



Extension Snapshot

Pond Management Workshop Draws 130 Attendees near Morton

Raindrops could not stifle the enthusiasm of more than 130 people who attended the recent Pond Management Seminar at Ossami Lake Beach in Morton, Illinois.



Presentations included "Pond Ecology and Pond Construction" by Duane Friend, University of Illinois Extension educator. Friend's presentation focused on seasonal changes in oxygen levels and the impact on fish.

Matt Montgomery, University of Illinois Extension educator, presented "Nitrogen and Phosphorus" and shared ways these elements relate to pond management.

"The IEPA Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program" was the topic of Greg Ratliff's presentation. Ratliff is with the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency, and he shared ways for attendees to become involved with water quality monitoring in residential small lakes and ponds.

Wayne Herndon of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources presented "Pond Management and Aquatic Vegetation". Herndon talked about fish biology and aquatic vegetation and gave people tips about how the fish population can signal pond/lake issues. He also looked at aquatic weed samples to assist with management strategies.

Over a dozen booths were open, and additional activities included a children's activity center with IEPA microscopes to show "invisible things" that lurk in a pond. Many attendees brought bagged aquatic weed samples for identification.

The event was sponsored by Ossami Lake Homeowners Association, University of Illinois Extension Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

For more information about the Agriculture and Natural Resources programs in the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Extension unit, please contact Matt Montgomery, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources at mpmontgo@illinois.edu or 309-547-3711.



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