



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### **Enhancing Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training and Education using DVD and Video**

Water Action Volunteers (WAV) is Wisconsin's statewide volunteer stream monitoring program, coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Extension in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. WAV volunteers attend a daylong training to learn the protocols for monitoring six parameters. On post-training evaluations, monitors have frequently indicated their desire for additional training and/or support on their first site visit following training, since there are many details to remember. This is generally not possible due to the large number of program participants and limited staff members. A DVD was developed to provide a refresher demonstration of the protocols for the six stream monitoring parameters. A companion DVD containing background information on watersheds, stream ecology and macroinvertebrates was added to increase the volunteers' knowledge and understanding of streams and to enhance their monitoring experience. Beginning in the spring and summer of 2006, this DVD set was provided to volunteers at the WAV training sessions. In addition, in the coming months select sections of it will be posted to the WAV website, and utilizing video-streaming technology, volunteers without access to the DVD set will be able to review procedures before monitoring. The poster includes (1) an explanation of the purpose for creating the DVD set; (2) a description of partnerships and resources needed to create this type of educational resource; and (3) an overview of the steps necessary to complete such a project. If able (based on the conference facility), we will provide a demonstration of portions of this technology-based teaching tool which can be provided to volunteers to help sustain and enhance a volunteer-based program.

Author: Kristine Stepenuck

University Affiliation: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Co-Author(s): Peggy Compton, Kristopher Wright and Russell Hill