



Illinois RiverWatch Offering Training Workshops for Volunteers Across the State

February 20 2013 12:02 PM

The Illinois RiverWatch Network is offering Illinois residents the chance to train to become citizen scientists and join a network of more than 750 volunteers throughout the state who monitor water quality of Illinois streams.

RiverWatch is a statewide partnership of organizations and individuals working to protect Illinois streams and waterways. Established in 1995 as a sub-program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Eco Watch Network, certified volunteers called "Citizen Scientists" examine indicators like stream habitats and diversity of macroinvertebrate species to provide reliable water quality data that can be used by scientists to determine how the conditions of streams are changing over time.

Today, RiverWatch is a program of the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, a partnership between Lewis and Clark Community College, the University of Illinois and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Since its founding in 1995, more than 1,700 individuals have received certification through RiverWatch and 750 stream sites have been established for annual water quality sampling.

A series of volunteer training workshops will be held throughout the state this spring. The workshops will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and combine both lecture/classroom time with field training in a local stream.

Registration is \$50 per person and must be paid in advance of the workshop.

“As we learn more about the ecosystems that support life on this planet, we discover that in order to properly assess the quality of our streams and rivers we need watershed level data,” RiverWatch Coordinator Nate Keener said. “Unfortunately, this need has increased at a time when state and local governments have seen the evaporation of funding for such monitoring.

“Where appropriate, RiverWatch Citizen Scientists can provide valuable and reliable data where none previously existed. As a program, volunteers are indispensable for the continued success of the program. As a source of knowledge, volunteers are similarly proving themselves a necessary and capable tool for us to learn more about the world around us.”

Training workshops are for volunteers who have received no training or partial training through RiverWatch programs and who wish to become a part of the certified network of volunteers throughout the state.

Anybody can become a volunteer, but registrants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

To register for a workshop, contact Keener at (618) 468-2782 or nkeener@lc.edu. For more information about RiverWatch, visit www.ngrrc.org/riverwatch.

2013 RiverWatch Volunteer Training Workshops:

Sat., March 23

John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Rd, Carterville
Workforce Development Building “H,”
Room H-127
Park in Lot ‘B’
(618) 985-2828
[Campus Map](#)

Sat., April 6

Lewis and Clark Community College
5800 Godfrey Road, Godfrey
Haskell Hall, Room 101
Park in Student Parking in front of
Haskell Hall
(618) 468-2782
[Campus Map](#)

Sat., April 6

Benedictine University
1500 North Fifth Street, Springfield
Dawson Hall Room D11
Park on Street
(217) 525-1420
[Campus map](#)

Sat., April 13

John Wood Community College
1301 South 48th Street, Quincy
Building B
Park in front of the building
(217) 224-6500|
[Campus Map](#)

Sat., April 20

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
109 S. Lake of the Woods Road, Mahomet
Main Entrance
Izaak Walton Cabin
(217) 586-3360

[Directions & Map](#)

Sat, April 20

University of St. Francis
500 Wilcox Street, Joliet
Tower Hall, Room N111
Park in Main Lot behind Tower Hall
(815) 740-3360

[Directions & Campus Map](#)

Sat., April 27

Sommer Park
6329 N. Koerner Road, Edwards
(309) 691-8423

[Map](#)

Sat., April 27

Sugar Grove Nature Center
4532 North 725 East Road, McLean
(309) 874-2174

[Directions & Map](#)

Sat., May 4

Black Hawk College
6600 34th Avenue, Moline
Building 2, Room 204
Park in Lot 1 in front of Building 2
(309) 796-5000

[Directions & Campus Map](#)

Sat., May 4

Deerfield High School
1959 Waukegan Road, Deerfield
(224) 632-3000

[Map](#)

Sun., May 19

Severson Dells Nature Center

8786 Montague Road, Rockford

Park on site (Stay to the right at the “Y”)

(815) 335-2915

[Directions & Map](#)

Sat., May 25

University of St. Francis

500 Wilcox Street, Joliet

Tower Hall, Room N111

Park in Main Lot behind Tower Hall

(815) 740-3360

[Directions & Campus Map](#)