

Sleepy Creek Project Team: Stream Stabilization & Riparian Project

The West Virginia Potomac Tributary Strategy (WVPTS) Implementation Committee has allocated \$5,000.00 for each of the two priority watersheds, Sleepy Creek and Opequon Creek, to implement a Best Management Practices Demonstration (BMP) project through the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Sleepy Creek Watershed was one of two watersheds selected through a stakeholder process for top priority implementation of West Virginia's Potomac Tributary Strategy, which is a part of a multi-state Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. The Project Team was formed to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the local streams and rivers through implementation projects that provide measurable water quality improvements.



The Highlands Ridge Road project site, property of Tony Lynch, was selected due to the severity of sediment loading and location within the Sleepy Creek Project Team area. The purpose of this project was to provide streambank stabilization through the installation of 100 ft. of Articulated Concrete Block, a new innovative technique in streambank restoration.

With the supervision of Dick Withers, WVCA, and the assistance of Tucker Stinebaugh, GHS, the project team rechanneled 135 feet of stream and stabilized a 35 foot riparian buffer using native trees and shrubs. During the first phase of the project, blockages were removed and the stream reshaped to divert the flow of the stream to the center. The contractors then installed an in-stream log vane to redirect the current away from the eroding bank. Finally, coconut fiber mats were placed over the disturbed area and seeded for revegetation.



Nineteen members of the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and other volunteers met on June 21 to enforce the eroding streambank along the creek. The volunteers began by installing ten foot "bio-logs" made of coconut fibers along the streambank to help divert the stream current toward the middle of the creek and help relieve the current from the Articulated Concrete Block. Assisted by Robert Connelly, ACF Environmental, 100 feet of Articulated Concrete Blocks called "shoreloc" were placed over

geo textile fabric, covered with soil, and seeded to hold the bank and prevent further erosion from occurring.

On June 23, ten members and volunteers of the Sleepy Creek Project Team planted a 100 X 35 foot riparian buffer along the completed streambank. Seventy-two native shrubs and trees, such as Dogwood, Pin Oak, Sycamore, Silver Maple, and Tulip Poplar were planted and sheltered by tree tubes. Twenty-five native species were transplanted in the holes of the "shoreloc".



The project is a cooperative effort of the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, ACF Environmental, Berkeley Springs' branch of BB&T, GHS, Eddie Rider, and the Creekside Creamery.



Submitted by: Barbara Elliott, Conservation Specialist, WVCA