

November 15, 2002

Greetings Fellow Conservationists!

I thought it would be useful to pass along some pertinent information-

Update on Monitoring procedure:

The phosphate test, as you may recall has 2 versions: Total phosphate and Orthophosphate. Total phosphate includes all forms, that usable by organisms (ortho) and that bound to soil and other particles. We had been doing the orthophosphate test because it doesn't involve heating the samples. However, the Q value chart is designed for use with the total phosphate test. Therefore, using the orthophosphate test numbers with the total phosphate Q chart isn't exactly a valid number. This inconsistency does affect our total number for chemical water quality rating. Because it means we're really doing a total of five instead of six tests. We're supposed to do at least six of the eight tests to get an overall rating for the chemical water quality index.

Anyway Sarah Hippensteel from the Conservancy District is going to get together with me to do the total phosphate test, so I can procure the supplies (propane backpack stove) and get more familiar with the procedure. I'll let you all know when we're planning to do that so you can participate if able/interested.

The Riparian Area:

There was some confusion about the meaning of part IV a) on the CQHEI (width of riparian area). The wording is a bit confusing as to whether they're getting at the density of vegetation or the physical width of the riparian area. If you could somehow throw a rock through the vegetation (no matter the density of it - cursed honeysuckle!!), then could you do it if it was say, 200 feet wide or 1000 feet wide? Hope that clarifies the matter.

Mini Grant Awarded

We got \$100 from ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation - Yaaaay! Actually the check will be in the mail next month (or so I'm told). All just for posting our Site #6 data on the Year of Clean Water web site and doing a press release. I'm going to take the money and go to Hawaii - Hah. No, I'm really going to go over to Dick's sporting goods and get another pair or two of hip waders in larger sizes for use with the kit.

Site Monitorings completed

Denny Gorman and Bill Thrush - Site #1, November 12th
Larry Bell - Site # 8 October 26th
Half the group (you know who you are!) - Site #6, October 24th.

New Bug Found

Larry is the proud discoverer of a critter not on our ID sheets...The Soldierfly Larvae. I will add specimen vials to the kit for such future possibilities. Special thanks to Larry for developing an extremely neat database in MS Excel for entering data from our monitoring sites! It will eventually become part of the MSWCD web site.

Development Opportunities

Being a Soil and Water District employee, there is an endless supply of meetings to attend - as such there is a State wide meeting in January in Columbus that has some cool seminar offerings that you might find helpful as a Stream Team Volunteer. Specifically, there is one titled Watershed Plan Implementation. Actually, our monitoring program is part of the Wolf Creek Watershed Project. If you want to know more, just contact me.

Also, there is another grant opportunity from Wal-Mart called the Good Neighbor Grant. It's \$500-\$700 for apparently filling out a fairly simple application pertaining to environmental education activities. Let me know if any of you would like to help me by looking into this. We could use the money to purchase a second kit.

A third Stream Monitoring Workshop is tentatively planned for March 2003. Let me know if you know anyone who might be interested in signing up.

That's all for now...Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

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