

Help Assess the Health of the Tankerhoosen River - Saturday, Sept. 28

The Vernon Conservation Commission invites citizens to help evaluate the health of the Tankerhoosen River. The annual *Rapid Bioassessment in Wadeable Rivers and Streams by Volunteers* (RBV) will be held on Saturday, September 28, starting at 9:00 AM at the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC), 24 Hyde Avenue (Rte. 30) in Vernon, CT.

No experience is necessary. The program will begin with a training session at which volunteers will learn to identify the animals that live on the stream bottom – including insects, worms, snails and crustaceans. Some of these organisms are more tolerant of pollution than others, so the types and abundance found can indicate whether a stream is clean or polluted.

Following the training session, teams of volunteers will visit several river sites that are sampled each year. Results will be submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which will prepare a formal report on the water's quality. Such long term monitoring tells us how the health of the river has changed over time. This project, part of the Connecticut River Watch Program, has been ongoing in Vernon since 2002.

Collections should be completed by 2:00 PM, and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers should bring a water bottle, and wear boots or waders. To sign up, or for more information, contact conservationcommission@vernon-ct.gov, or call Tom Ouellette at 860-965-6180. Join us for a fun-filled time in the river!