



Watershed News

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Summer 2022

Bloomington & Evergreen Lakes

In 2020 and 2021 the City of Bloomington and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partnered to update and expand upon watershed plans for Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake, both water supply reservoirs for the city and surrounding communities. Partial funding was received from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through their Section 319 program. The process included a detailed lake and watershed inventory and characterization, analysis of water quality data, nutrient and sediment load modeling, public participation, project recommendations to address nutrients and sediment, cost estimates, identification of priority areas, implementation milestones and responsible entities, and a monitoring strategy. This all resulted in a combined and actionable plan for both lakes and is intended to guide future efforts to improve reservoir water quality and facilitate access to a wide array of state and federal grant opportunities.



The 43,248-acre Lake Bloomington and 26,262-acre Evergreen Lake watershed contribute nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to the lakes. Despite substantial efforts over the years, lake water quality impairments continue to exist and pose challenges for water treatment. It is estimated that 1,960,104 pounds of nitrogen, 40,696 pounds of phosphorus and 35,334 tons of sediment enter both lakes each year from a variety of sources including cropland, septic systems, stream, and lake bank erosion, and from within the reservoirs themselves. Nitrogen loading is considered high whereas phosphorus and sediment moderate when compared to other similar watersheds.

A 40% reduction in nitrogen and a 66-82% reduction in phosphorus is needed to meet state water quality lake standards. Reductions in sediment will help to ensure adequate reservoir capacity and a resilient source of drinking water. To achieve these targets, strategic project implementation is needed in the watershed and lakes. The most cost-effective practices for the watershed include cover crops, grass filter strips, reducing tillage, and nutrient management. In and around each lake, wetland restoration and creation are likely the most effective followed by stabilization of a select number of highly eroding shorelines.

By: Jeff Boeckler, NorthWater Consulting

Jeff is an established specialist in water and environmental planning, management, and geospatial analysis. His private sector experience is complemented with nearly a decade working for the state of Illinois DNR and EPA where he earned a reputation as a motivated, reliable and passionate expert that consistently delivered value and results. Mr. Boeckler has extensive background supporting governments, organizations and businesses navigate environmental and water resource challenges and regulations.

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Upcoming Events

Nutrient Stewardship Field Day
7.12.22
Jim Rutherford Golf Outing
8.2.22
Cover Crop Application Deadline
9.1.22



Visit Our Website!

Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship Golf Outing

The Jim Rutherford Scholarship was established by the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist outstanding agricultural students at any Illinois College. The students awarded the scholarship demonstrate superior agricultural academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and innovation. The Jim Rutherford Scholarship is awarded in the fall semester of the academic year. This scholarship fund is made possible by generous donations from local donors. Each year an annual Golf Outing is held to raise the necessary funds. Join McLean County SWCD at the annual Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship Golf Outing, held at Crestwicke Country Club on Tuesday August 2, 2022. Registration begins at 9:00am, with a shotgun start at 9:30am. You can form a foursome with cart for \$330. Additional details and registration can be found at www.mcleancountyswcd.com. Since 2015, we have awarded 17 local students with scholarships amounting to \$8500.



2022 Scholarship Awards

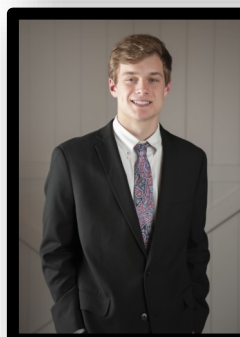
Paige Lemenager, daughter of Luke and Stacy Lemenager, is a Hudson IL native at Normal Community West High School planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics and Juris Doctor Degree in Agricultural Law. Paige is active in many extracurricular and community activities holding many local, state and national officer and leadership roles. She is involved with the Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee, McLean County & Hudson 4-H, Illinois 4-H Ambassador Team, Section 9 & Normal West FFA, Student Council, Promise Council, Business Club, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, the Illinois Junior Beef Association, Illinois Junior Herford Association, Illinois Junior Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association. Brooke Bollmann writes, "The phrase 'Full Package' is what I would use to describe Paige Lemenager. Paige is a shining example of a student who balances a wide range of activities, amazing grades, all with grace, kindness and leadership." Congratulation Paige!



Amelia Rodriguez, daughter of Sam and Gloria Rodriguez, is a Normal IL native at Normal Community High School planning to pursue a Wildlife Biology Degree. Amelia is active in FFA as a member and officer, Archive Club member, and Cultural cooking club member. She volunteers for programs including Ag in the Classroom, Towels for howls, Sugar Grove Nature Center, City of Bloomington, and Parkland Foundation. She is a founding member of the Illinois Agricultural Education Diversity and inclusion committee and serves on the NCHS Agriscience Program mentoring team. Liz Harris, Agriculture teacher at NCHS writes "Amelia is a natural leader both in the classroom and as a member of our Normal FFA chapter". Congratulations Amelia!



Preston Rhode, son of Tyler and Melissa Rhode, is a Carlock IL native at Normal Community West High School planning to pursue an Agri-Business or Animal Science Major. Preston is active in FFA as a member and chapter officer, actively competing on both the FFA Livestock Judging team and local 4-H team. He is an athlete in both football and basketball and National Honor Society member. Preston has served as both a member and officer at the Illinois Junior Simmental Association and member at the Illinois Junior Angus & National Junior Angus Association. Preston Agricultural instructor, Parker Bane writes "Preston Rhode is one of the most accomplished and decorated students I have worked with in 19 years." Congratulations Preston!



Visit www.mcleancountyswcd.com/jimrutherford/ to learn more!

Cover Crop Sign-up

Lake Bloomington/Evergreen Lake Watersheds



The Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake Watershed plan encompasses 69,512 acres and provides a road map to achieve water quality targets and stakeholder goals established under previous plans.

Farmers and landowners within the watersheds have continued to adopt best management practices and improve conservation stewardship resulting in nutrient reductions. Proven data suggests cover crops will play a key role in improved water quality for our local lakes. Still today, only 2% of the tillable acres within the watersheds have cover crops implemented.

In partnership with the City of Bloomington and the McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District funding is available for new cover crop adoption on fields within the Evergreen Lake and Lake Bloomington Watersheds.

- Funding is available in the order received
- Cereal Rye before Soybeans is recommended
- Oats & Radish Mix before Corn is recommended
- New Field Adoption Fall 2022 will be prioritized
- Seed & Application Costs Covered Up to \$55 per acre
- Fields currently enrolled in cover crop incentive and cost-share payment programs are not eligible for funding.

To Apply Call the SWCD office: 309-452-3848 ext 3

Deadline to apply September 1, 2022



McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Normal, IL 61761

www.McLeanCountySWCD.com

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Join Us

Nutrient Stewardship Field Day

T U E S D A Y
JULY 12
9 A.M. – 12 P.M.

RAIN OR SHINE

Explore the latest research and conservation practices to improve nutrient management and protect water quality. Check out new opportunities for your farm and where agriculture fits in Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake protection efforts.



LOCATION:

ISU Research Farm,
25578 ISU Farm Lane,
Lexington, IL 61753

RSVP:

By Friday, July 8th at
mcfb.org or calling
(309) 663-6497

DETAILS:

Registration opens
at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch provided

Brought to you by your local community partners:

