



Hoosier Riverwatch training session at Battle Ground, Indiana this past June

September/October 2013

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Hoosier Riverwatch is sponsored by



Riverwatch News:

Indiana Watershed Group Finder

In order to help Hoosiers find groups working in their watershed, the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is developing the Indiana Watershed Group Finder, a Google Map based tool (like the [HUC Finder](#) and [Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory](#)) that makes it easy to find working on watershed efforts. They need your help in getting the information from active watershed groups throughout Indiana. We are defining "watershed group" as anyone actively working with a watershed focus. This includes organizations such as Friends of the St. Joe River or Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, and also projects through SWCDs, such as Washington County SWCD Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project.

If you are involved with a watershed group, please take a moment to provide information on your group at the link below or forward this request to anyone you know that can provide this information.

Follow this link to [Take the Survey](#),

or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://purdue.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsSurveyEngine/?SID=SV_0uiBlmYXN0nFn01&RID=MLRP_eyx3nBJOBnKMFnf&_u=1 .



Meet Jessica Trensey

New Hoosier Riverwatch Team Member

Hello volunteers, my name is **Jessica Trensey** and in May 2013, I was hired at IDEM after graduating from Ball State University with an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management, and assigned the duties of assisting Lisa and filling the role of Data Quality Officer for Hoosier Riverwatch (HRW). I hope to improve the quality of data on the HRW website by identifying errors and either removing or revising them. Each quarter, I will run queries to locate records that may be erroneous or outliers. I will then contact volunteers and make every effort to ensure that correct data is preserved and mistakes are corrected. By doing this, the HRW dataset will better serve its intended educational and research purposes.

There are a few simple things that you can do to help me in this process. Remember to think critically about the values you receive when you run your water analyses. If they seem out of range for your stream, you may want to re-run the test. Also, please understand that after hitting the “*Submit*” button in the data entry section of the website, you cannot go back and make changes. If you make an error, please contact me instead of trying to fix it yourself. Our most common error is when a turbidity value of 60 is entered. Although the transparency tubes are 60 cm, you must convert from transparency to turbidity using the conversion chart in your workbook. Your cooperation will make data quality improvement of the website a breeze!



Celebrate the White River this September

The White River Festival celebrates the White River and its tributaries, beautiful and important natural resources that run through 16 counties in central Indiana. Festival events occur throughout the entire month and highlight the ways in which the river touches our lives... recreational treasure, inspiration for art, sustainer of wildlife, and major supplier of drinking water for the communities up and down its winding banks.

For event details and to sign up for weekly Festival updates, go to whiteriverfestival.org.

You can also follow the Festival on Facebook at [White River Festival and Alliance](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverFestivalandAlliance) or on Twitter @uwrwa!

Take the Challenge and enter to win a water test kit

World Water Monitoring Challenge™ is an international education and outreach program that builds public involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens in basic monitoring of their local water bodies. In 2012, approximately 250,000 visits were made by participants to monitoring sites in 66 countries. Test the quality of your waterways, share your findings, and protect our most precious resource!

To get more environmental educators involved this year, WWMC is hosting a giveaway. Like WWMC on Facebook and enter to win a complimentary water test kit and t-shirt.

Enter here: <http://bit.ly/17qNmww> .

[Click Here to take the Challenge and a chance to win a water sampling kit.](#)

You can get your students outside... and still meet your State standards

By [Michelle Aldenderfer-Griffin](#) on August 14th, 2013

The following article was adapted from the Children and Nature Network www.childrenandnature.org

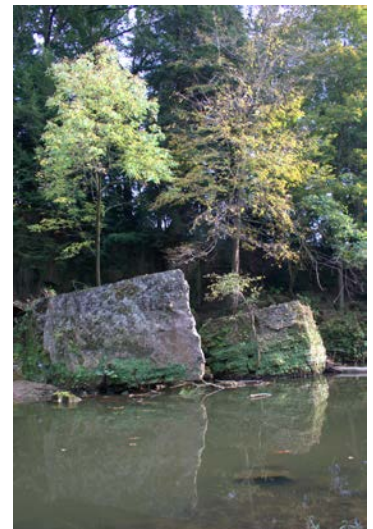
The research is clear: hands-on, experiential learning leads to higher test scores and lower behavior issues. Common sense tells us that sitting still at a desk – no matter the subject – simply does not result in a child who is constructing knowledge or developing a love of learning.

Indeed, the lack of even the slightest connection to the natural world increases stress, decreases focus, and creates an unintended barrier to the spirit and souls of our children.

I know the challenges teachers face in providing our children a connection to the natural world. I also know the magnitude of academic, physical, intellectual and psychological benefits in providing our children (and ourselves) a connection to nature.

Imagine changing very little about your current situation, and realizing the benefits of providing that connection. I believe you can.

So what can you do as a teacher to respond to the mounting evidence that environmental education can improve academic achievement across all subject areas, increase standardized test scores, while also decreasing behavior issues? Visit, <http://blog.childrenandnature.org/2013/08/14/you-can-get-your-student-outside-and-still-meet-your-state-standards/> for some ideas.





www.epa.gov

U.S. EPA releases guide and online module for developing effective Watershed Plans

The U.S. EPA has released a guide to developing watershed plans to restore and protect our waters, which summarizes a 2008 handbook for developing watershed plans to restore and protect our waters, as well as a companion online module, "An Introduction to Watershed Planning." The guide and module provide a summary of the handbook and also highlight some new watershed-related tools that have been developed since 2008 that can be used for more effective decision-making leading to improved management of our water resources.

Together, the handbook, guide and module provide information on how to incorporate the nine minimum elements from the Clean Water Act section 319 Nonpoint Source Program's funding guidelines into the watershed plan development process. [Click here](#) to access the guide and visit <http://www.epa.gov/watertrain> to view the module.



Project WET & Aquatic Project WILD

For formal and non-formal educators of students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grades

Saturday, September 28, Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, - Marian University
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis 46222, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This is an event of the White River Festival presented by the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife with sponsorship by Reconnecting to Our Waterways. Priority registration will be given to educators teaching or residing in Marion County until *September 13*. After this date registration will be opened up to any Indiana educators (formal and non-formal) working with students in grades K-12th grades.

Participants will receive:

- The award winning Project WET and Aquatic Project WILD curriculum guides with 119 interdisciplinary activities, which teach students about water, aquatic habitats and aquatic wildlife. These lessons help educators make STEM connections and cover Indiana academic standards.
- Lunch will be **provided** with options to meet special dietary needs.
- \$50 stipend upon workshop completion.
- Eligibility to apply for a \$500 grant to conduct a river related project with their students.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. To register, contact the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife at (317) 234-8440 or by email at dfwed@dnr.IN.gov. Please include your name, address, phone, email and any special dietary needs in your email or phone message.

Workshop Spotlight:

***E. coli* Workshop**

If you have already attended a Riverwatch Basic Training but would like more information on *E. coli*, attend this advanced workshop.

Saturday, September 21, Zion Nature Center - Zionsville, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register, contact John Ulmer at watersheds@tds.net or (317) 769-3500.

Protecting Our Watersheds

Hoosier Riverwatch will be partnering with Earth Force to offer a Protecting Our Watersheds workshop. This community action program from Earth Force / GREEN guides your middle school / high school class or adult watershed organization through the process of analyzing your data, determining where problems may exist in your watershed, and taking action in your community to protect water quality.

Friday, September 20, IDEM Shadeland Office - Indianapolis, IN, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. To register, contact Hoosier Riverwatch at Riverwatch@idem.IN.gov or (317) 308-3392.

For Watershed Coordinators: This program provides you with tools to assist in teamwork, prioritizing, researching, networking, and group decision-making for taking action in your watershed. It follows a simple six step process:

(1) Conducting a Watershed Inventory, (2) Selecting a Problem, (3) Looking at What People are Doing, (4) Deciding What to Do, (5) Taking Civic Action; and, (6) Looking Back & Ahead.

For Educators: The Protecting Our Watersheds is designed to complement a current class curriculum. It is applicable across many age levels and disciplines, giving students a chance to investigate their watersheds using science, math, problem-solving, research, reading and writing skills. The activity guide gives you and your students an experiential learning opportunity while integrating inquiry-based education into your curriculum.

To register for the workshop, please contact Lisa Ritter McMahan: LRitterM@idem.IN.gov, or (317) 308-3392.

For additional information about the workshop, contact Jan Sneddon: jsneddon@earthforce.org, or (317) 257-1740.

Hoosier Riverwatch Macroinvertebrate Workshop

This hands-on special topic workshop includes information about macroinvertebrates in Indiana, sampling and identification methods. Participants will improve their ability to identify macros by obtaining assistance from IDEM biologists using lab techniques. Space is limited for this upcoming workshop! There is no cost to attend the workshop, but you need to pre-register. Please bring a macro sample from your local waterbody to identify in the lab.

Wednesday, November 6, IDEM Shadeland Office, Indianapolis, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register, contact Hoosier Riverwatch at Riverwatch@idem.IN.gov or (317) 308-3392.

Event Calendar:

- September 7 - HRW training session at Holliday Park
- September 20 - Protecting our Watersheds
- September 21 - *E.coli* Workshop
- September 28 - HRW training session at Elkhart
- September 28 - HRW training session at Dubois
- September 28 - Project WET & Project WILD workshop
- November 6 – Macroinvertebrate workshop
- November 6 - 2014 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy deadline

Macroinvertebrates Tentative Agenda:

- Overview of IDEM methodology
- Information on Aquatic Life Use and biological criteria
- Varieties of macroinvertebrates found in Indiana
- Identification techniques.
- Support identifying your local sample to family level.

Learn to be a Leader in Watershed Management

If you're interested in water quality and watersheds, consider applying for the 2014 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. The Academy, organized by Purdue University with support from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and other Indiana conservation agencies and organizations, gives participants the chance to:

- Engage in basic and advanced level watershed topics covering leadership principles, watershed science, organization and communication, technology and GIS, stakeholder involvement techniques and policy skills
- Meet, learn from, and build a network of peers
- Interact with topic experts
- Gain strategies, skills, and resources for successful watershed management
- Earn a Professional Certificate in Watershed Management

Enrollment deadline: November 1, 2013

Website: for the online application and information about the Academy, visit <https://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/academy.html>

Academy Fee: \$600, due on December 13, 2013 (includes lodging and food for overnight and one-day workshops, plus all course materials). The total cost to implement this program is over \$2200/person, but funding from IDEM's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grants has significantly reduced the fee.

Format: Training includes three face-to-face group sessions and distance learning, online (approximately 3-4 hrs./week). The Academy runs from January to May, 2014.

Specific workshop dates are *January 15-16, March 26-27, and May 21, 2014*.

Recognition: Participants who complete all requirements earn a Purdue University Professional Certificate in Watershed Management. Purdue Continuing Education Units are also available for an additional \$15 fee.

For more information and to fill out the application, please contact Laura Esman, lesman@purdue.edu, or see the **Academy Web Page** <http://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds>.

Enrollment Deadline
is **November 1, 2013**

Academy Fee due by
December 13, 2013

2014 Workshop
Dates:
January 15-16
March 26-27
May 21



**Indiana Department of
Environmental Management**
*Office of Water Quality Watershed
Assessment and Planning Branch*

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Indianapolis, Indiana
46204-2251

PHONE:
(317) 308-3392

E-MAIL:
Riverwatch@idem.IN.gov



[CLICK HERE to
subscribe](#)

or go to:

www.idem.IN.gov



Hoosier Riverwatch Training Schedule:

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring "Basic" Training introduces citizens and educators to water quality monitoring utilizing hands-on habitat, chemical, and biological assessment methods. The sessions are held both inside and outdoors.

Any interested adult is welcome to attend, and once certified, may teach students how to monitor. Although Volunteer Stream Monitoring training workshops are free, you must contact the local host in advance to register.

Most workshops are held from **8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** - unless noted.

Saturday, September 7, Indianapolis, IN - Holliday Park

To register, contact John Ulmer at watersheds@tds.net or (317) 769-3500.

Saturday, September 28, Elkhart, IN - Elkhart Conservation Club

To register, contact Nancy Brown at nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net or (574) 533-4383 ext. 3.

Saturday, September 28, Dubois, IN - Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District.

To register, contact Jim McFaul at JMcFaul@vinu.edu or (812) 481-5909.

To subscribe or get further event updates sent to you, go to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Online Calendar at:

www.IN.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx.

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 and clean-up activities. Hoosier Riverwatch is sponsored by the **Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Quality.**

For more information, go to www.idem.IN.gov/riverwatch.