



The Green Team Works Together to Better the Local Environment

Springfield Middle School, Williamsport, MD, participated in Cacapon Institute's Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds (PHLOW) Grow-a-Garden project with the school's Green Team. The project was completed under the leadership of teacher Melinda Mills. The Green Team was established at the school five years ago and is composed of

topography, water hydrology, and the impact of stormwater runoff pollution on local rivers and beyond. Students gained an understand of the harmful impacts of pollution, specifically sediment and fertilizer, has on aquatic systems.

After many rain delays, on May 16th and 17th the Green Team students were joined by Kelci Rote's class to install sixty-three native plants and two black chokeberry shrubs in the school rain garden. Many students enjoyed the opportunity to make a difference for the environment, community, and school.

The rain garden is designed to capture stormwater runoff before it can reach the local stream. The native plants will provide habitat and food sources for wildlife and insects. The garden is designed with walkways that will allow for easy access during outdoor classroom activities.

Some of the Green Team will be moving on to high school, but many students will return in the fall to see their hard work in full bloom.



students 6th through 8th grade. Students meet twice a week to work on projects to increase their and the schools understanding of environmental issues and become more aware environmental stewards.

The Green Team was composed of fifty-six students. They participated in four forty-minute education lessons. Lessons covered topics of watersheds,



A total of seventy-two volunteer hours were completed by sixty-eight volunteers contributing to the success of the project.

The Green Team and school plan to tackle another problem spot on campus in the fall.

