

## **watershed education network**

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<http://srwqis.tamu.edu/program-watershededucation.aspx>

The **Watershed Education Network (WEN)** is a workgroup comprised of extension professionals and representatives from partner agencies such as EPA. The Watershed Education Network is the premier program for watershed materials, outreach and education, and training programs in the Southeast.



The Network builds on the strength of its members by targeting specific audiences and their needs. Subcommittees allow the WEN members to focus on their areas of expertise and interest while providing programs that meet the needs of a wide array of audiences.

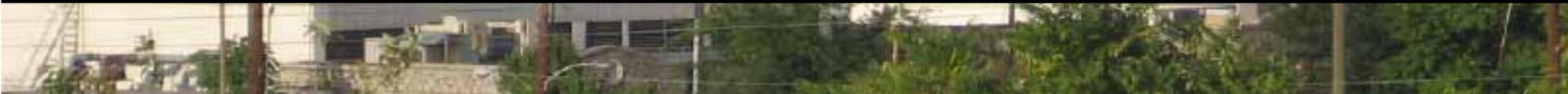




## WEN developmental and planning meeting

EPA watershed and nonpoint section staff and extension (28) WEN team members, atlanta, ga, december 15 – 16, 2003,

- organized partnership and subcommittees
- secured \$38,000 from Southern Region 406 funds and
- \$31,000 from EPA (through IAG)



watershed professionals, youth/educators, local governments,  
under-served audiences

watershed professionals, extension agents, youth/educators,  
local governments, under-served audiences



watershed professionals

Watershed Academy, to date 5 academies training 135

Conasauga River Alliance Landowner Workshop - Watershed Restoration

Training, trained 50

Two Regional Storm Water Conferences, 500 attendees



**685 trained**

youth/educators



Two multi-state camping programs focusing on key water concepts have been piloted with 5th and 6th grade 4-Hers from Kentucky and Tennessee.

Each program consisted of a three-day, two night camp.

Essential questions, such as “What is the water cycle?” and “Why is water important?,” applied in the Kentucky 4-H Natural Resource Water Curriculum were used in the development and implementation of the program.

4-Hers were engaged in hands-on activities, including exploring a wetland for aquatic insects, creating an edible aquifer, using global positioning system (GPS) units to locate watershed puzzle pieces, and much, much more.

**40 students, 6 adults**

## youth/educators

*The 2004 Watershed Festival was showcased on the Weather Channel*



The EPA Region 4, Office of Watershed, with the support of Water Division and extension Staff conducted youth directed trainings through out metro Atlanta that focused on Watershed and other related subjects.



- two schools hosted Water Festivals
- four others hosted classroom instruction
- one a “get to know your watershed workshop”
- three classes were conducted at an area girl scout weekend retreat.

**combined trainings trained over 1,000 metro Atlanta youth, ranging in age from 2 -16**



## youth/educators

To expand our watershed education efforts EPA staff and Aquarium leaders met at Rock Eagle to discuss opportunities to expand the watershed education program through partnership with Georgia Extension's Environmental Education Program since they are the nation's largest provider of residential environmental education.

The Research-based curriculum correlates to Georgia's Quality Core Curriculum, providing hands-on learning in the real world. Endorsed by the Georgia Department of Education and in compliance with the time-on-task ruling, the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program is operated by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program operates September through May.

*The Aquarium has a similar mission. The partnership would Chart the Course for Watershed Education and provide opportunities for students to learn about their watershed upstream in the mountains, and wooded areas and continue their course to the oceans. Both programs have an established audience and opportunity to guide the future.*



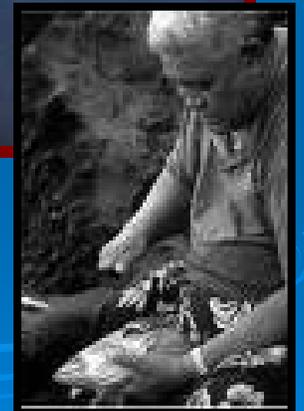
## local governments

Relationships between land use and water quality are well-documented. While much attention has been directed at development issues affecting metropolitan areas, many smaller communities in the South are being stressed by rapidly increasing development. One of the most significant impacts is coping with, and paying for, the water quality problems associated with new sources of nonpoint pollution. Unfortunately, smaller communities often lack the financial and human resources needed to solve such problems.

To address this critical issue, the Southern Region uses the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) educational model developed by the University of Connecticut, and further adapts its topical content and delivery methods. The objective of this Program is to support regional planning, collaboration and information sharing that enhances development of community-based, water resource protection approaches to educate decision-makers in small communities

**two planning workshops 37 professionals involved in training and regional planning**

under-served audiences



under-served audiences

## Programming to Reaching New Audiences

North Carolina State University lead the effort in addressing under-served and limited resource watershed residence.

A Series of trainings, presentations and posters entitled “Programming to Reach New Audiences” focused on the need to work with limited resource and under-served communities in addressing watershed issues.

- **230** Natural Resource Professionals attended trainings presented at four different national meetings (two-National Extension Water Quality Conferences, Association of Natural Resource Professionals National Meeting, Groundwater Foundation, Ground Water Guardian Designation Conference)
- **25** extension professionals attend a training at the North Carolina Association of Extension Program Assistants, Associates and Technicians.

**255 trained**

under-served audiences

## EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice Initiative on Watershed Education



Watershed Education Network leaders met with EPA management to establish a program that will serve as a conduit between EPA Region 4, state and local partners, and minority and low income communities to raise awareness, build capacity and partner with EPA on two major initiatives, children's health and watershed education.

The 1890s have the ability to conduct educational, outreach and educational programs and facilitate resolution of environment concerns at the local level in low-income and minority rural and urban areas.

## EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice Program presented a Resource Training and Listening Session

at the 2004,

*1862, 1890 and 1994 Extension Water Quality Collaborative Conference*

This four hour training, provided an overview of EPA's Environmental Justice Program, provided a panel with representatives from successful EPA partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Community Based Nonprofit groups as well as a notebook with resource and support materials.



Interest was so great amongst the **48 participants** that a number of individuals changed returning flights to stay for the whole program and almost a dozen individuals remained an additional hour to speak one-on-one with EPA staff.

# Retreat

This meeting was organized at the request of EPA Water management as a way to share information between the Extension Southern Region Water Quality Program and the EPA Region 4 Water Division, specifically targeting the Office of Watersheds.

This two ½ days retreat included hands on outreach activities that encouraged interaction between Extension and EPA staff, reports from the WEN subcommittees, and presentations from various EPA Water Programs and the National “E” eXtension programs, as well as facilitated discussions on implementation of the overall WEN logic model and the development of logic models for specific programs.



august 15 – 16, 2005

**Watershed Education Network (WEN) Goal:** The Watershed Education Network will be the premier program for watershed materials, outreach and education, and training programs.  
 Logic model from the WATERSHED OUTREACH STRATEGY developed by *Connie Alexander, Lisa Ann McKinley*

Resources & Partners	Activities	Outputs <i>actions WEN (partners) complete</i>	Customer Reached	Outcomes		
				Short Term <i>knowledge gained, attitudes changed</i>	Intermediate Term <i>actions taken</i>	Long-Term <i>improvements to, desired change(s)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USDA – CSREES Water 406 Program</li> <li>Extension Southern Region Water Program (EPA Region 4 &amp; 6 Land-Grant Universities)</li> <li>EPA Region 4 Water Division</li> <li>Region 4 Watershed &amp; 319 Coordinators</li> <li>EPA Region 4 EJ Program (Implementation Plan in Place)</li> <li>WEN Subcommittees</li> <li>State Partners</li> <li>Other Federal Partners</li> </ul> <p><i>add EPA Region 6</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension Liaison</li> <li>NPS Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a framework for watershed education programs.</li> <li>NC A&amp;T completed an <u>inventory</u> of existing materials; identify gaps and needs; and develop materials and programs to address these gaps and needs. (reviewed by Extension &amp; EPA)</li> <li>Have <u>developed and implemented a series of training, workshops and camps</u> that target specific audiences.</li> <li><u>Build State Capacity</u> - Coordinate with NRCS (state office &amp; local), RC&amp;D, Soil &amp; Water Conservation Comm., State Departments of Agriculture, State Water Agencies, other agricultural groups (i.e. commodity groups, Cattlemen), local and state environmental groups, NGOs etc.</li> <li>Individual Trainings EVALUATION TOOLS</li> <li>WEN Program (whole) EVALUATION TOOLS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Planning/Coordination</li> <li>Watershed Resource Inventory</li> <li>Webpage</li> <li>List Serve(s) - partners</li> <li>List Serve(s) - participants</li> <li><b>546 People Received Watershed Training</b> (per 1/05 subcommittee reports)</li> <li>Developed <b>materials &amp; trainings</b> needed to support Watershed Education</li> <li>Outreach efforts partnering with EPA Region 4</li> <li>Continued support from EPA Region 4 and Extension                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Staff</li> <li>➢ \$\$\$\$\$</li> <li>➢ Other in-kind resources (facilities, existing materials, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension Professionals</li> <li>EPA</li> <li>Teacher and Educators</li> <li>Watershed Professional Volunteers</li> <li>Youth</li> <li>(Local) Government officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document impact from Individual Trainings</li> <li>Documented impact for the WEN Program</li> <li>Increased knowledge &amp; change in attitudes from participants regarding watersheds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locally lead (watershed) change, supported by the program partners</li> <li>Watershed Level Support \$\$\$ - EQIP, 319, other</li> <li>BMP Implementation &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>Monitoring - Data collected to document improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Waters from 303 (d) list</li> <li>Improve Water Quality</li> </ul>
				<p><b>Educated Network for Watershed Communication and Implementation</b>  <i>(exist at all levels, expands with time)</i></p>		

**External Influences:** Audience Interest, NEEDS, Environmental Conditions, Economic Conditions, Community, Regulatory Changes, Project Funding

future focus  
should be on further development of programs in the areas of ...





**expand partnership**

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