



## **Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*

*Contact: Lori Lasowski*

*Phone: (219) 395-5300*

### **Director of Fun for Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy Helps to Organize a Water Quality Monitoring Program for Estonia**

Chesterton, IN – Northwest Indiana residents have found a field of opportunity in the former republic of the Soviet Union in recent years. Now a Chesterton volunteer trainer has helped another of the Baltic republics in launching its own environmental program.

Katie Rizer's title, executive director of fun for the Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy, Inc., emphasizes her role as coordinator of recreational and educational activities for the 167-acre preserve in the development of the Lake Erie Land Company. But her experience in marshalling her group of professional and volunteer experts took her to Estonia this summer with a team of government officials and scientists.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has been working with these countries to establish water quality monitoring programs. Since the last Soviet troops left nine years ago, the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation has set up joint social, economic and scientific programs on Lake Peipsi which it shares with Russia.

US EPA Chicago Region Director, Tom Davenport, invited Rizer to join the agency-funded team of instructors after hearing her speak at a water resources conference in Michigan. He thought what was being done at Coffee Creek was a good model for what can happen in Estonia.

As the specialist in volunteer training, Rizer was a key member of the group that worked with Peipsi project manager Peeter Unt, who said that volunteer monitoring, long popular in the United States, is a new phenomenon in Eastern Europe.

For more information about Coffee Creek Center, please visit its website at [www.coffeecreekcenter.com](http://www.coffeecreekcenter.com).