



Office of Water Management
Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

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Spring
1999
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Governor O'Bannon Proclaims June 27–July 4, 1999 as Indiana Lakes Appreciation Week

Governor Frank O'Bannon signed a proclamation naming June 27–July 4, 1999 as Indiana Lakes Appreciation Week. This is part of a national effort led by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) to draw attention to our Nation's most under-appreciated natural resources. This is the second year that the annual event has been celebrated nationally and in Indiana.

You can better appreciate your lake by learning more about it or by doing something to protect it. Here are just a few ideas.

- Organize a lakeshore clean-up to collect trash and other wastes that have washed up on shore.
- Begin a storm drain stenciling program. A number of citizen groups stencil "Drains to Lake ____" or "Drains to ____ Creek" on storm drain inlets to advise people where the storm water goes and to discourage the dumping of wastes into storm drains. The Florida Lakes Management Society has a very active storm drain program and they feel that plaques are longer lasting and look better than stencils. They have made and distributed over 28,000 aluminum plaques that can be attached to storm drains with construction adhesive. For more information contact Mike Britt at e-mail: <MBritt10S@aol.com> or telephone: 941/291-5850.
- Contact your local newspaper and radio station to prepare an article about how valuable your lake is.
- Contact the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and become an active volunteer; telephone: 812/855-4556; e-mail: <joneswi@indiana.edu>
- Plan a picnic, water festival, or other event to get lake property owners and lake users involved with lake awareness.
- Photograph community participation in lake activities and send the photo and related caption to the local paper.
- Initiate or become an active member of the lake organization in your community. Contact the NALMS office at 608/233-2836 or on the Internet at <<http://www.nalms.org/>> for a listing of state and provincial lake organizations.

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

Got a question about your lake? Or lakes in general? Or about something you've read? Write to us at the *Water Column* and we will do our best to answer it.

Kaplan from DNR Selected as New IDEM Commissioner

Governor Frank O'Bannon has appointed a deputy director of the state's Department of Natural Resources to lead the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Lori F. Kaplan, deputy director of the DNR's Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation, succeeded Commissioner John Hamilton, who resigned in April.

"Lori brings a wealth of hands-on experience in regulatory affairs to the job and should have a smooth transition," O'Bannon said at the time. "She already has established a reputation for working well with state, local and federal officials, community leaders, and environmentalists in protecting Indiana's natural resources.

As deputy director of the Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation, Kaplan supervised the divisions of water, soil conservation, fish and wildlife, entomology and plant pathology, and outdoor recreation. She was responsible for an annual budget of nearly \$30 million, with about 450 full-time employees and about 170 seasonal workers.

IDEM enforces state and federal environmental law, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Superfund amendments.

The department's nearly 1,000 employees write guidelines and issue permits for sanitary landfills, hazardous waste facilities, wastewater treatment plants, air pollution control systems and the construction and operation of systems supplying the public with drinking water.

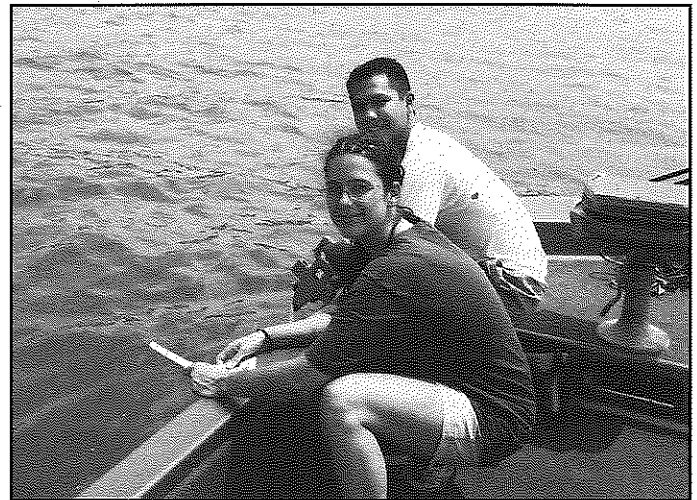
New Volunteer Lake Monitors Added for 1999

The Indiana Clean Lakes Program staff at Indiana University has been busy responding to the demand to monitor Indiana's lakes. Nine new volunteer lake monitors have been trained since April. The monitors and their lakes are:

- George Edwards – Little Cedar Lake (Whitley County)
- Thom Gibbons – Loomis Lake (LaPorte County)
- Bill Harris – Lost Lake (Marshall County)
- Brian Kelley – Brookville Reservoir (Franklin County)
- Tim Kroeker – Geist Reservoir (Marion County)

- Carol Newhouse – Eagle Creek Reservoir (Marion County)
- Corky Van – Lake James (Steuben County)
- Gil Webb – Long Lake (LaPorte County)
- John Winters – Bradford Lake (Morgan County)
- Ralph Worline – Big Barbee Lake (Kosciusko County)

We extend a warm welcome to these fine folks as they join the 90 other citizens who have found volunteer lake monitoring both rewarding and fun. For more information about the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, contact either Robin Lutton or Bill Jones at 812/855-4556.



Volunteer coordinator Robin Lutton trains new volunteer Brian Kelley on Brookville Reservoir

ILMS Elects New Officers for 1999

At the 11th Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference held April 9-10 at the Fourwinds Resort on Lake Monroe, the Indiana Lakes Management Society elected the following as new officers for 1999:

President : Greg Bright
President-Elect : Mike Axsom
Secretary : Donnetta Praul
Treasurer : Carol Newhouse
Director : Andy Kennedy
Director : Joe Roach
Director : Tom Simon
Director : George Edwards

In addition, former Treasurer Holly LaSalle was appointed to fill the remaining year of Mike Axsom's Director's position. ILMS officers completing their

terms were: Everett Lienhart (President), Lyn Hartman (Secretary), Kathryn Hawkins (Director), Robert Johnson (Director), Paul Demarco (Director), and Earl Riggs (Director).

If you'd like more information about the Indiana Lakes Management Society, you may contact President Bright at tel : 317/887-8641 or e-mail : <water_quality@tcon.net> or visit the ILMS web site at <<http://www.nalms.org/ilms/index.htm>>.

New Rules Set Standards on Seawalls and Beaches

Lakefront property owners who want to construct seawalls and beaches along the edges of northern Indiana natural lakes now have clearer rules to follow when applying for permits from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Adopted by the Natural Resources Commission and published in the Indiana Register on April 1, the new rules provide for standard regulation of construction activities along and within lakes controlled by the DNR.

The rules provide guidelines on what kinds of materials are permitted for seawalls, depending on the environmental sensitivity of the area. Among other things, the rules also set standards on beach material and dimensions, seawall refacings, and dry hydrants.

For example, new seawalls placed in significant wetlands must be comprised of bio-engineered materials composed of "biological elements" (plant material). Seawalls placed in areas of special concern must be either comprised of bio-engineered materials or glacial boulders. Where shorelines are previously altered and developed, seawalls can be constructed of bio-engineered materials, boulders, rock riprap, concrete, or steel sheet piling.

Also, all beaches must now be composed of pea gravel. In areas of special concern, beaches cannot extend more than 30 feet lakeward of the shoreline.

In addition, the new rules explain in specific language the definitions of significant wetlands, areas of special concern, and developed areas. These definitions have been and are currently being used by DNR biologists to map the shorelines of several lakes so that lakefront owners can determine the type of area adjacent to their property.

A Biologist's Perspective

"From my point of view, these new rules simplify, improve, and streamline the permit

process," says Bill Maudlin, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) environmental supervisor.

"When an applicant applies for a permit and when our biologists go out to inspect a proposed project site, we all know upfront the type of area it is and the kind of activities that are allowed," says Maudlin.

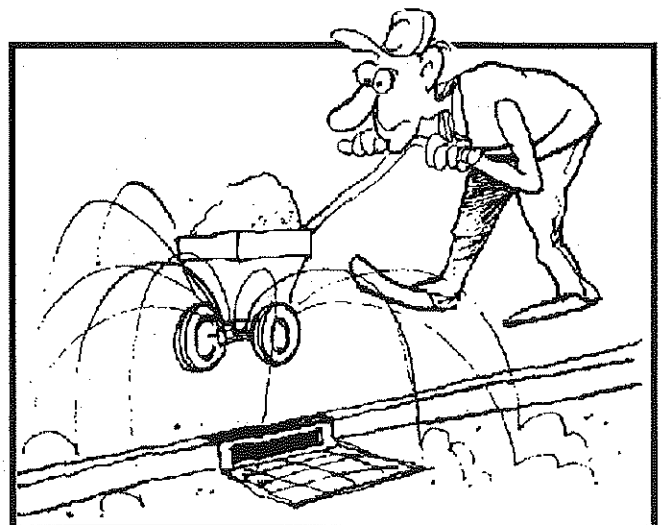
"The new standards reduce the amount of subjectivity we had to deal with in earlier situations," says Maudlin. "They also give us a stronger legal basis for our decisions in areas where damage is likely to occur."

The DFW, along with the DNR's division of Water and Soil Conservation, helped develop the rules, based on public input. Lakefront owners considering construction projects may obtain a copy of the rules at 317/232-4160.

Do Your Part— Don't Overfertilize Your Lawn

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service recommends that homeowners apply fertilizer no more than three times a year, depending on conditions, and to try to avoid pesticides altogether. However, many homeowners and professional lawn care businesses apply four to five treatments of fertilizer each year and at least one round of pesticides. One franchise even suggests two doses of fertilizer in the spring, one in the summer, one in the fall, and one in the winter—nearly double what experts suggest.

According to a recent Gallup poll, 22 million U.S. homeowners spent more than \$14.6 billion on professional landscape/lawn care/tree care services



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(FERTILIZERS . . .
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in 1997. The number of households using these services increased by one million in 1997 while spending rose \$600 million over the previous year. Millions more homeowners apply fertilizers and pesticides themselves. Improperly applied nutrients can run off into rivers and lakes or leach into groundwater.

Fertilizer Application Tips

- Have soil tested before applying fertilizer, and retest every three to five years. (Contact your local county extension agency for testing information.)
- Apply no more than 1 lb./1,000 ft² of fertilizer at a time.
- Use fertilizers with low levels of or no phosphorus. The 28-12-6 or similar series of numbers on fertilizer bags means that it contains 28 parts Nitrogen, 12 parts Phosphorus, and 6 parts Potassium.
- Cool season grasses, such as tall fescues and Kentucky bluegrass, should be fertilized in the fall. Warm season grasses, such as zoysiagrass and Bermudagrass, should be fertilized in the late spring or early summer.
- Keep fertilizer off of sidewalks, driveways, and streets. If fertilizer lands on these surfaces, sweep it onto the lawn or scoop it up for later use.
- Never apply fertilizer closer than 10 feet to a lake shore.
- Reassess the need for high-maintenance lawn care. Consider using ground cover, shrubs, and trees, especially in shady areas and near streams or drainage areas in your lawn.
- Never apply fertilizer to swales or other drainage areas in lawns.
- Never apply fertilizer to dormant lawns or to frozen ground.
- Don't use fertilizer to melt ice. It doesn't do a good job, and much of it gets washed into waterways.

Canada Goose Complaints Rise— Nesting Increases Aggressive Behavior

by Melody Hartman
Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife

Canada geese become more aggressive when they breed and nest in spring and summer. This is when the birds often come into conflict with people in urban areas.

"We took seven calls about geese in the first couple of months this year. In March, we handled 30 calls. Today, we are averaging six calls each day about how to manage goose problems and we expect the pace to pick up as summer approaches," said Judy Loven, director of Indiana's USDA Wildlife Services office. The office runs a hotline for individuals who are experiencing nuisance wildlife problems.

Canada geese readily use urban habitats around apartments, office complexes, and golf courses. While the birds are generally appreciated by their human neighbors, large numbers of birds often lead people in search of solutions to the growing goose population problem.

Overabundant Canada geese cause problems due to their droppings, overgrazing of lawns, destruction of crops and gardens, and aggressive behavior. Indiana's resident goose population is estimated at 79,000 birds.

The Department of Natural Resources and Wildlife Services present a variety of short- and long-term suggestions for dealing with goose conflicts, but solutions are rarely easy to find. Mark Bennett, a wildlife biologist with the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends a combination of habitat alteration, hazing and legal hunting for long term goose management.

"We have created perfect habitat for geese in areas with small ponds, gently sloping banks, and nicely groomed lawns. If you want to lower goose numbers in your area, then you need to create a habitat that is not so attractive to geese," said Bennett.

Growing tall grasses, cattails, or shrubs near water edges creates natural barriers to geese. Although geese can fly over these barriers, they will often move to another more appealing area. Bennett suggests leaving a strip of unmowed shoreline 20 to



30 feet wide planted with native grasses and wildflowers or dense shrubs or ivy.

In some cases, hazing and scaring can deter geese from nesting or staying in an area. Hazing techniques are non-injurious and might include something as simple as clapping hands and chasing birds to using loud propane cannons. Some people also have success with visual frightening devices such as mylar balloons swaying in the wind a few feet off the ground.

Hazing is most effective when done before geese become accustomed to an area. Once geese have settled in, they are difficult to scare away. Nest destruction, before eggs are laid, can also dissuade geese from making an area home. It is legal to destroy Canada goose nests only while there are no eggs. After eggs are laid, goose nests are protected by federal law. It is illegal to disturb or destroy goose eggs without a permit. In severe cases of overpopulation, the USFWS or DNR may issue a permit for egg destruction.

Hunting during highly regulated, legal Canada goose hunting seasons can help reduce long-term problems. Indiana goose hunters take approximately 25,000 birds annually.

Early Canada goose season in Indiana generally runs from Sept. 1- 15. Hunters must have required licenses. Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must complete a hunter education course before hunting.

The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife has relocated geese in the past, but found the practice ineffective. Geese have strong homing instincts and often return to the area where they were captured, even after being relocated hundreds of miles away. Although the DNR no longer offers relocation, landowners may obtain a permit to relocate geese themselves or hire trained nuisance animal control personnel to provide the service.

"There are no magic tricks or potions that will solve goose problems," said Bennett. "The solutions are not fast and not often easy. It requires communities to work together."

The DNR and USDA Wildlife Service offer a toll-free hotline for people experiencing wildlife conflicts at 1-800-893-4116 (496-3968 in the Lafayette area).

"Buffers" Misunderstood by Public

When you hear professionals talk about "buffers," "buffer strips," or "vegetated buffers" do you know what they are talking about?

Earlier this year, focus groups organized by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Program examined marketing NPS

controls to the general public. Several findings concerned buffer strips. They found that the term "buffer" carries a different meaning for the public than the one intended by water quality agencies.

One member of the focus group said that a buffer was a product used to wax a car. In addition, the public is more interested in advantages like privacy, noise reduction, and attracting birds and wildlife. They are less interested in "intangibles" like protecting water quality.

The groups recommended avoiding "techno-ese," and saying, for example, "plant trees and shrubs," instead of "plant a buffer." They also advocated picking selling points with the public's concerns in mind, rather than the agency's.

Asking people to plant a buffer for water quality does not appeal to individual needs and societal values. Future campaigns should include slogans like "plant trees and shrubs, screen out noise, increase privacy, attract wildlife, and protect water quality," the groups recommended.

Meetings

July 14, 1999. Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Stream Monitoring Workshop, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact: Lyn Hartman @ 317/541-0617.

July 20 -21, 1999. *Watershed Planning and Better Site Design for Developing Watersheds*, The Westin Hotel, Indianapolis. Sponsored by: USDA NRCS, Indiana DNR, Conservation Technology Information Center, US EPA. Contact: CTIC at 765/494-9555 or <www.ctic.purdue.edu>.

July 29, 1999. Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Stream Monitoring Workshop, LaGrange, Indiana. Contact: Lyn Hartman @ 317/541-0617.

August 29-September 2, 1999. *129th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society*, Adam's Mark Hotel, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: Betsy Fritz at 301/897-8616, ext 220 or <www.fisheries.org/annual99/index.htm>.

October 4, 1999. *Sewage Treatment for Public Health and Environmental Protection*, Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Sponsored by: St. Joseph River Basin Commission, Steuben County Lakes Council, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. Contact: Kathy Latz at 219/349-1433 or Karen Mackowiak at 219/287-1829.

PERSPECTIVES

As the dawn breeze stirs
The milky blanket of mist,
Lifting for a time the nocturnal
Ghost borne of the lake,
Plethoric shores appear—
And the insects are not the least.

—W. P. McCafferty

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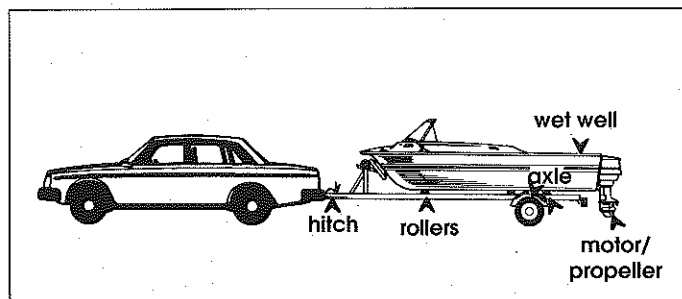
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STOP the Spread of Milfoil!

Boaters can help prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive plants by removing all aquatic weeds from trailers, boats, motor/propeller, and anchors before leaving an infested lake and before launching at a noninfested lake. Special care should be taken to remove aquatic weeds from the wet wells of trailered boats and the interior of cartop boats and canoes. Small fragments of milfoil can grow into new plants even after being out of the water a week.



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