

Application for the Green Blue Summit Grant Program

**Title: UNH Train the Trainers: Landscaping at the Water's Edge Program**

Contact information:

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Objective and rationale:

New Hampshire is a small state with numerous lakes and rivers, and coastal area. Much of the water's edge is built up with residential properties and multi family home complexes. With the steep terrain and rocky soils, most New Hampshire watersheds are less than three square miles. But these smaller watersheds form nine major river watersheds. So the decisions that each home owner makes about how they manage the landscape around their home can have a huge impact on the quality of water both locally and regionally. UNH Cooperative Extension, with the help of an independent landscape designer, has developed a program called "Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach". The program teaches participants how pesticides and fertilizers can reach surface water and ground water through leaching, runoff and erosion. The curriculum will help people understand how, with ecologically-based design and low impact maintenance practices, land care professionals and homeowners can protect, and even improve, the quality of our water resources. This program consists of a two day training that covers basic soil science, understanding water movement, vegetative buffers, the landscape design process, planting and maintaining the shore land landscape and environmentally friendly lawn care. As part of the program, UNHCE specialists and county educators wrote a manual that covers each one of these topics in depth and includes local regulations and a recommended plant list. Each participant of the two day training receives a manual and a three ring binder filled with resources to help them make good decisions about land care. To read more about the manual visit our publications website at [extension.unh.edu/Pubs/Pubs.htm](http://extension.unh.edu/Pubs/Pubs.htm)

The two day training was offered for the first time in March of 2007. The participants were landscapers, landscape designers, lake association members, conservation commission members and representatives from municipalities. We would like to bring a condensed form of this program to homeowners. Our goal is to be able to provide community organizations such as garden clubs, lake associations, and residential associations with a two to three hour program that will give the participants an idea of how their decisions impact water quality and a how they can make informed decisions about land care around their home. To do this, we held a training program to teach Master Gardeners and other volunteers how to provide the public with a condensed form of the information that was available in the two day session. We held this "train the trainer" program at no cost so we were not able to give our volunteers a copy of the manual or the three ring binders filled with informational resources. We feel that our volunteers would be more prepared to teach the programs if they had these resources available to them.

Currently, we have 20 volunteers that can help us spread this message to community members across the state. We've had numerous requests to offer this program and the demand is increasing rapidly. We would like to hold another session to "train the trainers"

and also be able to provide the trainers from the past session with all the resources we provided the participant of the two day session. We hope this grant will cover the cost of books and three ring binders to our current and future volunteers and also cover the cost of printing handouts for the volunteers to give the participants of their workshops, the creation of a disk with the power point presentation the volunteers will deliver, and also the room charge to hold another “train the trainer” session. Our budget is attached.

How our objective fits with the ideas of the Green-Blue Summit:

Our program fits in with many of the project ideas generated from the Green-Blue Summit.

Among some of the key messages our program sends are:

- Educate consumers about proper site and plant selection (“right plant, right place”).
- Provide guidance as to whether turf replacement is the best choice environmentally and economically for the long-term.
- Encourage consumers to weigh environmental impact along with aesthetics.
- Raise awareness about “hardscapes” (driveway, front sidewalk, entry, etc.) because these areas can be most likely to impact water quality.
- Educate lawncare operators and homeowners about planting and maintaining buffer strips near water bodies, edges of property, and impervious surfaces.
- Highlight importance of organic matter in soil to hold pesticides and nutrients, preventing them from entering water sources.

Evaluation:

We hand out evaluations after each one of our programs. Attached is the evaluation that we gave to the volunteers after they took the training course. We used this evaluation to be sure the volunteers felt they were trained enough on the subject of landscaping at the water’s edge to present the information to other community members.

### Proposed Budget

<b>Expense:</b>	<b>Cost Per:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Landscaping by the Water’s Edge manual for current and future volunteers	\$20.00	\$1,000
Three ring binders filled with resources for current and future volunteers (see budget below for specifics)	\$ 9.60	\$479
Money to print handouts (50 volunteers teaching 20 people bringing 2 handouts)	\$0.10	\$200
CD with power point presentation and printed label	\$2.00	\$100
Room rental for training		\$200
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1979</b>