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Assateague Coastal Trust

*Advocacy - Conservation - Education*

# Get The Dirt Out Chesapeake -

Assateague - September 2009

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## Volunteers Needed!



Get The Dirt Out  
Assateague needs  
volunteers.

Forward this email to your  
friends. They can sign

up on our website : [GTDO  
Assateague](#)

## Fall Training Oct. 21

Visit the GTDO website to register  
[GTDO Training Info](#)

## Follow-up Links

[ACT Website](#)

[GTDO Website](#)

[GTDO Training](#)

Dear Get The Dirt Out Volunteers,

The economy is starting to pick back up and we're seeing an increasing number of construction sites becoming active.

When the dirt starts being pushed around, that's when the Assateague Chapter of Get The Dirt Out Chesapeake needs our volunteer monitors to swing into action!

So far this summer, our GTDO On-Line Reporting feature has received four reports of possible Construction Site Sediment & Erosion Control violations.

The Coastkeeper investigated each report and as a result one job site was shut down by Worcester County because the contractor did not have the necessary permit; one contractor was issued a citation by Worcester County because they were in violation of their permit; and another report of a well drilling company blatantly pumping sediment polluted water into a waterway resulted in the State of Maryland Attorney General's office issuing an \$11,500 fine!

In each instance, the sites were cleaned up and further sediment pollution was stopped. GTDO works!! Ordinary citizens can make a difference.

# \$11,500 Fine Issued!



In March 2009, a concerned Bishopville citizen contacted the Assateague COASTKEEPER to report that the Somerset Well Drilling Company of Princess Anne, MD was discharging sediment laden drilling slurry through a hose directly into a nearby creek which drains to Bishopville Prong.

The photos that were submitted to the Coastkeeper clearly showed that possible State and Federal violations might be occurring. The Coastkeeper notified Worcester County and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Both agencies immediately responded to the site and filed reports.

A full investigation by the Maryland Department of the Environment resulted in the issuance of an \$11,500 fine against

Somerset Well Drilling Co. for multiple violations. MDE is currently working on a resolution of the violations and how the fine will be paid.

Well drilling activities MUST contain all sediment and water in such a way as to prevent sediment laden run off from the drilling site. This company clearly tried to take a short cut, a short cut that not only was polluting a nearby creek, but was illegal !

Citizen monitoring and reporting to the Coastkeeper does work. One concerned citizen saved his waterway from harmful pollution, and habitat damage, and we are very grateful for his activism.

## Go Ahead- File a report!

If you haven't tried to use the Report Form online yet, go ahead and take a stab at it.

We encourage you to go to the GTDO website '[Resources](#)' page and click on the '[Monitoring and Reporting Resources](#)' link. You can print out a [Report Log](#) and also a [Site Journal](#). These are the field documents you'll use when you're out driving around.



When you get back to a computer, go to our GTDO website and click the link to '[File A Report](#).'

Feel free to just 'make up' a report and file it, to help you learn how to use the form. Or if you see something out there, take a couple photos, fill out your Report Log and bring it home to file an online report.

We greatly appreciate your volunteer service and encourage you to call us or email us with any questions.

Please attend our next GTDO Citizen Monitor training on October 21 from 6-8pm at the Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center near Assateague Island. You can [register online!](#)

If you took our first training, please come again for a refresher course. Our October training will feature how to fill out the on-line reporting form and upload photos.

Thank you!,

Kathy Phillips

Assateague **COASTKEEPER**

Get The Dirt Out Assateague is a program of Assateague Coastal Trust, Inc. and the Assateague **COASTKEEPER**.

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