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For Immediate Release

RMB Labs Expands Macroinvertebrate Certification

RMB is excited to announce that two staff members in the Environmental Services Department, Moriya Rufer and Kaira Kamke, have gained additional North American Certification from the Society of Freshwater Science (SFS) for identifying aquatic insects to genus level (EPT-East). This is the highest certification level available, and RMB is the only non-governmental service provider in Minnesota with this certification.

The SFS Taxonomic Certification Program is implemented to certify that trained and skilled persons are providing aquatic invertebrate identifications in North America as it is such a specialized field. The certification process includes passing an examination with a score of 95% for certification for a particular region and taxonomic group, and payment of a certification fee. To learn more about Society for Freshwater Science Certification visit: <https://stroudcenter.org/sfstcp/exam>.

Aquatic insects are good indicators of water quality and habitat quality in lakes because they have a wide range of tolerance to pollution. Some insects can live in any type of water, even green lakes with high algal concentration and a mucky bottom (midges). Other insects can only survive in water that is very clean and clear and has a high concentration of dissolved oxygen (mayflies and stoneflies). Still others are in between (caddisflies, dragonflies). By collecting insects from the lake and identifying them to see which type they are, we can draw conclusions about the water quality of the lake or stream.

Moriya Rufer is the Director of Environmental Services at RMB. She has a M.S. in Entomology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (Advisor: Dr. Leonard C. Ferrington, Jr), and 14 years' experience identifying aquatic insects. Kaira Kamke is a taxonomist at RMB. She has a B.S. in Water Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has three years' experience in identifying aquatic insects at the University of Stevens Point Aquatic Biomonitoring Laboratory.

RMB houses a taxonomy laboratory that performs professional identification of aquatic insects, aquatic invasive species (including zebra mussel veligers and spiny waterflea), zooplankton and algae. We work with clients in Minnesota and throughout the United States to evaluate their water quality. This certification will allow us to work on additional projects that require this certification, including governmental contracts.

To learn more about RMB, visit <https://www.rmbel.info>.

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