



Michigan Clean
Water Corps

Building Sustainability and Ensuring Success: The Third Annual MiCorps Conference

October 15-16, 2007



Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center



Higgins Lake, Michigan

Conference Agenda

Monday, October 15, 2007

1:00 - 3:00 pm Training Workshop: Stream Monitoring

Jo Latimore, Ph.D., MiCorps Support Staff

An overview of MiCorps stream monitoring techniques, including macroinvertebrate collection and habitat assessment. After a brief introduction, we'll travel to a nearby stream to get hands-on experience. Come prepared to get wet and dirty. Bring boots or waders for getting into the stream. **Participation is limited to the first 20 registrants.**

3:00 – 5:00 pm Training Workshop: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Identification (Education Building, Lower Level)

Jo Latimore, Ph.D., MiCorps Support Staff

Hands-on training with preserved specimens and live creatures collected during the Stream Monitoring Workshop. A slide show will introduce participants to bug anatomy, followed by plenty of time to practice using keys to identify specimens. This workshop is designed for those with limited identification experience or none at all. **Participation is limited to the first 20 registrants.**

1:00 – 4:00 pm Training Workshop: Marketing the Environment Workshop (Education Building, Upper Level)

Jennifer Wolf, Marketing Specialist

You feel passionately about your creeks, lakes and rivers. The monitoring work you do clearly measures the threats to local water resources. You are inspired and motivated to protect these resources. But how do you effectively communicate that message to other residents? Learn how to motivate others to modify personal behaviors in ways that protect water quality. Workshop covers basic marketing and publicity strategies, and companion workbook "Marketing the Environment" includes models for large-scale marketing efforts. Subgroups will work on specific messages for use in your region. **Participation is limited to the first 24 registrants.**

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Reception and "Water Jam" (Administration Building, fireplace lounge)

Jack Wuycheck, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Matt Doss, MiCorps Support Staff

Matt Doss will provide a brief welcome and introduction. Monitoring programs will showcase their local river or lake management efforts through poster displays. All programs are invited to display a poster. Refreshments and hors d'ourves will be served. Make sure to bring your guitar, banjo, bongos, or what-have-you to the conference for an informal evening jam session. Everyone's invited to play!

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

8:00 am **Registration** (Education Building, Upper Level)

8:30 am **Welcoming Remarks and Review of Agenda**
Jack Wuycheck, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Matt Doss, MiCorps Support Staff
Elwin Coll, Chair, MiCorps Steering Committee

8:45 am **U.S. EPA's Perspective on Volunteer Monitoring**
Pete Jackson, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, U.S. EPA Midwest Region

Pete Jackson will present U.S. EPA's perspective on the importance of volunteer monitoring data, what EPA is doing to support volunteer monitoring, the status of volunteer monitoring in EPA Region 5, and the importance of sustainability in volunteer monitoring programs

9:45 am **Overview of the MiCorps Program and the State of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program**
Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff
Jack Wuycheck, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

This session will include an introduction and overview of the MiCorps program and its work and accomplishments during the program's third year. It will also provide an overview of Michigan's Surface Water Monitoring Program, including the program's structure and goals and how staff use volunteer monitoring data, as well as a discussion of trends in water quality in Michigan's lakes and rivers.

10:15 am **Break**

10:30 am **Ensuring Sustainability for Volunteer Monitoring Groups**
Laura Rubin, Executive Director, Huron River Watershed Council

11:00 am **MiCorps Monitoring Groups: Looking Back and Looking Forward**
Representatives from several MiCorps monitoring organizations, including:
Valerie Olinik-Damstra, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Terry Stilson, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Sarah U'Ren, Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center
Moderator: Jo Latimore

Monitoring grantees will discuss their work under the MiCorps program, including their progress over the past three years in building their monitoring programs and using their data. Grantees will also highlight their efforts to continue supporting their monitoring programs beyond their MiCorps grant funding.

11:45 am **MiCorps Recognition Awards**

12:00 pm **Lunch**

1:15 pm **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

Three breakout sessions will be held concurrently. Conference participants may attend one of the three breakout sessions.

Breakout Session 1: Fundraising 101 for Volunteer Monitors (Lake Ontario Lounge)
Margaret Smith, Huron River Watershed Council

Learn how to identify funding sources and develop a fundraising plan to support your monitoring efforts.

Breakout Session 2: Monitoring Michigan's Inland Lakes – An Overview (Education Building, Lower Level)
Ralph Bednarz, MDEQ Water Bureau

This session will provide an overview of Michigan's Inland Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Programs, including a discussion of the program's goals and an overview of the four major MDEQ lake monitoring programs: 1) Sediment Chemistry – Inland Lakes Trends; 2) Lake Water Quality Assessment, including the Satellite Remote Sensing project; 3) National Lake Assessment Survey – Michigan Lakes; and 4) The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program – Michigan's volunteer lakes monitoring program.

Breakout Session 3: Community Outreach & Successful Collaborations (Education Building, Upper Level)
Jack Wuycheck, MDEQ
Becky Simpson, Livingston County Drain Commission (invited)
Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Moderator: Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff

Learn how monitoring groups can use the data and information they collect to work together with local and state government agencies in policy development and management. A presentation on general principles will be followed by a panel discussion, where government staff will provide their take on working with volunteer programs and data. Topics such as successful strategies, data presentation, and establishing credibility will be discussed.

2:15 pm Break

2:30 pm Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Three breakout sessions will be held concurrently. Conference participants may attend one of the three breakout sessions.

Breakout Session 4: Presenting Your Volunteer Monitoring Data (Lake Ontario Lounge)
Jo Latimore, Ph.D., MiCorps Support Staff

Learn how to present your monitoring data to various audiences, and use it to retain volunteers and educate your community. Tips and tricks for presenting your data effectively will be shared, illustrated by examples from all over Michigan and beyond.

Breakout Session 5: Designing a Sustainable Monitoring Strategy (Education Building, Upper Level)
Pete Jackson, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, U.S. EPA Midwest Region
Ric Lawson, MiCorps Support Staff

This session is intended to help program coordinators design an effective monitoring strategy that can be implemented and adapted for years to come. It will cover topics such as determining which monitoring methods are most appropriate for your organization, how to select monitoring sites, developing a quality assurance plan, and more.

Breakout Session 6: E. coli Monitoring – Effective Techniques and Test Kits for Volunteers (Education Building, Lower Level)
Lois Wolfson, Ph.D., Institute for Water Research and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University (Education Building, Lower Level)

Learn about the most effective techniques and test kits volunteers can use for monitoring *E. coli* in surface waters through a combination of discussion and hands-on practice in the classroom.

3:30 pm Closing Remarks and Adjournment (Education Building, Upper Level)
Jack Wuycheck, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Jo Latimore, MiCorps Support Staff