

# Riffles & Pools

Office of Water Quality

idem.IN.gov



## Greetings Riverwatchers!

The leaves are changing colors again, and we find ourselves at the end of another workshop season. Looking back at the trainings held in 2024, we can be proud of the continued success of the program. This year, 36 workshops were conducted, leading to over 230 individuals becoming trained in Hoosier Riverwatch methods. Additionally, 12 grant kits were awarded to applicants around the state. This is twice as many as in 2023 and is the third highest number of kits provided in the last 10 years!

Hoosier Riverwatch trainings continue to draw interest thanks to new scientific findings. Consider the water cycle, for example. We are taught at a young age of the path of water- evaporation, condensation, precipitation, repeat. We later learn that there are many more complexities in this cycle. Within the last 10 years, studies have revealed that a mineral called ringwoodite, most often found under extreme pressure 400 miles below Earth's surface, traps water within its crystalline structure. Researchers predict that the amount of water being held within this state is around three times the volume in all the oceans combined. Exciting new discoveries regarding our natural world inspire individuals to learn more. I encourage all curious minds to join Hoosier Riverwatch or other local participatory science efforts in pursuit of more knowledge!

Dylan Allison  
Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator

Photo Courtesy of City of Bloomington

### Fall 2024

#### In this Issue:

Hoosier Riverkeepers  
Workshop on the Water  
IU Clean Lakes  
Environmental Adventure Days  
Experience Michiana PBS

#### Upcoming Workshops

Check Back

Spring 2025

For More Workshops!

Hoosier Riverwatch is sponsored by IDEM



## Hoosier Riverkeepers

Several resources from the early days of Hoosier Riverwatch recently found their way across my desk. Readers may be interested in seeing old training manuals and newsletters. It occurred to me that many of our volunteers may not be aware of the history of the program.

Hoosier Riverwatch was officially established in 1996. However, there was a predecessor program already in place at the time. In the early 1990s, the DNR's Division of Outdoor Recreation was the home to the Hoosier Riverkeepers program. The mission of the Riverkeepers was to "aid volunteers in protecting and preserving the beauty of Indiana's rivers and quality of watersheds through riverbank clean-ups." The popular Adopt-a-River initiative fell under the Riverkeepers. In 1996, Hoosier Riverwatch was added to "increase public awareness of water quality issues by training volunteers to monitor stream quality."

Funds from the Clean Water Act went toward hiring a coordinator for the programs in 1996. By 1997, the term Riverkeepers was dropped to shorten the name. Hoosier Riverwatch hosted its first volunteer instructor training in 2001 at Fort Harrison State Park. The program moved to the Divisions of Soil Conservation and Fish & Wildlife, before eventually moving agencies in 2012. Hoosier Riverwatch has been managed by IDEM's Office of Water Quality for the last 12 years and counting.

**HOOSIER RIVERKEEPERS**  
**Riverwatch**  
 Winter 1997 / Volume 2, Number 1

**RIVERKEEPERS**  
 A Quarterly Publication for River Stewards

**RIVERWATCH**  
 Riverwatch is a state-wide program that focuses on increasing the public awareness of water quality issues and promoting the protection of our state's rivers and streams, as well as the quality of our watersheds and watersheds through riverbank clean-ups and the Adopt-a-River program.

**WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA SHEETS**  
 Please return copies of all data sheets that have been completed to:  
 Riverwatch Coordinator, Sarah Hippensteel  
 Dept. of Natural Resources  
 401 W. Washington W271  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

The data sheets will be filed by location, and Riverwatch will generate an annual report in June of this year.  
 Also, the Riverwatch Coordinator can help you with any questions or problems that you may be having with any of the water quality tests or the completion of the data sheets!

**SPRING 1997 WATER QUALITY MONITORING WORKSHOPS**  
 The dates for the March, April, and first few weeks of May Riverwatch workshops are listed below. If you would like to schedule a May or June workshop in your area, please contact the Riverwatch coordinator BEFORE March 31st.

March 11	Penny County
15	DePue University
21	Ellettsville Watershed
April 2	Tippecanoe County
8	Spring Mill State Park
21	Oubache State Park
May 1	Perry County
10	East River Watershed

All workshops are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The morning sessions will be in a classroom setting, and the afternoon will be outside. Please bring a glass bottle with a secure lid or stopper, a lunch, dress appropriately, and bring your boots!

\*\*\* Please contact Sarah Hippensteel at (317) 232-0108 for reservations and directions.

HOOSIER RIVERWATCH  
 Volunteer  
**Water Quality  
 Monitoring  
 Streams Manual**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRST EDITION

**RIVERWATCH WORKSHOPS**  
 Spring 1997

Riverwatch workshops are centered on biological, chemical, and physical parameters with a "train the trainer" curriculum. Workshops provide the proper knowledge and background information to the participants so they will be able to instruct others on water quality issues and concerns. The workshops also provide the necessary training and data sheets to correctly and repeatedly monitor water quality.

All workshops are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Watch the time zones!) The morning session will be in a classroom setting, and the afternoon session will be outdoors. Please provide your own lunch, and dress appropriately. Bring boots if you would like to get wet!

APRIL	2	Tippecanoe Co. - Battletield Retreat Center
	8	Spring Mill State Park - Nature Center
MAY	24	Oubache State Park - Lodge
	1	Indiana Dunes State Park - Nature Center
	10	Whitley County - Town Bureau Building
	17	Ft. Harrison State Park
	21	Raccoon Lake State Park
	31	Aurora - Aurora City Park
	18	Princeton - Public Library

Reservations and directions can be obtained from Sarah Hippensteel at (317) 232-0108.

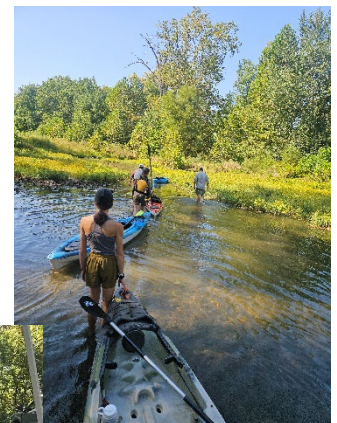
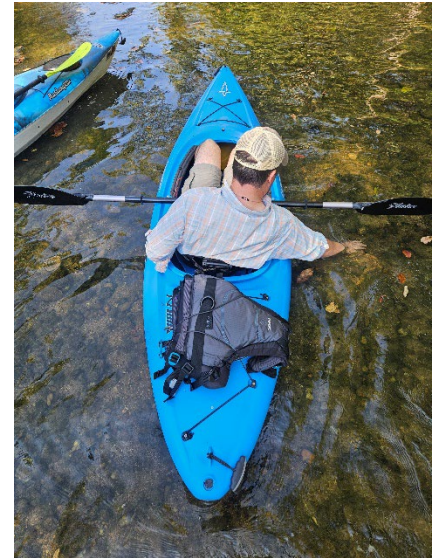


## Workshop on the Water

Hoosier Riverwatch workshops involve hands-on experience in the field whenever possible. Typically, however, this is coupled with a portion of the workshop held in a classroom setting. This summer, two instructors put a new twist on the training workshop. Toria Callow, of FlatLand Resources, and Seth Harden, of The Nature Conservancy, decided to complete the entire workshop outside while paddling down a river.

Seth and Toria found some inspiration for the training during the 2024 Instructor Gathering. At the event, Hoosier Riverwatch instructors were invited to a paddle along the White River while staff from the Friends of White River shared information and resources along the way. One resource shared was a floating, waterproof booklet. Seth and Toria imagined that a similar resource, with information from the Hoosier Riverwatch manual, could be used in a workshop on the water.

Seth and Toria hosted several participants in Upland along the Upper Mississinewa River. They offered some instruction at the Taylor University canoe launch before shuttling to a launch location two miles upstream. The group stopped during the paddle for exploration and hands-on practice. Admittedly, there were challenges that our instructors faced during the new facilitation style. A lack of rain in the weeks prior slowed the trip down and several portages were required to move canoes past low water levels. Extra time required for shuttling and the lack of restrooms were other factors Seth and Toria had to take into consideration. However, at the end of the day, the participants all had high remarks for the workshop and enjoyed their day on the water. Kudos to Toria and Seth for engaging with students in new and creative ways!



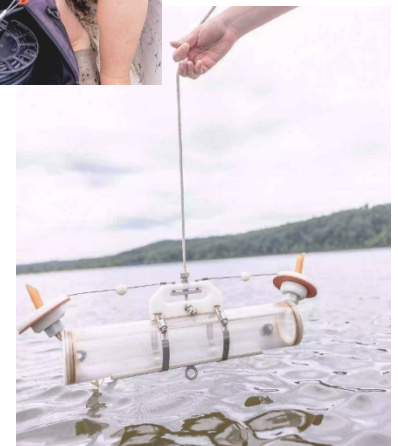
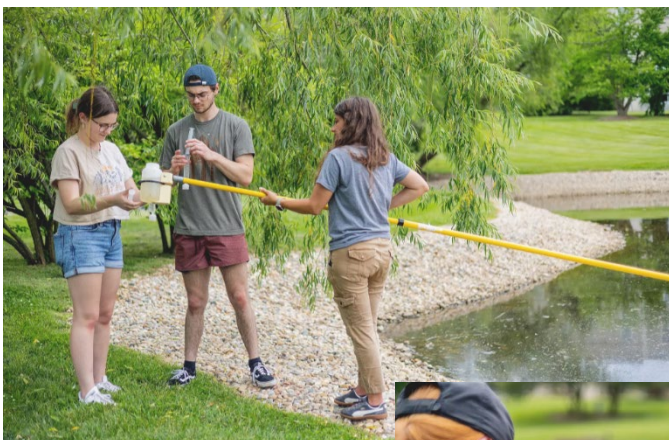


## IU Clean Lakes Program

Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers often inquire about water monitoring within lakes. This is understandable as both lotic (flowing) and lentic (standing) ecosystems make up our surface waters. However, many volunteers are surprised to hear that Indiana has a program, separate from Hoosier Riverwatch, that focuses on monitoring lakes.

The Indiana Clean Lakes Program (INCLP), established in 1989, is administered by Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The program utilizes graduate students, lab technicians, and volunteers to collect data from over 80 public lakes around the state. Over 200 IU students have gone through the training since the creation of the program. The 11-week paid internship provides students with the hands-on experience they need to excel in careers in the environmental field. With access to a lab on campus, students can monitor for a long list of parameters, including ammonium-nitrogen, total plankton, and chlorophyll  $\alpha$ . Volunteers add to the data collection by sampling for parameters such as Secchi disk transparency, temperature and dissolved oxygen, and algal blooms.

INCLP demonstrates a great partnership between Indiana University and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. As a requirement of the Clean Water Act, the state must provide reports to the EPA regarding the status of all public lakes in Indiana. Involving IU students and volunteers increases the scope of sampling, while IDEM provides funding and technical assistance. For more information on the program, visit <https://clp.indiana.edu/index.html> or the *News at IU* article [here](#).





## Environmental Adventure Day

Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator Dylan Allison visited Southeastway Park to host a station at the park's Environmental Adventure Day (EAD). The round-robin style event brought 400 third-grade students together to rotate through stations led by local naturalists and conservation leaders.

Dylan led his groups in the popular "Moving for Macros," an activity on the upcoming Hoosier Riverwatch Junior curriculum. Students were able to run a relay race with dip nets while scooping up "macroinvertebrates". Other stations included live birds of prey, tree leaf ID, soil exploration, and the mobile Woods on Wheels trailer. There are two EADs scheduled for 2025, and Hoosier Riverwatch looks forward to participating again!







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or go to:  
**idem.IN.gov**



## **PBS *Experience Michiana***

Hoosier Riverwatch instructor, Jan McGowan, once again found herself in front of a camera. In November 2023, Jan, a naturalist with St. Joseph County Parks, appeared on an [episode](#) of PBS program *Outdoor Elements*. This September, Jan was back on PBS on a program called [Experience Michiana](#). Jan was able to offer a great overview of Hoosier Riverwatch and promoted local workshops. Check out the episode [here!](#)



*Photo Courtesy of Experience Michiana*

## ***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 groundwater 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 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](http://idem.IN.gov/riverwatch).