

April 10, 2018

Contact: LaJeanna Eckhoff, Marketing & Publicity Coordinator
Telephone: 218-846-1465
Cell: 218-850-2424
Email: Lajeanna.eckhoff@rmbel.info
Website: www.rmbel.info

For Immediate Release

RMB Labs Gains Macroinvertebrate Certification

RMB is excited to announce that two staff members in the Environmental Services Department, Moriya Rufer and Kaira Kamke, have gained 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>.

Detroit Lakes Laboratory

(Main Headquarters)
22796 County Highway 6
Detroit lakes, MN 56501
218-846-1465

Grand Rapids Laboratory

1851 East Highway 169
ICC – Wilson Hall, Room 105
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-322-2304

Bloomington Laboratory

Metro / South Region
2200 West 94th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431
952-456-8470

Watford City Laboratory

(Formerly BPL)
1806 24th Avenue SE
Watford City, ND 58854
701.444.2202