

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Greetings Riverwatchers!

April showers did not disappoint this year. They have indeed resulted in plenty of May flowers for us in Indiana. I have enjoyed early roses popping out, the sweet smell of lily-of-the-valley, and beautifully laden lilac bushes. Even the black locust trees are starting to bloom. I always heard they make the sweetest and clearest of honey. Having no bees of my own, I am unable to test this theory. If you know where I can obtain some of this amazing honey, let me know.

Still, the spring rain has attempted to flood some of us out with a well-aimed deluge here or there. We hope you all have remained safe and that you continue to avoid high water areas under such circumstances. As you likely learned in your training workshop, it does not take much moving water to a) knock you off your feet, b) move a car off the roadway, c) carry trees and other debris with it, and d) pose a risk to life and limb. Please stay safe out there!

Volunteers, please check the expiration date on your nitrite/nitrate test strips! We have found that those dated to expire 07/16 already do not work properly. To receive new test strips, complete the [Water Monitoring Testing Kit Refill Online Request Form](#) and we will ship new ones to you.

We look forward to seeing you out in the creeks this summer!

— Your Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator, Carol Newhouse

Summer 2016

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Basic Workshops

June 2 –
Middlebury

June 30 –
North Webster

July 9 & 16 –
South Bend

September 24 –
Indianapolis

Advanced Workshop

October 1 –
Zionsville

Hoosier
Riverwatch is
sponsored by



Time Well Spent: Instructors Gain Additional Training During Late Winter “Recharge” Meetings

In February and early March of this year, Hoosier Riverwatch staff invited trained instructors and facilitators to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM’s) Shadeland Office in Indianapolis. It was a chance to regroup, recharge, meet with one another, and rub elbows with other professionals in the field of environmental water quality monitoring.

Each day consisted of an exchange of ideas regarding how the program fared in the previous year—what worked well and what changes to consider. In addition, Hoosier Riverwatch staff recognized each instructor for their 2015 accomplishments and their longevity with and contributions to the program as a whole.

Instructors enjoyed meeting and sharing stories with their counterparts from around the state. They also benefited from meeting and giving feedback to the contractor who developed, upgraded, and maintains our online database.

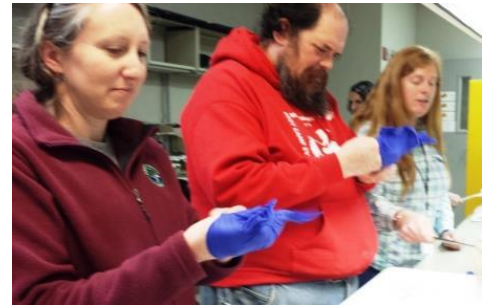
The highlight of each meeting, though, was the demonstrations of IDEM’s *E. coli* sampling; aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling and identification; and fish collection, identification, and tissue sampling programs.

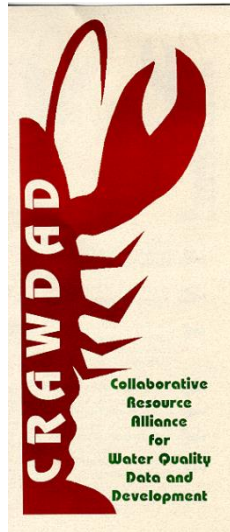
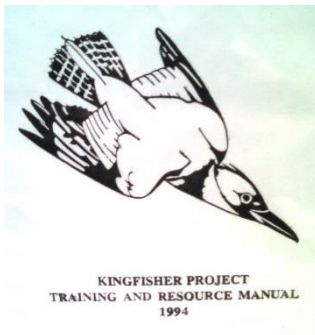
It would be difficult to determine which group enjoyed the exchange the most.

The IDEM staff who participated by highlighting their respective programs gained as much appreciation for the work that Hoosier Riverwatch does as the instructors gained from seeing firsthand the effort IDEM puts forth in monitoring and assessing Indiana’s surface water.

Much appreciation was gained by bringing the right and left hands together in this fashion.

What is that I hear? I believe it is the sound of two hands clapping and a great big thank you to professionals and volunteers alike for caring enough about Indiana’s water resources to get involved in whatever capacity they are able.





Roots and Shoots: Where We Come From and Where We Are Heading

We have come a long way since Keep America Beautiful's iconic "The Crying Indian" public service announcement inspired us to stop littering in the 1970s. Earth Day celebrations are the norm now. Businesses everywhere strive to be "green." I witness just how far we have come when I see eagles feeding and rearing young in the same Indiana town where I was fed and raised.

Likewise, there have been many people over the years who have influenced Hoosier Riverwatch. Where would we be without the early efforts of Dr. William Stapp of the University of Michigan? His efforts to establish and run the GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) program, along with the help of Mark Mitchell, have had a direct and lasting connection to Hoosier Riverwatch.

The same is true of the early and ongoing efforts of Save Our Streams, a program the Izaak Walton League of America developed and disseminated.

Closer to home, Hoosier Riverwatch was influenced by the ideology and methods developed with the Kingfisher Project, a joint effort of Friends of the White River, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and IDEM.

Other influences included Water Watchers of Indiana, a joint effort of the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Joseph River Basin Commission to design a curriculum that incorporates all disciplines (art, math, language, creative writing, etc.) into a very active water-monitoring program for the local schools.

Jon Roush was a proponent of the Water Watchers program. He often walked the halls of IDEM meeting staff, seeking support and funding, and—in general—making the idea of getting in a creek with a bunch of students sound more and more fun all the time.

Continued on page 4



It is interesting that many of the early Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers came from the Indiana Clean Lakes Program, a joint effort between IDEM and Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Lake volunteers were among the first to realize that monitoring incoming streams around their lakes could help them understand where impacts to water quality were coming from.

Though IDEM assisted with funding Hoosier Riverwatch staff and/or supplies from time to time in the beginning, our first effort to incorporate a full-time staff position into the water-monitoring program led to the short-lived, but productive Collaborative Resource Alliance for Water Quality Data and Development (CRAWDAD) program. This was a joint effort between IDEM and the Sierra Club, which resulted in Indiana's first Adopt-A-Wetland Field and Training Manual.

This manual was to supplement/complement the efforts of Hoosier Riverwatch (with its Adopt-A-River program) and the Indiana Clean Lakes Program. Though shelved for a time, this manual may yet prove useful as Indiana moves closer to developing and funding wetland-monitoring efforts in the state.

Moreover, there have been many fantastically talented staff members who have overseen, coordinated and advocated for Hoosier Riverwatch from the beginning. From those who were with us even briefly in the early days of "iffy" funding to those who stayed longer, each played a part in shepherding this program forward in the schools, homes, and agencies of Indiana.

Nevertheless, little compares with the growth that occurred in Hoosier Riverwatch during the years of collaborating with other environmental education programs at Fort Harrison State Park. Boy, we sure have big waders to fill!

Join us here next time as we look at the possibilities that await us as Hoosier Riverwatch moves forward and influences other generations.



Help Sought with Survey of Low Cost Water Monitoring

The following request came in on behalf of the River Network, a group that is highly respected by one of our own Hoosier Riverwatch facilitators. This organization seeks information to help “evaluate the use of low cost technology for collecting and transferring information on water quality conditions.”

If you have the time and interest to participate in this survey, please do so. IDEM neither endorses nor opposes the efforts of the Pisces Foundation or the Intel Corporation, jointly or otherwise. The information is placed here solely to give citizens an opportunity to voice their opinion and/or help the continued development of accessible water testing methods.

Hello River Network members –

Pisces-Intel Water Quality Monitoring Survey

We are soliciting your help through participation in an important survey to evaluate the **use of low cost technology to collect and transfer information on water quality conditions**. Your participation in this survey can help identify and close the gaps in low-cost water quality monitoring technologies.

As we know, information is critical in empowering people to safeguard human health and the environment. The Pisces Foundation, with assistance from the Intel Corporation, has embarked on a project to [determine the gaps and needs for low-cost water quality monitoring technologies](#).

At the conclusion of the first part of this nationwide survey, you will be provided a summary of its findings and given an opportunity to offer suggestions for future improvements.

Based on analysis of the survey results, a second phase of the project will focus on finding ways to benefit the work of those concerned about water quality by stimulating improvements in technology development and deployment.

We would greatly appreciate your taking the survey which can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/WaterQualityMonitoring>.

If you would like to preview the Pisces Foundation & Intel Corporation Water Quality Monitoring Survey in its entirety, prior to taking it, please click here for the PDF version <http://piscesfoundation.org/water-quality-monitoring-survey-2/>. Responses would be appreciated by June 10th.

The survey will take 15-50 minutes depending on the extent of your monitoring work.

Your participation in this important survey can help shape future low cost methods to collect and disseminate water quality information. If you have any questions, please contact Verna Harrison (vharrison@vernaharrison.com, [410-562-9840](tel:410-562-9840)).

Signed by Katharine Baer, Director of Science and Policy, River Network, Boulder, CO

Mark Your Calendars:

B A S I C Hoosier Riverwatch Workshops

- | | |
|---|---|
| Thursday, June 2 | Middlebury, IN – Riverbend Park, 511 E. Warren St. (9 AM – 4 PM). Contact Nancy Brown at (574) 533-4383 (x3) or Nancy.Brown@in.nacdn.net for information or to register. |
| Thursday, June 30 | North Webster, IN – Community Center, 301 N. Main St. (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM). Contact The Watershed Foundation at admin@tippecanoewatershed.org or (574) 834-3242 for information or to register. |
| Saturday, July 9 &
Saturday, July 16 | South Bend, IN – LangLab, 1302 High St. (9 AM – 1 PM)
One workshop, two sessions. Contact Jennifer Krauser at krauser.jenn@gmail.com or (509) 595-2529 for information or to register. |
| Saturday, September 24 | Indianapolis, IN – Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road (9:15 AM – 4:30 PM). Contact John Ulmer at hoosierwatersheds@gmail.com or (317) 769-3500 for information or to register. |

A D V A N C E D Hoosier Riverwatch Workshops

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|----------------------------|--|
| Saturday, October 1 | <i>E. coli</i> Monitoring – Zionsville Town Hall (9 AM – noon). Contact John Ulmer at hoosierwatersheds@gmail.com or (317) 769-3500 for information or to register. |
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We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
– Aristotle



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Hoosier Riverwatch Database:
www.hoosierriverwatch.com



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to the State of Indiana's
Events Calendar (look for
subscribe in the upper right)

"To Do" List

- ☐ Check the quantity and expiration dates of your water monitoring supplies. Use the online [Equipment Request Form](#) to let us know what perishable supplies you need replaced.
- ☐ Take another local workshop if you feel a bit shy or rusty with your water testing methodology.
- ☐ Check out a local loaner kit or apply for your own equipment grant award, if your group is eligible.
- ☐ Come back and read the next issue of *Riffles & Pools* due for publication in the fall.
- ☐ Keep submitting your data to the Hoosier Riverwatch [database](#).
- ☐ Be bold! **Search** for and **visualize** stream data from your area and share it with others!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. — Margaret Mead

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.



Stacey Sobat (IDEM), Krista Daniels (Elkhart Parks Dept.), Marcus Loidolt (Flatrock YMCA Camp), Cindy Jewell (IDEM), Carrie Parmenter (Posey County SWCD), and Ann Ice (Gibson County SWCD) (L-R) discuss IDEM's fish community and fish tissue monitoring programs.