

## 2007-2008 Special Projects

### *Turner: Water Ripples Interactive Youth Games*

The **Water Ripples** project proposes to develop youth water education materials designed for interactive 'fun-time' learning. These materials will include interactive educational games for age groups ranging 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Materials will be designed for stand alone instruction as a packaged presentation for young audiences.

Popular game formats such as Jeopardy, Trivial Pursuit, etc, will be used to facilitate learning about water. Games will introduce students to various concepts that can be adopted for a particular setting, e.g. rural or urban. Playing the games will help students understand relationships of cause and effect in protecting water resources. Each response, correct or incorrect, will provide additional information to enhance knowledge gained. The ultimate benefits of these program materials will be increased understanding of water quality protection and conservation.

### *Smolen: Water Policy Primer, Water Rights in Arkansas through New Mexico*

In follow up to the 4-State Water Forum held March 29-30, 2007, a layman's report will be developed to review the differences in water law and water rights in the western part of the southern region. The variation from Arkansas through Texas and Oklahoma to New Mexico covers the gamut of doctrines used in the U.S. for administration of water rights. Arkansas has a completely riparian doctrine whereas New Mexico is completely administered by the doctrine of prior appropriation. Oklahoma and Texas have variations that are a mix of the two doctrines. There are clearly advantages and disadvantages to each system considering the future challenges of increasing demand from urban development. The Primer will be useful throughout the region in public education programs on water conservation, water allocation, and drought management.

### *Bauske: Advanced Master Gardener Training in Water Resource Issues*

The Urban Water Issue Team, a team of county agents in Georgia has been developing an advanced training for Master Gardeners in water issues. The course currently requires three days of training to complete. We envision morning lecture, followed by hands-on sessions in the afternoon. It includes information on the watershed concept, landscaping for water quality, assessing water quality, the impact of land use on water quality, and technology and strategies for minimizing the use of water.

We propose completing the development of the advanced training in water issues for Master Gardeners curriculum and team teaching it to agents and Master Gardeners in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. We will use distance teaching technology (Horizon Wimba or Breeze) available through Cooperative Extension in all three states to implement the training.

### *Jennings: Agent Training: Extension's Role in Developing Watersheds*

We propose to host a training and tour for Extension agents that introduces land use change impacts on water quality, watershed planning, watershed restoration, and roles they may take in working with their communities.

Project investigators will describe successful watershed programs, demonstration projects, and funding mechanisms. The proposed training will encourage Agents to share their lessons learned and offer an opportunity to network with peers at a regional level. Equipping Agents with the latest information and

examples of Extension's role in developing watersheds will improve their ability to understand and help propose solutions to urbanization issues.

*Peterson & McFarland: Development of a Web-based Training for the Regional Watershed Steward Program*

The purpose of this project is to support the design and development of a web-based training tool for the regional Watershed Steward Program funded under the proposal titled, "Master Watershed Stewardship Program – A Regional Project to Build the Capacity of Extension." Specific goals of the project are to:

- Enhance interactive learning opportunities for watershed education across the region and establish a larger, more well-informed citizen base.
- Promote healthy watersheds by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies to improve water quality and minimize nonpoint source pollution in the region's watersheds.
- Facilitate greater involvement of citizens in local water resource management and protection activities.

*Silitonga: Dissemination of Water Quality Educational Materials to Under-served Communities*

Educational materials in this project will address both surface- and ground- water issues. Alcorn State University will assemble available materials, conceptualize, and modify them to accommodate the needs of under-served population. The modified resources will be adopted and customized by four (4) other collaborating 1890 Land Grant Universities; Alabama A&M, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Tennessee State University, and Florida A&M. These materials will then be available and accessible through each institution's web page or they may be obtained directly from the institutions. The purpose of extending available information to the under-served communities is aimed to increase community awareness and to have a better understanding about their role in impacting water quality. With better knowledge, it is anticipated that the community will be encouraged to participate in conserving, preserving, and improving water quality in their areas. Consequently, their participation will have a positive impact in improving water quality and indirect economic impact. A community effort can be conducted at a local stage, which will have an effect on a watershed level. Furthermore, collaborating activities will have a broader influence on a regional scale that could be implemented at a national level.

*Risse: Poultry Litter Marketing Workshop*

The Southern Region leads the United States in poultry production and the regional animal waste management team has identified poultry litter utilization as a primary educational opportunity. In addition, increased commercial fertilizer prices, regional water quality issues associated with the concentration of poultry production, and new opportunities for market based conservation have led to greater interest in programs that facilitate the development of poultry litter markets. In addition, some Southern states, for example, Georgia, Oklahoma, Alabama, and Arkansas have pioneered programs and policies to encourage the development of poultry litter markets. The purpose of this project is to build on a Conservation Partnership Initiative in Georgia to expand a watershed based project to one that will have regional and national implications. We intend to do this by hosting a regional conference in Georgia and inviting speakers and participants from across the region. The primary focus of the conference will be on development of poultry litter markets but it will include sessions on poultry litter transport programs, value added processing of litter, nutrient trading and other market based conservation opportunities, and BMP's for minimizing the impact of poultry litter utilization. In addition to knowledge gained through

the conference, the planning committee will work with stakeholders to develop and submit a report on regional opportunities for poultry litter marketing programs.