



POTOMAC RIVER GREENWAYS COALITION

MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Potomac River Greenways Coalition, Inc. (PRGC) is offering a free Master Watershed Steward Program (MWSP) for Fairfax County residents and others interested in learning about watersheds and how to protect streams that flow into their sources of drinking water - the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir.

Who: PRGC is hosting the free workshop in partnership with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Audubon Naturalist Society, and the Potomac Conservancy.

What: The MWSP consists of eight, 2-½ hour sessions focusing on technical and organizational information related to watershed management. Sessions will be led by local, regional, and national experts from organizations including the EPA, the Center for Watershed Protection and River Network. All sessions are open to the public.

Why: Participants will gain a firm understanding of watersheds, stream restoration, and management plans as well as how to organize communities for watershed protection.

When: The first workshop is March 8. All sessions are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from March through June 2004, 7:00-9:30 p.m. *See workshop descriptions overleaf.*

Where: The workshops will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA, with the exception of the kick-off session March 8 that will be held at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va.

How to get certified (optional): Citizens can become **certified** as Master Watershed Stewards by attending six sessions and completing 24 hours of watershed-related community service such as organizing a community watershed organization or participating in Fairfax County's Watershed Management planning process.

For more information: Contact Krystal Kearns, PRGC community outreach and education coordinator at 703-324-1426 or prgc_krystalkearns@yahoo.com.

Workshop participants will receive materials that support each discussion topic (i.e. modules from EPA's Watershed Academy www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy). Participants who complete requisite Watershed Academy modules will receive the EPA's Watershed Academy's Watershed Management Training Certificate.

Potomac River Greenways Coalition, Inc.
P.O. Box 6531, McLean, Va. 22106

Master Watershed Stewardship Program Workshop Descriptions

The MWSP begins on **March 8** with an **Introduction to Watershed Management**. Bob Jordan and Krystal Kearns will introduce the MWSP. Civic activist and film producer Dave Eckert will screen his classic film on Four Mile Run and lead a discussion on Assuming Personal Responsibility” and Activating the Community” in relation to watershed protection.

The **March 22** workshop asks **Why Watersheds?** Jeff Corbin of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation describes the benefits of improved watershed management practices for the Chesapeake Bay and local watersheds. Stephanie Sprinkle of the Center for Watershed Protection discusses Urban Watershed Problems and Watershed Management Tools.

On **April 12** the workshop focuses on **Measuring Watershed Health**. Douglas Norton, creator of the EPA’s Watershed Academy, provides an Introduction to Watershed Ecology. Ron Tuttle of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and Asad Rouhi of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) discuss Stream Form Function and Evolution. Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society and Joanna Cornell of NVSWCD focus on the role of Biological Stream Monitoring by Volunteers in measuring stream health.

The **April 26** workshop provides an Introduction to **Watershed Management Planning**. Keisha Cheeks from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Natural Resources discusses Virginia’s approach to Local Watershed Management Planning. Diana Saccone of the Reston Association presents an overview of the recently completed Reston Watershed Management Plan and early experience with plan implementation.

On **May 10** we focus on **Practical Activities to Mitigate the Effects of Urbanization**. John Tippet will present his excellent slide show on Low Impact Development Techniques. Ron Tuttle and Asad Rouhi will discuss local and national experience with Stream Restoration. Judy Okay of the Virginia Department of Forestry will highlight the Importance of Riparian Buffers and explain how community watershed organizations and other groups can become involved in riparian buffer planting.

Our **May 24** workshop will feature **Watershed Management in Fairfax County**. Laura Grape of DPWES describes the State of Fairfax County’s Streams. Fred Rose of DPWES gives an Overview of the DPWES Storm Water Planning Activities and initiatives. Paul Shirey then provides an in-depth look at Fairfax County’s Watershed Management Planning process. Noel Kaplan discusses Fairfax County’s Planning and Zoning Process.

The final two workshops will focus on **Organizing to Take Action**. The **June 14** workshop will focus on **Reaching Out to Communities and Stakeholders**. Karen Firehock of the University of Virginia’s Institute for Environmental Negotiation will present A Consensus-building Approach to Watershed Protection. Matt Berres of the Potomac Conservancy will share his experience in Mobilizing Volunteers for Watershed Protection Activities.

The **June 28** workshop session focuses on **Forming and Strengthening Community Watershed Organizations**. Pat Munoz of the River Network will present a synthesis of its experience in Strengthening Community Watershed Organizations and will share insights on How to Obtain Funding for Watershed Protection. A panel of leaders from community watershed organizations will share their personal experiences in Forming a Community Watershed Organization.

This program is funded by a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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