

Bucket Buddies Look for Life in Vermont's Ponds

By Kelly Stettner, BRAT

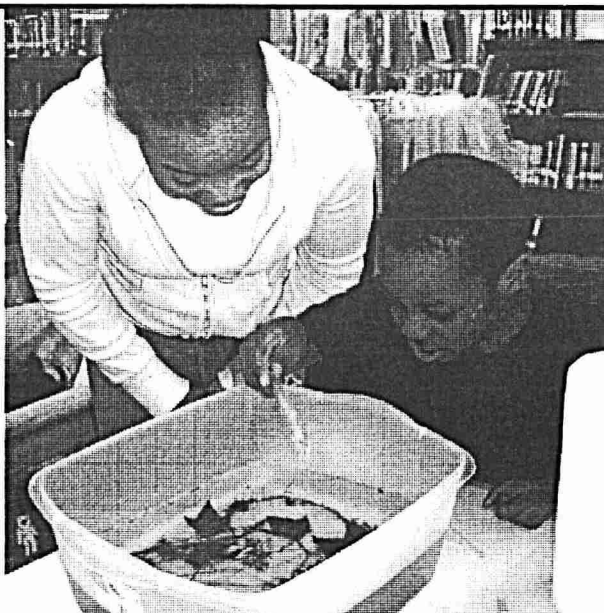
The Black River Action Team wants to know: Do ponds in Vermont have the same creatures in them as ponds in other states? How about in other countries?

Thanks to a program called Bucket Buddies, we can find out! Bucket Buddies is an online project put together by the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ.

The goal of Bucket Buddies is to compare samples of pond water from around the world to see if what's living in them is similar or different. Pond water is being sampled from all over the globe, from New York to California, from Australia to China!

On April 15th, Springfield kids and their parents gathered at the Springfield Town Library to attempt to answer this question. A large sample of pond water collected the day before was presented in pans, and the kids used scoops, ice-cube trays and magnifiers to isolate and count various critters in one of the BRAT's famous "Bug Hunts."

Results were tallied and will be posted to the Bucket Buddies website on May 10th, and the final comparison will be displayed at the Springfield



Town Library soon afterward.

The Bug Hunt is part of WaterWorx, an ongoing river educational program conducted by the BRAT. WaterWorx is made possible by a grant from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund and by the generosity of local individuals and businesses.

