

Dr. Silvius,

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I saw this article and immediately thought of our lab in environmental physiology. Perhaps this could serve as a jumping off point for some other investigation in the lab. Sorry I have been so remiss in responding to your e-mail from Christmas!!

I thought that the work your students are doing on the riparian buffers is very interesting. There are certain regulations set up in a number of counties here in Virginia which mandate the preservation and enhancement of riparian buffers along perennial streams for the purpose of reducing nutrient loads in the Chesapeake Bay. It would be very interesting to look at the percent forested cover of the drainage area of your sampling points and see how that relates to the nutrient load (i.e. expecting lower nutrient loads in a stream with a 100% forested drainage area as opposed to one with a 0% forested drainage area). I would love to see any paper that your students produce as a result of any of your studies. I hope that you are still doing well and enjoying the work that you are continuing to undertake. I recently completed a graduate class at George Mason University in the Systematics of Complex Angiosperms and did quite well. I am still debating as to how best pursue a masters while retaining my current position. Let me know if I can be of any assistance in relating materials that might be useful to some of your advisees as far as "real world" applications of the concepts that they are studying, I would be happy to help and assist in continuing to develop the Environmental Concentration at Cedarville. We have recently started to do stream assessments to assess their overall condition so that the State can require appropriate mitigation for impacting these streams. The methodology involves use of some YSI instrumentation (pH, DO, etc.) and sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates (everything I learned in General Ecology!) Take care and God bless!

Ben

Benjamin N. Rosner  
Environmental Scientist  
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.  
14088-M Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151  
[www.wetlandstudies.com](http://www.wetlandstudies.com)