

# Riffles & Pools

Office of Water Quality [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)



Mississinewa River north of Matthews on November 5, 2016

Photo by Jim Garringer, Muncie, Indiana

## Greetings Riverwatchers!

The weeks just keep flying by! We now have another World Series and a general election behind us. We have a black bear residing in southern Indiana. So much has changed. What lies ahead?

Here at Hoosier Riverwatch, workshops have wrapped up for the year and we are looking forward to some winter planning time—time to spend with our trusty instructors, order supplies for next season, celebrate how far we have come, and decide which direction to head in the coming season.

Talk about celebrating! Congratulations to the Town of Cicero for joining the ranks of communities who have received an IDEM “CLEAN (Comprehensive Local Environmental Action Network) Community” award. Congrats also to the Whitewater River Watershed Project for having its watershed plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a result, it has received additional grant funding to implement the goals set forth in that plan. Congrats also to Dubois County agencies and volunteers for removing 3,000 pounds of trash during their first ever [Creek Sweep](#). Great job, everyone!

It is also great to see that Indiana’s [Healthy Rivers Initiative](#) surpassed its halfway mark this year. With a goal of permanently protecting 70,000 river

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### Winter 2016

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Stay tuned for more workshops next spring.*

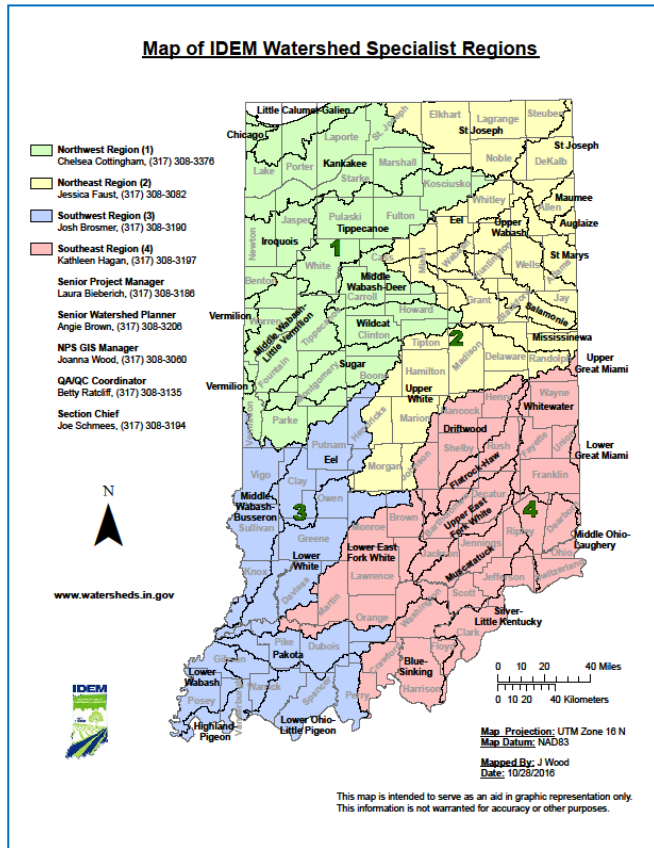
—or—

*Contact us for assistance in organizing and hosting one in your area during 2017.*

Hoosier Riverwatch is administered by



## IDEM's Watershed Specialist Team Complete Again



Getting the ball rolling when it comes to addressing local water quality and watershed issues can be daunting. The tasks involved are made easier with the assistance of an experienced specialist by your side. IDEM provides such specialists.

Many of our readers have long been familiar with Josh Brosmer and Kathleen Hagan, the IDEM watershed specialists for the Southwest and Southeast regions of Indiana, respectively (see map).

Over the past year or two, those of you in Indiana's Northeast Region have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with Jessica Faust, who replaced Joe Schmees when he moved up to the section chief position.

Chelsea Cottingham, whom you may have met in her capacity as project manager for the total maximum daily load (TMDL) program, has been promoted to the watershed specialist for the Northwest Region, replacing Leanne Whitesell who transferred this summer to the Office of Program Support.

As part of the big picture, these specialists serve two main functions:

1. Help coordinate and support watershed efforts at the local level.
2. Help integrate watershed and nonpoint source efforts within IDEM and sister agencies.

With regard to assisting citizens at the local level, specialist activities may include:

- Help with long-term watershed planning
- Help develop a local steering committee
- Help build partnerships and recruit and retain volunteers
- Facilitate meetings and develop agendas
- Help with conflict resolution
- Prepare geographic information system maps
- Train new watershed coordinators
- Locate existing data and guide local monitoring and/or modeling efforts
- Promote appropriate best management practices
- Assist in developing grant applications
- Assist in leveraging funding sources to improve local water quality

Who would not want such assistance by their side, especially when undertaking such critical (and sometimes confusing) tasks of identifying and correcting water quality problems within a diverse and often extremely busy community of people?

We here at Hoosier Riverwatch are thankful to have staff dedicated to helping you with your efforts. Keep up the good work, everyone!

## 2016 Workshops Finish Strong

Although our hardy Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers were still out monitoring streams during August, it was a month devoid of workshops. This is typical as families (instructors included) are busy finishing up summer vacations, getting kids ready for yet another school year, and supporting education and water activities.

Business here at Hoosier Riverwatch picks up in September and October after folks settle in to new routines and before the holiday preparations begin. What a beautiful time of year to be out looking at creeks!

We finished up strong this year with two September and three October workshops. Rain and high water were such that two workshops were unable to access the creeks for everyone's favorite part of the workshop; the hands-on training. Below is a recap.

September 10	Bartholomew County Library	8 participants
September 24	Holliday Park, Indianapolis	14 new volunteers
October 1	Advanced <i>E. coli</i> training, Zionsville Town Hall	8 experienced volunteers
October 10	Elkhart Conservation Club	5 participants
October 20	Ouabache State Park, Bluffton	11 persons trained

## New Nature Preserve Slated for 2017 Opening

The Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI) has purchased land near Nineveh, Indiana, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis. This purchase, when added to adjacent property already owned by CILTI, will allow for the opening of a 550-acre preserve in 2017 after some needed infrastructure is in place. It will be called the Glacier's End Nature Preserve.

This site contains areas flattened by the last glaciers, as well as steep bluffs and rolling hills associated with areas of southern Indiana not inundated by glaciers. According to some online sources, it is home to some rare bird species including deep woods warbler species.

CILTI's [website](#) provides more information about its mission, its properties, how to support conservation, and volunteer opportunities.

## Leave the Leaves

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that leaves and other yard debris account for more than 13 percent of the nation's solid waste. That is 33 million tons of material that, when isolated from oxygen in a landfill, releases a harmful greenhouse gas known as methane. IDEM's [website](#) provides tips on how to properly take care of yard waste and other organic materials.

Leaves left or composted in your yard provide you with natural mulch to control weeds and fertilize the soil, and they provide vital habitat and material for wildlife and beneficial invertebrates looking for a place to overwinter. The National Wildlife Federation's [website](#) provides more information about benefits to wildlife.



## “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” Links

### Reduce Trash Entering our Waterways:

- Find out about the sources and impacts of [aquatic trash](#).
- Learn how to “[unpack your life](#)” and prevent litter in our waterways.



### Take Time to Recycle:

- Recycle consumer electronics (see IDEM's E-Cycling [fact sheet](#)).
- Safely dispose of [unwanted medicine](#).
- Reduce [unwanted mail](#).
- Follow these [holiday recycling tips](#).



### Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

- Learn about [HHW](#) and disposal options offered by your [solid waste management district](#).



### Reduce Yard Waste:

- Try composting (see IDEM's Backyard Composting [fact sheet](#)) and [reducing yard waste](#).



### Reduce Run-off and Nonpoint Source Pollution:

- Consider installing a [rain barrel](#) or a [rain garden](#).



Now that's an orange barrel I can live with!

## Mark Your Calendars:

### Hoosier Riverwatch Training Workshops have concluded for the year.

Welcome to all who joined us in 2016! Thanks to those who hosted and helped train!



Check back in March 2017 for the next [newsletter](#) to see what workshops start lining up for early spring. Better yet, contact a [Hoosier Riverwatch instructor](#) near you to discuss organizing and hosting a workshop for your area in 2017!

## Tidbits and Trivia



Above: A Halloween Pennant captured at Lake Monroe clasps a plant top and holds its wings in an "X" pattern to withstand higher wind speeds.

*Photo by Jeff Danielson, Bloomington, Indiana*

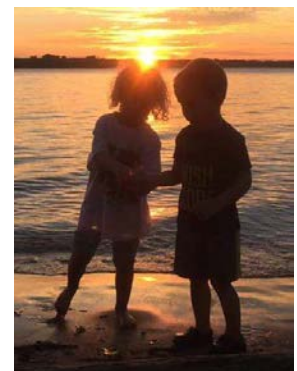
Below: A Yellow-Legged Meadowhawk hitches a ride at Tippecanoe Lake on November 6. This is the last of the Indiana dragonfly species to still be on the wing this time of year.

*Photo by Lyn Crighton, North Webster, Indiana*



Getting and keeping children engaged in and enjoying water activities at all ages helps to ensure their interest in caring for these vital resources. Whether hiking, fishing, swimming, paddling, sailing, or just beachcombing near the edge of your favorite waterbody, take time to carefully turn over a rock or two and show them the wonders of the creatures that live within that environment. Their natural curiosity should take over from there and help protect what they learn to love for the benefit of future generations.

*Photos used by permission of Nichole Schohn and Joy Newhouse, respectively*





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## Greetings *(continued from page 1)*

corridor acres, this partnership (started by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 2010) added over 14,000 acres to the 15,000+ already owned and managed by the state. In addition, another ~5,700 privately owned acres have been added to the rolls of federal conservation easement programs. A current total of 35,275 acres is now protected along the Wabash River, Sugar Creek, and Muscatatuck River bottomlands. Thanks to all the partners for your efforts!

— Carol Newhouse, *Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator*

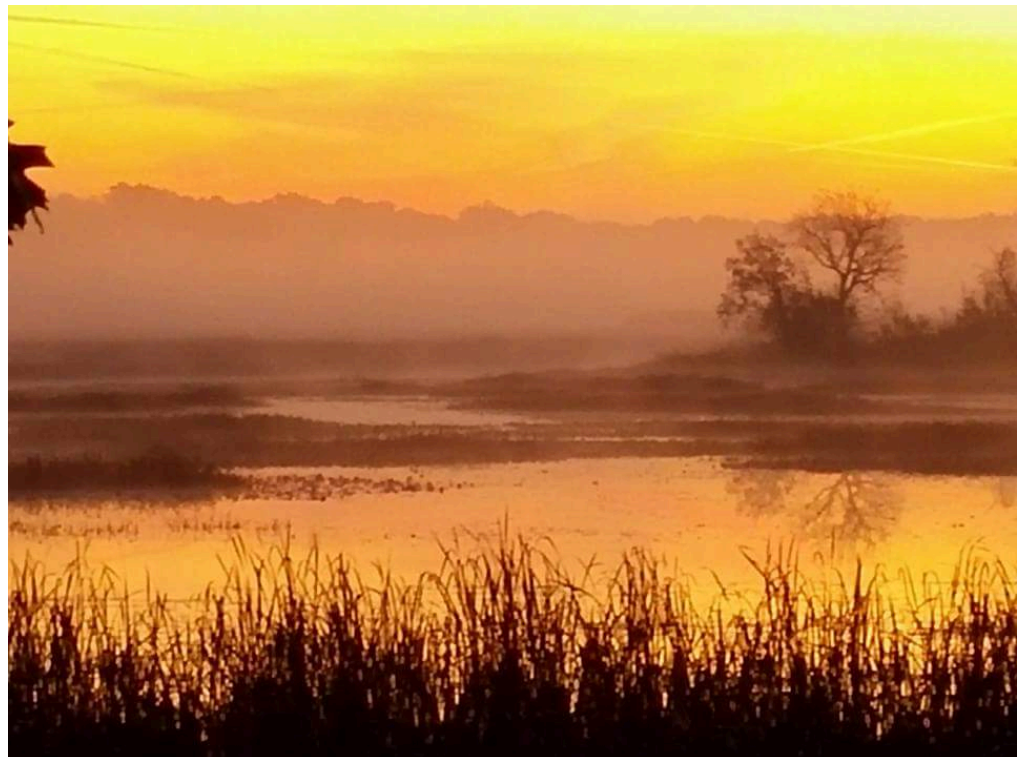
## IDEM Office of Water Quality Mission

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 wastewater 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 cleanup activities. [Hoosier Riverwatch](#) is a water quality monitoring initiative sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Quality.



A beautiful Indiana sunrise over Mongo Mill Pond in early November 2016

*Photo by Doug Newhouse, Mongo, Indiana*