

# THE CREEK DIGEST

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Hoosier Riverwatch</i>	1
<i>MCBR Steering Committee</i>	1
<i>Tips to Share this Summer</i>	2
<i>Salem Spring Clean-Up</i>	2

**STORM DRAIN MARKING PROJECT WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR LEADERS IS JUNE 17TH!**



**THANK YOU HOOSIER RIVERWATCH!!!**

John Calhoun, Salem High School Chemistry Teacher, Steve Riggle, Salem High School Science Teacher and Whitney Sauerheber, MCBR Watershed Coordinator, attended a free Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Water Testing workshop in Jasper, Indiana.

At the workshop, individuals were taught the basic principles of water testing and the need of shared data in Indiana. Participants learned about water testing parameters including habitat assessment, chemical monitoring, and biological monitoring.

Also at the workshop, participants were informed of a grant available to interested non-profit organizations or schools to receive free monitoring equipment. After submission of the application, White River RC&D was awarded a free monitoring equipment package from Hoosier Riverwatch. After two years of volunteer testing is completed through the MCBR Project, the equipment will be available to other interested individuals to volunteer water test in our county.

For more information about volunteer water testing, or to become Hoosier Riverwatch trained, contact Whitney Sauerheber at (812) 883-3006 ext. 125.



**MCBR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**



The Mill Creek–Blue River (MCBR) Steering Committee met on May 16th at the USDA Service Center in Salem. The Steering Committee meets to discuss concerns or points of interest about MCBR. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

At this meeting, members set a vision and a mission they would like to see in the MCBR Watershed in the future. “A healthy watershed that is sustainable for Washington County residents” sets the tone for our watershed management plan, to be developed by 2013. More specifically, the committee set their main mission in watershed “To protect the MCBR watershed through education, research and identification of best management practices.”

Through the watershed project, each item of their mission statement is stressed as a need and a passion. At the next meeting, scheduled for July 11th, the steering committee plans to have a guest speaker to share information about karst topography, sinkholes and caves, an update on Purdue’s hellbender research and a water testing activity on Mill Creek.

Join us for the next meeting, July 13, 2011, at Becks Mill Historical Site, 4433 South Becks Mill Road, Salem, Indiana 47167 from 6:00-8:00PM.



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

## Tips to Share this Summer:

- ⇒ **Pick up** dog waste and put in trash can, compost pile, or decomposing dog waste bags.
- ⇒ **Plant** tree saplings, shrubs, or grass seed in areas where soil is not covered.
- ⇒ **Apply** fertilizer according to container directions or try to **grow** plants without it.
- ⇒ **Contact** the Environmental Protection Agency to collect unlabelled or old hazardous waste.
- ⇒ Keep your car maintained and **watch** for oil spots on your driveway or garage floor.
- ⇒ **Wash** your car at a facility that recycles wastewater or sends it directly to a waste water treatment facility.
- ⇒ Wetland protection or reconstruction (**use** plants to buffer exposed soil from being moved by rain on hills or stream banks).
- ⇒ **Keep** animals out of waterways by using fences.

## SALEM SPRING CLEAN-UP



### Attention!

The Salem HS Science Club was caught doing something good! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Salem Spring Clean-Up! We are excited to start planning for the next event!

Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project