

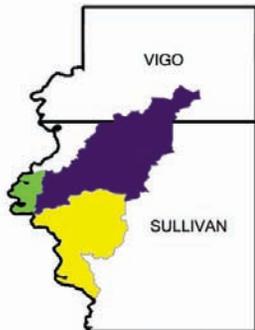


Fall 2014

# TTK NEWSLETTER

## **Special Opportunity: Turtle Creek Reservoir Boat Cruise: October 21!**

Join us for an evening on the lake, courtesy of Bruce Marheine, TTK Advisory Committee member. We will meet at 5:00 for refreshments (courtesy of Hoosier Energy) and plan to depart at 5:30pm. This will allow us to cite shoreline erosion and other resource concerns around the Turtle Creek Reservoir. The pontoon boat can only hold 16 individuals so please RSVP!



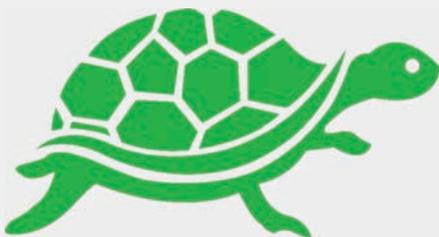
Kevin Orpurt paddles with a group of students during the Sullivan SWCD 14th Annual 8th Grade Wabash River Raft Trip

## **Successful First Year for TTK!**

**The next TTK Advisory Committee meetings will be Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 pm.** Meetings are held at the Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center, south of the Turtle Creek Reservoir; refreshments provided by Hoosier Energy.

*Funded by an IDEM Section 319 Grant*

Beginning in August 2013, the TTK 319 Planning and Implementation grant has recorded a productive first year. Major milestones include forming a robust Advisory Committee, creating and executing a water monitoring program on 30 sites throughout the TTK watershed, soliciting and acquiring committed project partners, compiling a growing list of eligible producers interested in a variety of BMPs (best management practices), and submitting an application for additional 319 funding to follow the current TTK 319 grant. The TTK Watershed Management Plan is under development at this time. It is expected to be finished during the winter 2014/2015, with cost-share opportunities to begin in early 2015.



### **Quotes and Quips**

*"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."*

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."*

- Albert Camus



White corn growing in Vigo County

# Check us out!

<http://watershed-alliance.org>

Twitter: @WCIWA

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/100018070@N07/>

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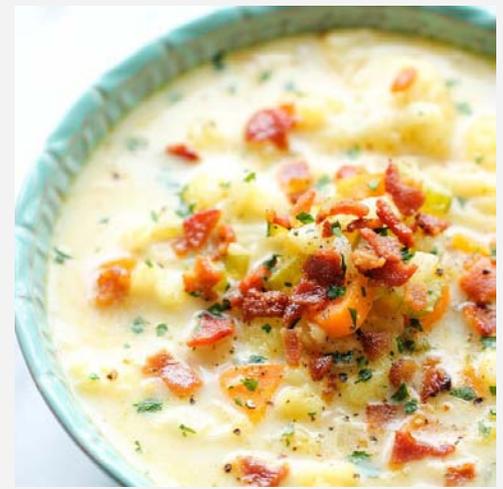
Damselfly nymph found during TTK monitoring (Cont.)

tributaries as impaired for E.Coli and Biotic Communities. If these impairments are any indicator of the overall water quality in the region, it would be reasonable to assume that there is a great need for conservation practices, BMPs, and education.

Data collected so far has provided valuable insights into stream health, with E.Coli loads being notably high. Though not uncommon in Indiana, E.Coli levels on several sites routinely exceed EPA's target for healthy levels in recreational water, which can result in an "impaired" classification.

E.Coli, a bacteria found in the lower intestines of warm-blooded organisms, is normally harmless, but certain pathogenic strains can make people sick. Conservation practices that can reduce E.Coli would include: nutrient management plans for farmland (especially with the use of manure as fertilizer), maintaining septic tanks so that they function properly, prohibiting livestock from having unlimited access to streams, and cleaning up after pets, etc.

To some degree, wildlife can be a contributing factor to elevated E.Coli levels. Please contact the WCIWA with your water quality questions any time!



Cauliflower Chowder

## Upcoming Area Events

**Oct 18 - Southern Indiana Outdoor Festival 8:30-5:00 Sullivan Co. Fairgrounds**

**Oct. 21 - TTK Turtle Creek Reservoir Boat Tour - meet at 5:00pm, please RSVP**

**Oct. 30 - WCIWA Invasive Species Workshop, 10:00-3:00, Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center**

**Nov. 18 - TTK Advisory Committee meeting, Hoosier Energy Env. Ed. Center 6:30 pm**

## TTK Monitoring Update: About E.Coli...

To date, the TTK water monitoring program has logged six months of data on 30 sites throughout the Turman Creek, Turtle Creek, and Kelley Bayou watersheds. Portions of funding for this testing have come from the IDEM 319 grant, along with donations from Hoosier Energy and The Nature Conservancy.

This collected data will be used during the process of writing the TTK Watershed Management Plan, a requirement before cost-share activities can take place. This water monitoring study is not affiliated with any sort of enforcement effort. Information reflects pollutant loads from 'nonpoint sources': i.e. untraceable sources. The findings of this water monitoring study will be shared with the public via the West Central Indiana Watershed Alliance's website next year.

To date, there has been no comprehensive study of the streams in the TTK watershed, though some isolated IDEM tests have led to the classification of portions of Turman Creek and several

## Seasonal Recipe

A creamy, low-carb, cozy soup for chilly fall days. Serves 6.

### Cauliflower Chowder

#### Ingredients

- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 1 head cauliflower, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

#### Instructions

1. Cook bacon in skillet, 6-8 min until crispy. Transfer to paper towel.
2. Melt butter in large pot over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 3-4 minutes. Stir in cauliflower and bay leaf. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes more.
3. Whisk in flour until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Gradually whisk in chicken broth and milk, and cook, whisking constantly, until slightly thickened, 3-4 minutes.
4. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until cauliflower is tender, 12-15 minutes; add salt and pepper, to taste. If chowder is too thick, add more milk as needed until desired consistency is reached.
5. Serve garnished with bacon and parsley

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