

IOWATER

Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319

AWARE volunteers of all ages
clean up Iowa's rivers...



...for the next generation.

IOWATER

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

Two Rivers, 400 participants, 26 tons of trash, 100 sponsors... ...and one huge "THANK YOU!"



Brian Soenen, 2007 Project AWARE Coordinator.

Many Iowans still gauge a day's work by the dirt found under their fingernails. For Project AWARE volunteers, add the dirt from ears, toenails, and every crack and crevice in between, and you have one incredibly successful day. Project AWARE, which stands for A Watershed Awareness River Expedition, is coordinated by the Iowa DNR and involves hundreds of people who volunteer to clear Iowa's rivers from trash and other debris.

This past June, 400 people participated in the 5th Annual Project AWARE, traversing 102 miles of the Middle and North Racoon rivers and removing over 26 tons of trash. While many say they have never worked harder or got dirtier than they did on AWARE, they also say they've never had as much fun. By the end of the weeklong expedition, they had plenty of dirt – and river trash – by which to measure their work.

In addition to the rivers, the people, and the trash, one hundred individuals, businesses, and organizations provided equipment, camping, logistical assistance, and of course, money, needed to make Project AWARE possible. Without the enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work of volunteers and the financial and in-kind support of sponsors, the trash would still be there and Project AWARE would not exist.

The Project AWARE staff would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who volunteered to clean up the river and to all those who made it possible.

Platinum Paddle Sponsors (\$3,000+)

Des Moines Water Works, Hallett Materials, Iowa State University Recreation Services, Metro Waste Authority, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Geological Survey, University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, Wells Fargo, Iowa Department of Natural Resources – AmeriCorps, Energy & Waste Management Bureau, Watershed Improvement Section, IOWATER, Keepers of the Land.

...from IOWATER's Coordinator

For the next generation... This is often the response I get (and give) when the question is asked, "Why do you do what you do?" Eight months ago, my answer to this question got a lot more personal.

At the time of this writing, my next generation (a.k.a., Owen) is sleeping soundly in his crib. While I'm quite certain that his dreams aren't yet filled with wetland explorations, exciting river adventures, or sunset paddles on lakes of glass, it is my hope that they someday will be.

For the next generation... I believe this is a philosophical answer to the question, and that more often than not, there's an unrecognized, yet incredibly powerful, psychological answer. In my case, I do what I do because as a child, I was given opportunities to experience Iowa's natural resources. Those experiences brought me to where I'm at today, and will lead me to where I am going tomorrow.

Effective immediately, I will be vacating the position of IOWATER Coordinator. While I am tremendously saddened to step down, I am doing so for the betterment of my family. As a full-time dad, I hope to provide Owen with experiences he can use to help guide him through life...to show him the stuff dreams are made of.

While this decision has been tough, my family and I feel that it's what we need to do *for the next generation...*

Brian Soenen



**"...as a child,
I was given
opportunities
to experience
Iowa's natural
resources."**

Brian Soenen and Owen...
his next generation.



Editor's Note: Don't be alarmed, Brian is not going away completely. He will still be involved in the IOWATER Program on a part-time basis. Please direct questions to the IOWATER staff at iowater@iowater.net

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Golden Yoke Sponsors (\$2,000 - \$2,999)

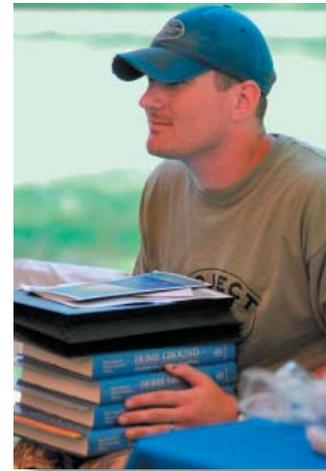
Raccoon Valley Bank, Rockwell-Collins.

Silver Stern Sponsors (\$100 - \$1,999)

1-800-Got-Junk?, Adel Partners Chamber of Commerce, Aero Rental, B4 Brands, Barker Lemar, Boone County Landfill, Boy Scout Troop 242, Carroll County Conservation Board, Casey’s General Stores, Central Iowa Paddlers, City of Adel, City of Perry, Clean Rivers Team, Crowdaddy Outdoors, Culligan Water, Dallas County Conservation Board, Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dana and Liz Christiansen, Delaney Travel, LLC, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, Environmental Reclamation & Recycling, LLC, Good Connections, Inc., Greene County Community Center, Greene County Conservation Board, Healing Therapies, Home State Bank, Hy-Vee, Inc., Integrated DNA Technologies, Iowa Geological Survey, Iowa Heartland RC&D, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Pond Guy L.L.C., Iowa Recycling Association, Iowa Savings Bank, Iowa Waste Exchange, Iowa Water Trails Program, Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Jack Link’s Beef Jerky, Jane and Brad Henning, Jann Realty LP, Johnson County Environmental Advocates, Loparex, Martin Marietta Materials, McAtee Tire Service, Inc., Mid America Recycling, MidAmerican Energy Company, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Dallas Landfill, Inc., Pat Ryan, Perry Chamber of Commerce, Perry Recycling Center, Quaker Oats, R.J. Thomas Mfg. Co., Raccoon River Valley Adventures, Raccoon River Valley Trail Association, RESTOP, Rick’s Grille & Spirits, SeataSea Watersports, Seneca, Skunk River Navy, Soil and Water Conservation Society, South Dallas County Landfill, Springbrook Conservation Education Center, Springbrook State Park, Stine Seed Company, Teresa and John Kurtz, The Dental Practice, Walnut Woods State Park, Waste Management, West Central Iowa Solid Waste, West Des Moines Parks & Recreation, Whiterock Conservancy.

Life Jacket Sponsors (Up to \$100)

Des Moines Parks & Recreation, City of Jefferson, Daryl Adams, Ferrellgas, Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau, Iowa Rivers Revival, Italian Villages, John Deere Credit, Kinnick’s Tavern, Luke Wright, National River Cleanup Week, Tri-County Cash Lumber Mart.

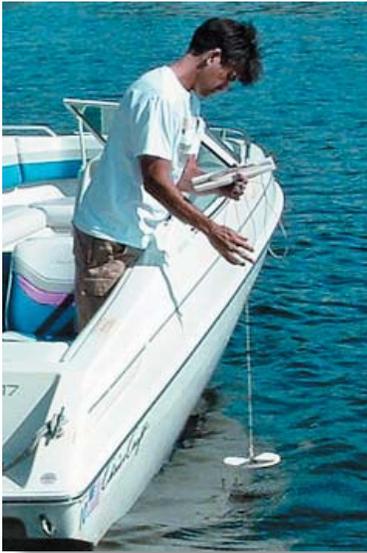


Brian Soenen at AWARE’s Final Celebration Event about to present awards to the 2007 Iowa winners of the River of Words® Environmental Poetry & Art Competition for students. (See winning Iowa art and poetry on pages 5-6.)



**2007 Project AWARE Volunteers & Staff
Final Celebration Event – Walnut Woods State Park**

Volunteers Monitor Iowa's Great Lakes



Volunteers in the Iowa Great Lakes region have created a program as extraordinary as the resources they monitor. The Cooperative Lakes Area Monitoring Project or CLAMP was organized to bring volunteers together to create a long-term, unified program for assessing water quality in the region's lakes. For eight years these volunteers, armed with Secchi disks and bottles, have been collecting valuable data to assess water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes. CLAMP focuses on monitoring nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus), as well as chlorophyll *a* (an index of algal abundance), and Secchi depth (an index of water clarity). Since CLAMP's inception in 1999, more than 100 volunteers have taken over 3,500 samples from nine lakes in Dickinson County – Big Spirit, Center, East Okoboji, Little Spirit, Lower Gar, Minnewashta, Silver, Upper Gar, and West Okoboji.



The CLAMP data illustrate the differences in the lakes, from West Okoboji and Big Spirit with the highest water clarity and lowest nutrient levels to Lower Gar and Little Spirit with the lowest water clarity and highest nutrient levels. The individual lakes are as unique as the volunteers who monitor them. By monitoring multiple sites on the larger lakes, CLAMP data also illustrate the differences within these lakes. For example, volunteers have found that shallower areas in the northern part of East Okoboji have decreased water clarity when compared to the deeper areas at the southern end of the lake.

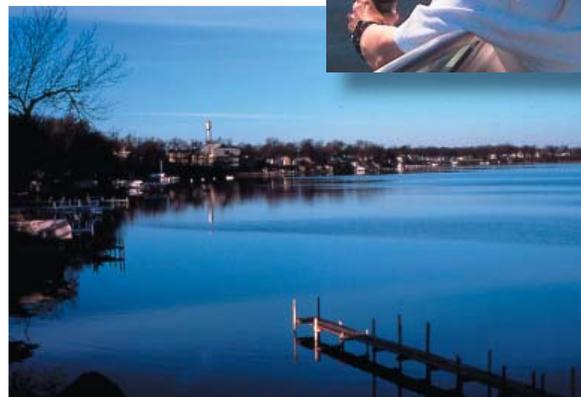
CLAMP data can be used to characterize lakes individually and as a group, as well as to track changes over time. The



Silver Lake in Dickinson County.

main question on everyone's mind is, "Are the lakes getting better or worse?" CLAMP data will help answer this question by providing consistent data. The success of lake restoration projects, such as those being planned for some of the Iowa Great Lakes, can also be assessed by using CLAMP data. CLAMP volunteers provide a long-term data set that will be useful in protecting these prized resources while learning more about water quality issues and the ecology of the lakes.

To become a CLAMP volunteer, contact Jane Shuttleworth at (712) 337-3669 (ext 7). Fact sheets summarizing CLAMP data are available at wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/publications/fact%20sheets/default.htm



West Okoboji Lake, shown here with Arnold's Park in the background, is the deepest of Iowa's glacial lakes.

IOWATER

presents

2007 Award Winners

IOWA

RIVER of WORDS®

Environmental

Poetry & Art

Competition for Students

ages 5-19 in grades k-12



Night Water Flight

Scott Skophammer
age 15
Fort Dodge, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

Trance

The ripples form
as fish jump,
birds singing
sweet lullabies
my toes
tingle as they
submerge in the
surface of this
great creation – the river.

The cranes search
the water but
the fish are
safely
tucked away
in their
security blanket – the river.

I'm floating
on the surface
to where
you might ask,
I do not
know for only
the river
will tell you.

There are many
secrets
and answers this
river holds.

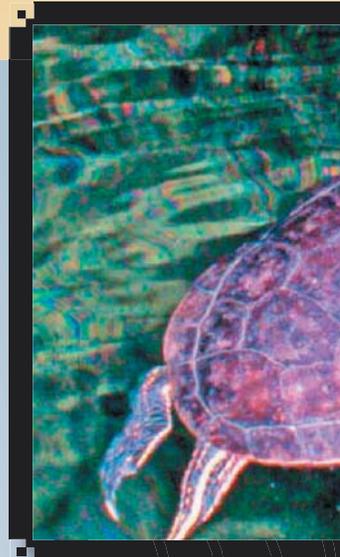
I start to go under
for the river
is sucking
me under like
a vacuum
sucking up
whatever
is in its way.

My feet
search
for the bottom.

My eyes search
for the top,
I'm in a trance,
in the distance

I hear you
ask me where
I'm going – the river.

Madison Walsh
age 14
Anthon, Iowa
IOWA WINNER



Turtle Swim

Jenni Dryden
age 11
Marion, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

River

I look down below
brown waters flow
I look beside me a
lapping up water
river.

I look above me a
with the sun shining
mild waters, river

Some days I come
rushing violently
river.

And I watch sticks
depths.

River, sometimes
muddy banks and
your violent water

When I watch, I watch
a hundred years

Zoe Pritchard
age 10
Ames, Iowa
IOWA WINNER



Kingfisher

Kingfisher sat,
watching the day go by.
Kingfisher saw,
hunting a fish to dine.
Kingfisher flew,
snatching the fish nearby.

Clayton Dryden
age 7
Marion, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

The Old River

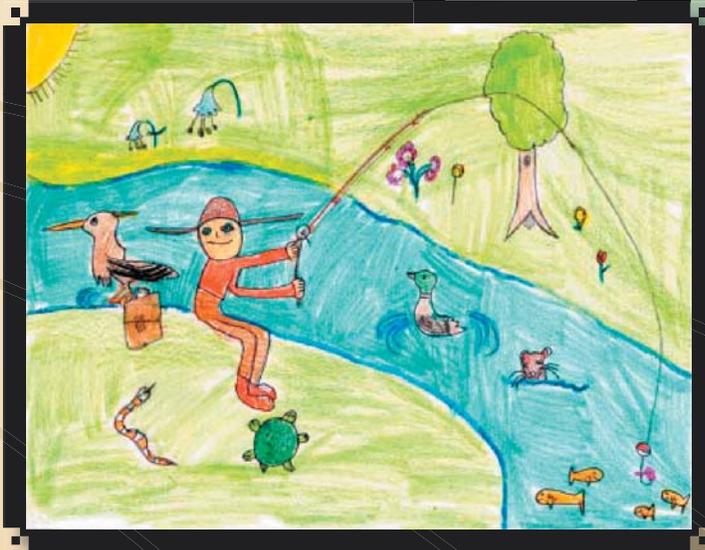
It bends, flows,
winds
along the flat plain
Wise with many years
far from its youthful state
It expels history
depositing soil and rock
with a story of their own
The old river, my faithful friend,
flows onward

Teri Mueller
age 14
Delhi, Iowa
NATIONAL FINALIST

Raindrops

Banana thunder chessmen,
Tattling grey films,
Dreary supposed clouds,
And cowardly peek-a-boo moon,
The rain polka dots
Sidewalks, the cornfields
Veiled
In damp velvet evening,
But headlights
Swarm in parading ducks,
In grains of smoggy breath,
And slick reflections
Of silence.

Nadia Hlebowitsh
age 16
Iowa City, Iowa
IOWA WINNER



We Love Clean Water! Do You?

Liam Scheuermann
age 6
Stratford, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

For 2008 entry forms for the
River of Words International contest,
go to www.iowater.net

or contact: IOWATER – River of Words
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319
Phone: 319-335-1575



All artwork & poetry
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Upcoming events

... cleanups, snapshots, & more.



Aug 24-26 (Fri-Sun); Lower Wapsipinicon River Cleanup
 Contact: Melisa Petersen (309) 737-9016
coordinator@lowerwapsicleanup.org
www.lowerwapsicleanup.org

Sep 22 (Sat); Beaver Creek Watershed Snapshot
 Contact: Steve Witmer (515) 727-7765
switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us

Sep 22 (Sat); Dragoon River Romp
 Contact: Lois Powers (515) 433-0591
kbc@boonelandfill.org;
www.co.boone.ia.us/riverROMP.htm

Sep 22 (Sat); Iowa River Cleanup (Franklin County)
 Contact: Jackie Dohlman (641) 456-4811
jackied@iastate.edu

Sep 22 (Sat); Missouri River Cleanup
 Contact: Gayle Malmquist (712) 328-4631
gmalmquist@councilbluffs-ia.gov;
www.riverrelief.org

Oct 6 (Sat); Jefferson County Snapshot
 Contact: Jack Eastman (641) 451-0208
jacktoni@iowatelecom.net

Oct 7 (Sun); Muscatine County Snapshot
 Contact: Ellen Myers (563) 263-8933
emyers@ci.muscatine.ia.us

Oct 9 (Tues); Scott County Snapshot
 Contact: Amy Johannsen (563) 391-1403 ext. 3
Amy.johannsen@ia.nacdnet.net

Oct 13 (Sat); Johnson and Iowa County Snapshot
 Contact: Dave Ratliff (319) 354-1397
oldmanscreek@qwest.net

Oct 13 (Sat); IOWATER Fall Statewide Snapshot
 Contact: Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598
Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov

Oct 13 (Sat); Squaw Creek Watershed Snapshot
 Contact: Rick Dietz
rsdietz@yahoo.com

Oct 20 (Sat); Wapsipinicon River Watershed Snapshot
 Dana Dettmer (641) 330-7105; danadettmer@hotmail.com
 Tammy Turner (319) 882-4742; bremewr@butler-bremer.com
 Jeff West (563) 320-3893; jkwest3@aol.com
 Vicki Wilson mvw@jtt.net
 If you've never participated in this event before, contact:
 Lynette Seigley (319) 335-1598, Lynette.Seigley@dnr.iowa.gov

Oct 20 (Sat); Dry Run Creek Watershed Snapshot
 Contact: Rebecca Kauten (319) 296-3262
Rebecca.kauten@ia.usda.gov

Nov 3 (Sat); Cedar River Watershed Snapshot
 Contact: Roy Hesemann, roy@cedar-rapids.org

IOWATER 2007 Level I Workshop Schedule

Date & Time	Location	Contact	Phone	E-mail
Aug 24 (5-9 PM) Aug 25 (9 AM- 3 PM) @ Iowa City Public Works	Johnson Co.	Carol Sweeting 410 E. Washington St. Iowa City, IA 52240	(319) 356-5164	Carol-Sweeting@iowa-city.org
Sept 10, (2-7 PM) Sept 12, (2-7 PM) @ Swiss Valley Nature Center	Dubuque Co.	Eric Schmechel 210 Bierman Rd. Epworth, IA 52045	(563) 876-3418 x3	eric.schmechel@ia.nacdnet.net

To register for a workshop, contact the appropriate person listed above.