

Watershed Education Program Volunteer Eric Swope

The students of the Monadnock region of New Hampshire are fortunate to have a volunteer like Eric Swope to teach them the value of healthy watersheds. His work at the Keene Wastewater Treatment Plant puts him front and center in protecting the quality of the local water. Swope puts his work experience to practical use by sponsoring volunteer activities that teach the students how to keep the local

rivers clean for the fish that live there. For over ten years, he has been a great partner with New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Monadnock Chapter of Trout Unlimited in making the Trout in the Classroom program available to seven schools.

“With his enthusiasm and willingness to organize, he makes my job easier. He knows his community well and can find all the best trout fry release sites,” said N.H. Fish and Game Watershed Education Specialist Judy Tumosa. “He is always willing to troubleshoot tank problems and is available for classroom presentations.”

“Watching Eric is to see learning in



Eric Swope prepares students for a water quality and macroinvertebrate study of the brook where they will release their trout as part of the Trout in the Classroom program.

action,” said Trout Unlimited partner Mike Elkavitch. “Eric explains the meaning of clean habitats to the classrooms, hopefully instilling a life-long commitment to the environment.”

Swope also involves schools in the “Connecticut River Source-to-Sea” river cleanup, organizes annual water quality testing days, schedules electrofishing demonstrations with N.H. Fish and Game fisheries biologists, and is always willing to try new projects with new schools.

“The best part of Eric’s quiet dedication is that he never expects the recognition that he so richly deserves,” said Tumosa.