



Water Resources Education Network

A project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund

2010 WREN OPPORTUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Watershed Education

WREN awarded six (6) 2010 Opportunity grants for a total of \$1,725 provided for watershed education protection projects. WREN Opportunity Grants provide small Community Initiative Funds (max. \$300 each) to support community grass roots educational projects to build awareness, knowledge, and competency to protect Pennsylvania's water resources with funding provided by the PADEP Nonpoint Source Management Program through Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act, administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

South East PA

Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association, Delaware County - \$300

CRC conducted education for streamside landowners along the Upper Crum Creek Watershed, with a Streamside Landowners Education Workshop on Sept 30th. Prior to the Workshop, at least 150 streamside landowners were invited to attend a presentation by CRC and Delaware Riverkeeper Network on the health of the Crum Creek watershed to learn how to care for their streamside property to enhance the health of the stream. Each attendee received a folder of educational materials including the brochure "Caring for your Streamside Property" published under the Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant. Contact Leslie Weinberg: crcleslie@nni.com

Abington EAC, Montgomery County - \$300

The Abington Environmental Advisory Council provided two rain barrels for the Abington Senior High School and one rain barrel for Abington Junior High School to enable the high school garden club and junior high Green Thumbs club to engage and educate their respective schools about the benefits of rain barrels, how they can assist in reducing non point source pollution for Abington's three watersheds, and essential ways to protect water drinking water through water conservation. Contact Cakkyb Evans: cakkyb@msn.com

North East PA

Lower Macungie Township EAC, Lehigh County - \$300

The Lower Macungie Township Environmental Advisory Council purchased stormwater drain markers and adhesive to provide a simple educational reminder to those who may use excess fertilizer, herbicide, and insecticides on agricultural lands and residential areas, or dump oils, greases, and toxic chemicals that may drain into township creeks during storm events. Storm drain markers also remind those who may litter, wash vehicles and notice sediment from improperly managed construction sites, that this activity affects the health of the aquatic environment. It is our hope that these markers can begin to draw awareness that certain activities cause NPS pollution and should be halted to preserve our local creeks. Contact Chris Cope: ccope3@rcn.com

North Central PA

Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association, Snyder County - \$300

WREN grant was used to hold a Rainbarrel workshop where participants were given a completed rainbarrel. These workshops served as an opportunity to introduce NPS solutions to homeowners in an area where the focus traditionally has been on the agriculture sector. Additionally, the workshops served as great publicity for the LPCWA and helped to increase their active membership. Contact Jason Winey: jwiney@ptd.net

South West PA

Westmoreland Conservation District, Westmoreland County - \$225

The Westmoreland Conservation District has mounted an aggressive campaign to reach the equestrian audience since 2009, including working with equestrian organizations to provide pasture walks, workshops, and resource material in order to raise awareness of non-point source pollution, the remedies, and cost-share options. Funding was used to expand on the success of a limited project in which summer interns visited six horse farms in Westmoreland County to perform soil testing in horse pastures.

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Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Watershed Education - *continued*

Westmoreland Conservation District, Westmoreland County - continued

Intern and staff resources were used to test the soil and mail the samples to Penn State's agriculture lab, while the participating farms paid for the test kits. WREN Opportunity grant funding enabled the agricultural technician/nutrient management specialist to print and mail a user-friendly synopsis of our study to other conservation districts in the region, and to the +/- 80 entrants on our equestrian database, including barn owners, equine veterinarians, and farriers. Pre-paid soil test kits were offered for up to 25 test kits on a first-come, first-serve basis along with the offer of post-test technical assistance of our ag specialist. All kits were distributed to horse farm owners. and follow-up visits provided information on other services of the District and BMP's for horse farms. Contact Mimi Thomas: mimi@wcdpa.com

Chartiers Creek Watershed Association, Fayette County - \$300

WREN Opportunity Grant was used to purchase water monitoring supplies with results used to raise awareness and conduct public education through Association newsletter and workshops. ChCWA has been monitoring water quality since the Association was organized in 1999. The program is now being modified, in part to monitor potential effects on water quality from Marcellus Shale drilling activity. The program will now include testing for suspended solids, along with alkalinity and several chemical parameters. Contact Joan Jessen: joanjessen159@gmail.com