

## ASIAN CARP

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Porter County.

Asian carp are adapting to river conditions in Indiana in alarming ways and experts believe one solution to the problem may create money and jobs in the state.

"The market for carp products or value-added carp products are truly the future," John Goss, Asian carp director for the White House Council on Environmental Quality said. "There could be economic opportunities for companies in Indiana." Goss, who has been dubbed President Obama's "Asian carp czar," addressed the Environmental Quality Service Council meeting at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor's Center. The legislative committee, headed by Indiana Sen. Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, normally meets in Indianapolis.

Dr. Reuben Goforth, assistant professor of aquatic community ecology at Purdue University, has been studying Asian carp in Indiana's Wabash River and found the fish are far more adaptive than previously thought. "They are not tied to specific water levels like we thought they were," Goforth said. "They are not tied to spawning at a particular time of year like we thought they were."

Goforth said he and his team have also discovered the gills are changing on some species of Asian carp in the Wabash, making them stronger and an even greater threat to the native species. Goforth said students have been collecting data on Asian carp eggs and the most they'd found in a five minute collection in a net was 1,000. But in June, they found 300,000 eggs in three minutes. Anglers reported seeing a 3/4-mile stretch from bank to bank jammed with Asian carp spawning at the same time. "We'd never seen anything like this before," he said.

Goforth said the adaptations remind him of the line from the Michael Crichton novel and Steven Spielberg film "Jurassic Park" when scientists discovered female dinosaurs adapted to reproduce without males: "Life finds a way."

"Fish are doing things here that they haven't in their native distribution which frankly scares me," Goforth said.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller recalled a four-day, 334-mile trip he took this summer on the Wabash River with Goss and others where he saw Asian carp. "There were two active schools that exploded out of the water," Zoeller said. "Two landed in the boat and one hit the driver."

Goss said an electric barrier on Chicago's South Side is keeping the fish from entering Lake Michigan. The closest fish to Lake Michigan are 50 to 60 miles south in the Illinois River, he said.

Commercial fishermen have contracted with government agencies to remove more than 1,000 tons of Asian carp from that river in recent years, he said.

Goss said studies are underway for an Asian carp-specific toxin, which could be introduced to waterways and would only impact those species, much like lampricides used to kill sea lamprey. "It could be expensive but it could be an effective tool in a small area," Goss said.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report on Asian carp is due to Congress in January and will outline strategies in five categories, including taking no new federal action, non-structural alternatives, technological alternatives, hydrologic separation and hybrids. The hydrologic separation issue--reversing the flow of the Chicago River--would be of great interest to Northwest Indiana, including the Calumet River.

## **AWARDS REPORT**

By Clara Walters  
December, 2013

It is that time of year again that we should be turning our thoughts to those within our chapters who deserve to be recognized for their efforts during the past year. I have the letters and forms ready to be mailed out. Look for them to arrive within the next two weeks.

Please take the time to do a thorough and complete write-up. Since the members of the awards committee do not necessarily know the nominee, they can only base their vote on the write-up. If there is documentation, such as a news article, please enclose it. This reinforces the strength of the nomination.

The committee members are going to be asked to put aside chapter loyalties when making their decisions. Just because someone from your chapter has been nominated, they should be evaluated based on the write-up. If you are on the committee and feel that you cannot do that, please let me know.

If you need additional copies of the nomination form, you can obtain it from the Division website. All nominations need to be received by March 30, 2014, and can

be transmitted electronically to the address on the nomination form. If sent by USPS it must be postmarked by March 30. Late nominations will be rejected.

Last year we were able to award 10 members for their efforts. We did not have nominations in all categories. The most popular category is usually the Chapter Achiever. If your nominee fits more than one category, check the box to allow the committee to determine the award.

If you have questions, please contact me. I can be reached at 765-832-5816 or via email, [reelmagnolia@att.net](mailto:reelmagnolia@att.net) .

## **BIRD BOXES**

By Jim Sweeney

Some sources of box plans that will not encourage pest species if built and placed properly.

North Dakota Fish and Game has a lot of plans.  
<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wildlife/ndblinds/ndblinds.pdf>

The Purple Martin Conservation Association  
<http://shop.purplemartin.org/>

Ohio DNR  
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/ExperienceWildlifeSubHomePage/birdingplaceh/older/resourceswbirdsattractingbirdhouses/tabid/6088/Default.aspx>

Bat Conservation International  
<http://batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/install-a-bat-house/subcategory/617.html>

## **CEDAR CREEK AND WATER QUALITY**

By Matt Jones  
Water Resources Education Specialist  
Allen County Partnership for Water Quality  
December, 2013

The location of the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton property is along a “glacial tunnel” that was created between two separate lobes of ice sheet during the last glacial age.

The uniqueness of this tunnel and the general topography of Allen County made the reputations of several renowned geologists.

The waters of Cedar Creek are a sub-watershed of the Saint Joseph River. The Saint Joseph River then feeds into the Maumee River which eventually empties into Lake Erie. Cedar Creek is recognized by the state as an “Outstanding State Resource Water” and is designated by the state as one of four “Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System.” It is designated as a recreational river.

Together with the larger Saint Joseph River, they form the source drinking water for Fort Wayne and the surrounding communities. The topography, structure and land uses along these rivers create the highest water quality of any surface water to the Fort Wayne City Utilities Water Treatment plant.

The original source waters of Fort Wayne used to come primarily from deep wells. With a large expansion of the population and development in the early 1900’s it was estimated that the wells would not keep up with the anticipated burden.

The classic riffle, run, glide and pool features of a waterway are evident along most of the course of the creek and river. These characteristics make for better oxygenation and less stagnation.

Compared to the other surface water sources close to Fort Wayne, the St. Joseph was the superior choice.

The topography along the banks of Cedar Creek and the St. Joseph fall further per mile than the other two. The fall of the St. Joseph is an average of 2.8 feet per mile--over twice that of the Maumee and four-and-a-half that of the St. Mary’s river.

The Saint Mary’s and Maumee Rivers were shallow and lacked gradient to keep the waters from occasional stagnation. Agricultural lands are worked almost up to the banks of these rivers and contribute to heavy sedimentation during flooding and storm events.

The point-source and non point-source pollution along the banks of these rivers have increased with the stresses of population booms, development and industry. As these have increased so have the different types of contamination. Most of these point-sources now require a “chain of custody” and proper disposal with full disclosure.

These “recent” improvements have been due, primarily, to the Clean Water Act (of which the Izaak Walton League played a key part in its passage). The CWA has been law for over 40 years but most of the compliance has only been in the past 20 years.

Then there is the non point-source pollution. This pollution is related to human behaviors that makes abatement far more difficult.

As it stands, the Cedar Creek canyon waters are classified as impaired. The impairments are as follows: E Coli; Impaired Biotic Communities; PCBs. Fishing use category: 5b-presence of mercury and PCBs; Recreation use category: 5a-impaired for use and requires TMDL; Aquatic Species use category: meets water quality standards and not impaired for this use.

e.Coli-NPS (improper treatment of sewage/CSO; overflowing manure lagoons; improper manure application; failing septic systems; wildlife). Impaired Biotic Communities-NPS (sedimentation/erosion; algal blooms; lack of dissolved oxygen); PS (encroachment/destruction of habitat). PCBs and mercury-PS (industrial waste; mismanaged landfills).

The overall picture, however, is not bleak. Since the CWA the Maumee River has lessened its sediment load by half. We are seeing the return of species once extirpated from the state. We are seeing the restoration of habitat and increased riparian edge along the water’s edge. We are meeting at the southern edge of what used to be the Great North Woods; the eastern edge of the Great Plains; the western edge of the Great Black Swamp and within the watershed of the Great Lakes. This is a great place.

There are positive changes to the environment of the waterways and wetlands. We are no longer the “Rust Belt.” Let’s re-invent ourselves as the “Rivers and Lakes Belt.” Allen County is home to two of the greatest rivers originating in Indiana--the Wabash and the Maumee. This is the eastern gateway to the rivers and lakes region of Indiana.

Indiana has enough drainages, streams and rivers to circle the globe almost one-and-a half times.

Fishing, hunting and recreation all improve with the water quality. Best of all, these attractions and resources are renewable and mostly sustainable.

Yours is the first conservation organization with mass membership in the United States. The Izaak Walton League has been crucial at different times regarding clean water legislation and has an active SOS (Save Our Streams) campaign to preserve habitat and promote conservation in streams across U.S.

Here is the challenge I put before you today: Be an active part of the conservation community. Recognize your local partners in conservation and try to assist each other when you can. Connectivity is essential to the survival of all conservation groups. Connectivity in a different light: adjoining parcels of conservation lands have a multiplying effect on habitat and species diversity. Whenever possible, try to connect any land acquisition to any other conservation parcel even if it isn't your own.

#### What You Can Do:

- \*Continue to further your mission of land and water conservation.
- \*Work together with like-minded partners concerning set-asides and conservation/preservation parcels and water quality projects.
- \*Make improvements at home and around your property:
- \*Disconnect downspouts
- \*Divert stormwater into rain barrels and rain gardens
- \*Reduce impervious surfaces
- \*Don't discard of noxious chemicals around your property or near storm drains
- \*Use native species when and wherever possible
- \*Always read directions for chemicals before applying them
- \*For fertilizer, remember the 4 "R's:" Right Reason at the Right Rate in the Right Place at the Right Time
- \*Revitalize membership interest in the National Izaak Walton "Save Our Streams" initiative.
- \*Join in at public meetings or sit on the board of your local watershed or water quality group.

#### Quick Water Quality Links:

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ)-- <http://www.acwater.org>

-Site for publications for information, streaming or download.

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI)-- <http://www.sjrwi.org>

-Site for information and management plans concerning the St. Joseph River watershed.

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District (AC SWCD)--

<http://www.allenswcd.org>

-Site for agricultural and other land and water conservation initiatives.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVING WEATHER OFF THE CHARTS**

By Janet Larsen

[http://www.earth-policy.org/plan\\_b\\_updates/2013/update118](http://www.earth-policy.org/plan_b_updates/2013/update118)

Earth Policy Release

Plan B Update

November 18, 2013

Meteorologists are calling the typhoon that slammed into the Philippines with 195-mile-an-hour winds on November 8, 2013, the most powerful tropical storm to make landfall on record. Super Typhoon Haiyan had gusts reaching 235 miles per hour and a storm surge swelling as high as 20 feet, so the destruction it left behind matched that of a tornado combined with a tsunami.

Three days later, at the opening of the United Nations climate negotiations in Warsaw, Poland, the lead delegate from the Philippines, Yeb Saño, spoke of the “hellstorm” that left “a vast wasteland of mud and debris and dead bodies.” He continued: “Despite the massive efforts...in preparing for the onslaught of this monster of a storm, it was just a force too powerful and, even as a nation familiar with storms, Haiyan was nothing we have ever experienced before, or perhaps nothing that any country has ever experienced before.”

Haiyan arrived less than a year after Super Typhoon Bopha, which at that point was the costliest storm in Philippine history with \$1.7 billion in damages and some 1,900 deaths. Bopha was then outdone monetarily by Trami, which in August 2013 brought the Philippines torrential rains and flooding, leaving some \$2.2 billion in damages in its wake. Early estimates put Haiyan’s destruction tab at \$14 billion. With more than 4 million people displaced and thousands feared dead, Haiyan looks to be a record on multiple fronts.

The commonly used tropical storm wind speed scale goes up to category 5: more than 156 miles per hour. But as Yeb Saño notes, “if there [were] a category 6, [Haiyan] would have fallen squarely in that box.”

The world is literally moving off the charts. With the global average temperature up over half a degree Celsius since the 1970s and with more warming in store, we are starting to witness weather anomalies so severe we need to update our metrics and extend our graphs.

The warming is the result of a buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere--largely from burning coal, oil, and natural gas--that trap heat from the sun. The extra warmth is taken up by the oceans and also heats the atmosphere, the former faster than the latter, creating a temperature differential that can create more-forceful storms. A warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor--all the better to produce punishing rainstorms. Warmer sea surfaces provide more energy for storms to grow stronger. The surface waters where Haiyan formed measured up to 1 degree Celsius above normal--that is, until the storm sucked up heat to use as fuel as it passed over the sea.

Physics dictates that warmer water also takes up more space; thus excess heat in the world's oceans has raised sea level, a process that is compounded by the accelerating melting of the Earth's polar ice caps and mountain glaciers. By the end of this century, sea level could rise by some 6 feet, making storm surge all the more dangerous.

In recent years, intense storms have showed up in unprecedented locations. Brazil was struck by its first recorded hurricane in 2004, and Spain and the Canary Islands experienced their first-ever tropical storms in 2005. In 2007, a fierce tropical cyclone in the Arabian Sea brought torrential rain to parts of Oman and Iran. In 2008, the first severe tropical storm to hit Myanmar's densely populated Irrawaddy Delta left 90,000 people dead. And 2012's Superstorm Sandy was unusual in both its span and its pathway--an unexpected left-hand turn directly into New Jersey.

Like these freak storms, we are in uncharted territory. Big storms occurred prior to human-induced climate change, of course, but raising the Earth's temperature is like putting the weather on steroids. We might not see more tropical storms, but the ones that form are likely to pack a more powerful punch. Heat waves are predicted to last longer and become more intense. Rainfall could come fast and furious in some places, while other parts of the globe could see very little at all.

Globally, high temperature records already are being set five times as often as what would be expected in the absence of global warming. In the last decade, daily record high temperatures outnumbered record lows in the United States two to one, and that ratio is increasing. Earlier this year, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology had to add a deeper shade to its temperature mapping color code that had maxed out at 122 degrees Fahrenheit: the Bureau extended the range to 129 degrees after a nationwide heat wave brought scorching temperatures that broke records in every state.

Governments everywhere agreed in 2009 to work to keep the rise in global average temperature below a 2 degree Celsius threshold to avoid “dangerous” climate change. The United Nations warns that to meet this goal, immediate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are needed. The problem is that international negotiations move slowly, while temperatures are rising fast--faster, in fact, than at any time since civilization began. The least common denominator model of negotiations, in which countries endeavor to concede as little as possible, will just make things worse.

The costs of retooling economies to run more efficiently on renewable energy are negligible compared with the damage the world will incur from runaway global warming. Haiyan and other recent weather extremes are wake-up calls to the urgency of ending our fossil fuel addiction. If we continue to ignore them, the costs of dealing with climate change will surely extend far off the charts.

[Janet Larsen is the Director of Research for Earth Policy Institute. Data and additional resources available at [www.earth-policy.org](http://www.earth-policy.org) .]

## **CLOSE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Letter from Albert A. Bartlett

In February of 2013 I attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Association publishes SCIENCE magazine which is one of the world’s leading scientific journals. The Association’s big annual meeting this year was held in meeting rooms spread through the enormous Hynes Convention Center in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting consisted of plenary addresses by prominent scientists and dozens of symposia often consisting of four speakers presenting papers on different aspects of a single topic. The meeting was scientifically comprehensive and strongly interdisciplinary. There were topics for every taste.

Many symposia at the AAAS meeting seemed to be devoted to or related to the vital topic of sustainability. This interest in sustainability is understandable because it’s clear that if humans can’t make a transition to real sustainability then we, as a society, face a very grim future. The importance of ‘limits’ and ‘sustainable living’ was projected in the book titled LIMITS TO GROWTH as early as 1972. The idea that there might be limits was rarely mentioned in the AAAS symposia even though real sustainability implies a society that depends solely on solar energy with no dependence on finite reserves of fossil fuels.

I attended as many of these symposia as I could and I was struck by common threads. A frequent preface to these discussions was the fact that projections show world population will most likely continue its growth and increase by another two or three billion people by mid-century. For most speakers, this projected population growth was taken as a given. To most of the speakers it seemed to follow then that our society has to meet the food, water and resource challenge that this growth presents. Some of the symposia reported on exercises in thinking about the complex planning that the future will require. It was my impression that scientists love to plan, especially in an atmosphere largely devoid of reality.

Almost without exception, the various plans that were presented never mentioned the fact that reducing overpopulation is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for achieving sustainability.

In the discussion period following one symposium I asked the panelists why the obvious benefits of reducing our present overpopulation were never mentioned. One of the panelists responded with a “picture perfect” recitation of the standard answer that is so often given to annoying inquiries such as mine. With a smile and with suitable restraint, the respondent patiently explained that the United Nations figures show that the growth rate of world population is declining and world population growth is expected to stop on its own later in this century. So the population problem is under control and there is no need to worry ourselves about it at this time.

I responded by inviting the panelist to come with me to City Hall where we would seek to convince the city government that the city does not need a Fire Department. It is an established fact that, if left to themselves, all fires, residential, industrial or in the forest, will ultimately go out. Why rush to put out fires if all fires will ultimately go out on their own?

There was no response. In the meantime, we fiddle while Rome continues to burn.

## **ENDOWMENT MINUTES**

By Endowment Secretary Clara Walters  
September 14, 2013

Endowment VP Tim Russell called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. The

following people were present:

Tim Russell\*

Clara Walters\*

Herb Read\*

Karen Griggs\*

Charlotte Read

Stan Jarosz

Patty Jarosz

\*indicates Board Member

There was a discussion about a grant request from Jim Daniels. Karen Griggs objected to the manner in which the budget was submitted as it left many questions about who was paying for what. She also wanted a job description/job title for Pawlowski and Nickolick. There were questions about the \$300 contingency fee and where it was going to come from. The general consensus was that we would not authorize the contingency fee. It was brought up that the request should be specific about the time frame, as it should state that this is a one-time for one year. If there is a need next year, a new grant request should be done. Charlotte Read also brought up that a reasonable objective for the first year should be stated.

While there were questions about the way the grant request was written, it was generally accepted that this request was within endowment parameters. Since there was not a quorum, no vote could be taken. Clara Walters, the secretary, was instructed to contact Jim Daniels about the clarification requirements.

There was also discussion about the treasurer's position and the Hilliard Lyons accounts. Although the by-laws permit it, Clara Walters, declined to be the treasurer. She still has custody of the endowment financial records, which will be turned over to the new treasurer when one is elected.

## **HEALTHY RIVERS INITIATIVE**

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

For immediate release: Nov. 7, 2013

The Healthy Rivers Initiative continues to grow along the Muscatatuck River with the recent acquisition of nearly 500 acres for the Department of Natural Resources' land conservation project.

The area, which is being called Austin Bottoms Conservation Area, has added parcels in three counties--121 acres in Jackson County, 184.5 acres in Scott County, and 192 acres in Washington County.

“These parcels are important because they move the program a few steps closer to its long-range land conservation goal,” said DNR director Cameron Clark. “Piece by piece, acre by acre, we’re making progress, but most importantly we’re protecting natural areas that will provide habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for Hoosiers.”

The Healthy Rivers Initiative, or HRI, began in 2010 with the objective to permanently protect nearly 70,000 acres along the Muscatatuck, the Wabash River, and Sugar Creek. To date, the project has protected 30,500 acres, including DNR purchases of almost 10,900 acres. The total acreage includes lands newly acquired through HRI, existing lands owned or managed prior to HRI, and acreage enrolled in the federal Wetlands Reserve Program.

The three recent purchase sites boost HRI success in the Muscatatuck project area to 7,800 acres, almost half of which is under DNR management. The new parcels are being managed jointly by the DNR divisions of Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and State Parks & Reservoirs.

The DNR opened 2,355 acres of the Austin Bottoms Conservation Area to public use this past spring and is developing plans to open additional areas next spring.

For more information on HRI and to view maps of the areas now open to the public, visit [www.healthyivers.IN.gov](http://www.healthyivers.IN.gov) .

[Release sent to H.W. courtesy of Dean Farr.]

## **HMMM?**

Americans waste some 40 percent of our food, two-thirds of us are overweight or obese, and up to 29 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to food production and consumption. Understanding what we grow, cook, eat, and throw out can be both empowering and tasty.

We are creatures of habit. Environmental progress requires a change of habits. A breaking of the security of the familiar.

## **IN MEMORY: DR. ALBERT BARTLETT**

By Jim Daniels

Dr. Bartlett was a professor emeritus of Nuclear Physics at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He was the author of several essays and has given numerous speeches on population and energy. One of his most famous presentations is titled “Arithmetic, Population, and Energy.”

He gave a version of this as a slide presentation at a League National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The presentation was brilliant. In my view he was the most compelling speaker at any National Convention I have attended, and that is over 20. I had the luck to be able to chat with him after his presentation and, along with Emil Garcia, had breakfast with him the next morning and we enjoyed a nice talk before he had to leave for his plane.

His talk was an epiphany for me. It drove home the powerful connection between the number of people on the planet and the capacity [lack of, actually] of the earth to accommodate those ever increasing numbers.

As a result of that presentation I changed my entire focus about environmental protection. A key ingredient, in fact, the key ingredient, is to wind up with a total world population that can be supported by the resources of the earth. This means a zero growth in finite resource use.

His presentation was available on a VHS tape. [That gives you an idea of how long ago this was]. Now it is available on the web as a digital video, for free. Simply go to [PopulationPress.org](http://PopulationPress.org) and click on Essays. Scroll down to it and there you are. You can also just google his name and get a lot of his work. His reasoning and rational arguments are compelling. I would dare anyone to mount a contra case. Elsewhere in this issue is a speech he gave titled, “Close the Fire Department.”

It is with sadness I report his passing. His work will live on.

# INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Jim Daniels

The Indiana General assembly will be convening for the 2014 short session on January 6. Orientation Day has already been held—November 19. To track the legislature all you need to do is go to the web site, [www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm](http://www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm).

Once there, the first thing to do is bookmark it. Then take a bit of a tour. It is pretty straightforward. If you don't know who your elected Representative or Senator is click on "Who's Your Legislator" in the left column. Enter your information and that will identify your state and federal elected legislators. Their website will say 'click here' and doing so will take you to their individual website. Once on the individual site you can cruise their activities and each will have a 'contact me' opportunity.

I would suggest you prepare in your email contacts list the information about your legislators. That way you can easily send them messages later.

Once bills are introduced the text will be posted along with the action taken on the bill, the sponsor, what committee and reading it is, and any amendments. Anyone can track up to ten bills which gives notice via email when something happens with that bill. Committees and their members and the committee meeting schedule and the bills to be heard in committee are all posted.

Note though, the 2014 session is a short one. Only 30 session days, which means they will adjourn on March 14. The General Assembly is not in session on any Friday generally, and most weeks only a couple of days. Click on 'deadlines' in the left column under session information to get the dates specific actions happen or when they must be complete.

You can make an appointment to visit your legislator at the Statehouse in Indianapolis or on a weekend when the chambers are not in session and the legislator is back in district. Don't just show up though. Make an appointment. Also, keep your eye out for Town Hall or Meet Your Legislator, or 3<sup>rd</sup> House meetings. These will be in district during the session and are public events where you can bring an issue to your area legislators.

One portal to get to the U.S. Congress is by going to [www.thomas.loc.gov/links/](http://www.thomas.loc.gov/links/)

Here can be found federal bills, House and Senate calendars, schedules, etc.. As you cruise around you may want to bookmark certain pages.

The U.S. Congress has a published calendar. They take a lot of recesses. In fact, in 2014 they will be in session only about 100 days. During some of their time off they will be back in district and that is when you can meet with them. Or, more likely, you will be meeting with one of their staff. The legislator will be spending most of their time raising money for their next campaign.

Your contact will most likely be with the aide, and the response you get from mail will most likely be from the aide. This is just a fact of life. State your case plainly and ask the legislators position. If that is different than yours ask if they are willing to hear another side and say you would like to try to change their mind. One note here is that the legislator will make an effort to not answer you question or take a clear position. They like to say they will take your comments under advisement.

The important thing is to be prepared. Use facts to support your position, how you will be affected by the issue, and I think another important facet is to know who has the opposing position and what their arguments are and your answer to them.

Never make something up. If you are asked a question and don't know the answer, say so, and promise to get the answer.

Take a couple of notes during the meeting if you have to, but be sure to write down the outcome of the meeting immediately after it is over. Out in the hall. You may think you will not forget important stuff, but you will. Within a week at the most send a note of thanks and provide any details you promised.

Okay. That is the very brief outline of legislator contact. It is the personal angle. Also very important in moving an issue forward is to get others to also contact their legislators about the same issue. If it is one thing legislators know how to do, it is count. They count votes and money.

The main job of a legislator is to get re-elected, and they are keenly aware of what that involves. A rule of thumb is that any citizen who is willing to go to the trouble of researching an issue and taking the time to try to convince a legislator to support that issue, will also take the time to vote. So, rally anyone you can to work on your issue. You have power, but you must use it.

## MOVING UP THE FOOD CHAIN

By Lester R. Brown

[www.earth-policy.org/books/fpep/fpepch3](http://www.earth-policy.org/books/fpep/fpepch3)

Earth Policy Release

Full Planet, Empty Plates

November 25, 2013

For most of the time that human beings have walked the earth, we lived as hunter-gatherers. The share of the human diet that came from hunting versus gathering varied with geographic location, hunting skills, and the season of the year. During the northern hemisphere winter, for instance, when there was little food to gather, people there depended heavily on hunting for survival. Our long history as hunter-gatherers left us with an appetite for animal protein that continues to shape diets today.

As recently as the closing half of the last century, a large part of the growth in demand for animal protein was still satisfied by the rising output of two natural systems: oceanic fisheries and rangelands. Between 1950 and 1990, the oceanic fish catch climbed from 17 million to 84 million tons, a nearly fivefold gain. During this period, the seafood catch per person more than doubled, climbing from 15 to 35 pounds.

This was the golden age of oceanic fisheries. The catch grew rapidly as fishing technologies evolved and as refrigerated processing ships began to accompany fishing fleets, enabling them to operate in distant waters. Unfortunately, the human appetite for seafood has outgrown the sustainable yield of oceanic fisheries. Today four fifths of fisheries are being fished at or beyond their sustainable capacity. As a result, many are in decline and some have collapsed.

Rangelands are also essentially natural systems. Located mostly in semiarid regions too dry to sustain agriculture, they are vast--covering roughly twice the area planted to crops. In some countries, such as Brazil and Argentina, beef cattle are almost entirely grass-fed. In others, such as the United States and those in Europe, beef is produced with a combination of grass and grain.

In every society where incomes have risen, the appetite for meat, milk, eggs, and seafood has generated an enormous growth in animal protein consumption. Today some 3 billion people are moving up the food chain. For people living at subsistence level, 60 percent or more of their calories typically come from a single

starchy food staple such as rice, wheat, or corn. As incomes rise, diets are diversified with the addition of more animal protein.

World consumption of meat climbed from just under 50 million tons in 1950 to 280 million tons in 2010, more than a fivefold increase. Meanwhile, consumption per person went from 38 pounds to 88 pounds a year. The growth in consumption during this 60-year span was concentrated in the industrial and newly industrializing countries.

The type of animal protein that people choose to eat depends heavily on geography. Countries that are land-rich with vast grasslands--including the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and Russia--depend heavily on beef or--as in Australia and Kazakhstan--mutton. Countries that are more densely populated and lack extensive grazing lands have historically relied much more on pork. Among these are Germany, Poland, and China. Island countries and those with long shorelines, such as Japan and Norway, have turned to the oceans for their animal protein.

Over time, global patterns of meat consumption have changed. In 1950, beef and pork totally dominated, leaving poultry a distant third. From 1950 until 1980, beef and pork production increased more or less apace. Beef production was pressing against the limits of grasslands, however, and more cattle were put in feedlots. Because cattle are not efficient in converting grain into meat, world beef production, which climbed from 19 million tons in 1950 to 53 million in 1990, has not expanded much since then. In contrast, chickens are highly efficient in converting grain into meat. As a result, world poultry production, which grew slowly at first, accelerated, overtaking beef in 1997.

The world's top two meat consumers are China and the United States. The United States was the leader until 1992, when it was overtaken by China. As of 2012, twice as much meat is eaten in China as in the United States--71 million tons versus 35 million.

Although the world has had many years of experience in feeding nearly 80 million more people each year, it has much less experience with also providing for 3 billion people with rising incomes who want to move up the food chain and consume more grain intensive products. Whereas population growth generates demand for wheat and rice, humanities' two food staples, it is rising affluence that is driving growth in the demand for corn, the world's feedgrain. Historically, world corn and wheat production trends moved more or less together from 1950 until 2000. But then corn took off, climbing to 960 million tons in 2011 while wheat remained under 700 million tons.

It is the increase in consumption of livestock products plus the conversion of grain into fuel that have boosted the annual growth in world grain demand from the roughly 20 million tons a decade ago to over 40 million tons in recent years. As incomes continue to rise, the pressure on farmers to produce enough grain and soybeans to satisfy the growing appetite for livestock and poultry products will only intensify.

Supporting data, video, and slideshows are available for free download at [www.earth-policy.org/books/fpep](http://www.earth-policy.org/books/fpep).

## **ONE MINUTE HEALTH BUILDERS**

By Wayne Scott Andersen, MD  
--15 ways to feel your best in no time

It's the small daily habits and choices we make that lead to better health and a longer life. I call these changes one-minute health builders. Here are 15 of my favorites.

1. Use blue place mats or blue plates. The color blue has been shown to decrease appetite, while yellow and red increase it. Why do you think McDonald's golden arches are the color they are? Also: Downsize your plates. We tend to fill our plates, so switch from the standard 11-inch plate to a nine-inch one.
2. Eat white fruits and veggies. A recent Dutch study published in Stroke found that eating fruits and vegetables with white flesh, such as pears, apples, bananas, cauliflower and cucumber, protects against stroke.
3. Pedal like crazy for one minute. Canadian scientists set out to discover how little exercise people need to stay healthy. Participants exercised on stationary bikes for one minute of strenuous effort followed by one minute of easy recovery. The effort and recovery were repeated 10 times for a total of 20 minutes three times a week. The participants showed significant improvements in their health and fitness after several weeks. Cardiac patients in particular showed boosts in heart function.
4. Floss for your heart. Harvard researchers found a direct relationship between heart attacks and C-reactive protein, a substance that indicates inflammation in the body. If you have periodontal disease (a form of gum disease), you have inflammation. If your gums are infected, they will release oral bacteria into the bloodstream. Some of these organisms may contribute to the atherosclerotic plaques that cause blood clots and heart attacks. Daily flossing (and brushing) is the best way to reduce gum inflammation and prevent infection.

5. Use lip balm that contains sunscreen. The cells in the "transitional zone" between your lips and the adjoining tissues are particularly vulnerable to sun damage and skin cancer. In addition to wearing a hat to screen your face, spread lip balm generously to protect this area.
6. Skip the candlelight at dinner. Studies show that we tend to eat less in bright light. Also, when you feel like snacking, drink a glass of water and wait 10 minutes. Approximately 30% of the time, thirst is disguised as hunger. You might not need that snack.
7. Put black tape over the LED light on your bedroom clock. You'll sleep better--and eat less. A recent study found that persistent exposure to dim light at night caused mice to gain 50% more weight than mice not exposed to light at night.
8. Take a few moments before bed to write down the things that you did right each day (such as using a smaller plate), along with some of the things that could use improving (you didn't take a walk). I've found that people who write down their positive actions and intentions, as opposed to just thinking about them, tend to be more motivated. Writing down your "mistakes" is just as helpful because it takes stress out of your mind and leaves it on the paper.
9. Try lavender. Research has shown that the scent of lavender can lengthen total sleep time and increase deep sleep. Try putting a lavender sachet or a handkerchief with one or two drops of lavender essential oil under your pillow. Or add several drops of lavender oil to a bath before bed.
10. Burn "phone calories." When you're on the phone, take advantage of the time to stand up and pace. This is an example of nonexercise-activity thermogenesis, something that you do normally that isn't really exercise but still burns calories. You burn about one extra calorie for every minute that you're on your feet, compared with sitting.
11. Write down the names of five people you know who are trying to be healthier. Then start a group with these people to take daily walks...go to the gym...share healthy recipes. One study found that people who changed their behavior as a team were more successful--and had a lower risk for heart disease--than those who went solo.
12. Ask a friend to text you. In one study, smokers were twice as likely to quit if they received supportive text messages. In another study, people who received a text reminding them to wear sunscreen did so 56% of the time, as opposed to 30% for those who didn't get the reminder. Whatever you might need a reminder to do, ask to be texted about.
13. Freeze fruit. Put bananas, strawberries and grapes in the freezer--and reach for these when you feel like having a sweet treat.
14. Take a mindful minute. It's estimated that more than 80% of all diseases are related to stress. "Mindfulness" simply means living in the moment, and it greatly

relieves stress. Examples: When you eat, allow yourself to fully savor each bite. When you take a walk, notice the pleasurable sensations--the strength in your muscles, the sun on your face.

15. Take four deep breaths. Do this whenever you feel stressed or angry. Repeat until you feel calm.

Source: Wayne Scott Andersen, MD, a board-certified physician in critical care and former chairman of the department of anesthesiology at Grandview Hospital, Dayton, Ohio. He is medical director of Take Shape for Life, an online weight-loss and coaching program, and author of Discover Your Optimal Health: The Guide to Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Vitality, Your Life (DaCapo Lifelong). DrWayneAndersen.com

## **PUBLIC LANDS & FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT**

By Chuck Bauer  
December, 2013

The single most important issue is the Federal Farm Bill. The Farm bill has not been reauthorized and the CRP, WRP, and other conservation programs are in great jeopardy. It is likely that something will happen in January. The farming industry lobbies are concerned that they may lose some funding so they are asking that any decrease in funding must be coupled with a lessening of the Conservation provisions. This would not only threaten the CRP and WRP programs but would allow wetland destruction and sod busting. Every Ike should contact their Federal Senators and Representatives and support a reauthorization of the Farm bill with strong conservation provisions. If you do not want to call or Email you can go to the IWLA web site and click take action and they will contact your representatives for you. We are currently plowing up valuable wildlife habitat because of corn prices. If we lose the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill we will lose more.

The North American Waterfowl Management plan grant request for the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge scored well and stands a good chance of funding. We will know in February. We requested \$1,000,000 for acquisitions. Ducks Unlimited wrote and submitted the proposal. The Indiana Division committed \$1,000 if the proposal is funded. There is land available from willing sellers.

The IDNR division of Fish and Wildlife is pursuing a license fee increase. Fees have not been increased for many years and other state funding has been cut. IWLA has always supported user pays fees and should continue to support this fee

increase. They plan to raise basic license fees \$5.00 for residents and \$10.00 for non-residents.

Land acquisition by both the IDNR and the Patoka Refuge have had a great year and are on track to have a great 2014.

Both the Whooping Cranes and Snow Geese are back at the Patoka. There are 7 Whooping Cranes and over 100,000 Snow Geese.

## **SOIL AND AG REPORT**

By Clara Walters  
December, 2013

We still do not have a complete Farm Bill. The current issue of Conservation Currents discusses this. If you have access to the Internet, please take the time to review it. You can access it from the National website, [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

Soil health is the big issue for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts this coming year. No-Till and cover crops are solid ways to reduce the drain on soil nutrients and help with erosion problems.

Many acres in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) are being taken out of conservation because of the high prices of commodities. One farmer was written up in *No-Till Farmer* magazine about the problems that he encountered with the acres he took out of CRP. He noted that the soil health was reduced and needed to be enriched with nutrients. He felt that if he used cover crops that the need for fertilizer would be reduced. Cover crops would also reduce erosion since the acres taken out of CRP were in an erosion zone.

This farmer realizes that he is going to see reduced production from those acres initially but commodity prices justified his decision. He did feel that eventually he could increase production with solid management practices. Lack of CRP monies also led to his decision.

Please contact your legislators about getting a comprehensive farm bill passed.

Soil health is important since once the nutrients are depleted, production is reduced and the price of commodities will go up even further. Solid farming practices are not necessarily the answer. We have to take steps to insure that we do not lose topsoil and that we do not become dependent on excessive chemical

additives. Once the topsoil is lost, it will take a lot of years to rebuild it. Some analysts are predicting that we could be heading for another 'Dust Bowl' within the next 50 years. This prediction is reason enough to get involved with encouraging farmers to keep acres in CRP and to switch over to no-till and cover crops.

## **TIPS TO WARM YOUR HEARTH**

[Reprinted with permission from the Winter 2013 edition of Earthwise, a publication of The Union of Concerned Scientists.]

It is no surprise that traditional wood-burning fireplaces are major energy wasters. According to the Department of Energy, a blazing fire sends about 300 cubic feet of air up the chimney every minute, along with up to 90 percent of the fire's heat—plus some of the heat produced by your home's furnace too. Furthermore, the smoke from older fireplaces contains fine particulates that can aggravate asthma, allergies, and other health conditions. Thankfully, modern stoves and fireplace inserts that use wood or other fuels can heat your home while saving energy and reducing pollution. (Bear in mind that all fuel-burning stoves and fireplaces produce global warming emissions; emissions vary based on the type of fuel, its source, and the energy used in producing it.)

Wood-burning units are available in a variety of configurations, ranging from about \$2,000 to \$3,000 installed, that meet stringent emissions limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- \* Catalytic stoves employ a ceramic catalyst coated with platinum or palladium to burn much of the fire's exhaust gas rather than letting it escape, generating more heat while reducing the buildup of creosote (which can lead to chimney fires). Certified units emit no more than 4.1 grams of particulates per hour, compared with the 40 to 60 grams per hour generated by an older fireplace. The catalyst must be replaced every few years (at a cost of \$75 to \$150) to keep emissions in check.

- \* Non-catalytic stoves have slightly higher emissions (7.5 grams per hour maximum) but maximize heat output and minimize pollution via an insulated firebox and holes at the top of the firebox that enhance combustion. Non-catalytic stoves can be cheaper than catalytic units, but burn wood more quickly.

- \* Traditional fireplaces can qualify under a voluntary EPA program if the unit emits no more than 5.1 grams of particulate matter per kilogram of wood burned—

about 70 percent less than an older fireplace. While qualified fireplaces generate more heat than older units, they may not generate enough to serve as your primary heat source.

If you do opt to burn wood, minimize your environmental impact by using only dry, seasoned wood (wet or “green” wood requires more energy to burn and can generate more smoke).

Pellets made of compressed sawdust and other wood/plant waste can be burned in stoves that produce very little pollution; look for an EPA-certified stove that has the highest efficiency rating possible (independently verified ratings are available on some manufacturers’ websites). Because they do require electricity (about 100 kilowatt-hours per month under normal usage) to feed pellets into the combustion chamber, they will not work during a power outage unless connected to a backup power source. Pellet stoves range from about \$1,500 to \$3,000 installed.

Natural gas (or propane) fireplaces, which range from approximately \$2,000 to \$4,000 installed, offer instant, easily adjustable heat and avoid the mess and storage requirements associated with wood and pellets. And because gas fireplaces do not require a chimney, they can be placed almost anywhere in the house (though the EPA does not recommend unvented units due to air quality concerns). No EPA certification exists for these units because they are all highly efficient (converting up to 80 percent of the fuel into heat) and produce minimal particulates, but look for direct-vent units, which reduce interior heat loss by using outdoor air for combustion.

Before you make a decision, be sure your home is well insulated and any air leaks have been sealed. Then, contact a retailer of National Fireplace Institute-certified installer to help you determine the best, cleanest model for your needs. To learn more visit the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/burnwise](http://www.epa.gov/burnwise) .

## **U.S. CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS DOWN 11 PERCENT SINCE 2007**

By Emily E. Adams

[www.earth-policy.org/data\\_highlights/2013/highlights41](http://www.earth-policy.org/data_highlights/2013/highlights41)

Earth Policy Release

October 2, 2013

Carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels in the United States peaked

at more than 1.6 billion tons of carbon in 2007. Since then they have fallen 11 percent, dropping to over 1.4 billion tons in 2013, according to estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Emissions shrank rapidly during the recession, then bounced back slightly as the economy recovered. But shifting market conditions, pollution regulations, and changing behaviors are also behind the decline.

Oil is the largest source of carbon emissions in the United States. After a steep drop following the 1979 oil crisis, emissions from oil climbed steadily until 2005, when they peaked at 715 million tons of carbon. Since then, these emissions have fallen by 14 percent, or 101 million tons of carbon—the equivalent of taking 77 million cars off the road.

Oil is mostly used for transportation, so vehicle fuel efficiency and the number of miles driven determine the amount of emissions. On both fronts things are improving. Average fuel efficiency, which had been deteriorating for years in the United States, started to increase in 2005 and keeps getting better. Americans are traveling farther on each gallon of gas than ever before.

Furthermore, people are driving less. For many years Americans as a group drove billions more miles each year than the previous one. But in 2007 this changed. Now more cars stay parked because more people live in urban areas, opt for public transit, work remotely, or retire and thus no longer commute to work.

Coal—the dirtiest fossil fuel—has dominated the U.S. power grid, but its grip has weakened in recent years. As the price of natural gas has fallen, utilities are dropping coal. They are also deciding to retire old, inefficient coal plants and invest elsewhere rather than pay for retrofits in order to meet increasingly stringent pollution regulations.

Strong grassroots work, too, is helping to close the curtain on coal even faster. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, which coordinates efforts across the country to retire old plants and prevent new ones from being built, tallies 149 coal plants that plan to retire or switch fuels out of more than 500. As falling natural gas prices, pollution regulations, and shrinking electricity demand reduce coal use, U.S. carbon emissions from coal have fallen 20 percent from their peak in 2005.

Meanwhile, natural gas consumption for electricity generation and heating has increased. Carbon dioxide emissions from burning natural gas hit an all-time high of 373 million tons of carbon in 2012, up 17 percent above 2006 levels. They are

projected to remain at that level in 2013. Natural gas emits about half as much carbon dioxide per unit of energy as coal does. With domestic production on the rise, the share of carbon emissions from natural gas are likely to continue to increase. [ed note: gas from fracking has a much bigger environmental footprint due to the method of extraction]

But electricity does not have to come with a huge carbon hangover. Wind and solar power—carbon-free energy sources with no fuel costs—have been taking off. U.S. wind power capacity has more than tripled since 2007 and now produces enough energy to power over 15 million homes in the United States. Solar power capacity, starting from a smaller base, increased 14-fold in the same time period. Although wind and solar power currently account for only a small share of total energy production, their prices will continue to drop as deployment increases. In some areas wind is already cheaper than coal. This is just the beginning of reductions in carbon dioxide emissions as the explosive growth of wind and solar power cuts down the use of dirty fossil fuels.

The switch to renewables cannot come soon enough. Accumulating greenhouse gas emissions from the United States and other countries have led to a global temperature increase of 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 degrees Celsius) since the Industrial Revolution. Higher emissions will lead to higher temperatures that will bring more heat waves, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels (among other things). In 2009, President Obama set a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. Putting a price on carbon would help accelerate the trends that are cutting the United States' carbon contribution and allow the country to exceed this goal.

[For more information on the U.S. transition to wind power, see “Iowa and South Dakota Approach 25 Percent Electricity from Wind in 2012,” by J. Matthew Roney. Data and additional resources available at [www.earth-policy.org](http://www.earth-policy.org) .]

## **VEGETABLES WITH BRUCE HUNTER**

[The Hoosier Waltonian electronically interviewed Bruce Hunter on two occasions.]

HW: What got you first interested in gardening?

JBH: Gardened with my grandfather as a child and the way the nation is going into debt makes me want to be more self sufficient.

HW: What are you growing?

JBH: Tomatoes, green beans, carrots, onions, peas, corn, cucumbers and potatoes.

HW: How much space does it take?

JBH: I built eight raised beds that are 8 foot by 4 foot from 2" x 12" boards. I may add two more in the spring as I want to start growing some herbs and peppers.

HW: This varies with type of plant, but can you give an idea of how many plants of what kind will fit in an 8 foot by 4 foot bed? Example; how many tomato plants will fit in one bed if nothing else is in there?

JBH: That depends on the type of tomato but generally 8 plants. With most plants there are guides one can find online for spacing, also if one buys their seeds the packages tell the proper planting depth and spacing between plants and between rows.

HW: How did you decide what to grow?

JBH: I just picked things I like to eat, and of course things that grow good in my area up here in Lake County. I can grow everything I grow so it supplies me for over a year in those items.

HW: How much time, say per week, do you spend working in your garden? By season?

JBH: That varies with planting time, how much rain we get, and harvest time. I try to check my garden daily and do whatever needs doing be that weeding, watering, spraying my homemade bug spray and harvesting.

HW: How long have you been growing your own vegetables?

JBH: Did it a lot when I was younger, but just decided I needed to get back to it a couple of years ago.

HW: This Winter 2014 issue will be in people's hands in February. What will you be doing in February, March, and April to get your garden ready?

JBH: During the winter I turn my compost piles and about 6-8 weeks prior to planting I prestart many of the plants, especially the tomatoes, in my basement under grow lights.

HW: What kind of "grow light" do you have?

JBH: They are a 2 foot florescent grow light fixture that holds 2 tubes each.

The lights are on a timer that at the start I have on all the time until the plants sprout then drop it to around 12 hours a day as they grow. Once they are large enough to transplant to the plastic cups I also have a 4 tube 4 foot fixture that I use. All the grow lights are hung on chains so that as the plants grow the lights can be raised.

HW: How much would you estimate growing your own vegetables saves on your grocery bill?

JBH: Never sat down and figured it out but I have not purchased tomatoes, tomato juice, salsa, cucumbers, dill pickles, spaghetti sauce, green beans, carrots, onions, corn on the cob or canned corn since I started it. I also grow mostly heirloom

plants so I save the seeds and never need to buy new seeds.

HW: What advice would you give to someone thinking about planting a food garden in their backyard?

JBH: Do it! It is not only fun to grow your own food, but you know that what you are eating is not loaded with preservatives. And in my case no chemicals either, since I do not use chemical pesticides. To fully take advantage a person should also can their crops.

HW: For the beginner, what would be the vegetable to start on the gardening adventure? Easiest to grow with least hassle?

JBH: The easiest to me is carrots, but like all plants they need to be watered, weeded, thinned out and watched for leaf eating bugs. There is a species of caterpillar that loves carrot leaves. The swallowtail caterpillar can devastate your crop if not picked off by hand. However they make great fishing bait.

HW: What will you plant first, and when will that be?

JBH: A person should check the seasonal crop calendar at <http://www.in.gov/dwd/2619.htm> . This site shows suggested planting dates for the different zones in Indiana. I start planting outdoors around May 1st, but in the southern part of the state one can start several weeks earlier. You just want to be sure it is after the last frost. One of the first things I plant is peas and green beans then just move the tomato plants outdoors. I leave them under the shade tree in the back for several days so they acclimate to the change. If you plant them directly the harsh change to real sun and wind can kill them.

HW: Do you pre-start in a bucket? How many things do you pre-start in your basement?

JBH: No I start from seed in small starting trays, then when they are a couple of inches tall I move them to large plastic cups. Be sure to drill holes in the bottoms of the drinking cups for drainage.

Each year is different depending on what I decide to plant that year, but I always prestart tomatoes and peppers.

HW: Is there a beginners book or guide you would recommend?

JBH: There are thousands of books on gardening. I don't own any. {Bruce could be heard laughing through the screen}. I just take what I learned from my grandfather and if I am in doubt I do an Internet search. There are some great channels on YouTube devoted strictly to gardening. One search folks might be interested in is <http://www.heirloomseeds.com/> . It is a place to get heirloom seeds that are non-GMO.

[This is the first in a series about backyard gardening.]

## **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

By Clara Walters  
December, 2013

I have been accumulating the days, times and locations of the meetings of all the chapters so that I will be able to visit each chapter during the year. I will have a spreadsheet completed shortly and it will be available to anyone who is interested. I believe that it is important for a Division Officer to visit each chapter and let them know about the Indiana Division. I have visited the Terre Haute, Clinton, Miami and Evansville chapters in the last quarter since we do not have a Southern VP. My message has been clear. We need chapter involvement and participation. Terre Haute and Clinton regularly send members to the Division meetings already so I was preaching to the choir there. The Miami Chapter at least took down the information and is considering it. Evansville is reluctant to send anyone since the distance on most meetings requires a very long drive for them and a commitment of time that is in excess of what most of us have. Traditionally, most of our meetings are in the northern part of the state and they are close to the border of Kentucky. It is approximately 320 miles each way-a total of 600 plus miles for them to attend. Based on an average of 55 mph, it means that it is about a 6-hour drive each way. They do not feel that a 12-hour drive plus the all day meeting is worth the cost. It is becoming a problem to even get a quorum for these meetings. We may have to consider a change in quorum requirements and that is not a good thing. We need to get more chapters involved in Division meetings. I am going to work towards getting more chapters to send delegates and am open to suggestions as to how we as a Division can accomplish this.

The monthly membership report generated by Mary Rubin was late getting out in November due to budget meetings that were taking place.

I would like to ask that all Regional VP's and National Directors provide me with a copy of their reports. It will help me get a better feel for what is happening at chapters and perhaps provide insight on what we as a Division can do to improve relations with the chapters. One chapter is losing members because it instituted a rule about boats not being left on the property. It is a small chapter so any loss of members is significant. The MDR has worked very hard to make up the losses by recruiting new members to replace them but eventually they are going to run out of new members.

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

By Karen Griggs  
September, 2013

Water quality news highlights this fall begin with the spread of the Asian carp, Great Lakes issues, two threats to groundwater, and an anti-environmental state Constitutional amendment.

Maps published in the Lafayette Journal & Courier newspaper show sites of a rapidly spreading invasive fish species--the Asian carp. Dr. Reuben Goforth, Purdue University, and John Goss, National Council on Environmental Quality, have been quoted in recent news articles about the changing ecology of the Wabash River and other Midwest streams where the huge fish has been found.

Invasive species have effects on a fishery; for instance, the big fish might eat all of the food that other fish need. If any Asian carp were to migrate into the Great Lakes, the fish and drinking water would be severely disrupted. The Great Lakes directly touch Indiana at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park border Lake Michigan.

Marvin Lahr, Ft. Wayne Chapter, reports that barrier will be built near Fox Island Park and the Little River Wetlands nature preserves at the top of the Wabash River watershed. Lahr hopes that the barrier will prevent the Asian carp from entering the Lake Erie watershed at the continental divide.

Did you ever see a “scrub” cosmetic or “dermabrasion” cream at the drug store? The tiny particles are turning up in the Great Lakes, according to Charlotte Read, Porter County Chapter. Read cited September news articles about the gross pollution from cosmetic factories.

In other news, Read said that the National Park Service restoration of a fen wetland with sedge plants at Cowles Bog is complete.

Hoosiers in the Templeton, Indiana area suffered the loss of well water during 2013 due to farm irrigation. The west central Indiana area has suffered from groundwater depletion so severe that the state brought in emergency supplies, and county officials pledged to drill new wells for the rural families.

Seven businesses and over 200 families in and around Americus, southwest of

Logansport and Delphi, Indiana, have hired lawyers to fight a stone quarry proposal by the Rogers Group. They cite heavy traffic seven days a week, blasting noise, and the loss of their well water. Grassroots organizing efforts have been successful. About 100 homeowners and business leaders have met at the Leisure Time Campground along Old State Road 25, and a meeting of some 85 local residents met with State Representative Don Lehe in September at the Buck Creek Community Center.

A proposed amendment to the Indiana state constitution will be introduced into the General Assembly again in November. The bill would establish a “right” to hunt, fish and farm in an explicit attempt to remove any controls on factory farms of cattle feedlots, hogs, or chickens. This is an anti-environmental bill. For more information, call Tim Maloney at the Hoosier Environmental Council.

Did you know that you can contact the EPA and other environmental groups through the Indiana Division IWLA website. Bruce Hunter, webmaster, has published a page on our website with links to key organizations like the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Audubon Society, and Hoosier Environmental Council. Our website is a “portal” to contact these groups. To reach these sites, launch a browser like Google, and in the search box, type in “Indiana Division Izaak Walton League.” Then touch the pull-down menu (down arrow) and select “links.” The various sites are enabled so just click on the one you want.

When Prudy Widlak and Ethyle Bloch and I walked along the shore of Green Bay, Wisconsin, we saw about 200 white pelicans. It was such a surprise. Evidently they summer in the North Country and winter in Florida.

[Editor note: this report was received after the deadline for the Fall 2013 issue of the Waltonian.]

## **WHO SMELLS A RAT?**

From Organic Consumers Association

What do you do when your scientific journal publishes a study that Monsanto doesn't like? And the industry bombards you with complaints? You hire a new editor. And retract the study.

In September 2012, the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology (FCT) published the findings of the first long-term study of rats fed genetically modified corn. The

study's authors, led by Gilles-Eric Séralini of the University of Caen, France, concluded that the GM corn caused cancerous tumors in the test rats.

The biotech industry wasted no time attacking the study, which was released about a month before Californians were set to vote “yes” or “no” on an initiative to require labels on foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The attacks were predictable. But who would have predicted what followed next?

Not long after the study came out, FCT created a new editorial position-- Associate Editor for Biotechnology--and appointed none other than a former Monsanto employee, Richard E. Goodman, to the post.

Fast-forward to November 28, 2013, when the publisher of FCT announced it was retracting the study. Not because of fraud or misrepresentation of data. But because, upon further review, the journal's editors had decided the study was “inconclusive.”

The biotech industry is puffing out its chest and throwing around a lot of “I told you so's.” But the scientists who don't have a vested interest in GMO technology are calling the retraction “unscientific and unethical.”

If there was no evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, why did FCT retract the study? Because, the journal said, “there is legitimate reason for concern about both the number of animals tested in each group and the particular strain of rat selected.”

But as Séralini and his supporters point out, “the offending strain of rat (the Sprague-Dawley) is used routinely in the United States--including sometimes by Monsanto to study the carcinogenicity and chronic toxicity of chemicals.” What's more, Séralini told Sustainable Pulse, the FCT in 2004 published a study by Monsanto finding the same strain of GMO corn (NK603) safe after measuring its effects on only ten Sprague-Dawley rats for three months only.

“Only studies pointing to adverse effects of GMOs are rigorously scrutinized on their experimental and statistical methods,” he said, “while those who say GMOs are safe are taken at face value.”

FCT and Séralini are battling it out in the media for now. But the battle could move to the courts, if Séralini follows through on threats to sue the journal.

## **YOUTH CAMP DATES FOR 2014**

Mark your calendars for July 20 through 26 for the IWLA summer camp. Applications will be sent out to Chapters in the Spring and they also will be available online. The Camp Director is Stan Jarosz and he is also the Indiana Division Secretary, so his contact information will be on page 2 of the Waltonian. Boys and girls of members have the first shot at a spot but camp is popular, so don't hesitate.