

Warm Springs Intermediate



Tree Seedlings Planted for Future Community Plantings



The 4th grade classes at Warm Springs Intermediate, WV, participated in Growing Native this spring. Students spend four classroom education hours learning about their local watershed and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, stormwater runoff pollution and erosion, along with the role trees play in healthy river systems. The education sessions were led by Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Following the education sessions the 162 students planted 59 tree seedlings for the community grow-



out station.

The tree seedlings were a mix of shade and flowering species ranging from two- to three- years-old. Students reviewed the parts of a tree by identifying the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves. The students then identified the most important location on a tree—the root collar. The root collar is the transition zone between the tree trunk and root system. The critical place for proper planting depth. If planted too low it will begin to rot and led to the death of the tree. Students were instructed to plant the root collar around one inch above the soil level.

Students were attentive in checking that their tree was planted at the proper depth. They named their tree before being taken to the community grow-out station at Paw Paw School, WV.

Each student named a way trees are important for the environment and human use. Some examples included: habitat

for animals, food for humans and birds, shade, absorbing runoff, and preventing erosion.

In a few short years these trees will be planted in the community to provide all of the benefits listed above and more. The grow-out station will continually be refilled by other schools in Morgan County participating in Growing Native in the coming seasons.



Growing Native is a program of the Potomac Watershed Partnership funded by the USDA Forest Service.

