps minimize variation in measurements, allowing the comparison of different Secchi disk readings.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is unlawful to travel at faster than idle speed within 200 feet of shoreline on all Indiana public lakes.

## WATER COLUMN

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## Telephone Locator for Lake Assistance

Below is an update of lake assistance contacts in Indiana which last appeared in the Summer 1992 issue of *Water Column*. If you have questions or problems concerning your lake, here are the people to call in Indiana government:

### County Health Department

- County tank problems or complaints

### Indiana State Board of Health

- Swimming Beaches: Jim Barry, (317) 633-0214, or local health department.
- Fish Consumption Advisories: Bertha Elliott, Public Information Officer, (317) 633-0852.

### Indiana Department of Environmental Management

- Water Quality Regulations: Surveillance and Standards Branch, Dennis Clark, (317) 243-5037.
- Wetlands: Surveillance and Standards Branch, Mary Maupin, (317) 243-5035.
- Clean Lake Program: Office of Water Management, John Winters, (317) 243-5028.
- Stream Water Quality Surveys: Surveillance and Standards Branch, John Winters, (317) 243-5092.

- Toxic Chemical Monitoring: Surveillance and Standards Branch, John Winters, (317) 243-5028.

- Non-Point Source Pollution: Surveillance and Standards Branch, Sharen Jarzen, (317) 243-5145.

### Indiana Department of Natural Resources

- Fisheries Surveys: Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bill James, (317) 232-4094.
- Dam Inspections: Division of Water (Water Office), George Crosby, (317) 233-4576.
- Lake and River Enhancement Program: Division of Soil Conservation, Jim Ray (317) 233-3870.
- Lake Shoreline Modifications: Division of Water, Scott McClarney, (317) 232-5661.
- Streambank Modifications: Division of Water, George Bowman, (317) 232-5660/
- Aquatic Chemical Application: Division of Fish and Wildlife, Glen Salmon, (317) 232-4080.

# PERSPECTIVES

*When simple curiosity passes into the love of knowledge as such, and the gratification of the aesthetic sense of the beauty of completeness and accuracy seems more desirable than the easy indolence of ignorance; when the finding out of the causes of things becomes a source of joy, and he is counted happy who is successful in the search, common knowledge of Nature passes into what our forefathers called Natural History....*

—Thomas Henry Huxley

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