Volunteer Monitoring: 
Getting Started 
and 
Growing Successfully

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Agenda

- Overview
  - Volunteer monitoring movement
  - How to get started
- Tell us about yourselves!
- Program examples
  - Agency
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Academia – grassroots
- Study Design and the Dreaded QAPP
- Resources
- Q&A/discussion
Extension, Master Naturalist, VM Parent and Service Provider Programs

http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/VolunteerMonPrograms/index.html

Thanks Kris Stepenuck!
How Many *Water* VM Programs*?*

349 Parent or stand-alone
1415 Affiliated, sponsored
9 Service Provider

Grand Total = 1773
(1998 ~ 770 environ VM programs)

*K. Stepenuck, 2013*
# Totals...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body Type</th>
<th>Number of Sites</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>River/stream</td>
<td>14,610</td>
<td>46,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake/pond</td>
<td>4570</td>
<td>6980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>9400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estuary/Marine</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,850</strong></td>
<td><strong>64,260</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20,800+ sites monitored

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water body type</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rivers and streams</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes and ponds</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaches</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estuary/marine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water wells</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contributing

>514,700 hours (2010)

Valued at

$10,834,300*

Ranging from

15 hours (local WI program) to

260,000 hours (Texas Master Naturalist Program)

* www.independentsector.org using each state’s valuation
Geographic Extent of Programs

The diagram shows the percentage distribution of programs across different geographic extents. The categories include:

- Statewide
- Single watershed
- Multi-watershed
- Multi-state/Regional
- Stewide coast/Marine
- International
- Single place
- National
- Other

The Statewide category has the highest percentage, while the Other category has the lowest.
Who Starts Programs?

Often there are multiple leaders who lead the charge to start a program.

- State NR Agency
- Non-profit
- Coop. Extension
- Volunteer
- Local gov't
- University
- Other

percent

- 0
- 10
- 20
- 30
- 40
We Rely Upon Each Other for Program Development and Support

Percent

VM colleagues
Listserv xchanges
Research scientists
VM newsletter
Conferences
Peer-rwrd articles
CE experts
Tech.comm.
Other experts
Websites
Other
Successful Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs are . . .

- Well-organized
- Sound scientific basis
- Respectful of their volunteers
- Strong organizational support
- Report & use results
- Make a difference
Successful Programs
Make A Difference

- Raise awareness
- Involve people in real science
- Promote individual actions
- Create an informed constituency
- Provide information on places where no one else is looking
- Identify & solve problems locally
Start small,
start simple,
seek out help,
ask a lot of questions
go to workshops/conferences
What is the most widely monitored WQ parameter?

In second place?
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