

Local Watershed group plants over 900 trees in 2015

The Sleepy Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) had a busy year in 2015. With their solid membership base, the SCWA continues to be involved in many clean water initiatives. This year they organized a spring “Make-it-Shine” litter cleanup, supported a permeable paving demonstration project, and helped promote septic pumping and repair through the 319 program which cost-shared on 27 septic system pumpouts and repaired 2 failing septic systems this year. Members also found time to participate in the Master Gardeners Plant Fair, the Morgan county Fair and the Apple Butter Festival. Oh yes, and they planted over 900 trees on four separate planting projects.

The tree plantings began on April 18th with the modest planting of 16 large trees at Greenwood Elementary school. Project CommuniTree supported this planting by SCWA members, school children and parents, and girl scouts.



The second planting was a large urban tree planting project funded through the 319 program. Several volunteers and homeowners planted 370 trees on 7 lots in the Old Mill Manor subdivision on May 16th. Next up on September 25th, the Sleepy Creek community took part in a large reforestation effort in Cacapon State Park (CSP). A strong alliance between The CSP Foundation, WV Division of Forestry, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, and WV Conservation Agency resulted in 250 new native trees and 2.5 acres of reestablished forest around the CSP Golf Course!



Figure 1. Renee Fincham, Cacapon State Park Naturalist, and Lin Dunham, EPCD Chairman doing their part!



Figure 2. Volunteers gather to observe Herb Peddicord's tree planting demonstration

Finally came the 278 trees planted on Sleepy Creek as part of a 1,200 foot buffer on the mainstem and small tributary. Over 20 members planted this buffer over two days in October weather. Financial assistance was provided through the 319 Program, the WV Division of Forestry's Buffer Program and funds from the Florin Land Trust. Congratulations to SCWA!



Figure 3. WV DOF and SCWA driving in the stakes



Figure 4. Volunteers tube and stake trees on Sleepy Creek



Figure 5. Sleepy Creek's newly planted buffer