

Illinois Lakes Management Association

24th Annual Conference

February 18 – 20, 2009

Hotel Père Marquette

Springfield, Illinois

The 24th Annual ILMA conference presented in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hosted 147 participants, 20 exhibitors and 5 non-profit exhibitors. The technical presentations generally followed the abstracts as provided in the program and notes available for review.

In the opening session, Steve Pallo, Chief of Fisheries for the IDNR discussed *The Role of the Illinois Fisheries Division in Lake Management*. He reviewed the responsibilities of the Division of Fisheries as they relate to the management of 1,276 public lakes, 3 reservoirs, and Lake Michigan. It also provides management resources to the over 90,000 private lakes in Illinois. He promoted their public interest website www.IFISHILLINOIS.org and their IDNR Kid's Fishing Clinics that they hold upon request at arranged locations around the state.

John Martin from the University of Illinois Sustainable Technology Center gave an excellent presentation on *Evaluating Illinois River Basin Sediment for Beneficial Use*. He made it clear that private erosion has a public cost because of the severe damage and recovery cost to public bodies of water. The research project presented demonstrated how valuable and beneficial the nutrients and soil in sediment can be when dredged and used to create topsoil to restore eroded fields. Heavy metal toxicity was studied in core samples of bottom muck and found to be of little concern when diluted within the large volume of sediment removed.

Robert Frazee from the University of Illinois Extension gave a presentation on *What Happens When it Rains in the Illinois River Watershed*. He showed data demonstrating that when a 36" rain event happens in a rural area, 27" transevaporates, 7" is absorbed into the ground and 2" is runoff. The same 36" rain event in an urban area results in 7" of evaporation, 0" absorbed into the ground and 29" resulting in destructive runoff. An amazing video of a Freeport Maine road and bridge wash out in 3 minutes showed the destructive power of water runoff.

The highlight of the conference this year went to the grammar and high school kids who gave excellent reports on field biology work done with LEAP grant money. These \$500 grants from the IEPA are readily accessible and could be used by our commission. Pontiac township educators Paul Ritter and Eric Bohm and six of their students reported on P2D2, a Prescription Drug Disposal Program that they instituted. It is a collaborative effort between local pharmacies, state and local officials, PTHS students from the Ecology and Illinois Studies classes, and the Pontiac Police Department. This is a program they started which is gaining rapid support across the country in which people are encouraged to drop unwanted prescription drugs at participating local pharmacies to keep them out of the states watersheds. Police Departments also accept controlled substances at drop off boxes "no questions asked". This is a program that Lindenhurst should promote via our Walgreens, CVS and Police Department.

IDNR fisheries biologist Mike Garthaus gave a presentation on “*VHS Detected in Illinois Waters – Actions Being Taken to Slow the Spread*”. VHS effects type IVb muskie and has been found as close to us as Winthrop Harbor in round goby and rock bass. It is spread via bodily fluids like fish urine to other fish. It lasts in the water about 14 days and likes 37-45°F water temperatures. There is a program for statewide VHS testing and a list of fish susceptible to VHS can be found on the IDNR website: www.dnr.state.il.us/pubaffairs/2008/july/vhsvirus.html. Information on the Asian carp can be found at www.dnr.state.il.us/fish/asiancarp.htm .

Certified Lake Manager Sandy Kubillus with ILM (Integrated Lakes Management) gave a presentation on the control and management of duckweed and mealweed. Both are extremely difficult to control. We do not have a problem with these species, but of interest to us is that fact that Phoslock (Alum) sometimes mentioned in our discussions does not work to bind phosphorus.

Mike Adams, Manager of our LCHD LMU was elected the new president of ILMA. He gave an excellent but disturbing presentation on “*Gull Pathogens, Rapid testing, and Other Insights on Swimming Beaches*”. There were 78 waterborne disease outbreaks at public beaches in ‘05-’06. An *E. coli* bacterium is the indicator organism in current water testing procedures taking 18-24 hrs. to generate water quality results often leaving beaches open when unsafe and closed when safe for swimming. USEPA is working on new fast testing methods.

George Czapar, Extension Educator and the University of Illinois talked about “*Aquatic Weed Management*”. This was a good review of management techniques and control chemicals. www.btny.purdue.edu/pubs is the site for an “Aquatic Training Manual” which provides information needed for individuals to learn the requirements to apply for a commercial “not for hire” free applicators license. I also learned that our *chara* is also called *muskgrass*. As part of his presentation he shared disappointing results about extensive studies with barley straw. It requires 225 lbs/acre and according to studies by Carol Lembi, it only works on some species of algae and then the results are very inconsistent. It was reported that there are 12 species of algae and the testing shows 3 species were somewhat inhibited by barley straw, 4 species actually increased and 5 species showed no effect in controlled experiments.

Andrew Clapper, Wildlife Biologist with the USDA/APHIS Wildlife Service gave a talk on *Canada Goose Damage Management*. His agency provides free technical assistance. There are three species of Canada geese: Richardson’s, Interior and Giant in order of increasing size. In 1950 Canada geese were thought to be extinct and placed on the endangered species list. They have obviously recovered and are a wildlife “success” story. A free permit is required in the state of Illinois to corn oil eggs.

The ILMA abstracts and other information is available to anyone for review.

Next year’s conference will be held in Naperville at a date and place yet to be determined.