

## Buffer in a Box

The Antietam Watershed Association (AWA)—in partnership with the Potomac Watershed Partnership, Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay—is launching a new program called Buffer in a Box or aptly known as BIB. This program is designed to assist residential homeowners interested in planting creekside buffers with native plants along the Antietam Creek and its many tributaries in Pennsylvania.

“The program is a voluntary effort on the part of the homeowner to participate in BIB to help better our local environment and water quality in the Antietam,” says Dr. Steve Rettig, member of the Antietam Watershed Association. “Pennsylvania’s Antietam Creek Watershed forms crucial headwaters for the Potomac River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Historically the Antietam Watershed was forested in native trees and shrubs. This landscape type is most beneficial not only to humans but to native wildlife especially trout that live in the Antietam. The trout need clean water to survive and the trees and shrubs to provide essential shade, food and stabilization to the streambanks.”

The Antietam Watershed Association was awarded grant funding through PWP’s *Growing Native* program to implement the BIB program in the Antietam watershed. The BIB program is very similar to the PWP Backyard Buffers program in Maryland, led by Maryland DNR- Forest Service. Homeowners must attend the March 31 BIB workshop to be eligible to receive 25 native trees and shrubs (tailored to the homeowners needs and objectives) to plant alongside the PA portion of the Antietam Creek and its many tributaries.

The BIB workshop will be offered on March 31, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Renfrew Museum and Park in Waynesboro, PA. The registration fee is \$10.00. Participants will receive an information packet and an opportunity to apply for the BIB plant program.

For more information on the workshop and BIB visit the AWA’s website at [www.antietamws.org](http://www.antietamws.org) or call Renfrew Institute at (717) 762-0373.

To view brochure, visit <http://www.potomacwatershed.org/pdf/BIBbrochure.pdf>