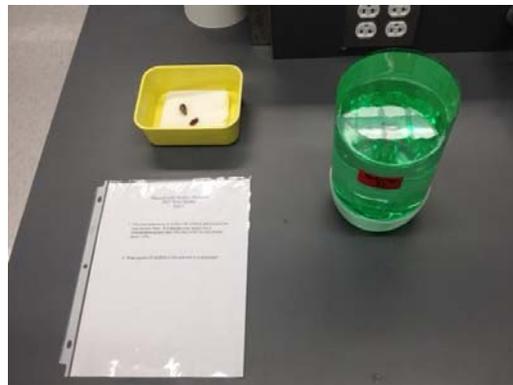


Worcester Water Operations Volunteers at Science Olympiad's Middle School State Tournament

Monday, March 26, 2012

Staff from the Department of Public Works & Parks Water Operations supervised the Water Quality event at the 28th Annual Science Olympiad's Massachusetts middle school division state tournament on Saturday, March 17th; hosted by Assumption College.

Water Quality was one of 23 events which are designed to boost interest in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. As event supervisors, we were responsible for designing a three part competition that challenged students to answer questions, evaluate and interpret displays that focused on fresh water environments.



Pictured above are the two hands-on stations. (Left) Students were asked to recognize invertebrates found in non-polluted waters (collected from Worcester water supply streams) and some common aquatic nuisance plants. (Right) Students were provided with a standard salinity sample and asked to measure its salinity percentage with a homemade salinometer.



This Tournament is a team-based science competition. 26 middle schools across the state compete in pairs. This picture (Left) shows students demonstrating the accuracy of their homemade salinometer/hydrometers.

Most of the kids were really excited about the events. Seeing their enthusiasm made all of the prep work worthwhile. The Department is proud to have contributed and it was a true pleasure for the staff involved.