

Wanna' clean up a river?

"Brave the weather,  
Muscle out the trash,  
Set an example for others..."

...and let the good times roll!



Join us!

Volunteer for a day, the entire week,  
or anytime in between.

## Volunteer River Cleanup on the Raccoon River June 16-23, 2007

Registrations  
must be postmarked  
by June 1, 2007  
to avoid a \$10 late fee

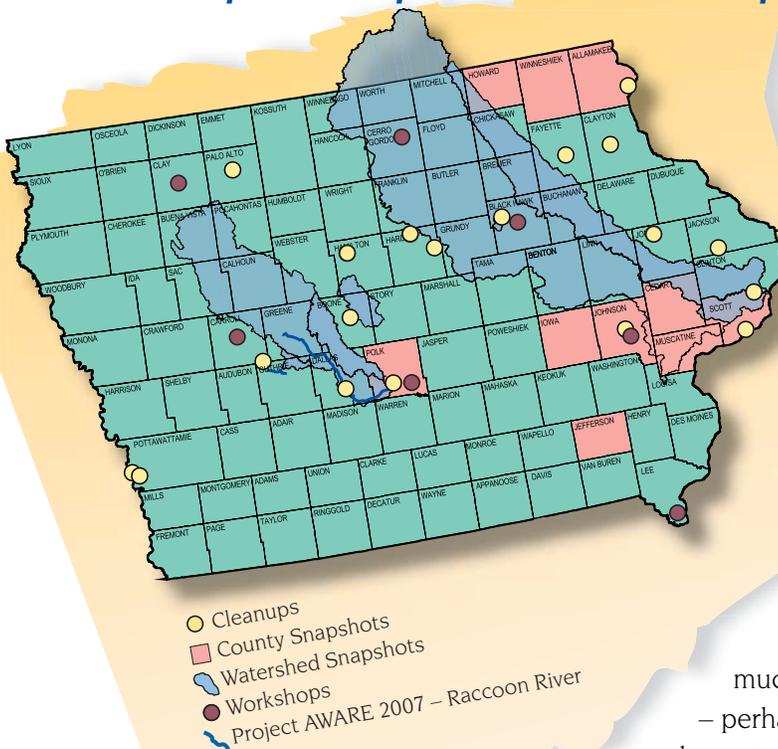
- Weeklong, 110-mile river cleanup on the Middle and North Raccoon Rivers
- Paddle 10-21 river miles per day, loading your boat with trash as you go
- Limited number of canoes available on a first-come, first-served basis
- Daily educational programs & water quality monitoring
- Catered meals (registration fee = cost of meals)
- Camping areas provided each night

For more information, contact:  
Brian Soenen (515) 205-8587  
Brian.Soenen@dnr.state.ia.us  
www.iowaprojectaware.com

# IOWA WATER

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

**More Volunteer Opportunities than ever before.**  
**Cleanups...Snapshots...Workshops...Sign up now!**



"Think Spring!" seems to be the choice phrase this time of year. As the days become longer, the temperatures warmer, and the outdoors greener, we tend to hold our heads higher, open our eyes wider, and smile a bit bigger. Something about spring puts a little extra spring in our step...but what is that "something?"

According to eBay, you can find **it** in their online auction house. I looked, but unfortunately I couldn't find **it** there.

What is **it**? Perhaps **it** is something much more abstract than physical objects – perhaps **it** is the promise of a new year and the potential for opportunity.

If you've been singing the cabin fever blues all winter long and are looking for a remedy, perhaps you can find **it** in this newsletter. Workshops, snapshot sampling events, and river cleanups are scheduled throughout Iowa this coming year, the locations of which are identified on the map, and the details of which are located in the *Upcoming Events* section of this newsletter. These opportunities might be "just what the doctor ordered" to wipe away those winter blues.

So if you're looking for a little extra something to put a little more spring in your step, and are having trouble identifying what **it** is, please consider taking advantage of some of the opportunities in your area. Your **it** may be just a few page turns away...

**Dates and locations for all upcoming events and workshops are listed on pages 6-7.**

## ...from IOWATER's Coordinator

*I just do what I can* – Six words, six syllables, and a meager 15 letters; doesn't sound too significant, does it? Yet, this simple phrase is oftentimes the humble response I get from many of you who volunteer to protect and improve Iowa's natural resources, so I'd like to take a few moments to wax philosophic about it...

*I just do what I can* – I wish more people in Iowa had this attitude, and thanks to you, I believe many more will. You see, while you might downplay your volunteer contributions with this simple phrase, there are others out there who see what you do, who revere what you do, and who are inspired by what you do. You doing what you can inspires others to do the same.

*I just do what I can* – Over the past five years, I have had the honor of working for you via the IOWATER program. To be honest, this job – just like any job – isn't always easy. Thankfully, however, I'm fortunate enough to work for you. Your doing what you can is an incredible inspiration for me to do everything I possibly can to help you. It's not what I do that helps protect and improve Iowa's water quality – it's what *you* do...

*I just do what I can* – It's a simple, yet powerful phrase. Just like this one – *thank you*.

*Brian Soenen*

## Hi IOWATER volunteers

I am Lisa Fascher, the newest IOWATER staff member. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. Growing up in eastern Iowa, I developed a strong love for the Hawkeyes. This led me to the University of Iowa, where I found I was more interested in "playing outside" than being stuck in a laboratory. So, I started studying environmental science. After graduating from Iowa, I headed to the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University where I earned my Master's degree in Environmental Science and Water Resources in 2005. While at Indiana University, I had a great opportunity to coordinate the Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring program and work with the Indiana Clean Lakes Program. I truly enjoyed the excitement and efforts of volunteers. Prior to coming to DNR, I got some great hands-on experience working for the University Hygienic Lab as a limnologist. I am very excited to work with all of you in the IOWATER program. **See you soon!**



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**109 Trowbridge Hall**  
**Iowa City, IA 52242-1319**

**Brian Soenen, IOWATER Coordinator**  
brian.soenen@dnr.state.ia.us phone: (515) 205-8587

**Jackie Gautsch, Natural Resource Biologist**  
jackie.gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov phone: (319) 335-1761

**Brandon Harland, Natural Resource Biologist**  
brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us phone: (515) 281-3150

**Lynette Seigley, Research Geologist**  
lynette.seigley@dnr.iowa.gov phone: (319) 335-1598

**Lisa Fascher, Research Geologist**  
lisa.fascher@dnr.iowa.gov phone: (319) 530-5111

# IOWATER 2006 Award Recipients

**Classroom of the Year**  
Laura Cady and the North Cedar  
Middle School 6th Grade Biology Class

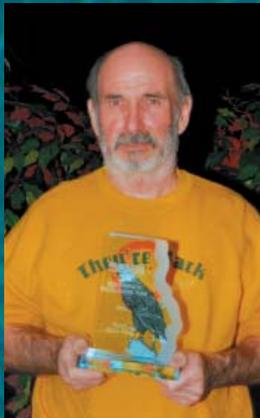
**Volunteer of the Year**  
Rick Dietz



**Professional of the Year**  
Steve Witmer



**Event of the Year**  
Clean Rivers Team



Shown here: Don Propst,  
founder of the  
Clean Rivers Team

**Watershed Group of the Year**  
North Raccoon  
Watershed Association



Shown here left to right:  
Jim Riggs, Mike Delaney, and Larry Wilson

# Volunteer viewpoints

... in their own words.



## Iowa City students benefit from mini-grant funds

by Lore Baur



The South East Junior High ECHO club made good use of the boots and gloves that they received from an IOWATER mini-grant. Around 20 students participated in several events over the past year. They began by helping with the Clear Creek snapshot in October of 2005. They learned about the increase in bacteria and the effort to understand the source of the bacteria.

The students assisted in the macroinvertebrate survey on Muddy Creek in November. Lynette Seigley described an increase in bacteria and how the type and number of macroinvertebrates would help people understand the effects of the decrease in water quality.

The students assisted in the macroinvertebrate survey on Muddy Creek in

In the spring and fall of 2006, they helped in the effort to clean up Ralston Creek. Since the creek runs through the neighborhoods of Iowa City it is filled with unwanted items. Students pulled out tires, bikes, furniture, shopping carts, and a cash register. Armed with shovels and saws, they cleared away tree limbs to reduce flooding. They all emerged hot, muddy, and scratched, but with a feeling of satisfaction – at least the creek looked better, even if the water quality was poor.

In the spring of 2006, the students helped with the Snapshot on Snyder Creek. The tests showed an increase in phosphates below new residential and commercial development. The students were delighted to help with a project that would hopefully take care of the phosphates – the planting of a wetland! James Martin from the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District worked with the students and the Curran family, who own the farmland south of Iowa City. We all met on a beautiful Saturday morning to plug 800 native plants on three acres, then returned in the winter to broadcast seeds on an additional two acres – hopefully the heavy snow this winter will aid the seeds in germination this spring!

In the summer of 2006, four students with adult chaperones joined the Project Aware effort to clean up the Iowa River. What a sight to see 50 canoes grooming the banks of a river! The canoes were so full of metal, tires, and trash, the water lapped the top of them as they arrived in Hills to unload. We had two days of hard work on the Iowa and English rivers, and were so impressed with the incredible organization of the event! It was hard work, but everybody felt like they made an effort to help keep our rivers beautiful.



## Mini-grants assist Grant Wood AEA students by Christopher Soldat



Grant Wood Area Education Agency's (GWAEA) Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) project has been supported by the IOWATER Mini-grant program, which helped purchase water monitoring equipment for field investigations and fund a Student Showcase of Learning. Two water quality monitoring kits, including TI graphing calculators with electronic probes, were purchased for teachers to do side-by-side monitoring with IOWATER equipment. The student showcase brought together teachers and lead students from school districts in GWAEA to share their field investigations and results in a scientific conference.



During the showcase, participants collected samples from the Iowa River, studied Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and learned to use hydrological tools. They then conducted their own scientific inquiry, posing questions and using just-learned techniques to gather data. The day concluded with students presenting what they had just learned. The feedback from participating teachers at the showcase was well received, and it was suggested that students and their teachers attend an IOWATER Level I Workshop together. During the fall of 2005, nearly 70 teachers and students did just that. It was the first time that this type of combined training has occurred.

The E2T2 program is designed to integrate technology and science education to support work with students. In this project, teachers and students have the opportunity to work in inclusive collaborative networks designed to integrate water quality monitoring, spatial thinking, and technology into their districts' standards-based curriculum. The collaborative link between the school's curriculum and IOWATER provides students the opportunity to experience science investigations in the field.

Since the fall of 2004, school districts have partnered with GWAEA science consultants to integrate Global Positioning System (GPS) and GIS technology into their secondary school science classrooms. The goals for teachers are to become competent users of hardware and software, and to use these technology tools to enhance their current curriculum, which ultimately provides students with the opportunity to use these tools to enhance their scientific inquiry abilities and understandings. The collaborative nature of the program

led to these area schools integrating Science as Inquiry investigation through water quality monitoring.

IOWATER has provided the relevant content and set the context for the data teachers and students collect to analyze, interpret, and use to formulate explanations. The technology is used in a manner designed to enhance the student's opportunity to learn the abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry, develop the fundamental understandings about scientific inquiry, and deepen their conceptual understanding of important science topics.

led to these area schools integrating Science as Inquiry investigation through water quality monitoring.

We'd like to hear from you, so **send us a note...** about your IOWATER activities, thoughts, and ideas **...in your own words.**

# Upcoming events

... cleanups, snapshots, & more.



**April 14** (Sat); Carter Lake Cleanup  
Contact: Jeanne Eibes (712) 347-6455  
[carterlake@hotmail.com](mailto:carterlake@hotmail.com)

**April 14** (Sat); Big Rock Volga River Cleanup  
Contact: Katherine McCarville (563) 425-5233,  
[mccarvillek@uiu.edu](mailto:mccarvillek@uiu.edu)

**April 18** (Wed); Upper Mosquito Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Renae Nicholson (712) 755-2417  
[Renae.Nicholson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:Renae.Nicholson@ia.usda.gov)

**April 21** (Sat); Pool 9 Cleanup Day. Mississippi River. Contact: John Verdon (563) 538-4836,  
[pjvriverrhouse@earthlink.net](mailto:pjvriverrhouse@earthlink.net) or Tim Loose (563) 873-3423,  
[tim\\_loose@fws.gov](mailto:tim_loose@fws.gov)

**April 23** (Mon); Muddy Creek Watershed Coalition Cleanup Day. Contact: Sherri Proud (319) 248-1750,  
[sproud@ci.coralville.ia.us](mailto:sproud@ci.coralville.ia.us)

**April 24** (Tues); Cedar County Snapshot  
Contact: Dave Meyer, [rockcrk@netins.net](mailto:rockcrk@netins.net)

**April 28** (Sat); Beaver Creek Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Steve Witmer (515) 727-7765  
[switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us)

**May 1** (Tues); Muscatine County Snapshot  
Contact: Ellen Myers (563) 263-8933  
[emyers@ci.muscatine.ia.us](mailto:emyers@ci.muscatine.ia.us)

**May 5** (Sat); Jefferson County Snapshot  
Contact: Jack Eastman (641) 451-0208  
[jacktoni@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jacktoni@iowatelecom.net)

**May 8** (Tues); Scott County Snapshot  
Contact: Patty Copeland (563) 344-4084  
[pcopeland@bettendorf.org](mailto:pcopeland@bettendorf.org)

**May 12** (Sat); Johnson and Iowa County Snapshot  
Contact: Dave Ratliff (319) 354-1397  
[oldmancreek@qwest.net](mailto:oldmancreek@qwest.net)

**May 12** (Sat); Squaw Creek Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Ashley Wendt, [wendta@iastate.edu](mailto:wendta@iastate.edu)

**May 12** (Sat); Dry Run Creek Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Rebecca Kauten (319) 296-3262  
[rkauten@earthlink.net](mailto:rkauten@earthlink.net)

**May 12** (Sat); IOWATER Spring Statewide Snapshot  
Contact: Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598  
[Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov)

**May 19** (Sat); Wapsipinicon River Watershed Snapshot  
Dana Dettmer (641) 330-7105, [danadettmer@hotmail.com](mailto:danadettmer@hotmail.com),  
Tammy Turner (319) 882-4742, [bremewr@butler-bremer.com](mailto:bremewr@butler-bremer.com),  
Jeff West (563) 320-3893, [jwest3@aol.com](mailto:jwest3@aol.com), or  
Vicki Wilson, [mvw@jtt.net](mailto:mvw@jtt.net) If you've never participated in  
this event, contact: Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598,  
[Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov)

**May 19, 26** (Sat); Riverbend Middle School's Iowa River Cleanup. Contact: Karen Koenig (641) 648-6430,  
[kkoenig@iowa-falls.k12.ia.us](mailto:kkoenig@iowa-falls.k12.ia.us)

**May 23** (Wed); Polk County Snapshot  
Contact: Susan Heathcote (515) 244-1194 ext. 12  
[heathcote@iaenvironment.org](mailto:heathcote@iaenvironment.org)

**June 2** (Sat); Cedar River Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Roy Hesemann, [roy@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:roy@cedar-rapids.org)

**June 10 or 17** (Sun); Minding the Maquoketa. Maquoketa River Cleanup. Contact: Ann Burns (563) 652-3783,  
[amburns29@jacksonccb.com](mailto:amburns29@jacksonccb.com)

**June 16** (Sat); Middle Raccoon River Cleanup  
Contact: Mark River (712) 792-4616  
[mark@carrollcountyconservation.com](mailto:mark@carrollcountyconservation.com)

**June 16-23** (Sat-Sat); Project AWARE – Volunteer River Cleanup on the Raccoon River. Contact: Brian Soenen (515) 205-8587, [brian.soenen@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:brian.soenen@dnr.state.ia.us) or  
Luke Wright (319) 930-0125, [luke.wright@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:luke.wright@dnr.state.ia.us)

**June 30** (Sat); West Fork Des Moines River Cleanup  
Contact: Miriam Patton (712) 837-4866  
[paccb@ruthventel.com](mailto:paccb@ruthventel.com)

**July 13** (Fri); Cedar River Cleanup. Cedar Falls  
Contact: Mark Miller (319) 266-5653, [markm@cfu.net](mailto:markm@cfu.net)

**July 14** (Sat); Adel Paddlefest Expo  
Contact: Mike Delaney, [medelaney54@aol.com](mailto:medelaney54@aol.com)

**July 14** (Sat); Dry Run Creek Watershed Snapshot  
Contact: Rebecca Kauten (319) 296-3262  
[rkauten@earthlink.net](mailto:rkauten@earthlink.net)

**July 14** (Sat); IOWATER Summer Statewide Snapshot  
 Contact: Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598  
[Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov)

**Aug 18** (Sat); Turkey River Cleanup  
 Contact: Clayton County Conservation  
[www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org) for details

**July 14** (Sat); Johnson and Iowa County Snapshot  
 Contact: Dave Ratliff (319) 354-1397, [oldmanscreek@qwest.net](mailto:oldmanscreek@qwest.net)

**Aug 18** (Sat); XStream Cleanup. Quad Cities  
[www.xstreamcleanup.org](http://www.xstreamcleanup.org) for details

**July 21** (Sat); N. Raccoon River Watershed Snapshot  
 Contact: Steve Witmer (515) 727-7765  
[switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us)

**Aug 24-26** (Fri-Sun); Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup  
 Wapsipinicon River. Contact: Melisa Petersen (309) 737-9016, [coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org](mailto:coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org)

**Aug 4** (Sat); Coldwater Snapshot. Contact: Steve Veysey  
 (515) 294-5805, [sveysey@iastate.edu](mailto:sveysey@iastate.edu)

**Sep 22** (Sat); Dragon River Romp Cleanup  
 Boone River. Contact: Lois Powers (515) 433-0591,  
[kbc@boonelandfill.org](mailto:kbc@boonelandfill.org)

**Aug 11** (Sat); Boone River Cleanup. Contact: Brian  
 Stroner (515) 832-9147, [envsafe@wmtel.net](mailto:envsafe@wmtel.net) or David  
 Brown (515) 832-9597 [browndn@iastate.edu](mailto:browndn@iastate.edu)

**Sep 22** (Sat); Back to the River, Inc. Cleanup  
 Missouri River. Contact: Gayle Malmquist  
 (712) 328-4631, [qmalmquist@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:qmalmquist@councilbluffs-ia.gov)

**Aug 11** (Sat); Keeping Our Rivers Clean Project  
 Maquoketa River. Contact: Michele Olson  
 (563) 487-3541, [naturalist@co.jones.ia.us](mailto:naturalist@co.jones.ia.us)

**Oct 13** (Sat); IOWATER Fall Statewide Snapshot  
 Contact: Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598  
[Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov)

**Aug 18** (Sat); 6th Annual River Run Garbage Grab  
 Des Moines River. Contact: Robin Fortney  
 (515) 277-1763, [rbfortney@midamerican.com](mailto:rbfortney@midamerican.com) or  
 John Wenck (515) 274-5660, [wencks@netins.net](mailto:wencks@netins.net)

**TBA**; Iowa River Cleanup. Contact: Lisa Hein  
 (515) 288-1846, [lhein@inhf.org](mailto:lhein@inhf.org)

## IOWATER 2007 Level I Workshop Schedule

Date & Time	Location	Contact	Phone	E-mail
April 20 (5-9 PM) April 21 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Hawkeye Comm. College	<b>Black Hawk Co.</b>	Rebecca L. Kauten 2950 Southland Dr. Waterloo, IA 50701	(319) 296-3262	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.Kauten@ia.usda.gov">Rebecca.Kauten@ia.usda.gov</a>
May 11 (5-9 PM) May 12 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Graham Park Shelter House	<b>Carroll Co.</b>	Mark Licht 1240 Heires Ave., Suite D Carroll, IA 51401	(712) 792-2364	<a href="mailto:lichtma@iastate.edu">lichtma@iastate.edu</a>
June 8 (5-9 PM) June 9 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Southeastern Iowa Community College	<b>Lee Co.</b>	Mike Sallee 335 Messenger Rd. Keokuk, IA 52632	(319) 524-3221 ext. 1991	<a href="mailto:jimsallee@scc Iowa.edu">jimsallee@scc Iowa.edu</a>
July 13 (5-9 PM) July 14 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Metro Park East Landfill	<b>Polk Co.</b>	Mary Gillaspay 300 E. Locust, Suite 100 Des Moines, IA 50309-1864	(515) 323-6505	<a href="mailto:mgi@mwatoday.com">mgi@mwatoday.com</a>
July 27 (5-9 PM) July 28 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Lime Creek Nature Center	<b>Cerro Gordo Co.</b>	Todd Vonehwegen 3501 Lime Creek Rd. Mason City, IA 50401	(641) 423-5309	<a href="mailto:tvonehw@co.cerro-gordo.ia.us">tvonehw@co.cerro-gordo.ia.us</a>
Aug 10 (5-9 PM) Aug 11 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Oneota Park	<b>Clay Co.</b>	Jacklyn Gautsch 109 Trowbridge Hall Iowa City, IA 52242-1319	(319) 335-1761	<a href="mailto:jackie.gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov">jackie.gautsch@dnr.iowa.gov</a>
Aug 24 (5-9 PM) Aug 25 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Iowa City Public Works	<b>Johnson Co.</b>	Carol Sweeting 410 E. Washington St. Iowa City, IA 52240	(319) 356-5164	<a href="mailto:Carol-Sweeting@iowa-city.org">Carol-Sweeting@iowa-city.org</a>

To register for a workshop, contact the appropriate person listed above.