

Ode to the SHEP Project

Twas the end of the summer when we got a request
From Friends of the Mississippi with some creeks to test

They were concerned about the water and its quality
And were looking for some folks with some time that was free

We were very well trained about the invertebrates
And how the environment determines their fates

With a map and some nets we donned our hip waders
And entered a creek without any 'gators

We jabbed for our macros in the banks and rock beds
Then plied them with alcohol to dance in their heads

Then on to the lab with microscopes and the charts
To determine the names of those cute little farts

How many segments on that body, tail, and leg?
And what are those thingies that look like little pegs?

Does the abdomen end in a long breathing tube?
Are those eyes compounded or do they protrude?

Some midges, some stoneflies, some damsels and dragons
We labeled them all and then started braggin'

'Cause each of our samples was finally done
We survived the adventure and had lots of fun!

So many thanks to the SHEP staff from your new macro geeks
We wish you success and meanders in your creeks!!