CONFERENCE BACK TO VALLE VISTA

The IEHA Annual Spring Educational Conference is set to return to the Valle Vista Conference Center in Greenwood. The date is April 11. Valle Vista was the site for many spring conferences in years past so will be familiar to long time IEHA members. The site has undergone recent renovations.

Conference chair Holley Rose has chosen a wide variety of speakers that will include Allison Mitchel, Executive Director of the Indiana Recycling Coalition, discussing “Indiana’s Food Scrap Initiative” and W. William Weeks, President of the Conservation Law Center, who will talk about “Water and Quality of Life in Indiana.”

Dr. Christian H. Krupke, Professor of Entomology at Purdue, is set to share his presentation, “Intersections between agricultural pesticides, honey bees and aquatic systems.” More speakers and the business meeting will round out the day.

Breakfast and lunch will be included in the $55.00 conference fee, unchanged from last year. Registration information has been emailed to all members and may also be found on the website at www.iehaind.org. The deadline for early registration is March 29. The registration fee increases after that date.
FROM THE ED DESK

Here’s the latest Journal packed with good information from front to back! Besides the PDF version, the flip page style remains although it had to be shortened slightly to avoid additional out-of-pocket expense to produce that format.

Anything to contribute? Articles and ideas are always welcome. Check the back page for contact info.

And, members can (and should) make use of the IEHA website. Many never look at it, but check it out to find the member directory, committee information, job openings, and more, plus past Journals!

Support the sustaining members that support IEHA!
GLACIER MELTING ACCELERATING

Earth’s warming temperatures are causing Greenland’s ice to melt even in winter. The Scottish Association for Marine Science and Johns Hopkins University have teamed up to report that at hundreds of feet below the ocean’s surface, warm water is surging upward causing melting even in winter. Although only a few degrees above freezing, they say, it’s enough to cause melting. The report, cited by Quartz News, says that Greenland’s ice sheet is the biggest in the world after Antarctica’s. Greenland’s ice melt is responsible for 20% of the increase in sea level rise each year.

CANADA FEELING THE HEAT

Researchers noted a few years ago that glaciers in Alberta and British Columbia could shrink by nearly three quarters by the year 2100. Now, the prognosis looks a bit worse. A report, “State of the Mountains” quoted David Hik, an ecology professor at Simon Frasier University, saying that 80% of the mountain glaciers in Western Canada will disappear in the next 50 years. Canada has the third most glaciers in the world, reports Quartz News.

The melting will dramatically alter local ecosystems, but the rest of the world will see the effects in sea level rise. It will only get worse as the process has already begun. Example: in the St. Elias range, glaciers have melted 25% compared to 1950 sizes.

AMERICANS NOT SPARED FROM CLIMATE EFFECTS

Quartz News is reporting that the American West is losing its snow, part of the effects of climate change. Snow packs have shrunk by as much as 40% since 1982. Researchers at the University of Arizona and the Idaho Power Company found that by mapping changes to snow pack over the U.S. This is troubling because much of the western U.S. depends upon snowmelt from the mountains to provide drinking water.
Last December, fourteen participants from various agencies participated in a performance level course on basic search procedures for Improvised Explosive Devices. Participants worked in hospital security, law enforcement, fire departments, along with other security personnel. The course included modules on Bomb Threat Management concepts, types of searches including Area, Route and Facility searches, and a practical exercise with dummy IED’s planted in the training room.

It was mentioned several times during the class that if a bomb threat was called into an agency such as a school, Bomb Technicians do not search the facility—they rely on people who work in the facility to be able to identify suspicious areas or items before they even enter the building to check whatever has been found. Local personnel searching would be considered a “Level I” search. If an unattended item is located, like a backpack, the status then becomes a “Level II” search, and a bomb sniffing dog, and specialized equipment as well as more investigators, will be brought in. The Bomb Techs then deal with the item.

The credibility of the incoming threats is also considered when implementing a Bomb Management Plan.

The use of necessary caution was explained, such as not touching any item that seems suspicious, not using cell phones, and not using flashlights as these can trigger certain explosives if the trigger or switch is light sensitive.

The effects of an explosion were described and illustrated in photos and videos, with the most life threatening effects coming from fragmentation of the device and surrounding environment. One instructor recently returned from Afghanistan described how often the IED’s there were very simple but when they blew up, rocks and dirt were propelled into the bodies of people within their range. Such environmental contaminants are extremely hard to remove from a person’s body.

Jennifer Heller, TAHP Committee chair, offered her thanks to the Office of Bombing Prevention and the Center for Domestic Preparedness and the Department of Homeland Security for what she described as another timely and interesting course.
STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED BY BOARD

After seeking input from IEHA members, the proposal for the three-year IEHA Strategic Plan put forth by Past President Jason Ravenscroft has been adopted by the Executive Board. Jason first proposed the idea for a plan to promote the growth of IEHA during his term as president.

The plan references the organizational structure of the IEHA, and discusses the collaborations with other agencies and organizations among which IEHA remains one of the largest.

Jason had proposed as many as ten objectives the plan could include, requesting member input to select a top three. Here are the top three objectives.

“The IEHA Executive Board approved the Strategic Plan with three objectives to add members.”

Strategic Objective 1 - Increase the number of counties represented in IEHA by 10%. Current membership numbers indicate that just over 70 of Indiana’s counties have at least one resident member of the association. Direct contact with public health officials in individual counties is a possible solution to gain members.

Strategic Objective 2 - Increase membership with younger professionals with less than five years experience, and students, by 20%. As members leave due to career changes, relocation, or retirement, there needs to be “reliable pipeline” for gaining new members.

Strategic Objective 3. - Increase members with nationally recognized certifications by 10%. Such certifications help assure a qualified public health workforce. IEHA does not currently track the number of members with recognized certifications.

Each of these strategies would mean the active involvement of various IEHA standing committees and also help from each of IEHA’s 8 chapters.

The Strategic Plan is posted in its entirety at www.iehaind.org.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COURSE HELD

Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee (TAHP) sponsored the recent Campus Emergencies Preparedness, Response and Recovery course from the National Center on Biomedical Research and Training at Louisiana State University Academy of Counter Terrorist Education.

TAHP committee chair Jennifer Heller commented, “This class had only 15 participants, even though 41 registered, which was surprising, but the groups were very involved and interacted well.”

A tabletop exercise on an active shooter incident was ongoing throughout the training. The various agencies participating included the National Guard, Law Enforcement, Health Departments, IDHS and the State Department of Health.
“FWC FREE” TAKES UNWANTED DRUGS

The opioid crisis led RN and Health Educator Melissa Dismore of the Fountain / Warren Health Dept. to take action and set up the area’s first drug takeback day. Called “FWC Free” for Fountain / Warren, Melissa told Wabash Valley Chapter members the program took lots of planning, some grant funding for advertising, and working with partners such as CVS Pharmacy and St. Vincent’s. Because controlled substances can be involved, she said they had to be sure law enforcement was on hand to handle and remove the collected drugs. She said that besides human medications, they were able to accept pet meds, too.

She added that part of their program involved educating prescribers to consider prescribing drugs other than opioids. She said they were surprised that on the first takeback day about 182 pounds of drugs were collected for disposal.

“But there were controlled substances, law enforcement had to be present to handle the drugs.”

BUGS ALL AROUND

While found in bedding, bed bugs can travel and be found in homes, work places, shoes, luggage, schools, theaters, and vehicles. Chemicals consumers might use aren’t going to work, say the pros.

ID BED BUGS WITH YOUR PHONE?

Can an app on your smartphone help detect bedbugs? Researcher Susan Jones, entomology professor at The Ohio State University, says it’s possible with a newly developed app that works for both IOS and Android devices. The app, developed with the aid of a grant from the USEPA, is meant to educate users about bedbugs, like a pocket-size handbook, with photos, descriptions, and information about dealing with bed bugs.

Note that the real intent of the app is education, and it doesn’t actually detect or destroy bedbugs. That should be left to professionals, as no sure fire remedies exist for the average person to use.

But should you discover a suspicious critter on your motel bed while traveling, this app might provide the helpful information you need to identify the pest.

Go to your favorite app store to download the Bed Bug Field Guide.

(information from the College of Food, Agricultural, and environmental Sciences, The Ohio State university (CFAES))
MAGNETIC NORTH IS ON THE MOVE

The Earth’s magnet north pole is shifting at an increasing rate, and scientists are puzzled as to why. Magnetic north and geographic north are in two separate locations and the further north one travels, the more pronounced this difference is. The magnetic north pole is slipping erratically away from Canada and closer to Siberia. This creates issues to electronic mapping systems that rely on the location of the magnetic north pole. Named the World Magnetic Model, it is the foundation of all modern navigation systems used to steer ships. This movement has been calculated at around 30 miles per year, reports the *Daily Mail* in the UK. It’s been reported that the magnetic field is in a permanent state of flux.

The magnetic changes would be mostly unnoticed by most people in the United States, and modern GPS systems rely mainly on satellites positioned overhead to pinpoint ground positions. But anyone using magnetic models for navigation will be greatly affected, especially to the North. (Translation: North on your compass does not point to the same spot it used to.)

The magnetic north’s location is changing all the time, according to NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information.

26,300,000,000 - the number of spam calls made to phones in the US last year.

EARTH’S POLES

Earth has several poles. As, the website *How Stuff Works* explains, there are the two geographic poles, north and south. And it has the north and south magnetic poles. The Earth spins around the geographic poles, but the earth’s magnetic field flows around the magnetic poles. And the magnet north and geographic north poles are not in the same place. The magnetic poles constantly move, and up until now, were fairly easily predicted by scientists. Now, the concern is that the north magnetic pole is moving much more erratically, making predictions difficult.

Poles can switch places, that is, North become South, etc. This has happened about 400 times in 300 million years. Each switch takes several thousand years. If that happened now, it would really cause havoc to electronic systems.
MAKING STORM WATER SAFE

Storm water drainage generally contain various contaminants and are just discharged into nearby rivers and streams. That’s a lot of water wasted that potentially could be put to other uses.

Now engineers at the University of California at Berkley have found a way to remove contaminants from storm water runoff and creating an untapped source of drinking water, so reports phys.org.

The process involves using sand and mixing the sand grains with manganese. The engineered sand will react with the pollutants rendering them non-toxic. Although engineers noted that not all types of contaminants can be removed, treated water may then be directed to underground aquifers or into water treatment systems.

(S continued on page 9)

SOLAR FARMS MAY HELP POLLINATORS

The decline of pollinators like bees and butterflies has concerned scientists for years. Global food production depends upon plants being pollinated so that food is produced. Scientific American has reported that upwards of $577 billion in annual food production depends upon pollination by insects and animals like hummingbirds, and even bats. The native bee population has dropped by more than half since 2005, and a quarter of what remains is at risk of becoming extinct. Monarch butterfly populations have declined by two thirds over two decades. Much of this can be blamed on shrinking habitats, climate change, and the excessive use of pesticides.

But some owners of solar farms are taking steps to help the problem by growing acres of native plants around the panels. Researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory see a chance to reclaim some of the lost habitat of pollinating species by replacing grass and rock with natural plants that will attract pollinators.

After allowing for pollinators about three years to adjust, researchers will conduct comparisons between existing sites of grass and stone to areas with native plants. Different seed mixtures will also be compared to see what plants attract the most bees or other pollinators. (See left panel.)
MAKING STORM WATER SAFE (CONTINUED)

To create the coated sand, plain sand is mixed with two forms of manganese creating a reaction to form manganese oxide, which is harmless. This can then bind to organic chemicals like herbicides, pesticides, and even endocrine-disrupting bisphenol-A (BPA). This breaks down into less toxic and more biodegradable products.

The coated sand, a dull brown color, is environmentally friendly, but needs to be “recharged” over time. That can be done with a low concentration of chlorine.

“The water treated by the engineered sand can be put back into aquifers or into water treatment systems instead of discharged into rivers”

SHOULD CHLORPYRIFOS BE BANNED?

Chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide, has been sprayed on food crops in the US for years but many environmental groups are pushing the US Environmental Protection Agency to ban its use. Earth Justice, and other groups, say the chemical is known to harm human health, wildlife, and contaminate water.

So far, the EPA has refused to ban the pesticide that spokesmen for Earth Justice say harms children's brains and the failure to act is “unconscionable.” An appeal has been filed with the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to order the EPA to act.

Chlorpyrifos is sprayed on crops with the intent of killing a variety of agricultural pests. It is harmful if touched, inhaled, or consumed. Earth Justice says it is acutely toxic and associated with neurodevelopmental damage in children. Prenatal exposure can mean reduced birth weight, a lower IQ, and loss of working memory and motor development.

People get exposed from pesticide residues on food, and toxic spray drift during application and farm workers are also exposed from handling the chemical or food. Residential use was banned in 2000, but a general ban for farm has not been enacted.
The staff at the Tippecanoe Co. Health Dept. decided that the harm caused by reusing syringes had to be addressed. Khala Hochstedler, RN and Nursing Supervisor, told attendees at a recent Wabash Valley Chapter meeting that their success in getting a program started began with how it was addressed. Instead of a needle exchange, she said they took the approach that this was part of a bigger problem, addressing “harm reduction.”

“Like using sunscreen or wearing seatbelts, injecting drug users need similar protections,” she said. After laying the ground work with the County Commissioners and other stakeholders, approval was received to proceed. After initial delays, the “Syringe Service Program” was implemented. Khala said they decided to use the Health Department as the primary service location as that would provide the opportunity to offer vaccinations, and to provide wound care caused by the use of damaged syringes.

Khala says the costs of the program are less than the costs of treatment for uninsured people, and the information they provide can help people make more informed choices and encourage safer use of syringes. She adds there has been a drop in Hepatitis C and HIV cases.

Researchers at the Center For Environmental Science at the University of Maryland have studied climate changes and have determined that in 60 years, our climate will feel much different. It will be warmer. In one generation, they say, the climate here will feel more like it does now around 500 miles distant. For Indianapolis, conditions will resemble what it feels like today in Jonesboro, Arkansas, meaning on average, winter will feel 11 degrees warmer, and 52% wetter than today.

No place in the US will be spared. Elkhart will resemble Vincennes today, and be warmer and wetter, while Evansville will be more like Bastrop, Louisiana, warmer and wetter than today. The U of M researchers say that on average, if nothing is done to stem the change, most places will see a climate more like that of places 500 miles away, mostly to the south. In most cases, this means much warmer and wetter conditions for those alive in 2080.

GRANDKIDS TO SEE DIFFERENT CLIMATE

EXCHANGES SUPPORTED UNDER INDIANA LAW

The ability of local health departments in Indiana to operate a needle exchange program is authorized under IC 16-41-7.5 if the Health Officer or county executive declares an emergency related to Hepatitis C or HIV. Attendees of any such program are not to be stopped or searched by law enforcement.

“HARM REDUCTION” PROGRAM WORKS

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LIVING SEA WALL MAY STALL PLASTICS

Volvo, the Swedish car maker, has teamed up with the Sydney Institute of Marine Science and Reef Design Lab in Australia to help find a solution to deal with the amount of waste polluting the Earth’s oceans. Volvo reports that scientists believe the amount of plastic waste is so massive, it isn’t possible to ever remove it all. And it has seriously degraded Sydney Harbor. So Volvo has proposed what has been termed a creative approach to the problem - a living seawall being placed in Sydney Harbor that will help.

With the use of 3D printing, fifty tiles have been created that mimic the root structure of mangrove trees, adding to the existing seawall structure in Sydney, and providing a suitable habitat for marine life, like filter-feeding organisms that can absorb and filter out pollutants like heavy metals. The more organisms, the cleaner the water.

The tiles were installed along an existing seawall structure with the anticipation that filter-feeding organisms will colonize the wall and filter out pollutants. Volvo says researchers will monitor the living seawall for the next 20 years to see if biodiversity and water quality have improved.

CLIMATE VS WEATHER

There is a general misunderstanding about what is happening with climate change. If the planet is warming, why is it cold, like this winter’s polar vortex that plunged extremely cold temperatures over Indiana and the Midwest?

Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) say simply that it’s all about weather vs. climate. Weather is the day to day changes, whereas climate is weather conditions over the long term meaning hundreds or thousands of years.

Climate warming can mean more drastic weather patterns from wind to temperature extremes. A warming planet can allow more moisture to evaporate from the oceans, providing increased moisture for rain or snow fall over land.

Global warming, NOAA says, refers to the whole planet, not one area.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Indiana was -36°F in New Whiteland, January 19, 1994.
Questions have been asked as to the value of the sampling required at swimming beaches for bacterial water quality. A challenge revolves around the time gap between collection and laboratory results, usually two days. How is that sample relevant to the water at the beach now? The answer is that the sampling is representative of the beach water on the date collected, and when sampling is done consistently each week, we can conclude the general condition of the water over a broader period.

A more reassuring answer to the question is possible by performing fundamental studies such as the beach water sampling study described here. This study is the first part of a two-part water survey. This part consists of multiple samples collected simultaneously over an extended beach area and will provide information regarding how bacterial levels compare at any single moment. The second survey (not yet performed) will collect samples from the same collection point at the swimming beach over a 24-hour period. This second survey effort is dependent upon the results of this first study in determining whether single samples may be collected over that 24-hour period or whether multiple samples will need to be collected (if there is a marked variation between simultaneous samples at the beach).

**Hypothesis:** If it is found that multiple simultaneous samples tested for bacteria over a portion of a swimming beach area are not significantly different, then the single sample can be determined to be enough to represent the bacterial condition of the entire beach site (barring inflow points from undetermined drainage or still areas created by dock, bulkhead, etc. structures within the beach area that would be deviations from the common beach layout). The continued regular weekly sampling should then be considered an accurate representation of the water quality.

**Process:** Four swimming beaches were selected, and multiple samples were collected simultaneously. Four samplers were positioned in approximately two-foot depth and twenty feet apart (except for the Eagle Creek Park beach where samplers were separated by about 50 feet in order to cover the entire swimming area and circumvent floating walkway obstructions) and with downward motion of the sample bottles collecting at about 12-18 inches in depth. A second set of four samples was collected immediately following about 4 feet further out from the first sampling point.

**Site Selections:** Swimming beaches were selected for variation. The Porter beach is in Lake Michigan, Stevenson’s Point is in Lake Shaffer which is the dammed Tippecanoe River, so has flow. Camp Tecumseh is a dammed creek in rural farmland that forms a small lake and Eagle Creek Reservoir.

**Findings:** Three beaches were sampled on June 20, 2017 and the Eagle Creek Park beach in Indianapolis was sampled on June 22, 2017. The following are the results in order of sampling by sampling stations 1A – 4A and 1B – 4B. The numerical results are by standard method E. coli colonies per 100 ml:

**Portage Beach, Lake Michigan:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>E. coli (colony-forming units per 100 ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>E. coli (colony-forming units per 100 ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The range between highest and lowest results is **28** with a geometric mean average of **42.13**.
BEACH SAMPLING (CONTINUED)

Stevenson’s Point Beach, Lake Freeman, Monticello:

1A 69  2A 51  3A 68  4A 55
1B 54  2B 37  3B 50  4B 47.

The range between highest and lowest results is 32 with a geometric mean average of 53.88.

Camp Tecumseh Beach, Marsh Lake, Brookston:

1A 37  2A 47  3A 38  4A 30
1B 40  2B 33  3B 31  4B 36

The range between highest and lowest results is 17 with a geometric mean average of 36.5.

Eagle Creek Park Beach, Eagle Creek Reservoir:

1A 08  2A 36  3A 07  4A 02
1B 02  2B 86  3B 08  4B 03

The range between highest and lowest results is 84 with a geometric mean average of 19.

**Interpretation:** The differences between the four and eight samples collected at each of the beaches is insignificant in that all results are well below the national standard maximum for full body immersion of 235 colonies per ml. More importantly, with only one exceptional sample out of 32, each beach range of results was minor. The one sample collected at Eagle Creek Park Beach can be considered an “outlier” and may have been a result of swimmers’ activity at that sampling point. Even if that would have been the single representative sample collected in the weekly sampling, it still fell well within the safe bacterial range and the cumulative weekly sample results would well reflect the dominant low results from the other seven sampling points in this study.

**Conclusion:** The range in variation between collection points at the four beaches surveyed and sampled was found to be small enough to accept any of the collection points to be representative of the collective waters at the beaches. This may confirm any concerns regarding variations in the potential sampling areas given that in three of the four beaches, the collections spanned the full swimming site (the Lake Michigan beach site not conforming for obvious reasons). However, this finding can be the first step in the next study in which, now that we can conclude that there is little variation in bacterial differences in a beach, we can respond to the questions as to the variation of water quality over a span of time. A sampling study conducted over a period of 24 hours at the same beach and sampling point with samples collected every 1, 2 or 4 hours can provide a more comprehensive answer to changes resulting from the movement of waters across a beach.

This study could not have been conducted without the support of Michael Mettler, Director of Environmental Public Health in the Indiana State Department of Health and the cooperation and sampling support of Mary Robinson, Indiana State Department of Health Lab Supervisor; Kelly Cadwell and her intern, Joe, of the Porter County Health Department; Douglas Williamson, colleague from Environmental Public Health; Jim Reynolds, Environmental officer, White County Health Department; Administrators and beach staff at Camp Tecumseh; Jennifer Stoneking, Shilah Larison and lifeguards from Eagle Creek Park; Ireland and Parker, who were visiting their grandmother at Stevenson’s Point.

(Contributed by Ken Kavanagh, Ret. Environmental Public Health, ISDH)
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IEHA is an Indiana not for profit organization in existence since 1951.

“The Mission of the Indiana Environmental Health Association is to promote, preserve and protect environmental public health in the state of Indiana, and to encourage a spirit of cooperation among all environmental health stakeholders while serving its members in the regulatory, industry, and academic communities.”

More about IEHA

The Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) was founded in 1951 as the Indiana Association of Sanitarians (IAS). There were 16 charter members. The name was officially changed to the Indiana Environmental Health Association in 1985. IEHA is affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), and the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP).

IEHA is comprised of eight regional chapters. They are Central, East Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeastern, Southern, Wabash Valley, and West Central. There are four standing committees, which include Food Protection, General Environmental Health Services, Terrorism And All Hazards Preparedness, and Wastewater.

The operations of IEHA are governed by an Executive Board that meets regularly. The Board and various standing committees are made up of voting and non-voting members. Information plus meeting dates, times and locations for the chapters and standing committees may be found on the IEHA website listed on this page. All meetings are open to any member or guest but only “voting members” may vote or hold an office.