

Capon Bridge Middle School



Students Reduce Stormwater Runoff Impacting Cacapon River

Students in Linda Mowery's 6th and 8th grade science classes along with the Environmental Club at Capon Bridge Middle School in Capon Bridge, WV, worked together to reduce the school's impact on the Cacapon River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.



Students participated in Cacapon Institute's PHLOW Grow-a-Garden program. The 140 students learned about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the impacts from upstream that are causing the Bay to face annual dead zones, loss of submerged aquatic vegetation, and oyster habitats. Students learned the main causes of these impacts

are from excess sediment and nutrients from stormwater runoff pollution. Students researched best management practices that would protect our river systems stopping excess pollution from leaving the land by way of stormwater runoff.

Current students discovered the Environmental Club has been very active by installing best management practices at the school over the past few years. Past club members planted trees, a rain garden, and native grasses to reduce erosion and runoff from around the school.

This year the sixteen Environmental Club members installed a 112 square foot garden that reflects the design of the existing garden. Students planted fifty-five native flowers throughout the garden. These native plants not only assist in cleaning the stormwater, they will also provide habitat and food



resources for birds, small mammals, and insects. Both rain gardens have been designed to stop runoff before reaching a drain that runs directly into the Cacapon River.

