



HEALTHY LAND. CLEAN WATER. VIBRANT COMMUNITY.

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2019

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Mad River Watching and Fishing

Sampling results from the second round of Friends of the Mad River's 2019 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show **no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels as of Monday morning**. Another beautiful weekend of sun and clear blue skies didn't produce any rain that would have washed pollutants off the landscape, into the water, and downstream. Water temperatures on Monday ranged from 54F in the headwaters to 61F along the Moretown Main Stem, and 66F at Blueberry Lake.

At the time of sampling on Monday morning, the river's discharge (volume per second) was 344 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the US Geological Service flow gage in Moretown, having dropped from record-breaking high of 7,110 cfs on Thursday at 7:30 PM after 2-3 inches of rain in a very short period of time. The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was Low and Steady (LS). The mean flow for this date over the last 90 years is 174 cfs; the water was higher than usual at this time of year.

Remember that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. Tuesday's rain most definitely washed pollutants into the water – Friends' *E. coli* sampling results are only a snapshot in time intended to give you a sense of the conditions that lead to high pathogen levels in the water so you can be informed. **You** are your best protector - use common sense and don't swim for several days after a rain. It is estimated that at the level of 235 colonies *E. coli* per 100 mL water, approximately 8 out of every 1,000 swimmers are likely to contract a water borne illness related to fecal contamination.

Fishing While We Watch

Longtime volunteer, Mike Ware, paired his Mad River Watch water sampling this week with a little fishing. "I caught a pretty little rainbow trout out at Riverside Park," said Ware. "And, thanks to catch and release, it's still a resident at Riverside Park." While Mike was out fishing (and collecting water samples), Executive Director, Corrie Miller, was in the Lincoln Brook watershed doing a different kind of fishing. With partners from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Vermont's Department of Fish and Wildlife, the team electro-fished below the culvert that Friends is working with the Town of Warren and partners to replace next month on Lincoln Gap Road. "The existing culvert blocks fish from moving upstream because of a long drop at the outlet and keeps trout from accessing important headwater habitat," said Miller. "We were counting and marking trout before construction so we can document if they move through the new, open-bottom culvert once it becomes an easier journey for them."

Mad River Watch

As part of the Mad River Watch program, community volunteers collect samples of water on six occasions throughout the summer from about three dozen river and tributary sites. Then, Friends' lab and Vermont's

Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory (VAEL) analyze the samples' bacteria and nutrient levels. Friends posts *E. coli* data in the Valley Reporter, on its Facebook and web sites, and on signs at ten popular swimholes across the Valley so that people have information to make their own recreational health decisions. In addition to *E. coli* data, Friends posts total phosphorus and nitrogen data on its website at summer's end when received back from the state lab. Over the decades, Friends has used Mad River Watch data to guide many successful clean-up efforts.

This week's volunteers include: Charlie Baldwin, Annie & Jula Fender, Rick Hungerford, Joel Rhodes, Chris Shaw, Michael Ware, Julie & Ingrid Westervelt.

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program visit www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org. Throughout the summer, Mad River Watch results will be available in the Valley Reporter, on Facebook ("Friends of the Mad River"), and on sign posts at swimholes across the Valley. Friends of the Mad River is a community-supported organization committed to healthy land, clean water, and a vibrant community. Mad River Watch and other important programs depend on the generosity of community members; learn how to become a member and donate securely online at Friends' website.



Caption: Mad River Watch volunteer, Mike Ware, paired Monday's water sampling with a little fishing and caught this rainbow trout at Riverside Conservation Area in Warren.

Credit: Mike Ware



Caption: Electro-fishing on Monday in tributary to Lincoln Brook to count trout below culvert that is currently a barrier to their movement upstream.

Credit: Corrie Miller

Data Follows

June 24, 2019

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Water Temp. °F	<i>E.coli</i> per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	66	32.7
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	55	12.1
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	55	68.3
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	55	13.1
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	54	21.3
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	56	15.8
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	57	36.4
Meadow Road Bridge (Mad River)	23	57	34.5
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	58	62.0
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	61	36.8

* > 235 *E.coli* /100ml = Not suitable for recreation, according VT Department of Health and EPA

Data, Weather, and Flow Analysis

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River Flow

LS - low and steady: It has not rained in several days and the water is low.

Thanks to this week's volunteers!

Samplers - Charlie Baldwin, Annie & Julia Fender, Rick Hungerford, Joel Rhodes, Chris Shaw, Michael Ware, Julie & Ingrid Westervelt.

E. coli Lab Coordinator - Paula Baldwin

Posting Results - Sally Boudreau

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer

Training and Support - Charlie Baldwin