



"Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit." – Edward Abbey

Greetings Riverwatchers!

What a beautiful and welcome spring this turned out to be! True to the old sayings, March came "in like a lion and out like a lamb"; and April's showers did bring us a May full of flowers. I can hardly recall when I have enjoyed springtime so much as this year. I hope the same is true for all of you!

We also have the pleasure of welcoming 10 newly trained and outfitted Riverwatch instructors to our team this spring. This brings our corps of qualified instructors up to 34, helping us to meet the demands for increased education and water monitoring around the state. You can meet our newest team members within the pages of this newsletter.

Our instructors/facilitators have been busy this spring. By the time this edition of *Riffles & Pools* hits the web, our HRW instructors will have led several workshops in addition to the usual semester classes taught at various universities in the state. Good job, everyone! It is great to see new volunteers signing into the database and logging their water quality results already.

New volunteers, remember to check out the qualifications and online application for our equipment grants at www.IN.gov/ideM/riverwatch/2334.htm. Otherwise, you may be interested in borrowing one of the loaner kits as identified on that same web page.

Hope this helps! Maybe we will see you out and about soon at an event or a stream near you! You just never know where one of us will show up next!

- Carol Newhouse

May / June 2015

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Mark Your Calendars!

June 25 -
North Webster

July 10 -
Battleground

August 8 -
Jasper

September 9 -
Paoli

July 25 -
Richmond
E. coli Workshop

Hoosier
Riverwatch is
sponsored by



Earth Force-GM Green-Hoosier Riverwatch Partnership Serves Indiana Communities

A partnership between Earth Force and GM GREEN has been going on for nearly 20 years, and Riverwatch is pleased to have joined in this partnership recently.



The Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (or GREEN) was started in 1989 by professors and students at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. It came about as a result of local high school students concerned about the health of their river a few years earlier. They approached Professor William B. Stapp with their concerns and he passed the ball back into their court suggesting things for them to sample and look for in their water monitoring efforts, as well as ways to reach out to the powers at hand to effect change for the better. This they did, founding GREEN through continued efforts of staff and students.

Even more so, the GREEN program could be considered a natural outgrowth of a lifetime of efforts of that same Dr. William Stapp (1929-2001). Dr. Stapp's efforts to encourage learners of all ages "to become involved in complex, real-world concerns" led him to become known as the "founder of environmental education". His model for watershed sampling and action-taking spread from Michigan to the nation to a world-wide movement which eventually included 120 countries and earned him a Nobel Prize nomination in 1993.

Today, the formal Earth Force/GM GREEN partnership is active in 50 facilities in 42 communities in North America. In Indiana, Hoosier Riverwatch recently formed a third leg of the partnership to help support local water quality education and monitoring efforts in the communities of Bedford, Fort Wayne, Kokomo and Marion. Other key players are local schools and interested science teachers who utilize GREEN or HRW techniques to engage their students in investigating environmental issues.

The Indiana organizers keep in touch through e-mails and conference calls. Occasional meetings with GM employees helps to keep them abreast of monitoring methods and prepares them for leading and supporting the monitoring and teaching efforts of local schools. Those involved in this spring's event met at Matter Park in Marion, Indiana on April 15 to regroup and prepare for another season of sampling.
(continued on next page)



(continued from page 2) Jan Sneddon headed the refresher course for GM employees with the goal of preparing them to better serve as water quality monitoring mentors for local teachers and students as a part of the GM GREEN program. Jan currently works for the non-profit organization known as Earth Force, and serves as director for the GM GREEN partnership. Jan served three years as the volunteer coordinator for Hoosier Riverwatch and, as a graduate student, prior to that, worked with the Indiana Clean Lakes Program at IU/SPEA. She is well versed both in water quality monitoring and working cooperatively with others on such efforts.

When asked what he gained from being a local mentor, one GM employee shared that “working with the kids, inspiring them to get involved, learn more and make a difference in their community” was the most rewarding part for him.

Pleased to Announce 10 Newly Qualified Instructors



(L-R) Bobby Thomas, Marcus Loidolt, Michael Wilhite, Carrie Parmenter, Sandy Belth, and Kelsey Thetonia received their training at the Spring Mill State Park Nature Center on April 20. They have joined the ranks of Riverwatch Instructors to support the program from Decatur, Orange, Posey, Monroe and Owen counties and their surrounds. Special thanks to Kriste Lindberg, City of Bloomington Utilities Department and experienced HRW instructor, for joining in and lending a hand during this training!



(L-R) Sharon Partridge, Jennifer Krauser, Matt Jones and Chaunce Sprouse participated in the instructor-training event held at the Kirkendall Interpretive Center at Jackson Morrow Park in Kokomo on April 27. They will be great additions to the HRW program coming out of Allen and St. Joseph counties. Training at this beautiful venue was suggested and supported by HRW instructor, Sarah Brichford, who serves as the Coordinator for the Howard County Stormwater District.

Newest Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteers



Good Turnout for March 23 Workshop in Pike County

Good call on the part of instructor Ann Ice of the Gibson County SWCD to postpone the event originally scheduled for March 4. The lovely weather encountered on March 23 in Winslow was far better than the ice and snow which would have been earlier in the month. The nine (9) participants in this workshop included state and federal employees, as well as a university instructor and interested citizens.



Hayes Arboretum Offers Great Venue for May Workshop

Instructor John Ulmer trained six (6) new volunteer monitors during a workshop held at Hayes Arboretum in Richmond on May 2. Trainees on this day included a watershed coordinator, assistant naturalist, Earlham College instructors and students, and a retired farmer turned part-time DNR employee. All were pleasantly surprised that the pretty little trickle of a creek within walking distance of the Nature Center yielded such fine (albeit tiny) water critters to study. Look for good data to come out of Wayne County from this active group!

HRW welcomes over 100 newly trained volunteers around the State

- 11 students trained by Cathy Meyers and Kriste Lindberg during their CHEM G201 class at Indiana University/Bloomington
- 5 science teachers and citizens trained by Jamin Beisiegel in Peru
- 5 participants trained by Joe Exl in Hobart
- 11 participants trained by Jane Loomis at the Crooked Lake Biological Station in Whitley County
- 8 teachers, and natural resource professionals trained by John Ulmer at Holliday Park in Indianapolis
- 10 students, educators, natural resource professionals and citizens trained by Joe Exl in LaPorte
- 8 professionals, faculty, homeschoolers, students and citizens trained by Shelley Chaffee in South Bend. Kudos to Shelley and participants for coming together on two separate Saturday mornings to complete this training! Bet it was nice to have those lovely afternoons free to pursue your interests!
- 5 participants trained by Sarah Brichford in Delphi
- 7 participants trained by Krista Daniels in Bristol
- 32 agriculture and natural resource students and their three (3) teachers trained by Kelsey Thetonia and Julie Speelman in Clinton.

Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy Holds Graduation Ceremony

Congratulations to the new graduates of the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy! The 2015 class is pictured below on the first day of their 5-month long, hybrid distance/face-to-face learning experience. On May 12 at the Conference Center at Ft. Harrison State Park, students finished the course by presenting their final group projects, listening to an informative talk by Dr. Jack Wittman (principal hydrogeologist with INTERA), and receiving either a certificate of completion or of participation. Those not yet completing all of the course material have until December of this year to do so. The certificate earned is a Professional Certificate in Watershed Management from Purdue University.

Dr. Jane Frankenberger, director of the Academy and professor of agricultural and biological engineering, stated in a recent press release, "The graduates of the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy are pioneers in leading watershed management programs across the State. They have committed the time and effort needed to strengthen their technical competence as well as leadership skills that are vital in bringing about water quality improvements."

The Academy builds local capacity to protect and manage water quality. Participants attend five days of training and complete nine distance education modules to complete certificate requirements, learning to engage watershed stakeholders, use innovative computer tools in watershed management, develop effective plans, and evaluate watershed outcomes.

There are not enough good things to be said about the efforts of Dr. Frankenberger, Laura Esman, past and present steering committee members and past graduates who return to assist with Academy training from year to year. To learn more about the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy visit the program website: www.purdue.edu/watersheds. Photo courtesy of Purdue University.



Fifth Row (L-R): Jake Brinkman, Andi Hodaj, Amy Silva, Larry Owen, **Fourth Row:** Larry Steward, Phil Cox, Zach Lee, Ali Meils, Char Ison, Phil Odenkirk, Allison Turner, **Third Row:** Carol Newhouse, Kristin Clason, Jessica Hoehn, Morgan Bennett, Ross Carlson, Jennifer Hughes, **Second Row:** Jeremy Reiman, Aileen Driscoll Farid, Staci Orr, Trisha McClain, Caleb Ashbury, Gina Anderson **First Row:** Kelsey Owens, Zach Dripps, Jon Charlesworth, Leslie Davisson, Betsy Yankowiak, Kelsey Thetonia, Brenda Scott Henry, *Missing:* Tammy Patterson

Database Entry Tips

We are just months away from the upgraded version of our wonderful online database at www.HoosierRiverwatch.com. Until then, please use the following suggestions to avoid some frustration while using the old database.

1. For those of you attempting to enter BOD₅ results into the online database, you will not be able to do so. Do not panic though. Just e-mail those results to your helpful staff here at Riverwatch, Carol or Cindy, and we will gladly add the data to the sampling event you have already entered.
2. For those of you trying to enter/register new sampling sites for the first time, you will not be able to use the 'Launch Site Locator' link. Simply open another Internet tab and go to an Internet mapping tool, such as Google Maps, to find the latitude and longitude for your sampling site. *[HINT: right clicking at the site and choosing 'What is here?' will populate the location information window with a lat/long.]* Write these down and then hand-enter them into the correct fields while registering your site in the Riverwatch database.

Mark Your Calendars:

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|-----------------|--|
| June 25 | North Webster - North Webster Community Center (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM). Instructors will be Lyn Crighton and Darci Zolman. Contact Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation staff at admin@tippecanoewatershed.org or (574) 834-3242 for information or to register. |
| July 10 | Battleground - Brier Environmental Education Center, Tippecanoe Battlefield Park (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM). Contact Mary Cutler at (765) 567-2993 or mcut@msn.com for information or to register by July 3. |
| August 8 | Jasper – Vincennes University Jasper Campus (9 AM – 4 PM). Instructor will be Nicholas Servis. For information or to register, contact Julie Loehr at jloehr@inh2o.org or (812) 779-7924. |
| Sept. 9 | Paoli – Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District Office (9 AM – 4 PM). Contact Michael Wilhite at (812) 723-3311 (x3) or michael.wilhite@in.nacdnet.net for information or to register. |
| Sept. 26 | Indianapolis – Holliday Park (9 AM – 4 PM). Contact John Ulmer at (317) 769-3500 or remlu@tds.net for information or to register. |
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| July 25 | Advanced <i>E. coli</i> Monitoring Workshop (basic HRW workshop is a prerequisite)
Richmond – Hayes Arboretum (9 AM – 12 PM). Instructor will be John Ulmer. For information or to register, contact Stephanie McCurdy at (765) 962-3745 or supermccurdy@yahoo.com . |

A Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Training workshop will introduce volunteers to hands-on water quality monitoring methods. They will learn about aquatic habitat, chemical and biological assessment techniques. Sessions are held both in- and out-of-doors. All interested persons, age 18 and over are welcome to attend. Once trained, certified educators are qualified to teach these methods and topics to their students.

Although Volunteer Stream Monitoring training workshops are free, you must contact the local host in advance to register. Training does come at a cost to the program, as well as to the host and/or instructor. Please be considerate and, once confirmed, contact your instructor if you will not be able to attend the workshop you have signed up for.

Additional workshops are still being planned, check www.idem.IN.gov/riverwatch for locations and times.



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or go to:
www.idem.IN.gov



IDEM's OWQ Mission:

The Office of Water Quality's mission is to monitor, protect, and improve Indiana's water quality to ensure its continued use as a drinking water source, habitat for wildlife, recreational resource and economic asset.

The office achieves this by: developing rules, guidance, policies and procedures; assessing surface and ground water quality; regulating and monitoring drinking water supplies and waste water facilities; protecting watersheds and wetlands and providing outreach and assistance to the regulated community and the public while supporting environmentally-responsible economic development.

Hoosier Riverwatch Mission:

The mission of Hoosier Riverwatch is to involve the citizens of Indiana in becoming active stewards of Indiana's water resources through watershed education, water monitoring, and clean-up activities. Hoosier Riverwatch is a water quality monitoring initiative sponsored by the **Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Quality**. For more information, go to www.idem.IN.gov/riverwatch.



Bald eagles in Greenfield, May 2015

Photo courtesy of Alan Cooper

Bald eagles are found mostly along major rivers and large bodies of water. In 2014, there were estimated 200-250 nesting territories in Indiana. Learn more about bald eagles from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at www.IN.gov/dnr or the [Nature Conservancy](http://www.natureconservancy.org).