



ILLINOIS

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

NEWSLETTER

Year of Clean Water

Special points of interest:

- 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act
- National Monitoring Day
- Illinois Clean Lakes Applications Due
- Web-based Volunteer Database
- 2002 Lake Festivals

In an effort to address the growing concern of a declining quality of life involving our nation's water supply and to heighten the importance of our nation's water resources, Congress passed the Federal Clean Water Act in 1972, its main objective being "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." Thirty years following this key legislation, the nation, and Illinois in particular, has seen great water quality improvements in our lakes, streams and groundwater. A great deal of time, money and effort have gone into preserving and maintaining our water, helping it to be fishable, swimmable and drinkable.

In general, this Act pinpointed the need to control point source discharge into waters and to preserve water quality levels that would protect

fish and other wildlife as well as provide for recreation in and on the water wherever possible. As a result, miles of



Non-point source pollution is pollution that cannot be attributed to any one entity. This type of pollution occurs when precipitation (rain or snow-melt) runs over land and picks up pollutants such as oil from streets or parking lots, animal waste from farms or fertilizers from lawns, and deposits these pollutants into nearby lakes and streams. This type of "non-point" pollution is difficult to regulate and has become a focus for concern.

streams and acres of lakes in Illinois have seen great improvement in water quality. Now that point sources, such as industrial and municipal discharge pollution, have been largely controlled, non-point sources of pollution have taken center stage in the fight to maintain the integrity of our water resources.

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, governors throughout the nation, including Illinois Governor George Ryan, have proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Clean Water. Governor Ryan has also dedicated October as Clean Water Month.

Many state agencies and national organizations are designing activities and displays to celebrate this

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Notes from the Statewide Coordinator

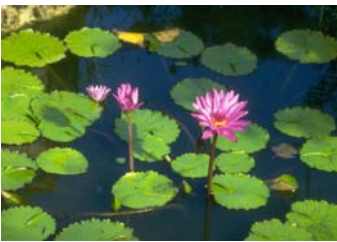
Welcome to another issue of the Volunteer Newsletter. As you can see from the varied articles in this newsletter, we have a busy agenda ahead of us. Not only are we in the middle of our volunteer sampling season, but we are also looking ahead to conferences, lake festivals and many Year of Clean Water events - which celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act.

With so much going on this year, it is hard to believe that everyone has the time to send in and add to the mountain of data forms that are collecting in

my office. Great job and keep the forms coming! I would also like to remind you that if you have any specific data requests that require immediate attention, please let me know and I will send you any available information. As always, feel free to call or E-mail me with any questions or concerns regarding the VLMP.



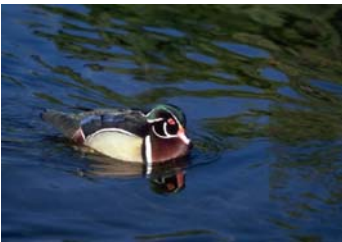
Brookfield Zoo Celebrates the Year of Clean Water



On September 14 and 15, 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Brookfield Zoo will be joining forces to participate in the Year of Clean Water. At this event, the Zoo will officially open three new water gardens to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act.

Activities will include a ceremony opening the water gardens, informational booths, water related presentations, hands-on lake monitoring and macro invertebrate hunting opportunities, games and much more.

Note that the event occurs over Grandparents weekend, so bring the grandkids to this educational event and join us in celebrating the "Year of Clean Water".



2002 Lake Festivals

Each year the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Lakes Unit hosts several Lake Festivals throughout the state. Lake Festivals are family-oriented events usually held at a lake where people interested in or concerned about lake issues have a chance to meet with "water professionals" and have their issues addressed. These festivals feature cooperative presentations given by IEPA staff, a community, Homeowner's Association, Planning Commission, and other state agencies like the Department of Natural Resources and State Water Survey. To appeal to our younger crowd, there is a children's area with educational presentations and games. Food is supplied by local groups like the local Moose or Elks Lodge and hopefully, if we're lucky, there may be pontoon tours of the lake. To date, over 40 events have

been held across Illinois since our first Lake Festival in 1995.

A list of Lake Festivals for 2002 include:

- Beaver Dam, Macoupin County - April 20
- Evergreen Lake, McLean County - May 11
- Bruce Lake, Du Page County - May 18
- Collinsville, Madison County - June 8
- Hillsboro, Montgomery County - September 7
- Brookfield Zoo, Cook County - September 14 & 15
- Shipman, Macoupin County - October 19

And a festival, location yet to be determined, will be held in the Carbondale area.

If you have any questions about upcoming Lake Festivals or would like to host a Lake Festival in your area, contact Steve Kolsto by phone at 217-782-3362 or E-mail steve.kolsto@epa.state.il.us.

"Lake Notes" Fact Sheets

"Lake Notes" is a series of publications produced by the Agency about issues confronting Illinois' lake resources. The objective of these publications is to provide lake and watershed residents with a greater understanding of environmental cause-and-effect relationships, and actions we can all take to protect our lakes.

Twenty-one fact sheets have been completed to date. In the near future, they will be available on the Agency's homepage. They include:

- Illinois Clean Lakes Program
- Illinois Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
- Home and Yard
- Shoreline Stabilization
- Shoreline Buffer Strips
- Aquatic Exotics
- Where To Go For Help
- Stormwater Detention Ponds
- Monitoring Lake Quality
- Beavers and Muskrats
- Aquatic Plant Management Options
- Septic Systems
- Fertilizers and Pesticides Basics
- Canada Geese
- Lake Aeration and Circulation
- Lake Education Assistance Program
- Lake Stratification and Mixing
- Lake Dredging
- Common Lake Water Quality Parameters
- Determining Your Lake's Watershed
- Pressure Treated Wood
- The Milfoil Weevil
- Illinois Lakeshore Birds
- **Future Issue:** Zebra Mussels

"Lake Notes" are available in hard copy, free of charge, by contacting Steve Kolsto at 217-782-3362.

Year of Clean Water (Continued from page 1)

milestone anniversary.

According to the official Year of Clean Water website, the commemoration of signing the Clean Water Act is a good way to express appreciation for our nation's water resources, observe improvements we have made in water quality, examine and understand our remaining challenges and solutions, emphasize public stewardship and support for watershed management programs and educate our nation's citizens, especially children.

One way that you can participate is to get involved with the National Water Monitoring Day (see related article). This activity is to be held on October 18, 2002, the actual anniversary date of the signing of the Clean Water Act. To find out more about local or national events, go to the Year of Clean Water website at www.yearofcleanwater.org.

Web-based Volunteer Database



After much anticipation, we have finally produced a functional database to store volunteer data. The web component of this database is still under construction and we have high hopes that we will be ready for small-scale web-based data entry by next sample season. At that time, area wide coordinators will be able to enter volunteer data for their regions. Web-based

data entry for volunteers will be the next step once the small-scale testing is proven effective.

Another component of this database that remains under construction is the automation of the annual volunteer report. Once completed, the output of the annual report will be exponentially quicker, which I'm sure we're all looking forward to.

Illinois Clean Lakes Program ... Applications Due

Springfield, Ill. - Pre-applications will be accepted by the IEPA through Aug. 31 for funding assistance offered through the Conservation 2000 - Illinois Clean Lakes Program (ICLP).

Approximately \$875,000 will be available for distribution this year. Through the ICLP, the IEPA provides technical and financial assistance primarily to governmental entities that manage publicly-owned lakes with extensive public access and use. Primary objectives of the program are control of pollution sources that affect water quality, restoring lakes that have deteriorated in recreational and ecological quality, and protecting high quality lake resources.

State funding for the program is made available under Conservation 2000 legislation signed into law in 1995. In the first seven years of the program, more than \$4.3 million has been allocated to 35 project sites.

"The Illinois Clean Lakes Program has established itself as a major resource that gets needed financial assistance directly to those with hands-on access to Illinois lakes for protection and restoration," said Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano.



Two types of grant awards are authorized under ICLP. Phase I lake study grants are awarded to identify problems and sources of pollution, and to develop a feasible course of corrective action. A typical Phase I study period lasts two years. Phase II implementation grants support the implementation of procedures recommended in the Phase I report to improve water quality, recreational and ecological aspects of the lake. Phase I grants are awarded on a

60 percent state, 40 percent local cost-share basis. Phase II grants are awarded on a 50/50 basis.

The IEPA evaluates all applications on three primary factors: an assessment of the lake's overall water quality, its potential for improved water quality, and public benefits.

To apply for ICLP funding or to learn more about the program, contact Teri Holland at Illinois EPA at 217-782-3362. Final applications will be due by October 31, 2002.

Teri Holland, 217-782-3362
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Hearing Impaired: 217-782-9143
Internet: www.epa.state.il.us



National Monitoring Day

On October 18, 2002, volunteer monitoring groups, state agencies, students and other interested citizens will take part in a National Monitoring Day. On this date in 1972, lawmakers passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, or more affectionately known as the Clean Water Act. This monumental piece of legislation was instituted to protect our nation's water resources from an increasingly degraded state. National Monitoring Day is one way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Act's passage, among many events scheduled across the nation.

Similar to the Great North American Secchi Dip-In, National Monitoring Day will provide individuals the opportunity to participate in a national effort by testing their local waters. The main goal of National Monitoring Day is to get a "snapshot" look at water quality on a national perspective. Not only does this

foster a concept to get the public involved in environmental protection, but it also establishes a basis for comparison for monitoring our improving water quality conditions.

Participants will test for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. A national database is available on the Year of Clean Water website for data results entry. Also available for purchase on the website are water testing kits specifically designed for this event. You do not need a test kit to participate if you already have the proper equipment for the parameters being tested.

This is just one event scheduled across the nation to celebrate the Year of Clean Water. For more information about National Monitoring Day or other Year of Clean Water events, consult the Year of Clean Water website at www.yearofcleanwater.org.



Secchi Dip-In

Thank you to all participants that made the ninth annual Secchi Dip-In such a success. Participation in the Dip-In continues to grow as this year's event far exceeded expectations. I am proud to say that the Illinois VLMP has participated in the Dip-In every year since the event's inception in 1994.

Results for 2002 as well as previous years' data can be viewed by logging onto the Dip-In site and navigating to your lake. This is an excellent opportunity to compare your lake data to other lakes data through-

out the country and the world. If you are a multiple-year Dip-In participant, you can also view your data over the years and compare any differences.

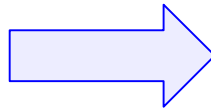
To view data for your lake and/or all waterbodies participating in the Dip-In, log on to the official Dip-In website at <http://dipin.kent.edu/index.htm>. Also, you will soon be able to use the website to enter your National Monitoring Day data as well as add Secchi transparency data throughout the year.



Illinois Environmental
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.EPA.STATE.IL.US



ILMA Conference

Remember to mark your calendars for the annual Illinois Lake Management Association (ILMA) conference being held April 3–5, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Be sure to check ILMA's website for conference updates at www.ilmalakes.org.

Who to contact in your area

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“There is only one thing worse than training your volunteers and having them leave - and that's not training them, and having them stay.”
--unknown