



ILLINOIS

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- Illinois Volunteer Program visits Latvia.
- NALMS 21st International Symposium, November 7-9, 2001.
- ILMA conference, April 18-20, 2002.
- Illinois Clean Lakes Program now accepting applications for funding assistance.

Illinois Volunteer Lake Monitoring Goes International... by Amy Walkenbach

This June, two representatives from U.S. EPA and I presented a workshop on volunteer lake monitoring. The three-day course was held in Aluksne, Latvia, a town of about 10,000 near the Russian and Estonian borders. Participants included government officials, high school teachers and principals as well as water quality specialists from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Seven lakes will make up the pilot programs for Latvia and Estonia. One problem we faced was that many of these lakes are rather large. For example, one of the lakes is 3 miles across and 2 miles wide and only row boats are available for the volunteers to use! We tackled this problem by assigning a main site at the lake for each group to monitor plus Site One. This way whenever a volunteer took a sample there would be information for Site One (the representative site) and one other site.

Training not only included how to monitor but where, when and a lot of why we monitor



View of Riga, Latvia from St. Peter's Tower.

our lakes. The why was very well received because the people attending the workshop were looking for ways to change attitudes about the environment. In the very recent

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NALMS Conference 2001

This year, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) will be holding its 21st International Symposium November 7 - 9 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, WI. The theme is 2001: A Lake Odyssey - Bridging the Gaps Between Science, Policy and Practice.

NALMS is a national organization that focuses on lake and reservoir issues with their main goal being to make these water bodies better. As human activity in and around lakes increases, the need to prop-

erly and efficiently manage the lakes rises. NALMS works on many activities and projects to achieve their goals, which are grouped by the following programs: Science and Management, Outreach and Education, Advocacy and Organizational Support. NALMS hopes that through their

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Notes from the Statewide Coordinator

Back by popular demand is the quarterly publication of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Newsletter. Recently, volunteer-related information and issues have been published in another Illinois EPA publication called "Water Watch" in a section called the "Volunteer Vibe." However, due to the popularity of the VLMP Newsletter and the volume of volunteer issues and articles available, we are bringing back the volunteer newsletter.

So, I've dusted off my keyboard and pulled down the archived stack of cobweb-laden newsletters to assist me in writing my very first edition. I think this issue has many interesting articles that I hope all of you will enjoy.

Be sure to check out this issue of the VLMP Newsletter for upcoming dates of conferences and how our very own program is helping to initiate volunteer monitoring programs overseas in Amy Walkenbach's article on her trip to Latvia.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this news-

letter and/or the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, please feel free to contact me, Sandy Nickel, by phone at 217-782-3362 or by E-mail: sandy.nickel@epa.state.il.us.



Web-based Volunteer Database

*"Illinois lakes
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the world."*

We have been in the process of developing a new volunteer database for the purposes of housing all volunteer data, simplifying report writing and allowing data to be entered online with the incorporation of a web component.

As mentioned above, one of the outstanding attributes of this new database is that volunteers and coordinators will have the capability of entering and viewing their data online. This will not be a requirement for volunteers, but merely a "perk" of viewing lake transparency data trends instantaneously. We will still need paper copies of the Secchi data forms to be sent to your areawide coordinator.

In addition, this new web component will allow

individuals from around the globe to have viewing access to Illinois volunteer lake data. One of the benefits to this is that Illinois lakes can be compared to lakes all over the world.

We have modeled our web-based volunteer data entry form from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program's web site. You can view their website and lake information at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp.html>.

The database is scheduled for completion in early August 2001 while the web component is scheduled to be finished at the end of August 2001.

"LEAP" into Illinois Lakes

The "Lakes Education Assistance Program" (LEAP) is leaping into action and seeing positive results. The program provides funding (up to \$500) for "Teacher/Youth" and "Not-For-Profit" group's participation in lake/watershed-related field trips, activities, teacher seminars and workshops or used to purchase equipment and materials pertaining to lake/watershed study. Application deadlines are September 30

and January 31 each year.

To learn more about the Lakes Education Assistance Program or to receive an application, contact Steve Kolsto in the Illinois EPA's Bureau of Water at 217-782-3362 or log onto www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation-2000.



Latvia Cont'd

past, and still in some places, untreated or partially treated sewage is pumped into lakes and rivers because of a lack of infrastructure in the countries. We also talked about Quality Assurance/Quality Control for volunteer monitoring, shoreline and macrophyte mapping, watershed delineation, including why the watershed is important to the health of a lake and how to run a volunteer program.

One of the interesting aspects of putting on a workshop of this sort was working through an interpreter. Most of the participants spoke two languages, however, the second language wasn't always English. So, we had an interpreter who interpreted what we were saying into both Russian and Estonian. Everyone who spoke Latvian also spoke Russian. By the end of the trip we were able to pick up a few Latvian words, *ludzu, paldies, veikals, alus, kafija, iela* and *viesnica* and a lot of sign language! (*please, thank you, store, beer, coffee, street and hotel*)

The area where the workshop was held was very beautiful, hilly, lush northern forest, much like you'd see in Michigan or southern Canada. The large clear glacial lakes were almost completely undeveloped and left in their natural state! We were able to spend some time in the capital city of Riga, which is celebrating its 800th birthday this summer. While in Riga we met with Embassy Officials and the director of the newly formed Latvia Environment Agency (LEA) to discuss volunteer lake monitoring and its usefulness for the governmental biologist. The LEA was very excited to hear about our project and promised cooperation from their Agency. The LEA would also like to use the volunteer data collected to supplement their data because they don't have enough staff to cover most of the lakes in the country (sound familiar?). All in all, it was a wonderful experience!



Volunteers learn how to use the Secchi disk at Lake Aluksne in Latvia.



Out on Lake Aluksne, Latvia

NALMS cont'd

efforts of educating, citizens and policy leaders will be guided to make better-informed, science-based policy decisions.

If you have internet access, NALMS' website offers a multitude of services for those interested in lake issues. In addition to online specialties, NALMS prints two publications: "Lake and Reservoir Management" – a scientific journal and "Lake Line" – a quarterly published magazine. These and other publications are available for purchase at their online bookstore.

Check out NALMS' website at www.nalms.org on how to become a member, for updates on the upcoming 21st International Symposium and other NALMS information.

"NALMS ... offers a multitude of services for those interested in lake issues."

ILMA Conference 2002

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next annual Illinois Lake Management Association (ILMA) conference April 18 – 20 in Rockford, Illinois at the Clock Tower. The 2001 conference was held in Peoria on March 22 – 24 and was quite a success.

ILMA is the Illinois Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS, see related article) and was formed in 1985 by a group of concerned citizens,

lake associations and environmental professionals. Their mission is "to promote understanding and comprehensive management of lake and watershed ecosystems."

To find out more about ILMA and how you can join, check out their website at www.ilma-lakes.org.



One of five twenty-year volunteers, Jack Hendrick – Salem City Reservoir, receives award for his years of service from Manager of the Division of Water Pollution Control at Illinois EPA, Toby Frevert at the 2001 ILMA conference.



Clean Lakes Program Applications Due

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently accepting applications 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, Illinois EPA provides technical and financial assistance primarily to governmental entities that manage publicly-owned lakes with extensive public access and use. Controlling sources of pollution affecting water quality, restoring lakes that have deteriorated in recreational and ecological quality, and protecting high quality lake resources are the primary objectives of the program.

State funding for the program is made available under Conservation 2000 legislation signed into law in 1995. In the first six years of the program, more than \$3.6 million has been allocated to 34 project sites.

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. Illinois EPA 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.

Those wishing to apply for ICLP funding or interested in learning more about the program should contact Amy Walkenbach at Illinois EPA at 217-782-3362. Or visit our website at www.epa.state.il.us. Pre-applications for funding will be due by August 31, with

final applications due by October 31, 2001.



New Coordinator at SIMAPC

Something, or someone, new is shaking at the Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission. As some of you may know, JoAnn Joshu Agne has left the coordinator position in that area to pursue another career. In her place will be Linda Tree-gresser. Please join me in

welcoming Linda as she begins her first season as the Southwestern Coordinator. She can be reached by phone at 618-344-4250.



Illinois EPA Lake Festivals

The 2001 Lake Festivals are in full swing. This year, a total of six festivals are planned for the season; two have already been held.

The first festival was on April 21, Earth Day, at Beaver Dam State Park in Macoupin County.

Our second fest was at Evergreen Lake near Bloomington. Highlights of the day included a fish shocking demonstration by the Division of Natural Resources' Fisheries biologist, the building and placement of fish cribs, a children's lake education area and the stocking of more than 2500 large mouth bass.

The final four lake festivals are scheduled as follows: Washington Park Lagoons in Springfield on Sept. 15; Storey Lake in Galesburg on Sept. 22; Kinkaid Lake near Murphysboro sometime in October and a final festival to be held in the Collinsville area, also sometime in October.

For further information about lake festivals or if you, your lake association or community are interested in hosting a festival contact Steve Kolsto, Illinois EPA's Lakes Unit at 217-782-3362.



*Evergreen Lake Festival.
Photos courtesy of Rick Twait.*



Illinois State Fair by Steve Kolsto

This year's State Fair will be held Friday, August 10, through Sunday, August 19. This year, in Conservation World, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tent will demonstrate the state fair theme – **Choices**. To illustrate that all of us are faced with choices every day that affect the environmental health of our planet, and that not all choices are obvious, the

tent will house a giant game board on which players are the game pieces. This game, adopted from the Brookfield Zoo's "Bog of Habits," has contestants making environmental decisions and jumping from stepping-stone to stepping-stone in order to race across the bog.

Fairgoers can view posters created by 5th graders from across the state. The

students' creations all have a theme of land, air or water and how to keep them clean.

You will also have the opportunity to meet and have your picture taken with the Illinois EPA's Envirofun heroes, Captain Redbird, Captain Bluegill and Captain Earthworm. See you at the Fair!

Great American Secchi Dip-In 2001

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Great North American Secchi Dip-In. This is a great opportunity to be involved in a program with international potential. The data returned is invaluable in comparing lakes and other water bodies across the globe.

The Dip-In is an opportunity for volunteer monitors to gather environmental data that can be used to give a national

perspective of water quality. Volunteers take a transparency reading on the water body that they monitor with a Secchi disk, which is the tool most often used to determine water transparency for the Dip-In. This effort takes place between July 1 and July 15 of every year to achieve a "snapshot" view of water transparencies around the world. In doing this, water bodies can

be compared on a local, state-to-state and even on an international level. Over time, these "snapshots" can be put together to observe global trends in transparency.

To find out more about the Dip-In and to view the results of your efforts, go to the Great North American Secchi Dip-In website at <http://dipin.kent.edu>.



Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency

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Sample Shipping Reminder

In order to comply with lab protocol, please remember to refrigerate your sample bottles and freeze your chlorophyll filter overnight and ship the day after sampling.

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

Who to contact in your area

VLMP Coordinators:

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Illinois EPA Technical Support:

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*Volunteerism is the
voice of the people
put into action.
These actions shape
and mold the pre-
sent into a future of
which we can all be
proud.
--Helen Dyer*