

Winter 2007-8

## Stream Monitoring Award Nominations Due Feb. 1

Recognize an adult, student, teacher, employee, or group in your area for outstanding efforts in volunteer stream monitoring. Visit the WAV website for nomination information at: <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/awards/about.html>



## All Volunteers Can Soon Enter Monitoring Data Online

Hopefully many of you are familiar with WAV's online database which is accessible at: <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/database.html>

It's your way of accessing the data you and other volunteers have collected since the program's inception in 1997. You can view the data that have been collected, graph site results over time or compare results between sites.

The database has been accessible online since 2002. Most volunteers send their data to a local data entry coordinator, who then enters their data to the database. This offers an opportunity for those local coordinators to double check the data results being submitted by volunteers, but can mean a lot of time spent entering others' data into the online database. Plus, volunteers have had to provide their data to their coordinator which meant sending an e-mail, a letter, or otherwise connecting with their coordinator. All of these steps are added time commitments for a volunteer (and their coordinator).

To help streamline the process of data entry to the online database and to make the information readily available to others, the WAV online database has been updated to allow individual volunteers to enter their own data to the system. The data will then go into a temporary storage area until the local coordinator can visit the site and check the data that were entered. Once they approve the information, it will be available for others to view in the database.

The database has been updated in other ways as well. Here's a quick list of some of the other updates that have been made to it:

- All habitat assessment data can be recorded, not just the final habitat score
- Data searching options have been reorganized and streamlined
- Family level Biotic Index, conductivity, and E. coli bacteria monitoring results can be entered
- Automated password reminders are available

## Training to Use Updated WAV Database

The best way for everyone to register and to learn how to use the new WAV online database is to get hands on training. To do this, we'll be offering one hour training sessions January 24 and 28. For those who cannot make one of these live training sessions, one will be archived and available on our new project website (<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/index.html>).

What's unique about these live trainings is that we will use computer labs across the state as meeting locations. Then we'll join together to "meet" as a group via the phone. Each participant or two will have their own computer to use during the training.

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The initial training dates are (more will be offered following spring training for new volunteers):

**Thursday, January 24, 2008:**

7-8 PM Volunteer Training  
8-9 PM Coordinator Training

**Monday, January 28, 2008:**

12-1 PM Volunteer Training  
1-2 PM Coordinator Training

You only need to attend **one** training.  
Locations are:

- Ashland (site TBD; 1/28 ONLY)
- Eau Claire (UWEC; both dates)
- Madison (UW-Madison, Pyle Center; both dates)
- Manitowoc (WI Maritime Museum; both dates)
- Stevens Point (UWSP; 1/24 ONLY)
- Superior (UWS; 1/28 ONLY)
- Waukesha (County Offices; both dates)
- Viroqua (Viroqua Technical College; 1/24 ONLY)

To register for this free training, please go to:

<http://uwex.edu/ics/wlwreg/wlwwelcome.cfm>

Once at the website, look to the right where there is a link to "Sign up here!" for an account. Choose this link and fill in your contact information. Then click on the "sign up" button. A screen indicating your account has been successfully added will appear. Then choose to search for programs. Pick "Environmental Resources Ctr" from the list of organizations currently offering events. Pick which date you will attend the WAV Online Database Training. Please indicate in which city you will attend the training in the "Names of additional attendees at my site" box. This will allow us to send you appropriate directions and to ensure we have enough computers/space available at each site. Finally, click the "Register for this event" button at the bottom.

If you are unable to attend at one of these locations, contact Kris Stepenuck to make other arrangements.

If you do not have computer access or prefer not to enter your own data to the online database, there's no reason to worry! Your local data coordinator can continue to enter data for you.



## Marsh Monitoring: Amphibians, Birds, and Water Quality

The Citizen-based Water Monitoring Network (of which WAV is a part) is exploring new areas, specifically, marshes! We've teamed up with Bird Studies Canada to bring their Marsh Monitoring Program to Wisconsin.

We are seeking interested individuals to participate in this monitoring effort in the Superior area. Anyone with an interest can participate in the water quality and amphibian monitoring. Training will be provided to learn the monitoring methods. We are also seeking individuals to conduct bird monitoring, and although training will be provided, a solid background in recognizing bird calls is necessary to participate in this type of monitoring. Contact Kris Stepenuck for more information or to sign up. More details about this project will be available soon at:

<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/index.html>

## Ephemeral Pond Monitoring

Another new monitoring project is underway in southeastern Wisconsin. It's a partnership between WDNR, UW-Extension and nature centers. It is funded through a WI Coastal Zone Management grant. The purpose of this volunteer-based project is to train citizens to identify, inventory, and monitor the ecology of ephemeral ponds. Ephemeral ponds are ponds that are present only a portion of the year, drying up later in the summer but available as habitat for a variety of amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and wildlife during spring and early summer. The objective of the project is to collect data that will lead to a better understanding of the location and ecology of Wisconsin's ephemeral pond habitats.

To learn more about the project, visit:

<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/Wlephemeral.htm>