Insuring Quality Volunteer Data

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Established In 1989

- Education
- Stewardship
- Advocacy
The Partners

CFM

MDC

DNR
MO Stream Team Program (2010 report)

- It is a comprehensive program offering over 30 types of activities
  - Litter pickups, WQM, Photo Point Monitoring, Adopt-an-Access, and More!
- ST Academy Wks.
- Over 4,000 Teams
- Over 146,000 hours
- $3.1 million of labor

Fulton Middle School ST #3098
Volunteer WQM

- One of the Stream Team activities
  - Second only to Litter Pickups
  - Began in 1993
- Only activity requiring training
- Five levels of training
  - Introductory Level
  - Level 1
  - Level 2
  - Level 3
  - CSI
Level 2

- QA/QC workshop
- Check chemical equipment/methods against known standards
- Invertebrate exam
  - ID 75% of bugs
  - Miss no more than 2 EPT
Level 3

- QA/QC “audit” on-site with ST Program Personnel
- Meet accuracy limits on 5/5 chem parameters
- ID 90% of inverts (100% EPT)
CSI

- Completed Stream Team VWQM training through Level 2 QA/QC
- Submitted consistent, credible data
- In conjunction with existing watershed project
- Complete DNR’s “Basic Sampling” class
Data Uses

- Inform and Educate
- Gather Baseline Data
- Identify Long-Term Trends
- Supplement Other Agency Data (MODOT, COE, USFS, etc.)
- Supplement Sponsoring Agency Data (MDC and DNR)
Data Uses
(DNR)

- Intro and Level 1 – screening data
- Level 2 & 3, and CSI data – treated as agency collected data
- Evaluate Best Management Land Use Practices (BMPs)
- Planning and Permitting

Limnephilidae sp.  Delwin Johnson ST #1549
Data Uses (DNR)

- 303(d) list of impaired waters
  - Discharge data used for TMDL modeling

- 305(b) report to EPA
  - Stream classification and designated use
VWQM Validations

- Require Level 2 and above volunteers to come back every three years
- Attend regularly scheduled Level 2 training
- Attend VWQM Validation training
  - Weekday evening
  - Three-hour session covering
    - Chemical monitoring
    - Biological monitoring
VWQM Validations

- Seven Validation Trainings across Missouri
- 36 Volunteers
- Replaced minimum of one piece of equipment for every one
- All equipment fell within range after replacement
- All volunteers passed invertebrate exam
- Positive feedback!
Challenges

- Time
- Resistance
  - Administration
  - ‘Seasoned’ volunteers
- Communication!
Questions?