



THE IOWA CITIZEN MONITOR



VOLUME 3:3

Summer 2002

Get Published: Year of Clean Water 2002!

Jacklyn Gautsch, Interim IOWATER Coordinator

October 18, 2002, will mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act. To celebrate, the IOWATER program wants to bring together our volunteers statewide. We hope that all Certified Level One Citizen Monitors will go out to their regular monitoring sites and monitor on that day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Then, before October 25, submit your data to the IOWATER Web site. We will use data submitted for that week to write a special "snapshot" report which will be later posted on the Web site. Remember – in order to submit data to the database your site has to be registered beforehand. This usually takes a week, so plan ahead.

America's Clean Water Foundation is also encouraging volunteer monitors across the nation to monitor on October 18. To participate in their program, any level of expertise, methods or equipment are welcome. This means you can monitor even if you aren't a Certified Level One Citizen Monitor. Register your site any time before October 18 by going to www.yearofcleanwater.org and click on the "National Monitoring Day Information" link. Then, on October 18, monitor

your site and report your results online at www.yearofcleanwater.org.

All data will appear live on the Web during that day, and soon thereafter America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) will publish their own snapshot report. Be a part of something big!



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The Secret of Your Success

Brian Soenen, IOWATER Natural Resources Interpreter

IOWATER has just put out an APB for monitor success stories. Have you (or someone you know) made a wave of difference in Iowa? A ripple? A tsunami? Whatever the size, whatever the difference, we want to know about it! Have you influenced local government? Educated your community? Overcome personal struggles? Made a difference in a child's life? Successes come in many ways, shapes and forms. Success stories not only help to give credibility to the program, but they also provide motivation for IOWATER monitors, IOWATER staff and, perhaps, people farther up the line. Please share with us your success stories so that everyone can see, without a doubt, we are truly making "waves of difference" across Iowa.

IOWATER itself is just a program; it provides the framework for you, the citizen monitors, to collect and report credible, reliable data that will be used to help Iowa assess the quality of its water. Without you, IOWATER would cease to exist. You are the ones who make the program a success. For that, we owe you a gigantic, well-deserved THANK YOU!



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Goodbye, Rich!

Some of you may have heard, but in case you haven't, Rich Leopold has resigned his position as IOWATER coordinator, effective July 6th, 2002. Jacklyn Gautsch will serve as interim coordinator until a decision regarding a permanent replacement can be made.

The staff of IOWATER wishes Rich good luck in his future endeavors.



IOWATER Action!



Monitors in the Water

Here are some examples of IOWATER in the news, events, and/or press releases involving IOWATER monitors:

- **Audubon/Polk County** – Thanks to John Creswell for getting the word out about IOWATER.
- **Bremer County** – Thanks to the Bremer County Conservation Board for conducting an IOWATER program at the North Woods County Park in June.
- **Cass County** – Thanks to Farm Bureau for their sponsorship and support of the Anita FFA, and the Anita FFA for their commitment to environmental excellence through water-quality monitoring.
- **Clinton County** – Thanks to Jerald Gnade and Steve Streets for their work with the Mineral Creek Water Quality Project, and improving water quality through conservation practices on their farms.
- **Crawford County** – Thanks to Keith Weller for his support of IOWATER and grassroots programs involving the local farming community.
- **Greene County** – Thanks to Sheila Hebenstreit for her work monitoring the Raccoon River and its tributaries, and teaching local citizens about conservation practices and their impact on water quality.
- **Hamilton County** – Thanks to the Squaw Creek Watershed Council for their continued efforts in recruiting new members and educating the public about their efforts.
- **Scott County** – Thanks to the MANY volunteers who participated in the “snapshot” sampling on May 21, including the sponsors of the event: Curtis Lundy and the Partners for Scott County Watersheds, the Nahant Marsh Field Station, and local governments of Bettendorf, Davenport and Scott County.
- **Tama County** – Thanks to the staff at the Otter Creek Nature Center for hosting a public informational meeting about IOWATER.
- **Wright County** – Thanks to Sean McCoy and the Wright County Volunteer Water Monitoring Project for tackling tough issues such as agricultural drainage wells, nutrient and pest management practices, manure handling and application practices and rural septic systems, all in the name of cleaner water.

E-Copy, Anyone?



If you didn't get signed up to receive the Summer 2002 newsletter via e-mail, don't fret! You can still get your "IOWATER E-Copy," an electronic copy of the IOWATER quarterly newsletter. The same great newsletter that you get in your mailbox four times per year, in your e-mail inbox instead! If you would like to go "paperless," just send an e-mail to Jacklyn Gautsch at jacklyn.gautsch@dnr.state.ia.us with the subject line reading "E-Copy." Please include the e-mail address where you would like your newsletter sent. We must receive your request by September 15 for you to receive the Fall 2002 newsletter electronically.



Cooperative Sampling: Scott County Volunteers Make it Happen!

Curtis Lundy, 2001 IOWATER Volunteer of the Year



History. Planning for the first snapshot sample of Scott County watersheds began in September of 2001, eight months prior to the event. At our semi-annual local IOWATER StreamKeepers meeting, Heidi Carr, Duck Creek coordinator for the Soil & Water Conservation District, and Jennifer Anderson, Nahant Marsh education coordinator, mentioned their involvement in a snapshot sampling event in the Cedar River watershed. Intrigued, a number of us decided to meet in October to determine if we also wished to organize one.

We met once a month beginning in October. Our group was a loose-knit assemblage of teachers, governmental staff and interested individuals who had worked on IOWATER and other projects together. Soon, Lynette Seigley of IOWATER was also involved. Oftentimes we left meetings frustrated that progress was slow and the future was unclear. We assigned responsibilities and expected results. Individuals performed and we gathered steam. Near the end of preparation, we focused on media coverage. We brainstormed to determine what our media outlets were, assigned responsibilities, sent general announcements, and followed up with personal calls.



Partnership. Locally, we worked with cities, schools, the water pollution control facility, the Nahant Marsh program and Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District. Additionally, these groups teamed with state resources: principally, IOWATER and the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab (UHL). IOWATER supplied the organizational

experience, the field forms and much of the testing equipment. UHL evaluated *E. coli* and pesticide samples. As part of the partnership theme, some key decisions were made:

- The group decided to focus on **Scott County watersheds** rather than a single watershed. Our purpose was to put the area's watersheds on the map of community awareness. Rural streams feed city streams, and most of Bettendorf's streams flow from Davenport. We needed a bigger scope to attract the interest of the entire community.
- **Davenport, Bettendorf and Scott County elected officials and staff** were pulled into the process. Ultimately, Davenport Public Works hosted the event, even offering free burgers and brats to the volunteers. Public works directors for Davenport and Bettendorf participated in the sampling as well. We decided the sample day would take place during Davenport Public Works Week, enabling 20 city employees to participate. It also allowed enough time to educate them about water quality and sampling techniques the day before the sampling.
- It was important that Davenport Water Pollution Control (WPC) personnel became involved. They performed our IOWATER sample methods in conjunction with the 33 samples they normally take.



Results. How did the day go? A total of 60 participants (including four city and county council members) met at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21 at the Davenport Public Works facility for orientation. Equipment was organized, and teams of four to five people were formed.

Each team conducted sampling at four locations and returned to headquarters by 11:30 a.m. At all locations, standard IOWATER parameters were monitored, including nitrite/nitrate, pH, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, chloride and temperature. In addition, water samples were taken for bacterial testing (*E. coli*). Select pesticide sampling was also performed.

Eighty-one chemical/physical samples were taken. In addition, 70 local students and their teachers took 10 different samples for benthic macroinvertebrates.

Upon return to Davenport Public Works, volunteers were served lunch and had the opportunity to view a stream table. Several speakers discussed state watershed programs and stream dynamics. As a result of our earlier efforts, television, radio and newspaper were onsite to cover the event.

Samples for this first snapshot are still being evaluated and results compiled. We plan to report the results to all the groups involved and also the media. All in all, the event was a success. Sometimes it is up to us – the volunteers – to make water quality a priority, both locally and statewide.

Scott County's snapshot sampling group met on June 6th to evaluate the first snapshot sample of Scott County streams and to plan its next snapshot sample. The group has planned to perform snapshot samples twice a year: once during high-water conditions (April/May) and once during low-water conditions (Sept./Oct.). If you live or work in Scott County and would like to be involved in future samplings, or if you belong to a

watershed group and would like to pick someone's brain about setting up your own snapshot sampling, contact Curtis Lundy at (563) 359-5411 or ClundyFISH@aol.com.

You Can Get Involved in Snapshot Sampling!

Whitebreast Creek Watershed



When: Sept. 7, 2002, 8 a.m. – Noon

Where: Clarke, Lucas Marion, and Warren Counties, meeting location TBA – Lacona, Woodburn and Knoxville

Plan to collect data on phosphate, nitrate, transparency, and limited biological parameters. Lunch will be provided to all participants.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Angela Biggs at (515) 961-5264 or angela.biggs@ia.usda.gov.

Sponsors: Marion Watershed Group, Whitebreast Watershed Association, Clarke SWCD, Lucas SWCD, Marion SWCD, Warren SWCD and IOWATER.

This project is supported in part by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, through funds of the Watershed Protection Fund and, by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act). Technical assistance is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Teachers: You're Pre-Approved for Credit through IOWATER!

When taken in conjunction with an IOWATER Level 1 workshop, those participating in the new Secondary Educators' Module will be able to receive the credit you deserve! Please bear with us, as the terms may seem a little confusing. There are two ways you can receive credit.



credit. IOWATER will attempt offer credit through every AEA in which workshops are held, however it is up to the AEA to decide whether or not they choose to accept the proposal.

Here's what you need to do:

- **Graduate Credit through Drake University.** To receive this credit you may attend **any** IOWATER Level 1 workshop in the state as well as **any** IOWATER Secondary Educators' Module. Registration paperwork for these credits will be available at the workshop you attend first. In order to receive credit you must attend both trainings within the same season. Cost is \$90 for 1 credit hour.
 - **Graduate Credit OR Staff Development/Relicensure Credit through local AEA's.** One thing that makes uniformity across the state difficult is that each Area Education Agency (AEA) handles course credit differently. Since credit must be given through the AEA in which the IOWATER Secondary Educators' Module is being held, it is the location of those modules that will determine the availability of course
1. First and foremost, contact IOWATER (Brian Soenen) at (515) 281-6640 or **brian.soenen@dnr.state.ia.us**. **It is very important that you do this!**
 2. Select which Secondary Educators' Module you would like to attend.
 3. Register for IOWATER Secondary Educators' Module.
 4. Register for an IOWATER Level 1 Workshop. (*If you have already taken a Level 1 workshop, see Step 1.*)
 5. If you are getting your credit through Drake, you will need only to contact IOWATER. If you opt for credit through your AEA, contact the appropriate AEA and register for the courses through them as well as with IOWATER. **You must register through IOWATER AND your local AEA, but register with IOWATER first.** Prices for credits may vary between AEA's.

IOWATER Remaining Secondary Educators' Modules

Sept 14	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kennedy Park, Fort Dodge (AEA 5)
Sept 21	7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fossil and Prairie Center, Rockford (AEA 2)
*NEW! Oct 5	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Heartland AEA (11)/Woodside Branch Office, Ankeny

To register, simply download the registration form from **www.iowater.net** or contact Brian Soenen at **brian.soenen@dnr.state.ia.us** or (515) 281-6640.

2nd Annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Conference

November 22-23, 2002 at the Airport Holiday Inn

Des Moines, Iowa



Join us again, to:

- Celebrate and recognize the achievements of IOWATER and the DNR Keepers of the Land volunteers.
- Network with natural resources volunteers and professionals from across Iowa.
- Gather ideas and learn about various programs and projects.
- Become an advocate for Iowa's natural resources.

Friday

Check-in, booth set-up and munchies (4-6 p.m.) – Enjoy the cuisine of the Airport Holiday Inn while mingling with volunteers and professionals from across the state.

Evening Keynote: The Power of One – How can just one person make a difference? Hosted by Chad Pegracke, nationally recognized organizer of the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project.

“You Were There” - Enjoy a unique Iowa living history reenactment.

Networking and Booth Tours – Catch up with old friends, make new connections and tour the booths for volunteer ideas.

Saturday

Check-in, breakfast, networking, poster displays (8 – 9 a.m.)

Concurrent Sessions A, B, C and D

(These sessions will run simultaneously. You will be able to choose one session to attend.)

A. Anatomy of a Stream: “Snapshot” Sampling of Iowa’s Waterways – What can more than 80 volunteers accomplish in one day on one stream or county? Find out how local watershed groups have organized and completed “snapshot” samplings, what they found, and how you can do the same!

B. Iowa Waterways: Urban vs. Rural Impacts – Iowa streams are affected by several factors, whether it be from our cities or our farms. Join us for a no-nonsense look at what the professionals are finding.

C. Plant a Prairie, Build a Wetland, Leave a Legacy: Real-Life Examples – If you’ve ever thought of trying your hand at creating or reestablishing a prairie, restoring a wetland, or replanting a forest, this is the workshop for you. We’ll showcase the success stories of restorations on private and public lands, the available technical support, and how you can make it happen on your land.

D. Just Do It: Turning Good Intentions into Action – Join nationally recognized organizer and speaker Chad Pegracke and learn how he was able to turn his personal passion into a high profile, action-oriented volunteer organization.

Concurrent Sessions E, F, G and H

(These sessions will run simultaneously. You will be able to choose one session to attend.)

E. Wild Things Make Your Heart Sing: Wildlife Diversity Volunteer Opportunities – Come learn how you can help bring back and protect Iowa’s intriguing wildlife. Learn about frog and toad surveys, bluebird restoration projects, the reintroduction programs of swans, osprey, prairie chickens, eagles – and more – and how can help.

F. Mastering Your Universe: How to Become a Master Conservationist, Master Gardener, Master Woodland Manager or Community Tree Steward – Explore opportunities through Iowa Extension Services to master the skills you need to help improve our environment.

G. Connecting the Dots: IOWATER Data – IOWATER volunteers have been sampling for three years now. What kind of results are they turning up, and how does the data compare to that of the professionals?

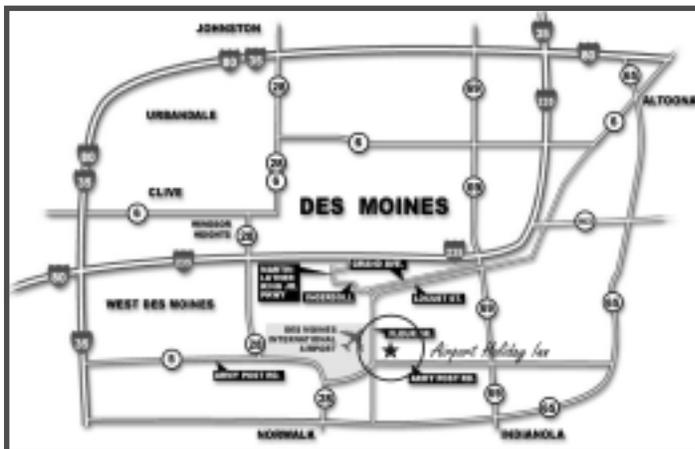
H. Breaking it Down: IOWATER Rap – IOWATER volunteers get the opportunity to voice their concerns and offer suggestions while IOWATER staff provides updates on the current direction of the program.

Lunch and Presentation: The Iowa State Parks Civilian Conservation Corps Oral History Project – Many of us have cherished memories of reunions in the lodges and shelters of our Iowa State Parks, and remember wandering the trails with the beautiful timber and stone bridges. Come hear the stories and see the pictures of this important legacy we still enjoy.

Volunteer Awards – Join us in recognizing the outstanding IOWATER and DNR volunteers, and the staff who work with them.

Session I. Speaking Up for Iowa’s Natural Resources: The Power of Many – We invite all conference attendees to participate in an interactive, dynamic workshop on how all of us who volunteer and work with Iowa’s natural resources can make a difference in program funding, conservation policy and public support.

Closing Remarks (4 p.m.)



For priority lodging at the Airport Holiday Inn, call 1-800-248-4013 and ask for a room in the “Volunteers in Natural Resources” block of rooms. The conference room rate is \$67 for single occupancy and \$77 for double occupancy. **Rooms are guaranteed at this rate until November 1, 2001. If you are a government employee, please inform the hotel when you are making your reservation and they will give you the state rate.**

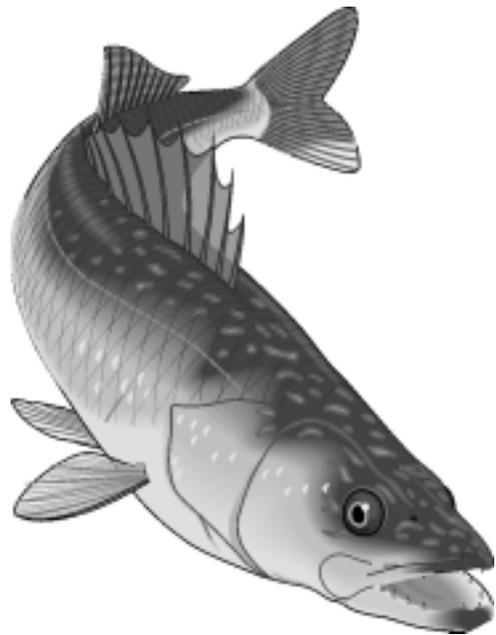
Parking is free, and the hotel offers a free shuttle to downtown Des Moines.

For additional information on the Airport Holiday Inn, visit their Web site at www.sixcontinentshotels.com/holiday-inn?_franchisee=DSMAP. If you wish to make other room arrangements, contact the Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-451-2625 or info@desmoinescvb.com.

A complete conference itinerary with more detailed session descriptions, a map, and directions to the hotel will be mailed to you with your confirmation letter. **Expect to receive your confirmation no earlier than October 1. For more conference information, please contact Stefanie Forret at (515) 281-3150 or stefanie.forret@dnr.state.ia.us.**

Movin' On Up!

It's early next year! *The Third Annual Water Monitoring Conference: An Update on Iowa's Ambient Water Monitoring Program* has been tentatively scheduled for February 20-21 in Ames. See what's new with professional water monitoring in Iowa. Mark your calendars, and expect to see more information in the fall newsletter!



The Secret of the River (from www.riverofwords.org)

Running through the meadows,
While the wind blows in my hair.
I hurry to the river.
There is a secret there.
As I near the rushing waters,
I hear the cooing doves.
I sit beside my river,
and watch the clouds above.
On the mountains in the distance,
The pine trees touch the sky.



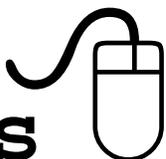
I listen to my river,
and let the world go by.
The secret of the river
Is peace and joy and rest.
Gazing at the heavens,
I know that I am blessed.



Joanna Laine Isaacs, Age 12
Covenant School (Home School)
Boone, North Carolina

www.iowater.net

Net Notes



Lynette Seigley, Research Geologist

What sites have data? Several of you have commented that it would be useful to know which sites have data without opening each site log. Thanks to Bill Bunker, you now have that ability. Select "View Data Online," and then choose a county or watershed. A list of sites in your selected county/watershed will appear. On the right side will be the number of biological, chemical/physical, habitat, and photo records submitted for each site.

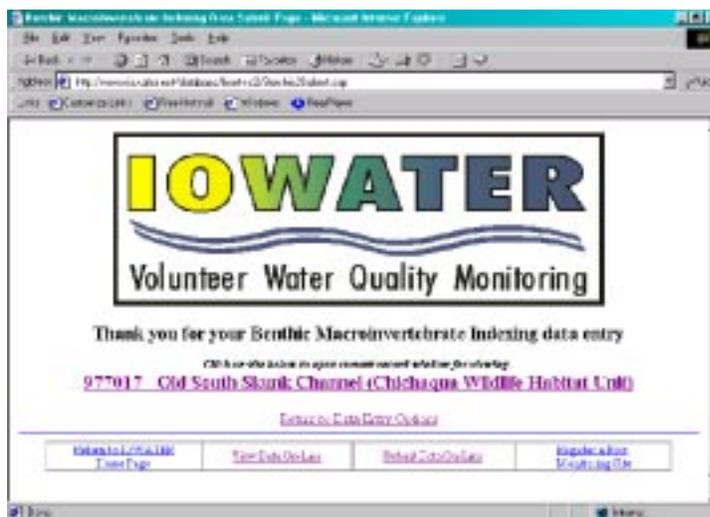
Data Submission. Remember, use Internet Explorer **version 5.01 or 6.0 only** to submit data to the IOWATER database. Internet Explorer can be downloaded from the following site: www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/download/ie501sp2.htm. **Avoid using version 5.5 of Internet Explorer.** If you are a Netscape user and want to submit data, you need to download Internet Explorer 5.01 or 6.0 **OR** if you have Windows 98 or NT2000 on your computer:

- 1) Double-click the "My Computer" icon on your desktop. If you do not have this icon displayed on your desktop you can also right-click on the Start button, select "Explore," and click once on "My Computer" at the top of the folder list displayed on the left-hand side of the dialog box.
- 2) If you do not have an "Address Bar" visible, Select View → Toolbars → Address Bar.
- 3) Type www.iowater.net into the Address Bar. This will get you into Internet Explorer.

To view data in the IOWATER database, you can use both Internet Explorer and Netscape.

Was I successful in uploading data to the database? Several people have commented that they had entered their data into the database but it did not appear. There's an easy way to check.

- 1) First, make sure you are using Internet Explorer to submit your data.
- 2) After confirming your data on the Confirmation page, hit "Final Submit." At that time the following page should appear. If this page does not appear, your data did not get uploaded (contact Lynette for further instructions). Click on the site number and site name to view your data.



Attention Level 2 Monitors! If you are entering chloride data, be sure that you enter the chloride concentration (Cl⁻) rather than the Quantab Unit or percent NaCl. If your chloride concentration is less than the minimum Quantab Unit, report your value as < (i.e. "less than") the minimum chloride concentration listed on your test strip vial.

If you have questions, need help using the IOWATER database, or have forgotten your IOWATER monitor ID or password, contact Lynette or Jackie. As always, we welcome any suggestions or comments you have for improving the database.

Meet the IOWATER Intern

Jennifer Ender, IOWATER Intern



My name is Jennifer Ender and I am from Wabasha, Minnesota. As a child I have always been interested in science. You can always find me watching the Discovery Channel. I am fascinated with sharks and other marine life. Someday, I hope to relocate to the coast and realize my dream of working with sharks.

I currently attend Saint Mary's University of Minnesota where my major area of study is environmental biology. As part of my major, I have an option to do an internship; this summer, as you know, I chose to work with the IOWATER program.

What fascinated me about IOWATER is that it is citizen-based. I am a sixteen-year member of the Girl Scouts. I have performed many hours of volunteer work, and I thought it was great the way IOWATER assists citizens in their own water-quality monitoring endeavors, in an effort to improve the quality of the state's water resources.

My duties this summer include working on the field testing of IOWATER monitoring methods versus professional laboratory analysis, GPSing, and assisting with the Level One workshops.

I work under the supervision of Jacklyn Gautsch, and have learned a lot so far from her and the many other people I have been working with. My internship has been a great experience so far and I think it will help further my education in the biology field. I have enjoyed working with IOWATER.

The staff of IOWATER would like to wish Jennifer good luck after graduation. We've had a great summer working with you!

Attention Benthic Fanatics

Jacklyn Gautsch, IOWATER Field Coordinator



Important news! For those of you sampling benthic macroinvertebrates using Level Two methods, we recommend that you spend 90 minutes to sample your stream reach. However, it is very important that you reduce your monitoring to **only 30 minutes for all High Quality Resource Streams**. Just as with the Level One procedures, benthics should not be sampled more than three times a year. It is also important to divide your sampling time equally between the different habitats found in your stream reach. If you monitor a High Quality Resource Stream, please be advised of these changes.



To find out if you are working on a High Quality Research Stream, visit www.iowater.net. Click on "IOWATER Online Database," then "View Map of IOWATER Sites." Once the map comes up, use the magnifying glass to zoom in to your site. On the "Layers" column (right-hand side of screen) choose the "Designated Stream Uses" option, both visible and active. Then click "Refresh Map." Use the "Identify" icon on the left-hand side of the screen to click on the stream you want information about. View the information in the spreadsheet that appears below the map.



Iowa Geology is an annual publication which began in 1976. It provides non-technical articles on current survey projects, important aspects of the state's geology, and geological subjects of public interest. How does the topography of northeast Iowa affect water quality? What are the latest concerns about groundwater? What is a Keokuk Geode? If you'd like to check out past issues or peruse the latest one (2001, where you can find out exactly what a Keokuk geode is), visit the Iowa Geological Survey's Web site at www.igsb.iowa.edu. Click on "Publications" and from the drop-down box, search for "Iowa Geology." Happy reading!

Read More About It!

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2002 IOWATER AWARD NOMINATION FORM

This year, IOWATER will again host an awards banquet for our outstanding volunteers. The awards were developed to honor and recognize the commitment, service and labor that hundreds of monitors across the state contribute to IOWATER and its mission. The awards banquet will take place during the 2nd Annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Conference, Nov. 22-23, 2002, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines.

Recipients of awards will be our guests at the conference (excluding travel and lodging fees, if any). Recipients of the two group awards (Classroom of the Year and Volunteer Organization of the Year) will be allowed two free conference registrations each. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented or sent to each nominee who does not receive an award.

To nominate your favorite IOWATER volunteer or group, please complete the following form.

The deadline for submission is October 15, 2002.

Please return to: Jacklyn Gautsch,
IOWATER – 5th floor
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Nominee: _____
First Name/Group Name *Last Name*

Address: _____ City, State, ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _() _____ FAX: _() _____

E-mail: _____

Check award category:

- IOWATER Volunteer of the Year IOWATER Professional of the Year
 IOWATER Classroom of the Year IOWATER Volunteer Organization of the Year

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____ City, State, ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _() _____ FAX: _() _____

E-mail: _____

On the back of this form, please describe the nominee's exceptional achievement or contribution to IOWATER and the improvement of water quality in Iowa. Be sure to include the following: 1) length of service with IOWATER, 2) approximate hours contributed to water quality activities, 3) special projects the nominee has worked on, and 4) number of volunteers involved if nominee is a group or involved in a project. Please type or print; you may attach **one** additional sheet if necessary.