



# Riffles & Pools



February/March 2012



La Fortuna Waterfall, Costa Rica  
(A little vacation as we get through winter)

## Riverwatch News & Updates

Greetings Riverwatchers. I hope this edition of *Riffles & Pools* finds you safe and healthy. I write this the day after the Superbowl and I am still feeling the excitement of it all. We took the opportunity, on multiple occasions, to head downtown and check out all the sites and sounds. In my opinion, it was fantastic. It certainly made me proud, not only of Indianapolis, but to call myself a Hoosier. I think this shows that when a group of committed citizens get together, they can indeed make change. Our humble state was in the international spotlight and I believe it shined.

With that said, I hope this continues to encourage you, re-energizes you, or puts you in the game that we can make a positive difference for water quality. We know it doesn't happen overnight, but little by little we are having an impact and making our rivers and streams better.

Hoosier Riverwatch is a program in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife. We are housed at the Natural Resources Education Center located at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park.

Fort Harrison State Park - NREC  
5785 Glenn Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
317.541.0617 (phone)  
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Visit Hoosier Riverwatch at:

[www.IN.gov/dnr/nrec](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/nrec)  
[www.facebook.com/IndianaNREC](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaNREC)

## Updates Cont.

I hope you use this transition into spring as a chance to evaluate your monitoring goals and plan. If you don't have a plan, now is a great time to ask yourself why you are monitoring and where and when will best achieve this goal. Think about your sampling schedule and how many sites you have. It may be just you and a friend and that is OK. Mark in your calendar when you are going to get out and stick to it. Also, don't forget to make sure your monitoring supplies are in order and not expired. This simple preparation now will have you out at the stream in no time.

As always, do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or concerns. Happy Monitoring.



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*Fish and wildlife management and public access are funded by fishing and hunting license revenue and also through the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These programs collect excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment, and motor boat fuels. The money is distributed among state fish and wildlife agencies based on land size and the number of licensed anglers and hunters in each state. Find out more information about fish and wildlife management in Indiana at [www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/).*

# EPA Tools

## Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool

The USEPA has announced a new tool to help you determine who is discharging, what pollutants they are discharging and how much, and where they are discharging. The tool calculates pollutant loadings from permit and DMR data from EPA's Permit Compliance System (PCS) and Integrated Compliance Information System for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES). Data is available for the years 2007 through 2010. Pollutant loadings are presented as pounds per year and as toxic-weighted pounds per year to account for variations in toxicity among pollutants. The tool ranks dischargers, industries, and watersheds based on pollutant mass and toxicity, and presents "top ten" lists to help you determine which discharges are important, which facilities and industries are producing these discharges, and which watersheds are impacted.

The tool also includes wastewater pollutant discharge data from EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). Data is available for the years 2007 through 2010. Users can search TRI data to find the facilities with the largest pollutant discharges to surface waters or sewage treatment plants (a.k.a. Publicly-Owned Treatment Works – "POTWs"). Users can also compare the DMR data search results against TRI data search results and vice versa. The tool clearly labels the source of data when displaying search results but does not mix TRI or DMR data when calculating pollutant discharges.

Visit, <http://cfpub.epa.gov/dmr/> for more information.

## EPA Launches Recovery Potential Screening Website to Assist Restoration Planners

EPA announces the release of a new technical assistance tool for state and watershed-level surface water quality protection and restoration programs: the recovery potential screening website ( [www.epa.gov/recoverypotential/](http://www.epa.gov/recoverypotential/)). Recovery potential screening is a flexible approach for comparing relative differences in restorability among impaired waters across a state, watershed or other area. The website provides step-by-step screening directions, restorability indicators and literature, and tools for scoring and displaying results.

EPA developed recovery potential screening to help users improve their restoration programs by revealing and comparing factors that influence restoration success. The method is applicable to watershed priority setting, impaired waters listing, TMDL implementation, 319/nonpoint source control, healthy watersheds assessment, and watershed plan development. For additional information, please contact Doug Norton ([norton.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:norton.douglas@epa.gov)).

# Funding Opportunities

## **EPA Sense of Wonder Contest**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites the public to submit creative projects to the 6th annual



Rachel Carson intergenerational “Sense of Wonder” contest. There are four categories: photography, essay, poetry and dance. This year, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the contest will focus on a “Sense of Water.”

Contest submissions are encouraged to focus on the various properties of water – how it tastes, what it sounds like, how it feels – and what water means to the entrants.

The deadline for entries is **June 1, 2012**, and winners will be announced in

September 2012. A panel of judges will select finalists in each category, and the winners will be determined by a public online vote that will begin in August 2012.

Carson is considered to be the founder of the contemporary environmental movement through her landmark book, “Silent Spring.” The contest seeks to spur and instill the same sense of wonder Carson had among all generations.

The contest is sponsored by EPA, the Dance Exchange, the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., and Generations United. For more information about the contest and to see the works of previous winners please see <http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>.

## **NEA Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants**

NEA Foundation- Nickelodeon Big Help Grants are available in the form of student achievement grants to K-8 public school educators. The Big Help Grants program is dedicated to the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for addressing four key concerns: environmental awareness, health and wellness, students’ right to a quality public education, and active community involvement.

# Funding Opportunities

Proposals for work resulting in low-income and minority student success with honors, advanced placement, or other challenging curricula are particularly encouraged. Practicing U.S. public school teachers, public school education support professionals, and faculty and staff members at public institutions of higher education may apply.

The maximum grant amount is \$5,000. Deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 15 each year.

Learn more here: <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants>.

## **GRO1000 Grassroots Grant**

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is providing funding for local community groups through its GRO1000 Grassroots Grant awards. As part of the GRO1000 program, a commitment to build 1,000 community gardens and green spaces by 2018, Grassroots Grants will be awarded to organizations across the U.S. to help create greenscapes in local neighborhoods and communities.

GRO1000 Grassroots Grant applications for 2012 are available online at: [thescottsmiraclegrocompany.com/corporateresponsibility/community/gro1000](http://thescottsmiraclegrocompany.com/corporateresponsibility/community/gro1000).

Deadline for application submission is **February 24, 2012**, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Grants, which range from \$500 to \$1,500, are awarded based on community need, scope of project and long-term sustainability of the project.

## *Loaner Trunks*

So you've attended a workshop and want to try your hand at monitoring, but you don't have the equipment? Have no fear, Riverwatch has Loaner Trunks located throughout the state. Loaner Trunks have all the equipment you need to monitor and may be borrowed for varying lengths of time.

Arrangements are made on an individual basis for each location.

To locate a Loaner Trunk in your area, email Lisa at [riverwatch@dnr.in.gov](mailto:riverwatch@dnr.in.gov) for a map and contact information.



# Training Schedule

**Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Training** introduces citizens and educators to water quality monitoring utilizing hands-on habitat, chemical, and biological assessment methods. The sessions are held both inside and outdoors. Any interested adult is welcome to attend, and once certified, may teach students how to monitor.

Although Volunteer Stream Monitoring training workshops are free, you must contact the local host in advance to register. Most workshops are held from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Schedule is subject to change. For an updated schedule, visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/nrec/3042.htm>.

## Basic Training Workshops

### **Saturday, April 14**

Indianapolis, IN - Holliday Park (9:00 am - 4:30pm)

To register contact the NREC at [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

### **Thursday, April 19**

Elkhart,/Noble County– TBD

To register contact Nancy Brown at [nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net) or 574-533-4383 ext. 3.

### **Saturday, April 28**

Hammond, IN - Gibson Woods Nature Preserve County Park (9:30 am - 4:30 pm)

To register contact Lake County Parks at 219-844-3188 .

### **Saturday, April 28**

South Bend, IN - St. Patrick's County Park (\$3.00 per person for drinks and snacks.)

To register contact [bendixwoods@sjcparks.org](mailto:bendixwoods@sjcparks.org) or 574-654-3155.

### **Saturday, May 12**

Zionsville, IN - Zion Nature Center

To register contact the NREC at [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

### **Saturday, May 19**

Bristol, IN - Bonneyville Mill County Park (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

To register contact Krista Daniels at [krista@elkhartcountyparks.org](mailto:krista@elkhartcountyparks.org) or 574-535-6458.

### **Thursday, June 7**

Battleground, IN - Brier Environmental Education Center, Tippecanoe Battleground

To register contact Mary Cutler at [mcut@msn.com](mailto:mcut@msn.com) or 765-567-2993.

### **Friday, June 8**

Peru, IN - Peru Wastewater Treatment Plant

*Credits pending approval:-*

*7 technical drinking water operator and/or 2 technical & 5 general wastewater operator.*

To register contact Jamin Beisiegel at [perustormwater@gmail.com](mailto:perustormwater@gmail.com) or (765) 473-7651.

# HRW Training Schedule

**Tuesday and Thursday, June 12 and June 14 (Must attend both days)**

Kokomo, IN - Kirkendall Nature Center - Jackson Morrow Park (5:00 pm - 9:00 pm)

To register contact Sarah Brichford at [sarah.brichford@co.howard.in.us](mailto:sarah.brichford@co.howard.in.us) or 765- 456-2217.

**Thursday, July 12**

North Webster, IN - North Webster Community Center

To register contact Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation at [twf-wendi@kconline.com](mailto:twf-wendi@kconline.com) or 574-834-3242.

**Friday, July 6**

Bloomington, IN

To register contact the Bloomington Parks and Rec at [kriste.lindberg@gmail.com](mailto:kriste.lindberg@gmail.com) or 812-349-3700.

**Saturday, September 8**

Indianapolis, IN - Holliday Park (9:00 am - 4:30pm)

To register contact the NREC at [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

**Protecting Our Watersheds**

Hoosier Riverwatch will be partnering with Earth Force to offer a Protecting Our Watersheds workshop. This community action program from Earth Force / GREEN guides your middle school / high school class or adult watershed organization through the process of analyzing your data, determining where problems may exist in your watershed, and taking action in your community to protect water quality.

**Friday, June 22**

Indianapolis, IN - Natural Resources Education Center (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)

To register contact the NREC at [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

**E. coli Workshop**

If you have already attended a Riverwatch Basic Training but would like more information on E. coli, attend this advanced workshop.

**Saturday, September 22**

Zionsville, IN - Zion Nature Center (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

To register contact the NREC at [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

## Hoosier Riverwatch Contact Information

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Indianapolis, IN 46216

317.541.0617 (phone)  
317.562.0790 (fax)  
[Riverwatch@dnr.in.gov](mailto:Riverwatch@dnr.in.gov)

If you need to borrow or pick up equipment, our office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please contact us prior to any visit so we can let the gate attendant know you will be coming.