

Clean Water Institute (CWI) Awarded Three "Growing Greener" Grants Totaling \$57,000

The Lycoming College Clean Water Institute (CWI) was recently awarded three Growing Greener grants totaling more than \$57,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the following:

- \$40,000 to continue work on the Keystone Stream Team Website (www.keystonestreamteam.org), stream restoration data base and development of reference reach data using River Morph software.
- \$10,000 to support a technical assistance system for watershed groups working in the West Branch of the Susquehanna. This grant will match experts from six local colleges/universities that are members of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies (SRHCES) with watershed groups/projects in the lower West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River.
- \$7,551 for start up costs for the Rose Valley Mill Creek Watershed Association (RVMCWA). The RVMCWA watershed group can be reached at P.O. Box 159, Trout Run, PA 17771.

"Growing Greener allows us to leverage state dollars with Pennsylvania's natural capital; protecting the resources that draw people to live, work and play in the commonwealth," said Governor Edward G. Rendell in a prepared statement. "Our natural resources are and will continue to be valued as economic, recreational and environmental assets. It is this scenic and wild beauty that makes Pennsylvania so unique."

"The Growing Greener program has provided needed funds to many local watershed groups along the West Branch to complete projects on AMD remediation, riparian buffers, watershed assessments, water quality monitoring and habitat restoration," said Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Chair of the Lycoming College Biology Department. "It is a great example of state and local partners working together to better the environment."

CWI's three grants were part of Governor Rendell's \$27 million investment to clean up streams and rivers, address serious environmental problems at abandoned mine sites and revitalize communities across Pennsylvania.

The money will finance 153 projects through Pennsylvania's traditional Growing Greener Program and the voter-approved Growing Greener II bond initiative. Two other projects funded in this round of Growing Greener are the Black Hole Creek Watershed Association for riparian buffer plantings and the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance for construction of a passive treatment system to address acidic deposition impacts to Buffalo Creek. Through previous Growing Greener grants (2004-05), CWI collected data on erosion and water quality that provided background for these projects.

The CWI was founded in 1999 to be a resource on water issues and partner with watershed groups for education and protection of the water quality of the West Branch of the Susquehanna watershed. In the last six years, CWI has assisted 10 watershed groups on projects ranging from erosion assessment to fish and macrobenthic surveys along Muncy, Loyalsock, Lycoming, Pine, Black Hole, Antes, Mahoning, Buffalo, Limestone, Mill Chilisquaque, White Deer, and Big Bear Creeks.

In addition, CWI continues to monitor several sites along the West Branch of the Susquehanna. Growing Greener has supported many of these projects.

For more information about the CWI (including project summaries), contact Dr. Mel Zimmerman at 570.321.4185, or visit www.lycoming.edu/biologydept/cwi

Founded in 1812 in Williamsport, Lycoming College is a liberal arts and sciences college dedicated to the undergraduate education of 1,500 students. The College, one of the 50 oldest colleges in the nation, is recognized as one of 212 national liberal arts colleges in the United States by U.S. News and World Report. For more information, visit www.lycoming.edu.