



Freshwater Plankton Collection, Evaluation and Data Recording

Presenters:

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River-Lab Curriculum

MRWC teaches its four part environmental science curriculum to more than 3,000 students (Grades 3-7) and 400 adult volunteers annually.

Main Program Concepts:

- Natural function of surface and underground water
- Importance of balance in the whole river basin system
- Ways in which watersheds are important within broader ecosystem

Outcomes for Participants:

- Recognize disturbed watershed dynamics
- Identify direct and indirect effects of the disturbance
- Articulate ways to protect and restore watersheds



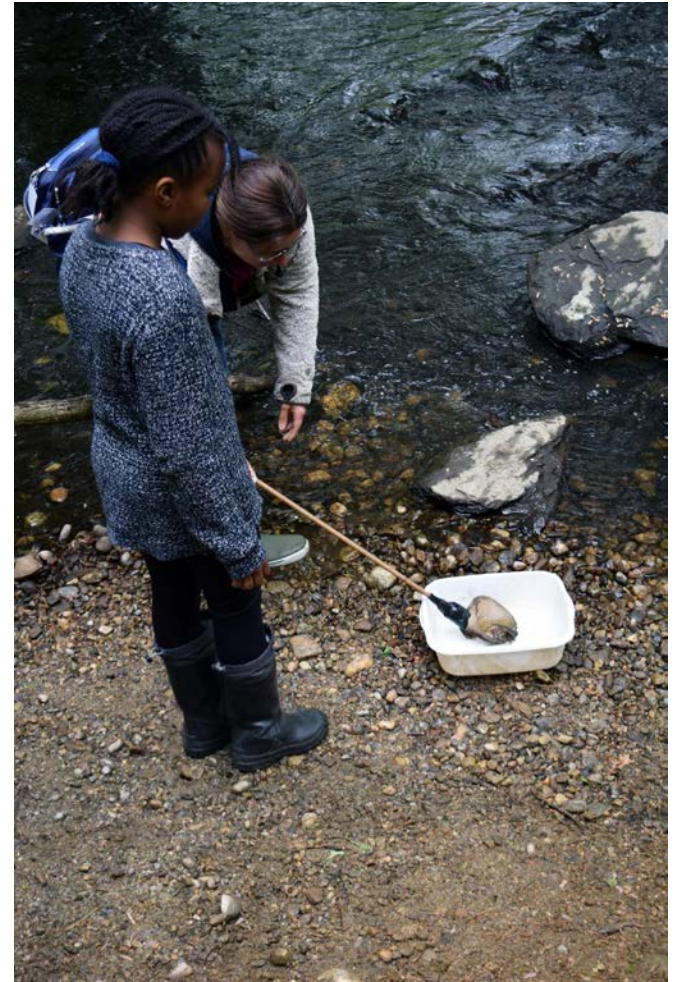
Ecosystem Focus: Spring on the River

Productivity of a River Basin System

- Adaptations and contributions of all floodplain and river organisms to the productivity and health of river, estuarine, and coastal systems
- Effect of seasonal change on river basin productivity
- Human impact on river basin systems
- Critical role of plankton populations as base of the living river basin system (food webs)

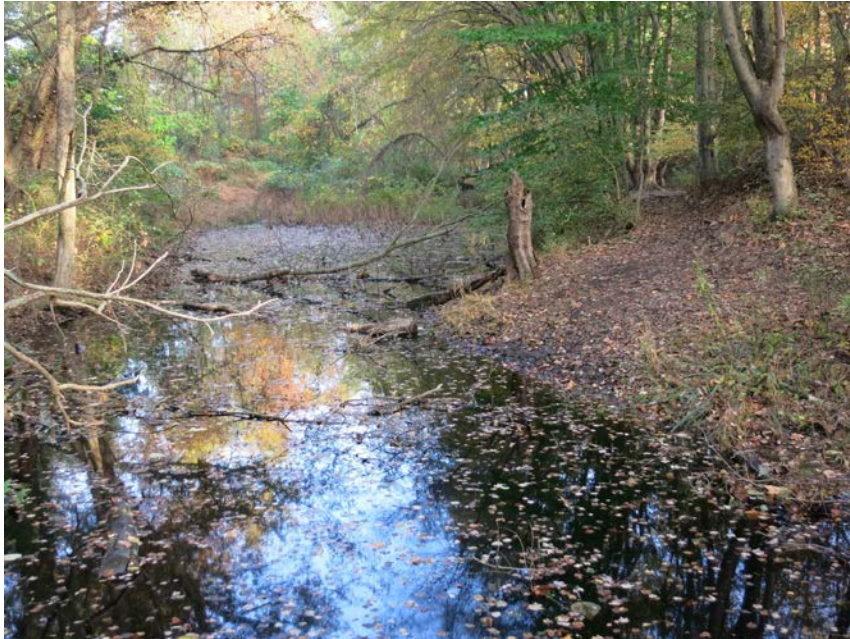


Fast Water Collection





Slow Water Collection





Mill River, Fairfield Observations

Most common phytoplankton

Volvox

Spirogyra

Most common zooplankton (all crustaceans)

Copepods

Scud/amphipod

Seed shrimp/ostracod

Water fleas/cladoceran