

World Water Monitoring Day - Cleaner Water, Closer World Connecting the Global Water Monitoring Community Through a Focal Event

Edward Moyer

America's Clean Water Foundation, 750 First Street NE, Suite 1030, Washington, D.C. 20002

Biographical Sketch of Author

Ed Moyer is America's Clean Water Foundation's (ACWF) International Coordinator for World Water Monitoring Day. He joined ACWF in June 2002 and assisted in the planning and execution of the World Watershed Summit, the National Youth Watershed Summit and National Water Monitoring Day, all taking place in 2002 as part of the Year of Clean Water. He presently coordinates the foundation's day-to-day planning and conduct of World Water Monitoring Day and serves as the principal contact for monitoring participants throughout the year.

Prior to joining the ACWF staff, Ed worked for twenty years as an analyst and manager in Michigan's water quality programs. He holds a BA in Education from Michigan State University.

Abstract

Lessons learned through three decades of the U.S. Clean Water Act continue to point to the need for citizens to better understand how their daily lives both impact, and are impacted by, their local water resources. Now, in times of decreasing fiscal resources that impair staffing plans for water monitoring programs, partnerships to expand the roles of volunteer monitors can result in more "hands in the water" to watch over the health of local watersheds across the globe.

America's Clean Water Foundation created **World Water Monitoring Day** and serves as its international coordinator. Aided by other primary sponsors such as the International Water Association, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ACWF has introduced an annual worldwide event that focuses international attention on the importance of water monitoring and the accompanying water quality issues that affect local watersheds on a daily basis. ACWF believes recognizing existing efforts and providing an annual opportunity to connect often-localized events into a bigger global scope best accomplish this. By engaging citizens in a positive, hands-on monitoring experience, we hope to increase their understanding and encourage their continued participation as stewards of their local watersheds.

In October 2003 an estimated 80,000 participants from 24 countries registered 5,275 sites on the World Water Monitoring Day website (www.worldwatermonitoringday.org) and conducted water fairs, training and other related activities. Participants provided results for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and turbidity. In addition, media representatives throughout the world helped educate citizens by relating the vision and message of World Water Monitoring Day and encouraging participation in the event.

Mr. Moyer will share highlights from the first World Water Monitoring Day and discuss the benefits and challenges of connecting existing volunteer monitoring efforts. The 2003 World Water Monitoring Day Summary report will also be available.

* * * * *