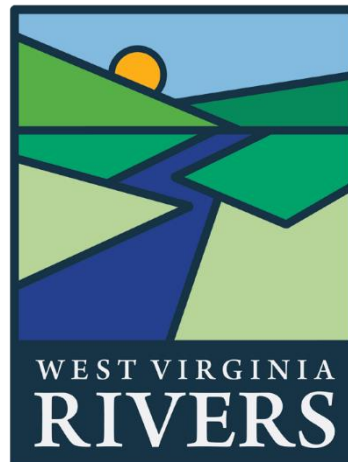


Citizen's Directory of Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs

Prepared by the West Virginia and Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Program

March 2017



Background

Volunteer water quality monitors play an important role in the protection of our rivers and streams. Before you become a volunteer water quality monitor, make sure it's the right activity for you. Make sure you understand the time commitment required and consider the risks inherent to stream monitoring activities.

This directory, prepared by the WV-VA Water Quality Monitoring Program, can help you get connected with organizations looking for volunteer water quality monitors near you.

* indicates participation in the WV-VA Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Regional Programs

Statewide and Regional Programs

Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) **Carlisle, PA.** ALLARM is a program of Dickinson College, which provides technical assistance to watershed organizations looking to develop and implement water quality monitoring programs.

Website: <https://www.dickinson.edu/allarm>

Call: (717) 245-1565

Email: allarm@dickinson.edu

WV/VA Water Quality Monitoring Program **Charleston, WV.** A program of Trout Unlimited implemented in West Virginia in partnership with West Virginia Rivers Coalition. The WV/VA Water Quality Monitoring Program engages citizen scientists as the eyes and ears on the ground to identify and limit the potential impacts from shale gas and natural gas pipeline development on coldwater streams. Organizations and individuals throughout WV and VA participate in the program.

Website: <http://www.wvrivers.org/make-a-difference/volunteer>

Email: jlemon@tu.org

West Virginia Save Our Streams **Charleston, WV.** WV Save Our Streams is a program of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The mission of WV SOS is to promote the preservation and restoration of our state's waters by providing an understanding of their ecological integrity. The program uses a biosurvey approach to stream study, which includes the collection and evaluation of benthic macro-invertebrates and an assessment of the physiochemical conditions. WV SOS trains individuals and organizations throughout West Virginia to participate in the program.

Website: <http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/getinvolved/sos/Pages/default.aspx>

Call: (304) 574-4465 x 1710

Email: Glenn.R.Nelson@wv.gov

Three Rivers QUEST **Morgantown, WV.** Based at WVU, Three Rivers QUEST focuses on three watersheds, the Ohio, the Allegheny and the Monongahela. Volunteers collect data on conductivity, pH and water temperature. Monitoring locations and organizations participating in the program are located throughout South West PA, Eastern OH and Northern WV.

Website: <http://3riversquest.org/>

Chesapeake Bay

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay River Trends **Richmond, VA**. The Alliance's citizen water quality monitoring program is a regional network of over 50 trained volunteers who perform weekly water quality tests that help track the condition of waterways flowing towards the Chesapeake Bay.

Website: <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/building-stewardship/riverstrends/>

Call: (443) 949 0575

Email: lpiastuch@allianceforthebay.org

Friends of the Shenandoah River **Winchester, VA**. Twice a month, over 80 dedicated volunteers gather approximately 150 water samples from seven counties in the Shenandoah Valley. Each county has a lead monitor who is responsible for training new monitors, coordinating sampling dates and providing updated information from the lab.

Website: <http://waterwindow.fosr.org/>

Call: (540) 665-1286

Email: kandersen@fosr.org

Potomac Riverkeeper Network River Watchers Program **Washington, DC**. The River Watcher Program helps identify and report pollution events. The program's training teaches volunteers: what to look out for while they are on the river; which pollution issues are prevalent in the watched watershed; and how to properly report pollution.

Website: <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/riverwatchers>

Call: (202) 429-3946

West Virginia Based Programs

Eastern Panhandle

Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition **Harpers Ferry, WV**. Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition is primarily focused on water quality monitoring in Jefferson County, WV.

Website: <http://www.blueridgewatershed.org/>

Cacapon Institute **Great Cacapon, WV**. The Cacapon Institute monitors water quality along the full length of the Cacapon Rivers at twelve sites monthly for major parameters, including temperature, turbidity (muddiness), nutrients (nitrate and phosphorus) and fecal coliform bacteria.

Website: <http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/index.htm>

Elks Run Watershed Group **Harpers Ferry, WV**. Volunteers monitor at sites on Elks Run and Elks Branch for bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorous pollution.

Website: <http://www.elksrunwatershed.org/>

Friends of Cacapon River **Great Cacapon, WV**. Friends of the Cacapon River monitors the health of the Cacapon River as part of the West Virginia Save Our Streams Program. The program uses a bio-survey approach to stream study, which includes the collection and evaluation of aquatic invertebrates and an assessment of the river's physiochemical conditions.

Website: <http://cacaponriver.org/>

Email: info@cacaponriver.org

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association **Berkeley Springs, WV**. Volunteers sample water quality at locations within the Sleepy Creek Watershed.

Website: <http://www.sleepycreekwatershed.org/>

Email: info@sleepycreekwatershed.org

Experience Learning Appalachian Watershed & Stream Monitors **Circleville, WV**. This program involves teachers and students across the Potomac Basin in water quality monitoring.

Website: <https://experience-learning.org/learn/watershed-monitoring/>

Email: info@experience-learning.org

Warm Springs Watershed Association **Berkeley Springs, WV**. Warm Springs Watershed Association participates in the Save Our Stream Program.

Website: <http://warmspringswatershed.webs.com/>

Northern Central

Buckhannon River Watershed Association **Buckhannon, WV**. Volunteers interested in monitoring within the Buckhannon River Watershed can sign-up through the BRWA website.

Website: <http://www.buckhannonriver.org/>

Friends of Blackwater **Thomas, WV**. Volunteers interested in monitoring within the Blackwater River Watershed can sign-up through the Friends of Blackwater website.

Website: <http://www.saveblackwater.org/>

Call: (304) 345-7663

Email: info@saveblackwater.org

Friends of Cheat CAPABLE Monitoring Program **Kingwood, WV**. Become part of a growing network of volunteers who monitor important streams in the Cheat watershed for natural and unnatural developmental impacts.

Website: <http://www.cheat.org/>

Call: (304) 329-3621

Email: ellie@cheat.org

Friends of Deckers Citizen Scientist Program **Morgantown WV**. Interested volunteers are trained to collect data at locations throughout the Deckers Creek Watershed.

Website: <http://deckerscreek.org/>

Call: (304) 292-3970

Email: info@deckerscreek.org

Save the Tygart Watershed Association **Grafton, WV**. Interested volunteers can get in touch with Save the Tygart through their Facebook page.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheTygart/>

Western

Coal River Group **St. Albans, WV**. Interested volunteers can get in touch with the Coal River Group through their website.

Website: <http://www.coalrivergroup.com/>

Call: (304) 419-4417

Email: coalrivergroup@gmail.com

Davis Creek Watershed Association **Charleston, WV**. Interested volunteers can get in touch with Davis Creek Watershed Association through their website.

Website: <http://www.daviscreekwv.org/index.html>

Call: (304) 543-1948

Friends of the Hughes River Watershed Association* **Harrisville, WV.** Friends of the Hughes' water quality monitoring program encompasses over 25 monitoring sites on tributaries and the main-stem of Hughes River.

Website: <https://friendsofthehughes.wordpress.com/home/>

Email: friendsofthehughes@yahoo.com

Morris Creek Watershed Association **Montgomery, WV.** The Morris Creek Watershed Association is developing a water monitoring program that will provide an in-depth understanding of the stream's chemistry. Data will be used to evaluate general stream health, the effectiveness of existing treatment sites in the watershed, and the need for future improvements.

Website: <http://www.morriscreekwatershed.org/>

Call: (304) 442-4581

Email: mcwa@suddenlinkmail.com

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition* **Huntington, WV.** OVEC participates in the WV-VA Water Quality Monitoring Program's pipeline monitoring program.

Website: <http://ohvec.org/>

Southern

Friends of the Lower Greenbrier **Alderson, WV.** Volunteers take water quality samples of the Greenbrier River and its tributaries.

Website: <http://www.lowergreenbrierriver.org/>

Call: (304) 445-2005

Email: <http://www.lowergreenbrierriver.org/>

Indian Creek Watershed Association* **Union, WV.** Indian Creek Watershed Association is currently monitoring in several locations in the Indian Creek watershed in Monroe County.

Website: <http://indiancreekwatershedassociation.org/>

Piney Creek Watershed Association **Beckley, WV.** Interested volunteers can get in touch with the Piney Creek Watershed Association through their website.

Website: <http://pineycreekwatershed.org/>

Call: (304) 228-1680

The WV-VA Water Quality Monitoring Program is made possible through an award of Environmental Protection Agency 319 funding awarded to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and support from the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation.

