

Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)

Training Course Fall 2018

A course co-hosted by Conservation Ontario,
Lakehead University and the Ministry of the
Environment, Conservation and Parks

12-14 October
2018

Lakehead University
500 University Avenue, Orillia, ON L3V
0B9

Instructors:

Chris Jones¹,
Sarah Sinclair²

¹ The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Dorset
Environmental Science Centre

²Conservation Ontario

In partnership with:



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN), which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, is an aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring network for Ontario's lakes, streams, and wetlands.

This course covers biomonitoring theory, sampling methods, benthic-invertebrate identification, and bioassessment calculations. The training is recommended for anyone interested in using benthic macroinvertebrates to monitor streams or lakes using provincially standardized methods. Participants demonstrating proficiency are awarded a certificate of network membership.

The course will be held by OBBN-certified trainers over three consecutive days, and will include a field practicum. It is being offered at the Lakehead University, in the hope of ensuring a diverse group of participants, including Lakehead University students and we are opening a few spots for others from outside the university community. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Instructors:

Dr. Chris Jones is the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks benthic-invertebrate-biomonitoring scientist. His research is aimed at improving biomonitoring methods by better characterizing reference conditions for Ontario's waterbodies, deriving biocriteria (numerical pass/fail thresholds) for biomonitoring indices, and understanding sources of variation in benthic community composition. Chris is an SFS-certified taxonomist, and coordinates Ontario's Benthos Biomonitoring Network (a province-wide, lake-, stream-, and wetland-biomonitoring collaboration). Dr. Jones received his PhD in the Boreal Ecology Program at Laurentian University.



Sarah Sinclair is posted at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre as Conservation Ontario's Biomonitoring Technician. Sarah is an SFS-certified taxonomist. She oversees the OBBN's quality-assurance program by checking taxonomic identifications and enumerations for hundreds of samples each year. She is a graduate of Fleming College in the Ecosystem Management program.





Personal Gear List:

A variety of field and laboratory equipment, as well as Protocol Manuals and assorted hand-outs will be provided; however students are encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible. Students having access to waders and a microscope are particularly advised to bring these items to the course.

Suitable outdoor clothing, appropriate for the season is further suggested, as is sunscreen, insect repellent, rain wear, and a warm hat and gloves.

Hospitality:

Registrants are responsible for their own meals and lodging.

Course Fee: \$350 (plus HST)

Registration Process:

Please register online at the following link: mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca/cell

Contact Sarah Sinclair for further information about course details: (705) 766-2821 or obbnassistant@gmail.com

AGENDA

DAY 1

Time*	Topics
08:30-09:00	Sign-In
09:05-09:25	Welcome; Purpose and format of Course; Goals for Day 1
09:25-09:45	Background OBBN Components, Principles, and Status Update
09:45-10:15	Bioassessment Study Designs and Biocriteria
10:25-11:30	OBBN Methods
11:30-12:00	Protocol Question and Answer
12:00-13:00	Lunch (gather sampling equipment)
13:00-15:30	Sampling: Lake and stream
15:40-17:30	Process samples to obtain 100-count sample

DAY 2

Time*	Topics
09:00-09:10	Goals for Day 2
09:10-10:30	Introduction to benthic macroinvertebrate identification (27-group level; slide show)
10:30-10:40	Break
10:40-12:00	The major groups of benthic macro-invertebrates (demonstration using Dorset reference collection)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-17:00	Practice identification skills and use of keys

DAY 3 (morning session)

Time*	Topics
09:00-10:00	Review
10:00-12:00	Standard OBBN certification quizzes

DAY 3 (afternoon session, optional)

Time*	Topics
13:00-15:00	Demonstration: statistical concepts and calculations involved in a bioassessment -Matching reference and test sites -Summarizing composition with indices -Evaluating test-site condition

*Timeslots are approximate.

Course Location#:



#Classroom locations : Please meet 1st thing in Room OA2014, which is in Simcoe Hall.