

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Riffles & Pools

Office of Water Quality

idem.IN.gov



Greetings Riverwatchers

As fall is quickly approaching, I am taken aback at the continued and new activity within the Riverwatch program. Our upcoming workshop calendar has been filling up, and I have been busy trying to fill in as both our Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Dylan Allison and Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Jewell were out of the office in July. Dylan welcomed baby Daisy into the world on July 7. Everyone is doing well and he plans to return to the office early September.

Covering for these two has given me an understanding of just how much effort goes into overseeing the day-to-day of this program by providing support and supplies to our volunteers and instructors. It has been keeping me on my toes, and I appreciate everyone's patience. As a reminder, please submit all equipment and workshop material requests through our [Equipment Request](#) form and send all inquiries to Riverwatch@idem.in.gov so we can provide you with the best possible service. I hope you all had a great summer and are looking forward to some beautiful fall weather.



Caleb Rennaker

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Summer 2023

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Hoosier
Riverwatch is
sponsored by



Hoosier Riverwatch Visits Indiana Master Naturalist

The Indiana Master Naturalist program brings together natural resource specialists with adult learners to foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soil and wildlife and promotes natural resource volunteer service within the State of Indiana. Hundreds of Hoosiers participate in classes held statewide. Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Dylan Allison had the opportunity to speak to two IMN classes this spring.

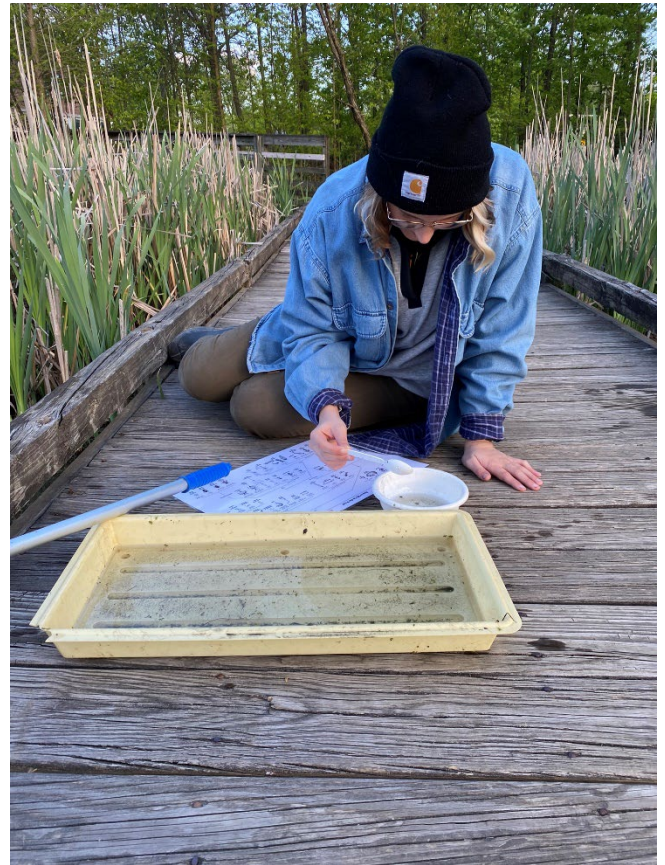


The first class was held at Southeastway Park, managed by Indy Parks New Palestine. Dylan discussed the watersheds, water quality, and the Hoosier Riverwatch curriculum. As a special treat, IDEM fish biologists Kayla Werbianskyj and Cameron Yeakle conducted an electrofishing survey for the class.



Photos on this page are courtesy of IDEM

The second class was held at Wesselman Woods Preserve in Evansville. Dylan shared a virtual presentation on watersheds and water quality followed by an in-person sampling at the preserve's wetland. Students were able to gain hands-on experience sampling a wide variety of macroinvertebrates.



Photos on this page are courtesy of IDEM

[The Indiana Master Naturalist \(IMN\) program](#) provides hands-on opportunities to learn about our state's natural resources. It also provides a way for you to share that knowledge, along with your life experiences, through volunteer service. The program is sponsored by the Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



Riverwatch Goes to School

Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Dylan Allison was invited to participate in an outdoor education day for the sixth-grade class at Riverside Intermediate School in Fishers. The two-day event was an opportunity for students to learn about water quality and other environmental topics, rotating through stations throughout their school day. High waters kept the students from entering the neighboring White River. Instead, students used conducted D-nets and balloons to simulate macroinvertebrate collection.



Students ran a relay race during which they collected as many balloons for their team as possible. After the balloons were collected, leaders revealed that the a balloon's color determined the point value. This closely resembles the scoring system for Riverwatch's macroinvertebrate sampling; creatures with low pollution tolerance are scored more highly because they are associated with cleaner waters. The students were energetic and engaged and left with a better understanding of macroinvertebrate sampling.



Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Urban Naturalists Get Their Feet Wet

Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Dylan Allison connected with [Keep Indianapolis Beautiful](#) (KIB) urban naturalists during a hands-on “creek stomp”. KIB’s Urban Naturalist program employs young adults in environmental restoration projects throughout Indianapolis.



A team of college-aged stewards learned Hoosier Riverwatch sampling techniques at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. Additionally, discussions were held regarding careers with IDEM and within the environmental field.

KIB’s mission is “to engage diverse communities to create vibrant public places, helping people and nature thrive.” Each year, KIB supports nearly 20,000 volunteers who contribute to more than 800 community projects. For over 40 years, they’ve partnered with neighbors, the public sector, and Indianapolis community groups and businesses to achieve their vision of a beautiful city.



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Mark Your Calendars



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idem.IN.gov



Tuesday, Sept. 5

Hammond – Oak Ridge Prairie (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey

Register at https://events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_oak_ridge_prairie

Wednesday, Sept. 6 (Advanced *E. coli* workshop – basic training required)

Hammond – Oak Ridge Prairie (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey

Register at events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_oak_ridge_prairie

Saturday, Sept. 9

Bristol – Baldwin Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Instructors: Krista Daniels and Jenna Wait. Register by Sept. 1 at elkcoswcd.org/hrw

Saturday, Sept. 9

South Bend – St. Patrick's County Park (8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)

Instructors: Jan McGowan, Dr. Kate Barrett, Ally Pudlo.

Register by Sept. 1 by calling 574-654-3155.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Fort Wayne – Metea County Park (9 a.m.–5 p.m.)

Instructor: Sharon Partridge. Register by emailing ssp2655@gmail.com

Monday, Sept. 25

Hobart – Deep River County Park (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey.

Register at events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_deep_river_county_park

Tuesday, Sept. 26 (Advanced *E. coli* workshop – basic training required)

Hobart – Deep River County Park (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey.

Register at events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_deep_river_county_park

Monday, October 2

La Porte – Red Mill County Park (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey.

Register at events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_red_mill_county_park

Tuesday, October 2 (Advanced *E. coli* workshop – basic training required)

La Porte– Red Mill County Park (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Instructor: Ashley Sharkey.

Register at events.IN.gov/event/hoosier_riverwatch_red_mill_county_park

More Workshops Coming Soon!

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 idem.IN.gov/riverwatch.