Grant will help BWA recruit and inform new demographics

The BWA is reaching out for members.

Board Secretary Patricia M. Kennedy reports that the Brodhead Watershed Association is seeking a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection mini-grant of $3,000 for environmental education. Most of the money would go for transportation, an expense that board member Bob Labor identified as a prime issue for students and others seeking hands-on experience in both the watershed itself and for research.

Extracts from our abstract:

The object of "This stream is my stream" mentor program is to introduce a more diverse cohort to environmental stewardship and to improve that target audience's environmental literacy.

... Members of the target audience will be recruited through invitation at local schools and colleges, press releases to local media, appearances on local radio and television, and posters at local libraries and grocery stores. ***The hope is to reach residents from younger generations including, but not limited to families, and students from local schools and colleges.*** *Monroe County has experienced rapid population growth with many new residents from urban areas with little knowledge of the local watershed. Each member of the target audience will choose (or be assigned to) a specific stream within the watershed. That stream will become his/her stream (hence, "This stream is my stream"). Cohorts will be created for each stream.*

BWA board members will act as mentors .... Cohort groups will be provided streamside opportunities to learn about their stream's ecology, topography, geography, fish, macro-inverterbrate populations, plants. ... Members will be introduced to ways to investigate the "history" of their stream and its health on many levels, including searches in local history collections, map repositories, newspapers, public and university libraries, the county courthouse, local historical society collections, planning departments and commissions, state agencies and fishing club files.

Audience members will also be introduced the processes by which threats to stream health are identified and to the actions, including those in the political realm, by which streams can be protected and threats can be reduced.

We will find out in April if we are getting this grant.

Contact us: (570) 839-1120 brodheadwatershed@verizon.net www.brodheadwatershed.org

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1989 to promote and preserve the environment of the Brodhead watershed and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries.

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