

Biographic Summary



Jerry Sweeten
9130 North 600 East
Denver, Indiana 46926

Phone 260.901.0561
Email: jesweeten@ecosystemsconnections.com

Jerry is a Limnologist with a specialty in stream and lake restoration. He graduated from Manchester College with a BS Degree in Biology and Environmental Studies followed by a Masters Degree in Natural Resources from Ball State University and Indiana University, and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. From 2004-2018 Jerry was Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies at Manchester University and was awarded Emeritus status in 2018. During his tenure, the Environmental Studies Program grew from six students in 2004 to over 50 by 2018. Students were engaged in ecological research across the Eel River watershed. This research included: nonpoint source pollution, removal of low-head dams, construction of a prototype fish passageway around the Stockdale Mill Dam, augmentation of a state endangered fish (Redside Dace), reintroduction of a federally endangered mussel (clubshell), and multiple fish research initiatives. Jerry along with his wife Melinda also led numerous travel courses to the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska and Andros Island, Bahamas.

After retirement in 2018, Jerry, Melinda, and Herb Manifold founded Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC. The company is engaged in helping communities with ecological restoration of streams and lakes across Indiana. ECI Mission: *To provide professional environmental consulting and research services where education, research, demonstration, and ecological restoration merge through conservation partnerships.* www.ecosystemsconnections.com/

Achievement or recognition: Professor of the year, Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, Indiana Distinguished Citizen, Environmental Stewardship Award: Manchester University, Distinguished Alumni Award, Ball State University, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Outstanding Research, Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and national recognition of Eel River ecological restoration initiatives. Most recently, Jerry published an essay, "Restoration of the Eel River of Northern Indiana: A Journey of Reconciliation with Nature" in the book, "Indiana Waterways: The Art of Conservation", 2023.