

## Video Transcript - Collecting the Contents of the Cube

- Chris Meyer: Your job right now is to use the tools we have. We have two buckets, we have strainers, and we have these trays where we're gonna put the sample into. If we pick anything up, we want to have something underneath it to catch the stuff dripping out of it, right? That's really important.
- Chris Meyer: So we want to kind of have [00:00:30] a good plan before we start doing it right? So if we cut around the edges as best we can. We have the scoop and the shovel to put it in. We have multiple trays. Because some of this is going to be really wet. And some of it's going to be a little more dry, right? So, maybe, we have two different trays. So we take the drier stuff, put that in one tray and maybe have the wetter stuff for the other.
- Speaker 2: Yeah.
- Chris Meyer: And then we also have the buckets, so if we have, we can actually scoop up some of the water that's gonna [00:01:00] fall in there and put it in the buckets. And we can strain all that, okay.
- Speaker 2: Okay.
- Speaker 3: Yeah.
- Chris Meyer: Cut around the edges.
- Chris Meyer: Are we ready?
- Speaker 3: I think we're ready[crosstalk 00:01:23]
- Chris Meyer: [crosstalk 00:01:23]It's ready? Let's try it. Right?
- Speaker 2: I'll hold it.
- Chris Meyer: All right. So get the tray down there next to it. You've got to swap out. So somebody's got to come in and just go, and move it over. right? Okay, you guys ready? You can get in there. See if you got [00:01:30] any residual stuff. So here we go. Somebody get it into the tray. Where's the clippers?
- Speaker 2: We need a lot of clippers right there.
- Speaker 3: Quick quick quick!
- Speaker 2: Right there, down there.
- Speaker 4: Down here?

Speaker 2: Yeah. I got it.

Speaker 4: Okay.

Speaker 2: [00:02:00] You have this.

Chris Meyer: Put it all in there.

Speaker 5: Just put it all in there Don.

Chris Meyer: More, you guys have a lot more. So you guys can pull the cube out if you want. Just kind of picture where it used to be.

Speaker 5: Yeah, I'm gonna get a scoop so I can put some of the water in.

Chris Meyer: You guys can use your hands and scrape all that crud into the bucket if you need to.

Speaker 5: Okay [00:02:30] I think that's all the water that was in the cube.

Speaker 3: I'm gonna carry it up.

Chris Meyer: Okay, watch their heads, here, put that in the...

Speaker 3: First thing we might wanna do

Speaker 4: Is that just the water?

Speaker 3: Let me get a little water in it

Speaker 4: Guys we want to pour this water into here. See that's all the stuff that was actually in the water.

Chris Meyer: Bring that over here.

Speaker 3: I think we should use the new smaller tray there.

Chris Meyer: No, here you guys. You guys can do this: usually what we do is we turn that over and we... bang it a lil' bit, right, just give it a little...

Chris Meyer: Look at how much stuff you guys have. Isn't that incredible, huh? So [00:03:00] I'm going to put this in this tray, right? All our stuff is there.

Speaker 6: Okay this is [inaudible 00:03:05] slugs

Chris Meyer: Oooh.

Speaker 6: And then there's these.

Speaker 2: Ooh, they're all round!

Chris Meyer: Now, so what we do is we actually take the cubic foot and we take it back to the lab and we tease it apart, and we take it into little little pieces, and we look at all the creatures. So when you're asking about plankton and what's in the water, and zipping around, and all that? This is, we're gonna collect that and we're gonna take it back. And you guys are going to [00:03:30] be in charge, and we're not going to be able to go through the whole sample. But in a small amount of time, you guys are going to have to pick out different kinds of species.

Chris Meyer: What we've done is, we've brought that material here today, and so we're going to be sorting. So I'm going to run through really quickly so you guys see how to do this. And then we're going to set you guys free on your sample. But I just want to show you really fast. The key is just to take a small sample out. So you can use a little scoop, take a little bit, and you can target [00:04:00] something if you want or not, there's gonna be live stuff in there no matter what you do. Just put it in the tray. Now we're gonna give it a little water so . . . you can see things. Not very much, you don't want to make it too,. And again, we kind of want to prevent the muddiness of it. So we're gonna have that sample there. And then you just kinda, just sort through it, right? So you just look for live critters or whatever's crawling around in there.

Chris Meyer: So we've got a worm. You guys- Oop look! There's an amphipod there that didn't even leave the spoon. So we can just put him [00:04:30] into a cup because this is all of a sudden this will become the amphipod cup. And if you see a worm, like there's a worm right there, use your spoon. Kinda get it low, so there, we got a worm, right? Put a worm into a different cup. So this is our amphipod. We kinda look and see whether they're alike or not, and if they're different, we put 'em into a different cup there.

Chris Meyer: Alright. We wanna kinda keep the non-isopod stuff out of the cups. So-

Liittschwager: That's really helpful for photography. Like you want JUST the creature, because you're gonna... you don't want the sticks and stuff [00:05:00] in the way.

Chris Meyer: So basically, you guys see how that works? Pretty simple, right? And when you're done picking it, if you ever get done picking it, you can get a new scoop. And when this is done, there'll be buckets at the end the table and you just take your stuff where there's nothing else living or crawling around, dump it in the bucket. And that's our "put back" bucket. So we're gonna take that back to the pond.

Speaker 2: Right there, there's an interesting bug.

Speaker 3: There's so many interesting bugs.

Chris Meyer: Hey you guys, [00:05:37] you got it figured out.

Speaker 5: [00:06:00] Yeah.

Chris Meyer: [inaudible 00:06:01]with some water.

Speaker 3: Here we got a leech.

Speaker 4: Wait we need more water. We need more water in that.

Chris Meyer: So on this table, you guys, if you have, for instance, we can do an example. Can I grab one of yours? I have this guy, he's the roly-poly guy, the isopod. I'm gonna come over here.

Chris Meyer: So I'm gonna look across this table, I'm gonna say "Where is this guy?". Hmm. Right here! That looks like him, You can do the I.D. I'm gonna put this guy into the cube. One. Simple as that. Alright, let's go.

Chris Meyer: Pour 'em in. Done. Go [00:06:30] get your next one! There you go!

Speaker 4: I think these area worms.

Chris Meyer: Alright,

Speaker 5: Amphipod, six of them.

Speaker 6: I think we just found a mosquito larva.

Speaker 5: Looks like larva, like mosquito larva.

Liittschwager: Last one in? Here we go. What is it?

Speaker 9: Clam.

Liittschwager: A clam? Cool. [inaudible 00:06:54] Bio. Great, thank you.

Liittschwager: Collecting the contents of the cube. [00:07:00] For the small things, you will need to go into your cube.

Liittschwager: Make a plan to collect that includes being able to document all the creatures and plants you may not have seen yet, to minimize escapees - sometimes speed matters.

Liittschwager: Plastic bag for plant material, and the insects that are on them.

Liittschwager: A pillow case for a soil sample so the very small creatures are not lost in the condensation that can occur [00:07:30] if plastic were used.

Liittschwager: Keep the collected samples out of the sun.

Liittschwager: When it is time to sort the samples from your cube, you can do it in portions.

Liittschwager: Spread a portion of the sample out on a white surface if a dry sample, or a tray or a dish if a wet sample, so you can isolate all the individuals into small cups or vials as appropriate.

Liittschwager: Keep going.

Liittschwager: If you run out of time either return [00:08:00] the unsorted portion of the sample, or try to "keep it happy" and come back to it as soon as you can.