

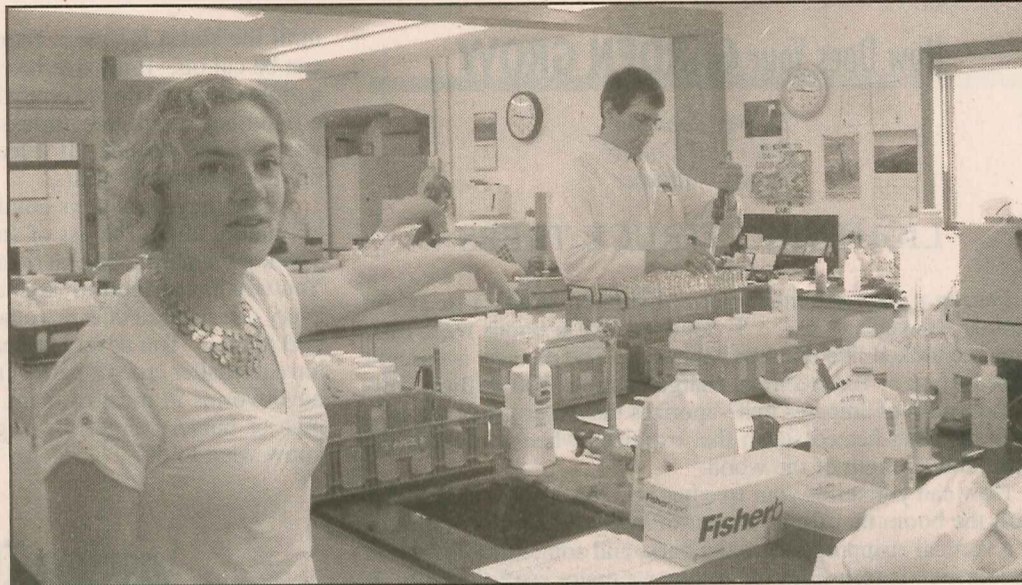
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# Local 4-H Club joins the Lakes Monitoring Program

Moriya Rufer of RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc., shows the kids of the Norwegian Grove 4-H Club how water is analyzed at their lab in Detroit Lakes, MN.

The 4-H Club toured the lab as part of a project that they are working on in the lakes monitoring program. The Club raised money through grants and donations to work on monitoring West Olaf Lake. The kids were trained on how to take lake water samples and on how to preserve, ship and report on the water samples. They learned about lake ecology and best management practices. They learned about how water is checked for contaminants such as arsenic, lead, nitrates, bacteria and phosphorus.

The project requires that the water be collected at a set time and place. So, as soon as the lakes were free from ice the first group of volunteers went out in a boat to collect data. The first data collected by the kids were by Tate Nelson and Wyatt Haiby and the data they collected was



then sent to the lab where it was analyzed and the results were posted on the website. The data can be seen on the website [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info). This website shows the water quality of over 900 lakes in Minnesota. It is an amazing website and allows you to track years of data. To see the information on Norwegian Grove 4-H latest work just look under the lakes and find

OLAF, WEST. To find information on your lake just look for the name of your lake!

The Club will collect data from West Olaf each month that the lake is open and report the information. The data for June was collected by the Knorr family. They are excited to team up with COLA (Coalition of Lakes Associations) in this lakes monitoring program which

enables citizen volunteers to help our wetlands and provide lake stewardship. Anyone who lives on Lake Olaf who would like to know more about what the Norwegian Grove 4-H is doing or would like to see the reports or see our project at the Country Fair please contact a club member.