



HRSD NEWS RELEASE

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HRSD Environmental Grant Awarded to Mattaponi Heritage Foundation for Shad Restoration

~ Grant Is One of Several Environmental Education and Outreach Projects Funded by Administrative Penalties ~

WEST POINT--HRSD has awarded \$1,000 to the Mattaponi Heritage Foundation for American shad restoration and water quality monitoring. The foundation grant will provide laboratory chemicals for one year, supporting the Mattaponi shad hatchery located near West Point. HRSD commissioner Ty Bland of West Point (center) presented the award to assistant chief Carl Custalow (right) at the facility, with his son Todd Custalow (left).

The laboratory is used to monitor the health of the Mattaponi River year-round. Weekly tests are conducted for turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and salinity. Data will be used to study the river's ecology and help determine the factors that contribute to the shad's survival. Since the hatchery began operation two years ago, more than 12 million fry have been released into the Mattaponi River.

Grants, as well as an environmental scholarship, are funded by administrative penalties levied against businesses and industries that fail to meet their permit requirements. Recently, grants were also awarded to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for their submerged aquatic vegetation program (\$10,000) and the Virginia Living Museum for environmental education (\$10,000). An environmental scholarship (\$3,000), administered by the Norfolk Foundation, was awarded to a full-time Old Dominion University graduate student for 2002-03. Collected penalty monies are returned to the community through support of environmental education and outreach projects.

HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 1.5 million people in 17 cities and counties. Our mission is to prevent pollution, protect public health, and support community development by providing wastewater collection, treatment, and related services.

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