



Office of Water Management
Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

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10 Years of Working Together to Improve Our Lakes

10th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference

by Lyn Hartman, Conference Coordinator

The 10th annual Indiana Lake Management Conference was held April 17-18 in LaPorte, Indiana. Over 140 enthusiastic participants and 25 exhibitors came together for two days of interesting and diverse sessions relating to lake enhancement programs, lake management methods, and the development of solutions to lake problems within the state of Indiana. The Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) cosponsored the conference.

IDEM Commissioner John Hamilton opened the sessions with an introduction to IDEM's current water management initiatives. Participants received a history lesson from John Winters as he described 40 years of changes in Indiana Lakes. Jim Ray (with help from Gwen White) provided information about the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program, which provides funds for lake and watershed studies and implementation of remediation measures.

Many conference sessions supplied information about aquatic plants. Tyler Koschnick described the history and impact of Eurasian watermilfoil in Indiana. The US Army Corps of Engineers provided an introduction to biological, chemical, and mechanical control methods. Attendees learned from three experts Saturday afternoon about the advantages and disadvantages of using grass carp, aquatic herbicides, and aquatic plant harvesting for aquatic plant control.

Fish were another major conference theme. Gary Hudson gave an update on the Tournament Fishing Advisory Committee which met in response to citizens' concerns. Two sessions discussed fish advisories: their history and what they mean to anglers. Dave Kellam provided conference participants with a fun and interactive lesson about fishing with his introduction to Go FishIN, an environmental education program through the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife.

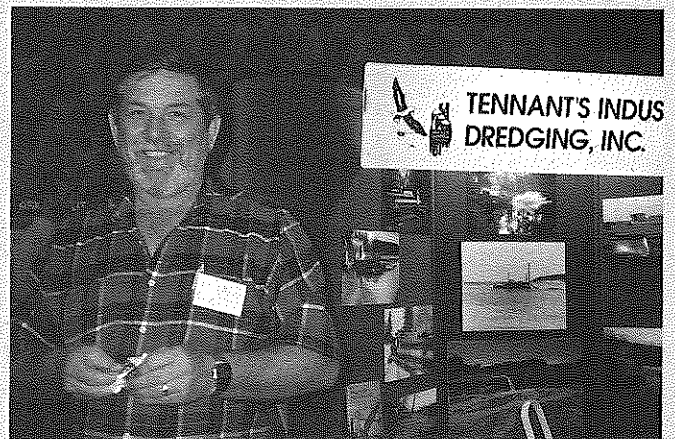
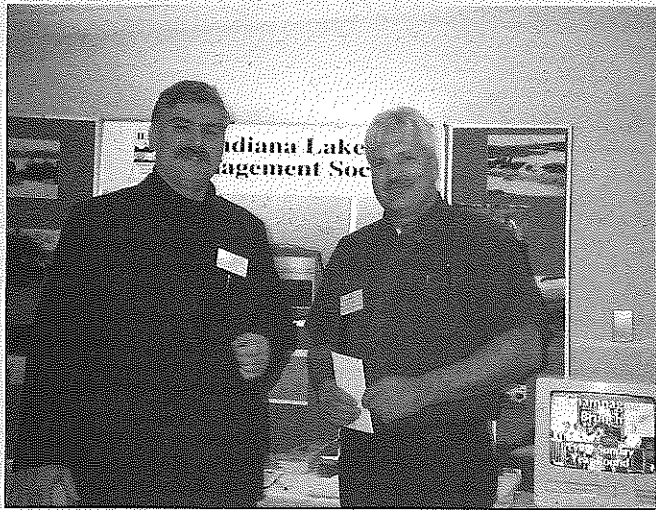
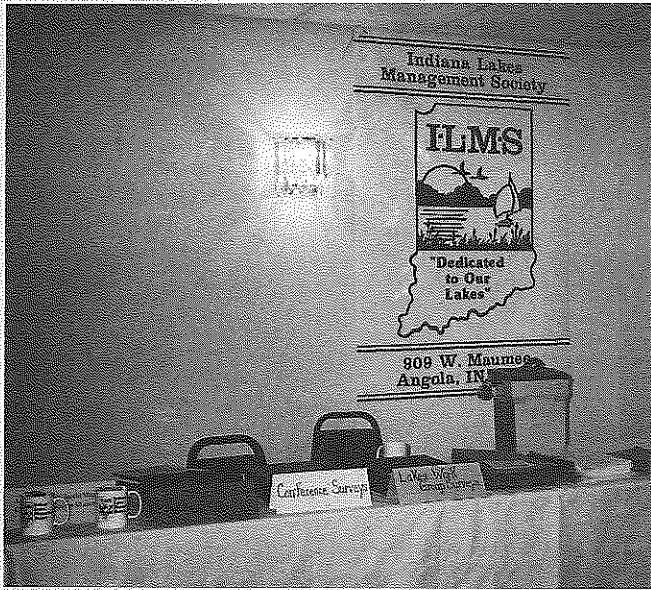
Bill Jones shared information about two exciting locations. Conference attendees "took a trip" Saturday morning to the Dominican Republic to learn about a newly discovered and explored sinkhole lake used by the Taino Indians who greeted Columbus when he first landed on the New World. In addition, as President of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), Bill invited everyone to attend the 18th International Symposium in November. It will be held at the spectacular Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Canada (see announcement later in this issue).

Case studies provided relevant, useful information for lake associations and other organizations working on lake projects. Examples were presented from Hamilton



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Around the 10th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference



(CONFERENCE . . .
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Lake, Clear Lake in LaPorte, and experiences from Steuben County.

The conference was also held in collaboration with the Indiana Lakes Management Work Group. More than 35 citizens attended a public meeting held in LaPorte, Thursday, April 16, to provide input to the group. Dave Herbst provided a description and update of this important initiative on Friday, and a panel discussion Saturday afternoon allowed additional input and discussion by the audience.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Indiana Lakes Management Society, all conference presenters, exhibitors, and attendees. I believe the conference was a great success! Remember: You can make a difference in the future of Indiana's lakes by your active involvement in our Indiana lake management conferences!

Reaching out to Wildcat Creek: IDEM Project Helps Protect State Watershed

by Martha E. Clark

Patti Yount has visited the Wildcat Creek area so many times since December that she's lost count. "Right now, we just can't seem to talk to enough people about the Wildcat Creek watershed project," said Yount, planning branch chief in the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Management.

Since the Wildcat Creek Watershed Initiative was announced in December, Yount and project coordinator Bryan Hummel have spoken to mayors of Kokomo and Lafayette; the Howard, Tipton and Clinton county commissioners; county soil and water conservation district boards; and local environmental and conservation groups.

"We want to promote and encourage locally led planning and watershed management," Hummel said. "We feel that the people living and working in the watershed are the ones who can make real water quality improvements, but we want them to know that we are here to support those efforts."

The Wildcat Creek watershed pilot project brings together businesses, citizens, and local governments in an effort to reduce and prevent water pollution through a comprehensive watershed approach. Accompanied by Kokomo Mayor Jim Trobaugh and Frankfort Mayor Harold Woodruff, IDEM Commissioner John M. Hamilton unveiled the project in December.

The Wildcat Creek watershed encompasses parts of Tippecanoe, Grant, Carroll, Clinton, Howard, Madison, and Tipton counties. It includes Frankfort, Kokomo, and parts of Lafayette.

IDEM will provide technical and financial assistance to

water quality improvement projects in the Wildcat Creek watershed. Projects may be funded through the state's revolving loan fund and grants. In addition, IDEM staff will be available to answer questions and give advice.

The image of IDEM helping communities is a welcome and long overdue change from its image as an enforcer, said Frankfort Mayor Woodruff. "We are happy that IDEM chose the Wildcat as its pilot project," he said. "It's an excellent opportunity for Frankfort. It's good that IDEM offers a variety of assistance, as every community is different and may benefit from the programs differently."

According to Yount, the Wildcat Creek project will shift some priorities in IDEM. "We are using inclusion in the watershed as a factor in prioritizing Office of Water Management and agency actions," she said. "If there are noncompliance problems that affect the Wildcat, we will try to resolve them before we solve problems with similar impacts in other areas. If there are new technologies or management practices, we will test them in the Wildcat watershed first."

To establish a baseline against which progress can be measured, the Office of Water Management will include the Wildcat Creek watershed in its 1998 monitoring and assessment of water quality. At the same time, project managers will determine the initiatives that will be tried in the pilot project.

"At this point the idea is so new that we're just not sure what direction we'll go with it," Woodruff said. "But we are looking forward to the next phase. We are excited about the possibilities."

Permits Needed for Weed Control in Lakes

Lake residents who plan to chemically control aquatic plants in northern Indiana natural lakes this spring may first need to get a permit from the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). State law requires that any lake resident who chemically treats more than 1/2 acre of water or more than 50 percent of their lake frontage must obtain a written permit. Residents who treat less than the specified amounts do not need a permit.

"The purpose of the law is to allow homeowners to control aquatic weeds in small areas around boat docks and swimming beaches to guard against large-scale weed control operations that might damage a lake," says Neil Ledet, DFW fisheries biologist.

Ledet says the DFW issues weed control permits to only licensed chemical applicators who have knowledge and training in the proper use of pesticides.

"We like to see lake residents pool their efforts and hire a certified commercial applicator to do the job," says Ledet. "The applicator can properly identify the target plant, choose the most appropriate herbicide, and normally take care of the permit requirements."

In most cases, permits are issued only for control of non-native aquatic plants such as curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian

watermilfoil. Native plants, according to Ledet, seldom cause problems or interfere with lake uses.

The DFW issues over 100 weed control permits annually but the number of small treatments made by residents who do not need a permit is unknown. In some cases unauthorized treatments may be causing problems.

"We've seen large weed beds disappear over the last two years at Crooked Lake in areas where they shouldn't have," says Ledet. "Although we issued permits to a licensed commercial applicator to control weeds in certain areas of Crooked Lake, die-offs occurred some distance away from the application sites."

Ledet thinks one possible reason for the die-offs could be that some homeowners may have illegally treated the weed beds. To check out the possibility, Ledet contacted the Office of the State Chemist (OISC) last fall.

Leo Reed, a pesticide investigator with the OISC, tested sediment samples from the affected areas but found no trace of herbicides. The sediment samples were specifically analyzed for diuron and simazine. Neither of the two herbicides is approved for use in public lakes.

"At this point, we're not sure what is causing the plant die-off at Crooked Lake," says Ledet. "But we're keeping an eye on the situation." (Jed Pearson, Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

Fish No Longer Stocked Without Public Access

Due to a lack of suitable public access and a change in fish stocking policy, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will no longer stock rainbow trout in Shriner Lake in northern Whitley County. Trout scheduled to be stocked in Shriner Lake this spring will be released instead into nearby Cedar Lake.

The DFW has stocked trout in Shriner Lake since the 1950s. As many as 1,000 rainbow trout averaging 10 inches long were stocked each year in the 120-acre natural lake in late March or early April.

Although Shriner Lake's excellent water quality is ideal for trout, the DFW is shifting its trout stocking program to lakes and streams with unrestricted public access. "Shriner Lake doesn't have a public boat ramp and parking area for lake visitors," says Ed Braun, DFW fisheries biologist who oversees fish management at the lake. "We can no longer afford to stock fish in lakes where access is limited. We want to stock fish where all fishermen have an opportunity to catch them."

Braun says the new DFW fish stocking policy reflects a desire to stock fish only in waters open to the general public. Hatchery-produced fish are expensive to produce so biologists want to maximize the benefits of stocking programs.

Although nearby Cedar Lake does not have a public access site on its shore, access to Cedar Lake is available at the state-owned boat ramp on Round Lake. As a result, Cedar Lake's annual stocking of 2,600 trout will be increased to 3,000 trout this spring.

If an access site is acquired on Shriner Lake in the future, Braun says he will consider stocking trout once again. Braun added that local lake residents are now looking for a spot on Shriner Lake to develop a public boat ramp.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in an effort to stock fish only in waters with suitable public access, is deleting three other northern Indiana natural lakes and a Noble County stream from the state's trout stocking program.

According to Gary Doxtater, DFW director, McClish Lake in Steuben County, Shriner Lake in Whitley County, South Twin Lake in LaGrange County along with Clock Creek, a small stream that flows to the West Lakes Chain near Rome City, will no longer be stocked with rainbow trout because of poor access. Access areas to the three lakes are privately owned. At Clock Creek, access is limited to two small bridge crossings along county roads.

"We're not cutting back on trout stockings, we're just moving them to better locations," says Doxtater. Doxtater says stocking fish in waters with poor access has undercut efforts to acquire more public access sites. He wants lake residents and anglers to realize that state programs are linked to public access. As a result, the DFW hopes to focus attention on getting more access sites. (Jed Pearson, Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

NALMS 1998 Conference to be Held in Banff, Alberta

The 18th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), will be held November 11-13, 1998 in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, at the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta. NALMS' mission is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to foster the protection and management of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow.

The central theme of the Symposium is "Cooperative Lake and Watershed Management—Linking Communities, Industry, and Government." This symposium provides an excellent



Banff Springs Hotel

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Forum to discuss the benefits and challenges of developing management solutions which involve all stakeholder groups, whether cottage owners, local farmers, the general public, or major industries, as well as all levels of government. An exceptional program of technical sessions and workshops covering the various aspects of lake and watershed management has been planned.

There will also be ample opportunity to relax and enjoy Banff's breathtaking scenery. Special pre- and post-symposium hotel rates make it reasonable to bring the whole family, and our spouse/guest activities program will keep them busy during the symposium.

If you need further information about the symposium, contact the Symposium Chair: Brian Kotak—phone: 403/525-8431; fax: 403/525-8095; e-mail: kotak@compusmart.ab.ca or visit the Symposium web site at: <<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/alms/1998.htm>>.

Federal 319 Funding Not Addressing All Lake Problems

During the last two years, funds for the Federal Clean Lakes Program (Section 314 of the Clean Water Act) have not been requested by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or appropriated by Congress. Instead, the EPA was instructed by Congress to make 314 program elements eligible for funding under the Nonpoint Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act), in an effort to streamline government by consolidation of these two programs. Last year funds were added to the Nonpoint Program, and language was added to ensure that Clean Lake Program elements received adequate funding. A recent survey of nearly all state lake programs has shown that our lakes are suffering as a result.

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) has conducted a survey of state lake program coordinators to see how their state programs were doing under the switch to 319 funding. With responses in from 49 states, 37 stated clearly that their state lake programs were in trouble, and several had evaporated altogether. These 37 states stated that they would much prefer to return to separate funding under 314, three states felt they were doing OK under the transition, and eight gave no definitive answer. A summary of survey findings and state responses are included at the following web site: <<http://www.nalms.org/indexf.htm>>.

The Federal Clean Lakes Program helped states assess the condition of the nation's lakes and reservoirs, identify the causes of problems found, and demonstrate cost-effective ways of dealing with those problems, including in-lake remediation.

In Indiana, Phase I lake diagnostic/feasibility studies using Section 314 funds were conducted on Lake Waubee, Lake of the Woods, Cedar Lake, Versailles Lake, Lake Monroe, Wolf Lake, and Lake George. Phase II implementation funds were used at Skinner Lake.

Section 314 Phase II implementation grants have greatly furthered the science of lake rehabilitation by adopting a holistic, ecosystem-based approach to finding innovative, cost-effective ways to repair the damage done to lakes. Once in a lake, sediments and nutrients may pose problems even after a reduction in the inflow of pollutants. Degraded lake habitats, wetland loss, nuisance exotic species, and fishery imbalances are problems the Clean Lakes Program helped communities address, in addition to identifying and addressing the causes of these problems. These are exactly the kinds of problems that are not traditionally covered under 319 project guidelines. The Federal Clean Lakes Program has also supported community education, such as volunteer monitoring programs and Project WET. These programs foster long-term community interest and involvement in the health and well-being of both lakes and lake watersheds.

The 314 program, as now combined with the 319 program, has been dwarfed by, and its priorities lost in, the much larger 319 program. While the EPA is required by the Clean Water Act to provide a Clean Lakes Program according to the specified guidelines, the EPA has not taken action to assure that the state clean lake programs have the financial assistance necessary to support their programs. Funds provided under Section 319 are in great demand and lake projects have fared poorly since elimination of 314 funding. The two programs worked well in partnership, but the marriage has been a failure. All this at a time when EPA's "National Water Quality Inventory—1994 Report to Congress" indicated that only 50% of the nation's lakes meet the standard of fully supporting designated uses.

In summary, the survey indicated a great need for a federal program that addresses lakes and the improvement of lake water quality. The Federal Clean Lakes Program has proven its ability to fill this need. It is the program's funding mechanism and the well-designed ecosystem approach that have helped states establish viable lake improvement programs. These programs have built valuable partnerships, educated lake managers and the public about identification and solution of lake water quality problems, and have produced results that are valued by the public.

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Monroe County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Tested

Monroe County will sue two Jasper women who hired tree-cutters to drop 28 trees and top 10 more to improve the view of Lake Monroe from their condo. The Monroe County Board of Zoning Appeals voted 5-0 to authorize the county attorney to file a lawsuit against the landowners.

Monroe County zoning ordinances strictly regulate vegetation removal and other activities within 100 feet of Lake Monroe's shoreline without permits. The shoreland zone is critical for protecting lakes. Undisturbed vegetation along a lake's shoreline helps trap runoff and nutrients before they can enter a lake.

The tree-cutting was done within yards of the lake. The value of the cut trees was estimated at \$48,336. The lawsuit will ask that the cut trees be replaced with "healthy, complete specimens of comparable size and type." (compiled from the *Bloomington Herald-Times*)

Celebrate National "Lakes Appreciation Week"

Lakes are our nation's most under-appreciated natural resources. The public uses lakes for a variety of purposes: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation, including boating, swimming, and fishing; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment.

To draw attention to the value and importance of lakes and reservoirs, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is promoting Lakes Appreciation Week during June 28-July 4, 1998. Celebration of Lakes Appreciation Week is intended to be celebrated throughout the United States and Canada.

The celebration coincides with the Great American Secchi Dip-In '98. The Dip-In, now in its 5th year, organizes citizen volunteers in existing volunteer lake monitoring programs to measure water transparency with a simple device called a Secchi disk. Last year, nearly 2,000 lakes across America were sampled. Collected data are compiled and analyzed at Kent

State University. Regional lake transparency trends are reported in a color map. In 1998, the Dip-In will include Canadian volunteers.

Interesting lake facts:

- There are 41 million acres of lakes and reservoirs in the U.S.
- There are approximately 100,000 lakes larger than 100 acres in the US excluding Alaska, which has several million.
- Beaches, rivers, and lakes are the #1 vacation choice for Americans, helping to support a flourishing recreation and tourism industry. Each year, Americans take over 1.8 billion trips to go fishing, swimming, boating, or to just relax around favorite water destinations.
- On average, the value of real estate along desirable water areas is nearly 30 percent greater than similar properties located inland.
- Annual sales for just three activities—fishing, boating and viewing, and hunting ducks and other birds—is estimated at nearly \$45 billion.

Here are some ways you can celebrate Lakes Appreciation Week:

- Organize a shoreline clean-up to collect trash and other wastes that have washed up.
- Contact your local newspaper and radio station to prepare an article about how valuable your lake is.
- Contact your state's volunteer lake monitoring program and become an active volunteer. Call 812/855-4556 for more information.
- Ask Governor O'Bannon to declare the week of June 28-July 4, 1998 as Indiana Lakes Appreciation Week.

For more information, call the NALMS office at 608/233-2836 or visit the NALMS web site at: <www.nalms.org>.

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