



Getting Started in Volunteer Monitoring

Southern Region Workshop, Lexington Kentucky

Sunday, October 23, 2005, 8:30 - noon

Workshop Description: Developing a Cooperative Extension volunteer water quality monitoring program is an effective means of reaching diverse audiences and raising awareness of water resource issues. This workshop focuses on helping new program coordinators get their programs up and running, or to get those thinking of starting one on the right track. Our goal is to provide you with questions to consider, steps to follow, examples of what's worked and direct you to some of the many resources available to assist you as you develop your monitoring strategy. Whether you expect your program to be educational, promote watershed awareness or become a source of high quality data it is essential to think about and accurately identify what you want your volunteer monitoring to accomplish and how you want your data to be used before you consider specifically what and how you want to monitor. In fact, the first step in determining *WHAT* and where to monitor is deciding *WHY* you want to monitor. Which monitoring methods are most appropriate for meeting your specific monitoring objectives? What kind of resources (people, funding, etc.) do you have to work with? We are counting on participants to bring their questions and concerns and look forward to a lively discussion.

AGENDA

8:30 Extended Introductions around the room

8:50 Volunteer Monitoring Overview (*Linda Green*)

9:10 Getting Started in Volunteer Monitoring - *Things to Think About Before Getting Your Feet Wet* (*Linda Green*)

10:00 BREAK- beverages only – in hallway

10:20 School based programs (*Mitch Fram*)

- Monitoring activities & needs-Data users & data uses-Data quality needed
- Example: Oklahoma Blue Thumb,
- Example: World Water Monitoring Day

10:40 Community Awareness & stewardship programs (*Linda Green for Wendy Patoprsty*)

- Monitoring Activities & needs-Data users & data uses-Data quality needed
- Example: North Carolina Watershed Watch

11:00 Baseline & trend programs (*Linda Green for Bill Deutsch*)

- Monitoring Activities & needs-Data users & data uses-Data quality needed
- Example: Alabama Water Watch

11:20 Involving the Farm community in Volunteer Monitoring (*Mitch Fram*)

11:40 A volunteer's perspective (*Susan Fox*)

- Example: Kentucky Watershed Watch

12:00 Adjourn