



Sharing Information Through Internet Exchanges

University of Rhode Island

University of Wisconsin



A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Across the country, volunteer monitoring programs have been active since the 1970's, developing a wealth of experience and expertise. The USEPA and USDA's Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES) through this volunteer monitoring project have created portals for sharing that expertise through internet list servers. The USEPA's Volmonitor and CSREES' VolMon list servers connect volunteer water monitoring programs nationwide by serving as internet forums for questions, announcements, and discussions on topics of interest to the volunteer monitoring community. The USEPA's list server is open to primarily volunteer monitoring program coordinators, regardless of the ecosystem monitored, or its institutional basis. The CSREES list server includes CSREES affiliated monitoring program coordinators as well as CSREES state water quality coordinators and others affiliated with CSREES, but others with an interest in volunteer monitoring are welcome.

'CLEAN OUT YOUR EMAIL BOXES'

These list servers allow a tremendous amount of valuable information to be shared, much of which is timeless in terms of its relevance. In order to ensure that the results of these interactions are not lost, a selected archive of postings from these list servers and occasionally others, have been maintained on the CSREES volunteer monitoring project's website (www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/Special/EPAListserv/index.html.) The archive provides a repository of edited (for brevity and clarity) exchanges, allowing list server participants to clean out their email boxes without losing useful information. It offers answers to frequently asked questions for those who may be new to volunteer monitoring, helping in getting their programs going. The archive is also helpful to those new to the list servers to get a sense of past discussions and helps reduce redundant questions. Arranged by topical area (listed on the back) and updated regularly, this archive is a valuable reference for the volunteer monitoring community. It supplements the extensive resources, including a factsheet-based guide, devoted to supporting volunteer monitoring programs found at the National Facilitation Volunteer Monitoring project found at www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer.

JOINING THE USEPA AND CSREES LIST SERVERS

To subscribe to the USEPA Volmonitor list server:

Send a blank email to volmonitor-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Once you have been accepted, you will receive a welcome message with instructions on using the list server. This will confirm your membership.

To join the CSREES VolMon list server:

Request enrollment at <http://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/csreesvolmon>.

Complete the form, and the list moderator will respond to your request.

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TOPICS ARCHIVED TO DATE (more added regularly)

- Analytical Labs for Fish Tissue Analysis
- Age of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Programs
- Ammonia Monitoring
- Aquatic Plant Identification Guides
- California Watershed Assessment Manual
- Chemical Safety and Procedures
- Creating a Volunteer Monitoring Program
- Cutting Costs and Services Without Reducing Support
- Data Presentation Suggestions for Visual/Habitat Surveys
- Data Sharing Policies
- Data Storage and Retrieval / Management
- Documenting Site Location
- DPI and Digital Photos
- Invasives Monitoring Funding (CEM listserv)
- Enterococci Monitoring
- First Flush and Storm Event Monitoring
- Flow Measurement
- Flow Meters
- Flow Monitoring
- Getting Volunteers to Turn in Their Data
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Hach DR 2500 vs. colorimeter
- Hydrocarbon Monitoring
- Job Description examples for volunteers
- Insurance for Volunteers
- Macroinvertebrate Image Sources
- Macroinvertebrate Preservative
- Macroinvertebrate Sampling in Small Streams
- New Monitoring Program Development Advice
- Nitrogen Testing Kits and Probes
- Online Data Entry by Volunteers
- Quality Assurance Project Plan templates
- Relating Biological Metrics to Stressors
- Reproducing *Volunteer Monitor* newsletter articles
- Road salt accumulation studies
- Secchi Discs
- Service Provider Network
- *Silent Streams*, an article from the Washington Post Nov. 27, 2005, by Mary Battiata
- Spanish Macroinvertebrate Identification Key
- Stream Debris Survey Protocols
- STORET and Volunteer Monitoring
- Test Kit Waste Management
- Total Dissolved Solids meters
- Uses of Volunteer Monitoring Data
- Values of Long Term Monitoring
- Volunteer Data Usage in 305(b) Reports and 303(d) Lists
- Volunteer Data - The Bad Side
- Volunteer Monitoring Trends
- Volunteer vs. Professional Monitoring Studies (summarized)
- Volunteer Wage Rates
- Water Quality Test Kits

Many of these topics are explored in detail in the factsheet-based *Guide to Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs* found at the National Facilitation project's website at www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/GuideForGrowing/index.html.



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