



Stream Partners
2006-07 Yearbook

West Virginia Stream Partners Program

2006 - 2007
Yearbook



Stream Partners is a cooperative effort of
West Virginia's Department of Environmental
Protection, Division of Forestry, Division of
Natural Resources and the West Virginia
Conservation Agency

Stream Partners Program

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Purpose

To support community groups that are dedicated to assuring that their local rivers and streams are safe for: swimming, fishing, recreation, public and commercial purposes and provide habitat for plant and animal life.

How to get started

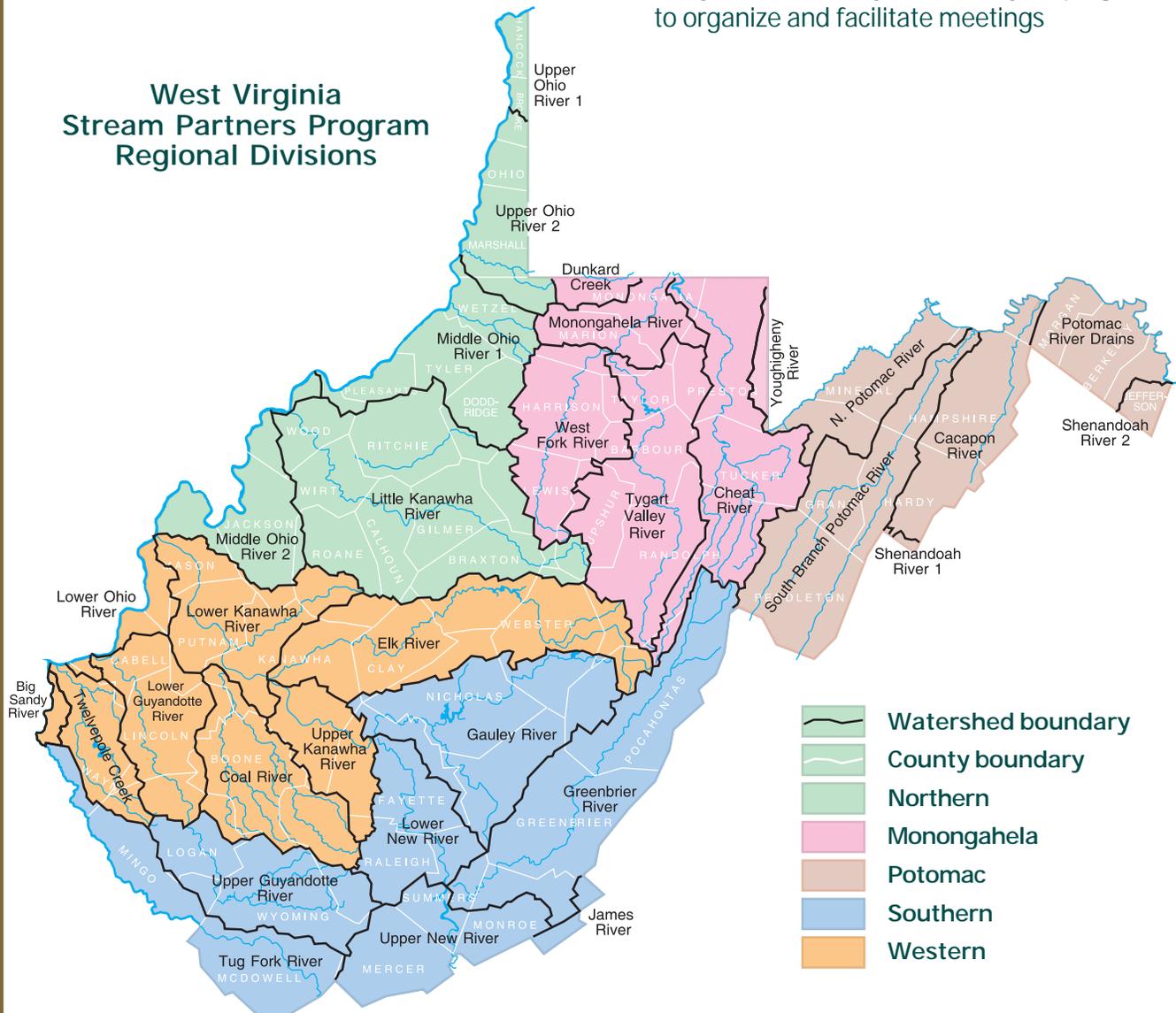
\$5000 seed grants are available each year to applicants that are willing to organize their community to plan and complete a watershed improvement project. Applications are available from the Stream Partners office.

Basin Coordinators

Five regional basin coordinators are available to:

- Help complete applications
- Advise on projects with agency and assist with partnership building
- Get your community involved by helping to organize and facilitate meetings

West Virginia Stream Partners Program Regional Divisions



The Partners

IN SEPTEMBER of 2006 the West Virginia Stream Partners Program awarded twenty-one local watershed associations grants of up to \$5,000. These watershed volunteers spent the year coordinating their goals with those of state and federal agencies, local government and watershed stakeholders to implement projects that range from educational field days to on the ground stream restoration. Each of these organizations although very similar is very unique. Each has its own set of skills, abilities and obstacles.

The Stream Partners Program provides the volunteers with a small financial resource, technical support, and organizational skills. This annual Yearbook will highlight the each association's individuality and successes.

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program is truly a state-wide cooperative effort. Program support is provided by staff from each of the four partner agencies and the grant fund is an annual legislative appropriation.



Watershed Celebration Day 2006. Morris Creek Watershed Association receives the West Virginia Watershed Network's Watershed Association of the Year.



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Baker Run Conservation Society

Baker Run Conservation Society's (BRCS) long term goal is to maintain a healthy and clean watershed. The short term goal and projects for their 2006 Stream Partners grant are to educate and involve the local community on current environmental issues and offer them the opportunity to participate in the protection and restoration of their watershed.

BRCS worked with professionals from Division of Natural Resources, Conservation Agency, Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Department of Environmental Protection to plan a series of educational field days at Baker Park. The goal of this project was multifaceted. The first outcome was to educate participating students on wildlife habitat, tree and shrub species, riparian buffers and nutrient management on park lands. The student's research was transcribed onto signs for the park's nature trail. The signs will increase the watershed knowledge of the recreational users of the facility. As a part of the habitat enhancement

Educational Park
Field Day
Trail Signs
High School Habitat Program

objective, a partnership was created with East Hardy Middle School where the students designed, built and erected bluebird and purple martin boxes for the site.

East Hardy Middle School students install a trail sign.



Students identify tree species at one of BRCS's educational field days at Baker Park.

Buckhannon River Watershed Association

The Buckhannon River Watershed Association's (BRWA) short term goals are to establish access points for boaters and anglers, restore streams impacted by acid mine drainage, address coliform contamination in the river and streams, and to develop a management plan for the impoundment that serves as a public water supply. This grant allowed the BRWA to erect five watershed signs, publish their newsletter, and establish a database with data-logger downloading on a new computer system.

Watershed Signs
 Fecal Coliform Monitoring
 Resident Survey on Septic Issues
 Water Quality Data Logger

As a part of the Buckhannon Project Team, BRWA is assisting with the fecal coliform monitoring on Pecks Run. This project was initiated by the Rivers Coalition and funded with a 319 Nonpoint Source Program grant. The goal is to identify the sources of the fecal coliform, to gain support of residents and local government, and to develop a plan to implement more effective sewage treatment systems. This Stream Partners grant served as the state match requirement for that federal funding. The following survey was conducted by Project Team members.



A volunteer and DOH staff installing a watershed sign.



Project Team members determine the impact of acid mine drainage on Smooth Rock Lick.

Pecks Run Resident Survey Questions

- 1) Is your septic system working properly?
- 2) Have you had any repairs?
- 3) Has your sewer system backed up in last five years?
- 4) Is your residence on a home aeration unit?
- 5) Does your home aeration unit have a subsurface discharge?
- 6) Does your home aeration unit have a perpetual maintenance agreement?
- 7) Would you be interested in learning about alternative sewer treatment options?

Survey Responses

Question #	Yes	No	I don't Know	No Answer	Total Answered
1	3	2	0	0	15
2	4	9	0	2	15
3	1	10	2	4	17
4	4	5	1	5	15
5	1	4	3	7	15
6	3	4	0	8	15
7	7	1	0	6	14

Buffalo Creek Watershed Association

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) is working to re-establish its Board of Directors and membership. The 2006 Stream Partners grant was the catalyst for the development of a plan to restore the Buffalo Creek fishery.

The beginning of this plan is to identify areas where the watershed association can treat acid mine drainage with limestone fines. Volunteers met with Department of Environmental Protection staff, Lou Schmidt and Taryn Murray along with Steve Brown, Division of Natural Resources, to collect water samples and put temperature monitors in the creek. The findings of this data collection will help with prioritization of the treatment sites.

The BCWA was also trained in Save Our Streams volunteer monitoring and will be using the funds to obtain monitoring test kits developed specifically for watersheds affected by acid mine drainage.

Increasing membership is another goal of the BCWA. Meetings are hosted to inform the public of their activities and watershed signs are placed along roadways to establish the watershed

Stream Survey
Temperature Loggers
Watershed Boundary Signs
Save Our Streams Training

boundaries and to create a sense of local pride. Volunteers are also pursuing a partnership with the Clay County Commission to establish a building in Widen that will serve as a watershed office.

The watershed boundary signs create a sense of local pride.



Stream Clean Up Team.



Volunteers being trained in Save Our Streams

Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust

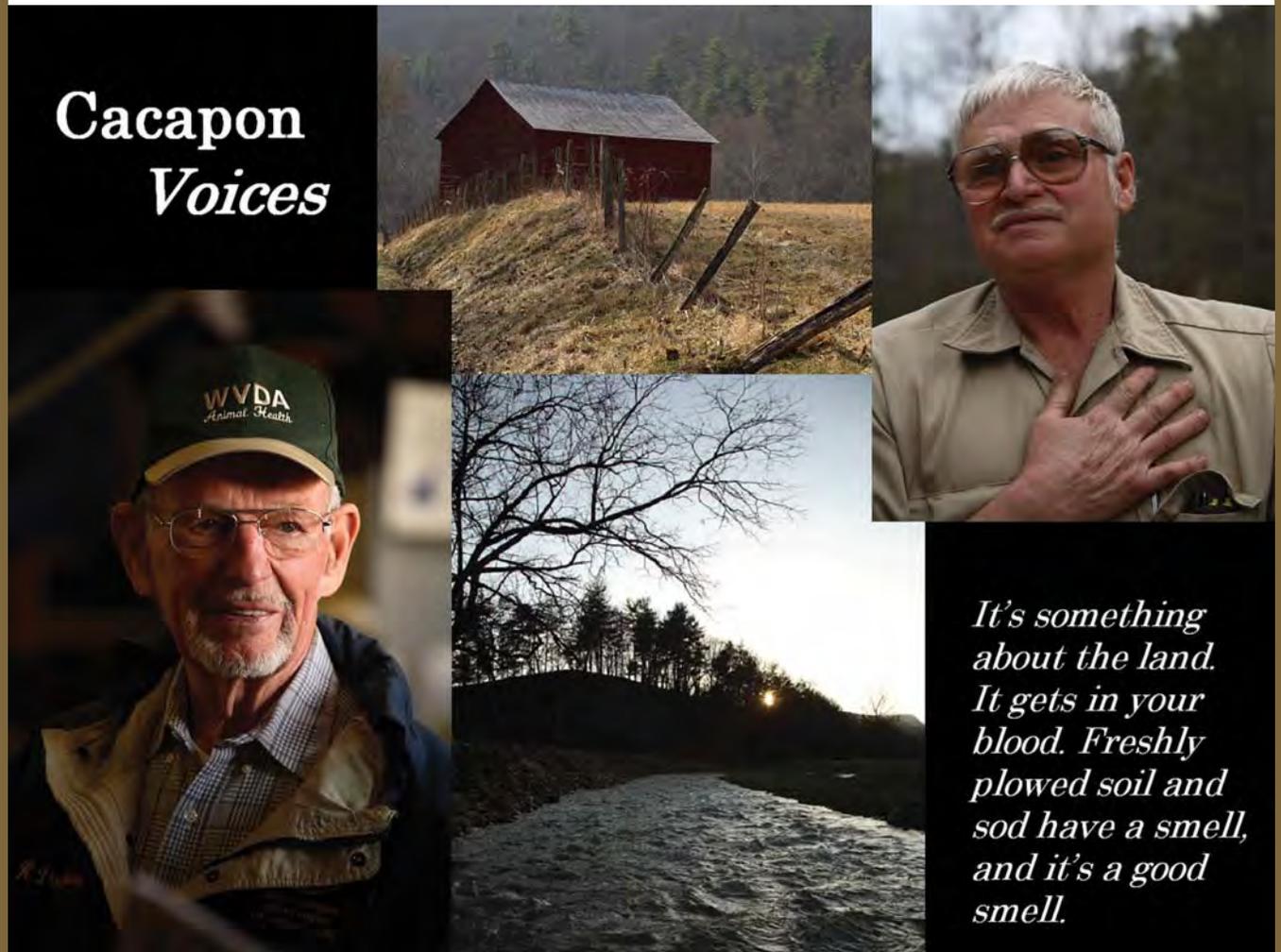
Through the years, the Trust has learned that landowners who have already protected or deeply care about their land do a better job of educating their neighbors and fellow landowners about permanent land protection than the Trust can accomplish alone. This approach has dramatically increased the total acreage protected through conservation easements. Due to this success, we decided to give our landowners a more public avenue to talk about their love for the land.

This Stream Partners grant gave the Trust the means to hire Jamie Ross, an oral historian to capture the emotional connection, love and attachment passed from one generation to the next for the land, rivers and streams in the Cacapon and Lost River watershed. The first part of the project

History of the Land Essay Book

was to preserve those emotional feelings for the land through audio tapes that will be archived in the Division of Cultural History and in the Library of Congress, aired on public radio, and published as essays and in photographs in *Cacapon Voices*, a book that will be available throughout the watershed.

The cover of "Cacapon Voices".



Coal River Group

The Coal River Group's (CRG) efforts and planning for 2006 were designed to address water and watershed environmental issues. They continued with their tri-county effort to incorporate educational efforts in the schools and supplied the middle schools with monitoring equipment and information to implement a program to teach students about e-coli issues.

CRG continued its successful outreach campaigns through the Tour De Coal float trip, the Coal River Photo Contest, and the creation of a historical database of pictures of life on the Coal River. A national publisher has taken these photos and developed a coffee table book of the Coal River Watershed.

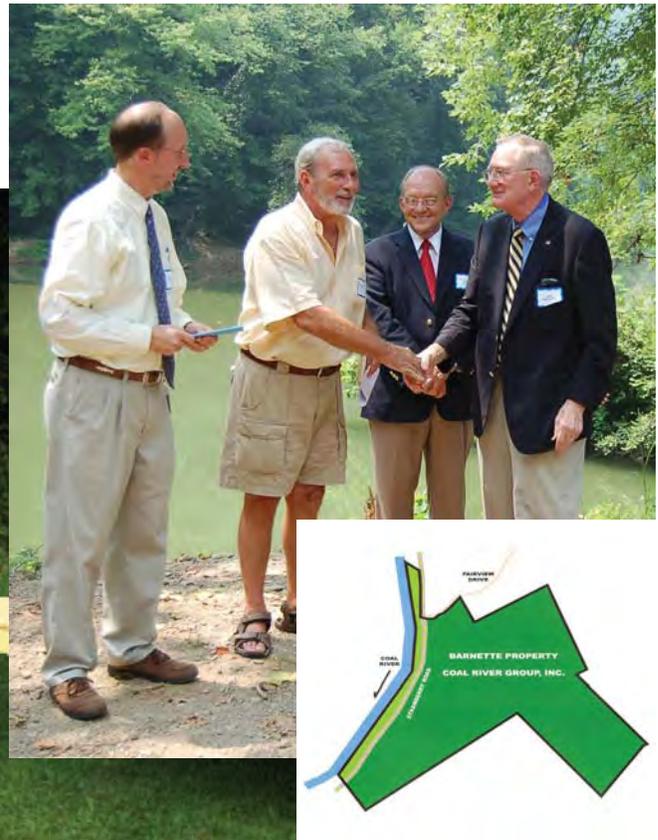
Boaters prepare for Tour De Coal take off.



School Water Monitoring Program
Tour De Coal Float Trip
Coal River Photo Contest
Barnette Conservation Nature Preserve

The CRG volunteers tackled a difficult project with the Barnette Conservation Preserve. The opportunity to create a nature preserve on the Coal River at Lower Falls was made possible through a donation of 30 acres of land by the Hank Barnette Family. A partnership was formed with the Conservancy and the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) that provided the CRG with limits of liability as well as liability insurance. CRG in along with DNR have established a permanent nature preserve on the land that protects and preserves the Lower Falls view shed forever.

Barnette Conservation Preserve dedication and property map.



Friends of Deckers Creek

Friends of Deckers Creek's (FODC) 2006 grant enabled them to continue with their work to facilitate the Restoration Team meetings and implement the projects outlined in their Watershed Based Plan. The funds help support the Executive Director who wrote grants for project funding, facilitated meetings, and organized their annual outreach festival called Carp Fest. The Carp Fest is a fun educational day where residents of

CarpFest
Fundraising
Environmental Education
Watershed Based Plan Projects

Volunteers advertise the CarpFest at the Buckwheat Festival parade.



The Stream Partners grant was also used as the match requirement for the Office of Surface Mining VISTA who focused their efforts on environmental education and staffing the water quality monitoring program with summer interns. FODC was also successful this year in receiving a Future Leaders of Watersheds grant that was used to create the "All Hands-On Deckers Creek" (AHOD) Program. AHOD was a three-week summer education program for students in grades seven through nine.

Overall FODC works hard at making the community aware of all that Deckers Creek and the Friends of Deckers Creek have to offer through community business meetings, newsletters, events, and fund-raising.

Educational displays with a fun twist are what Carp Fest is about.



As you enter the CarpFest you will be greeted by this snazzy carp.

Deckers Creek can come out to have some fun, and learn about watershed issues.

Friends of Deckers Creek are proud of their many fund-raising events including an annual membership drive. This year's drive raised \$6,720 that is used to support the Executive Director.



Friends of the Cheat

The Friends of Cheat (FOC) own twelve acres at the confluence of Muddy Creek with the Cheat River near Albright. This site has a significant length of riverbank, a wetland, and open grassland returning to woodland. Members maintain a public put in for boaters accessing the Cheat Canyon on this land and each year it serves as home for the Cheat River Festival. This site is also the final stop on the River of Promise Interpretative Trail. The interpretive panels at this site will compliment the nature learning. Over the years FOC realized that this site would also be a prime location for hands on outdoor learning about issues such as acid mine

Students display their new watershed knowledge about the Big Sandy, a subwatershed of the Cheat.



Outdoor Classroom

drainage, invasive species, and flood plain management. Therefore it became the goal of FOC to develop an outdoor classroom and nature learning trail around this site.

The process began with the formation of the Outdoor Classroom committee. This committee was charged with developing site plans, choosing a design for the pavilion, fund-raising, and construction. This Stream Partners grant enabled FOC to hire a local

The vision of the hands-on outdoor learning center:



The River of Promise TRAIL Working together, we will not let pollution become coal's legacy

After the T&T mine blow-out in 1994, acid mine drainage finally got the attention it deserved. People wanted to know why the water turned orange. How could the water recover? Friends of the Cheat (FOC) formed in 1994 to focus on the restoration of the lower Cheat River. FOC brought together over twenty organizations to work on this goal by collaborating, sharing information and building on each other's work. The River of Promise Task Force includes federal, state and county agencies, environmental groups, industry, concerned citizens, and specialists in treating mine-related pollution from West Virginia University. This group works together to identify and target streams that contribute significant acid pollution to the watershed. They work in cooperation to secure funding and implement effective acid pollution treatment.

The dedication of concerned citizens and new technologies combine to create unique solutions for treating acid mine drainage. Ultimately, the entire world may learn from the lessons learned in this part of coal country.

Now that AMD is treated, brook trout breed in Beaver Creek. Bill Thorne holds a "brookie" from the creek in August 2002.

Jim Snyder and son Nathan clean up litter by Bull Run in 1996.

May 1995 - Signing Ceremony for the River of Promise - A Shared Commitment for the Restoration of the Cheat Watershed

contractor to do the excavation and site preparation for the pavilion foundation.

FOC's fund-raising efforts have gathered \$17,000 and they have plans to work with 84 Lumber's donation of materials for nonprofit program. They hope to complete construction of the pavilion in 2008.

Interpretive panel along the River of Promise trail.

Friends of the Lower Greenbrier River

Friends of the Lower Greenbrier (FOTLGR) volunteers conducted educational programs and environmental demonstrations addressing school children and the general public. Projects for the 2006 - 2007 grant year included producing a new image and message for a public service billboard, extending the lease on the billboard; and creating a new brochure for use in educational presentations and distribution throughout the watershed.

The billboard is located in a way so as not to impose on any view of the river and has always carried an appealing image and positive message. It is renewed annually with a new image and message, is a constant source of comment from the watershed community, has attracted new members to FOTLGR, and keeps concern for the river before the general public.



Billboard Brochure

FOTLGR'S new brochure reuses the popular map and carries a message about harmful effects to water quality through inappropriate handling of products designed for household and farm use. The brochure suggests the use of more biodegradable or environmentally friendly products and directs readers how to select, use and dispose of such products in a manner that better protects the quality of the Lower Greenbrier and its tributaries.

Billboard image with the message "Preserve Protect Restore" Friends of the Lower Greenbrier River" www.lowergreenbrier.org



Friends of the Second Creek

Friends of the Second Creek's (FOSC) long term goals are to document the watershed history, and to preserve the stream from pollution and extreme alteration. Early in the history of the group the thoughts were to simply clean up flood debris and search for a means of preventing flood damage to private property.

As a group, the FOSC have come to realize that their flood control thoughts were basically short term solutions and that many of the flooding problems were a result of flood plain violations and stream bank problems relative to debris and areas of inhibited flow. The FOSC have educated themselves and others on the importance of the stream's flood plain, the natural flow of the stream, and natural stream restoration. The 2006 grant was used for natural stream restoration project #2 located a half of a

Natural Stream Restoration Project

mile south of Route 219 along Second Creek at the first bridge south on Route 219-1.

The contractors hard at work on the site.



Friends of Second Creek's natural stream restoration project.



Horseshoe Run Watershed Association

Horseshoe Run Watershed Association's (HRWA) short term goal is to begin to address the stakeholders' concerns about flooding. They have created partnerships to complete a stream evaluation, and created a program to educate the community on the importance of protecting the stream as a resource for current residents but also for future generations.

The key is for residents to understand that the long-term solution to the flooding and sedimentation problems is a multi-phased natural stream channel design project. The Stream Partners grant was used to create a digital historic photographic record of the phases of the stream restoration project and a kiosk that has interchangeable pictures of the project and a list of all the agencies involved. HRWA also planted a 4,601 foot riparian buffer along the stream reach of Phase II.

The Kiosk explaining what Natural Stream Channel Design is and what the benefits are to the stream.



Photo Record of Stream Restoration Kiosk at Project Site Riparian Buffer

This buffer will protect the extremely degraded stream bank while reducing sediment and providing stability to the project.

The tree planting crew getting the instructions for planting trees along the newly designed stream bank.



One of many Natural Stream Channel Design projects described on the kiosk



Indian Creek Watershed Association

Monroe County has been “discovered” and the Indian Creek Watershed Association (ICWA) feels that time is of the essence to protect the county’s water. To begin their protection efforts the ICWA used a portion of their 2006 Stream Partners grant to hire interns to monitor water quality, assemble and present the data, and to survey residents to learn about local water quality issues. The completed water quality study conducted in the source water protection area for the Union Public Service District will be a tool for raising the public awareness of drinking water and wastewater issues and for creating a county septic ordinance.

This project has not only created awareness and a better understanding of people’s concerns and where delicate issues cluster, but it has strengthened

Bridges on Second Creek, Monroe County, WV.

Water Quality Survey of Residents Septic System Education Program

ICWA’s partnerships with residents, local businesses and the Town of Union.

Indian Creek Board of Directors receive Stream Partners grant.



Indian Creek wins the 2006 West Virginia Watershed Network Education and Outreach Award.



Kelly's Creek Communities Association

Kelly's Creek Communities Association (KCCA) is focusing on their long term goal of the revitalization and development of Kelly's Creek. Members have realized that these large scale projects take time, and steadily work toward that goal with patience and persistence.

They continue to support the efforts of the Mine Scarred Lands Work Group to develop a redevelopment plan with the \$200,000 Brownfield's grant awarded in 2002. The group is currently focusing on the treatment of acid mine drainage in Horse Mill and Sugar Camp Branches in partnership with Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation. They have also been able to pull in a large landowner that has funded a land use management plan in the community of Ward, an area that KCCA has been studying for the potential of extending wastewater treatment.

The 2006 Stream Partners grant was to partially fund a natural stream channel design project at the mouth of Kelly's Creek. The stream flows along the edge of town and erodes a 225 foot section of stream bank along the Glasgow sewage treatment plant. This is a very difficult

Volunteers and resource providers celebrate KCCA's 8th Anniversary and office renovations.



Watershed Land Use Planning Fall Festival Office Renovation

site and at this time the partners have been unable to find the matching funds to complete the project.

KCCA continues to focus on the community and watershed education. In October KCCA held its second annual Fall Festival which included a watershed display, arts and crafts, food and fun. Their 2007 annual meeting was an opportunity to thank all of their volunteers and resource providers and to celebrate eight years in existence with the unveiling of the renovations to the lower level of their office that can now accommodate volunteers who are older and physically challenged.



Watershed volunteers map water monitoring sites and potential project sites for land use planning.

Morris Creek Watershed Association

Morris Creek Watershed Association (MCWA) is working hard to restore the severely scarred land, polluted streams and less than desirable environmental culture that are the results of the historic mining operations that once thrived along Morris Creek. Over the past five years they have become a well established watershed organization that has made significant positive changes in the environment and the local culture.

The 2007 implementation of a \$1.6 million acid mine drainage abatement project, that treated four sites, has restored aquatic life to sections of the

The Morris Creek watershed office.



Volunteers on brown trout stocking day.



Partnerships for AMD Treatment
Brown Trout Stocking
Erosion Control Planning
Clean Up Campaign

stream that have been dead for thirty years. This project resulted in the first brown trout stocking of Morris Creek which occurred in August 2007.

The Association is the catalyst for the Morris Creek Stream Restoration Group which includes watershed members along with state and federal agencies. This team is now focusing on the sediment loads of Morris Creek and has written a Watershed Based Plan and secured 319 Nonpoint Source program funds to begin a \$41,000 stream restoration project in partnership with Pardee Resources and Mountain View Coal.

Acid mine drainage treatment site at Morris Creek Stream Restoration Group's \$1.6 M mitigation project.



North Fork Watershed Project

The North Fork Watershed Project (Project) spent the last year continuing to collect water quality data. The data collection was done by VISTAs and the objective of the program was to recruit new and younger volunteers and create a baseline for the implementation of restoration projects.

One of the Project goals is to treat the acid mine drainage at the Albert Highwall Reclamation Site above the North Fork of the Blackwater. The Project focused on finalizing grants for watershed remediation from Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Program, Abandoned Mine Lands Office and US Office of Surface Mining. These funds will be used to pay for construction related costs of the re-engineering of a water treatment pond and rip-rap channel.

Outreach has always been an important aspect of the Project's mission. Two OSM VISTAs coordinated a fund-raising auction, the water monitoring program, historical data gathering, and

Water Quality Monitoring Program
Partnerships for AMD Treatment
Fundraising
The Listening Project



North Fork Watershed Project Partners tour acid mine drainage site to prioritize projects.



Volunteers collecting samples for the monitoring program.

watershed tours that included North Fork history and current water quality issues.



The "Listening Project" generated the most local interest. Community meetings were organized around a large map of the watershed, old panoramic photographs of the town and river led to discussions with seniors about where they had lived, where they worked, and where various events took place along the river. This outreach effort has brought the community closer together around the issue of water pollution.

Opequon Creek Project Team

The Opequon Creek Project Team (OCPT) is charged with implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load within their watershed by encouraging the implementation of agricultural, stormwater and other urban best management practices. They began by identifying problems within the watershed using a land use map, a watershed survey completed by West Virginia University, and their own landowner survey. The goal of the 2006 Stream Partners grant was to make informed and timely decisions about which subwatershed of the Opequon would be the best place to begin using limited funds available for nonpoint source pollution reduction projects.

OCPT hired Canaan Valley Institute to conduct subwatershed prioritization exercises during monthly meetings, which resulted in the prioritization of Mill

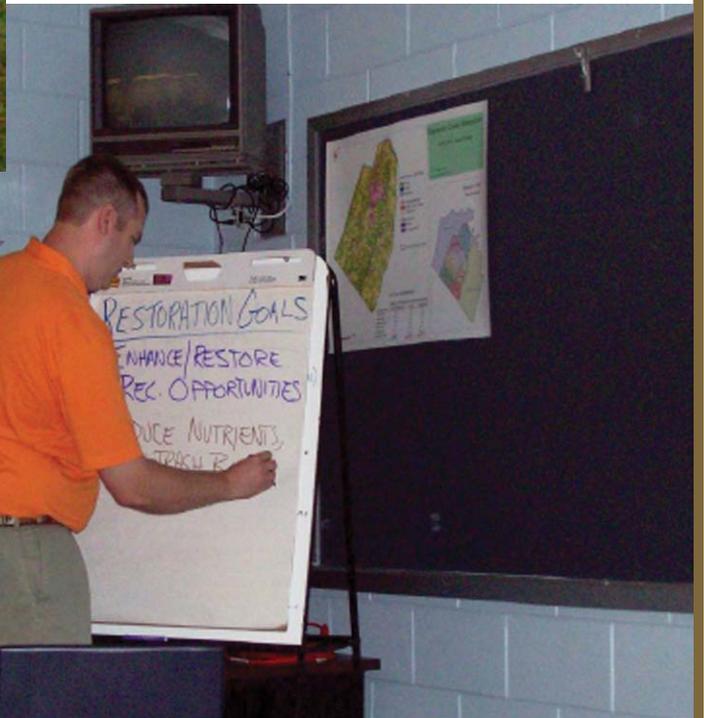
Subwatershed Prioritization
Landowner Survey
Watershed Survey
Fecal Coliform Monitoring
Buffer Planting

Creek subwatershed for future projects and attention. They conducted regular monthly sampling above and below two locations along Opequon Creek to have them analyzed by a lab for fecal coliform. This exercise concluded that fecal coliform levels are extremely variable, presumably due to the amount of rainfall and runoff recently experienced at the sites. The plan is to identify an area to begin working on a community plan for sewage treatment.

OCPT carried out a creek-side buffer planting on Opequon Creek. The planting was a two day project during which volunteers planted a 60 foot wide buffer of 140 trees and shrubs to filter runoff and create wildlife habitat.



Opequon Creek watershed volunteers planting a riparian buffer zone along the creek.



Canaan Valley Institute helps with subwatershed prioritization exercise.

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) is actively working to sustain interest in its purpose and mission. They believe they have

Storm Drain Marking Program
Hazardous Waste Collection
Construction Stormwater Webcast
Future Leaders of Watersheds Grant



Piney Creek

An opportunity presented itself for PCWA to cosponsor a household hazardous waste collection event in Beckley. The event was a tremendous success with 440 cars coming through. Materials collected included a 30 yard roll off container of paint, over 1300 gallons of used motor oil, and six pallets of automotive batteries.

already had an impact on the water resources of Piney Creek through public awareness events, press coverage, storm drain marking and stream clean up programs. The 2006 Stream Partners grant helped support a variety of those activities.



Storm drain marker installed around the city by the PCWA volunteers



Hazardous waste collection day.

PCWA and The City of Beckley Stormwater Program sponsored an Environmental Protection Agency webcast on construction stormwater. John Thackston attended and provided introductory remarks about PCWA interest in construction stormwater and controlling sediment and erosion of land.

Plateau Action Network

Grant for AMD Treatment
Smart Economic Development Conference
"People Power" Parade Theme
AMD Tie-dyed T-Shirts



PAN volunteer talks to kids on Earth Day about acid mine drainage while making AMD tie-dyed t-shirts.

Plateau Action Network (PAN) has been working toward treating acid mine drainage in Wolf Creek since 2001 when a Memorandum of Understanding was crafted and signed by PAN and 16 state and federal stakeholders to ensure a restoration effort to return Wolf Creek to a trout stream. During this Stream Partners grant period PAN was able to write grants and secure \$150,000 for the implementation of the \$164,000 AMD restoration project Phase I at the Summerlee gob pile site.

PAN's VISTA generated over \$11,000 from local agencies and organizations to support the creation of an eight person team of Fayette County community leaders to attend a four day training about smart economic development in relation to the value of our natural

resources called "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities", sponsored by the Conservation Fund. The conference resulted in a commitment to implementing a unified vision for county-wide planning based on preserving and enhancing our natural resources.

PAN was very excited about their successful outreach efforts which included: Earth Day at Fayetteville where members made tie-dye t-shirts with acid mine water at the PAN display; PAN's 10th anniversary membership party where volunteers raised \$3,600; a public meeting to organize the outdoor recreation community for protection efforts along the Meadow River due to concerns of a potential a gob



PAN educational video on acid mine drainage and restoration efforts shot at a coal refuse pile.

pile regeneration plant; and the "People Powered" theme for the New River Gorge Heritage Festival Parade where volunteers carried the mission of PAN by bicycle. PAN was instrumental in encouraging the Fayetteville government to bring in West Virginia's Community Design Team to build a baseline for updating Fayetteville's comprehensive plan that will take into account water quality, stream preservation and

conservation through wastewater and stormwater planning.

Rockymarsh Run Network

The Rockymarsh Run Network (RRN) is a newly formed watershed-focused network of local citizens, property owners and supporting resource partners. Actions of the RRN primarily address the impact of changing land use and increased development on the health of our local stream.

RRN launched their educational watershed calendars outreach campaign at a public presentation and then proceeded to distribute 750 watershed calendars to the community. Each calendar contained monthly watershed facts and activity reminders for watershed protection.

Volunteers have worked with Trout Unlimited to identify potential brook trout restoration projects. Several local land owners have allowed RRN to install temperature sensors in their stream reaches. In addition to the fish monitoring another aspect of the watershed planning included a training session for USEPA staff on wetland delineation and wetland plant identification in a karst meadow wetland within Rockymarsh Run.

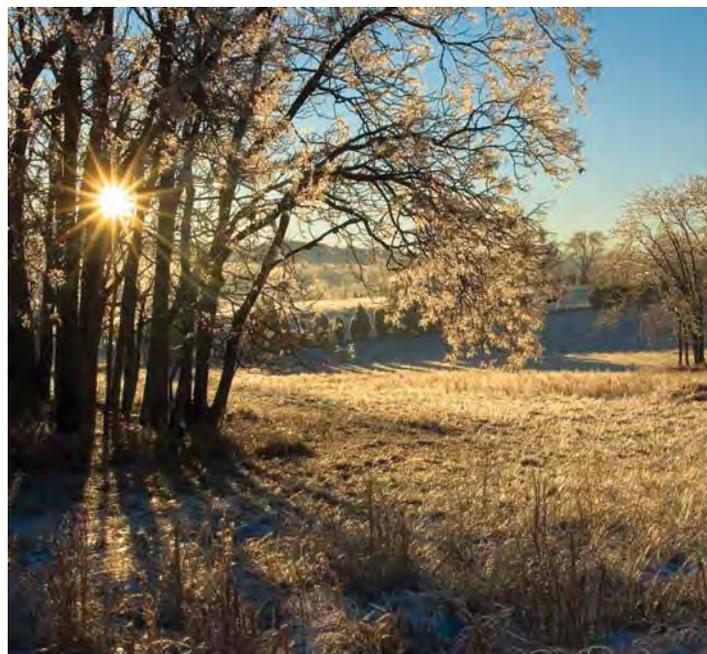
The National Fish and Wildlife Fund awarded a Targeted Watershed Grant to The Conservation Fund and the Rockymarsh Run Network partnership for restoration of Rockymarsh Run watershed. The grant award was \$400,000 and will be matched by an additional \$262,000 in matching and in-kind contributions. The early support of the Stream Partners program in 2005 and 2006 created

Educational watershed calendar with monthly watershed facts and activity reminders for watershed protection.

Watershed Calendar
Brook Trout Habitat Survey
Targeted Watershed Grant

the opportunity for this large grant through development of outreach materials and baseline information.

Rockymarsh Run receives the EPA Targeted Watershed grant to install BMPs in the watershed and create a pilot project for pollution trading.



what you can do...

Thinking of volunteering in the community? There are plenty of local organizations to consider joining.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

(<http://www.potomacaudubon.org/>)

PVAS is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan Counties. PVAS focuses on programs and activities that promote a greater appreciation of the natural world.

Potomac Valley Nature Photographers

(<http://potomacvallynaturephotographers.org/new/>)

A new organization in the area that is dedicated to celebrating nature photography in all its form and at all levels of practice.

Keep Jefferson Beautiful

(<http://www.keepjeffersonbeautiful.org/>)

A local group dedicated to promoting and supporting programs leading to the elimination of trash and litter in Jefferson County, WV.

Sierra Club, West Virginia Chapter

(<http://westvirginia.sierraclub.org/>)

An organization focused on protecting the state's environment and natural resources. Current issues include: Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining and WV Wilderness Campaign.

Izaak Walton League, Berkeley County Chapter

(<http://www.iwlw-bc.org/mike.html/index.php>)

A local chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, which works to restore watersheds, reduce air pollution, fight litter, and promote means and opportunities for the education of the public.

Opequon Creek Project Team

(<http://www.opequoncreek.org/index.html>)

A local group planning and implementing nonpoint source pollution reduction projects in the watershed. Local, state, and federal government agencies, along with local watershed citizens work together to protect and enhance the community's natural resources.

For more information, visit www.rockymarshrun.org

december

2008

Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Sleepy Creek was identified as one of the top two priority watersheds in the Potomac Basin through the Chesapeake Bay Program. Along with the Opequon Creek, Sleepy Creek has been identified as being a priority for identification and implementation of best management practices to reduce the flow of nutrients and sediment to the Bay.

The Sleepy Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) volunteers are focused on writing a watershed based plan to identify opportunities for stream restoration work.

Their outreach focus for this Stream Partners grant has been riparian buffers and stormwater management. Members researched the subject of riparian buffers and wrote a four-fold instructional

Riparian Buffer Brochure
Stormwater Management Brochure
Natural Stream Concepts Workshop
Riparian Buffer Plantings



Turtles and other wildlife are the reason for habitat restoration.



Volunteers planting trees to restore streamside habitat and secure the banks.

“Natural Stream Concepts” in partnership with CVI, researched tax records to compile the first ever complete list of landowners along Sleepy Creek, and worked with the Morgan County Planning Commission on recommendations for new sub-division ordinances to protect against stormwater runoff and failing septic tanks.

brochure entitled “How to Protect and Care for Your Riparian Buffer”. This brochure along with a cover letter was mailed to 410 landowners in the Sleepy Creek watershed. A second brochure entitled “Stormwater Management on your Property” was completed and mailed in June.

SCWA has also successfully implemented several projects within this grant year. They secured additional funding for two riparian plantings at sites along Sleepy Creek, co-sponsored a two-day workshop entitled



SCWA members will now monitor and water the riparian buffer and in the future measure the environmental impacts.

Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association

The Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association (UGWA) has been very successful in implementing the projects being funded by the Stream Partners Program.

The goal of the Devils Fork Wastewater Project is to provide household wastewater treatment service to all 68 homes in the Devils Fork sub-watershed and thereby restore the stream. A steering committee has completed a feasibility study, researched property ownership in anticipation of a property donation, hosted a workshop on the management and maintenance of alternative onsite wastewater treatment technologies, and facilitated collaboration to develop and promote a multi county program that provides low interest loans to the homeowner interested in participating in the wastewater treatment plans.

UGWA has implemented water quality monitoring programs. These programs will provide the data necessary to evaluate the efficacy of wastewater treatment projects and add or remove streams from the WV 303 (d) list. Hundreds of area residents turned out for the third annual appliance and

Sewage Feasibility Study
Water Quality Monitoring Program
Appliance and Metal Collection Day
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Organization Capacity Building

scrap metal collection where more than 50 tons of junk appliances, cars, lawn mowers, bicycles, water heaters, and other scrap were collected during this three day event.



Friends of the Earth Streamwalk students study stream ecology.

UGWA members collect water quality data.



UGWA's new VISTA serves as the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Outreach efforts in 2006 include: participation in the Mullens Dogwood Festival, recruitment of 46 new members, partnering with schools and local youth programs to conduct stream walks, hikes and ecology classes, distribution of newsletters and press releases, development of a high school environmental club and a county wide recycling program, and printing river conservation tote bags for new member recruitment.

Wastewater Coalition of McDowell County

The Wastewater Treatment Coalition of McDowell County is tasked with the implementation of a county-wide wastewater treatment solution. The 2006 Stream Partners grant has allowed them to successfully complete the projected fecal coliform testing of 13 sites along McDowell County streams

Fecal Coliform Monitoring Program
FLOW Grant
Summer Watershed Program



Municipality staff works with DEP to understand water quality issues.

to provide a clear understanding of the degree of contamination. This study leads the Coalition to conclusions of either non-existent or failing wastewater treatment systems. The monitoring project included training local municipality staff. The purpose of this monitoring is to aid in the prioritization of treatment system installations, provide the Coalition with the needed information

to recommend streams for impaired status and to write a Watershed Based Plan (WBP), and to create a base line for the prioritized areas by which the impact of implemented wastewater projects will be measured. The WBP will be used to apply for federal funding for installation. A portion of this grant is dedicated to the first septic system installation project.

The Coalition has scheduled public meetings and planned youth activities, including securing a Future Leaders of Watersheds Grant from the



The water quality training class takes to the field to learn to use the equipment.

Commission for National and Community Service to host a summer watershed program. This summer program was the kick off for a community wide education effort for 2008.

Coalition members present the wastewater treatment plan.



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Photo by Abby Chapple