

# ST. JOSEPH RIVER REVIEW

A PUBLICATION BY THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative - 3718 New Vision Drive - Ft. Wayne, IN 46845 - (260) 484-5848, ext. 3  
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## St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership Celebrates 10 Years



Keynote Speaker  
Jane Frankenberger

Larry Clemens & Jim Lake talk  
about Initiative's history.

Bob Gillespie,  
board chairman

Stream-side macroinvertebrate  
identification

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Conference on the St. Joseph at Metea County Park on July 25, 2006. The event began with nearly 30 people joining the on-stream demonstrations of macroinvertebrate identification and the use of a back pack shocker to survey fish populations in wadeable streams.

A picnic supper catered by Dutch Heritage followed in the Metea Park Nature Center. Jim Lake, District Support Specialist, IN Dept. of Ag, Div. of Soil Conservation and Larry Clemens, Assistant State Director for Conservation Programs, two charter partners of the Conference on the St. Joseph, spoke on the history of the Initiative from its inception at the Conference on the St. Joseph on March 20, 1996 to present day.

Jane Frankenberger, Water Quality Coordinator, Purdue Extension Program in Soil & Water Engineering & Water Management presented "Securing Our Future: Clean Water and a Healthy Watershed". She asked the question of whether our water is secure and demonstrated the many ways citizens can work to keep their water safe and secure.

We appreciate the many people who have worked for and with the Initiative for the past 10 years and we look forward to an exciting new decade on the river. ■

### Board Elections



Election of officers was held for the Board of Directors. Officers elected were Mary Jane Slaton, City of Fort Wayne—Chair; Bill Word, Hillsdale County Drainage Commission—Vice-Chair; Jerry Hohla, (Retired) A & L Great Lakes Laboratory—Treasurer; and Valerie Richardson, Community Research Institute at IPFW—Secretary. Returning board members are Tom Crowe, Marvin Dietsch, Joe Draper, Daniel Easterday, Bob Koerner and Rodney Renkenberger. Martha Ferguson was elected in as a new member of the board of directors. ■

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Jane Slaton,**  
Chairman  
City of Fort Wayne, IN  
**Bill Word,**  
Vice-Chairman  
Hillsdale Co. Drainage  
Commission

**Jerry Hohla,**  
Treasurer  
Retired A & L Great Lakes  
Laboratory  
**Valerie Richardson,**  
Secretary  
IPFW-Community  
Research Institute  
**Tom Crowe**  
Allen County SWCD  
**Dan Easterday**  
Hillsdale County, MI farmer

**Martha Ferguson**  
Master Gardener,  
Landowner  
**Rodney Renkenberger**  
Maumee River Basin  
Commission  
**Marvin Dietsch**  
Williams Co. Farm Bureau  
**Joe Draper**  
The Nature Conservancy  
**Bob Koerner**  
Williams Co., OH farmer

*Board positions are open to new and existing partners.*

#### STAFF

**Jane Loomis**  
Executive Director  
**Jeremy Palmer**  
Agronomy Technician  
**Kevin Breit**  
SWPI Technician  
**Tina Puitz**  
Publications Coordinator

## Lower St. Joseph-Bear Creek Subwatershed



### Become a Stream Volunteer

Hoosier Riverwatch Training held  
August 19

The season's second Hoosier Riverwatch basic training for volunteer stream monitors was held at the Initiative offices on August 19. There were 11 participants who were provided classroom education on chemical assessment and visited the Cedar Creek to investigate stream habitat and biological indicators, such as benthic macroinvertebrates, to determine water quality.

### Practice Day Held on September 23

A practice day for trained volunteers on September 23 was hosted at the ACRES Land Trust, 1802 Chapman Road. The day began with breakfast at 8:30, followed by volunteers practicing their skills learned in the Hoosier Riverwatch training classes. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Volunteer Stream Monitor or participating in a future practice day, call Tina at 484-5848 x117 or look for more information on our website [www.sjrwi.org](http://www.sjrwi.org)

### World Water Monitoring Day

World Water Monitoring Day is October 18. It's easy and fun to monitor a body of water. For more information Here's how to get started.

1. **Choose your site.** Choose any lake, stream or other waterbody where you can safely monitor.
2. **Prepare your monitoring equipment.** Monitoring equipment can be checked out through the Initiative by contacting Tina at 484-5848 x117. You must have taken the Hoosier Riverwatch training course to reserve a kit.
3. **Monitor your site.** Visit your site between September 18 and October 18 to test the water.
4. **Report your data.** You can submit your data at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.com/> to be included in the annual World Water Monitoring Day summary reports. Don't forget to register your data at the Hoosier Riverwatch site at [www.HoosierRiverwatch.com/select.asp](http://www.HoosierRiverwatch.com/select.asp) ■

## Stakeholder Meetings

### Bear Creek Subwatershed

A walk along the St. Joe River Greenway Trail preceded the August 24 Lower St. Joe-Bear Creek stakeholder meeting. Dawn Ritchie, Greenway Manager, City of Fort Wayne had this to say about her experience: "The Rivergreenway provides a park-like setting along the riverbank of the St. Joseph River. The experience is spectacular as you wind through the old-growth trees and hear the singing of birds as butterflies flutter around you. The community obviously takes great pride in the trail. I found not a speck of litter along the pathway. This linear parkway is a must see for nature lovers, trail users and river advocates!"

The meeting addressed public access issues, log jams and the data that has been created showing conservation in place and wetland delineation, among other things. The process of choosing stream sites where monitoring of habitat, biology and chemistry of the stream will be conducted this fall was also examined.

### Lower St. Joe Sub-watershed

The Psi Ote Barn in Fort Wayne was the site of the September 19 stakeholder meeting for the Lower St. Joe Sub-watershed. Critical stream areas were identified, water quality information was updated and goals were solidified. The meeting was well attended by 20 interested persons. ■

### GLC Grant Closes

June 30 marked the closing of the Initiative's *St. Joseph River Erosion Reduction Project* funded by a \$99,940 grant from the Great Lakes Commission. The project began in the summer of 2004. Incentives in excess of \$52,000 were awarded to landowners in the watershed, with matching of more than \$55,000 being provided by those landowners and partners. In all, 24 erosion reduction projects were funded located in five of the counties in the watershed.

The project also produced a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) digitized layer of conservation practices in place in the watershed, which is expected to be very valuable to conservation agencies in the future as we work to place Best Management Practices (BMP) on the land. ■



Erosion problem areas such as this one along the East Fork of the West Branch of the St. Joseph River in Hillsdale County, were repaired with funding help from the *St. Joseph Watershed Erosion Reduction Project*.

## Tillage Day Draws 125 Participants

The Allen County SWCD, and the SJRWI presented a field day complete with hog roast and homemade ice cream on July 27 at Dave Melcher's Advanced Grain Farms in New Haven, Indiana. Over 125 producers attended who were interested in opportunities in zone-tillage. Producers were informed of federal and state programs available by Dave Hines, Area Program Specialist, NRCS. Ray Rawson and Rich Recker of Rawson Farms presented the benefits of a zone till system versus conventional tillage.



Producers show interest in equipment demonstrations.

Field and equipment demonstrations of strip-till units, planting on the strip with a planter, corn and soybean plot tours, and advantages of zone-tillage systems were available. Several seed company representatives were on-hand to talk about their products used in the variety plots. Equipment and auto-guidance dealers were on hand to demonstrate their products and answer questions from the participants. ■

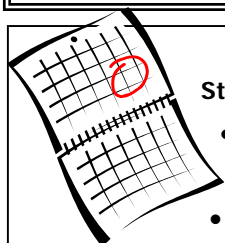
### Dollars Available for Septic Replacement



Cost share money for the Cedar Creek Septic System Replacement Program is still available to residents of the Cedar Creek watershed. Applications are steadily coming into the office. For more information, please call Jane at 260-484-5848 x120. Application packets can be obtained at the St. Joseph River Watershed office, located in the Allen County USDA Service Center building at 3718 New Vision Drive. ■

### Cedar Creek area is focus of two summer events

The Matson Ditch area of the Cedar Creek sub-watershed was the focus of a June 19 farmer/producer meeting at the shop of Bowman and Bowman Farms in Waterloo, Indiana, which featured presentation of data collected by the Agriculture Research Service's Source Water Protection Initiative (SWPI) project. The Initiative is the watershed partner for this project. The DeKalb County SWCD and the ARS staff organized a BBQ cookout dinner, supported by a donation from Joseph Metzinger, owner of Advanced Design and Machine, Inc. Also on hand for the evening was Greg Kneubuhler of Nester Ag Management, who led a crop diagnostic session focusing on the condition of the corn crop under conventional, long-term no-till, and zone-tillage systems. Approximately 30 participants were on hand for the meeting. ■



#### St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

- **October 2** *SJRWI Board of Directors Meeting*, (see page 4)
- **October 18** *World Water Monitoring Day*, (see page 2)
- **November 9** *Septic System Conference*, Huntertown.

#### Other workshops to note

- **September 30** *Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Stream Monitoring, Elkhart*. For more information contact Nancy Brown, 574-533-4383 or [nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net)
- **October 6** *Hoosier Riverwatch, E.Coli Training, Elkhart County*. For more information contact Nancy Brown, 574-533-3630 x3 or [nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net)
- **November 28-30** *Innovations in Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference*, Indianapolis. For more information [www.riverinstitute.org/events/nonpointsource/index.php](http://www.riverinstitute.org/events/nonpointsource/index.php). ■

## Upcoming Events



to the following individuals and organizations

- Mary Jane Slaton
- Mr. & Mrs. Scott Bushnell
- Advanced Grain & Machine, Inc.
- And to all our volunteers and partners who help promote the work of the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.

I would like to help by volunteering.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Board of Directors Meeting

The public is invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings for the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative on the first Monday of Feb., Apr., June, Oct. and Dec. The next meeting will be October 2 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Annex Building at 215 E. 9th Street. ■

### New! on SJRWI.org

Did You Know...you could be eligible for up to \$3,000 in cost-share dollars to replace your failing septic system. For more information, visit our website at [www.sjrwi.org](http://www.sjrwi.org).



### Watershed Tour

Approximately 17 individuals from the Fort Wayne area, Columbus, Ohio, and Indianapolis participated in a watershed tour through the Cedar Creek watershed on July 27. After a stop at Cook's Landing for a quick look at the Cedar Creek valley, it was on to the Source Water Protection Initiative (SWPI) site where Dr. Chi-hua Huang and Stan Livingston of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) gave an overall description of the watershed study. Livingston described what was being sampled and the instrumentation being used. Dr. Doug Smith discussed nutrient loading in the ditches as well as the effects of dredging on water quality. Also present at the site was a team of scientists working under the direction of IPFW Biology professor Robert Gillespie on the aquatic habitat survey for the Conservation Effects Analysis Program (CEAP). Scott Gibson, leader of the research team, described what they were finding that particular day.

The next stop was at the field lab where Livingston described what happens to the samples after being pulled from the streams and ditches. Dr. Elizabeth Warnemunde presented results from the first four years of the pesticide analysis discussing effects of different types of tillage on pesticide loading rates. Next on the tour was a visit to the depression drainage site where Livingston described the design of the depression monitoring site as well as the equipment in use. Dr. Gary Heathman discussed the weatherstation network, soil moisture sensors, as well as the SWAT and AGNPS modeling effort underway.

After lunch, the tour teamed up with Joe Draper of The Nature Conservancy to visit the Douglas Woods reforestation project, an erosion reduction project along the East Branch of the St. Joseph at Ty Friskney's farm, and the two stage ditch project in Hillsdale County. ■

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## St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

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