



# E-Stream Reader

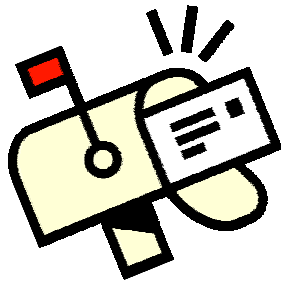
Electronic Newsletter of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

October 2004

## Where's That Datasheet?!?!



With the river levels dropping and rain turning to snow, it is time to draw the 2004 monitoring season to a close. Make sure you completely fill out your datasheet(s) and return it in the enclosed envelope that you received last spring. If this was your first season, or you've added a new site, be sure to include a map as well! Lost your envelope? No problem! Send your datasheet(s) to:

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Citizen Stream Monitoring Program  
EAO Division  
520 Lafayette Road N  
St Paul, MN 55155-4194**

## Equipment Upkeep and Storage

Now that the snow is getting ready to fly, it's time to start preparing your equipment for winter storage.

Ⓢ **Rain Gauge:** Now is the time to bring your rain gauge indoors for the winter. Water freezing in the

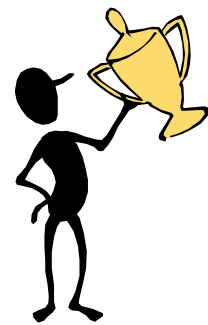
gauge will cause it to crack or burst. If you wish to keep it outdoors to measure snowfall amounts, make sure you bring in the funnel and small inner tube of the gauge.

Ⓢ **Transparency Tube:** There are a couple things to do each fall to help prolong the life of your tube. First, release the clamp on the drain tubing and move the clamp so it's on a different section of the tubing. This will help prevent the tubing from crimping. Second, give your tube a good cleaning. For best results, use a bottle brush covered with a rag to clean the interior of the tube. Use mild soap and water, and rinse well.

## And the Winner Is...

The summer 2004 edition of the *Stream Reader* offered volunteers an opportunity to test their river knowledge with a crossword puzzle. Crossword savvy CSMP volunteers who were the first to return their puzzles were:

- Ⓢ Gwen Ahern, N Fork Whitewater River
- Ⓢ Mary Hollingsworth, Minneopa Creek



© Richard Fetterly, Straight River & Rush Creek.

Each received an insulated CSMP travel mug for their quick response.

## Back to School!

With kids back in school there are many opportunities to share your time and knowledge with area students! Below, students attending the Red River Water Festival in Moorhead, MN learn to use a transparency tube to measure the clarity of the Red River. Water festivals happen around the state and are always looking for volunteers and/or presenters. Check with local watershed groups, nonprofits, schools, or county environmental staff to see how you can help.



*4<sup>th</sup> grade students using a transparency tube at River Keepers' Red River Water Festival in September 2004. Photo credit: River Keepers.*

## News, Notes, & Upcoming Events

### 2004 River Summit

The 7 county metro area's Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership (VSMP) is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> annual River Summit on November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Science Museum of Minnesota this year. Students in

middle and high schools from all around the metro participate in this macroinvertebrate monitoring program. If you would like more information on the program or the upcoming summit, please check the VSMP website at: <http://wrc.coafes.umn.edu/VSMP/>.

### Fall Leaf Color

Looking to find the best spot in Minnesota to view the beautiful fall colors? Check out the Department of Natural Resources Fall Color Reports page online at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/current\\_conditions/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/current_conditions/index.html).

### Reports Are Coming!

CSMP reports will be at a mailbox near you coming this November. Previous reports can also be found online at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/csmp-reports.html>.

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) report for 2003 is currently available online at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-publications.html>.

## Thank You!

Laurie and Pam want to extend a big **Thank You** to all the CSMP volunteers. Your time and effort is truly appreciated. Now that the monitoring

season is wrapping up, take some time to enjoy autumn!

