

2013 IWLA Class Photo

BACK ROW (L-R): Falon French, Liz Monell, Jennifer Thum, Jessica Fulgoni, Amanda Egler, Andrea Bolks, Richard DeWitt



FOURTH ROW: Adam Grossman, Josh Brosmer, John Ullrich, Don Lode, Adam Thada, Daragh Deegan

THIRD ROW: Ashlee Haviland, Sarah Wolf, Sarah Todd, Ken Purze, Dana Wilkinson, Deb Ashack

SECOND ROW: Connie Ronald, Leslie Schick, Andrea Baker, Natalie Johnson, Chris Jones, Bill Schulze

FIRST ROW: Matt Lewitke, Jared O'Brien, Dan Matson, Logan Garner, Gary Moody

1. Deb Ashack is the Stormwater Coordinator for the City of Jeffersonville. Her responsibilities of implementing the NPDES Stormwater Permit for the City include developing programs for public education and community involvement that address stormwater management and pollutants in urban runoff. She is also responsible for promoting improved stormwater quality of new development, redevelopment and capital improvement drainage projects. Prior to coming to the City in April 2009, she worked as the Watershed Coordinator for the Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District under a 319 Grant for the implementation of the Cost Share Program for the Youngs Creek Watershed and development of a Watershed Master Plan for the Indian Creek Watershed (Johnson, Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties) from January 2007 through March 2009.
2. Andrea Baker is the Conservation Program Technician for the Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District. She started her job July 16, 2012 after graduating in May from Manchester College. She will be working with landowners within the county on the development of watershed plans and conservation practices, along with keeping up to date on Rule 5 inspections. Kosciusko Co SWCD has many partnerships with other counties on conservation initiatives that Andrea will be involved with. With the information gained at the academy, Andrea wants to help educate others about the importance of all watersheds.
3. Andrea Bolks is an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow at the US-EPA Region 5 out of Chicago. She works on projects related to watershed data management and GIS watershed analysis. Prior to this internship she worked with Capitol Region Watershed District in Minnesota, a highly urbanized watershed in the St. Paul metro and surrounding areas. She has also interned with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency doing biological monitoring (fish) and worked in a USDA soils laboratory during the duration of her undergraduate at the University of Minnesota. Andrea is looking forward to a future in the environmental field.
4. Josh Brosmer is an IDEM Watershed Specialist and Project Manager covering the Lower Wabash, Lower White River, Lower Ohio River and Patoka River watersheds. Prior to his current position, he traveled the state doing fish tissue and fish community monitoring as part of IDEM's Office of Water Quality Monitoring Section. He is originally from southwestern Indiana and hopes to use the skills learned at the IWLA to better serve his home area.
5. Daragh Deegan is an aquatic biologist for the City of Elkhart. His primary responsibilities are to monitor fish and macroinvertebrates in the rivers and streams of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties. Daragh also serves on the Board of Directors of the Elkhart River Restoration Association and the Friends of the St. Joe River and is the Vice President of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission.
6. Richard L. DeWitt is the MS4 Coordinator for the City of Franklin, Indiana Stormwater Utility. His responsibilities include the development, implementation and management of Franklin's MS4 program. A key focus of the program is providing public involvement and outreach educational programs for a vigorous watershed and stream water quality.
7. Amanda Egler is a hydrologist specializing in water quality and hydrology of surface-water systems for the U.S. Geological Survey Indiana Water Science Center. Her responsibilities include management of real-time water quality gages in Northwestern Indiana, data management and quality assurance, and project development. Amanda has extensive experience in field sampling and serves as an instructor for the USGS Water Quality Field Methods training course. Her

primary areas of interest include mercury and emerging contaminants. She is an outdoors recreationist and hopes to help preserve and improve the environment for future generations.

8. Falon French is a Policy Researcher and Outreach Associate for the Hoosier Environmental Council. Her responsibilities include commenting on rulemakings and the impaired waters list, writing literature to educate water enthusiasts and advocates on policies that will impact water quality, and generating action alerts to keep the general public engaged on water quality issues. In addition to her work with the Hoosier Environmental Council, Falon volunteers with several organizations in the Greater Lafayette area to further educate her community on a broad range of environmental issues, including nutrient contamination, mercury in fish tissue, agricultural storm-water and run-off, and proper watershed management.
9. Jessica Fulgoni is a Watershed Resource Specialist at the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and is in the process of writing a watershed management plan for the Deer Creek-Sugar Creek watershed. She also is the photomonitoring lead for The Region of the Great Bend Wabash River watershed. She recently finished her Master's of Science at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She completed her thesis research with Dr. Todd Royer on water quality and the use stable isotopes to determine the nitrate sources at 10 sites within the Upper East Fork White River watershed.
10. Logan Garner is a resource specialist for the ISDA working closely with the Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation while in the field. Since accepting his new role as the program manager for water quality initiatives for the ISDA, he is responsible not only for co-authoring the state's nutrient reduction strategy for improved water quality, but also managing the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which functions primarily as a water health initiative.
11. Adam Grossman is a watershed coordinator for Plummer Creek in Greene, Monroe, and Owen Counties and is writing the watershed management plan for that watershed. His responsibilities are to get more participation and awareness in the community, bring together stakeholders and their ideas, and to make a plan that fits the watershed. He has 3 children; 2 months, 2 years, and 8 years old. All time that is not spent hunting and fishing is spent with them and his wife. He has many experiences working with the environment. These are things from invasive treatment, to DNR, USDA, forestry, and the list goes on. He lives to work outdoors, not at a desk.
12. Ashlee Haviland is a Lake and River Enhancement Program Specialist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. She coordinates with multiple agencies to implement a multitude of projects across the state of Indiana. Her responsibilities have included writing and performing sampling activities for the Cedar Lake watershed report, working with land owners and associations to develop watershed management plans, diagnostic studies, and BMP implementations. She was an intern for the Middle Eel River Watershed initiative which included attending steering committee meetings, GIS work, water sampling, and data analysis. Her motivation to complete the watershed leadership academy is to learn more about watersheds and translate that into useable material that can be shared with interested parties. She would like the ability to be able to accurately communicate watershed needs to interested parties who want to improve their watersheds.
13. Natalie Johnson is the Northwest Indiana Ambassador for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. She helps coordinate activities with partners in the Lake Michigan Watershed of Northwest

Indiana. Her responsibilities include facilitating communication between federal and non-federal agencies, helping find funding for local projects, recognizing where projects can be accomplished and providing advice when possible. Currently, she is very active in Trail Creek, the East Branch of the Little Calumet, Salt Creek, and the Grand Calumet. Prior to this position, Natalie helped manage a partnership in St. Louis, coordinating projects in the Mississippi and Missouri Confluence. She is also currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Natural Resources.

14. Christopher Jones is the MS4 Coordinator and Street Superintendent with the Town of Whiteland. Prior to his current employment, he was the infrastructure and stormwater inspector for Johnson County, and the office manager for the County Surveyor and Drainage Board.
15. Matthew Lewitke served as a volunteer intern at Save the Dunes gaining experience in environmental advocacy, education, water quality, and water resource management. This position inspired him to obtain a position as a water quality intern for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Here he became well versed in monitoring water quality and performing sanitary surveys for Lake Michigan and the Salt Creek Watershed. He is now educated on native fish species, macro-invertebrates, and stream restoration. Matthew is a student at Valparaiso University pursuing degrees in both environmental science and geography. These programs have taught him GIS, remote sensing, geology, geomorphology, biology, and chemistry.
16. Don Lode is supervisor at LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District and is helping with the Trail Creek Watershed implementation and working on a plan for Kankakee River Watershed. Don started out protecting Saugany Lake through Saugany Lake Conservation Club. Don has been involved with the LaPorte County Conservation Council, Saugany Lake Conservation Club, Scout Master Troop 353, South Bend Electrical Apprenticeship, the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society and the North West Indiana Paddle Association. Don retired in 2004 when he got more involved in conservation and thinks this class would greatly help him with future projects.
17. Dan Matson is the Planning and Zoning Coordinator for the City of Jeffersonville, Indiana. His responsibilities include administering the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan through development plan review and organizing meetings of the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Prior to this job he studied urban planning at Ball State University and engineering at Purdue University. He enjoys exploring the wilderness of the southern Indiana and is committed to its preservation.
18. Liz Monell started interning for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation in September 2012 to aid in various projects and get first-hand experiences working for a watershed group. She values her experiences with WREC and hopes to learn more about watershed management, develop skills to be successful in the conservation field, and meet great people while participating in IWLA. Liz is a recent graduate from the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at Purdue University.
19. Gary W. Moody is an Indiana Master Naturalist, a 2012 candidate for Johnson County Surveyor, and founder of a new nonprofit organization oriented towards water quality.
20. Jared O'Brien is an Environmental Science & Geography major at Valparaiso University, and works for the local arboretum. He started as a Woodland Restoration Intern at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens in Valparaiso. When his internship came to an end he was hired part-time during his

senior year of college. His duties include conducting a tree inventory, creating tree identification booklets, utilizing GPS systems and operating ESRI GIS Software to help map features and create various maps, leading nature hikes for young kids, and assisting the arborists in tree care. His passion for the environment, sustainable practices and conservation is what calls upon the value of watershed management skills.

21. Kenneth M. Purze is the Vice Chair of the Kankakee River Basin Commission and the LaPorte County Drainage Board. Ken is the leader of the recently formed Union Mills/Kankakee Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee. He is responsible for developing the first Watershed Management Plan for the largest subwatershed in Northwest Indiana for the Kankakee. For the past eight years Ken has been active in developing a greater awareness for sound decision making based on progressive, watershed based best management practices in an area that has historically been influenced by drainage based decision making.
22. Connie Ronald is an environmental consultant in Jay County and is working with a group of interested volunteers in Jay and Blackford counties to write and submit a 319 Program Grant for the Upper Salamonie River. After returning to school to complete a Master's Degree in Environmental Management, she was introduced to watershed planning and restoration. Concern for water quality issues in the area triggered a group of interested volunteers to examine the possibility of filing a grant application, and she hopes to use the information and skills learned at the Leadership Academy to develop and promote a successful watershed plan.
23. Kelsie Rudolph worked as a Water Quality Intern this past summer for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore working on several projects for the park, including a daily monitoring project of E. coli levels on all National Lakeshore beaches, as well as working on a log jam survey on the Little Calumet River. Kelsie is currently a senior at Valparaiso University pursuing a degree in Environmental Science. She is interested in this opportunity to be more competitive to employers when she applies for jobs next semester before graduation, as well as expand her knowledge of watershed management.
24. Leslie Schick is an Environmental Compliance Manager for the state Department of Defense under the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard (NG). Just one of the many Environmental topics she is responsible for is to research what regulatory compliance is necessary for the more than 70 NG training sites, armories, and maintenance shops throughout the state. She is also responsible for educating her organization, co-workers, soldiers, and any other costumers on watershed topics. Leslie is eager to learn and has an enthusiastic organization that would like to see her succeed in the Academy and share her knowledge and experience.
25. Bill Schulze is a retired natural resource specialist (U.S. Forest Service). Primary responsibilities have been with water/wastewater operations, and analytical laboratory operation/management. Primary interest is to initiate/develop a management plan for the Clifty Creek watershed in NW Washington County, Indiana.
26. Adam Thada is a Master of Environmental Science graduate student at Taylor University. He worked previously in the non-profit industry both in Indiana and in South America. His personal and professional passion is conservation ecology, and he hopes to be a more effective steward by learning more about watershed management. He has a wife and a 1 year old daughter and lives in the Mississinewa River watershed.

27. Jennifer B. Thum is a Watershed Project Manager for Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, and coordinates the St. Marys River Watershed Project, St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative and the Upper Maumee Partnership. Her responsibilities include conducting education and outreach events, developing watershed management plans (assisting our consultant), working with producers on cost-share applications as they implement BMPs, coordinating field days for our producers, and making sure all our grants are on task. Prior to this job, Jennifer served as a Community Planner and Zoning Administrator for a community in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Currently, Jennifer lives in Fort Wayne with her very supportive husband and two amazing children. During most of the year, you can find her family going on “bug hunts” and both boys love creepy crawly things, as much as Jennifer does. Jennifer’s boys are one of the main reasons that she tries to do everything that she can do to improve our water quality and educate as many people as possible about the importance of watersheds.
28. Sarah Todd is the Watershed Intern at Jasper County Soil Water Conservation District, and conducts monthly water testing on the Iroquois River. Her responsibilities are to test for nitrate, e-coli, phosphorous, DO, DO%, turbidity, salinity, pH, temperature, and to find the flow and its velocity. She is currently a student at Saint Joe College in Rensselaer, Indiana, going for a Biology Major and a Earth Space Science Minor. She is due to graduate in May of 2013. Sarah has also taken part in the Hoosier Riverwatch habitat assessment and Macro Habitat assessment.
29. John Ullrich is a concerned citizen who has a home on Koontz Lake. He was aware of problems with the lake and volunteered to be on a committee to undertake a watershed management plan so invasive milfoil could be effectively controlled on Koontz Lake. John became involved with the effort and is currently President of the Marshall County Lakes and Waters Council. As a founding member John worked to develop by laws, hold meetings, and file for 501c3 exemption with the help of other members. The group is just over a year old and continues to struggle to grow.
30. Dana Wilkinson is a Stormwater Inspector with Monroe County Public Works Department. She conducts erosion control inspections of construction sites, implements the illicit discharge and detection elimination program, and assists in public outreach and education when possible. Prior to this job, she worked for such groups as: Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality - Water Resources Division, Indiana Clean Lakes Program, and Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. She enjoys sailing on Lake Monroe, searching under rocks for macroinvertebrates, and engaging her friends and family in the environment around them.
31. Sarah Wolf is a Resource Specialist with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and works in Jasper, Lake, Benton, and Newton counties. She is involved in the Iroquois Watershed Initiative. Prior to this position, she worked for Indiana State Parks and the National Park Service among other natural resource-related positions. She is passionate about protecting and enhancing natural resources and water quality, and for teaching and inspiring others to do the same.