

# Stream Bank Stabilization & Riparian Project Completed Along Sleepy Creek

Submitted By: Gale Foulds & Carla Hardy



Landowner Jim Bell loads coir logs which were used for streambank stabilization

Sleepy Creek Watershed was the recent recipient of a \$10,000.00 grant through the West Virginia Conservation Agency and the Chesapeake Bay Program to stabilize over 750 feet of eroding streambank. The project site was chosen due to its severity of sediment loading and its location within the Sleepy Creek Project Team area. Both Sleepy Creek Watershed and the Opequon Watershed were chosen as priority watersheds within West Virginia for implementation through the West Virginia tributary strategy process.

Members of the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and other volunteers met at the Creek Road property of Jim and Angela Bell on Saturday, April 22, to enforce the eroding stream bank along the creek. With the help of Mike McKechnie of Mountain View Builders who donated his assistance with the company bobcat, over 60 tons of stone and five truckloads of fill dirt were used to stabilize the more severe areas of erosion along the bank.



Volunteers stake logs along Sleepy Creek



Installed coconut matting with riparian planting

Under the supervision of Charles Riling of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of International Erosion Control Association, Robert Connelly of ACF Environmental, and Carla Hardy of the West Virginia Conservation Agency, volunteers installed ten-foot "bio-logs" made of coconut fibers along the stream bank to help divert the stream current toward the middle of the creek channel. After members secured the logs with wooden stakes and cord, fill dirt was moved in and packed behind the logs. Six-foot wide strips of coconut fiber matting were laid and secured to the bank. Workers

then seeded the area with grass seed and planted silky dogwoods and willow stakes into the earth through the mats. This procedure was repeated along the entire 450 foot section of the eroding bank to stabilize it. Twenty-six volunteers participated in the Saturday workshop and worked the entire day in the rain. A picnic lunch was prepared by SCWA members.

Local boy scouts participate in riparian planting



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, over 53 volunteers again assembled at the project site to plant 300 trees and shrubs along the creek in a 750' X 35' riparian buffer to protect the project. Trees were tubed and staked to protect them from deer browse. This event was sponsored in conjunction with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District / West Virginia Division of Forestry 2006 Annual Forestry Workshop. Participants met at Cacapon State Park in the morning for presentations from various professionals in the field of forestry and natural resources.

This comprehensive stream bank protection project was made possible by a partnership of the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of International Erosion Control Association, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, WVU Extension Service, NewPage Corporation, Morgan County Division of Highways, Mountain View Builders, GHS Excavating and the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection.