

## New River Otters

Date: 31JAN2009

Location: JHS

Tools: Water testing kits; insect vials; Jacksonville city maps.

Summary: W. Nelson

Reviewed basic water kits with students and EPT testing. Very brief discussion of results and EPT characteristics. Tom Mattison present and introduced. Daily News reporter (Lindall Kay) and photographer (Don Brian) present. See attendance sheet for student names. # 14 present.

Results:

Students should have a grasp of how to test and record turbidity, pH, and D.O. content in field conditions. Students should have a grasp of what the EPT test is used for and, with prompting, be able to identify Ephemeroptera, Trichoptera, and Plecopteran macroinvertebrates (or give a guess)."

Date: 28FEB2009

Location: JHS / New River

Tools: Kayaks; PFDs; notebooks.

Summary: W. Nelson

The session began at JHS with an outline covering some basic stream terminology. Additionally, there was some discussion of stream fluvial morphology and some differences of lakes vs. streams. The stream terminology we covered will definitely turn up again, so please be familiar with them.

Braving the idea of rain (though there was actually very little), the session transferred to the Marina Café. After a brief overview of watercraft safety, and being outfitted with PFDs, we were off in kayaks. No water testing was done this session; instead comfort with the watercraft was the goal.

Some fauna of interest we found included a surprise Trichoptera (caddisfly) and a large number of Gammarus (scuds). The genus, Gammarus, called "scuds" or, sometimes, "fairy shrimp," is a type of amphipod. They are relatively pollution tolerant and tend to be opportunistic. Caddisflies are from the Class Insecta, and Order Trichoptera. They create a protective "house" for themselves out of silk they spin and twigs, sand, or little pebbles. The one we saw created a case out of bits of reed from the river bank. They tend to be sensitive to pollution (much more sensitive than Scuds!), so it was excellent to find one when we were out!