

**Ohio Environmental Education Fund  
Mini Grants Awarded During SFY2000**



During the fall 1999 and spring 2000 grant rounds, the OEEF awarded 21 mini grants for a total of \$95,367.88

**Mini Grants Awarded October 1999**

**Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Education Fund, *Train the Trainers: Web Based Sustainable Agriculture Education for University Extension*, \$4,920.00, January 2000-January 2001, statewide, 00M-010**

OEEFA has a two-year grant from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program to develop organic crop and livestock training materials and workshops for university extension professionals. The OEEF mini grant will be used to format and post these materials on a web site for local extension agents, farmers and other internet users to access, in an effort to reduce non-point source pollution of Ohio streams and rivers through the wider adoption of organic farming methods. Training materials will include case studies of successful transitions from traditional to organic farming, best management practices for ecological production, organic standards, long term soil fertility management strategies, and other organic production and transition information.

**Ohio Energy Project, *Ohio's Youth Energy Summit*, \$5,000.00, October, 1999-spring 2000, Hamilton County, 00M-011**

Allows 50 high school students and teachers from five Cincinnati area school districts to participate in Ohio's Youth Energy Summit, to receive intensive leadership training on the sources, production, transformation, economics, consumption and conservation of energy. Student teams and teachers who complete the training will conduct energy workshops and activities in their own districts for 4,350 students in grades 4-8. (See also OEEF grants 00M-019 below, and 99G-060, 97G-120, and 96G-160).

**Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, *Pearly Freshwater Mussel Exhibit*, \$5,000.00, November 1999-November 2000, Cuyahoga County/northeast Ohio, 00M-012**

A living exhibit will educate 45,000 walk-in visitors and 20,000 students on school field trip programs about freshwater mussels' ability to clarify muddy water by filtration, the food they provide for wildlife, the revenue they generate in the cultured pearl industry, and the negative impact that non-point source pollution and invasive species such as zebra mussels have on them. Project includes a

“Lake Erie Invaders” public program, and a freshwater mussel symposium for 100 naturalists, freshwater mussel researchers, and local resource specialists about the natural history and status of this family of mussels, and how to build similar living exhibits.

**Clark Center Alternative School**, *Living Rivers Curriculum*, \$5,000.00, August 1999-June 2000, Washington County, 00M-013

Provides indoor and outdoor environmental education for at-risk high school, elementary school and pre-school students in four school districts around Belpre and Marietta. Teaches the role of watersheds and wetlands in providing wildlife and human habitat, and how to investigate them for environmental stressors, using inquiry-based activities from Project WILD, Project WET, WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands, and other well-established curricula. Students will test soils and waters with the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District, participate in stream cleaning and monitoring with AMOCO, survey mussel populations and plant trees with the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife and Refuge, visit the Woodsfield Wetlands and Wilds with Washington State Community College, study the history of locks and dams along the Muskingum River from canoes, and help construct an oral history collection interviewing “old timers” in the Ohio Valley.

**Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group**, *Operator Training Committee of Ohio Resource Center*, \$3,000, November 1999-September 2000, statewide, 00M-014

Develops and publicizes a lending library sharing information on alternative and underutilized technologies for addressing the drinking water, wastewater, and other environmental infrastructure needs of rural communities. Library will be operated by a collaboration among the SCEIG, the Operator Training Committee of Ohio, Ohio EPA, The Ohio State University, USDA Rural Development, and consulting engineers.

**Help End Lead Poisoning**, *“Lead Smart” Workshops for Renovators and Consumers*, \$4,982.06, October 1999-September 2000, Franklin, Lucas and Muskingum Counties, 00M-015

Provides workshops on recent changes to lead hazard disclosure requirements for remodelers and renovators working on older homes, and the consumers who contract their services, in Columbus, Toledo and Zanesville. Workshops will provide information on problems caused by disturbing lead-based paint, safe removal and disposal practices, and mechanisms to comply with disclosure requirements governing renovators and remodelers as well as consumers buying, selling and renting homes. Collaborators include the National

Association of the Remodeling Industry and Lead Safe Columbus (Columbus Trade and Development, and City of Columbus Health Department).

**Greenacres Foundation**, *Data Sharing Via the Internet*, \$4,998.00, October 1999-August 2000, Hamilton County, 00M-017

Builds on an existing network of middle and high schools sampling water quality in the Little Miami River. Project will provide software allowing participating students and teachers to input, share and compare data collected at different locations and points in time, via an internet web site located at Little Miami, Inc. The information will also be available to local communities and watershed groups, water management agencies, and the general public via the web site.

**Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium**, *Groundwater Education Project*, \$5,000.00, October 1999-July 2000, Butler and Hamilton Counties, 00M-018

Provides 12 three-dimensional groundwater sand tank models and accompanying age appropriate groundwater protection curricula to elementary, middle and high schools in the Hamilton to New Baltimore area.

**Northwest Local School District**, *Creating Energy Efficient Citizens*, \$5,000.00, October 1999-July 2000, Hamilton County, 00M-019

Incorporates the Ohio Energy Project's energy cycle, a bicycle-powered generator and related hands-on learning episodes about energy generation, transformation, consumption and conservation, into the K-8 science curriculum for three middle schools and nine elementary schools. Project provides equipment, curriculum materials, and in-service training for teachers, in order to teach 10,433 students the importance of energy efficiency. (See also OEEF grants 00M-011 above, 99G-060, 97G-120, and 96G-160)

**Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.**, *CRWP Educational Program*, \$960.00, October 1999-December 1999, Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake Counties, 00M-021

Provides audiovisual equipment for watershed management presentations to be made to local government planning commissions, city councils, zoning commissions, landscape architects and planners, and citizen groups, to increase their awareness and understanding of the problems, causes, and solutions to increased flooding, erosion, and water quality problems. During the first year, equipment will be used for 8 public forums, 1 seminar for planning professionals, 6 presentations to local government councils, 2 workshops for local zoning officials, and 2 Board of Trustee meetings.

**Rural Action, Inc.**, *Conservation Issues on Private Lands: A Southeast Ohio Forest*

Congress, \$4995.82, October 1999-April 2000, southeastern Ohio, 00M-022

Funds a one-day congress bringing together a wide array of stakeholders with an interest in management of privately-owned forest lands, to discuss issues of biodiversity, habitat management, forest conservation, and related issues. Involved stakeholders include private landowners, wood products firms, special forest products producers, hunters, anglers, environmentalists, natural resource agencies, and university faculty. The congress is to produce prioritized issues for conservation and educational efforts, voluntary agreements of collaboration, and a report for print and Internet distribution.

### **Mini Grants Awarded March 2000**

**Association of Ohio Recyclers, Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Recycling Workshop, Guidebook and Directory**, \$4,975.00, March 2000-March 2001, statewide, Audience: Regulated Community, #00M-026

Educational training program for builders, architects, contractors, renovators, owners and engineers involved in construction and demolition operations, as well as local health departments who regulate c&dd, and local solid waste management districts. Promotes recycling and use of recycled content materials through a statewide workshop, development of a c&dd recycling guidebook, and directory of Ohio businesses who accept and recycle c&dd waste. Collaborators include Hamilton County Environmental Services, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, and Ohio EPA Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management and Office of Pollution Prevention.

**Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools - Amanda Elementary and Clearcreek Elementary, Stream Monitoring**, \$4,500.00, September 2000-May 2001, Fairfield County, Audience K-12, #00M-027

Provides substitute teacher stipends and materials for twice-yearly stream monitoring by 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from two schools. Students study macro-invertebrate diversity in aquatic communities, insect and animal habitat, local watershed geology, and pollution causes and effects.

**St. Vincent Ferrer School, The Butterfly Brigade**, \$3,885.00, August 2000-June 2001, Hamilton County, Audience: K-12, #00M-028

Funds the planning, design, equipment and maintenance of a land lab butterfly garden by 120 students in grades 4-8, with oversight by two certified teachers and four parent volunteers. Accompanying lessons focus on plant and insect species and growth, soil conservation, climate, and factors affecting plant, insect

and animal habitat. Students will also participate in the Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show, providing butterflies from the land lab for the Krohn sanctuary.

**Jonathan Alder Local Schools, *Darby Creek Watershed Heritage Project*, \$5,000.00, May 2000-April 2001, Madison and Union Counties, Audience: K-12, #00M-030**

Provides curriculum and equipment for 420 middle school students and parent volunteers to study the Big Darby watershed by testing water quality, analyzing results with assistance from the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program, and sharing information with the local community through a multimedia presentation. Students will also study sociology and land use of the watershed, focusing on the current controversy about the proposed Little Darby Wildlife Refuge, and opposing options proposed to protect the resource. Collaborators on the project include the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, and Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water.

**Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, *Getting Your Water Monitoring Program Started After the Workshop is Over*, \$5,000.00, April 2000-March 2001, Hamilton County, Audience: K-12, #00M-033**

Initiates a water quality monitoring program for five low income urban middle schools or high schools, by providing a four-day teacher training workshop during the summer, monitoring equipment and supplies, ongoing technical assistance, and transportation to enable students to monitor a stream near the school monthly from October through May. Results will be included on the Greenacres Water Quality Project and Little Miami, Inc. Web sites. The Greenacres Foundation is collaborating on the project.

**Columbus Public Schools - Linden-McKinley High School, *GLOBE Program*, \$4,945.00, August 2000-June 2001, Franklin County, Audience: K-12, #00M-034**

Provides field sampling and classroom analysis equipment to incorporate the *GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program* into the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum of an urban high school. Students collect data on local atmospheric and environmental conditions according to scientific protocols. Results are then posted to an international Web database developed by NOAA, for comparison with satellite data and data from other schools in a number of countries. (OEEF has previously funded the GLOBE Program at a number of schools in southwest Ohio and Lorain and Stark Counties, 99G-064, 99G-108 and 00G-028.)

**Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program, *How to Design Classroom Research***

*Teams: A Model to Demonstrate Classroom Collaboration Using an Environmental Issue*, \$4,889.00, statewide, Audience: K-12, #00M-035

Provides a model, training and supplies for 30 middle school science teachers to set up classroom experiments and student research teams as called for in state science competency guidelines, focusing on an oil spill cleanup and related energy and environmental issues. Results of classroom teams will be shared through the OOGEEP Web site. Model will be evaluated and refined based on follow up with at least 6 of the teachers who use it. Science Education Council of Ohio is a Collaborator.

**Ohio Forestry Association**, *Ohio Certified Logger Awareness and Education Program*, \$4,770.00, April 2000-December 2000, statewide, Audience: Regulated Community and General Public, #00M-036

Minimizes adverse environmental impacts of logging by providing education about best management practices, and promoting awareness of the voluntary Certified Logger Program among professional loggers and landowners interested in harvesting timber on their property. Includes informational brochure, articles and advertisements in various publications and Web sites, display at public events, and survey of landowners. Collaborators include ODNR Divisions of Forestry and Soil and Water Conservation, Ohio Farm Bureau, Hocking College, and Ohio Woodlands Council.

**Franklin County Board of Health**, *Turning Scrap Tires Into Community Resources*, \$5,000.00, April 2000-December 2000, Franklin County, Audience: General Public, #00M-037

Funds the marketing and education component of a comprehensive scrap tire education, disposal and recycling program. Provides information about local disposal options and the public health and environmental hazards of illegally dumped tires. This information will be linked to the county's Nail-A-Dumper Hotline, a countywide tire collection event, and a rubberized asphalt bike path demonstration project. Collaborators include the Columbus Refuse Collection Division, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Franklin County Prosecutor's and Sheriff's Offices, Keep Franklin County Beautiful, The Nature Conservancy, and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

**Olentangy Schools: Wyandot Run Elementary and Scioto Ridge Elementary**, *The*

*Wonders of Wetlands and Woodlands*, \$3,548.00, March 2000-February 2001,  
Delaware County, Audience: K-12, #00M-038

Partnership between two schools and wildlife biologist from Preservation Parks, to promote student awareness of local populations and threatened species of plants and animals in wetlands and woodlands. Provides a monthly classroom sessions, a two-hour in-service training for 24 teachers, "Science on the Go" backpacks and equipment, and fields trips for four classes to compare OSU wetlands and wetlands/woodlands adjacent to the two schools. Program potentially reaches 1300 students.

For more information, contact:

Ohio EPA  
Office of Environmental Education  
Lazarus Government Center  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
Phone: (614) 644-2873  
Fax: (614) 728-1275  
E-mail: [carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us)  
Web site:  
[state.oh.us/other/oef/oeemain.html](http://state.oh.us/other/oef/oeemain.html)



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