

Riffles & Pools

Office of Water Quality www.idem.IN.gov



Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.
— Stewart Udall, 37th United States Secretary of the Interior

Greetings Riverwatchers!

I hope your summer has been going great and that you had a chance to visit all the great water venues at the Indiana State Fair in August!

Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops as our trusty instructors begin filling up the calendar with teaching events again.

Many of you have borrowed loaner kits and received supply refills from us this season. We look forward to seeing your data in the Hoosier Riverwatch [database](#) soon. Don't sweat the data entry errors. Just notify us of any needed corrections and we will be happy to assist you.

As some of you know, Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Carol Newhouse has been convalescing this summer with a lengthy recovery from knee replacement surgery. I am wishing I could bestow her with the nimbleness of the many grasshoppers I've seen lately! We look forward to her return soon.

Until then, I will continue to handle all material and supply requests, answer questions, and award equipment packages to qualifying organizations. I am so thankful to our instructors and volunteers who have kept the Hoosier Riverwatch program humming along through the summer!

— Your Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Jewell

Autumn 2016

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Basic Workshops

Sept. 10 – Columbus

Sept. 24 – Indianapolis

Advanced Workshop

October 1 – Zionsville

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IDEM Celebrates 30 Years of Environmental Protection

On July 22, 2016, staff of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management gathered to celebrate their first 30 years as an active agency. IDEM officially formed in 1986 when many talented and qualified employees came from programs at the Indiana State Department of Health.

IDEM is responsible for overseeing the health of Indiana's air, land, and water environment for the welfare of all citizens. It must do so while also maintaining a viable and sustainable economy for the state; a challenging task, but not impossible.

Commissioner Carol S. Comer herself stated to those gathered during the Friday celebration, "You can't have a healthy environment without a healthy economy – and you can't have a healthy economy without a healthy environment."

While acknowledging that there is much yet to accomplish, the commissioner highlighted the many successes the agency has had. Many of these have led to Indiana's air, land, and water being substantially cleaner than they were when the United States Congress first began passing environmental laws in the 1970s.

With regard to water quality, Commissioner Comer specifically noted that many waterways now support fish and wildlife that had seemingly disappeared in the 1960s.

Of special mention were the over 20 years of funding and coordinated efforts between multiple agencies to clean up toxic sediment from the Grand Calumet River, bringing life back not only to the river but to the local community. She also highlighted improvements gained through the implementation of long-term control plans to separate storm water from domestic waste found in outdated combined sewer systems.

The commissioner was quick to convey that these successes were the result of every staff members' contribution; whether as an inspector, attorney, intern, or administrative assistant; an employee working in finance, accounting, or information services; a permit writer, emergency responder, or environmental educator; or any of the many other positions existing under the IDEM umbrella.

Highlights close to home for staff in the Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch (where Hoosier Riverwatch is headquartered) include:

- In 2009 and 2010, IDEM's Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch revisited impaired segments that received grant funding and technical assistance in order to re-evaluate their status. In doing so, they found that Indiana leads all other states in the Midwest region by a wide margin in [success stories](#).



IDEM Commissioner Carol S. Comer stands next to an eight-foot-tall letter "I" that was displayed at IDEM's 30th anniversary celebration and at IDEM's booth at the Indiana State Fair.



IDEM Communications Director Courtney Arango and IDEM Creative Services Director Oscar Meza pose at a selfie booth during IDEM's 30th anniversary celebration held in Indianapolis on July 22, 2016.

IDEM Celebrates 30 Years (continued)



IDEM Office of Water Quality Senior Environmental Manager Paul McMurray teaches children about aquatic insects at the 3rd annual Roxana Marsh stewardship educational event in May 2016. Co-hosted by the Indiana/Illinois Sea Grant and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, this event celebrates recovery of this vital resource in the Grand Calumet area.

- IDEM established a Blue-Green Algae Monitoring Program in partnership with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. This partnership established recreational guidelines, appropriate signage, and one of the busiest websites in the agency (www.algae.IN.gov) designed to advise the public about the risk when swimming in waters that contain toxic levels of blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria).

The Hoosier Riverwatch Program moved to IDEM in 2012, bringing with it skilled volunteer trainers who educate on the need for water quality and for monitoring Indiana streams. Staff have since launched the External Data Framework in a collaborative effort (the only program of its kind in the country) to help improve the quality of data collected by volunteers, and that of other partnering organizations.

Additional accomplishments of note prior to the creation of IDEM are:

- Indiana was the first state in the nation to enact a phosphate ban on household detergents. This ban was the direct result of complaints about and studies done on the cause behind obnoxious algae blooms in Indiana lakes. It resulted in significant and measureable improvements in lake water quality, health, and aesthetics, as have the more recent additions of sewer systems around many lakes.
- Indiana was the first state in the nation to issue [fish consumption advisories](#), starting with a press release in 1977 for Lake Michigan. Fishing is a wonderful sport enjoyed by persons of all ages and abilities. It brings physical, mental, and emotional health to those who practice it. Fishing is also a great boon to Indiana's economy. And fish themselves are a great protein option full of healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

Still, knowing where to fish, what to keep and eat, how to clean and cook it and—most importantly—who in your family can safely consume it is key to making wise decisions. After many years of effort and data collection the joint efforts of several agencies has resulted in ISDH issuing an “all clear” for the general population to eat pan fish from many of Indiana's lakes and rivers.

So, get out there and enjoy Indiana's great natural environment folks! If you missed taking your kids or grandkids fishing at the state fair pond this summer, then don't miss out on some great fishing at your favorite Indiana lake, river, or stream!



What can we say? Clint Kowalik of DNR's GoFishIN program loves to fish! When he's not engaging us with fishing or teaching our youth to fish at the Indiana State Fair fishing pond, he can be seen wetting a line at every opportunity. He is shown here with a well-caught lake trout from Lake Michigan in spring of 2016.

Photo by Warren Gartner

2016 Workshop Recap

Here is a quick recap of the workshops our great instructors have led so far this season. The instructor names, number of participants trained, and workshop locations are listed by month below. Kudos to all these newly trained volunteer stream monitors! Welcome to the Hoosier Riverwatch team!

April:



- **Joe Exl** – Trained ten new volunteers at Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy in Chesterton. Although it was cold and wet outside, they were able to complete all aspects of the training indoors.



- **Leah Harden and Sarah Brichford** – Trained seven people in Kokomo at Kirkendall Nature Center at Jackson Morrow Park. These women do a wonderful job and the easy access to a stream site makes this location ideal!



- **John Ulmer** – Trained eleven volunteers at Holliday Park, a Hoosier Riverwatch site in Indianapolis, so the volunteers could record the data collected. We really like to see data being entered into our online database!

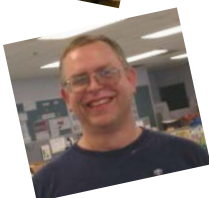


- **Shelley Chaffee and Jennifer Krauser** – Trained seven people at St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend. Participants enjoyed the workshop split into two mornings, and Jennifer graciously brought her nice supply of waterproof boots to use.

May:



- **Kriste Lindberg, Cathy Meyer, and Sandy Belth** – Trained thirteen new volunteers at Karst Farm Park Commons in Bloomington. They found the best spot for collecting macroinvertebrates, and found lots of different taxa and quantities.



- **Kevin Miles** – Trained seven people at Wesselman Nature Center in Evansville. What an excellent facility for ongoing training and learning opportunities!

2016 Workshop Recap (continued)

- **Carol Newhouse** and **Cindy Jewell** – Trained four enthusiastic volunteers and local staff at Hidden Valley Lakes Property Association in Dearborn County.
- **Krista Daniels** – Trained twelve people at Baldwin Schoolhouse at Bonneyville Mill County Park in Bristol. They had some great weather that day!
- **Ann Ice** and **Carrie Parmenter** – Joined forces to train three new Hoosier Riverwatchers in southwest (i.e., Gibson County) Indiana.
- **Joe Exl** (pictured earlier) – Trained two new volunteers at Deep River County Park in Lake County. Thanks for going the extra mile, Joe!



June:

- **Nancy Brown** – Trained thirteen LaGrange County personnel and other interested citizens at Riverbend Park in Middlebury! Way to rock it, Nancy! You are one hard-working advocate for all things aquatic related in northern Indiana!
- **John Ulmer** (pictured earlier) – Trained six people in a requested Advanced Workshop on *E. coli* at the Clay County Farm Service Center. Thanks, John, for teaching these new Clean Water Act Section 319 grant holders! We love the synergy we are seeing between the Section 319 program and Hoosier Riverwatch.
- **Lyn Crighton** and **Darci Zolman** – Trained two dozen new volunteers at the Community Center in North Webster. It doesn't get much better than learning with these two stalwarts of the Hoosier Riverwatch program!



July:

- **Jennifer Krauser** (pictured earlier) and **Chauncre Sprouse** – Trained sixteen new volunteers at LangLab in South Bend. Love the enthusiasm of Jenn and Cre when it comes to being outside in the water and instilling such enthusiasm in others!





Nancy Brown (left) of the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District receives the Howard Michaud Award during the Environmental Educators Association of Indiana (EEAI) Conference at the Cope Environmental Center this June. Darcy Zolman of Kosciusko County presented the award.



Warren Gartner (right), DNR Fish & Wildlife (retired), receives the President's Award from then-president Jabin Burnworth at the 2016 annual EEA conference. *Photos by Clint Kowalik*

Mark Your Calendars:

B A S I C Hoosier Riverwatch Workshops

Saturday, September 10

Columbus, IN – Bartholomew County Public Library, 536 Fifth Street (9 AM – 5 PM).
Contact John Ulmer at hoosierwatersheds@gmail.com or (317) 769-3500 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

Saturday, October 1

E. coli Monitoring – Zionsville Town Hall (9 AM – noon).
Contact John Ulmer at hoosierwatersheds@gmail.com or (317) 769-3500 for information or to register.



Friends like this are waiting to meet you out at the local stream. Won't you come play with them and help ensure clean water for the future?

This group of friends was out sampling in Dearborn County some years ago. Does anyone know the names of these hardworking folks?





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Events Calendar (look for
subscribe in the upper right)

Hoosier Riverwatch bids a fond farewell and best wishes to Warren Gartner of DNR as he retires. Warren oversaw the Hoosier Riverwatch program for many years. He is pictured with Clint Kowalik of DNR's GoFishIN program, who presented Warren with a lovely knife.



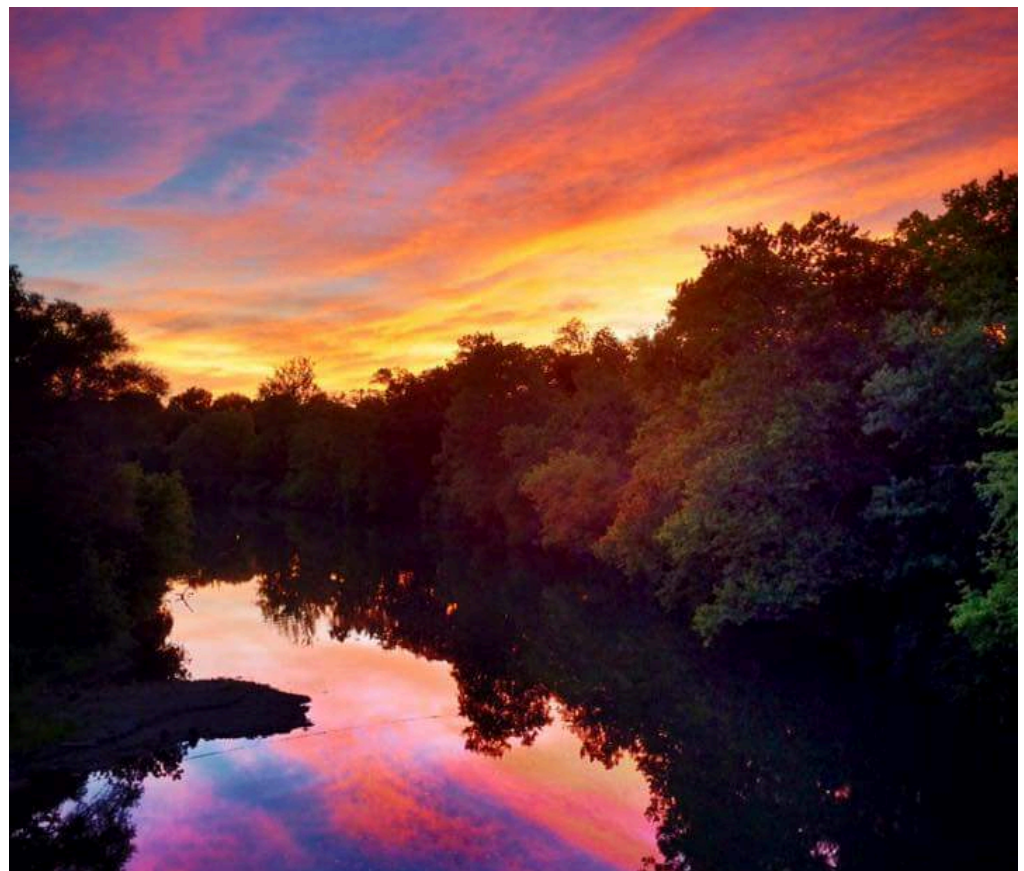
IDEM Office of Water Quality Mission

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](http://www.hoosierriverwatch.com) is a water quality monitoring initiative sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Quality.



A beautiful Indiana sunset over the White River near Muncie, August 2016

Photo by Jim Garringer, Muncie, Indiana