



March 31, 2023

2023 STATE OF OUR STREAM REPORT

Dear Fellow Ikes,

Our Chapter continues to maintain and monitor 6 sites on the Cabin Branch. Please type in “Clean Water Hub” in your Internet browser, and use the map function to find our Watershed to look at the trend analysis charts for the site closest to your home.

Based on guidance from IWLA HQ SOS Staff late in Fall 2022, we will only fill out the Physical Stream Module and the Flow Velocity Module on an exception basis. The Physical Description data is not used by any outside agency, and the IWLA HQ relies on the USGS data downstream of the Cabin Branch in lieu of the Physical Description data. Therefore, only the Stream Chemistry module, to include temperature and turbidity readings, will be continued. This means one individual can monitor one stream site in 35 minutes. The data is potentially reviewable by outside agencies and serves as an important “sentinel” indicator of problems in any portion of the Cabin Branch. For educational purposes with outside groups, we can still do these other modules. Additionally, any sponsored site organization can do these additional modules and the data will be recorded in the Clean Water Hub for their specific site only.

As usual, our Chloride test results consistently ranged from “Poor” in Spring 2022 to “Fair” in Fall 2022. This improvement is always due to the gradual leaching out of salt from the groundwater over the year. All other Save Our Stream (SOS) parameters were in the Good to Excellent range. While turbidity is an issue after it rains, it is not a test issue, and the Turbidity readings are always graded Excellent.

We share our SOS test kit with the Wildlife Achievement Chapter and they reimburse for the SOS supplies used. Phil Lowe continues to do a great job on his stream site. Any Chapter Member can request the kit and monitor a stream site near their home. It is easy, and the commitment is just 35 minutes for twice a year monitoring. Please contact Bill Roberts or Duane Hovorka on how to get involved!

In 2022 two grant proposals were submitted to the IWLA National Endowment and approved at the Annual Convention. One was for \$3,500 for purchase of a Chapter Conservation & Save Our Stream Education trailer. Another \$3,800 was approved for the rental of the Aquatics Mobile Science Laboratory trailer from the Maryland Agricultural Educational Foundation (MAEF) for the water testing and other lessons at our annual Cub Scout Camp on the Chapter property.

Yours in Conservation Service,

Bill Roberts, Conservation Chair and SOS Co-Chair