

Riverheads Elementary



4th Graders Collect, Plant, and Grow Native Trees at School

Ninety-one 4th grade students at Riverheads Elementary School, Staunton, VA, participated in the PHLOW Growing Native program again this fall. This season will be the second time Cacapon Institute has worked with lead teacher Luanne Leonard to provide both



classroom education and hands-on conservation with the 4th grade.

Students were provided four one-hour classroom education lessons, lead by CI, to introduce students to watersheds, trees, and the role trees play in healthier streams. Students

investigated the internal and external structure of a tree along with the ability to protect our streams as a riparian forest buffer.

Lessons are a mix of interactive activities that spark learning while linking to state standards.

On the annual school field trip, Cacapon Institute lead a station where students collected native acorns and planted them in cups to grow at the school in a tub grow-out station. Planting materials included a plastic cup with a hole pre-drilled in the bottom, a seed, mulch, and soil.

The tub grow-out stations were transferred to the school where the students will continue to monitor the seeds throughout the school year. The seeds will sprout tiny seedlings that will be sent home with students at the conclusion of the school year.

The Growing Native program is



designed to inform students of the critical importance of having trees in our environment to reduce the amount of pollution enter our streams, provide oxygen, create habitat for wildlife, along with be a food source for animals and humans.

