

World Water Monitoring Day 2010

**In Celebration of
World Water
Monitoring Day and
Children's Health
Month, on
October 15,
sixty St. Johns Middle
School 4th Graders
tested the water
quality of Patterson's
Ponds, in St. Johns,
Arizona.**



With the support of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Mrs. Harris' and Mrs. Bradshaw's 4th grade science classes collected water samples from Patterson's Ponds. Using World Water Monitoring Day test kits, the students tested the water for temperature, pH, turbidity (clarity) and dissolved oxygen, indicators of the general health of surface waters. The data were recorded and uploaded to a water quality database, where they will be included in a world-wide, publicly-available report.



The students were divided into small groups. A representative for each group waded into the pond to collect a water sample.

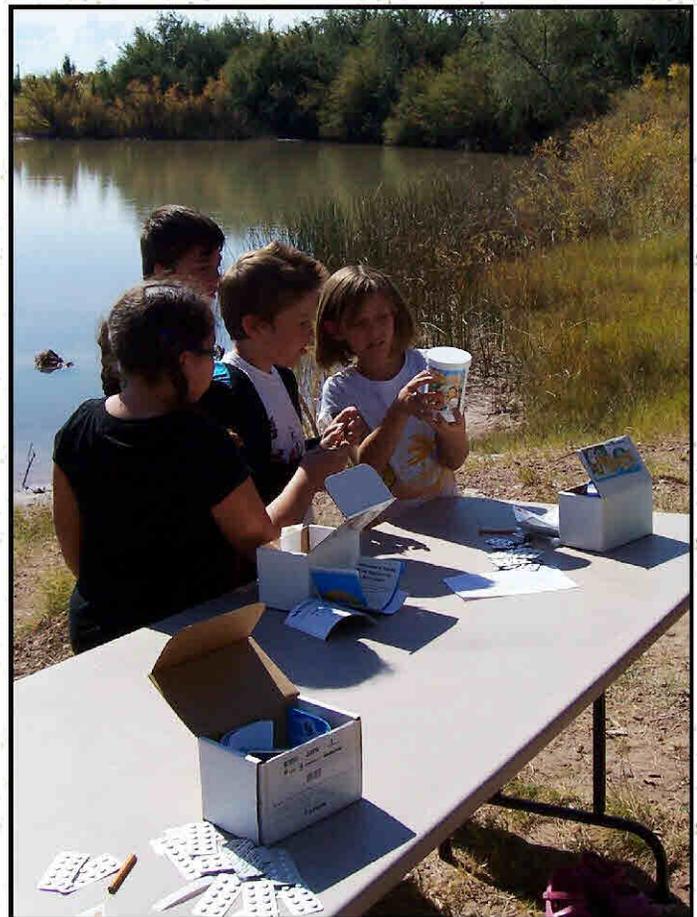


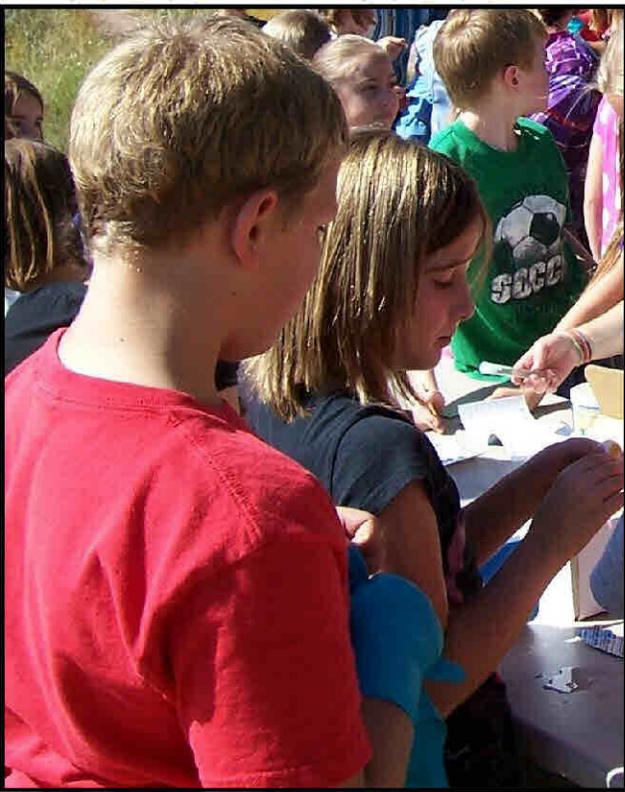
Once collected, various tests were run on the water samples via World Water Monitoring Day test kits.



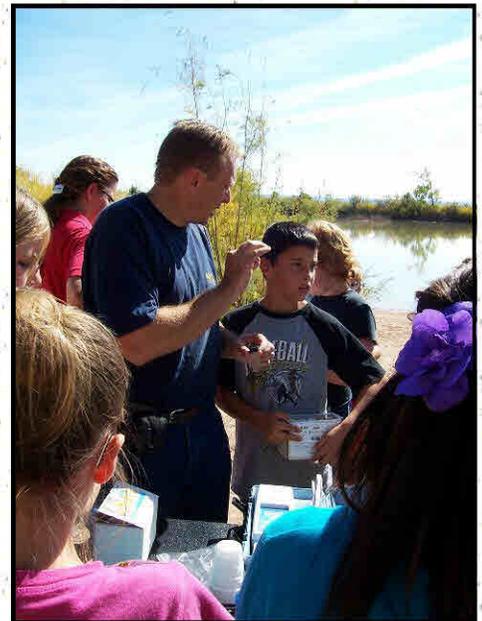
“ I love to see children using science to learn more about their world...this experiment will stick with them for a long time!”

*Beverly Harris, Teacher
St. Johns Middle School*



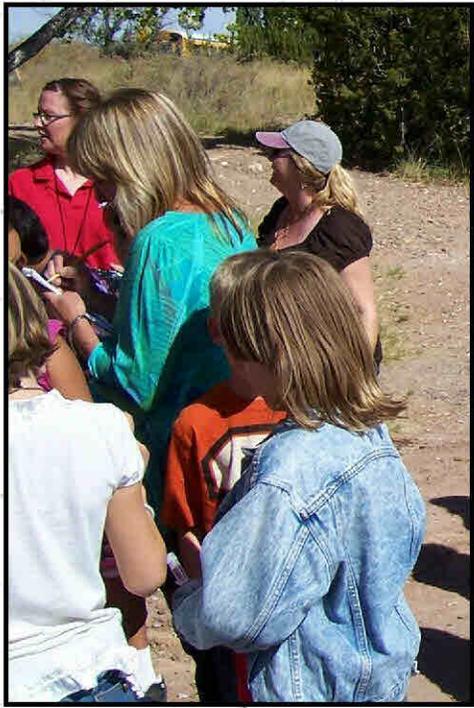


ADEQ representatives Amber Chapa, Julie Finke and Byron James were on hand to assist the students.



“Children's health, their environment and education are very important. Outdoor educational opportunities such as this allow children to interact with their environment and feel and see math and science in tangible ways. These lessons can be experienced at a deeper, more meaningful level, and compliment a child's intrinsic desire to be a good steward of the environment.”
Julie Finke, ADEQ

The event was covered by a reporter for the local newspaper.





Test kit sample results were checked with hand-held meters.



Following a bit of leisure at the pond's edge, the students picked up some trash and returned to the classroom after a job well done.



Testing the water

■ St. Johns fourth graders take part in ADEQ program

Karen Warnick - The Independent

ST. JOHNS - The excitement was obvious as about 60, fourth graders from St. Johns Middle school poured out of a school bus at Patterson Ponds. They were about to conduct water monitoring tests that they had been practicing for in their classrooms. The students were eager to get to work with the equipment provided by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Bryon James, Amber Chapa, and Julie Finke, all of ADEQ, had arrived early to set up tables, a cleaning station and equipment they brought with them from Phoenix. The students were divided into nine groups and given kits that test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water.

The program is part of events planned by ADEQ for National Children's Health Month and World Water Monitoring Day. People across the globe in 81 countries also monitored their local water supplies. James, Chapa, and Finke will be conducting other water monitoring events throughout the state until Dec. 22.

After the data is collected, the students will enter their findings into a database that has a world-wide web site, www.worldwatermonitorday.org. The results and comparisons from all the other events will be available to the students.

Teachers Beverly Harris and Mrs. Bradshaw, student teacher Mrs. Hitchcock, and teacher aide Erlinda Salazar helped the students with their test kits and tasks. Bryon James explained the process to the students. One student from each group was appointed the "wader." Donning oversize wading boots, the students walked into the pond to collect a water sample. Other students conducted the tests and recorded the answers in a booklet. After the testing was done, the students took their results over to a station James set up with more advanced equipment to make sure their results were accurate.

When finished, the students picked up trash from the area and then washed their hands.

Mrs. Harris said the students had talked about the event for days and were excited to be outside doing hands-on experiments. She believes seeing the results of their labor on the web site and knowing that others around the world will also be seeing it, is a good lesson for the students.

ADEQ has spearheaded numerous initiatives to protect children's health including a school bus idling reduction program which now has more than 700 schools in the state participating.



Karen Warnick — The Independent

Kayla Hall and Sylvia Waite (right) take their water testing duties seriously as they participate in the ADEQ for National Children's Health Month and World Water Monitoring Day program Oct. 15.



Testing the water

Karen Warnick — The Independent

Students from St. Johns Middle School conduct tests on the water drawn from Patterson Pond. Students tested temperature, pH balance, dissolved oxygen and turbidity.