



The Elkhart River Current

Produced by: Elkhart River Restoration Association, Inc

What is a Watershed?

Special points of interest:

What is a Watershed

Goshen's First Friday Events with Pictures!

Hoosier River Watch Training

West Noble Middle School

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is: "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries. In the continental US, there are 2,110 watersheds; including Hawaii Alaska, and Puerto Rico, there are 2,267 watersheds.



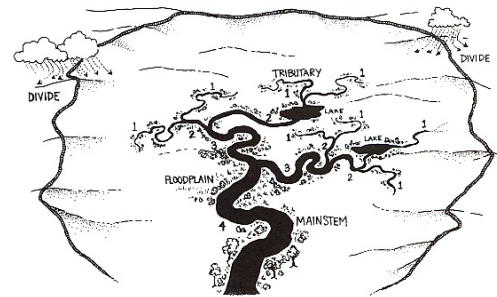
Goshen First Friday Events were well liked by both children and adults!!!

Goshen's First Friday

On the First Friday of every month through-out the year businesses, artists, and entertainers throw a party in downtown Goshen. Hours are generally from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Elkhart River Restoration Association (ERRA), hosted a Watershed Celebration. Other conservation minded agencies and organizations supported our efforts with displays, including: the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District; City of Elkhart Aquatic Biologist and Environmental Center; Elkhart County Parks; and Indiana Master Naturalists (Elkhart County). It was a huge success



WATERSHED



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thanks to all the volunteers!!! We had many people interested in what the conservationists are doing. We had a huge success with the rain barrel auction raising \$5275 dollars.

Story Continued on Page 2.



Hoosier Riverwatch Training!

There will be a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop scheduled at the Elkhart Conservation Club on SEPTEMBER 10. It will be put on by Nancy Brown of the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is a great learning opportunity for those that do not know how to evaluate water quality of nearby streams, or a great refresher course. If you have any questions or would like to know more information about this event or would like to volunteer your time please contact Nancy Brown, via e-mail: nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net. If you would like to volunteer your time please let her know as soon as possible.

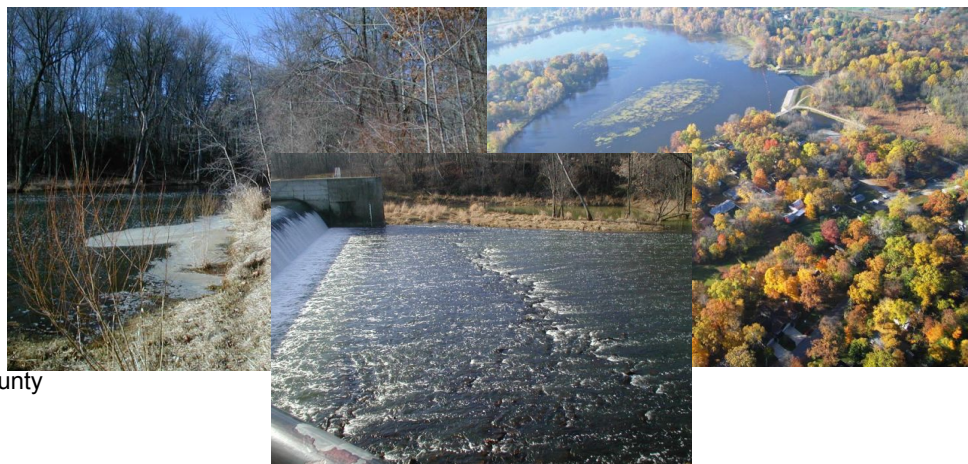
First Friday Continued...

"It is our task in our time and in our generation to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours. "

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy

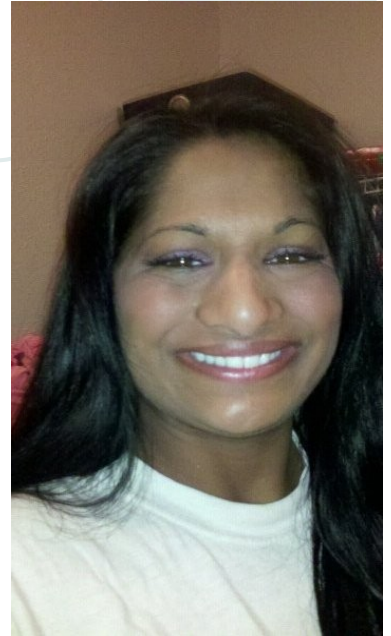
"The ERRA portion will be used by the organization to implement the Elkhart River Watershed Management Plan that was developed with support from an Indiana Department of Environmental Management 319 Grant." "The Watershed is approximately 447,000 acres of mixed land use consisting mainly of row crop agriculture and pasture. In recent years the Watershed has experienced rapid urban growth. Most of the growth is occurring in the Elkhart-Goshen area in Elkhart County. However, other areas in Noble and Kosciusko Counties are also experiencing growth, such as the area around Albion in Noble County."

Photos courtesy of Stuart Meade and the Elkhart County SWCD.



Newsletter Editor Introduction

My name is Auna Badke, I am a senior biology major. I love working with ecology. I live in a farm in Bristol, Indiana. I show and raise Jacob sheep, goats, Arabian horses, Borzois and rough and smooth coated Collies. I was the 2005 Bristol Homecoming queen, in that same year I went to the international science fair with my research project in stream ecology. I also played field hockey this past semester for Trine University Thunder. I recently took an opportunity to work with the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Elkhart River Restoration Association. They have given me a great chance to work with what I love.



Creature Feature

Elkhart River Silver Redhorse

Silver Redhorse are one of 9 sucker species that are found in the Elkhart River. Fish in the sucker family have a downturned sucking mouth that they use to eat insects, snails, and other small animals off of the bottom of the river. Suckers are considered to be sensitive fish, that cannot live in highly polluted streams.





President, David Troup,
Vice President, Milt Thomas,
Treasurer, Daragh Deegan,
Secretary, Tim Cataldo.
Other Directors are Stuart Meade, George Buckingham, Nancy Brown, Gene Lightner and Eldon Seidner
Newsletter Editor, Auna Badke

If you would like more information concerning ERRA please contact Dave Troup.

E-mail:
info@elkhartriver.org

If you have any information you would like to have in the next newsletter please feel free to contact me:

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We are a group of people committed to protecting and improving the Elkhart River Watershed.

A Brief History of the ERRA

The Elkhart River Restoration Association, Inc. was founded June 16, 1983 to study the needs of the Elkhart River and its watershed. As a not-for-profit corporation the association works with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Army Corp. of Engineers, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and local officials to improve the river. Please contact Dave Troup at info@elkhartriver.org if you would like more information about the Elkhart River Restoration Association.

West Noble Middle School Helping the Environment

Written by the students of West Noble Middle School

Mixing environmental education and fun in one was what fourteen soon to be seventh graders experienced the week of June twentieth. The participants-Logan Halderman, Kristina Peterson, Alix Tijerina, Trisha Beers, Luke Moore, Yaquelin Guzman, Katy Rodriguez, Makenna Taylor, Walker Donley, Kellie Waring, Daniel Wiley, Ashley Strombeck, Makenzie Teel and Erin Mawhorter-all from WNMS were part of an environmental camp put on by Gene Lightner, Becky Younce, Randy Younce and the Elkhart River Restoration Association with help from Kelsey Younce, Jordan Younce and Erik Mawhorter. Throughout the week the kids experienced nature and learned how to help our environment. On Monday the students practiced canoeing on Engle Lake and planted hickory trees on the Ligonier river walk provided by Elson Mast. Elson produced these seedlings from nuts he had collected last fall. The two hundred seedlings provided the participants with a taste of what it's like to plant trees. Tuesday provided all involved with a chance to go canoeing at Indian Village. They also had a unique chance to collect organisms from the water in hip waders and see what species were living in the shadows. Randy Younce showed them how to identify different types of organisms and how each individual one indicates if the water is good or polluted. They sifted through benthic macro- invertebrates using screens and put them in bowls to indentify. The participants on Wednesday loaded the bus for a trip to Merry Lea Environmental Center for a swamp walk and watershed activities. In the swamp the students collected organisms and conducted a biological diversity inventory to determine what was living in that area of the swamp. The survey is used to determine the health of the swamp and to determine if there are any invasive species living there. The information is going to help in the future for a board walk that will be constructed in that area of the swamp. Paul Steury from Merry Lea helped them throughout the day, taking them through the swamp and assisting in activities. At the end of the week the students, along with Melanie Tijerina and Gene Teel, (principal and assistant principal of West Noble Middle School) enjoyed canoeing on the Elkhart River and received shirts and c.d.'s of pictures that had been taken throughout the week. The week, in all, was a great opportunity for the young people to experience the environment so that hopefully they can play a key role in helping it. This week long camp will continue in the future so that hopefully we can educate future generation of young people about the importance of our roles in the environment.

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