

**Youngs Creek /Indian Creek Watershed Projects**  
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## Watershed Connections

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to the activities of the  
Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects

December, 2007

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## Pond Pro Workshop

The Pond Pro Workshop was held October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Henderson Room in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts at Franklin College proved to be invaluable. The room was comfortable and featured many high tech amenities that lent itself to be an excellent location for this and future workshops. The workshop was booked full at 50 people and we have a waiting list for the next workshop.

The first night featured Ken Collins with the USDA speaking about tree and shrub planting for ponds. Included in his speech were tree selection, planting techniques, and information on ash seed collection. Please see related story in the SWCD newsletter for more information.

Also on the first night was David Harrell, Conservation Resource Specialist, speaking about watersheds and water quality. Topics that were covered include how pollutants enter waterbodies, the potential damage and how we can prevent these contaminants from affecting our ability to use the water and its resources.

The second night featured Dr. Carole Lembi from Purdue University speaking about Aquatic Plant Management and Jerry Richert from the WARN Program speaking about pond safety. Dr. Lembi brought information on how to control various weeds and algae on ponds. She also informed everyone that not all weeds are bad and some are beneficial and necessary for optimal pond quality. She offered

information regarding identification of problems and control methods using both chemicals and other means.

Jerry Richert is with the Franklin Township Fire Department in Marion County and also delivers the WARN program to groups around central Indiana. WARN stands for *Water Awareness in Residential Neighborhoods*. Jerry brought first hand experience of the dangers for ponds, pools, and other waterbodies in central Indiana. He explained how simple things such as a fence with a locking gate can save lives and that people need to teach their children to stay away from waterbodies because of the hazards.

The final night featured Rhett Wisener with the DNR and Chris Hemphill with Mole Mountie. Rhett is the fisheries biologist with the Cikana State Fish Hatchery in Martinsville. He spoke about the proper stocking rates for ponds and about how fish can be used to control other problems in ponds such as mosquitoes and nuisance plants. Chris runs a wildlife control business and spoke about ways to control nuisance wildlife such as beaver, muskrat, and Canada geese. Also included were ways to attract desirable wildlife.

Andy Nichols was available on the last night of the workshop to answer questions about cost-share and technical assistance offered by the Johnson County SWCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Thanks to all of the speakers for their contribution as well as Debra Ashack and Ric Schlosser for their support.

Please watch the newsletter and website for future workshops and field days.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ December 10th Indian Creek Watershed Steering Committee Meeting 6:30pm SWCD Office
- ◆ January 30th Johnson County SWCD Annual Meeting 7:00pm RSVP by January 23rd
- ◆ February 21st Youngs Creek Advisory Group Meeting 10:30 am SWCD Office
- ◆ March Emerging Technologies Field Day (more information to come)
- ◆ March 19th Ag Week Breakfast, Scott Hall for more information and to RSVP please call 317-736-3724

Please refer to our website [www.swcd.org/watershed.htm](http://www.swcd.org/watershed.htm) or call the office for more information on future events.



## Cost-share Update

We have awarded some of the first cost-share payments for the Youngs Creek watershed in 2007. Currently we have 13 applications for projects. There is still \$37,000 left to allocate. For 2007, the final payments for practices complete is a total of \$4,795.38. To date, the following have been applied for: pasture & hayland seeding, no-till, cover crops, Grid mapping/VRT, heavy use pads, riparian area development, and an educational demo site. If you have interest in doing a cost-share project, please refer to our website for more details on the program or contact David Harrell at 317-346-6102 ext. 106.

## Cost-share Project Complete

Pictured below are Joe Kelsay and David Harrell. Joe is representing JRM Associates of Whiteland. They are the first to complete a project with the 2007 Youngs Creek Cost-share Program. We would like to thank Joe for his help and cooperation in using the program.



## Annual Meeting

The Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its annual meeting on January 30, 2008 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held in Scott Hall at the Johnson County Fair Grounds. Please RSVP to the Soil and Water office by January 23rd at 317-346-6102. The annual meeting is free to attend. Included will be: dinner, a year in review for the district, Soil and Water Youth Board activity, and special guest speaker Rafael Sanchez, and awards for conservation and stewardship.

## Indian Creek Watershed Update

After months of consideration, the Indian Creek Steering Committee has developed a Mission Statement for the Indian Creek Watershed:

The Mission of the Indian Creek Watershed is:

To involve and educate the residents of the Indian Creek Watershed regarding pressing water quality issues, the effects on humans, animals and plant life, and promote the development and implementation of programs and practices that preserve and improve the water quality in the Indian Creek Watershed.

The Committee has also been hard at work developing problem statements to address the five primary concerns in the watershed and identifying causes and sources of those concerns. The problem statements address concerns of: 1) high concentrations of E. coli, which poses a health threat to humans; 2) soil erosion in the waters, which reduces water quality and threatens aquatic life habitats; 3) excessive aquatic plant growth, which also reduces water quality and threatens aquatic life habitats; 4) illegal dumping and littering, which reduces water quality and safety and may introduce toxic chemicals into the waters; and 5) exotic or invasive nuisance species, which can disrupt the watershed ecosystem and may pose health risks to humans. The Steering Committee has identified potential sources for each of these concerns and will examine land uses and behaviors associated with those sources to determine critical areas where the magnitude of the concerns may be the greatest. After identification of those critical areas and estimation of pollutants loads from those areas, the Committee will set goals for reducing the pollutant loads and identify the Best Management Practices (BMP's) for attaining those goals. BMP's may include public education and outreach programs to address septic system maintenance (E. coli concern), proper cleaning of boats and equipment (invasive species concern), proper lawn care (excessive plant growth concern), and installation of conservation practices such as riparian buffers, conservation tillage and nutrient management. The Committee will also provide information to the Johnson County SWCD to help determine if a Phase II of this project for additional implementation funding should be pursued.

Although the core group of the Steering Committee has been established, the meetings are open to any concerned citizen within the Indian Creek Watershed. Our meetings are generally on the second Monday of the month at the Painted Hills clubhouse, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Our December meeting is scheduled for the 10th, to be held at the SWCD offices, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Our web site will also provide information for upcoming meetings and minutes from past meetings. If you would like more information about the Indian Creek Watershed project, visit our web site or call Debra Ashack at 317-346-6102 extension 105.

## Advisory Group Meeting

The Youngs Creek Watershed Advisory Group will be meeting at 10:30am on February 21, 2008. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Johnson County Soil and Water Office. The main topic for discussion will be the status of the cost-share program. The group will meet immediately following the SWCD board meeting. If you are a member of the steering committee or anyone interested in joining the steering committee please contact Debra or David in the watershed office 317-346-6102.