It's not too late to attend the:

Fourth Indiana Lake Management Conference

The Fourth Indiana Lake Management Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, at the Tippecanoe Country Club on the shores of Lake Shafer in Monticello. The conference is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Clean Lakes Program and will be hosted locally by the Greater Monticello Chamber of Commerce. This year's conference includes a technical paper session, general sessions on lake ecology and building more effective lake associations, and a large exhibit area. Other activities include a Friday morning golf outing, tours of the Norway and Oakdale hydroelectric dams, and a fishing techniques clinic.

Brochures have been sent out and others are available by contacting: Bobby Brooking, SPEA 347, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; (812) 855-4556.

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
Marks Third Year

The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program ended its third successful year last fall and will soon begin its fourth year. Last year, citizen volunteers made 524 Secchi disk transparency measurements on 72 Indiana lakes.

Twenty-seven lakes have been monitored for all three years of the program. Summary data for these lakes and the annual data for 1990 and 1991 are being compiled into a report that will be available in April.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and give a special “tip of the Secchi disk” to those who have been monitors for all three years: James Sherwood (Barton), Gus Czitk (Bass), David Trott (Barbee chain), Jack Wallace (Big Turkey), Terry Coffin (Cedar), Neal Carlson (Center), George Bruce (Crooked), Robert Busch (Dewart), Joy Kamradt (Flint), Mary Ellen Nuttall (Hamilton), Ray Cacini (Indiana), Vernon Hell (Little Pike), Steve Merrill (Long), Ted Hege (Loon), Robert Hampton (Wawasaee), and Melanie Salyer (Worster).

National Newsletter Addresses
Volunteer Water Quality Monitors

"The Volunteer Monitor gives monitoring groups a place to express their ideas and exchange practical information," says Eleanor Ely, editor of the national newsletter of volunteer water quality monitoring. Although the publication has been in existence for two years, recent changes have ensured that this important periodical will more effectively link citizen monitors throughout the country.

The Monitor was first published in 1989 through a one-time U.S. EPA grant to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The second issue came out in 1990 through an EPA grant to Seattle’s Adopt a Beach program. Starting with the third issue (Fall 1991), the newsletter has operated with ongoing EPA (Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and

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Maintaining Scenic Values and Visual Qualities in the Shoreline Environment

[Ed. note: This second part of our series on the planning, development and management of lakeshore property was adapted from "A Guide for Buying and Managing Shoreland" (Minn. DNR, 1990) and "Inland Lake Watershed Analysis: A Planning and Management Approach" (Mich. DNR, 1975).]

There is no doubt that the visual and aesthetic appeal of lakes are the qualities that most often attract potential purchasers to lakeshore property. However, many lakes have little aesthetic value and may even become visually offensive and physically hazardous. So how can the aesthetics of the developed lakeshore be maintained and enhanced?

The visual quality of the lakeshore property comes from a sense of the untouched "natural" look. Native vegetation along the shore presents the most natural edge to water bodies. It also preserves shoreline habitat while preventing shoreline erosion. It is important to remember that there are two perspectives to lakeshore aesthetics—from the property owner’s view out to the lake and to the lake user’s view of the property. For example, while large trees and wooded landscapes make lakeshore property and the lake view more attractive to the property owner, they also help to visually screen structures and provide privacy for the property owner from the eyes of lake users.

Figure 1 shows a lakeshore property where most of the native vegetation remains. A small corridor was cut to provide a lake view from the house while the remaining vegetation screens shoreline structures and activities from lake users. The result is a visually pleasing shoreline from both the owner’s and lake users’ perspectives. The native vegetation provides erosion control along the shoreline and a vegetated strip along the shoreline helps trap runoff and nutrients from lawns and structures on the property.

The highly manicured property in Figure 2 offers little visual screening, natural habitat or shoreline erosion control. In addition, this type of shoreline property requires high maintenance and substantial investments of both time and money.

Other suggestions for maintaining the aesthetics of shoreline properties include:

—Minimize the overall size of structures and the profile facing the water.

—Minimize building height and excessive roofs.

—Select building materials (and colors) that are natural or have a natural appearance that blend in with the surroundings.

—Incorporate storage and other uses into the
main structure to eliminate the need for outbuildings that add visual clutter to the shoreline.

—Maintain natural vegetative filter strips along the shore to trap runoff from the property and to stabilize the shore from wave erosion.

—Avoid using seawalls and rip-rap on shorelines. Their appearance is unnatural and they can cause increased erosion of the lake bottom. In most cases, natural vegetation can prevent shoreline erosion just as well.

Lake Association Guidebook

A useful guide is available for lake residents interested in forming a lake association or improving the effectiveness of an existing lake association. The publication, entitled Organizing Lake Users: A Practical Guide, discusses how to organize an effective lake community for lake protection and management. Topics of interest include lake ownership, developing a lake organization, building membership, and dealing with lake problems. The guide also contains model bylaws for lake associations and U.S. EPA Clean Lakes Program guidance.

The guide, as well as an Environmental Catalog detailing other valuable publications, are available from Terrene Institute, 1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 802, Washington D.C., 20036, (202) 833-8317. The cost of the guide is $10.

Herbst Fills Director’s Position at DNR

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials announced recently that David L. Herbst has been named director of the DNR Division of Soil Conservation. As director of the division, Herbst will oversee conservation efforts such as the T-by-2000 (erosion reduction) Program, the Lake Enhancement (sedimentation reduction) Program, and the 92 soil and water conservation districts around the state.

“Some programs reflect areas of great need relative to Indiana conservation,” said Patrick R. Ralsdon, director of the DNR. “As director of the Division of Soil Conservation, Mr. Herbst will make decisions that will affect Hoosiers for years to come. After many hours of exhaustive research on his background and credentials, we’re confident Dave Herbst will serve Indiana’s soil conservation interests well.”

A native of Allen County, Indiana, Herbst graduated from New Haven High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Purdue University. He later earned a master’s degree in ecology from Purdue.

Herbst worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service from 1961-62, and spent the next nine years working for the Indiana DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife in various supervisory, field, and administrative capacities. He served as director of the DNR Division of State Parks from 1971-77, and represented a five-state region for the National Wildlife Federation for 14 years.

Herbst has served on the DNR’s Advisory Council for Water and Minerals (1979-81), the Soil

(Continued on next page . . .)
Watch Out for (Weed) Killer Rains

Traces of herbicides have been found in rainwater samples from a 23-state area mostly in the midwest and northeast. The predominant herbicides detected in the study were atrazine, alachlor, metolachlor, and a degradation product of atrazine. The U.S. Geological Survey study is designed to determine the seasonal and geographic distribution patterns of herbicides. The research is part of a water-quality initiative in the Midwest being done in cooperation with the EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hericide concentrations in rain decreased in all directions away from the Midwest, but were still detectable in samples from Maine and Isle Royal National Park in Lake Superior. Although concentrations are small, USGS scientists point out that the findings confirm airborne transportation as a pathway for the migration of agricultural chemicals. The herbicides apparently get into rain water as a result of the vaporization during the applications process. (USGS News Release).

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Samples Pesticides in Surface Waters

In May of 1991, IDEM's Surveillance and Standards Branch began a program that involved the collection of seasonal surface water samples from 100 stations around the state that were analyzed for 129 pesticides. The third and last set of samples was collected this spring.

A review of the samples collected last spring after application reveal that 39 pesticides were found at detectable levels. Atrazine (92 sites), Alachlor (63 sites), Cynazine (68 sites) and Metolachlor (89 sites) were found at much greater frequency than the others. Although Cynazine and Metolachlor were detected at a large number of sites, they were present at low levels.

The results for the full samples have only recently been received and are being checked for quality control prior to evaluation. When results for the last sample set are received, a complete report will be prepared.
Wisconsin DNR Initiates Electronic Bulletin Board on Lake Management

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains an electronic bulletin board focusing on lakes and lake management. Anyone having a computer and modem can access the bulletin board during the hours from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Information is continuously updated and includes: public and private publications, newsletters including Water Column, lake management factsheets, messages, and Wisconsin lake data.

Steps to access the bulletin board:

1. Turn on computer with modem
2. Start communication software
3. Set telephone number 608-267-7551
4. Make default settings 2400, 8, N, 1
5. Place call—"Connected" is displayed on your screen
6. Enter your name, information (first time), a password
7. Read the important messages
8. Choose "Read" or "Send Messages" or "Download" or "Upload Files" or "Read Bulletins" or "Search File Names and Descriptions" or "Goodbye"

For questions or comments, contact Jim Vennie at (608) 266-2212.

New Species of Zebra Mussel Invades Great Lakes

A second species of zebra mussel has been found in the Great Lakes, according to a recent report by Dr. Ellen Marsden of the Illinois Natural History Survey. This new species could potentially tolerate a different range of environmental conditions than the zebra mussel that invaded North America several years ago. Worse still, the second species could respond differently to methods currently used to control the original zebra mussel invader.

To date, the new mussel species has been found only in Lake Ontario and the Erie Canal, says Marsden, who recently presented the research findings at the Second International Zebra Mussel Research Conference in Rochester, New York. Sampling in Lake Michigan has not yet detected the new species, which is distinguished by shell shape and genetic composition. (Illinois Resources, Jan/Feb 1992.)

(See insert brochure for what you can do to prevent the spread of zebra mussels in Indiana.)

Meetings


