

2008-09 Educational Mini-grants Wrapping Up for the Year

Over the last year, the PACD supported the success of 32 NPS Section 319 and 32 Chesapeake Bay educational mini-grant projects. Of these grants, 27 focused on education relevant to agriculture, three on community conservation through BMPs, four on erosion & sedimentation issues, one on septic systems, one on soils, 17 on stormwater issues, and nine on general watershed education through workshops, festivals and exhibits. These projects provide an opportunity for conservation districts to implement educational programs to increase local awareness of water quality issues and encourage citizen participation in activities to improve water quality in local watersheds.

Grants of up to \$2,000 were awarded and districts should be commended on what they were able to accomplish with that amount of money. While most districts secure matching funds, most would be unable to carry out the project without the funding support provided. Funding for these grants is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program.

Unfortunately, due to fiscal constraints, the Chesapeake Bay Educational Mini-grant program will not be funded for the 2009-2010 project year. However, the PACD has received 75 applications for NPS Section 319 projects for the 2009-2010 project year and looks forward to supporting another round of excellent projects.

Chesapeake Bay Educational Mini-grant Project Highlight: Bradford/Sullivan Floodplain and Riparian Protection Summit



The Bradford/Sullivan Floodplain and Riparian Protection Summit focused on riparian protection and management and keeping development out of flood prone areas. The event included both classroom lecture and field exercises and emphasized the use of maps, tools and site visits. The event's session on low impact development drove home the reality of various practices being applicable to rural communities and the field exercise clarified the message that "We All Live Downstream". By providing a real-life situation and being able to put to use what was learned, the municipal officials present were motivated to improve site development and land management. Corey Richmond, Sullivan County Conservation District Watershed Specialist

and Education Coordinator, served as project lead and can be reached at h2osp@sullcon.com or 570-928-7057.

NPS Section 319 Educational Mini-grant Highlight: Cameron Erosion and Sedimentation Workshop



The Cameron Erosion and Sedimentation Workshop was attended by landowners, foresters, loggers, contractors, and oil and gas workers. The goal of this workshop was to inform those actually writing and implementing erosion and sedimentation plans of what the regulations mean for improving water quality in our local watersheds. Cameron County is in the head waters of the Susquehanna Watershed, and there is extreme pride in the high quality and exceptional value ranking of our streams. Through this workshop contractors increased their awareness of NPS pollution and how what they do can affect local natural resources. Workshop evaluations determined that attendees left the workshop motivated to take preventative measures with the appropriate permits and well developed erosion and sedimentation plans guiding their actions. Radock Morgan, Cameron County Conservation District Resource Technician, served as project lead and can be reached at cameron.crt@hotmail.com or 814-486-9302.