

THE CREEK Digest

Inside this issue:

<i>MCBR Steering Committee</i>	1
<i>Volunteer Water Testing</i>	1
<i>Spring is in the Air!</i>	2
<i>Salem Spring Clean-Up</i>	2

MILL CREEK-BLUE RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE

The Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project is off with a bang! Many members of the community have become curious, interested and excited to help give this project a great start.



The first steering committee meeting was held on March 8, 2011. Volunteers in the community donated their time and knowledge to help better understand the project, needs and interests of the community and how the project can be an asset in the future.

The steering committee's main goal is to prepare a watershed management plan for the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed. This plan will include goals, ideas and future tasks that could be implemented in the future to help with water conservation in our watershed. Members of the steering committee will meet three to four times per year to collect ideas and discuss current issues. Steering committee meetings are open to the public.

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2011 from 5PM-6:30PM in the USDA Service Center Conference room in Salem, Ind.



**Snapshots from
water testing
March 10, 2011**



VOLUNTEER WATER TESTING

Three cheers for Salem High School's Chemistry II Class! Mr. Calhoun's Chemistry II Class has been water testing this year on Brock Creek in front of the school. Students split into groups and together test Brock Creek on chemical, physical and biological factors. This data is collected and recorded by the students each month. Hands-on activities have gained not only student attention, but also interest in science. The recently collected data will be submitted to Hoosier Riverwatch online volunteer testing site. This data will be used for future purposes and volunteers will continue with water monitoring. The Hoosier Riverwatch program began in Indiana to increase public awareness of water quality issues and concerns by training volunteers to monitor stream water quality. We are able to help promote and continue with this program from a generous grant for IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management).



Just one person can make an impact! Here are some ideas how ONE person can make a difference:

-Keep old newspapers and donate them to a local animal shelter.



-Try to take shorter showers to conserve water.



-Take table scraps and dead plant materials and start a compost pile. To learn more visit:

<http://www.howtocompost.org/> and join us at our next workshop!



For More Information contact Whitney Sauerheber, Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Coordinator at: whitney.sauerheber@in.usda.gov or (812) 883-3006 ext. 125

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Welcome spring! Welcome rain! Welcome flowers! Welcome maintenance? Okay, so maintenance is not the first item on our to-do list when spring arrives, but it is a much-needed job in most of our yards. To help you plan for a great growing season and maybe give you a few tips, join us for a **free** mulching/composting workshop on April 21st at East State Route 56 (metal building across the road from Cottongim Enterprises) from 4pm-5:30pm.

This workshop was developed for you by the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project and the White River RC&D Education Committee with presentations by Ginger Korinek, Lost River Watershed Coordinator and Whitney Sauerheber, Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Coordinator. Both presentations will have helpful information, start-up tips, correct application and conservation practices for our home use focused on mulching and compost piles. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Whitney Sauerheber at (812) 883-3006 ext. 125 or whitneyhand@yahoo.com by April 18th.



SALEM SPRING CLEAN-UP

Are you looking for a reason to go outside? Put on your old clothes and join us on April 9th for the Salem Spring Clean-Up!

Meet at the Center Peace (location of old cheese factory) in Salem to register and get your FREE t-shirt. Stream bank, Street and City Clean-Up will start at 10AM. Everyone is welcome! Pets on leashes welcome too!

Afterwards there will be FREE food, music and prizes! Come on out and help Salem Shine! RSVP to:

cuey@salemschools.com.



Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project