IOWATER
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

Data Tell Part of the Story, Actions Write the Rest

Protecting and Improving Iowa's Water Quality…

National Water Quality Monitoring Council
MONITORING NETWORKS
Connecting for Clean Water
2006 National Monitoring Conference

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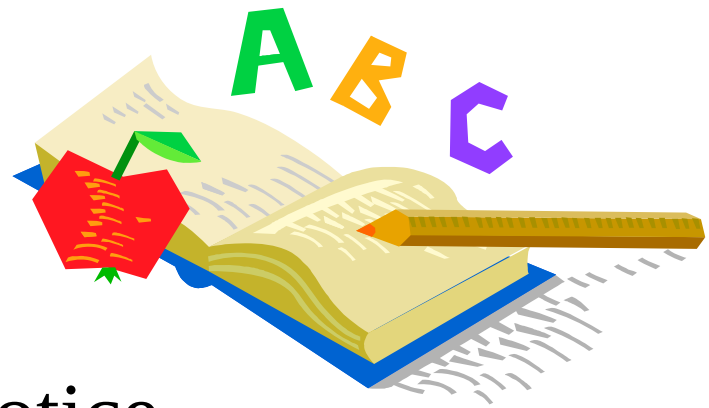
As parents,
we would be up in arms
if our children didn't know the alphabet…



…But we don't even notice
when they can't read the landscape.

- Ellen Goodman

Uses of IOWATER Data

- **Clean Water Act**
  - **305(b) Report**
    - **Minimum monthly sampling suggested**
  - **303(d) Listing**
    - **State-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) required**
    - **Minimum monthly sampling suggested**
- **Watershed assessments**
  - **Snapshot sampling**
- **Other – The possibilities are endless…**

From Cheese to Sewage

The Story of Buttermilk Creek

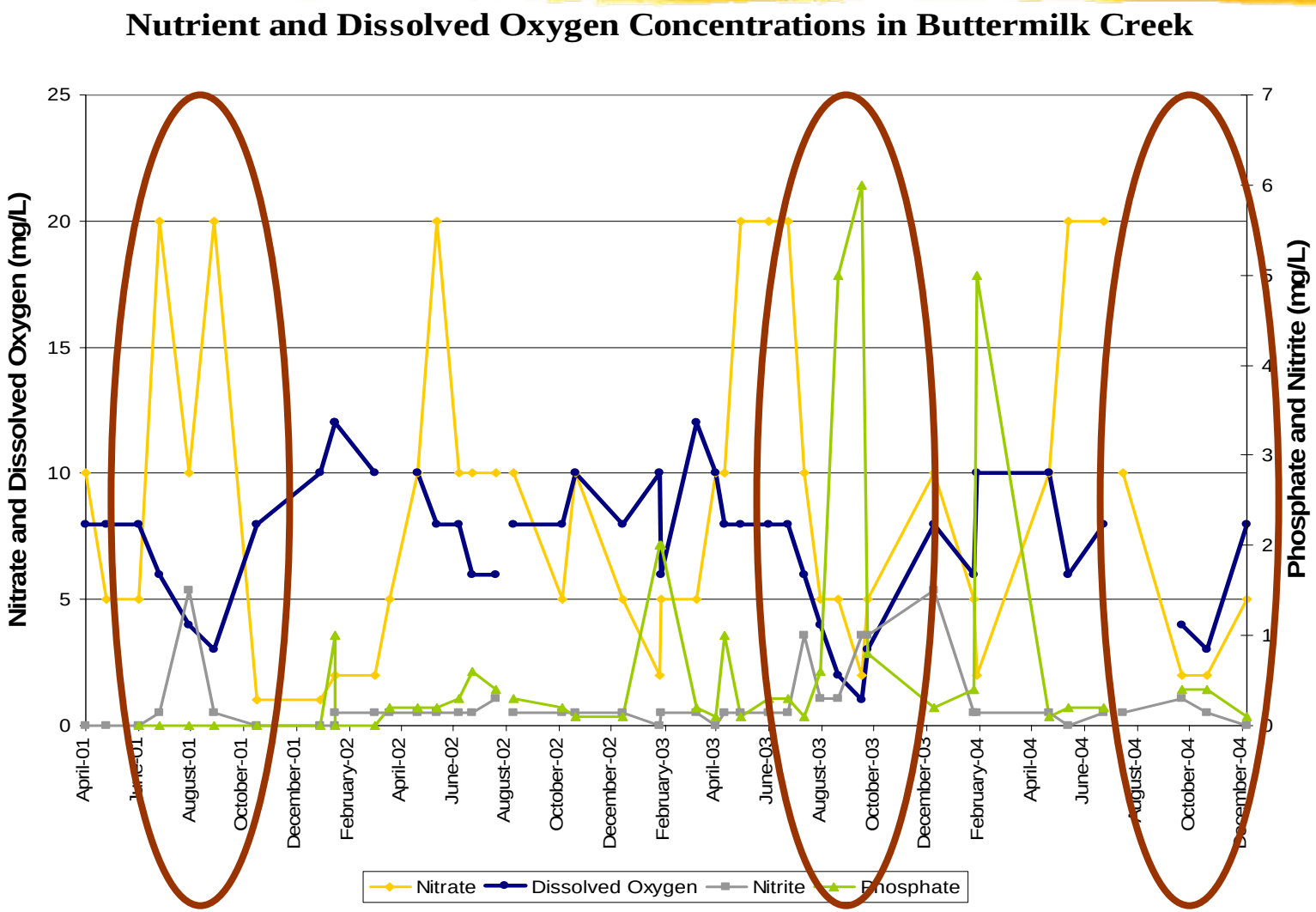
Greg Soenen - IOWATER Volunteer Monitor
Earl Kalkwarf - Wright County Sanitarian

The Stream

Total Length:

0.5 miles

The Data


Nutrient and Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations in Buttermilk Creek
Nitrate and Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)
Phosphate and Nitrite (mg/L)
25
20
15
10
5
0
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
April-01
August-01
October-01
December-01
February-02
April-02
June-02
August-02
October-02
December-02
February-03
April-03
June-03
August-03
October-03
December-03
February-04
April-04
June-04
August-04
October-04
Nitrate
Dissolved Oxygen
Nitrite
Phosphate

Algae, Bloodworms & Toilet Paper, Oh My!

Toilet Paper
&
Algae

Sewage Algae

Bloodworms

The Path to Success...

Volunteer Observations

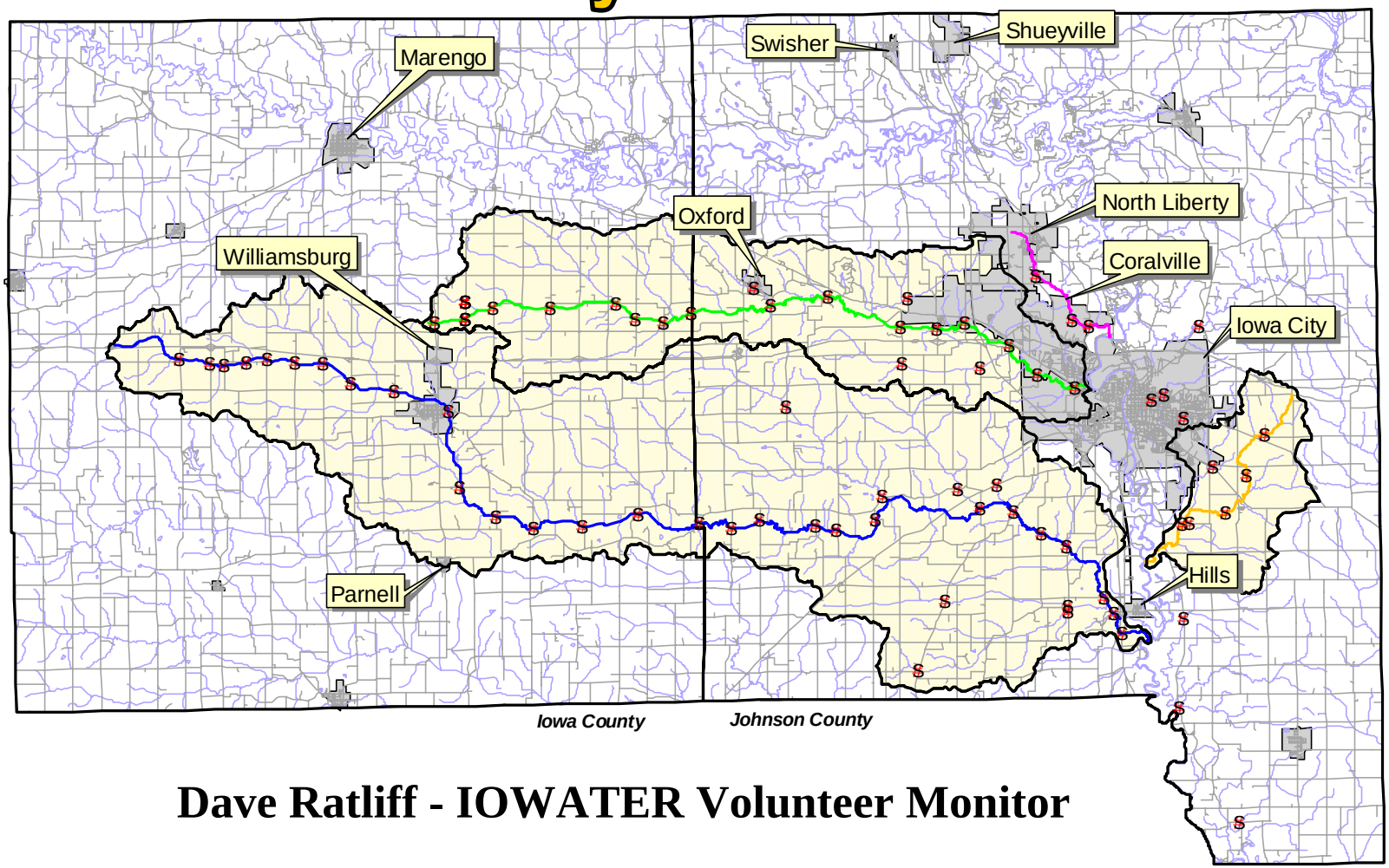
DNR Involvement

County Sanitarian

Landowner Contacts

Trouble at CCOB

The Story of Clear Creek



Dave Ratliff - IOWATER Volunteer Monitor

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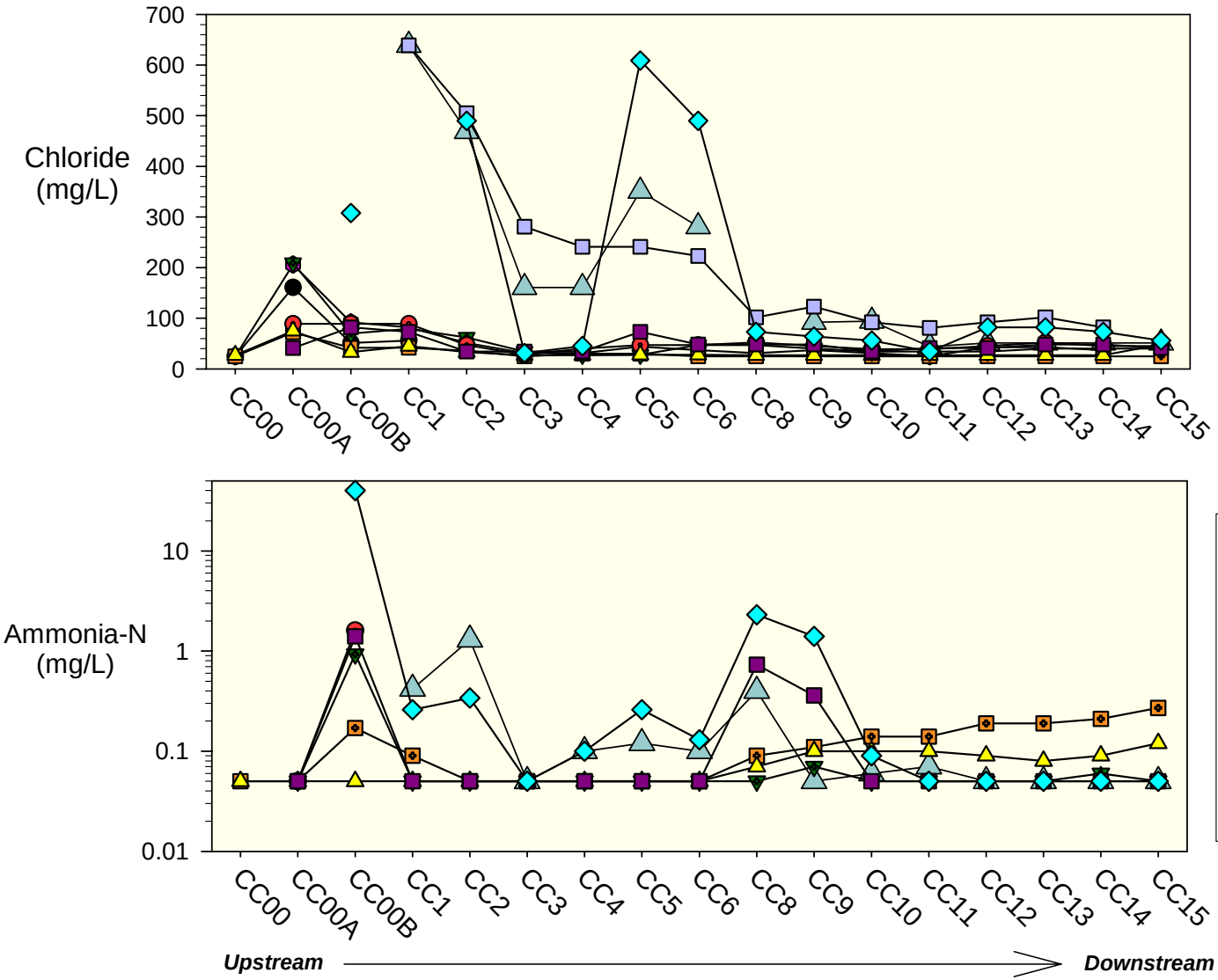
Clear Creek



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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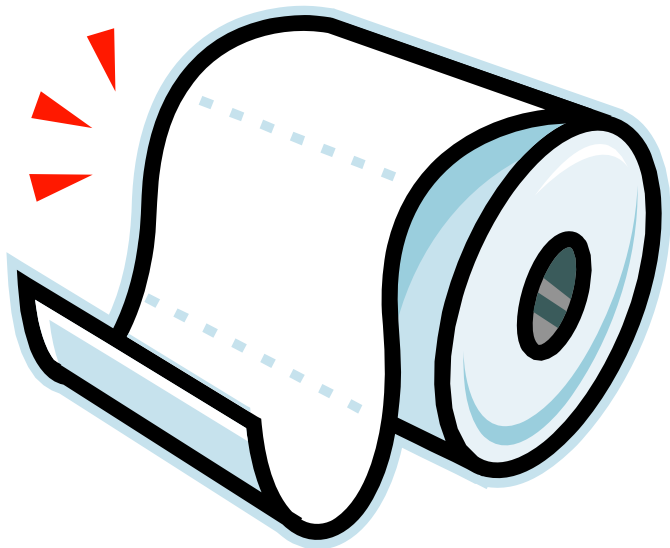
What type of bacteria is:

White,

Filamentous,

And perforated every four inches?



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We need to learn
to touch the water.
It will teach us,
if we take the time to listen.

- Dave Ratliff

Photo by Bruce Voigts

Photo by Troy Martens

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