

Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Awards

In 2002, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources implemented a Stream Monitoring Awards Program to recognize exemplary work in volunteer stream monitoring in Wisconsin. Individuals and groups are recognized for their efforts leading to increased participation in stream monitoring, collecting stream data, and sharing their knowledge of stream monitoring.

This awards program is designed to promote the awareness of and participation in volunteer stream monitoring work in Wisconsin. Winners will receive an engraved plaque. Winners and nominees will receive a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

There are 5 categories in which those who support volunteer stream monitoring can be acknowledged:

- Adult Volunteer- recognizing an individual over age 18 at the time of service
- Student Volunteer (s)- recognizing an individual or group of students (outside of classroom activities) age 18 or younger at the time of service
- Group Effort- recognizing a group of monitors working within a monitoring network, watershed organization, citizens group or other collaboration
- Teacher or Classroom- recognizing the efforts of an individual teacher and his/her classroom OR the collaborative efforts of multiple teachers and/or classrooms
- Employee- recognizing an individual who contributes leadership to volunteer stream monitoring as a part of his/her job duties

Previous winners may be nominated again, however, in nomination materials include only work done since winning the award.

To nominate an individual or a group (self-nominations accepted) compile and submit the following:

- ▶ Nomination statement (described below)
- ▶ One letter of support from someone other than the nominator or the nominee.
- ▶ Supporting information (e.g., news articles, educational materials developed, listing of other awards the nominee has received for their efforts). Please submit no more than 4 documents. (Optional)

Winners of the Stream Monitoring Awards will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Investment of substantial time in stream monitoring efforts (min. 2 monitoring seasons)
- Participation in a diverse range of stream/water quality-related activities
- Support of stream stewardship (e.g., buffers, greenways)
- A record of sharing skills and information about water quality with others
- A commitment to developing relationships and partnerships in stream monitoring efforts
- A record of how the nominee's work has benefited Wisconsin streams or rivers

Nomination Statements should include the following information:

- Name, address, email address, and phone number of nominator
- Name, address, email address, phone number, county, and stream, river or watershed monitored of individual or group being nominated
- Category (i.e., adult volunteer, student volunteer, group effort, teacher or classroom, or employee)
- A description of how the nominee's achievements meet award criteria listed above (2 page limit)

Nominations must be submitted by January 1, 2007 to Kyle Zenz, UW-Extension Basin Educator, 227 South 11th Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Award recipients will be announced by February 1, 2007. Awards will be presented at either a statewide River's Conference (if one happens) or a venue convenient for the winners.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Kyle Zenz (kyle.zenz@ces.uwex.edu) at 715-284-1183 or Kris Stepenuck (kris.stepenuck@ces.uwex.edu) at 608-265-3887.