

# **Benton Soil & Water Conservation District**

## **Community Profile:**

**Population** 80,000

**Location** Benton County

## **Position Description:**

**Sponsor** Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

**Supervisor** Mary Eichler

## **Assignment**

The RARE Participant will serve as the Education and Outreach Specialist for the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Education and Outreach Specialist will play an important role in meeting the Benton SWCD mission which is to provide education and leadership in the conservation and wise use of the soil, water and related resources through a balanced, cooperative program that protects, restores, and improves these resources. Some of the activities of the Education and Outreach Specialist include: providing natural resource conservation information to residents of Benton County through coordinating workshops, tours, mailings, and referrals; designing/publishing pamphlets, flyers and newsletters; writing news releases; making public presentations to local landowners, community and school groups; assisting with the annual native tree sale; overseeing the annual conservation poster contest; teaching at soils classes at Outdoor Schools; researching funding opportunities to continue the Education and Outreach Program; and grant writing.

## **Required Skills**

Exemplary verbal and written communication skills, grant writing, knowledge of natural resource interrelationships, experience working with non-profit organizations and government agencies, enjoy working with people of all ages, computer and professional publication skills, leadership skills and ability to organize and lead volunteers.

## **RARE Member: *Chaun MacQueen - 2000-2001, Year 7 Participant***

In 1996, Chaun MacQueen graduated from State University of New York College of Environmental Service and Forestry in Syracuse with a dual major in Environmental and Forest Biology, and Resource Management. While at SUNY-ESF, she was a researcher in a biomass-energy study and a teaching assistant in field forestry. Following her education, Chaun served in Nepal through the Peace Corps. There she worked with a District Forest Office on environmental education, technical assistance, and micro-business development.