

THE IOWA CITIZEN MONITOR



VOLUME 1, NO. 1 WINTER 2000

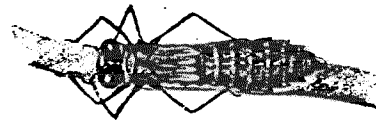
Hello...and Welcome to History in the Making!

This is the first long-awaited official newsletter for IOWATER, Iowa's citizen water quality monitoring network! What an exciting time to live in Iowa and take active roles in opportunities that will make our state a better place to live! Welcome, and thank you, for your dedication to a cleaner environment.



A Brief History Lesson

The IOWATER program has grown in scope and direction from humble beginnings in May of 1998. At that time, individuals who had long been striving for a statewide program gathered together to begin laying the framework for how such a program would work.



These initial individuals represented IOWATER's first advisory committee and include: Iowa DNR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League, Iowa Farm Bureau, and University of Iowa – Water Hygienic Laboratory.

Original financial support for IOWATER, through the Iowa DNR, came from two sources. These start-up funds came from Federal Nonpoint Source management funds (U.S. EPA) and Sportfish Restoration fund (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Iowa Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund).

First year activities resulted in hiring IOWATER's first coordinator, Todd Campbell, and development of the original IOWATER manual. During the 1999 season, the first IOWATER workshops were held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center. For a more complete and detailed history, please visit the NEW IOWATER web site at: www.IOWATER.net

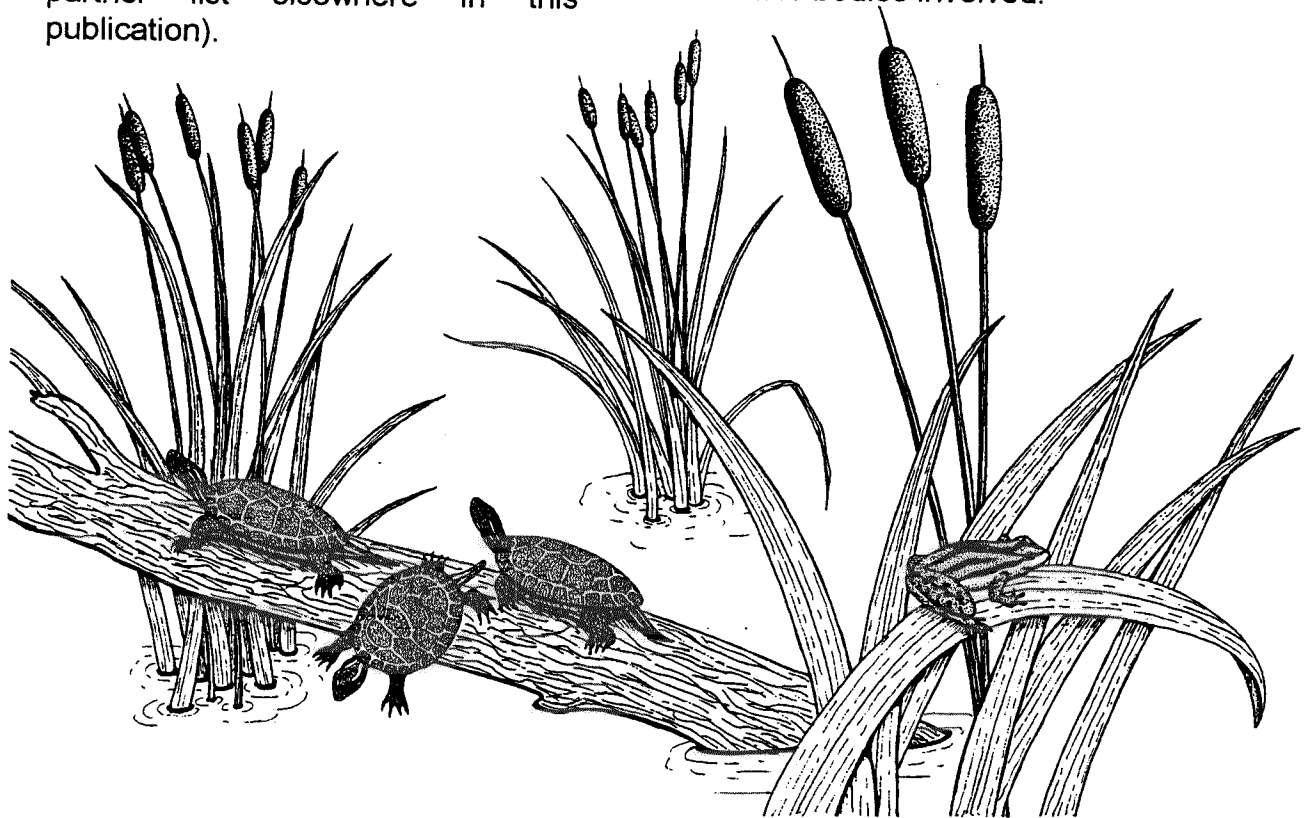
Rolling with the Changes...

Because of overwhelming public interest and the early success of the original IOWATER coalition, the program took on a major facelift in October of this last year. Iowa's overall water quality monitoring plan, under the direction of the Geological Survey Bureau, had gained the favorable attention of Governor Tom Vilsack and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources Director Paul Johnson.

This is also when Rich Leopold was brought on as the new IOWATER coordinator, filling the position vacated by Todd Campbell's move to Texas. Logistical changes included moving IOWATER's "headquarters" to within the Geological Survey Bureau in Des Moines and adding many program partners to IOWATER's advisory committee (see partner list elsewhere in this publication).

Philosophical changes were perhaps even more dramatic in scope. IOWATER's mission, "To protect and improve Iowa's water quality by establishing and supporting a statewide volunteer water monitoring program," took on the beliefs that:

- IOWATER is a **citizen-based** program, directed by volunteer's needs within local communities.
- IOWATER **focuses on solutions** not just documenting problems.
- IOWATER is interested in **results, not regulation.**
- IOWATER is **flexible**, allowing local groups to design their own monitoring and action plans.
- IOWATER is committed to **partnerships**, developing local working partners and sharing information and resources within state and federal agencies.
- IOWATER will concentrate on a **watershed approach**, integrating land use, soil concerns, and the water bodies involved.



Plan → Action


How are we going to do it?


With the scope of the program changed, and with new partners and the enthusiastic interest of citizen volunteers and organizations, IOWATER is now setting sights on how this is going to work in the "real-world". Here's the plan:




On-Site Training Workshops.

There are eighteen IOWATER workshops (so far) scheduled this year throughout the state. Of these workshops, six are open, eight are "targeted", and four are "refresher" for those already trained in IOWATER. For more info, refer to the IOWATER 2000 Workshops table.


 **Testing Equipment.** IOWATER will supply trained individuals and groups with all testing equipment necessary to do the monitoring.


 **Levels of monitoring.** There are levels of training and commitment for the monitors, accommodating everyone from a group of fifth graders testing once a year to retired professionals testing once a week!


 **Written support materials.** A revised IOWATER manual will be used alongside the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation's publication *Streamkeeper's Field Guide*.

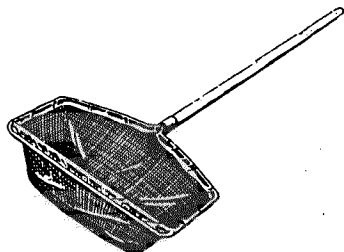
Public Database Development.

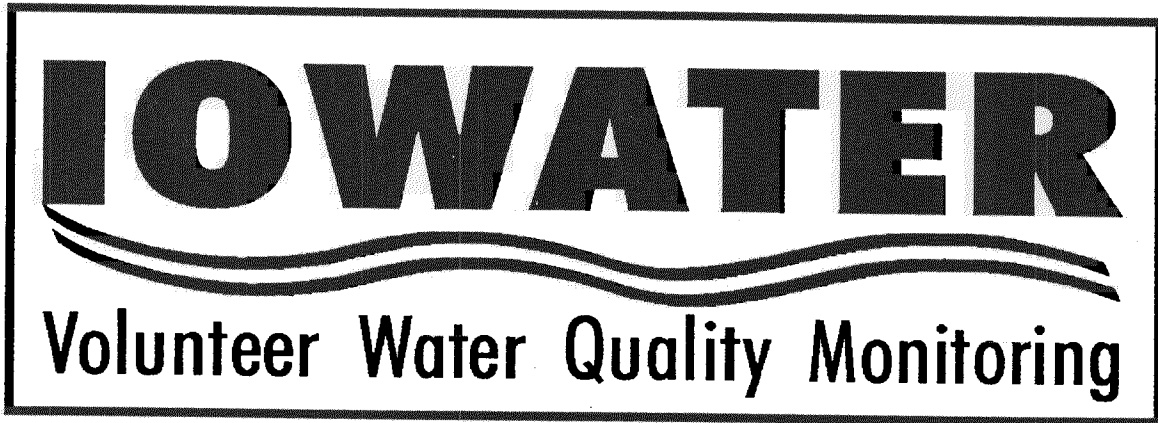
Citizens will have the ability to input and withdraw data via the Internet. There will also be available tools to interpret the data (graphs, charts, etc.) for local land-use / water-use decision making.

 **Advocacy.** Local groups will be given the tools they need, including media relations and data interpretation training, to encourage advocacy on local water quality issues.

 **Ongoing Technical Assistance.** IOWATER will provide ongoing technical assistance and statewide networking through additional training workshops, periodic newsletters, and annual conferences.

 **The Future.** IOWATER is here to stay! Although currently focused on running water, the program will be expanded to include lake, wetland, and additional soil monitoring in the near future.





IOWATER 2000 Workshop Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
April 24	Bettendorf	Curtis Lundy	309.765.7512	clundyfish@aol.com
*This workshop will be targeted toward secondary school instructors.				
May 5/6	Ames	Peggy Murdock	515.232.8538	murdock.peggy@mcleodusa.net
May 17/18	Cedar Falls	Hartman Reserve	319.277.2187	hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us
May 25/26	Forest City	Bob Schwartz	515.565.3390	
June 1	Oakland	Greg Mathus	712.482.6408	
June 2/3	Burlington	Phil Broder	319.753.5808	starcave@interl.net
June 8/9	Decorah	Laura Friest	319.864.7112	lora.friest@ia.usda.gov
June 15/16	Guthrie Center	Springbrook CEC	515.747.8383	ajay.winter@dnr.state.ia.us
June 21	Guthrie Center	Project WILD	515.747.2200	bgigar@netins.net
*This workshop is part of a 3-day "Awareness to Action" Project WILD conference.				
June 23/24	Clarion	Bruce Voigts	515.532.3185	
July 21/22	Corydon	Vince Sitzman	515.872.1350	vinsitz@hotmail.com
August 11/12	Sioux City	Dorothy Pecaut NC	712.258.0838	dchapman@sioux-city.org
August 18/19	Peosta	Bob Walton	319.556.6745	
August 21/22	Milford	Barbara Tagami	712.338.4238	btagami@co.dickinson.ia.us
*This workshop will be targeted toward lake/reservoir monitoring				

To register for any of the above IOWATER workshops, or for more specific registration information, please contact the individuals listed.

IOWATER workshops

...to learn, share and prepare

...for ACTION!



What goes on at an IOWATER workshop? A variety of session settings, indoors and outdoors, will contain topics such as starting a monitoring plan, networking with others in your area concerned with water quality, and some muddy fun! Agenda items include:

- Finding Your Watershed Address
- The "Why-To" and "How-To" of Water Monitoring
- Field Exercises – The Wet Session
- What to DO with the Data
- The Big Picture: Where Do You Go From Here?

Some workshops were planned to cover the state equally while others have specific "targets" in mind, such as a newly forming coalitions or historically successful models. Regardless of this, ALL workshops are open to any individual or group that is interested. Upon completion of the workshop, you will be a certified Level 1 IOWATER citizen monitor.

All workshops are based on ten hours training, usually set-up comfortably over two days. The hours of each may vary depending on location. Contact the listed individuals for actual times. Workshop registration fee is \$25, which covers all program fees, meals, and testing equipment. Get involved - make a difference!

Jumping On-Board

An exciting coalition has been made with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Environmental Council, and the Iowa Dept. of Ag. & Land Stewardship's Div. of Soil Conservation. The Boddy Media Group will present sessions at IOWATER workshops dealing with team building, working with volunteers, building local partnerships, and working with the media. IOWATER welcomes you!

Free Equipment!

- All IOWATER monitors will receive:
- ◆CHEMetrics Dissolved Oxygen Kit
 - ◆Test Strips - Nitrate, Phosphate, pH
 - ◆Transparency / Turbidity Tube
 - ◆Benthic Dip Net
 - ◆Benthic Tub and Forceps
 - ◆Magnifying Box
 - ◆Aquatic Thermometer
 - ◆Open Reel Measuring Tape
 - ◆Laminated Benthic Guides
 - ◆*Streamkeeper's Field Guide*
 - ◆And more!



Making Waves of Difference Across Iowa

Our Sponsors:

Our diversity is our strength! It is only through mutual respect and voluntary cooperation the dreams of this program are becoming a reality. The IOWATER Advisory Committee is a partnership effort of:

- ★ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of:
 - Fish & Wildlife
 - Environmental Protection
 - Information & Education
 - State Parks
 - Geological Survey Bureau
- ★ Area Education Agencies
- ★ Iowa Association of Naturalists
- ★ Iowa Conservation Education Council
- ★ Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
- ★ Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
- ★ Iowa Environmental Council
- ★ Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
- ★ Iowa Resource Conservation & Development
- ★ Iowa State University Extension
- ★ Iowa Student Environmental Council
- ★ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ★ Trees Forever
- ★ University of Iowa – Water Hygienic Laboratory

In closing, thank you again for being an ACTIVE PARTICIPANT in this "history in the making." IOWATER is a vital component of the statewide monitoring program and will receive ongoing support. Iowa's citizens involved in the monitoring process will receive many benefits. We will become actively involved in local water-quality issues. We will make progress in attempting to restore Iowa's natural water wonders. And we'll have a little fun and muddy exercise to boot! We are making a

change on the land,
for the better,
for our children
and our children's
children.



*In our every deliberation,
we must consider
the impact of our decisions
on the next seven
generations.*

*From the "Great Law" of the Hodinonshioni
(League of the Iroquois)*

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