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# NEWS RELEASE

*May 17, 2011– For Immediate Release*

## **Dubuque Sponsors Free Water Quality Monitoring Workshop**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – IOWATER, Iowa's statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program, will host an Introductory IOWATER workshop from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Monday, May 23, and Tuesday, May 24, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center located at 13606 Swiss Valley Road. The City of Dubuque is co-sponsoring the workshop and invites Dubuque residents to participate free of charge.

Classroom instruction will be combined with hands-on training during the workshop as participants learn how to monitor and assess the quality of their local streams, rivers, and lakes. Water quality monitoring volunteers will be trained to conduct physical and chemical assessments. Physical assessments document the physical attributes of a water body, such as temperature and water clarity. Chemical testing includes pH, nitrogen, phosphate, chloride and dissolved oxygen monitoring. If they choose to do so, volunteers may submit their data to an online database via the IOWATER website, [www.iowater.net](http://www.iowater.net). Anyone can view data submitted by volunteers, but only certified IOWATER volunteers can enter data.

IOWATER emphasizes a perspective based on the "watershed," or the area of land that drains into a body of water. As workshop participants will learn, much of the trash, chemicals and other materials used on the land will eventually end up in the water.

The City of Dubuque will cover the workshop registration fees which include all program fees, snacks, and testing equipment. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 20. For more information or to register, please contact Dean Mattoon at 563-589-4202 or e-mail at [dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org).

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