

## Eel River Watershed

### End of an Era

After 14 years at Manchester University Dr. Jerry Sweeten has decided to retire from being a professor of biology and director of environmental studies program. Throughout his time at Manchester Dr. Sweeten has touch countless live and provided experiential learning opportunities for all environmental studies students that had work with him. When he first started at Manchester in 2004 the environmental studies program had only five students amongst all grades. Quickly after arriving Dr. Sweeten increased this number and consistently had between 40 and 50 students majoring in environmental studies. Dr. Sweeten work hard to find resources to hire student interns throughout the summer on "real world" research projects. This opportunities allowed students to engage with research techniques and network with local experts/agencies that a classroom setting does not allow. Starting in 2006 Dr. Sweeten hired 2 students to examine smallmouth bass nesting success and the effects of suspended sediment on juvenile bass survivability. In the early years water samples were collected by hand 4 times daily during the field season.



As the years progressed so did the research opportunities. In 2008 Dr. Sweeten was awarded an IDEM section 319 grant. This grant was the start to an provided the resources to purchase state of the art sampling equipment. Dr. Sweeten continued to write more and more grants, each with resources to hire students throughout the summer. Over his 14 year career at Manchester Dr. Sweeten brought in over 6 million dollars in grant resources. Grants included 4 holistic watershed projects, 3 dam removals, fish ladder, two-stage ditch construction, fisheries surveys, and a paired watershed research. At the peak of the grants there were over 12 students hired each summer by the Environmental Studies Department. It is sad to see such great work come to an end but the work that Dr. Jerry Sweeten has accomplish is priceless for the Eel River Watershed and all the live that he has touch throughout the years. A huge thank you goes out to Dr. Sweeten and wish him the best in the next chapter of his life!!

## Household Tips for Protecting Water Quality

Take unused pharmaceuticals to a disposal center — Treatment plants are not set up to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater, so drugs end up in our lakes where they may harm wildlife reproduction.

Don't dump anything down storm drains — It flows right into our lakes and rivers.

Use environmentally safe cleaning products — Safer substitutes, like vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, salt, borax, olive oil and cedar chips can get the job done just as well as their more hazardous counterparts.

Clean up after your pets — Pet waste releases potentially harmful bacteria and oxygen-consuming materials if it is allowed to enter our waterways.

Choose your lawn fertilizer wisely — Fertilizer can run off of yards when it rains and contaminate our waters. Generally, only new lawns require phosphorus for root growth. Choose a fertilizer that is phosphorus-free. (More details available here - [//www.indianawildlife.org/lib/uploads/files/pdfs/phosphorus-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.indianawildlife.org/lib/uploads/files/pdfs/phosphorus-fact-sheet.pdf))

Buy non-toxic products — Water treatment facilities are unable to remove many toxins found in common household goods.

Take used compact fluorescent light bulbs and mercury thermostats and thermometers to a hazardous waste facility — They contain mercury which accumulates in the food chain and is a poison for humans and wildlife.

Divert rain spouts onto grass or landscaping — It reduces water speed and increases the time over which it is released into the drain system. Sidewalks and driveways do not allow runoff to seep into the ground.

Don't pour unused cleaners down the drain — Many chemicals cannot be treated at the sewage treatment plant and end up in our lakes and rivers.

Take toxic products to a hazardous waste facility — If not properly disposed, they can contaminate drinking water and kill fish, animals and plants.

Use dishwashing soap that doesn't contain phosphates.

Take used motor oil to a disposal site — Motor oil damages or kills underwater vegetation and aquatic life. One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of water.

Don't pour grease down sink drains — It builds up in sewer lines, restricting the capacity of the pipes. Eventually, the pipes can become blocked completely, leading to overflows of raw sewage into streets, storm drains and our waterways.

Maintain foliage to prevent soil erosion — Soil in runoff increases the sediment load in waterways, carries contaminants and blocks the sunlight necessary for aquatic plants.

Plant native species in your garden — They decrease water dependence, reduce the need for fertilizer and pest control, and create a renewed sense of place for birds and other wildlife. (native plant list for Indiana - <http://www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants/>)



<https://digital.gov/2014/10/15/the-api-briefing-epas-water-quality-portal-api-merges-three-data-streams/>



<https://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/educate/science/lake-george-water-quality/>



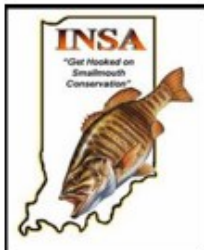
THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS!!!



Local Farmers/Land Owners



Miller's Canoe Rentals



North Manchester Center for History

County Highway Departments



Contact Information

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