2007 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER SYSTEM

The Illinois River: Continuing Our Commitment

Abstracts and Speaker Information

Eleventh Biennial Conference
October 2 - 4, 2007
Holiday Inn City Centre
Peoria, Illinois

Welcome

Dear 2007 Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Planning Committee, we want to welcome you to the 2007 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System! This eleventh biennial conference continues a tradition begun in 1987, when then Governor James R. Thompson joined with a group of concerned citizens to focus attention on the growing problems of sedimentation and erosion along the Illinois River and its tributaries. They believed bringing various state and federal organizations together in a common forum would help begin the process of discovering solutions to these problems. This biennial conference held in Peoria, continues to grow, benefiting from the strong support of Governor Rod Blagojevich and Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn.

The 2007 Planning Committee has developed an agenda designed to continue the tradition of bringing the latest in developments and management techniques to those working towards protecting the Illinois River System for future generations. For the past two years, we have been meeting and making plans to make this year's conference even bigger and better than ever. What can you expect?

- A Focus and Vision for the Illinois River System by Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chair of the Illinois River Coordinating Council
- Quarterly Meeting of the Illinois River Coordinating Council in conjunction with a Public Forum for Discussion, Comments, and Questions
- Illinois River Watershed Conservation Tour on Tuesday
- The Illinois River: Focus & Vision – Two Panel Discussions involving Agency Directors from both State and Federal Governmental Agencies
- 4 Exciting Sessions that provide a forum for the public discussion of watershed programs, accomplishments, and innovative ideas to enhance the use and long-term management of the Illinois River System
- Twelve concurrent Sessions that allow you to select topics of greatest interest to you
- Two high-profile Keynote Speakers:
  Mr. Jon Scholl, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  Dr. John Wiens, The Nature Conservancy
- Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop
- Informative & Educational Exhibits
- Delicious Riverfront Barbecue & Entertainment on Wednesday evening
- Great Opportunity for Networking with other Water Resource colleagues!

On behalf of our Planning Committee, we hope that you will find this conference to be exciting, informative, stimulating and enjoyable!

Sincerely,

Bob Frazee
Conference Co-Chair

Kimberly St John
Conference Co-Chair

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Introduction and History of Conference

In 1985, a group of concerned scientists, citizens and river activists began to focus new attention on the growing problems of sedimentation and erosion along the Illinois River and its tributaries. Collectively, this group of individuals formed the nucleus for the planning committee for the First Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, which was held at the Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL on April 1 - 3, 1987. Governor James R. Thompson believed bringing various state and federal agencies and organizations together in a common forum would help begin the process of discovering solutions to these problems.

Since 1987, this conference has continued to be held on a biennial basis in Peoria – midway on the Illinois River between Chicago and Grafton. Governors Jim Edgar, George Ryan, and Rod Blagojevich have continued this strong tradition by providing a Governor's designation to this conference, thus demonstrating the high priority being placed upon our natural resources.

Over the past twenty years, conference attendance has grown from 150 to over 350 participants who represent a diversity of backgrounds, agencies, organizations, and communities. Each conference planning committee presented an agenda designed to continue the tradition of bringing the latest in developments and management techniques to those working towards protecting the Illinois River System for future generations.

The Heartland Water Resources Council of Central Illinois has served as the local administrative entity for organizing the 1989 - 2005 Conferences. Throughout the years, the University of Illinois Water Resources Center compiled the Conference Proceedings and Abstract/Speaker Information Booklets, while the Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided funding for printing these resources. Over sixty local, state, and federal agencies and organizations currently serve as Conference Co-Sponsors and a number are now providing financial support of the conference. The following four individuals have faithfully served on all eleven of the State Conference Planning Committees by sharing their knowledge and expertise: Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension; Steve Havera, Illinois Natural History Survey; Gary Clark, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources; and Rick Mollahan, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Glenn Stout, University of Illinois Water Resources Center, provided leadership for organizing the First Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System by serving as the first Conference Chair. Subsequent conference leadership has been provided by:

1989	Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension, Chair
1991 - 1995	Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension and Roberta Parks, Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, Co-Chairs
1997 - 2003	Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension and Steve Havera, Illinois Natural History Survey, Co-Chairs
2005 - 2007	Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Extension and Kim St. John, Natural Resources Conservation Service-Prairie Rivers Resource, Conservation and Development, Co-Chairs

Over the past twenty-two years, the Governor's Conferences on the Management of the Illinois River System have served as an important forum to bring together local, state, and federal leaders to create awareness of the problems of soil erosion and sedimentation, identify important river research initiatives, develop working coalitions, apply conservation practices to the watershed, prepare new river and watershed legislation, and provide for state and federal funding to address the problems of the Illinois River System. The foundations for the following programs can be directly attributed to successful interagency and multi-disciplinary cooperation, fostered at the Governor's Illinois River Conferences and subsequently implemented at the local, state and federal level:

- Development of low-cost Streambank Stabilization Methods with state and federal funding;
- Formation and development of numerous watershed treatment programs for landowners, funded through U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts; (Examples include: USFWS Partners for Wildlife and Fish Program has assisted landowners in restoring over 6,000 acres of habitat along the Illinois River; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Projects completed

at Swan Lake, Banner Marsh, Lake Chautauqua, Stump Lake, and Peoria Lake Islands; USFWS established the 11,122 acre Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge of which the Service now owns 2,114 acres and The Nature Conservancy owns 7,063 acres; IDNR completed land acquisition efforts at the Double T Fish and Wildlife Area, the Duck Ranch at Henry, IL; TNC's and IDNR's Spunky Bottoms restoration of 2,000 acres; The Wetland Initiative's 2,500 acre Hennepin Hopper restoration effort; The Audubon Society's purchase of Plum Island; and Ducks Unlimited's Spring Lake acquisition and restoration.)

- Formation and operation of the Illinois River Coordinating Council;
- Development of the Integrated Management Plan for the Illinois River System;
- Illinois Conservation 2000 Programs and Funding;
- Illinois River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – led by efforts of U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood – 123,000 acres presently enrolled;
- Illinois Rivers 2020 Initiative;
- "Mud to Parks" Dredging & Re-Use of Sediment from the Illinois River; and
- Island construction on the Illinois River utilizing dredging sediment.

Compiled by: Bob Frazee, University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator, 727 Sabrina Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611; Ph. (309) 694-7501, Ext. 226; E-mail: rfrazee@uiuc.edu, April 2007.

Conference Proceedings

Conference Proceedings have been compiled by the University of Illinois Water Resources Center for each of the biennial Illinois River Conferences. The Illinois Rivers Decision Support System, affiliated with the Illinois State Water Survey at Champaign, Illinois has a section of their webpage devoted to providing the Conference Proceedings for each of the past ten conferences at http://ilrdss.sws.uiuc.edu/ Included for each conference is the conference agenda, topics, speakers, printed presentations, conservation tours, exhibits, public forums, and related activities. Listed below are the files for the first ten Governor's Conferences on the Management of the Illinois River System.

File 1 1987 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, April 1 - 3, 1987, Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL

File 2 1989 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 3 - 4, 1989, Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL

File 3 1991 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 22 - 23, 1991, Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL

File 4 1993 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, September 21 - 22, 1993, Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL

File 5 1995 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 10 - 11, 1995, Hotel Père Marquette, Peoria, IL

File 6 1997 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 7 - 9, 1997, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL

File 7 1999 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 5 - 7, 1999, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL

File 8 2001 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 2 - 4, 2001, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL

File 9 2003 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 7 - 9, 2003, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL

File 10 2005 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System, October 4 – 6, 2005, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL

Proceedings from the 2007 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System will be available to download from the Illinois Rivers Decision Support System website http://ilrdss.sws.uiuc.edu/ as a PDF file by the end of February.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Illinois River System is a critical component of our state's geography, history, economy and ecology; and

WHEREAS, many attributes are threatened as a result of the cumulative effects of human activities that have significantly altered the Illinois River system; and

WHEREAS, our state is embracing an integrated approach to large river management and is working in a coordinated and continuous manner for this river; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Illinois River Coordinating Council, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program., the Illinois Conservation 2000 Program, Illinois Rivers 2020, and the Open Lands Trust Fund are important milestones in efforts to protect the resources of the Illinois River, and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2007 Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System is "The Illinois River: Continuing Our Commitment", and

WHEREAS, the conference will be taking place October 2 – 4 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria, Illinois:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2007 as ***ILLINOIS RIVER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT MONTH*** *in Illinois, and encourage citizens to recognize the economic, recreational, social and environmental benefits of conserving to properly utilize the resources of the Illinois River basin.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this ELEVENTH *day of* APRIL*, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* SEVEN*, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and* EIGHTY-NINTH

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR

	Tuesday, October 2, 2007	Wednesday, October 3, 2007	Thursday, October 4, 2007
Morning Sessions	8:15 am - 9:00 am Conservation Tour/Sign-in/Continental Breakfast Hotel Lobby - Downstairs Conservation Tour 9 am - 4 pm	7:45 am - 8:45 am Registration/Check-in Exhibits/Breakfast Hotel Lobby - Downstairs 8:45 am - 9:00 am Opening Comments Salon D 9:00 am - 10:05 am The Illinois River: State Focus and Vision Salon D 10:05 am - 10:35 am Break/Exhibits Conference Rooms III and IV 10:35 am - 11:50 am The Illinois River: Federal Focus and Vision Salon D 12:00 pm - 1:20 pm Lunch/Jon Scholl, Featured Speaker 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Concurrent Sessions Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop Conference Room I 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm 1-A Natural Resource Based Tourism Salon A 1-B Critical Restoration Projects: USACE Salon B 1-C Asian Carp and the Illinois River Salon D 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm Break/Exhibits Conference Rooms III and IV 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Concurrent Sessions 2-A The River Through Time: Environment, Culture, Resources Salon A 2-B Natural Disaster, Flooding, Drought, Hurricanes Salon B 2-C Asian Carp and the Illinois River Salon D	7:45 am - 8:30 am Registration/Check-in Exhibits/Breakfast Hotel Lobby - Downstairs 8:30 am - 9:45 am Concurrent Sessions Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop Conference Room I 8:30 am - 11:30 am 3-A Urban Storm Water Management Salon A 3-B Steamgaging, Dam Removal, and Dam Safety Salon B 3-C Alternative Uses of the Illinois River Floodplain Salon D 9:45 am - 10:15 am Break/Exhibits Conference Rooms III and IV 10:15 am - 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions 4-A River Restoration Through Coordinated Planning and Development Salon A 4-B Private-Public Partnerships for Watershed Management Salon B 4-C Monitoring Salon D 11:45 am - 1:30 pm Lunch/ Dr. John Wiens, Featured Speaker Closing Comments Salon C
Afternoon Sessions	1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Registration/Check-in Hotel Lobby-Downstairs 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Conference Set-up	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Barbecue at Peoria Riverfront Gateway Building	
Evening Sessions	5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council Reception Salon C 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Illinois River Coordinating Council Public Forum Salon C	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Musical Entertainment "Kaufman and Kaufman" Peoria Art Guild - "Illinois River Stories" Gateway Building	

2007 Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River System
"The Illinois River - Continuing Our Commitment"

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

8:15 am - 9:00 am	Registration/Check-in
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Illinois River Watershed Conservation Tour
1:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Set-up for Conference – Registration, Exhibit Set-up
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Illinois River Coordinating Council Reception (Salon C) Registered Conference Participants Only
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	The Illinois River System: Focus and Vision Speaker: Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn Quarterly Meeting of the Illinois River Coordinating Council: Public Forum for discussion, comments, and questions (Salon C)

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

7:45 am - 8:45 am	Registration/Exhibits/Continental Breakfast (Hotel Lobby - Downstairs)
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Call to Order – Opening Comments (Salon D) Robert Frazee, University of Illinois Extension, Conference Co-Chair Welcome, Mayor Jim Ardis, City of Peoria
9:00 am - 10:05 am	The Illinois River: State Focus and Vision (Salon D) Moderator: David Koehler, State Senator, 46th District Charles "Chuck" Harke, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture Jack Lavin, Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (invited) Leslie A. Sgro, Deputy Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Milton Sees, Acting Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation Douglas P. Scott, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
10:05 am - 10:35 am	Break/Exhibits (Conference Room III and IV)
10:35 am - 11:50 am	The Illinois River: Federal Focus and Vision (Salon D) Moderator: Dennis Campion, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois Colonel Robert Sinkler, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District William Graff, State Executive Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency William Gradle, State Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tim Henry, Associate Director of Water Division, Region 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Robert R. Holmes Jr., Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Illinois Water Science Center

12:00 pm - 1:20 pm — Lunch and Featured Speaker
Jon Scholl, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Agriculture Producing Environmental Solutions
(Salon C)

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm — Evolving Technology We Can Use: A Workshop
(Conference Room 1)

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm — Concurrent Sessions

Session 1-A. Natural Resource Based Tourism

(Salon A)
Moderator: Vickie Clark, The Economic Development Council for Central Illinois
Byways, Tourism, and Resources
Curt Pianalto, American Byways
Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway
Michael Quine, IRR National Scenic Byway
Emiquon Visitor Use Plan
Jason Beverlin, The Nature Conservancy

Session 1-B. Critical Restoration Projects: USACE

(Salon B)
Moderator: Bradley Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Alton Pool: Island and Side Channel Restoration
Jason Farmer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District
Senachwine Creek & Pekin Lakes Critical Restoration Projects
Marshall Plumley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Yellow River
Frank Veraldi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District

Session 1-C. Asian Carp and the Illinois River

(Salon D)
Moderator: Robert Maher, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Bighead and Silver Carp in the Illinois River
Greg Conover, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier
Phil Moy, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute
Environmental and Economic Impacts of Asian Carp in the Illinois River
Greg Sass, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm — Break/Exhibits (Conference Rooms III and IV)

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

Session 2-A. The River Through Time: Environment, Culture, Resources

(Salon A)
Moderator: Drew Phillips, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Geological Survey
How Six Rivers, Five Glaciers, and An Outburst Flood Contributed to the Considerable Legacy of the Illinois River
Don McKay, Illinois State Geological Survey
River Past, River Present: The Importance of Archaeology in River Valley Restoration
Mike Wiant, Illinois State Museum - Dickson Mounds
The Sangamon River: A Sense of Place
Charles Schweighauser, University of Illinois at Springfield

Session 2-B. Natural Disasters: Flooding, Drought, Hurricanes

(Salon B)
Moderator: Gary Clark, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources
Gulf Coast Disasters of 2005: The Impacts in Illinois
Paul Osman, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources
Drought in Illinois - Impacts to Water Supply
Derek Winstanley, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Water Survey
Sustainability and the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group
Timothy Loftus, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Session 2-C. Asian Carp and the Illinois River

(Salon D)
Moderator: Robert Maher, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Sport Fishing Interests Related to Asian Carp
William Guerrini, Spring Valley Walleye Club
Commercial Harvest of Asian Carp: Industry Needs
Kirby Marsden, Illinois Commerical Fishing Association
Commercial Harvest of Asian Carp: Management Needs
Steve Shults, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Barbecue at Peoria Riverfront
(Gateway Building Plaza)
Registered Conference Participants Only

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Musical Entertainment by Kaufman & Kaufman
(Gateway Building Ballroom)
Peoria Art Guild - “Illinois River Stories”

Thursday, October 4, 2007

7:45 am - 8:30 am Registration/Exhibits/Continental Breakfast (Hotel Lobby - Downstairs)

8:30 am - 11:00 am Evolving Technology We Can Use: A Workshop
(Conference Room 1)

8:30 am - 9:45 am Concurrent Sessions

Session 3-A. Urban Stormwater Management

(Salon A)
Moderator: Jodie Tate, University of Illinois Extension
NonPoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)
Susan Meeker, University of Illinois Extension
Implementing Best Management Practices in the Mossville Bluffs Watershed
Melissa Eaton, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
City of Peoria Clean Water Efforts - - Successes and Challenges
Jane Gerdes, City of Peoria

Session 3-B. Streamgaging, Dam Removal, and Dam Safety Issues

(Salon B)
Moderator: Bill White, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Water Survey
Dam Removal and Safety Issues In Illinois
Gary Clark, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources
Effects of Dam Removal on Brewster Creek Near St. Charles, IL
Tim Straub, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division
Steamgaging Networks: Past, Present and Future
Arlan Juhl, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources

Session 3-C. Alternative Uses of the IL River Floodplain

(Salon D)
Moderator: Richard Sparks, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
Using the Illinois River Floodplain to Reduce Flood Damage and Naturalize Hydrology
Mike Demissie, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Water Survey
Using Floodplains for Biomass Production
Jack Huggins, The Nature Conservancy
Using Floodplains for Improving Nutrient Farming
Donald Hey, The Wetlands Initiative

9:45 am - 10:15 am Break/Exhibits (Conference Rooms III and IV)

Agenda (cont.)

10:15 am - 11:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

Session 4-A. River Restoration Through Coordinated Planning and Development

(Salon A)
Moderator: Russ Crawford, Heartland Water Resources Council
Restoring Peoria Lakes Through Leveraging Resources and Linking Opportunities
Russ Crawford, Heartland Water Resources Council
Sediment Reduction, Removal and Placement Strategy
Wayne Ingram, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
Lakefront Revitalization and Development Opportunities
Tom Brimberry, City of East Peoria
Habitat Expansion, Conservation Corridors and Recreation
Tom Tincher, Heartland Water Resources Council

Session 4-B. Private-Public Partnerships for Watershed Management

(Salon B)
Moderator: Rick Mollahan, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup: A Case Study
Steve McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
Spoon River
Richard Spangler, Spoon River Ecosystem Partnership
Kaskaskia River Basin Initiative Through Locally Led Efforts
Ed Weilbacher, U.S. Deparmtent of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Session 4-C. Monitoring

(Salon D)
Moderator: Gary Clark, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources
Senachwine Creek: Case Study of Watershed Assessment in the Illinois River Basin
Bill White, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Water Survey
Illinois River CREP: Sediment and Nutrient Delivery Assessment
Mike Demissie,Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Water Survey
Hydrogeologic Monitoring of an Illinois River Floodplain Wetland
Keith Carr, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Geological Survey

11:45 am - 1:30 pm Lunch and Featured Speaker: John Wiens, The Nature Conservancy
A River Runs Through It: Building Land-Water Linkages into Conservation
(Salon C)

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm Closing Comments, Kim St John, Prairie Rivers RC&D, Conference Co-Chair
(Salon C)

1:45 pm Adjourn

Illinois River Watershed Conservation Tour

Come along for a Conservation Bus tour as we explore sites in Peoria and Tazewell counties.

Tour stops will include:
Historic and beautiful Springdale Cemetery
- A rural subdivision striving to be in harmony with nature amongst the bluffs near Mossville
- A visit to restored wetlands near Bartonville that demonstrate a cooperative conservation effort between local, State and Federal governments and private wildlife organizations
- A large streambank stabilization project south of Pekin along the winding Mackinaw River
- A significant wildlife habitat restoration site near Mackinaw

Along the way we will see various conservation practices on working lands, interesting geologic formations, industry, commerce, and scenic vistas.

The tour will be by charter bus. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for walking on uneven or rough terrain. Remember your camera or binoculars.

Check-in: Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM (downstairs lobby of the Holiday Inn City Centre)
Departure: 9:00 AM
Return: 4:00 PM.
Parking is available in the hotel parking lot.

Register early – seating is limited!

Illinois River Coordinating Council Meeting, Presentations and Public Comment

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
(Salon C)

The rivers and streams of Illinois have long been instrumental in shaping the culture, communities and commerce of our state. Since our beginnings, the Illinois River and its tributaries have become increasingly more important to the economic development, recreation, and quality of life for our citizens. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is Chairman of the Illinois River Coordinating Council (IRCC), which was established by the Illinois General Assembly on July 16, 1997. It is comprised of a diverse group of citizens, river enthusiasts, and state and federal agencies, which meet on a quarterly basis each year at different locations throughout the Illinois River Watershed.

Among the Council's responsibilities are the coordination of policy and initiatives within the Illinois River watershed for the preservation and restoration of the watershed. Included with these responsibilities are inter-related issues of economics, flooding, recreation, and tourism. After conducting the official business of the IRCC, Lt Governor Pat Quinn will provide the general public the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to the management of the Illinois River Watershed as part of a Public Forum.

Pat Quinn

Lt. Governor
State of Illinois
214 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-7884
Fax: 217-524-6262
E-mail: contactquinn.ltgov@illinois.gov

Pat Quinn (Democrat), was re-elected Lieutenant Governor on Nov. 7, 2006. His priorities include advocating for taxpayers and consumers, protecting the environment, promoting decent health care, and helping members of the armed services and their families.

As Lt. Governor, Quinn has a number of water-related responsibilities, which includes chairing the Illinois River Coordinating Council, which addresses the economic, environmental and recreational viability of the Illinois River watershed, the newly created Mississippi River Coordinating Council, and is the Illinois delegation chair to the Great Lakes Commission and vice-chair of the Commission. Additional duties include chairing the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, the Illinois Biofuels Working Group, and the Rural Affairs Council. Legislation to create a third river commission, the Wabash-Ohio Rivers Coordinating Council, is awaiting gubernatorial approval.

Quinn served as Illinois State Treasurer from 1991 to 1995, where he cut his office's budget each year and earned taxpayers $848 million in investment income. Since 1975, Quinn has organized petition drives for consumer protection laws, tax reform and citizen empowerment. He spearheaded the 1983 drive to create the Citizens Utility Board.

Quinn, 58, is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and holds an international economics degree from Georgetown University. He was elected Commissioner of the Cook County Board of (Property) Tax Appeals in 1982 and served as Revenue Director for the City of Chicago. The father of two sons, Quinn grew up in Hinsdale and now lives in Chicago.

Illinois River Coordinating Council

The IRCC is a broad stakeholder organization, created by legislation in 1997, and chaired by the Lieutenant Governor. Members include citizen representatives from a wide range of interests including agriculture, business, conservation, and the environment, and representatives of state and federal agencies involved in watershed resources. This body coordinates policy within the Illinois River watershed, and, to the greatest extent practical, follows an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) developed by broad stakeholder participation. The IMP is focused on restoration of the watershed, while balancing societal and economic needs, and is based on the assumptions that the Illinois River is a national treasure, that its natural resources are intrinsically valuable, and that its long-term economic health and ecological health are interdependent.

Additional duties of the IRCC include periodic review of activities and programs that impact the watershed, working with local communities and organizations to encourage partnerships to address concerns, encourage communities to develop watershed management plans, encourage strategies that protect, restore, and expand critical habitats, encourage strategies that realize soil conservation and water quality improvements, optimize the investment of funds in the watershed, and identify funding and prioritize projects for recommendations to the Governor.

Jim Ardis

Mayor
City of Peoria
419 Fulton, Suite 207
Peoria, IL 61602
Phone: 309-494-8519
Fax: 309-494-8559
E-mail: jardis@ci.peoria.il.us

Education: Spalding Institute/AOL; Illinois State University: BS, Industrial Technology 1982

Family: Married, 19 years; 3 children

Current Employment: ELM Locating, 60 State Street, Peoria, IL 61602

Community Involvement:
Mayor (2005 - Present)
Councilman At Large (1999 - 2005)
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Runners (11 years)
Haitian Hearts Sponsor Family
Board President of the Tim Ardis Foundation for Hope

Committee Membership:
Riverfront Business Commission
Mayor's Advisory Commission for the Disabled Council Liaison
Council Liasion to CityLink/Mass Transit District
City/County Landfill Committee

Jon Scholl

US Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460
Phone: 202-564-1530
E-mail: scholl.jon@epa.gov

Jon Scholl was appointed Counselor to the Administrator for Agricultural Policy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in August of 2004. In this position, he advises the Administrator on agricultural issues and serves as a liaison with agricultural organizations and agencies.

While at the EPA, Scholl has been actively involved in numerous initiatives of significance to agriculture. He has given leadership to an innovative livestock facilities air consent agreement, has been heavily involved in the rewriting of rules regulating concentrated animal feeding operations, and has lead the development of a comprehensive Agency strategy focusing on collaboration with the agricultural community.

Scholl joined EPA after 25 years with the Illinois Farm Bureau where he most recently held the position of Executive Assistant to the President. Beginning in 1979, his tenure at the Farm Bureau included stints as director of public policy and director of national legislation where he worked with legislators on the state, regional and national levels.

He earned a B.S. degree in agricultural science from the University of Illinois.

Scholl is married and has two children. He is actively involved his family's central Illinois grain farm.

Agriculture Producing Environmental Solutions

The USEPA National Agriculture Strategy underlines the Agency's commitment to a strong partnership with agriculture to improve human health and the environment. The Strategy emphasizes communication, collaboration and innovation as basic tools for building this partnership.

The Agency seeks to enhance the environment while growing the American economy. To accomplish this, we seek proactive ways to integrate agriculture – a vital part of our Nation's economy – into the important work of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Efforts aimed at improving the quality of our Nation's rivers and streams, like those along the Illinois River featured at this conference, are enhanced through the partnership between agencies charged with protecting the environment and farmers motivated to leave the land better than when they got it. Partnerships built upon common goals, focused on positive outcomes, and containing flexibility to try new ways of doing business provide a model that can be successfully applied to many environmental challenges.

Farmers produce food for our tables, the clothing on our backs and the fuel in our tanks. Increasingly, they also produce environmental benefits, representing a significant opportunity as we plan for future environmental improvement. Innovative strategies that encourage the production of such environmental benefits will play an important role in enhancing the agricultural and environmental heritage in the Illinois River watershed.

John Wiens

A River Runs Through It: Building Land-Water Linkages into Conservation

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it." This quote, from Norman Maclean, captures the essence of what we need to know to understand and manage river systems. Rivers are not separate from the landscapes that surround them, nor are those landscapes separate from the rivers that run through them. The land and the water are inexorably joined, and farsighted management demands that we heed these linkages, as, increasingly, we are doing.

But rivers exemplify another sort of linkage that is perhaps not so apparent - that between the sustainability of human uses of rivers and the sustainability of their conservation values. And these, too, meld the land and the water together. Conservation cannot ignore those places where people live and work, and people cannot ignore the benefits that they derive from functioning ecological systems, many of which have been taken for granted. Some of these ''ecosystem services,'' such as clean water or fertile soil, can be valued in economic terms, but others, such as aesthetic or spiritual values, cannot. Yet both must be factored into calculations of the costs of mismanagement of these resources and the benefits of good management and conservation. River systems such as the Illinois offer the opportunity to show how this can be done.

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John Wiens grew up in Oklahoma as an avid birdwatcher. This led to degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (M.S., Ph.D.). With this training under his belt, he joined the faculty of Oregon State University and, subsequently, the University of New Mexico and Colorado State University, where he was a Professor of Ecology and University Distinguished Professor. His work, which has emphasized landscape ecology and the ecology of birds and insects in arid environments, has led to over 200 scientific papers and 7 books.

John left academia in 2002 to join The Nature Conservancy as a Lead Scientist, with the challenge of putting years of classroom teaching and academic research into conservation practice in the real world. His current scientific work at TNC addresses the broad issue of conservation in a rapidly changing world – "conservation futures." Most conservation aims to protect and maintain the places that plants and animals need in order to persist and flourish. But these places and the surrounding environments are undergoing extraordinary changes. Climate change is affecting the distributions of many species, economic globalization is altering local and regional land uses, and the increasing demand for the goods and services provided by natural systems ("ecosystem services") is changing the ways in which people relate to nature. John is working with TNC staff and partners to develop guidance for assessing how landscapes are likely to change and how management practices can help to mitigate or adjust to the changes.

Moderator: David Koehler

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Born and raised in South Dakota. Received Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 from Yankton College - Yankton, South Dakota. Masters of Divinity; United Theological Seminary - Dayton, Ohio. Former Staff member; National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM). Former Community organizer and program manager for Peoria Friendship House. Former Executive Director - Peoria Area Labor Management Council (PALM). Former President for Labor Management Cooperative Health Programs, Inc. Member of the Peoria City Council (1982 - 1997). Current co-owner of the Peoria Bread Company. Married to Nora Sullivan. Has three daughters and one granddaughter.

Charles Hartke

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Chuck Hartke was named Interim Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture on April 28, 2003 and was confirmed by the Senate on May 16, 2003.

Director Hartke stepped into the position of Illinois' top agriculture official and agricultural advisor to Governor Rod Blagojevich with over 30 years in local and state politics as well as a lifetime of experience in the agriculture industry.

A farmer from Teutopolis, Hartke served as state representative of the 108th District, which currently includes all or part of Jasper, Clay, Effingham, Wayne, Richland, Edwards, Hamilton, Wabash and White counties, from 1985 to 2003. Four of his 18 years in the legislature, he served as Assistant Majority Leader.

Director Hartke carried his passion for agriculture as well as his years of knowledge and experience to serve Illinois in representing the state's number one industry. Since appointed to office in 2003, Hartke has supported the expansion of livestock in Illinois, worked to expand the biofuels industry including ethanol, biodiesel and biomass, strengthened relations with foreign trading partners, supported specialty crop and diversified agriculture operations, worked to protect the state's food supply and expand use of the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

Jack Lavin

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Jack Lavin has served as Governor Rod R. Blagojevich's Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for more than four years. During that time, he has led the transformation of the agency into an organization geared to meet the challenges today's global economy. Director Lavin has twenty-one years of public and private sector experience and a record of job creation and financial management in both the business world and in Illinois state government. As Director of DCEO, Lavin has led the total reorganization of the agency, which included the introduction of a regional economic development strategy, Opportunity Returns, the consolidation of the state's job training programs and the overall streamlining of the agency. Among his key accomplishments at DCEO are the passage of legislation to ensure greater corporate accountability and transparency in the state's business investment programs, and the creation of new, innovative job training programs including disabilityworks, which is a public-private partnership to create more employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. Director Lavin is an involved community leader, father and husband. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children.

Leslie Sgro

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Leslie A. Sgro has been the Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources since 2003. As Deputy Director, she oversees the Offices of Administration, Land Management, Mines & Minerals, Resource Conservation, and Scientific Research & Surveys. Leslie also serves as the President of the Springfield Park District.

Milton Sees

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Mr. Sees has 40 plus years experience in a variety of roles related to the design, implementation, and funding of infrastructure projects. He began his career as an engineer technician with IDOT in 1964. Since that time, he has earned both BSCE and MPA degrees from the University of Illinois, and has been active in numerous national specification and transportation development efforts, involving the planning, funding and implementation of infrastructure enhancements. Mr. Sees' career has included experience in both the public and private sectors. He has worked as an agreement relations liaison for the construction materials industry in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D.C., and recently operated several precast concrete manufacturing facilities in southern Illinois. January 2006 marked Mr. Sees return to IDOT when he was selected to become the Director of Highways. As Director of Highways, Mr. Sees had responsibility for the operation and maintenance of all state highways and bridges throughout Illinois. Mr. Sees currently serves as Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation, overseeing personnel engaged in all facets, aspects and modes of transportation in Illinois.

Among his awards and recognitions are the Illinois Award and Engineer of the Year Award from the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. Mr. Sees is a Registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and Virginia. Included in civic commitments are nine years of service on the Mt. Vernon, Illinois City Council, with three of those as Mayor.

Douglas Scott

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Doug Scott was appointed Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by Governor Rod Blagojevich, effective July 1, 2005, after previously serving a four-year term as Mayor of Rockford. Before that, he was an Illinois State Representative for six years. Prior to joining Illinois EPA, Doug was President of the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Brownfields and as a mayor, legislator, and Rockford city attorney, was a leader in the environmental cleanup and economic redevelopment of abandoned industrial and commercial sites, and urban renewal. He has continued that leadership at IEPA, in addition to being the Governor's point person on new initiatives for cleaner air and water. He is also currently Chair of the Air Committee of the Environmental Council of the States, the national organization of state environmental agencies, and since becoming IEPA Director, has been particularly involved in the issues of mercury reduction and global warming.

Moderator: Dennis Campion

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Dr. Dennis R. Campion was appointed Associate Dean, Extension and Outreach, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in July 1998. From 1996 to 1998, he served as Interim Associate Dean. He joined the University of Illinois faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences as Professor and Head in 1990. From 1988 to 1990 he was Assistant Director, USDA Agricultural Research Services (ARS) for the Midwest. He joined ARS in 1974 and served in research laboratories in Nebraska and Georgia. He served for ten years (1978-1988) on the University of Georgia graduate faculty.

Dr. Campion grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and participated in 4-H and county Holstein activities. He received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in meat and animal science from the University of Wisconsin. After postdoctoral work at Iowa State University, he joined ARS and concentrated on research on the growth and development of meat animals.

In 1988 Dr. Campion received the Distinguished Research Award from the American Meat Science Association. He served two terms on the editorial board of the Journal of Animal Sciences and has been an independent reviewer for numerous other journals. He has reviewed grant proposals for local, state, and national agencies, including the USDA and the National Science Foundation. He received the USDA Certificate of Merit and was awarded the Georgia Chapter Sigma Xi Outstanding Faculty Research Award from the University of Georgia.

Colonel Robert Sinkler

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Col. Robert Sinkler began his military career in the Illinois National Guard serving with the 682nd Engineer Battalion. Since receiving a commission in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1983 from the Eastern Illinois University Reserve Officer Training Corps program, he has served in a variety of engineer positions with the 1st, 3rd and 4th Infantry Divisions, the 1st Armored Division, and V Corps. Sinkler was the assistant division engineer for Multi-National Division North in Bosnia-Herzegovina during Operation Joint Guard and commanded the 5th Engineer Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He served on the faculty and staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School and his military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course, the Advanced Military Studies Program, the Joint Warfighting Course and the U.S. Army War College.

Sinkler holds a bachelors degree in Geology from Eastern Illinois University, a masters degree in Geographic Information Systems from Kansas State University, a masters degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, a masters degree in Military Art and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and a masters degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

In August 2000, the State of Illinois and the Corps of Engineers entered into a cost-sharing agreement to conduct a feasibility study for the restoration of this nationally-significant river system. The Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study emphasizes identifying and evaluating restoration activities related to the State of Illinois Integrated Management Plan for the Illinois River Watershed and Illinois Rivers 2020 Initiative - a proposed 20-year, federal-state effort to restore and enhance the Illinois River Basin. The basin has experienced the loss of ecological integrity due to sedimentation of backwaters and side channels, degradation of tributary streams, fluctuations in hydrologic regimes and water levels, loss of floodplain and tributary connectivity, and other adverse impacts caused by human activity. Alternatives have been developed that include watershed/tributary restoration, side channel and backwater restoration, water level management, and floodplain restoration and protection. A joint report is being finalized to address this authority and the related Illinois River Basin Restoration Section 519 project.

Section 519 of 2000 Water Resources Development Act authorized a Comprehensive Plan to develop and implement a restoration program, long-term resource monitoring program, and evaluate new technologies and innovative approaches; and construction of critical restoration projects. Anticipated benefits include reducing sediment delivered to the Illinois River mainstem and backwaters, reducing streambank erosion, and improving critical habitats for fish, waterfowl, and other aquatic organisms. This project involves four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts (Rock Island, St. Louis, Chicago, and Detroit).

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On March 5, 2001, The U.S. Department of Agriculture named William J. Graff as Illinois State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency State Office. His appointment by the Bush Administration was one of the nation's first.

Graff, from Middletown, has been a farm owner and operator since 1978. He holds a bachelors degree in agriculture and is an honors graduate from Illinois State University as well as Lincoln Land College.

Graff was President of the Logan County Farm Bureau, a member of Illinois Corn Growers, the Illinois Beef Association, the Central Illinois Irrigated Growers Association, and the Midwest Truckers Association. He was Corwin Township Trustee from 1985 until his election to Corwin Township Supervisor in 1997. He was appointed to the Illinois State Fair Advisory Board in 1999 after serving on Governor Ryan's transition team and has served on the Lincoln/Logan Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee. He was a member of Congressman Ray LaHood's Agriculture Advisory Committee, Farmers for Fitzgerald and on the Executive Committee of Illinois Farmers for Bush. He has been active in Farm Bureau since 1983.

The Graffs are members of the Lincoln Christian Church. They are the parents of three children, Isabella, Zadok, and Theodore, twelve, eleven and nine years respectively.

Timothy Henry

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Tim Henry is the Associate Director of the Water Division in the Region 5 Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He assists the Division Director in implementing Federal programs to protect and improve water quality in lakes and rivers and to protect drinking water quality. His principal responsibilities are to develop and maintain constructive partnerships with States and other organizations that share the responsibility to protect water quality, and to coordinate and integrate the programs of the Water Division within the framework of watershed protection. Mr. Henry has worked in the Region 5 office of the U.S. EPA since 1984. He began his U.S. EPA career in the wastewater permitting program, where he worked in partnership with the States to limit the discharge of pollutants in wastewater from industrial and municipal treatment plants. Prior to assuming the Associate Director duties in 1995, he was the Chief of the Permits Section. Mr. Henry is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he earned a bachelors degree in natural resources in 1980 and a masters in public health in 1983.

Robyn Thorson

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Robyn Thorson has been Regional Director of the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since April 2003. The Region includes FWS field offices in 8 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin) to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Regional Office is located in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and provides a central headquarters to support the 8-state operations of the Service through program leadership, administrative services, policy coordination and a strong emphasis on partnerships and outreach.

Prior to her appointment as Regional Director for the Midwest, Robyns served most of her 22-year federal career in the far west, starting in the Pacific West Regional Office in Portland and including almost a decade working in Alaska. She has also worked in the Southwest Region for FWS and served 18 months with the U.S. Geological Survey as Associate Chief Biologist for the Western Region. At two times in her career she has worked in FWS headquarters in Washington, D.C., including Assistant Director for External Affairs immediately prior to her appointment as Regional Director in the Midwest Region. In career positions and assignments she has worked with the full array of FWS programs, including refuges, fisheries, business administration, endangered species, migratory birds and research.

An avid traveler and reader, Robyn now makes her home in St. Paul, Minnesota, and enjoys exploring the Midwest. She hopes to see a game in every Major League ballpark in America. A native of Seattle, Washington, she earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of Oregon School of Law and was an attorney for the State of Washington before starting her federal career. She maintains her license to practice law in Washington.

Robert Holmes

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A native of Harrisburg, Illinois, Robert Holmes is the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey Illinois Water Science Center (USGS-IWSC) and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In his capacity as Director of the USGS-IWSC, Dr. Holmes manages and directs all USGS Water Resources field operations and research in Illinois. Dr. Holmes has BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois and Missouri and holds memberships in Sigma Xi Research Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Geophysical Union, the International Hydrological Science Association, and the Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers. Dr. Holmes has and is serving on numerous science advisory committees including the Illinois River Coordinating Council, Salt Fork Watershed Technical Advisory Group, Illinois River Science Advisory Council, Illinois State Water Plan Task Force, Illinois Drought Response Task Force, Corps of Engineers Illinois River Basin Restoration Study Steering Committee, and the USGS Representative to National Research Council Workshop on Stream Restoration.

William Gradle

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Bill Gradle has been Illinois' State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) since January 1997, working to protect and restore natural resources. Bill received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. His NRCS career has taken him to New Mexico and California, but brought him back to his home state of Illinois.

Gradle provides leadership and guidance to a network of 93 field offices across Illinois. He works cooperatively to achieve conservation goals with established and new state and federal partners. Gradle helped implement conservation programs and policies of the 2002 Farm Bill and the upcoming 2007 policy. At state and national levels, NRCS will focus more on market-based avenues that establish conservation solutions. Under Bill's leadership, Illinois NRCS maintains a strong soil survey program and provide state-of-the-art soil survey data clients need.

Recently, NRCS focused $2 million dollars to address streambank erosion and assist private landowners in the Cedar Creek sub-watershed basin and the Spoon River watershed basin. Both lie within the Illinois River Basin. NRCS has worked with many partners including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other conservation partners to ensure success with these efforts.

Natural Resource Based Tourism

Moderator: Vickie Clark

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Jason Beverlin is the Illinois River Project Director for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He started with the Conservancy more than two years ago as a Project Manager. Prior to working as Illinois River Project Director he was Site Superintended for the Rock Island State Trail and Jubilee College State Park with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Jason has also worked with the Conservation 2000 program as an Ecosystem Administrator and as Curator of Education at Peoria's Glen Oak Zoo. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Emiquon Visitor Use Plan

The Emiquon Preserve Visitor Use Plan provides guidance to The Nature Conservancy in the creation of a comprehensive approach to visitor accommodation and education. The Austin Tao & Associates Design Team was contracted by The Nature Conservancy through funds received by the Grand Victoria Foundation, to create a Visitor Use Plan that will allow the general public to access and understand the restoration of lands, waters, and vegetation developing on the immense Emiquon site.

The primary goal of the Visitor Use Plan is to develop visitor facilities for the Preserve using its unique opportunity to engage the public in a rich ecological environment and to invite their participation in the understanding of rivers, floodplains, and the cultures that have used them for thousands of years. Secondary goals are: to create a plan that provides powerful experiential opportunities that are linked by proximity to Emiquon's critical resources and processes, achieve strong internal and external consensus and practicable recommendation for expected developments and future appropriate and affordable management, create a catalyst and magnet for ecologically based and public involvement, develop awareness and interpretation and engagement with local, regional, and state-wide audiences, integrate visitor access/use with the ongoing restoration plans, and minimize visitor impact throughout the site.

Curt Pianalto

Byways, Tourism, and Resources

During this portion of the session, you will hear an overview of the National Scenic Byways Program, including its history, purpose, and other general information. But more importantly, hear about community benefits of being part of the America's Byways collection. Byways offer communities opportunities to preserve and promote their local treasures; hear case studies on how some communities have leveraged the America's Byways designation to create and sustain unique projects along their byway. You will also learn how national collateral marketing efforts can benefit local tourism.

After a general overview of the national program, this session will segway into more local discussion. Specifically how the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway has and can use its leverage to enhance visitor experiences in the local area. By thinking of potential visitors, the Illinois River Road could implement strategies to help preserve and protect the natural qualities it was designated for.

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Curt Pianalto joined the staff at America's Byways Resource Center in March 2004. Curt provides technical assistance, information, training, contacts and support to local byway organizations across the country. Previously, he worked as a transportation planner for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Committee, which is the Duluth (MN) area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Curt's previous experience includes developing comprehensive transportation and corridor plans and advocating for strong public participation efforts. In his current role at the Resource Center, Curt especially enjoys working with organizations to develop effective interpretive and marketing projects. Additionally, he has an interest in developing effective wayshowing and wayfinding systems on byways, helping to improve visitor experiences.

Curt holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban-Regional Studies with a Minor in Political Science from the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD - 1993); and a Masters of Business Administration (2006), also from UMD.

Michael Quine

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Mike is a lifelong outdoors enthusiast and student of nature, history and geography. He currently serves as Board Chairman for the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway, as well as serving on the Boards of the Nature Conservancy - Great Rivers Board, Wildlife Prairie State Park and Forest Park Foundation. Mike was actively involved with the Scenic Byway project efforts leading up to, and since, its designation.

Mike is also active in many other community organizations including: President of the Creve Coeur Club, Vice Chairman of Proctor Hospital Board, President of the Depository Board of the Central Illinois Community Foundation, and Past Chairman of the EDC of Central Illinois.

Before retiring last year, he spent 38 years in corporate management with The Travelers and RLI Insurance Company as Vice President Administration. Mike has been a community leader, serving as Chairman of Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Employers Association of Illinois, Board member of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the National Association of Independent Insurance Companies Human Resources Organization.

He has a Business Administration degree from Oklahoma State University, and he earned the professional designations of CPCU and SPHR.

Mike has received several recent honors, including Distinguished Red Cross Volunteer Leadership for Illinois, Designation as Chairman Emeritus from the Chamber of Commerce, the Presidents Award from the Illinois Workshop for Central Illinois and he was named Regional Businessman of the year by the Sam Walton Foundation.

Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway

The development and designation of the Illinois River Road as a National Scenic Byway was accomplished by a professional, diverse and dedicated group of constituents who desire to enhance peoples experience of the nature, history, archaeology and other intrinsic qualities of the Illinois River Valley from Ottawa to Havana - while providing and maintaining unique recreational and educational experiences for visitors and residents, sustaining local communities' economies and improving quality of life.

It's significant to learn and understand how the Scenic Byway was established, the way in which it will be used to promote Eco Tourism, and the approach used to gain consensus and to promote regionalism across the ten county area along the Illinois River in Central Illinois which includes 78 principal individual nature tourism sites and many independent governmental units.

Only 126 National Scenic Byway designations have been granted in the United States, and the economic activity anticipated from this designation via tourism and small business development expected will be a driving force for the Illinois economy during the next decades as more and more tourism shifts to travel within a few hours of home for the millions of baby boomers about to retire. Understanding how this process works can be used as a blueprint for others to benchmark and discern best practices in 21st century tourism.

Critical Restoration Projects: USACE

Moderator: Bradley Thompson

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Mr. Thompson is a Team Leader in the Planning and Policy Branch of the Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District.

Brad joined the Rock Island District in 1995. He currently manages projects and oversees planning staff working on ecosystem restoration and watershed projects including the Illinois River Basin Restoration project. His duties include leading plan formulation; coordinating with sponsors, agencies, and public; and overseeing study schedules and budgets. Past duties include work on the Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study and various ecosystem restoration studies.

Brad earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, in 1991, and a master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, in 1994. He has professional registration with the American Institute of Certified Planners and completed the Corps Planning Associates Program in 2003.

Jason Farmer

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M.S. Biology (Wetland Ecology)
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Certifications: Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) administered by the Society of Wetland Scientist Professional Certification Program

Professional Experience:
Five years in the private sector working as an Environmental Scientist for a large consulting firm. Assignment included large-scale wetland inventories, corridor analyses, resource impact assessments, rare and endangered species surveys, transportation planning, NEPA document preparation, and GIS analysis.

One year in St. Louis District as a Biologist in the Environmental Analysis Branch. My time is divided primarily between projects in the Illinois River and in Pool 25 of the Mississippi River. Under the NESP Program I am responsible for assisting with analysis and alternative development for various projects. I am assigned to the lower 80 miles of the Illinois River and I am responsible for the development and implementation of several Critical Restoration Projects in this reach. These mainly involve island and side channel preservation and restoration projects.

Alton Pool: Island and Side Channel Restoration

The Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, working together in coordination with numerous other state and Federal agencies, have developed a draft Comprehensive Plan for the Restoration of the Illinois River Basin as authorized in Section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000. The current authorization also provides ongoing authority to evaluate and implement Critical Restoration Projects (CRP's) throughout the basin. In addition, the NESP program will also address ecosystem restoration issues on the entire Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System.

One of the critical needs for the lower Illinois River is island and side channel preservation and restoration. The St. Louis District is currently involved with projects on five islands near the Calhoun and Pike County border. Fisher, Wing, and Spar are part of the 519 program and Twin Islands is NESP. The goal at Wing Island is to hault erosion at the upstream end while preserving flows through the side channel where a mussel bed is located. A containment structure is planned for the perimeter of Fisher Island to prevent further erosion and allow reconstruction of the shoreline. A backwater area for over-wintering fish is being considered for Spar Island. An innovative upstream protective structure is being planned for Twin Islands. Rather than using a standard bull nose to guard the island tip, a flow diversion structure will be used. This structure will utilize an angled design to divert water away from the island and into the side channels. This design is experimental and if successful it could protect the islands as well as provide a multitude of habitat enhancing benefits. These benefits will include creation of shallow, medium, and deepwater habitat in an area previously devoid of diverse features. Pre and post project monitoring will occur to determine the effectiveness of the designs.

Marshall Plumley

Senachwine Creek and Pekin Lakes Critical Restoration Projects

The Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (sponsor), working together in coordination with numerous other state and Federal agencies, have developed a draft Comprehensive Plan for the Restoration of the Illinois River Basin as authorized in Section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000. The current authorization also provides ongoing authority to evaluate and implement Critical Restoration Projects (CRP's) throughout the basin. The loss of historic habitat types such as deepwater overwintering areas, mast producing trees along the mainstem, and corresponding riparian and aquatic stream habitats within the tributaries are some of the more pressing restoration needs within the Basin.

A limiting factor to the health of these various habitats has been the excessive sediment being produced within the tributary watersheds that ultimately finds its way to the backwater lakes along the Illinois River. Within the Peoria area, three projects are attempting to address both the excessive sediment from tributaries and legacy sediments that have accumulated in backwater areas. The Senachwine Creek CRP is a watershed investigation aimed at addressing the causal factors related to excessive erosion in the watershed. The benefits include reduced deliveries of suspended sediments to the Illinois River and higher quality terrestrial and aquatic habitats within the watershed. Two CRP's at the Pekin Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area attempt to address habitat degradation caused by the deposition of excessive sediments over time. Project benefits will include an increase in critical fishery and waterfowl habitats at a strategic location along the Illinois River.

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Professional Experience:
3 years with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in Peoria, IL as a Planner. Assignment included zoning enforcement, comprehensive land use and watershed planning, transportation planning, travel demand modeling, greenways and trails planning and demographic forecasting. 6 years in Rock Island District as a Study Manager in the Planning and Policy Branch.

My time is divided primarily between the Illinois River Basin Restoration Program and the Des Moines Recreational River and Greenbelt Program. I recently assisted in completing significant planning activities related to the Comprehensive Plan for the Restoration of the Illinois River Basin. I also am responsible for the development and implementation of several Critical Restoration Projects in the Illinois River Basin. These include a variety of watershed, mainstem, floodplain, and backwater and sidechannel restoration projects. Under the Greenbelt Program I am responsible for leading the product delivery team during the design and construction phase of a recreation project for the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Frank Veraldi

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Education: B.S. Ecology, Ethology & Evolution - University of Illinois, 1998

In 1998, Mr. Veraldi began with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a Biologist in the Environmental Formulation Section. Assignments included data collection, NEPA Compliance, restoration design, regulatory support, greenways and impact assessment. In 2004, his duties increased as a Study Manager / Plan Formulator in the Environmental Formulation Section. Assignments include data collection, NEPA Compliance, regulatory support, impact assessment, feasibility-level formulation and restoration design. He is also the team leader for ecosystem restoration at the Chicago District for the Great Lakes portion of the Division.

Mr. Veraldi is currently responsible for the formulation and design of the 15 ecological restoration projects. Some of these are the Grand Calumet River 312b Environmental Clean Up, the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Study, the Hoffman Dam Removal Section 206, Orland Tract Grassland Restoration Section 206, Waukegan River Costal Restoration Section 506, and the Ft. Sheridan Ravine Restoration. All of these projects seek to restore natural hydrology and geological processes to reestablish self-sustaining and functioning habitats. Mr. Veraldi has also published / publishing several papers on the distribution of fishes, dam fragmentation, and a manuscript on the Fishes of the Chicago Wilderness Region.

Yellow River

There is concern that the Yellow River watershed (Marshall / Starke Counties, IN) is contributing large amounts of sand and silt to the sediment budget of the Kankakee and Illinois Rivers. Prior to European settlement, the watershed contained a wide variety of native plant communities that held soils and glacial deposits in place with their extensive interlacing of roots. The loss of native vegetation as the dominant land cover, generally from the conversion of native sand flora communities to agricultural production, has caused large amounts of sand and silt to erode unnaturally into the Yellow River drainage system. Further compounding the situation, most of the tributary streams and large portions of the main stem of the Yellow River have been channelized and levied, thus creating a smooth and unhindered conduit for sediment transport. Sand has been identified as moving downstream through bed load transport, which fills in and homogenizes the Yellow River instream complexity and effects downstream aquatic systems such as the Kankakee and Illinois Rivers. The USACE recognizes a need to study watershed and riverine functional problems that have caused this change in sediment load and transport, which directly relates to whole-scale watershed habitat degradation and biodiversity decline.

Asian Carp and the Illinois River

Moderator: Robert Maher

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Graduated from Eastern Illinois University in March of 1987 with a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology. Was hired by the Illinois Natural History Survey after graduation and worked in Champaign until 1989 as a research assistant. Moved to the Alton area in 1989 and continued to work for the Illinois Natural History Survey on the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program on the Mississippi River. In 1995 took a job with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as a district fisheries biologist. Assumed the duties of Commercial Fisheries Biologist for the IDNR in January of 2001. Currently manage the commercial fishing program for the state of Illinois (Exclusive of Lake Michigan).

Phil Moy

The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier

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Completed in 1910, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal forms an aquatic link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River drainage. Today the canal forms an important navigation corridor and carries waste and storm water away from Lake Michigan, Chicago's source of drinking water. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal aquatic nuisance species dispersal barrier project was authorized by National Invasive Species Act of 1996. This Act directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate the feasibility of creating a dispersal barrier for aquatic nuisance species in the Sanitary and Ship Canal. An advisory panel comprised of regional stakeholders assessed available technologies and recommended use of an electric barrier. The project began with a temporary demonstration barrier built in April 2002. This original barrier is nearing the end of its design life. A new, larger and more powerful barrier is under construction. The new barrier will be better able to affect small fish as well as large fish. This presentation will provide an overview of the Canal history, development of the barrier and the critical role this man-made waterway plays in the spread and control of Asian carps in the Midwest.

Phil earned his doctorate in zoology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1991 while working at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Havana, Illinois. Before coming to Wisconsin Sea Grant, Phil was the Fisheries Biologist for the Chicago District Army Corps of Engineers. Since 1999 he has been the Fisheries and Nonindigenous Species Specialist for the UW Sea Grant Institute. Housed at the UW campus in Manitowoc, he works with Great Lakes commercial, sport and charter anglers as well as inland lake groups to address fisheries and invasive species concerns and provide research information to Great Lakes user groups. He has been involved with the Chicago Dispersal Barrier project since 1996 as original project manager and continuing today as co-chair of the dispersal barrier advisory panel.

Greg Conover

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Greg is the Assistant Project Leader at the Carterville Fishery Resources Office in Marion, Illinois. Greg attended Southern Illinois University where he studied fisheries management and graduated with a Master's of Science Degree. He has been a fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1996, working on large river issues on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Illinois rivers. Greg has spent the last 3 years as the chairman of the Asian Carp Working Group, leading the development and implementation of the national Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States.

Bighead and Silver Carp in the Illinois River

Bighead and silver carp were imported into the United States in the early 1970's. Federal and state agencies, universities, and aquaculturists alike were enthusiastic about the potential of these fish as biological controls to reduce the use of chemicals. Less than adequate precautions soon resulted in introductions of these fish, and unfortunately reproducing populations have established in many portions of the Mississippi River Basin, including the Illinois River. Effective and redundant dispersal barriers are needed to prevent bighead and silver carp from dispersing into and potentially affecting the Great Lakes.

Although specific effects of bighead and silver carps on native ecosystems are unclear, it is certain that these fish have the potential to cause negative ecological and economic effects where they become established. Bighead and silver carp are believed to affect many native species adversely because they feed on plankton, the base of the food web and primary food source for mussels, larval fish, and several adult fish. Self-sustaining populations of bighead and silver carp may have adverse effects on commercial fishing. Commercial fishers on the Illinois River reported a 124% increase in the harvest of bighead and silver carp and 35% decrease in buffalo harvest during 2002. Silver carp, which jump out of the water when startled, have caused numerous personal injuries and property damage to recreational boaters and fishers.

Abundant populations of bighead and silver carp that now reside in the Illinois River present a resource management quandary. Bighead and silver carp evade traditional sampling methods, leaving biologists unable to accurately or precisely describe feral populations or to evaluate management actions to reduce their abundances. Harvest is the only tool currently available to reduce abundances of bighead and silver carp. However, promoting commercial harvest and markets is not without risks such as creating the demand for sustainable fisheries of these nuisance fishes.

Greg Sass

Environmental and Economic Impacts of Asian Carps in the Illinois River

Bighead and silver carps have been captured in the La Grange Reach of the Illinois River through routine Long Term Resource Monitoring Program sampling since 1995 and 1998, respectively. Since 2000, bighead and silver carps numbers and biomass have increased exponentially. At present, these carps likely dominate the fish community of the Illinois River. Because of the miniscule filtering capabilities of these carps and the great leaping ability of silver carps, the presence of these species is of environmental and economic concern. Environmentally, bighead and silver carps may compete with other native planktivores for food, limit recruitment of sportfishes, and disrupt native food webs. For example, research conducted by the Illinois River Biological Station suggests declines in body condition of native gizzard shad and bigmouth buffalo coincident with increases in abundance of Asian carps. In addition, catches of the Centrarchidae fish complex (bass, sunfishes) continue to decline in the La Grange Reach. Economically, bighead and silver carps can positively and negatively effect river cities and users. Negatively, bighead and silver carps damage commercial fishing gears and may decrease catchability of lucrative species, such as buffalo and catfish. In addition, the risk of injury to recreational users of the Illinois River has increased substantially with the explosion of silver carps and river users may choose not to participate or spend money on river related activities. Because bighead and silver carps feed at the bottom of the food chain and reach large sizes, developing markets and commercial fishing may be the most viable option for controlling these species. Despite uncertainties of the environmental and economic impacts of Asian carps in the Illinois River, precautionary and proactive approaches to develop commercial fishing markets, fund the electric barrier, and prevent the spread of Asian carps to the Great Lakes should be of utmost concern.

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Greg Sass earned his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in biology, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of South Florida in 1999. He earned his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001 and 2004, respectively. From 2004-2006, he was a post-doctoral Research Associate at the Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin-Madison with Steve Carpenter and Jim Kitchell. Greg is currently an Assistant Professional Scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Director of the Illinois River Biological Station.

The River Through Time: Environment, Culture, Resources

Moderator: Drew Phillips

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Dr. Phillips studies the origin of Quaternary landscapes in Illinois. In the Illinois River basin, he is investigating the geomorphic response of watersheds to land use and climatic changes through interpretation of aerial photographs time series and field surveys. Recently he and co-workers have begun applying dendrochronology to gauge geomorphic processes over the past 150 years. He also maps Quaternary glacial and stream sediments in southern Illinois, and is investigating the origin of glacial ridges and valley fill sequences.

Dr. Phillips received his B.A. from Colgate University, M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois - Chicago, and conducted post-Doctoral research at the University of Delaware. He studied sediment transport at glacial deltas in Glacier Bay, Alaska, in the estuary of the Hudson River, New York, and in New Jersey tidal marshes. He has a long term interest in how people interact with their environment and how changing cultural values effect those interactions.

Don McKay

How Six Rivers, Five Glaciers, and an Outburst Flood Contributed to the Considerable Legacy of the Illinois River

The modern Illinois River, which flows gently through looping meanders bordered by quiet backwater lakes, descended from ancient rivers with a sometimes violent history. This story of the Illinois River is more than an interesting slice of Earth history. It reveals a legacy that can help us make wiser use of precious resources.

Half a million years ago, a minor river through central Illinois, that probably had its headwaters in western Wisconsin, flowed southward in a valley cut through gently rolling shale and limestone hills. Southward creeping early Ice Age glaciers entered Illinois from the northeast and northwest and focused meltwater runoff between the ice lobes, deepening the river. That ''Ancient Mississippi River'' followed the course of the modern Mississippi, except for the reach through central Illinois.

Later, four more glaciers, all from the northeast, approached and overrode the ancient river, blocking its valley with hundreds of feet of ice, and burying its gravels with thick fine-grained glacial sediments. Three times as the ice melted, the ancient river returned and incised a new channel near, but not everywhere in, its previous location. The fourth time, 20,000 years ago, the overridden river did not return but stayed along the western edge of Illinois. Thus, the modern Mississippi and Illinois Rivers were separated. As the Ice Age waned, very large floods swept down valley, eroding deeply, cutting terrace scarps, depositing gravel, and giving the Illinois Valley much of its modern shape.

Latecomers, humans have for 10,000 years made our homes and, more recently, farms and factories, in and near the valley. We have found that the ancient, buried sands are a considerable aquifer worthy of protection. We mine gravel widely and deal with tributary streams that erode deeply into upland farms and deliver sediment to the river. Striving for sustainability, we seek to understand and benefit from the rich legacy of the ancient river.

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Don McKay is a glacial geologist and Chief Scientist of the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) in Champaign, a Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and an Allied Agency of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Don received his degrees in geology, a B.A. from Hanover College in Indiana and M.S. and Ph.D. from UIUC. His research spans the glacial geology of the Midwest, focusing on the past million years of Earth history. He recently coauthored chapter, The Quaternary Period, for a soon to be published ISGS volume, the "Geology of Illinois." He is presently leading a team mapping landscapes and sediments along the Middle Illinois River Valley north of Peoria. This detailed 3-D geologic mapping will help address societal needs related to water resources, groundwater protection, aggregate resources, industrial and waste disposal sites, coal resources, and geologic hazards. He is actively investigating the deposits and history of the buried Ancient Mississippi Valley, and in 2005, with the help of ISGS colleagues, led the 51st annual gathering of the Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene, taking 135 geologist "friends" on a field trip in the Illinois River Valley to examine deposits of the ancient river.

Mike Wiant

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Dr. Michael Wiant is Director of the Illinois State Museum - Dickson Mounds, in the Office of Scientific Research and Analysis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Trained in Anthropology at Illinois State and Northwestern, he has studied the development of Native American culture in the Illinois River basin for more than 35 years. He is particularly interested in the history of the Illinois River valley landscape and human ecology. His recent publications include: The Archaic Period in the Lower Illinois River Basin (Wiant, Farnsworth, and Hajic 2007) and Illinois Hopewell and Late Woodland Mounds: The Excavations of Gregory Perino 1950-1975 (edited by Farnsworth and Wiant 2006).

River Past, River Present: The Importance of Archaeology in River Valley Restoration

Human beings have lived in the Illinois River Valley for at least 10,000 years. The remains of their settlements shed light on their use of the river valley, its biota, and landscape history. Longitudinal study of these variables provides baseline data against which the present state of the river valley may be evaluated. In turn, this information may be used to develop effective restoration.

Charles Schweighauser

The Sangamon River: A Sense of Place

This documentary celebrates the Sangamon River and the people who live along it and who use it for recreational and commercial purposes.

Excerpts from the documentary of interviews with Sangamon River experts and "River Rats" will be shown, including discussions of historical transportation on the river, commercial and recreational fishing (including "hogging"), and personal reflections about the river by several river observers.

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Charles Schweighauser is Emeritus Professor of Astronomy-Physics, English, and Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He has published numerous articles in both the academic and popular press on astronomical, literary, and environmental issues. He also produced films on Halley's Comet, eclipses, and how people experience Illinois prairies and the Sangamon River. As Emeritus, Professor Schweighauser is Director of the Henry R. Barber Observatory and the University of Illinois at Springfield Observatory, continues his astronomical research, and teaches courses in Joyce, 19th century American Literature, Dante, modern drama, stage comedy, and European novel.

Session 2-B

Natural Disaster, Flooding, Drought, Hurricanes

Moderator: Gary Clark

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Mr. Clark started his career as a civil engineer with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources in 1974. On July 1, 2003, Mr. Clark was appointed as the Director of the Office of Water Resources. Mr. Clark is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a B.S. Civil Engineering in 1972, and a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1974.

Derek Winstanley

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B.A., M.A. (Geography); Ph.D. (Climatology) Oxford University.

Current Position:
Chief, Illinois State Water Survey (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) and Adjunct Professor of Geography and Adjunct Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Previous Position:
Deputy Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, D.C.

Director, National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.

Environmental scientist with British, Canadian, and Gambian Governments and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Drought in Illinois: Impacts to Water Supply

Supplying water to meet a variety of needs is dependent upon the availability of water in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and aquifers. Climatic conditions, epecially precipitation and temperature, play major roles in determining the amount of water available. Climatic conditions vary from month to month and year to year and climatic conditions change over decades and centuries.

The presentation provides historical data on climatic conditions that have created droughts in Illinois and the impacts these droughts have had on water availability and water supply. The frequency, magnitude and duration of droughts in Illinois are characterized.

A key question in water supply planning is could climatic conditions in the future be different from those of the past and if so can we anticipate these and plan accordingly? The presentation addresses this question in the context of how global and regional climate changes may affect droughts in Illinois.

Paul Osman

Gulf Coast Disasters of 2005: The Impacts in Illinois

The hurricane season of 2005 resulted in catastrophic damages to the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. Conversely, 2005 was a relatively minor flood season for Illinois. However, the impacts of the Gulf Coast disaster have resulted in major impacts to floodplain management programs in Illinois.

As a result of the 2005 hurricane season, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has acquired a debt of over $20 billion dollars. Many insurance companies are reconsidering the wisdom of continued coverage in high risk areas. Homeowner's premiums are skyrocketing. Both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation to restore and renovate the NFIP. These bills will result in major impacts not only insurance, but regulatory and mapping programs.

In addition, the levee failures in New Orleans have caused both FEMA and the Corps of Engineers to reconsider current levee programs and levee certification programs. Levee certification will no longer be taken lightly. Efforts are underway to reevaluate levee safety, establish a levee inventory, and recognize the residual risks inherent behind all levees. These program changes have already started to affect many of the areas and communities along the State's major river systems where levees are widespread.

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Paul Osman is the Floodplain Programs Manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources. He coordinates federal, state and local floodplain development regulations as well as the National Flood Insurance Program for over 1,000 Illinois communities. His duties also included assisting with the coordination of floodplain mapping, flood disaster response, and flood mitigation activities in Illinois. Prior to joining IDNR/OWR, Paul was a Resource Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service and served three years with the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya. He has a Geography/Geology degree from Augustana College and has done graduate studies in Resource Management at Illinois State University. Paul has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), State Floodplain Association (IAFSM), as well as many national task forces regarding floodplain management issues. Paul is the author of several publications on flood protection and flood mitigation. Paul is currently Co-Chair of the ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee.

Timothy Loftus

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Timothy Loftus received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Forestry from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. More recently Tim earned his doctorate degree in Geography at SIU specializing in the relationship between federal conservation policy, rural land use, and water resource outcomes.

Following his graduate work, Dr. Loftus served on the faculty at Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Geography and Planning. From there Tim traveled to Tiffin, Ohio where he was Director of the Water Quality Laboratory at Heidelberg College; a research team that examines a variety of water-resource issues important to the Midwest and Great Lakes.

Tim joined the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission in 2005 at the same time the new Regional Planning Act was signed by Governor Blagojevich. As the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) emerges from this legislation, Tim is a senior environmental planner engaged in watershed planning and related work as CMAP strives to meet its charge to provide more integrated planning for northeastern Illinois. Tim is also the CMAP project manager for an 11-county regional water supply planning process that was initiated by Executive Order in 2006 and is expected to produce a new plan in mid-2009.

Sustainability and the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group

At the behest of Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1, an eleven county water supply planning process is underway in northeastern Illinois. The northeastern region is one of two priority planning areas in the state that will contribute to a new comprehensive program for state and regional water supply planning and management developed by the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Water Resources (OWR), and the State Water Survey (SWS). Together, IDNR/OWR and SWS will develop a strategic plan for program implementation consistent with existing laws, regulations, and property rights.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has been chosen by the IDNR/OWR to lead and facilitate the northeastern region's planning process and has organized a new Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG) to be the representative body for deliberation and plan recommendations looking out to 2050.

The RWSPG is composed of thirty-five delegates who represent the following stakeholder-interest groups:

1. academia and pubic interest in regional planning (2)
2. agriculture (2)
3. business, industry, and power (2)
4. conservation and resource management (2)
5. county government (11)
6. environmental advocacy (2)
7. municipalities and municipal water suppliers (10)
8. real estate and development (2)
9. wastewater and nonmunicipal water suppliers (2)

The RWSPG is challenged to incorporate principles of sustainability in the nascent plan for a region of 8.4 million people (2000) and projected to grow to over 10.6 million people by 2030. Plan recommendations, expected in July, 2009, must account for dependence on a variety of water sources. While Lake Michigan serves about 77% of the planning region's present-day population, most of the projected growth in the region will occur in areas dependent on either groundwater or inland surface water.

Planning principles, working goals, and potential strategies will be examined in the context of sustainable water resource systems.

Asian Carp and the Illinois River

Moderator: Robert Maher

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Graduated from Eastern Illinois University in March of 1987 with a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology. Was hired by the Illinois Natural History Survey after graduation and worked in Champaign until 1989 as a research assistant. Moved to the Alton area in 1989 and continued to work for the Illinois Natural History Survey on the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program on the Mississippi River. In 1995 took a job with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as a district fisheries biologist. Assumed the duties of Commercial Fisheries Biologist for the IDNR in January of 2001. Currently manage the commercial fishing program for the state of Illinois (Exclusive of Lake Michigan).

Steve Shults

Commercial Harvest of Asian Carp: Management Needs

Of the many introduced species in our nation's waterways, the species receiving the most attention because of their perceived impacts on commercial inland fisheries and the Great Lakes are Asian carp. Illinois is among the nation's leaders in control and management of these species. However, there are significant informational needs to be met which could give resource managers the ability to formulate better policies for control and use of these species. This presentation will give a brief overview of activities taken by the State of Illinois to prevent further introduction and spread of Asian carps in the State, while still allowing for commercial harvest. Asian carp products and business strategies being promoted by IDNR and its regional partners to encourage population reduction through increased harvest will be presented. Finally, some management techniques and monitoring tools will be discussed which could prove useful in predicting population trends within these species.

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Steve Shults attended Bradley University studying Biology and Environmental Sciences while conducting research into the effects of heavy metal exposure on aquatic invertebrates. After his studies were complete, he worked in the environmental toxicology program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory through an appointment with the University of Tennessee. Steve came back to Illinois in 1995 to take a position as a microbiologist with the IDNR. Steve currently serves as the Region V Fisheries Biologist and manages the Aquatic Nuisance Species and Aquaculture programs. In his spare time, he is an avid deer and turkey hunter and an active teen leader at his church as a counselor and lifeguard. Steve has been an American Fisheries Society member since 1995.

William (Bill) Guerrini

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B.S Degree in Education
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14 years in education
Classroom teacher
School Principal

- Spring Valley Rotary President (past)
- Spring Valley Business Owner Association (Founder/President)(past)
- Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Board (past)
- Bureau Valley Country Club President (past)
- Board of Directors Citizens Bank-Spring Valley Branch / Advisory
- Inducted into the Illinois American Out doorsman Hall of Fame, 2005

- Spring Valley Walleye Club, Inc. (founder)
- Chartered, Incorporated, Not for Profit Organization with a specified purpose of protecting and preserving the species of wildlife found in the Illinois River.
- Founder / Past President / Executive Director
- "MWC" Tournament Director (15 years)

- Owner/Broker of Guerrini Financial Services Est. 1979 Located at 329 W. Dakota St. in Spring Valley

Married for 38 years to Janice
One daughter, Debra (Dean)Tostovarsnik
One granddaughter, Claire Tostovarsnik

Sport Fishing Interests Related to Asian Carp

I) SPRING VALLEY WALLEYE CLUB HISTORY
- A) Stocking program
- B) Volunteers
- C) National Recognition

II) SAUGER-WALLEYE FISHING
- A) "MWC" National Tournament
- B) Illinois Walleye Trail
- C) Governor's Cup
- D) Species
- E) Forage
- F) Habitat

III) ECONOMIC VALUE
- A) National Publicity "exposure"
- B) Tournament Dollars
- C) Tourism Dollars
- D) Year Long Economic value

IV) CONCLUSION
- A) Future Projections

Kirby Marsden

Commercial Harvest of Asian Carps: Industry Needs

When the European Explorers first came to the Illinois River Valley they discovered something the Native Americans had known for over 12,000 years. A river system with backwaters and associated lakes that produced fish and wildlife in numbers that would rival that of any natural environment in the world. This system that Mother Nature had set up was perfect in every way.

Settlers took advantage of this natural bounty and used its gifts for survival for many years. This river system was the catalyst for the early economy of the area, in fact the very lifeblood of the region. Early pioneers appreciated the river and used its resources wisely. By the late 1800s the Illinois River was considered to be one of the largest inland commercial fisheries in the world. This fishery employed thousands of people along its entire length, providing protein for a young hungry nation. Fish were loaded onto trains in the legendary fishing communities of Havana, Beardstown, Meredosia, Peoria, Pearl, Grafton, many others and shipped all over the country.

In the early 1900s we started to drain our wetland and lakes so we could farm them. Then it was decided to send all of Chicagos poorly treated sewage down the Illinois River. The result was an ecological disaster. The fish, duck and wildlife populations plummeted.

Now in modern times this disaster has been reversed and the rivers are once again a healthy thriving environment. The most recent environmental challenge to the Illinois River is the Asian Carp. It is a non native species that has been estimated to be 67% of the bio mass of the river. This disaster can also be defeated and reversed by taking an intelligent approach to the problem.

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Kirby Marsden was born and raised in Dallas City, Illinois. A quaint little town located on the Mississippi River. He has spent his entire adult life in the fish industry. He resides there with his wife Theresa, where they raised 3 children, Ryan, Dana and Kari, and he is the proud grandfather of 4 grandchildren.

Kirby Marsden is a specialist in sales and distribution of fish and seafood products in the Midwest, with special expertise in the Chicagoland area. He has recently traveled twice to China and is currently developing an import and export business with China.

Kirby Marsden is a conservationist, environmentalist and a long time Bronze sponsor of Ducks Unlimited. He is interested in and supportive of any and all groups that are involved in environmental causes. He believes in using wise management of any natural resources so that future generations may enjoy the great outdoors for fishing, hunting and all other outdoor activities.

Kirby Marsden is currently the president of the Illinois Commercial Fishing Association and a sales executive with Big River Fish Corporation of Pearl, Illinois.

Urban Stormwater Management

Moderator: Jodie Tate

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Tate earned a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Business from Western Illinois University and a Masters Degree in Agriculture Economics from Colorado State University.

Jodie began her Extension career in Kansas as a county agricultural agent. In 2001, she took a position as an extension educator for natural resources management for the University of Illinois.

Jodie also serves as the Coordinator for Illinois Council on Best Management Practices (C-BMP).

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Susan Meeker earned her Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Economics, and her Masters Degree in Agronomy, both from the University of Illinois.

Her position was developed by a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, along with the University of Illinois. Responsibilities include developing comprehensive information and educational programs for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and watershed management.

Prior to her Extension career, Meeker worked for CNH and Growmark. Meeker is a member of the National and Illinois Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) and Illinois Watershed Association.

NonPoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)

Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) is a nationally supported educational program targeted at decision makers to assist them in making better land use decisions. The NEMO program provides education on a wide range of issues, from urban stormwater issues to Best Management Practices for business and communities. NEMO's core focus is to provide research-based education for land use decision makers on the relationship of land use to water quality in the residential and commercial areas. The educator provides education on non-point pollution and how land use affects water quality.

The NEMO program started in the fall of 2004 in the Peoria Tri-County area, which includes the major city of Peoria. The educational program is designed to assist local decision makers in developing and implementing economically viable solutions along with resource conserving strategies.

Educational materials are developed and distributed by the educator through meetings, workshops, conferences, news releases, and posted to the IWMC web site, which serves as primary location for watershed management information. Educational materials include technical papers, fact sheets, new releases, web pages, and presentations. The educator presents on nonpoint source pollution and watersheds, as well as reviewing the impacts of land use on water resources at meeting, workshops, and conferences.

Melissa Eaton

Implementing Best Management Practices in the Mossville Bluffs Watershed

The forested Illinois River Bluffs are a major contributor of sediment and non-point source pollution to the Illinois River due to steep topography, composition of highly erodible soils, and adjacency to the river. The erodibility of the bluffs is compounded by stormwater runoff from urban development and interruptions of periodic fires that historically maintained healthy forest ecosystems. Through this project, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is taking a holistic approach to water quality management by partnering with state and local agencies and individual property owners to concentrate on-the-ground water quality projects in a particular Illinois River Bluff known as the Mossville Bluffs Watershed (WSID ILD30). The targeted projects are a direct recommendation of the Mossville Bluffs Watershed Restoration Master Plan and include forested bluff restoration, ravine and stream stabilization, and urban stormwater infiltration/filtration practices for individual properties. The Mossville Bluffs Watershed will be utilized as a model site for public officials and landowners throughout the Illinois River Basin.

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Ms. Melissa Eaton has facilitated the development of several watershed plans covering over 40,000 acres of the Peoria Lakes Basin. These plans were created utilizing the insight and expertise of dozens of volunteers including citizens, elected officials, and local, state, and federal agency staff. She has successfully secured and administered a number of state and federal grants to implement environmental education initiatives, conduct habitat management, and create policy to address urban development impacts on the Illinois River. She actively participates in state-wide efforts to protect the Illinois River Basin by assisting in staffing the bi-annual Governor's Conference on the Illinois River, participating in the Illinois River Bluffs Ecosystem Partnership, and supporting the development of the Illinois Watershed Association. With a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Bradley University, Ms. Eaton's professional goal is to bring science to local policy and decision making as it relates to environmental protection.

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Jane grew up in Peoria, Illinois and was always interested in math and science. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Jane spent the first part of her career in the Chicago area in both the public and private sectors. She was involved in both design and construction management of roadway, highway, land development, and municipal engineering projects.

In 2002, Jane and her family moved to Peoria, where she is currently a senior engineer in the Public Works Department at the City of Peoria. Her first project at the City was the development of the City's Notice of Intent for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. She also reviews civil/site aspects of private development in the City, and manages the City's Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan project.

Jane is a registered professional engineer in the State of Illinois. She is married and has two children. Jane volunteers at her children's schools and sings in her church choir.

City of Peoria Clean Water Efforts - - Successes and Challenges

The City of Peoria, an established Midwestern river city, faces the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure and managing growth. With the recreational and commercial benefits of the Illinois River as motivation, the City is meeting the requirements of two National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits?Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and Combined Sewer Overflows.

Peoria has over three hundred feet of vertical elevation difference between the Illinois River and the northern City limits. An extensive system of creeks and separate storm sewers drain the central and northern portions of the City, while a combined sewer system drains the older portions and the central business district. These two drainage systems present different challenges to water quality. Natural streambank erosion and accelerated erosion due to development add sediment to the creeks and river. The century-old combined sewers surcharge and overflow during wet weather, posing a contamination threat to the river.

With public involvement and participation, the City has established a stormwater and erosion control ordinance and a stream buffer ordinance for new development. The City is currently in the process of developing a Long Term Control Plan for Combined Sewer Overflows. This extensive planning project will set the stage for improvements that will improve water quality for the next generation."

Streamgaging, Dam Removal, and Dam Safety Issues

Moderator: Bill White

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Bill White is a Professional Scientist in the Center for Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey; a Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and affiliate to the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. Bill currently manages the Survey's Peoria Office and oversees the well known, field-based Stream and Watershed Assessment & Restoration Program. Bill also supervises staff working in analytical laboratories assessing soil and water quality and other environmental conditions. He previously served as Science Advisor to the Director of the Office of Realty & Environmental Planning in IDNR. Bill directed the Science & Planning Section in the Ecosystems Division at IDNR, administered planning and science operations for the Illinois Conservation 2000 Program, and directed programs on watershed, floodplain, and greenways planning. Bill serves many Boards and Committees including: nominated and appointed full member of Sigma Xi (The National Scientific Research Society); the Executive Planning Committee of the Governor's Illinois River Conference and appointed as Co-Chair of the 2009 Governor's Conference; USACE Steering Committee & Study Group member for the Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Project, Board Member of the Heartland Water Resources Council, Faculty of the Environment with The Environmental Council--University of Illinois, appointed Technical Advisor to IDNR's Coastal Zone Management Program, etc.

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Mr. Clark started his career as a civil engineer with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources in 1974. On July 1, 2003, Mr. Clark was appointed as the Director of the Office of Water Resources. Mr. Clark is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a B.S. Civil Engineering in 1972, and a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1974.

Dam Removal and Safety Issues in Illinois

The DNR Office of Water Resources initiated a program in the later 1990's to evaluate the options for the repair, modification, or removal of a number of low head dams on the public waters of Illinois. This program has resulted in plans for the modification of the Yorkville dam and proposed removal of the Batavia dam on the Fox River. A study funded by the State of Illinois was also completed in June of 2007 that recommended further considerations for modifying an additional 25 dams on the State's public waters which includes structural modifications and nonstructural measures to increase public safety. Numerous initiatives are now underway to implement the recommendations resulting from these studies.

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Mr. Straub graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with a BS in Civil/Environmental Engineering in 1995 and an MS in Civil/Hydrosystems Engineering in 2000. He also completed a PhD from Colorado State University in Civil/Stream Rehabilitation and River Mechanics in the summer of 2007. He has worked for the USGS for over 12 years on various projects including hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, and sediment transport and river mechanics.

Effects of Dam Removal on Brewster Creek Near St. Charles, IL

A small dam, built in 1929, on Brewster Creek near St. Charles, Illinois was declared a Class I structure, having a high probability of causing loss of life and/or substantial economic loss in the event of a catastrophic failure by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Costs were prohibitive to repair the dam; therefore, the owners decided to remove the dam. Possible environmental effects and costs of removing dams, and managing or removing the impounded sediment can be substantial.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency granted permission for a pilot stepwise dam removal project, consisting of cutting five 12-18 inch notches of the dam, completed from June 2003 through February 2004. The benefits of gradually removing a dam are to reduce the total project cost and reduce possible environmental effects by allowing the impounded sediment to slowly move downstream, and a stable stream and revegetated floodplain to form upstream.

The dam was 8 feet (ft) high and had a 30 ft wide crest. In 2002, the lake had a surface area of 3.96 acres and was nearly full of sediment with an average water depth of less than 1 ft, sediment volume equaling 14.47 acre-ft, and average sediment thickness of 3.7 ft. The deposited sediments consisted from 67 to 99 percent silts and clays. The stream channel downstream of the dam consisted primarily of sand, gravel, and cobble. The total sediment eroded during and after dam removal was approximately 13 percent of the lake sediment. The effects of the removal will be presented by describing the erosion dynamics and biotic response. Analytical techniques developed in this study to minimize the number of notches and sediment yield per notch for future application on small dams similar to the Brewster Creek dam will be discussed.

Arlan Juhl

Streamgaging Networks: Past, Present and Future

Early reports from the Canal Commissioners of Illinois indicate that streamflow measurements were being made in 1824. The Commission was investigating the available supply of water to support navigation on the then proposed Illinois and Michigan Canal, yet there was no source of data to support this investigation. Decision regarding this canal would have significant fiscal and performance impacts on the project and the State of Illinois.

Today, the citizens of Illinois are provided drinking water supplies, bridges and culverts with adequate waterway capacities, flood and drought forecasts, and many other support services that relied on high quality and available streamflow records. New uses of water for ethanol plants and peaking plants, environmental assessments, and for recreational demands are increasing the demand for the data obtained from streamgaging. The type, distribution and quality of streamgages and streamgage records available today greatly exceed what was available in 1824, yet does not meet the needs of today.

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Arlan Juhl has been employed with the State of Illinois since 1973, first with the Department of Transportation, Division of Water Resources, then with the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources from 1995 until the present. He serves as the Manager of the Division of Planning, overseeing the development of water resource studies and projects involving flood control, dam design and removal, multipurpose watershed planning, and more recently has worked with the Public Safety at Dams Inititative.

Session 3-C

Alternative Uses of the Illinois River Floodplain

Moderator: Richard Sparks

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Dr. Richard E. Sparks is Director of Research, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, Alton, Illinois, which is a partnership of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Lewis and Clark Community College, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and a half dozen other institutions and agencies concerned with management, education, and research on rivers and watersheds. He and his colleagues research options for: (1) managing invasive aquatic species; and (2) restoring or naturalizing large floodplain rivers. Their working hypothesis is that naturalization will reduce flood damages, increase aquatic and wetland habitat, and diversify economies of river communities by increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. He continues to be affiliated with the University of Illinois, where he formerly directed the Illinois Water Resources Center, and with the Illinois Natural History Survey, where he directed the Survey's Large River Research Program on the Upper Mississippi River system.

Misganaw Demissie

Using the Illinois River Floodplain to Reduce Flood Damage and Naturalize Hydrology

The lower Illinois River flows through a large floodplain created by the old Mississippi River during the glacial period. This over-sized floodplain and the low gradient natural setting created a large and diverse river-floodplain ecosystem. However, the Illinois River has been significantly altered physically and hydrologically over the last century through the construction of locks and dams for navigation; construction of levees in the floodplain to protect agricultural levee and drainage districts (LDD) from regular flooding from the river, and diversion of water from Lake Michigan. A total of 24 LDDs were established in the lower Illinois River between 1987 and 1916. Removal of a large part of the river's floodplain altered the hydrology of the river in several ways. The major effect is on flood peaks during floods. The reduced floodplain storage and conveyance capacities tend to increase flood peaks for major floods and increase water-level fluctuations during small floods that occur during the growing season inhibiting establishment of native vegetation along the river. One of the goals of the Illinois River Restoration project is to re-establish the natural hydrology of the river by reconnecting some of the floodplain to the river. Hydraulic models developed for the Illinois River are used to evaluate the effects of reconnecting selected floodplain areas to the Illinois River on flood peaks and water-level fluctuations. The paper will present the results of these investigations.

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Dr. Demissie received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Iowa, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Demissie is a Principal Scientist and Director of the Center for Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign, IL. He is responsible for leading and managing over 60 professional and support staff that are engaged in data collection, research, and public service in the field of watershed science. He has been conducting research in water resources at the Water Survey since 1976. Research he has conducted over the last 30 years include watershed investigations involving design and operation of multi-year data collection programs; ecology of large rivers; stream-flow hydraulics; erosion and sediment transport; hydrologic design of impounding reservoirs; lake sediment investigations; hydrology and hydraulics of floods and flooding; hydrology of wetlands; and hydrologic and hydraulic model development and applications. He has published over 150 journal articles, reports, and conference proceedings.

Dr. Demissie is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Geophysical Union, the International Water Resources Association, and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences.

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Jack's background includes a variety of positions in agribusiness for over 30 years (the last 10 as president of Pekin Energy Company, Williams Bio Energy and Nebraska Energy - all ethanol production and marketing organizations). During the early 90's, Jack served as chairman of the Renewable Fuels Association - the national trade association for ethanol producers.

As Watersheds Program Director for the Illinois chapter of The Nature Conservancy (2002-2006), Jack has focused on land management practices in agricultural landscapes and their impact on freshwater ecosystems. Currently, as Alternative Agriculture Coordinator for the The Nature Conservancy's Upper Mississippi River Program, Jack's focus is on agricultural practices that are different than the traditional corn and soy bean cropping systems and that may be more compatible with the upland watershed and the river floodplain.

Using Floodplains for Biomass Production

Rising prices for fossil fuels, a concern about greenhouse gasses, and a concern for energy security are changing the agriculture model from one of providing food and fiber to one of providing food, fuel and fiber. The fuel and energy crops will include perennial grasses and trees (biomass).

There may be opportunities to replace corn and soy beans in certain levied areas of the floodplain with flood tolerant biomass crops. These levee districts can then be reconnected to the floodplain which can provide a variety of ecosystem services while generating an economic biomass crop.

Donald Hey

Using the Floodplain for Nutrient Farming

Restored wetlands could be used successfully to address our recurring problems of excess nutrients and flood damages in U.S. rivers. Wetland ecosystem restoration could be financed through an innovative, market-based strategy called "nutrient farming." Nutrient farms are restored wetlands designed, built, and operated for processing nutrients, trapping sediments, and/or storing floodwaters. Nutrient farming seeks to optimize the natural and chemical reactions in wetlands to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from surface waters and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Landowners then sell or trade nutrient reduction credits to individuals or treatment facilities that release excess nutrients and cannot cost effectively remove these nutrients themselves.

The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) is proposing a pilot project to test this concept of excess nutrient removal in large-scale, floodplain wetlands and to determine the impacts of these managed wetlands on wildlife, plants and ecological function, both within the project area and the Illinois River. The project, which comprises approximately 5,000 acres, is divided into three units with one unit isolated from the river to serve as a reference site. The two test sites, which will receive river water, will be multiple-cell wetland systems. TWI is partnering with universities, research institutions, and conservation organizations to develop adaptive management and operations strategies, to assess the efficiency and sustainability of nutrient removal (nitrogen, phosphorous, and carbon) in wetlands, and to evaluate the ecological impact of nutrient farming.

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Donald L. Hey is president and co-founder of The Wetlands Initiative, Inc. and director of Wetlands Research, Inc., both in Chicago, Illinois. He founded the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project in Lake County, Illinois, and helped begin the Hennepin & Hopper Lakes Project in Putnam County, Illinois. He formerly was president of Hey & Associates, an environmental services consulting firm. He received a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla, an M.S. in water resources engineering from Kansas University, and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Northwestern University. His research interests focus on the restoration of river and wetland systems and the development of low-cost management programs for sustaining natural aquatic ecosystems. Dr. Hey has served on a number of committees and editorial boards: the NOAA Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Assessment Plan; Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee, Everglades National Park, National Park Service; the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board on Integrated Nitrogen; the NRC Committee on the Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems; the Illinois Department of Conservation, Wetland Advisory Council; Ecological Engineering; Restoration Ecology. He is co-author of A Case for Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Farming and Traditional Removal: An Economic Comparison.

River Restoration Through Coordinated Planning and Development

Moderator: Russ Crawford

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Russ Crawford graduated from Knox College with a Bachelor of Arts degree and completed graduate level work at both Illinois State University and the University of Virginia. He is currently the Global Class A & CPS Support Manager for Cat Logistics located in Morton, Illinois. Mr. Crawford has been a Caterpillar Certified 6 Sigma Project Manager, an Instructor of Government, History, Political and Social Problems, and Environmental Studies at East Peoria and Pekin High Schools; Instructor of Traffic Law Administration at Illinois Central College; Chairman of the Tri-County (Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford) Regional Planning Commission; ten-term member of the Illinois Republican Party Platform Committee; five-term elected member of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors; Chairman of the Tazewell County Economic Development Council; Chairman of the Tazewell County Forest Preserve District; Chairman of the Public Health Committee; four-year term elected Tazewell County Chief Fiscal Officer & Auditor; Jim Edgar's Administrative Assistant for Courts and Law Enforcement in Northern Illinois for the Secretary of State's Office; elected as a Delegate to the first 3 Illinois Conservation Congresses and subsequently to the Congresses' Executive Committee where he helped create the current IDNR from the former Department of Conservation and formulate a volunteer network to assist with IDNR and Park activities. He is married to Cindy Crawford and has one son, Kristopher Russell.

Mr. Crawford currently serves as President of the Heartland Water Resources Council, a voluntary network of concerned private and public sector interests whose primary mission is the preservation and restoration of the Peoria Lakes and the Illinois River basin. He was instrumental in the creation and Past Chairman of the Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance (PLBA), which includes the Heartland Water Resources, the Nature Conservancy, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and the Tri-County Riverfront Action Forum. This coalition speaks with one voice to the public sector (including federal, state, and local government) and works with both the public and private sectors on the issue of preserving and protecting the Peoria Lakes and the Illinois River basin.

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See biography on page 56.

Restoring Peoria Lakes Through Leveraging Resources and Linking Opportunities

Over 20 years ago Mike Demissie warned that unless dramatic actions were taken to curb the flow of sediment into Peoria Lakes, the area outside the channel would be mudflats and marshes within 10 to 15 years. We are now five years beyond that deadline and every day we see indications of his disheartening prediction coming true. Heartland Water Resources Council was formed shortly after Mike's pronouncement when the average depth outside the channel was 3.5 feet deep. Today, this same area is, on the average, only 18'' deep. As a result, boating activities have been reduced, marina maintenance costs have skyrocketed and river conservation projects have been adversely impacted. We are now at a point that aggressive, comprehensive actions must be taken to stem the flow of sediment into the lakes and remove sediment and manage the lake more effectively. To that end, the Heartland Water Resources Council has prepared a plan of action that brings new resources and vision to the overall challenge. It identifies "win-win-win" opportunities that leverage resources and get projects going without the requirement of 100% federal and State funding. It identifies opportunities for private investment and local public support to fund conservation projects. It is believed that without such collaborative action, Peoria Lakes will be lost!

Wayne Ingram

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Wayne Ingram, P.E., is a water resources engineer in MACTEC's Peoria office. He has been a Heartland Water Resources Council board member for the past several years. He also is active on the Natural Resource and Your Development Task Force, a group of volunteers seeking to protect Peoria area land and water resources through education and improved development approaches and practices. Mr. Ingram has served on several technical committees for Peoria area watershed planning efforts. He has been with MACTEC for over 20 years. Mr. Ingram is involved in a variety of projects for public and private clients across the United States, including floodplain studies, hydraulic design for bridge river crossings, urban stormwater management, stream stabilization and restoration, and wetlands mitigation design. Prior to joining MACTEC, he was an engineer with the St. Johns River Water Management District in northeastern Florida where he performed hydrologic investigations directed at improving management of the Oklawaha River and support for the District's regulatory program. He has a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois.

Sediment Reduction, Removal & Placement Strategy

The "Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Restoration & Related Lakefront Revitalization Plan" is focused on two primary areas of action, which are: 1) sediment reduction, and 2) sediment removal and placement. While the Plan recognizes the importance of better managing our local tributary watersheds through a variety of means, this report focuses on the segments of the tributary in close proximity to the lakes. The Plan explores ways that existing channels might be retrofitted in order to drop more sediment out before the channel flow meets the lake.

In addition to focusing on sediment flow reduction, the Comprehensive Plan pays a significant amount of attention to removing sediment from the lakes and placing it at locations that "add value" and thus open up funding opportunities at both ends of the dredging and placement endeavors. The Plan suggests and explores numerous local opportunities for using the dredged sediment including the development of linear parks, conservation coves, conservation corridors, sediment diverters, conservation islands, Brownfield reclamation, economic development, wetlands protection and expansion, etc.

Tom Brimberry

Lakefront Revitalization & Development Opportunities

In the past, Peoria Lakes restoration endeavors focused primarily on the ecological issues and conservation benefits that might be gained from "saving" Peoria Lakes. However, such areas of focus don't reflect the overall importance of the Lakes as recreational and economic development resources. If the Lakes die, the local economy will suffer significantly and economic development and recreational use opportunities will never be realized.

The City of East Peoria recognizes the importance of Peoria Lakes to our local economy and to the region as a whole. Therefore, we have embarked upon an innovative approach to lake restoration and lakefront revitalization that could be a model for other lakefront communities to follow. In cooperation with Heartland Water Resources Council, we have prepared a plan that will take advantage of dredging to enhance recreational and economic development needs and place sediment in locations that will facilitate new development and expand recreational opportunities. All of these coordinated activities will also promote conservation goals and produce a "win-win-win" scenario.

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For the past 10 years I have worked for the City of East Peoria, IL; the past 5 years as City Administrator and prior to that I was Director of Planning and Community Development. Prior to this I was Director of Planning & Community Development for the City of Washington, IL for more than 2 years and prior to that worked in the Office for Economic Development with the City of Peoria for 8 years. I have a Master's in Urban Planning from the U of IL and Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from IL State University

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Tom has BA degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Urban and Regional Planning and Human Services. He received the prestigious National Urban Studies Fellowship Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and completed his graduate work at the University of Southern California.

Tom served as Assistant to the Director of the League of California Cities and Manager of the Southern California office. He became the Economic Development Director of the cities of Downey and Huntington Beach and taught at the Graduate School of Public Policy and Administration, California State University Long Beach and served on the Public Administration Advisory Committees at Long Beach State as well as USC. The last seven years of his stay in California, he served as President of his own planning and development consulting firm.

Beginning in 1991, Tom served as Development Director for the City of Peoria for nine years. He was instrumental in establishing Peoria's Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program, their renewed overall Economic Development Initiative and the Riverfront Development endeavor.

In 2002, Tom became Executive Director of the Heartland Water Resouces Council and supports them in their effort to restore Peoria Lakes. Tom also consults with the cities of Havana, Pekin, Rock Falls, Peoria Heights, Chillicothe and others.

Habitat Expansion, Conservation Corridors & Recreation

Heartland Water Resources Council was established over 20 years ago to bring attention to and focus on the critical issues of "saving" Peoria Lakes with ecological and conservation goals being of priority concern and consideration. However, the nature of the overall challenge and now the urgency of the situation requires that all avenues be pursued and all support be garnered that can help in this immediate complex and far reaching challenge.

We believe that the plan we have prepared is not only consistent with our original mission and goals, it will facilitate the ultimate realization of the strictly ecological and conservation improvements as well. The plan uses economic value gained through economic development and recreational improvements to help fund and support the conservation elements of the plan. It uses dual use opportunities to bring new funding opportunities into play and it protects existing and future plans for conservation improvements through the master plan and comprehensive planning process.

Private-Public Partnerships for Watershed Management

Moderator: Rick Mollahan

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Rick currently manages the Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Programs for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and works with the Landowner Incentive Program through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Prior to this role he was the Manager of the Watershed Protection and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs with the Department from 2001-2004.

Before moving over to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, he was the Manager of Water Quality Management and Nonpoint Source Programs with the Illinois EPA from 1986 to 2000, and Project Manager in Construction Grant Administration from 1978 to 1986.

Rick has been a speaker at numerous National Conferences on Nonpoint Pollution and the CREP Program, and represents the Office of Resource Conservation at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in wetland related issues around the state and nationally.

Rick holds a Bachelors Degree in Recreation and Park Administration from Western Illinois University, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Rick is married and has two children age 16 and 21. Rick is lead singer in a Rock and Roll Band known as “Live Radio”, and performs at numerous churches in the Springfield, IL area.

Steven McCracken

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Stephen McCracken is a graduate of Queens University Belfast (N. Ireland) and holds Masters Degrees in both environmental science and environmental economics. He has twelve years experience in project management and environmental policy development gained working in North America and Africa. He is currently Director of Watershed Protection for the Conservation Foundation in Naperville, Illinois where most of his time is invested in project management and coordination for the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). He is also a member of the DuPage Environmental Commission

The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup: A Case Study

The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup was set up at the end of 2005 in response to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) being completed for Salt Creek and the East and West Branches of the DuPage River. The medium term aim of the group is to enact locally designed projects to remove the streams from the 303 (d) list of impaired waterways. Its longer term goals involved facilitating cooperation between local agencies and environmental groups to move the streams water quality beyond that mandated by state standards. During its first year the Workgroup has attracted 32 NPDES permit holders and 13 non-permit holders to become dues paying members. Members include sanitary districts, municipalities, environmental organizations and consulting companies. In addition to dues payments the members have also invested thousands of hours of effort in designing and managing the Workgroups activities. In 2006 the IEPA awarded the Workgroup two grants worth a combined amount of seven hundred thousand dollars.

Current activities include the design and management of a network of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Probes, an analysis of the impacts of a number of low head dams on DO, the setting up of a long term comprehensive biological and water chemistry sampling program and a chloride reduction program. Remediation projects for DO and Chlorides are due to begin in 2008.

Richard Spangler

Spoon River

The Spoon River has a rich history highlighted by the book on anthology by Edgar Lee Masters and the Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown. Our Spoon River Watershed Organization, of which I have been the President since its beginning about nine years ago, has used these highlights to structure our plans. The environment of the watershed is especially subject to soil erosion because of the topography and soil characteristics.

The population is still primarily rural although it naturally has changed much in 150 years. We are concentrating on the rural landowners in our studies on how to best conserve the environment. The four volumes titled Spoon River Area Assessment published in 1998 by IDNR serve as the primary guide.

There is a continual attempt to blend in the efforts of other organizations such as the Nature Conservancy to improve the environment. Participation by members of the Il. Farm Bureau is critical. The county U. of I. Extension staffs are becoming increasingly involved. In the last one and one-half years NRCS has funded a large group of stream bank erosion control projects. The next area of endeavor will be to increase the level of awareness of the general public by using more educational resources.

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The family of Richard Spangler has farmed in the Spoon River Watershed for over 150 years. He received his grade school education in a one-room school in Spoon River valley from very dedicated teachers and was later drafted into the Army in 1952 serving in the Korean War. In 1954 he entered Bradley U. in Peoria and received a degree in Civil Engineering in 1958. After fours years he became a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Illinois.

During the next 20 years he was first employed as an engineer and after four years entered in various supervisory positions in petrochemicals. This included assignments in Joliet , Venice, Italy, Geel, Belgium, Decatur, Al., Beijing, China, and Nanjing, China. During the last ten years of these assignments he also operated the farm on Spoon River.

After retiring from petrochemicals he became active in many Boards- They included Fulton Co. Farm Bureau , Spoon River Electric Coop , Fulton Co. Emergency Ambulance Service, Spoon River Watershed, State Watershed, U. of I. County Extension, and Fulton Co. Rehab. Center. He served as Chair of four Boards and Secretary of one Board.

He still farms in the same location but does make annual business and pleasure trips to Europe and China.

Ed Weilbacher

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Edward J. Weilbacher, Coordinator, USDA NRCS serving the Southwestern Illinois RC&D, Inc., Mascoutah, Illinois. The SWI RC&D encompasses the seven counties of Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington. The Southwestern Illinois RC&D, Inc. works on regional natural resource projects for the expansion of economic opportunities and for the improvement in the quality of life of the southwestern Illinois communities. Southwestern Illinois RC&D was named National Council of the Year for 2003.

Ed received his BS in Agronomy from Western Illinois University at Macomb. He is a 32 year employee of USDA NRCS, and has worked throughout the State of Illinois including Belleville, Macomb, Woodstock, Kankakee, and Sparta. He has worked as a District Conservationist, Resource Conservationist and Area Agronomist. He has been the Coordinator with the SWI RC&D for over 17 years.

Ed and wife Kathi live in Waterloo, Illinois and own and operate the Senator Rickert Residence Bed & Breakfast. He is an historic preservation advocate.

Kaskaskia River Basin Initiative Through Locally Led Efforts

The Kaskaskia River Basin touches all or parts of 22 counties in Illinois and represents 10.2% of the state. The Kaskaskia River is approx. 325 miles long and originates in Champaign, Ill and ends at the Mississippi River in Randolph Co.

Since 1995 there has been a growing public engagement in watershed management issues. The public engagement was borne out of a need to protect local interests in disconnected issues and segments of the watershed. Those issues included potential closure of the Lock and Dam at the mouth, a proposed National Wildlife Refuge, water allocation, water quality, recreation, headcutting, erosion (including shoreline erosion) and sedimentation.

Local groups formed throughout the watershed to begin to address their own needs - independently of each other. The C-2000 Ecosystem Partnership helped stimulate the formation of watershed groups. Gradually the various groups in the separate reaches began to get to know each other through various means (Ecosystem Partnership conferences, Agency recommendations, newspaper articles and success stories). A desire to leverage the resources of the separate groups into a more powerful voice for the watershed emerged. To begin that process techniques from the Illinois River basin were used to bring together the multiple groups. An initial watershed summit was held that was a great success and has led to an annual summit for the last 7 years. In addition a watershed showcase is held each year that is rotated through the 4 reaches of the watershed. This too has proven to be very popular and has allowed people from all parts of the watershed get to know about the uniqueness of each reach and to discuss in greater detail the issue of that reach.

As a result the Kaskaskia Watershed Association was formed and meet quarterly to focus on watershed wide issues.

Monitoring

Moderator: Gary Clark

Mr. Clark started his career as a civil engineer with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources in 1974. On July 1, 2003, Mr. Clark was appointed as the Director of the Office of Water Resources. Mr. Clark is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a B.S. Civil Engineering in 1972, and a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1974.

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Bill White is a Professional Scientist in the Center for Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey; a Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and affiliate to the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. Bill currently manages the Survey's Peoria Office and oversees the well known, field-based Stream and Watershed Assessment & Restoration Program. Bill also supervises staff working in analytical laboratories assessing soil and water quality and other environmental conditions. He previously served as Science Advisor to the Director of the Office of Realty & Environmental Planning in IDNR. Bill directed the Science & Planning Section in the Ecosystems Division at IDNR, administered planning and science operations for the Illinois Conservation 2000 Program, and directed programs on watershed, floodplain, and greenways planning. Bill serves many Boards and Committees including: nominated and appointed full member of Sigma Xi (The National Scientific Research Society); the Executive Planning Committee of the Governor's Illinois River Conference and appointed as Co-Chair of the 2009 Governor's Conference; USACE Steering Committee & Study Group member for the Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Project, Board Member of the Heartland Water Resources Council, Faculty of the Environment with The Environmental Council--University of Illinois, appointed Technical Advisor to IDNR's Coastal Zone Management Program, etc.

Senachwine Creek: A Case Study of Watershed Assessment in the Illinois River Basin

The State of Illinois and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are working together with other federal and local organizations to improve natural resources in the Illinois River Basin (ILRB). Their many complementary goals are outlined in the USACE's recently prepared Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan and exemplified by the State's ongoing Illinois 2020 Program. The 58,185-acre Senachwine Creek watershed in western Marshall County and northeastern Peoria County is one of several ILRB watersheds meeting specific criteria and, therefore, has high priority for reconnaissance-level watershed assessment.

The Senachwine Creek Watershed Assessment (SCWA), one of many assessment efforts envisioned for the ILRB, will provide planning information that helps define restoration projects and protect overall ecosystem health. More specifically, the SCWA will document past and current conditions and identify potential needs for naturalizing surface processes and restoring or enhancing sites and landscapes within the watershed. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources funded the SCWA in fulfillment of local cost-share obligations to the Federal government. The State Scientific Surveys are conducting this assessment coordinated by Center for Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey.

Senachwine Creek watershed drains directly into Upper Peoria Lake in Peoria Pool, one of the largest riverine lakes on the Illinois River. The SCWA, an essential reconnaissance study, is a useful planning tool designed to determine locations for more detailed feasibility phase study projects in the watershed. It also outlines design and construction alternatives for priority multi-objective restoration projects and matches potential projects with the appropriate government agencies for further feasibility study and/or implementation. Previously available information and additional new geologic, geomorphologic, and biologic data were analyzed specifically to characterize the watershed and help locate, define, and prioritize potential, new conservation, naturalization, and restoration projects. Decisions to implement projects eventually will be based on established criteria, including preliminary appraisal of Federal, State, and local interest, and possible environmental impacts, potential benefits, and estimated costs of alternatives.

Misganaw Demissie

Illinois River CREP: Sediment and Nutrient Delivery Assessment

The Illinois River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was initiated as a joint federal/state program with the goal of improving water quality and wildlife habitat in the Illinois River basin. Based on long-term data and research, the two main causes of water quality and habitat degradations in the Illinois River were sedimentation and nutrient loads. To address these issues, the two main objectives of the Illinois River CREP are:

1. Reduce the amount of silt and sediment entering the main stem of the Illinois River by 20 percent.
2. Reduce the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen loadings to the Illinois River by 10 percent.

To assess the progress of the program towards meeting the two goals, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) are developing a scientific process for evaluating the effectiveness of the program. The process includes data collection, modeling, and evaluation. The monitoring and data collection component consist of a watershed monitoring program to monitor sediment and nutrient for selected watersheds within the Illinois River basin and also to collect and analyze land use data throughout the river basin. To generate reliable data for small watersheds, IDNR funded the ISWS to initiate a monitoring program that will collect precipitation, hydrologic, sediment, and nutrient data for five selected small watersheds in the Illinois River basin that will assist in making a more accurate assessment of sediment and nutrient delivery to the Illinois River.

The data collected at these monitoring stations and long-term data collected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey will be used in evaluating the trends in sediment and nutrient delivery to the Illinois River. The paper will present the results of the assessment based on available data and the progress on model application.

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Dr. Demissie received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Iowa, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Demissie is a Principal Scientist and Director of the Center for Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign, IL. He is responsible for leading and managing over 60 professional and support staff that are engaged in data collection, research, and public service in the field of watershed science. He has been conducting research in water resources at the Water Survey since 1976. Research he has conducted over the last 30 years include watershed investigations involving design and operation of multi-year data collection programs; ecology of large rivers; streamflow hydraulics; erosion and sediment transport; hydrologic design of impounding reservoirs; lake sediment investigations; hydrology and hydraulics of floods and flooding; hydrology of wetlands; and hydrologic and hydraulic model development and applications. He has published over 150 journal articles, reports, and conference proceedings.

Dr. Demissie is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Geophysical Union, the International Water Resources Association, and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences.

Keith Carr

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Keith is a wetland scientist and geologist working at the Illinois State Geological Survey. His primary duties involve the development, monitoring, and management of large and small wetland mitigation sites being restored or developed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. His formal education was obtained in Canada at the University of Waterloo and the University of Western Ontario, where he studied hydrogeology, hydrology, glaciology and environmental geology. Work experience has been with a consulting firm, Atomic Energy of Canada and more recently with the ISGS as a project manager in environmental site assessments.

Hydrogeologic Monitoring of an Illinois River Floodplain Wetland

In 1999, the Illinois Department of Transportation purchased a 1600 acre site at the confluence of the LaMoine and Illinois Rivers near LaGrange, IL, for the purpose of establishing a wetland bank. The parcel, which had been in primarily agricultural use since the early 1900s, nevertheless required heroic measures to farm it at all, including levees, drainage tile, ditches, and a pump station. Large areas of mapped hydric soil hinted at pre-existing wetland conditions on the site.

Many large wetland restoration sites along the Illinois River have adopted a strategy involving the maintenance of the levee system and the isolation of the site from the main channel of the river. The philosophy employed at the LaGrange site is to restore a large acreage of wetlands while allowing the river to re-occupy its former floodplain with the associated advantages to the overall health of the Illinois River. These include sediment removal, floodwater storage, and backwater habitat for various types of river fauna.

Scientists from the Illinois State Geological Survey were tasked by IDOT to monitor groundwater and surface water dynamics of the site, with the aim of discovering what current water sources for wetlands existed and what past water sources could be re-activated. Successful wetland mitigation sites generally tap several different water sources to supply the wetlands created or restored on site.

This bank site, in its seventh year of development, involves a systematic process of reversing past hydrologic alterations and re-establishing a more native vegetation assemblage, with the final aim of restoring flood plain forest, wet prairie, and marsh habitats while allowing unencumbered exchange of Illinois River waters with the restored backwater habitat.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

Come to see the latest developments in Geographic Information System and other computer-based technologies that you may find helpful in accomplishing your resource management goals. You can get expert advice on acquiring, identifying, and understanding available data, how to turn that data into useful maps and illustrations, and how various data can be combined to answer questions. Advanced users should find excellent networking opportunities.

This workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm and on Thursday, October 3rd from 8:30 am - 11:30 am in Conference Room 1.

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Illinois EPA Source Water Assessment Mapserver

Illinois EPA completed Source Water Assessments for all sources of public drinking water, both groundwater and surface water, in 2001. These assessments consist of the delineation of a Source Water Protection Area for each source of drinking water, an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the area, and a determination of the source's susceptibility to contamination. In addition, Illinois EPA developed a web-based interactive GIS mapserver to supply this information to the public. This site will allow the user to access all the databases and data layers used in the Source Water Assessments, as well as additional information such as pumpage data, land use data, watershed data and aerial photos. The website is secure and requires the user to complete and submit a Confidentiality Agreement to gain access.

Jennifer Carrell

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Jennifer Carrell is a GIS and graphics specialist for the Illinois State Geological Survey. She performs GIS and digital cartography for the surficial geology quadrangle map program. Ms. Carrell has a diverse background in GIS, having previously worked for organizations such as the US Forest Service, NOAA, and a small remote sensing company in Oregon. She holds a B.A. in geology and environmental studies from Cornell College.

Accessing ISGS Imagery and Water-well Data Online

From its National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse Node, the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) serves statewide aerial imagery, topographic data, well logs, and other natural resource data. The information can be used for water resource and protection decisions, energy exploration, aggregate exploration, environmental protection, geologic hazard investigations, and basic scientific research. The interactive display will focus on (a) the water well database and how to map and visualize geologic and aquifer information; (b) modern and historical imagery resources for land use mapping.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

Gary Johnson

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Gary Johnson serves as the Chief of the Hydrologic Data Collection and Analysis Section of the USGS, Illinois Water Science Center in Urbana, IL. As "Data Chief", his current duties include oversight and administration of the entire streamflow gaging station network throughout the State of Illinois, with an annual budget of over $2.4 million dollars.

Gary holds a BS degree in General Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Before becoming Data Chief in 2004, Gary was involved in a variety of surface-water quantity, bathymetric, and surface-water quality projects. Gary was the project chief of the Illinois Sediment Project since 1993, with the responsibility of monitoring sediment loads at several strategic locations in Illinois. He also was project chief of numerous other water-resources projects with an emphasis on sediment, nutrient, and pesticide transport in waterways and lakes. Gary recently was involved in extensive research of water-mixing patterns and water-quality effects from aeration and mixing of lakes. During his 18-year career, Gary has authored or co-authored 24 USGS scientific reports.

Real-time Streamflow

For more than 125 years, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has monitored streamflow across the U.S. The USGS currently collects data from more than 7,400 streamgages, most of which provide real-time data in 15-minute increments on the web (explore this information at: http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/)

The information is routinely used for water supply and management, monitoring and responding to floods and droughts, bridge and road design, and for many recreational activities.

Gary Johnson, Chief of the USGS Hydrologic Data Section in IL, will present an interactive display to show users how to see real-time streamflow data at 180 sites in Illinois and other sites of interest in the Nation. He will also present some exciting graphics applications that help users more easily understand/compare the data.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

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Illinois Rivers Decision Support System

The Illinois River has become a focus of state and federal agencies interested in integrated watershed management. As a result, issues related to habitat restoration, floodplain management, navigation, erosion and sedimentation, and water quality of the Illinois River are being discussed at the watershed scale.

In support of this effort, the Illinois Scientific Surveys have initiated development of the Illinois Rivers Decision Support System (ILRDSS) for use in documenting project activities within the watershed and assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of potential restoration projects and management practices. The ILRDSS will integrate and expand existing databases and numerical models of segments of the Illinois River into an integrated decision support system (DSS) for the entire Illinois River watershed. Specific areas of content currently include the Illinois Streamflow Assessment Model, the Fox River Watershed Investigation site, and Aerial Flyovers of the Illinois River Watershed. Upcoming additions to the ILRDSS will include applications dealing with sediment chemistry and water quality.

Amy Russell is currently the Information and Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Watershed Science with the Illinois State Water Survey. In this capacity, she manages the Surface Water and Floodplain Information Program and coordinates the dissemination of data and information from CWS programs through the web, primarily via the Illinois Rivers Decision Support System (ILRDSS). She has been in this position for nearly two years and has been with the ISWS for nine years. Her research experience includes estimating the impacts of water withdrawals and effluent discharges on flow conditions at streamgages, conducting frequency analysis of flow records, developing regional regression equations for estimating streamflows at ungaged sites, and serving as data manager for several watershed monitoring projects. Ms. Russell holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently a Master of Science candidate in Agricultural Engineering. She is a registered professional engineer in the state of Illinois.

Brad Larson

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Brad Larson works as a Geographic Information Systems/Web specialist at the Illinois State Water Survey. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Botany from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's degree in Geography from Southern Illinois University.

See Brad at the Illinois Rivers Decision Support System Display.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

Matt Williams

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Matt Williams joined the Illinois State Water Survey as a GIS Analyst working on the FEMA Map Modernization Project in October of 2005. He received a B.A. from the University of Kentucky in Anthropology and recently earned his M.A. in Geography with a focus in GIS and Urban Planning from Western Michigan University. His master's thesis focused on sustainable development in forest fire prone areas. During the time between his degrees, he lived a life of adventure exploring America and sampling a wide variety of vocations. Through these experiences he developed an interest in mapping, resource management, and environmental issues which led him to continue his academic education. Matt currently resides in Champaign with his wife and two dogs and likes to spend his time writing, talking about politics, philosophy, and religion, being outdoors, and reading.

ISWS Digital Floodplain Mapping

Today, most flood maps in Illinois are paper maps. These paper floodplain maps, used for regulatory and flood insurance purposes as well as identifying sensitive riparian corridors, are called Flood Insurance Rate maps, or FIRMs. Many of Illinois' FIRMs are outdated, some as much as 20 years, the statewide average age of Illinois FIRM maps is nine years. Congress has allocated significant funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to "modernize" floodplain maps nation wide. The new floodplain maps will be fully digital, using the latest geographic information system (GIS) technology. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources and the State Water Survey have contracted to prepare digitial FIRMs for Illinois. As part of this work the US Army Corps of Engineers, Flow Frequency Study (2004) that provides updated flood elevations for the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers is being incorporated into the mapping. GIS Analyst working on the project will demonstrate the structure of the digital geodatabase that is the core of the Digital FIRMS as well as techniques to incorporate the updated flood study of the Illinois River.

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Mike Mechenich is a 2006 graduate of the University of Minnesota. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography, accompanied by a minor in Geology; his senior thesis involved paleoecological research into fire history in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. While an undergraduate he worked for the University's Water Resources Center and Limnological Research Center, developing an interest in scientific communication, especially cartography, and information design. After graduation he assisted the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's Center for Watershed Science and Education in producing maps for a series of National Park Service water resources reports. Mike joined the State Water Survey February 2007 as a GIS analyst with the Floodplain Mapping Program.

See Mike at the ISWS Digital Floodplain Mapping Display.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

Thomas DAvello

NRCS Soils Data and Mapping Tools

Soils play an important role in land management, watershed planning, hydrologic modeling and conservation planning. We will review the soil survey process and describe digital soil data availability, content, and format. Demonstrations of the Soil Data Mart, Web Soil Survey, SoilView, and Soil Data Viewer will also be presented.

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Tom is a soil scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He was a field soil scientist in Ohio, Florida and Montana, and is currently the Geographic Information Systems specialist for NRCS in Champaign, Illinois.

William Jackson

McLean County GIS Consortium - Internet Mapping

The McLean County Geographic Information System is a cooperative effort of a number of local government agencies with the goal of providing better information while reducing duplication of effort. Through cooperative resource management McLean County GIS has developed a countywide geographic information system to better serve the public and to aid in many local government decision making processes. Recent introduction of internet mapping web site makes data available to the public.

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Mr. Jackson is the GIS Coordinator at the McLean County Regional Planning Commission and is responsible for the overall coordination of the McLean County GIS with participating local government entities. He has been with MCRPC since 2001 and has 15 years of diverse GIS experience. Mr. Jacksons interests in natural resources and the visual arts lead him to pursue a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture (1994) UIUC with an emphasis on land resources. Mr. Jacksons initial exposure to Geographic Information Systems came through course work in Spatial Analysis Methods at UIUC. Between 1992 and 2001 he worked as a Research Associate at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Lab (USACERL) in Champaign where he provided GIS and Remote Sensing support for development of military land management tools and methods.

Evolving Technology You Can Use: A Workshop

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Susan Meeker earned her Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Economics, and her Master's Degree in Agronomy, both from the University of Illinois.

Her position was developed by a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, along with the University of Illinois. Responsibilities include developing comprehensive information and educational programs for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and watershed management.

Watershed Mapping

The Illinois Resource Management Mapping Service Web Site (RMMS) (www.rmms.uiuc.edu/website/rmms/) allows people to create maps of any area in Illinois in a matter of minutes over the Internet. The mapping tool is designed to provides communities and natural resource professionals with the ability to map their natural resources using information available on the Internet

Agency staff can use the RMMS web site to view natural resources, farmers can use the site to view individual fields, and city planners can use the site to review town boundaries and plan future growth. Users can quickly locate, create, print, save, and email maps of large and small areas within Illinois in a few minutes. Numerous map layers from demographic data to resource data may be added to the base map to give a better idea of a specific location's resources and other important attributes. After the base map is selected you can choose resource layers (lakes, river, watershed), administrative layers (townships, legislative, IDNR districts), and economic layers (highways, county roads, railroads). The map engine allows people to buffer points, buffer critical areas, view aerial photographs and tabulate acreages on data features. Users can create maps within watershed, farms, and fields.

Carolyn S. White

Visiting GIS Specialist,
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Ph D, University of Arizona,
MS, Texas A & M University,
BS, Louisiana State University

Dr. White has over 30 years of experience in the analysis and reporting of census, survey, and social-economic data, as well as 15 years of experience using GIS to display essential geographic linkages to such data. Since joining the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) GIS Lab at the University of Illinois, Dr. White has devoted her efforts to coordinating the building of interactive GIS websites to meet the needs of the State's watershed groups and other stakeholders.

See Carolyn at the Watershed Mapping Display.

Bob Frazee

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Bob Frazee works with farmers, elected officials, organizations, and other agencies in addressing issues impacting soil and water conservation, no-till farming systems, streambank erosion, and management of the Illinois River System. He is the recipient of several national conservation awards including the USDA "Superior Service Award", the American Rivers "Going the Extra Mile on the Illinois River", the Izaak Walton League of America's "National Conservation Award" and the International Soil and Water Conservation Society's "Merit Award for Advocating the Conservation of Soil, Water and Natural Resources". Mr. Frazee has served as Chair/Co-Chair for the past ten Governor's Conferences on the Management of the Illinois River System. He holds a B.S. degree in Agronomy from Western Illinois University and a M.S. degree in Agronomy from University of Illinois.

Kim St John

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Kim St John is a Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Coordinator with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Henry, Illinois She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant & Soil Science from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Kim started her career with NRCS as a Student Trainee almost 29 years ago. She was a Student Trainee in the St. Charles and Shelbyville Field Offices, a Soil Conservationist in the Mt. Carroll and Shelbyville Field Offices, and a District Conservationist in the Toulon and Henry Field Offices. For the past sixteen years, she has been the RC&D Coordinator for Prairie Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council serving nine counties in north central Illinois.

As a RC&D Coordinator, she works on a wide variety of projects that focus on natural resource conservation and community development. Her favorite part of being a RC&D Coordinator is helping local people make better places to live, work, and play! As Margaret Mead so eloquently said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Acknowledgements

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