



Office of Water Management
Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

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SUMMER
1994
Vol. 6, No. 3

Great American Secchi Dip-In

Indiana volunteer lake monitors were among over 2,000 lake volunteers in six Midwest states who were invited to participate in the Great American Secchi Dip-In over the July 4 weekend. The brainchild of Prof. Bob Carlson of Kent State University, the Dip-In is a celebration of volunteerism in America that offers citizens the opportunity to help monitor regional trends in transparency and lake quality.

Citizen volunteers participating in state programs in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, were asked to make one Secchi disk transparency measurement at their lake between July 1 and July 9. Carlson will combine the data of all participants to create the first snapshot of lake quality over a major region of the United States. When the results are tabulated, they will be sent to the volunteers and made available to the public at-large. Carlson hopes to expand the program to include the entire U.S. in the future.

We will announce the results in a future issue of *Water Column*.

Middle School Students Participate in National Water Quality Program

Seventh graders at Bloomington's Tri-North Middle School are one of four Indiana schools and 54 schools nationally participating in a National Geographic Society-sponsored program entitled, "How Can You Protect the Quality of Your Water?"

Students are engaged in activities similar to those undertaken by professional scientists. Learning is connected to collecting, recording, and analyzing water quality data using procedures and kits supplied by the program. The data, in turn, are used to make predictions and ask questions, to explain phenomena, to develop scientific ideas, and to ask further questions. By means of a computer network, students exchange their findings, ideas, and questions with students in other classrooms across the country.

The Tri-North students tested water in the Griffy Lake watershed in Bloomington for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and coliform bacteria. Griffy Lake is used as a drinking water supply for Bloomington. By using the computer network, Tri-North students can compare their data with other freshwater data and marine results collected by other students from Alaska to Massachusetts.

Zebra Mussels Found in Lake Tippecanoe

IDNR fisheries biologist Jed Pearson has confirmed the discovery of zebra mussels by fishermen in Lake Tippecanoe. Tippecanoe is Indiana's deepest lake at 127 feet and 31st largest in area (768 acres). The lake is fed by the Tippecanoe River and Grassy Creek. Upstream from Grassy Creek is the Barbee Chain of Lakes. The Tippecanoe River flows downstream through numerous other lakes, all the way to near Lafayette where it empties into the Wabash River.

(Continued on next page)

(ZEBRA MUSSELS . . .
continued from page 1)

Zebra mussels reproduce at an alarming rate, crowding out native mussels, clogging water pipes, and covering solid objects in the water. Adults can spread by attaching to boats and trailers, and free-floating larvae can become entrained in boat cooling systems where they can be discharged into uninfested lakes. Programs are in place at many lakes to educate boaters in helping prevent the spread of these mussels.

Tippecanoe is the third inland Indiana lake to become infested with zebra mussels. Lakes Wawasee and Syracuse, also in Kosciusko County, are the other Indiana lakes where the mussels have been found.

Some Sobering New Statistics for Boaters

The National Transportation Safety Board estimates that almost 1,000 people will lose their lives this year in boating accidents—more than airline, commercial shipping, and railway accidents combined. According to the National Safe Boating Council, over 75% of boating accidents, and over 50% of all boating fatalities, involve alcohol. Over 80% of the people killed in boating accidents were not wearing life jackets, even though 85% of these boaters had them aboard. (*TVA River Neighbors*, May 1994).

Be a Part of the Water Quality Solution—Not a Part of the Problem

Water pollution begins—and ends—with each one of us. What can you do to help? Here are a number of ways you can make a real difference in the future of our lakes and rivers.

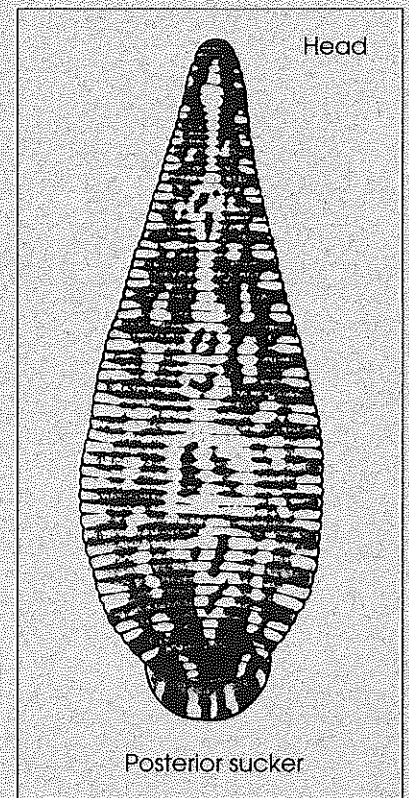
1. Keep your septic system in good working order. Have the solids pumped out of the bottom of the tank once every two years.
2. Take your used motor oil and antifreeze to a local service station or recycling center to be recycled. Never dispose of them on the ground or down a storm drain.
3. Use lawn fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, and follow directions carefully.

4. Plant trees, shrubs, and vegetation to control soil erosion.
5. Make sure your boat isn't leaking oil or gas. Avoid fuel overflows from gas tanks.
6. Be careful when using cleaners and paints on your boat.
7. Dispose of boat sewage properly. Don't throw trash overboard.
8. Slow down when you're near the shore to reduce erosion from your boat's wake.
9. Become involved in your local lake association. If there isn't one, learn how to form one.
10. Encourage your church group, boy or girl scouts, civic associations, and other community groups to get involved in lake clean-up projects.
11. Urge schools to provide environmental education and to teach about water quality protection.

Questions From Readers

Q: After wading in shallow water, I found a small leech on my ankle. Does this mean that my lake is polluted? Is this a problem?

A: Leeches (see figure at right) are predominantly freshwater invertebrates related to the common earthworm. A number of different kinds of leeches exist in a variety of aquatic habitats, and only a small minority actually suck blood from warm-blooded animals and can thereby be called



bloodsuckers. The food habits of other leeches include scavenging and preying on other invertebrates, such as aquatic insects, mollusks, and other freshwater worms.

Although many people have an aversion to leeches, the leeches cause no physical harm. The amount of blood removed is of no consequence, and the incision made by the leech is usually not felt at all. Leeches apparently transmit no human diseases, although a bite could become infected like any other open wound. Some people are more sensitive to leeches than others, just as some are more sensitive to mosquito bites. The usual reaction is an itching.

Attached leeches can generally be pulled off the body by hand. Sprinkling salt on the leech will cause it to curl up and drop off.

Lake Management Course Offered at Ivy Tech

Ivy Tech State College at Bloomington will be offering a seminar, *Lake and Watershed Management*, as a two-credit college course. This seminar covers two major areas of great importance to those interested in the effective preservation of lakes and watersheds: (1) The philosophical principles that form the foundation for long-term ecological stewardship, and (2) the concepts and skills needed to practice responsible management of lakes and watersheds leading to their long-term viability. Special emphasis will be placed on the implementation of innovative erosion control strategies. After the course debuts in Bloomington, the course will be offered at northern Indiana Ivy Tech campuses.

Days/Dates: Monday-Friday, October 3-14

Times: 7-10 p.m. (except 3-7 p.m. on October 7 for a field trip)

Location: Ivy Tech campus (Bloomington)

Cost: \$170 (includes three books)

Instructor: Roy Mann

New Publications Available

• *Lake Smarts: The First Lake Maintenance Handbook—A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Solving Lake Problems*, by Steve McComas. Provides practical information for citizens, local governments and lake associations on how to clean up, improve and maintain lakes. Available from: the Terrene

Institute, 1717 K Street NW, Washington, DC, 20006-1504; \$18.95 + \$3.00 shipping and handling.

• *Welcome to the Wetlands*, a poster for kids to color with information on wetland values, animals and threats. Available free from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, contact: Patricia Krause (312) 886-7935.

Meetings

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).

December 4-7, 1994. 56th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Indianapolis. Sponsored by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife. Contact: Ed Theroff (812/849-4586).

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

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PERSPECTIVES

We need to lasso our common sense. The rains bring us trees and flowers; the droughts bring gaping cracks in the world. The lakes and rivers sustain us; they flow through the veins of the earth and into our own. But we must take care to let them flow back as pure as they came, not poison and waste them without thought for the future.

—Excerpt from *Earth in Balance*, by Al Gore; Houghton Mifflin Company, publishers.

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